

The HIGHLANDS Current



Crooner at The Chapel
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Unified on the Court

'Athletes' and 'partners' join forces for Beacon High

By Joey Asher

When Krystal Dembo, a sophomore at Beacon High School, hit a layup for the Bulldogs in a basketball game earlier this month at New Paltz, the parents and other fans in the bleachers clapped and cheered.

Dembo, who has Down syndrome, plays for the high school's first Unified Sports team, in which students with physical and/or intellectual disabilities and those without compete together.

"My biggest goal is to show our school the talents of our special-ed kids," said Michael Mullins, head coach for Unified Sports teams at Beacon. "The goal is for the kids to get a better appreciation for each other and to build community."

The high school has 15 students on its Unified Sports basketball team, Mullins said, and had 12 students last fall on its Unified Sports bowling team.

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Krystal Dembo, a sophomore on Beacon's Unified Team, drives to the basket against New Paltz. Photo by J. Asher

15 Questions

Full house at Haldane for Fjord Trail meeting

By Michael Turton

The Haldane school auditorium was as crowded as Main Street on a summer weekend on Monday (May 8), as Philipstown residents gathered to hear how officials involved in developing

the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail would respond to questions about the proposed, 7.5-mile "linear park."

The meeting was hosted by the elected boards of Philipstown, Cold Spring and Nelsonville, which in recent weeks received 210 questions about the Fjord Trail intended to connect Cold Spring and Beacon.

Residents were asked to rank the questions they would like answered, and the people who submitted the 15 with the highest scores (or a proxy) went to the microphone to read each for the audience and Fjord Trail and state parks officials, who were given 10

minutes to respond. Two hours later, this was followed by 30 minutes of open questions.

During her opening comments, Amy Kacala, executive director of Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc., which is a project of the nonprofit environmental group Scenic Hudson, said her organization would respond to the other 195 submitted questions in writing.

In her introductory statement, Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley said that the village will be the municipality most impacted by the Fjord Trail because the

(Continued on Page 6)



Linda Cooper, the Taconic Region director for state parks; Matthew Davidson, the state parks deputy commissioner; and Richard Shea, the former Philipstown supervisor who is on the board at Fjord Trail Inc., responded to questions.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Special Report: Confusion in the Classroom

What can a district do when a teacher spreads misinformation?

By Jeff Simms

The mother said she first heard Laurie Malin's name in the fall of 2021, shortly after students in the Beacon City School District returned to class full-time and in person (with masks) following the COVID-19 shutdown.

On Sept. 13, Malin, a longtime science teacher at Rombout Middle School, had attended a Beacon school board meeting to protest New York State's policy of testing unvaccinated teachers weekly for the coronavirus. That same month, an elementary teacher in Glens Falls who refused to be vaccinated or submit to testing had been suspended.

"We know that the COVID-19 vaccination does not prevent you from getting COVID or spreading COVID," Malin asserted, before reeling off a litany of debunked conspiracy theories, including the allegation that PCR test swabs contained "a cancer-causing agent that damages DNA" and caused migraines and other ill effects. She also

“ Why is my seventh grader having to argue established scientific facts with her teacher?

~ A Beacon parent

claimed that the tests didn't actually detect COVID-19 but instead identified a coronavirus that causes the common cold.

Calling out what she said was a flawed narrative around "a test that doesn't tell us what we want to know," Malin asked: "Why would we risk the health of students and employees for absolutely no reason?"

She turned again to COVID-19 vaccines, which had been rolled out at the beginning of the year. "It's not a vaccine," argued Malin, who, according to her LinkedIn page, holds a bachelor's degree in biology, ecology and oceanography from Old Dominion University in Virginia. "It's

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FIVE QUESTIONS: JEANETTE BRISCOE

By Leonard Sparks

Jeanette Briscoe, 88, taught for more than 20 years in the Beacon City School District. Her memoir, *From Duck Hill to Fishkill: A Journal of My Life*, was published last year.

You are a native of Mississippi. How did you end up in New York?

I was born in Spring Hill and grew up in Duck Hill. My grandmother was a slave, and the master impregnated her mother. That's why I carry Irish [ancestry]. In the ninth grade, I went to Chicago, where my Aunt Hannah finished raising me. She kept me going to church — I was in the choir and traveling to different places to sing. I got scholarships to North Park University and to Wilberforce University. I got married in Chicago and my husband, Percy Briscoe, got transferred here, with IBM, in 1965.

When did you begin teaching?

My husband wasn't getting much money, so I went out and got a job in Beacon. I started at the South Avenue School in 1967 and then went to Sargent Elementary. That's where I retired from in 1989. Fourth grade was what I taught most of the time. The students were beautiful. I had every-



body, and I treated them the same. I had one bad boy, so I took the whole class to Poughkeepsie court so they could see what happens to people. I started a science fair and my fourth graders brought in all kinds of stuff. One boy brought a snake, but he had it in a cage. I enjoyed teaching, and my kids are now grandparents.

Did you experience racism?

One boy came into the classroom [when I was teaching] and he called me the N-word. I said, "You remember, this [N-word] has to

give you your grade." We rented a house in Poughkeepsie, and then my husband found a house in Fishkill. We were the first Blacks, and they picketed outside and burned a cross. My husband went out and bought a gun. A doctor who lived there brought us cookies, so there were some good people and some bad people.

What did you do after retiring from teaching?

I went into real estate. I had a company, Roots Realty, in Wappingers Falls. My husband got it started. He was always starting something. He couldn't get anybody to run it because he was trying to do law at the same time. He said he didn't know that, right in his home, he had a person who could run his business. When I retired from teaching, I took over. I sold houses in Beacon, Wappingers and all over Dutchess County.

Why did you write your memoir?

When I was about 9 years old, I started taking notes to write this book. When COVID-19 started and we had to stay in the house, my son was here. I said, "Would you help me with my book?" He would work late at night putting it together. My journey has had profound pain, but I've had a good life.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's the craziest, riskiest thing you've done for recreation?

I free-climbed a 100-foot vertical rock face on the Appalachian Trail.



Terence Costigan, Cold Spring

I jumped off a cliff into the water, but I'd love to go skydiving.



Joana Battersby, Beacon

A limo full of girls in Manhattan asked me to get in. And I did.



Garret Quigley, Garrison

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Builder Says Power Line Safe for River

Hudson Valley municipalities fear contamination

By Leonard Sparks

The developer of a \$6 billion transmission line that will run under parts of the Hudson River while carrying electricity from Canada to New York City said testing shows the project will not harm municipalities north of the Highlands that rely on the river for drinking water.

Transmission Developers Inc. on May 4 released the findings of tests conducted in September using a simulated intake pipe and a jet plow similar to the one that will carve a trench in the riverbed for an underwater cable from Columbia County through the Highlands and into Rockland County.

The Albany-based firm described the disturbance of sediment during testing “as brief and temporary” and said that the area near the simulated intake recovered within two hours. It said it developed the test in collaboration with the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council.

The council, also known as the Hudson 7, is a coalition of five towns (Esopus, Hyde Park, Lloyd, Poughkeepsie and Rhinebeck), the City of Poughkeepsie and the Village of Rhinebeck. Each uses the river for drinking water and worries that polluted sediment from trenching will infiltrate intake pipes.

Transmission Developers also said samples of sediment along the line’s route tested below state standards for a range of toxic chemicals and metals, except for one taken near Hyde Park.

While that sample showed elevated levels of dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), the sediment would not pose a risk to Hyde Park, whose intake pipe is 1,100 feet from the transmission line’s route, said TDI. Will Davie, TDI’s senior vice president marine, said the company “will continue to work closely” with the municipalities.

“With their collaboration and extensive input, we have demonstrated that we can safely install this clean-energy infrastructure in a way that does not impact local water supplies,” he said.

Gary Bassett, the Village of Rhinebeck mayor and chair of the Hudson 7, said on Tuesday (May 9) that the test results provided “reasonable assurance” that installing the transmission line will not jeopardize drinking water, but he also emphasized that each municipality can decide how it wants to use the data.

In July, Bassett urged the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) to deny TDI’s request for \$105.5 million in property-tax breaks over 30 years, plus \$13.6 million in sales-tax and \$1.3 million in mortgage-tax relief.

A letter he sent to the agency highlighted

fears that the project would disperse contaminated sediment into water intakes. Faced with opposition, TDI withdrew its application to the IDA. Two months later, the company began testing.

Bassett said the Hudson 7 “drove them [TDI] to do something they would have never done in terms of trying to protect our drinking water.”

“We don’t want this in the river, but given what was done in terms of pilot testing and the mitigation that we can put in place, I, as the owner of a water plant, am reasonably assured that there’s minimal risk,” he said.

The state announced in December the start of construction on the 339-mile transmission line. When finished, it will tie into a grid operated by Hydro-Quebec, a Canadian company that says nearly all its electricity comes from renewable sources, and enter the U.S. through cable buried under Lake Champlain.

Some sections will be buried on land, but 60 percent of the project will be underwater. Along with Lake Champlain and the Hudson River, sections will run under the Harlem River before the line terminates at a converter station in Astoria, Queens, that will connect to Con Edison’s grid.

It is expected to supply 1,250 megawatts of energy to the city and help fulfill the state’s goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent and supplying 70 percent of electricity through renewable sources by 2030.



The route of the proposed transmission line cuts through the Highlands.

Transmission Developers

Fiber Optic Coming to Highlands

Optimum installing cable in Philipstown, Verizon in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

Optimum has been busy installing fiber-optic internet transmission lines in Philipstown, while Verizon earlier this year began building its own system in Beacon.

Fiber-optic cable sends light through strands of glass at much greater speeds and over longer distances than copper cable.

A representative for Altice, which has owned Optimum since 2016, said on May 5 that, once activated, the cable in Philipstown will provide upload and download speeds of up to 5 gigabits per second and later up to 8 gigabits per second.

Existing hybrid-fiber coaxial (which combines cable and fiber optic) provides speeds up to 1 gigabit per second. Philipstown residents can sign up at optimum.com/5-gig to be notified when fiber-optic service reaches their address.

A representative for Verizon, meanwhile, said the company is adding cable in Beacon for its fiber-optic service, known as FiOS, with speeds up to 1 gigabit per second. (In February, Verizon began offering fiber-optic service in New York City of up to 2.3 gigabits.) As of last month, the service was available for 1,800 “open addresses”

(connections) in Beacon and should be ready for 4,000 by year’s end and 6,000 within a few years. Residents and businesses can check availability at verizon.com/home/fios.

Verizon said it is “reviewing a FiOS build in Cold Spring but cannot commit to a timeframe.” It said it has no plans to install fiber optic elsewhere in Philipstown.

Google is also building a fiber-optic network but has not expanded into the Northeast.

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FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR

Chip Rowe

editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney

arts@highlandscurrent.org

REPORTERS

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

STUDENT CORRESPONDENTS

Jason Derasmo • Una Hoppe
Violeta Edwards Salas • Clara Tripp
Eamon Wall • Lily Zuckerman

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney

For information on advertising:

845-809-5584 | ads@highlandscurrent.org
highlandscurrent.org/ads

MEMBERSHIP

Emily Hare

membership@highlandscurrent.org

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Teresa Lagerman

events@highlandscurrent.org



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Hard schools

It is safer to send your 8-year-old to war than it is to school. The number of children and teens who have been shot and killed in this country since 1963 (nearly 193,000, according to the advocacy group Change the Ref) is more than four times the number of U.S. soldiers killed in action in the Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq wars combined.

So yeah — “harden” schools; “good guys with guns”; “teachers with guns” — that’s all just National Rifle Association and political B.S. (“Putnam Sheriff Discusses Plans to ‘Harden’ Local Schools,” May 5). It’s how you take the focus off the need to ban assault weapons; pass tougher gun laws; connect medically challenged individuals to law enforcement and gun shops; red-flag laws; and ghost-gun bans, instead of a \$1.5 million phone system. Hardening schools ignores the real political issue of children’s safety, and that money and politics come before lives.

Shouldn’t a county sheriff be screaming at the top of his or her lungs to ban weapons that the department can’t defend against? Or telling legislators to ban gun shows that are fraught with purchasing loopholes? My God — the NRA has infiltrated our local law enforcement with its diversion tactics.

Ron Donofrio, *Beacon*

In the militarized world of Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville and Legislator Ginny Nacerino, the enemy lurks, waiting to murder our children at soft-target schools poorly defended by too little “ingenious” technology and too much “glass everywhere.”

That immediate enemy, of course, is real. It’s our deranged, alienated fellow citizens, mainly adolescent boys.

But behind these triggermen stand those who supply them with motives and material, notably the retailers, manufacturers and propagandists who promote and profit from judicial interpretations of the Second Amendment that twist the right to bear arms into a license to commit mass homicide.

The way to protect children in schools, any thoughtful educator and public servant would agree, is to tackle the causes of school shootings with active mental-health measures that treat the alienated and those who alienate them, and rein in the enablers with sensible limitations on the sale and possession of firearms.

Bryan Dunlap, *Garrison*

We all fear for the safety of our children and what could happen as the number of attacks on schools, malls, churches and almost any community event mount.

We all want our kids and other members

of our community to be safe and live joyously. As a retired teacher, I feel this keenly as the students I taught are now raising their own families.

There is a lot to think about when it comes to arming teachers. Here is what Melissa Falkowski, who survived the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, says about the logistics of arming teachers: “A shooting like the one in Parkland, Florida, happens in less than three minutes, and having a gun that would have to be secured and locked somewhere in a closet and then having to go for that gun and then having to use that against a shooter, makes no logical sense.”

