

The HIGHLANDS Current



Artist Next Door
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AUGUST 25, 2023

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Dogwood Sold

Developer of Beacon Theater, Bird & Bottle purchases Beacon bar

By Marc Ferris

News of this magnitude travels fast. Dogwood, the bohemian bar and music venue on the east end of Main Street, has a new owner.

"It breaks my heart, but for the last few years, many forces conspired against a business like this," said George Mansfield, who co-founded Dogwood in 2012 with Tom Schmitz. "It was a difficult decision, but I can't subsidize it anymore."

Two months ago, Mansfield reached out to Brendan McAlpine, who revived the Beacon Theater and Wonderbar, the Bird

(Continued on Page 16)



George Mansfield stands outside Dogwood in Beacon, which he has sold. Photo by M. Ferris

Hochul OKs Beacon Hotel Room Tax

Levy of up to 5% includes short-term rentals

By Leonard Sparks

Beacon is now part of a growing list of Hudson Valley municipalities authorized to impose their own tax of up to 5 percent on overnight stays at hotels, bed-and-breakfasts and Airbnbs.

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Wednesday (Aug. 23) enacted a bill sponsored by Beacon's two representatives — Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat, and state Sen. Rob Rolison, a Republican. Their legislation passed the Assembly, 95-52, on June 6 and the state Senate, 36-16, two days later.

With Hochul's signature, Beacon now needs to pass a local law to implement the tax, which would have to be renewed after three years. The city's charge would be in addition to a 4 percent tax Dutchess County collects from hotels, motels and, since 2017, Airbnb, which in 2022 sent the county \$785,502.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou estimated that Beacon's tax would generate revenue equal to 1 percent of the city's property tax levy (a room tax based on this year's tax levy, \$12.5 million, would yield \$125,000 in taxes). The tax would not be a "huge revenue source, but it will help," he said, adding that he would like to see a local law passed by the end of the year.

"You don't want it to be too high, because

(Continued on Page 16)

Hochul Signs Indian Point Bill

Legislation will prevent discharge of radioactive wastewater into Hudson

By Brian PJ Cronin

On Aug. 18, Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a bill that will stop Holtec, the company decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant, from discharging wastewater from spent fuel pools into the Hudson River.

The legislation was introduced by state Sen.

Pete Harcham and Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, whose districts include Indian Point, because of opposition to a plan by Holtec to begin releasing water containing a hydrogen isotope called tritium into the river beginning in late September or early October.

The bill passed the state Senate unanimously in May and, with bipartisan support, the Assembly shortly after that.

Holtec and the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission have said that the amount of radioactive material in the wastewater would have been far below the allowable limits and no different from the dozens of routine, regu-

lated discharges that took place over the decades the plant was in operation.

Those assurances failed to mollify elected officials or dozens of nearby municipalities, including Cold Spring, Philipstown, Beacon and Westchester County, that passed resolutions condemning the fall discharge.

Rep. Mike Lawler, a Republican whose congressional district includes Indian Point and the Highlands, said this week he was "glad to hear" that Hochul signed the legislation. "I look forward to the governor working with federal, state and local officials, as well as organized labor, local environmental activists and Holtec, to determine an environmentally safe and fiscally sound solution to eliminating

(Continued on Page 3)



Our reporter went airborne aboard this glider at Wurtsboro Airport. Photo by Jonathan Elie

Reporter's Notebook

Soaring Like a Vulture

By Michael Turton

On Aug. 11, I experienced what it must be like to fly like a giant, soaring bird; I was a passenger in a glider that took off from Wurtsboro Airport, 27 miles west of Beacon, as the vulture flies.

Established in 1926, Wurtsboro is the oldest continuously operating glider port in the U.S.

I've always been captivated by, even envious of, the vultures that soar above the Highlands in silent, effortless flight, seem-



ingly able to stay aloft forever without even flapping their wings.

So, come fly with me: This bucket-list event exceeded my high expectations.

I'm not exactly tiny, so climbing into the small, doorless cockpit was a challenge. Once inside, it was quite comfortable.

My pilot, Jonathan Elie, a gliding instructor and veteran of more than 1,000 flights, asked me to pull the yellow knob in front of me, enabling him to attach the towing cable to the front of the Schweizer 2-33A glider. I figured attaching the cable was important, so I pulled hard. He also told me *not* to touch either the foot pedal or

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5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: CHANEL Q

By Erin-Leigh Hoffman

Chanel Q, 30, who lives in Marlboro, is known as The East Coast Blogger. She's @TheEastCoastBlogger on Instagram and @ChanelQ_ on YouTube.

You grew up in North Carolina. How did you come to New York?

I moved here to work on a project for the Jehovah's Witnesses in Beacon, to produce Bible literature. It's getting started in 2024, so right now I'm just chilling out. I love to travel, which is why I created the blog. I became a travel agent in 2021, right after COVID, but obviously that didn't work out.

Did you publish any earlier blogs?

In high school I was into fashion, so I posted my outfits. I've been consistently writing and journaling about my travels. Mostly it's an actual journal at my house, and I wish that I could transfer that to the blog. I used to be an ophthalmologist tech, and I had a YouTube channel about that and I would mix in a few travel videos. People liked them and I thought of launching a channel for travel, but YouTube's a lot of work. I'm trying to balance my full-time job at Fidelis Care versus the project that moved me here versus the blogging.



What sparks your interest for content?

I like to see people who are in my age bracket or, as an African American woman, who look like me. I feel like the Hudson Valley is a perfect spot to showcase. Looking at a review on Google is one thing, but someone online can show you actually how it is. Beacon is one of the favorite places I've found. There are so many lovely coffee shops

here. Beans Cat Cafe is one of my favorites.

How do you decide what to cover?

I found this place [Beacon Coffee Co. & Mercantile] because I had been to the Cornwall location and learned online they were opening here. I'm going to Cold Spring next week, and I'm going to look around because I don't know what's there. I like to walk into stores, see what I can find. Normally, I try to film everything during the weekends, since that's when most things happen, or I'll go out after work after 5 p.m. I'll take snippets on my phone and piece them together for the entire day. It takes me 10 or 15 minutes on my phone to do most of my videos, which is outrageous compared to the time for YouTube. I make sure I get a lot of [background] B-roll. I schedule each post to go out throughout the week because that's when people are online.

What makes this fulfilling for you?

I love hearing comments, or seeing people save the posts for whatever they're going to do, or they're going to go visit, or people will tell me: "Oh, hey, I went and visited this." I love being able to connect with people who are into the same things, which is kind of hard, because most of them I feel like are far away. Brands or companies also reach out to me to promote, and I get paid for certain posts. So that's always a great benefit, for sure.

Right now, this is just a hobby. But this summer, I started posting four or five times a week, instead of once a week, or even once a month, and I've seen a lot of growth [in followers]. I would love to have this be my full-time job. My advice to people who want to blog is to just do it. I started a page like this multiple times years ago, and I'd delete it because of people judging me. At the end of the day, you must do what is best for you. If you're not hurting anyone, who cares what people think? If someone's not supporting you or being rude or whatever, hit the block button. Just start filming!

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's one job you consider very difficult?

“Being a construction worker, out there in all that weather.”



Carbajal de la Cruz, Cold Spring

“Any job with no window and no ability to go outside.”




Ally Hoffman, Beacon

“Being a flagman with not enough to keep me busy.”

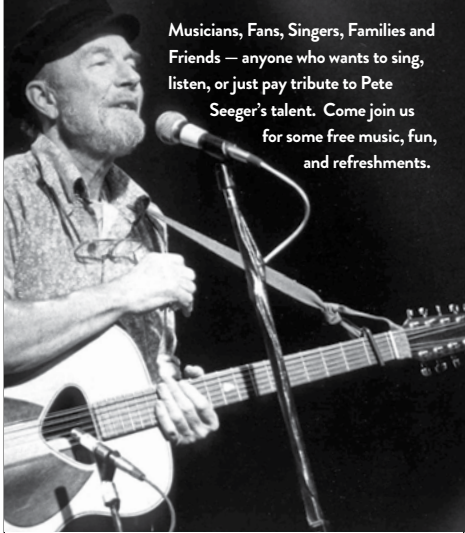


Ron Karabinos, Cold Spring



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Indian Point *(from Page 1)*

the wastewater on-site,” he said in a statement.

In its own statement, Holtec said it was disappointed that Hochul enacted the bill. “We firmly believe that this legislation is preempted by federal law and that the discharge of monitored, processed and treated water would not impact the environment or the health and safety of the public,” it said. “In the interim, we will evaluate the impact to our decommissioning milestones and the overall project schedule.”

Holtec has suggested in the past that it would cut staff at the plant if the planned discharges were not allowed. A company representative said on Tuesday (Aug. 22) that it was still evaluating the impact of the legislation on its schedule and workforce. Holtec had planned to lay off 125 employees in December for reasons unrelated to the discharges, he said, but “with the delay and re-sequencing of work, there may be more.”

When asked why there was a public outcry in regard to Holtec’s proposal to discharge the wastewater, despite the practice having occurred at Indian Point for years, Harckham attributed it to “a sea change in values.”

“People are saying that no level of pollution is acceptable, and that we’re not going to use our waterways as industrial dumping grounds anymore,” he said.

In response to the same question, Levenberg said that while people have always been concerned about what was coming out of the plant, “people were kind of in the dark about it.” She credited the Indian Point Decommissioning Task Force, of which she and Harckham are members, with allowing legislators, government officials and the public to make issues such as this one more visible.

“Most people aren’t paying attention to Indian Point,” she said. “They just want it to go away.”

With the bill signed, it’s unclear what will happen to the wastewater. Harckham and Levenberg (whose district includes Philipstown) have said their preference would be to have the water stored on-site for at least 12 years, the amount of time it takes for the tritium to decay to half its current potency. But Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker of Buchanan, the village that contains Indian Point, noted that it passed a resolution to prevent any long-term storage. “So that took care of that,” she said.

Knickerbocker said that she was convinced, after hearing testimony for months from both federal experts and members of the decommissioning board, that the discharge would have been the safest disposal method, since the storage tanks are notoriously leaky and have to be vented, which will allow the wastewater to evaporate and escape into the surrounding air.

“We all want the Hudson River to be safe and clean,” she said. “But I have to go by facts and data. I can’t go by feelings and fear. And I haven’t seen any statistics or data from the anti-nuclear groups.”

The next move is for Holtec “to determine an alternate method,” Harckham said. “They may choose to litigate this, but I hope that, as a community, we can all work together with Holtec to find a more appropriate means of addressing the wastewater.”

Holtec has argued that a 2017 joint closure agreement between the state of New York, Riverkeeper and Entergy (the former owner of the plant) allows it to continue the discharges.

“If they want to make that argument, I think they’ll lose,” said Richard Webster, the former legal director for Riverkeeper and a member of the decommissioning board. “I just don’t think that’s the way the agreement is worded.”

He said that a “legal battle royale” that drags on for years would only drive up costs for Holtec and that cooperation between the various parties would be a better strategy.



A team of international inspectors are shown in 2013 near water storage tanks at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Photo by Greg Webb/IAEA

What’s Happening in Japan?

At a rally held in White Plains on Aug. 15 to put pressure on Gov. Kathy Hochul to enact a bill to ban Holtec from releasing wastewater from Indian Point into the Hudson, state Sen. Pete Harckham noted that Japan planned to soon release wastewater into the Pacific Ocean from the Fukushima Daiichi plant, the site of a 2011 meltdown.

The discharge began on Thursday (Aug. 24). The country expects to release, over decades, as much as 1 million tons of water used to cool radioactive, melted fuel in the destroyed reactors.

