

The HIGHLANDS Current



Beacon
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Expands
Page 16

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Passengers who boarded a Metro-North train that stalled on Sunday (July 9) afternoon were finally allowed to exit in the evening to stretch their legs or find alternate transportation. Photo by Emily Sheskin

Train From Poughkeepsie to Croton in Eight Hours

Passengers recall ordeal on Metro-North train

By Leonard Sparks

Hours after hiking in the Shawangunk Mountains, Emily Sheskin and two friends sat on a motionless Metro-North train undergoing the five stages of grief.

Denial: “At first, we were like: This is fine. Nothing is wrong. It’s just a small hiccup,” said Sheskin.

Anger: “What is going on? I have a full day. We were trying to get back early. What is this?”

Bargaining: “I heard a man say that he was going to call his credit card concierge

service and that they would probably send a car for him or help him out of this, which is crazy.”

Depression: “Are we ever going to get through this?”

Acceptance: “This is our home now.”

That home was a Metro-North train that departed Poughkeepsie for Grand Central Terminal at 2:51 p.m. on July 9, just as a freakish storm began to release, at rate of up to 2 inches per hour, rain that would dislodge rocks and debris onto the Hudson Line’s tracks and cause flooding that submerged them in water.

For hours on Sunday the train sat derelict by the Manitou station, as its engine failed, the tracks between Croton-Harmon

(Continued on Page 9)

Prophecy Hall Clears Hurdles

Beacon event venue, hotel and cafe appears close

By Jeff Simms

After more than two years and dozens of hours in front of the Planning Board, the Prophecy Hall project at 1113 Wolcott Ave. (Route 9D) in Beacon is nearing approval.

Planning Board members on Tuesday (July 11) approved a “negative declaration” indicating that the project will not adversely affect the environment. Board members also said the project, which proposes an event center, hotel and restaurant at the former Reformed Church of Beacon, is consistent with the city’s Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

The board could vote on the remaining hurdles — site-plan approval and a special-use permit, which is required because Beacon’s zoning code does not allow event venues in that area — next month.

Much has changed about the project since it was introduced in 2021 as an event space that on “rare occasions” would host up to 500 attendees. It has been scaled back several times since then and now, if approved, will have a maximum capacity of 150. (By comparison, the Howland Cultural Center on Main Street seats 125 people for concerts. When the Reformed Church was open, it had a capacity of 336.)

(Continued on Page 10)



CALM BEFORE THE STORM — A day before a rainstorm caused widespread flooding in the Highlands, a family enjoyed a calmer Hudson River on July 8. Photo by Ross Corsair

Out There

Angels In The Outdoors

A little Trail Magic goes a long way

By Brian PJ Cronin

Every year about 3,000 hikers attempt a thru-hike of the entire 2,190-



mile Appalachian Trail (AT) from Georgia to Maine, but only about 25 percent of them actually finish.

The Vlobster is trying to get those numbers up.

On a recent weekend atop Bear Mountain, the Vlobster busied himself cooking breakfast burritos for Bear, Lighthouse, Panda Express, Haggis and The Guide.

These are not the kinds of names that appear on birth certificates. But part of thru-hiker culture is the practice of “Trail Names”: You don’t use your real name on the AT, because the AT is a place outside

(Continued on Page 18)

Push For Disaster Aid Begins

Storm damaged public, private property

By Leonard Sparks and Michael Turton

The neighbor’s text at 4:46 p.m. on Sunday (July 9) shocked Susan de Beer as she and her husband visited her father-in-law’s place in New York City.

The photograph showed the floodwaters girdling the house in Cold Spring where de Beer, Sanjay Thakur and their two children have lived for the past five years.

They made the arduous drive back to the village on Sunday, but stayed with friends that night. By the time they visited the property in daylight on Monday, the waters had receded, leaving a mark 3 feet up the walls. But a dumpster overflowing on Thursday with appliances, furnishings and personal items attests to the damage left behind.

Among the losses was a grandfather clock that belonged to her paternal great-grandmother. “Things like that are sad, but I think the difficulty is that the damage to the building is so extensive,” she said.

Her family’s accounting will be part of a larger assessment that has gotten underway since Sunday’s rainstorm, which dropped more than 6 inches on

(Continued on Page 8)

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: DR. GEETA ARORA

By Michael Turton

Geeta Arora, a Cold Spring resident, is a physician who combines ketamine doses with therapy to treat mental health problems such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and anxiety.

What is ketamine’s history?

Ketamine is a synthetic anesthetic invented in the 1960s. It is derived from PCP [phencyclidine] and has proven to be remarkably safe. During the Vietnam War, it was known as a “buddy drug” because injecting ketamine into wounded soldiers reduced their pain, slowed heart rates and improved success rates for subsequent procedures in field hospitals. Some studies show that ketamine helps alleviate symptoms of PTSD. In fact, there are currently more than 3,600 studies supporting its use for mental health care.

What inspired you to treat people with ketamine?

I began treating patients with ketamine in 2014. While working in the hospital setting, I administered ketamine to individuals dealing with end-of-life anxiety and pain. However, it was the profound impact of the pandemic that led me to make a significant life change. After witnessing the devastating loss of 93 percent of my patients, and five of



my colleagues, from COVID-19 within just a few weeks, I decided to leave hospital medicine. I wanted to collaborate with therapists and help people reduce their mental suffering by utilizing precise ketamine dosing alongside psychotherapy.

How does ketamine work?

Ketamine’s mechanism of action sets it apart from traditional antidepressants like

Prozac or Cymbalta. While those medications primarily target serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine — which make up a small percentage of the brain’s neurotransmitters — ketamine works on glutamate, a neurotransmitter present in more than 90 percent of neurons. Excitingly, new antidepressants are being developed to target the same neurotransmitter. I use intramuscular injections, allowing 93 percent of the dose to reach the brain. Other methods, such as lozenges or intranasal delivery, vary in effectiveness from 17 to 60 percent absorption. Intravenous injection provides 100 percent absorption but requires a clinical setting.

How does your approach differ from others?

While many practitioners use ketamine as a standalone treatment, my approach is more nuanced. I don’t typically work with medically complex or acutely suicidal patients, where intravenous ketamine can be very beneficial. Instead, I focus on individuals who have tried various treatments — such as antidepressants and therapy — for years without success. By combining precise dosing with therapy, we create a supportive “safety container” for the patient’s healing journey. This holistic approach can offer the structure for profound inner healing.

What can patients expect during treatment?

Patients undergo preparatory sessions and maintain a close relationship with their therapists throughout the treatment. Dosing sessions typically last up to three and a half hours. Patients share that their experiences vary from beautiful and mystical to scary. They often describe a deep sense of self-understanding, observing their lives from a third-party perspective and recognizing patterns that were holding them back. Some experience a profound sense of peace. I’ve had patients who started working with me because of suicidal thoughts and after a few dosing sessions have renewed hope and excitement for life.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Are you a card player?

Yes, but cards don’t like me. I have a terrible poker face, always lose.



Ben Patton, Garrison

I love it! I grew up playing Spades.



Amy Vierra-Sellers, Beacon

Yes. I play Magic: The Gathering with my son.



John Hedlund, Cold Spring

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Church Sues Beacon

Why is the mayor allowing our tax dollars to be spent on this kind of nonsense? The church has been more than reasonable ("Beacon, Church Clash Over Lot Access," July 7).

Although I am a member of the church and a concerned citizen of Beacon, I write as an individual and make several requests:

The city ought to treat St. Andrew with respect. When there are disputes every effort should be made to resolve them amicably.

The city ought to act in a manner in which its mayor and city administrator do not flout previous agreements and contracts, especially when they are nearly 40 years old.

The city ought to act in a manner in which they avoid being cited for contempt by local judges or come close to being cited for contempt.

The Democrats on the City Council should act like Democrats and try to help people and institutions that assist the poor. (The church has a food pantry that feeds 25 to 30 families a week.)

The city ought to treat with respect reasonable requests for fair treatment by all people and all local institutions.

Rich Dambra, *Beacon*

Just so I fully understand: An organization that doesn't pay taxes on a very large

amount of land and properties in Beacon (which means its existence is effectively subsidized by all taxpayers, regardless of religious inclinations) is now going to force taxpayers to foot the bill for lawyers so the city can defend itself against said organization that somehow feels a sense of entitlement to use a public parking lot, for which it has no real legitimate claim. Is that about right, or am I missing something?

Harper Sanchez, *via Instagram*

Meanwhile, West End Lofts tenants and neighboring homeowners have to look at this eyesore. The city needs to get it together and consider all parties. Allowing the firehouse to use the lot as a place for their waste is uncool. Trucks should be carting this debris away, not letting it pile up, looking like a war zone.

Nicole Tori, *via Instagram*

They could hold Mass at their other church [on Wolcott Avenue] for the next year. It's not being used anymore.

Alan Flynn, *via Facebook*

Putnam Vote

One-party rule in Putnam is not only a risk to democracy and good government, but is now actually cannibalizing the freedom of

our town governments and small businesses to make their own decisions ("Putnam Passes Measure Targeting Migrants," July 7).

In a veil of anti-immigrant hate, the county executive's legislation — rubber-stamped by eight of nine legislators — seeks to usurp the power of duly elected municipal officials, undermining local zoning ordinances to impose the political agenda of an uncontested executive with aspirations to climb the MAGA ladder by demonizing legal immigrants and asylum-seekers.

To date, there have been no requests for Putnam to take asylum-seekers, and even if they came, they would be accompanied by federal, state and city funding. This is a hypothetical mischaracterized problem with a large legal price tag. There will be lawsuits, and Putnam County taxpayers will foot the bill when those lawsuits come. Hate and fearmongering can be expensive when you are forced to defend them in court.

As they did on Jan. 6 [at the U.S. Capitol in 2021], the MAGA zealots who showed up to disparage immigrants and bully their fellow citizens at these county Legislature meetings showed a predictable lack of decorum and disregard for facts. Is this who the county executive thinks he serves? Who recruited these mobs who brought their flags and their hate to shout down the debate?

Putnam residents need to realize what this one-party government is doing right here, in meetings that are conveniently not streamed to the public. The only way to shine light at the dark shadows of tyranny is to break up the one-party rule and elect a government that reflects and respects our diverse American heritage and gives a voice to all Putnam residents.

Jennifer Colamonico, *Carmel*
Colamonico chairs the Putnam County Democratic Committee.

We work with a nonprofit in the Bronx that contracts with New York City to house asylum-seekers (mostly Venezuelan, but also from various African countries). We have rented a building to house, feed, clothe and aid almost 200 families.

The city reimburses us for all costs, as they would for any asylum-seeker who might come to Putnam County. I should note that the city has never proposed that any should come here.

Virtually all the adults have found jobs (off the books, as it takes so long to gain proper documentation); do not accept the food offered, as they prefer to support themselves with their earnings; and have their children attending school. These asylum-seekers have come with skills and are anxious to put them to use.

They are like my grandparents, and probably like your relatives who came to America

(Continued on Page 5)



Town Offers Code Enforcement Coverage to Nelsonville

Move gives Philipstown, two villages a single department
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The concept of shared local government services advanced in Philipstown on July 6 when the Town Board voted unanimously to supply building inspections and zoning code enforcement to Nelsonville — for now, anyway.

The arrangement took effect July 1. Its adoption means all three municipal governments will share a crucial resource, indefinitely.

Cold Spring has been covered by the Philipstown department (with a temporary interruption) since 2017. That year, officials in Nelsonville, which relied on a part-time building inspector, informally discussed using the town as well, but chose not to.

Now Nelsonville has turned to its neighbor after the retirement of the village building inspector left it bereft, Mayor Chris Winward explained Thursday (July 13).

“We didn’t want to leave our residents without service, so we asked Philipstown if they would be willing to assist us while we continue to search,” she said. The Village Board approved the move in June and “we are very grateful that Philipstown is able to” step in, she added.

According to the agreement, the new arrangement originated “in the spirit of municipal cooperation and an effort to reduce expenses for both the village and the town.”

New York State has been promoting municipal shared services and consolidation since at least 2012, when the town and Cold Spring talked of creating a single court system as well as a common building department. (Towns and villages continue to operate separate justice courts.)

Philipstown expects to handle up to 10 Building Department calls per month from Nelsonville, which will pay the town \$485 monthly, said Supervisor John Van Tassel, before the board voted, in a meeting at Town Hall. He said the charge is based on the number of homes in the village, as is the fee paid by Cold Spring.