I understand that Sheriff McConville “feels vexed” about the reluctance of educators to get involved in a “team up for school safety.” There are good reasons for this and I hope that all the pros and cons can be laid out in a robust community discussion that will increase the safety and well-being of us all.

Marilyn Elie, *Cortlandt Manor*

Fjord Trail

It’s understandable that some people in the village believe the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail’s extension from Cold Spring to Little Stony Point will bring even more congestion to the village on pleasant weekends, and it may do so when first opened.

But this project, including the river walk, will solve more problems than it creates. Funneling crowds of hikers off Fair Street and the dangerous 9D shoulder will be a huge improvement. The addition of restrooms at Dockside and Little Stony Point with maintenance costs covered by state parks will be a huge relief to Main Street merchants and village residents who bear the price of maintaining the current inadequate restrooms.

The thing is, tourism is going to increase whether the Fjord Trail is built or not. There is no mechanism by which anyone can encourage tourists not to come to Cold Spring and the Hudson Highlands. The beauty of this area does not belong to us more than anyone else, but the responsibility to manage increasing tourism with measures that protect everyone’s safety does fall on our shoulders.

What troubles me most is the ugly sentiment, spread by some very loud voices, that some of the financial resources used to build the Fjord Trail come from wealthy people. It’s great that people of means are generous enough to help fund this project benefiting so many. Would you rather they build themselves a yacht they need another yacht to get to, or another of the obnoxious Lamborghinis and Ferraris that troll through town?

(Continued on Page 5)



Election Guide: Schools

District budget and trustee votes on Tuesday (May 16)

HALDANE

Polls will be open on Tuesday (May 16) from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the elementary school library at 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring. Absentee ballot applications must be received at the district office by 4 p.m. on Monday (May 15).

The district is asking voters to approve a proposed budget for 2023-24 of \$28,234,681, which will increase the tax levy by 1.96 percent, or the amount allowed by Haldane's state-mandated tax cap. A home with a market value of \$500,000 would see an annual tax increase of \$138, according to the district. There is more information at haldaneschool.org/board-of-education/annual-budget.

The budget includes funding for a class of 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); and equipment to teach coding, robotics, design and engineering (\$13,500).

There will be a second proposition on the ballot to allow the district to spend \$183,000 to replace a school bus and purchase a tractor and Ford pickup truck for maintenance.

There is one open seat on the five-member school board, and one candidate, Peggy Clements, who is seeking her fourth 3-year term.

GARRISON

Polls will be open on Tuesday (May 16) from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the school, 1100 Route 9D. Absentee ballot applications must be received at the school by Monday (May 15).

The district is asking voters to approve a proposed budget for 2023-24 of \$12,564,788, which will increase the tax levy by 3.29 percent, or the amount of permitted by Garri-



Harriton-Wilson



Jasnow

son's state-mandated tax cap. A home with a market value of \$500,000 would see an annual tax increase of \$151, according to the district. There is more information on the budget at gufs.org/business/23-24-budget-updates.

The budget calls for the district to spend nearly \$700,000 of its savings and make \$220,000 in cuts, including changing the art teacher from full-time to part-time; eliminating the part-time Committee on Special Education chair and assigning those duties to the school psychologist; and dropping a bus from its contract fleet and adjusting routes to allow for one less driver, perhaps stopping service for any child who lives within 2 miles of the school.

There will be two other propositions on the ballot: (1) to take \$45,000 from a capital reserve fund to replace the district's oil-based water heaters with electric units, and (2) to allow the district to contract for two to five years (rather than one) to allow students to attend Putnam Valley High School. (Garrison goes through eighth grade; students can then choose Haldane, O'Neill or Putnam Valley high schools.)

There are three open seats on the seven-member school board, and three candidates: Jocelyn Apicello, who is seeking her second 3-year term, and newcomers Jennifer Harriton-Wilson and Dan Jasnow.

Harriton-Wilson, who holds a doctorate in education, is the education technology coordinator for Putnam-Northern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). After working on Capitol Hill, Jasnow earned a law degree from

Georgetown University and is a partner at a large national firm. He and his husband have a daughter who attends Garrison.

BEACON

Polls will be open on Tuesday (May 16) from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Beacon residents vote at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road. District residents in Fishkill and Wappingers Falls vote at Glenham Elementary School, 20 Chase Drive, Fishkill. Absentee ballot applications must be delivered to the district office at 10 Education Drive by Monday (May 15).

The district is asking voters to approve a proposed budget for 2023-24 of \$81,340,700, which will increase the tax levy by 3.64 percent, or \$1.6 million, without exceeding the district's state-mandated tax cap. There is more information on the budget at beaconk12.org/domain/583.

The budget includes four new positions at Rombout Middle School — a social worker, a world language (Italian) teacher, a reading teacher to support students not meeting grade-level standards and a part-time music teacher. In addition, a preschool teacher would allow the district to expand its pre-K program to each of its four elementary schools.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Haldane and Garrison, and 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Beacon.

The district estimates that property taxes will increase \$135 per year for a home valued at \$300,000 in Beacon; \$168 per year for district residents in Fishkill; and \$199 per year for those in Wappingers Falls. The estimated tax rate increase across the three municipalities, using current assessments, would be 3.98 percent.

There are three other propositions on the ballot to allow the district to: (1) spend up to \$530,000 to purchase three 72-passenger buses and a van; (2) spend up to \$466,000

Questions For Candidates

We asked each school board candidate in Haldane, Garrison and Beacon to answer two questions:

(1) Other than inflation, what is the most pressing issue facing the district, and why? and (2) What can the district do to cut costs and otherwise weather inflation that's higher than the tax cap? Their responses are posted with this guide at highlandscurrent.org.

on an electric school bus, as long as it receives grants of up to \$250,000; and (3) provide transportation to students who live more than a mile from their school (the current limit is 1.5 miles), at a cost of about \$10,000.

There are four open seats on the nine-member school board, and four candidates: Anthony White and Kristan Flynn, who are seeking their fourth and third terms, respectively, and newcomers Semra Ercin and Eric Schetter. Craig Wolf did not seek re-election to a third term.

Three candidates will serve 3-year terms, and the candidate who receives the least votes will complete the final two years of the term of Antony Tseng, who resigned in March.

Ercin, who moved to Beacon in 2021 with her family, is director of development for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. She was formerly director of development at the Brooklyn Children's Museum. Her two daughters attend South Avenue Elementary and her son attends Beacon High School.

Schetter, who grew up in Glenham and lives there, is a 1982 graduate of Beacon High School. A former biology teacher, he spent 25 years as an administrator in the Arlington school district, including 20 years as principal of LaGrange Middle School until his retirement in 2021. His two children both graduated from Beacon High School.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Looking for sinister motivations for such gifts reflects poorly on our community. Would you say the same about Gordon Stewart, who funded this very newspaper? Or any of the other generous locals who support our recreation center, farmers market and the Shakespeare Festival? Or the donors who fund any of the amazing museums and concert halls we all have access to?

I'm enormously grateful to live here because I can enjoy the beauty of our locale 365 days a year. I'm also thankful for the collaboration between multiple state entities, nonprofit organizations and generous individuals who designed a piece of infrastructure that will improve the accessibility and enjoyment of our local natural resources. There will never be a perfect solution to the problems tourism brings, but allowing the status quo is no solution at all.

Lynn Miller, *Cold Spring*

I thought this was a nice, succinct description of the project ("The Fjord Trail: A Primer," May 5), and perhaps the best in-a-nutshell summary I've read on the topic. It reads like a list of solutions to the village's overcrowding concerns, not the other way around.

All Philipstown residents should read it. I'd hate to see a real-time effort to control and redirect hikers and traffic be thwarted just because folks don't understand what the Fjord Trail actually is.

Jon Lindquist, *via Facebook*

In addition to being succinct, it offers a vision as to how much of a grab this project is. How on earth Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc. can impose a gargantuan, man-made "world-class linear park" on a landscape that should be protected is daunting, distressing and downright disturbing.

Kelly House, *via Facebook*

People resist change but the Fjord Trail will benefit local people the most because we will get a level, traffic-free, multi-user trail on our doorstep that will be good for strollers, people with limited mobility and families on bikes. It'll be lovely.

Maria Del Carmen Clegg, *via Facebook*

Haldane endorsement

When you vote on the Haldane school budget on Tuesday (May 16), please remem-

ber to show your support for current board member and candidate Peggy Clements. Our community is so lucky to have had her many years of dedication to our students' success, as well as her 25 years of expertise in the education field. Thank you for serving with the highest standards and integrity, Peggy!

Chris Winward, *Nelsonville*

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Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

preferred route passes through Dockside Park on the riverfront.

As a result, she asked that Cold Spring be considered “an equal partner” in the project; it is currently “an interested agency,” which allows its board to comment on the master plan and gives site-plan approval to the Planning Board. Foley expressed concern that the state parks department has “superior sovereignty” and could declare itself exempt from local land-use regulations.

Below are the eight top-ranked questions, with summaries of the responses from Kacala; Richard Shea, the former Philipstown supervisor and a newly appointed member of the Fjord Trail board; and Matthew Davidson, deputy commissioner of the state parks department. The seven other questions and responses are posted at highlandscurrent.org and will be printed in the paper next week.

1. Metro-North Railroad has requested a 25-foot buffer between its tracks and the trail, meaning every tree along the river will be removed to accommodate a 14-foot-wide boardwalk shading the shoreline and preventing regrowth. How does this protect against flooding?

Grace Kennedy, Garrison

KACALA: The trail is 14 feet wide at Breakneck, where heavier traffic is expected, but not as wide in the more constrained area north of Little Stony Point. We can meet all Metro-North setback requirements and protective measures for the river.

Engineering discussions are needed where the trail has to go into the water in some way. Will it be cantilevered or center-piled? We’ve done a natural resource inventory for the whole shoreline trail. Our architects have expertise in sea-level rise, with experience in areas such as New Orleans. Some trees will die off because of increased salinity with sea rise. Others will remain healthy longer and you want to keep them.

In some areas, pile-driving will help us save more trees. We can also have planted shelves, which submerge aquatic vegetation. When we do an intervention in the water, we’re also going to be doing habitat and resilience protection underneath.

2. Will the Fjord Trail be built even if a majority of people in the community are against it?

Alice Krakauer, Philipstown

SHEA: Since its inception, this has been a community-driven idea. I was one of the idea’s founders and it’s something I strongly support. The impetus was to solve existing problems. Everyone looked at the Route 9D corridor and said: “Will someone get injured?” These problems aren’t going to go away without people working on solutions. There are a lot more people and communities involved, including Fishkill and Beacon. We want, and take seriously, input from everyone. This isn’t the beginning of the process; we’re in the middle and it has to be an open and honest discussion. Asking what will happen if no one wants this is sort of a loaded question.

KACALA: It feels like a big coalition project now, but it grew from the locals; it’s had a long story in the community. We refined plans several times and we’re continuing to refine. In 2015, we had a safety focus; people wanted to see more people come to Main Street. You wouldn’t say that today. The environmental review is underway. We have looked at ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] accessibility. We have consultants helping us think about tools to manage visitation. And sustainability is always our focus.

3. What viable alternatives to the Fjord Trail have been proposed and evaluated, including alternative alignments and no-build/no-action options? Why are earlier iterations, much smaller in scope, impact, scale and cost to the taxpayer, no longer under consideration? What is the status of any of these?

Andrew Hall, Cold Spring

KACALA: Alternatives analysis was done as part of the 2015 plan. In the 2020 plan, which in part was asked for strongly by the community at the kickoff to the environmental review process, people from Fair Street said that route was too impactful. We looked at routes behind The Depot [restaurant], down Fair Street and all the way up to 9D. We looked at a lot of factors, including accessibility. The whole analysis is part of the environmental review that will be part of the DGEIS [Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement] when it is made available for public comment. Most of what

you’ve seen in great detail and prior iterations of planning and additional content will be available for you to review.

SHEA: No final decisions have been made on preferred routes. This is still an ongoing process.

4. I liked this plan when it was a wooded trail. It transformed into a concrete extravaganza that will scar the landscape forever due to the influence of a private donor, Chris Davis. Even state parks deferred to him. Who elected him? How is he accountable?

Phil Weiss, Philipstown

SHEA: This has never been about one person. I’ve worked with New York State Parks for 20 years and they do not defer to any one individual. It is not a concrete extravaganza. There are aspects of the trail still being designed that are bound to change based on community input. It has attracted funding because it’s fundamentally a good idea to connect Philipstown and Beacon, to disperse people, to not have them concentrated in Cold Spring. There is tremendous expertise going into this to do traffic studies, environmental impact statements. You need experts and that costs money. Chris Davis is a 30-year resident who has helped the community in innumerable ways. He is a contributor, a partner. Several individuals have committed large amounts. More than 20 entities are involved; New York State has committed \$20 million to the Breakneck project. Give your input but be smart. And most of all, be nice about it. This is an emotional issue.

(Continued on Page 7)

**Vote
YES
May 16**

**The Haldane PTA
supports the
2023-2024
school budget.**

Vote May 16, 2023
Polls open 7a.m. - 9p.m.
Haldane Elementary School Library



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www.hudsonbeachglass.com

(Continued from Page 6)

DAVIDSON: New York State Parks is not dictated to by any individual. We work very well with communities that surround our parks and we listen to them. There is no way state parks could afford the studies and analysis needed to answer your concerns or to do that without a partner like HHFT. There is no way we could provide the amenities we do today without partnerships. Partners bring much-needed funds, as well as expertise, to things that we can't do. Please don't think state parks is being influenced by Chris Davis.

