

The HIGHLANDS Current

The Artist
Next Door
Page 11



MARCH 3, 2023

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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Mark Trecka (center) gives Mica Winters and Eve Cummings a push at the JV Forrestal Elementary sledding hill on Tuesday (Feb. 28).
Photo by Valerie Shively

Oh, There's the Snow!

Storm ends drought

By Leonard Sparks

Last week, *The Current* asked in a front-page headline, "Where's All the Snow?"

This week, we had the answer.

The 6 inches that Mother Nature dropped overnight on Monday (Feb. 27) fell far short of the 2 feet that blanketed the Highlands during the first week of February 2021. But there were no complaints from the snow-starved residents of Beacon and Philipstown who massed on the frosted hills at Memorial Park in Beacon and Winter Hill in Garrison.

The area received its highest amount of snow this winter, enough to close every school in Beacon and Philipstown and end the season-long drought. In Beacon, snowfall totaled 0.6 inches in January, 3 inches in December and none in November, according to data from a weather station in the city.

As children, adolescents and teenagers

(Continued on Page 8)

Rombout Threat Creates Chaos

Call to Beacon police believed to be 'swatting'

By Jeff Simms

Beth Janelle said that, at first, "it felt like such a normal morning." The mother of two had dropped off her 7-year-old daughter at Sargent Elementary School on Feb. 24 for a before-school math club. But as Janelle pulled out

of the Sargent parking lot around 7:55 a.m., "all of the sudden I'm getting texts from my son telling me cops are in his school with big guns."

Janelle's 13-year-old, an eighth-grader at Rombout Middle School, had taken the bus that morning. Upon arrival, he would tell his mother, Beacon police officers were already on campus, responding to a threat they had received minutes earlier.

(Continued on Page 9)

Bill Would Ban River Discharge

Legislators seek to stop nuclear plant draining

By Brian PJ Cronin

Two state legislators have introduced a bill that, if passed, would prevent radioactive water from being released into the Hudson River from the former Indian Point nuclear plant.

Dana Levenberg, whose Assembly district

includes Philipstown, and Pete Harckham, whose Senate district includes Peekskill, introduced the legislation, which would make it "unlawful for any person or entity, directly or indirectly, to throw, drain, run or otherwise discharge any radiological agent into the waters of the state."

The bill was created in order to prevent Holtec International, the company decommissioning Indian Point, near Peekskill,

(Continued on Page 9)

Krivak Found Not Guilty

Putnam County likely faces second civil-rights lawsuit

By Chip Rowe

Andrew Krivak, who spent 24 years in prison after being convicted of the rape and murder of a 12-year-old Carmel girl, was acquitted on Monday (Feb. 27) in a retrial at the Putnam County courthouse.

Krivak had been convicted, along with Anthony DiPippo, in 1997 in the killing of Josette Wright. DiPippo, twice convicted

and granted new trials, was acquitted in 2016 and later settled a federal civil-rights lawsuit with Putnam County for \$12 million. The county now faces a similar payout to Krivak.

"The jury has rendered its decision and we must respect it," District Attorney Robert Tendy, who tried the case, said on Tuesday. He declined further comment but told *The Journal News* that he still believes Krivak is guilty. Tendy also earlier criticized the county settlement with DiPippo, calling it "incomprehensible and indefensible."

(Continued on Page 18)



Anthony DiPippo and Andrew Krivak outside the Putnam County Courthouse in Carmel on Monday (Feb. 27) after a jury acquitted Krivak
Photo by Seth Harrison/The Journal News

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: SILVIA GAUGLER

By Joey Asher

Silvia Gaugler, who grew up in Rimini, Italy, and lives in Cold Spring, owns the Luce Stella Studio in Beacon, where she makes Capri sandals by hand.

How did you start crafting handmade sandals?

During the pandemic, I decided to get back into the workforce after a long break to raise my children. I had worked in sales and marketing for an Italian clothing manufacturer, but I wanted to do something for myself. It's now or never, right? I felt homesick because during the lockdown I couldn't visit my family in Italy, so I thought I needed to do something creative and Italian. I remembered that on my last trip to Positano, on the Amalfi coast, there was a shop where a cobbler was sitting outside with a table, making sandals. I found a style that I wanted and I sat down and watched him make the holes and put the ribbons in. Something clicked and I said, "I have to get that hammer. I want to do that."



Had you done anything like it before?

I had never even held a hammer. In our house, my husband would do all that stuff. But to make shoes? I've always felt creative and have been drawn to colors and textures. Now I'm sanding and burnishing the leather and I've discovered I like it. It's like therapy. I started selling through Instagram [@lucestellastudio], mostly around New York.

Before I had my shop, I would go to customers' homes to get the right fit. I make about two pairs a day. They cost \$175, more or less, depending on customization.

How did you learn?

I found a cobbler in Rome who was offering classes online. He said: "We have a pandemic, but let's try." He shipped me a box with the essential tools: the hammer and other tools, the nails, leather straps and soles. I logged on to FaceTime every morning at 7:30 and he taught me. We did that for six months.

How did you come up with the name for your shop?

Luce Stella was my grandmother's name. *Luce* in Italian means "light." *Stella* means "star." Her name was Luce Stella Greco. To me, it's so beautiful. My grandmother was a great person. She became widowed when she was young and had three small kids, so she had to go to work. While she had a hard life, she was always happy. Her house was always full of people. The doorbell rang all day long. People would stop by to say "Hi" because she was so loved and such a positive person. I spent all my summers in her house in Puglia. It's the heel of the boot. When I grew up, the beaches were empty. Now there are so many tourists. That's part of what inspired me. Sandals. Summer. The beach. It makes me happy to think about it.

What do people say they like about the sandals?

That they're handmade in my shop and that they can choose the style. It's fun, especially for girls. It's like candy. They can pick the colors and put stars or other things on them. The choices are infinite. As long as my arm and wrist hold up, I will make them. I could have someone else do it for me and I could sell a lot more, and I could do it faster, but I like doing it. It gives me joy. They're not perfect. Not every nail is going to be completely perfectly aligned. You're buying an organic product.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Do you prefer mild, medium or spicy food?

"Mild. I prefer the taste of the food, not just the spice."



Elizabeth Braban, Beacon

"Medium, including mango habanero sauce on everything you can put it on."



John Romero, Beacon

"Spicy, especially chili peppers or chili paste on pork, beef or chicken."



Tina Kawabata, Putnam Valley

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NEWS BRIEFS

Dutchess Democrats Endorse Candidates

Make selections for four positions on November ballot

The Dutchess Democratic Committee held its nominating convention on Feb. 23, with members endorsing Tommy Zurhellen for county executive, Anthony Parisi for district attorney, Kenya Gadsden for county clerk and James Rogers for family court judge.

Zurhellen, 53, who lives in Poughkeepsie, is a Navy veteran and English professor at Marist who, in 2019, walked from Portland, Oregon, to Poughkeepsie to raise money for Hudson River Housing's VetZero project.

Parisi is chief of the Major Crimes Bureau at the district attorney's office, where he has served 25 years. The Beekman resident is also a former public defender.

Gadsden has been employed at Lifespire, a nonprofit that works with developmentally disabled individuals, for 30 years. She lives in Fishkill and is a former member of the Town of Fishkill Board and the Beacon school board.

Rogers, who lives in Red Hook, is a former state deputy district attorney for social justice, and a former deputy commissioner for worker protection with the state Department of Labor. He is also a former president of the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys.

Tax Break for Putnam Fire, EMS Volunteers

Byrne signs law granting exemption of 10 percent

Volunteer ambulance workers and firefighters in Putnam County now qualify for a 10 percent property-tax exemption under a law signed by County Executive Kevin Byrne on Feb. 23.

Byrne signed the law, which the Legislature passed on Feb. 7, during a ceremony at the Bureau of Emergency Services in Carmel. As a member of the state Assembly last year, Byrne voted for the legislation that gave counties the option to provide the exemption.

To qualify, firefighters and EMS personnel must have at least five years of service and provide certificates from fire or ambulance companies certifying that they are eligible, enrolled members.

Howland Library Seeking Trustee Candidates

Election to fill two vacancies scheduled for April 27

The Howland Public Library in Beacon is seeking candidates for two 5-year vacancies on its board of trustees. The election will be held April 27.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens, at least 18 years old and residents of the Beacon school district for at least 30 days before the election. Petitions can be picked up at the library and must be returned, notarized and have the signatures of at least 25 people qualified to vote in school district elections, by 5 p.m. on March 27.



The Dutchess Democratic Committee nominated James Rogers (left) for family court judge, Anthony Parisi for district attorney, Kenya Gadsden for county clerk and Tommy Zurhellen for county executive.

Photo provided

Putnam Sheriff to Expand Use of Body Cameras

State grant will outfit jail personnel, specialized patrol officers

The Putnam County Sheriff's Department is using a state grant to lease body cameras for jail personnel and "special patrol officers" with assignments such as providing security at county offices.

The Legislature's Personnel and Audit committees voted last month to accept a \$40,000 grant from the state Division of Criminal Justice Services that will fund the lease of 20 cameras, along with software and accessories.

Sheriff Kevin McConville said on Feb. 21 that the funding will cover one full year and part of the second year of a 44-month contract. The county will be responsible for the remainder of the contract, which he said rises from \$38,000 in the first year to \$60,000 by the fourth.

Residents Cautioned About 'Bold' Coyotes

State warns about leaving food out

The Dutchess County Health Department noted that coyotes have been spotted in Poughkeepsie and Hyde Park exhibiting bold and aggressive behavior, and urged caution.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation says this behavior is consistent with coyotes being fed; residents should not leave food outside, including that left for pets and birds or in unsecured garbage, that could attract the animals. January through March is breeding season for coyotes in New York state, and pup rearing extends into the summer. Coyotes are more territorial during these periods.

The state advises residents to be mindful of children and pets while outdoors and not to let pets run free. If you see a coyote, stand tall and hold your arms up or out to look as large as possible. If a coyote lingers, make loud noises, wave your arms and throw sticks and stones.

Report coyotes exhibiting bold behaviors

(approaching people for food, attacking leashed pets with owners, chasing joggers or bikers) or repeatedly seen during the day in populated areas or near residences by calling 845-256-3098. Seeing a coyote occasionally is not evidence of bold behavior.

Campaign Exceeds Expectations

Beacon business collects products for homeless women

Jill Hilbrenner of Witch Hazel in Beacon reported on Tuesday (Feb. 28) that a three-week campaign called I Support the Girls brought in more than 200 bras and nearly 1,700 menstruation products for people experiencing homelessness. The local goal had been 100 bras and 500 products, she said.

