

The HIGHLANDS

Current

MARCH 10, 2023

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A rendering shows how the proposed warehouse would appear to southbound drivers on Route 9. Home Depot is at the far right.

Dutchess Mall Plan Approved

Warehouse to replace blighted vestiges

By Leonard Sparks

A plan to replace the rundown remnants of the former Dutchess Mall on Route 9 with a massive warehouse facility won approval from the Town of Fishkill Planning Board last month. The board gave preliminary approval on Feb. 9 to Crow Holdings Industrial’s application to demolish the long-abandoned remaining buildings from what was once Dutchess County’s first indoor mall and construct a 350,000-square-foot facility with

78 loading docks and 209 parking spaces. The warehouse would sit on 28.9 acres of a 39.3-acre parcel currently owned by Hudson Properties LLC along the south side of the Home Depot, which is flanked on the north by the Fishkill campus of Dutchess Community College. In addition to the warehouse, Crow says it will install bike racks and six charging stations for electric vehicles, as well as add a sidewalk and bus shelter on Route 9. Hudson Properties will retain ownership of the remaining 10.4-acre lot, which fronts the property along the state highway. Before anything is built, the project needs
(Continued on Page 3)

Grassroots Group Wants Shorter Fjord Trail

Pushes for Cold Spring-to-Breakneck path to be dropped

By Michael Turton

A newly formed grassroots organization called Protect the Highlands wants the southmost portion of the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail to begin and end at Breakneck Ridge, rather than Dockside Park in Cold Spring. The plans for the Fjord Trail call for a “linear park” stretching 7.5 miles between Cold Spring and the Beacon riverfront. A section of the Breakneck Ridge trail was closed on March 1 so that initial work could begin; a pedestrian bridge over the Metro-North tracks at Breakneck is scheduled to be completed by late 2025 and the entire project finished by 2030. Dave Merandy, a former Cold Spring mayor, said Protect the Highlands began to coalesce when he convened an informal gathering of about 20 people to discuss what they see as the trail’s potential negative impact on the village. “Our goal is to get as much of a groundswell as we can and increase our membership to a point where we can’t be ignored,” said Merandy, who is acting as a spokesperson for the group because it does not yet have formal leadership. “One of our goals is to have
(Continued on Page 18)



ELECTRICITY IN THE AIR — At a Philipstown Town Board meeting on March 2, Laurie Wheelock, executive director of the Public Utility Law Project of New York, discussed Central Hudson’s error-prone billing system. Residents also contributed horror stories of missing and/or surprise charges. The board on Monday (March 6) submitted to the state Public Service Commission a resolution supporting its investigation into Central Hudson’s billing problems. *Photo by Ross Corsair*

Montgomery: Where is Policy for Police Body Cameras?

Putnam sheriff says Legislature, public, schools don’t need to see it

By Chip Rowe

A \$40,000 state grant to Putnam County for police body cameras prompted discussions among members of the Legislature about whether the Sheriff Department’s policy regulating

their use should be made public. The Legislature on Tuesday (March 7) voted 8-0 to accept the funds from the state Department of Criminal Justice Services for the sheriff to lease 20 body cameras for corrections officers and special patrol officers. (Deputies began wearing them in September.) The grant covers the first year of the 44-month contract, with the county responsible for the remainder, which will cost \$55,000 to \$60,000 per year.
(Continued on Page 3)

A Stitch at a Time

Beacon shoe repair shop hopes to bounce back

By Jeff Simms

A fire on Main Street in Beacon last year didn’t just destroy Alvin Bell’s barbershop, a space he had occupied for more than 30 years. It also displaced YunTae “John” Oh and his wife, HwaJa Oh, whose shoe repair shop at 209 Main St. had been Bell’s neighbor for a dozen years. While firefighters initially reported that John’s Shoe Repair sustained minimal smoke damage as a result of the blaze, it was enough to close the shop until repairs could be made and inspected, said Joe Donovan, who owned the 201-211 Main St. building
(Continued on Page 3)



YunTae “John” Oh demonstrates how a stitching machine works at the new location of John’s Shoe Repair. *Photo by J. Simms*

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: KATHLEEN ANDERSEN

By Michael Turton

Kathleen Andersen has been a glassblower at Hudson Beach Glass in Beacon for 15 years.

How did you get into glassblowing?

I first saw it at a studio in Vermont with my grandmother when I was 10 years old. They were making glass "ice cubes." I just stared, amazed that they could do that with glass. We went back a few times. As I got older, I did a lot of drawing and painting. I've been into art for most of my life and, when I decided to pursue it, I wanted a school that would let me try everything. I had never done welding or metalsmithing, and certainly not glassblowing. I looked at 26 schools and the best fit for me was Alfred University [in upstate New York]. When I was a junior, friends who were studying glassblowing convinced me to just try, and I was hooked. I graduated in 2008 and three months later got a job at Hudson Beach Glass.

Is it mostly art, or mostly science?

It's a nice balance of both. If you enjoy the science, you can pursue that. If it's not of interest, you don't have to pay much attention to it. If you work at a studio where someone else can take care of the science, you can just do the glassmaking, although



you still need some understanding. If something is breaking all the time, it's probably about the science. Glass is all about formulas. The glass and colors I work with have to be compatible; they all have to shrink

at the same rate. Furnace temperature is important. Even when I'm done making something, it's still over 1,000 degrees and has to go into a specialized oven to cool at a specific rate. What draws me in are the colors and how they react. I might have a pink and a blue. When they mix, they make green, which is crazy.

Do you know anything about the origins of the craft?

It's been around since the ancient Egyptians. They also worked with metals such as copper, silver and gold, which have a similar melting temperature to glass. But glassblowing dates to the Phoenician Empire [1550 to 300 BCE]. They were the first to make furnaces hot enough to smelt iron. That enabled them to make iron pipes, including tubes used for glassblowing.

Where does the sand you use to make the glass come from?

It's from deposits in Washington state that are pre-melted for our studio. There are also deposits in Wisconsin and Virginia. You want a clean silica deposit; the whiter the sand, the fewer impurities. If I were to use Hudson River sand, which has more iron and other elements, the glass would probably end up a green-brown color. Our manufacturer's glass is clear and compatible with the colors I use. The colors are also glass and come in bars, shaped like hard-cookie dough. I buy them from three companies based in Germany.

How often have you been burned?

Rarely. You might develop a tiny blister you don't notice until five days later. I've had maybe five memorable burns, and three of those were in my first two years. If you get burned while glassblowing, you'll never get burned the same way again. It's sense memory. If you're reaching for something hot, your hand recognizes the heat even before your brain does. I'm more likely to get thin cuts, like paper cuts, from glass shards.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What is your personal rite of spring?

"I'm looking forward to taking my daughters to the Bronx Zoo."



Sabrina Rose, Beacon

"Our first family hike along the Trout Brook Trail."



Eli Karetny, Philipstown

"Pick a ramp in the woods, eat it, then skinny dip in a cold Connecticut lake."



Savannah Loubiere, New Orleans (visiting the Highlands)

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Doors open at 6:15

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Dutchess Mall *(from Page 1)*

other approvals, including the state Department of Transportation's endorsement of Crow's concept for sidewalks and other additions along Route 9 and consent from Dutchess County for the project's sewer and water infrastructure.

The Town Board is also requiring that Crow provide a \$15 million performance bond to ensure completion of certain elements of the project unrelated to the main facility, such as sidewalks, storm water controls and landscaping.

During a public hearing in December, Jennifer Gray, an attorney with Keane & Beane of White Plains, which is representing Crow Holdings, described the property

“It's long been a dilapidated, abandoned, moribund site, so we are pleased to be able to bring this back to productive use.

~ Attorney Jennifer Gray

as a “gateway” to Fishkill.

“It's long been a dilapidated, abandoned, moribund site, so we are pleased to be able to bring this back to productive use,” she said.

Before the property became an eyesore, it opened in 1974 as Dutchess County's first indoor mall on part of the site of the Fishkill Supply Depot, a Revolutionary War-era encampment.

Tenants have included several department stores, Jamesway, Lucky Platt and Mays, a Radio Shack and a Waldenbooks. But the opening of the Poughkeepsie Galleria and other retail centers along Route 9 siphoned away customers and the mall closed in 2001.

Home Depot opened in July 2006. Seven years later, Dutchess Marketplace, an indoor/outdoor flea market, opened in the former Jamesway space but shut down in 2019.

Redeveloping the site has been a priority for the town, but not every resident embraced the construction of a warehouse. At the public hearing in December, Ann LaGoy called the site a “national treasure” because of the Fishkill Supply Depot but said it was “disappointing to see that this is our gateway into Fishkill and it's going to be a giant warehouse.”

The town's goal of seeing the property redeveloped received a boost in August 2021 when Dutchess Community College opened its Fishkill campus in the former Jamesway building.

The college said it chose the location in part because of its proximity to Interstate 84 and the belief that it could attract more students from Beacon and Putnam County, which does not have a community college.

Under a 15-year lease agreement, J.W. Mays Corp. renovated 47,000 square feet on the second floor of the two-story building, which dominated the north end of Dutchess Mall when it opened nearly 50 years ago.

In addition to 20 classrooms, the building has a lecture hall; biology, design and physical science labs; computer rooms; administrative offices; and a library.

Shoe Repair *(from Page 1)*

but was in the process of selling at the time.

Donovan said this week that he had negotiated new, multi-year leases with each of the commercial tenants in the building, including John's Shoe Repair and Bell's barbershop. “We did that so each of the them would have stability in their current locations after the sale,” he said.

That all changed July 6, when fire broke out in the rear portion of Bell's barbershop. Beacon firefighters were on the scene within 60 seconds of the 4:04 p.m. alarm, and remained on-site for more than three hours.

Fighting heavy smoke, firefighters found the blaze and were able to confine it to the first floor of the building. The fire was ruled accidental, said Chief Gary Van Voorhis.

But by then, the merchants had signed their leases and Donovan was scheduled to close on the sale to Fadil Mavraj, the developer of the 206-208 Main St. building, within weeks. Donovan quickly determined it would not be possible to restore the barbershop before the sale, and terminated Bell's lease at 211 Main. (Bell, 88, said in December that he had decided to retire rather than rebuild his business. He returned \$10,200 raised through GoFundMe.)

Donovan also knew it would be difficult to restore the shoe repair shop before the sale closed. “We moved their equipment

and furnishings out and made a serious attempt to complete those repairs in the short period available,” he said. When the repairs could not be completed in time, Mavraj said this week that he terminated John and HwaJa's lease. He hopes to have a new tenant in the space sometime this year.

For a short time, the Ohs shifted the business into their Hopewell Junction home (while collecting and returning customers' shoes from the sidewalk in front of 209 Main

St.), before moving in January into a small but recently refurbished commercial/service space at 152 Main St., an otherwise residential building that Donovan owns. The shop is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Donovan paid to move and store the couple's equipment after the fire; John and HwaJa used their retirement money to move the equipment into the new space.

That arrangement has not been without

complication, as an older piece of shoe-repair machinery was too big to move into the building. The couple hopes to raise \$12,000 to replace it with a smaller, newer machine that would fit inside.

Despite the setbacks, John and HwaJa are still at work each day repairing shoes, bags and other materials. On crowded racks and behind display cases, they sell sunglasses, socks, shoe polish and other odds and ends.

A sandwich-board sign and small banner on the sidewalk direct customers to the location, behind the Bannerman Island Gallery at 150 Main St. The changes have been challenging to endure, said HwaJa, who brought from the old shop a handwritten list of 150 customers' contact information.

“They call but they can't find us, so they give up,” she said through a translator.

John, who was a chef for 25 years in Korea before moving to Beacon in 2011, makes the 25-minute drive to and from Hopewell Junction each day, bringing shoes to the big machine, which is used to “finish” a repaired shoe after it's been restitched.

