

The HIGHLANDS Current



Young Artists at Work
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MARCH 15, 2024

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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Desmond-Fish Trustees Vote to Keep Name

Decision ends review of Hamilton Fish III actions

By Leonard Sparks

Trustees for the Desmond-Fish Library voted overwhelmingly on March 9 to retain its name after a review triggered by allegations that namesake Hamilton Fish III was a Nazi sympathizer who helped spread propaganda for the regime.

Just four of the 22 trustees in attendance — far short of the three-fourths majority needed to change the name on Desmond-Fish's charter — voted against a motion to keep the name of the library, which Fish co-founded in 1980 with his third wife, Alice Curtis Desmond.

The vote capped a process that began 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, Maddow examined how fascist leaders in the U.S. in the years before World War II attempted to undermine democracy.

Maddow focused in the series' fifth episode on alleged complicity by Fish and other members of Congress, leading the board to form a committee composed of three trustees, two library staff members and five residents.

In a report released in February, the committee said it had failed to reach a
(Continued on Page 8)



PARADE OF GREEN — Beacon held its annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 9, complete with bagpipes, firetrucks, veterans, flags, children, community organizations and the Rombout Middle School band. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Senate Approves Maloney as Ambassador

Critics raise concerns about ties to crypto industry

By Chip Rowe

The U.S. Senate on Tuesday (March 12) confirmed the nomination of former Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney as the U.S. representative to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, based in Paris.



Maloney

The vote was 63-31. Maloney, whose U.S. House district included the Highlands, will receive the rank of ambassador. President Joe Biden nominated the Philipstown resident for the position last summer.

Maloney, a Democrat, served five terms in the House before being defeated in the November 2022 election by Mike Lawler. Both New York senators, Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, voted for his appointment.

The OECD, founded in 1961, "works to build better policies for better lives" by creating "evidence-based international standards and finding solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges" such as job creation, improving education and fighting tax evasion.

The group came out of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, which was created to administer U.S. and Canadian aid for the reconstruction of Europe after World War II.

"Authoritarian regimes are trying to tell a story that their single-party systems, command economies and repressive security apparatuses deliver the best outcomes for their people," Maloney said in a statement on Nov. 16 to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "The OECD provides the objective research to expose that fiction and demonstrate the strength and benefits of a free society."

He added: "Modern small-town America needs a strong global economy, open/reliable markets, good infrastructure, affordable food and energy prices and an educated workforce. If confirmed by the committee, the needs of American families will always be my primary concern at the OECD."

A group called the Revolving Door Project in January raised concerns about the nomination, saying Maloney has a
(Continued on Page 5)

Carvana Eyes Fishkill Avenue

Auto dealer would lease former Healey lot

By Jeff Simms

While a committee appointed by Beacon's mayor studies the potential rezoning of a 1-mile stretch of Fishkill Avenue, a national used car dealer hopes to soon occupy one of the four parcels in the corridor recently vacated by Healey Brothers.

Carvana, an online retailer, has submitted plans to the Planning Board to establish

a facility at 410 Fishkill Ave. If approved, the company would operate out of the 17,000-square-foot building there. Healey Hyundai formerly occupied the space.

In January, Mayor Lee Kyriacou named 10 residents to the Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee to develop ideas and advise the City Council on access, zoning, streetscapes and viewsheds along the corridor. The committee is expected to report to the council by fall.

While Healey had 60 employees at its dealership, Carvana, which would lease the
(Continued on Page 6)



Nick Lisikatos and his crews did not plow much this winter.

Photo by J. Asher

No Snow? It's Slow.

Not everyone loves warmer winters

By Joey Asher

It's hard times in the Highlands for pond hockey players, ice sailors, snowplow operators, ice fishers, cross-country skiers and winter sports retailers.

Outdoors enthusiasts and business owners who rely on snowfall report that the lack of it in recent years has cut into their fun and revenues.
(Continued on Page 7)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: STEVEN HIGASHIDE

By Brian PJ Cronin

Steven Higashide, who lives in Beacon, is director of the Clean Transportation program for the Union of Concerned Scientists and author of *Better Buses, Better Cities: How to Plan, Run and Win the Fight for Effective Transit*.

What's the connection between better buses and better cities?

Activists talk about "the right to the city." Can you get to your place of worship, the doctor's office, to City Hall? Can you do that affordably? Or do you have to pay thousands of dollars a year to access a vehicle? Better buses expand our freedom. Whether you are too young to drive, or a person with disabilities, or aged out of driving, public transit makes it possible for everyone to live a fuller life when we do it right.

You note that in popular culture, if a character has to take the bus, it usually means something in their life has gone wrong. But in Canada, a bus is a bus. Why the difference?

It's a sign of how we have disinvested in public transportation. You can go to the wealthiest parts of the country and people who rely on the bus still have to wait on the

side of the road with no sidewalk and no shelter for a bus that comes once an hour. When that's the reality, not many people are going to choose it. In the Toronto suburbs, you often have buses coming every five minutes — every two minutes during rush hour — and these are suburban streets with strip malls and parking lots and townhouses. They have normalized a much higher level of service, and because of that the ridership is a lot higher. Ridership follows the quality of service.

You're also skeptical about plans to make buses "sexy" with things like Wi-Fi and USB ports. Why?

They're bad ideas if they are a substitute for what matters. And what matters the most to people is that the bus gets them where they want to go, when they want to get there, that it does it quickly, and that the bus is frequent enough that you don't have to plan your whole life around it. Even in Beacon, which is not a major metropolitan area, it's not too much to ask that. We don't have to have two-hour gaps in the schedule. We still deserve public transportation service that runs all day and all week. Instead, what we have is this confusing patchwork of providers where service might stop in the middle of the day, or not run on Sundays or stop running at 6 p.m.

A slogan you mention in the book is "More parking means less city for everyone to enjoy." What does that mean?

We've just had this debate in Beacon around parking minimums [for new developments]. The problem with requiring so much parking is that in order to accommodate it, you have to spread out the buildings. Now, all of a sudden, if you want to go for a walk, you're not walking along this contiguous, charming Main Street but among empty parking lots. It's a much more hostile

landscape, which can drive more people to get in their cars, because it's not that appealing to walk. If we require so much parking in a downtown or any neighborhood, we destroy the things that make it an attractive neighborhood. If we make our neighborhoods more walkable, bikeable and amenable to people taking public transportation, the cycle goes in the other direction.

What do you think about the recent changes to the Dutchess County bus system?

There's the good, the bad and the ugly. It's good to see more Sunday service. It's great that they've proposed more service between Beacon and Poughkeepsie, as well as between Beacon and Fishkill. It's smart to try the Main Street shuttle instead of the Loop. The Loop is a confusing transit route, and the figure-eight is incomprehensible to many people. In terms of the bad, it's troubling that the proposal is to curtail the hours of that shuttle. Service will stop at 6 p.m. It makes it a lot less useful for riders.

Regarding the ugly, Dutchess is keeping residents in this situation of scarcity, so we have to make these tradeoffs. Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the federal government is providing more money for public transportation than ever, but the county still has to choose to match those funds. We shouldn't have to choose between "Are we going to have Sunday service or are we going to have service that runs until 9 p.m.?" It is the responsibility of folks like [County Executive] Sue Serino and the county Legislature to provide those resources.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

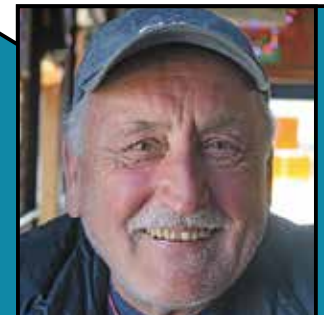
What is the best parade you've attended?

“
St. Patrick's Day in Pearl River
”



Christine Geraghty, Beacon

“
Saint Spyridon in Corfu, Greece
”



Desmond Connick, Garrison

“
The Holy Week procession in Quito, Ecuador
”



Thalía Noboa Lamar, New York City (Visiting Cold Spring)

Around THE Region

Poughkeepsie: Police Raid Stores Accused of Selling Weed

Officers from the Neighborhood Recovery Unit of the city police department on March 5 raided three stores allegedly selling cannabis without a state license.

Two dispensaries were operating on Academy Street and the third on Main Street, police said. According to the *Mid Hudson News*, the Academy Street operations were creating traffic jams because customers would double-park to make quick purchases. One store advertised its supply on a whiteboard in the window and the other was located inside a convenience store.

There are 78 legal dispensaries operating in the state, although none have opened in Dutchess or Putnam counties.

Montgomery: Board Votes to Become 'Un-Sanctuary Community'

A majority of the four trustees on the Village Board voted March 5 to declare Montgomery to be an "un-sanctuary community."

The resolution was proposed by Michael Hembury, a trustee who is running for the vacant position of mayor. "The plane landed at Orange County Airport about six months ago and I don't want to wake up in the morning and find out that our senior center or our teen center or our elementary school is filled with migrants," he told *Mid Hudson News* after the vote. "We have to protect this community, so we are 'officially' an un-sanctuary city or village."

Trustee Randi Picarello, who is also running for mayor, attempted to table the resolution.

Washington, D.C.: Ryan, Lawler Fund Local Projects

Pat Ryan and Mike Lawler, whose U.S. House districts include Beacon and Philipstown, respectively, announced last week that they had secured funding for projects in their districts through a process known as earmarks.

Ryan distributed nearly \$17 million for 14 projects, including \$4.2 million for renovations and expansion at the Boys & Girls Club of Newburgh and \$960,000 to the Town of Wappinger to install 5,300 linear feet of 8-inch water main and 6,300 linear feet of 10-inch main along town and state roads in the Route 9 corridor.

Lawler distributed \$36 million for 17 projects, including \$1 million for sewer construction in the Annsville Creek section of the Town of Cortlandt; \$2 million to improve and expand public access to Lake Mahopac; \$1.25 million to replace the Oregon Corners sewer pump station in Putnam Valley; \$750,000 for Putnam County to develop a comprehensive pedestrian improvement plan that will lead



Participants at a March 7 event signed a beam that will be used in the new Food Bank of the Hudson Valley facility in Montgomery.

Photo provided

to the replacement and installation of sidewalks and add mobility options near senior centers; and \$1.24 million to rehab the Lake Carmel dam in Kent.

Saugerties: Couple Charged in Hit-and-Run

Police arrested a 42-year-old woman on charges that she struck and killed a pedestrian on Route 9W in January, then fled the scene and staged an accident to account for the damage to her car.

Lacey Maxwell was arrested March 5.

She was charged with leaving the scene of a fatal accident and insurance fraud, among other accusations. Her husband, Ryan Maxwell, 43, was also charged. Police said Lacey Maxwell struck Starllie Swonyoung, who was walking along the shoulder.

Montgomery: Food Bank Warehouse Underway

The Food Bank of the Hudson Valley has started construction of a 40,000-square-foot distribution center in this Orange County town that will provide the nonprofit with

space to store donations that are distributed to Dutchess, Putnam and four other counties.

Working with the food industry, the Food Bank collects donations of unmarketable but edible food and distributes it to charitable agencies. In 2023, it provided more than 21 million pounds of food to more than 400 partner programs.

The Food Bank noted that its current distribution center in Cornwall-on-Hudson is half the size of the new building, which means it often must store food in Albany County. The \$23.8 million building was funded in part with \$14.4 million in state grants.

Carmel: Man Accused of Selling Illegal Mushrooms

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office arrested a 39-year-old man on March 4 for allegedly selling illegal psychedelic mushrooms.

Zhenxiu Lu was accused of selling the mushrooms from The Tobacco House of Zhang on Route 6 in the Town of Carmel. The sheriff said an investigator made three purchases at the location.

After the arrest, police executed a search warrant at Lu's residence in the Town of Southeast, where they seized \$53,000 in cash and business records. They also executed a search warrant at a business in Carmel where they seized more cash and a "large amount of psilocybin mushrooms and marijuana products," according to a news release. Lu was arraigned on four felony counts and released until his next court date.

