

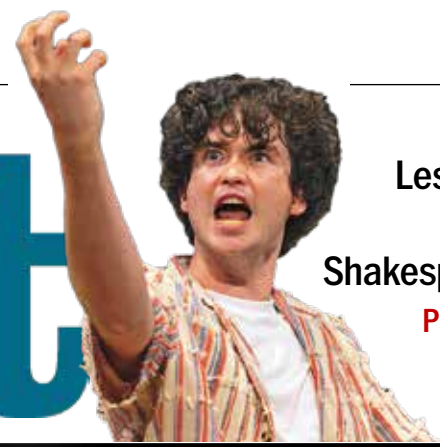
The HIGHLANDS Current

Lessons from Shakespeare
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MARCH 22, 2024

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A New Route for Fjord Trail?

Alternative paths out of Cold Spring to be considered

By Brian PJ Cronin

Work is underway on the Breakneck Connector section of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, but the rest of the 7.5-mile route, especially between Cold Spring and Breakneck, remains uncertain.

The HHFT says its preferred route begins at Dockside Park, which is owned by the state and maintained by the village, and largely follows the shoreline north toward Beacon. But there are also at least five “what-if” paths that were considered as part of an ongoing state environmental review and were presented by HHFT March 11 at Dutchess Manor.

Plus, there’s now an *alternative* alternative path that came up for discussion and will be investigated by HHFT, New York State and Metro-North, among others. This route, briefly mentioned on March 11, would skip Dockside. Instead, it would hug the western side of the tracks from the train station to the village line.

It should not be confused with two proposed routes running along the east side of the tracks that were discarded but revived by village officials and two Philipstown members of HHFT’s data committee. They suggested the routes could be viable if Metro-North is flexible on its rule that the trail must be at least 25 feet from the center of the tracks.

During a March 14 tour of the alternative routes, Amy Kacala, the executive director of HHFT, said the organization tried to get Metro-North to discuss the setback and failed. “But maybe now that
(Continued on Page 7)



CATCHING A WOLF – In what has become an annual tradition, an orchestra led by Rachel Evans presented two performances of *Peter and the Wolf* at the Chapel Restoration on March 16. Shown are Lou Pappas on bass and Lauren Wallis Hall and Colin Wright operating the crankie.
Photo by Ross Corsair

State Budget Negotiations Begin

Cuts to schools, other programs at stake

By Leonard Sparks

The state Senate and Assembly last week approved their versions of a budget for 2024-25, launching negotiations with Gov. Kathy Hochul over appropriations for school districts and municipal governments,

roads and bridges and other local needs.

Both chambers countered Hochul’s \$233 billion proposal by approving on March 14 plans for \$246 billion in spending. The Senate passed its plan, 41-20, with Rob Rolison, a Republican whose district includes Beacon and Philipstown, among the senators who voted no.

The Assembly passed its plan, 101-48, with support from Jonathan Jacobson, who represents Beacon, and Dana Levenberg, who

represents Philipstown. Both are Democrats.

While the Senate and Assembly budgets differ, they each reject Hochul’s proposal to eliminate a provision that ensured school districts receive at least the same amount of Foundation Aid as they had the year before.

Under Hochul’s proposal, the Beacon district would lose more than \$1.2 million, or 6 percent, of its Foundation Aid, which is the main source of state funding for school districts, and the Garrison district would lose \$234,000.

(Continued on Page 6)



The Beacon fire station will be completed this fall. The disputed parking lot is to the right of the station.
Photo by J. Simms

Beacon Church Asks Judge to End Dispute With City

Fire station sparked conflict over parking lot

By Jeff Simms

St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal Church in Beacon has asked a Dutchess County judge to issue a summary judgment, which would decide the dispute over a park-

ing lot between the church and the city without a trial or hearing from witnesses. Beacon city attorneys have until April 8 to respond.

The request, made Feb. 17, is the latest development since the church filed suit against the city nine months ago for fencing off a city-owned lot adjacent to the centralized Beacon fire station, which is under construction.

(Continued on Page 9)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: MARY ELLEN STILL

By Leonard Sparks

Mary Ellen Still is retiring after 46 years with the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections, which she has directed since 2002.

How did you start in the Probation Office?

I graduated in 1978 with a sociology degree from SUNY Albany, where I developed an interest in criminal justice. I interned at the probation department in Schenectady County and saw the difference probation could make in people's lives, particularly youth. I took the Dutchess exam to become a probation officer trainee and was selected. Over the years, I worked in every part of the department, so it gave me a broad view.



What is the office's role?

We provide pretrial services for the courts, interviewing people who have been arrested and making a recommendation to the judge regarding release. We also supervise people on probation and provide

pre-sentence investigations that cover a person's legal and social history, and offer a recommendation for sentencing. We provide intake and diversion services for youth and have alternative-to-incarceration programs, which include electronic monitoring.

What happens when someone is placed on probation?

They are subject to a set of conditions signed by a judge. We look for the most effective ways to ensure people abide by those conditions and use all our resources to assist them. Sometimes, people choose not to follow those conditions, which can result in a violation of probation and a return to court. It doesn't always result in jail or prison. For instance, if someone with a substance-use disorder continues to use drugs, and commits criminal offenses as a result, we may look for treatment.

What new programs have been introduced?

Several years ago we started a successful jail-based intervention program for higher-risk people

called Restart. It was designed to have evidence-based programming that people can continue when they're released from jail. We also have units that deal with domestic violence offenders, driving-while-intoxicated cases and people with severe mental-health disorders. We have day-reporting and women-reporting centers that provide education, employment and other services, and we have transitional housing for men and women. I chair the Criminal Justice Council, which was started in 1993. Criminal justice and community-based agencies meet and look at needs and programs that could fill these needs.

You have been recognized with state and national awards and served on many boards and commissions. What are you most proud of?

I was very active in the area of domestic violence, and I saw, going way back, that there weren't the services that there are now. I was involved with the Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and that group was involved in developing some of the services that we have but didn't exist before. I also was involved in gender-specific services for women at the state and national level. There are many things I've been pleased to work on.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Do you think your dreams have meaning?