If the couple can raise the money to purchase the equipment they need, it would allow them to stay in the new location. But, if anything, the last year has taught them that things can always change.

“We're thankful that we got this space, but we want people to know we're here,” HwaJa said.



HwaJa Oh is shown with the machine that is too large to fit inside the new John's Shoe Repair location. The machine has since been moved to their home in Hopewell Junction.

Photo by J. Simms

Police Policy *(from Page 1)*

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, questioned why the policy that governs the use of the cameras has not been made public, especially after the Legislature in 2020 insisted on and took months to approve a policy about the use by deputies of license-plate readers.

“I don't understand the logic of the Legislature failing to request the policy,” she said. “When are officers required to turn on the cameras? How long is the data stored for? Other counties have policies.”

(In Dutchess County, the Sheriff's Department has not yet finalized a policy on body cameras and deputies do not use them, a spokesman said. Beacon police released their policy in 2018 following a Freedom of Information Law request from *The Current*.)

Montgomery cited the state-mandated

Police Policy Comprehensive Review, approved by the Legislature in 2021, that recommended all Sheriff's Department policies be posted online to “build trust through transparency.”

Legislator Paul Jonke, who represents Southeast and chairs the Legislature, said the sheriff has agreed to discuss the policy with the three members of the Protective Services Committee in a session closed to the public.

Earlier, at a Feb. 23 meeting of the Audit Committee, Sheriff Kevin McConville said the policy regulating body cameras “is very thorough, very fair, and it articulates the law enforcement activity that would be documented when a member of the sheriff's office is engaging with the public.” He also said there was one item in the policy that the police union had not yet agreed on; he did not elaborate.

During the Feb. 23 meeting, Montgomery suggested that politics may be behind the

Legislature's seeming disinterest in reviewing the body-camera policy and the attention it gave to license-plate readers.

“I guess that was a political reason, because we had a different sheriff and you wanted to make a big deal,” she said. (McConville, a Republican, defeated Robert Langley Jr., a Democrat, in November 2021. Montgomery is the only Democrat on the nine-member Legislature.)

Montgomery also expressed concern about body cameras worn by school resource officers. “Even though the schools have requested this policy, they still don't have it,” she said.

McConville said his department met with all the superintendents and school boards in the county to discuss the body cameras and “only one school stated that they wanted to see the policy,” he said. But “it's an operational policy; they're not entitled to see it.”

At the committee meeting, Jonke described the comparison of body cameras and license-

plate readers as “apples and oranges.” He said deployment of license-plate readers was contingent upon the county putting a policy in place, while the body cameras are already in use.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino, from Patterson, who chairs the Protective Services Committee, said the license-plate readers had prompted concern from the police union about abuse of power within the department, such as who has control over seeing the information, who stores it, and the chain of command. However, she said, those concerns are not present with body cameras.

Legislator Joseph Castellano, of Brewster, said that if the union is OK with the body-camera policy, the Legislature doesn't need to see it.

The Current has filed a FOIL request for the policy.

Holly Crocco contributed reporting.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Beacon Theater

As a frequent customer of the Beacon Theater, I feel compelled to comment on the statement that “other than hiring a new manager, little will change” (“Beacon Theater, Story Screen Split,” March 3). I’ll miss VHS Pasta Night, trivia nights and Oscars-related programming, all of which contributed to a personal, local, unique movie-theater experience.

Recent screenings of *Rear Window*, *The Shining*, *Midnight Cowboy* and *Birdman* are what I appreciated most, not just first-run fare, which is always available in Fishkill and Gardnertown. What I notice now is the impersonalization of the experience: lack of a menu displaying the drink offerings at the concession stand, no updates to the marquee and, most annoyingly, no dates or times listed anywhere for current movies, just a reference to use a QR code or check the website.

I’ve never encountered a theater so seemingly lazy, minimally interested in doing business and willing to tell customers: “You have a phone, look it up yourself.” The Story Screen team will be solely missed.

Rich McGowan, *Beacon*

Fjord Trail

People need to chill about the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. I’m getting a little

tired of the hysteria around the project “making a bad situation worse,” “decreasing our quality of life” and opening up the village to unwanted “migrations.”

Let’s call this dog-whistling for what it is: xenophobia cloaked as concern for our village. You can’t have your cake and eat it. Tourists are a side effect of living in a beautiful place. For perspective, consider the other side of the county, where they complain about not getting enough tourism.

I understand the concerns about increased congestion and crowding, but these issues can be managed and will be outweighed by the tremendous benefits the Fjord Trail will bring to our community. The project will be an economic boon to the Highlands. It will increase our property values and support local businesses. Sure, all the sales tax goes to the county, but the tourists bring cash into the village — it’s unlikely any Main Street business could survive without them.

In his letter in the March 3 issue, Steven Sohn ominously described the Fjord Trail opening the village to “migrations from the now-wide-open northern border and ease of access from the south.” By the northern border, does he mean the Canadian border?

As a former Breakneck Ridge trail steward, lifelong village resident and the proud son of a Canadian, I wholeheartedly

support the Fjord Trail project. Any project that improves pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure is a positive investment in the future and will improve our quality of life.

Malachy Labrie-Cleary, *Cold Spring*

After having closely read both the Fjord Trail’s 472-page Master Plan and the final scoping document for the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement, it is clear that the Trail Corridor as described in the Master Plan is an overblown folly, designed in a vacuum, with assumptions 15 years out of date.

It is out of scale with the area, unsupportable by and detrimental to the local infrastructure and economy, and not reasonably accessed. It would desecrate the Highlands shoreline it means to celebrate. Dockside, apparently included in the plan as an afterthought, would be destroyed as any form of village square for Cold Spring. On fall days, traffic is already backed up more than a quarter-mile on Route 9D south of Route 301. The narrow intersection would be impassable in all directions. Haldane travel teams would never get out of the driveway on weekends or during the week in summer.

A much-better version of the trail corridor would be for it to be scaled way down to fulfill the original intention of providing pedestrian safety for a point-to-point trail that is closer in design to the Appalachian Trail than to Acadia National Park.

My hope is that the Cold Spring planning and village boards will work together constructively with our concerned citizens, as well as Nelsonville, Philipstown and Beacon, to take action necessary to protect the village and the Highlands from the ruinous execution of its master plan as currently designed.

David May, *Cold Spring*

This is a problem-solving technique that asks how to make the problem worse, then uses the results to help solve the problem. It seems in our town and parks that traffic congestion and overcrowding in peak times are the problem, so encouraging greater visitation, more driving and new bus traffic is the reverse solution. But we didn’t follow through to develop the actual solutions.

We are instituting more parking, more attractions and more circulating buses, which will increase visitation, congestion and crowding — the exact opposite of what we need.

Rich Franco, *Cold Spring*

While it is true that the Fjord Trail website has documents regarding design of the program, these are chiefly limited to pie-in-the-sky renderings: There are

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

few, if any, design documents developed more than 30 percent for most of the trail, including Dockside.

The last phase between Little Stony Point and Breakneck is up in the air, as the shoreline profile is mostly rock that might entail untenable degrees of drilling for the walkway piles that support the tourist bridge. According to HHFT, there will be at least a two-year gap between the completion of the last two phases (Little Stony Point and Breakneck), as that scope of work is unknown.

As for the environmental impact studies, most of those posted are redacted pending completion, or simply not done. Few, if any, pertain to the Village of Cold Spring. If we put the horse before the cart, these studies are completed before design development. Sadly, that horse has left the barn.

Derek Graham, *Cold Spring*

Indian Point

Thank you to our Assembly member Dana Levenberg and to state Sen. Pete Harkham for proposing a bill to stop Holtec from dumping radioactive water from the decommissioned Indian Point nuclear power plant into the Hudson River ("Bill Would Ban River Discharge," March 3).

We are so lucky to have Dana Levenberg as our Assembly member in Philipstown and I sure wish Pete Harkham was our state senator. Sen. Rob Rolison, please take note: We in Philipstown do not want the river used as a dumping ground for radioactive waste. Please support Sen. Harkham's bill.

Heidi Wendel, *Nelsonville*

Please — enough for this poor river.

Paul Yeaple, *via Instagram*

Cold Spring police

The question about the Cold Spring Village Police Department is not whether it should exist — of course, the village needs law enforcement ("Should Cold Spring Police Stay?" Feb. 17). The questions are: 1) Who benefits and who pays? and 2) What form should law enforcement in the village take? Aaron Freimark (cost) and Len Getler (tourism) nicely highlighted this in their letters in the Feb. 24 issue.

A quick analysis shows that as many as 73 percent of the calls responded to by the Cold Spring police are outside village limits. When this happens, village taxpayers are gifting the police services to the surrounding communities. Clearly, either Philipstown or Putnam County should be paying a significant portion of the Cold Spring village police budget, just as Philipstown does with the Cold Spring Fire Department.

Additionally, parking is a perpetually nagging issue in Cold Spring. In 2020, Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke and I calculated that the parking enforcement officers were 45 times more cost-effective at handling parking issues than the police officers. The parking enforcement officers wrote 15 times more tickets per hour worked and were paid about a third as much as the police officers.

This might be a good time to consider an alternative policing strategy. First, fully staff

the parking enforcement officers. Second, consider a model where the Cold Spring police patrol the village on foot during the busy tourist days and/or weekends and the sheriff provides the balance of coverage, as it does for the rest of Philipstown. Two or three officers on staggered overlapping shifts walking Main Street would provide far better coverage than the occasional drive-by we frequently see with the current model.

Bill Pugh, *Cold Spring*

Nelsonville tree

As I stated at the Nelsonville Village Board meeting, I think it is wrong to chop down a healthy oak tree because it drops acorns ("Nelsonville Plans to Remove Tree," March 3).

In his book, *The Nature of Oaks*, Douglas Tallamy notes that "oaks support more life forms and interactions than any other tree genus in North America, sustaining everything from acorn-collecting woodpeckers to caterpillars that dazzle like jewels." (I'm giving the village a copy, which I will leave at Village Hall.)

Cutting down a healthy oak tree is wrong from an environmental and climate change perspective. As you will see when you read Tallamy's book, we are so fortunate to have oak trees in our village. Each one has a huge root system that sponsors insect and fungal life, as well as insects in its bark and woody structure, and provides habitat for native birds (most of which subsist on insects from trees and shrubs, especially oaks).

Acorns are the principal food source for many native birds and mammals. Come on, let's do better than that as a village.

Heidi Wendel, *Nelsonville*

Clearly the Village Board is soft if it's going to be pushed around with that ridiculous argument [about acorns].

Todd Hill, *via Facebook*

It would be so great if *The Current* covered the regular proceedings of the Nelsonville Village Board. This article doesn't reflect the range of issues our neighbors are dealing with, like much-needed sewer connections. Even small municipalities deal with big problems and real solutions.

Kathleen Foley, *Cold Spring*

Foley is the mayor of Cold Spring.

Phone book

It was lovely to read Michael Turton's article about the 1990-91 Cold Spring/Garrison phone book ("Reporter's Notebook: The Book With Everyone's Number," Feb. 24). It reminded me of so many people, including our friend Carolyn Krebs, who owned Salmagundi Books and was active on town committees. Back in those days, the independent bookstores were threatened by Barnes & Noble. These days, every business is threatened by Amazon.

Cathy Lilburne, *Garrison*

Many of my very favorite people appear in that book.

Amie Rose Anderson, *via Instagram*



Wide Angle

Priced Out, Part III

By Stowe Boyd

In two earlier columns, I've written about the housing crisis and its implications for our region. In the metropolitan New York City area, one single-family housing permit is issued for every 34 new jobs, making the crisis more acute all the time. New York City issued fewer building permits in the past decade than it did in the 1960s, despite a massive increase in population.



Nationally, we're about 4 million housing units short of what we need, according to some estimates.