The agreement says that the town department, led by Building Inspector-Code Enforcement Officer Greg Wunner, will enforce the village’s zoning and subdivision laws and the New York State code; review building plans and permit applications; conduct inspections; issue permits, certificates of occupancy, notices of violations, stop-work orders and related documents; interact with the mayor and Village Board; and report monthly.

It further states that the village government will continue to receive and record all incoming applications, plans and fees, ensure their completeness and forward them to the town government.

Van Tassel said July 6 that to help with the department’s overall workload, Philipstown hopes to hire a part-time building inspector-code enforcement officer.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

fleeing oppression and economic deprivation and seeking safer and better lives. Please think about the kind of dire circumstance that would make you leave your home and everything you know, and take a perilous journey of thousands of miles.

We should do all we can to help them, as our predecessors were helped. The recent attempt to prevent asylum-seekers from entering Putnam County may be unconstitutional and will lead to legal action and our tax dollars being used in the name of an action that is certainly shameful and mean and against all religious and humanist teachings.

I hope we all understand what is going on in our names in the Putnam County Legislature, and commend and support our brave Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who has withstood horrible heckling as she speaks out against this. Contact County Executive Kevin Byrne to express your opinion on this new policy.

Stan Freilich and Carol Marquand, *Garrison*

Your intentions are great. But the stark reality is that local businesses cannot hire these people. As a business owner, I would love to increase my staff with willing workers. If you hire them, you run the risk of steep fines and penalties from numerous state and federal agencies.

The most upsetting part is that they are receiving government handouts for food,

clothing and medical care, but they are not allowed to legally work here.

How demeaning is that to someone who endures the hardship and expense of getting here, only to find that you are now controlled by a welfare system that tells you you cannot advance yourself? So much for the American dream.

Tony Bardes, *Cold Spring*

We are so politically split like the rest of this sad country. Can you imagine, these people had to leave the harshness of their war-torn country and have tried to find a safe place to be. Migrants? They are folks just like you and me. They are not criminals.

The cruelty of the MAGA crowd, headed by Kevin Byrne [Putnam County executive] is repulsive. We have only one woman, Nancy Montgomery [who represents Philipstown in the county Legislature], who counters these frightening views that lack compassion, love or goodness.

It is difficult to hear these MAGA souls sprouting their lunacy. I am disgusted with the right-wing, ugly views coming from Byrne, U.S. Rep. Mike Lawler [whose congressional district includes Philipstown] and the Putnam legislators. They are moving very close to fascism and are frightening in what is being displayed. I am a refugee from Nazi Germany, and it is happening all over again.

Lillian Rosengarten, *Cold Spring*



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The Fjord Trail is not what you think it is.

Scenic Hudson & HHFT have started work on Breakneck, yet they do not show this rendering they created, or any others on their website homepage or in any of their advertising. They say they're "community driven" but the community is being kept in the dark. Where is the transparency? What are they building?



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Putnam Returns To Empress For ALS Service

Ambulnz claimed it needed more money

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

For several years, through 2021, Putnam County contracted for advanced life support coverage by EMStar, a regional ambulance service that became part of Empress Ambulance Service two years ago.

But in January 2022, then-County Executive MaryEllen Odell replaced Empress/EMStar with Ambulnz. Now, Putnam is switching again.

The county on Tuesday (July 11) announced the return of Empress Ambulance Service to supply emergency advanced life support (ALS), effective Sunday (July 16), ending Ambulnz's 18-month run.

Ambulance-based ALS typically involves treatment by specially trained paramedics in cases of heart attacks, strokes and other major crises. Local ambulance corps staff, often emergency medical technicians, supply basic life support (BLS) to stabilize someone before reaching a hospital.

Empress' three-year contract to provide ALS services is for \$8.3 million, or about \$2.77 million each year, with the possibility of a two-year extension, County Executive Kevin Byrne said in a July 11 news

release. The county budget, adopted last fall, earmarked \$1.53 million for ambulance coverage for 2023.

Although he observed that "it had been previously reported that Ambulnz significantly underbid their initial contract," Byrne thanked Ambulnz "for all their work" over 18 months.

"Providing for the health and well-being of our residents will always be a top priority," he said. "We're excited to have a new agreement with a strong, reputable partner like Empress to bring quality services to Putnam."

Byrne, a Republican like his predecessor, Odell, explained that Ambulnz recently requested a new contract and that Putnam agreed to review the company's proposal but also intended to request bids from others.

Robert Lipton, commissioner of Putnam's Bureau of Emergency Services, had informed county officials in May that Ambulnz, claiming it earned too little money, might exercise its escape clause. The county then began weighing options.

In 2021, when the county sought bids, Ambulnz proposed to charge \$1.5 million for 2022, the first year of a five-year contract. Empress/EMStar sought \$1.9 million and no other ALS service submitted bids.

As county plans crystallized, volunteer

ambulance corps members and other critics warned that Ambulnz could try to charge more after 2022 and might be stretched too thin to meet Putnam's needs. By December 2021, Ambulnz already operated in 26 U.S. states and the United Kingdom under a company called Motion, a special-purpose acquisition firm.

Empress serves the Town of Wappinger and operates in the Bronx in New York City

“Providing for the health and well-being of our residents will always be a top priority.”

~ County Executive Kevin Byrne

and in neighboring Dutchess, Westchester, Rockland and Orange counties, as well as in Ulster and Sullivan counties. Ambulnz handles ALS coverage in Beacon.

A majority of the Putnam Legislature in 2021 backed Odell in favoring Ambulnz over Empress. On the final vote, approving a \$40,467 fund transfer to launch the

deal, only Nancy Montgomery, a Democrat whose district consists of Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, voted "no."

Bill Gouldman, a Republican legislator who represents the remainder of Putnam Valley, defied his seven Republican colleagues by also voting against the transfer.

At the time, Montgomery objected that the legislators had never seen the Ambulnz contract. But Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, who chaired the legislative Protective Services Committee, asserted that legislators' only function was to agree to the fund transfer. Letting legislators read the contract "would have compromised" its integrity, she said.

Putnam's charter does not require the Legislature's review of a contract involving authorized appropriations and related expenditures before the county executive signs it.

On Tuesday, Nacerino, who still chairs Protective Services, said that "Empress has a stellar reputation in the Hudson Valley and I'm hopeful that this new contract will serve our community well. I look forward to hearing from Empress' representatives" at the next committee meeting on Thursday (July 20).

Montgomery said on Wednesday that "Empress has served regions of New York for over 40 years. I'm thrilled that they are serving Putnam."

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Beacon, Church Continue to Spar

City will provide temporary parking for St. Andrew

By Jeff Simms

A Dutchess County judge on Wednesday (July 12) ordered St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal Church to accept Beacon's offer of temporary parking accommodations while construction is ongoing at the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. fire station on South Avenue.

Judge Thomas R. Davis' order came two days after the church had rejected a similar offer. Davis ordered the church to accept the city's proposal of 22 parking spaces in a lot it will construct at 21 South Ave., combined with 17 dedicated on-street spaces on South Avenue on Sunday mornings.

Davis also ordered the city to reserve parking at City Hall for the church on "special occasions" and Sunday mornings; make the city's Recreation Center at 23 West Center St. available for the church's food pantry; and permit access to the rear of the church so trucks can deliver supplies

for the food pantry.

The city and church have been at odds since last month, when St. Andrew filed a lawsuit against the municipality, Mayor Lee Kyriacou and City Administrator Chris White. In the June 26 suit, St. Andrew attorneys alleged that city officials a week earlier had "unilaterally" fenced off a parking lot behind the church and stored construction equipment and building materials there as demolition began on the Tompkins Hose fire station.

The church also argued that the city ignored a 1987 agreement establishing the church and the Tompkins Hose fire company's shared access to the gravel parking lot.

The city, which purchased the lot from the Tompkins Hose Co. in 2020 and opened it to public parking, is razing the outdated fire station and plans to build a \$14.7 million facility that will serve as Beacon's centralized fire station. Beacon attorneys argue that the 1987 agreement is invalid and that, by filing a lawsuit, the church seeks "a judicial permission slip providing unfettered access to what is otherwise a municipally owned parking lot."

St. Andrew has asked the court to force the city to remove the fence and restore the lot to its "original and intended condition." Otherwise, the church and its employees and parishioners will suffer "irreparable damages," the suit says.

City officials say the lot is a critical component of the fire station project. It will be paved and striped for 52 parking spaces, including ones compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, during construction. Charging stations for electric vehicles will also be installed.

The city has also hired contractors to drill 16 geothermal wells beneath the lot that will power heat pumps in the all-electric fire station.

On Monday, Beacon Attorney Nick Ward-Willis said in court filings that the city had leased an adjacent parking lot at 21 South Ave. and, within a week, would remove fencing and vegetation and create 22 parking spaces in the lot. The city is willing to dedicate the spaces, which would be accessed via Beacon Street, exclusively to the church, Ward-Willis wrote.

In addition, he said the city would reserve 17 on-street parking spaces for the church on Sunday mornings for the duration of

the firehouse construction. (The Beacon City Council last month agreed to temporarily close the northbound lane of traffic between Beacon and Main streets on South Avenue to create 23 on-street spaces.)

Within hours, church attorneys wrote a letter to Davis saying the city's proposal would accommodate only half of St. Andrew's needs. Instead, the church suggested using the 21 South Ave. lot and having 24/7 access to all 23 spots along South Avenue.

"Every additional day without a return to the status quo compounds the church's irreparable damage," attorney David Chen wrote.

The attorneys continued to joust the next day. Ward-Willis argued in a letter that the church "does not face irreparable harm, and its conclusory and self-serving assertions of parking conflicts are unavailing."

Chen fired back, lamenting the Beacon attorney's attempt to "relitigate settled issues such as the balance of equities and irreparable harm." He also argued that the 1987 agreement is "duly recorded" and on file with the Dutchess County clerk, and that the city was well aware of it "when it proceeded unilaterally."

The two sides must submit new filings in support of their arguments by July 28.

Disaster Aid *(from Page 1)*

Cold Spring and caused widespread flooding that damaged properties and roadways, and shut down part of Metro-North's Hudson Line for two days.

Public officials have turned their attention to documenting the damage and lobbying the federal government so Putnam County and its municipalities and property owners can qualify for disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

New York State and Putnam County have both declared a state of emergency. Gov. Kathy Hochul has 30 days to also declare a disaster but had not done so as of Wednesday evening, said Kathleen Foley, Cold Spring's mayor.

"To qualify for FEMA funds, we need to reach county and state threshold levels" of private and public property damage caused by the storm, Foley said on Wednesday. "It seems likely we will."

After a state disaster declaration the governor can request a major disaster declaration from President Biden, which opens the door for FEMA relief, Foley said, while cautioning that the process is "not fast."

Once a major disaster is declared, FEMA will open an online portal where private property owners can submit expenses to determine their eligibility for federal aid. "Right now, private property owners should be carefully documenting damage and expenses," and keeping receipts, the mayor said.

Help with submitting complicated insurance claims is available through the New York State Department of Financial Services. Hudson Valley residents with insurance-related questions can call the department's hotline at 800-339-1759 or visit its online resource webpage (dfs.ny.gov/consumers/disaster_flood).

Meanwhile, the post-storm assessment continues.

Matt Kroog, Cold Spring's water and waste-



Adam Hotaling, Philipstown's highway superintendent, spreads gravel on a storm-damaged section of Old Manitou Road.

Photo by L. Sparks



Flooding left the Cold Spring home of Susan de Beer and Sanjay Thakur uninhabitable.

Photo provided

water superintendent, said a power outage on Saturday caused concern at the water treatment plant on Fishkill Road, but service was restored in time to lower water levels there in

anticipation of Sunday's heavy rains.

After the rains, village reservoirs, which were down about 2 feet on Friday, spilled over, but the village dams appeared

unharmful, he said.

Foley also said actions taken by the water department prior to the storm, including releasing water from an impoundment created by a beaver dam upstream from the water treatment plant, helped ensure that Fishkill Road, unlike many other area roads, did not flood.

While the National Weather Service measured the storm's rainfall at 6 ¼ inches in Cold Spring, Kroog said a manual reading indicated the village received about 7 ½ inches. A digital reading at month's end will provide a more precise total, he said.