“ Given that we exist in a metaphysical plane, they must have meaning. ”



Rebekah Pszczuk, Cold Spring

“ They must or they wouldn't be so closely related to everyday life. ”



Gavin Hecker, Beacon

“ Yes. I just studied dreams; I'm in grad school for mental health. ”



Britta Larsen, Cold Spring

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<https://desmondfishlibrary.org/careers/>

NEWS BRIEF

Dutchess Has Human Rights Vacancies

Seeking volunteers to serve on commission

The 14-member Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights seeks candidates to fill four vacancies beginning Oct. 1.

Applications for the three-year appointments are available at dutchessny.gov/humanrights. The deadline is March 31. The commission, led by an executive director employed by the county, meets monthly to “defend human rights, bridge differences and embrace diversity.”



54 YEARS OF SERVICE – Volunteer firefighter Pat Kelliher, who is retiring, was honored at the City Council meeting on Monday (March 18). He is shown with Mayor Lee Kyriacou and Chief Tom Lucchesi.

Beacon Professional Firefighters

each of the final two years of the agreement.

The agreement limits compensatory time for overtime hours to 340 hours as of Jan. 1 of this year, provides for lump-sum payments of \$3,500 for employees who regularly work on holidays and gives Sheriff Kevin McConville the discretion to assign patrol officers to the Department of Social Services building in Carmel.

The PBA agreed to withdraw an unspecified “improper practice” charge filed with the state Public Employment Relations Board, and the sheriff agreed to meet with the union — upon its request, within 90 days of ratification — to discuss changes to the department’s body-camera policy.



Garrison Nominated as Green Ribbon School

Recognized for environmental programs

The state Education Department last month nominated the Garrison School to the U.S. Department of Education for recognition as a Green Ribbon School.

“The Garrison School was our choice because of the impressive efforts to involve every student in environmental education,” said Betty Rosa, the state education commissioner, in a statement. The department said it was impressed that the school made sustainability a “fundamental principle” of its curriculum.

Among its initiatives, the district is transitioning to electric heat pumps and water heaters, utilizing bus route planning software for efficiency, holding physical education classes outdoors for much of the year and employing a full-time environmental education coordinator.

The U.S. Secretary of Education plans to announce its national honorees during the week of Earth Day (April 22).

Putnam, Deputies Agree to New Contract

Annual raises average 3 percent under pact

The Putnam County Legislature on March 12 approved a five-year agreement with the union representing Sheriff’s Office deputies, investigators and sergeants.

Members of the department’s Police Benevolent Association (PBA) will receive a 3.5 percent raise, retroactive to 2023, under the first year of the agreement, which covers 2023 through 2027 and was ratified on Feb. 27.

Subsequent salary increases will be 2.75 percent in 2024 and 2025, and 3 percent for

Beacon Reimbursed for Repairs

State sends \$100K for Veterans Building windows

State Sen. Rob Rolison, whose district includes the Highlands, said on March 15 that he had secured the release of a grant to reimburse Beacon for the \$100,000 it spent in 2019 to replace the windows and window frames in the Veterans Memorial Building.

The building, at 413 Main St., was constructed in 1923. It is home to local chapters of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, as well as Guardian Revival, a nonprofit focused on the mental health of veterans and first responders.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 7:30 PM

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR (2021, 2022)

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Tell us what you think

The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published. For our complete editorial policies, see highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Hamilton Fish

Thank you for covering the Desmond-Fish Public Library board meeting on March 9 ("Desmond-Fish Trustees Vote to Keep Name, March 15).

As a trustee who voted to retain the library's name, I was influenced by extensive research that confirmed that Hamilton Fish III was not a Nazi nor did he "sympathize" with them. He condemned Hitler for decades, calling him a "tyrant," a "dictator," a "bloody murderer" and a "gangster." On June 6, 1933, Fish said in Congress: "No nation and no people can remain silent at the cruel, brutal and systematic policy being pursued by the German government to turn the hands of progress back three centuries and force peaceful and law-abiding Jewish citizens back to the poverty and disease of the ghetto. The fight has just begun and must continue until human rights and Jewish rights prevail."

On Oct. 2, 1938, Fish did speak at a German Day rally that was billed as excluding Nazis but where the swastika was on display and the Nazi salute was given. He praised German Americans who fought in World War I but did not criticize Hitler's government. On Nov. 17, 1938, Fish joined with President Franklin D. Roosevelt in strongly condemning Kristallnacht and then proposed legislation to outlaw pro-Nazi groups such as the German-American Bund.

On June 1, 1939, Rep. Fish added his voice to those protesting the fate of the liner *St. Louis*, carrying more than 900 Jews who were denied entry to Cuba despite holding visas and about whose fate FDR remained silent. Fish traveled to Europe in August 1939 and met individually with the foreign ministers of Ireland, Britain, France and Germany with his own proposal for a peace plan and a plan for Jewish refugee resettlement in

Africa first developed by Bernard Baruch.

German foreign minister Joachim von Ribbentrop kept Fish waiting and then sent him on to a conference in Oslo in an "official German plane" — Fish's only trip in such a transport. Fish flew alone; Ribbentrop was at the same time secretly negotiating the non-aggression pact with Vyacheslav Molotov of the Soviet Union that would prove so horrific for Poland, Europe and the world.

Of great importance to me was Fish's lifelong support of civil rights for Black Americans, beginning in World War I. He introduced four anti-lynching bills in Congress and deplored FDR's inaction. In 1938, he worked with the NAACP to create more opportunities for Blacks in the military. An active colonel in the Army reserves for 25 years, he often trained with Black regiments, including in July 1941.

On Dec. 17, 1941, he spoke in Congress about the importance of allowing Black citizens to enlist in the armed forces, and Fish applied to serve again with Black troops but was turned down by Secretary of War Henry Stimson.

I was also influenced by learning of the existence of a damaging "fake news," five-year-long smear campaign designed to oust Fish from elected office and carried out by British secret agents who worked with the reporters revealing the franking story, columnists and members of FDR's administration. FDR and Fish had an early friendship that fractured in part as a result of FDR's recognition of the Soviet Union in 1933.

Neither Fish nor FDR could foresee the terrible destruction that would be tragically unleashed on the Jewish people and the entire world by the combined maniacal ambitions of Hitler and Stalin; an estimated 20 million people died in World War I while more than

60 million perished in World War II.