Japan decided in 2021 to release the water from about 1,000 storage containers at the plant, and the International Atomic Energy Agency and the U.S. have said they are comfortable with the plan.

As at Indian Point, the firm decommissioning the plant, Tokyo Electric, says all radioactive material will be filtered out before water is released, except tritium. After the water is “re-purified” (as of Aug. 3,

about 30 percent had been treated), it will be diluted to bring the level of tritium below standards set by Japan’s Nuclear Regulation Authority.

“The idea is ‘just trust us,’ ” Ken Buesseler, a marine radiochemist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, told *The New York Times* this week. “I think they just want the cheapest, fastest solution, which is a pipe in the ocean.”

Many Japanese commercial fishermen worry that, even if the discharge is safe, the public perception that it’s not will hurt their business. Both China and South Korea banned seafood imports from Fukushima after the 2011 accident and on Thursday, China banned all seafood imports from Japan.

The fishing industry in Cape Cod, where Holtec is decommissioning the Pilgrim nuclear plant, has expressed similar concerns. Like New York, Massachusetts is blocking Holtec from releasing wastewater from the plant. Unlike at Indian Point, the Pilgrim plant did not discharge wastewater when it was in operation.



Water storage tanks at Fukushima

Photo by Dean Calma/IAEA



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Indian Point water

Using the Hudson River as a dump site for toxins and carcinogens must stop and Gov. Kathy Hochul and the state Legislature have done a good thing (“Hochul Signs Indian Point Bill,” posted Aug. 18). Dumping waste into our river should not be the default solution.

We should not celebrate, however. There is no definitive epidemiological study to assess the true risk of tritium. Should we dump all of it now or store it for an indefinite amount of time? No one really knows. A good solution for getting rid of the radioactive poisons we have allowed to be created does not exist.

Konstantin Doren, *Beacon*

Dockside art

Scenic Hudson accuses Thomas Bregman of “disrupting the natural ecology of the shoreline” (“He Built a Line, Then Crossed It,” Aug. 18). It sounds like what Scenic Hudson wants to do to the shoreline with its Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. Hypocrites.

Michael Bowman, *Nelsonville*

Let me get this straight: Some guy took a chainsaw down to the river and started cutting into driftwood trees because he had an idea? He was asked to stop and

came back the next day as an FU to Scenic Hudson and any other person down there trying to enjoy the day?

This just reeks of privilege and arrogance. If a non-white “artist” went down there with a chainsaw, he or she would be in cuffs. Why he wasn’t fined or arrested is sort of mysterious. The audacity of Scenic Hudson to stop this genius from doing whatever he wants!

Sean Breault, *via Instagram*

Soil removal

Thank you for publishing this article; it was much appreciated (“Land Trust ‘Renaturalizing’ Former Garrison Golf Course,” Aug. 18). What was the level of arsenic, mercury and cadmium in the soil that was removed? Where did the 500 tons of contaminated soil that was removed end up, and how was it transported?

Cheryl Allen, *Cold Spring*

We shared your questions with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, which responded: “Before acquiring land, HHLT commissions an assessment that helps us understand its condition and to check for environmental concerns. In this case, soil at the former golf course was tested by an environmental consulting firm that specializes in due diligence, investigation and remediation. Its

assessment indicated that two of the former greens showed signs of past fungicide use. Although the levels were within commercial safety standards, any soil pollutants can be disruptive to forest regeneration and habitat productivity. Soil was removed from those locations and taken by truck to a specialty waste company that provides remediation, disposal, recycling and beneficial reuse solutions for contaminated soil. New tests have been done and confirm that our soil remediation project was successful, and the soil now meets stricter residential standards.”

Lost and found

As a pet parent, I know exactly how Heather Howard Canavan felt about losing her Amazon parrot (“Fernando Flies the Coop,” Aug. 18). I’ve had more than one scare with my dog, Speedy. But somehow he always has come back, with the help of neighbors. I wish Heather and Fernando a healthy and happy life in British Columbia. I hear it’s beautiful.

Fern Sartori, *Wappingers Falls*

Voting machines

Thank you to former Assembly Member Sandy Galef for her challenge to touch-screen voting (*Letters and Comments*, Aug. 18). One of my fondest memories was meeting with her as a representative of New Yorkers for Verified Voting, along with League of Women Voters and other voting-integrity activists, as we supported legislation she sponsored to make New York a hand-marked paper ballot state. She is a great advocate for the importance of accurately counting our votes.

Margaret Yonco-Haines, *Garrison*

Looking back

I find it odd that so many people died in the 19th century from being hit by trains (“Looking Back in Beacon,” Aug. 18). A train death seems to appear in every month’s column. I mean, were people that slow, or didn’t they hear the trains from a mile away?

Don Torelli, *via Facebook*

Editor Chip Rowe responds: “My guess is there was usually alcohol involved, and walking the rails was the most direct route home. In the era before electric signals and other safety technology, it was also far more dangerous to be a track worker.”

You mentioned that, 25 years ago, the Tallix Foundry unveiled the clay model for the 24-foot-high “Il Cavallo.” If you can’t get to Milan to view the sculpture, there is a replica at the Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan, because Frederik Meijer was a major donor of the effort to recreate daVinci’s horse.

Ed Spaeth, *via Facebook*

(Continued on Page 5)

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS		
	PUTNAM	DUTCHESS
Primary vaccination:	76.8% Philipstown/CS: 88.8% Garrison: 83.5%	72.3% Beacon: 68.9%
Boosted:	21.9% Philipstown/CS: 32.7% Garrison: 25.9%	24.6% Beacon: 20.4%
Positive tests, 7-day average:	↑ 14.8%	↑ 24.2%
Number of deaths:	149 (0)	751 (0)
Source: State health department, as of Aug. 22 (vaccine data as of Aug. 18). Boosted is the percentage of people eligible for additional shots who are up to date. Numbers in parentheses are changes since July 26. Note: Because of the small incremental changes to the vaccination numbers, we print this chart in the last issue of each month.		

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

I attended the unveiling in August 1998 at the Tallix Foundry! It was amazing.
Heidilla Ho Kane, *via Facebook*

I was at the unveiling in Milan!
Johanna Porr, *via Facebook*

Boardinghouse
So the Zoning Board of Appeals in Beacon is hiring a consultant to research the appeal of a developer who was denied a special permit (“Boardinghouse Owners Asks for Variance,” Aug. 18). Does that expense get passed on to the owner of the property? Or is it absorbed by taxpayers?
Dorothy Villegas, *via Facebook*

The zoning board seems to do everything in its power to make sure housing stays expensive in Beacon. Considering his boardinghouse was destroyed by an arsonist, it’s absurd that the city won’t let Yeshia Berger rebuild the same on his property. It’s not like he is trying to skirt the rules.
The anti-housing contingent in Beacon is why we cannot have affordable housing. Preventing the construction of low-income housing is only making housing more expensive.
Brandon Smith, *Beacon*

Letter from Chile
I thoroughly enjoyed the poetic and nostalgic “Letter from Chile” (Aug. 18) by Violeta Edwards Salas, the young and talented member of your Student Journalists Program. Drawing from personal feelings about growing up in her cherished Cold Spring, as well as from her whimsical discovery of her own Chilean heritage after returning home to Santiago, Violeta takes us into the depths she draws from what might be merely tourism for someone less sensitive.
Hidden beneath her narrative is her wonder about the majesty of the Andes, the beauty of San Pedro de Atacama in the north, the power and relevance of the telescopes in that region and the infinity of the night sky.
Congratulations to *The Current* for giving Violeta and other talented youngsters a forum that enriches the paper with deeply moving perspectives. No doubt we will hear more from Violeta in the future.
Malena Kuss, *Cold Spring*

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IT’S YOUR CONSTITUTION: USE IT OR LOSE IT

The article below is by Timothy D. Snyder, Richard C. Levin Professor of History at Yale University, specializing in the history of Central and Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and the Holocaust. It is reprinted here by Bevis and Clara Longstreth of Garrison out of grave concern for tyrannies threatening our democracy.

We Can Have the Constitution, or We Can Have Trump

I once saw Arnold Schwarzenegger give a speech in Washington, D.C. It was a polished performance about making green politics cool. Republicans were whispering to each other: “too bad we can’t nominate this guy.” They meant: for president.

Schwarzenegger could not run for president because Section 1 of Article Two of the Constitution forbids it. The president must be a “natural-born citizen,” which is understood to mean someone who was born in the United States, or whose parents were citizens. Schwarzenegger, though a U.S. citizen, was born in Austria to Austrian parents.

Section 1 of Article Two is one, but not the only, place where the Constitution defines who may run for president. Whereas Section 1 of Article Two has to do with a factors over which a person has no control, place of birth and legal status of parents, Section 3 of the Fourteenth Amendment concerns how an American citizen behaves. It forbids officeholders who try to overthrow the Republic from holding office again. It reads:

“No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.”

It is obvious on a plain reading of this part of our Constitution that (absent a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress) Donald Trump is now ineligible for the office of the presidency. He took an oath as an officer of the United States, and then engaged in insurrection and rebellion, and gave aid and comfort to others who did the same. No one seriously disputes this. Trump certainly does not. His coup attempt after losing the 2020 election is the platform on which he is now staging what he portrays as his campaign for the presidency. The big lie he told at the time he continues to tell. He defied the Constitution and is now running against the Constitution.

One of the odd features about our political life is our capacity to look away from the obvious when the obvious might be “controversial.” We talk a good deal about the Constitution, and almost everyone in political life claims to venerate it — but who reads it? You just have to get as far as the Fourteenth Amendment to see that Trump cannot be president. To be sure, other people have been trying to make this point. Section Three was discussed in early 2021 as a possible response to Trump’s attempted coup. Perhaps it is an accident of that debate, which led instead to impeachment, that Section Three has received little attention since.

So I was heartened just now to read a comprehensive, powerfully argued (and beautifully written) article by the (conservative) legal scholars William Baude and Michael Stokes Paulsen. It defends the plain reading of Section 3 of the Fourteenth Amendment on what would seem to be every historical and interpretive ground. It was written with all possible objections in mind. Rather than belabor these, I suggest you read the article itself at bit.ly/baude-paulsen (which should be published as some sort free ebook).

The authors conclude that Trump is “no longer eligible to the office of Presidency, or any other state or federal office covered by the Constitution. All who are committed to the Constitution should take note and say so.” Although I am focusing on Trump here, the authors of the article are concerned with insurrectionists in general. For them, Trump is one of many people who are now, given their participation in Trump’s coup attempt, ineligible for office.

I worry that we will find some excuse not to draw the obvious conclusion about Trump, so well grounded in the article. It was troubling, for me at least, to see The New York Times coverage of the article relativize its central finding with this vague but suggestive formulation: “voters remain free to assess whether his conduct was blameworthy.” This wording suggests that Trump can run for president, and that we as voters can then consider his ineligibility for that office alongside his legal problems (which The Times article then rehearses). That is wrong, because it misunderstands what ineligibility is.

Arnold Schwarzenegger would also like to run for president in 2024. He thinks he would win, and he may well be right. But we cannot decide to elect a president who is not a natural-born citizen. This is not an issue we are “free to assess,” because we are governed by the Constitution. For the same reason, we cannot vote for oath-breaking insurrectionists such as Donald Trump. Such people are barred by the Constitution from running for president.

We can have the Constitution, or we can have Trump.