Gov. Kathy Hochul has taken an aggressive approach to attack New York's considerable dilemma: On one hand, the demand for housing — especially for low- and middle-income people — is sky high, while on the other there are major impediments to building housing, such as high interest rates and suburban zoning laws that block high-density complexes. New York has traditionally ceded a great deal of control over land use to local officials.

Hochul is proposing policies that would supercharge housing development along the lines of what has been done in California, Connecticut and New Jersey. In particular, she is taking a page from California ordinances that require municipalities to meet expansion targets. That is a direct challenge to the single-family-home zoning that has slowed new housing to a crawl in many cities and towns, including in the Highlands.

Housing development typically has been ever-larger single-family homes, renovations of industrial space and apartment buildings converted into expensive condos. What is needed is affordable, denser housing, as well as "missing middle" housing when you don't have taller buildings, duplexes and townhouses. That would reduce the stress on low-income renters, a growing proportion of whom are "burdened," meaning they

spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities.

Hochul has proposed a target of 800,000 new units in the next decade. To accomplish that, localities would be required to rezone areas within a half-mile of commuter rail and subway stations to allow more density. The plan also calls for all localities, including Beacon, Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown, to increase housing by a state-determined percentage. Because we are served by a Metro-North commuter line, housing in the Highlands would be required to grow by 3 percent annually for at least three years.

Localities that fail to meet that mark would trigger "fast-track approval" by the state of developments that otherwise would be blocked by local zoning. The plan also calls for a replacement of an expired tax incentive for developers and \$250 million to subsidize infrastructure development.

The proposal to circumvent local control has not gone over well, as *The Current* reported last week. Elected officials worry that one size will not fit all while pointing to developments already underway.

The reality is that even with a significant uptick in housing, the situation will only improve slowly for low- to moderate-income people. That's because there is so much demand that developers will continue to build market-rate units. Absent a commitment to denser neighborhoods, we will likely see the gentrification scenario play out repeatedly: Developers will build market-rate single-family homes or smaller apartment buildings and complexes with 15 percent or so of the units set aside for below-market-rate rentals.

That leads to a scenario we know well: Rents rise as demand continues to exceed supply; lower-income residents are forced to move; and the neighborhood laundromat and the local dentist shut their doors.

The housing crisis is now four decades in the making. Hochul is attempting to break with the past, to arrive at a place where few are rent-burdened and where we can grow our communities to be more inclusive.

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

Electrification, Tax Agreement Up for Votes

Both issues on Beacon council agenda for Monday

By Jeff Simms

The City of Beacon is poised on Monday (March 13) to become the first municipality in New York state to adopt comprehensive all-electric legislation.

The City Council is expected to vote on a proposal to prohibit the use of fossil fuels such as natural gas and heating oil in new residential and commercial construction as of Jan. 1, 2024. Existing buildings would not be affected.

The council held a public hearing on the measure on Feb. 27. Of 24 speakers, 21 were in favor of the electrification act.

If adopted, Beacon would jump ahead of the state in limiting the use of greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuels. "Beacon is at the forefront of this issue," City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis said during a council workshop on Monday (March 6), noting that, as part of her 2024 budget, Gov. Kathy Hochul has proposed a similar prohibition that would begin Jan. 1, 2026, and apply to new single-family homes and apartment buildings smaller than four stories.

During the Beacon workshop, the council adjusted the draft law's language regarding major renovation projects. The proposal requires installing all-electric heating and

hot water equipment if a renovation exceeds 75 percent of the heated floor area and involves the replacement or installation of a heating or hot water system.

If a renovation meets the 75 percent threshold but does not include the replacement or installation of a heating or hot water system, the council dispensed with a clause requiring electric systems to be installed if they are replaced within five years. Now, if the systems are replaced at any time after a major renovation, they would have to be electric.

The council also decided to keep a list of exemptions to the law, which would cover backup generators, manufactured homes, manufacturing facilities, commercial food establishments, laundromats, laboratories, hospitals and other medical facilities, crematoriums and backup power for critical infrastructure, such as wastewater treatment facilities.

Those exemptions are expected to be part of an eventual statewide law, and Beacon can signal its support by mirroring the state proposal, City Administrator Chris White said. That's important because the oil and gas industry has begun pushing back against the electrification movement.

"If there's any time to say, 'Hey, the state's right and we're going to go earlier and we support this effort,' it's right before this [state] budget, because it's not a done deal," White said.

Tompkins Terrace

The City Council also could vote on Monday to approve a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes, or PILOT, agreement with Related Companies, the owner of the Tompkins Terrace low-income housing complex.

The council in January began discussing a 40-year agreement with Related, which is planning a \$14.5 million rehabilitation of the development. The company has proposed a deal in which it would make set payments to be distributed to the Beacon school district, the city, Dutchess County and the Howland Public Library.

Its proposal would begin with a payment of \$310,000 and increase 2.25 percent each year, for a total of \$19.75 million over four decades. Some residents have said in public hearings that the city should demand more money but during the March 6 workshop, City Attorney Judson Siebert called the PILOT a "very sound proposal."

The current tax-abatement agreement requires Related to make an annual payment equal to 10 percent of the rent collected in the previous year after deducting the cost of utilities. That number fluctuates, which can cause "budgetary and tax-cap complications," Siebert said. With the proposed agreement, the city would have "a set figure that you know you're going to have from year to year."

If adopted, the PILOT will keep affordability levels intact at Tompkins Terrace, White said. Right now, 38 of the 193 units are restricted to households earning 50 percent or less of the area median income (AMI), which, in Beacon, is equal to a four-person household earning up to \$56,200. The remaining 155 apartments may be rented to households earning 60 percent or less of the AMI (\$67,440 for a household of four).

PILOT agreements of this type do not typically include language requiring maintenance of an apartment complex at set intervals, Siebert said, but the Tompkins Terrace contract will require the apartments to be maintained in accordance with city and state standards.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

■ At the Wednesday (March 8) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, Trustee Eliza Starbuck reported that, as part of the village parking plan to be implemented this year, she is investigating the use of payment kiosks on Main Street in addition to payments made through a mobile phone app. Starbuck said when the municipal lot on Fair Street was changed from kiosk to app-based payment only, drivers stopped paying. "We want to make it as easy as possible for people to pay," she said. The village is awaiting bids for signage required as part of the plan.

■ Ninety-eight percent of the more than 800 "end points" being added to water meters have now been installed to provide more accurate and efficient monitoring. Cold Spring is consulting with its attorney regarding enforcement against about 35 property owners who have not arranged to have the end points installed.

■ Fire hydrants will be flushed from April 3 to 7. Lower water pressure and discoloration may occur as crews work their way through neighborhoods.

■ Cold Spring police officers responded to 56 calls in February and issued 12 traffic and 29 parking tickets. No arrests were made.

■ The Cold Spring Fire Co. answered 13 calls in February, including eight for mutual aid, three activated alarms and two medical assists. The department reminded residents to change the batteries in their fire and carbon monoxide detectors this weekend, when clocks are moved forward for daylight saving time.

■ A public meeting hosted by the Cold Spring and Nelsonville Village Boards to discuss the planned Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is scheduled for April 13 at Haldane. The Philipstown Town Board will discuss its participation at its next meeting. The agenda and format have not been determined.

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NEWS BRIEFS

CSX Responds to Ryan

Touts safety record and improvements

CSX, the railroad freight company that was criticized by Rep. Pat Ryan in a letter sent to its chief executive officer, responded this week with a statement defending its safety record.

Ryan, whose district includes Beacon, 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.

In a statement, CSX said safety was its “No. 1 priority” and that since 2019 it has had the fewest train accidents and injury rate in the nation. It said it plans to spend \$2.3 billion in 2023 to improve tracks, signals and bridges.

The company said that, for security reasons, it does not disclose how and where it transports sensitive materials but that it trains first responders how to deal with hazardous cargo and what chemicals might pass through their communities.

Suspect Admits Killing Beacon Man

Also pleads guilty to possessing gun at hotel shooting

A man arrested in the October killing of the father of a Marist College student in a hotel lobby has pleaded guilty to killing

a Beacon man two months earlier.

Devin Taylor pleaded guilty on Wednesday (March 8) to second-degree murder in the death of Darren Villani, 28, in Poughkeepsie, according to the Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office. Villani was found wounded next to his vehicle on Aug. 9 by police responding to a report at 1:44 a.m. of gunshots. He died at Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital.

On Oct. 2, Taylor was arrested following a shooting at the Courtyard by Marriott. Roy Johnson is accused of killing Paul Kutz, who was visiting his son.

Police charged Taylor, who was with Johnson, with possessing a loaded .22-caliber pistol that he allegedly discarded in bushes outside the hotel while running from an officer.

In addition to second-degree murder, Taylor pleaded guilty to second-degree criminal possession of a weapon. He will be sentenced on April 19 and faces concurrent sentences of 22 years to life for murder and seven years on the gun charge.

Albany ‘Good-Cause’ Eviction Law Falls

Beacon and Kingston measures remain

Good-cause eviction laws around New York state continue to fall. On March 2, an appellate court struck down Albany’s law and, on Wednesday (March 8), the nonprofit For The Many announced that landlords had filed suit against Poughkeepsie’s.

A good-cause law in Newburgh was

struck down in court in November, when a judge said it conflicted with state law.

Last year, Beacon became the fifth municipality in the state to enact a good-cause measure. (Albany was the first.) Among other provisions, Beacon’s law, which has not been challenged in court, requires landlords to demonstrate “good cause” before a judge can begin eviction proceedings.

City attorneys in Beacon cautioned the City Council before the law was adopted, saying they felt it was preempted by state legislation and would not survive if challenged. The council is scheduled to review its law in June.

Citing “skyrocketing” rents, For The Many this week called on legislators to pass a statewide good-cause measure to curb what the organization described as a “housing crisis” in the Hudson Valley.

Beacon Filmmaker Nominated for Oscar

Ceremony takes place March 12

A 40-minute film directed by Anne Alvergue of Beacon is one of five nominated for an Academy Award in the Documentary Short Film category.

The Martha Mitchell Effect, which can be streamed on Netflix, focuses on the wife of President Richard Nixon’s attorney general, John Mitchell.

The winner will be announced at the Oscars ceremony on Sunday (March 12).

New Director at Garrison Institute

Also names new program directors

The Garrison Institute announced last week that Karen Doyle Grossman will become its new executive director, effective Monday (March 13), and that Stephen Posner and Christa Tinari will direct two of its programs.

Grossman was the global head of operations at SIY Global, which provides training in mindfulness-based social and emotional intelligence skills.

Posner becomes the director of Pathways to Planetary Health, the institute’s environ-

mental initiative. He was formerly director of policy and partnerships at the Gund Institute for Environment at the University of Vermont.

Tinari is the institute’s new director of contemplative-based resilience, a program that provides self-care strategies and training to people in the helping professions, including health care, humanitarian aid and social work. She had been senior content developer and trainer in the social, emotional and ethical learning program at Emory University’s Center for Contemplative Science and Compassion-Based Ethics.

Dutchess Awards \$308K in Youth Grants

Beacon Pool and Green Teens receive funds

The Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services announced on March 1 that it has awarded \$307,881 to fund 21 youth programs.

The grants included \$5,000 to the City of Beacon for its Beacon Pool Swim Academy, which serves 96 children over eight weeks; \$22,000 to the Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County for its Green Teen community gardening program in Beacon; and \$100,000 to Hudson River Housing for its shelter for children and teens ages 10 to 17.

Beacon Accepting Grant Applications

Open to nonprofits, community groups

The City of Beacon is accepting grant applications for its 2023 Community Investment Program from city-based nonprofit and community organizations. The \$20,000 in funding is designed to support projects or initiatives that enhance the city’s “quality of place” and/or address critical needs.

It includes programs and services in the areas of the arts, culture, history, recreation, environment, health, public safety and other human services. Grant requests can be between \$1,000 and \$10,000 per organization.