The Hamilton Fish III story is a complex one — he had many faults — unfolding in a complex historical period, and I recommend the library's extensive resource list at desmond-fishlibrary.org/a-house-divided, which includes primary sources for all the points made above. The library co-founded by Fish and his wife provides information and knowledge resources enabling people to reach their own conclusions and resist disinformation.

These are my views; I am not speaking for the board or the library.

Anita Prentice, *Garrison*

There was a 337 percent increase in reported antisemitic events in the two months after the Oct. 7 attack on Israel, according to the Anti-Defamation League, yet nearly every member of the library board who voted to retain the name mentioned the "murky" and "nuanced" past of Hamilton Fish III.

On March 9, the board decided that murkiness and nuance outweighed the opportunity to take affirmative action to say it has zero tolerance for any taint of Nazism. The contortions to justify that tainted history will be part of its defense of this decision to choose moral murkiness over moral clarity.

Kim Chirls, *Cold Spring*

I applaud the Desmond-Fish Library board, which did not succumb to cancel culture. The library is a place to educate one's self and to resist propaganda, not to erase the point of view of others. Maybe Rachel Maddow should examine U.S. military support for neo-Nazis in Ukraine and not the war-hesitant, peace-seeking Hamilton Fish III.

David North, *Garrison*

Cease-fire

Now that the Beacon City Council has decided to get into international politics ("Beacon Passes Cease-fire Resolution," March 8), how about a resolution condemning the Russian invasion, bombing and killing in Ukraine, and the indiscriminate murder of Ukrainian civilians?

Naomi Canaan, *Beacon*

How about the City Council pass a resolution to add sidewalks to Washington Avenue and Depuyster Avenue so people walking there don't get run over by drivers who think 50 mph to 60 mph is the speed limit? Start to focus on the residents of Beacon instead of this silliness with global issues that you can't control.

Charles Symon, *Beacon*

In your coverage of the St. Patrick's Day parade in Beacon (March 15), you forgot to mention the cease-fire protesters on the roof of [my restaurant] Ziatun.

Kamel Jamal, *via Instagram*

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Fjord Trail

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail designers are determined to resolve the issue of too many hikers along Route 9D near Breakneck Ridge by creating what will be the equivalent of New York City's Highline, with more amenities: visitor centers, restrooms, a wide trail along the railroad, night lighting and more parking lots ("Data Members Ask Fjord Trail to Consider Alternative Routes," March 15). It seems to me that in attempting to fix one traffic problem, they are bent on creating an even bigger one. "If you build it, they will come."

No one, it appears, has suggested the simplest and least expensive solution, which is to add more "No Parking" signs along 9D and move the excessive numbers of hikers to larger parks further north. This is a case of too many people in too small an area, but the HHFT designers are clinging to their amusement park idea without considering what the effects will be on the people and wildlife that live here.

Scenic Hudson used to be primarily focused on the preservation of wild areas along the Hudson, but now they busy themselves with creating parks to draw ever more visitors from far-flung places.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

Since 2021 parking along 9D had been strategically altered via no-parking signs, and restricted parking areas have been put in place from Little Stony Point up to

and a bit past Dutchess Manor. I know this because I hike the 9D trails frequently and I am still a bit miffed I cannot park at the Brook Trail trailhead.

I am focused on quality of life and how to manage the crowds. I have attended the multiple information events the HHFT has offered. I look at the HHFT website and read the information. Not for nothing, each and every single event, article and presentation of plans touts the two parking lots for visitors, both north of Cold Spring. This is not hidden or secret information. Love the trail, hate the trail, not understanding the plans is not the same as refusing to accept the plans. I want to work with the entire community toward realistic and constructive problem-solving. Blasting inaccurate information undermines that intention.

Irene Pieza, *Cold Spring*

Beacon buses

As someone who rides the Beacon Loop, I disagree with Steven Higashide's assessment that the "loop" part is a bad idea ("5 Questions," March 15). It's very useful to those of us who ride it regularly.

However, I'm not writing to dispute his work but to amplify the need for better bus service. I recently returned from a trip to my hometown of Spokane, Washington, where I could hardly believe my eyes — it has a new, state-of-the-art service, with clean, quiet, electric buses; low fares; an easy timetable; real-time maps at each station and onboard; bike racks inside the buses; and service to and from the airport. It was unbelievable. We could have nice things like that too if we weren't allocating \$25 million to "improve" Dutchess Stadium.

Yvonne Caruthers, *Beacon*

Fishkill Avenue

If Carvana goes through, any attempt to turn Fishkill Avenue into a more people-oriented corridor will just be putting lipstick on a pig ("Carvana Eyes Fishkill Avenue," March 15).

Hayley Richardson, *via Instagram*

We need a grocery store and a gym.

Wendy Marzovilla, *via Facebook*

Trader Joe's! Trader Joe's!

Marjorie Tarter, *via Facebook*

Serino Gives First State of the County**Restructuring, EMS support among proposals**

By Leonard Sparks

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino delivered her first State of the County address on March 15 at Red Hook High School.

"The state of Dutchess County is strong," she said. "We are truly fortunate to live and work in this vibrant and thriving community, but we must commit ourselves to always striving to do more."

Serino, who took office in January, is a Hyde Park resident and former state senator whose district included the Highlands. Here are some of the initiatives that she proposed:

- Undo a 2016 merger of the Health and Mental Hygiene departments that created the Department of Behavioral & Community Health. The commissioner, Livia Santiago-Rosado, would head public health and Jean-Marie Niebuhr, a deputy commissioner, would oversee mental health. "We're giving both mental health and public health their own seat at the table," said Serino.

- Contract with a private ambulance service to cover remote areas, strengthen regional collaboration among providers and team with Dutchess Community College to attract people to first-responder medical jobs. Serino also proposed re-establishing a critical incident team to help first responders who experience traumatic events. She said that it takes ambulances in Dutchess more than nine minutes to respond to nearly 50 percent of calls involving life-threatening emergencies, far more than the industry standard of 10 percent. In 11 percent of priority calls, ambulances take more than 15 minutes to respond.