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Lawler Urges Immigration Reform, Energy Policy

Says Trump 'clearly' lost in 2020

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Rep. Mike Lawler, whose U.S. House district includes Philipstown, used a constituent forum on Tuesday (Aug. 22) to promote immigration reform, domestic energy production, lifting the \$10,000 cap on income-tax deductions for state and local taxes; and teaching “the good, the bad, the ugly” of U.S. history.

It was the first town hall in Putnam County since Lawler took office after he defeated incumbent Sean Patrick Maloney by a narrow margin in November 2022. It occurred inside a public school in Carmel and drew about 100 attendees, limited to residents of Lawler's congressional district.

The Lawler team prevented *The Current* from recording the 90-minute event, taking photos or asking questions, and spectators could only query Lawler if their numbered tickets were drawn from a basket.

Affordability and energy

In response to a question from Philipstown resident Cindy Trimble, Lawler linked “affordability” for Hudson Valley households to energy policy and taxes. He pointed out that the first bill he introduced in the House was “to lift the cap on SALT [state and local tax] deductions that federal

taxpayers can claim.

“When the former president [Donald Trump] and the Republican Congress implemented” legislation in 2017, “they used SALT as pay for the tax bill,” Lawler said. “Unfortunately, it was arbitrary and capricious for states like New York.” Although the latter “must do a lot more to get its spending under control, we shouldn’t be penalized, double-taxed for state and local taxes.”

Likewise, to boost affordability, “we need a coherent energy policy that increases domestic production,” said Lawler. “To rely on foreign governments when they don’t have anywhere near the same environmental standards and protections we have makes no sense whatsoever.”

Migrants

A health care worker in the audience asserted that “illegal immigration has a huge fiscal impact on taxpayers” and pointed to the arrival of “undocumented people” in New York. “I’m very concerned about the diseases they’re bringing into the country,” she said.

A man contended that Hudson Valley residents who suffered from July floods await financial assistance, while “we’re spending \$750 a day for a hotel room and they [unnamed bureaucrats] send the people of Hawaii \$700” after fires on Maui. “It’s embarrassing.”

Lawler responded that while federal and



Rep. Mike Lawler

state governments provide broad disaster aid, channeling relief to individual properties takes time. “This is where people get frustrated with government,” he said. “To me, it’s a function of priorities. When we are spending a billion dollars in the state budget to house illegal immigrants, but we can’t help our own residents who’ve had their homes destroyed, for no fault of their own, that’s a problem.”

He described “the migrant crisis” as “one of the biggest challenges” facing governments, local to national. Along with securing the southern border, he advised increasing the number of court personnel to handle

asylum requests, because some newcomers “have legitimate claims for asylum; many do not” and whatever the situation, “asylum cases need to be heard expeditiously.”

Lawler recommended that Congress overhaul U.S. immigration law, which he said has not been substantively updated since 1986, the year of his birth. “It’s time for members of both parties to cut the crap on immigration and solve it,” he said.

Education

Vinny Tamagna, president of the Constitution Island Association and former Putnam County legislator who represented Philipstown, advocated getting education “back to what we have, which is the real source of American principles.”

Lawler responded that “obviously, we should teach our history — the good, the bad and the ugly, all of that.” And “it should be rooted in facts and evidence and should be unbiased.” Letting political infighting interfere with history lessons “doesn’t serve anybody,” he said. “We should be making sure our children know our history — all of it, learn from it, and ensure that we don’t repeat it.”

Trump

A Philipstown woman who described herself as an active Democrat asked if Lawler “would be willing to condemn Donald Trump” for trying to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

“I have said clearly, repeatedly, that Donald Trump lost the election,” Lawler replied. “What happened on Jan. 6 was wrong and never should have happened. When you lose, you lose. He has been indicted four times now. And he will have his day in court.”

But Lawler also maintained that “this is not just a one-party issue,” since both Republicans and Democrats, at times, have questioned election results or district boundaries, bringing “challenges all across the board that are disruptive and undermine democracy.” Nonetheless, he continued, claiming an election was stolen “doesn’t serve anybody well; doesn’t serve the country well. And if you’re going to make those claims, you’d better have the evidence to prove that.”

NEWS BRIEF

Beacon Police Stop Knife Fight

Officers make two arrests on Teller Avenue

Beacon police made two arrests on Monday (Aug. 21) after receiving multiple 911 calls at about 5 p.m. reporting three men were involved in a knife fight in the middle of Teller Avenue.

Police detained the men, including two who had knives. Officers arrested Devon L. Hamlet, 21, and Cameron A. Shorey, 25, both of Beacon, who were each charged with disorderly conduct and misdemeanor criminal possession of a weapon.

The suspects were released pending arraignment in Beacon City Court. The third man was released without charges.

The HIGHLANDS

Current

STUDENT JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

The Current is looking for a few good high school journalists.

Now in its fourth year, our Student Journalists Program to provide an opportunity for students who attend high school in Philipstown and Beacon to be mentored by professional journalists while they serve as correspondents for our nonprofit newspaper and website.

The reporting of correspondents selected for the program will appear at highlandscurrent.org and select stories will be printed. The staff, when editing stories by our student correspondents, will provide detailed feedback and suggestions to improve and refine their reporting.

Students will be expected to submit photos and video (when applicable) as part of their assignments. Due to the generous support of our *Highlands Current* members, correspondents will be compensated for the stories and photos that we publish online and/or in print. If you are interested in becoming a student correspondent, you can review the requirements and apply at

highlandscurrent.org/sjp

Chip Rowe
Chip Rowe, Editor
The Highlands Current

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Sat + Sun – August 26 + 27 – 1-5 PM
“REALISM ON THE HUDSON”
An exhibition of traditional paintings and drawings by members of American Artists Professional League. Commemorating the AAPL's 95th anniversary since its founding in NYC, back in 1928.
Opening Reception - Sun, August 27th 1-3pm

Sat – August 26 – 8pm
SUMMER CHILDREN
Secret World: Album Release Concert
Come here a folk/jazz/bluegrass band from NYC Singer and guitarist **Aayushi Karnik** fronts this quartet and is originally from India by way of Juilliard.
Tix adv \$20 or \$25 at the door - howlandculturalcenter.org

Sat – September 2 – 8pm
FLAMENCODANZA
Dancer Aylin Bayas and guitarist Raúl Mannola
“A performance packed with passion, elegance, inspiration and breathtaking beauty,” said Broadway World.
Tix adv \$25 or \$30 at the door - howlandculturalcenter.org

OPEN MIC NIGHT - Aug 25
LIT LIT - Sept 1
ERIC STARR - A Celebration of Women in History - Sept 9
TANGO LESSONS - Learn Argentine tango! - Sept 11
Emiliano de Laurentiis, will teach an eight-week course. See details at howlandculturalcenter.org.
Check our website + media for more events, info + tickets

477 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508
www.howlandculturalcenter.org (845) 831-4988
facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon
howlandculturalcenter.org

Deer Making a Comeback

Mixed reaction as population recovers from virus

By Vince Bielski

Love 'em or hate 'em, deer are making a comeback in the Highlands, and across the state.

Just ask Patrick Shields, who like most Philipstown residents, used to see deer all the time until about 2020, when a deadly virus spread through the population. Shields says he hadn't seen a deer around his home on Grandview Terrace in Cold Spring or in the village's open spaces for three years, until last month.

"I saw two walking near my yard," said Shields. "I like having them around."

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) said recently that its monitoring indicates the population in Putnam, Dutchess and other Hudson Valley counties is recovering from epizootic hemorrhagic disease, which is transmitted by bites from midges and kills deer within days. Over time, the deer build resistance, allowing the population to slowly recover.

The DEC estimates the size of the popu-



Welcome back. File photo

lation by the number of bucks killed by hunters. In Putnam County, that figure dropped from 231 in 2019 to 177 two years later before rising to 204 in 2022.

In Dutchess, the virus outbreak occurred in 2021, a year after Putnam. "Time will tell, but we are seeing an increase in the

adult male take there, as well," said Brendan Quirion, the DEC's big-game biologist.

At the same time, the DEC is trying to prevent a return of the population to levels before the outbreak, because the herd in 2019 was larger than the capacity of the forests to maintain it. When there are too many deer, their browsing destroys so many shrubs and plants that it depletes the habitat for other wildlife and creates a foothold for invasive species.

Too many deer also aggravate homeowners. In DEC surveys conducted in 2018, 2019 and 2020, before the viral outbreak, most Putnam and Dutchess homeowners said they wanted to see fewer deer, not more.

The DEC is hoping by 2030 to trim the population by at least 25 percent from 2018 levels in Putnam, Dutchess and other counties. However, Quirion said, that could be a challenge, given that the animal is a prolific reproducer, akin to rabbits, and while the DEC asks hunters to shoot does to reduce the population, they prefer bucks with antlers. There also isn't much hunting in counties such as Putnam.

As a last resort, the DEC could hire contractors to shoot does, Quirion said. In the meantime, "we have to encourage hunters to also take antlerless deer by educating them that it's important for the health of the habitat."

School Board Weighs Appointment

Vote expected on filling Beacon vacancy

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon school board is expected to vote Monday (Aug. 28) on whether to appoint a new member to a vacant seat or leave it open until the election in May.

The seat was vacated by John Galloway Jr., who resigned from the nine-member board in June. If a new member is appointed, he or she would have to run to keep the seat in the spring.

The board said at least two people have expressed interest in the seat but did not release their names.

During their Aug. 14 meeting, board members appeared to be leaning toward waiting until the election. It was noted that the campaign process, which includes submitting a nominating petition with district voters' signatures, helps candidates prepare for the work that is to come if elected.

"You are a better board member when you have those 100 conversations" while gathering signatures, said Kristan Flynn, who was appointed in 2016 and has been elected by voters three times since.

Alena Kush, who was elected last year for the first time, concurred. Gathering signatures "was not an easy thing to do," she said. "And it was a testament to say, 'You want to be a part of this thing.'"

Galloway was appointed to the board in October 2020 and elected to a three-year term in May 2021. In their meetings in July and earlier this month, board members noted the turmoil surrounding the appointments of Galloway and Jasmine Johnson, both of whom are Black, after an outcry

over the board's lack of diversity.

Johnson, a 2016 Beacon High School graduate, was appointed a month before Galloway, who graduated from Beacon High School in 2015. Johnson was also elected in 2021 but resigned in April 2022.

Flynn said Aug. 14 that it was "super uncomfortable" being a white appointee, along with Craig Wolf, in 2016, when two Black candidates, Frank Bugg and April Farley, were not chosen. By 2020, when the board again had two vacancies, "it felt like it was appropriate to make a correction" by appointing Johnson and Galloway to the nearly all-white panel, she said.

Anthony White opposed appointing Johnson and Galloway but has said the board should be consistent and consider an appointment in this instance. On Aug. 14, he said the board could solicit applications but make no appointment if it isn't

satisfied with the candidates.

"I would have been devastated" had that happened when she was a candidate for appointment, Flynn said.

Vice President Flora Stadler, who led the Aug. 14 meeting because Meredith Heuer, the board president, was absent, said she would like the board to also discuss on Monday setting "parameters," so there are clearer guidelines when a vacancy should be filled by appointment and when the board should wait until the next election.

In addition to Galloway and Johnson, James Case-Leal, in his first term, and Michael Rutkoske, in his second term, resigned in July 2020 and Antony Tseng, in his third term, resigned in March of this year. Rutkoske and Tseng both said they were leaving due to work commitments.

Case-Leal wrote in a resignation letter that he was leaving so the board could appoint Galloway and Johnson, who had both expressed interest in Rutkoske's seat.