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FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR

Chip Rowe

editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney

arts@highlandscurrent.org

REPORTERS

Jacob Aframian

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Joey Asher • Celia Barbour

Brian PJ Cronin • Joe Dizney

Pamela Doan • Deb Lucke

Nick Robbins • Michael Turton

STUDENT CORRESPONDENTS

Cadence Heeter (Beacon)

Una Hoppe (Beacon)

Jude Morrison (Regis)

Clara Tripp (Fieldston)

Lily Zuckerman (Masters)

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney

For information on advertising:

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

MEMBERSHIP

Emily Hare

membership@highlandscurrent.org



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Cease-fire resolution

Your article did a good job of capturing the level of acrimony at this meeting, and in the larger community, that has arisen because the Beacon City Council chose to take on this contentious issue for which it was wholly unqualified and unprepared ("Beacon Passes Cease-fire Resolution," March 8).

The resolution that passed is pointless — it's the equivalent of commanding a dog to "sit" when it's already sitting down. The Biden administration has been working to facilitate a bilateral negotiated cease-fire for months (and it is worth noting that Israel has agreed to terms, while Hamas has rejected them). The only thing this resolution "achieved" is taking an extremely divisive topic and forcing Beacon neighbors to fight over it.

The terrible irony is that the vast majority of those who opposed the resolution, myself included, desperately want peace. We just didn't want our local elected officials to make fools of themselves trying to sort out one of the most intractable foreign policy issues of our times, while also writing into law a resolution that would contribute to a larger movement of delegitimizing the one Jewish country in the entire world.

We had proposed that, instead of a resolution, the Beacon government facilitate dialogue in the community. The council seems to think that the resolution should

come first, and then dialogue. I am waiting to see if it will follow up on that promise, or if it's simply hoping that it "solved" things and can move on.

Steve Jacobs, Beacon

Without taking a side on the cease-fire resolution, why are people who live outside of Beacon addressing City Council meetings? Wouldn't it be more appropriate for them to urge their own municipalities to take, or not take, action?

Joseph Steinfeld, Beacon

Odd that *The Current* quoted Rabbi Brent Spodek at length and not anyone in favor of the resolution. And you accorded him an opinion piece in the newspaper but not to anyone in favor of the resolution.

Donna Minkowitz, Beacon

Editor Chip Rowe responds: "At length" better describes the thousands of words of comments we have printed and posted from residents who supported or opposed the resolution. I invited Rabbi Brent and Kamel Jamal in December to submit *My View* columns with their personal views on the Middle East conflict, believing them to be community leaders; Kamel said he would think about it and Brent responded when the cease-fire resolution was introduced in the City Council. I don't want to turn the

My View column into a tit-for-tat about this issue; readers are welcome to respond by posting a comment if they feel they have something to add.

Beacon rising

I attended the March 2 Beacon Rising concert ("Around Town," March 8). Oh, what a joyful noise! Watching this group of women of every creed, walk of life, political persuasion, ethnic background, race and income level come together and perform as one voice is truly a credit to each woman and the director.

The support and uplifting spirit that the women gave to each other during the performance made me pause and wonder why our communities, our nation and our world refuse to strive for the same type of understanding and respect for each other. Thank you, Beacon Rising. You make the world better. I look forward to your next concert.

Charles Dunn, Beacon

Death and dying

This was a much-needed series addressing a topic we all must deal with sooner or later ("The Good Death," March 8). After losing a dear friend last year who was a composer, I found some comfort in my grief by creating a song about loss, "What is Life," based on one of his musical ideas.

Steve Laifer, Cold Spring

Thank you so much for this series. It's refreshing to see that our culture is finally shifting, even if it is slowly, into a place of more death acceptance and positivity. The more we speak about death and dying, the less scary it is.

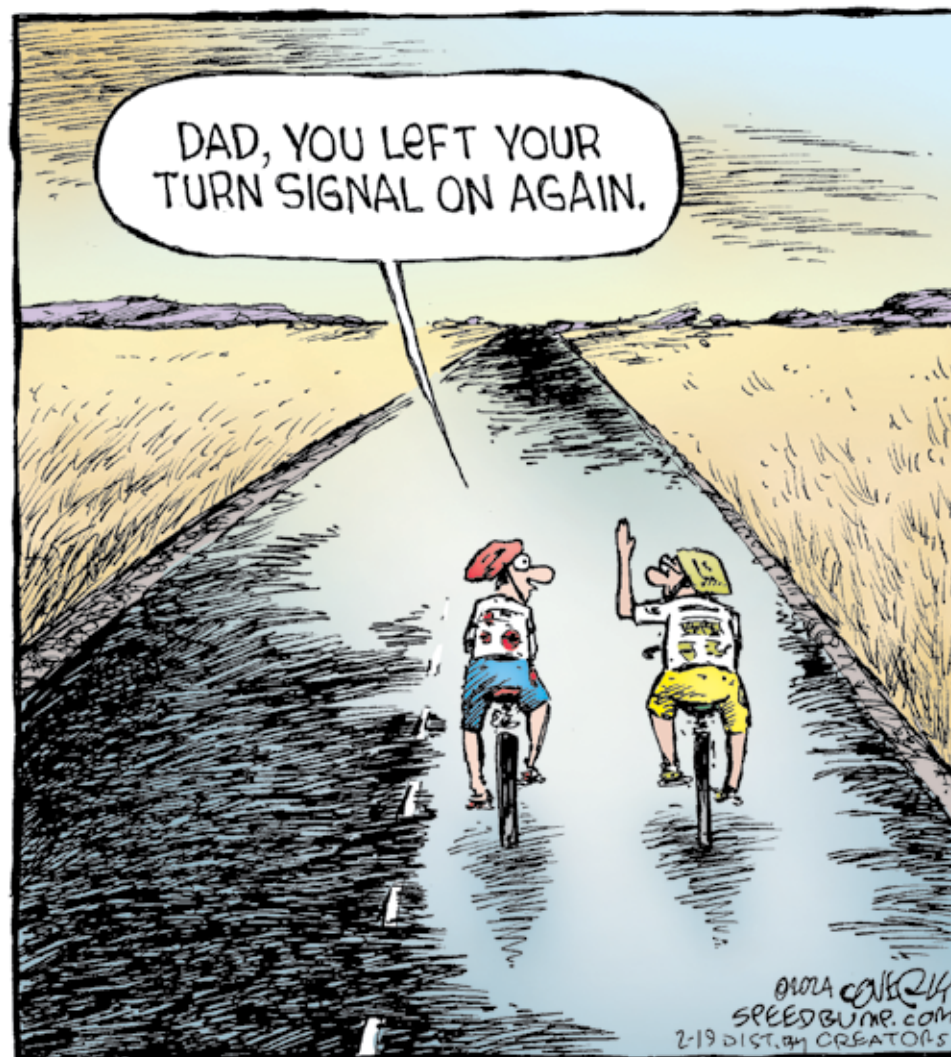
Roseanne Van Kleeck, Mahopac

Thank you for this series. My conversations with reporter Joey Asher came at a poignant time, as I was deeply affected by grief following the loss of three loved ones and my best dog within eight months. Our talk proved invaluable, shedding light on the profound impact of death and loss that touches us all.

Whether it's sudden, prolonged, anticipated, wrongful or accidental, each form of loss can reshape our perspective in this divided world. My recent experience living in a hospice house for a week in November alongside my brother-in-law reaffirmed this universal truth: Death and loss transcend boundaries and affect us all.

Carrying this realization, I'm compelled to approach life with a kinder, gentler outlook, recognizing the shared humanity in our collective experiences. Thank you once again for facilitating this enlightening conversation.

Nancy Montgomery, Philipstown



Wide Angle

Urban Orphans

By Stowe Boyd

Many Hudson Valley cities — especially small ones — share a common history: The urban renewal movement from the 1950s through the 1970s led to the bulldozing of “blighted” neighborhoods and uprooted their residents. The promised renewal was often unfinished, even now, decades later. Many cities across the Rust Belt suffered a similar fate.



In New York between 1954 and 2002, good-paying jobs disappeared. Dutchess County saw a greater than 42 percent decrease in manufacturing work and Putnam, greater than 58 percent. That and post-World War II demand for housing and highways led to plans to redevelop cities by demolishing older buildings in poorer neighborhoods to accommodate both.

Beacon, for example, lost its entire West End between what is now Route 9D and the Hudson River, a neighborhood of hotels, bars and restaurants, and a great deal of housing. The majority of Beacon residents opposed this plan. We never saw much development of the razed areas of the city, although we did gain 9D and Interstate 84.

In many cities such as Beacon, Main Streets often were similarly disrupted by this wave of razing. This is why Main Street in Beacon to this day has vast parking lots, holdovers from three-story, largely brick-fronted “shophouses” with retail below and apartments above that are now gone.

In Beacon, the plan was to build wider streets parallel to Main Street — such as Henry Street — to turn the thoroughfare into a pedestrian mall. The failure of a similar project in Poughkeepsie averted that initiative but Main Street, despite its rebound as a tourist destination, retains the scars of urban renewal in the form of an extended middle section with architecturally undistinguished one-story retail buildings that are out of character with the historic east and west ends.

The city’s Comprehensive Plan is channeling development toward the historic and denser form of shophouses, but at the current pace, it will take decades to realize that vision.

Many Rust Belt cities were also confronted with the movement of retail businesses out of downtowns to spots along newly constructed multilane highways, as has happened in the Highlands with the sprawl represented by Routes 9 and 9D and their box stores, chain restaurants, car dealerships, gas stations and fast food.

As part of that transition, secondary main streets — formerly residential or undeveloped county and state feeder roads — were pulled into the landscape shaped by 20th-century car culture and urban renewal.

These thoroughfares will be familiar to the small-city resident, notes Reif Larsen, the founder of The Future of Small Cities Institute, based in Troy. “They are a byproduct of the automobile — often they can be found on feeder state roads that lead into cities and are marked by absence — a series of gas stations, underpasses, condemned factories and vacant lots eviscerate any kind of box-like containment.”

A drive along Fishkill Avenue (Route 52) from Beacon’s Main Street to the city limits



Main Street in Beacon, shown here in a mid-century postcard, was disrupted by Urban Renewal.

reveals this terrain to anyone passing by. There are inconsistent sidewalks, isolated buildings dotted along a high-speed corridor (despite Beacon’s 30 mph speed limit) and — until recently — a long section of Healey car dealerships, now relocated elsewhere.

The grand clearing out of the Healey dealerships has led to a new Beacon committee initiated by Mayor Lee Kyriacou to consider the Fishkill Avenue thoroughfare. Specifically, he asked the group to think about building design standards and the proximity of buildings to the street and sidewalks.

This group will also be charged with thinking through the implications of the disused Metro-North line running along Route 52. The line is envisioned as a future bike and walking path from the Beacon train station to the city line.

In the more than 50 years since urban

renewal swept across the Rust Belt like wildfire, many small cities have made progress downtown, albeit through leveraging gentrification and an influx of residents from New York City and elsewhere. Still, the secondary main streets have been the orphans of urban renewal. Perhaps, at long last, we can see a vision of these feeder roads becoming an integral part of our communities, not just a low road to the nearest Walmart. Perhaps we can right that wrong and put that 20th-century disaster behind us.

Stowe Boyd, who lives in Beacon, specializes in the economics and ecology of work and the “anthropology of the future.” This column focuses on the local impacts of larger trends. He is a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and was co-chair of the since-disbanded Main Street Access Committee.

Maloney (from Page 1)

conflict of interest because he serves on a 10-person advisory committee for the cryptocurrency trading platform Coinbase and the OECD plays a role in developing global crypto regulation. Coinbase hired Maloney on the same day in May 2023 that Biden submitted the nomination.

“Unlike most cases of conflicts of interest, where a nominee had performed work in the past that could play a role in how they approach their government position, this

is a case of a private firm hiring an individual after their imminent nomination was known,” said Jeff Hauser, the executive director of the project, in a statement. “This not only allowed Maloney’s Coinbase work to escape notice on his financial disclosure — which he had already submitted — but it allowed a cryptocurrency firm with a demonstrated interest in OECD policymaking to hire the presumptive future U.S. ambassador.”

In a December letter to the CEO of Coinbase, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachu-

setts criticized the firm for hiring Maloney, former Defense Secretary Mark Esper, former Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania and former Rep. Tim Ryan of Ohio for its advisory board.

“This abuse of the revolving door is appalling, revealing that the crypto industry is spending millions to give itself a veneer of legitimacy while fighting tooth and nail to stonewall common-sense rules designed to restrict the use of crypto for terror financing — rules that could cut into crypto company profits,” she wrote. “It

also reveals significant gaps in the nation’s ethics laws.”