See bit.ly/beacon-city-grant. The deadline is April 7.

Haldane Proposes 1.96% Tax Increase Matches state tax cap for 2023-24

By Joey Asher

The Haldane superintendent on Tuesday (March 7) proposed a \$28.2 million budget for the 2023-24 academic year, representing a 1.96 percent property tax increase matching the tax cap calculated by the state for the district for next year.

Since the property tax increase does not exceed the cap, the budget need only be approved by a majority of voters on May 16. If the district had gone over the cap, 60 percent of voters would need to approve it.

The property tax cap varies from year to year based on a series of factors. In 2022-23, Haldane’s cap was set at 3.7 percent.

The budget includes additional funding for:

- A special education class for up to eight kindergarten, first- and second-graders with autism or similar needs (\$166,000)
- A new special education teacher at the secondary level (\$91,000)
- A French teacher (\$91,000)
- Equipment to teach coding, robotics, design and engineering (\$13,500)

Superintendent Philip Benante said Haldane benefited from a 25 percent increase, amounting to \$719,509, in state aid and a 51 percent jump (\$118,800) in state pre-K aid.

The board will hold a series of meetings and hearings leading up to the May vote on the budget and an open seat on the five-member school board, currently held by Peggy Clements.



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Westchester: Legislature Opposes Discharge

The Westchester County Legislature on Monday (March 6) unanimously adopted a resolution opposing a plan to empty the spent fuel pools at the Indian Point nuclear power plant near Peekskill into the Hudson River.

On Wednesday, Rockland County legislators did the same, although an effort has stalled in Putnam.

The two resolutions also expressed support for a bill in the state Legislature introduced by Sen. Pete Harkham and Assembly Member Dana Levenberg that would ban any person or company from discharging nuclear waste into the waters of the state.

Holtec International, which is decommissioning Indian Point, has said it plans to discharge the water by early September. Although it would be filtered, the water contains tritium, a radioactive material that is extremely difficult to remove.

The company has not yet announced how much water would be released, although several external estimates have calculated it to be 1 million gallons. Holtec says the radioactivity of the water will be far below allowable federal limits.

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley on the Putnam County Legislature, said on Wednesday that she and Legislator William Gouldman, who represents the rest of Putnam Valley, in February proposed a resolution opposing the discharge. However, she said Legislator Amy Sayegh, who chairs the Health, Social, Educational and Environmental Committee, has not responded to requests to put it on the agenda.

Ulster County: Finance Commissioner Resigns

The Ulster County finance commissioner, Burt Gulnick, resigned March 1 following allegations he stole thousands of dollars from the nonprofit Hurley Recreation Association, for which he served as treasurer.

According to the *Daily Freeman*, County Executive Jen Metzger has asked the state Comptroller's Office to conduct a forensic audit of Ulster's books.

On Monday (March 6), the county announced that Wendy Trojak, the head of the payroll department since 2006, also had resigned, although no reason was given.

Nyack: Teens in ER for Marijuana

Doctors are seeing more teenagers who are sick from marijuana consumption, Dr. Jamil Rizqalla, an emergency physician at Montefiore Nyack Hospital, told *The Journal News*. He said that when treating

minors in the ER, they often tell him they don't use drugs but will say "yes" if he asks if they use cannabis.

Although there has been concern when young people become sick that they have consumed fentanyl, which can be lethal, that remains primarily a risk for adults who are addicted to opioids, Rizqalla said.

However, people who consume large amounts of marijuana can experience "acute psychotic breaks," he said. It also can make people dizzy, disoriented and confused for as long as 24 hours, added Dr. Ivan Miller, director of emergency medicine at Westchester Medical Center.

Albany: Name Back to Tappan Zee?

An effort to change the name of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge back to the Tappan Zee, including a petition with 260,000 signatures, may get new life with a bill before the state Legislature, according to the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

The name was altered in 2017 after a proposal by then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo. James Skoufis, who represents most of Orange County in the state Senate, this year became the first Democrat to add his name to a bill to restore the old name.

"This is nothing against the Cuomos," said Skoufis, who added he would support naming another bridge, tunnel or roadway for Mario Cuomo, who was governor from 1984 to 1994.

Peekskill: Lottery for Affordable Housing

Applications are due March 20 for a lottery to be held by the Housing Action Council for apartments in a newly constructed, 81-unit affordable housing project on Main Street and Central Avenue.

According to the *Peekskill Herald*, the development includes 18 one-bedroom apartments, 49 two-bedrooms and 14 three-bedrooms. The rents, which range from \$1,040 to \$2,883 per month, are set so that they are affordable to households with annual incomes that equal 40 percent to 80 percent of the median in Westchester County.

Founded in 1974, the Housing Action Council is a regional nonprofit that works to expand housing for low-income house-

holds in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and New York counties.

Greene County: Police Commander Investigated

The New York State Police commander who oversees troopers in Putnam and Dutchess counties is under investigation for firing her service revolver on Feb. 15 inside her Greene County home.

The police said Kathryn Rohde was alone in the room when she discharged her weapon into a wall. No one was injured. The gun fired when she was transferring it from one holster to another, a police union attorney told the *Albany Times-Union*.

Rohde, who was appointed commander the state police's Troop K in May 2021, remains on duty. She began her career with the state police in 1999.

Peekskill: \$4.4 Million for Food Sites

Two vacant properties on Washington Street will be rehabilitated with \$4.4 million in state and federal funds, according to the *Peekskill Herald*.

As part of the Restore New York Communities Initiative, \$2 million will be used to renovate a former bakery and gym into a 12,000-square-foot Cosmo's Fresh Market at 630 Washington St., bringing a grocery to the south end of the city. In addition, \$2.4 million will transform the former Peekskill Centennial Hose Co. firehouse at 701 Washington St. into a commercial kitchen incubator.

The incubator will have stations for storage, packaging, prepping, shipping and receiving, and food entrepreneurs will be able to rent space in a storage container for their equipment. Spaces will be available for raw and cooked food that needs to be frozen or stored.

Carmel: Man Accused of Killing Dogs

A Carmel hunter has been accused of killing two German shepherds that he said he mistook for coyotes.

NBC Connecticut reported that, according to an arrest warrant, Michael Konschak, 61, was hunting with a crossbow in November

in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

When a taxidermist refused to work on the dead dogs, Konschak allegedly beheaded the carcasses and skinned them for their pelts, the station reported. The owner of the land also alleged that the signature on the private-land consent form that Konschak said gave him permission to hunt was forged.

The family that owned the dogs — named Lieben and Cimo — had reported them missing to Ridgefield animal control after they escaped from a fenced yard.

Konschak, who appeared in court on March 1 to face charges of violating hunting regulations, tampering with evidence, forgery and interfering with an officer, was released on \$15,000 bond.

Carmel: Moratorium on Smoke-Shop Permits

The Carmel Town Board on March 1 voted unanimously to not issue any new permits for smoke and vape shops while it considers changes to its zoning laws.

The moratorium lasts until June 30. According to the *Putnam County Times*, Danielle Canora, the owner of Hudson Valley Hemp in Mahopac, asked the board to distinguish cannabis retailers from vape and smoke shops.

Although he voted for the moratorium, Council Member Stephen Baranowski said he questioned its usefulness "since we already have, what, a dozen or so of these shops."

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AROUND TOWN



◀ **WHAT DID I WIN?** — A penny social held at the VFW in Beacon on March 4 benefited the Animal Rescue Foundation shelter. How does a penny social work? Participants buy raffle tickets and place them in paper bags next to the items they hope to win.

Photo by Ross Corsair



◀ **OPENING ACTS** — Jeffrey Lewis, an “anti-folk” singer, songwriter and comic book artist from New York City, hosted *Uncontaminated Sound: Reflections* at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on March 4 to open an exhibit by photographer Rob Lundberg. Indigo Sparke, an Australian singer and songwriter, also performed.

Photo by Ross Corsair

▲ **THANKS FOR DRIVING** — Haldane students thanked their bus drivers on Feb. 22, which was National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. One sign read: “Anyone can drive a car — it takes someone special to drive a bus!”

Photo provided

Hudson Beach Glass

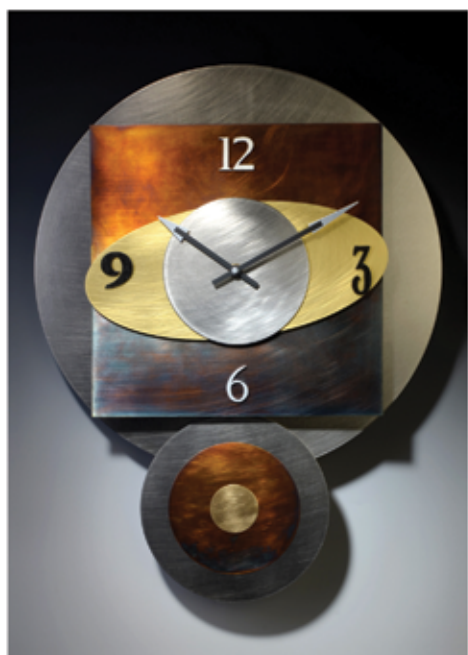
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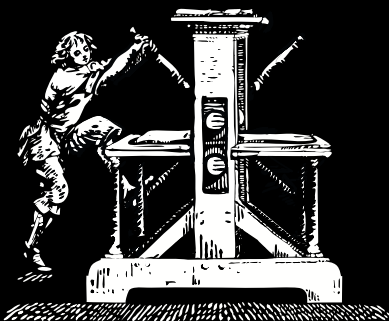
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Oliver Petkus as Will Parker



May Columb as Ado Annie



Elaine Llewellyn as Ado Annie

The Calendar

Actors Welcome Double-Takes for *Oklahoma!*

Haldane Drama presents classic musical

By Alison Rooney

It may be hard to fathom, but in its day, the musical *Oklahoma!*, now recalled by most as homespun America, was instead a bold experiment by its creators, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II.

In their first collaboration, the men adapted a play into an early example of a “book musical” in which the songs and dances further the action, rather than being presented as adornment.

Oklahoma! opened on Broadway in 1943, during World War II, and has spent the ensuing decades as a mainstay of theater companies and school productions. Set in 1906 on a farm in what was then “Indian territory,” it follows Laurey Williams and her courtship by rivals Curly McLain and Jud Fry. A second romance involves Will Parker and his fiancée, Ado Annie. It includes the song, “Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’.”

Martha Mechalakos, who directs the drama

program at Haldane High School, feels that *Oklahoma!* is far from cotton-candied sweetness. “People always forget the darkness” in the musical, she says. “They only remember the great songs, the charming cowboy and the girl he likes, and the other girl’s not being able to decide between two suitors.”

The musical includes a 15-minute “dream ballet” that the production’s choreographer Katie Bissinger, owner of the Ballet Arts Studio in Beacon, calls “a very potent ending for the first act in that it reveals subconscious psychological conflict to the audience through dance.”

She notes that Agnes de Mille, who choreographed the original production, was a classically trained ballet dancer “who believed strongly in her chorus dancers’ drawing on specifically developed characters and individualization. I am also a huge believer in pushing each of these students to further this story in that way when they dance it.” A classically trained ballet dancer, Olivia Flanagan, will dance the role of Dream Laurey and several students who have taken classes at Bissinger’s studio are also involved.

Members of the ensemble will appear at all four performances on March 17 to 19, while the leads and supporting roles are double-cast, with each actor performing in two shows. This provides understudies but also requires twice as many rehearsals.

Many of the upperclass members are pros at double-casting. Elaine Llewellyn, who plays Ado Annie, called it a double-edged sword. “I struggle with comparison when shows are double-cast, but it’s interesting and inspiring seeing how different actors bring out the different sides of characters,” she says.

