Landowners Along Beacon Line Want Payments
Feds permit Metro-North to abandon former railway
By Jeff Simms

More than 170 landowners along a dormant rail line that runs from the Beacon waterfront to the Connecticut border have asked a federal court to be compensated after a federal agency designated the corridor to be trail-ready.

The plaintiffs, represented by a St. Louis firm that specializes in “rails-to-trails” cases, filed two lawsuits this month against the U.S. government in the Court of Federal Claims. The first was dated Feb. 9, the day after Metro-North, which owns the line, received approval from the government to abandon it.

On Feb. 8, the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) issued a “notice of interim trail use” that allows Metro-North to close the 41-mile segment. The decision also let the agency “rail bank” the line so it can be reactivated if needed.

However, David Steckel, a Metro-North representative, said Wednesday (Feb. 21) that the agency has no plans to restore train service and that the STB ruling “provides a wonderful opportunity for a trail group, municipality or other appropriate public entity to construct and operate a trail.”

The Feb. 8 notice triggered the lawsuits (Continued on Page 8)

Committee Majority Supports Renaming Desmond-Fish

Falls short of ‘consensus’ for formal recommendation
By Leonard Sparks

A committee created by the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison to investigate whether the name of co-founder Hamilton Fish III should be removed because of his alleged sympathies for the Nazi regime before World War II failed to reach a consensus, but seven of its 10 members supported renaming, according to a report released on Feb. 16.

The committee was created by the library’s board in response to a review of Fish’s actions in the 1930s by Rachel Maddow in an MSNBC podcast called Ultra. In the series and a subsequent book in which she mentions in passing the discussion over renaming the library, “Cannabis has been aligned with these values of creativity and wellness,” said Schreter. “It fits with what we’ve already
(Continued on Page 16)

Relax, Cold Spring: George is Doing Well

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring’s community spirit shines brightest on two types of occasions. One is when it’s time to celebrate, such as the Halloween Parade, Community Day or when a Haldane team returns by bus with a championship late at night to find Main Street lined with fans. The other is when someone needs support, whether because of a family tragedy, a house fire or the loss of a loved one.

I saw that spirit recently as villagers rallied for George Stevenson, a Haldane High School graduate, Vietnam veteran, artist and long-ago stroke victim who suffered a setback in January and was taken to New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor.

He was missed immediately. He wasn’t making his daily walk to Foodtown. He wasn’t hanging out by Cold Spring Pizza or the firehouse.

(Continued on Page 16)
**FIVE QUESTIONS:** KAREN JACKSON

By Michael Turton

Karen Jackson is the dog control officer for the Town of Philipstown.

How did you become the town’s dog control officer?

I applied 25 years ago, but my neighbor, Bob Ferris, who was a Putnam County sheriff’s deputy, got the job. He did it for more than 20 years. After he retired to Florida in 2020, I applied again and was hired. Between phone calls, driving places and talking to people about where their dog might be, it requires about 20 hours a month.

Do you deal with dangerous situations?

Yes. In July, after we had the flooding, someone called about a stray in their backyard by Lake Celeste in Garrison. It was a little mutt with no collar. I spent two hours in the rain trying to catch her. I couldn’t get her to come to me, and I couldn’t catch her with the noose on a pole. I attempted to snap her as she tried to get out through the gate, and she bit me on the leg, breaking the skin. I spent five hours in the emergency room, got five shots for rabies and tetanus and went back three more times for the rabies series. No one ever saw the dog again.

Does Philipstown have an unusually large number of dogs?

A lot of local people have dogs, and a lot of tourists bring their dogs. In both cases, some think they can walk into a restaurant with their dog — so another customer or leave it outside. I don’t think it’s the best thing to do.

What’s the most common mistake dog owners make?

Letting their dogs get away with whatever they want, like they’re entitled, like some parents with their children. I love dogs, have always had dogs and walk dogs. But letting your dog go wherever it wants, under no control, is not good for the dog. A lot of owners think their dogs should be allowed to go up to other dogs, but not all dogs are friendly, especially on a leash. It makes them aggressive 75 percent of the time, or more. People assume because their dog is nice at home, it will be nice when they’re out walking. I walk one dog that snap and growls if a big dog comes nearby. Yet at my house with my dogs and other dogs, it’s fine. It’s a leash thing, and it happens a lot. You have to work at training, but it’s easy enough to do if you’re going to walk your dog.

Do you have enforcement powers?

I enforce all local laws. All dogs must be licensed through the town, which includes having all their shots. The law requires you to keep your dog on a leash everywhere except on your property. You can’t let your dog loose in the Nelsonville Woods or at Dockside or Foundry Park. The most common complaint I get is that dogs are off-leash. And barking. Neighbors don’t want to listen to barking. It’s an offense if a dog barks for five continuous minutes between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. During the day, it’s an offense if it’s more than 10 minutes. I can’t bring people to court unless I witness the offense. Whoever sees it has to do the paperwork, go to court and explain to the judge what happened. In four years, I’ve only arranged a court date for one person, and they ended up saying, “Never mind.” People don’t want to take anyone to court.

What’s your favorite comfort food this time of year?

Meatball parm on a hero, from Bob’s Corner Store!

Salmon, tuna and avocado sushi

Pasta, probably spaghetti Bolognese.

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The Highlands Current
February 23, 2024

Support our nonprofit. Become a member!
Newburgh: Teacher Faces Charges

The Newburgh school district wants to fire a special education teacher who it claims touched students inappropriately, although not sexually, according to the Mid Hudson News.

A mother of a student said they saw no problem with the interactions. The most recent incident occurred on May 5; the teacher was suspended with pay on Sept. 5.

Desiderio said he is being targeted by the district in retaliation for revealing discrepancies in attendance and grading for student-athletes in 2016. He asked that the hearings be open to the public. A third hearing is scheduled for March 7, after which an arbiter will rule.

Wurtsboro: Chicken Guts Close Highway

A tractor-trailer transporting chicken entrails overturned on Feb. 14 in Sullivan County while attempting a turn, closing Route 209 in both directions for hours, according to the Mid Hudson News.

The Wurtsboro Fire Department and New York state troopers were on the scene.

Albany: Comptroller Issues Housing Report

Nearly 3 million households in New York are “cost-burdened” by housing, according to a report released Feb. 14 by Comptroller Tom DiNapoli.

Thirty-nine percent of households in the state spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing, and 20 percent spend more than 50 percent, according to the most recent data, from 2022. In the Mid-Hudson region, 30 percent of owners and 50 percent of renters are considered cost-burdened.

The report noted that, between 2012 and 2022, New York added 462,000 housing units, an increase of 5.7 percent but below the growth in 31 other states. It also noted that the state’s rate of homelessness, about 5 per 1,000 people, is the highest in the nation and more than double the national rate.

DiNapoli called for more federal assistance, including an increase in the number of public housing units, Section 8 vouchers, rental assistance and tax credits. He noted that the waiting list for public housing and vouchers averages more than 2½ years.

Saugerties: Clerk Arrested for Allegedly Fixing Tickets

New York state troopers on Feb. 13 arrested a Town of Saugerties court clerk for allegedly dismissing traffic tickets for acquaintances.

Haley Whalen, 25, of Ulster Park, was charged with eight felony and eight misdemeanor charges, including falsifying records and official misconduct. After being arraigned, she was remanded to the Ulster County Jail.

The ticket-fixing allegedly occurred in October 2022, police told Hudson Valley 1. Haley was placed on administrative leave on Feb. 6, when the state police began their investigation.
Two truths

I am strongly in favor of the nuanced statements that Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek outlines in his My View column about the Israel-Palestine war (“Two Truths,” Feb. 16). For me, what is most striking is his line: “The root of violence is the belief that only ‘my’ truth matters, ‘your’ truth does not.” Irrespective of one’s views on the absolute tragedy that is unfolding in the Middle East, any hope for a diverse community like ours is for people from a variety of perspectives to come together for genuine and openhearted dialogue with the goal of sustained peace. This doesn’t eliminate the presence of real pain for everyone involved — and neither would a local governing body passing a resolution that is surely outside its purview.

Frankly, we cannot afford more division in our community. The priority must be a conversation and an expression of shared grief. It won’t be easy, but there may be an underlying simplicity to it that we all are not acknowledging: The shared nature of the human experience is a rich currency. I pray we can all lean into that collective knowingness and that local governments in the Hudson Valley see that the path forward is by sponsoring events that bring people together with thoughtfulness and sincerity.

Meredith Levick, Beacon

As the former chair of Spirit of Beacon Day, I was taken aback by Rabbi Spodek’s column in which his proposed local solution to addressing the war on Gaza would be to go the route of coming together to have something like a Spirit of Beacon Day Parade instead of the City Council passing a cease-fire resolution.

Rabbi Spodek is responding to the request of several citizens of Beacon — Jewish, Muslim, Arab, Christian, undeclared — to have a permanent cease-fire, the return of all hostages and kidnapped and detained Palestinians and the defunding of Israel by the U.S. (and, by extension, New York and Beacon tax dollars).