"The average person will call 911 four times in their lifetime, with an expectation that an ambulance will arrive to help them through their emergency," said Serino. "But the reality is, that's not always the case, especially in our rural communities."

- Dedicate hotel-tax revenue from short-term rentals such as those made through



County Executive Sue Serino

Airbnb to the Housing Trust Fund, which was launched by the county with an investment of \$12.3 million to spur affordable housing development. (An 18-unit development at Main and Cross streets in Beacon received \$1.6 million from the fund.) Dutchess has asked the state for the OK to raise its room tax from 4 percent to 5 percent.

- Partner with Dutchess Outreach and the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region to launch a Food Security Council and expand access to locally grown fruits and vegetables at the county's 65 pantries.

- Create a Community Engagement Office that would hold mobile office hours around the county, host community events and liaison with county employees.

- Partner with unions and Dutchess Community College to recruit students for jobs in the building trades and fields like car maintenance, mechatronics and aviation maintenance. (A skilled trades fair for students is scheduled for April 18 at Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls.) "I didn't take the traditional path, which is why I think it is so important to show students there is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to determining your future," said Serino.

- Launch a public awareness campaign to support residents and visitors with physical disabilities and encourage retailers to make their small businesses more accessible.

Holy Week at The Church of the Open Door

First Presbyterian
Church of Philipstown

Rev. Brian Merritt, Interim Pastor

Sunday, March 24, 10:30 AM
PALM SUNDAY

The Easter Pageant is joyously performed by all the children, and we celebrate the story of Palm Sunday.

Thursday, March 28, 6:30 PM
Middle Eastern Themed Supper and
Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

Join us as we reflect on Jesus' last supper and the crucifixions that persist today.

Sunday, March 31, 10:30 AM
EASTER CELEBRATION

Join us for the highlight of the Church year! ... featuring The Chancel Choir, guest instrumentalists, and Tom McCoy at the piano. The service is followed by the Great Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn. All are welcome!

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in the churchyard following
the 10:00am service on March 31st



Cold Spring Eyes 3% Tax Increase

Hearing on 2024-25 budget set for April 10

By Michael Turton

At its Wednesday (March 20) meeting, the Cold Spring Village Board contin-

ued discussing the 2024-25 budget, which includes anticipated general fund spending of \$3 million and may require a property-tax increase of just under 3 percent.

Most services, including police, fire and road maintenance, are paid for from the general fund. The 2023-24 budget, in which

projected spending was about 10 percent higher, at \$3.3 million, included a tax increase of 2 percent.

The revenue anticipated for fiscal 2024-25, which begins June 1, includes \$1.9 million in property taxes and \$302,000 from weekend parking meters and residential permits that go into effect April 1. The budget also anticipates \$31,000 from a hotel room tax that includes short-term

rentals and \$41,000 from permits such as dock fees charged to Seastreak.

The levy raised through property taxes is projected to increase by 3.93 percent, providing \$72,500 in additional revenue. The property tax rate would increase by 2.99 percent per \$1,000 in assessed value.

The board has scheduled a public hearing for April 10 and is expected to adopt the budget on April 24.

State Budget (from Page 1)

Funding from Foundation Aid and other state sources last year accounted for 38 percent of Beacon's \$81.4 million budget and 9 percent of Garrison's \$12.6 million spending plan. If the governor's proposal sticks, the Beacon district said it would have to consider cuts to mental health support, its pre-K program and extracurricular clubs.

"The proposed cuts, followed by weeks of political negotiation, leave districts like ours scrambling to plan around worst cases, with many assurances — but no guarantees — that funding will be restored," the Beacon school board wrote in a letter to Hochul.

By contrast, the Senate and Assembly budgets would increase Foundation Aid by at least 3 percent; boost spending for universal pre-K (in the Senate budget, by \$150 million; in the Assembly, by \$125 million), fund free school meals for all students and appropriate \$1 million to study the formula used to distribute Foundation Aid.

As negotiators for Hochul, the Senate and Assembly try to agree on a final budget before the start of the fiscal year on April 1, they also will wrangle over funding for bridge, road and water infrastructure projects; tuition assistance; proposals to expand child tax credits; and other changes to the governor's plan. Among their differences:

■ **Clean water:** The Senate and Assembly proposals restore \$250 million in cuts to the Clean Water Infrastructure Act, increasing funding to \$500 million.

■ **Child care support:** Both chambers provide \$220 million to supplement the wages of child care provider employees, bringing funding to \$500 million.

■ **Child tax credits:** The Assembly expands eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit for residents with children who earn from \$49,084 to \$56,067 annually for single filers and \$66,819 to \$78,976 for joint filers with three or more children. The Senate includes language replacing the Empire State Tax Credit with a

Working Families Tax Credit of \$550 per child to single filers earning under \$75,000 annually and married joint filers under \$130,000. The credit would decline by \$20 for each \$1,000 of income over those levels.

■ **Local aid:** The Senate adds \$210 million and the Assembly \$100 million in funding for Aid and Incentives to Municipalities, which is unrestricted funding for cities, towns and villages. Hochul proposed \$715 million.

■ **Tuition:** Both chambers expand eligibility for the Tuition Assistance Program by raising the maximum annual income cap from \$80,000 to \$125,000, and raising the minimum award from \$500 to \$1,000. The changes amount to \$138 million in the Senate budget and \$118.3 million in the Assembly.

■ **Roads and bridges:** The Senate and Assembly plans reverse a \$60 million cut to the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program, which funds local road and bridge projects. The Senate goes further, adding \$100 million, and the Assembly increases by

\$60 million funding for the PAVE-NY road resurfacing program.

■ **Metro-North:** The Assembly appropriates \$50 million to establish a discount program for low-income riders on Metro-North and the Long Island Rail Road. The Senate includes \$20 million for resiliency projects on the Hudson Line and includes the FARES Act, which calls for peak-fare discounts to seniors and disabled riders on MTA commuter trains.

■ **Long-term care:** The Senate adds \$11.3 million for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, a system of advocates for people living in adult-care facilities, including nursing homes and assisted living programs. The Assembly restored \$1.3 million in funding. Judy Farrell, a Philipstown Town Board member, is the ombudsman coordinator for Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties.

Jeff Simms and Joey Asher contributed reporting.