The donations will be distributed by the state affiliate of I Support the Girls.

"I've never gotten more phone calls about anything, at any job," Hilbrenner said. "Some people were forming little donation hubs within their families, people were doing carpool batches, you name it. We got donations by mail and also left at the front door on days we were closed."

New York Guard Recognizes Volunteers

Two Highlands residents receive citations

Two Highlands residents were recognized on Tuesday (Feb. 28) for their service in the New York Guard.

Capt. Randall Chiera of Cold Spring and Sgt. Mark Pisanelli of Beacon each received the New York Pandemic Response Service Ribbon, and Pisanelli also was awarded the Good Conduct Medal. Both men serve with the 56th Area Command.

The New York Guard is a force of 500 uniformed volunteers, organized as a military unit, who augment the New York National Guard during state emergencies. About half of the New York Guard are former members of the military or National Guard.

Nelsonville Plans to Remove Tree

Residents express concern about acorns, branches

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

In a 19th-century poem, newspaper editor, writer and Philipstown resident George Pope Morris famously pleaded "woodman, spare that tree," a majestic oak.

But Morris didn't live in Nelsonville. Or in an age when trees sprout between paved sidewalks and streets.

"Touch not a single bough! In youth it sheltered me and I'll protect it now," Morris wrote in 1837 of his tree. So, "woodman, leave the spot. While I've a hand to save [it], thy axe shall harm it not."

Somewhat less enamored, Nelsonville plans to cut down one on North Pearl Street, "because it drops acorns," Trustee Dave Moroney confirmed at the board's Feb. 21 meeting.

The village chose to act after a request made last September, in the height of acorn season, by Dave McCarthy and Danielle Pack McCarthy, who live next to the tree.

"Over the years, this tree has aged and dropped more and more acorns and large branches that have come down on our boys and our friends," they wrote. "Our children have more than once rolled an ankle ... and it has become a serious safety concern."

They added that "even though we sweep this area every few days, there is no getting ahead" as the tree sheds, "many times, entire branches filled with acorns and leaves." Photos they sent to the village attest to the tree's output. It stands in the grass strip between the sidewalk and street across from Village Hall.

Mayor Chris Winward described it as "a healthy-ish tree" that "has outgrown the space between the curb and the sidewalk."

Heidi Wendel, a resident who lives near North Pearl, expressed surprise at the oak's fate. "Chop a tree down because it's dropping acorns? I don't get that at all," she said, offering to collect the nuts to spare the tree. "It seems sad."

The mayor replied that "it's sad; I agree." However, she explained, the village attorney had recommended the tree's removal.

On Thursday (March 2), Winward said an arborist also has advised removing the oak because it has outgrown its narrow strip of grass. Its roots are likely to upend the sidewalk and failing to act "is just going to kick the problem down the road," the mayor said.

"Nobody ever wants to take down a tree," she said. She said the McCarthys have offered to provide a replacement, but that a new tree in the space may not be feasible.

Winward said on Feb. 21 that the situation suggests the village needs a tree policy to outline the responsibilities of the village, property owners and the state to "take out the guesswork" because, right now, "our laws are a little gray."

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Church project

As objections have been raised to the development of the former Reformed Church in Beacon, the projected use has changed from a hotel, nightclub, bar, event center and theater ("Beacon Council Seeks Feedback," Feb. 24). What's next? Noise, parking, trespassing, safety and other concerns have yet to be resolved. The city has chosen to keep the project alive despite hundreds of voices opposing the projected uses. So much for feedback.

Don Gallo, *Beacon*

Attend a meeting of the Planning Board, or skim the letters to the editor in *The Current*, and you might think the owner of the former Reformed Church was planning to bring Madison Square Garden to town. Holding proverbial pitchforks and warning of the rock 'n' roll apocalypse, the opponents of the Prophecy Theater project are a loud and convincing bunch. Megadeth on 9D? I'll pass.

The problem is Gavin Hecker, the Beacon resident behind Prophecy Theater, isn't planning to plant a pulsing nightclub on the Hudson. Ask him (I did, he lives right down the street from me) and Gavin will explain that what he's planning is less MSG and more Howland Center West, a neighborhood-focused center for the arts, perfect for theatri-

cal workshops, dance recitals and open mics.

If the folks opposing the project would take out their earplugs for a second and listen to their neighbor, they might like what they hear.

Brett Moses, *Beacon*

Gas vs. electric

I urge Mayor Lee Kyriacou and the Beacon City Council to pass the strongest gas-free buildings bill possible.

It is hard to overstate how little time we have left. Americans have met so few climate goals that there is already no doubt that young people will have to live with heat waves, overwhelming hurricanes and floods, long droughts, wildfires, an insecure food and water supply and the continual threat of displacement.

It is our job to strengthen the next generation's hand and give it a fighting chance. Scientists say that the only way to do this is by reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

I'm calling on the mayor and City Council to pass a law that bans burning fossil fuel indoors in all new buildings, including commercial, and all renovations that affect at least 75 percent of a building.

To me, gas-stove replacements are vital. There is a lot of lung disease in my family: Both of my parents, as well as my grand-

mother, died of lung diseases, and my sister, my wife and I all have asthma.

Yet I've only recently learned how badly gas stoves affect our breathing. In studies, the effects of living with a gas stove have been found to be the same as those from secondhand smoke. According to these studies, gas stoves dramatically increase the risk of cancer, asthma and poor birth outcomes.

Donna Minkowitz, *Beacon*

Please stop equating electrification with banning fossil fuels. In what dream world does all electricity come from "renewables" any time soon? In what psychedelic wonderland does the infrastructure for delivering "renewable" electricity get built and maintained without fossil fuels, not to mention fossil-fuel by-products such as asphalt and plastic?

Helen Zuman, *Beacon*

As an energy analyst for the past 30-plus years, I have seen many crises and the reactions to them. Each incident has led to greater social awareness and the need for continuous conservation practices.

Any single-source solution tends to be at odds with the greater public good. Electric-only would lead us back to the pre-2000s monopolistic practices in the utility sector, which stifles innovation and drives up costs. The human quest for diversity amongst almost anything imaginable has nearly always led to greater life expectancy and improvements in medicine, innovation, competitiveness, etc.

Solar, wind, better batteries and moving away from coal are great examples of the differences we are making to mitigate climate change. Unfortunately, the buzzwords of the moment ("immediate climate change") seem more aspirational than a matter of near-term reality. I understand the need to rein in the unbridled use of "dirty" energy. But achieving these objectives is not without costs and makes everyday life more expensive. For some, it can be overwhelming. Mandating these changes without some sort of financial relief seems overly repressive.

There is much we can do in our everyday lives to help achieve these goals along the way. It can be as simple as buying the more-efficient appliance the next time you need one or replacing that pesky 60-watt incandescent bulb with an LED version. However, allowing an all-electric solution to our lives reduces customer choice as we shrink the options to cook, heat and cool our homes.

I know from experience that utilities, the science and engineering communities, and researchers in a wide range of disciplines are working extremely hard and fast to meet this challenge. But let's allow this community the time needed to make sensible changes we can all afford to implement

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

and not fall victim to the unanticipated costs of reacting to the politics of the moment.

Bill Hillis, *Beacon*

Fjord Trail

Having read *The Current's* fine reporting on the looming disaster of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail along the shoreline, I tried to do further online research. Going to the HHFT site, one is greeted with a lot of white space, no plans, no architectural renderings. The same is true for Scenic Hudson.

These developers (Scenic Hudson has long abandoned preserving the Hudson Valley in favor of developing it) are following the 21st-century political mantra of keeping the public in the dark except when it (a) serves their own purposes; or, (b) they can make good use of ill-intended, misleading and self-serving propaganda.

Having serendipitously met a state parks department official at Dockside one early Saturday morning, we discussed the project. His final remarks were, to the effect, this thing is not going to happen for years, if ever. This casual comment is the best news this reader has heard regarding this destructive project since it became the buzz of the villages.

If they continue on the path of making Dockside more accessible to outside areas, then the day will likely come when we may see Dockside, and likely the entire village, beset by migrations from the now-wide-open northern border and ease of access from the south.

People move to our area to enjoy our unique and historic features, and we support these through our taxes and often volunteerism. Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown are unusual in that they still reflect something of a way of life that was, perhaps, more pleasant than that "enjoyed" elsewhere. To sell this out to developers seeking to create an unnatural amusement area of questionable — perhaps political — motivation is an unforgivable travesty.

Steven Sohn, *Cold Spring*

The editor responds: There are a number of documents and renderings at the HHFT site, including a Master Plan and environmental scoping documents. See hhft.org/about-the-fjord-trail.

'51 Ford

The windshield of the 1951 Ford F-1 pickup was flat and there was no provision for a hand crank. Dad bought one new and I drove the same ("Classic Wheels," Feb. 24).

Carl Mayo, *Rogers, Arizona*

License-plate readers

There is no point to having these readers in such a small city ("Beacon Installs License-Plate Readers," Feb. 17); they need to be sent back, or there should have been a referendum for something as important as this.

The current administration in Beacon has proven itself to be illegitimate. Three murders in two years. People are going hungry and can't afford a dozen eggs or to heat their homes. Now the city is contact-tracing every vehicle that enters and leaves. It is a bully tactic and should be stopped.

Sue Clary, *Beacon*

Correction

In "Where's All the Snow?" we stated that the high temperature had stayed above freezing during the first 21 days of February. In fact, the high temperature was below freezing on Feb. 3 and Feb. 4.

Cold Spring police

The rogue Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Community Policing is out of order ("Should Cold Spring Police Stay?" Feb. 17). It has no business insisting on a time-wasting referendum to defund the police or demanding our mayor and board conduct a special fiscal assessment.

According to its own survey, village residents are resoundingly satisfied with the performance of our police. We must question the credibility and motivations of the committee as beyond the pale of reason, as well as consider ignoring it altogether. I urge the committee to read its own report, and cease and desist its disruptive behavior.

Derek Graham, *Cold Spring*

Assessing municipal services is always an important exercise. It might make sense to increase investment in the Cold Spring Police Department, allowing for more traffic enforcement, which will make the village safer and increase revenues from tickets for speeding, moving violations, noise from loud mufflers, parking violations and vehicles without proper registrations or inspections. Add a traffic camera at the intersection of Chestnut Street and Route 9D.

Most of this stuff will impact the out-of-town folks and travelers passing through, as locals will "be in the know." Increased enforcement should produce a significant amount of revenue to help fund improvements and result in a safer, more enjoyable village experience.