He attempts to relate the mega-homicide going on in Palestine to the racial riots by some of Beacon’s youth in 1977, which went on for days. Those riots had physical clashes but nothing close to the mutilation of bodies we have seen of the children of Gaza, the digging of Palestinians from the rubble or the systematic destruction of Gaza and the much smaller-scale violence by some of Beacon’s youth in 1977, which went on for days. Those riots had physical clashes but nothing close to the mutilation of bodies we have seen of the children of Gaza, the digging of Palestinians from the rubble or the systematic destruction of Gaza and the much smaller-scale violence by some of Beacon’s youth in 1977, which went on for days. Those riots had physical clashes but nothing close to the mutilation of bodies we have seen of the children of Gaza, the digging of Palestinians from the rubble or the systematic destruction of Gaza and the much smaller-scale violence.

Rabbi Spodek says it would “strain, if not shred, the social fabric here in Beacon.” However, Beacon residents who have family and land in Palestine are already strained as they text each morning and night to see if their family and friends are still alive. With the rejection of the consideration of a cease-fire resolution, the community that supports Palestine feels even more not seen or heard.

In the spirit of having dialogue, one could argue that passing the resolution to protest with what the Spirit of Beacon “spirit” would aim to accomplish: bringing together community members in the public forum of City Hall to stand against the slaughter of Palestinian doctors, journalists, parents, children, teachers, aid workers, donkeys, lambs, olive trees and anything that is alive in Palestine.

Katie Hellmuth, Beacon

Rabbi Spodek was not making any sort of moral or numerical equivalency between the death and destruction taking place in Gaza and the much smaller-scale violence that occurred in our city in 1977. Instead, with his thoughtful, sensitive and nuanced proposals, he is arguing that the response to that moment in Beacon is a useful guide for how we can respond now.

Our City Council, which has no foreign policy advisory staff, hosts no embassies and posts no ambassadors to foreign governments, should not “take sides” in this conflict. Instead, local elected officials can help facilitate dialogue and understanding as many of our neighbors’ experience and process the pain of what is happening on both sides of this conflict.

Steve Jacobs, Beacon

It interests me that a man of God won’t outright call for a cease-fire while representing a community with such strong faith and morals. I’ve heard people state that a cease-fire would compromise their safety, yet fail to care about anyone else’s safety. Another line of nonsense I have heard is: “I want a cease-fire, but the city shouldn’t get involved.” Shame on Rabbi Spodek and shame on anyone who is not for a cease-fire and an end to the occupation. To set the record straight, it is an ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. Gaza is a small, open-air concentration camp in occupied Palestine.

Kamel Jamal, Beacon

Thank you, Rabbi Spodek, for attempting to foster dialogue in our community. I hope there are partners willing to have the conversation.

Jesse Lunin-Pack, via Instagram

It is strange that Rabbi Spodek claims we are powerless to affect anything in Israel and Gaza. In fact, our tax dollars provide Israel with its weapons, and the (Continued on Page 5)
My View

What We Lost, and What We Found

By Fred Osborn

Our family went through an anxious time recently that was joyfully resolved with the help of some terrific neighbors and first responders. On Feb. 6, a Tuesday, we noticed our below-4-year-old black Lab, Raki, was missing from our cottage on Old West Point Road in Garrison. She sometimes wanders around but always returns to the porch and waits to be let in.

We called and called for her. We alerted neighbors; several came out and joined us walking the road. Had she been hit by a car? Had she been stolen? Had she found a deer carcass and was rummaging in the ribcage? Friends came and drove along Route 403 and Route 9D, searching in the ditches.

We notified the Sheriff's Office, the town clerk, the dog officer and the humane society; our daughter-in-law posted a photo on Facebook, Instagram, Lost Pets of the Hudson Valley and Hudson Valley Lost Pets.

The next morning, at dawn, we started again, walking the woods around the house, up and down the dirt roads, into the parkland surrounding us. Our granddaughter hiked into the state park across Route 403; friends hiked the routes of the walks they took with Raki nearly every day.

By Wednesday night we were exhausted, sad and frightened but still resolved. We faced the grief of loss but also the grief of not knowing if Raki was OK. In the middle of the night, I walked downstairs, praying she'd be sitting there at the door.

On Thursday morning, we began imagining life without Raki — the daily dog-hair sweep, the kitchen table cluttered with collars, leashes, toys and medicine; the wagging tail, the cuddly pats and teary-rubs; the “pre-rinse” of the dinner plates; and the rushing around sniffing everything. With two nights of 20-degree temperatures, there was not much hope left. I took the treats out of the pocket of my jacket, thinking, “I guess I won’t be needing these anymore.”

A few hours later, I saw our neighbor, Jim, sprinting toward the house. He’d been walking in the woods nearby when he heard a squeak. He searched for the noise and spotted a black nose peaking out from underneath a fallen log. Raki had climbed into the den of some other animal and been unable to get out. She was less than 100 feet from the house. We suspected she was so jammed in, headfirst, that she couldn’t bark to answer our calls. She’d been there two days and two cold nights, stuck fast.

The log was enormous. It was too rotten for my peevy (a lumberjack’s tool to provide leverage) to lift, so I asked my City Council representative to do the right thing.

Thank you, Rabbi Spodek, for a beautiful piece.

Shelley Gilbert, via Facebook

Like the 48 U.S. cities that have passed resolutions calling for a cease-fire, according to Reuters, I ask my City Council representatives to use our collective power to represent our local truth because it is reasonable, it is urgent and it is not being represented by elected officials at higher levels.

I respect that Rabbi Spodek is vocalizing his truth and I believe he’s trying to represent the real fears and pain of members within our local Jewish community. But I hope that he can also be a leader in our larger community and help us come together around our one truth with love, community, mutual empathy and respect for the pain and fears of all of our neighbors.

James Case-Leal, Beacon

Cease-fire resolution

The fact that the initial proposed resolution had no mention of the Oct. 7 massacre of 1,200 Israelis says a lot ("Beacon Council: No Cease-Fire Resolution," Feb. 16). The joyful celebration of murdering children in front of their parents and vice versa, of men and women being murdered and mutilated and raped, was shocking. After pushback, a revised resolution was proposed that barely mentioned the massacre or the hostages.

I am certainly not celebrating the deaths of civilians in Gaza, nor are my family and friends in Israel. I am shocked and saddened by the carnage on both sides. I have relatives who died in the Holocaust and friends and family who live in Israel. I am not a Bibi Netanyahu supporter. Yet when I see and hear “Zionism = Terrorism” and “from the river to the sea” in chants and on posters in Beacon, I know exactly what that means. I was shocked and saddened at the council meeting, where almost no one expressed any sadness or sorrow about the massacre or the hostages.

I want more inclusionary answer to this horror, but I know that passing this one-sided resolution would make me feel unwelcome in Beacon. As it is, I feel unsafe wearing anything that might show my Jewish identity. I have never had that feeling in my 68 years anywhere before in the many places I have lived in this country.

This resolution does nothing and solves nothing, and only would leave many people feeling uneasy. We elect these officials to take care of city business, not to get involved in complex, historical and emotional international affairs. Thank you to the Beacon City Council for doing the right thing.

Paul Fradin, Beacon

Jews speak with many voices from varying values and politics. Like other Jews of our age, my husband and I grew up in the dark shadow of the Holocaust. As Jews, we learned many vital lessons that we’ve carried through our lives into retirement and in how we raised our two children.

During the Civil Rights Movement, segregationists argued that “you can’t legislate people to love one another.” Maybe not. However, in the face of pitched conflict, the moral and political power of direct action and legislative demands for new laws led to an end to egregious de jure discrimination. We know that no path to mutual empathy and respect, peace, democracy and justice for all is possible while people are killing one another.

Silence in the face of injustice is acceptance. For this reason, we call on the City Council to stand up and pass a cease-fire resolution.

Tina Bernstein, via Facebook

It wasn’t easy for anyone at the Feb. 13 council meeting — lots of pain to go around. The fact is, multiple communities are feeling the pain and suffering every day in fear for their loved ones and anxiety about what comes next — all on top of revulsion at the violence and suffering overseas. The stakes feel high for these communities.

If the city has a role to play in supporting these communities, it’s important that it not do so in any way that is divisive or demonizes people in our community.

Among the people of Israel and Gaza, there are many with decades of experience working toward peace and tolerance to be able to live side by side. It’s hard work. It’s unlikely we can contribute in a wholesome way by bringing a spirit of conflict to our local communities.

Paul Fradin, Beacon

(Continued from Page 4)

U.S. government could stop this war at any moment. Passing cease-fire resolutions, as Newburgh has done, is a good way to put pressure on elected officials, such as Rep. Pat Ryan and our two senators, to stop this insane slaughter of civilians.

Donna Minkowitz, via Instagram

Go to highlandscurrent.org/join

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued on Page 6)

people don’t fly, it emits just 2 percent to 3 percent of global emissions” that contribute to climate change.

Most people don’t fly because they can’t afford it. Flying is for the 1 percent — the same important people who drive electric cars (not a solution to anything, by the way) and like to tell everyone how terrible climate change is and what they must do to “mitigate” it. Ask a farmer in the European Union how that plan is going.

If we want to regulate air travel, we should heavily tax and penalize frequent fliers. You want to make flying more inconvenient and expensive. Because of human nature, no benefit will come until it has to be done.

That’s because this type of change involves sacrifice and drastic lifestyle changes, not a technological or regulatory solution, and will only happen when it’s involuntary.

Mark Roland, Beacon

Besides regulation, which sounds great but seems highly unlikely, what would bring the big carriers back to Stewart? Are local governments doing anything to encourage them? Surely Stewart could take some strain off the overtaxed New York City airports.