Her counterpart, May Columb, says “double-casting can be an interesting way to interpret a character from two different, yet awesome, perspectives. There might be ground for comparison or insecurity, but in our produc-

tion, that is not the case. We all admire each other’s work and each cast brings light to their characters.”

For Alex Danilov, who plays Will Parker, double-casting “allows us to take pieces from our counterpart’s performances and incorporate them based on what we think works.” His double, Oliver Petkus, says he “went into it trying to keep my own take on the character and still do, but as rehearsal’s been going on, Alex has been doing things onstage and we talk about scenes and I take notes.”

Sam Bates, who plays Curly, says he likes “to keep my initial interpretation intact to keep each cast’s performance unique.” His double, Conrad White, says he benefits from “the help of a friend who was working the same role.” In addition, “double-casting provides me with security when I can’t make it to a rehearsal. Knowing someone always has the blocking you missed, and vice versa, is a comfort.”

Sophie Sabin, who plays Laurey, says she enjoys talking with her double, Maya Gelber, about the role they share, and to see her interpretation. “I’m super-close with Maya, so it makes talking about our character exciting and fun, and it becomes a creative outlet.” Gelber says she feels the same. “It’s comforting to be confident that we’ll both do the part justice in our own ways.”

There is still pressure, even with a backup, says Petkus. “If you miss rehearsal, you need to get back on track, especially if you miss choreography.” But, Bates says, double-casting eliminates the actor’s fear of “getting sick right before a show.”

“It’s a relief to be able to have efficient rehearsals when someone’s out,” says Llewellyn. “Your double in the other cast is also a great resource to review and talk through challenges — you feel so much less alone and stuck when you’re struggling because they can understand.”

The pride of doing one’s best factors into

the emotions, too, says Gelber. “Despite the double-casting, I still feel a sense of responsibility to the show, the cast and myself to be able to have this story told with my voice included.”

Sabin adds: “It honestly provides an incentive to keep pushing. I have only two chances at this performance, and I want to enjoy it as much as I can. If I’m sick, Maya gets all the fun. I love her, but I’m excited for my chance, too!”

Oklahoma! will be performed at the Haldane School auditorium, 15 Craigside Drive, in Cold Spring at 7 p.m. on March 17, 2 and 7 p.m. on March 18 and 2 p.m. on March 19. Tickets are \$15 (\$8 for students and seniors) at showtix4u.com/event-details/71903 or at the door. Children ages 8 and younger accompanied by an adult are admitted free to the matinees.

“I struggle with comparison when shows are double-cast, but it’s interesting and inspiring seeing how different actors bring out the different sides of characters.”

~ Elaine Llewellyn
playing Ado Annie



Sam Bates as Curly



Conrad White as Curly



Sophie Sabin as Laurey



Maya Gelber as Laurey

Photos by Jim Mechalakos

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

COMMUNITY

SUN 12
Daylight Savings Begins
2 a.m. Move clocks ahead one hour. They will reset on Nov. 5.



TUES 14
Mutual Aid Community Meeting
BEACON
6:30 p.m. VFW Hall
413 Main St. | 845-288 2559
mutualaidbeacon@gmail.com
Find out how to get help with food assistance or how to provide assistance.

SUN 19
Clearwater Gala
GARRISON
3 – 7 p.m. The Garrison
2015 Route 9 | clearwater.org/gala
Clearwater will honor Ronald Zorrilla, the founder and CEO of Outdoor Promise, and Betsy Garthwaite, a former sloop Clearwater captain and board president. There will also be a live auction and music by pianist Dan Englehardt. *Cost: \$300*

SUN 19
Opening of the Fields
WAPPINGERS FALLS
5 p.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Lane
commongroundfarm.org
Join the farm staff for a walk through the fields and a fire circle to reflect on food and celebrate the growing season.

KIDS & FAMILY

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*

TUES 14
Storytime Series
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
For Women's History Month,

Lillian Moser, vice president of the Cold Spring Fire Co., will be the guest reader. For children ages 3 to 7.

TUES 14
Notebooks
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
During this month's Creators Workshop, children of all ages can design and build notebooks. Registration required.

THURS 16
Spring Craft
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org
Children ages 4 to the 5th grade are invited to make fairy houses. Registration required.

THURS 16
Cuentos: Tales from the Latino World
POUGHKEEPSIE
6 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St. | thinkdifferently.net
This special sensory-sensitive storytelling event is sponsored by Dutchess County and will include music and stories from the Caribbean, South America and the Bronx. *Free*

SAT 18
Children's Concert
GARRISON
11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Stacy Labriola will play guitar and lead an interactive music circle for kids. Registration requested.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 11
Maple Sugar Tours
CORNWALL
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hnm.org
Visitors can choose a sugar-bush tour at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. that includes a moderate 1-mile hike, or the shorter maple-lane tour at noon or 3 p.m. Also SUN 12, SAT 18, SUN 19. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 members, free ages 4 and younger)*

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.

WED 15
Estate Planning
COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
A representative from the Hudson Valley Legacy Firm will discuss wills, trusts, long-term care and other issues related to estates.

THURS 16
CPR Certification
COLD SPRING
5 – 9 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Sandy Bohl of the Garrison Volunteer Fire Co. will lead a workshop on lifesaving techniques. Another class will be offered SAT 25. *Cost: \$50*

THURS 16
Women's History Trivia Night
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St.
putnamhistorymuseum.org
Test your knowledge of three women who were prominent in Putnam County's history with this quiz-story format. Join in person or via Zoom. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

SAT 18
Bird Walk and eBird Tutorial
CROTON-ON-HUDSON
7:45 a.m. Croton Point Park
1 Croton Point Ave.
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Join a guided birdwatching walk and learn how to record species sightings through the eBird app. Donation requested.

SAT 18
Bluebird Nest Box Building
BEACON
10 a.m. One Nature
321 Main St. | onenaturellc.com
Materials will be provided to build a birdhouse for bluebirds, cavity-nesting birds that have suffered from lost habitat. *Cost: \$60*



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

SAT 11
Food & Bake Sale
COLD SPRING
9 a.m. – Noon. | 216 Main St.
United Methodist Church
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 | 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*

SUN 19
Winter Turns to Spring
NEW WINDSOR
Noon. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road | 845-534-3115
stormking.org
During this nature walk, an educator from the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will point out emerging signs of spring. Free with admission. *Cost: \$30+ per car*

SUN 19
Ancient Iran with Daniel Potts
GARRISON
3 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Potts, a leading expert on archaeology and ancient Near East history, will discuss his experiences on expeditions and excavations in the area known today as Iran, site of some of the oldest civilizations in the world. Registration required.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 11
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 12. *Cost: \$28*

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*

SUN 12
Emily and Sue
BEACON
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Composer Dana Kaufman and librettist Aiden Feltkamp will present a screening of their pop opera exploring the intimate relationship between Emily Dickinson and her sister-in-law, Susan Huntington Gilbert Dickinson, as revealed through letters and poems. The creators will discuss their work after the film. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

FRI 17
Oklahoma!
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane | 15 Craigside Drive
haldaneschool.org
The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical about a love story on a farm set at the start of the 20th century will be staged by Haldane Drama. See Page 11. Also SAT 18, SUN 19. *Cost: \$15 (\$8 students, seniors)*

SAT 18
Lohengrin
POUGHKEEPSIE
Noon. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
Watch a livestream of the Metropolitan's staging of the Wagner opera starring tenor Piotr Beczala and sopranos Tamara Wilson and Christine Goerke. *Cost: \$29 (\$27 members, \$22 ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 18
Ring Masters Championships
POUGHKEEPSIE

5 p.m. MJN Convention Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org

The amateur event, presented by the Floyd Patterson Boxing Club, is open to boxers ages 8 and older. *Cost: \$35.75*

SAT 18
The Artichoke
BEACON

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

Edith Gonzalez, Lena Rizkallah, Steve Whyte, Adam Selbst and Richard Cardilo will be the featured storytellers this month. *Cost: \$20*

MUSIC

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



Balance, March 11



be joined by other folk musicians. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*



SAT 11
Evolution Ensemble
BEACON

9 p.m. Quinn's
330 Main St. | quinnsinbeacon.com

The improvisational saxophonist, Nick Gianni, will perform with his band.

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)*

FRI 17
Rose Clancy Trio
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The fiddler will perform contemporary and traditional Irish-influenced music with guitarist Max Cohen and multi-instrumentalist John Alden. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 18
Luminosity
NEWBURGH

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

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform a program at Aquinas Hall exploring color and music that includes work by Michael Torke, Thea Musgrave, Anna Clyne and Arthur Bliss. *Cost: \$35 to \$50 (\$25 seniors, students free)*

SAT 18
Kristina Koller
BEACON

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

The jazz-centric vocalist will perform.

SAT 18
The Slambovian Circus of Dreams
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Joziah Longo, Tink Lloyd and Sharkey McEwen will play songs from their latest release, *A Very Unusual Head*, as well as fan favorites. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 19
Heron Valley
PUTNAM VALLEY

4 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

The five-piece group will perform Celtic music. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 19
Flash Company
BEACON

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

The trio will play originals and traditional Irish and Celtic music. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 11
Balance
BEACON

5 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

The group show celebrates

Women's History Month with works by Beacon artists who explore how they handle work, family and creating. Through April 1.

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 | Riisa 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 is an exhibition that 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*

SUN 12
Ron English
BEACON

Noon. Ethan Cohen Fine Arts
211 Fishkill Ave. | ecfa.com

The artist will present a slideshow of his work and talk about the state of "popagenda" art.

SAT 18
Material Dispersions
PHILIPSTOWN

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

As part of the ongoing Arte Povera Lecture Series, curator Marin Sullivan will discuss sculpture and photography in Italy in the 1960s and '70s. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 local residents, students and seniors)*

CIVIC

SAT 11
Voter Registration
NELSONVILLE

Noon – 5 p.m. Village Hall
258 Main St. | 845-265-2500
nelsonvillenyny.gov

MON 13
Office Hours District 95
COLD SPRING

1 – 4 p.m. Philipstown Town Hall
238 Main St. | nyassembly.gov/mem/Dana-Levenberg

Staff from the office of Dana Levenberg, whose state Assembly district includes Philipstown, will meet with constituents and offer assistance.

MON 13
City Council
BEACON

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

MON 13
School Board
BEACON

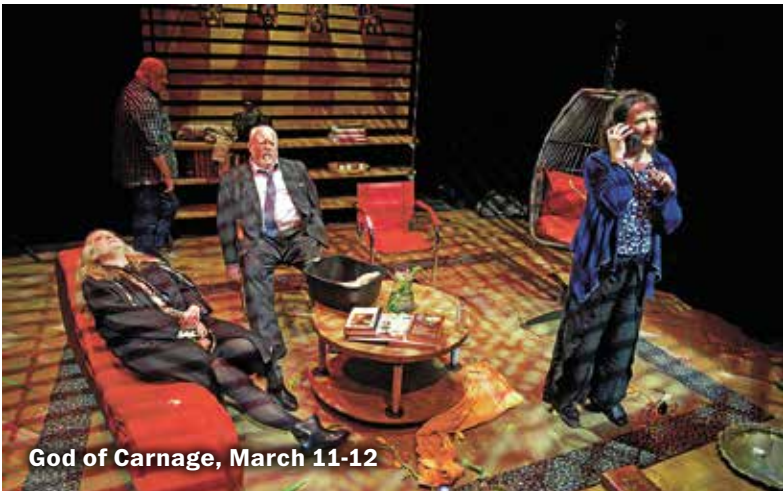
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beaconk12.org

WED 15
Village Board
COLD SPRING

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

WED 15
School Board
GARRISON

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



God of Carnage, March 11-12



River Valley Guild members dive into a bead bar at a party in Poughkeepsie.



The River Valley Guild and Dreamburgh co-hosted an event in 2022 during Newburgh Illuminated.