Rory Stark, *Garrison*

Annual expense for the Cold Spring police: around \$500,000. Annual revenue from tickets: under \$3,000. More officers do not lead to more revenue, and this has been the case for many years. If I misunderstood

the budget, I hope someone corrects me.

Aaron Freimark, *Cold Spring*

You are so right. I will never understand why the good people of Cold Spring feel that they need three police departments. As it stands now, the village is patrolled by its own police, sheriff's deputies and state troopers. There's even a county substation on upper Main Street. Is there so much crime in Cold Spring?

After a virtual civil war, Putnam Valley got rid of our police department in the 1990s and never looked back. We have saved millions of dollars and the sheriff does an outstanding job.

If more police protection is needed, contact your county and state elected representatives and demand they provide what you need. That's their job. Good luck to Cold Spring.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

Ask the residents of Brewster how it worked out when they abolished the village police force in the late 1970s. They wound up reinstating the department.

Tom Valentine, *Newburgh*

Cold Spring is not Brewster. Nothing like it. You can't compare the two.

Patty Villanova

Putnam Valley is nothing like Cold Spring. Have you ever seen traffic problems at Oregon Corners because of tourists and

mountain climbers? It is not a destination like Cold Spring.

Tom Valentine

Winning recipe

I made Celia Barbour's chocolate-pecan granola bars and they were delicious! ("Mouths to Feed: My Chocolate Heart," Feb. 17)

Derek Enos, *via Instagram*

Phone book

I am so glad to see the St. Mary's vestry continued printing the Cold Spring-Garrison phone directory into the 1990s ("Reporter's Notebook: The Book with Everyone's Number," Feb. 24). My father and grandfather were members of the vestry and printed them for years. I remember helping dad cut and paste names, addresses and ads on our dining-room table. My sister and I got to pick out the color for the cover! I wish I could find one from the 1950s or 1960s.

Nancy Jurka, *via Facebook*

Aw man — I had the same 1990s edition and regret I didn't keep it.

Celia Jelley, *via Facebook*

And, of course, you always had to write important numbers on the cover.

Tim Lahey, *via Facebook*

I still have mine 18 years after moving out of Cold Spring — and I use it!

Denise Loatman-Owens, *via Facebook*



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121 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING NY

NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, March 14th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.** in person at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.**

This meeting will also be livestreaming on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Philipstown Conservation Board Meeting March 2023.

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Garrison School Expects to Avoid Override

Board anticipates 3.3 percent tax increase

By Joey Asher

The Garrison school district superintendent on Wednesday (March 1) proposed a \$12.65 million budget for the 2023-24 academic year, representing a 3.3 percent property tax increase.

That will match the tax cap calculated by the state for Garrison in 2023-24, said Superintendent Carl Albano, meaning only a majority of district voters must approve the budget in May, rather than 60 percent. But he cautioned that an override of the cap will likely be needed for the 2024-25 budget.

Last year, the Garrison school board presented a budget with a 9.18 percent increase, far in excess of the cap, which was calculated by the state for Garrison to be 2.2 percent. That budget failed to get 60 percent support and the district subsequently presented another budget with a 6.6 percent increase that passed with 69 percent approval.

Albano said that the district is staying at the cap only because it will spend savings, or reserve, funds. "Using reserves to close a budget gap is not a long-term strategy," he said. "We're running out of reserves."

The budget will be presented to the public in a series of meetings and hearings over the next two months. The vote is scheduled for May 16.

A major goal of the board was to avoid another override. "I don't think the community has the appetite for an override this

year," said Kent Schacht, who chairs the board's finance committee.

To balance the budget, the district must address challenges with costs as well as revenues, said Joe Jimick, the district's business administrator.

One key revenue challenge is the relative lack of funding from the state. Under the Foundation Aid Formula, the district next year will receive an increase of about 3 percent, or \$17,244, said Jimick. By comparison, he said, other Putnam districts are receiving an average increase of 23 percent. Jimick pointed out that Brewster is expecting a 31.8 percent aid increase, amounting to \$4.7 million in additional revenue.

Garrison receives less money because of its relatively high property values. "The state is saying, 'You don't need it,'" Jimick said.

Sarah Tormey, the board president, said that the board has lobbied Dana Levenberg, whose district in the state Assembly includes Garrison, and state Sen. Rob Rolison, to get more funding.

To supplement revenue, the district plans to withdraw \$662,220 from its savings, although an over-reliance on reserves is fiscally unwise, Jimick said. "It's not good for the long-term health of the school district," he said. "But we don't see a choice."

The primary factors driving up costs are debt service for capital projects (\$119,756), a 5.5 percent increase in employee health insurance premiums (\$75,422), electric costs for a new HVAC system (\$69,000) and an 8 percent transportation cost increase (\$58,567).

Even with a 3.3 percent increase, the Garrison property tax levy would still be the lowest in the county, by far. Its current levy is \$9.75 per \$1,000 of full value, meaning a \$500,000 home is assessed \$4,875 in annual taxes. Haldane's tax rate is \$16.97 per \$1,000 and Carmel's is \$25.47.

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

Budget process underway; few remaining STR issues

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board held its first discussion on the 2023-24 budget at its Wednesday (March 1) meeting.

A wide-ranging conversation between the mayor, trustees and village accountant touched on virtually every area of spending, from staffing levels, body cameras for police officers and infrastructure needs to fuel costs, vehicle replacement, Bigbelly compacting trash bins and short-term rental software. A draft budget is expected to be ready by March 20.

The two-month budget process includes a mandatory public hearing, usually in April. An adopted budget must be submitted to the state comptroller by May 1 and the fiscal year begins June 1. The village tax levy was \$1.82 million in 2022-23.

In other business ...

■ Work on the emergency connection to the Catskill Aqueduct at Fishkill Road and Main Street in Nelsonville is expected to begin within two to three weeks. Mayor Kathleen Foley said the project will take about three months, with minimal impact on traffic. The connection is needed to provide water to the village during repairs to Cold Spring's reservoir dams.

■ Jennifer Zwarich, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Short-Term Rentals, reported that few issues remain regarding proposed revisions to Chapter 100 of the village code, such as aligning revisions to zoning law; off-street parking requirements for hosts; questions about shared driveways; and enforcement in worst-case violations. Public hearings will be held once the board approves all changes.

■ The sale of a small strip of village-owned land at the rear of 37 Fair St. was approved at a price of \$20,832. The former Impellittiere Motors building is being converted to an artist's studio and apartment.

■ The board approved three bids for surveys to be undertaken as part of drainage improvement projects, for \$1,250 to \$2,900.

■ The board approved resurfacing the basketball court at Mayor's Park.

Officials Bristle at Plan to Boost Housing

Concerns that state would bypass local control

By Joey Asher

Beacon and Philipstown would have to increase their housing stock by at least 3 percent in three years under a plan proposed by Gov. Kathy Hochul.

While local elected officials said they agree that the housing shortage must be addressed, several worried that Hochul's proposal would compromise local autonomy.

Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley said the governor's "cookie-cutter approach isn't going to work. We have to be flexible enough to respond to needs on the ground in real neighborhoods."

Foley dismissed provisions that, under certain circumstances, would bypass local zoning laws. "Give us parameters and goals

— most importantly, give us resources — but don't override our local process completely," she said. "It's state overreach, clear and simple."

In Beacon, Mayor Lee Kyriacou agreed that municipalities should retain control. "The details matter," he said. "They have to leave enough local control for the local governments."

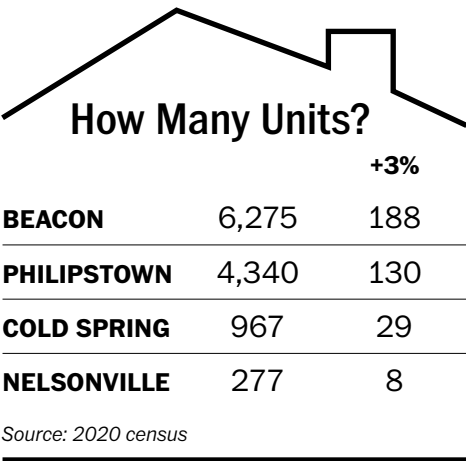
Hochul's proposal, announced in January, is a multi-pronged strategy aimed at increasing housing statewide by 800,000 units over the next decade. "Every community must do their part to encourage housing growth," the governor said.

Among other things, her proposal would:

- Require downstate communities served by Metropolitan Transportation Authority agencies, such as Metro-North, to increase housing by 3 percent in the first three years of the program. The proposal includes multiple 3-year cycles.

- Allow affordable housing developers to bypass local zoning under certain circumstances if the community fails to meet housing quotas.

- Ease environmental review for develop-



ments around transit stations.

Justin Henry, a spokesman for the governor, said Beacon, Philipstown, Cold Spring and Nelsonville would each be subject to the 3 percent goal during the first three years. The goals are established by unit counts in the 2020 census.

Dana Levenberg, a Democrat who was elected in November to represent the state Assembly district that includes Philipstown, said something must be done about the housing shortage. "We have working people who are homeless and cycling

through the shelter system," she said. But she added that local communities need flexibility. "One size fits all may not fit all," she said.

Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel agreed that a blanket approach would make it difficult for the town to comply.

For example, he noted, Hochul's proposal creates incentives to convert commercial buildings to residential. "We don't have a lot of that," he said. "We don't have a lot of buildable property. There's just not a lot here."

Foley said the 12-acre former Marathon Battery property on Kemble Avenue could help the village comply with the proposal. "Our comprehensive plan calls for dense, mixed uses on that site, including diverse housing," she said.

Kyriacou said Beacon has two projects under construction that are consistent with the governor's proposal: Edgewater near the train station and 248 Tioronda.

Last month, Hochul offered aid specifically to the Hudson Valley through the creation of a \$150 million Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund to help municipalities, including those in Putnam and Dutchess counties, build housing and infrastructure.

Funding Targets Housing Discrimination

Victims include disabled, renters with vouchers

By Leonard Sparks

A complaint filed by a nonprofit advocacy agency against a developer for alleged housing discrimination began with apartments in Dutchess County.

Beginning in 2019, Westchester Residential Opportunities (WRO) employed people to pose as prospective renters with federal housing vouchers hoping to rent at two complexes owned by Dawn Homes: Chelsea Ridge Apartments in Wappingers Falls and Village Parks Apartments in Pleasant Valley.