Michaela McKee, Olivebridge

I miss flying from Stewart.

Giacomo Servetti, via Instagram

Fjord Trail survey

In response to a letter in the Feb. 16 issue about the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail survey: It is one of many ways we are continuing to capture resident input — in this case from residents on Fair Street, Northern Avenue and west of Lunn Terrace.

The main purpose of the survey is for HHIFT to hear about the key issues these residents face in their daily lives along the Fjord Trail.

Go to highlandscurrent.org/join
New Redistricting Benefits Lawler, Ryan

State Legislature must approve changes

By Leonard Sparks

Mike Lawler’s path to re-election will not be any worse and Pat Ryan’s may be easier under redrawn boundaries for New York’s congressional seats sent to the state Legislature on Feb. 16 for its consideration.

The bipartisan Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) voted 9-1 to approve the maps, which outline the boundaries of the state’s 26 U.S. House districts, but the state Legislature has the final say. The seats include District 17, which includes Philipstown and is represented by Lawler, a Republican; and District 18, which contains Beacon and is represented by Ryan, a Democrat.

The state Legislature could approve the maps or reject them and have the IRC craft a second plan. If that one is rejected, the Legislature can draw its own.

Under the proposed changes, District 17 would remain largely as it was when Lawler narrowly defeated five-term Democratic Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney in 2022. The IRC altered slightly the district’s northern boundary in Dutchess County, removing Green Haven Correctional Facility in Stormville and adding additional parts of the Town of Beekman.

The changes likely would not have altered how the district voted for governor and president, according to Redistricting & You (redistrictingandyou.org), a site created by the Center for Urban Research at City University of New York: Voters slightly favored the Republican gubernatorial candidate, Lee Zeldin, over Kathy Hochul, while Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential candidate, easily defeated Donald Trump.

The impact of the changes would be more palpable in District 18, where Ryan is being challenged by Republicans Alison Esposito and Lovelynn Gwinn. The district would become bluer, with the IRC excising parts of conservatively-leaning western Orange and Ulster counties and adding Saugerties, Woodstock and other Democrat-leaning parts of northern Ulster County.

According to Redistricting & You, while Zeldin defeated Hochul by 2.6 percentage points in the 18th District in 2022, she would have narrowly won if the new boundaries had been in place. Biden’s share of votes would have increased from 54.2 percent to 55.7 percent in the redrawn district.

If approved, the boundaries would replace ones drawn by a court-appointed expert for the 2022 elections after the IRC commissioners failed to agree and maps created by the Legislature’s Democratic majority for the U.S. House and state Senate were ruled to be an unconstitutional gerrymander.

The state’s highest court, the Court of Appeals, which struck down the Democrats’ maps in 2022, ruled in December that the boundaries used in that year’s elections for Congress were valid for one-time use only, rather than through 2030, when the next federal census is conducted.

The court gave the IRC until Feb. 28 to create new maps for this year’s congressio nal primary and general elections.

Lawler, whose seat is one that Democrats are hoping to flip this year, criticized the December order by the Court of Appeals as “politically motivated”; the 2022 maps helped him and three other Republicans win seats previously held by Democrats.

On Feb. 16, Lawler urged state legislators to “swiftly” approve the proposed maps. “Any effort to alter these maps should be viewed as another attempt at a partisan gerrymander and should be rejected with large,” said Lawler, who is facing a challenge from former Rep. Mondaire Jones.

Allowed to stand from 2022 are new maps for the 63 state Senate seats. Rob Rolison, a Republican who represents District 39, which includes Beacon and Philipstown, is facing a challenge from Yvette Valdes Smith, a Dutchess County legislator who represents parts of Beacon and Fishkill and serves as minority leader for the Democrats.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

residents are experiencing related to visitation and receive information on what improvements, if any, they most desire. It will allow us to see how folks feel about what is being proposed, and the information gathered will inform plans for the Fiord Trail. The results will be shared in full with the Cold Spring Village Board, New York State Parks and the public.

If anyone has questions about the survey, our outreach efforts or HHFT’s long history of community engagement, email me at rramirez@hhft.org. We are always open to learning how we can improve our efforts. Anyone interested in the survey design, or feeling that there are shortcomings, feel free to reach out to me. As always, I am open to constructive criticism of the efforts that I lead and will continue to be.

I reached out to those who voiced concerns about the survey. I am also meeting with residents on Fair Street, west of Lunn Terrace and the Spring Brook Condominiums, and am willing to consider bringing more questions into the process. Residents have been opening their doors to me and sharing.

The survey is not an attempt to manipulate people; it is an honest effort to help us get it right.

Rebeca Ramirez, Cold Spring Ramirez is the community and visitor relations manager for the HHFT.

My wife Shamala (Sham) and I live in the lower village. We received the HHFT survey in the mail and via email on the same day. The survey asked for one response per household so together we read through it carefully and drafted and submitted our response.

We are broadly supportive of the trail. And I, together with Michael Guillorn, who lives in the upper village, founded Philipstown Advocates for Trails (philipstownadvocatesfortrail.org).

It seems to Sham and me that, because the trail will be on state land, it is highly likely to happen, no matter what. Hence, the best thing we can do is offer constructive criticism, whenever the opportunity arises, to help shape it. This balanced and focused resident survey was one such opportunity.

Living next to the Boat Club, we stand to be heavily impacted if the trail were to start at Dockside. And so naturally we empathize with some of the concerns of those against the trail. But overall, we think it can be made to work for the village, for parents pushing baby strollers, older folks walking their dogs and all ages and abilities in between.

The village is a highly desirable place. It’s why Sham and I made it our home. We love the place and the people. The trail will make it even more desirable to visitors. We must learn to share this place with visitors, for it’s their land as much as it’s ours.

We welcome that our highly capable and trusted Village Board will run a village-wide survey. We look forward to responding.

Paul Thompson, Cold Spring

Beacon housing

Thank you so much for covering this topic and for bringing to light the flaws in our local system (“A Close Call,” Feb. 16).

Excellent piece!

Research shows that the best practice for ending homelessness is the prioritization and development of permanent housing options and rapid re-housing funds rather than lots of emergency shelter beds. It would be great to see our local communities shift resources toward permanent solutions.

Emmy Tiderington, Philipstown Tiderington is a professor at the School of Social Work at Rutgers University whose research focuses on housing services.

Thank you so much for covering the human side of the defeat of the good-cause eviction law in Beacon. And thanks to Len Warner and Nick Page for being the neighbors Donald Van Voorhees desperately needed.

Warner pointed out that low-income units are lost every time a building is demolished or renovated in Beacon, but without good-cause, low-income homes can be taken from renters with no justification whatsoever as long as the lease is up. We need to pass good-cause statewide.

Laurel Dick, Beacon

Trash talk

Everyone knows the way to effect behavioral shifts: financial impact (“Talking Trash, Part 3,” Feb. 16). Residents must pay monthly or annually per pound or bag or bin of landfill and recycling, as with commercial catering services in most locales. I’m not interested in subsidizing the habits of others, yet Beacon forces me to do so. My family puts out our bins maybe once a month, and rarely are they full. I’m open to a rebate, I suppose.

Gregg Zuman, Beacon

Camp photos

These are beautiful photographs by Michael Raab of the St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church summer camp (“Summer of ‘66,” Feb. 9) — it’s good to see the connections made that brought them back to life. The history of the West End of Beacon would be a significant public outdoor exhibition.

Lesly Canossi, via Instagram

Just beautiful — it’s so good that this story and photos are being seen.

Flynn Larsen, via Instagram

Hamilton Fish

I thought Richard Azzaro had an excellent response in his letter in the Feb. 16 issue about why the Desmond-Fish Public Library should not remove Hamilton Fish III from its name because of his alleged sympathies for the Nazi regime before World War II.

Should everyone who drives a Ford — the namesake of a well-documented antisemite, Henry Ford — trade in their cars? No, it’s good to see the connections made that brought them back to life.

The history of the West End of Beacon would be a significant public outdoor exhibition.

Barbara Hobens, via Facebook
**Campaign Spending 2024**

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*On-hand could include previous balances

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**Membership Matters**

As your independent nonprofit news source for Philipstown and Beacon, The Highlands Current relies on you, our readers, to help support quality coverage of all that matters to you.

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Questions? Email: membership@highlandscurrent.org

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**Philpistown Reform Synagogue Celebrates its 20th Anniversary at Shabbat Across America!**

**Friday, March 8, 2024**

**Parish Hall Episcopal Church Of St. Mary**

**Corner Route 90 & Main St., Cold Spring, NY**

**5:30pm**

Space is limited so RSVP with number of guests: prs.shabbat.2024@gmail.com

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**Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board**

By Michael Turton

- At the Wednesday (Feb. 21) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, representatives from the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council and Rutgers University outlined a program that will make recommendations regarding traffic control and pedestrian safety at areas that include the intersections of Main Street/Route 301, near the Visitor Center, the corner of Lunn Terrace and Market Street and Fair Street. The study, which will include a village-wide survey, will also look at improvements to the Putnam County trolley service.

- The board took three actions related to the damage caused by storms and flood-related input from the city, the changes followed a study by a consulting firm that analyzed ridership and surveyed passengers. Dutchess County will provide free rides for passengers attending next week’s meeting at City Hall, which can be reached via Route B or the Free Loop.