AROUND THE REGION

Poughkeepsie: Dutchess Opens New Jail

Dutchess County moved prisoners from the jail on March 13 to its newly opened Justice & Transition Center.

"This new facility enhances the safety and dignity of both those who are incarcerated and our correctional team who work here," Sheriff Kirk Imperati said Tuesday (March 19) in a statement.

The 161,987-square-foot facility includes an infirmary, classrooms and industrial kitchen and laundry. The design allows for more natural light than the former jail, Imperati said, and has better climate control.

The county downsized the project in 2019 from 569 to 328 beds, partly in response to bail-reform laws that changed the projections for how many low-level offenders would be incarcerated before their court dates. The size also dropped from 300,000 to 162,000 square feet.

Imperati told Spectrum News 1 that the jail typically has about 230 inmates; the capacity of the former jail was 250. The construction budget was \$128 million but came in under that, he said.

Stewart Airport: JetBlue Will Not Return

JetBlue told CBS News this week that it has no plans to return to New York Stewart International Airport. The airline

suspended service in 2020, saying it was not profitable.

At the same time, JetBlue is leaving Kansas City, Missouri, and cutting nine routes out of Los Angeles and five routes linked to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It is also leaving Bogotá, Colombia; Quito, Ecuador; and Lima, Peru, and cutting routes from Puerto Rico to Tampa, JFK to Detroit and Orlando to Salt Lake City.

Woodstock: Town Raises STR Fees by 350%

Woodstock raised the annual fee it charges the owners of short-term rental properties, such as those booked through Airbnb, by 350 percent, prompting an angry response from residents at the Tuesday (March 19) meeting of the Town Board.

According to *The Daily Freeman*, Woodstock charged an annual permit fee of \$100 for the first bedroom and \$25 for each additional before the Town Board voted on Jan. 9 to raise the fee to \$450 for the first bedroom and \$50 for each additional.

On Tuesday, the board voted 3-2 to reject a proposal to rescind the increase and set a flat fee of \$75 annually. Supervisor Bill McKenna said the town needs the money for STR enforcement and visitor-related costs, such as trash collection and police.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 24 – Palm Sunday

8:00 am - Eucharist
10:00 am - Eucharist, Procession of Palms

March 25 – Stations of the Cross

8:00 pm - Zoom

March 28 – Maundy Thursday

6:00 pm - Simple Potluck Supper, Parish House
7:00 pm - Eucharist followed by Night Watch

March 29 – Good Friday

12 noon - Ecumenical Liturgy,
St. Mary's in the Highlands, Cold Spring

March 29 – Good Friday

4:00 pm - Children's Service

March 31 – Easter Sunday

7:00 am - spoken Sunrise Service
with Eucharist followed by breakfast
10:00 am - Festival Eucharist followed by
an Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard

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A new route being studied would extend from the train station along the west side of the tracks.



Routing the trail along the east side of the tracks would require blasting through a rocky outcropping below a neighborhood.

Photos by B. Cronin

Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

it's municipal officials requesting it, they'll look at it differently," she said.

Even if Metro-North reconsidered its 25-foot setback, there are obstacles to mapping the trail on the east side of the tracks, she said. For one, it would probably displace the Depot Restaurant's outdoor patio and involve blasting through a rocky outcrop that could damage the houses located there. "Not good," Kacala said.

If the trail ran along the west side, it would pass through less private property and heavy rock blasting wouldn't be needed, she said. It would serve as an extension of the path from the train station, which could be repaired and the fencing replaced. HHFT believes those prospective improvements might make Metro-North more amenable to waiving the setback requirements in certain spots, she said.

It's not clear why the alternative route on the east side of the tracks, which was suggested by a Cold Spring resident, wasn't part of the initial analysis done by SLR Consulting, although Kacala said private property close to the tracks may have been a deterrent. Regardless, the route is now undergoing the same analysis that the others went through. "These things don't move very quickly, but we've started the ball rolling," Kacala said.

At the March 11 meeting, SLR's Michael Doherty explained how alternative routes are judged, such as maintaining a minimum 10-foot width (although 12 to 14 feet is preferred) and accounting for projected sea-level rise because of global warming.

He said each route was scored in 10 cate-



gories such as traffic and safety, congestion management, environmental stewardship, regional support and diversity of users. The route through Dockside had the highest score, with 44 of 50 points.

The route along the east side of the tracks

scored 27. A route up Main Street scored 24 in part because it would involve removing trees and parking spaces. If the trail went along the eastern side of Route 9D, it would have to ascend around Breakneck Ridge, because the state Department of Transportation says the

Fjord Trail in Beacon

When Chris White, Beacon's city administrator, heard that the Fjord Trail was considering a maintenance facility at the University Settlement Camp — which would involve cutting down trees — he suggested another possibility: the city transfer station, which would save trees and allow HHFT to drive mowers and other equipment directly onto the trail, which would pass nearby.

White said that survey work is underway and he hopes to bring a proposal to the City Council this year.

Amy Kacala, executive director of HHFT, said locating a maintenance facility at the transfer station could provide an opportunity to improve the entrance to Dennings Point. "People are already using that spot as the backdoor entrance, but it's not the most attractive backdoor," she said. "Maybe we could help spruce it up."

A map shows various routes for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail through Cold Spring. HHFT prefers the route in white, which goes from the train station through Dockside Park.

trail cannot go through the tunnel.

That route scored a 20. The lowest score (18) went to placing the trail along Route 9D from Breakneck to Beacon, mostly because of private property lines and, in Doherty's words, "low user safety."

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PAID NOTICE



Thank you to everyone who attended HHFT's public info session "Alternative Route Analysis & Shoreline Concept Design" on March 11.