5. How can Fjord Trail Inc. and state parks claim they are solving Cold Spring's tourist problems when they are creating a major tourist attraction that will bring thousands more visitors to the village? **Dave Merandy, Cold Spring**

SHEA: There are issues in the village that can't be ignored and there's a cost to doing nothing. People realize HHFT will bring more people. The goal is to disperse them, get people out on the trail. Things tend to have a peak. The first year Walkway Over the Hudson opened, visitation was huge. Since then, it has steadily declined, leveled out. I'm there every weekend. You can ride across and see 100 to 200 people, more during events. We've heard a lot about concessions, that this is going to be like Bryant Park [in New York City]. Nothing's going to be foisted upon the village. State Parks or HHFT are not going to decide to have a concert down at Dock-

side. That's up to Cold Spring. And when you talk about 600,000 people, there's already 480,000 people visiting. It's about 120,000 additional visitors over the course of a year, not over the course of a day or a month. I hope the studies bear this out, that the village will see fewer people clogging the streets or sidewalks, that you can spread the people out.

KACALA: The people won't all come through Cold Spring. That's the existing behavior now. There will be six entry points. Our visitation management consultants are just starting to work on this. There'll be process and a local committee. We want to look at the traffic counts. We're going to give the local committee a stipend to hire their own consultant to review the traffic study, the methodology, so you have full confidence when the data comes back that it's not us paying our consultants to say what we want them to say.

6. Fjord Trail Inc. predicts an increase of hundreds of thousands of visitors annually, with upward of 66 percent arriving by vehicle. All vehicles arriving from the south and east must pass through the traffic light at Routes 9D/301. Will the [state-mandated] Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement address this increased traffic? How will negative impacts be mitigated? [Through] NYCRR Part 617.9(a)(b) [a state environmental quality review]?

David May, Cold Spring

COOPER: That will be addressed in the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement. The state Department of Transportation is

already working with us on how to address safety in that corridor. There have been discussions about a roundabout, traffic-calming devices, reduced speed limits. There are tools to be considered. A lot of data will be gathered in the DGEIS which will inform solutions.

7. What is the projected increase in visitation to Hudson Highlands State Park? The Breakneck trailhead? Cold Spring? And what methodology was used to arrive at these projections? Specifically, what time of year was traffic data gathered? What other projects, parks and attractions were used as comparables?

Michael Bowman, Nelsonville

KACALA: In 2016, at the public hearing for the start of the environmental review, everyone said that in the prior year, visitation had "gotten too much, we feel like it hit a tipping point." It's still going up for Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve and we have similar data for Breakneck. A reservation system could help reduce numbers. AKRF consultants are updating projections with 2023 data, to be applied to HHFT's six entry points, modeling where we expect people to go. Not all will come through Cold Spring.

COOPER: Walkway Over the Hudson averages about 600,000 users a year, with two fairly small parking lots. There's always a space. It's never crowded. Poughkeepsie has benefited. It's not the monster it's portrayed to be. And the Empire State Trail is going to attract millions of users, but spread out

over its entire length. We would not propose a project that we thought would be damaging to communities.

8. It's understood there is a fine line in this so-called public/private partnership between New York State and Scenic Hudson/Fjord Trail Inc. If this is truly a public project, exempt from local planning board oversight, then agendas and minutes from meetings under this partnership would be required under Open Meetings law. If this is truly a private project, then local board oversight is required by law and minutes can be hidden or withheld from the public. In this case, which is it? Ethically you shouldn't claim both. Wouldn't you agree? When people seek out minutes, they're told this is a private situation.

Stephanie Hawkins, Cold Spring

DAVIDSON: There are very clear roles and responsibilities between HHFT and State Parks. Essentially New York State will hold the real estate for the trail; HHFT will operate, maintain and repair it. This is a state parks project, working closely with partners. We go through planning, go out to bid for construction. We are committed to being transparent. We can't be transparent when we're in the middle of negotiating. We will make all documents available to anybody who wants to see them. Withholding what has happened doesn't do us any good. The supposition that we're doing something devious behind your back is really detrimental.

See highlandscurrent.org for more.

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**MOTHER'S
DAY**



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PARCEL**



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The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail offers a **community-driven solution** for managing regional tourism and will make the beauty that surrounds us more accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

The Fjord Trail will:

Keep pedestrians off neighborhood streets & away from busy & dangerous Route 9D

Offer 7.5 new miles of trail with six entry points, **distributing visitors** between Cold Spring & Beacon

Provide & manage critical **amenities & infrastructure**, which local municipalities have not been able to afford

Create riverfront & trail **accessibility** for seniors, people with disabilities & families with children

Protect our local environment by repairing erosion, managing invasive species & increasing shoreline resiliency to sea level rise



Photography: Christine Ashburn Photography

With the Fjord Trail project, we will see a much more formal connection between Beacon and the Highlands South...folks will quite literally be able to walk from river to mountain top...and beyond. Entirely new areas and connections will be possible for hikers, runners, cyclists, and those who just want to enjoy nature." – Mark Price, City of Beacon Recreation Director

We encourage you to learn more about the Fjord Trail:
visit **hhft.org** / email **info@hhft.org**

Price of Cold Spring-Garrison Path: \$8.1 Million

Committee gives feasibility study to Town Board

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

For simple trips between Cold Spring and Garrison, residents could trade cars for bikes or walking shoes, if Philipstown creates a 4½-mile path, according to a feasibility study delivered to the Town Board.

But the boon to a cleaner environment and more outdoor access comes at a cost: about \$8.1 million.

The 129-page report, prepared by consultants from the Albany-based Weston & Sampson with the Philipstown Trails Committee, outlines a path paralleling Route 9D, the Metro-North train tracks and the Hudson River.

After receiving the document at a May 4 meeting, Supervisor John Van Tassel suggested the board postpone its review until later this year. "There's some other trail that's going on currently that I think has got people's attention," he said, referring to the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail between Cold Spring and Beacon.

The study, funded by state and federal grants, stems from a 2017 initiative by the Philipstown Community Congress, which conducted a survey in which residents ranked a town trail system as a priority. The group evolved into the Trails Committee, which became a town advisory panel in 2022.

At the meeting, Councilor Jason Angell described the Trail Committee's work so far as "a massive and monumental effort." Now Philipstown must "get down into the nitty-gritty and find some funding and do the next stage of work," he said.

Given the expenses involved, the study proposed building the path in four stages and recommended a preferred option for each. In Cold Spring, the route would use village sidewalks, pass the Putnam History Museum on Chestnut Street, join Route 9D and proceed to Foundry Brook.

At Foundry Brook, it would cross over a pedestrian bridge (yet to be built) and continue south, using Route 9D right-of-way land and, perhaps, existing Boscobel estate trails, to reach Indian Brook Road and the small, now-closed parking lot at Warren Landing Road, which leads to Constitution Marsh.

The third segment would run from Indian Brook Road to Philipstown Park. The study does not pinpoint a definitive route, noting two possibilities proved unfeasible and a third presents challenges. For the latter, the path would wind beneath the Indian Brook vehicle bridge over land owned by the state or St. Basil Academy, and reconnect with Route 9D at the southeastern end of the St. Basil property.

The study noted that the state parks department, while supportive of the path, expressed concern about protecting ecologically sensitive areas at Indian Brook Falls



Three alternatives (shown with broken blue lines) for a southern section of the proposed path in Garrison: None would be easy.

and Constitution Marsh. St. Basil Academy, a residential school, also raised questions about security for its students.

The final segment extends between Philipstown Park and central Garrison. The path would follow the west side of Route 9D; cross at the traffic signal at the Garrison School; continue to the Desmond-Fish Public Library; use a crosswalk created at the Route 9D intersection with Route 403; and proceed south to the Philipstown Recreation Center. The study said that although Route 9D can be busy in this stretch, the speed limit is lower and the right-of-way wide enough to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown will conduct a Public Hearing on **May 17, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York**. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear comments for/against the Stormwater Management Annual Report.

A copy of the report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and available on our website at Philipstown.com.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

Tara K. Percacciolo, Town Clerk DATED: May 10, 2023



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AROUND TOWN



▲ **GOT ONE!** — The Nelsonville Fish and Fur Club hosted its 33rd annual fishing day for children and teens on May 7 at the reservoir on Fishkill Road.



◀ **SNACK BREAK** — Two attendees at the Compass Arts annual spring showcase at The Yard in Beacon on May 7 enjoyed ice cream while sharing a book.



▲ **LAZY SUNDAY** — It was a bucolic scene on May 7 at the Cold Spring pier.



◀ **HARD KNOCK LIFE** — Students from the Beacon Performing Arts Center presented *Annie Kids* at Beacon High School on May 7. They included Mason Stukes, who played Bert Healy.

Photos by
Ross Corsair

For more photos, see
highlandscurrent.org.

PUTNAM DEMOCRATS.COM

The logo features the words "BLUE BLOOMS" in a large, blue, serif font. Below it, "IN PUTNAM" is written in a white, sans-serif font inside a dark blue heart shape. At the bottom, "2023" is written in a large, blue, serif font, and "Join Us!" is written in a blue, cursive font.

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PAID FOR BY THE PUTNAM COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

Featuring

A portrait of Tom Dinapoli, a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red and white striped tie. He is smiling and standing in front of an American flag.

TOM DINAPOLI
NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER

A portrait of George Latimer, a man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a blue and white striped tie. He is smiling and standing outdoors with greenery in the background.

GEORGE LATIMER
WESTCHESTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

The Calendar

Street Rules

Photographer captures subjects unaware

By Alison Rooney

Are there rules for street photography? Should there be, or does the form demand a lack of same?

These questions arose while viewing the images of Paul Kessel, who came to the form later in life (at age 70) after deciding, on the spur of the moment, to take a class at the International Center for Photography in New York City.

That was 10 years ago. He continued taking classes, forging a career and crafting his own rules, the most stringent being that he has zero interaction with his subjects.

"The first picture I took, outside, was of me," Kessel has said. "When I looked at it in the classroom, I saw the camera had seen things I didn't see."

An exhibit of Kessel's photos, *Streets*, opens at Garage Gallery in Beacon on Second Saturday (May 13) with a reception from 4 to 7 p.m.

"Street photographers practice the art of being present but not engaged," explains Scott Lerman, co-director of the Garage Gallery. "Like human tuning forks, they await the 'decisive moment' when everything in front of their lens comes together — when the formal, compositional elements are in perfect balance with the human, psychological content."

The Current recently asked Kessel about his work (see right).



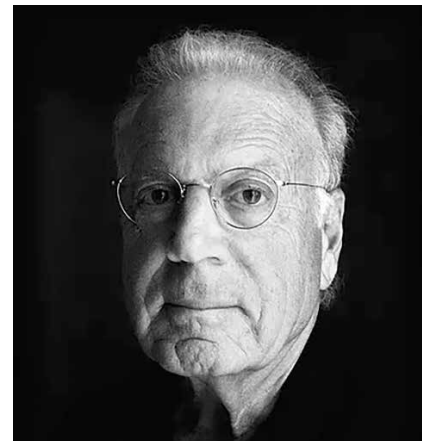
"Madison Avenue and 57th Street"



"Q Train"



"San Gennaro Feast"



Paul Kessel

Photo by Russ Rowland

What happens when someone sees you taking their photo and tries to engage?

I don't expect to be invisible because typically I am 4 to 7 feet away. Most often, people are unsure if I took their photo. Often, I am not noticed at all since most people are in their own bubble. If I am noticed, I move on. I am almost never questioned afterward.

Do you have a quest when you set out, or is it happenstance?

I do have a quest: to get just one well-composed, interesting photo that has good light, and where the context is nearly as relevant as the subject matter. I am more interested in how the photograph looks than I am in the people. I strive to have layers that will create a three-dimensional look. The quest is rarely achieved but it is fun going after it.

You once said of your work: "I never call it art. I call it sport." Do you still feel that way?

I do think of street photography as a sport — at least how I practice it.

What is the story behind the photo with the dog [at left]?

I prefer not to provide backstories because that would take the viewer out of the equation. I want the viewer to linger and do the work of making up his or her own story. However, since you asked: It was at the annual San Gennaro Feast in Little Italy, New York City. I was struck by the man carrying a very large dog as he roamed around. I quickly took his photo with the hope that the context of the event would be included in a decently composed way. I then followed him around and made about five more shots. I ended up using the first spontaneous shot. I was engaged because the dog was not the carrying-around type. Additionally, adding the element of an animal in the photo makes it more interesting. If one looks closely, it can be seen that the dog was in recovery from a medical procedure.

How much of your work is about yourself and how much about the outside world?

Every picture is partially about myself because it reveals what interests me.

Garage Gallery is located on North Elm Street in Beacon, a half block north of Main. Streets continues through May 28 from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, or weekdays by appointment. See garagegallery.com.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 13
Community Day

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

This 20th-anniversary celebration at the museum will include tours, a film screening, art- and zine-making workshops, remarks from elected officials and a happy hour on the lawn. *Free*

TUES 16
Blood Drive

GARRISON
2 – 6:30 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D | 800-933-2566
nybc.org

Appointments preferred but walk-ins welcome.