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**County to Explain Beacon Bus Changes**

**Free Loop will become Main Street shuttle**

By Jeff Simms

Dutchess County Public Transit will hold an information session at Beacon City Hall at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday (Feb. 28) to discuss schedule and route changes that will begin June 1, including a streamlined Free Loop bus that will run up and down Main Street.

Dutchess County runs three bus routes in Beacon. It said Route B, which travels on Route 9 to and from Poughkeepsie, will offer hourly service, including eight additional daily trips. Buses will run on the half-hour (picking up riders, for example, at 1:30 p.m. and again at 2:30 p.m.).

Route F, which runs from Beacon to Hopewell Junction with stops at the Beacon train station, the Amazon warehouse and iPark in East Fishkill and the Fishkill campus of Dutchess Community College, will see its hours extended to 10 p.m.

Following input from the City of Beacon, Route G, also known as the Beacon Free Loop, will become a Main Street shuttle Monday through Saturday and add Sunday service from 10 a.m. to 5:50 p.m.

Because of low ridership, it will abandon its Figure 8 loop that includes stops near Mount Beacon and the Beacon Housing Authority. Instead, following a recommendation by the city’s Main Street Access Committee, it will leave the Metro-North station every 30 minutes (also on the half-hour), travel down Main Street, turn around at East Main and return to the train station.

The B and F routes will stop at the Beacon Housing Authority but the rides won’t be free. City Administrator Chris White said Wednesday (Feb. 21) that he will bring a plan to the City Council to subsidize the 75-cent fare for low-income riders.

The new route schedules are posted at dutchessny.gov/publictransit. In addition to input from the city, the changes followed a study by a consulting firm that analyzed ridership and surveyed passengers. Dutchess County will provide free rides for passengers attending next week’s meeting at City Hall, which can be reached via Route B or the Free Loop.
Cannabis (from Page 1)

built here, as well as a sustainable way to help us support our creative community.”

That synergy became reality on Feb. 16 when the state’s Cannabis Control Board approved 109 marijuana licenses and made LotusWorks the first Beacon business to receive one. The microbusiness permit will allow the couple to grow cannabis, process the trimmings into distillates and rosins, and sell buds, extracts and edibles.

LotusWorks will plant its first crop in the spring of 2025. In the meantime, it will source buds, rosins and distillates, as well as joints and edibles such as gummies, from other farms and processors. A series of “soft-opening” events will conclude with a grand opening targeted for April 20, which is an annual holiday in cannabis culture.

“We’re looking to partner with local confectioners and chocolatiers and be able to have some nice premium edibles,” said Sanders.

The couple met in California, where Sanders spent years learning how to grow cannabis while employed at farms in the Emerald Triangle, a three-county region of Northern California considered the country’s largest area for producing marijuana. He said he will use that knowledge to grow “premium cannabis” next year, although he expects the initial harvest to be relatively small. Marijuana plants are “robust in a lot of ways — they grow like weeds — but they can also be delicate,” he said. “It will be nice to be able to give them a little more hands-on attention.”

LotusWorks is one of 15 newly licensed microbusinesses whose owners graduated from the state Office of Cannabis Management’s Compliance Training and Mentorship Program, a 10-week webinar series that covers growing and processing.

There are 74 cannabis dispensaries open in New York, including Curaleaf in Newburgh. After New York State in March 2021 legalized cannabis for recreational use, the Beacon City Council allowed sales and on-site consumption by taking no action to prevent them; Cold Spring voters approved retail but turned down on-site consumption; and the Nelsonville and Philipstown boards voted to disallow both types, although they can change course with another vote.

The Cannabis Control Board also on Feb. 16 awarded 38 retail dispensary licenses, including one to Rawleaf Enterprises LLC in Wappingers Falls. In addition, the board issued licenses to grow and process marijuana to Harney Brothers in Millerton, in northeast Dutchess County.

Rail Trail (from Page 1)

by Stewart, Wald & Smith on behalf of 172 individuals and commercial entities that own property along the line. The plaintiffs argue that the STB, by allowing Metro-North to retain its right-of-way, violated the Fifth Amendment, which prohibits the government from seizing private property for public use “without just compensation.” They also argue that granting an easement to a rail-trail “sponsor” would cause the same harm.

More than 80 abandoned railroad lines in New York state have been converted to trails, including the 13-mile Dutchess Rail Trail that stretches from Hopewell Junction to the Walkway Over the Hudson and the 12-mile Putnam County Trailway between Baldwin Place and Brewster.

Last year, Dutchess County spent nearly $278,000 in federal funds on a study to determine the feasibility of creating a trail on the 13-mile stretch of the line from the Beacon train station to Hopewell Junction, where it would connect with the Dutchess Rail Trail (and the 750-mile Empire State Trail), as well as the 27-mile Maybrook Trailway, which connects Hopewell Junction and Pawling. The study is expected to be completed next year.

In Beacon, the line begins near the train station, loops past Dennings Point and Madam Brett Park and runs parallel with the east end of Main Street. The Beacon City Council has encouraged Dutchess County to create a trail on the line, particularly while the city considers rezoning a portion of Fishkill Avenue for increased commercial and residential development.

The abandoned railroad line, shown in orange in this map from a legal filing, extends from Beacon to the Connecticut border.

Stewart, Wald & Smith says its clients do not oppose a rail trail. Instead, said attorney Steve Wald, they seek payments “representing the full fair-market value of the parcels as of Feb. 8, the date of the Surface Transportation Board decision.

Ownership claims can be complicated. Wald said last year that landowners adjoining the corridor could legally claim swaths likely lost in the 19th century, when railroads and boats were the primary modes of transportation. Wald said that railroads typically purchased or condemned the land needed for tracks, or acquired easements from property owners.

Current landowners whose “predecessors in title” had their land condemned or accessed through easements “have the same rights as the original landowners,” he said, and, in the event of a conversion of use, should be given “full possession and control” of the land or be compensated.

If the court decides for the plaintiffs, appraisers would determine how much land was lost to the railroad, as well as damages to the remainder of their land, such as a loss of privacy and/or security if a trail is built. The cases typically take two to four years to resolve, said Jackie Tebbe of Stewart, Wald & Smith.

The law firm, which has been meeting with people who own land along the corridor since 2021, held informational sessions this week in Fishkill.

The state is still considering the 2,232 businesses that applied before a Nov. 17 deadline for microbusiness or dispensary licenses. When the list of applicants was randomized to determine the order in which they would be reviewed, LotusWorks landed at No. 9.

“We were as prepared as we could have been, but we also very much got lucky and are grateful for that,” said Schreter.

The queue, released on Jan. 12, includes at least two other Beacon applicants. Kamel Jamal, who waited state-approved “grower shows” last year at the former Beacon police station at 463 Main St., has applied as 463 Station Inc. and is 574 in the queue.

Grant McCabe, who owns The Leaf, a Main Street shop that sells cannabidiol and hemp products, is listed at 852 as The Leaf New York LLC.

Another company, Pleasant View Harvest in Brewster, has applied for a microbusiness license to sell products from 137 Main St. in Cold Spring. The queue lists Pleasant View at 1,998.

In addition, the Cannabis Control Board on Feb. 16 approved regulations that will allow adults 21 and older to grow up to three mature and three immature cannabis plants, and each private residence to have up to six mature and six immature plants.

The regulations, which are subject to a 60-day period for public comment, also will allow residents to possess up to 5 pounds of either buds, cannabis concentrate or a combination of the two.

Putnam Names Emergency Management Director

Putnam County has named Christopher Shields (above) as director of its Office of Emergency Management.

Shields, who reports to Robert Lipton, the commissioner of emergency services, is a former special agent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and spent six years as a U.S. Capitol Police special agent. He succeeds John O’Connor, who left in early 2023. The position has been vacant since.

The director is responsible for emergency management plans and the operation of the Emergency Operating Center. Shields began the job on Feb. 13, the day a snowstorm hit the area.
Project Discards Large Oil Tanks

Plan for Route 9 sparked Philipstown moratorium

By Leonard Sparks

A heating oil business whose proposal to install three 29,000-gallon tanks on its property on Route 9 spurred Philipstown to pass a six-month moratorium on large petroleum storage containers has revised its project. Krasniqi Plaza LLC presented to the Philipstown Planning Board on Feb. 15 an amended plan that still calls for a 9,500-square-foot building with offices for its oil and fencing businesses at the southeast corner of Route 9 and East Mountain Road North, along with a 9,000-square-feet outdoor storage area.

But the project will no longer include the above-ground storage tanks, which had raised concerns among town officials and neighbors after Krasniqi introduced it to the Planning Board in October. Krasniqi will instead add a second structure whose 5,300 square feet will be divided into four rental units to contractors needing office and storage space.

“The message on the previous site plan was received and has, obviously, been codified by the Town Board,” Adam Thyberg, a representative for Krasniqi, said on Feb. 15. “There will be no heating oil storage on site.”

The Planning Board scheduled, for March 10 at 9:30 a.m., a visit to Krasniqi’s property for anyone interested in the revised plan. Members of the board and residents previously inspected the property on Nov. 5, after the company presented its initial proposal.

Neal Zuckerman, the board’s chair, estimated that the November visit drew 70 people. “Besides the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, we’ve never had more people attend a site visit in my 11 years on this board,” he said. “The volume of interest from the public is not insignificant at that corner.”