By May 2021, WRO felt it had enough evidence to notify the state Human Rights Commission of alleged discrimination against potential renters with vouchers from the low-income Section 8 program and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS. The complaint names seven properties comprising 2,000 apartments.

Now, the strategy of sending in "testers" with vouchers is getting a boost. Gov. Kathy Hochul announced on Feb. 24 that the state's own testing program will receive a \$2.2 million expansion and cover 48 counties, Long Island and New York City's five boroughs. Six nonprofits will share the funding, including WRO, which says it conducts 500 to 1,000 tests a year, including some in Dutchess and Putnam counties.

A report from the organization, based on 823 tests conducted principally in Dutchess, Rockland and Westchester from June 2019 to May 2022, said it found unequal treatment or a violation of fair-

housing laws in 18 percent of the cases.

People with disabilities and those with low-income vouchers were the most-frequent victims, according to WRO. Last year, the organization sued a real-estate agent and a brokerage for discriminating against Section 8 recipients. It also won a \$60,000 award against a broker.

In another case from 2022, the state Attorney General's Office relied on testers to investigate a Manhattan brokerage accused of refusing rental applications from people with Section 8 vouchers. The company agreed in November to waive fees for the first 25 applicants with Section 8 vouchers and to train employees and post signs saying that it accepts vouchers.

Dutchess County identified the same barrier in its 2022 housing-needs assessment, which highlighted "concerns about active discrimination by landlords toward Section 8 tenants" as higher-paying tenants from New York City drive up rents.

For people awarded hard-to-come-by housing vouchers, "there's just fewer and fewer places they can rent," said Andrew Smith, deputy executive director for WRO. "If on top of that you get discrimination, it's super challenging. It happens every day and it is tragic."

Federal, state and county laws prohibit discrimination against a range of "protected classes," including disability, gender, race, sexual orientation and source of income. People with disabilities can also ask for "reasonable accommodations," such as the installation of ramps or keeping emotional-support animals where pets are not allowed.

Before the federal government and states instituted laws, housing providers and real-estate agents could openly discriminate. Today, landlords and agents are subtler, said Smith.

"Nobody says, 'We're not going to rent to you,'" he said. "But they'll say, 'We don't have anything available,' or 'This doesn't work for you.'"

Smith said complaints and lawsuits are reserved for egregious, frequent violators. The state grant will also fund education and outreach that targets landlords and real-estate agent as well as renters and homebuyers.

Sometimes WRO will contact brokers to notify them of violations and other times

reminds housing providers about the laws, said Smith. Real-estate agents and landlords generally treat everyone fairly, he said.

"It's complicated stuff and landlords sometimes are trying to do the best they can, but they don't understand the law and its nuances," he said.

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There’s Snow! *(from Page 1)*

barreled down the hill at Memorial Park, Regan Thompson stood at its crest. She had grown up in Texas, but after more than two decades in the North, she knew the importance of a snow day.

Watching her daughter romp up and down the park’s snow-covered hill marked the return of a daylong ritual: sleeping late,

pancakes, television, hot chocolate, playing in the snow, dinner, more hot chocolate.

“We are very excited that we actually have a snow day this winter,” she said.

Zachary Schetter enjoyed what the last day of February brought. Lugging a snow sled, he lined up with other Beacon High School teenagers waiting to race downhill toward a pile of snow shaped into a ramp for jumping. Some teens flopped and others

achieved liftoff.

“This is the most-fun thing to do,” he said.

By Tuesday afternoon, dozens of people had made the pilgrimage to Winter Hill in Garrison. They included Bryan Morvay, whose two daughters, Cecilia and Mia, had been looking forward to snow all winter.

Valerie Scanga brought Piper and Olive, the two Haldane Elementary students she babysat. The children started playing in the

snow before 8 a.m. and after lunch, joined the scrum at Winter Hill.

The snowfall also drew Meghan Auten and her two children. Auten said her daughter woke at 6:30 a.m., ready to head out as soon as Philipstown highway crews plowed the roads. “It’s fun to be out with the community, and with our neighbors and friends, and sledding together,” she said.

EXPERIENCING SNOW PRESENT

Last week, we shared photos of snows past. Here are shots from this week. For more, see highlandscurrent.org.



BEACON Forrestal Elementary



Photos by Valerie Shively



COLD SPRING Main Street

Photo by Michael Turton



BEACON Memorial Park

Photo by Leonard Sparks



BEACON Forrestal Elementary

Photo by Valerie Shively



COLD SPRING Waterfront

Photo by Jonathan Glotzer

Indian Point *(from Page 1)*

from emptying the spent fuel cooling pools into the river. Although the discharge would be filtered, it would still contain tritium, a radioactive material that is extremely difficult to remove. Holtec has not announced how much water would be released or how much tritium it could contain.

If passed, the bill would also apply to New York's three remaining active nuclear plants on the southern shore of Lake Ontario.

When it was operational, Indian Point discharged radioactive materials into the Hudson. In 2009, Entergy, which owned the plant at the time, emptied the cooling pool at Indian Point 1, which had closed in 1974, into the river. But Harckham said that does not justify any future release.

"We've got to stop treating our waterways like industrial dumping grounds," said Harckham, who chairs the Senate's

Environmental Conservation Committee. "This is not the late 1800s or early 1900s, where we'd locate our factories alongside rivers so we can just dump whatever sludge and say goodbye to it. We know better now.

"The Hudson River Valley estuary is an incredibly sensitive ecosystem, it's an incredibly sensitive economic driver of our region, and we need to think twice before we just, as rote practice, allow the dumping of tritium into the water."

In a statement, Levenberg added that "too much is still unknown about the possible impacts of discharging radioactive waste into our waterways. We wouldn't want people to feel inhibited in their recreation or in moving to our communities because of the stigma of radioactive wastewater. And ultimately, the State of New York should have control over what is released into our waterways."

Violations of the proposed law would trigger fines of \$25,000 per day, \$50,000

per day for a second violation and \$150,000 per day per additional violation.

Harckham said that because legislators in Albany are focused on negotiations for the 2024 budget, which must be completed by April 1, he doesn't expect much immediate movement on the bill. But once the budget is complete, "we intend to push it," he said. Holtec plans to discharge the water by September, so the bill would need to pass in both chambers before the legislative session ends on June 8.

If adopted, the bill would almost certainly face legal challenges. The Atomic Energy Act gives the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) responsibility for overseeing radioactive releases from commercial nuclear plants.

Further, any releases must first pass NRC and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements, which state that radioactive levels must be as low as "reasonably"

possible. At the most recent meeting of the Indian Point Decommissioning Task Force, several members said that only federal entities could stop the planned discharge.

But Harckham noted that Massachusetts has a state law barring radiological discharges and that the EPA has put a hold there on a Holtec plan to discharge radioactive water from the shuttered Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant into Cape Cod Bay until a third-party can verify that the release would be safe.

"We feel like we have a shot at this," said Harckham. "If it comes down to the courts deciding, then the courts will decide, but I don't think that it's absolutely a federal issue. We have an obligation and the ability to protect the waterways of our state."

A NRC representative declined comment on the proposed legislation.

Rombout *(from Page 1)*

Police Chief Sands Frost said a call came into the Beacon Police Department at 7:46 a.m. He could not discuss details of the investigation, which is being assisted by the FBI's Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task Force, but said that the caller made a "direct threat" to the middle school.

Officers responded immediately, ushering students and teachers into classrooms. Frost said the officers were quickly able to determine that Rombout was safe; from there, Beacon and Fishkill police went to the other five schools in the district (Glenham Elementary is in Fishkill) and confirmed that each was also safe.

The initial investigation revealed that the threat was consistent with other false warnings that have been called in to schools and other institutions around the country, police said. However, officers were stationed at each of the schools for the remainder of the day.

Police said the threat was likely an example of "swatting" — a tactic in which someone reports a false crime or emergency to evoke an aggressive response from law enforcement to a target's residence or workplace. Threats have increasingly been directed at schools, and police have to take them seriously, Frost said.

Last year, *Wired* documented more than 90 false reports of active shooters at U.S. schools made during the second half of September and, around the same time, National Public Radio found at least 113 hoax calls to schools in 19 states over a three-week period. Because of the surge in swatting of schools, the National Association of School Resource Officers and an organization called Safe and Sound Schools in September published guidance for its members and administrators on how to respond.

The group noted that rapid-response by police creates its own risks, and that the anxiety it creates can be overwhelming, citing parents in San Antonio who in September swarmed a high school there, fighting with officers, because of a swatting call that claimed a shooter was inside.

The ploy, which is believed to have originated in the online gaming community, in 2017 led to the fatal police shooting of a 28-year-old Wichita, Kansas, man after a

call led officers to his home.

Frost said the call to police on Friday came from outside of the region. Wherever it came from, word spread quickly, and with it, fear and confusion.

A lengthy thread emerged on Facebook, with parents who were communicating with their children posting what little information they had. Asma Siddiqui, the director of the private Hudson Hills Academy in Beacon, said she began to get emails and calls from families asking if they should be concerned.

Janelle said her son texted her that morning that neither teachers nor students knew what was happening. At one point, the boy thought he heard a bang and feared there might be a shooter inside the building, Janelle said, her voice breaking.

At 8:18 a.m., Superintendent Matt Landahl sent district families the first of two emails updating the situation. Although the threat appeared false, the district would operate for the rest of the day in "lockout" mode, he said, which meant students were safe in their classes and could move from one classroom to another during the day but could not leave the building.

Janelle went to Rombout to pick up her son at 9:30 a.m. She noted "a huge police presence" and said it looked like "half the school" was getting picked up. Then she returned to Sargent to pick up her daughter, as well.

"The kids were just really scared. Really scared," she said. When Janelle asked her son if he felt safe at school, the boy replied, "I want to feel safe, but I don't."

Counselors were available to speak with students this week, and the district also circulated a Google form for Rombout students to sign up privately, Landahl said. He said administrators will meet with Altaris, a security firm the district hired in 2018, to discuss the emergency response, including how to keep parents informed as

quickly as possible.

The superintendent also said that a threat at Rombout in January that police determined to be unsubstantiated was unrelated.

Janelle said on Wednesday that the situation led her family to designate a safe meeting place for emergencies. When picking up her children on the day of the threat, she said she worried she might be overreacting, but "with the world we're living in, I don't think there's such a thing as being too alarmist."

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The HIGHLANDS
Current



NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, March 16th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY, 10516.**

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Planning Board March 2023.

AROUND TOWN



▲ **MUSIC AT THE CRIER** — Raquel Vidal, a longtime resident of Philipstown, performed with Jillian Matundan at the Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon on Feb. 24.