NOTICE

TAX COLLECTION

I, Myra Stoner (tax collector), Collector of Taxes for the Haldane Central School District, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes. Such taxes may be paid by mail to Haldane Central School District, P.O. Box 1305, Buffalo, New York 14240-1305 or online at www.taxlookup.net. and follow the directions. Taxes may be paid on or before September 30, 2023 without penalty. On all taxes received from October 1 through October 31, 2023 a 2% penalty will be added. No taxes will be received after November 1, 2023. Unpaid school taxes will be received with your Town and County taxes in January 2024 with an increased rate of interest.

Myra Stoner, School Tax Collector Dated: August 22, 2023

What's Online at Highlands Current.org

These resources can be accessed through the pulldown menu on the top of each page, under "Resources" and "Reader Guide."

Local Officials

This is a list of elected and appointed officials at the local, state and federal level and how to contact them with your praise or protests.

Local Government Video Guide

OK, it's not Netflix, but here's a list of sites where you can watch videos of local and county public meetings.

How They Voted (Congress)

Summaries of consequential and newsworthy legislation in the U.S. House and how Rep. Mike Lawler (Philipstown) and Rep. Pat Ryan (Beacon) voted. Updated weekly when Congress meets.

Storm Updates and Resources

Storm watcher resources and contacts for when the power goes out.

Community Calendar

This is the full Monty — we only have room for the highlights in print.

Community Directory

This is a continually updated guide to local businesses and cultural sites, with addresses, phone numbers and web links.

Shop Local Online

We created this during the pandemic; it's a list of local retailers that allow you to order online.

Real-Estate Data

These graphs are created on-the-fly by a firm called Dataherald and include the number of new listings in Putnam and Dutchess counties, the number of home sales and median home sale price.

Job Search

Provided by Indeed, these are continually updated listings for open positions in the Highlands and surrounding areas.

Back Issues

This is an archive of our past issues, in PDF format, from June 2012 to date, except for the latest issue, which is emailed to *Current* members on Friday morning.

Podcast Archives

Here are links to all the episodes of our podcast, for easy listening. The three most popular downloads so far have been interviews with a barefoot Ironman competitor; Dinky Romilly of Philipstown, who discussed her civil rights work and her famous mother; and the author of a book about stone walls.

NEWS BRIEFS

Putnam Golfer Accused of Killing Goose

Bird allegedly dazed by ball, beaten

A golfer at the Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac allegedly beat a Canada Goose to death Aug. 18 after it was hit and dazed by a ball.

According to the Putnam County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, witnesses at the course said a golfer on the 14th hole struck the dazed bird several times with his club, walked away, noticed the goose still moving and returned to hit it again.

“We were told by a witness a goose on the course was hit by the ball and went down,” SPCA Chief Ken Ross told Patch.com. “It struggled to get up. Another golfer saw it struggle and wanted to put it out of its misery.”

“People have different ideas of what’s right and what’s wrong. He didn’t want to see the bird slowly die,” Ross said. “The bigger issue is, none of these people are veterinarians. You don’t know if it was life-threatening.”

He told Patch.com that a veterinarian that examined the carcass said the bird probably would have survived the golf ball strike to its chest.

The Putnam County SPCA, which is a law-enforcement agency, charged Enrico Sarli of Carmel with allegedly committing

one count of animal cruelty, and police officers from the state Department of Environmental Conservation issued him a summons. The SCPA said Sarli will be arraigned at the Town of Carmel Court on Sept. 12.

Beacon Man Charged After Melee

Allegedly involved in Poughkeepsie assault

A Beacon man was arrested and charged with assault following a melee in Poughkeepsie on Sunday (Aug. 20).

Rakim Paulin, 43, was charged with first-degree attempted assault and first-degree assault, City of Poughkeepsie police said in a statement. Jeremy Taylor, 40, of Poughkeepsie was also charged with first-degree assault. Both men were being held pending their arraignments.

Police said that at about 3 p.m. on Sunday, two vehicles in Poughkeepsie were reported driving the wrong way down a one-way street. One vehicle struck at least two people and another vehicle. A person who was hit by a vehicle, stabbed and struck with a bat was taken to Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital and was in critical condition, the police said. Another person struck by a vehicle was treated and released.

Videos apparently taken by witnesses



SIDEWALK REHAB — The reconstruction of sidewalks on South Avenue in Beacon across from the elementary school will be completed in about two weeks, the city said. They will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act from Davies to Wolcott avenues. The upgrade was funded by a grant from Dutchess County. *Photo provided*

and broadcast by News 12 Westchester showed a man waving a rifle in the middle of the street and two men punching and kicking other men who were on the ground. One attacker also hit the men with a baseball bat.

BOSCOBEL

CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

USE CODE "BCMFHC" FOR 15% OFF

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY of Palm Beach

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 1 | 7PM

CHAUSSON & YSAÏE CONCERT

Arnaud Sussmann, violin | Jennifer Frautschi, violin | Benjamin Beilman, violin
Nick Canellakis, cell | David Requiro, cell | Milena Pájaro-van de Stadt, viola
Michael Stephen Brown, piano

SEPTEMBER 2 | 2PM

VIOLIN MAKER TALK

Master Luthier Samuel Zygmuntowicz explores the science and craftsmanship of the violin, demonstrating authentic Stradivari and the Strad-style violins he crafts.

SEPTEMBER 4 | 6PM

GREAT LAWN CONCERT

Arnaud Sussmann, violin | Jennifer Frautschi, violin | Nick Canellakis, cello
David Requiro, cell | Milena Pájaro-van de Stadt, viola
Jonathan Vinocour, viola

TICKETS AND INFORMATION AT BOSCOBEL.ORG



Marigold



Harrison Manning

Photos provided

The Calendar

Now Playing: 10 Local Bands

In the Pines festival returns in Beacon

By Alison Rooney

The more things change, the more ... you know the words. With Stephen Clair of the Beacon Music Factory resurrecting one of his stable of festivals next month, there was an opportunity to dip into press kits from earlier concerts. For instance, in January 2012, when BMF opened, I wrote:

“The music scene in Philipstown and Beacon has been accelerating for the past decade, with a succession of mini-hubs coming and going, acting as showcases and venues for the many musicians living locally, seeking to perform on their home turf.”

The 11 intervening years have seen some gains in new spaces to hear music — notably The Yard — but also some inevitable losses, many clocked under the category of the large riverside-situated festivals, which eased up as Clair got busier with running BMF and other enterprises.

Part of the impetus for Clair’s founding of BMF was the success of the Rock Boot Camps he’d been operating through Beacon Recreation at University Settlement, all while producing live music events — 15, by his count — many under the auspices of Local 845, a Clair-founded live music production company, and Beacon Riverfest.

Now it seems the circle will be unbroken again with the return of In the Pines, an indoor-outdoor casual, multi-generational



The Stephen Clair Band: Aaron Latos, Clair and Daria Grace Photo by Tony Cenicola

festival, which takes place at University Settlement on Sept. 9, rain or shine— or both, because there will be inside and outside stages.

“I moved here in 2007, when only 30 percent of Main Street was occupied,” Clair says. “Around 2009 I got a crazy idea to put on Beacon Riverfest, which happened in 2010 with Tracy Bonham and the Flesh-tones. Twenty-seven hundred people came, and they wanted a big free concert on the river so we did it again in 2011, but by then I was already doing all kind of things.

“What’s been consistent is how much support we’ve always had from the Rec



M Roosevelt (aka Mike Rasimas)

Department,” he adds. “I’m grateful to [Director] Mark Price, who’s made all this happen for years. It is a special event, in a special place. A lot of it is the space itself. Hang out, play with Frisbees and Hula-Hoops. Watch your kids roll around in the mud. If you’ve moved here in the past couple of years and you want to know what’s going on musically, come to this event.”

At the 2023 makeover, the focus will be on rock, Clair says, noting that makes for a change from Riverfest, where the vibe was more indie rock and world music. “This is rock-leaning, though rock is a pretty broad thing,” he says.

The bands — all local — scheduled to perform are Liz Kelly with the Better Half (“Fearless onstage, fun to watch,” says Clair); Marigold (“Has not yet played a local



Ryan Havers of Ears With Eyes

show”); and Harrison Manning (“Famous for Harry’s Hot Sandwiches, now he’s fronting his own indie rock kinda band”), along with Barnaby!, M. Roosevelt, Ears With Eyes, Watson, the Lousin Brothers, Noga Cabo (see Page 13) and, of course, the Stephen Clair Band.

“Inevitably, choosing means not choosing everybody,” Clair says. “I don’t think of it that way because I don’t think of this event or any event I produce as an isolated thing. It’s more of a continuum of events, so anybody who fits the bill will be on the bill — some bill — at some point. This is one of many opportunities. That might just sound like gobbledygook, but that’s how I see it.”

University Settlement is located at 724 Wolcott Ave. (Route 9D), in Beacon. The doors will open at 2 p.m., with music from 3 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at inthepines.rocks, or \$35 at the door. Children younger than 12 will be admitted free. Parking is free; drive toward the theater, turn left and into the fields. Food and drink will be available for purchase from Number Seven Sandwich Hub and Hudson Valley Brewery.

“ The bands — all local — scheduled to perform are Liz Kelly with the Better Half, Marigold, Harrison Manning, Barnaby!, M. Roosevelt, Ears With Eyes, Watson, the Lousin Brothers, Noga Cabo and, of course, the Stephen Clair Band.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 26
Dutchess County Fair

RHINEBECK
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds
6550 Spring Brook Ave.
dutchessfair.com

There will be rides, performances, food, games and 4-H displays and animals. Refugee, a Tom Petty tribute band, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Also SUN 27 (closing). Rain or shine. No pets. *Cost: \$13.50 (ages 11 and younger free, \$30 unlimited rides)*



Dutchess County Fair, Aug. 26-27

FRI 1
Hudson Valley Ramble

hudsonrivervalleyramble.com
See the website for details about talks, hikes and tours highlighting nature and outdoor recreation. Through Oct. 1.

FRI 1
First Friday

COLD SPRING
5 – 8 p.m. Main Street
coldspringnychamber.com
Businesses and restaurants will have extended hours and offer specials or events. See website for details.

SAT 2
5K and Fun Run

COLD SPRING
8 a.m. Bandstand | 2 Main St.
bit.ly/hub-5k
The 5K race at this annual benefit for the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the family fun run at 10:30 a.m.

SAT 2
Friends of the Library Book Sale

GARRISON
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Find used books of all genres in this fundraiser for library programs. Daily through Sept. 12. See website for hours. Members-only events are scheduled for WED 30 and FRI 1.

SAT 2
Community Day

COLD SPRING
3 – 7 p.m. Main Street
The rain date is SUN 3.

SAT 2
Labor Day Celebration

WEST POINT
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point
westpointband.com
The Benny Havens Band, The Hellcats and the Concert Band will perform, followed by fireworks. *Free*

SUN 3
NexGen Car Show

POUGHKEEPSIE
Noon – 6 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
The event will include displays, demonstrations, contests and guest appearances. *Cost: \$25 (ages 12 and younger free)*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 26
Family Fun Day

GARRISON
3 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
Learn about the theater's

programs and enjoy a performance by young singers. There will also be face painting and other activities. The rain date is SUN 27.

THURS 31
StarLab Planetarium

GARRISON
4 & 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Learn about the stars in an inflatable planetarium. Registration required.

TALKS & TOURS

TUES 29
Aging with Grace

BEACON
12:30 p.m. Howland Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org
Join facilitator Carole Penner for a safe, friendly group discussion about the trials and joys of getting older.