In Philipstown, it was the dirt roads that fared worst, said John Van Tassel, the town's supervisor. On Tuesday, Adam Hotaling, the town's highway superintendent, used a skid-steer loader to spread a pile of gravel along Old Manitou Road, where deep gashes scarred the dirt surface.

Manitou, East Mountain South and Philipse Brook roads were also washed out, said Hotaling. "This one of the worst [storms] we've had recently, but I've seen it worse," he said.

Not so for de Beer and her family.

One of the first things she did after receiving the photo of her family's property was to call her friend, Jennifer Zwarich, to say that she would not be leading the carpool on Monday to take Zwarich's daughter to camp. Now, her family is the one being thought of by others.

People volunteered to scrape the mud from the 1870 home's original floors and to haul out damaged belongings. Zwarich and Nicelle Beauchene on Tuesday launched an online fundraiser for the family (bit.ly/deBeer-flood-relief). Donations totaled more than \$19,000 as of Thursday.

"That was so beautiful," said de Beer. "My husband and I are incredibly grateful."

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Train Delay *(from Page 1)*

and Poughkeepsie became impassable and flooded roads prevented buses from rescuing passengers.

Julie Napolin remembers running through the rain, just after 3 p.m., to catch the train at the station in Beacon, where she lives. She's not sure if the train had stopped at Garrison or Manitou when people's phones began sounding with alerts about the weather.

"I think the moral of the story is that our rain is now very extreme," said Napolin, who would be on the train for the next five hours. "And if it's raining cats and dogs, don't get on the train."

While Sheskin and her friends were returning to New York City after a hiking weekend, Napolin caught the train to see a show in the city. The passengers also included a couple on their way to catch an Air France flight for their honeymoon, according to tweets about the incident.

“At this point, factions are developing; people are banding together.”

~ Julie Napolin

On Monday, Metro-North posted pictures of the damage the train headed toward, including tracks subsumed by water and washed-out beds.

Napolin and Sheskin said passengers were told that when the train first stopped south of the Manitou station that it was because a boulder had fallen on the tracks. Sheskin suspected that they actually meant rocks dislodged by the rain.

"We were like: 'A boulder? What?'" she said.

The train began moving north back toward Manitou when its engine died, according to Napolin and Sheskin, who believe that rain damaged it. Without the engine, the train lost air conditioning and working bathrooms.

"Once the engine died, that's when we're basically just in a tin can with emergency lights," said Sheskin.

So began the wait for a replacement engine from Croton-Harmon to tow the train. Passengers hoped buses were being deployed to pick them up, but police and first responders were already closing roads in the Highlands because of flooding.

"At that point, I didn't really understand how bad things were, and I imagined that I would just get off and go home," said Napolin. Two hours had already passed as the train returned to the Manitou station. Both she and Sheskin were still hours from going home.

Inside the train, Napolin texted a friend who agreed to pick her up, but the friend had to wait in limbo on Route 9D because the train's staff had no clear answer about when or where they would be allowed to disembark.

Aaron Donovan, a spokesperson for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Metro-North's parent agency, said on Wednesday (July 12) that "options during this '1,000-year storm'" were limited because of road closures in the area and impassable tracks.

"MTA Police Department commanders on scene believed the best place for the train's customers was on board the train," he said.

With the air conditioning off, the temperature rose. Toilets filled and people became hungry and thirsty. Sheskin and her friends had leftover snacks and water from their hiking trip. The train's two conductors also handed out water in packaging that resembled "juice boxes," the only water they gave out, she said.

In the space between train cars, passengers found signals for their cellphones. One person tried to reach a supervisor at the MTA and others called the police, said Napolin. The stoppage inspired speculation: Were they being prevented from getting off for liability reasons? Shouldn't passengers be allowed to leave if they wanted to?

Sheskin took a picture of a misted-up window on which someone scribbled "Help." Napolin said she heard that some passengers suggested shattering the glass cover to the lever for the emergency exit so they could escape — "breaking and exiting" instead of "breaking and entering."

"At this point, factions are developing; people are banding together," said Napolin, laughing.

Passengers also helped each other. A woman who claimed to work for the state called her boss, who then reached Gov. Kathy Hochul's office, said Sheskin. Other people shared phones and chargers. "New Yorkers are the best in that regard," she said.

Eventually, around 8 p.m., a woman



Someone wrote "Help" on the steamed window of a Metro-North train where passengers were trapped for hours because of storm-damaged tracks.

Photo by Emily Sheskin

announced over the intercom that she was with the MTA police and that passengers were going to be allowed to exit through the first car in order to stretch. Napolin said that there were police "everywhere" when she descended the train's stairs at Manitou and reached the ground.

She walked, in the drizzle, to Manitou Station Road and then up to Route 9D, where she found her friend waiting. Along Route 9D, police were prohibiting cars from traveling north and "a long caravan of cars"

waited to go south, said Napolin.

For Sheskin, home was still hours away. Passengers were told at 9 p.m. that a rescue train would arrive in 45 minutes, but it did not come until more than an hour later, she said.

“As horrible as it was, it renewed my faith in humanity. People stepped up, which was really nice to see.”

~ Emily Sheskin

The train started moving at 10:30 p.m. and arrived at Croton-Harmon at 11:21, said Sheskin. When the conductor walked through the cars to inform passengers of the next steps, the passengers clapped for him in appreciation, she said.

The train to which Sheskin and her friends transferred at Croton-Harmon had working air conditioning and bathrooms, but did not leave right away. So, one friend scheduled an Uber, which drove them to New York City. Sheskin arrived home at 1:15 a.m. on Monday.

"As horrible as it was, it renewed my faith in humanity," said Sheskin. "People stepped up, which was really nice to see."

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HIGHLANDS CHAPEL
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July 16 Dani Pacia
July 23 Michael McKee
July 30 Matthew Weigman

The Highlands Choral Society is a nonprofit organization offering nondenominational services, fully-staffed Children's Hour, youth choir, and community.

216 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY
HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG

Prophecy Hall *(from Page 1)*

There will be no events on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays. Programs on Thursdays and Sundays must end by 7:30 p.m. and, on Fridays and Saturdays, they will end by 8:30 p.m.

Gavin Hecker, a Beacon resident and one of the property owners, said Wednesday that the 500-capacity number got blown out of proportion after the project was introduced to the Planning Board and he and his partners have been playing catch-up ever since. In reality, the larger events would have generated income that Prophecy could use to put on the smaller productions that he's more interested in, such as theater or art exhibitions, Hecker said.

"When you want to present arts, it's a struggle," he said. "One of the pathways we had to that was the ability to do larger events on occasion. But this is not a project for people who want to maximize profit. It's more of a passion."

Much has also been said over the last two years about music at the site. The Planning Board has received many comments from residents concerned about late-night traffic snarls on Route 9D or drunken concertgoers wandering into one of the four residential developments that surround the church.

Hecker says there could definitely be music at Prophecy Hall. It could be chamber music or rock 'n' roll, "but this is not at all going to be a rock 'n' roll venue," he said.

Clear "acoustic glass" will be installed over the church's stained glass windows (which will remain) to help eliminate noise "leak-



Betty Wall stands on a sidewalk between the River Ridge townhouses and the Prophecy Hall site to show proximity.

Photos by J. Simms

age." The project's most recent submission to the Planning Board indicates that signs will be posted on the property stating: "Residential quiet zone. Please be respectful."

A wooden acoustic, noise-blocking fence will also be erected along the boundary of the West End Lofts, an apartment complex to the north of the church. A 4-foot black metal fence will separate the site from River Ridge, a townhouse development just south of the church. (The View and Hammond Plaza, both condominium developments, are its neighbors on Beekman Street.)

Earlier this year, a noise consultant hired by Prophecy testified during a Planning Board meeting that sounds generated within the church building or on the deck that will be built at its rear will comply with Beacon's daytime noise standards — but not everyone is convinced.

Shelley Simmons-Bloom and Betty Wall both live in the River Ridge complex, a stone's throw from the Reformed Church. Last year, they and their neighbors collected signatures from more than 350 residents who said they were concerned about safety, noise, parking, traffic and Prophecy Hall's hours of operation.

"If it was anything other than an event space, we could see it working," Simmons-Bloom said this week. She said that, according to the noise consultant, she'll be undisturbed by evening events if she keeps her windows closed, "but I don't think that's fair."

While Hecker and his partners downsized their plans due to the feedback generated during a nearly yearlong public hearing, Simmons-Bloom and Wall fear the project may skirt its lower capacity by holding multiple events per day.

On Tuesday, Prophecy proposed a 90-minute break to allow traffic to clear between events with more than 100 attendees. Planning Board members countered that, recommending a two-hour break between events, regardless of size.

The majority of the public feedback on the project has been negative, but not all of it. Donna Mikkelsen, a West End Lofts resident, asked the Planning Board in an email in April to consider the historical significance of the Reformed Church building, which was built in 1859 and designed by famed architect Frederick Clarke Withers.

"It is very sad that the church could not maintain it, but how fortunate we are as a community to have a willing custodian with a great concept to maintain and sustain that building," Mikkelsen wrote. "That building needs to be maintained and I cannot think of a better use of the building than for art."

Simmons-Bloom said that she and Wall and other neighbors aren't opposed to the idea of an event space, hotel and cafe —



Shelley Simmons-Bloom points to the historic but overgrown cemetery behind the Prophecy site.

during daytime business hours. It's the nighttime hours that concern them.

"If you look around, there's no other businesses" on this stretch of 9D, Simmons-Bloom said. "There's no commercial activity in this area. We don't want to be living somewhere where we have to keep our windows shut all the time."

Parking has been another concern. There will be 33 parking spaces on-site, and project officials have said in Planning Board meetings that they will also rely on spaces at the nearby Tompkins Hose firehouse and City Hall lots, and on-street along Beekman Street. On Tuesday, a traffic analyst said that Prophecy will need 63 spaces during peak hours.

There are still a handful of details to be confirmed. For events geared toward children and teenagers, Prophecy has proposed having vehicles wait in a nearby municipal parking lot as attendees exit the site.

An outdoor smoking area must be designated, and Hecker has said he will contact a cemetery restoration expert to guide rehabilitation of the historic but overgrown cemetery behind the church.

The Planning Board is expected to write into its approval a provision allowing its consultants to review Prophecy's operations after it is up and running, likely after six to 12 months.

If the project is approved, only church events, such as worship services or weddings, will be allowed while the parsonage is being converted to a 30-room hotel. Once it is constructed, other events will be allowed inside the church.

The exterior of the building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, will be unchanged, Hecker said. Inside, the church pews may be repurposed to create space for performances.

Still, with approval on the horizon for Prophecy Hall, opinions are split. Hecker says that he and his partners have gone "above and beyond" to hear residents' concerns and to attempt to mitigate them. Significant support for the project has been drowned out by the louder voices of dissent, he said.

"It's going to be a good thing for the community," Hecker said. "I believe that in every way."

Wall, one of the neighbors at River Ridge, said that she hopes the project has been scaled back enough "to where people can live in peace."

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The HIGHLANDS
Current



Park Manager Risks Life To Aid Swimmers

Current hindered pair's return to safety

By Michael Turton

When the Putnam County Sheriff's Department issued a press release on July 5 describing how a deputy jumped into the Hudson River on the Fourth of July to help two people who ran into trouble while swimming at Little Stony Point, Evan Thompson's efforts were omitted.

Thompson, the manager of the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, said he had finished work earlier on July 4 but came back to Little Stony Point around 8 p.m. to ensure that visitors were leaving the beach for the day. When he and a park ranger walked to the beach, they were met by visitors who told them two swimmers in the river were having difficulty.

Thompson borrowed a small flotation ring from a park visitor, stripped down to his underwear and swam out to the couple. Swimming is prohibited at the beach, where the combination of the Hudson River's currents and tide can be deadly.

"They were way out there and couldn't get



The New York State parks department warns Little Stony Point visitors to not swim in the river.

Fire photo

back to the beach because of the current," he said. "It looked like they were about to go under."

By the time Thompson reached the man and woman — who the Sheriff's Department said were from Westchester County

— and had them grab a flotation ring, they were exhausted, he said. Together, the three were unable to overcome the current and return safely to shore.

"I didn't know what was going to happen," said Thompson.

Although someone on shore had called 911 and first responders soon arrived at the beach, it was a civilian boat that came to their rescue. On board were people heading to Cornwall to watch fireworks, said Thompson. "They threw us a line and pulled us back to shore," he said.