WED 17
Adult Spelling Bee

CARMEL
5:30 p.m. Centennial Golf Club
185 John Simpson Road
covecarecenter.org

This annual fundraiser for the CoveCare Center will challenge teams of up to 10 players to spell progressively more difficult words. Includes dinner. *Cost: \$50*

WED 17
I Am Beacon Mixer

BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. Two Way Brewery
18 W. Main St.
i-am-beacon.ticketleap.com

Network and connect at this event hosted by the community-building nonprofit. *Cost: \$30 (\$40 non-members)*

WED 17
Funding Home Energy Improvements

MAHOPAC
6 p.m. Via Zoom
tinyurl.com/HomeEnergyForum

At this webinar presented by State Sen. Pete Harckham, CCE Putnam and Sustainable Putnam, learn about ways to save money by moving to clean energy using rebates and incentive programs.

SAT 20
Community Safety & Wellness Day

BEACON
Noon – 4 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave.

The Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps will offer blood-pressure screenings, car seat checks, activities and a chance for children to meet firefighters and rangers.



A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, May 13

SAT 20
Mother's Day Tea

COLD SPRING
2 p.m. United Methodist Church
216 Main St. | 845-265-3365

Leave a phone message for reservations. *Cost: \$15*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 13
More to Our Story

GARRISON
Noon. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Older residents will share original stories about their lives. Also SUN 14. *Free*

SAT 13
Student Film Festival

BEACON
2:30 & 6:30 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
foundationforbeaconschools.org

Short films by Beacon elementary students will be shown at the early screening and by middle and high school students at the later screening. *Cost: \$9 (\$7 seniors, \$3 children)*

SAT 13
A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

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

The Sondheim musical set in Rome follows a servant trying to make his way to freedom. Also SUN 14, FRI 19, SAT 20, SUN 21. *Cost: \$26 (\$23 seniors, military, ages 12 and younger)*

FRI 19
The Vagina Monologues

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

Local women, including Lisa Andretta, Erica Hauser, Annie Lanzillotto, Shane Killoran, Jade Mason, Najah Muhammed, Carole Penner, Pam Pritzker Ridley, KerryAnne Wolfe and GraceLyn Woods, will perform Eve Ensler's play. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 20
What's Your Story

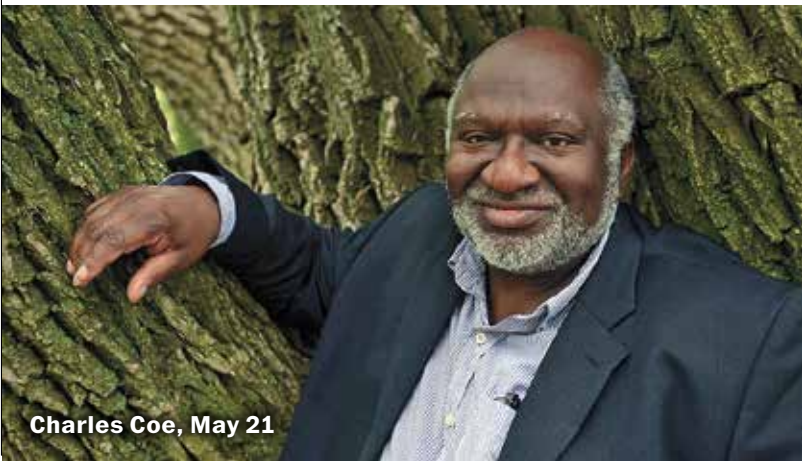
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Storytellers will share their true tales about journeys. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 21
Charles Coe

PUTNAM VALLEY
3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

The poet will read work from his



Charles Coe, May 21

collections, including *Picnic on the Moon* and *Purgatory Road*. An open mic will follow. *Cost: \$10*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 13
59 Views of the Hudson Valley

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

For this benefit auction, 59 artists were invited to create work in their chosen medium inspired by the region. The viewing will begin at 3 p.m. and the auction at 5 p.m. *Cost: \$25*

FRI 19
Tempestry

COLD SPRING
5 – 7 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org

The museum will open two exhibits, one featuring knitted records of global warming (see Page 15) and the other focusing on Indigenous peoples.

SAT 20
Susan Stillman | Chris Randolph

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

In *Peripheral Visions*, Stillman's small-work paintings capture moments without figures. In *Tales of the Psyche*, Randolph's paintings, drawings and sculpture explore inner struggles. Through June 18.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 13
A Day of 18th-Century Entertainments

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

The historic site will host games, crafts and entertainment on the lawn, weather permitting.

SAT 13
AAPI Book Discussion

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

Facilitated by Justice McCray, this discussion for Asian-American

Pacific Islander Heritage Month will focus on favorite writings by AAPI authors.

THURS 18
Estate Planning Seminar

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

Learn how to protect your assets and take care of loved ones.

SAT 20
Calligraphy and Origami Workshop

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

Members of the Mid-Hudson Japanese Community Association will explain how to fold paper to make sculptures and to shape letters in calligraphy. For ages 6 and older. Registration required.



SAT 20
Create a Small-Space Kitchen Garden

BREWSTER
2 p.m. Sedge Garden
1 Geneva Road | putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Learn in this workshop by the Cornell Cooperative Extension how to use companion planting and square-foot gardening techniques. *Cost: \$10*

KIDS & FAMILY

TUES 16
Starting the College Admission Process

GARRISON
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | desmondfishlibrary.org

This event is geared for rising sophomores and juniors and their parents to learn about how to get started and choose schools.

WED 17
DIY Pop-Up Book Craft

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

Children ages 4 through the fifth grade are invited to learn about paper engineering and how to fold, cut and glue to make a book.

SUN 21
Girls Who Code

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

This workshop will teach girls in the third and fourth grades how to use Scratch and the basics of programming languages. Registration required.

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 13
Beacon Schools Exhibit
BEACON
1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Artwork by students from all schools in the district will be on view.

SAT 13
Margaret Innerhofer
BEACON
3 – 6 p.m. Ethan Cohen KuBe
211 Fishkill Ave. | 845-765-8270
ecfa.com
In *Shadowland*, Innerhofer uses interactive photography and sound to explore the space between consciousness and the subconscious.

SAT 13
I Am The Passenger, Part I
BEACON
4 – 6 p.m. Mother Gallery
1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039
mothergallery.art
This group show will feature non-objective painting. Through June 17.

SAT 13
Paul Kessel
BEACON
4 – 7 p.m. Garage Gallery
17 Church St. | garagegallery.com
The street photographer's work will be on view through May 28. See Page 11.

SAT 13
Khara Gilvey
BEACON
5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St. | 845-440-0068
hudsonbeachglass.com
Gilvey's rugs and objects will be on exhibit through June 4.

SAT 13
Frank Mysterio | Nerviswr3k | Mech Designs x Winvill
BEACON
5 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 139 Main St.
212-255-2505 | clutter.co
Sculpture, figures and multiples will be on view through June 2.

SAT 13
Nataliya Hines
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | baugallery.org
Hines creates narratives using religious imagery and portraiture in her show, *Lazarus Taxon*. BAU also will open a group show with work by Pamela Zaremba, Ilse Schreiber Noll, Eileen Sackman, Mary McFerran, Linda Lauro-Lazin, Matthew Gilbert, Joel Brown, Robyn Ellenbogen, Daniel Berlin and Jebah Baum. Through June 4.

SAT 13
Surrender
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com
Darya Golubina explores mental health in her solo show. Through June 3.

SAT 13
Michelle Silver | Bradley Silver
BEACON
8 p.m. Distortion Society
172 Main St. | distortionsociety.com
The artists' paintings will be on display at this gallery and tattoo studio's grand opening. There will also be a family fun hangout from noon to 3 p.m.



NATURE & OUTDOORS
SAT 13
Plant Sale
CARMEL
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Memorial Park
201 Gypsy Trail Road
845-278-6738 x220
putnam.cce.cornell.edu
Find heirloom and hybrid vegetable plants, herbs, annuals, perennials and native plants at this annual fundraiser for the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Get advice, have your soil tested and learn about honeybees from Rodney Dow. There will be activities and crafts for children, too.

SAT 13
Plant Sale
FISHKILL
9 a.m. – Noon. Town Hall | 807 Route 52
facebook.com/verplanckgardenclub
The Verplanck Garden Club will host its annual event with bedding plants, Mother's Day gifts, annuals, perennials and herbs.

SAT 13
The Magic of Alpines
PHILIPSTOWN
9 a.m. Stonecrop | 81 Stonecrop Lane
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org
Learn about Stonecrop's collection of plants that grow in challenging conditions — thin soil, high altitude, little water — then plant an alpine container to take home. *Cost: \$70 (\$50 members)*

SAT 13
Houseplant Swap
GARRISON
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Bring a plant to give away and go home with a new one.

SUN 14
Botanical Art
PHILIPSTOWN
1 p.m. Stonecrop | 81 Stonecrop Lane
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org
Susan Sapanara will lead a workshop on painting and drawing plants. *Cost: \$15*

WED 17
Alpines in the Garden
PHILIPSTOWN
5:30 p.m. Stonecrop | 81 Stonecrop Lane
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org
Take a guided tour of Stonecrop's extensive outdoor collection. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

MUSIC
SAT 13
Gypsy
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The tribute band will play hits by Fleetwood Mac and Stevie Nicks with Diane Lutz leading the way. *Cost: \$32 to \$45*

SAT 13
Halcyon
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandmusic.org
Produced by Michelle Rivas, the evening will include music and dance with Penelope Wendtlandt, composition by Enrique Eoli and video projections by the Anarchist Mountains Trio. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 13
Back to the Garden 1969
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The tribute band will play songs by musicians who performed at Woodstock. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 14
In Four Jazz Collective
NEWBURGH
3 p.m. St. George's Church
105 Grand St. | 845-534-2864
newburghchambermusic.org
Hosted by Newburgh Chamber Music, Jesse Breheney (bass), Gabrielle Stravelli (vocals), Michael Kanan (piano) and Billy Mintz (drums) will play songbook selections. *Cost: \$30 (\$5 students)*

FRI 19
The Bryce Edwards Frivolity Hour
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
The cabaret artist's show is inspired by acts from the 1910s through 1930s. He will be joined by Scott Ricketts



Hot Wrk Ensemble, May 20



In Four Jazz Collective, May 14

(coronet), and Conal Fowkes (piano and bass). See Page 14. *Cost: \$25*

FRI 19
Sara Milonovich & Daisycutter
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band will play Americana and roots-style music from their latest release, *Northeast*. Jeff Wilkinson will open. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 20
The Planets
POUGHKEEPSIE
8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
The Hudson Valley Philharmonic will perform a program inspired by astrology and astronomy, including works by Holst, Dvorak and Tchaikovsky. *Cost: \$40 to \$60 (\$15 ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 20
Hot Wrk Ensemble
BEACON
8 p.m. St. Andrew's Church
15 South Ave. | hotwrk.bpt.me
J. Brooks Marcus (percussion), Lois Hicks-Wozniak (saxophone) and Brad Hubbard (baritone saxophone, woodwinds) will perform original chamber music. *Cost: \$20 (\$30 door)*

SAT 20
Willie Nile Band
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The rock singer and songwriter will play music from his latest release, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 21
Michael Davidman
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
35 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
The pianist's program will include works by Chopin and Sigfrid Karg-Elert. Donations welcome. *Free*

SUN 21
Old Blind Dogs
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Scottish folk band, which uses traditional instruments, will play music from northeast Scotland. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

CIVIC
MON 15
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 15
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

TUES 16
Budget and Trustee Vote
BEACON
6 a.m. - 9 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beaconk12.org
District residents who live in Wappingers Falls and Fishkill vote at Glenham Elementary School. The board will meet at 9:15 p.m., after the polls close.

TUES 16
Budget and Trustee Vote
GARRISON
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3689
gufs.org
The board will meet at 10 p.m. to ratify the vote.

TUES 16
Budget and Trustee Vote
COLD SPRING
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Haldane Elementary
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org
The board will hold its annual district meeting at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

WED 17
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

THURS 18
Planning Board
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Town Hall
238 Main St. | 845-265-3329
philipstown.com
The Philipstown Planning Board will hold public hearings on the Hudson Valley Shakespeare and Hudson Highlands Reserve developments.



Bryce Edwards and Reilly Wilmit sing a duet at the club Don't Tell Mama.



Edwards with Conal Fowkes (left) and Scott Ricketts

Photos by Catherine Hancock

A Singer in His 20s Who Loves Music from the '20s

Bryce Edwards will perform cabaret show at Chapel

By Alison Rooney

How many 23-year-olds croon and purr, yelp and yodel, and profess to finding the mid-1920s through early 1930s the most interesting period in popular singing?

There's at least one: Bryce Edwards, the Brooklyn-born (today's his birthday, in fact) musician who will bring his latest show, *The Bryce Edwards' Frivolity Hour*, to the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring on Friday (May 19), the first time he has performed it outside of a nightclub. He will be accompanied by Conal Fowkes on piano and bass and Scott Ricketts on trumpet.

"I've always been obsessed with early jazz and singers from before World War II, dance bands and jazz bands," says Edwards, who grew up in Montrose. "Since I was 12 or so, that's been a big part of my personality, something I'm passionate about. So, when I started singing repertoire from that era, it came as no real surprise to those around me."

Edwards knows he's idiosyncratic, something he attributes to his upbringing. "My whole family is artistic," he says. "My mother is an art director, and my father's a photographer. There were many musicians and visual artists in my family. I was encouraged to love a lot of things. My creative impulses were nurtured."

Edwards' first foray onto the stage came through children's musical theater, particularly productions at the Philipstown Depot Theatre on Garrison's Landing, where he performed through his high school years. "A creative environment was fostered there and it had a strong influence on my process," he recalls.