One reason is the property’s location within the Clove Creek Aquifer, which parallels Route 9 from East Mountain Road South to the town’s border with Fishkill. Groundwater from the aquifer feeds the wells that supply residents and businesses in the highly developed northern part of Route 9, and the towns of Fishkill and Wappinger, the Village of Fishkill and Beacon.

The Philipstown Town Board cited a need to protect the aquifer when its members approved, in December, a moratorium on projects storing more than 10,000 gallons of oil as it considers new zoning restrictions.

Current zoning allows storage of up to 400,000 gallons of oil, which the town considers a danger to the environment and drinking water because of the risks of leaks, spills and the damage to tanks from natural disasters or extreme weather.

The moratorium, which the town can extend for two additional six-month periods, does not apply to applications for single- and two-family housing or applications for multiple housing units, “provided that the oil storage facility involved in the development is the minimum necessary to meet the needs of the proposed development and does not exceed 10,000 gallons.”

Commercial developments are exempt if the oil-storage facility is to be used solely for consumption on-site; the capacity is the minimum necessary for the development’s needs; and the capacity does not exceed 10,000 gallons.

Property owners applying for “expansion, alteration or modification” of storage facilities that do not call for an increase in size or capacity are also exempt.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

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What’s Online at HighlandsCurrent.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 is in session.

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

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.

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

Real-Estate Data
These graphs are created 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 prices.

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.
COMING THIS WEEKEND
FEBRUARY 25
2-4 PM
MARCH 24
2-4 PM
APRIL 28
2-4 PM
Hubbard Lodge
2920 US-9
Cold Spring, NY

Join Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail staff at our monthly Sunday Afternoon Chats. Share your ideas, see the latest trail designs, and get your questions answered!

No registration required; drop in at your convenience between 2 and 4 PM.

Visit our website for more information: hhft.org

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**AROUND TOWN**

**COME CHAT ABOUT**

**THE FJORD TRAIL**

**FLAG COMING** — The Town of Fishkill will soon erect a 10-foot pole and Betsy Ross flag, as well as solar-powered lighting, flowers and plantings, at the battery monuments on Route 9 near the Putnam-Dutchess county line. Century Aggregates, the mine located nearby, donated and installed the low granite wall. The plaques, installed in 1935 and 1902, mark the location where, during the American Revolution, three military batteries defended “the gorge of the mountains,” Fishkill Clove, against British forces.

**GENERAL CELEBRATION** — The Washington’s Headquarters State Historic Site in Newburgh celebrated the birthday of its namesake over the weekend of Feb. 17 to 19. Re-enactors — including this Revolutionary War soldier — greeted visitors who braved the cold. The site’s museum at 84 Liberty St. contains more than 1,300 objects.

**DAR IN CONCERT** — Singer and songwriter Dar Williams performed at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring on Feb. 16 in a benefit concert that raised more than $5,000 for the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub. Following the show, the center distributed 42 kits with Narcan, an antidote for opioid overdoses.

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The Calendar

Comedy at the Chapel

Venue will host improv group, stand-up

By Alison Rooney

There’s nothing funny about the Chapel Restoration — or is there? For the first time, programmers at the historic former church overlooking the Hudson River in Cold Spring plan to bring comedy to its stage.

“Just like with our Reading Series [with writers and poets], the idea starts with what we want to see for ourselves,” said filmmaker Ivy Meeropol, who is on the chapel board. “We hope the community will be excited, too. I love live comedy, and being outside the city means not having as much access to it.”

She added: “We can all use a lot more laughter in our lives these days. The chapel is the perfect, intimate venue. But since it’s not a nightclub or a bar — although we will be selling wine and beer — the question became: What kind of comedy acts will work best there?”

First up, on March 9, will be the Beacon-based improv troupe Dutchess, which had previously performed as Vesuvius. It will perform From the Foundry Archives: An Improv Comedy Show, drawing on ties to history in Philipstown, where humor evidently goes way back.

Two weeks later, on March 22, the venue will welcome Isabel Hagen, a stand-up comedian with anecdotal, droll material who also happens to play the viola.

The performers and writers in Dutchess are “some of the best improvisers around who happened to move up [from New York City] to the Hudson Valley,” says Lisa Pertoso, who is a member. “We create comedy shows on the spot. We’re independent from any theater, which allows us the artistic freedom to experiment with different forms.”

In what must certainly be a first, the troupe says its improvised performance will be inspired by the former West Point Foundry. “From locomotives and ironclad ships to questionable beard choices, the best way to remember our local history is to laugh about it,” according to its promotional material.

The members of Dutchess found each other about a year ago. “Some of us were familiar with each other,” says Pertoso. “I went to a show in Beacon, and we started rehearsing regularly. Over the past two years there has been an increase in improv in many forms; more and more people have been trained in it, and it’s spreading as an art form.”

There are two main types of improv: short- and long-form. “Short includes improv games, while in long-form a group creates a play with characters and a made-up-on-the-spot-from-audience-prompts

(Continued on Page 15)
THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY
SAT 24
Friends Kickoff Party
BEACON
5 – 7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Start or renew your HCC membership and enjoy this champagne-and-cupcake party.

SAT 24
Spring Celebration of Light
BEACON
5:30 p.m. Pohill Park
Main Street and South Avenue
Beacon on Spring
Bring a lantern and join this community parade up Main Street to The Yard for a dance party to welcome the Year of the Dragon.

SUN 25
Fjord Trail Chat
PHILIPSTOWN
2 – 4 p.m. Hubbard Lodge
2902 Route 9 | hfl.org
Join staff from the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail at its monthly Sunday afternoon chat to ask questions, share ideas and see the latest trail designs.

THURS 29
Dutchess County Job Fair
POUGHKEEPSIE
3 – 6 p.m. Poughkeepsie Galleria
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3960
Babies & Baked Goods
Play Sets
BEACON
10:30 a.m. DesFis| 3 Beekeer St.
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
6 p.m. DesFis
6 p.m. DesFis
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Sonic Boom Squad
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Weeklings
SAT 24
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BEACON
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desmondfishlibrary.org
Sonic Boom Squad
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Weeklings
SAT 24
Richard Thompson
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. | 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Known for his Americana guitar playing and songwriting, Thompson has influenced rock bands and folk artists alike. Cost: $75 ($80 door)

QUALITY TITLE
SUN 3
Ying Li
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
The pianist’s program will include works by Couperin, Chopin, Strauss, Ravel and Prokofiev. Cost: $35 ($10 students)

STAGE & SCREEN
SAT 24
Royal Hanneford Circus
POGHKEEPSIE
10 a.m. & 2 & 6 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
This family-run, three-ring circus has been operating for three centuries and includes motorcycle thrill riders, “the globe of death,” aerialists, clowns and acrobats. Also 6 p.m. on TUES 27 at Beacon High School and THURS 29 at the Howland Public Library. See Page 14.

SUN 3
Cherish the Ladies
BEACON
5:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. | 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Joanie Madden leads this group of musicians, singers and dancers who perform and interpret traditional Irish music. Cost: $45 ($50 door)

SAT 24
Momentum
BEACON
1 p.m. DocBeacon | 3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811 | diar.org
For this installment of a series connected with Rita McBride: Arena (1997), German composer Volker Bertelmann, known as Hauschka, will perform a solo piano improvisation in response to choreography by Alexandra Wainerstall and dancers Scott Jennings and Ying Yun Chen. Visitors may walk and sit among the performers as the performance unfolds. Because it involves nudity, photography will not be permitted. Cost: $20 ($18 seniors, $22 students and visitors with disabilities, $5 ages 5-11, free for ages 5 and younger and Beacon residents)

SAT 24
Lines of Demarcation
BEACON
2 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Luke Church
15 South Ave. | foundationforbeaconschools.org/
life-history-projects
This documentary, made by a team of Beacon High School students, includes interviews with older Black residents about their experiences growing up and living in the city. Also 6 p.m. on TUES 27 at Beacon High School and THURS 29 at the Howland Public Library. See Page 14.

Tues 27
Bianca Del Rio
POGHKEEPSIE
8 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St. | bardavon.org
The comedian, known as the “Joan Rivers of the drag world,” will perform her latest show, Dead Inside. Cost: $57.50

SUN 3
Young & Strange Delusionists
PEEKSKILL
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com
Delusionists Young & Strange will perform comedic illusions. Cost: $22 ($20 seniors, military, students)

SUN 3
Irish Comedy Tour
PEEKSKILL
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com
This interactive comedy by Vicki Quade and Marijat Donovan imagines the audience as a roomful of students who are asked to answer questions to win rewards or reflect on their shortcomings. Cost: $30 to $39

CIVIC
MON 26
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov
MON 26
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beacon12.org

TUES 27
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Middle School Library
15 Craigsaw Drive | 845-231-0811 | coldspringny.gov

WED 28
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 28
School Board
GARRISON
7 p.m. Garrison School | 110 Route 9D
845-424-3889 | gufs.org

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The Highlands Current
Tracing the Lines

Student film charts Black experience in Beacon

By Jeff Simms

A student-produced documentary, Lines of Demarcation: Memories from Beacon’s Black Communities of the 20th Century, will be screened three times over the next week. The Current spoke this week with Jaeden Drysdale, a 2023 Beacon High School graduate who worked on the film, as well as Andrea Barrow-Williams of the Rise Up Project and Anna Sullivan of the Foundation for Beacon Schools, two groups that supported it.