Photos provided



Jess Kravit

Where Art and Commerce Meet

Beacon entrepreneur launches creative guild

By Alison Rooney

After losing her sales job in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, Jessica (Jess) Kravit gathered a group of people in much the same position and said: “Let’s start our own little market.”

The result was the River Valley Guild (rivervalleyguild.com), a Beacon-based collective that is “a platform and resource for creatives, makers, artists and purveyors of the arts.”

The first market was held in Marlboro in January 2021 at what is now the Quartz Rock

Vineyard, owned by Dan and Jacqui Heavens. “Artists need to make money — everybody needs to eat, to pay their bills,” says Kravit, who moved to Beacon from Westchester County six years ago. “Creative and entrepreneurial are not things that can’t coexist.”

During that first year, the guild hosted more markets, along with happy hours, concerts and film screenings. But by 2022, “we wanted to break out and show the community how much more we can do,” Kravit says. “I’d like to be a connector for those who are from here and those who recently moved up from the city.”

The Guild, which has expanded into Kingston and Poughkeepsie, has worked with more than 40 venues, including farms,

breweries, stores, restaurants and bars.

“Our pitch is that our structure is organic,” says Kravit, who owns Exalted Alchemy, a wellness-products business. “I’m a big people person, and I’m always networking. So many businesses here are community-oriented and see the value in what we can bring to the table.”

The Guild has two membership tiers, one designed for events, such as pop-up shops, and the other for artists who don’t necessarily sell products, such as photographers, designers and musicians.

“It’s been a process, figuring out productive membership and partnership benefits,” Kravit says. “The big roadblock for us is financial, of course. We cover our expenses, but bringing on some sponsorships is a big goal. We’re putting together co-working days, a monthly business support group, ongoing pop-up residencies at local breweries and a speed-networking event for this summer.”

The Guild is also involved with videography for members that focuses on “the why, the how and the what” of local businesses; joining with podcasters Brandon Lillard and Andd Bivans of @theuniverse845 for “The Guild Gang,” debuting in April; poetry workshops; and figure-drawing workshops with Beacon Open Studios.

“We have a lot of people at events who have worked for corporate companies but who want to be around creative people,” Kravit says. “That’s why our things like cocktail parties do so well. Experiential types of events, getting-your-hands-dirty activities, appeal to Gen Z. A lot of their inspiration comes from sustainability, and there’s been a resurgence of connecting more deeply in that way.”

The major challenge is consistent engagement, she says. “All this has been trial-and-error, which we learn from: If you do an event more than once a month, it’s hard to bring people out. A lot of it is figuring out how to get people to continue to show up.

“I have great partners who do show up, and if you can’t support things financially, support it with your time. People need to, if they want it to continue. We all understand people have their own lives, but we hope they appreciate we are trying to do something different.”





A pop-up residency at the Beacon boutique, Sybil, featured Kelly Millington of KM Lens.



A live-figure drawing event was co-hosted by the River Valley Guild in Poughkeepsie. The model was an aerial artist.

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Confits of Chicken and Leeks, with Artichokes & Lentils (and a Lemon-Mustard Cream Sauce)

Serves 4

For the chicken confit
(may be prepared a day or two ahead)

4 to 8 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs
1 lemon, sliced into thin rounds, seeds removed
2 cloves garlic, peeled and smashed
1 teaspoon fennel seeds, cracked
1½ teaspoon dried rosemary leaves, chopped
2 teaspoons kosher salt, plus more
Freshly ground black pepper
4 to 4½ cups extra-virgin olive oil

For the leek confit, artichokes and lentils, and lemon-mustard cream sauce

5 medium leeks, about 1½ pounds, trimmed and washed, white and light green parts cut into ¾- to 1-inch thick rounds
10 cloves garlic, peeled
1½ teaspoon dried thyme
Kosher salt and black pepper
¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
8 ounces frozen quartered artichokes
¾ cup dried green French Puy lentils (lentilles du Puy)
½ cup plus 1 tablespoon heavy cream
2¼ teaspoons Dijon mustard
5 tablespoons fresh lemon juice (about 2 medium lemons)
3 tablespoons each fresh parsley, dill and tarragon, chopped roughly
For serving, baby spinach (and/or cooked rice, pasta or polenta)

For the chicken confit

1. Toss chicken thighs, lemon, garlic, fennel seeds, rosemary and 2½ teaspoons salt in a large bowl; season generously with black pepper. Place in a large zip-close bag and chill, 12 hours or up to 1 day.
2. To cook, bring chicken to room temperature. Preheat oven to 275 degrees and place rack in middle of oven. Transfer chicken and spices to a loaf pan, scraping in stray seasoning; arrange thighs, skin side up (it will be a tight squeeze) and pour 4 cups olive oil over all. (It should come to just over the top of the chicken; if the pieces aren't submerged, add the additional ½ cup oil.) Cover pan tightly with aluminum foil and place on middle rack of oven. Roast for 2½ hours, until meat is tender but not falling off the bone. Remove from oven and let sit until cool enough to handle, about 25 to 30 minutes.

Note: If finishing the recipe in the next couple of days, keep pan covered and refrigerate. Bring the chicken to room temperature. Let pieces drain off most of the olive oil and place on a wire rack on a foil-lined roasting pan or baking sheet. Reserve until needed.

For the leek confit, artichokes and lentils

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees; add the leeks, garlic, thyme, 1 teaspoon salt and a good grind of pepper to medium-sized casserole (with cover). Pour oil over all to cover. Bake, covered and unattended, for 35 minutes. Remove from oven and gently turn the leeks. Push the softer leeks over to one side and add the still-frozen artichokes. Lightly salt them, re-cover the casserole and return it to oven, cooking unattended for another 35 minutes.
2. While the leeks and artichokes cook, prepare the lentils: Fill a saucepan about ⅔ full of water and bring to a medium boil. Add lentils and cook until tender (but not mushy), about 12 to 15 minutes. When cooked, drain and reserve.
3. When leeks and artichokes are finished cooking, remove casserole from oven. Transfer and reserve a healthy ½ cup of the cooked leeks, plus 5 cloves of the cooked garlic. (This is for the lemon-mustard cream sauce.)
4. Add the reserved cooked lentils to the remaining leeks and artichoke. Mix gently to combine, adding an additional ½ teaspoon salt and a couple of healthy grinds of black pepper. Cover the casserole and return it to the oven for another 15 to 20 minutes while you prepare the cream sauce.
5. Add reserved leeks and garlic, the cream, mustard, 1 tablespoon lemon juice and ½ teaspoon salt to the bowl of a small food processor and blitz until smooth. Reserve sauce to a small bowl.
8. When done, remove the leek, artichoke and lentil casserole from the oven, keeping it covered while you crisp the chicken confit. Place the chicken on the center rack of the still-heated oven and warm for 10 minutes. While the chicken warms, add the remaining 4 tablespoons lemon juice and chopped herbs to the leek, artichoke and lentil mixture. Keep covered while the chicken crisps.
9. Switch the oven to low broil mode and broil the chicken to brown and crisp the skin, 12 to 15 minutes. Keep a close watch on it so it doesn't char.
10. To serve, spoon some of the leek-artichoke-lentil mixture over a bed of fresh green baby spinach (and/or rice, noodles, polenta). Place crisped chicken on top and spoon some of the cream sauce over all.

Small, Good Things

A Tale of Two Confits

By Joe Dizney



The culinary term *confit* means “to preserve”; its earliest usages point to the process of preserving meat for storage, first by salting and then submerging completely in fat, usually its own.

The French *confit de canard* is the epitome of this art. It's usually a leg-thigh quarter, seasoned, salted and slow-cooked, that embodies the reasons for such dedicated effort. Moist, unctuous and falling-off-the-bone, and accented by shards of oven-crisped skin, it doesn't require much beyond simple greens or other vegetables.

The process also has been employed to tran-

substantiate onions, garlic, tomatoes, squash, peppers and even potatoes. Animal fat isn't necessary; olive oil is an acceptable substitute.

The recipe here began as a paean to a so-close-you-could-touch-it spring that the weather gods tease us with. It started out as a humble chicken confit in olive oil — not that I am anti-schmaltz but as homage to the Mediterranean-facing France of dreams.

But then, it's never done till it's overdone. I planned to serve it on a bed of legumes but stumbled upon a Yotam Ottolenghi recipe for herbed confit of leeks with lentils. Thinking spring and sunshine again, what possibly could be the harm in adding a few artichokes?

To serve, mound it on a bed of fresh spinach, although rice or another grain, polenta, pasta, or roast potatoes will also work. A quick blender sauce, also via Ottolenghi, of reserved leeks confit and the garlic cloves they were cooked with, mellowed with cream or yogurt and brightened with lemon and mustard, may seem like overkill but it does complete the fantasy.

You can separate this into distinct recipes: the chicken can be kept on hand (and frozen) to be warmed and crisped for a quick meal. The leeks, artichokes and lentils (with or without the sauce) make a satisfying vegetarian main or side.

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Haldane High School Honor Roll

Students recognized for second-quarter grades

Grade 12

Principal's List

Julian Ambrose, Edward Bauer, Kate Bolte, Zach Cannova, Celia Drury, Ryan Eng-Wong, Sara Ferreira, Elliott Goldberg, Amanda Johanson, Matthew Junjulas, Raunaq Kapoor, Rowen Kuzminski, Nate McPherson, Mary Mikalsen, Caroline Nelson, Mairead O'Hara, Nino Perricone, Kaelyn Powlis, Rhys Robbins, Josephine Russell Jarmusch, Sophie Sabin, Roy Smith, Will Sniffen, Aidan Sullivan-Hoch, Liv Villella, Jillian Weinpahl, Conrad White

High Honor Roll

Sam Bates, Will Bradley, Betsy Cates, Matteo Cervone, Carmela Cofini, Chase Coulson, Megan Ferreira, Olivia Flanagan, Dylan Horan, Ella Hotaling, Kate Jordan, Charlie Keegan, Madeleine Knox, August Lee, Albina McFadden, Kate Meisner, Helen Nicholls, John Peters, Gabe Petty, Daniel Phillips, Thomas Rockett, Aidan Sabatini, Mikayla Santos, Fiona Shanahan, Brennan Spruck, Jackson Twoguns, Lucas Vladimiroff, Sofia Wallis

Honor Roll

Ben Bozsik, Quentin Conrey, Aleksander Danilov, Gael Frezza, Maya Gelber, Jesse Hagen, Diego Haskell-Ramirez, John Kisslinger, Andrew Kubik, Lola Ritell, Chloe Rowe, Sofia Salazar, Walker Tinsley, Andreia Vasconcelos-Meneses

Grade 11

Principal's List

Scott Bailey, Lily Benson, Vanja Booth, Liliana

Cappello, Quinlynn Carmicino, Liam Gaugler, Evan Giachinta, Clement Grossman, Jeremy Hall, Ivy Heydt-Benjamin, Colin Hopkins, Madeleine Hutz, Finola Kiter, Ronan Kiter, Helena Kottman, Amelia Kupper, Gabe Lunin-Pack, Trajan McCarthy, Camilla McDaniel, Ella Mekeel, Jacqueline Muth, Matthew Nachamkin, Ellen O'Hara, Percy Parker, Eloise Pearsall, Ruby Poses, Julie Shields, Emily Tomann, Ryan Van Tassel, Joseline Vasquez, Max Westphal

High Honor Roll

Jon Bastys, Alissa Buslovich, Alexandra Busselle, William Busselle, William Denehy, Frankie DiGiglio, Luca DiLello, Oscar Donahue, Emily Gilleo, Mary Junjulas, Olivia Knox, Mac Lake, Elaine Llewellyn, Lola Mahoney, John Mangan, Michael Murray, Henry O'Neil, Simon Pieza, Keira Russell, Olivia Scanga, Isabella Tomizawa-Rincon, Mackenzie Warren, Claudio Zizzi