◀ **STORIES IN PAINT** — Anna West (left), a Beacon artist whose work is on display at the Garrison Art Center through March 19, helped participants at a workshop there on Feb. 25 tell stories in paint and access both the intuitive and logical parts of their brains.

▲ **LIGHT THE NIGHT** — The second annual Celebration of Light took place on Feb. 25 in Beacon, with lanterns paraded down Main Street accompanied by the Street Beat Brass Band. At the end of the procession, tea was served, fire pits were lit and the larger lanterns were set aside for display.
Photos by Ross Corsair

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"But You See, Here, She Doesn't Have To Share"



Michelle Silver



"Come as You Are"

Photos provided

The Artist Next Door

As a branding designer, Michelle Silver has carved out a professional path for herself. But painting satisfies a different part of her entirely. “Branding is about how I can represent my client’s vision, but my paintings are incredibly personal,” explains the Philipstown resident.

“In a perfect world I’d be painting every day,” says Silver, who has two young sons with her husband, Bradley, a tattoo artist. “When I do have the time, I explode onto the canvas.

“My paintings are sensitive depictions of personal struggle and growth: the desire to feel loved and accepted, the plague of self-doubt, the struggle to establish identity and the fear of loss,” says Silver, who posts examples of her work at michellesilverart.com. “I use the intimacy and vulnerability of my own lived experiences as a platform to connect larger themes of politics, femininity, desire and fear with a personal anecdote or individual moment.

“I paint emotional landscapes that are

Michelle Silver

By Alison Rooney

as vast as they are lonely; a simultaneous sense of freedom and feeling trapped. What does it mean to be a parent during a global pandemic? How do we escape our bad habits and thoughts during isolation, and what example do we set? Now, I look at my work as a place of understanding of what’s going on inside of me.”

At Boston University, Silver majored in advertising and minored in art but aspired to be a graphic designer. Her pre-parent-hood paintings focused on the intricacies of the human figure. “Sessions lasted for hours because I had lots of time,” she says.

“After my first son was born, my painting shifted pretty significantly. The rendering is looser and it’s much less realistic. It’s more about colors and textures, and how the textures reveal light and darkness.”

Silver spent the early part of her career as a graphic designer for two restaurant groups in New York City, Patina and David Burke. Over her five-plus years with the latter, she honed an interest in textiles and began developing what she calls “a strong mission, which merges my love of fine art with my design.”

Today, her branding clients at michellesilverdesign.com include Main Street businesses in the Highlands, such as Understory Market and Love Letter in Cold Spring. “I’m not just looking at things visually,” she says. “I want to know the brand’s goals, to align with their values.” Other local projects include work in Beacon for Campbell & Campbell and Wyld Birth & Postpartum.

One misconception about branding, says Silver, “is the idea that ‘anybody can do it; it just needs to look cool.’ But so much work has gone into brands that resonate with people. Visual appearance is not enough; strategy is key. Thinking about what you want to do and who you want to speak to should be considered before popping something out.”

No matter the size of the business, Silver says, “people often have a hard time conceptualizing what their brand will look like. Over the last few years I’ve honed in on a design style that is fun, illustrative and sometimes quite funky. It’s about taking the story and creating a personality that gets it to speak to someone. You bring things to life in a way they might not have imagined.”



"Voyage"



Branding for Wyld Birth & Postpartum



"Trusting in the Unknown"

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see
highlandscurrent.org/calendar.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

SAT 4 Dutchess County Parade

WAPPINGERS FALLS
1 p.m. West Main Street
dcsppc.org

The annual parade will begin at West Main and North streets and continue on Route 9D toward Elm Street, then east to South Mesier Avenue and finish at Mesier Park. The grand marshal is William Holohan Beale, who has been the parade's master of ceremonies for the past 25 years.

THURS 9 Andy Cooney's Irish Cabaret

PEEKSKILL
7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The evening will include music by Cooney, a performance with the Emerald Fire Irish Dancers, Celtic singing by Ciara Fox and standup from comedian Mick Thomas. *Cost: \$35 to \$50*

SAT 11 Food & Bake Sale

COLD SPRING
9 a.m. – Noon.
United Methodist Church
216 Main St.

Stop by for soup, quiche, Irish soda bread, desserts and other baked goods.

SAT 11 Parade Of Green

BEACON
Noon. Main Street
facebook.com/paradeofgreen

The parade will kick off at the Municipal Building on Route 9D and head east on Main Street to the dummy light.

SAT 11 Mighty Ploughboys and Notkick Murphys

POUGHKEEPSIE
2 – 8 p.m. MJN Convention Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org

The celebration will include music, dance and food. *Cost: \$14 to \$42*

COMMUNITY

SAT 4 4 Penny Benefit for ARF

BEACON
1 – 3 p.m. VFW Hall | 413 Main St.
arfbeacon.org

This benefit for the Animal Rescue Foundation will include prize drawings.

SAT 11 Maple Sugar Celebration

PHILIPSTOWN
8:30 & 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Taconic Outdoor Education Center
75 Mountain Laurel Lane
bit.ly/taconic-events

Reserve a slot for breakfast, and see how maple syrup is made. *Cost: \$15 (\$10 children, ages 5 and younger free)*

KIDS & FAMILY

TUES 7 Dino Digs

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

Children ages 4 through the fifth grade can use a chisel and brush to dig up eggs and find out what is inside. Registration required.

TUES 7 Women's History Month Story

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

Mayor Kathleen Foley will read a book celebrating women's history for children ages 3 to 7 and their families.

WED 8 Nature Arts for Kids

COLD SPRING
3:30 p.m. Supplies for Creative Living
143 Main St.
suppliesforcreativeliving.com

Children ages 8 to 12 will learn how to use natural materials to make art, tools and crafts in this 11-week course. *Cost: \$255*

WED 8 Escape Room

BEACON
3:45 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Teams of students in grades 6 to 12 will work together to solve a mystery in a timed session. Registration required.

SAT 11 4-H Beekeeping

PUTNAM VALLEY
9 a.m. Putnam Valley Grange
128 Mill St.
putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

This is the first session of a 12-week course for students ages 11 to 15 that will cover all aspects of beekeeping. Later sessions will be held at Tilly Foster Farm in Brewster. Registration required. *Cost: \$70*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 4 Maple Sugar Tours

CORNWALL
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hnhm.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 5, SAT 11, SUN 12. Through March 19. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 members, free ages 4 and younger)*

SAT 4 Building Backyard Habitat

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.

WED 8 Intro to Google Accounts

BEACON
10 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Bring your own device or use a library computer to learn about email accounts and Google Suite. Registration required.



THURS 9 The Power of Native Women

COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Via Zoom
putnamhistorymuseum.org

In this program sponsored by the Putnam History Museum, Heather Bruegl, a citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, will talk about impactful Indigenous women. Register online. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*



Evan Samuelson, March 11



The Power of
Native Women, March 9

SAT 11 Funding Home Energy Improvements

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

Joe Montuori of Sustainable Putnam will discuss how to access the benefits of the federal Inflation Reduction Act, which includes tax credits and rebates for energy-efficiency projects.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 11 Jill Shoffiet | Eliana Szabo | Group Show

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

Shoffiet's paintings, "Sell the Collection" and "Move On," capture fantastical Southern landscapes. Szabo's *A Confrontation of Absence* will include prints of transitional spaces. The group show, *Gravity Adjacent*, will include works by Nicholas Betts, Colette Robbins, Sophia Sobers, Kate Steciw and Gail Watson. Through April 2.

SAT 11 Rios Group | Riiisa Boogie

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

SAT 11 Evan Samuelson

BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com
One Taste will feature the artist's paintings of florals that explore common truths of humanity. Through April 1.

SUN 12 Alexander Harris

PUTNAM VALLEY
11 a.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

The nature photographer will share and discuss his work. Donations welcome. *Free*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 4 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 starring Christine Bokhour, Maia Guest, Raymond Bokhour and Gregory Porter Miller. Also SUN 5, FRI 10, SAT 11, SUN 12. *Cost: \$28*

SAT 4 CP2 Series Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #3

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

The County Players will present dramatic readings of two plays, *Constellations*, by Nick Payne, and *Ada the Engine*, by Lauren Gunderson. Also 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 series of contemporary performers. *Cost: \$30 (\$40 door)*

SAT 11
The Vagina Monologues
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
This reading of Eve Ensler's celebrated work will include Lisa Andretta, Brandy Burre, Erica Hauser, Annie Lanzillotto, Shane Killoran, Jade Mason, Carole Penner, Pam Pritzker-Ridley and KerryAnne Wolfe. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 12
Christopher Gazeent
PUTNAM VALLEY
3 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The Poet's Corner series begins for the year with a reading by Gazeent from his book, *The Fraudulent Mirror*, and an open mic. *Cost: \$10*



MUSIC
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)*

SUN 5
Cajun Jam and Potluck
PUTNAM VALLEY
1 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
Bring an instrument and join a celebration of Cajun and Creole music. Jambalaya will be provided and side dishes are welcome. *Free*

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)*

THURS 9
Noga & Jake Bernz
BEACON
8 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St. | dogwoodbeacon.com
The singers and songwriters will exchange conversation and music.

FRI 10
Jerron Paxton and Dennis Lichtman
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The multi-instrumentalists will play music from their collaborative projects. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 10
Sugar Mountain
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band will play hits from Neil



Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, March 12

Young's five-decade span of music. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 11
50th Annual String Competition
ARLINGTON
3 p.m. Vassar College
100 Raymond Ave. | bardavon.org
Musicians ages 18 to 25 will perform on violin, viola or cello and the finalists will stage a concert each day at Skinner Hall. Also SUN 12. *Free*

SAT 11
True North Jazz Project
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar
173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com
Joe North (sax), Ryan Cerullo (piano), Buddy Griffith (bass) and Ryan Odell (drums) will play a diverse set of covers.

SAT 11
Professor Louie's Century of the Blues Show
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The show will include Dom Flemons, Ray Blue and the Miles of Blues Horns, and Professor Louie & The Crowmatix. *Cost: \$20 to \$35*

SAT 11
Tom Chapin & Friends
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
To celebrate his birthday, the three-time Grammy winner will play songs from his repertoire and be joined by other folk musicians. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 11
Nick Gianni
BEACON
9 p.m. Quinn's
330 Main St. | quinnsinbeacon.com
The improvisational saxophonist will perform.