The woman seemed fine, he said. However, the man received oxygen and intravenous fluids from first responders. Thompson's swimming background, which included taking a lifeguard class and swimming competitively from age 6 to 14, may have saved both of their lives.

Thompson said he would have "thought about the day for the rest of my life" if he had not jumped into the river to help. The incident should give people pause, he said.

"When the current and the tide run together it's almost impossible to deal with, even on a boat," said Thompson. "We spend a lot of time trying to keep people out of the water, but people just don't get it and they want to go in."

Orders Barring Gun Possession Skyrocket

Dutchess, Putnam police apply at record rates

By Leonard Sparks

The use by police in Dutchess and Putnam counties of court orders that prevent people deemed a risk to themselves or others from buying or possessing guns has skyrocketed since a mass shooting in Buffalo last year spurred changes in the law.

This year, Dutchess' Supreme Court had approved 221 temporary and final extreme risk protection orders (ERPO) — also known as "red-flag" orders — filed by the sheriff's office and other police agencies in the county through July 8, more than the 150 granted all of last year and nearly 20 times the 11 from 2020.

Temporary and final orders, which are handled as a civil matter, have also skyrocketed in Putnam, whose Supreme Court has approved 27 this year compared to 10 in 2022.

Because multiple orders can be filed against one person, the individuals subject to orders in Dutchess this year have totaled 123 so far, and in Putnam, 14. They are prohibited from buying or possessing handguns, rifles and shotguns, either temporarily or for up to a year.

In addition to police agencies, district attorneys, school officials, health care professionals and members of a person's family or household can apply to a state Supreme Court to have someone at-risk of shooting others or themselves barred from having weapons.

Supreme Court judges are required to rule on requests, and, before an order is issued, people can challenge, at a court

hearing, an application to prevent them from possessing a gun.

"It'll direct us to seize any firearms — basically acts as a search warrant for the residence, or the judge can list other places on there," said Capt. Michael Grossi of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department.

The state's red-flag law first took effect in August 2019, and New York is now one of 21 states and the District of Columbia that prevent people considered public-safety or suicide risks from having firearms.

But the original law, which gave police and other eligible applicants discretion when applying for ERPOs, drew criticism after an 18-year-old with white-supremacist views killed 10 people and injured three during a shooting on May 14, 2022, inside a supermarket in Buffalo. Each of the victims was Black.

The shooter, Payton Gendron, had once been ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation after school officials alerted state police about his stated desire to commit murder and suicide. Despite those statements and the existence of the original ERPO law, Gendron still was able to legally buy the rifle he used in the shooting.

Four days after the shooting, Hochul signed an executive order requiring state police to apply for an ERPO whenever they had probable cause to believe someone posed a threat.

The following month, on June 6, 2022, the governor signed a package of new gun laws, including one requiring that police and district attorneys apply for orders "upon the receipt of credible information" that someone is "likely to engage in conduct" that would harm themselves or others.

The amended law also added psychiatrists, psychologists, family and marriage

Total Temporary and Final ERPOs*

	STATE	PUTNAM	DUTCHESS
2019**	241	0	2
2020	444	6	11
2021	529	3	19
2022	4,210	10	150
2023	4,971	27	221

Source: New York Unified Court System (through July 8)

**From Aug. 26, 2019, to Dec. 31, 2019

counselors, nurses, social workers and other health care professionals to the list of people who could apply for an ERPO.

"Usually, we're getting some calls from county mental health, or it's coming

through from a state agency that there's been an issue, and then there's this application to the court," said Grossi.

Gun owners, however, are challenging the legality of red-flag laws under the Second Amendment.

Two state Supreme Court judges, Craig Stephen Brown in Orange County and Thomas Moran in Monroe County, have ruled that the current law violates Second Amendment rights.

Brown, in an April opinion siding with a man who allegedly pointed a loaded and cocked shotgun at a neighbor, said New York's ERPO statute "lacks sufficient statutory guardrails" to protect people's right to bear arms.

"Absent from New York's Red Flag Law is any provision whatsoever requiring even a single medical or mental health expert opinion providing a basis for the order to be issued," he said.

The New York Attorney General's Office is appealing Brown's decision.

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Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail's Second Annual

COMMUNITY DAY**Saturday, July 22 • 1-4 PM**

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263 Route 9D | Beacon, NY

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hhft.org

Rain Date: Sunday, July 23

Illustrations: Donna Calcavecchio

AROUND TOWN



PHILIPSTOWN ALL-STARS — Players from the Philipstown Little League competed against all-star teams from other areas during a series of nine games from June 22 to July 9. Despite competing against teams from bigger areas, one Philipstown team of boys 12 and older made it to the championship game with a 4-0 record. A girls' team of players 10 and older lost three games in a row by a combined score of 47-5 but decisively won their next game, 11-1, over Pine Plains.

Photo by Ross Corsair



SAND ARTISTS — Parents and children enjoyed playing with sand on July 5 in Beacon at the Howland Public Library, which handed out kits and colored sand used to make mandalas. Stephanie Montesanto, the library's head of youth services, organized the event.

Photo by Ross Corsair



THEATER AT THE RIVER — The Cold Spring Film Society continued its 2023 series of waterfront screenings with a showing on July 8 of *The Third Man*, directed by Carol Reed. The next screening, on July 22, will feature Wes Anderson's *Moonrise Kingdom*.

Photo by Jennifer Zwarick

The Calendar

Art A La Carte

Upstate Art Weekend returns with full menu

By Erin-Leigh Hoffman

Upstate Art Weekend kicks off its fourth year on July 21 and runs through July 24.

Since the multi-county, multi-venue weekend celebration of the arts began in June 2020, it has evolved from an initial 23 participants to more than 130 spread around the Hudson Valley and Catskills.

Helen Toomer, a Kingston resident and creator of Upstate Art Weekend, is astonished at the growth of the event “into a beautiful beast.”

The first year, Toomer and her team contacted local artists to gauge their interest. Organizations began reaching out to become involved in the program, and applications came from as far away as Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Not only were artists, galleries and museums interested, but based on attendance that first year, the public also thirsted for such an event. “The response from visitors and organizations was really positive,” said Toomer, who with her family runs Stoneleaf, an artist residency and creative space for women and families. “People really wanted to be a part of it [Upstate Art Weekend].”

Participating this year will be art organizations, galleries, museums, residencies and creative projects in Dutchess, Putnam and eight other counties: Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester.

Accompanying the art will be music and performances. Restaurants and other hospitality businesses are also recognized as participants, with some providing discounts to attendees.

“About 90 percent of this is free, which is incredible,” said Toomer.

Among the places taking part in Dutchess and Putnam are several from Beacon, Cold Spring and Garrison, some of them returning from last year and others signing up as newcomers.

The Garrison Art Center, which will be hosting the work of sculpture artist James Murray and open from dawn to dusk the whole weekend, is a first-timer. The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is also participating for the first time, with performances of *Love’s Labor’s Lost* and *Henry V* each night at 7:30.

Both Magazzino Italian Art and Studio Tashtego in Cold Spring will be part of the weekend programming, as will BAU Gallery, Dia:Beacon and the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon.

In reflecting on the last few years of Upstate Art Weekend, Toomer notes that the event would not be possible without the collaboration with the art centers, galleries and other venues, and the interest from visitors. She is already looking ahead to the fifth year.

“It was just a little idea I had in my pajamas in the woods,” said Toomer. “It’s definitely bigger than anticipated.”



Helen Toomer



“Mercy,” by Donna Francis, at the Ann Street Gallery in Newburgh



“Nude: Arm on Pillow,” by Linda Eckstein, at Garner Arts Center in Garnerville



“Taurus,” by Manju Shandler, at The Barne on Berme in Kerhonkson



“Cantations,” by Ashley Garrett, at September in Kinderhook



“One Branch in Six Skies,” by Jason Middlebrook, at The Athens Cultural Center in Athens

Visit upstateartweekend.org for a full list of exhibitions and events, including a map showing each participating venue.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 15

Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – Noon Hubbard Lodge
2880 Route 9
845-808-1390 ext. 43160
putnamcountyny.com/health

The Putnam County Department of Health will offer free rabies shots for dogs, cats and ferrets. Bring proof of prior rabies vaccine and residency. Animals must be leashed or caged for safety.

SAT 15

Annual Community Cookout

BEACON

1 – 9 p.m. South Avenue Park
facebook.com/beaconannualcookout

Check the website for donation requests. The annual neighborhood party will include food, music and raffles.

SAT 22

PowWow

BEAR MOUNTAIN

11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Anthony Wayne Recreation Area
Palisades Interstate Pkwy
bearmtpw23.eventbrite.com

More than 500 Native American artists, educators, singers, dancers and performing groups from across the Americas will participate and there will be artist booths with food, crafts, jewelry and more for sale. Members of the Lakota, Navajo, Mohawk, Seneca, Cherokee, Aztec, Mayan, Samoan, Hawaiian and many more tribes attend. *Cost: \$15 (\$10 seniors and students with ID, and kids ages 6 to 12)*

TALKS & TOURS

TUES 18

Wildlife and Over-Tourism

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom

putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Pete Salmansohn will talk about how the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail may impact wildlife. Hosted by the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society and Saw Mill River Audubon.

THURS 20

Twelve Months of Gardening Wisdom

COLD SPRING

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

Barbara Hobens will talk about the life of Anna B. Warner, who lived on Constitution Island beginning in 1837 and published a book, *Gardening By Myself*, in 1872. Via Zoom or in person. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 virtual)*



PowWow, July 22

SAT 22

Book Launch: Immigrant Prodigal Daughter

POUGHKEEPSIE

2 p.m. Arts Mid-Hudson
696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F
artsmidhudson.org

Lucia Cherciu, the current Dutchess County poet laureate, will read from her new book.

SUN 23

Death Cafe

GARRISON

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

Join a group discussion about death without expectations or judgments, led by Ryan Biracree, the digital services librarian who is also a death doula. Refreshments will be served.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 15

Fruit Pizza Program for Kids

GARRISON

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

Chef Rebecca Weber will help kids turn fruit into animal shapes to decorate cookies. Registration required for children ages 5 to 12.

MON 17

College Essay Workshop

COLD SPRING

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

Upcoming 11th and 12th grade students can learn about essentials that admissions officers look for in an essay and work on first drafts. Registration required.

SAT 22

Science Heroes: Saving Earth Together

GARRISON

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

Talewise will lead a hands-on storytelling adventure with science experiments for kids ages 5 and up. Registration required.

VISUAL ARTS

FRI 21

Upstate Art Weekend

Various locations
upstateartweekend.org

More than 130 galleries, museums and artists will have exhibits throughout 10 counties, including Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester. Locally, Studio Tashtego, Magazzino Italian Art, Garrison Art Center, Manitoga, Dia:Beacon, Mother, Howland Cultural Center, Ethan Cohen Gallery at KuBe and Beacon Open Studios will participate. See Page 13. Through MON 24.

FRI 21

Opening Celebration

COLD SPRING

6 – 9 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

For Upstate Art Weekend, Magazzino will host a reception with art, food, drinks and music. *Free*

FRI 21

Opening Reception

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | beaconopenstudios.org

Aubrey Haddard is the featured musical performer at the kick-off of Beacon Open Studios. *Free*

SAT 22

Open Studios

BEACON

Noon – 6 p.m. Various locations
openstudios.org

The 15th annual event features a self-guided tour and will include more than 70 local artists and events, a concert and a film screening. See Page 16. Also SUN 23.

SAT 22

James Murray

GARRISON

Noon – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Sculptures by Murray and his student artists will be on view around the grounds, and he will demonstrate his techniques of steam-bending and wood assembly. Also SUN 23.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 15

Love's Labor's Lost

GARRISON

7:30 p.m.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org

Amanda Dehnert directs this production as four young men try to uphold their commitment to their studies and not be tempted by the arrival of four women. Also SUN 16, MON 17, THURS 20, FRI 21, SAT 22. Runs through Aug. 27. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

SAT 15

On Golden Pond

WAPPINGERS FALLS

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

The well-known play about family and connection focuses on Ethel and Norman, a couple spending their 48th year at an idyllic summer cottage, with a visit from their daughter and her family. Also SUN 16. Through July 22. *Cost: \$22 (\$20 seniors, military, students and ages 12 and younger)*

WED 19

Henry V

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org

HVSF presents the epic tale of King Henry and his war to seize the French crown. Emily Ota plays the lead. Also SUN 23. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

WED 19

Nunsense, The Musical

BEACON

8 p.m. Bannerman Island
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org

The musical about a group of nuns who stage a variety show after their cook poisons dozens of them and they have to pay for the burials will star Nancy Auffarth, with music by Tom McCoy. Boats leave the Beacon dock at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. *Cost: \$75 to \$80*

THURS 20

Bugsy Malone Jr.