Honor Roll

Grace Bradley, Delaney Corless, James D'Abruzzo, Sarah Jones, Isadora Kaye, Dashiell Santelmann, Harley Sporbett, Iain Starr, Nicholas Stathos, Jesse Tippet

Grade 10

Principal's List

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

Rombout Middle School Honor Roll

Beacon students recognized for second-quarter grades

Grade 8

Principal's List

Cecilia Allee, Maayan Alon, Danica Brennen, Jerry Chen, Terry Chen, Shannon Colandrea, Emily Coldrick, Theodore Concepcion, Zamaya Cone, Travis Dickston, Fionn Fehilly, Khloe Franklin, Valeria Garcia, Kayla Gerardes, Emilio Guerra, Elma-Taherin Hassan, Abigail Haydt, August Hayes, Shaun Jabar, Ruby King, Wenang Kobarsih, Katelyn Kong, Mary Lopez, Lily Mack, Asha Marcus, Victoria McKay, Isaac McKible, Shyanne McNair, Levi Partlow, John Rose, Charlotte Rossi, Abdul-Rahman Sayibu, Finch Simons, Harper Strang, Elliott Thorne, Gavin Troiano, Isaac Tschang, Jesse Vermeulen, Aslynn Way, Parker White, Julie Whittlemore, Áine Woods

High Honor Roll

Mikayla Acevedo, Molly-Rose Archer, Caroline Bell, Savannah Brace, Hartley Brickman, Michael Cahill, Mateo Cruz, Haziel Decena Meran, Ka'Dera Elliott, Elijah Epps, Khordae Facey, Hailey Fish, William Flynn, Julian Hannah, Miguel Herrera, Reinabelle Jaafar, Gabriel Khan, Ethan Maxaner, Lily Murr, Madelyn Pellerin, Lyriss Pennock,

Brady Philipbar, Sarah Ramkalawon, Lillian Ray, Stella Reinke, Olivia Reynolds, Noah Sanderson, Katherine Sendelbach, Tabitha Smith-White, Januario Stageman, Jesiah Swanigan, Farrah VanCott, Nolan Varricchio, Rudolph Vergolina, Fabiola Vogrincic, Slater Way, Lila Welsh

Honor Roll

Savannah Acuti, Jay Adams, Emma Bellis, Casey Brandstrom, Juniper Breault, Myasia Burch, Jason David, Angeleah Decker, Christopher Diaz, Victoria Diaz, Naim Dika, Tyler Evans, Adriana Fazioli, Hudson Fontaine, Brandon Fremer, Ayham Ghazzawi, Maliah Graham, Ryan Huynh, Syeira Kozlik, Jayden Lassiter, Bria Lopez, Gianna Mercer, Ryan Mowen, Lilly Pendley, Selena Perez-Sample, David Ramirez, Julian Rivers, Za'layni Shand, Caeleb Smith, Jazier Smith, Anthony Soltish, Ramonsito Soto Jr., Andrew Whittemore, Ny'el Woods, Piper Yewchuck, Ysabella Zappala

Grade 7

Principal's List

Owen Allee, Breannah Brace, Noa Buckland, Skylar Carr, Claire Cumming, Andrea Delgado, Jake DeLuise, Evelyn DePalma, Ryan DiNobile, Maysie Doyle, Saoirse Fehilly, Christa George, Henry Gute, Maeve Haley, Drew Kelly, Maximilian Kong, Heidi Maeng,

High Honor Roll

Emilia (Gray) Cardoso, Christopher Coronel, Kira Drury, Edwin Dubroff, Hunter Erickson, Louis Ferreira, Patrick Locitzer, Thomas Locitzer, Jake Powers, Jake Thomas

Honor Roll

Claire Bolte, Brody Corless, Christian Ferreira, Leif Heydt-Benjamin, Catherine Horton, Jack Illian, Oliver Petkus, Wilson Robohm, Shaun Russell, Laurel Sassano, Amelia Scarpino, Crystal Timmons, Jayden Treloar

Grade 9

Principal's List

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

High Honor Roll

Anthony Bailey, Ada Caccamise, Philip Cappello, James Frommer, Ryder Griffin, Ryder Henricksen, Seth Lunin-Pack, Lincoln McCarthy, Kayla Ruggiero, Tyler Schacht, Henry Schimming, Samantha Thomas, Ty Villella, Jasmine Wallis, Merrick Williams

Honor Roll

Theo Baranszky-Job, Lucius Bell, Molly Bernstein, Luke Bozsik, Lyla (Lenny) Chandler, Aine Fortuna, Kai Ietaka, Genevieve Knox, Daniel Nakabayashi, Megan Powell, Luke Tippet, Roth Westphal

Josue Martell, Louise Mauks, Elise Moran, Claire Morgan, Sigil Netboy, Zora Nicholls, Payton O'Connell, Vivien Padoleski, James Reyes, Austin Ricketts, Maeve Rinaldi, Khloe Roci, Giana Rodriguez, Mackinley Roland, Bowie Roy, Isabella Ruffy, Nathaniel Salvati, Evangeline Santise, Hazel Schein, Benjamin Seaman, Shane Signorelli, Gonzalo Soria Velecela, Caellum Tripaldi, Derek Waltke, Caleb Wells-McGurk, Owen Youatt, Trey Zapencki

High Honor Roll

Femmie Akinwunmi, Jacqueline Albra, Caden Balfour, Kiersten Barber, Madison Beltran, Lily Berry, Gavin Bruno, Sarah Camara, Amari Clarke, Zahara Cone, Vaughn Davis, Joseline Duran, Leah Fahlman, Kyle Fairbanks, Mckenna Griffin, Troi Harvey Semple, Alejandro Herrera, Brianna Hunt, Breanna Jones, Christopher Lee, Justin Mann, Ruby Martin, Victoria Maruggi, Braelyn Milligan, Uswah Mohammed Murtada, Oscar Pages, Sofia Posso Salcedo, Luis Ramon, Thalia Rodriguez, Hunter Smith, Sophia Tomasik Dume, Julie Vogrincic, Hayden Wilson, Luna Yawman, Joey Zezza, Nicholas Zippo

Honor Roll

Mark Aakjar III, Kendall Adnams, Jesse Apostolou, Abigail Atkins, Michai Brown, Erica Cabrera, Hawah Camara, Anthony Castano, Henry Cerchiara, Piper Clark, Lia

(Continued on Page 17)

Rombout *(from Page 16)*

Cosentino, Isabella Davila, Zooey Dedring, Chanel Dickey, Kaileigh Edie, SaRiah Faust, Annabel Goodman, Henry Greenberg, Zoe Hammond, Jayden Harrison, Gauge Heeter, Emanuel Jenkins, Melody Longino, Oliver Meyer, Stephen Miller, Gabriel Montleon, Henry Mulligan, Ismael Munoz, Catherine Musorofiti, Olivia Ortiz, Stephanie Ramon, Nour Raouf Said, Antonio See, Vardan Singh, Jalen Thompson, Joshua Tonyes, Jude Williams

Grade 6

Principal's List

Natalie Allen, Brayden Arroyo, Luna Ayers-Uekawa, Hazel Balogh, Fiona Burke-Smith, Ethan Cason, Lily Cheyne, Ivy Cohen, Connor Coldrick, Sebastian Concepcion, Shuprova Das, Elodie Duquesne, Evangeline Ferron, Lilah Fisher, Alice Gabel, Jordan Garzon, Eli Gilleo, Edith Giunta, Christian Gomez, Carolina Guerra, Manasvi Gupta, Silas Hayes, Samih Jabar, Greyson Johnson, Davia Kelleher, Julian Khan, Miles King, Ileana Lawrence, James Mack, Celest Marshall, Elena Moleano, Madelyn Newcomb, Suvi O'Shea, Dominick Pulcastro, Zbigniew Rybak, Ashley Senior, George Stadler, Silas Stampleman, Ellamarie Tejada, Anita Vigeant

High Honor Roll

Lorelei Aakjar, James Bailey, Vivianna Bailey, Desmond Barchetto, Gavin Barone, Joshua Benson, Sadie Bottone, Roman

Brandt-Cannon, Amaya Bravo, Hawken Brickman, Matthew Browne, Madison Carr, Chase Christman-Evans, Hailey Day, Kylie Ebeling, Braedan Eraca, Shaniya Evans, Willow Faiella, Emmett Havers, Nathan Hayden, Samantha Johnson, Grace Just, Connor Kuhhorn, Gabriella Larsson, Anthony Lopez, Isabella Lopez, Ralph Marinaccio IV, Ramiro Martinez Jr., Ethan McCredo, Scarlett Mckimney, Michael Medina, Geovanny Merchan Bermeo, Alicia Miller, Auwaab Mohammed Murtada, Dezire Neely, Ace Owen, Amber Perez-Sample, Adrian Quezada, Sanaa Richardson, De'Jaun Rigby, Ivan Rinaldi, Tallix Roan, Genevieve Shrawder, Landon Soltish, Lyra Staab, Ryan Sulca, Daniel Tschang, Jaliyah Vasquez, Emery Vergolina, Callie Winther, Colin Witkowski

Honor Roll

Janaly Alvarado, Riley Anderson, Sarp Bagriyanik, Charles Boulding, Jack Bunker, Andrew Caporale, Jackson Coultas, Gabriela Diaz, Sofia Dunay, Grace Fleming, Natalia Garcia, Lucien Guido Taylor, London Hernandez, Weston Hetrick, Niara Johnson, Nahlia Keane, Pixie Kimberg, Logan Lyall, Michael MacDougall, Olive Macina, Marianna Marrero, Katalina McBride, Dakota O'Dell, Avyanna Olvera, Riley Peterson, Negatu Price, Dion Qelaj, Leela Ramdeen, Alexandra Resendiz, Sophia Romero, Jonathan Saraceno, Warren Spatta, Hannah Spencer, Sophia Spiconardi, Syed Umrao, Everett VanCott, Joshua Velazquez, Lily Vogrincic, Noah Wright

Gregory V. Bentley Sr. (1958-2023)



Gregory Vanderhoof Bentley, Sr. a long-time resident of Beacon, who is well-known and loved by many, passed away on Feb. 25, 2023. He was on vacation in Cancun, Mexico, with his beloved companion, Ellie La Vecchia when he suddenly suffered from heart failure.

Gregory was born in Peekskill, NY on Jan. 28, 1958, the sixth child of Gertrude (nee McKeon) and David Dow Bentley, Jr. He graduated from Peekskill High School in 1976 and studied at Manhattan College, then Clarkson University, where he graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 1981. He began his professional career at Amman & Whitney Engineers in New York City and went on to work for the New York State Department of Transportation for 11 years, then on to a position as the director of engineering for Dutchess County.

During the next 14 years, Gregory led the development of countless local infrastructure projects including one of his proudest contributions to the community, the Dutchess Rail Trail. He served the public through his commitment to safety, efficiency and beauty in every project he worked on both professionally and personally. Much to his loved one's amusement, when referring to local roads, highways and bridges, Gregory took great pride in pointing out that he "built that." In 2016 he continued his work with the NYSDOT, as Resident Engineer for Putnam and Southern Dutchess Counties. After an illustrious career spanning three decades of civil service, he retired in August 2021.

Gregory's favorite job in life was that of being the Dad of his three very exceptional children. They were the heart of Greg's life and gave joy to him every day as they were growing up and sharing family, school and sports activities, where Greg often volunteered as a coach, chaperone and mentor to many. They frequently enjoyed the great outdoors with visits to "The Cabin" in the Adirondacks and his sister Jeanie's New England homes. These bonds of love deepened, as they grew into caring young adults, who gave their Dad endless moments of pride and joy.