SUN 12
Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Irish group will play music from its latest release, *Let the Free Birds Fly*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

CIVIC
MON 6
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

TUES 7
Ward 2 Office Hours
BEACON
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Justice McCray, who represents the ward on the Beacon City Council, will meet with residents. Stop by or make an appointment by emailing jmccray@beaconny.gov.

TUES 7
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

TUES 7
Putnam Legislature
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountyny.com

WED 8
State of the County
HYDE PARK
5:30 p.m. Culinary Institute of America
1946 Campus Drive
dutchessny.gov/RSVP
Dutchess County Executive William F.X. O'Neil will give a presentation at the Marriott Pavilion. Register by MON 6.

WED 8
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 8
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

THURS 9
State of the County
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountyny.com
Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne will give a presentation. Attend in person or watch at putnamcountyny.com/SOTC23.






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<https://desmondfishlibrary.org/careers/>



Mouths to Feed

Tempeh Rising

By Celia Barbour

By the time my sisters and I went off to college, my mother had probably prepared and served us several thousand dinners, everything from sauerbraten to spanakopita, and tamales to tuna casserole to beef tongue in mushroom sauce. Although we each had our particular favorites, I now think that the variety was itself a kind of favorite: It was thrilling to be exposed to so many dishes made by such a talented cook.



Then we went away, and all that adventure and diversity was replaced by cozy familiarity. Beginning during our school years, and continuing well into our adult lives, we spent our family holidays dining on a Top 10 list of reliable hits.

At the time, I loved knowing what to expect whenever I came home. I have written in the past about how, even if we traipsed into the kitchen long after midnight from a delayed flight into Dayton or Indianapolis, there would always be a warm pot of Finnish meatballs waiting on the stove to welcome us, with a pot of buttered noodles beside it.

A couple of weeks from now, our three sons will be returning home for spring break. Naturally, I am thinking about what to cook for them, because whenever I'm faced with change, I think about food.

Unlike my mother, however, I can't rely solely on nostalgia to help me come up with a menu. The older two boys both became vegetarians during their first year of college, which means most of our tried-and-true family favorites are off the table. And although vegetables were always the center of our weeknight family dinners, they weren't the cornerstone of meals I made for special days and celebrations. As a result, I find myself suddenly needing to create a whole new special-occasion repertoire, rather than turning to the comfort of old friends.

It's both a blessing and a spur. It also has me wondering if all those "it's-your-favorite!" dishes that parents and caregivers cook for their children through the years constitute a kind of tacit agreement, a consensus about constancy despite the inevitability of change. Like, if I make this meal just the way you remember it, kiddo, surely some part of you will remain the same sweet child who loved it when you were 5.

A few weeks ago, I attended an eight-day silent retreat at the Insight Meditation Society in Barre, Massachusetts. All the food was vegetarian, and (almost) all of it was outstanding. One favorite was barbecued tempeh that the kitchen made for lunch one day, serving it with maple-bottomed corn-

Barbecued Tempeh

Adapted from the *Insight Meditation Society recipe book*

Serves 4

Note: You can simplify this recipe by skipping the sauce and mixing the marinated, baked tempeh with your favorite bottled barbecue sauce, warmed on the stove.

FOR THE MARINADE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1/3 cup mild oil, such as canola or safflower, plus more for sautéing onion | 1 teaspoon onion powder |
| 1/4 cup tamari or soy sauce | 2 teaspoons liquid smoke flavoring |
| 1 tablespoon smoked paprika | 1 pound tempeh, cut into 1-inch square pieces |

FOR THE BBQ SAUCE

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 medium onion, finely chopped | 1/3 cup mustard |
| 2 cloves garlic, minced | 1/2 teaspoon allspice |
| 1 1/2 cups tomato puree | 1 teaspoon salt, or to taste |
| 2 tablespoons honey | 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes |
| 1/4 cup molasses | 2 teaspoons tamari |
| | 2 teaspoons cider vinegar |

Cornbread and sautéed greens, for serving

- Heat oven to 350 degrees. Whisk together the marinade ingredients, minus the tempeh. Add the cut tempeh and allow to marinate 45 minutes to 1 hour, stirring occasionally.
- Meanwhile, heat 1/3 cup oil in a skillet. Add the onion and sauté until quite soft and beginning to turn golden, about 12 minutes. Add the garlic and sauté for 2 minutes. Add all the remaining ingredients, except the tamari and vinegar. Simmer for 1 hour over low heat, stirring regularly, and adding more water if it begins to look dry.
- Spread the marinated tempeh on a baking sheet lined with parchment or a nonstick mat. Transfer to the oven and bake 30 minutes, flipping the tempeh over and rotating the pan once or twice during baking. Remove from oven and transfer to the skillet with the barbecue sauce. Add the tamari and vinegar and stir to combine. Serve hot, with cornbread and sautéed greens on the side.

bread and stewed greens. Just the smell of it triggered an onslaught of very un-mindful impulses in me, including a compulsion to walk calmly but exceedingly quickly to the front of the buffet line before everyone else arrived.

The cooks offered up the recipe, and yesterday I tried scaling it down for our family before the kids get here. The result

was every bit as good as I'd hoped. Perhaps I will have it waiting on the stove when they descend on our house in 10 days. The next day, my mom will drive up from Sleepy Hollow to join us for lunch or dinner. And no matter what time she arrives, I guarantee you this: She will bring with her a warm pot of Finnish meatballs, updated for her grandchildren with vegan meat.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing - March 13th, 2023

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a continuation of a public hearing from Monday, February 13th, 2023 on Monday, March 13th, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

Brendan Yi-Fu Tay & Sierra Schoening, 15 Peacock Way, Garrison, NY 10524 TM#82.-1-66

Applicant is seeking a variance to build a 2,124 square foot accessory structure (barn).

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

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

Dated February 13th, 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing - March 16th, 2023

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 16th, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 to consider the following application:

Stepping Stones, 25 Lady Blue Devils Way, Cold Spring, NY 10516, TM#16.16-1-20.2

Project: Major Project: Applicant is proposing to expand an existing daycare facility with the addition of an 1,820 sq. ft. detached building, relocating an existing playground and some additional parking spaces.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring (behind Town Hall). Prior contact with Cheryl Rockett is required to arrange access to the documents, at (845) 265-5202.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 16th day of February, 2023. Neal Zuckerman, Chair



The marquee of the Beacon Theater in March 2020, when the pandemic shutdown began

File photo

Beacon Theater, Story Screen Split

Reopened venue brought cinema back to the city

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon Theater and Story Screen, the brand attached to the renovated theater since its reopening in 2019, have announced they are parting ways. Moving forward, the theater will be known as The Beacon.

That's what the building at 445 Main St. was called in 1934, when it opened as a 1,200-seat venue to show "photo plays." (An opera house built in 1886 was torn down to make way for the theater.) The theater closed in 1968 but was purchased and rehabilitated in the mid-1990s by the Everlasting Covenant Church. A theater company, 4th Wall Productions, bought the building in 2010 with plans to create an 800-seat performance space.

After 4th Wall fell behind on its mortgage payments, Brendan McAlpine, a Beacon resident whose development group also restored The Roundhouse, bought the theater in 2015.

Soon after, he connected with Mike Burdge, the founder of Story Screen, who had been showing free "pop-up" films around Beacon and, in 2015, organized a horror movie marathon at several venues.

McAlpine and Burdge, along with two other partners, reopened the theater after extensive renovations, bringing first-run movies back to Main Street for the first time in decades.

Burdge announced this week that he is leaving the theater, which he managed, for personal reasons. Through his Story Screen brand, he had been responsible for such events there as the Beacon HorrorShow, trivia nights, an annual Oscars celebration and a monthly VHS Pasta Night.

"We have had a terrific response and support from the community over the years," said Burdge, who remains a minority owner in The Beacon. He added that he will announce his plans for Story Screen in the coming months.

Other than hiring a new manager, little will change at The Beacon, McAlpine said. The venue will continue to show first-run

fare — *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* is the current headliner — in its largest theater, an 85-seat space.

The second theater, with 25 seats, shows independent and foreign films, while the third theater hosts live entertainment, such as comedy shows and improv troupes, as well as private screenings and "revival" films from the 1980s and '90s. The third theater can also be rented for parties and other private events.

The staff, which McAlpine called a dedicated crew of "cinophiles at heart," will remain, as will Wonderbar, the adjacent cafe, which was restored and opened a year after the theater.

The Beacon continues to rebound after the pandemic, which saw it shutter for nearly a year, just as it was gaining steam after reopening. "The pandemic was a killer for a lot of businesses," McAlpine said, noting that theaters, despite ample seating space and air-circulation systems, "were perceived as not safe."

"We do see people coming back now, and it's getting better, pretty much every week," he said. "It's been a success overall, though we took a detour there."

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

**Site Visit -
Sunday, March 5th, 2023**

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on **Sunday, March 5th, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.** to inspect the following site:

**Bach/Veterinary Hospital,
475 Fishkill Rd
Cold Spring, NY 10516**

TM#27.11-1-34




Baby & Dog



This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Corey and Crystal Smith of Beacon shared this shot of their son, Noah, with Clarence. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

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Translated by Christopher Hampton



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Roots and Shoots

How to Kill a Lawn

By Pamela Doan

Our yards are not good for the planet. Loss of habitat compounds problems for wildlife and insects because lawns don't offer ecological benefits. The way we maintain lawns with gas-powered equipment contributes to global warming through the release of carbon emissions.



The synthetic fertilizers we use to make lawns green run off into waterways and the nitrogen creates harmful algae blooms. The herbicides and pesticides we use to maintain monocultures of turf grass poison everything in their path, including beneficial insects, pollinators and native plants. The water we use on landscapes sucks up 9 billion gallons a day from groundwater and reservoirs, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

So if you're ready, spring is a good time to get rid of grass. Every method, from herbicides to sod removal to smothering, has its advantages and disadvantages.

Dan Jaffe Wilder, director of applied ecology at the Norcross Wildlife Foundation in Massachusetts, is an admitted lawn killer. (Large numbers of people making small changes makes a big impact, he says.) His preferred method is smothering. This involves using organic materials to cover the area to block photosynthesis.

Start by cutting the grass as short as possible with a mower or string trimmer. Then cover it with cardboard or newspaper and layer compost and wood chips on top to create a planting medium.

There are some details that are important to consider based on your site condi-



Preparing a yard with cardboard and wood chips for planting meadow-style Photo by P. Doan

tions, timing during the season and what you plan to grow in place of lawn. Soil is key to healthy plants and they have different needs. A vegetable garden requires more organic matter and nutrients than a native plant flowerbed, for example.