GARRISON

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

The Depot Kids will stage the musical based on the 1976 film, set in the 1920s, about rival gangs of children striving to get the upper hand. The actors, in grades 4 to 7, are directed by teen mentors Percy Parker, Sam Bates, Helen Hutchinson and Robert Freimark. Also FRI 21 and SAT 22. *Cost: \$12*



SAT 22

Film Screenings

BEACON

12:30 p.m. KuBe Art Center
211 Fishkill Ave.
beaconopenstudios.com

The Beacon Film Society will showcase short documentaries, experimental films and fictional works by David Sampliner and Rachel Shuman, Louise Bartolotta, Ophir Ariel, Reuben Hernandez and Mark Sanders as part of Beacon Open Studios.

SAT 22

Accattone

COLD SPRING

8 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

For the 6th annual *Cinema in Piazza* film series, presented with the Cold Spring Film Society and Artecinema, curator Roberta Minnucci will focus on Rome. Pier Paolo Pasolini's 1961 film follows a man who lives on the edge of society, surviving by prostituting women until his most successful worker is put in jail and his fortunes turn. Federico Fellini's *Roma* will be screened SUN 23. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 seniors, \$10 students)*

SAT 22

Moonrise Kingdom

COLD SPRING

8:30 p.m. Dockside Park
coldspringfilm.org

The Cold Spring Film Society will show Wes Anderson's 2012 film about a pair of 12 year olds who fall in love and run away, and the adults that must find them on an island as a storm approaches. *Free*

SUN 23

Suzanne Cleary

PUTNAM VALLEY

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

The award-winning poet of four books, including most recently *Crude Angel*, will read from her work, followed by an open mic. *Cost: \$10*



Accattone, July 22

SUN 23
Summer Dance Fest: A Multicultural Celebration
PEEKSKILL
5 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Gateway Arts Collective's summer dance festival will include local dancers and guest artists from other companies in the area. *Cost: \$15*

SUN 23
Film Screenings
BEACON
8 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | beaconopenstudios.com
Story Screen will showcase short documentaries, experimental films and fictional works by David Sampliner and Rachel Shuman, Louise Bartolotta, Ophir Ariel, Reuben Hernandez and Mark Sanders as part of Beacon Open Studios.

MUSIC

SAT 15
Professor Louie and the Crowmatix
PUTNAM VALLEY
6 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The New York State Blues Hall of Fame inductees will play a mix of rock, gospel and roots music from *Strike Up the Band*, their latest recording. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 15
Feast of Friends
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The tribute band will play the music of Jim Morrison and the Doors. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 16
Tony DePaolo
BEACON
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bannerman Island
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org
Boats leave the Beacon dock at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Take a self-guided tour and enjoy live music. *Cost: \$40 (\$35 children)*

SUN 16
Rufus Wainwright
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The singer and songwriter will play music from his latest release, *Folkocracy*, and other hits. *Cost: \$75 (\$80 door)*

FRI 21
Cliff Eberhardt & Christine Lavin
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Eberhardt will play songs from his latest release, *New Things*, and Lavin will perform music from her latest, *On My Way to Hooterville*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*



Bass Bridge Quartet, July 22

SAT 22
At The Movies
NEWBURGH
4 p.m. Aquinas Hall
Mount Saint Mary College
845-913-7157 | newburghsymphony.org
The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform music from well-known soundtracks, including *Indiana Jones*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *The Godfather* and more. *Cost: \$25 to \$50 (students free)*

SAT 22
A Jazz Journey through the Five Senses
COLD SPRING
5 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Daniel Kelly will perform with his daughter, Sofia, to create a multisensory experience. *Free*

SAT 22
Trove
GARRISON
5 p.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org
Ben Neill and Eric Calvi will perform his site-specific ambient composition at the Quarry Pool. *Cost: \$40 (\$35 members, \$125 patrons)*

SAT 22
Music Concert
BEACON
6:30 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
beaconopenstudios.com
The first-ever concert by Beacon Open Studios will include performances by Rose Stoller, Katie Martucci, Glenn Echo and Carrtoons. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 22
EFW Presents: Bass Bridge Quartet
BEACON
8 p.m. Ballet Arts Studio | 107 Teller Ave.
bassbridge.eventbrite.com
The multi-instrumental players, including Che Chen, Dave Hofstra, William Parker and Dave Sewelson, will perform on upright bass. *Cost: \$20 (\$30 door)*

SAT 22
Duke Robillard Blues Band
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The guitarist, vocalist and songwriter will lead his band in swing, blues, standards and rockabilly. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

CIVIC

WED 19
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

THURS 20
Pop-Up Office Hours
BEACON
4 – 6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Staff from the office of Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson will answer questions, listen to feedback and help constituents.

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HOME SALES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE LAST 30 DAYS

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81 Union St.	Beacon	3	1/0	1,362	\$375,000
239 Bedford Ln.	Fishkill	3	1/1	1,804	\$460,000
87 Rombout Ave.	Beacon	3	1/0	1,666	\$465,000
142 Rombout Ave.	Beacon	4	1/1	1,028	\$465,000
7 Maple St.	Fishkill	3	1/1	1,952	\$474,000
15 Paye Ave.	Beacon	5	3/0	2,028	\$650,000
20 John St.	Beacon	3	1/2	1,188	\$683,500

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“Arm In Arm” by Hanna Washburn



Evan Samuelson



An exhibit at The Yard in Beacon, which will host the opening reception for Beacon Open Studios

Photos provided



“Hanged Man” by Sarah Jay Halliday

Beacon Open Studios returns for its 15th year on July 22 and 23, and the dozens of artists who will be inviting the public into their workspaces will be joined by new sights and sounds. For the first time, Beacon Open Studios will have music and screenings by local filmmakers, said Darya Golubina, who started volunteering for the event and is now its director. She hopes to add dance next year. “Beacon is a vibrant town, full of artists of all kinds — not just fine studio art, not just painters, photographers or sculptors,”

Beacon Open Studios Expands

Music, film screenings to accompany art

By Mackenzie Boric

said Golubina. “I wanted Beacon Open Studios to encourage artists who work in film and music to also share their work.” The Yard, an event space at 4 Hanna Lane in Beacon, hosts the opening reception on July 21, and then becomes, a day later, the setting for the Open Studios’ inaugural concert series. The show will feature performances by Rose Stoller, Glenn Echo, Katie Martucci

and Carrtoons. The outdoor, ticketed event also will have local food and drink vendors. The Yard and the KuBe Art Center will also host screenings of short films and videos by local filmmakers, in collaboration with the Beacon Film Society and Story Screen. The filmmakers include Ophir Ariel, Mark Sanders and Rachel Shuman. And don’t forget about the art. Showing

their works will be more than 60 artists, some of whom have been exhibiting pieces in a group show at Hudson Beach Glass (162 Main St. in Beacon) that began on July 8 and continues through Aug. 6. The open reception will take place on July 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Yard, 4 Hanna Lane in Beacon, with live music at 8 p.m. from Aubrey Haddard. The open studios take place from noon to 6 p.m. on July 22 and 23. A map of artist studios and a schedule of events can be downloaded at beaconopenstudios.com.



Nago Cabo: A Beacon Family Affair

Nago Cabo, who grew up in Beacon with her brothers, celebrated the release of her new EP with a concert on June 30 at the Howland Cultural Center. Joining her on the other instruments were her two brothers and her mother.

Photos by Ross Corsair



Beacon Screenwriter Pursues Autism Project

Film script highlights former high school wrestler

By Joey Asher

An actor and writer from Beacon is hoping to bring to the big screen a movie inspired by the true story of an autistic high school student who conquers his fear of touch by joining the wrestling team in his freshman year.

Carrie Gibson is raising money to turn her script *Squeeze* into a 20-minute fictional film based on the story of Adam Curry, the son of Gibson's co-writer Tony Curry. Gibson and Curry this week launched a crowdfunding page for *Squeeze* (seedandspark.com/fund/squeeze), and hope to raise \$34,000 to produce the film and enter it into festivals.

The short, which would be shot in Beacon and Ossining, could be a stepping stone to a full-length feature estimated to cost between \$3 million and \$4 million, said Gibson. It would be produced by Blend Pictures in Beacon, she said.

The script doesn't transform Adam — onscreen he'll be "Noah" — into a champion wrestler, said Gibson. "The beauty of this movie is not that he wins at wrestling," she said. "It's that he conquers his fear of touch. When he loses a match but ends up having touched somebody, that's when the school erupts."

Gibson said that the growing interest in autism spectrum disorder could help



Tony Curry, left, is hoping to make a film he co-wrote based on his autistic son, Adam.

Photo provided

Squeeze break through. Rates of autism have increased dramatically over the last several decades, from one case in 150 children in 2000 to one case for every 36 children in 2020, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

When Adam, who now lives in Seattle with his father and works in a mailroom, was born in 1978, the autism rate was 1 in 5,000, according to the National Institutes of Health.

His autism manifested in several ways: He was extremely sensitive to touch; his language was delayed and he developed quirky interests, such as an obsession with television game show trivia, his father said.

When asked on a call recently to name the

first celebrities to compete on *The \$10,000 Pyramid*, Adam, now 44 years old, immediately said: "Rob Reiner and June Lockhart."

Because he recoiled from being touched, when Adam's physical education teacher suggested that he join the varsity wrestling team as a ninth grader, Tony laughed. "We said, 'You're crazy,'" he said.

Adam never won a match and Tony "sat in terror" as opponents pinned his son. But each match ended in a win, said his father. "Just stepping out onto the mat, facing off with another person and actually making contact was a huge victory," he said.

Most importantly, his father said, wrestling allowed Adam to build friendships outside

of the special-needs classes he attended. The team's wrestlers "rallied around him" and "were his protectors," said Tony.

Gibson said that she and Curry have always gravitated to human stories in the 25 years they have been writing partners. They have written and produced many plays, including *Into the Fire*, a story based on recordings they made of war veterans' experiences. They toured the country with that show from 2009 to 2017.

"The movies that have really good stories and that are really compassionate about real human beings are the things that I want to watch," said Gibson, who has many acting credits, including a recurring role as a barista in the recent HBO hit *Barry*. Curry also has had many television roles, including in *Jake and the Fatman* and *Northern Exposure*.

More recently, she said, they sought a full-length production of their script *The Sand Sea*. It is based on the true story of two photographers sent in 1926 to northern Africa to capture footage of a French Foreign Legion post for the production of the film classic *Beau Geste*.

The photographers were kidnapped, held for ransom and never heard from again. Gibson called *The Sand Sea* an "epic female 'Lawrence of Arabia.'" But the project crumbled due to COVID and other production challenges, she said.

"We've come close," said Gibson. "It's really hard to get the right combination of people to believe in you [in order] to come up with the money to make a movie."

Garrison Art Center


SUMMER PROGRAMS AT GARRISON ART CENTER

July 24 - August 4
Summer Art Institute (SAI) is a two-week program open to all high school students entering, currently in, or who have graduated in 2023.

Thank you to Hudson Valley Credit Union for sponsoring SAI.

August 7 - 18
Art a la Carte (ALA) is a full or half-day program, one or two weeks, for rising 2nd - 8th graders.

To register, visit www.garrisonartcenter.org or use the QR code.





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EVENTS

MODERN MAKERS MARKET —Artisans, artists, food, live music, ice cream and Thai tea are coming to Cold Spring Aug. 12 and 13, from 11 to 5 p.m. Free admission and free raffle. For more information and to see who is exhibiting go to www.HopsontheHudson.com. Handcrafted, One of a Kind and Small Bath. Come and Shop Local! Come by train and take a short, four-block walk to the market. Parking can be found on all side streets in the village. Woodworkers, potters, craft beverages and so much more. St. Mary's is the place!

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TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds

Out There (from Page 1)

of regular society. You use a nickname that someone else on the trail gives you.

Also part of the culture is what's known as Trail Magic, which is performed by Trail Angels.