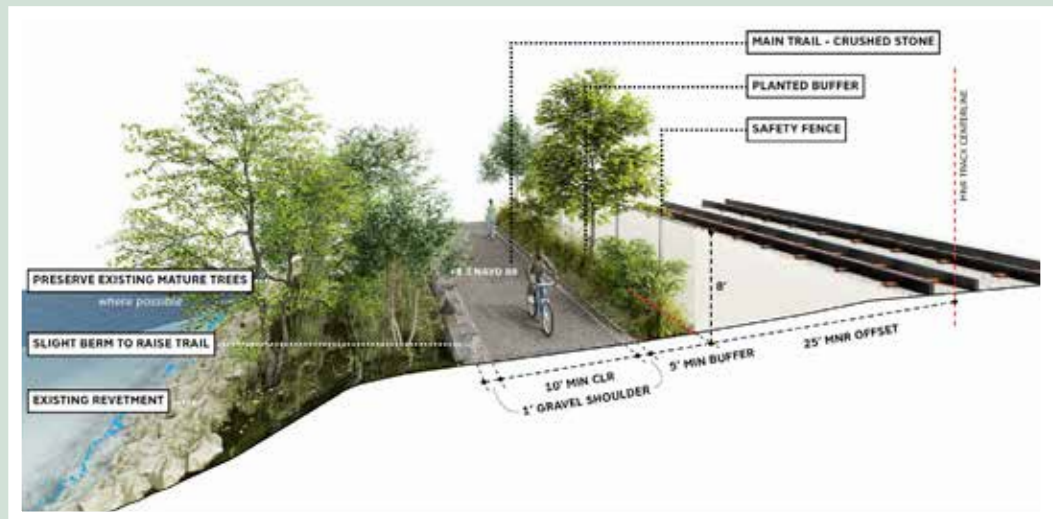
The video recording of the session is available here 



A few takeaways:

47% of the Shoreline Trail is planned to be an on-grade, crushed stone path.

Only 5% of the pilings used for the planned on-structure section of the Shoreline Trail south of Little Stony Point will be consistently in the river. The Shoreline trail is designed to be above projected sea-level rise.



Benches, overlooks, and pull-offs are being included in the design, as both an accessibility feature and to enhance the user experience.

Changes in fencing materials to signal the transitions to these areas are also being explored. Participant feedback indicated that a majority of attendees would prefer a wood privacy screen near pull-offs.

The trail is designed to improve habitat and the rail corridor's resilience to climate change.

The existing shoreline in this area is mostly fill and is not the natural shoreline. Work will include repair of areas along the railroad tracks that are currently eroding, removal of invasive species, and the addition of native plants and submerged aquatic vegetation shelving to support a healthy river ecosystem. Ample wildlife crossings are included in the design to ensure that animals can get to the river.



Based on community feedback, HHFT is exploring a new potential route from the Cold Spring Metro-North Railroad (MNR) station that would avoid trail bound pedestrian traffic along Village streets entirely, if setback requirements can be reduced in this location.

Registration for the next public information session is open now!
Visitation Projection & Visitor Management Strategy
April 3, 2024, 6-8 PM @ Dutchess Manor

Scan the QR code or register at <https://qrco.de/4-3-24> 



Three-Alarm Fire at Colonial Springs in Beacon

Residents displaced after condo blaze

Thirty residents were displaced from the Colonial Springs condominium complex in Beacon after a three-alarm fire on Tuesday afternoon (March 19). The Beacon Fire Department said it

responded after being alerted to the blaze by Newburgh firefighters, who spotted the billowing smoke from their firehouse.

When Beacon firefighters arrived three minutes later, they found smoke coming from the roof of Building 3, a two-story, multi-family building. The Village of Fish-kill and Castle Point fire departments responded, as well, and a second alarm

brought a ladder truck from Newburgh.

A fast-moving fire was found in the attic space above four condominiums, the Beacon department said. After evacuating the building, firefighters began an aggressive attack, using three hose lines.

A third alarm brought the Glenham and Rombout departments to the scene, along with a Firefighter Assist Search Team from

Coldenham in Orange County.

The American Red Cross and Salvation Army provided emergency housing for displaced residents.

The cause of the fire is being investigated by the Beacon Police Department and the Dutchess County Fire Investigation Division. Dutchess County Car 13 and Car 17, Beacon Medic 1, the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Beacon Water and Building departments all provided assistance.

Beacon Church *(from Page 1)*

At the heart of the issue is a 1987 agreement establishing shared access to the gravel lot for the church and the volunteer Lewis Tompkins Hose Co., which was in the process of acquiring the property from the city then. Three decades later, in 2020, the city purchased the lot from the fire company and opened it for public parking, drawing the ire of the church.

While the parties disagreed about access, they coexisted until last summer, when the city fenced off the lot to store construction equipment and building materials as demolition began on the fire station. St. Andrew & St. Luke filed a lawsuit June 26, saying its parishioners had been parking in the lot for more than 30 years. The suit asked Judge Thomas Davis to force the city to remove the fence and restore the lot to its "original and intended condition."

The city countered, saying the 1987

agreement was invalid and that it could not halt construction on the \$14.7 million fire station, which is expected to be completed this fall. Instead, the city leased adjacent land to create a temporary, 22-space lot for churchgoers, along with on-street spaces on South Avenue and in the City Hall lot. Signs indicate that both are reserved on Sunday mornings.

In July, Davis ordered St. Andrew & St. Luke to accept the temporary accommodations.

In a memorandum church attorneys filed in support of the request for summary judgment, they argued that the 1987 agreement "speaks of a parking lot shared by two private entities — the church and an independent, volunteer firefighter company," and declares that both "shall have equal rights" to use the lot.

The church says that the agreement never mentions a "public use" parking lot, and when the city purchased the lot from the

fire company, "it did so with all of the title's duly recorded encumbrances, including the 1987 agreement." In his request, attorney David Chen asked Davis to issue a judgment affirming the parties' respective rights to the lot, "and permanently enjoin the city from interfering with the church's rights."

Referring to a 2006 lawsuit in which the church sued the Tompkins Hose Co. over access to the same lot, and another disagreement in 2017, Chen wrote that "this is the third time the church has been prevented from using the parking lot in violation of the agreement, and it must be the last."

In previous filings, Beacon city attorneys have disputed St. Andrew & St. Luke's rights under the 1987 agreement. Last year, city attorney Robert Zitt wrote that the church's demand to restore the lot to its original condition while construction is ongoing was "made against all equitable conscience" and, if granted, "would prove

disastrous for the City of Beacon."

Zitt also wrote that the 1987 agreement "is just that, an agreement to agree." He said that in 1987, the church and fire company were both represented by lawyers and "could have provided for an easement" delineating both parties' rights.