SAT 2
Lincoln's Secret Visit to West Point

PEEKSKILL
2 p.m. Lincoln Depot Museum
10 S. Water St.
lincolndepotmuseum.org
In June 1862, the president made a clandestine trip to West Point, traveling by train from Washington, D.C., to Garrison's Landing, then across the river by ferry. He also toured the West Point Foundry in Cold Spring. Historian Anthony Czarnecki will discuss the historic three-day stay. *Cost: \$10*

TUES 5
Writers' Meet-up

BEACON
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Howland Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org
Former members of the library's weekly Come Write In sessions have organized their own group, I Feel I'll Write Today, which meets on the first

and third Tuesday of each month. Write, share your work and receive feedback in a supportive environment.

SCREEN & STAGE

SAT 26
Love's Labor's Lost

GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org
Four young men try to uphold their commitment to their studies and not be tempted by the arrival of four women. Also SUN 27 (closing). *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

FRI 1
Ghost

BEACON
6 & 7 p.m. Boats leave dock
bannermancastle.org
See the 1990 romance starring Demi Moore, Whoopi Goldberg and Patrick Swayze outdoors on Bannerman Island. *Cost: \$40*

FRI 1
Lit Lit

BEACON
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | donnaminkowitz.com/lit-lit
Sign up to read work from any genre at this monthly open mic series — or just enjoy listening.

SAT 2
Penelope

GARRISON
7 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org
See the world premiere of this one-person show starring Tatiana Wechsler as *The Odyssey* is retold through a character on the margins. Nightly except Mondays through Sept. 17. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

SAT 2
Flamencodanza

BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org
Dancer Aylin Bayaz and guitarist Raúl Mannola will perform flamenco. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 3
Hudson River Music & Comedy Fest

PEEKSKILL
4 – 10 p.m. The Factoria at Charles Point
5 John Walsh Boulevard
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The line-up will include Damselle, Professor Louie and the Cromatix and Jay Prince and Friends, and comedians John Iavarone, Vinny Mark, Renee DeLoreno and Jeff Norris. *Free*

VISUAL ART

SAT 26
Art Walk

NEWBURGH
1 – 5 p.m. various locations
newburghart.org/nbny-artseen
Galleries will be open for a walking tour. See website for a map of participants.

SAT 26
Janice Caswell

GARRISON
3 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org
The artist will discuss her work on exhibit in *Off-kilter*.

SAT 26
Vivien Collens

NEWBURGH
3 – 5 p.m. Holland Tunnel
46 Chambers St.
hollandtunnelgallery.com
The artist, who moved to New York City in 1977, will exhibit her sculptures based on urban and natural environments.



SUN 27
Realism on the Hudson

BEACON
1 – 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Work by members of the American Artists Professional League will be on view through Oct. 1.

FRI 1
Legacy

COLD SPRING
5 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
123 Main St. | busterlevigallery.com
Pat Hickman will exhibit new work. Through Oct. 1.

FRI 1
Field Dressings for Lazarus

NEWBURGH
5 – 8 p.m. Visitor Center
233 Liberty St. | visitorcenter.space
The show by Lodger Studio, a project by Leon Johnson, will include 25 years of research and work. Through Oct. 6.



MUSIC

SAT 26
Music on the Lawn

BEACON
2 – 6 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave. | 845-765-0667
Tony De Paolo, N.O. 149 and Second Shot will play at this fundraiser for Elks' programs. *Cost: \$10*



Lincoln's Secret Visit, Sept. 2

SAT 26
Summer Children
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
The folk, jazz and bluegrass quartet will debut their new album, *Secret World*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 26
Jason Gisser Band
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The soul-rock band will be joined by Paul Byrne and the Bleeders. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

SUN 27
Pete Seeger Sing-a-Long
COLD SPRING
3 p.m. Methodist Church | 216 Main St.
Hosted by the Highlands Chapel.

SUN 27
Gabriel Evans
GARRISON
3 p.m. St. Philip's Church
1101 Route 9D
The organist's program will include music by LGBTQ+ composers. *Cost: \$20 donation*



Jason Gisser Band, Aug. 26



Chamber Music Festival, Sept. 1

WED 30
Kyra Gordon
BEACON
8 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St. | dogwoodbeacon.com
The singer will perform songs from her latest release, *Soul of a Showgirl*. *Free*

FRI 1
Chamber Music Festival
GARRISON
7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
The opening night of Boscobel's second annual festival will include Jennifer Frautschi, Arnaud

Sussmann and Benjamin Beilman on violin and Michael Stephen Brown (piano), Milena Pájarovan de Stadt (viola) and Nicholas Canellakis (cello) performing works by Chausson and Ysaÿe. *Cost: \$65 (\$45 ages 4-18, member discount)*

FRI 1
Pousette-Dart Duo
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Jon Pousette-Dart and Jim Chapdelaine will play music from their latest release, *The Talk*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 2
Master Violin Maker
GARRISON
2 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
Sam Zygmuntowicz, a master violin maker, will discuss what makes a Stradivarius a Stradivarius, and whether a modern violin can capture the same magic. Chamber Music Festival artists will demonstrate a Stradivari and a modern "Strad-style" violin. *Cost: \$25 (\$15 ages 4-18, member discount)*

SAT 2
Tina Turner Tribute
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Vivian Ross and her band will perform the late singer's hits. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 3
Songs That Honor Working People
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Guthrie's Ghost, Magpie, Bruce Molsky and Andy Stack and Adrien Reju will perform folk and Americana songs to celebrate Labor Day. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

CIVIC
MON 28
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 28
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

Who is Cold Spring's best amateur baker?

Find out at the 2023 Community Day Party

PIE Baking CONTEST



Saturday, September 2
Bring your pies between 3 - 3:30pm
Pies will be judged at 4pm
Main Street Party 3-7pm
Pieces of the pies will be for sale during the remainder of the event.
Go to www.coldspringny.gov for details, rules and entry form. Good Luck!

- DJ
- Food
- Face Painting
- Street Games & More!

Thank you for your help in creating Cold Spring's Community Day event!




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Small, Good Things

The Tin Man

By Joe Dizney

When I worried to a friend that I had concerns about doing a recipe focused on canned sardines so soon after having sung the praises of tinned tuna last month, she assured me it was in the zeitgeist. Sure enough, that week a headline appeared in *The Guardian*: “Sardinecore: Welcome To Summer’s Sexiest, Fishiest New Fashion Trend.”

Truth is, I am decidedly not jumping on any bandwagon. I just happen to be on a program of trying to use what’s in my pantry, and with food prices doing what they’re doing, I happen to have a stockpile of both tuna and sardines after a recent sale at Zingermans.com. Need I reinforce that both are shelf-stable powerhouse sources of natural protein, vitamins, minerals and omega-3 fatty acids?

The sardines first had me thinking about pasta con le sarde, a quick, simple-but-unexpected Sicilian sauce made from sardines, onions, fennel, golden raisins, pignolis, anchovies and saffron; finished with toasted, seasoned bread crumbs; and usually served over spaghetti.



It’s perfect when you need an aspirational ray of sunshine in the bleak midwinter, but is also uncommonly tasty, a historical culinary fusion combining the Mediterranean palette of flavors common to Sicily, particularly the Arabic notes of golden raisins and saffron. The bread crumbs are a welcome and traditional change of pace from cheese-topped red-sauce “eye-talian,” generally considered a cultural no-no with seafood.

But then, as a latecomer to the tinned-fish party, I stumbled on this no-brainer of a recipe (at right) hiding in plain sight. The hundreds of recipes found online describe a sauté of onions, garlic, tomatoes, herbs and sardines baked for a bit, removed long enough to crack a couple of eggs on top and returned to the oven until the eggs are cooked.

Although the history of the recipe is cloudy, it makes a lot of sense, particularly in the fishing and culinary cultures circling the Mediterranean. A no-frills oeufs cocotte (baked eggs) with fish, it makes for a great breakfast with toast or light lunch or dinner over arugula.

Never being one to leave well enough alone, I discovered that a further fusion of the dishes was an experiment that paid off. I substituted leeks for onions (because I had some to use) and plumped the raisins in white wine vinegar with a pinch of saffron and one smashed clove of garlic, a trick picked up from chef Joshua McFadden. It cuts the sweetness of the raisins a bit and the reserved vinegar (later used to moisten the

Fisherman’s Eggs, Sicilian Style

Serves 2 to 4

¼ cup white wine vinegar
Pinch saffron (optional)
1 clove garlic smashed
¼ cup golden raisins
½ cup panko
½ teaspoon ground fennel seed
¼ teaspoon fennel pollen (optional)
Zest of 1 lemon
¼ cup minced parsley
1 cup fennel (about ½ large bulb), chopped; fronds reserved
1 cup leeks, white and light-green parts sliced thin (about 2 medium leeks), rinsed and drained
4 oil-packed anchovy fillets, roughly chopped
¼ cup pine nuts, toasted
2 (3.75-ounce) cans sardines in olive oil, drained and cut into 1 inch pieces
4 eggs (at room temperature)
Extra-virgin olive oil, as needed
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
Toast or greens for serving

1. In a small bowl or measuring cup, warm vinegar in a microwave (30 seconds at full power) until barely steaming. Add saffron (if using) and stir to dissolve. Let sit for 10 minutes and add garlic clove and raisins. Soak for at least 30 minutes to plump raisins. Discard the garlic and drain, reserving the vinegar and raisins separately. Set aside.

2. In a small ovenproof skillet over medium high heat add about 1½ tablespoons of olive oil until shimmering. Add ground fennel, cook until fragrant (about 20 to 30 seconds) and add panko. Cook, tossing until lightly toasted and colored. Transfer to a bowl and add fennel pollen (if using), a pinch of the lemon zest and 1 tablespoon parsley. Stir to incorporate. Season with salt and pepper and set aside.

3. Heat oven to 375 degrees. In a medium ovenproof skillet, heat 3 tablespoons olive oil over medium heat until shimmering. Add sliced leeks and diced fennel. Cook, stirring, until onion and fennel are tender (3 to 5 minutes). Place pan in preheated oven and roast for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and add anchovies, raisins, pine nuts, remaining lemon zest, parsley, 2 to 3 tablespoons of the seasoned bread crumb mixture and a splash (2 tablespoons) of the reserved vinegar to moisten. Stir briefly to loosen any crusty bits and roughly blend the ingredients.

4. Add sardines, tossing gently, to avoid breaking them up too much and cook until just heated through (about 2 minutes). Off heat, make four divots large enough to crack one egg into and do just that. Return pan to the oven and bake until eggs are just done (10 to 14 minutes, depending on how runny you like your yolks). Serve with or over crusty toast or greens. Top with a tablespoon of seasoned bread crumbs garnished with chopped fennel fronds.

vegetable mixture) adds acidic brightness.

If I had it to do all over again — and I will — I’d add a quarter cup of chopped

olives (meaty Castelvetranos, suggested), but honestly, there’s already enough here to satisfy the hungry eater.

“A spellbound, compelling play with a final, surprising twist.”

The Anastasia File

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Technical Director Bill Diamond, an Emmy Award Winning Designer Stage Manager Liz Powers

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* Actors appear courtesy of Actors Equity Association

Ron Morehead*

Brian Petri

Emily Clare Zempel*

Audrey Rapoport*



Start Reading Now

September book club selections

Abe Lincoln/Civil War Book Club THURS 7, 7 P.M.

Lincoln on the Verge, by Ted Widmer
Lincoln Depot Museum
10 S. Water St., Peekskill
Email LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com.

Elementary Book Club (Grades 2-4) THURS 14, 3:15 P.M.