According to *Politico*, Maloney wrote Warren in February to pledge that, if confirmed, he would “immediately resign from all private-sector advisory work and recuse himself from OECD decision-making processes on crypto and digital assets policy.”

Maloney also said he would not accept employment, board service or compensation from any crypto company or organization for four years after he left the OECD. Warren voted for his appointment.

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Beacon, Philipstown Eye Landfill Gas

Seek federal funding to reduce methane emissions

By Leonard Sparks

The landfill at Dennings Point in Beacon was closed and capped in 1968, but its decaying remains are the city's largest source of methane, the potent greenhouse gas that, along with carbon dioxide, is fueling global warming.

To reduce landfill emissions, Beacon and other Hudson Valley municipalities, including Philipstown, are joining the Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) in Newburgh to apply for a federal grant.

If the Environmental Protection Agency approves the funding, officials in Beacon and Philipstown plan to install biofilters made of mulch and compost, according

to Eleanor Peck, HVRC's deputy executive director, and Melanie Patapis, its Climate Smart Communities coordinator.

Studies have shown that the biofilters, which cost about \$40,000 at a small landfill to \$100,000 at a large one, can reduce vented methane emissions by as much as 90 percent, they said.

"There are at least dozens of closed landfills in the Hudson Valley and across the state and the country, and they're all emitting methane," said Peck. "We have this pretty cheap way to mitigate those emissions effectively."

The Philipstown Town Board on March 7 authorized Supervisor John Van Tassel to join the grant application on behalf of the town. Beacon's administrator, Chris White, said on Wednesday (March 13) that the city is also on board.

It's only in recent years that the HVRC began to understand the impact of climate change from landfills, said Peck. Beacon and Philipstown are among 15 municipalities that expressed interest in joining the application for federal funds, although some have yet to officially commit.

When they are closed, landfills are "capped" to prevent contaminants from spreading and outfitted with a system that collects and releases carbon dioxide and methane created by decaying organic matter.

While carbon dioxide has a longer life, methane is 28 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere, according to the EPA. That trapped heat is driving climate change.

Local communities, aided by HVRC, have been measuring the carbon dioxide and methane they produce through green-

house gas inventories. As participants in the state's Climate Smart Communities program, Beacon and Philipstown have inventoried gases emitted by operations such as highway department trucks.

Measuring emissions from closed landfills is optional under the program, said Palapis, and Philipstown did not include its closed landfill on Lane Gate Road in its most recent inventory. However, in a letter to HVRC, Van Tassel said closed landfills like Philipstown's are an "insidious driver" of methane emissions.

Palapis said that, generally, landfills account for 50 percent to 90 percent of a municipal government's emissions, even if the sites aren't active.

Beacon's most recent greenhouse gas inventory, released in January, includes landfill measurements. It found they accounted for 37 percent of the city's overall emissions in 2021 and 61 percent of the emissions from facilities the city owns and operates.

Carvana (from Page 1)

property, would have about 15, project engineer Dan Koehler told the Planning Board on Tuesday (March 12). The Healey dealership displayed cars on the lot for customers to browse while filling as many as 55 daily service appointments, but the Carvana model differs because consumers browse vehicles online and, after purchase, have their car delivered or pick it up at a facility such as the one proposed for Fishkill Avenue, he said.

Carvana would detail and conduct state inspections on vehicles at the site, said Jenn Roldan, a company representative. It would not use the lot to store inventory but would expect 10 to 20 pick-ups daily, she said.

The city's Conservation Advisory Committee sent the Planning Board a memo earlier this month asking that it require secure garbage enclosures at the site and not allow Carvana to plow snow downhill on the east side of the property, toward Fishkill Creek. When Healey Brothers pushed snow toward the creek, it was often embedded with garbage, or garbage blown from open containers ended up in the creek, the CAC said.

The committee also asked the board to ensure lighting at the site adheres to city codes. The CAC said that current lighting can be seen across the creek on Liberty Street when foliage is down.

248 Tioronda Ave.

The Planning Board scheduled a public hearing for next month on amendments requested by the owner of the 248 Tioronda development, which has been approved for 64 apartments and a 25,400-square-foot commercial building.

The most significant proposed change would be to move the Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail away from flood-prone areas and eliminate a staircase, a project official said. The developer also granted the greenway access to a small island in the creek and agreed to dedicate four parking spaces for greenway users.

409 Fishkill Ave.

The Planning Board on Tuesday held a public hearing on a proposal by Soka Gakkai International (SGI) to lease and repurpose 409 Fishkill Ave., another former Healey lot, as a Buddhist worship center.

SGI said it is not planning any new construction, only a new facade on the 5,500-square-foot one-story building. A representative said Tuesday that the group plans to host gatherings of about 100 people on the first Sunday morning of each month, along with more frequent weeknight gatherings of about 30 people.

The site, which consists of six parcels that would be combined through a subdivision, has 50 parking spaces. A handful of residents who

spoke during the hearing asked about fencing around the property and noise and traffic at the site early in the morning and late at night.

A 6-foot stockade fence would be erected to replace dilapidated fencing behind the building, SGI said, and there will be no outdoor speakers. The rear door, which is the entrance closest to neighbors on Mead Avenue, will be used only for emergencies and trash, said Dan Koehler, the project engineer.

The Planning Board closed the public hearing and authorized its attorney to draft a resolution to approve the project to be considered next month.

Mirbeau Spa and Hotel

The Planning Board scheduled a public hearing for its April meeting on Mirbeau's request to amend its site plan for the Tioronda Estate, which includes the former Craig House psychiatric hospital.

The company, which received board approval in 2022 to open a luxury spa and hotel at the site, has decided not to demolish a 1978 dining wing because of rising construction and material costs. The structure will instead be renovated. Plans for the 1859 mansion to be converted into a 75-room hotel; five rental cottages; a chateau with guest rooms and the viewshed along Route 9D have not changed.

Retaining the dining wing will save Mirbeau millions of dollars, said Ed Kellogg,

one of the owners of the company, while Beacon planning consultant Natalie Quinn noted that "the greenest building you can do is restoration of an existing building."

Mirbeau also said it no longer plans to build seven ground-floor "grotto" rental rooms. The rooms will be absorbed by other buildings, so the overall count for the facility will not change.

Kellogg told the Planning Board that Mirbeau would begin clearing trees this week, followed by the demolition of selected structures.

Edgewater

The Planning Board held a public hearing Tuesday and approved a request by the developer of the 246-unit Edgewater complex to subdivide the property into seven lots for financing purposes.

The City Council recently approved a zoning amendment to allow developers of residential and mixed-use projects with multiple buildings to "internally" subdivide so that individual buildings are recorded as separate lots. Such subdivisions allow developers to separate construction loans for one lot, for example, from long-term financing for the remainder of a site.

The subdivision does not change the terms of Edgewater's 2018 site plan approval by the Planning Board.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE

Each year *The Current* compiles a list of scholarships available to students who live in Beacon and Philipstown. Each listing includes who qualifies to apply, the amount of the award and the application deadline.

The 2024 version of the guide has been posted at highlandscurrent.org/scholarships.

Don't delay: Many applications are due April 1.



Six Takeaways from the State of the County

By Chip Rowe

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne presented his State of the County address on March 7. Here are six highlights:

1. The county will not collect sales tax on clothing and footwear purchases of less than \$110 through March 1, 2026. “That means that clothes or shoes you buy online or at any store in Putnam County will have a 4 percent discount,” Byrne said. “Finally, it’s cheaper to buy right down the road at Marshalls [in Brewster] than it is to go to Dutchess, Westchester or Danbury.

“I recognize that to the majority of our residents, this sales tax cut is not going to make or break your individual budgets,” he said. “But as we live within this time of economic uncertainty, with inflation still running rampant and increased costs of everyday goods, it is up to us as public servants to find ways — no matter how small they may seem — to provide financial relief when possible.”

Byrne said his office has led by example in cutting costs and closed the fiscal

year \$110,000 under budget. He also noted he had traveled to Albany to testify at the state budget hearing on proposed cuts to the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS).

“Last year, Putnam County received \$1.2 million from CHIPS that was directly used to resurface county roads,” he said. “The Village of Cold Spring relies heavily on CHIPS, with more than 50 percent of its highway maintenance funding coming from this state program. Any cut to this funding would be unmanageable and cause significant stress to county, town and village budgets.”

2. Byrne said he had “requested the state comptroller’s assistance in conducting a risk assessment of our finances and operations” and that the county had launched a construction project portal online that includes updates on road projects. He also said Putnam plans to launch a site “that will display detailed budgetary information in a more digestible format for the layperson who may not have a degree in accounting.”

3. Byrne noted that the Legislature installed cameras in the County Office Building to

broadcast committee meetings. “I applaud the Legislature, especially the leadership of Chairman [Paul] Jonke, for this action,” he said. “I look forward to being able to view your committee meetings remotely.” [Editor’s note: Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, for years has been campaigning for video broadcasts, without success.]

4. The county executive said Commissioner Barbara Barosa of the Planning, Development & Public Transportation Department and her team “have been working tirelessly to get Putnam designated a Climate Smart Community. After initial efforts in 2019 stalled, we’re now finally moving forward with a Climate Community Task Force. And, earlier this week, a plan and application was submitted to New York State for bronze certification.”

He said that the Transportation Department, led by Vinny Tamagna, is initiating a pilot program for on-demand transit rides on the east side of the county. “Access to public transportation continues to be a challenge in a county like ours that is dominated by suburban communities, narrow, windy local roads

and a lack of major metro areas,” Byrne said.

5. Byrne proposed that the county merge its purchasing, central services and information technology departments into a Department of General Services led by John Tully, the director of purchasing and central services. He noted that surrounding counties and the state each have a similar agency.

He said Tully and IT Director Thomas Lannon had drafted a proposal for the Legislature to consider. “We already did the financial changes within the budget — this proposal does not cost us a dime more,” he said. “It is my sincere hope that we can move quickly, respond to questions and get this done, together.”

6. Because his office and the Law Department “discovered a number of inefficiencies, contradictions and omissions” during a review of the county charter, Byrne said he created a Charter Review Committee, which he said would be advisory and distinct from the Charter Review Commission. He said his committee includes Nelsonville Mayor Chris Winward; Frank DelCampo, a former deputy county executive and Town of Carmel supervisor; and Margery Keith, former executive director of the Cornell Cooperative Extension.



Myron Tice has seen his options for ice fishing diminish with the warmer weather.



Philipstown pond hockey players posed during one of the good days this year. Photo provided

No Snow (from Page 1)

“It’s been a dramatic change,” said Steve Ives of Garrison, who is one of the three dozen hockey players who converge on local ponds when conditions allow. As recently as 10 years ago, the most dedicated skaters could play 30 or more times a year on solid ice, he said.

Now, to play even 20 times, “we’ve had to seek out ponds in higher elevations and schedule games at 8 a.m., before the sun starts to warm the ice up.” Even then, the ice isn’t always great, he said. “There are games where we play with water on all sides.”

Ice sailors were “skunked” this year, said John Sperr of Rhinebeck, the “unofficial meteorologist” of the Hudson River Ice Yacht Club. He said that there was no sailable ice this winter on Orange Lake, Tivoli Bay or the Hudson River. From 1980 to 1995, he said, the club typically enjoyed six to eight weeks of sailing. “Global warming has killed that,” he said.

The rising winter temperatures are well-

documented. Since 1901, temperatures in New York have risen 2.6 degrees and are expected to increase by as much as 11 degrees by the end of the century, according to a study by the state Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

Myron Tice of Cold Spring has seen the effect of rising temperatures on ice fishing. Growing up in Buchanan 50 years ago, he would fish in local ponds, including Lake Meahagh. “The ice was thicker,” he recalled. “You’d have 2 feet of ice.”

He still fishes locally but must drive to Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, Lake George or Saratoga to find reliable ice. “It’s also now later in the year when you find it,” he said.

Canopus Lake in Fahnestock State Park on Route 301 has long been a popular site for fishing but hasn’t been open for winter sports for two years because it needs 6 inches of ice to be safe, said Declan Hennelly, the park manager.

He added that the park’s cross-country ski center was only open five days this year and



Katy Behney of Mountain Tops Outfitters with her stock of unsold snowshoes

Photos by J. Asher

four days last winter. The center was open for 46 days in 2014 and 39 days in 2020 but has been trending downward, he said.

