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.

(Continued on Page 22)

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)

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 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
The students were beautiful. I had every-
grade was what I taught most of the time.
That's where I retired from in 1989. Fourth
and then went to Sargent Elementary.
When did you begin teaching?
I got transferred here, with IBM, in 1965.
Chicago and my husband, Percy Briscoe,
to Wilberforce University. I got married in
scholarships to North Park University and
traveling to different places to sing. I got
me going to church — I was in the choir and
That's why I carry Irish [ancestry]. In the
and the master impregnated her mother.
You are a native of Mississippi. How did
I was born in Spring Hill and grew up
in Duck Hill. My grandmother was a slave,
and the master impregnated her mother.
You end up in New York?
In Duck Hill to Fishkill: A Journal of My Life
was published last year.
Duck Hill to Fishkill: A Journal of My Life
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.

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?

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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,
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 showed 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 said the disturbance of sediment during testing “as brief and temporary” and 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.

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.”

“[TDI] to do something they would have never done in terms of trying to protect our drinking water.”

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.
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) 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 guns shows that are fraught with purchasing loopholes? My God — the NRA has infiltrated almost any community event mount. And what could happen as the number of teachers armed with guns comes before lives.

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 alienation and those who alienate them, and rein in the enablers 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.

Hard schools...
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 Craigside 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 on 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 ($15,500).

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 Garrison’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 gusfbusiness/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 Jasnov.

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 Capital Hill, Jasnov 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 beacon12.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 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 $30,000.

There are four open seats on the nine-member school board, and four candidates: Anthony White and Kristian 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.

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.

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

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Community Nursery School and Learning Center
CELEBRATING CHILDHOOD FOR 55 YEARS
Now accepting applications for our 2023-2024 school year!
Email us at communitynurseryschool50@gmail.com
The Happiest Place in Town!
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)
**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 off. 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 Dockside. 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] NYCR Part 617.9(a)(b) [a state environmental quality review]?

**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 deviant behind your back is really detrimental.

See highlandscurrent.org for more.
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

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 Schevetchuk Armstrong

For simple trips between Cold Spring and Garrison, residents could trade cars for bikes or walking shoes, if Philipstown creates a 4 1/2-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. 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.

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. Pencacciolo, Town Clerk DATED: May 10, 2023

Advertise your real estate business here.

Contact: Michele Gedney | 845-809-5584 | ads@highlandscurrent.org
www.highlandscurrent.org/ads

The Real Estate Market is Booming!
Contact these top local agents to see the latest listings, or to sell your home

Abbie Carey
HOULIHAN LAWRENCE | ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER
845-661-5438 | acarey@houlihanlawrence.com
www.abbiecarey.houlihanlawrence.com

Charlotte Brooks
HOUSE FINCH REALTY
OWNER & PRINCIPLE BROKER
817-951-2241 | Charlotte@HouseFinchRealty.com
www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com

Claudia Dizenzo
ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER | HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY
917-951-2241 | claudia@hudsonriverlinerealty.com
www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com

Ann McBride-Alayon
HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY | PRINCIPLE BROKER, OWNER
718-637-3143 | ann@hudsonriverlinerealty.com
www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com
LAZY SUNDAY — It was a bucolic scene on May 7 at the Cold Spring pier.

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.

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.
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).

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
diaaart.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 9 | 800-933-2566
nybc.org
1100 Route 9D | 800-933-2566
garrisonhistorymuseum.org
This free and open blood drive is held in cooperation with the Community Blood Drive of Putnam County. All donations are sent to the Blood Batch of New York. No appointment is necessary.