Surely Surely Marisol Rainey,
by Erin Entrada Kelly
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Page-to-Screen Book Club THURS 21, 5:30 P.M.

Bless Me Ultima, by Rudolfo Anaya
Desmond-Fish Public Library, Garrison
Register at desmondfishlibrary.org.

Percy Jackson Book Club (Grades 5+) TUES 26, 3:15 P.M.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians,
by Rick Riordan
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Butterfield Book Club WED 27, 7 P.M.

Braiding Sweetgrass,
by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Noga Steps Out

Beacon songwriter,
composer goes solo

By Alison Rooney

What do you get when you cross a Polish/Egyptian bassist who plays in Israeli rock bands and a Cuban/Puerto Rican trumpet player who plays in salsa bands?

You get Noga, or formally, Noga Cabo. She's all of these things, as well as a songwriter, composer and creator of interdisciplinary art. She sings, too, and she'll be putting all those talents onstage at In The Pines, a music festival in Beacon scheduled for Sept. 9 at University Settlement. (See Page 9.)

Cabo, 21, grew up in Beacon, and music was always in her home. Her father managed and her mother produced a family group that morphed into the Solar Sound Band, which played around the area and released two EPs but was still "very much a kids' project," Cabo says.

She attended the LaGuardia School of the Arts after her family moved to a Bronx apartment for a few years to accommodate this. She had been enrolled at a small, conservative Jewish school in New Jersey, and New York City "felt like a space that made more sense for me to be in," she says.

Before switching to LaGuardia, she saw a show there by the new music ensemble, performing original music. "It blew my mind," she recalls. "I was jumping up and down. I thought, 'I need to go to this school.' It felt like a huge funnel for me to develop my songwriting and create music for large ensembles."

While still in high school, Cabo won three national Young Arts awards, as well as the BMI Foundation 2019 Theodora Zavin Scholarship for achievement in composition.

Cabo attended the New England Conservatory and, after six weeks, found her way into the chamber choir. "I'm a huge choir nerd," she explains. Another group was looking for a female composer to craft a piece for an interdisciplinary event.

She was commissioned "with the only instruction being the prompt, the word



Noga Cabo performing at the Howland Cultural Center

Photo by Alejandro Lopez

mosaic. It was way bigger than anything I'd done before. It incorporated a painter, a spoken-word artist and a dancer. There were three smaller pieces and one larger, all tied to immigration and the artistic process."

After the pandemic struck 18 months into her college studies, she decided to leave, concluding that study by Zoom didn't make sense for a hands-on field. She and her family returned to their home in Beacon and Cabo took a "little step back from writing" for the first time.

In 2021, the family — brothers Adam and Zohar Cabo and mom Dassi Rosenkrantz, with dad Richie Cabo producing — released *The Cabo Project*. According to the liner notes, it's a "from time-to-time family collaborative collective reflecting their multi-cultural background in a wide range of musical genres."

Soon after, Cabo took a virtual songwriting class with Jean Rohe. "For the first time I saw songwriting as a craft, rather than just used for a release of emotions," Cabo says. "This punched me back to writing again, and then playing shows."

The result is a five-song EP, *Lady Sun*, with a title track written during Cabo's final year of high school. (See nogacabo.com.) The songs were recorded at Buffalo Stack Productions in Beacon throughout 2021.

"The EP tracks important relationships, all

the stages of that, including the in-betweens," says Cabo. In her notes in the EP, which debuted July 1, Cabo explains that "releasing this feels like I am releasing a younger Noga to be contained within this music so that I can make room for all of the new ideas and projects I hope to work on next."

In support of the album, Cabo has been performing solo in Beacon and Brooklyn, which she's trying out for a while ("I'm seeing if it feels like the right place to be. I'm not superconvinced yet"). She finds being on stage alone "nerve wracking and also more meditative. Let it be what it is. More recently I see my songs' little quirks, and 'isms' on stage. There's more room to transport to somewhere else. With my family, I have the comfort of being able to look at them, relax with them."

"My brothers and I used to play around town as kids, so people think of us that way," she adds. "It's time to reframe my image from 'Oh, you were in a kids' band.' I'm making an effort to make friends with people doing interesting things musically."

"Growing up in Beacon I always wanted to leave, but getting a chance to come back to Beacon and finding my own community — there are a lot of incredible people doing activism work and art. It's great to be part of those communities."

Current Classifieds

HELP WANTED

ORGANIZER AND LAUNDRY — Busy Garrison residents looking for a weekly house organizer to do laundry and organize home, home offices, garage and auxiliary spaces. We have a house cleaner who comes once a week, so this is strictly organization; tidying, laundry, ironing, closet organizing; garage, art supplies and bookshelf organizing, etc. Solution-minded person needed for creative family of collectors and creators. Marie Kondo devotees welcome! Please do reply with experience with laundry and clothing care. Text 917-842-0534.

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Letterpressed words from a 2018 exhibit



A Valentine's Day card, from the series *Murdoch*



100 letterpressed tweets, from a 2018 exhibit in Brooklyn

Photos by Garrett Carroll

Artist Next Door

MICHELLE VAUGHAN

By Erin-Leigh Hoffman

Michelle Vaughan, a letterpress artist and illustrator who lives in Garrison, explains the origin of one of her more assertive works, which reads: “I Know Things, and You’re Wrong.” It came from an interaction her husband, journalist Felix Salmon, had with a fellow journalist. But “each person who looks at it is going to think, ‘I can relate to that,’ because of these things that have nothing to do with the origin story,” Vaughan says. “That’s the idea. There’s always different ways to be able to look at the text.”

Vaughan’s work is designed to document history through art. “Once you make something into art, it can have a lot of power,” she says. “That’s super important to me as an artist. That’s a huge part of why I make my work.” Her projects, in a range of media, cover topics such as art history, politics and social issues. Her collection, *A Movement of Women*, features portraits of prominent conservative women from the past century, while *Murdoch* is a series of infamous Twitter posts by the media mogul Rupert Murdoch letterpressed onto note cards. (The letterpress process involves painting from a raised, inked surface.) In *Generations I*, she examines two centuries of intermarrying in the Habsburg dynasty. “As the family married first cousins, uncles and nieces from Austria and Spain, their offspring all began to look the same and were getting closer to homozygosity,” she writes in her notes about the project. She collected online images and overlaid them digitally, which can be seen at her website at michellevaughan.net. “The Habsburgs were


on genetic repeat and overlap, so I pushed this concept in making new images.” She expanded on the concept in *Generations II* and *Generations III*. From 2007 to 2009 she researched two centuries of piracy for a collection called *Sea Warriors*. After spending several years accompanying her husband to the World Economic Forum (aka Davos), in 2015 she made a series of pencil drawings “of people next to me or those I talked to inside panel discussions, dinners and cocktail parties.” Vaughan also creates lighter work, such as a collection of 100 letterpressed tweets by people she follows that she collected in 2011 as a distraction. The tweets are biting, nonsensical and/or entertaining and include the metadata to show their origin. Vaughan remembers thinking: “This could be a really fun project.” So I turned it into one.” Vaughan grew up in Southern California surrounded by the modernist paintings of her grandfather, David A. Vaughan. “Once my parents realized I was fixated on art they brought me to museums in Los Angeles, an hour north of where we lived,” she has said. She studied fine art at UCLA and, after graduating, moved to New York City in the late 1990s. She became a full-time artist in 2008 and began to show her work more. “Having that focus helped me zero in on what I wanted, and I got it,” she says. “I was able to start showing at a gallery in the city and eventually in Spain, and I’ve been doing that ever since.” Her method of collecting information for her projects rivals that of a historian. “Sometimes it’s about setting the record straight, but I’m also interested in unpacking it and creating uncomfortable spaces so that the person who’s looking at it can contemplate something a little differently from their own point of view,” she explains. “If I’ve done that, I’ve been successful.”



Michelle Vaughan drawing on the porch at her Garrison home



Elaine Chao, from Vaughan’s series, *A Movement of Women* Photos provided



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Walking Backward

Local guides lead hikes into history

By Marc Ferris

The man who shot John Wilkes Booth lived in what is today Beacon for a spell. The city's factories got a leg up in the 1700s with a machine smuggled out of England. Dozens of mysterious stone structures stand in Putnam County woods.

These are among the obscure facts revealed during walking tours by two organizations that turn the Highlands and vicinity into an open-air museum.

Robin Lucas, who lives in a Beacon farmhouse and led tours for Hudson Valley Bucket List (a victim of the pandemic that offered a two-hour history walk in Beacon), in March launched Beacon Walking Tours (beaconwalkingtours.com), assisted by local old soul Emily Murnane.

She started her historical digging looking into her own home's past and branched into genealogy. Like Murnane, she is active with the Beacon Historical Society and Madam Brett Homestead. They are both also members of the local chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, which owns the former home of Madam Brett.

Lucas combed through primary docu-



Emily Murnane and Robin Lucas

ments to create her tour of Matteawan, the name of the eastern section of the city before its 1913 merger with Fishkill Landing on the waterfront. (The latter is the locus of another program in development.)

One tale told on the Matteawan tour centers on two industrialists in the late 18th century who visited Scotland intending to abscond with a cotton-spinning mule, in violation of English law.



During a Putnam History Museum tour, hikers follow the path Benedict Arnold took when he fled to the river. Photos provided

Confronted at the dock, they created a diversion and smuggled the contraption past the guards, helping to foster the industrial might of Beacon and beyond after they arrived home with the purloined technology.

Another local character, Thomas "Boston" Corbett, who made wool hats in Matteawan and who shot Lincoln's assassin despite orders to capture the fugitive alive, was remembered in a news account published soon after as an "ardent and zealous Christian, if not a fanatic. He was always singing."

Lucas likes to limit her tours to 90 minutes

but says that benchmark can be difficult.

"I could go on for countless hours with the history lessons," she said. "It's incredible how everything is interconnected. When you spend a long time in the archives and get some great stories, it's fun to share."

Another purveyor of tours, the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring (putnamhistorymuseum.org), offers an array of hikes.

When the pandemic hit, Executive Director Cassie Ward decided to beef up the museum's outdoor programs. She and her staff developed a range of tours spotlighting Garrison's Landing and Arden Point, the remains of the West Point Foundry, the Revolutionary War redoubts, Benedict Arnold's flight, Fahnestock State Park (focusing on mining) and Little Stony Point's environmental history.

The museum leads 10 to 12 tours per year; the redoubts, the Foundry and the Benedict Arnold programs are staples. The museum also received grants to develop self-guided tour packages available outside its front door at 63 Chestnut St.

This fall, the museum plans to adapt the Foundry tour to reflect information in a current exhibit, *Indigenous Peoples in Putnam County*, and guides will lead a hike up Mount Nimham and tour some of the county's undated and unidentified stone chambers (root cellars or religious buildings, perhaps).

"In the Highlands, and in the county, we're so fortunate to have incredible hiking trails," said Ward. "And 99.9 percent of them have interesting historical angles to explore."

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Hotel Tax *(from Page 1)*

you don't want to deter visitors from coming," said Kyriacou. "On the other hand, we do a lot of services for our tourists, and this is one way of collecting a little bit from them as opposed to our property-tax payers."

In addition to boutique hotels like the Dutchess Inn & Spa and the Roundhouse, Beacon has bed-and-breakfasts like Chrystie House and the Swann Inn.

Two additional lodgings are in the works. At the Tioronda Estate on Route 9D, the Mirbeau Inn & Spa is expected to open in 2025. The company charges more than

\$400 per night at its Rhinebeck hotel.