For winter sports, “you need consistently

cold weather and a moderate amount of snow throughout the winter,” he said. Ski areas such as Victor Constant at West Point typically have snowmaking machines; it didn’t close for the season until Monday (March 11).

Businesses that rely on snow also suffer without it. When Nick Lisikatos started plowing in Philipstown in the 1980s, the first snow usually arrived in late November. Now, he said, “plowable” storms usually don’t hit before Christmas.

He said on-demand plowing is still vital in Philipstown because of the hilly and dirt roads and the growing number of delivery trucks that must navigate them.

Katy Behney, who owns Mountain Tops Outfitters in Beacon, said she has stopped stocking snow pants and while the store still offers snowshoes and boots, “when we get a winter like this, those things don’t move.”

She plans to stock fewer heavy winter clothes next year in favor of lighter wraps. “Thank God I didn’t go heavy on parkas this year,” she said.

Data Members Ask Fjord Trail to Consider Alternative Routes

Says route that avoids Dockside is “most efficient”

By Michael Turton

At the March 6 meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, James Labate and Henry Feldman, who represent the village on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Data Committee, submitted a report requesting HHFT take another look at two of its alternative routes.

HHFT’s preferred route would be to have the Cold Spring portion of the trail begin at Dockside Park and follow the shoreline closely to Little Stony Point.

The Labate-Feldman report contends that Alternative Route 2, which runs north from the Cold Spring train platform toward Little Stony Point, avoiding Dockside Park, is the “least obtrusive and most efficient” of five routes identified as alternatives to HHFT’s preferred route.

HHFT has rejected Alternative Routes 2 and 3 in part because they entail blasting rock to achieve a 25-foot setback mandated by Metro-North.

But Labate asserted blasting would not be needed along Alternative Routes 2 and 3, noting that Metro-North’s walkways and platforms in Cold Spring don’t have a 25-foot setback. He also said there are multiple examples of trails that abut railroad tracks.

The report recommends that the consultant conducting pedestrian analysis for HHFT’s preferred route do similar modeling for Alternative Routes 2 and 3, “which have multiple positive attributes the village would prefer.”

Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley and other elected officials met with HHFT representatives on Feb. 29 to examine the two alternative routes. On March 6 Foley said Alternative Route 2 presents the fewest



A map shows various possible routes for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail in Cold Spring.

HHFT

impacts on residential properties and is worthy of discussion.

“What this boils down to is what MTA [the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which owns Metro-North] is willing to tolerate in terms of setbacks,” Foley said, adding that she, Nelsonville Mayor Chris Winward and Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel will continue the conversation with Metro-North.

MJ Martin, HHFT’s director of development and community engagement, said on March 7 that Metro-North has said the trail must adhere to a 25-foot setback from the middle of its tracks.

“If there’s any movement on that, it could potentially change how various alternative routes are ranked,” she said. “But every route has to meet a series of considerations.”

HHFT hosted a session at Dutchess Manor on Monday (March 11) to review its Alternative Route Analysis and the Shoreline Trail design. See highlandscurrent.org for coverage. Registration is open at hhft.org for a discussion on April 3 about visitation projections and visitor management strategy.

In other business...

■ The Village Board awarded a \$16,190 contract to Livingston Energy to install

four electric vehicle charger ports on Main Street.

■ The March 6 meeting included the board’s first discussion of the 2024-25 budget.

■ Foley said the village had sold 199 residential parking stickers as of March 6. Cold Spring officers will be issuing warnings until March 31. Paid parking on Main Street begins April 5.

■ Cold Spring received a “clean opinion” in an audit of its finances for the year ending May 31, 2023. CPA John Costilow said there were “no instances of non-compliance.”

Desmond-Fish *(from Page 1)*

consensus on stripping Fish’s name from the library, although seven supported doing so in two informal votes. But there was much less support among the board.

Many of its members said that statements by Fish minimizing the dangers of the Nazis stemmed from his opposition to U.S. involvement in World War II because of his experiences leading a regiment of Black troops in World War I, as well as his dislike for President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Supporters for keeping the name also said that Fish wholeheartedly backed U.S. involvement after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and that he accumulated a lifetime of achievements, including supporting the establishment of Israel and creating the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

“People who have fought in battle will tell you that war changes you,” said Hamilton Fish V, one of the library’s trustees. “My grandfather declared when he returned from Europe that he would never again have a hand in sending an American soldier



The trustees for the Desmond-Fish Library voted 18-4 to keep its name. Photo by L. Sparks

to fight on foreign soil.”

Neal Zuckerman, one of the four voting to rename Desmond-Fish, said he did not see any evidence that Fish was antisemitic, but that he did have “flirtations” with fascism and was “adjacent” to efforts by Nazi agents to distribute propaganda using the mailing privileges of congressional members.

Fish denounced Germany’s persecution of Jews, but once said that he preferred “the Hitler regime to any form of Bolshevism, with its class and religious hatred and avowal of world revolution.” In addition, Fish visited Germany in 1938 and met with Joachim von Ribbentrop, minister of foreign affairs for the Nazis.

Zuckerman read a passage from Fish’s 1991 autobiography in which the then-retired congressman wrote that he regretted not accepting an invitation by Ribbentrop to meet with Hitler on that trip.

“Even though these associations were done, as we understand, to help stave off war — given Fish’s intense distaste for war — and maybe as a political move to irritate FDR, they were done nonetheless,” said Zuckerman.

The report issued by the working group recommended a list of possible initiatives, such as strengthening programs such as Holocaust remembrances; adding books by Jewish authors and 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.

In line with those recommendations, the library “will continue to host programming that is informative about the era,” add a collection of books and online materials about Fish that were created in response to Maddow’s podcast and “plan other actions,” said the board, which tasked its Executive Committee with directing those efforts.

Cold Spring Names Police Officer of Year

Village Board also adopts greenhouse gas inventory

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board, at its Wednesday (March 13) meeting, honored Matthew Jackson as the 2023 Police Officer of the Year. The mayor and trustees must wish all their decisions could be as easy.

Mayor Kathleen Foley praised Jackson, who joined the Cold Spring Police Department in August 2021, for “consistently demonstrating strong character, positive work ethic, confidence and excellence in discharging his duties in a calm and steady demeanor.”

She listed a number of his outstanding actions in 2022-23, including aiding a mother giving birth; locating a lost adult suffering from dementia; administering naloxone in two overdose incidents; restoring the heartbeat of a cardiac arrest victim; and de-escalating a confrontation after a traffic incident, including securing a weapon drawn by one of the motorists.

Foley also noted that Jackson has taken on a leadership role with the Cold Spring Police Benevolent Association and is spearheading officer training for the department’s new computer-aided dispatch system.

Climate inventory

The board adopted a greenhouse gas inventory prepared by Trustee Laura Bozzi, who serves as the Climate Smart Community coordinator. The program, administered by the state Department of Environmental Conservation, provides a framework for municipalities to reduce emissions that contribute to global warming.

The Cold Spring inventory incorporated data from July 2022 to June 2023. During that period, greenhouse gas emissions from village-owned facilities and properties produced the equivalent of 259.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide.

The village vehicle fleet for the water, wastewater, highway and fire departments contributed 35 percent of emissions. Village Hall, the highway garage, water and wastewater treatment plants and other buildings accounted for another 23 percent. Wastewater and water delivery facilities contributed 20 percent and 18 percent, respectively, while streetlights and traffic signals accounted for 3 percent.

The report notes that the village has taken steps to reduce emissions and related costs by installing LED lights at the highway garage and water plant, retrofitting street lighting to LED and conducting an energy study at Village Hall. The first village-owned electric-vehicle charging stations are expected this spring.



Mayor Kathleen Foley with Officer Matthew Jackson and Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke

Photo by Nancy Montgomery

Other initiatives being considered include adding an electric vehicle to the fleet, clean energy and efficiency upgrades at Village Hall and the addition of rooftop solar panels on village buildings.

The next steps include establishing emission-reduction targets and developing strategies to meet them.

Bozzi said the inventory will bolster the village’s application for bronze-level certification in the Climate Smart Communities

program and should also make the village eligible for a \$175,000 grant from the state’s Clean Energy Communities program.

In other business ...

■ The board continued discussions of the 2024-25 village budget. The Wednesday meeting focused on the general fund, which covers most village services and programs. Village Accountant Michelle Ascolillo expects to have a tentative budget by March 20.

■ Cold Spring police officers responded to 101 calls in February, including 10 assists to medical agencies. There was one arrest for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. Officers issued 18 traffic tickets, including 13 for speeding and two for speeding in a school zone, as well as 141 parking tickets. The report was the first to glean data from computer-aided dispatch software.

■ The Cold Spring Fire Co. responded to 18 calls last month, including 10 for mutual aid and four car crashes. There was also a car fire, a brush fire and an illegal open burn.

■ The Recreation Commission plans to install a bocce court in McConville Park (Tots Park) on High Street.

■ A Main Street parade to salute the Haldane boys’ basketball team, which is playing today (March 15) and possibly Saturday in the Class C state finals, will be held Sunday at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.

■ Matt Kroog, superintendent of water and wastewater, said fire hydrants in the village will be flushed from April 1 to 5.

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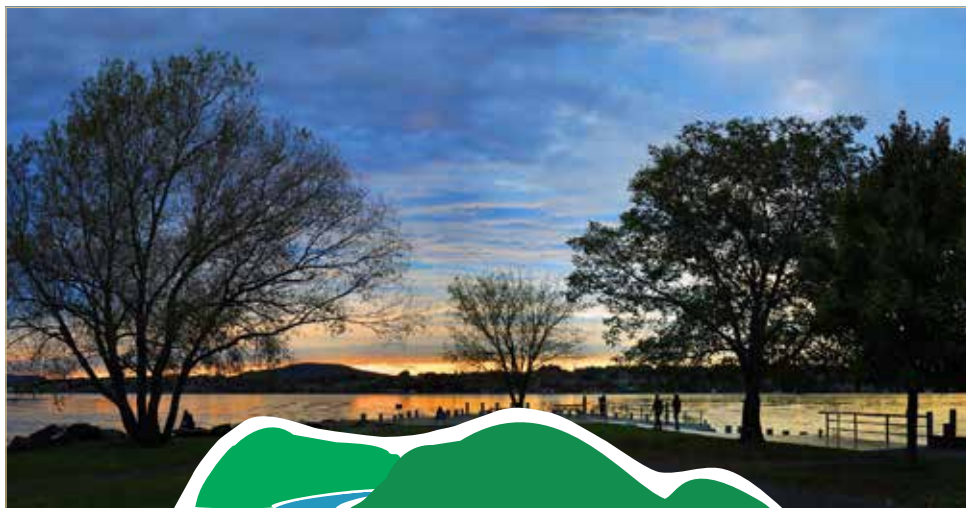


▲ **MANY PEOPLE, ONE PLACE** – The opening reception on March 7 for a Garrison School art show at the Desmond-Fish Public Library included a performance by the student jazz band. The exhibit is on display through April 7.



◀ **IRISH INGENUITY** – A participant in the Parade of Green in Beacon on March 9 managed to find a way to text and hold a cup of coffee simultaneously.

▲ **DIRT** – An original play produced by the Putnam Theatre Alliance premiered on March 8 at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison and will be at Arts on the Lake in Kent from March 15-17 and the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley on March 23-24. Shown are actors Maia Guest (as Mary Philipse Morris) and Damien Hughes (as Roger Morris). *Photos by Ross Corsair*



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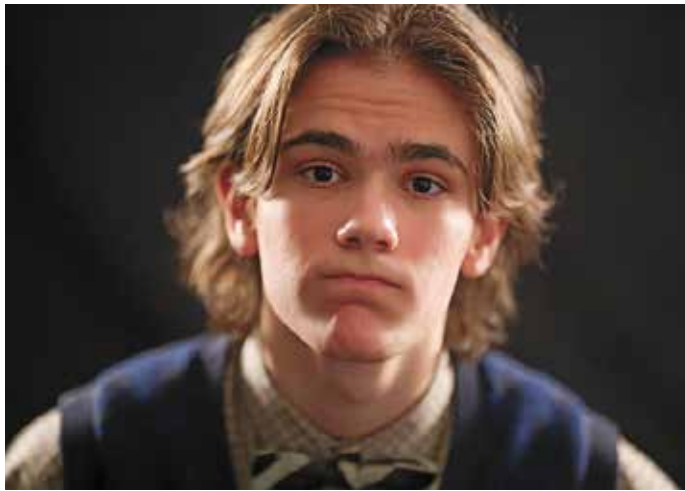
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Kiko Lattu, Nat Prentice, Evan Thompson & Dar Williams

P.S. If you'd like to help out, we'd love to hear from you at: communityforum33@gmail.com

March 17, 2024 @ 3:30 - 5:30PM
St. Mary's Parish Hall
1 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring

Photo by Amy Kubik



Oliver Petkus as Amos Hart



Amelia Alayon as Roxie Hart



Lucia Petty as Mama Morton

The Calendar

Chicago Comes to Cold Spring

Haldane Drama to perform saucy musical

By Alison Rooney

New York has done well by *Chicago*. The musical, which has been performed more than 10,000 times over the past 28 years on Broadway, will have its Haldane Drama debut from March 22 to 24 on the gritty stage of the school auditorium.