Zitt has argued that the church's allegation of "irreparable harm" caused by the city is "absolutely preposterous." Because the city has provided alternative parking and other concessions, the church has made "conclusory allegations" without evidence, he wrote.

If the city opposes the church's request, St. Andrew & St. Luke can submit a reply. From there, Davis would make a decision. If he grants the church's request, he will decide the case. If he does not, the sides would complete discovery and Beacon could file its own motion for summary judgment (the church cannot do that again) or allow the case to proceed to trial.

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AROUND TOWN



▲ **SLIME TIME** – The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison hosted a family science afternoon on Tuesday (March 19) in which children were invited to create edible slime.

Photo by Ross Corsair



▲ **ORGAN RECITAL** – Adam Cobb, an organist at Christ Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, performed a concert on March 17 at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Garrison, including works by Bach and Brahms and Irish-themed pieces for St. Patrick's Day, such as Hans Andre Stamm's *Toccata Gaelica*.

Photo by Ross Corsair

◀ **FIRST SIGN OF SPRING** – Elsa Hardman, Silvia Hardman and Sachi Starbuck enjoy ice cream cones on March 15 outside *The Current* office on Main Street in Cold Spring.

Photo by Michael Turton

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A student performs at a workshop led by Jessica Giannone (background). Photo by Ross Corsair



Heidi Hackney is a teaching artist for the festival.

Photos provided

The Calendar

Teaching with Shakespeare

HVSF brings workshops to school, and begins final tour

By Alison Rooney

The plays under the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival tent receive the lion's share of attention, but the Garrison-based nonprofit has, for 20 years, also presented programs designed to introduce the Bard to students, including by demystifying his 17th-century language.

Each spring, HVSF actors hit the road and head to schools to present a streamlined version of a Shakespeare play, along with workshops.

This year, the tour will make a final run to middle and high schools in the region, performing a 90-minute version of *Much Ado About Nothing* with six actors. Its visit to Haldane is scheduled for April 17 and the Garrison School is on April 19. HVSF also works with the Poughkeepsie, Arlington, Lakeland and Peekskill districts.

There will be no traveling show in the spring of 2025, says Sean McNall, HVSF's associate artistic director and director of education. Instead, in the fall, HVSF will shift performances for students to its new home at the former Garrison Golf Course.

At the Garrison School, playwright Serena Norr runs an afterschool program

called *Let's Make a Play*, in which students write their own 10-minute scripts. The class includes readings, acting, improv, art and costume design and ends with a staged reading of the student plays. An eight-week session ended earlier this month, and a 10-week session begins soon. The cost is \$105. Register at gufspta.memberhub.com.

Norr is also working with sixth graders on Reader's Theater, a language arts and social studies course in which students share literature, read aloud, write scripts, perform and collaborate. At Haldane, she leads one-day workshops for sixth graders to focus on character development, establishing tone and setting, and creating structure.

Norr will also oversee HVSF's participation in the annual Arts Alive program at Haldane on April 26, leading 45-minute playwriting workshops for six to 10 fifth graders at a time.

In addition, HVSF underwrites an award for achievement in theater presented annually to seniors at Haldane High School.



Lennon Xin Wen Hu, who played Longaville in *Love's Labor's Lost* under the tent, will portray Claudio in the *Much Ado* school tour. Photo by T. Charles Erickson/HVSF



Garrison School students work on their plays during an afterschool program.

HVSF prepares props for an education workshop.



Mario Schifano, March 23

VISUAL ARTS**SAT 23
Mario Schifano**

PHILIPSTOWN
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art

See works from the artist's *Germinal* series, created between 1960 and 1970. On view through Aug. 9. The last entry is at 4 p.m. *Cost: Free on SAT 23 and to Philipstown residents, otherwise \$20 (\$10 seniors, students, disabled, \$5 children)*

**SAT 23
SITE Mentor**

GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

The high school mentorship program's exhibit theme is The Year Was 1964. Through April 7.

**THURS 28
Bus Shelter Art**

BEACON
7 p.m. Beahive | 6 Eliza St.
845-418-3731 | bit.ly/4c6d9kq

BeaconArts will host this reception for Allysa Follansbee, Catherine Welshman, David Rich, Piet Mura and Barbara Smith Gioia, whose art will be installed on bus shelters this year. A membership meeting follows.

**SUN 31
In Light of Water,
Birds Take Flight**

BEACON
2 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

As part of Dia's *Poetry & series*, Jeffrey Yang will create a participatory orchestra with sound artist and composer Susie Ibarra. Register online. Museum admission is free today for Hudson Valley residents upon request; see bit.ly/dia-free-day. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students and disabled visitors, \$5 ages 5 to 11, free for Beacon and Newburgh residents)*

KIDS & FAMILY**SAT 23
Play Sets**

BEACON
10:30 a.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

Families with children ages 5 and older are invited to explore the galleries; in this session, Dia educators will focus on the work of Rita McBride. On SAT 30 the focus is Robert Irwin. *Free*

**SAT 23
Meet Peat**

COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Peat, a dog trained to sniff out invasive species for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, will visit the library.

**SAT 23
Easter Egg Hunt**

COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Tots Park
4 High St. | 845-265-3191

The Knights of Columbus will host their annual hunt for children ages 8 and younger. Bring baskets and a donation for the Philipstown Food Pantry. The rain date is SAT 30.

**SAT 23
Easter Egg Hunt**

COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Faith Church | 245 Main St.
Children ages 12 and younger are invited to participate, and there will also be a petting zoo. The rain date is SAT 30.

**SAT 23
Water Safety Workshop**

COLD SPRING
2 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Karen Madsen will explain to children ages 3 to 8 how to stay safe around the water. Registration required.

**SAT 23
Teen Night**

PHILIPSTOWN
7 – 10 p.m. Rec Center | 107 Glenclyffe
philipstownny.myrec.com

Activities will include an *Among Us* challenge, game show challenge, indoor gaga and dodgeball. Philipstown residents only. *Cost: \$10*

**SUN 24
Flying Bird Puppet
Workshop**

GARRISON
1 – 4 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Bring cereal boxes to design and decorate a bird puppet. Children ages 12 and younger are welcome with an adult, and older kids can be dropped off. *Cost: \$75*

**THURS 28
Teen Scavenger Hunt**

COLD SPRING
2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades 6 and higher are invited to search for items hidden inside and outside the library. Registration required.