One of those angels is the Vlobster, real name Rob Vlosky, who drove down from Rochester with his wife, Nancy (who is not a hiker, hence no nickname), to cook breakfast and hand out supplies to any thru-hiker who happened to pass through the summit of Bear Mountain that morning.

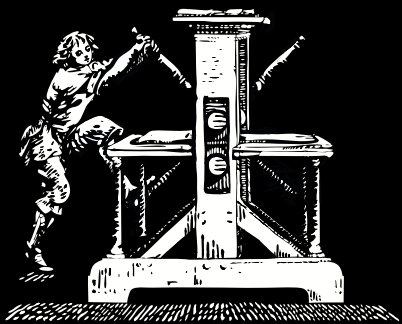
Vlobster came to hiking later in life, but is no stranger to the great outdoors: His father was a police officer in Harriman State Park, where Young Vlosky spent his formative years tromping around with his friends before joining the U.S. Navy.

But he didn't know anything about backpacking until he attempted a multi-day hike through Shenandoah National Park a few years ago. Weighed down with too much heavy gear, he realized by the second day that he was in over his head.

When the trail passed through the parking lot of a scenic overlook that also had cellphone service, he called his wife and told her that he was bailing on the hike as soon as he could figure out how the heck he was going to get back to his car.

A man and his son, who were enjoying the view, overheard his plight. The father offered Vlosky a ride, thus sparing him another day of agony, to which the son replied: "Gee Dad, you're a Trail Angel now."

HIGHLAND STUDIO



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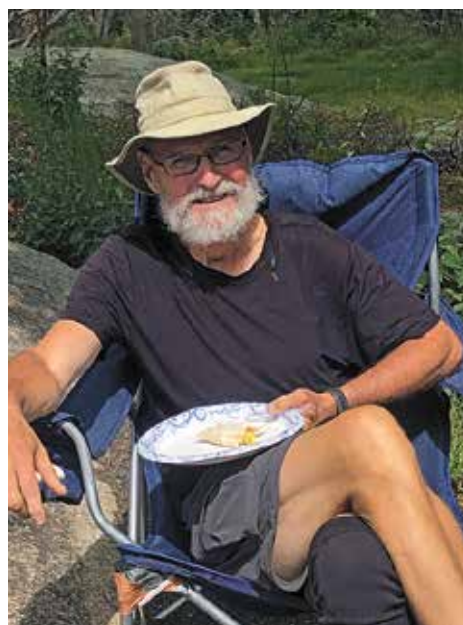
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Bruce Kieta, an Appalachian Trail hiker, eats a burrito made by Rob "Vlobster" Vlosky.

This was Vlosky's first experience with trail magic, the kindness that trailside strangers offer to weary hikers when it's needed most. "That's the first time I ever heard of it, when this guy was helping me out," he said.

After an old Navy buddy introduced Vlosky to the wonders of ultralight backpacking gear ("It's not cheap, but it makes your life a whole lot easier," he said), Vlosky started tackling small sections of the Appalachian Trail a few days at a time and became the Vlobster.

He's hiked about 30 percent of the trail so far, and can recall the bits of trail magic along the way that sometimes make the difference between finishing a hike and bailing: people handing out baked goods at road crossings; ice cold jugs of water left trailside at abandoned rest stations.

"Oh my god, finding a cache of cold water on a hot day in the middle of nowhere is just so welcome," he said.

Eventually, he realized that being part of the trail community means not only being the recipient of trail magic, but finding ways to bestow some of it yourself. That's why he and Nancy now come to the Perkins Tower at the summit of Bear Mountain once a year to cook for hungry hikers and hand out supplies.

Now that he's a more experienced hiker, he knows what the thru-hikers need the most: toothbrushes and floss, small rolls of toilet paper, mini-carabiners and replacement filters for the Sawyer Squeeze water purifiers that many backpackers carry.

Once Vlobster saw how many hikers swore by Darn Tough Vermont socks for keeping their feet blister-free, he wrote to the company and asked if they'd be willing to donate a few. They sent him a case of 48 pairs. "People cry when I hand them out," he said.

Fruit is also a welcome snack that Vlobster provides for hikers when they're hanging out with him, since it's not ideal for long-distance backpacking: It takes up too much room in a pack, it's messy, it's heavy and hikers then have to carry the cores and peels.

But the vitamins and variety are a treat for hikers, who can eat it right there and then let Vlobster take care of the refuse.



Vlosky prepares a breakfast burrito.



Supplies await thru-hikers

Photos by Jackie Grant

There're rules for trail magic, and not just the Leave No Trace principles that already advise against, say, leaving one's apple cores on the trail.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy discourages leaving unattended food out at trail crossings because it can attract wildlife. Trail Angels are also encouraged to not minister to hikers on the trail itself, in order to protect the sanctity of their wilderness experience.

An ideal trail magic scenario looks much like what Vlobster does every year on Bear Mountain: It's at an area in which the trail crosses a crowded parking lot so the hikers are already temporarily out of the "wilderness;" it's accessible by car, which means angels can easily haul in supplies and haul out trash; and it's not near an establishment that makes a living selling food and supplies to hikers.

The day after I spoke with Vlobster he was on the move again: Once a year he spends a week serving as a caretaker at the Upper Goose Pond cabin on a Massachusetts section of the AT. The Appalachian Mountain Club runs the cabin as a free place for thru-hikers to rest and take a "zero" (thru-hiker slang for a rest day).

Once his weeklong shift is over, he's due to meet a friend so the two of them can hit the AT themselves for a while, pushing north into Vermont, chasing the magic.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



Erik Kulleseid, Commissioner, OPRHP



Front row, L to R: Chris Davis, HHFT; Ned Sullivan, Scenic Hudson; Amy Kacala, HHFT; Commissioner Erik Kulleseid, Matt Davidson, OPRHP. Second row, L to R: Roland Heitmann, Heitmann Builders; Eddie Walsh, Tahawus Trails; Dan Kazer, Gray Organschi Architecture; Dave Carre, Jolly Rovers Trail Crew; Fred Rich, HHFT; Linda Cooper, OPRHP; Kate Orff, Gena Wirth, SCAPE Landscape Architecture; Chelsea Anderson, About the Work; Evan Thompson, OPRHP



Mike MacNinch, Hudson Highlands Pipe Band



L to R: Adam Mackiewicz, Tahawus Trails; Bob Brunner, Dave Carre, Jolly Rovers Trail Crew



Front row, L to R: Amy Kacala, HHFT; Hank Osborn, NYNJTC; Chris Davis, HHFT; Myra Romano, NYNJTC; Linda Cooper, OPRHP; Katrina Shindledecker, Hudson Highlands Land Trust; Melissa Cascini, NYNJTC. Second row: Brian Grahm, Little Stony Point Citizens Association; Matt Davidson, Evan Thompson, Commissioner Erik Kulleseid, OPRHP; Hal Brilliant, Greg Totino, Town of Fishkill



Chris Davis, Board Chair, HHFT



New Breakneck Ridge Trailhead, design and build by SCAPE Landscape Architecture, Tahawus Trails, and Jolly Rovers Trail Crew



A New Safer, More Accessible and Environmentally-Friendly Upper Overlook

On Friday, June 30, Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. (HHFT) and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the completion of the Upper Overlook project at the Breakneck Ridge Trailhead.

Completed on time and under budget, this project will bolster trail resilience, environmental conservation, and hiker safety at Upper Overlook, and underscores the invaluable public-private partnership that is making the Fjord Trail possible.

This event was an opportunity for the designers and builders who brought this project to life to celebrate with HHFT, OPRHP and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (NYNJTC)—the entities that will be working to collaboratively manage the area—just before the trailhead was opened to the public on Saturday, July 1.

Marking the launch of Phase 1: Breakneck Connector & Bridge, the project's restoration work and improvements included:

- Repair of existing erosion conditions
- Closure of unauthorized social trails to restore and protect habitats of vulnerable species
- Installation of over 100 stone steps, creating safer access to the Breakneck Scramble
- A new Trail Steward Station for NYNJTC stewards and OPRHP staff to help them better orient hikers

The Breakneck Ridge Trailhead is open to the public throughout the 2023 hiking season!

Scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/brknck> to see before and after photos of the project.



Photography: Christine Ashburn



New Trail Steward Station at Upper Overlook, design and build by Gray Organschi Architecture and Heitmann Builders



Front row, L to R: Dana Levenberg, NYS Assembly; Nancy Montgomery, Putnam County Legislature; Matt Davidson; Justice McCray, Beacon City Council; Kate Orff; Linda Cooper; Chelsea Anderson; Gena Wirth. Second row: Amy Kacala; Hal Brilliant, Town of Fishkill; Ned Sullivan; Chris Davis; Dave Carre; Commissioner Erik Kulleseid; Eddie Walsh; Roland Heitmann; Bob Brunner, Jolly Rovers Trail Crew; Dan Kazer; Fred Rich; Evan Thompson; Hank Osborn, NYNJTC



L to R: Dylan Gunther, Andrea Cavaliere, Jon Gong, OPRHP



Front row, L to R: Dylan Gunther, Jon Gong, Matt Davidson, Linda Cooper, OPRHP; Amy Kacala, Lori Moss, Emily Selover, Drew Polinsky, HHFT. Second row: Andrea Cavaliere, Evan Thompson, Commissioner Erik Kulleseid, OPRHP; MJ Martin, HHFT; Declan Hennelly, Brian Rubino, OPRHP



Linda Cooper, Director, Taconic Region, OPRHP

LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (July 1873)

On the Saturday after the Fourth of July, Undercliff took on Kellogg's at the Sandy Landing ground in a baseball game that took nearly five hours. After leading 9-1 at the end of the first inning, Kellogg's held on to win, 70-43.

The box score of a 33-9 Undercliff win over Aetna included fly balls caught and fly balls missed. Undercliff caught five and missed two.

In other games, the Alligators of the finishing shop at the West Point Foundry defeated the Sharks of the pattern shop, 41-33, and the dry goods clerks defeated the grocery clerks, 48-41.

The War Department proposed sending the first gun alleged to have been fired in the rebellion — a 4-pound cannon — to West Point as a trophy.

Isaac Davenport donated two books to the Library Association, one from 1720 and the other from 1723. (The titles were not shared.)

Inside the cover of one was a fragment of a pasted-in proclamation of some kind made by King George III with the date of July 4, 1776.

The pews were full for the Sunday service on July 14 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church to hear prima donna Clara Louise Kellogg, who had a summer home in Philipstown, sing Hymn 177 of the prayer book — "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah / Pilgrim in this barren land" — and a solo from Handel's *Messiah*.

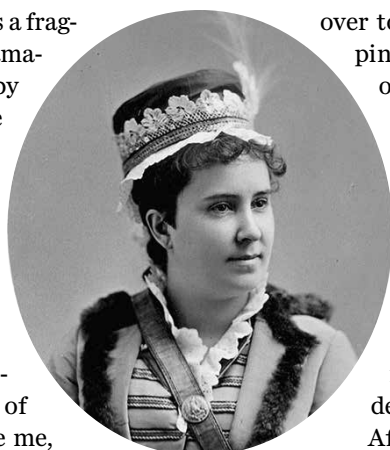
Paulding Kemble & Co. presented Miss S.E. Dykeman, who retired from the telegraph office, with an ornamental vase.

The Cold Spring Library Association voted to open its reading room to the public, although only members could borrow books and periodicals.

The Cold Spring Recorder reported that "the display of fireworks at West Point was fine, especially the peculiar bomb which the cadets manufactured and the groups of 20 to 30 rockets set off simultaneously" to resemble "a gigantic palm tree of fire."

During a Sunday service, the Rev. Benjamin Bowen of the Baptist Church explained the new envelope system for offerings.

Wallace Jefferds of South Highlands was mowing with a horse-drawn cutter when he noticed a stone on the top of the bar. Fearing it would damage the knives, he leaned



Clara Louise Kellogg in 1875

over to pick it off without stopping and lost the first finger of his right hand.

James Smith, who discovered traces of iron on the farm owned by Bryon Youmans, purchased mining rights from Mr. Philipse. [To this day, the Philipse family retains mining rights in many Philipstown deeds.]

After William Warren, who taught a Bible class at the South Highland Methodist Episcopal Church in Garrison, wrote a letter to *The Recorder* accusing a local schoolmaster of denying the authenticity of the Bible, the teacher replied in kind. He wrote that while he occasionally attended Warren's class, they had barely spoken and so he was puzzled by the attack. Regardless, he wrote: "I have just as good a right to my religious opinions as any Sunday school teacher." Warren wrote the next week to say the letter under his name had been forged.