What was the catalyst for the film?

DRYSDALE: Andrea and all the people behind her were a huge factor, as well as Claudia (Abbott-Barish) at the Mediation Center of Dutchess County and Mr. (Ron) Hammond (the faculty advisor at Beacon High School), who helped get students involved. I was a member of the Black Student Union for my last two years of high school and I’m in a BSU here at the University at Albany. I wanted to help the community by documenting what happened in different spaces, especially in Black spaces that had been dismantled and taken down over the years.

What did you learn?

DRYSDALE: A lot of people moved out of Beacon and Fishkill to places like Poughkeepsie and Peekskill because those had not been as readily gentrified. Beacon had been a factory town, but more than ever it’s a tourist town now. A lot of spots by the Hudson River were taken down because they were primarily Black neighborhoods, and they didn’t want to mess with the ecosystem of the white neighborhoods. They didn’t pay a lot of the people who were being kicked out properly and many of them were put into project buildings. They forced a lot of Black people to go to places like Forrestal Heights or Davies South Terrace.

How much of that did you know before you worked on the film?

DRYSDALE: Probably 25 percent. I used to live in Westchester County and moved to Beacon six or seven years ago. But by the end of high school, and from the Black Student Union, I worked with a lot of other Black people — Black coordinators, Black business owners and people who are trying to support and uphold the history of Black people in Beacon. Working with the Rise Up Project and hearing peoples’ stories was eye-opening.

Was there anything you wanted to see in the film that didn’t make the cut?

DRYSDALE: I wanted to promote fundraising for and getting permission to build a fence around the Union Burial Ground, the cemetery near Beacon High School (between North Walnut and North Brett streets, where many early Black residents are buried). Drysdale and another student proposed a beautification project at the cemetery to the City Council in 2022. I also wish we had more time and equipment and could have talked to more people, but we had to narrow the submissions for time.

What is the Rise Up Project?

BARROW-WILLIAMS: It started in 2020 as a church group reading Ibram Kendi’s How to Be an Antiracist. We thought, what’s going on in our world, our neighborhoods? What is being taught to students, and how does it relate to Black communities in Beacon that no longer exist? The school district introduced us to the Foundation for Beacon Schools, which was looking for a film project with history involved. We put a call out for faculty and students who wanted to be part of the project. We wanted it to be student-driven.

I grew up in Queens and moved to Beacon in 1988, so I didn’t know the history at all and discovered it alongside the students. We have members who have been here a long time and they gave us names of neighborhoods and people we needed to contact before they’re no longer here to share their stories.

What was the role of the Foundation for Beacon Schools?

SULLIVAN: Superintendent [Matt] Landahl and Assistant Superintendent [Sagorrio] Rudiceo-O’Neill connected us and the Rise Up Project in 2022 because we had separately approached the district with local history initiatives. We were interested in vocational experiences that would turn students’ research into short films.

At the same time, Rise Up was exploring ways for high school students to interview senior residents from the Black community to hear their life experiences and the impact racism has had on their lives. We quickly decided to partner. The foundation received a grant from the city to support the project, as well as a film by JV Forrestal Elementary students on the history of their school bell. (See bit.ly/JVF-bell.)

In early 2023 we created a weekly after-school club at Beacon High School led by Ron Hammond. We brought in speakers and shared archival material provided by the Beacon Historical Society, the Howland Public Library, The Current and I Am Beacon. Once the students had developed their questions, the Rise Up team coordinated the interview subjects to come to the school. With guidance from filmmakers Michael Gersh and Eve Morgenstern and media teacher Mr. [James] Corbett, students took turns conducting and filming interviews and organized the script before Michael edited the footage.

Lines of Demarcation will be screened at 2 p.m. on Saturday (Feb. 24) at St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal Church, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday (Feb. 27) at Beacon High School; and at 8 p.m. on Thursday (Feb. 29) at the Howland Public Library, with a Q&A to follow.

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Comedy (from Page 11)

story,” she explains. At the chapel, “we will be creating a play that will be comedic and is spontaneous and unscripted. We’re often asked if we use the framework of a play, and the answer is always no. We don’t know what will happen. There are some rules, but within that structure, chaos can come.”

The performers still rehearse, however. “We need to keep flexing our muscles to stay fresh,” she says.

The vibe for long-form improv is different from stand-up, which is more ‘you need to make me laugh,’” Pertoso says: “That’s more of a challenge. With a collaborative improv group, audience members are usually with us for the ride. It’s a symbiotic relationship, and it can feel magical. At the end, we often are asked: ‘Wow, you made that up!’ We mirror each other, the audience and the players.

“Improv is not about being funny, it’s about finding truth in the moment, following the fun and tapping into the group genius,” she says.

The troupe is relying on historical research by Joanna Castle Miller, who is also a performer. “Joanna is finding content that makes sense — we think! — as we have no idea what she’s going to read,” Pertoso says.

Along with Pertoso and Miller, the cast will include TJ Del Reno, Don Romaniello and Michael Short.

Hagen is a Juilliard-trained and Broadway pit violist who, after an injury prevented her from practicing, decided to test her stand-up comedy act at clubs.

Last year she recounted to The Washington Post that, at the beginning, “I was terrible at telling jokes. But just the act of it felt even more suited to me than music had.” But she rose quickly and has appeared twice on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon and created a web series, Is a Violist (see isabelhagen.com). Her chapel appearance is a stop on a national tour that began Feb. 9.

The Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market St., in Cold Spring. Dutchess will perform at 7:30 p.m. on March 9; tickets are $25 at bit.ly/hagen-chapel.

Gospel Star (from Page 11)

The 1994 album received rave reviews. Rolling Stone wrote: “Its glories runneth over.” The Philadelphia Inquirer said it contained “affirmations of what’s good in the world.” However, Myles was gay, which Sacks says record companies saw as an obstacle to marketing a gospel album. “Raymond faced intolerance and homophobia; he struggled in two unforgiving worlds — the church and the music business,” Sacks says.

Myles was disconsolate when Sacks broke the news: There would be no record deal. “It’s a total contradiction,” Myles said it out loud, according to Sacks. Myles was sheathed in copper-colored snakeskin, who was among the speakers. “Raymond was the one who deserved happiness were welcomed as their reward for being good and heroic.

Five thousand mourners packed the Greater St. Stephens Baptist Church for the funeral. “It was a spectacle,” says Sacks, who was among the speakers. “Raymond was sheathed in copper-colored snakeskin, dressed in death as he dressed for life.”

In 2005, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Sacks and a group of New Orleans musicians met in Austin, Texas, to record an album. As it happened, “everyone there knew Raymond,” Sacks says. “He should have been there.”

Sacks decided then to make the film. In 2007, he shot the first scene outside the two-room house in New Orleans where Myles, his mother and 10 siblings had lived. Soon after, it was torn down.

In late October 1998, Myles was shot and killed. His body was found on the outskirts of the French Quarter, at an intersection of Elysian Fields Avenue. In Greek mythology, Elysian Fields is the place in the afterlife where those who deserved happiness were welcomed as their reward for being good and heroic.

Fondness for the afterlife was a common theme in his music. “Elysian Fields” also made reference to the idea of going to the next world.” However, Myles was gay, which Sacks says record companies saw as an obstacle to marketing a gospel album. “Raymond faced intolerance and homophobia; he struggled in two unforgiving worlds — the church and the music business,” Sacks says.

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Peter Lovell (1949-2024)

Peter Reynolds Lovell, age 74, architect from Charlestown, Massachusetts, died of cancer Nov. 27, 2023, peacefully, with family members at his side.

He was born on May 10, 1949 in Garrison, New York, second son of Laura Gere Lovell and James Reynolds Lovell, and one of four brothers. He grew up there, attending Highland Falls High School and Duchess Community College before transferring to Franciscan College in New Hampshire. There he both studied architecture with Ron Haase and worked as “clerk of the works” on many college building projects.

He studied to achieve his architecture license and worked for Huygens Dimella Associates and Barwell, White and Arnold before striking out on his own as a partner in Mann & Lovell, Inc. and as a solo practitioner in Boston, Massachusetts.

His many projects included: individual residences; master plans, student centers, auditoriums and dormitories for educational institutions, medical offices, and long-term care facilities.

With Mann & Lovell, he worked on the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. In his own firm, he designed corporate projects and worked on assignments at MIT. He hired and trained many aspiring architects and designers.

Along the way, Peter had many adventures. As a young man, he was second mate on the Clearwater, when the 106-foot sloop and its founder, singer Pete Seeger, became the symbol for cleaning up the Hudson River and other waterways. This took him on related travels, including time in the British Isles, where he became an enthusiast of British folk music and adept at the concertina.

Peter was known as a loyal family member and friend, ever attentive to his brothers and their families, his many cousins and a close circle of friends. He will be remembered for his constancy, kindness and impeccable manners and style of dress. He was a great fan of opera and loved to introduce family members to the Metropolitan Opera and to attend Glimmerglass in the summers.

He was an accomplished sailor and taught his nephews on his Laser. An expert draftsman and user of computer programs for design, he produced many drawings, now treasured by family members and clients.

He collected an extensive library of architectural books, which was recently donated to the Architectural Studies Program at Middlebury College in Vermont.