It has long been on director Martha Mechalakos' punch list. Based on a satirical mid-1920s play written by a *Chicago Tribune* reporter, it focuses on the trials and tribulations of a gaggle of newly emboldened women accused of murdering their husbands. They work the legal system to draw attention to themselves — stories you might hear today on a true-crime podcast.

The source material proved fruitful to John Kander, who wrote the music, and Fred Ebb, who wrote the lyrics and co-wrote the book with choreographer Bob Fosse.

Presented in a vaudevillian courtroom setting, with many direct addresses to the audience, the show serves up two killers and assorted raucous denizens who plead their case through dance and songs such as "All That Jazz" and "Razzle Dazzle."

The Haldane production has benefited,

Mechalakos says, from the guidance of Christine Bokhour, a veteran Broadway actor who choreographed.

"The story, music and lyrics are all so dang good," says Bokhour, who performed in the musical on Broadway and national tours. "It has revenge and redemption and is chock full of catchy tunes and phrases, then the vaudeville timing — Fosse was born to a Chicago vaudevillian and was a child prodigy tapper — and pace keep you riveted. The dancing sends it to another level.

"The precision Fosse demanded is the most challenging aspect for untrained dancers," she says. "Aside from the athleticism in much of his work, there is a seeming simplicity when you watch Fosse dancers. But the amount of control it takes to execute those moves and isolations is underestimated — maybe not so much now by the Haldane kids in this production; I haven't been easy on them.

"Fosse can be hard even for trained dancers.

It's a style all its own created from his particular set of physical idiosyncrasies. I haven't replicated the Broadway show here — I can't even do that choreography now — but there are some places I've used original or close to original choreography where possible."

Christine's husband, Ray, who spent the better part of 22 years playing Amos Hart in *Chicago*, mostly on Broadway, has also provided guidance to the actors. (The couple met in 1999 on a national tour.)

Mechalakos says the Bokhours "bring the insider knowledge of all the bits that aren't written in the script, which is so much fun for the Haldane actors. And Christine donated several pairs of her Broadway performance shoes. Everyone wanted to wear the shoes that touched a Broadway stage."

"I love watching light bulbs go on for kids when they grasp a move or a joke or a moment," Bokhour says.

With all the razzle-dazzle, Mechalakos

feels that many productions of *Chicago* don't focus on what the show is actually about, which is "our national obsession with celebrity and scandal and the media obsession with such. It's about inequity and corruption in our criminal justice system, and the cynical idea that crime pays and it's a circus act, all show business."

The students will perform the "teen edition" of the musical, which does not include the songs "Little Bit of Good" and "Class" and has other trims and substitutions.

Chicago opened on Broadway in 1975 and ran for two years with Chita Rivera (who died Jan. 30) as Velma Kelly and Gwen Verdon as Roxie Hart. Jerry Orbach represented law and disorder as attorney Billy Flynn. The show was revived in 1996.

Haldane Drama will perform Chicago at 7 p.m. on March 22 and 23 and at 2 p.m. on March 24 in the school auditorium at 15 Craigside Drive in Cold Spring. Tickets are \$15, or \$8 for seniors and students, at showtix4u.com/event-details/82043 or at the door.



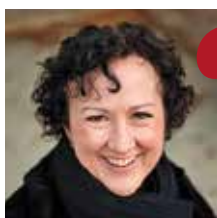
Molly Bernstein as Little Mary Sunshine



Merrick Williams as Billy Flynn



Elaine Llewellyn as Velma Kelly



“I love watching light bulbs go on for kids when they grasp a move or a joke or a moment.”

~ Christine Bokhour




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Dia:Beacon plans to mold 8 acres of its south lawn into a natural retreat open to the public. *Studio Zewde*

Dia:Beacon To Create Public Outdoor Space

Meadows, native plants will fill 8 acres behind museum

By Leonard Sparks

Dia:Beacon is about to add a new sculpture to its collection.

The museum will begin a multi-million-dollar project this summer to mold 8 acres of lawn on its south side into a sylvan retreat that will open, free of charge, next year to residents and visitors.

Renderings by Studio Zewde, a Harlem-based landscape firm designing the project, show people meandering along tranquil paths and picnicking in fields.

Three acres will be converted to meadow with 90 native species and 400 trees and shrubs, according to the Dia Art Foundation. The Zewde design also incorporates undulating landforms and intends to manage stormwater on the property, which borders the Hudson River.

Jessica Morgan, the foundation director, said the landscape around Dia:Beacon “has always been essential” to the experience of visiting the museum but that it will become “a beautiful contemplative space, so you could also choose to just simply come and spend time in the landscape.”

Robert Irwin, who designed Dia:Beacon, incorporated hawthorn and boxed-shaped trees, as well as other plantings, into the parking lot and garden. But the foundation had spent years thinking about what to do with the sometimes-waterlogged open

space behind the building, said Morgan.

Two guiding principles, she said, were to create a space that “would be exciting for people to visit” but designed to respond to the growing impacts of climate change, such as more intense and frequent storms and rising water levels in the Hudson.

“We’re very aware that we need to plan ahead and make sure that the property is protected, particularly given all the art in the building,” she said.

The Zewde design did not attempt “to banish the water,” said Morgan. Instead, it directs it away from the building. The design also has underground tanks to collect and filter water before sending it to the river.

Sara Zewde, the firm’s principal, said that “history’s impressions on the land” occupied by Dia inspired the design. The property is at what was a river crossing for the Lenape, a Native American tribe indigenous to the area.

The design is a “means of managing the 21st-century challenge of rising water but also a means of remembering,” she said.

Dia is reviewing bids from construction companies, said Morgan, so the project cost has not been finalized. The state’s Market New York tourism grant program is providing \$1.4 million and Dia received \$400,000 from the same program to renovate the brick facade on the Hudson River side of the building.

As workers wrap up that project, Dia:Beacon is replacing its heating and cooling system and renovating its bathrooms.



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Real Estate

Market Report (February)

	BEACON		PHILIPSTOWN	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
New Listings	15	5	6	10
Closed Sales	6	10	5	6
Days on Market	98	64	94	163
Median Price	\$627,500	\$505,000	\$760,000	\$610,000
% List Received	92.4	98.9	93.1	88.6
Inventory	46	32	29	25

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Excludes condos. Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.

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Sumac-Spiced Chickpea & Fennel Purée

Serves 6

Sumac spice blend, consisting of:

- 1½ tablespoons ground sumac berries
- 1 tablespoon Aleppo pepper
- ½ teaspoon sweet paprika
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin seed
- ½ teaspoon ground allspice
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper

- 4 cups cooked chickpeas
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- 6 to 10 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 medium bulb fennel, chopped (reserve fronds for garnish)
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter or olive oil, more for serving
- 3 cups stock (chicken or vegetable)
- ½ cup fresh-squeezed lime juice (about 5 limes; reserve 1 teaspoon zest for garnish)
- 3 tablespoons white miso (South River white chickpea miso is worth seeking out)

Garnish: ground sumac, fennel fronds and/or lime zest

Whole wheat flatbreads for serving

1. Heat butter or oil in a Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the onion and cook until translucent. Add garlic and cook until fragrant (about 1 minute). Add fennel and cook for another 5 minutes.
2. Add spice blend and cook to “sweat” all for 1 to 2 minutes. Add chickpeas and stir to combine. Add the broth and lime juice, bring to a light boil, reduce heat to a simmer and let cook for 10 to 15 minutes. Remove from heat to cool for 10 to 15 minutes.
3. In a measuring cup, dilute the miso with 2 to 3 tablespoons of soup stock. Reserve. Purée the remaining soup, in batches, in a blender or food processor until smooth. Return the puréed soup to the Dutch oven, add the lime juice and more stock if it seems too thick. Heat again thoroughly for serving.
4. When the soup is warmed for serving, stir in the diluted miso. Adjust seasoning with more salt and pepper if necessary and serve. Ladle soup into bowls and garnish with an extra drizzle of olive oil (or pat of butter), a dusting of ground sumac and a pinch of lime zest and/or fennel fronds. Serve with oven-warmed whole wheat flatbreads.

Small, Good Things

The Case for Chickpeas

By Joe Dizney



Regular readers of this column know how much I love beans, but I admit to a blind spot when it

comes to chickpeas.

While I do have some repertoire favorites such as Portuguese seafood and garbanzo stew, you say chickpea and I think hummus. This is not surprising because hummus is an Arabic word for chickpeas and, by one count, a quarter of U.S. households ravenously consume what is known in the Arabic world as hummus bi tahini (a spiced chickpea and sesame paste purée) that we have abbreviated to the name of the first ingredient.

While I’m dissing a perfectly serviceable foodstuff, I will also take a dig at canned chickpeas, swimming in their bland aquafaba.

On the other hand, chickpeas are one of the best plant-based sources of protein, minerals, amino acids and fiber.

There is usually no excuse for not reconstituting and cooking dried beans, except for the fact that chickpeas, even pre-soaked, take twice as long to cook as nearly any other bean. The advantage is that you get to add flavor that commercial processing leaves out.

Add a couple of smashed cloves of garlic and bay leaves to a long-simmering pot of beans and you’re ahead of the game. A quartered onion and roughly chopped carrots and/or celery ups the ante. Choosing your dried bean source (you know how I feel about Rancho Gordo) is to your advantage, as the “fresher” the dried beans (i.e.,

the closer they are to having once been fresh), the less time they will take to cook and the truer they will be to their authentic taste and texture.

I recently stumbled upon the description of dango, an Arabian (Omani) chickpea recipe seasoned with sweet paprika, Aleppo pepper, tart ground sumac, lots of lime juice — and a surprisingly healthy dollop of butter — that stopped me dead in my tracks, as I am now more than ever in accord with Frank Herbert, who opined in *Dune*: “He who controls the spice controls the universe.” It seemed the perfect corrective to the late-winter blahs still visited on us as spring approaches.

While dango is more of a stew, I opted for purée, adding fresh fennel and bolstering the spice mix with other notes from the Middle Eastern palette. You could serve it as a stew, or an in-between soup, by puréeing a cup or two of the soup solids as a thickener. The butter is optional for vegans and vegetarians but I encourage at least a finishing pat when serving.

As with most vegetarian soups, a couple of tablespoons of diluted miso at the end bolsters the umami factor. The white chickpea miso from South River Miso Co. (available at Marbled Meats in Philipstown) is tailor-made for this recipe, although a sweet white miso will do.

Case closed.



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Cat Guthrie: 9 Lives Encore

March 16 at 7:30p [SOLD OUT]

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Fewer Ticks = Less Lyme? Maybe Not.

Tick Project releases results of five-year study

By Brian PJ Cronin

If you loathe black-legged ticks, those tiny carriers of Lyme disease, babesiosis and other illnesses, the Cary Institute Tick Project has good news and bad news.

First, the good news: Over five years, 46 Millbrook-based researchers found that bait boxes reduced the tick population in the yards of Dutchess County residents by half.

The bad news: It didn't matter. Although there were fewer ticks, it had little effect on reducing illness or people's encounters with them, findings in line with a preliminary study completed in 2016.

"It wasn't the answer we wanted, but it is the answer," said Richard Ostfeld, a disease ecologist and co-director of The Tick Project (tickproject.org). On the bright side, "it tells us where to look and where not to look when trying to solve this enormous societal problem."



Ostfeld

For the study, researchers selected 24 neighborhoods in Dutchess County, including some in Beacon. They applied fungal spray and bait boxes, both of which are commercially available and safe for people, pets and the environment.