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. Cost: $25 (non-members)

Wed 17
I Am Beacon Mixer
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. Two Way Brewery
18 W. Main St.
iambeacon.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
tyinyurl.com/hoenergyforum
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 19
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.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 13
More to Our Story
GARRISON
Noon. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheater.org
Local women, including Lisa Andretta, Erica Hauser, Annie Lanzilotto, Shane Killoran, Jade Mason, Najah Muhammed, Carole Penner, Pam Pritzker Ridley, Kerry Anne Wolfe and GraceLyn Woods, will perform Eve Ensler’s play. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

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 (seniors, $3 children)

SAT 13
A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, May 13
BEACON
2:30 & 6:30 p.m. Beacon High School
216 Main St. | 845-265-4010
foundationforbeaconschools.org
Of the Sondheim musical set in ancient Rome, the Beacon High School theater arts program presents the problem of getting puny people into a small place. Cost: $10 (seniors, $5 students)

FRI 19
The Vagina Monologues
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.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.

SUN 21
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.

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.

ATHLETICS

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.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 13
A Day of 18th-Century Entertainments
NEWBURGH
Noon – 3 p.m.
Washington’s Headquarters
84 Liberty St. | facebook.com/washingtonshomequarters
The historic site will host games, crafts and entertainment on the lawn, weather permitting.

SAT 13
AAPI Book Discussion
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.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 20
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 | 845-424-3020
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.

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

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

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.
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  
Haleycon 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 Wendlandt, composition by Enrique Eoli and video projections by the Anarchist Mountains Trista. 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 band will play American and roots-style music from their latest release, Northeast. Jeff Wilkinson will open. Cost: $30 ($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 $65 ($15 ages 12 and younger)

SAT 20  
In Four Jazz Collective NEWBURGH  
8 p.m. St. Andrew’s Church  
15 South Ave. | 845-534-2864 
newburghchambermusic.org  
The tribute band will play songs by musicians who performed at Woodstock. Cost: $30 ($35 door)

FRI 19  
The Bryce Edwards Frivolity Hour COLD SPRING  
7:30 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)

SAT 20  
Willie Nile Band 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: $30 ($25 door)

SAT 13  
Alpines in the Garden PHILIPSTOWN  
5:30 p.m. Stonecrop | 81 Stonecrop Lane  
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org  
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.

SAT 13  
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  
15 South Ave. | hotwrk.bpt.me  
Cost: $35 ($40 door)  
The tribute band will play music from northeast Scotland. The band uses traditional instruments, will play music from northeast Scotland. Cost: $35 ($35 door)

SAT 13  
Alpines in the Garden PHILIPSTOWN  
5:30 p.m. Stonecrop | 81 Stonecrop Lane  
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org  
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.

SAT 13  
Alpines in the Garden PHILIPSTOWN  
5:30 p.m. Stonecrop | 81 Stonecrop Lane  
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org  
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.
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 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 Montreal. “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.
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.

In Philipstown, Costigan and 32 other women created 33 tempestries 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 tempestries 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 tempestries hint at a change in the village climate.

The difference in the average temperatures during the first 23 years highlighted on the tempestries 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 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 Impellittiere of Cold Spring becoming the first female mayor in Putnam County in 1973.

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 29 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.
LOOKING BACK
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.

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.

165 Years Ago (May 1868)

A jury ruled the shooting to be accidental.

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 hives (respiratory disease).

The Cold Spring Hose Co. No. 1 moved on the second alarm bell due to a fire in a vacant building. The library received a donation 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 judge of the Supreme Court in Westchester County ordered the trial to be held in Poughkeepsie due to the large number of witnesses.

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

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 Parkview club from Peekskill, 7-3.

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)
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 Continentalville. 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). Thrum Village 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 roundtrip 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 his neighbor, Mrs. Underhill, should she complain that a highway fence on the estate of 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 sales tax revenue with its municipalities and other taxing districts. The Putnam County Visitors Bureau opened an office in the Healy Leather Company, which included 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.