A development group has also received Planning Board approval to convert the former Reformed Church of Beacon into Prophecy Hall, an event space with an adjacent 30-room hotel.

There are about 110 short-term rentals in Beacon, the bulk of them illegal because they have not been licensed by the city. Graham Lawlor, an organizer of the group Beacon Hosts, said in April that he was in favor of a Beacon hotel tax "in principle," but felt that Rolison and Jacobson's proposal would be excessive when combined with the room tax that Dutchess County charges.

Cold Spring received the same authority last year, under a law enacted by Hochul on July 22, 2022, that lets the village collect up to 5 percent on room stays. The village's 2023-24 budget estimates revenues of \$24,200 from a tax on hotels. Short-term rentals are not yet being taxed because the village is rewriting regulations governing them.

As with Cold Spring, Hochul also enacted legislation last year that lets the City of Newburgh tax lodging facilities. This year, Jacobson and Rolison authored legislation allowing the City of Poughkeepsie to tax overnight stays. Hochul signed that bill on Wednesday.

In March, members of the Putnam Legislature's Economic Development and Energy Committee discussed a room tax for the county.

The Legislature had passed, in 2012, a 4 percent tax but newly elected County Executive MaryEllen Odell vetoed it, arguing that it would inhibit future development projects that included a hotel, motel or conference center.

In 2019, after short-term rentals became widespread, she told *The Current* she felt taxes on STRs should be levied and collected by towns and villages.

Jeff Simms contributed reporting.

Dogwood *(from Page 1)*

& Bottle Inn in Garrison and a farm distillery in northern Dutchess County, to gauge his interest in purchasing the bar. McAlpine also helped his father, Robert McAlpine, refurbish the Roundhouse complex.

"People told my father that the Roundhouse would never work," McAlpine said. "If acquiring a challenging place scared me, I would have no projects in my portfolio."

Dogwood has been a saloon since around the 1880s, he said. An undated photo of the original wood frame building, constructed as early as the 1850s, shows a sign offering beer around the back and residences on the second floor. The current brick structure dates to 1932, Mansfield said.

McAlpine and his family have lived in Beacon since 2009. "I know Beacon and

have seen it grow over the past 14 years," he said. "Obviously, Dogwood is on the outskirts off Main Street, but it's not a cliché that if you build it and do it to a high standard, people will find you."

The deal happened fast, and McAlpine said he is still working out his vision. "Typically I walk into a new place and something jumps out right away," he said. "At Wonderbar, it was Art Deco, brass, dark. Dogwood is trickier because it's not a raw space or a place with a distinct look and feel, like Bird & Bottle. I'll have to sit there alone for a few mornings."

He said he would "most likely" keep the name. He may also hold on to the picture of a dog in a military uniform, the booths adorned with porcelain tiles by Beacon-based ModCraft, the Ron English posters that line the short hallway to the men's room and the

colored glass panels donated by Hudson Beach Glass that depict a dog bone.

McAlpine, who declined to say what he paid for the building, wants Beacon residents and visitors to rest easy: He plans to put his own stamp on the place but "the joke is that it's not going to be a seafood bar with bottle service and private membership."

The main difference will be in the operations, he said. A kitchen remodeling may be on the to-do list and certainly Bird & Bottle chef Kristian Meixner will expand the menu.

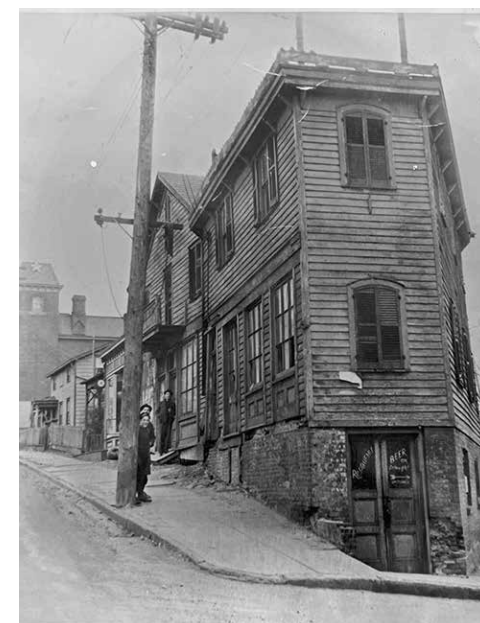
Dogwood also fostered an eclectic, rootsy music scene. "We're committed to it, but probably not as much as they have been doing in the last couple of years," said McAlpine. "But it's still TBD [to be determined]. I'm pretty pragmatic, so if it works, we'll keep it."

He said the bar will still offer hand-drawn, English-style cask ales, 18 taps with local brews and maybe a pre-mixed cocktail or two.

In her 2017 book, *What I Found in a Thousand Towns*, singer and songwriter Dar Williams, who lives in Philipstown, cites Dogwood as "an example of how a perfect bar can be a place of gathering energy." Its function as "a welcoming place at the community crossroads" adds value to the city and brings in people "old and new, worker and dreamer," she wrote.

Mansfield, who has served on the City Council since 2009 but is not running this year for an eighth term, said he will retain ownership of Quinn's, that other laid-back, quirky joint on Main Street known for adventurous music, wine by the can and Japanese soul food. There's jazz every Monday and Kink Goth Night every month.

When Dogwood opened 11 years ago, Mansfield wanted it to be a place where people new to the community "could get a sense of its diverse variety," he said. "I wanted it to be like an Irish or English pub,



An undated photo of the site's previous building, which was probably constructed in the 1850s. According to the Beacon Historical Society, the first mention of the building was in 1872, when it was an ice house. In 1884 it became Sunderland's saloon and then, over the decades, housed 13 bars and four restaurants.

Beacon Historical Society

a third place beyond work and home where people gather to meet — and to complain."

The original incarnation will remain open through Sept. 17; the final weekend will feature a "blowout" farewell, with at least 30 bands that have volunteered to perform, including some that are forming just for the event, Mansfield said.

"I envision a *Last Waltz* kind of thing with two stages, opening early and staying late," he said. "When I told the staff about the sale, I figured they would get new jobs, but they're sticking it out to celebrate this place and leave on a joyful note."

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NEWS BRIEF

Bear Mountain Park Partially Reopens

Repairs continue after July 9 storm

The picnic grounds and Hessian Lake loop trail reopened at Bear Mountain State Park on Wednesday (Aug. 23), and the carousel and Hessian Lake paddle boat concession are scheduled to reopen Saturday.

The Popolopen Torne and Brooks Lake loop trails in the northern section of the park are

also open but all other trails remain closed, along with the Trailside Museums & Zoo. The Bear Mountain Inn could open by Labor Day.

Access to Bear Mountain is available through the main entrance off Route 9W, near the Bear Mountain Bridge. The state parks department said that while restrooms are open, drinking water is provided from a tank near the carousel.

For updates, see parks.ny.gov/parks/bearmountain.



Two views from the passenger seat



The tow plane departs.

Photos by M. Turton

Glider Flight *(from Page 1)*

the joystick, or I would become the pilot. I followed that advice to the letter.

Elie climbed into the seat behind me. Ahead, Dan Yates boarded the L-19 Bird Dog tow plane, a craft known to U.S. soldiers during the Korean and Vietnam wars as “the flying jeep.” The nickname boosts my confidence — that and Yates having logged even more flying time than Elie.

As the L-19 engine roared to life, I had a flashback: I’m with my two sons, and they’ve shamed me into riding the Magnum roller coaster at Cedar Point in Ohio.

And just like then, it’s too late to change my mind.

The L-19 lurched forward, the cable tightened, the glider jerked and we were racing down the grass runway, quickly gaining speed. To my surprise, the glider started to fly even before the tow plane was off the ground.

After the tow plane was airborne, the cable and flying jeep were new best friends. I gulped; my stomach felt like it did when I was a kid on a giant swing.

Elie had warned me about the turbulence at low altitude, caused by the warm, rising air that keeps the glider afloat, and he was right. It got bumpy, although no worse than many local roads.

As we gained altitude, the rough air ended. It’s smooth sailing now, although at 3,500 feet, I gasped as I watched the cable fall away and dangle behind the L-19. Behind me, Elie had released it.

The L-19 banked left and disappeared.

We were on our own, reliant on air, wind, thermals and Elie’s piloting.

There was wind noise, but soon I stopped

noticing it. We were flying at about 55 mph but with little sense of movement. It was a feeling of complete detachment, of being suspended in total calm.

I was sitting close to the nose of the glider, so nothing obscured my vision, including a propeller. The view was phenomenal.

Elie said on a clear day, we’d see Manhattan. He pointed out the Bear Mountain and Minnewaska state parks, a remnant of the Delaware and Hudson Canal and a 13-mile stretch of forest devastated by fire years ago. He’s called in a number of forest fires while gliding.

During our 30-minute flight, we stayed within a few miles of the airport, riding an updraft along a ridgeline. Elie said the longest nonstop glider flight that originated at Wurtsboro lasted 11 hours, ending in Virginia.

He told me we’re setting up for our approach to the airport. I wanted to stay in the air!

Elie executed a gentle turn; the runway appeared straight ahead. The descent was barely noticeable. 1,000 feet. 900. 800. The soft landing would be the envy of any commercial airline pilot.

Back on the ground, Yates told me that while vultures don’t fly as high as Elie and I did, he had glided alongside migrating bald eagles who turned their heads to look right at him.

“They’re used to being the biggest thing in their sky,” he explained.

I asked Yates how many first-time gliders have vowed never to do it again. He said, “No one.”

Glider rides are offered year-round for \$120 for 15 minutes, \$180 for 30 minutes or \$260 for 45 minutes. See wurtsboroaairport.com.

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The HIGHLANDS
Current



OBITUARIES

Pitin Gonzalez (1956-2023)

Inocencio ("Pitin") Gonzalez, 67, of Beacon, died Aug. 5.

He was born in Aguada, Puerto Rico, the son of Dolores Gonzalez Rodriguez and Inocencio Gonzalez Burgos. At age 17, Pitin moved to New York, where he met his future wife, Laurie, in Beacon. They were married in 1975.

Pitin worked as a senior craftsman at Texaco Research Center for 22 years. When the plant closed, he became a maintenance technician at the Tompkins Terrace apartment complex for another 22 years, retiring in 2019.

Pitin enjoyed vacationing in Lake George and time spent by the ocean. He was a skilled craftsman and worked diligently on the expansion of the family home with a second story. His talents were many, from carpentry and woodwork to plumbing and electrical, his family said.

On weekends, you could find him fishing for crabs at the Beacon waterfront and tending to his vegetable garden and his collection of antiques. Pitin was an empanadilla chef and grill master. He was well-known for his generosity and was always willing to lend a helping hand to family, friends and neighbors in need.

He loved playing lotto, poker, cornhole and horseshoes. Pitin found joy in laughter, and his sense of humor was a fundamental part of his personality.

Along with his wife of 48 years, Pitin is survived by his children, Dayna, Brian



and Nicolas (Melissa); his grandchildren, Briana, Gianna and Raelynn; his mother, Dolores ("Lola"); and his siblings, Esmeralda ("Mery"), Manuel ("Cholo"), Adelaida ("Ade"), Rosalia ("Rosy"), Alfredo ("Freddy"), Mirna ("Miny") and Nilda ("Tity").

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Aug. 12 at St. Joachim's Church in Beacon. Memorial donations can be made to the American Lung Association (lung.org).

Sue Lackey (1958-2023)

Susan Ann Lackey, 65, of Abington, Virginia, and formerly of Beacon, died Aug. 7 at her home.