He was pre-deceased by his parents, his brothers John Prescott Lovell and James Gere Lovell, and nephew Evan McCulloch Lovell. He will be greatly missed by his brother Christopher of Montpelier, Vermont, sister-in-law Ellen and nephew Evan’s family — wife Kristi Brown Lovell and grandnieces Lucia, Isobel and Evelyn; his sister-in-law Kim Pfautz of Underwood, Washington; sister-in-law Nancy Montgomery of Cold Spring, New York; niece Brooke Lovell, and nephews Finn, Jack, and Hudson Lovell.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Peter R. Lovell Memorial Library and the Architectural Studies Program at Middlebury College, 14 Old Chapel Road, Middlebury, VT 05753. A memorial service will be held in the spring.
George (from Page 1)

After a short stay in the hospital, George was transferred to the New York State Veterans Home at Montrose. A Facebook post let villagers know they could deliver greetings to George through The Current office on Main Street, and soon a pile of good wishes came through our mail slot: more than 50 cards with heartfelt messages, family photos, artwork, candy, emails, Valentine's cards and notes from children.


I delivered the pile to George at the VA on Feb. 17. He lit up like a 500-watt bulb. He was surprised, amazed and grateful. Best of all, he is doing well, is in a good frame of mind and taking part in activities at the facility.

He raved about the food. I heard several times about the hamburger he had just eaten for lunch. He winced, saying physical therapy for his knee is painful but added he will continue to fight and is getting “strong, strong, strong.” He admitted to flirting with the nurses, whom he said provided excellent care.

We had our traditional conversation. George claimed he was a much faster-skating hockey player than I was. I gave him my usual response: I would have knocked him on his ass anyway. George laughed hard, which was good to behold.

His life story is compelling. A lifelong Cold Spring resident, he excelled in football at Haldane and still holds the school record for pass receptions. He also was a standout baseball player.

After graduating in the mid-1960s, he worked at Con Edison for a year before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He was sent to Vietnam, where he flew into rice paddies or the jungle by helicopter, always with the possibility of encountering a firefight.

During one period, on five consecutive nights, the pilots who flew George and the other soldiers into battle were killed. He fought in the Mekong Delta, survived malaria, was wounded and received a Purple Heart.

After his tour, he returned to Cold Spring and worked as a lineman for the New York Telephone Co. But within a year, he suffered a stroke, losing the use of his right arm. His right leg was severely weakened and he could not spool thread.

As part of his therapy, George began to paint. Using his left hand, he became prolific and developed a distinctive, primitive style. Initially, he painted scenes from the war. Over time his subjects changed to local landmarks and peaceful landscapes.

He learned to speak again using short phrases and to walk, despite his bad right leg, but never regained the use of his right arm.

For decades, until the pandemic shutdown, George rode Metro-North to New York City for weekly art lessons. He lived independently at the Spring Brook Condominiums.

During my visit on Feb. 17, he crossed his fingers and expressed hope that if he continues to improve, he might return to Cold Spring in a month or two. Whatever the future holds, I know two things: George will never stop fighting, and he is a genuine local hero.

Cards can be mailed to George Stevenson, c/o NYS Veterans Home, Deer Park Wing, Room 105, 2090 Albany Post Road, Montrose, NY 10548.

Desmond-Fish (from Page 1)

Maddow examined how fascist leaders in the U.S. in the years before World War II attempted to undermine democracy.

After the Name Review Working Group was “unable to arrive at a consensus,” according to the report, seven members supported changing the name in two informal votes on March 9, notes that some members would be OK with keeping the name if there were other “reparative actions.” If there is a vote, state law requires a three-fourths majority of the 25-seat board (which has one vacancy) to change the name on the charter, and the state Board of Regents would also need to approve, noted President Anita Prentice.

The 35-page document, which is posted at bit.ly/renaming-report, followed months of research by the working group into Fish's achievements, including leading a regiment of Black troops in World War I and helping Jewish people in the 1930s secure exit visas to America.

The committee included Prentice and two other trustees, two library staff members and five members of the community. Its members asked the library board members to consider the range of their viewpoints.

Prentice wrote in the report that Maddow never mentioned the campaign to discredit Fish, an anti-interventionist who opposed U.S. involvement in World War II, when she broadcast a segment about him in October 2022.

Prentice also lists Fish's decades of achievements, including leading a regiment of Black troops in World War I and helping Jewish people in the 1930s secure exit visas from Germany and Poland. He also was instrumental in the creation of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 1921.

“After the library was notified of the segment’s broadcast, the board in January 2023 issued a statement condemning antisemitism and announced that it would form a committee to investigate Maddow's claims. It also posted a page of resources at desmondfishlibrary.org/a-house-divided.

The working group began meeting biweekly in August 2023. In addition to reviewing printed materials, and videos of three community conversations convened by the library, the group pored through 521 responses to a survey created to gauge the views of residents.

Of those who responded, 52 percent supported keeping the name, 29 percent believed it should be renamed, and 15 percent called for modifying the name.

Nine percent of the residents who supported keeping the name also said they believed the library should undertake reparative initiatives.

The report recommends a list of possible initiatives, such as strengthening programs such as Holocaust remembrances; adding books by Jewish authors and those from other marginalized groups; and replacing Fish's portrait in the library with artwork built on themes such as anti-bias, tolerance and social justice.

Who Will Decide

The Desmond-Fish Public Library board has 25 seats, including those held by Hamilton Fish, a grandson of Hamilton Fish III, and Eliza Mackenzie Fish, a great-granddaughter.

Anita Prentice (president), George Lansbury (1st vice president), Elizabeth Anderson (2nd vice president), Derrick Hopkins (treasurer), Susan Landstreet (secretary), Sarah Bayne, Erik Brown, Robert Culp, Sundance DiGiovanni, Eliza Mackenzie Fish, Hamilton Fish, Kyle Good, Dr. Peter Hofmann, Taro Ietaka, Madeline Julian, Jonathan Kruk, Dr. Frank Lucente, Fred Osborn, Michael Rauch, Jennifer Schmalz, Charity Shurway, Kristin Sorenson, Richard Syrek, Neal Zuckerman
The 1926 Ford Runabout featured last month is a classic because it epitomizes assembly line production: It was one of more than 15 million Model Ts that rolled out of plants between 1908 and 1927.

The 1937 Bell House Car is a classic, but for the opposite reason: It is the only one ever built. The Bell Aircraft Corp. in Buffalo was much better known for its flying machines, including the Bell X-1, in which Chuck Yeager became the first pilot to break the sound barrier. The company, which was purchased by Textron in 1960, also produced the P-39 fighter plane during World War II, the Bell Rocket Belt for short-distance individual propulsion, control systems for the Mercury spacecraft and helicopters.

Adam Pataki, who lives in Newburgh, purchased the Bell House Car five years ago from a collector and friend in California. He declined to say what he paid and wouldn't hazard a guess as to its value. Pataki also owns a 1935 Motor Chief streamliner built by Bowlus; he notes that it was not unusual in the 1930s for aircraft companies to create motor homes and travel trailers. "They liked the challenge of coming up with the designs," he says. "These guys were ahead of their times. Look how square today's motor homes are. Back then they were much more aerodynamic."

Because the Bell House Car was stored inside for nearly 55 years, it was in remarkable condition. "The body was great, no dents," Pataki says. "We just rebuilt the brake system, added new tires, a new battery and wiring."

He can take the Bell to 65 mph if he "puts the pedal down," but says it cruises beautifully at 55 mph.

Powered by a Ford flathead V8 engine, the vehicle has an on-the-column three-speed manual transmission with a second shifter providing low and high gears for highway driving. "It's so smooth you don't even hear the motor," Pataki says. He's driven it about 1,000 miles, including trips to Beacon and Cold Spring.

Pataki has no plans to restore the Bell to its original appearance. "I love the way it looks," he says. "I think it was painted in the 1940s." The couch, bed and other interior furnishings are long gone, with one exception: the wood-burning stove. There is no radio or air conditioning, but the front windshield opens, a feature Pataki uses often in summer. And how many vehicles have bullet-proof, ¾-inch-thick rear windows designed for a fighter plane?

Pataki has taken the Bell to only a single car show, in Mahwah, New Jersey. "Everyone was in shock," he says. "People would say they'd never seen anything like it, and I'd say: 'Of course you haven't because this is the only one!' "

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Classic Wheels

1937 Bell House Car

By Michael Turton

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Lit Book Club

TUES 5, 7 P.M.
Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead, by Olga Tokarczuk
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

Abe Lincoln/Civil War Book Club

THURS 7, 7 P.M.
Lincoln’s Boys: John Hay, John Nicolay and the War for Lincoln’s Image, by Joshua Zeitz
Lincoln Depot Museum, 10 S. Water St., Peekskill
Email LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com.

History Book Club

THURS 7, 7 P.M.
American Midnight: The Great War, A Violent Peace and Democracy’s Forgotten Crisis, by Adam Hochschild
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splitrockbks.com.

Elementary Book Club (Grades 2-4)

WED 29, 3:15 P.M.
Mr. Wolf’s Class, by Aron Nels Steinke
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Haldane PTA Parent Book Club

WED 29, 6:30 P.M.
The Emotional Lives of Teenagers, by Lisa Damour
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Page-to-Screen Book Club

THURS 21, 3 P.M.
Sense and Sensibility, by Jane Austen
Desmond-Fish Public Library, Garrison
Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events.