Hoping to continue professionally, Edwards auditioned for college musical theater programs. However, he learned he had a condition which would likely affect his vocal stamina, and that he should rethink the eight-shows-a-week toll on his voice.

He also was becoming disillusioned with

the process. "When you put together your audition book, you're told there are points to hit and I found myself singing songs others told me to sing, songs I was not excited about," he says. "Nowadays it's so much about favoring flashy vocal gymnastics over using the music to tell a moving story."

After graduating from Baldwin Wallace University in Ohio, Edwards performed a banter-filled, two-man show with jazz pianist Quintin Harris that got him recognized in the cabaret scene in New York City. The act featured material from the 1940s to 1960s; think Rat Pack, Nat King Cole and others from "the classic mid-century showbiz aesthetic," Edwards says.

Edwards decided to check out Cast Party, an open mic hosted by Jim Caruso on Mondays at Birdland in Manhattan. It proved to be a game-changer. He began with musical theater classics "and it wasn't clicking. I thought, 'Hey, wait a sec, I can sing whatever I want.' Even though you get people performing in every genre, the crowd has a deep love for material from the Great American Songbook."

The musician has a strong connection to that music, courtesy of his grandfather, whom he describes as a "musical encyclopedia, including many obscure songs you just

don't hear. That helped me shift to cabaret, where I could choose the genre."

"I had a feeling in my head that I couldn't do this seriously, until I started going to Cast Party and particularly after I met Natalie Douglas, a fantastic cabaret performer," Edwards says. "She mentored me and gave me a scholarship to this American Song Workshop she does. That turned out to be foundational; it made me think, 'I can do this.'"

His act focuses on jazz and popular music before the 1940s. "What's so wonderful about this music is that these standards cut to the chase — the songwriters mastered linking a poetic lyric to a melody line," Edwards says. His singing, he says, is "rooted in recapturing period vocalists. There are many young artists recreating this era with steadfast historical accuracy. You can hear bands plucked from the Jazz Age, but the vocalists tend to take their cues from singers like Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday, who are from later eras. They're wonderful and I love them, too, but this music predates them."

After a couple of months pounding the pavement, trying to book his nascent act, Edwards approached the owners of the club Don't Tell Mama. He says he "promoted the show like crazy" and it sold out. He was

furthered along by a rave review in *Broadway World*, which noted that "everyone smiled, ear to ear," for the duration of the show.

Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market St. in Cold Spring; parking is available at the adjacent Metro-North lot. Tickets are \$28 at bit.ly/bryce-edwards-chapel. Edwards will perform the show again on Sept. 24 at the Depot Theatre.



**Luck be the
Depot Spring
Benefit**

May 21 at 4:30

**DEPOT DOCS:
Of Medicine
and Miracles**

June 9 at 7:30

Daniel Kelly Trio

June 10

**Glass Ceiling
Breakers**

Short Films and
One Acts by women

June 16-18

All tickets available at
www.philipstowndepottheatre.org



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Weaving in Climate Data

Tapestry project chronicles temperature change

By Michael Turton

What would pop into your head if “fabric art” came up during a dinner conversation? Odds are it wouldn’t be “climate change.”

Yet a Cold Spring business owner managed to weave those disparate subjects together for a common purpose. The results will be on display in an exhibit that opens Friday (May 19) at the Putnam History Museum.

The Tempestry Project, organized locally by Sue Costigan, owner of The Endless Skein on Main Street, combines fabric art skills with historical weather data to produce multicolored tapestries, or “temp-estries,” that illustrate global warming. The project was launched in Washington state in January 2017 by three friends, two of whom now live in Poughkeepsie, in response to then-President Donald Trump’s plan to remove the U.S. from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In Philipstown, Costigan and 32 other women created 33 temp-estries that were displayed in Main Street shop windows on April 22 as part of Earth Day and Cold

Spring in Bloom.

Each tempestry contains 365 knitted, crocheted or woven rows of yarn, representing the days of a year. Using one of 32 colors, each row is coded to a spectrum that represents a temperature within a 5-degree range. Black depicts the coldest temperature while red is the hottest.

The Endless Skein’s temp-estries illustrate the daily temperatures in Cold Spring during 33 years between 1900 and 2021.

The coldest low temperature recorded was minus 4 degrees on Feb. 12, 1914. The temperature reached 93 degrees on Sept. 22. In 2021, the mercury hit 98 degrees on June 30 and fell to 20 degrees on Feb. 13.

A sampling of 33 years is not enough to represent statistically valid results, but the data from the more than 44,000 days displayed on the temp-estries hint at a change in the village climate.

The difference in the average temperatures during the first 23 years highlighted on the temp-estries versus the average for the most recent 23 years may be the most illustrative. Between 1900 and 1923, the average low winter temperature was 11 degrees. From 1998 to 2021 the average low winter temperature was 13 degrees.

The average high summer temperature



Temp-estries on display at the Putnam History Museum

from 1900 to 1923 was 91 degrees. The average high was 4 degrees higher between 1998 and 2021.

In addition, each tempestry has a card that lists the high and low temperature recorded during the year it represents, with a “fun fact” about an event from the time.

The historical facts, compiled with help from the Putnam History Museum, highlight local milestones, such as the installation of streetlights in 1900 and the closing of the West Point Foundry in 1911 to the opening of Breakneck tunnel in 1932 and Barbara Impellitteri of Cold Spring becoming the first female mayor in Putnam County in 1973.

Emily McNeil of Poughkeepsie, one of three co-founders of The Tempestry Project, is a self-described “knitter and number-cruncher.” She recalls the idea emerging from a barroom conversation about how scientists and hackers were joining forces to preserve environmental and climate-research data before Trump’s 2017 inauguration.

“We were joking about how we need to record that data in more durable forms, like ancient cuneiform tablets or 1,000-year-old tapestries,” she recalled.

Today, there are Tempestry Projects in nearly every state and more than 20 countries. The Putney School in Vermont is creating an 87-piece collection that represents each year since the school’s founding. Collections are also underway in partnership with the Design Museum of Chicago and the National Park Service.

For Costigan, the project goes beyond climate change. “I’d like to see all countries get on board about how we treat our environment, the welfare of our planet,” she said. “We can’t change the past, but we need to figure out a way to move forward.”

The Tempestry Project will open at the Putnam History Museum, 63 Chestnut St., on May 19 with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. and continue through mid-July. A second exhibit, Indigenous Peoples in Putnam County, also opens that day.



Detail from a tempestry shows a heat wave.

Photos provided



Sue Costigan with her husband, Tom

File photo by Amy Kubik

Plant Sale Sunday



Philipstown Rec. Center, Rte 9D, Garrison

MAY 21, 2023

10 AM - 2 PM

RAIN or SHINE

Native Plants

Annuals & Perennials

Member Plants

Vegetables & Herbs

Hanging Baskets

Kids welcome to gardening



philipstowngardenclubny.org

LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (May 1873)

A burglar broke into R.E. Dalzell's store overnight; the empty cash drawer was found the next morning by a carpenter working on a house on Fair Street.

"A walk about this village and Nelsonville shows that scarcely a place can be found which does not show new lumber," the *Cold Spring Recorder* noted.

B.K. Bliss & Son of New York notified the postmaster that it had received an order from Cold Spring for seeds with cash but no address.

Theodore Robinson, while entering Pelham's store in Cold Spring, walked through its plate-glass door, thinking it was open. He agreed to pay for the damage in installments.

Truesdell's Market, at the lower end of Main Street, offered sirloin and veal cutlets for 23 cents per pound [about \$6 today], pot roasts for 12 cents [\$2.50] and stewing

pieces for 10 cents.

Josie Spellman's brother, who lived in Utah, mailed her a box of agate, quartz, petrified wood and a petrified fish collected near Salt Lake City.

Dr. Samuel Griffin was summoned from Nelsonville to Mekeel's Corner [now the intersection of Route 301 and Route 9] to treat an 18-year-old woman in a group traveling in two covered wagons who was said to be suffering from typhoid fever. She appeared to be drugged, which made him suspicious. When she died soon after he arrived, the group said it had no money and asked the overseer of the poor to take her body. The three men, five women and three children left without further questioning. At a coroner's inquest, a neighbor testified that the group told her that the girls' parents had run off and that they planned to drop her at the hospital in Poughkeepsie before continuing to Pennsylvania. Dr. G. Wilson Murdock said his autopsy showed no trace of consumption or fever; based on her injuries, he concluded that the unidentified woman had been raped. She was interred at the old burying ground.

William Shriver died at his home on Paulding Avenue following a fatal error. According to his brother-in-law, Colin Tolmie Jr., Shriver asked his nephew to retrieve a bottle of liquid from his overcoat pocket, which Dr. Fredrick Lente had said to take by the teaspoon mixed in a glass of water to treat his rheumatism. Soon after, Shriver said his stomach burned, checked the label and said he had made a terrible mistake. Instead of Tincture of Black Snake-root, he had mixed



Teddy Roosevelt is shown after his return from Cuba. At least two Philipstown men volunteered in 1898 for his Rough Riders.

Library of Congress

in Tincture of Aconite, a liniment prescribed for his condition. Shriver hurriedly ate a meal and drank a large quantity of milk while Tolmie summoned Dr. Lente, who gave his patient an emetic to cause him to vomit. But within three hours, Shriver was dead. "I told Shriver and the family that the bottle labeled 'Liniment' was a powerful application," the doctor testified at the coroner's inquest. "It is not my duty to label medicine prescribed by myself as poison."

Patrick Murray and Herman Hafkenshield were target shooting behind Murray's

shop when T.N. Avery, who lived next door, came to the fence to complain that bullets were hitting his roof. Murray later testified that he took the pistol from his friend and said that "we must give up this up." According to Murray, after Hafkenshield said the pistol was empty anyway, Murray pointed it at the ground and fired. Hafkenshield "walked a short distance and said he was shot," Murray recounted. "I said that could not be possible." Said Hafkenshield: "I know that Murray shot me, for I saw the pistol in his hand at the time I received my wound." A jury ruled the shooting to be accidental.

Patrick Duffy, who was arrested on charges of domestic violence and destroying property in his home, was released when his wife declined to prosecute.

John Chase caught a bass that measured 3 feet, 9 inches and weighed 26.5 pounds.

The Library Association received a batch of books, including a 15-volume set of the works of Charles Dickens; Hume's *History of England* in six volumes; Gladstone's *Life of Faraday*; *A Russian Journey*, by Edna Dean Proctor; and *An American Girl Abroad*, by Adeline Trafton.

A young man named Phillips, who ran a variety shop next to the post office, disappeared under suspicion of "dishonest practices at the railroad station," according to *The Recorder*.

In a baseball game at the Vinegar Hill field, the Kellogg club from Cold Spring defeated the Flyaways from Peekskill, 71-33.

The only horse owned by farmer Frederick Hawks died within 15 minutes after a man who claimed to be a veterinarian poured liquid into its nostrils to treat heaves [respiratory disease].

A group of boys hit a baseball from a vacant lot south of the depot that flew across Main Street and through the window of Tevlin's saloon.

The new class at West Point had 160 members, the largest ever, because of the increase in the number of U.S. House members [to 292] following the 1870 census and each being given the right to nominate one cadet. Forty-five cadets graduated.

At midnight on a Saturday, a barn owned by Edward Baxter on a lot between Fair and Garden streets burned down, killing two horses. The barn also had caught fire in 1870 but neighbors saved it.

Dr. Dupree, a traveling foot doctor, saw patients at the Pacific Hotel.

Robert McCormick of Fort Montgomery, the brakeman on the 6:20 p.m. freight, fell from a car just as the train left Cold Spring and was badly injured. He was taken by train to Poughkeepsie Hospital but died the next morning.

125 Years Ago (May 1898)

Grant Wright left for Washington, D.C., to enlist in Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders to fight in Cuba for its independence from Spain. Hamilton Fish Jr. of New York City and Garrison also enlisted.

The Cold Spring Hose Co. No. 1 moved into its new firehouse on Garden Street.

Two dogs owned by Charles Miller died after eating poisoned meat.

Officer McCaffrey collected \$10 [about \$365] from an auctioneer at the Mosher building under a new licensing law.

(Continued on Page 17)



John Jesek (1940-2023)

John R. Jesek of Cold Spring passed away peacefully at home on May 9, 2023.

He was born in Cold Spring, New York, on February 6, 1940, to the late Albert and Elizabeth Bleakley Jesek. He lived in Cold Spring for 61 years until he retired to Machipongo, Virginia, on the Chesapeake Bay for 21 years. He returned home to Cold Spring for the past two years to be with his family.

Prior to his retirement John was a member of the Peekskill Carpenters Union Local 163 and the Dock Builders Local 1456.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Judith Jesek; his son, John Jesek and his wife Mindy; his daughter, Elizabeth (Tish) Barcavage and her husband Dennis. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Jana and Mick Quinn, Cassie and her husband John Ricci, Megan Barcavage, Judi Barcavage, JM Jesek and his wife Katie, Katherina Jesek, and April Jesek and her fiancé Jesse Lyons, as well as 12 great-grandchildren.