Gregory enjoyed many travels. Amongst them was a once in a lifetime family trip to Italy, that he had the pleasure of doing twice. His brothers Dow and Niles were his favorite tennis partners, where sharing humor was way more important than returning the serve. He enjoyed imparting his love for water on others, whether it be through playing in the pool or teaching them to fish. "Hoof" frequently joined his cousin and

lifelong best friend Darby Walsh, as well as many other members of the Peekskill gang for a round of golf. When they weren't on the links, they often enjoyed obnoxiously loud live music events.

Gregory was always ready to gather for a family dinner, especially when his sister Julie was steaming up a pot of lobsters. He followed in his mother Gertrude's footsteps as a loving cook. He and his children are well known as the hosts of an extravagant Friendsgiving feast accompanied by an abundance of loved ones and food. Most notably, Greg enjoyed celebrating his Christmas tradition of donning a bright red Santa hat to any and all occasions. Among the list of these occasions, was he and his sister Sally's ritual of cutting down their own Douglas firs to proudly display in their homes well beyond the winter season.

Gregory's life was characterized by a lively spirit, humor and most of all love. Greg was a proud and encouraging friend of Bill W's for more than 29 years and was often rejoicing in his sobriety, while leading meetings in nearby AA groups. Greg lived a loving life one day at a time and all his family and friends had their lives enriched by just witnessing the example of his joy filled life and receiving his love.

Gregory shared a lifetime of blessings with his many brothers and sisters and extended family and friends. Greg was predeceased by his parents, David and Gertrude Bentley and his brother Niles (Anand) Sutton Bentley. He is survived by his sons Gregory Vanderhoof Bentley, Jr. and Colin Patrick Bentley, his favorite woman, his daughter Whitney Taylor Bentley, his brother David Dow Bentley III and his sisters Sara Anne (Sally) Bentley, Julia M. Bentley and Dr. Jeanne B. Lawrence. His former wife Holly Bentley shares in this loss with their three children, along with cousins, countless nieces, nephews and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Greg can be made to the American Heart Association — Gregory Bentley Memorial (bit.ly/3YhYURo), Doctors Without Borders (doctorswithoutborders.org) and/or Habitat for Humanity (habitat.org).

Services were held under the direction of the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc. 1089 Main St. Fishkill, NY 12524. For online tributes, you can visit Gregory's Book of Memories at mchoulfuneralhome.com.

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Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

a public forum, put on by HHFT or whomever, so everyone can hear all concerns and understand more about what is being planned.”

Amy Kacala, the executive director of the Fjord Trail, which is part of Scenic Hudson, said eliminating the section between Cold Spring and Breakneck would be a “worst-case scenario for the village.”

“You’re getting potentially more visitation,” she said. “And you’ve just stopped any investment, infrastructure, staffing, bathrooms and all the things planned that are called for by locals for visitation management, to reduce the impacts of visitation on the community. You’ve just turned your back on all of that investment and visitation management for the village. Yet, you’re still going to contend with additional visitation.”

She noted that the Fjord Trail originated from a need to get hikers and pedestrians safely out of the village without having to walk along Route 9D. “People in the village and Philipstown were concerned for people’s safety and saw that something was going to happen if we don’t take action,” she said. “This is a visitation-management project to get people quickly, and with minimal



A rendering shows the route of the shoreline trail and bridge north of the Breakneck tunnel.

HHFT

impacts to the village, out from the train station, if that’s how they’re arriving, and onto the walkway.”

Kacala said that the project has held 14 public forums, and while she wouldn’t rule out the possibility of an “open Q&A” she said that she has reached out to Protect the Highlands three times in order to “listen to

them directly if they still feel that they’re being unheard,” but has not heard back.

Merandy said the chief concern of the group’s members is how the Fjord Trail will affect life in Cold Spring. It has been estimated the trail will attract as many as 500,000 visitors annually. Merandy noted that the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie was expected to attract 150,000 to 200,000 visitors per year and now attracts up to 600,000.

“Right now, we have hikers, energetic people who want to climb the mountains,” he said. “The Fjord Trail will attract a whole new group, people who want to walk on a flatter, less-strenuous surface, like those who use the Walkway Over the Hudson.”

Merandy said the pandemic’s impact on the village, with more people wanting to be outdoors, provided insight into what the village can expect if the Fjord Trail is completed as planned.

“Traffic alone is a huge concern; it’s already backing up farther and farther,” he said. “People are going to come in cars, not by train; the village is one way in and one way out, and HHFT can’t mitigate traffic using shuttles.”

Even Seastreak cruises that bring 400 visitors at a time to Cold Spring put a burden on

village infrastructure, he said. “And they’re not in cars; you can control them.”

He added that when the idea of starting the Fjord Trail at Little Stony Point just north of Cold Spring, rather than Breakneck, was discussed at one of the first Protect the Highlands meetings, there was general agreement it would not reduce traffic congestion in the village.

The Protect the Highlands website at protectthehighlands.org lists nearly 80 supporters, several of whom, in addition to Merandy, have held elected office. They include Michael Bowman, a former Nelsonville mayor and Cold Spring trustee, and former Cold Spring Trustees Joe Curto, Stephanie Hawkins, Gordon Robertson and Steve Voloto.

Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley said she is aware of the group but that it has not formally communicated with the village. Speaking more broadly, she said that with the proposed scale of the Fjord Trail, advocacy on behalf of village needs is critical because Cold Spring will be affected more than any other municipality.

“The Fjord Trail will attract a whole new group, people who want to walk on a flatter, less-strenuous surface, like those who use the Walkway Over the Hudson.”

~Dave Merandy
Former Cold Spring mayor

“All voices should be heard, both in support of and critical of the project,” Foley said, adding that she hopes the state parks department, which is the lead agency on the project, and the Fjord Trail team “demonstrate true responsiveness to the concerns and needs of our community.”

Brian PJ Cronin contributed reporting.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

- ACROSS
1. Two-wheeler
5. Bumped into
8. Pack (down)
12. Ireland
13. Peyton's brother
14. *The Time*
Machine people
15. Octopus arm
17. Lunch hour
18. Request
19. IV measures
20. Must-haves
21. Chai, e.g.
22. Vagrant
23. More recent
26. Goddess of wisdom
30. Tehran's country
31. Sly one
32. Tidy
33. Workshop cutter
35. Rock
36. Very long time
37. Possesses
38. Brainy
41. Small barrel
42. *The Wedding*
Planner actress, to fans
45. New York's — Field
46. Bicycle type
48. N. Mex. neighbor
49. — Lingus

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

50. Pitt of *Moneyball*
51. Carry
52. Layer
53. Round Table titles
9. Medicinal plant
10. Disposition
11. Bowling targets
16. Computer brand
20. Convent manager
21. Prepare meat for cooking
22. Beiderbecke of jazz
23. Pen tip
24. Mound stat
25. Pallid
26. Trim the grass
27. Old Oldsmobile
28. Moving day rental
29. Packed away
31. Summer cooler
34. Drunkard
35. Droops
37. Ford or Hudson
38. Ella's style
39. Surrealist Joan
40. Bickering
41. Fall (over)
42. Ryan of *Boston Public*
43. Tragic king
44. Probability
46. Light touch
47. *Frontline* aier

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Answers for March 3 Puzzles

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

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

1. CREAK, 2. CHERRIES, 3. SUZUKI, 4. USPS, 5. ADIEUX, 6. HABITS, 7. MONROEVILLE

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
- SOLUTIONS
- 1 jeans fabric (5)
- 2 Venezuelan capital (7)
- 3 imitated a hot dog (6)
- 4 most ridiculous (8)
- 5 one not sharing "bread" (9)
- 6 ribbed fabric (8)
- 7 articulated (9)

DE	SKI	PAN	CAR	GO
AS	CO	SED	NFL	EXP
INT	ROY	IE	TED	AC
OF	RES	NIM	RDU	ST

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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HALDANE BOYS WIN SECTIONAL TITLE

Advance in regional with win over Rhinebeck

By Skip Pearlman

Riding the momentum that led to a 28-point, third-quarter lead, the Haldane boys' basketball team held on to upset top-seeded Tuckahoe, 63-53, in the Section I, Class C title game on March 4 at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

Haldane continued its season on Wednesday (March 8) with another relatively easy victory, 65-47, over Rhinebeck, the Section IX champion, at O'Neill High School in Highland Falls.

The Blue Devils (19-4) will face Section XI champion Pierson (15-8) in a regional final at 4 p.m. today (March 10) at Eastport-South Manor High School on Long Island. The winner will take a spot in the final four, with the semifinals scheduled for March 17 at Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls.

The regional final will be broadcast by the NFHS Network (nfhsnetwork.com). The New York State Sportswriters Association ranks Haldane at No. 6 among Class C schools and Pierson at No. 22.

In the Section I final, a focused Blue Devils team came out as if shot from a cannon, leading 18-6 after one quarter, 38-14 at halftime and 44-16 with 3:59 left in the third quarter.

As Haldane started to slow the game and kill the clock, things got sloppy, with Tuckahoe forcing turnovers and pulling within 11 to start the fourth quarter. It cut the deficit to six (59-53) with 32.6 seconds to play, but it was too little, too late. Haldane hit its free



Haldane celebrates winning the Section I, Class C basketball title at the Westchester County Center on March 4. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photos by S. Pearlman

throws down the stretch, winning its first Section I championship since 2016.

Coach Joe Virgadamo, in his 17th season, said the team's mindset during that stunning first half was: "We don't practice tomorrow if we don't play like dogs for 32 minutes."

Senior Matteo Cervone (12 points) was named the tournament MVP, and junior

Matt Nachamkin (21 points) and senior Ben Bozsik (10 points) were named to the All-Tournament team.

This was the final shot at a sectional title for the Haldane seniors, who lost in the semifinals in 2020 and 2021 and in the final in 2022. The Blue Devils reached the title game with a double-overtime win over Hamilton on March 1.

"I came here [to the County Center] in 2015 and watched the team, and I wanted a title so bad," said Cervone. "With this group, we had a lot of fun."

The Blue Devils kept their foot on the gas against Rhinebeck on Wednesday in the regional matchup at O'Neill. Will Bradley finished the first quarter with nine of his 17 points, including a three-pointer that put Haldane up 21-4 with 2:04 left.

The Blue Devils led 21-10 after one quarter, 37-24 at halftime and 54-40 at the end of three. Nachamkin was a steadying force for Haldane throughout, delivering a team-high 20 points, and Cervone, who drew plenty of attention, still got 16.

"We set the tone early," Virgadamo said. "Once we got a 15-point lead we may have gotten a little comfortable, and we can't do that."

Rhinebeck hit a three-pointer to open the second quarter that made it a 21-13 game, but the Blue Devils responded with an 9-0 run, and led 30-13 on a Nachamkin bucket with 4:23 left in the half. Haldane led by

as many as 21 in the second half and was never threatened.

Virgadamo said his team is trying to stay mentally prepared and take one game at a time. "They don't want their season to end right now," he said. "We feel like we're in a great spot. This is a special group, and we still haven't played our best."

INDOOR TRACK

Beacon's Damani Deloatch placed 10th in the triple jump on March 4 at the state track and field championships on Staten Island, an improvement on the 21st-place finish during his sophomore season.

Henry Reinke finished fifth in the 600 meters (and third in the public school division) with a time of 1:21.72, a new Beacon record.

"Overall, it was a very successful state championship meet," said Coach Jim Henry. "Damani didn't quite make the finals [by being among the top eight finishers] but made a big improvement from last year. For Henry, the 600 was one of the most competitive boys' events at states, and to medal in both the public high school and federation divisions was huge. Both are juniors, so I'm looking forward to what they will accomplish outdoors."

Both athletes travel to Boston this weekend to compete at the New Balance Nationals Indoor Championship, Deloatch in the triple jump and Reinke in the 400.



Matt Nachamkin goes in for a dunk against Tuckahoe, just beating the buzzer that ended the first half.



Matteo Cervone rises above the crowd for a shot against Rhinebeck on Wednesday.