Wilder uses the example of replacing a patch of lawn with native grasses such as little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*). This plant prefers thin, less-rich soils and wouldn't grow well with the additional organic matter and nutrients from compost and wood chips. Wilder uses a topsoil and sand mix on the cardboard to establish little bluestem.

For an eco-lawn seed mix like the ones available from High Country Gardens, Wildflower Farms, Prairie Nursery and other online retailers, Wilder cautions that it is best to follow the grower's instructions. They have trialed and developed the seed and know what works.

Wood chips alone in a 12- to 18-inch thick layer can kill vegetation and in normal conditions will decompose over a few months for planting. Pull the chips back to put the plant into the soil.

Here are some other methods, and their drawbacks.

diately. You'll need a second step of weed control before planting anything new.

Herbicides

Synthetic, broad-spectrum herbicides will get the job done with one or two applications. Wilder notes, however, that "we simply don't know a lot about the effects or understand how it breaks down in the soil."

Organic herbicides such as horticultural-grade vinegar or clove oil can be toxic to the person applying them and should be handled with care, training and protective equipment.

Solarizing

In regions with longer seasons of hot days and higher temperatures, clear plastic can be fastened to the ground to overheat the grass. But Wilder and another horticulturist who specializes in turf grass told me it won't be effective in the Hudson Valley.

Wilder mentioned a plant that I wasn't familiar with, common selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), a low-growing member of the mint family with purple flowers, edible leaves and medicinal properties that can be encouraged or planted in a lawn alternative. He also likes wild strawberry, sedge and clove. All have big appeal for bees.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS****Public Hearing - March 13th, 2023**

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 13th, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

Garrison Station Plaza, 19 Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY 10524 TM#60.17-1-9

Applicant is seeking a variance for a north side setback to construct a 10' x 24' deck on an existing structure currently under renovation.

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

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

Dated February 13th, 2023

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OBITUARIES

Margaret Garnot (1926-2023)

Margaret Josephine Garnot, 96, a Beacon native and longtime resident of Wappingers Falls, died on Feb. 20 with family members at her side.



She was born in Beacon on July 8, 1926, to Peter and Josephine (DiCamillo) Sylvester. She attended Beacon schools and was employed as a seamstress at Aero Leather, where she made bomber jackets for the U.S. Air Corps. She also worked as a seamstress for Krakower Fabrics.

On June 15, 1947, Margaret married Nicholas Garnot. They were wed for 60 years until his death. The couple raised their three children in a home in Wappingers Falls that he built.

Margaret enjoyed cooking, baking Christmas cookies, sewing and crocheting (especially doilies), shopping with her sister and taking her grandchildren on "just the girls" shopping sprees, playing Lotto and the daily numbers, and watching the Yankees.

She is survived by her children, Vincent Garnot, Bernadette Diorazio (Phil) and David Garnot (Alison), as well as her grandchildren (Eric, Kara, Justin, Nicole, Briana and Steven) and nine great-grandchildren.

A prayer service was offered Feb. 25 at the Delehanty Funeral Home in Wappingers Falls, followed by interment at St. Mary's Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice (hvhospice.org) or The Grand at Pawling (thegrandhealthcare.com).

Pocahontas Jackson (1922-2023)

Pocahontas Mona Jackson, 100, died Feb. 20.

She was born April 8, 1922, in Brooklyn, the daughter of William Johnson, a police officer, and Maud Morris, a dancer at the Cotton Club in New York City. She was named to honor her great-grandmother's Native American ancestry.

After both of her parents died early in her life, Pocahontas and her two older sisters, Sylvia and Gloria, moved to Hopewell Junction, where they were raised by their grandparents on a farm on Route 82. She also had an older brother, John Turner. (For more on her childhood, see a profile published in *The Current* in April 2022.)

After attending the Little Red Schoolhouse and Beacon High School, Pocahontas worked at Bobrich and Chempreme, from which she retired in 1990. She ended her career as a school bus monitor for the Beacon City School District from 1992 to 2017, and generations of Beacon schoolchildren will recall beginning and ending their days with "Miss Pokey."

Pocahontas will be remembered by friends and family for her laugh, love of song, and dedication to watching her "stories." She will be missed by the congregation of St. Andrew Episcopal Church in Beacon, where she was a faithful member for nearly 70 years. Beacon, as a whole, will be a less vibrant place without her colorful fashion and, on Sundays, collection of matching hats, her family said.

She is survived by her children, Barbara,



Douglas Jr. (Michele) and Kim, along with eight grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. Her husband of 68 years, Douglas Jackson Sr., died in 2018. Two of her children, Robert Pulliam and Gloria Reed, and her great-great grandson, Roman Haffley, also died before her.

A Celebration of Life will be held Monday (March 6) at 1 p.m. at St. Andrew Episcopal Church, 15 South Ave., in Beacon. Floral and colorful clothing is encouraged. Donations for memorial plants for the spring may be sent to Douglas Jackson, 5 Lamplight St., Beacon, NY 12508.

Cheryl Timmons (1952-2023)

Cheryl Timmons, 70, of Nelsonville, died Feb. 21 at Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow.



She was born Oct. 13, 1952, the daughter of Berline and Grace DiRocco. Cheryl worked for the Town of Ossining assessor's office for more than 35 years. She enjoyed animals and spending time with her family.

Cheryl is survived by her husband of 51 years, James Timmons; her sons, James Timmons and William Timmons; her grandchildren, James, Theresa, William, Dylan and Amanda Timmons and Allen and Johnny Jones; and her sister, Laurel Conklin.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 28 at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring, followed by interment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Animal Rescue Foundation (arfbeacon.org).

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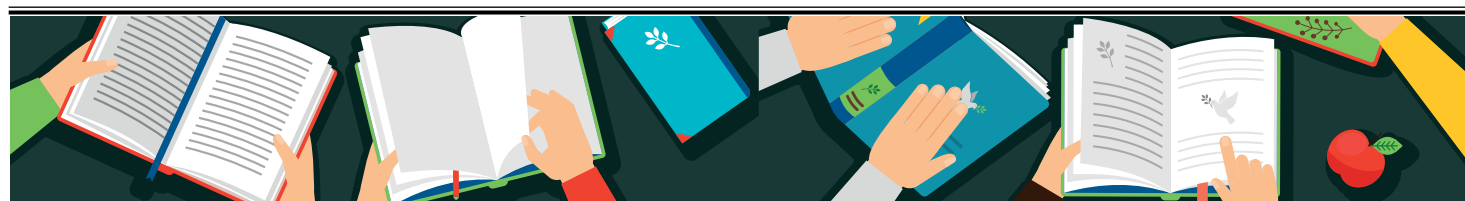
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NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Monday, March 13th 2023 at 7:30 p.m.** in person at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.**

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



Start Reading Now

March book club selections

Elementary Book Club (Grades 2-4)

TUES 7, 3:15 P.M.

The 1619 Project: Born on the Water, by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Reading with Writers

WED 8, 7 P.M.

Pity the Reader: On Writing with Style, by Kurt Vonnegut and Suzanne McConnell
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splitrockbks.com.

Percy Jackson Book Club (Grades 3-4)

THURS 9, 3:15 P.M.

Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Butterfield Book Club

MON 13, 7 P.M.

The Age of Innocence, by Edith Wharton
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Helen Savoit Book Club

TUES 14, 1:30 P.M.

Matrix, by Lauren Groff
Howland Public Library, Beacon
Register at beaconlibrary.org/calendar.

Percy Jackson Book Club (Grades 5+)

TUES 14, 3:15 P.M.

The House of Hades, by Rick Riordan
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Fiction Book Club

THURS 16, 7 P.M.

Their Four Hearts, by Vladimir Sorokin
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splitrockbks.com.

Trophy Life Book Club

THURS 23, 6 P.M.

Interior Chinatown, by Charles Yu
Winner of 2020 National Book Award
Howland Public Library, Beacon
Register at beaconlibrary.org/calendar.

Twins Book Club (Grades 6-8)

WED 29, 3:45 P.M.

Lupe Wong Won't Dance, by Donna Barbra Higuera
Howland Public Library, Beacon
Register at beaconlibrary.org/calendar.

Book Buds (Grades 3-5)

THURS 30, 6 P.M.

Frizzy, by Claribel Ortega
Howland Public Library, Beacon
Register at beaconlibrary.org/calendar.

Ryan Calls on CSX to Improve Safety

After Ohio derailment, says industry must make changes

By Chip Rowe

Rep. Pat Ryan, whose district includes Beacon, this week called on CSX to adopt safety measures he said could prevent accidents in the Hudson Valley similar to the Feb. 3 accident in East Palestine, Ohio, in which a Norfolk Southern freight train carrying hazardous material derailed and caught fire.

CSX operates tracks along the western shore of the Hudson River through the Highlands that Ryan said can see as many as 20 freight trains per day, including as many as five carrying Bakken crude oil.

In a statement, Ryan, who is a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said he had written



Rep. Pat Ryan (left) and Newburgh Mayor Torrance Harvey

Photo provided

CSX President and CEO Joseph Hinrichs about his concerns. Ryan also called for a congressional hearing on rail safety.

"We've seen a disturbing pattern of CSX consistently putting profit over safety, creating serious risk that what happened in Ohio could repeat itself right here in the Hudson Valley," Ryan alleged. "Just like

Norfolk Southern, CSX and other big rail corporations spent millions lobbying the last president to deregulate the railways, resulting in the administration withdrawing a proposal to require faster brakes on trains carrying highly flammable materials and ending regular rail safety audits."

Torrance Harvey, the mayor of Newburgh,

noted that a CSX derailment in 2017 caused by a man lift that stalled on the tracks, spilled 4,600 tons of diesel fuel. "I am worried a future derailment could cause even more damage," he said in a statement. "CSX cannot stand by while communities of color like mine sit on what feels like a ticking time bomb."

Gary Bassett, the mayor of Rhinebeck who heads a group of seven municipalities in Dutchess and Ulster counties (not including Beacon) that take their drinking water from the river, said the group notified CSX in 2021 of its concern about potential bridge failures that might lead to spills into the Hudson.

Ryan called for Congress to increase the fines for rail safety violations from the current maximum of \$225,455; expand regulation of hazardous shipments; increase the use of electronically controlled pneumatic brakes; speed up the phase-in of new tank cars for hazardous materials, which now extends to 2029; and increase funding for hazardous-materials training for first responders

Ryan also called on the freight rail industry to join a program that allows employees to confidentially report safety concerns and to provide notice to emergency response teams when hazardous tank cars will travel through their state.