The spray, which is sold as Met52, is made from *Metarhizium anisopliae*, which is found in forest soil in the eastern U.S. "It makes its living by attacking and killing arthropods on the forest floor, digesting them and using them as a food source," said Ostfeld.

The bait boxes attract rodents that, once inside, rub against a wick that applies a non-toxic insecticide with the same active ingredient as Frontline, a tick treatment for pets. "It's safe for vertebrates but lethal for

ticks," Ostfeld said.

A newly hatched tick isn't a threat. But if its first blood meal is from an animal infected with the spirochete bacterium that causes Lyme disease, the infection can spread. By far the most likely hosts are white-footed mice, which allow about half the ticks that bite them to feed, followed by shrews and chipmunks.

Besides administering the sprays and bait boxes, project staff routinely conducted tick sweeps to gauge the population in the neighborhoods being studied. It also regularly asked residents whether they had encountered ticks, been bitten or come down with a tick-borne illness.

Of the 24 neighborhoods in the study, six received working bait boxes and sprays. Another six received fake boxes and working sprays, six received working boxes and fake sprays and six received both fake boxes and sprays. For control purposes, neither the researchers nor residents knew which versions they had.

The bait boxes were much more effective than the spray and reduced populations by about half. Ostfeld said that boxes and sprays paired together did not seem to make either more effective. And neither method reduced the number of ticks people saw or tick-borne infections.

"Maybe this reduction of ticks in neighborhoods and on properties isn't sufficient because there is a probability of encountering that tick somewhere else, like when you're hiking, walking your dog or mountain biking," said Ostfeld. "Maybe there are other areas that we need to target, as well."

To figure that out, Ostfeld said, would require a study far beyond the capabilities of the Cary Institute and require researchers in social sciences and human behavior, as well as tens of thousands of volunteers. Ostfeld said such a study might involve a phone app with GPS.

One problem is that ticks will sometimes

remain attached to a host for up to 36 hours before feeding and take up to 24 hours to feed. That means an engorged tick that you pull out of your skin could have come from anywhere you've been in the last three days.

"The way out of this is to have people doing thorough tick checks at frequent intervals — maybe an app reminds them every hour," Ostfeld said. "It's a nuisance but if we can find out where the hot spots are, we can target those areas."

In the meantime, help may be on the way. A Lyme vaccine is in clinical trials and could be submitted to the Food and Drug Administration in 2025. If it is approved, Ostfeld worries that a vaccine might lull people into a false sense of security and lead them to be lax about tick checks or applying insecticides, making them vulnerable to other tick-borne illnesses.

He also noted that, due to warming temperatures caused by climate change, black-legged ticks are spreading to places where residents and healthcare professionals may not be familiar with the symptoms of Lyme.



A more effective vaccine would be one that targets the tick, he said, mimicking a natural defense that some people, including Ostfeld, have in their blood. When Ostfeld gets bitten, his immune system reacts to the tick's salivary antigens, causing inflammation that kills the tick before it has a chance to feed. He believes this response may have developed because he has been bitten so many times; the vaccine would be the equivalent of an immune response to hundreds of bites.

"I know there are labs that have worked on this for a while, but I don't know how close they are to developing a vaccine that is both effective and safe," he said.

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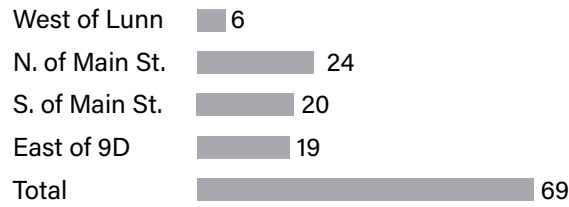
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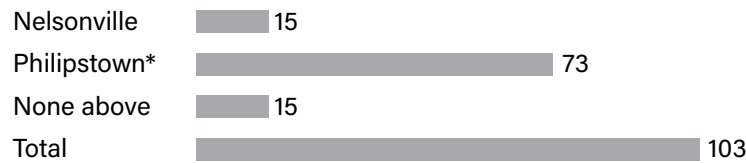
The Fjord Trail Survey Results

of Respondents by Location

In Cold Spring Village

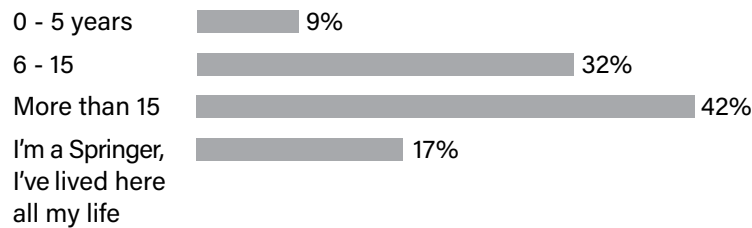


Outside Cold Spring

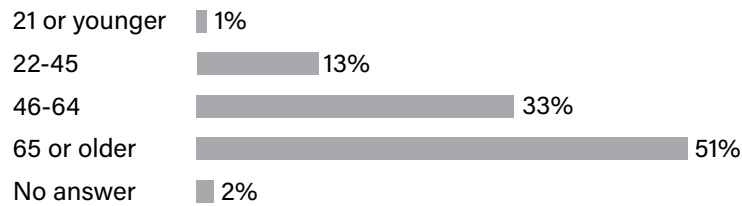


*other than Cold Spring or Nelsonville

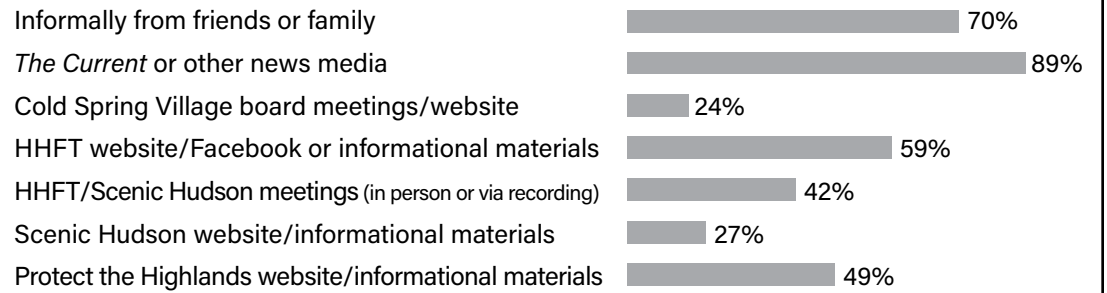
If you live in Cold Spring Village, how long have you lived here?



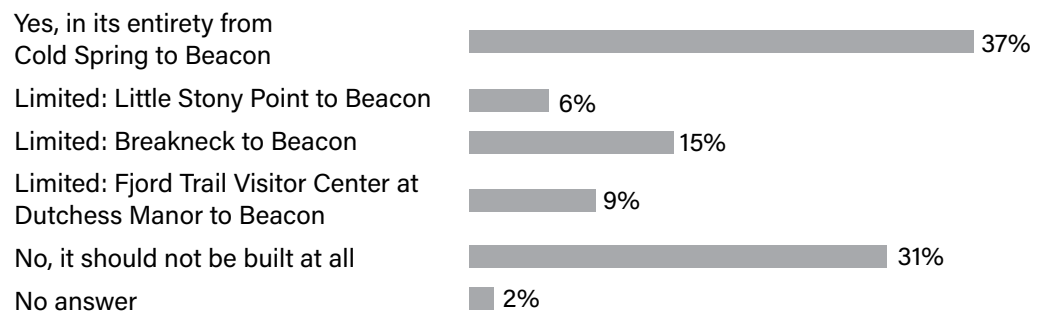
Respondents by Age



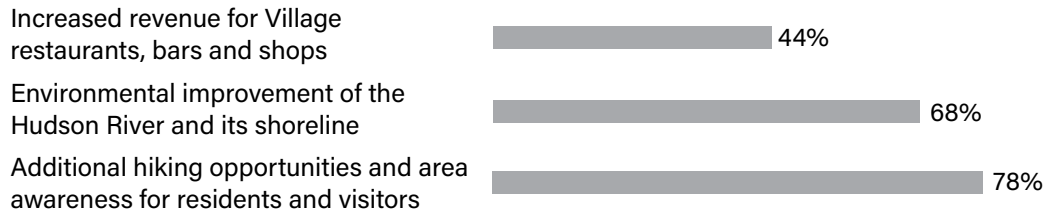
How respondents receive HHFT information



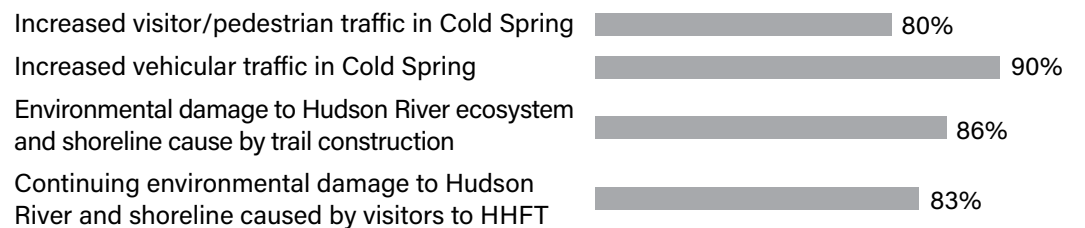
What is your position on whether or not the HHFT should be constructed?



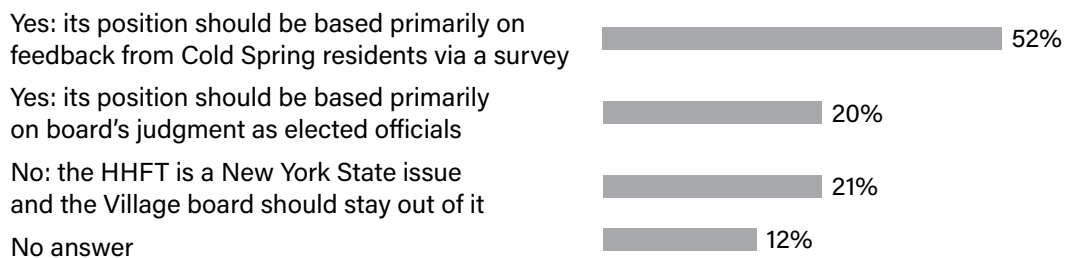
Reasons Respondents selected YES to entire trail being built



Reasons Respondents who selected NO or limited to trail being built



Should the Cold Spring Village Board declare a position on whether or not the HHFT is built?



Thanks to all who responded to the Fjord Trail Survey. We received a total of 172 survey responses: 133 via email and 39 in the survey drop-box. Following the March 7 cutoff, we began to tabulate the results and record each and every comment. It was a satisfying process and was quickly apparent that the survey captured many points of view.

In the March 1 edition of *The Current*, we promised to publish survey results. Because there were so many comments, we are unable to publish them all in *The Current*. To ensure absolute transparency and complete results, survey results will be provided in three ways:

#1. Results "snapshot"

The results above are aggregate results for each question.

#2. Presentation On Tuesday, March 19 and Thursday, March 21 at the Cold Spring Fire Department, we will conduct a presentation which will include comprehensive results, including all comments. The presentation will include:

- Survey design, including reasons for each question
- Data collection, including process integrity and "rogue" (duplicate) responses
- Data compilation
- Response analysis; in addition to the aggregate results, we will provide some analysis
- Questions and discussion

Presentation information:

Where: Cold Spring Fire Department

When: Tuesday, March 19 and Thursday, March 21

Time: 7:00-8:30 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm

Attendee limit: 45 per session. First come-first served.

#3. Survey results link

Following the presentations on March 19 and 21, a link to the survey results will be available by emailing fjordtrailssurvey@gmail.com

Again, thanks to everyone for participating and we hope that this endeavor will provide additional clarity and perspective to all involved in this process.

For Three Mentors, the Last Art Show

All three Beacon elementary art teachers are retiring

By Marc Ferris

The annual *Art is Elementary* exhibit, which showcases work by Beacon public school students in preschool to fifth grade, will be the last curated by the district's three elementary school art teachers.

Susan Wurtz (31 years), Cathy Pezzo (28 years) and Sallie Farkas (20 years) each plan to retire in June.

We invited them to chat on March 9 at the Howland Public Library during the opening of the exhibit, which continues through March 31.

Is it safe to say that nearly every child loves art?

WURTZ: Starting in pre-K, the younger grades just go with the flow.

PEZZO: As they get older, sometimes they can feel insecure about art.