Butterfield Book Club

MON 25, 7 P.M.
The Soul of a Woman, by Isabel Allende
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Librarian’s Choice Book Club

WED 27, 3 P.M.
Lady Tan’s Circle of Women, by Lisa See
Desmond-Fish Public Library, Garrison
Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events.
Have you ever had a revelation so uncomfortable that you're disoriented for days? Maybe you realized you're in the wrong job, or town, or relationship. You should have adopted that dog. The skinny jeans were a mistake.

For me, it was when I realized how excited I was for the next few weeks, a time of year that I'm not sure has a name. It's not "early spring" — no forsythia, crocuses or daffodils, and the only plant coming up is the aptly named skunk cabbage — but it's not "late winter," because we could still get enough snow that you have to shovel. It's not cold enough for a snowman but it's not warm enough to start planting things.

For much of the Northeast, this used to be mud season, but we don't get enough snow anymore for that. Instead, it's more like awkward season. The waiter has whisked one course away but is taking his or her time bringing the next one. Everyone at the table has run out of things to say. Your stomach hurts and everything smells like skunk cabbage.

And yet this is what I'm excited about. Part of the appeal is that I am a sucker for a slow transition, and March is slow. The hazy snow globe of winter is cracking and the light is clearer. The late-afternoon landscape is sharper. Daylight Saving Time hits (two weeks away, on March 10) and everything feels luminous and unreal. There's an increasing undercurrent of warmth beneath the chill. Today, 42 degrees is chilly. Three weeks from now, a 42-degree morning will prompt you to say "it's nice out!"

Years ago, I used to canoe and camp on a lake in western Maine. You might not see another person for a week, but the smartphone era was dawning, and being tethered to the vast sum of human knowledge was, like the importance of a good fiber supplement, something I was blissfully unaware of. My one connection to the world was a computerized voice on a solar-powered weather radio. The only things that concerned me were the overnight temperature and the location of storms.

I felt guilty for bringing the weather radio, but it was necessary. An unexpected storm soaking your firewood, equipment and clothes can make your trip unpleasant. Since this particular lake was miles long, and the view open and wide, you could see approaching storms, which gave you a few minutes to batten down the hatches and slide the firewood under your overturned canoe.

As the storm drew closer, there were a few moments to reflect; I realized the origin of the phrase "the calm before the storm." Everything went still. The wind died down, the lake flattened, the birds fell silent. The patter of raindrops on the leaves above me was a signal to dive into my tent before the sky exploded.

For me, March in the Highlands feels like those moments of calm, but stretched out for a month. You know that soon you will be tending to the yard. You will no longer be the odd person on the trails in the cold. This is your last chance to enjoy the silence.
Puzzles

ACROSS
1. Pep
4. “Get Here” singer Adams
9. Opposite of “post-”
12. Equal (Pref.)
13. Jeremy of Entourage
14. Corn serving
15. Prepaid convenience for cell users
17. Texter’s “Enough!”
18. Common verb
19. Spiritualist
21. Oliver Twist, for one
24. Cabinet dept. head
25. Norma —
26. Snake’s warning
28. Mexican snacks
31. Actor Richard
33. UFO crew
35. Commanded
36. Enticed
38. Rep.’s rival
40. “Diamonds” singer
41. Goatee’s spot
43. O Pioneers! author
45. Long recliner
47. Magic, on scoreboards
48. “A spider!”
49. Cell user’s practical joke
50. Conk out
51. Dodge
52. Classic car
57. Hosp. areas
58. Opposite of most
59. Watch chain
67. Opposite of most
68. Opposite of most
69. Fund for minor expenses
70. Malek of Bohemian Rhapsody
71. Guitarist Clapton
72. “Unh-unh”
73. Wound cover
74. Pitcher Hershiser
75. Pasta sauce brand
76. Fruity baked goods
77. Norm (Abbr.)
78. Garfield’s pal
82. Blacken
83. Classic soda brand
84. Extra helpings
85. Put to rest
86. Grocery store
87. Audacity
88. Patient’s need, briefly
89. Give up
90. Estate recipient
91. Bond rating
92. Canine cry
93. Zodiac feline
94. Arced tennis shot

DOWN
1. Ex-Yankee Martinez
2. Squirrel’s meal
3. No-brainer
4. Paper Moon Oscar-winner Tatum
5. LAPD ranks
6. Prepaid convenience for cell users
7. Mexico
8. “Still ...”
9. Fund for minor expenses
10. Malek of Bohemian Rhapsody
11. Guitarist Clapton
12. “Unh-unh”
13. Wound cover
14. Pitcher Hershiser
15. Pasta sauce brand
16. Fruity baked goods
17. Norm (Abbr.)
18. Garfield’s pal
19. Blacken
20. Classic soda brand
21. Extra helpings
22. Put to rest
23. Grocery store
24. Audacity
25. Patient’s need, briefly
26. Give up
27. Estate recipient
28. Bond rating
29. Canine cry
30. Zodiac feline
31. Arced tennis shot

SudoCurrent

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

BEAST

BOOST

WordLadder

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

PEAKY
PERKY
PERKS
PARKS
PARTS
PARIS

MICRO CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. “Tuesday” dinners served in edible shells
6. Wedding cake topper
7. Composition for nine
8. Ocean predators
9. Org. for Flyers and Bruins

DOWN
1. Ex-Yankee Martinez
2. Squirrel’s meal
3. No-brainer
4. Paper Moon Oscar-winner Tatum
5. LAPD ranks

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For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.
BOYS' BASKETBALL — After starting the 2023-24 season with a 2-7 record, the Bulldogs won 10 of their final 11 games to finish the season at 12-8. They were 8-0 at home, which included their final two games, wins over Chester, 54-42, on Feb. 15 on Senior Night after honoring Derek Fortes, Jack Antalek and Jayden Quintana, and Cornwall, 60-45, on Monday (Feb. 19).

Beacon, seeded No. 5 in the Section IX, Class A tournament, will travel to No. 4 Red Hook (11-6) on Monday (Feb. 26) for a 6 p.m. tip. The game will be streamed at nfhsnetwork.com. The winner will face No. 1 New Paltz (15-3).

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — The Bulldogs were idle this week after wrapping up their season with a 16-3 record. Beacon, seeded No. 3 in the Section IX, Class A tournament, will travel to Red Hook (13-5) on Wednesday (Feb. 28) for a 6 p.m. game that will be streamed at nfhsnetwork.com. The winner will advance to the title game.

WINTER TRACK — Damani DeLoatch will represent Beacon at the state championships on March 2 on Staten Island after winning the triple jump in 45-10.75 at the Section IX qualifier on Feb. 17 at The Armory in New York City. The senior also placed eighth in the long jump at 18-6.5, while Henry Reinke was fifth in the 600-meter run in 1:24.71 and Isabella Migliore was 11th in the 600-meter run in 1:48.52.

BOYS' SWIMMING — Beacon finished 16th of 21 teams at the Section IX championships held Feb. 17 in Montgomery. Bryce Manning was 13th in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:07.51; the 200-yard freestyle relay team placed 10th in 1:37.68 and the 200-yard medley team was 12th in 1:52.51.

BOWLING — The boys finished 11-4 (7-2 league) behind James Bouchard III, Anthony Borromeo and captain Will Hockler, who finished with averages of 209, 204 and 201, respectively. The team will return next year having lost only three players to graduation. The girls' team, which will lose five seniors — Keira Istvan, Elisa Pahucki, Elizabeth Ruffy, Vanessa Campanelli and Cadence Heeter — finished 2-9 (1-6 league).

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — On Tuesday (Feb. 20), No. 4 Haldane hosted No. 5 Leffell in the first round of the Section I, Class C tournament, advancing with a 62-29 victory. Marisa Peters led the Blue Devils with a career-high 25 points, including seven 3-pointers; Camilla McDaniel had 18 and Kayla Ruggiero scored 12.

“It feels good because not much was expected of this group [which won only three games last season], and we are in the dance!” said Coach Charles Martinez. The Blue Devils (9-12) will face No. 1 seed Tuckahoe (13-7) at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday (Feb. 25) at the Westchester County Center in White Plains. The game will be streamed at locallive.tv. The teams did not meet during the regular season.

BOYS' BASKETBALL — After being idle for 11 days, Haldane finished its regular season on Tuesday (Feb. 20) with a 64-46 home win over Franklin Roosevelt. The team then began a 12-day wait for its first game in the state tournament.

FDR started the game with a 6-0 lead but the Blue Devils responded with a 16-2 run behind Ross Esposito, who scored the first 10 points for Haldane, followed by Matt Nachamkin with the next six. Nachamkin dominated the third quarter, scoring 13 of 17 points, and the Blue Devils pulled away in the fourth, holding FDR to five points. Nachamkin finished with 27 points and Esposito had 16.

The Blue Devils (17-3), seeded No. 1 in the Section I, Class C tournament, will face the winner of a Feb. 25 match-up between No. 2 Tuckahoe (12-7) and No. 3 Leffell (12-8) for the title. That game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on March 3 at the Westchester County Center and will be streamed at locallive.tv.

WINTER TRACK — The Blue Devils competed at the 59-team Section I state qualifier on Feb. 18 at The Armory in New York City. For the girls, Ashley Sousa reached the finals in the 1,500-meter run, where she placed 15th in 5:34.67.