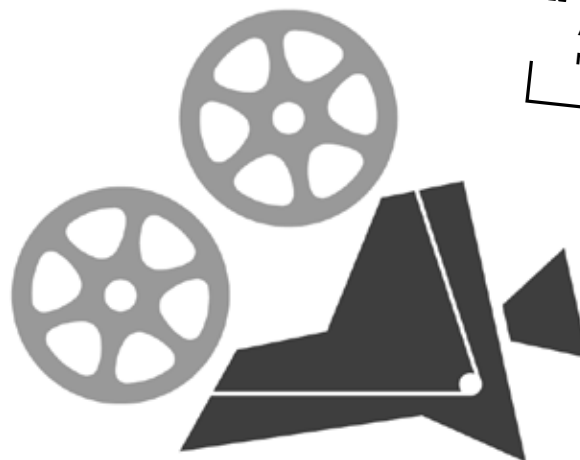
John was a member of the Philipstown Masonic Lodge 236, a charter member of the Cold Spring Boat Club, as well as a lifelong car and motorcycle enthusiast.

Friends may call on Friday, May 12, 2023, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., in Cold Spring. Burial will be private.

PAID NOTICE

The Foundation for Beacon Schools
proudly presents the 2nd annual

"A magical event,
nostalgic in feel!
Don't miss it!"



BCSD STUDENT
FILM FESTIVAL

SATURDAY MAY 13, 2023

2:30PM AND 6:30PM SCREENINGS
BEACON HIGH SCHOOL THEATER

TICKETS ON SALE NOW. OPEN TO ALL!
foundationforbeaconschools.org/film-festival



(Continued from Page 16)

There was a run on flour at local grocers as prices rose.

George Speedling retired after 33 years as a butcher in Nelsonville.

A boatload of crushed stone was delivered to Hamilton Fish for the roads on his Garrison estate.

Officer McCaffrey evicted six men who were using the basement of the abandoned Cold Spring House for shelter.

The new organ for St. Mary's Episcopal Church arrived from Detroit.

The Town Board posted signs on the highways warning "tramps" to give Philipstown the "go-by."

Putnam County issued liquor licenses to 10 Cold Spring hotels (\$200 fee), two Philipstown hotels (\$100) and four storekeepers (\$75) but no druggists (\$5).

The Village Board spent an hour discussing whether to repair Bank Street.

A 22-mile bicycle race was held on Memorial Day; the route began at the corner of Main and Garden streets, made a round-trip to the Village of Fishkill, and ended at Paulding and Chestnut streets. Prizes donated by local merchants included a bicycle suit, three bottles of tooth powder, a pair of shoes and a box of candy.

Sherwood Odell sold 400 pies in a day to the soldiers from his stand at the campground in Continentalville.

The Board of Education discussed building a new schoolhouse. The district had 335 students, with an average daily attendance of 237. The primary grades had 92 students, which required the class to be divided for half-days.

Edward Livingston appeared before the Board of Highway Commissioners to complain that a highway fence on the estate of his neighbor, Mrs. Underhill, should be set back. Commissioner Smith asked Livingston if his request was made out of spite, but Livingston said it was because the road wasn't legally wide enough. Smith replied that he doubted there was road in Philipstown that was legally wide enough.

A meteor flew over Continentalville and crashed near the home of the Owen brothers.

Hamilton Fish and his family returned to Garrison after an absence of nearly two years, during which they traveled to Great

Britain, Egypt and the Orient.

An advertisement in *The Recorder* asked: "How about your underwear: Isn't it a little too heavy? At J.J. Isberg's you will find lighter weights, not too thick nor too thin. Balbriggan or natural wool."

A pedestrian noticed a bag fall from a wagon on the Garrison road and yelled to the driver, who did not stop. Inside were 40 live eels.

The Board of Trustees received a complaint about the men and boys who congregated in front of Smythe's grocery store at the corner of Main Street and Kemble Avenue.

The master mechanic of the West Point Foundry added electricity to Spalding's pharmacy with a wire strung from Wood & Arnold's carpenter shop on Rock Street, where he had installed a dynamo. According to *The Recorder*, "at 8:45 o'clock the power was turned on, and as one interested spectator expressed it, the kerosene lamps looked as if they had an attack of yellow jaundice compared with the magnificent electric light. These were the first electric lights used in the village and at least 400 people witnessed the experiment." At the same time, the master mechanic asked the Village Board to grant him a franchise to build an electric plant, which he said could light the village much better and for the same amount of money as kerosene.

100 Years Ago (May 1923)

A body taken from the river near Cold Spring was believed to be that of William Abbott of Brooklyn, a former deputy state compensation commissioner, who had been missing for three months. It was weighted around the neck. Abbott had written a friend saying he planned to jump from the Beacon-Newburgh ferry.

75 Years Ago (May 1948)

Col. Johnathan Huston, 83, of Cold Spring, was among the speakers at the 50th anniversary gathering in Poughkeepsie of the Colonial Camp No. 75, United Spanish War Veterans.

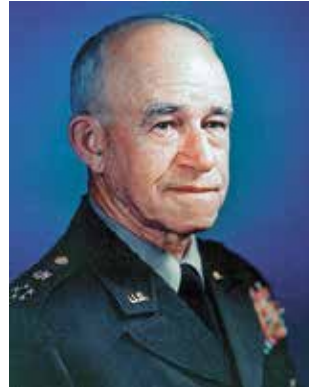
Anthony Marsloe of the state liquor authority spoke at a meeting of the Cold Spring Lions Club on the enforcement of Alcohol Beverage Control laws.

Police said they seized bundles of tickets

while arresting a Maple Terrace man on charges of running an illegal lottery.

50 Years Ago (May 1973)

Omar Bradley, the country's only living five-star general, visited West Point to receive the Sylvanus Thayer Award from the Association of Graduates. He was a 1915 graduate of the academy.



Gen. Omar Bradley

The Village of Cold Spring planned to purchase the former Post's Garage at the corner of Church and Main streets so it could be renovated by members of the fire company for its headquarters. The move would allow the village offices to be expanded at the Municipal Building. When the building was leased to the nascent fire company 77 years earlier, the company had one fire truck, but that had grown to four.

For the first time, members of the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corp. delivered a baby. Florence Van Loan, James Daniels and Andrea Phillips responded to a call from the Gerard Barry residence on Route 9D in Garrison to transport Patricia Barry to the Peekskill Community Hospital, but Bonnie Ann Barry was born at home.

Daniel Kiesbye of Cold Spring was promoted to executive chef at the Bear Mountain Inn.

The Haldane track-and-field team, coached by Pat Shields, won its 28th straight dual meet, at Pine Plains. It was the first meet in the history of the Dutchess County Scholastic League held under lights.

For the first time in 40 years, Haldane district voters were asked to consider a major capital project: A proposal to renovate the main building and build a new elementary school. It was defeated, 597-398, as was a

referendum to only construct the elementary school, 560-381. In his analysis after the vote, the superintendent said residents seemed to agree that the 1,100-student district needed a new building but just didn't want to pay for it.

25 Years Ago (May 1998)

The Putnam County Visitors Bureau launched a website at visitputnam.org with a computer donated by the Cold Spring Antiques Dealers Association.

The Putnam County Historical Society opened an exhibit, *The Healy Legacy*, with artifacts provided by the family. It included a photo of Elizabeth "Libby" Todd Healy, the present owner of the family home, Montrest, as an infant in her father's Packard Roadster. Montrest had been built by her great-grandfather, Aaron Healy, a Brooklyn leather merchant.

The Putnam County Legislature passed a law that allowed it to select two newspapers for public notices by majority vote, instead of one being selected by Republican members and one by the Democrats.

The Legislature voted down a proposal to share sales tax revenue with its municipalities and another to spend \$7,000 for a boat patrol on Lake Oscawana in Putnam Valley.

The Town Board discussed legislation to regulate timber harvesting, defined as operations covering 2 or more acres.

The Continental Village Fire Department held an open house to show off its new Marion Freightliner Pumper.

Stan Freilich, a write-in candidate, defeated Dorothy Gilman, 272-259, for a seat on the Garrison school board. The budget, which included a 2.9 percent tax increase, was approved, 357-249.

About 75 people gathered at the Haldane campus to remember Richard Aderson, a former administrator who was shot and killed in February 1997 following a fender-bender on I-84 near the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. The group dedicated a tree in his memory along the sidewalk near a brick Haldane sign installed on Earth Day. [Aderson's assailant was never identified.]

A 30-foot section of the roof of the Hudson House River Inn in Cold Spring blew off in a storm and a home on Corey Lane in Philipstown burned down after being struck by lightning. No one was injured.

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Roots and Shoots

Grieving with Plants

By Pamela Doan



Since a dear friend died too soon last summer after a yearslong struggle with cancer, I've looked for her in plants with an idea in mind of creating a memorial garden.

Making these connections with life and death through plants feels natural after participating in the seasonal cycle in the garden for so many years. Watching and guiding fresh shoots and new growth, and then the flush of blooms at their peak, followed by a gradual release and dormancy, is like a cycle of grief, too. I'm finally ready, almost a year after my friend died, to bring these thoughts together.

For my friend, Sara, a strong, vibrant personality, I thought about plants that would evoke her qualities, maybe even make me laugh, as she did all the time. We met during college in Colorado and it was true friend love from the beginning. We shared a birthday, were pursuing similar courses of study, and had other common interests, including hating many of the same things,



Joe pye weed is a perennial that doesn't need your approval.

Photo by P. Doan

but we were also living our lives very differently. Mostly it was what makes all great friendships work — enough connection, attention and care to last for decades.

Here I'll share my design criteria for plants that evoke my friend's spirit. Since I'm choosing a range of plants that like different growing conditions, I envision them being worked into the landscape and not placed together in one spot.

A big, strong plant because that's who she was.

I see a cluster of tall sunflowers here. I used to grow them in pots on a roof when I lived in Brooklyn and I'm imagining one like that. The plant is reaching for the sun and following its heat and light throughout the day. The stalk is too sturdy to break. When its season is finished, the birds will enjoy its seeds.

A plant that knows who it is and doesn't care if you get it.

This is definitely Joe pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*). This tall, native perennial has been gushed over in this column for years. Flower heads top 6-foot stalks with clusters of shaggy, purple florets and are covered with visiting pollinators. People tend to complain that Joe pye weed gets too tall or grows too big, but it doesn't need anyone's approval and keeps growing and being lovely without you.

A plant that lights up the darkness.

Black cohosh (*Actaea racemosa*) grows in full shade and has lovely white blooms. That could be any number of plants. What makes this one different is its size. Growing up to 6 feet, it is majestic, with feathery foliage and gently curving, spire-like blooms made up of tiny clusters.

Astrology and other spiritual practices were important to her. As a sister Leo, I think there must be plants that are radiant in late July.

This is challenging because there are many possibilities. I'm going with bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) for its beauty and grace in the garden. The delicate and dense pinkish, lavender flowers top four-sided stems cradled by whorls of leaves. The leaves can be made into tea, which she loved.

Can a plant be funny? Sure, it can. I'm looking for darkness to express her dark sense of humor.

Although it's an annual, jewel weed (*Impatiens capensis*) is adept at ensuring future generations by spitting its seeds as a means of dispersal. It is known commonly as "touch me not" because, after its showy orange flowers finish blooming, they become explosive seedpods that burst upon contact.

The plant needs to be gorgeous, but not showy for the sake of prettiness. It is multifaceted.

Blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*) stands out for its lovely blueish purple flowers that draw you into taking a closer look. Standing 4 feet high, the graceful spires have blooms that open slowly and not all at once. I like to mix it with tall perennials that have yellow blooms to deepen the contrast. It is beloved by many pollinators, including cuckoo bees and halictid bees.

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Mouths to Feed

Mama May I

By Celia Barbour



With the kids off at college, I found myself wondering how to celebrate Mother's Day this year, so I called my mom and asked if there were any foods she had a particular hankering for.

"I'd like an avocado," she said. "The sweet, creamy kind."

I told her that particular variety might be out of season, but that I would do my best to find her a nice one. I didn't bother filling in the missing Mother's Day context to my question — didn't explain that I'd been contemplating a pretty get-together with flowers from the garden, hors d'oeuvres of some kind, bubbly, maybe cake, while she was thinking about gaps in her daily diet.

Mothers and children misread, misunderstand and miscommunicate with each other in countless ways, from pretty much our first interactions to our last. How could we not? We want and need so much from each other, from avocados to unconditional love and gratitude, and the trivial things often become stand-ins for the momentous ones.

I suppose it's fitting, then, that Mother's Day is such a mobius strip of a holiday. One part of the conundrum is that a mother is often the person who teaches a kid how to behave during important moments and on special days. "Don't forget to call your grandmother," "Did you get a present for your brother?" "Teacher's Day is tomorrow. Shall we bake him some cookies?"

Yet it's awkward to have to remind our children to celebrate *us*; to tutor them in the day's rituals and protocols, then feign surprise when they march into the bedroom proudly bearing a plate of French toast and a mug of lukewarm coffee, sweet as that little parade always is. I remember one Mother's Day when my three showed up with a breakfast tray several hours after I normally ate breakfast, then snuggled in around me like puppies and — "Can I have a bite, Mommy?" "Me too?" "Another?" — carefully helped themselves to three-quarters of my meal.

I brought my mother an avocado. We sat

at her table, drinking tea and talking about this and that: her neighbors, her houseplants. At some point, I asked her how she had celebrated Mother's Day growing up. "We would bring her a rose," she said.

"From the garden?"

"No, we would buy them." She paused, and looked off into the distance. "Red ones."

After a minute, I stood and cleared our cups. Who was I kidding? I know perfectly well what my mother wants: An expression of my gratitude and love. Ideally, something fresh, delicious and surprising, with leftovers she can take home and stash in her fridge, to eat for lunch in the days that follow, with a slice of avocado alongside.