FARKAS: In elementary school, I work on drawing skills because that gives them self-confidence as they go into middle school, where, yes, they can get embarrassed if they can't draw something.

WURTZ: We focus on the elements of art: lines, shapes, color. The younger ones are always excited about art and it's great to see. I love that part of it.

How do you reach less-enthusiastic artists?

PEZZO: Some older kids take to abstracts. If



Art teachers Sallie Farkas, Cathy Pezzo and Susan Wurtz will each retire this year.

Photos by Ross Corsair

they have a hard time with the basics, that's OK. You don't want them to say, "I hate art."

WURTZ: If you teach them how to break things down by shapes — the belly of a dog looks like an oval and this looks like a triangle — and to see things in a certain way, then they can and learn to draw anything.

What has changed the most over the years?

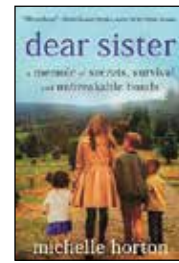
FARKAS: Attention spans have gotten shorter, which is probably due to computers. You know: You can fix it with a button.

WURTZ: Definitely attention spans. Quality takes time.

PEZZO: One change is that sometimes I need a one-day lesson because by the next time I see them, they want something new.

WURTZ: In the older grades, it's such an important skill to be able to focus on a project, do a rough draft, step back and make edits. We're trying to impart the skills so they can get into that creative zone over a longer period of time.

Visit highlandscurrent.org.



Local Bestsellers

Based on combined hardcover and paperback sales reported for January and February at Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.

ADULT

- 1 *Dear Sister: A Memoir of Secrets, Survival and Unbreakable Bonds*, by Michelle Horton
- 2 *North Woods: A Novel*, by Daniel Mason
- 2 *When We Cease to Understand the World*, by Benjamin Labatut
- 2 *The Bee Sting: A Novel*, by Paul Murray
- 3 *So Late in the Day: Stories of Men and Women*, by Claire Keegan
- 3 *Small Things Like These*, by Claire Keegan
- 3 *Pedro Paramo*, by Juan Rulfo
- 3 *Blaze Me a Sun: A Novel About a Crime*, by Christoffer Carlsson
- 3 *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store: A Novel*, by James McBride

CHILDREN

- 1 *Claudia and the Bad Joke (Baby-sitters Club)*, by Ann Martin
- 2 *Waverider (Amulet 9)*, by Kazu Kibuishi
- 3 *Break (A Click Graphic Novel)*, by Kayla Miller
- 4 *Cat Kid Comic Club: Influencers*, by Dav Pilkey
- 5 *No Brainer (Diary of a Wimpy Kid 18)*, by Jeff Kinney



Zion, Grade 3, Forrestal

Stella, Grade 4, South Avenue

Seren, Grade 1, Sargent

Remington, Pre-K, Forrestal

← A Few of the Artists

After kindergartener Madeleine Cooper spotted her drawing at the Howland Public Library, she ran over and jumped with joy.

Seren Donnelly, a first grader, hugged her father's hip as she described her handiwork, which features buildings, pink clouds and a smiling sun.

"She's happy, but shy," said Brian Donnelly.

Fourth grader Stella McEvoy's outfit evoked the colors and the pattern of her intricate close-up of an eye that belongs to a lightning dragon, a creature she created. Its red eyeball is split by what looks like a lightning bolt, which is what these beasts breathe instead of fire, she explained.

All the attention from family and onlookers made her "feel like a celebrity."

LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (March 1874)

After *The Peekskill Messenger* boasted that Mr. Sutton was the longest-serving church choir director on the East Coast, having been at Second Presbyterian for 34 years, *The Cold Spring Recorder* countered that Mr. Barrows had been at the Episcopal church in the village for the same amount of time.

The Recorder reported that “temperance people congratulate each other [on progress made to make alcohol illegal] and hope the day is not distant when every whiskey cask will be knocked in the head.”

The Cold Spring Board of Trustees proposed a budget of \$3443.50 [about \$89,000 today], including \$600 [\$15,500] for street cleaning, \$400 to pave the Main Street crosswalks and \$200 to deepen the Paulding Avenue well.

Charles Baxter sued Oscar Organ for \$100 [\$2,700], alleging that he quit before completing an eight-month contract as a laborer. Oscar’s father, C.J., offered \$39.85 to settle — the wages left to be paid — but Baxter refused. A jury awarded \$40.

The Recorder noted that a Western Union agent traveled on the Hudson River Railroad. For a small additional fee, passengers could have telegraphs delivered to any station on the line.

John Dougherty, employed by Capt. George Wise, was arrested in Cold Spring for public intoxication. While awaiting transfer to the county jail, he told Officer Morrison that he had information to offer: He had witnessed the killing of a railroad watchman at the 30th Street depot in New York City and could provide the names of the gang members involved.

Stephen Davenport escaped serious



An early punch board

Collectors Weekly

injury when a cow protecting her calf placed her horns on either side of his thigh and threw him. The cow was after a dog that had taken refuge behind its master.

Howard Dykeman was playing on a soft couch when a threaded needle went into his leg, eye first. The doctors put the boy under ether but decided it was too deep to remove.

The Recorder reported that, “like hundreds of letters,” three soldiers found themselves in Cold Spring instead of Cold Spring Harbor, on Long Island. J.G. Southard lent them \$10 to buy return train tickets.

The newly formed Cold Spring Total Abstinence Society met at Town Hall.

Vincent Merritt reported finding two horse blankets on the Breakneck road.

William West, 34, of Philipstown, died from head injuries sustained when he jumped or fell from a train as it passed near Cortlandt. He and Thomas Avery, who were traveling together, had asked the conductor and engineer to slow the train so they

could jump off. When they refused, West ran to the back of the last car but Avery said he did not see in what manner he left the train. Seeing his friend tumbling beside the tracks, Avery jumped after him but was not injured.

Two cows owned by Richard Denny in North Highlands found their way into the barn and ate so much feed that they died. His loss was about \$100.

125 Years ago (March 1899)

Prof. Treat of Garrison caused a stir while walking his 25 performing dogs around Highland Falls before an appearance.

Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Sherwood hosted a party for their neighbors. Grace Sherwood and Ethel Briggs each played the organ while guests elsewhere studied the somber pictures of Milton’s *Paradise Lost*. The gentlemen smoked and argued about the duties of town officers. Supper was served at 10 p.m.

St. Philip’s Church in Garrison hosted a stereopticon viewing at the Reading Room of a wheeling trip and the cathedrals of England.

A submarine mine that was taken out of Santiago of Philipstown harbor in 1898 during the Spanish-American War in Cuba arrived at West Point for its ordnance museum after being cleaned of its tropical barnacles and painted black. It was said to be exactly like the one that blew up the USS Maine in Havana harbor, killing 268 sailors.

100 Years Ago (March 1924)

The Cold Spring Fire Co. installed a telephone and hired a watchman. “In the event of a night fire, the telephone operator is notified, who will call up the watchman,” *The Recorder* explained. “The watchman will learn the location of the fire, sound the siren, open the doors and have everything in readiness when the firemen arrive.”

Patrick Feane, a laborer at Brown’s Physical Training Farm, was hit and killed by a passenger train at the Garrison station on a Sunday afternoon. Feane and a friend, Thomas Ryan, were crossing the tracks and did not see the express approaching because it was hidden behind a freight car parked on the siding. Ryan stumbled and fell a step behind, which saved his life.

Augusta Schaffner died at age 52. She had moved to Continentalville with her husband, Walter, after a doctor advised him to get out of Brooklyn for his health. They purchased the Jeremiah Lynch farm but the house was damaged by blasting when the New York City aqueduct went through. The couple returned to Brooklyn, but Mrs. Schaffner missed the country and they bought a farm in Montrose.

Edward Collard won the award for the “most striking” costume at a masquerade ball hosted by the Odd Fellow and Rebeckah lodges. He came as a sheikh. His wife won for the “most grotesque” costume but no details were provided.

Van Nostrand of 24 Parrott St. placed a classified ad in *The Recorder* to sell his 25-hen chicken house, 70 feet of 6-foot-high fencing, 140-egg incubator and 10-foot chicken run for \$27 [\$500].

Putnam County Sheriff Wallace Secord announced a crackdown on games of chance, primarily punch boards. [After placing a bet, a player “punched” a precut hole to force out a piece of paper with a number that corresponded with a prize, such as a pack of cigarettes or cash.]

Ezra Brewer and Sherman Warren purchased new Dodge cars to start a taxi service.

Elsie Muller, a former Haldane High School student, won the women’s quarter-mile and mile races at the Middle Atlantic Speed Skating Championships in New York City. [Muller represented the U.S. at the 1932 Olympics in Lake Placid when women’s speed skating debuted as a demonstration sport.]



Elsie Muller, who attended Haldane, skated at the 1932 Olympics.

New York Heritage

75 Years Ago (March 1949)

The Civics Club at Haldane High School sponsored a sports carnival to raise money for a trip to Washington, D.C. The event included a basketball game between the faculty and varsity players and three boxing matches refereed by Ray Impellittere, who had been a heavyweight fighter in the 1930s.

(Continued on Page 21)



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more

(Continued from Page 20)

The newly formed Haldane PTA elected officers and passed bylaws.

At the weekly student assembly at Haldane High School, the baseball coach showed a motion picture about the 1948 World Series and explained the rules.

Philipstown mailed a survey to each of the 600 veterans in town to get their thoughts on a suitable memorial for those who served.

Harry McElrath, a police officer and Haldane bus driver, was elected mayor of Nelsonville after receiving 61 write-in votes. Milton Smith, who had been mayor for 35 years, received 42 votes. McElrath said he was unaware of the campaign to get him elected.

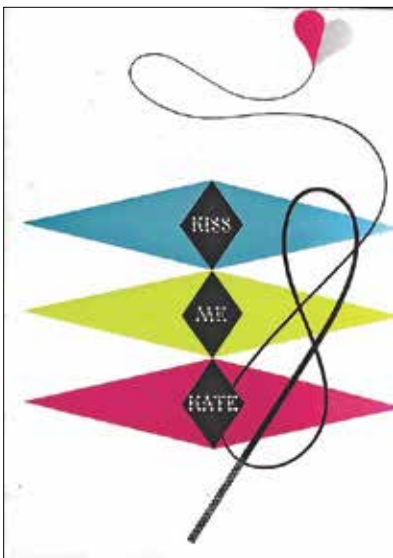
The body of Walter Glanville was among the 6,785 being returned from Europe by the U.S. military. The paratrooper, who graduated from Haldane High School in 1943, had been killed in action in Belgium in 1944.

Robert "Bumpy" McCaffrey Jr. celebrated his sixth birthday.

The Garrison Fish and Game Club voted to extend by a month its fox-trapping contest because of a lack of entries.

Pvt. John Lyons surprised his family on Parsonage Street by calling from Tokyo, where he was stationed.

Fourteen girls in Miss Callahan's personal and social development class at Haldane traveled to New York City for a Broadway performance of *Kiss Me, Kate*.



The cover of 1949 Broadway program for *Kiss Me, Kate*

Elliott Hammond moved his grocery store from Kemble and Main to 106 Main St., between the Cold Spring Lumber Co. and Florence Daniels' Beauty Shoppe.

Members of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars chapters circulated a petition asking the Army to show mercy on Gilbert Turner Jr. of Nelsonville, who had been sentenced to six years and eight months in prison for desertion. They noted that Turner and his wife had nine children, with another on the way, and said he would "become a useful citizen" if allowed to return home.

50 Years Ago (March 1974)

Although the Haldane basketball team lost to Cedar Knolls in the first round of the sectional tournament to finish 10-9, they exceeded expectations and John Rath was named the Bi-Valley League coach of the year.

Hal Hamilton rolled a 268 in the Western Putnam Men's Bowling League, the best local score since Bob Romano hit 289 a few years earlier.

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms questioned the conservative bona fides of Rep. Hamilton Fish, a Republican whose district included Philipstown, because he refused to support legislation to repeal the Gun Control Act of 1968.

The Cold Spring Village Board said that it could not determine why homeowners on Garden Street were having problems with interference on their TVs.

A 20-year-old Rock Street man was charged with burglarizing the Wagon Wheel on Main Street. He was arrested after he spent a signed bill that had been framed by the restaurant as a good-luck token.