The editor of *The Recorder* offered that, given the dry weather, it was not the best idea for thirsty boys to expel a half gallon of water from the public pump "to get at the cool" before taking a drink.

Mathew Fitzpatrick, a former Cold Spring business owner who confessed to strangling his wife in Yonkers, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to five years at Sing Sing.

S.P. Monks, a Cold Spring resident who graduated from Vassar College, was hired as a college professor in San Francisco.

In a benefit for the Sunday school of the Methodist Episcopal Church, two professors exhibited paintings on a large canvas that depicted 28 scenes in the life of Christ, 18 scenes from *The Pilgrim's Progress* and 21 scenes inside a tavern (presumably showing the wages of sin).

Two residents rowed to West Point to help search for a cadet from Illinois who had drowned. They attached leads and fishhooks, at intervals, to 300 feet of rope, held the line between their boats and began trawling. Two hours later, they hooked the body and received a \$50 reward.

The Highlander, a newspaper covering Garrison, published its second issue.

The Methodist Episcopal Church built horse sheds for those who could not walk to church.

125 Years Ago (July 1898)

At 2 p.m. on July 3, the thermometer at Perry & Reilley's read 103 degrees.

Officer McCaffrey appeared on July 4 wearing a dark blue uniform with matching cap — the first uniformed officer in the village.

John Clune injured both hands when a bottle of soda water exploded while he was working at the family bottling works on West Street.

Officer McCaffrey made two arrests but the complainants failed to appear in court. The accused were released and the accusers fined.

While the sexton of Our Lady of Loretto was cleaning the grounds, a well-dressed

stranger asked if he could go inside the church to retrieve his umbrella. Later in the day, the Rev. P.L. Connick noticed a white silk vestment was missing.

Bicycle racer William Ladue won three events at the Newburgh Wheelmen meet on July 4 and received three diamonds valued at \$105 [about \$3,800].

The trustees of the Haldane High School library announced it would be open to the public over the summer from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. A printed catalog was available for 10 cents at Spaulding's pharmacy, Dalzell's bookstore and Bullock & Secor's music and bookstore.

The Cold Spring Board of Trustees discussed at length a proposal to award a five-year franchise to Samuel Barriett to provide electricity in the village and maintain 31 streetlights at a cost of \$1,000 [\$37,000] annually. When President Miller asked what would happen if the expense exceeded the budget, Trustee King replied: "Collect a special tax." When Miller asked about Peter Wood, the lamplighter, Barriett said he would hire him. The vote was 3-0 to award the franchise, with Miller and Trustee Ferris abstaining. Within a week, a representative from the Barriett Electric Illuminating Co. was knocking on doors.

Irving McCoy, the editor of *The Recorder*, asked: "Waterworks and electric lights. Why not have sewers?"

The Shetland pony owned by James Wood, the baker, gave birth to a colt.

A stranger appeared at the window of a woman on Paulding Avenue and said her neighbor had sent him to borrow an ax and sawbuck. Her neighbor later said he had no idea what she was talking about.

McCoy at *The Recorder* suggested that members of the League of American Wheelmen and others should combine forces to construct a riding and walking path along the road from Garrison to Cold Spring.

A benefit organized by Hamilton Fish at Rocklawn, his estate in Garrison, raised \$268.98 [about \$10,000] to support the soldiers fighting Spain to liberate Cuba; William Church Osborn donated \$1,000 [\$37,000] to build a second ice plant for the military hospital; and West Point sent its engineer company 100 pounds of tobacco and 100 corn cob pipes.


A few days before he was killed in battle in Cuba, Hamilton Fish Jr. was said to have predicted his death. As his regiment was galloping across a field, a 4-year-old girl suddenly appeared ahead of the column. According to the *Boston Herald*, Fish raced ahead, reached down and lifted the girl to his saddle. In gratitude, the girl's mother gave him a protective St. Joseph pendant her daughter had been wearing, but warned him not to lose it or he would face grave danger. Fish did lose it, and told companions that he feared the consequences. He was buried in St. Philip's churchyard in Garrison.


John Toucey of Garrison, the recently retired superintendent of the Hudson River Railroad, was being recruited to pursue the Republican nomination for the state Senate seat representing Putnam and Dutchess counties.

The passenger coaches of the New York Central lines were being repainted a color described as "Quaker green."

(Continued on Page 21)

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(Continued from Page 20)

At a meeting of the Haldane school board, the trustees heard details of a plan to alleviate overcrowding by building a two-story brick annex with eight classrooms at a cost of \$15,000 [\$550,000].

Vredenburg, the butcher who closed his shop to take a better-paying position at the Matteawan State Hospital, changed his mind and opened a vegetable market.

The Farrell saloon was burglarized overnight and \$52 [\$1,900] taken from the safe and 10 Columbian half-dollars from the cash drawer. It didn't take Officer McCaffrey long to solve the case, because Thomas Walsh was spending Columbian half-dollars all over town. He was arrested and jailed at Town Hall.

Capt. Henry Metcalfe wrote to the secretary of war to protest three wayward shots during practice by the Second Battery at West Point. He said a 70-pound piece landed on the Sandy Land road in Cold Spring and embedded 4 feet into the ground; the other two, each about 60 pounds, landed near the Main Street dock and were embedded 3 feet. He noted that eight years earlier, a shell had fallen on the Sandy Land road that penetrated 8 feet into the ground.

The cellar of Perry & Reilley's store held a spring of water that drained through an 8-inch pipe that ran under the Main Street sidewalk for 60 feet to the brook. To loosen clogs, employees would shake a chain attached to a heavy wire that ran through the pipe. During the most recent clog, the wire snapped and the cellar flooded. Mr. Perry responded by catching a catfish at the furnace dock, bringing it to the cellar, tying a cord to its tail and sending it through the pipe. The cord was then used to pull through a new wire.

At 3 p.m. on a Friday afternoon, William Brewer, the blacksmith of Nelsonville, lost control of his horse and wagon on Main Street. He was ejected at Rock Street (but not injured) when the horse took to the sidewalk and the wagon hit and broke a lamppost. The horse continued down the walk, taking out stoops and destroying an (empty) baby carriage before finally stopping at West Street.

An Internal Revenue Service collector called on hotel and saloon owners to collect a \$5 tax to support the Cuban war effort from those who had pool tables. A Raines Law inspector also made the rounds to saloons. [The Raines Law, passed in New York in 1896, raised the drinking age from 16 to 18 and prohibited bars from serving alcohol on Sundays.]

Michael Parks was sentenced to six months in jail for being drunk and disorderly.

The Kemble Cornet Band gave the first outdoor concert of the season at the bandstand at Main and Furnace streets.

Albert Lawrence recalled that, some years before, he had been repairing the summer house at Osborn's Castle when J.P. Morgan, the banker, drove up the hill looking to call on Mr. Osborn. When the horses were near the house, they became frightened and began to back toward the cliff. Mr. Morgan jumped from the carriage. After the coachman was able to control the team, Mr. Morgan walked to the edge and gazed down the 400-foot drop.

"Mister, I wonder what would have become of me if I had tumbled down among those rocks?" he said. Without looking up, Lawrence responded, "Mister, it's all according to how you have lived," causing Mr. Morgan to laugh.

75 Years Ago (July 1948)

Members of the Cold Spring Lions Club met with representatives of the New York Central line to discuss the "extremely poor railroad service" to the village and the elimination of two trains. The railroad said it had no plans to restore service.

The Columbus Society of Cold Spring held its annual celebration of St. Anthony's Day, which began with a parade of 30 drum corps down Main Street in Nelsonville to Kemble's Field for a competition.

The Cold Spring police received a report from a motorist that a man was hanging from the Indian Brook Bridge in Garrison, but Officer Angelo Immorica could not find anyone.

About 2,000 people lined Main Street for the village's inaugural firemen's parade. The Garrison Fire Department was awarded first prize as an organization, and Norman Champlin Jr. as an individual.

50 Years Ago (July 1973)

Haldane voters rejected a proposal, 461-330, to build a \$2.6 million [\$17.8 million] elementary school but approved \$240,000 [\$1.6 million] in renovations, 428-349. After the vote, the school board said it would conserve space in the fall by operating grades 3 to 6 in double sessions.

A former Garrison resident who lived in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and his 5-year-old son were killed in a vacation crash on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

The West Point Foundry, established in 1817, was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The property was owned by the Deuterium Corp., which planned to build a hotel and marina.

25 Years Ago (July 1998)

The Quarrymen, who had performed as teenagers in Liverpool in the late 1950s with John Lennon, performed at Boscobel in Garrison during a U.S. tour. Lennon, Len Garry, Eric Griffiths, Rod Davis, Colin Hanton and Pete Shotton played at the Cavern Club and parties and school dances. When Shotton and Davis left the group in late 1957, they were replaced by Paul McCartney. Griffiths left in early 1958 and was succeeded by George Harrison. Garry left in mid-1958 for health reasons and Hanton departed in early 1959.

Jim Rod, the manager of the Constitution Marsh Sanctuary in Garrison for the previous 16 years, and a founder in 1989 of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, died at 53. A Vietnam veteran, he studied wildlife biology at Iowa State University and journalism at Iona.

Marilyn Brannigan, interim superintendent of the Garrison School, warned the board: "We've been running our school district as a family affair. This is a \$4.5 million corporation and should be operated that way."

A Cold Spring man was arrested and



The Quarrymen performed on July 6, 1957, the day John Lennon (center) met Paul McCartney.

charged with menacing for allegedly brandishing a loaded 9mm pistol after an argument with another driver.

Schwartzberg Associates submitted a \$99,100 [\$185,000] application fee to the Town Board with its plans to redevelop the 93-acre former Capuchin Friary on Route 9D in Garrison as a 425-unit retirement village and 60-room hotel.

The Cold Spring Fire Co. and Philipstown Ambulance Corps rescued the second hiker in a month from Hudson Highlands State Park.

At the Empire State Games in Rochester, Matthew Nowak of Garrison won the silver medal in fencing while representing the Hudson Valley in the scholastic division (ages 19 and younger). Neil Murray of Garrison, newly graduated from the University of Buffalo, won silver in the pole vault.

The Philipstown Depot Theatre hosted two 1950s-style coffeehouses with live jazz from The World's End Ensemble, beat poetry readings and performances from *Steve Allen's Bop Fables*.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION

SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 6th day of July, 2023, the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, duly adopted a Resolution entitled: "Resolution Approving Transfer Or Exchange Of Certain Real Property Owned By The Town Of Philipstown", an abstract of which follows, which Resolution was adopted subject to permissive referendum pursuant to New York State of Town Law §64(2) and §91.

Abstract: The purpose and effect of the said Resolution is to declare the below listed vacant lots owned by the Town of Philipstown to be surplus property and to authorize transfer of title to the said lots to the Hudson Highlands Land Trust to be conserved in perpetuity as an extension of the Canopus Creek Preserve in consideration for a waiver by the Open Space Institute of certain restrictions of a conservation easement held by the Open Space Institute on the Town's Highway Garage property.

Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 4	Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 12	Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 18
Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 5	Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 13	Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 19
Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 6	Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 14	Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 20
Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 8	Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 16	
Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 9	Section 83.14, Block 1, Lot 17	

Pursuant to Town Law §91, the said resolution shall not take effect until at least thirty (30) days after its adoption; nor until approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the Town voting on a proposition for its approval if within thirty (30) days after adoption of the said resolution there be filed with the Town Clerk a petition signed, and acknowledged or proved, or authenticated by electors of the Town qualified to vote, in number equal to at least five per centum of the total vote cast for governor in the Town at the last general election held for the election of state officers, but which shall not be less than one hundred in a town of the first class nor less than twenty-five in a town of the second class, protesting against the said resolution and requesting that the proposed transfer of the said real property be submitted to the qualified electors of the Town for their approval or disapproval.

A copy of the resolution is available for public inspection on the Town's website and at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516, during normal business hours.

Dated: July 10, 2023 BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

TARA K. PERCACCILOLO, TOWN CLERK

OBITUARIES

Bonnie Bachand (1957-2023)

Bonnie Cohen Bachand, 66, a longtime resident of Wallkill and formerly of Beacon, died on July 1.

Bonnie was born in Beacon on Jan. 28, 1957, the daughter of the late Benjamin "Barney" Cohen and Elsie Simmons Cohen.