Crab Salad with Asparagus Ribbons on Toast

This combination also makes a great melt. Use steamed or grilled asparagus in place of the ribbons and top with Swiss cheese, then place under the broiler until bubbly.

For the asparagus ribbons:

4 to 5 thick asparagus spears, woody ends trimmed

2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice

1 tablespoon olive oil

Pinch sugar

Salt and pepper to taste

Peel the tough skin from the bottom of the asparagus spears, if desired. Cut off the tips and cut lengthwise into quarters. Using a swivel vegetable peeler, slice along the asparagus spears to create ribbons. Transfer to a bowl. Add the remaining ingredients, toss to coat and set aside to marinate while you make the crab.

For the crab salad sandwiches:

3 tablespoons mayonnaise

¼ cup crème fraîche

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

2 tablespoons minced spring onion (or substitute shallots)

1 clove garlic, minced

1 tablespoon minced jalapeno, or to taste

Juice and zest of 1 lemon

Salt and pepper

1 tablespoon capers, rinsed and roughly chopped

1 tablespoon chopped parsley

1 tablespoon chopped tarragon

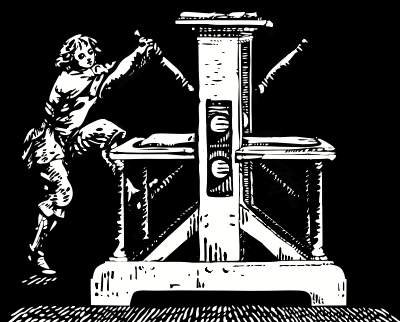
8 ounces lump crabmeat, picked over for shells, rinsed and drained

4 slices crusty white or sourdough bread, lightly toasted

Combine everything but the crab and bread in a medium bowl and mix until well blended. Add the crab meat and toss to combine. Set aside in the refrigerator until ready to use.

To make the sandwiches, scoop about ¼ cup of the crab salad onto each slice of bread. Using tongs, lift the asparagus ribbons from the marinating liquid and allow to drain a few seconds before piling on top of the crab.

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Special Report (from Page 1)

an experimental gene therapy that will alter your DNA, that has more deaths and adverse reactions associated with it—”

Board President Meredith Heuer cut her off there, saying Malin had reached the four-minute limit for a public comment.

Malin, who has taught in the district since 2004 but is currently on leave, returned two months later, this time joining the board's meeting by Zoom. She urged the district not to hold an upcoming vaccine clinic, one of about a dozen that it organized in partnership with Village Apothecary, a Woodstock pharmacy.

“All of the vaccines so far have proven to be very dangerous, which is supported by VAERS,” she said, referring to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, a platform that compiles unverified self-reports of side effects. The program, which is managed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, saw its data misrepresented by anti-vaccine groups during the pandemic.

Noting that children are less likely than adults to suffer severe complications from COVID, Malin alleged that Pfizer, one of the companies to develop vaccines, was “using our little children as lab rats.”

“They have no idea what's going to happen when they do this,” she said. “Well, that's not true — they do have an idea. They know that a lot of children are going to die.”

That didn't happen. The American Medical Association has called the vaccines

“extremely safe” and said that, even in the event of a COVID infection, they strongly protect children from severe illness and hospitalization.

Malin wasn't alone in questioning public-health recommendations. During that school year, which saw the emergence of the highly contagious omicron variant of the virus that causes COVID-19, some parents offered comments at school board meetings expressing doubts about vaccines and mask requirements. In addition, Joy Bonneau, a special education teacher at Glenham Elementary School, spoke at several meetings, at one point accusing school board members of ignoring her repeated comments questioning the safety of the vaccines.

In an email this week, Bonneau said she has never discussed her views with her kindergarten students or their parents. “They were not my audience,” she wrote. “My audience was the policymakers of this district.”

Switching classes

Beginning late last summer, when students received their class schedules for the 2022-23 school year, the parents of 10 of the 95 students assigned to Malin asked the district to have their children moved to another science teacher's class, according to district records obtained through a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request.

Five parents recently told *The Current* that, after hearing Malin's public statements about the virus, they had felt she was unfit to teach middle school science. *The*

Current was also contacted by a parent who said she complained early in the school year about Malin but, after learning that others' requests were denied, did not ask to have her child moved.

“ I was hesitant to complain. My child is bright and will question conspiracy theory-minded nonsense, but I don't know that every kid will.”

~ A Beacon parent

The parent referred to at the beginning of this article, whose name is being withheld so her child cannot be identified, said in interviews that she contacted Brian Soltish, the Rombout principal, about her child's class assignment. (According to Superintendent Matt Landahl, he instructed administrators not to comment for this story. Public school officials typically do not discuss personnel matters.)

According to the parent, Soltish said he was aware of Malin's school board remarks and would closely monitor her classroom interactions with students.

Early in the 2022-23 school year, reports began filtering from Malin's students to their parents of misinformation they said the

teacher was sharing in class.

In an email sent in September and shared with *The Current*, the parent wrote to Soltish that, according to her child, Malin had said in class that people are made to be in close contact with one another — to touch, shake hands and hug, for example.

“When people do this, parasites pass between us,” Malin said, according to the student. “Normally, these parasite cysts pass right through us, but in the presence of hand sanitizer, the cysts are broken down and people get sick.” Other parents interviewed by *The Current* recounted similar conversations with their children, including ones in which the students said Malin questioned whether germs or viruses exist.

The parent then contacted Landahl. “I was hesitant to complain,” she said in an interview. “My child is bright and will question conspiracy theory-minded nonsense, but I don't know that every kid will.” The parent said she was worried that, without school district intervention, students were getting “an anti-science bias from their science teacher.”

The parent (and two others who contacted *The Current*) said they asked if a teacher's aide could be placed in Malin's classroom, but it never happened. In January, at least three children in Malin's class told their parents that she had parroted a conspiracy theory claiming the polio epidemic in the U.S. ended after the federal government banned the pesticide DDT. In fact, vaccines stopped the spread of the polio virus.

(Continued on Page 21)

To everyone who attended Monday's meeting about the Fjord Trail:
Your voice matters. Keep talking, keep questioning, and write to your reps.

▶ If you weren't able to attend the meeting you can watch it online here: bit.ly/ft-mtg

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg

levenbergd@nyassembly.gov

Regional Director NYS OPRHP Linda Cooper

Linda.Cooper@parks.ny.gov

Assemblyman Anil Beephan, Jr.

Beephana@nyassembly.gov

Assemblyman Jonathan G. Jacobson

jacobsonj@nyassembly.gov

State Senator Rob Rolison

rolison@nysenate.gov

Commissioner NYS OPRHP Erik Kulleseid

Erik.Kulleseid@parks.ny.gov

Thank You



ProtectTheHighlands.org

(Continued from Page 20)

The parent said she felt exasperated. District officials “were responsive” to her concerns when she reached out, “but that was kind of it,” she said.

Landahl and Heuer each declined to comment. In addition, Malin did not respond to multiple emails sent to her district address or a letter mailed to her home, and Christina Dahl, a social studies teacher at Beacon High School who is president of the Beacon teachers’ union, did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Other parents’ stories

Another Beacon parent pulled his child from Malin’s science class and into an independent study period. The parent and his wife had heard about Malin’s statements to the school board and let their child decide whether to remain in the class. “[The child] doesn’t really suffer fools and was not interested” in staying, the parent said.

That student joined an afterschool STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) club — organized by another parent interviewed for this article — in conjunction with Clarkson University’s Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries (BIRE).

The eight-session club, held at the BIRE facility at Dennings Point in Beacon, cost \$130 for the parents of each of the 10 students who participated. A parent spoke about the program at a Parent-Teacher Organization meeting but it was not publicized at Rombout. The parent invited Rombout teachers to observe the club or recommend other students to participate but said she got no takers.

After speaking with Soltish, another Beacon parent kept her child in Malin’s class but said his grades fell. According to the parent, Soltish said there was no way to move her son out of the class, nor could the teacher be easily or quickly replaced.

Almost daily, the parent said, her son would come home and report “all the disparities and neglect of science” he heard in Malin’s class. “He was not motivated,” the parent said. “He didn’t believe what she was saying. The stories just piled up.”

The student also struggled with social skills and what his mother called “constant” bullying from classmates, which led his parents in December to decide that he needed to leave Rombout. “We’ve always been advocates of public education, but, at some point, even he said, ‘Maybe I’m ready,’” to leave, the parent said.

The student will finish middle school at the private Manitou School in Philipstown and then plans to attend Beacon High School.

On Feb. 7, according to three children’s accounts to their parents, Malin assigned students to make “slime,” a common science experiment that typically involves glue, baking soda and an activator. According to the parents, who each spoke with *The Current*, their children said Malin told them that day that adding a quarter-teaspoon of Borax, a household cleaner, to water and drinking it “would be good for their bones.” (One parent said her child was told the mixture had “medicinal properties.”)

Three days later, on Feb. 10, Soltish said in an email to parents viewed by *The Current*



A science teacher at Rombout Middle School in Beacon has been reassigned following complaints about comments she made in the classroom. Photo by Valerie Shively

that Malin was taking a leave of absence. The principal provided no other details but said that Tristyn Koren, a certified science teacher who had been working at Rombout as a special education teacher in inclusion science classes, would be taking over.

On April 17, the school board approved making Malin a “teacher on special assignment” through June 30. According to the district, her assignment is data analysis.

Teacher discipline

When a district receives complaints about a teacher, it can trigger a process outlined in contracts with the union that represents educators. If the Beacon district receives a complaint, its contract with the Beacon Teachers’ Association requires it to notify the teacher within five days. In the most serious situations, such as a criminal conviction or those that involve what the state calls a “serious question” about moral behavior or a threat to a child or school, the district cannot discipline or terminate a tenured teacher without what is known as a 3020-a hearing (a reference to state education law) before an independent arbitrator agreed upon by the district and union.

The state Education Department suggests that, in other cases, parents or others with complaints start by contacting the local school district. In its online FAQ, the state Office of School Personnel Review and Accountability says it does not handle complaints that involve “incompetence, negligence or dissatisfaction with teaching style or philosophy.”

In May 2022, Malin, who has tenure, received a letter of reprimand from Landahl, but it was not for allegedly spreading scientific misinformation in the classroom. Instead, in an effort to quiet down her seventh-grade students, Malin was reported to have told them to “pretend they were Jews in the Holocaust hiding from the Germans.”

This allegation, and others related to comments made by the teacher, apparently did not rise to the level where the district initiated a 3020-a hearing. In response to FOIL requests, the district said that 3020-a records for Malin from the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years “do not exist.”

Landahl noted in the reprimand letter, which was obtained through a FOIL request, that he had received unspecified

complaints from students about other inappropriate comments. The letter indicates that Malin agreed to participate in sensitivity and classroom-management training before her return to the classroom.

“Should there be a repeat of similar conduct, the district will seek more severe disciplinary action,” the superintendent wrote.

In response to a wide-ranging FOIL request, the district did not provide any documents related to scientifically inaccurate comments Malin allegedly made to students.

Another case

At least one teacher in New York has faced discipline for allegedly sharing inaccurate scientific information about COVID-19 with students.

According to a ruling issued by the state Education Department, Adrianna Rickson, a high school criminal justice teacher who was hired by the Capital Region Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) on a probationary basis in 2019, was fired in 2022 after she offered students extra credit if they listened to an episode of *The Joe Rogan Experience* podcast featuring an interview with Robert Malone, a scientist who was banned from Twitter for disseminating vaccine misinformation.

BOCES placed Rickson on administrative leave and then fired her for, according to a letter from the superintendent included in legal documents, using “controversial materials” that had no curricular purpose, using BOCES resources to promote misinformation and failing to follow the approved curriculum.

Rickson appealed to state Education Commissioner Betty Rosa, who ruled that the termination letter was too vague and sent the issue back to BOCES. After BOCES fired her a second time, Rickson appealed again.

This time, Rosa ordered that Rickson be reinstated with back pay, ruling that BOCES had “materially modified” its reasons for firing Rickson in its second termination letter and that firing her for a single extra-credit assignment violated her “right to academic freedom” — a concept which the commissioner explained holds that “teachers are not neutral conduits of information from some external source to pupils’ minds; they are active participants in the process of inquiry.”

A lawsuit filed by BOCES against Rosa

in January over her decision has not been resolved.

The Beacon parents who spoke with *The Current* maintain that Malin’s alleged classroom comments do not amount to an issue of academic freedom. “Why is my seventh grader having to argue established scientific facts with her teacher?” one asked Landahl in an email she shared.

It’s not clear how the Beacon district evaluates its teachers and whether the content of lessons plays a role. A four-page document provided by the district outlines its policy for observations, which appear to take place at least twice (once announced, once unannounced) per school year. But it provides no information on what happens if a teacher receives a poor review.

Low participation rates also make it difficult to say how students in Beacon have fared on state science assessments. Only 28 percent of Rombout eighth graders took the year-end science test in 2022; 42 percent of them met grade-level proficiency or better.

‘Flare-ups’ of misinformation

Since the pandemic began, the National Center for Science Education has had to monitor “flare ups” of misinformation and “anti-science” legislation proposed by school boards, but it is unusual to hear of teachers spreading false information, said Blake Touchet, the organization’s partnership specialist.