A Main Street parade was scheduled for March 30, the day after what was then unofficially known as Honor the Viet Nam Veterans Day. [In 2008, New York State designated March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day, and in 2017 the federal government did the same.]

25 Years Ago (March 1999)

Following a proposal to the Philipstown Town Board to make the hamlet of Garrison into a village, the Just Say No to Village Government Committee held an organizational meeting. The committee, whose slogan was "It Doesn't Take a Village," expressed fear that the federal government would force a Village of Garrison to construct low-income housing.

The state Education Department rescinded an environmental review of a proposed expansion at the Garrison School because of what it said was inaccurate information. The agency then asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed by a group of Garrison residents to overturn the review, saying the issue was now moot.

The Haldane boys' basketball team won its first sectional title, defeating Hamilton at the Westchester County Center. Jeff Amato hit two free throws with 20 seconds left to seal the 67-64 win, and Joe and Tommy Virgadamo combined for 37 points. The girls' team also defeated Hamilton, 51-29, to win the section — the first time two Haldane teams had won a Gold Ball on the same night on the same court against the same opponent. (The boys lost to Millbrook in the next round, and the girls lost in the state title game.)

Malcolm Stevenson, 87, of Cold Spring, spoke to cadets at West Point about his service during World War II as the tail gunner aboard a B-24 bomber. He recalled that enemy fire during one run tore off a chunk of the plane's tail and could not explain why he hadn't been sucked out. He returned to the U.S. in April 1945 after completing the required 50 missions. He said his rookie crew advanced from "Coffin Corner" — the most dangerous spot in a formation — to the lead plane on raids that involved 1,000 bombers and 750 fighter planes.

Protesters held a demonstration in front of the newly opened Cracker Barrel on Route 9 in Fishkill to protest the chain's practice of firing gay employees. The demonstration was organized by Kenneth Weinberg of Cold Spring, who noted that, in New York state, gay people were not covered by anti-discrimination laws.

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EVENTS

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BEDROOM SET — Solid cherry wood, five-piece, four-post bedroom set. Asking \$2,500 or best offer. See photo at highlandscurrent.org/?p=5784858. Call 914-318-8076.

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Kellyanne Donnelly

01/22/1971 - 03/05/2024



Vipers fans call themselves the Fang Gang.



The Vipers have four home games left on their schedule.

Photos by Jaylen Rizzo/HVV

Sports

THE HUDSON VALLEY HAS A HOCKEY TEAM

Vipers are part of new minor league

By Michael Turton

“Let’s-go-Vi-pers” rang through Poughkeepsie’s McCann Ice Arena on March 3 as the Hudson Valley Vipers finished a sweep of the Holyoke Papermen with a convincing 9-4 win.

The Vipers and Papermen are part of the fledgling 12-team Union Hockey League. Its Eastern Division also includes the Boston Gold Kings, Norfolk Mallards and North Shore Nighthawks from Massachusetts and the Niagara Falls Buffalos.

The Pittsburgh River Monsters, Toledo Mobsters, Sun Prairie (Wisconsin) Killer Bees, Soo (Michigan) Nordiques, Flint Apollos and Western Michigan Sentinels make up the Western Division.

The minor league started small for 2023-24, with teams playing 20 games between January and mid-April, followed by play-offs and an All-Star game in Niagara Falls. The Vipers play twice at home this weekend (March 16 and 17) against Niagara Falls, and will host Toledo on March 30 and North Shore on April 20.

The Vipers are owned by former Dutchess County and state legislator Pat Manning, who 30 years ago helped bring the Hudson Valley Renegades and minor league baseball to the area.

Manning said that, like the Renegades, the Vipers want to offer affordable, entertaining, family fun. All games are played on weekends; tickets start at \$8.

Fans seem to agree that the Vipers are entertaining. Nearly 600 came out for the first preseason game in December and the team now leads the league in attendance.

“The players are highly skilled; it’s fast-



The Vipers line up before a recent game in Poughkeepsie.

moving and a bit rough-and-tumble,” Manning said, adding that after a hard hit, the gloves sometimes come off. “We don’t look to limit that; it’s been part of hockey history for well over a century. We’re not going to sugarcoat the game.”

Coach Joey Bonitatibus, 31, has coached hockey for six years, including as player-coach at Western Connecticut State University. He also skates for the Vipers occasionally if the lineup is thin on road trips. Most of the players have experience in the minor leagues, college or junior hockey level.

“We’re willing to play the physical game and grind it out in the corners,” the coach said. “But we also have six or seven players with amazing stickhandling skills

who can move the puck.”

The team has won six of its 10 games and is in second place in the division, putting the Vipers in a strong position to make the playoffs.

Bonitatibus said one of the challenges is the distance some players travel to games.

While most live in the Hudson Valley, others come from Long Island, Staten Island and northern New Jersey. “But they make the trip; they’re dedicated,” he said.

Players are not paid. On some league teams, players contribute a small fee. Vipers’ players receive stipends to cover costs on road trips.

Bonitatibus said player morale is high because the team strives to build a positive atmosphere. “There’s a team outing after every game, win or lose,” he said, adding

that weekday Zoom meetings to review game footage inevitably include “a few laughs.” He said a few players who made the lineup were released because they weren’t a positive influence on the team.

Playing in front of highly supportive, vocal fans has also helped motivate the players. Bonitatibus said the sellout crowd of 1,000 at a Feb. 24 game was typical. “The Saturday night games get very rowdy!” he said with a laugh. “Fans come for the hockey, but they also like the physicality.”

Max Henry, a forward and co-captain who grew up in Mahopac and played hockey at Marist College, said he tries “to keep the boys rolling on the ice and focused between periods.” When not in the rink he works as a business transformation analyst, helping older businesses adapt to the digital age.

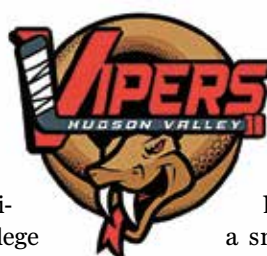
The other co-captain, defenseman Brett Beigert, 29, works for Metro-North. He won a state hockey championship with John Jay High School in East Fishkill but did not play again until joining the Vipers.

“I forgot how much I missed the game,” he said. “It’s certainly much faster than I remembered!”

The league has ambitious plans, including playing a 32-game schedule next season and expanding to 48 teams. “The idea is to have teams all across the country,” Manning said. “That’s never been done” with minor-league hockey.

The Sin City Kings, a proposed expansion team, is lobbying to host this year’s Union League championship in Las Vegas. “That sends a message that we’re already successful,” Manning said. “This league is going to be around, and others are hungry to join it.”

The Hudson Valley Vipers play at McCann Ice Arena, 14 Civic Center Plaza, in Poughkeepsie. Tickets are \$10 each, or \$32 for four. Seats at the glass behind the goalie are \$50 and at center alley behind the glass, \$100. See hudsonvalleyvipers.com and [facebook.com/HudsonValleyVipers](https://www.facebook.com/HudsonValleyVipers).



Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
			22					23				
24	25	26			27	28	29				30	31
32					33					34		
35			36	37						38		
		39					40	41				
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49					50	51			52			
53					54				55			
56					57				58			

ACROSS

- 1. Egg on
- 5. Science room
- 8. Arm bone
- 12. Actress Gilpin
- 13. Hosp. area
- 14. Wedding cake layer
- 15. Bridge position
- 16. Not "agin"
- 17. "Snap out —!"
- 18. Monet or Debussy
- 20. Wards off
- 22. "— Poetica"
- 23. Be sick
- 24. Healthy
- 27. Embeds
- 32. Comic Philips
- 33. Menagerie
- 34. Trio after M
- 35. Fish lover's deli order
- 38. Group of quail
- 39. Transcript no.
- 40. Parched

42. Oracle setting

- 45. "Brigadoon" lyricist
- 49. Buffalo's county
- 50. Miss Piggy's pronoun
- 52. French waterway
- 53. — Romeo
- 54. Canine greeting
- 55. Summit
- 56. Ogler's look
- 57. "— -haw!" (cowgirl's cry)
- 58. Monopoly card

11. Sciences' partner

- 19. AMA member
- 21. Hearing thing
- 24. Drenched
- 25. Ostrich's kin
- 26. Palmist's prediction
- 28. Neither mate
- 29. Hit song by OneRepublic
- 30. Calendar abbr.
- 31. Covert agent
- 36. Seem
- 37. Taunting laugh
- 38. Secondary route
- 41. Concerning
- 42. Bargain
- 43. Perry's creator
- 44. Noncommittal answer
- 46. Pleasing
- 47. Salinger girl
- 48. Marsh plant
- 51. Tram load

DOWN

- 1. Detail, briefly
- 2. Bell sound
- 3. — Major
- 4. Ceremony
- 5. Not enlarged or reduced
- 6. Tennis feat
- 7. *Ironsides* star
- 8. Perfect place
- 9. Game show aid
- 10. Astronaut Armstrong

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

STAKE

PRONE

MICRO CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Nickname for tennis powerhouse Nadal
- 5. Greek war god
- 6. Marner of fiction
- 7. "This is ___" (radio announcement)
- 8. Limb stabilizers

DOWN

- 1. Palate-cooling yogurt dip
- 2. Gauguin's "Landscape near ___"
- 3. Seder, for one

	1	2	3	4
	5			
6				
7				
8				

- 4. Support staff: Abbr.
- 6. Anatomical pouch

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

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

A	S	T	R	O
S	T	I	E	G
T	O	T	A	L
E	L	A	T	E
P	E	N	A	

BLAME
BLARE
FLARE
FLAKE
FLUKE
FLUTE

Answers for March 8 Puzzles

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Nate Stickle and the Blue Devils celebrate their regional title. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.



Stickle had nine points and 10 rebounds. Photos by Skip Pearlman

Sports

HALDANE PUMMELS SOUTHOLD EN ROUTE TO FINAL FOUR

Will face Moriah tonight in Glens Falls

By Jacob Aframian

Entering its most recent state tournament game on March 9, the mission for the Haldane boys' basketball team was simple: Win and go to the Final Four. The Blue Devils did just that, cruising to a 73-39 win over Section XI champs Southold for a second straight Class C regional title.

The Blue Devils (20-3), ranked as the top Class C team by the New York State Sports-writers Association, travel to Glens Falls today (March 15), where at 7 p.m. they will face third-ranked Moriah (21-2) from Essex County. The winner will advance to the title game at 8:45 p.m. on Saturday (March 16). The NFHS Network (nfhsnetwork.com) will stream both games.

Moriah reached the Final Four by defeating No. 6 Maple Hill, 43-40. No. 2 Lyons (23-2) and No. 4 Moravia (21-3) will play in the other Class C semifinal.

Last season, the Blue Devils came within three points of winning the state championship against Randolph; this year they'll have the chance to finish what they started in Glens Falls.



Ryan Van Tassel is one of the first players off the bench for the Blue Devils.

Against Southold, the Blue Devils followed a formula that has worked all season: They get off to a hot start and never look back. Haldane scored more than 70 points for just the fifth time this season while giving up only 39, the team's second-best defensive effort.

The Long Island team led for only 21 seconds, when the score was 3-2. With the

score tied at 10 with 3:14 left in the first quarter, the Blue Devils went on a 13-0 run. That extended into the second quarter and turned into a 21-0 run that ended with Haldane up 31-10.

Although Southold hung around for the rest of the quarter, the Blue Devils led at halftime, 37-21. A key contributor in the

first half was senior Evan Giachinta, who scored eight points off the bench and finished with 12 points and seven rebounds.

The Settlers began the second half by cutting the lead to 13, but that was the closest they got. Haldane went on a 16-3 run to close out the quarter and led 55-29 going into the fourth.

The reserves played the last three minutes of the game, and senior Erik Stubblefield hit a three and sophomore Zane del Pozo scored on a layup. Matt Nachamkin led the team with 16 points, but 11 players scored.

"It's been emotional for me because I don't want the season to end with these kids," Coach Joe Virgadamo said after the game. "They're special; I treat them like they're my own."

"We got two more games to go," he said. "We're going up there on a mission. We're going up there to win the state championship."

HALL OF FAME — The Haldane Athletic Hall of Fame is accepting nominations through April 1 for its 2023 class of inductees. See bit.ly/haldane-hall or call 845-265-9254, ext. 179, for forms to nominate athletes who graduated before 2019, teams from before 2019, coaches and administrators. The site also contains the list of inductees from 2017 to the present.