She was born April 17, 1958, in North Creek, New York, the daughter of Bill and Nancy Ann (Wyatt) Lackey, and grew up in the Adirondacks. She was a ski instructor at Gore Mountain and attended Dutchess Community College, where she earned an associate degree in recreation. That same year, she became the first woman to join Local Union 137 of Operating Engineers. She ran heavy equipment for more than 30 years, her dream job.

In 1981, Sue met Donna Welch, who became her life partner, and they resided in Beacon until 2021.

Sue loved fishing, hiking, water sports, hunting, gardening and four-wheeling on her ATV and UTV, but especially in her Jeep. Bonfires, cookouts and all things blazing



made her smile, her family said. Always ready with a joke, she had hundreds of friends. She loved dogs and owned many over the years.

Along with her wife, she is survived by her siblings, Melissa Barley (Raymond), Holly Starnes and Bill Lackey.

A Celebration of Life was held in Virginia on Aug. 12. Memorial donations may be made to any dog shelter.

Karen Samuels (1949-2023)

Karen Marie Samuels, 74, a lifelong resident of Beacon, died at her home July 3 of brain cancer, while surrounded by family members.

She was born June 11, 1949, in Beacon, the daughter of George and Helen (Aldrich) Vredenburg. She graduated from Beacon High School in 1967. She attended Christ United Methodist Church and was involved in the Girl Scouts and the school drama club.

On Feb. 19, 1983, in Beacon, she married Bernard "Bernie" Samuels. Karen retired from IBM in East Fishkill, where she worked in the warehouse and in manufacturing.

Karen was always up for anything, from zip-lining to motorcycle riding and traveling the world, her family said. She was fun-loving, with an infectious laugh, her family said. She loved adventure and for years hosted Christmas Eve parties and deck parties for friends. More than anything, she loved being with her family.



In addition to her husband, Karen is survived by her children, Tanya Volkmann (John); Jason Bopp (Dawn Mahoney); and Merrily and Robin Samuels. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Ava Volkmann and Jake Mahoney; her sisters, Patricia Grosenbeck (James) and Nancy Sandford (Joann Darby) of Cold Spring; and her former husband, James Bopp.

Calling hours were held Aug. 4 at McHoul Funeral Home in Fishkill. Memorial donations can be made to Hudson Valley Hospice (hvhospice.org).

Marie Trimble (1925-2023)

Marie H. Trimble, 97, a lifelong Beacon resident, died at her home Aug. 7.

She was born Dec. 7, 1925, in East Rochester, the daughter of Ervin and Mary (Hellmann) Hiney. Marie graduated from Beacon High School in 1943.

On April 22, 1950, at St. Joachim Church in Beacon, she wed Alexander Trimble. They were married for 31 years at the time of his death.

Marie was a devoted wife and mother; she loved singing with her husband as he played piano. Later in life she worked as a secretary for the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Graymoor in Garrison, in their retreat department.

She was a communicant of St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon, where she was a former member of the St. Joachim Women's Club and the St. John's Seniors. She was also a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas-Court Liberatta Chapter.

Marie is survived by her children: Alex Trimble (Pauline), Susan Trimble, Robert Trimble (Zenaida) and James Trimble (Patricia); her grandchildren: Stephen (Lindsay), Michael, Christopher, Kyle (Alison), Christina, Joseph (Lauren), Paul, Hope (Peter), Isaac, James, David and Benjamin; and her great-grandchildren: Audrey, Nora, Adrianna, Lilie, Heidi, Claire, William, Emma, Christian, Iris and Ellyanna. She is also survived by her brother, Ervin Hiney Jr.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Aug. 19 at St. Joachim, followed by a private interment at St. Joachim Cemetery. Memorial donations can be made to a charity of one's choice.

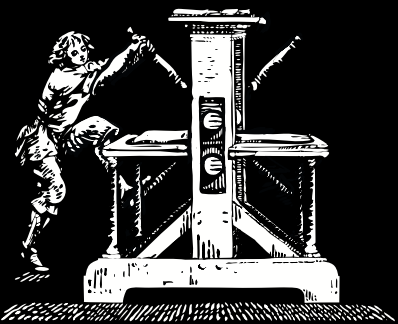
**Other Recent Deaths****Beacon**

William Corrigan, 80
Jen Dacey, 49
Ernesto Domoulin, 91
Dale Leifeste, 79
Herman McKinney, 88

Philipstown

Br. DePorres Poncia, 85
Brian Stachitus, 68

For more obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.

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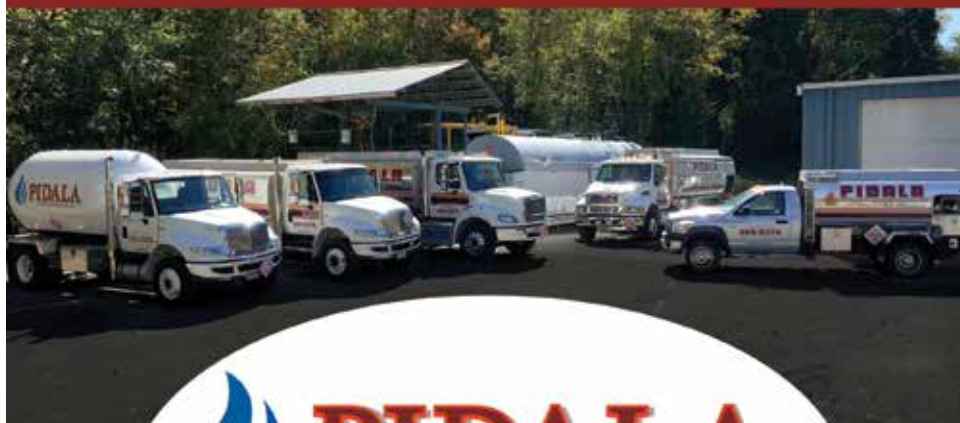
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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
1. Rescue
5. Ozone, for one
8. Protracted
12. Carolina college
13. Roswell sighting
14. Falco of *The Sopranos*
15. "Game on!"
17. Snitch
18. Service charge
19. Rowing need
20. Road curves
21. Schlep
22. Deity
23. Everglades wader
26. Cure-all
30. Bump into
31. "Terrif!"
32. Astronaut Armstrong
33. Tennis tactic
35. Tea biscuit
36. Present location?
37. Expected
38. Thesaurus compiler

41. Drone
42. Airline to Sweden
45. Awestruck
46. "We should discuss this"
48. Actress Gilpin
49. Env. insert
50. Hybrid fruit
51. Adolescent
52. Bonfire residue
53. Inlets
20. A billion years
21. Words at the start of a lesson
22. Talk on and on
23. Ambulance VIP
24. Earth (Pref.)
25. Gym unit
26. Skillet
27. Biz bigwig
28. Aachen article
29. Pub pint
31. Repair
34. Cauldron
35. Totals
37. Hollanders
38. Engrossed
39. Curved molding
40. Impale
41. Coop group
42. Long tale
43. Friend
44. Aspen gear
46. Meadow
47. Vat

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

APACE

SHARK

MICRO
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. Bonkers
5. "I am just ____ boy..."
("The Boxer" lyrics)
7. Certain soprano
8. Dog show category
9. &&&&
- DOWN
1. Flock youngster
2. "Aida" or "Carmen"
3. Hoodwink
4. Moved like melted cheese
6. Curtain supports

1	2	3	4	
5				6
7				
8				
	9			

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

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

S	C	O	N	E
C	O	M	E	T
A	L	E	X	A
M	E	N	U	S
	S	S	S	

ALUMS
PLUMS
PLUGS
SLUGS
SLUES
CLUES

Answers for Aug. 18 Puzzles

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Classic Wheels

1958 MGA 1500

By Michael Turton

A 1988 *PennySaver* ad led Bob Polastre to Great River, New York, where a 1958 MGA 1500 roadster sat in a garage, unused for years. Its only owner had died 14 years earlier and his widow was ready to sell it.

Polastre, who lives in North Highlands, arrived with \$86 in cash, which she accepted as a down payment on his \$1,000 offer.

She then began getting phone calls from England with offers of up to \$4,000, but kept her word, telling Polastre, “A deal’s a deal.”

“She knew I loved the car, and she wanted it to go to a good home,” he recalled.

The vehicle was not in pristine shape. The body was rusted, the door hinges were broken and the interior leather split. Polastre taped the doors shut because he thought they might fall off.

“But it was all there; all original,” he said, including the distinctive “very 1950s” glacier-blue paint. The odometer read 46,305 miles.

Because MGA 1500s barely changed during the eight years they were produced, they are identified by sales year rather than production year.



“You have to be an expert to tell the difference between a 1955 and 1962 model, the differences are so subtle,” Polastre said. “Number 100,000 was painted gold and sold in the U.S.”

By 1990 the rescued MGA was back on the road, complete with a new coat of glacier-blue paint applied by a friend who is a fellow MGA buff.

Restoring the car “was so much work; if I’d known then what I know now, I might not have done it,” Polastre said. “But I was single then.”

His MGA has few options; the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust said it had “disc wheels, a heater, adjustable steering column, windscreen washer and tubeless tyres” when built. Polastre added a radio and LED headlights.

What it lacks in options, the MGA makes up for with engineering.

“These little British cars were far ahead of American technology,” Polastre said. “It has rack-and-pinion steering, which the U.S. didn’t have for another 20 years.”

It was also the first car tested in wind tunnels, technology used for World War

II aircraft. Designers wanted the car to reach 100 mph; improved aerodynamics, including eliminating exterior door handles and mirrors, achieved that. England’s postwar economy needed exports and most MGAs were shipped to the U.S., where drivers unfamiliar with its features sometimes complained about performance.

Polastre said the MGA has dials to regulate timing and carburation, useful because gas octane levels varied after the war. “If the engine started to knock because the octane was too low, you could make manual adjustments,” he said.

That technology was foreign to a lot of American drivers, Polastre said. “I think that’s where stories about performance originated.”

Although its ride is “incredibly smooth,” Polastre admits the MGA takes getting used to.

“It’s not an easy car to drive; first gear is unsynchronized, and I’ve read synchro for second gear goes out in the showroom,” he said with a laugh. “Getting four shifts like butter is tricky.” (A synchronizer allows for the smooth engagement of the gears.)

But shifting wouldn’t be the first thing he’d change.

“I like the convertible, but it leaks like a sieve,” he said. “It’s really unpleasant in the rain.”

Polastre chuckles about one feature. “The windshield washer is a button on the dash,” he said. “It’s like a Windex bottle.”

Polastre belongs to the Eastern New York MGA Club and has won many car-show

The Specs

Model: MGA 1500

Body: 2-door coupe or 2-door roadster

Assembly: Abington, England

Production period: 1955-62

Total production: 101,081

Engine:

Straight 4-cylinder, dual carb, 1489 cc

Horsepower: 72

Transmission: 4-speed, floor manual

Top Speed: 102 mph

Fuel Economy: 25 mpg

1958 price: \$2,620 (\$27,713 today)

trophies, including a second place at the 1990 national meet.

Today he diligently avoids parallel parking. The MGA sits low and drivers of “big American boats back right into it,” he said.

“It’s fun for me to drive; it brings out the niceness in people” Polastre said. “It puts a smile on people’s face, and that’s cool.”

MG closed its factory in Abington, England, in 1980 after the MG Midget and MGB were discontinued. The brand was acquired in 2007 by SAIC Motor Corp., China’s largest car company. Assembly continued at MG’s Birmingham, England, plant until 2016; SAIC still operates a technical and design center there. MGs are now built in China, India and Thailand.