Krivak (from Page 1)

In a response at the time, then-County Executive MaryEllen Odell dismissed Tandy's reaction as "an emotional response

in a case where two prior district attorneys obtained convictions but he was unable to do so." The settlement cost the county \$200,000, with the remainder covered by insurance.



Josette Wright

The most recent exoneration is "obviously a vindication of Andrew's innocence, which we've been saying for a lot of years," said Oscar Michelen, who represented Krivak. "It's also a statement on the complete lack of evidence in this case. We had seven weeks of trial and the jury took less than six hours to deliberate."

Michelen said lawsuits were likely under the state's Unjust Conviction Act and federal civil rights law, but that "the next step is just to decide what Andrew wants to do with his life. He's been under house arrest for a couple of years, and then before that he was incarcerated for over 20 of the most formative years of his life. He now has this off his head."

Michelen said Tandy's decision to prosecute the case after Krivak's conviction was overturned was "disturbing. It seemed to be very personal, almost a vendetta. He didn't care what the evidence was, he was going to plow ahead."

DiPippo and Krivak were convicted of second-degree murder in separate trials for their alleged participation in the 1994 rape and murder of Josette. Her remains were discovered in Patterson in November 1995, more than a year after she disappeared.

A key difference between the two prosecutions is that Krivak provided a statement that the defense contended was a false confession coerced by Putnam County sheriff investigators.

The primary witness for the state was Denise Rose, a former friend of both men who



A monitoring device is removed from Andrew Krivak's ankle in the courtroom after his acquittal on Monday (Feb. 27).

Photo by Seth Harrison/The Journal News

testified that, while sitting in Krivak's van, she watched Krivak and DiPippo rape and suffocate Josette before carrying her body into the woods. The defense contended Rose was a compulsive liar who used information fed to her by the sheriff's investigators because they threatened her with prosecution.

DiPippo's conviction was overturned in 2011 when an appellate court determined that his lawyer failed to disclose that he had previously represented Howard Gombert Jr., a sex offender who was later put forth as a more likely suspect in Wright's death.

Gombert is serving a 30-year sentence in Connecticut after being convicted of sexually assaulting an 8-year-old girl in 2000. He is also a suspect in the 1995 disappearance of 17-year-old Robin Murphy from a Carmel shopping center on Route 52, where Gombert worked at a coin-operated laun-

dry. Gombert has denied involvement in Wright's death or Murphy's disappearance.

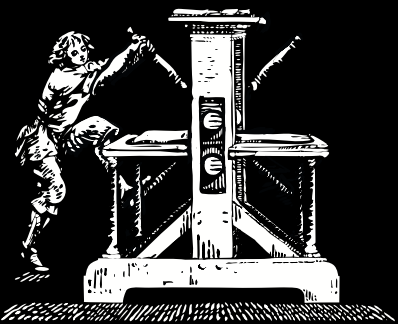
DiPippo was re-tried in 2012 and again found guilty, but that conviction was overturned in 2016 when an appeals court ruled that DiPippo's lawyer should have been allowed to present testimony from a former Carmel resident who was imprisoned with Gombert in Connecticut and who said Gombert had implicated himself.

During the second retrial, DiPippo's attorneys questioned the tactics of Putnam sheriff investigator Patrick Castaldo, now retired, and other deputies when they took statements from alleged witnesses to the crime.

During DiPippo's third trial, in 2016, which lasted for three weeks, the jury deliberated for a day before finding him not guilty.

Leonard Sparks contributed reporting.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Pirate's chart

4. *Shark Tank* network

7. Clench

11. Misfortunes

13. Monk's title

14. Jeans maker Strauss

15. Grabbed

16. Sailor

17. Opposite of "sans"

18. Lukewarm

20. Soft shoes, for short

22. Egg y quaff

24. Give

28. Limo alternative

32. Orange variety

33. Online auction site

34. "Kapow!"

36. Traditional tales

37. Winter woes

39. Lauded

41. Balloon filler

43. Little rascal

44. Beseech

46. Speak one's mind

50. Big swig

53. Profit

55. Alike (Fr.)

56. Sheltered

57. — Jima

58. Activist Parks

59. Twinkler in the sky

10. Photo, for short

12. Swimmer without a suit

19. Medico

21. Biz bigwig

23. Prattle

25. New Mexico resort

26. Shrek, for one

27. Garden intruder

28. Georgia or Cal

29. Bassoon's kin

30. Humpty's perch

60. Venomous viper

61. Campaigned

DOWN

1. Catcher's aid

2. Skin soother

3. Fall into a soft chair

4. Astern

5. *Dracula* author

6. Ersatz chocolate

7. Fairy-tale footwear

8. Speed (up)

9. "— had it!"

31. Knock

35. Hosp. scan

38. California's Big —

40. I love (Lat.)

42. Craze

45. Evergreen trees

47. Mr. Stravinsky

48. Apollo 13 org.

49. Panache

50. Tank filler

51. Last (Abbr.)

52. Meadow

54. Spinning toy

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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 sound of a rusty hinge (5)

2 sundae toppers (8)

3 Mariners great Ichiro (6)

4 stamp seller (4)

5 French good-byes (6)

6 Covey wrote about seven (6)

7 Alabama's "Mockingbird" town (11)

SOLUTIONS

CR	IE	ES	CH	UKI
RI	ITS	LE	UX	EV
HAB	NRO	PS	SUZ	ER
US	IL	EAK	MO	AD

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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

1. LICHEN, 2. LITTLE, 3. JAGGEDNESS, 4. AGENT, 5. GLIDED, 6. SWARMS, 7. SOUND

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

SPORTS

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Haldane Boys, in Double Overtime, Advance to Finals

Three other local hoops teams fall short in tournament

By Skip Pearlman

In a game in which baskets were hard to find early and late, the Haldane boys' basketball team saved its best for overtime and survived a Section I, Class C semifinal matchup on Wednesday (March 1) over Alexander Hamilton, 51-46.

It was Coach Joe Virgadamo's 200th career victory at Haldane, in 17 seasons.

A Hamilton three-pointer with six seconds remaining in the first overtime at the Westchester County Center in White Plains sent the game into another frame tied at 40-40.

But the Blue Devils found their rhythm in the second OT, putting six points on the board before Hamilton scored. Matteo Cervone delivered a spinning layup with 2:10 remaining, and Ben Bozsik followed with a basket that gave Haldane a 46-40 lead with 1:38 left. Bozsik then hit another shot and sealed the win with free throws. He finished with 19 points.

Both teams showed nerves early, and the score was only 17-14 in favor of Haldane at halftime. The Blue Devils led 25-23 going into the fourth quarter.

"That was a classic game," said Cervone, who scored 20 points. "It's great to be in the final — we've known since last March [when Haldane lost to Hamilton in the title game] that's what we wanted."

Virgadamo said his team turned up the defense late. "It was a weird game, but you have to win these kind of games," he said. "I'm disappointed we didn't capitalize in the first overtime. Bozsik did everything, Evan Giachinta came up big, Will Bradley was big, and Matteo found a way to get his points."

The No. 2 seeded Blue Devils (17-4) will play No. 1 Tuckahoe (15-6) in the sectional title game at the county center on Saturday (March 4) at 12:15 p.m. The game will be broadcast at events.locallive.tv/conference/ny-section1.

HALDANE GIRLS

Finding points has been the challenge all season for the Haldane girls' basketball team, and while the No. 4-seed Blue Devils stayed close early in the Section I, Class C semifinal on Wednesday at the county center, No. 1 Tuckahoe eventually pulled away for a 49-25 victory.

Tuckahoe led 10-0 before Haldane got on the board, but the Blue Devils came back, and the first quarter ended with the Tigers up, 13-9. But Haldane didn't score in the second quarter, allowing Tuckahoe to build



Ben Bozsik scored 19 points and sealed the game for Haldane at the free throw line in the second overtime.



Adrian Beato of Beacon drives against Wallkill on Monday (Feb. 27). For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.



Haldane's Marisa Peters drives against Tuckahoe on Wednesday.

Photos by S. Pearlman

a 24-9 cushion by the half. It was 40-20 at the end of three quarters.

Mairead O'Hara led Haldane, which finished 3-18, with eight points, followed by Camila McDaniel (5) and Moretta Pezzullo (3) and Kayla Ruggerio (3).

"It's been a tough go this season," Coach Ed Crowe said. "We played a tough schedule, but we played hard, and that's all we can ask for."

BEACON BOYS

After losing to Goshen twice in the regular season — once by 20 points — the

power for us from three," said Coach Patrick Schetter. "We had it close, but we missed some key shots late, and they didn't."

The Bulldogs reached the semifinal thanks to a 56-44 win over No. 5 Wallkill, on Monday (Feb. 27) behind Battle's 18 points. Mercado added 10 points and Adrian Beato and Gillins each had nine. Beacon led comfortably for most of the game, although the Panthers came within six points in the third quarter.

BEACON GIRLS

After earning a bye in the quarterfinal round, the No. 1 seed Beacon girls' basketball team was upset by No. 5 Franklin Roosevelt, 49-30, in a Section IX, Class A semifinal on Wednesday at Beacon High School.

Reilly Landisi led Beacon with 10 points and Daveya Rodriguez added nine, but the Bulldogs never got in an offensive rhythm.

"We lost to a very talented FDR team," said Coach Christina Dahl. "With their size and length, they made it tough for us to get going offensively."

But, she added, "one game doesn't define our season. Although it did not end the way we wanted it to, we were still 15-5 overall and league champs. We have a great group of girls and are proud to be their coaches. We're lucky to return everyone next season."

WINTER TRACK

Henry Reinke and Damani Deloatch of Beacon each qualified for the indoor state championships, which will be held on Saturday (March 4) on Staten Island.

Reinke ran a 1:21.91 in the 600 meters to finish first in Section IX and bump his state ranking from No. 22 to No. 4. The time is the second-fastest 600 in Beacon High School history, behind Alex Shapiro's 2010 mark of 1:21.6.

"This makes Henry a serious contender to medal at states," Coach Jim Henry said.

Deloatch qualified in the triple jump with a personal best of 44-6¼, ranking him the 10th best triple-jumper at states. It was his second consecutive time qualifying for the triple jump at indoor states.

"February has always been a great month of improvement in Beacon track, and this year was no different," Henry said. "After the team championships conclude, there are several weeks to focus on the top individuals and tailor practices specifically to their needs. Henry and Damani have both put that work in, and it's exciting to see it pay off."

Both athletes plan to compete at the nationals in Boston the following weekend.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.