Bonnie is survived by her daughter, Nina Reagan and her husband Earl Edward Reagan III; her son, Benjamin Bachand and his fiancé Elizabeth Cotler; and her grandchildren, Orion and Ophira Reagan. In addition to her parents, Bonnie was predeceased by her brother, Walter Cohen.

Family and friends gathered on Monday (July 10) from 9 to 11 a.m. at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman St. in Beacon. A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial followed at Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9 in Fishkill.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Bonnie may be made to a local animal shelter or the ASPCA, in honor of her love for animals.

**MaryEllen Cronk (1956-2023)**

MaryEllen Cronk, 66, a resident of Beacon, died on July 10 at her home.

Daughter of Gloria Machulis Rogers of Massapequa and the late John Rogers, she was born on Aug. 12, 1956, in Massapequa, Long Island. On Oct. 11, 1980, she married James F. Cronk. Jim survives at home in Beacon.

MaryEllen worked as a dental hygienist for Drs. Flores and Gross in Poughkeepsie. She was a parishioner of St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist in Beacon. She enjoyed giving back to her community in various ways.

She volunteered at the Carmelite Monastery in Beacon, donated clothes and food to the Salvation Army and helped to mentor special-needs people, as well as Unbound,



helping children living in poverty.

She enjoyed bicycling, hiking and swimming. She also loved to garden. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, encouraging her children and granddaughter to pursue their passions. MaryEllen also traveled throughout the world. She was known for her knack of planning family vacations.

In addition to her mother and husband, MaryEllen is survived by her children, Justin Cronk and his wife Shanelle of Manhattan, and Kelsey Cronk of Beacon; her brother, Stephen Rogers and his wife Karen of Massapequa; her granddaughter, Mia Tapia; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her father, she was predeceased by her son, Dylan Cronk, on April 18, 2022.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered at 10 a.m. on July 13 at St. Joachim's Church, 51 Leonard St. in Beacon. Interment followed at St. Joachim Cemetery, 325 Washington Ave. in Beacon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to one of MaryEllen's favorite charities: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 (stjude.org).

Hugh Keenan (1936-2023)

Hugh Joseph "Hughie" Keenan, 87, a lifelong Beacon resident, died peacefully at his home on July 9.

He was born in Beacon on May 2, 1936, son of the late Patrick J. and Susan (Bradley) Keenan. He attended St. Joachim and St. John schools, and later achieved his GED and took classes at Mount Saint Mary College. Hugh served in the U.S. Army.

Hugh worked many interesting jobs in his career: truck driver, car sales, Beacon Piece & Dye as a shipping clerk and then maintenance in a hotel, where he found his calling — working maintenance at Hudson View Apartments then moving to head of maintenance



at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh and finally retiring from Gateways Community Industries of Kingston as their director of buildings and grounds in 1998.

Hugh and his sons were very involved in the Beacon Little League; Hugh even served as director of the league for several years and then he continued his involvement by becoming a registered umpire, an achievement of which he was extremely proud.

Hugh had been a Friend of Bill W. for the last 47 years; he was very active in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. He enjoyed helping others and giving back. He helped so many people recover and find a life in sobriety. He loved sharing stories of his two girls (dogs), who were always by his side: Holly Berry and Merry Christmas.

Hugh is survived by his nine children: Joseph (Sharon) Keenan of Waverly, Mary Grace Keenan of Niagara Falls, Rhonda (Brian) Altonen of Beacon, Colleen (Dave) of Good-year (Arizona), Hugh M. (Lisa) of White Plains, Christopher (Kristina) of Norman (Oklahoma), Christine Keenan and Pat J. (Danielle) Keenan of Maybrook; and his 10 grandchildren.

He is also survived by his two brothers: the Rev. Patrick Keenan and Michael Keenan. Along with his parents, Hugh was predeceased by his brothers, Danny and

Colin; sisters, Patricia, Suzanne, Mary, Rosalie and Sharon; and his daughter, Celeste A. Keenan of Elmira.

His family will receive friends on Sunday (July 16) from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Libby Funeral Home, 55 Teller Ave. in Beacon. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by his brother, the Rev. Pat Keenan, on Monday (July 17) at 11 a.m. at St. Joachim Church, 51 Leonard St. in Beacon. Interment will be private at the discretion of his family.

Michael Manzoello (1949-2023)

Michael J. Manzoello, 74, died on July 3.

Michael was born on May 8, 1949, in Beacon, the son of the late Luciano and Eva Gerald Manzoello. He graduated from Beacon High School and attended trade school. He began his working career at A&P in Beacon and then worked as a draftsman for Standard Gage in Poughkeepsie and several other local machine works.

Michael is survived by a nephew and other extended family and friends. In addition to his parents, Michael was predeceased by his brother, David.

A graveside service was held on July 7 at noon at Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9 in Fishkill.

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
			18				19	20				
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			36					37				
38	39	40					41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

- ACROSS
1. Ego
5. Curved line
8. Easy targets
12. Geometric calculation
13. *The Matrix* hero
14. Conspiracy
15. Elephant's ancestor
17. Sultry Horne
18. Low isle
19. Pale yellow
21. Rice recipe
24. Colorations
25. Landed
26. Magazine staff listing
30. Leary's drug
31. Skin openings
32. TiVo precursor
33. Became an expert in
35. Actress Ward
36. — and crafts
37. Cancel
38. Where Gauguin painted

41. Football filler
42. Milky gem
43. Large dogs
48. Portrayal
49. Yale grad
50. Humdrum
51. Apple product
52. Game caller
53. Continental currency
20. Reply to "Shall we?"
21. Tropical tree
22. *Casablanca* role
23. Pot covers
24. Long-eared hoppers
26. Philosopher Adler
27. Always
28. Rights org.
29. Colorless
31. Impudent
34. Shadowed
35. Writer
37. Perch
38. Actress Spelling
39. Each
40. Angelic light
41. "Dream on!"
44. Pub pint
45. Winter ailment
46. Distant
47. HBO rival

- DOWN
1. America's uncle
2. Historic time
3. Guitar expert Paul
4. Nabob
5. Tennis champ Murray
6. Old Olds
7. Mixed up
8. Swimming pool sound
9. *Roots* author Haley
10. Corn concoction
11. Jazz great Getz
16. Klutz

SUDOCURRENT

				7	4			
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			7	6	2			4
2	4							
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WORDLADDERS

Can you go from BLAST to BOOST in 6 words?
Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

BLAST

BOOST

MICRO
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. *Saturday Night Live* routines
6. Afghanistan's capital
7. *Dancing with the Stars* judge Carrie Ann ____
8. Everglades bird
9. Answer impudently

- DOWN
1. Astronomers look up to them?
2. Friend of Winnie-the-Pooh
3. Letter-shaped construction pieces

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

4. Lipstick dispensers
5. Blind segment

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G	U	M		S	E	I	N	E		L	O	N
P	G	A		O	N	I	O	N		I	R	E
S	H	E	L	F	L	I	F	E		F	E	W
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Y	E	S	S	I	R		E	G	O	S		
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R	O	O	M		E	M	P		H	O	P	E
D	O	R	A	G		S	I	A		R	E	N
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A	O	K		L	I	E	N	S		A	X	E

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

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RATED
SATED
SAWED
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Answers for July 7 Puzzles

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Bill Ponte, president of the Sports Museum of Dutchess County, says the Beacon Bears, featured in a museum exhibit, 'were men who loved' their game.



Mary Sager, a board member of the Sports Museum of Dutchess County, stands in front of a tribute to local drag-racing legend Pat Hennebery.

Photos by M. Turton

SPORTS

DUTCHESS MUSEUM HONORS LOCAL SPORTS HEROES

Inductees include coaches, other unsung contributors

By Michael Turton

The baseball, football and hockey halls of fame are big on big names for good reason. People love national champions and superstars.

But a lesser-known local museum focuses on something even more important than NBA championships or World Series rings. It explores the links that connect a community to its history, its athletes and the supporting cast without whom there would be no "big names" in sports.

The Sports Museum of Dutchess County has its share of marquee names, all with ties to the county — from Tyler Adams, captain of the 2022 U.S. men's World Cup soccer team, to Chuck Connors, star of the 1960s TV show *The Rifleman* and a former first baseman for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

But the unsung heroes who helped such stars get to the top are at the heart of the museum.

"A lot of people have helped behind the scenes — sponsors, coaches, unpaid umpires," said Bill Ponte, SMODC's president. "They needed recognition for their involvement, for teaching kids to be good sportsmen and women."

Established in 1973, the museum has inducted more than 200 previously unheralded local citizens into its Hall of Fame. Pat Zerbe epitomizes the inductees. The museum added Zerbe, now in her 90s, in 1988 for her role in establishing women's softball at Dutchess County Community College.

Another inductee that year was Ralph Holt, longtime recreation director for the

Town of Wappinger and coach of the town's 1970 New York state Little League champions. The museum's Youth Learning Center is named for him.

SMODC's numerous exhibits relate directly to Dutchess County sports history, with a few compelling exceptions.

A display on how baseball bats are made includes one that belonged to Ty Cobb, the Hall of Fame legend from the Detroit Tigers whose career batting average, .366, is the highest of all time. Babe Ruth is quoted as having said of Cobb: "The old boy was the greatest player I ever saw or hoped to see."

No one knows how the bat ended up in the museum 40 years ago, nor is there a known local connection. But if you're a sports museum and have a bat that Ty Cobb actually took to the plate, how can you not display it?

A simple gray baseball jersey with Trinity emblazoned on it helps honor the Negro Leagues and the numerous teams that barnstormed the country, including the Hudson Valley, as early as 1880. The Long Island-based Cuban Giants alone played in Poughkeepsie several times between 1892 and 1894.

"This Trinity uniform was probably from the 1920s," Ponte said, adding that the team was based in the southern U.S. and would have come through Dutchess while on the road.

One of the museum's most popular artifacts, a 1920s iceboat, is also a testament to climate change. The boat was donated by Henry "Moose" Karn, one of SMODC's founders and a longtime Poughkeepsie sports-shop owner.

Poughkeepsie was the hub of that sport, Ponte said. "They sailed at up to 100 miles per hour on the Hudson River; that's unbelievable!" he said.

Iceboaters still gather on the Hudson at



A Trinity jersey recalls one Negro League baseball team that toured the Hudson Valley.

nearby Chelsea, but the number of days with suitable ice is nowhere near what it was 100 years ago.

The museum also pays homage to fast cars and their drivers.

Ponte joked that they couldn't fit an entire race car inside, but the museum does have a door from a Pat Hennebery Racing dragster.

Hennebery, an ardent drag racer and member of the Hudson Valley Historic Racing Hall of Fame, competed at tracks such as the Dover Drag Strip in Wingdale, which operated from 1961 to 1976.

The display includes a poster promoting an appearance at the drag strip by "Big Daddy" Don Garlits, known worldwide as the father of drag racing. Joe Nemechek, a Dover native and 1992 NASCAR champion, is also honored.

One of the largest displays tells the story of the Beacon Bears, a semi-pro football team that hit the gridiron in the 1930s and 1940s.

"They wouldn't have been good enough for the NFL, but they were men who loved football," Ponte said, adding that the Bears played teams from Poughkeepsie, Middletown, Newburgh and other areas.

They played on a field near Beacon High School, Ponte said. "We had a reunion for them here a number of years ago; it was great to see guys who had played together more than 50 years ago."

At least one featured athlete has a street named after him: Beacon boxer Melio Bettina.

In February 1939, Bettina defeated "Tiger" Jack Fox at Madison Square Garden in a sixth-round technical knockout to become the light-heavyweight champion. Bettina, a southpaw, had a reputation as a solid puncher, so much so that the great Joe Louis is said to have avoided fighting him.

On July 22, SMODC will host Community Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., when it will offer tours, music, crafts, food trucks, yoga and family activities.

The museum is located at 72 Carnwath Farms Lane in Wappingers Falls. Tucked away between New Hamburg and Chelsea, it is part of the Carnwath Farms Historic Site and Park, a beautiful 100-acre property owned by the Town of Wappinger.

Originally a Victorian-era estate, the park is now connected to a 3-mile trail network with sweeping views of the Hudson River. The town continues to upgrade the site with a goal to make it "the area's premier location for the arts, culture and antiquities."

Learn more at sportsmuseumofdutchesscounty.org.