More often, it’s the opposite. “We’ve seen a lot of teachers who are struggling with students mimicking” false claims made by their parents, Touchet said. The Oakland, California-based nonprofit, which works with teachers, parents and scientists nationwide to ensure that topics such as evolution and climate change are taught accurately, has also advised teachers whose students have brought misinformation they’ve seen online into the classroom, he said.

Touchet said that school administrators can discipline a teacher if they feel the teacher is deviating from state-established curriculum standards by including overtly religious or political views. He cited examples in California, Illinois and Minnesota in which courts sided with districts in cases that involved science teachers who argued they should not have to teach evolution.

“While there hasn’t been a case like this in New York, usually courts rely on precedent cases in other circuits when handing down rulings,” Touchet said.

In New York, local districts draft curriculum, select textbooks and instructional materials, develop pacing charts and provide professional development for staff in order to meet learning standards set by the state. According to the Education Department, it does not render judgments on whether specific speech or conduct adheres to local curricula or is protected by academic freedom unless a school district files an appeal with the education commissioner.

Another option, Touchet said, is that school boards can adopt policies requiring a certain number of instructional hours to be spent combating misinformation. For example, teachers could spend time helping students evaluate the credibility of online sources, he said.

Unified Sports *(from Page 1)*

Unified Sports began in New York 10 years ago with 12 high schools in the Albany area. It has since expanded to more than 250 schools in the state and 6,000 athletes, said Nathan Johnson, executive director of the Unified Sports Program for Special Olympics New York, which administers the program with the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

Other area high schools with Unified Sports programs include Brewster, Wappingers, Bedford, Mahopac, Ossining and Newburgh. The statewide program may add soccer and bocce.

“For years the population of students with disabilities haven’t had this opportunity,” said Todd Nelson, assistant director of the state high school athletic association. “We’ve seen the direct benefits that these students get. Their behavior is better. Their academic success is better. Their stature in the community has gone up.”

Typically, half the athletes on a Unified Sports team are students with a disability. Their teammates are called “partners” and act as player-coaches. In basketball, that translates on the court to three athletes with disabilities and two partners. The athletes each earn a varsity letter and the teams have the option of competing in a playoff at the end of the season.

Kiarra Rodriguez, a partner, said she loves playing on the Beacon team. “It’s fun,” she said. “Seeing how happy they are when they score makes me happy.”

Rodriguez, who is also a member of the



Members of the Beacon Unified Sports basketball team are shown at the New Paltz gym with Patrick Schetter (left), the Beacon boys' varsity basketball coach, and Michael Mullins (right), head coach for Unified Sports.

Photo by J. Asher

Beacon girls' varsity basketball team, said she offers shooting advice in her coaching capacity: “I tell them to use the backboard rather than trying to lift the ball over the rim.”

Bringing together students with and without disabilities into a single community is important, said Arlene Dembo, Krystal’s mother.

“It’s all about a shared living experience

where they can all grow together and everyone can develop to their full potential,” she said. “To keep them segregated limits what’s available to us as a whole when we’re learning from each other.”

The partner students also benefit, she said. “It gives those who consider themselves to be ‘typical’ an opportunity to view life through a different lens,” she said.

“It allows them to develop emotionally in terms of being more empathetic.”

Dembo said her oldest daughter, Tiarra, was inspired by Krystal to get a doctoral degree in physical therapy.

Nelson said Unified Sports hopes to provide athletes with disabilities the lessons that sports usually provide: the value of hard work, teamwork and persistence.

To do that, he said, it’s important that the games be played and officiated like any other and not serve as “exhibitions” where rules aren’t enforced.

“We want to avoid condescending play,” said Nelson. “That just reinforces the notion that individuals with disabilities can’t be successful on their own. It means so much more when a player dribbles to the middle of the lane and kicks it out to an athlete on the three-point line and they make the basket.”

At Beacon’s first-ever Unified Sports basketball game, at New Paltz, the rules were followed, although somewhat loosely. Few fouls or traveling violations were called, but the referees did set limits. At one point, a Beacon player sank a long shot and the crowd went crazy because it appeared to be a three-pointer. But the referee, Brian Lindhorst of Kingston, shook his head and held up two fingers.

When the crowd booed, the longtime official smiled and indicated the shooter’s foot had been on the line.

“I love these kids,” Lindhorst said after the game. “Everyone wins here.”

The Bulldogs will host Wappingers at Beacon High School at 4:30 on Monday (May 15) and travel to Newburgh for a regional tournament on May 23.

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

- ACROSS
- 1. Standard
 - 4. Like custard
 - 8. Jubilation
 - 12. Candle count
 - 13. Crib cry
 - 14. Verdi opera
 - 15. "Yellow" band
 - 17. Zorro's marks
 - 18. Teeny bit
 - 19. Lincoln's coin
 - 20. Long-limbed
 - 22. Wild guess
 - 24. "How sweet —!"
 - 25. "Light My Fire" band
 - 29. Rock's Brian
 - 30. Berth places
 - 31. Quick swim
 - 32. "Jump" band
 - 34. Greek cheese
 - 35. Always
 - 36. Gourmand
 - 37. Task
 - 40. Vivacity
 - 41. Sci-fi prefix
 - 42. "Jeremy" band
 - 46. Privy to
 - 47. Robust
 - 48. Mine yield
 - 49. Honey bunch?
 - 50. Historic Scott
 - 51. Evergreen type

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		

- DOWN
- 1. Lobbying org.
 - 2. Previously
 - 3. Seminary study
 - 4. Void
 - 5. Fancy party
 - 6. Today rival, briefly
 - 7. "Rah!"
 - 8. Garden pavilion
 - 9. Property claim
 - 10. Genesis garden
 - 11. Relaxed
 - 16. Feet, slangily
 - 19. Cushions
 - 20. Schreiber of Ray Donovan
 - 21. Sicilian volcano
 - 22. Transparent
 - 23. Seabird
 - 25. Scrabble piece
 - 26. Schiller poem used by Beethoven
 - 27. Ceremony
 - 28. Mast
 - 30. Macadamize
 - 33. Marsh birds
 - 34. Flunk
 - 36. Goofed
 - 37. First bed
 - 38. Sharpen
 - 39. Slender woodwind
 - 40. Hay bundle
 - 42. Third degree?
 - 43. Corn serving
 - 44. Exist
 - 45. Kitten's cry

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Answers for May 5 Puzzles

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

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

1. PIPERS, 2. CUTS, 3. YEMEN, 4. PICKS, 5. LINOLEUM, 6. DISHES, 7. UPBRAIDED

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

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

- | CLUES | SOLUTIONS |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 rids of unpleasant aromas (10) | _____ |
| 2 burnt out (5) | _____ |
| 3 kind and courteous (8) | _____ |
| 4 Arc de Triomphe, for one (8) | _____ |
| 5 chick (5) | _____ |
| 6 using WhatsApp (9) | _____ |
| 7 got underway (5) | _____ |

DE	UME	FR	OR	GR
ES	DDY	GAN	NT	ING
BI	SAG	OUS	IED	IZ
ACI	BE	OD	MES	MON

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SUDOCURRENT

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

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VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

BOYS' TENNIS

Beacon entered the season unsure of what to expect, according to Coach David Ryley, but the Bulldogs showed strength except for some early, close losses to larger schools such as Monroe-Woodbury and Middletown.

A breakthrough occurred April 18, when the Bulldogs upset Section IX tennis power Newburgh Free Academy. Knotted at 3-3, the match came down to first doubles, where Scott Bunker and Charlie Klein prevailed in a hard-fought, three-set battle.

"That Newburgh win put us on the map," said Ryley. "Teams started to pay a lot more attention to us after that."

The Bulldogs rattled off four straight wins in league play, defeating Liberty/Monticello (7-0), Minisink Valley (6-1), Valley Central (5-2) and Washingtonville (4-3), the latter clinched on a three-set win at third singles from sophomore Beckett Anderson.

"Beckett did an excellent job of regrouping in the third set, and showed great resiliency even after needing six match points to close out the match," Ryley said.

The boys fell to undefeated Cornwall and dropped a 4-3 match to Goshen.

On Tuesday (May 9), Beacon celebrated Senior Day with a 7-0 win over Minisink Valley. Before the match, Danny Barry and Bunker were honored. "Danny and Scott have been a great asset to the program during their careers," the coach said. "They're both great role models with their strong work ethic and unselfish attitude."

Beacon (10-5) closed out its season on Thursday (May 11) against Lourdes. The team will send five players — Matthew

Sandison, Frank Zezza, Barry, Bunker and Klein — to the Orange County tournament next week.

"I'm very proud of the season the boys have put together," said Ryley. "They outperformed expectations, and it's all due to hard work and team camaraderie."

BASEBALL

Beacon continued to play well last week, picking up a 15-4 victory at Marlboro on May 6 and winning at Goshen, 6-2, on Tuesday (May 9) to bounce back from a 2-1 loss at Cornwall on May 5.

Against Goshen, Derrick Heaton threw six innings without allowing an earned run, striking out seven. Ryan Landisi pitched a clean seventh, and Liam Murphy, Jackson Atwell, Joey Vollaro and Heaton each drove in a run.

"Heaton was awesome," said Coach Bob Atwell. "We had six different kids with hits, and the guys played well against a pitcher who shut us out two weeks ago."

Julian Brown earned the victory against Marlboro with four innings of two-hit, shut-out ball. Mikey Fontaine led the offense, going 3 for 5 with a pair of doubles and four RBIs. Vollaro was 2 for 2 with three walks and two RBIs, Heaton was 2 for 5 with a double and RBI and Ronnie Anzovino went 2 for 2 with a double and two RBIs.

Beacon (12-4) was scheduled to host Port Jervis on Thursday and Chester Academy today (May 12) at 7 p.m. at Heritage Financial Park (Dutchess Stadium), where it will honor its seniors, Vollaro, Brown and Mateo Alvarado, and the 1998 team, which won a regional title. The Bulldogs travel to Minisink Valley on Monday (May 15) before hosting Monroe-Woodbury at 4 p.m. on Wednesday in the final game before the playoffs.

Haldane and Putnam Valley ended their May 5 game in a 2-2 tie after 5½ innings because of rain. On the mound, Hunter Erickson allowed one earned run on three hits with six strikeouts. John Kisslinger and Jeremy Hall had RBIs.

On Tuesday (May 9), the Blue Devils fell, 11-5, at North Salem after leading 4-1.

"We shot ourselves in the foot with errors and let them run away with the game," said Coach Simon Dudar. "We've been playing good baseball, despite our record over the last stretch of the season. We have some kinks to work out this week before the playoffs."

No. 4 Haldane (7-10-1) will face No. 1 Leffell (9-5) in the first round in a best-of-three Section I, Class C series that starts at Leffell on Monday (May 15), comes to Cold Spring at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday and returns to Leffell on Saturday, if necessary.



The Beacon softball team honored its seniors before a game on Monday (May 8). From left are Mikayla Sheehan, Juliana Sulsona, Kaila Ramdeen, Ivianna Dickens, Demi Sela and Hope Cleveringa.

Photos provided

GOLF

The Beacon boys defeated Port Jervis, 233-278, on May 2 at the Southern Dutchess Country Club. Will Martin shot a 40, followed by Jack Philipbar (43) and Jamison Sheehy (45), as the Bulldogs recorded their best team score of the season.

On May 4, Beacon (237) defeated Burke Catholic of Goshen (265) and O'Neill (291) in a match at West Point. Martin and Philipbar each shot 42. After starting 0-4, Beacon has won six straight to improve to 6-4.

The Beacon girls defeated Lourdes in Poughkeepsie on Wednesday (May 10) by two strokes to finish 7-7 on the season. "It was a team effort as two newbies and two veteran players worked their way around the course," said Coach JeanMarie Jacques.



The Beacon girls' golf team finished its season Wednesday with a win over Lourdes.

SOFTBALL

Beacon defeated Burke Catholic, 11-1, on Monday (May 8) on Senior Night for its third win of the season. The Bulldogs hosted Cornwall on Thursday and travel to Lourdes today (May 12) and Monticello tomorrow before closing their season by hosting Wallkill at 4:30 p.m. on Monday (May 15).

The Putnam Valley/Haldane softball team defeated Westlake, 4-1, on Monday, with senior Mary Mikalsen picking up an RBI and sophomore Callie Sniffen bashing a two-run, sixth-inning homer. Two days earlier, the team defeated Croton, 10-4, with Sniffen going 2 for 3 with a three-run shot.

Putnam Valley/Haldane (13-5) is expected to receive the No. 6 seed in the Section I, Class B tournament and face No. 11 Croton-Harmon.

GIRLS' LACROSSE

Haldane had three wins last week to improve to 10-6.

On May 5, the Blue Devils defeated Dobbs Ferry, 15-12, at home. Mairead O'Hara had four goals, Kayla Ruggiero added a hat trick and Sami Thomas, Ellen O'Hara and Caroline Nelson each scored twice.

The next day, Haldane topped Keio, 18-4, at home, behind a balanced attack: Ruggiero and Anna-Catherine Nelson each had a hat trick, while Helen Nicholls, Carmela Cofini, Ellen O'Hara and Martha McBride each scored twice.

On Tuesday (May 9), the team defeated Tuckahoe, 13-8, at home behind Ruggiero's six goals and three assists. Cofini and Thomas each had two goals and Caroline Nelson, Amanda Johanson and Ellen O'Hara each scored one. Lola Mahoney recorded six saves in net.

The Blue Devils are expected to receive the No. 7 seed in the Section I, Class D tournament that begins May 16 and host No. 10 Westlake.



Beacon seniors Danny Barry and Scott Bunker were honored at Tuesday's match.