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 Continentalville. 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). Thrum Village 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 roundtrip 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 his neighbor, Mrs. Underhill, should she complain that a highway fence on the estate of 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 sales tax revenue with its municipalities and other taxing districts. The Putnam County Visitors Bureau opened an office in the Healy Leather Company, which included 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. 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 roundtrip 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 his neighbor, Mrs. Underhill, should she complain that a highway fence on the estate of 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 sales tax revenue with its municipalities and other taxing districts. The Putnam County Visitors Bureau opened an office in the Healy Leather Company, which included 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 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 roundtrip 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 his neighbor, Mrs. Underhill, should she complain that a highway fence on the estate of her great-grandfather, Aaron Healy, a Brooklyn leather merchant. 10 Cold Spring hotels ($200 fee), two Philipstown hotels ($100) and four storekeepers ($75) but no druggists ($5). Thrum Village 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 roundtrip 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 his neighbor, Mrs. Underhill, should she complain that a highway fence on the estate of 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 sales tax revenue with its municipalities and other taxing districts. The Putnam County Visitors Bureau opened an office in the Healy Leather Company, which included 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 sales tax revenue with its municipalities and other taxing districts. The Putnam County Visitors Bureau opened an office in the Healy Leather Company, which included 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 sales tax revenue with its municipalities and other taxing districts. The Putnam County Visitors Bureau opened an office in the Healy Leather Company, which included 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.
Roots and Shoots

Grieving with Plants

By Pamela Doan

Since a dear friend died too soon last summer after a yearlong 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, 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 racemose) 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 hastate) 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.

Photo by P. Doan
Mouths to Feed

Mama May I

By Celia Barbour

W ith 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 fraiche
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

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.
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 happen when they do this,” she said. “Well, this 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)
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 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 River 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 publicly announced 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 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 the 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 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 State 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
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 cited the district and others 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 in which 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 precedents 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 restrict the materials on which it approves or the specific speech or conduct adheres to local curriculum or is protected by academic freedom.

Another option, Touchet said, is that school boards can adopt policies requiring a certain minimum number of instructional outlines on which they may be spending 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.

Kiara 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 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.

“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.”
The Highlands Current
May 12, 2023

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
32. “Jump” band
34. Greek cheese
35. Always
36. Gourmand
37. Task
40. Sci-fi prefix
42. “Jeremy” band
46. Privy to
47. Robust
48. Mine yield
49. Honey bunch?
50. Historic Scott
51. Evergreen type

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
24. “Jump” band
25. Scrabble piece used by Beethoven
30. Macadamize
31. Quick swim
32. “How sweet —!”
33. Marsh birds
34. Flunk
36. Goofed
37. First bed
38. Sharpen
39. Slander woodwind
40. Hay bundle
41. Exist
42. Third degree?
43. Corn serving
44. Kitten’s cry

Answers for May 5 Puzzles

LOPS BBE BEEP
ESAUL LIU LALA
CHINI ARID
HANDIN LEND
ARISTOCRAT
BUSES TEN UTA
ARTS NOID SMOG
RDA PEI WASPS
BUREAUCRAT
TILT EDITEED
STUD RCE TERTE
TAPE OIL TUNA
USSR NAM YEAR

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

SUDOCURRENT

ª 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

7 LITTLEWORDS

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

CLUES

1. 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)

SOLUTIONS

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

ª 2022 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

Unique Gifts, Toys, Puzzles for the Whole Family
86 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516
Shop in store or online at www.thegifthut.com

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.
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 (6-3), 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 Wallkill on Monday (May 15) in a best-of-three match at Leffell on Monday (May 15), comes to Leffell (9-5) in the first round in a best-of-three match at Leffell.

Last week, the Bulldogs had six different kids with hits, and the guys played well against a pitcher that began May 16 and host No. 10 Westlake.

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 Heathon threw six innings without allowing an earned run, striking out seven. Ryan Landisi pitched a clean seventh, and Liam Murphy, Jackson Atwell, Joey Vallaro and Heathon 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. Vallaro 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 Haldane 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 Monday (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 18-4, at home, behind a balanced attack: four goals, Kayla Ruggiero added a hat trick and Sami Thomas, Ellen O’Hara and Martha McBride 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. 6 seed in the Section I, Class B tournament and face No. 11 Croton-Harmon.

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 Monday (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 18-4, at home, behind a balanced attack: four goals, Kayla Ruggiero added a hat trick and Sami Thomas, Ellen O’Hara and Martha McBride 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.