**THURS 28
Barbie: The Movie**

BEACON
3 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Wear an outfit inspired by the film and watch with other fans.

CIVIC**SAT 23
Early Voting**

PHILIPSTOWN
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road | putnamboe.com

Philipstown voters registered with a party can vote ahead of the April 2 presidential primary. Daily through March 30.

**SAT 23
Early Voting**

FISHKILL
9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Town Hall | 807 Route 52
elections.dutchessny.gov

Beacon voters registered with a party can vote ahead of the April 2 presidential primary. Daily through March 30.

**MON 25
City Council**

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

**MON 25
School Board**

BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaonk12.org

**WED 27
Village Board**

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

**EASTER SERVICES****FRI 29
Good Friday
Ecumenical Service**

COLD SPRING
Noon. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St.
stmaryscoldspring.org

**SUN 31
St. John the Evangelist**

BEACON
7 & 10:30 a.m. & Noon
35 Willow St. | stjochim-stjohn.org
The noon service will be in Spanish.

Our Lady of Loretto

COLD SPRING
8:30 a.m. & Noon. 24 Fair St.
ladyofloretto.org

St. Joachim's

BEACON
9 a.m. 51 Leonard St.
stjoachim-stjohn.org

United Methodist

COLD SPRING
9 a.m. 216 Main St.
facebook.com/csshmc

First Presbyterian

BEACON
10 a.m. 50 Liberty St.
beaconpresbychurch.org

**St. Andrew &
St. Luke Episcopal**

BEACON
10 a.m. 15 South Ave.
beacon-episcopal.org

St. Mary's Episcopal

COLD SPRING
10 a.m. 1 Chestnut St.
stmaryscoldspring.org

Faith Church

COLD SPRING
10 a.m. 245 Main St.
faithchurch.cc/coldspring

St. Philip's Episcopal

GARRISON
10 a.m. 1101 Route 9D
stphiliphighlands.org
Followed by Easter egg hunt

Springfield Baptist

BEACON
10 a.m. 8 Mattie Cooper Square
facebook.com/springfieldbaptistc

Star of Bethlehem

FISHKILL
10 a.m. 37 Lamplight St.
starchurchny.org
This will be a joint service with Faith Temple.

Tabernacle of Christ

BEACON
10 a.m. 483 Main St.
tabernacleofchristchurch.com

Salem Tabernacle

BEACON
10 a.m. 7 Delavan Ave.
salemstabernacle.com

St. Joseph's Chapel

GARRISON
10:15 a.m. 74 Upper Station Road
ladyofloretto.org

First Presbyterian

COLD SPRING
10:30 a.m. 10 Academy St.
presbychurchcoldspring.org

United Methodist

BEACON
10:30 a.m. 60 Union St.
beaconmethodist.org

**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.



LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (March 1874)

After the *Matteawan Enterprise* reported that eggs were selling for 20 cents per dozen [about \$5.44 today] and butter for 32 cents per pound [\$8.70], the editor of *The Cold Spring Recorder* expressed skepticism, noting that in Philipstown eggs were 40 cents per dozen and butter was 52 cents per pound.

Scarlet fever was raging in Matteawan; even Dr. Stack's children were sick.

Alexander Cauldwell of Newburgh built a boiler for the Seamless Clothing Manufacturing Co. in Matteawan that was 60 feet long and had 80 tubes.

William Tracy, a Poughkeepsie mailman, found himself stuck at the Fishkill Landing station after the last train. It took him nearly



LOST BEACON — Mary Fris shared this painting on Facebook by the late Mary Fitzwilliam that is owned by her son, John Fitzwilliam, a clockmaker in New Hampshire. It shows a building owned by John Durkin at East Main and Leonard streets that was torn down in the late 1950s. The building on the right is the former fire station.

three hours to walk the 16 miles home.

John Ireland of Matteawan, while drunk, fell from a passenger train traveling at 30 mph through Cold Spring but escaped injury.

James Philips of Fishkill was arrested for allegedly poisoning his wife but released for lack of evidence.

Of 19 soldiers tried before the Court Martial at Fishkill Landing, with Maj. George Dennis presiding, 12 were found guilty and fined \$2 to \$10 each [\$55 to \$275].

The trestle work that stretched from Dutchess Junction to Dennings Point cost \$100,000 [\$2.7 million] to install but would be removed once the ferry dock was completed on the north side of the point.

Three men competed to see who could eat the most oranges in one sitting; the winner ate 24 and the runner-up, 23.

According to *The Fishkill Standard*, a woman who got off a northbound train on a Monday morning at Dutchess Junction realized she was not in Poughkeepsie and grabbed the handrail of the stairs to return to the now-moving train. George Davids, a reporter for the *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, grabbed her hand, put his arm around her waist and lifted her onto the train, probably saving her life. When the conductor came for tickets, the woman mistook him for Davids and rebuked him for "putting your arm around a lone woman's waist," which caused nearby passengers who had witnessed the rescue to break out in laughter.

125 Years Ago (March 1899)

Samuel Weeks sued Principal Gordon Miller of the Matteawan Union School, claiming that Miller had whipped his

12-year-old son, George, so severely that he required medical attention. According to one account, the boy had refused to stop playing marbles near the school.

The Archdeaconry of Dutchess endorsed a proposal to separate the parishes of St. Andrew's and St. Luke's.

Anna Winters, 15, of Fishkill Landing, married grocer Samuel Allison.

Dr. I.P. Stanbrough promoted his dentistry practice in Matteawan as being "practical, scientific and reliable."

When an attendant at the state asylum at Matteawan attempted to break up a fight, the two "lunatics" broke his arm.

100 Years Ago (March 1924)

Dr. D. Mandell, a chiropractor who specialized in "chronic and nervous ailments," announced he would close his New York City office and expand the hours at his Beacon office at 472 Main St. from three to five days a week.

A guard at the Matteawan State Asylum for the Criminally Insane was sentenced to four months in prison for beating an elderly prisoner with his fist and nightstick. According to testimony, the inmate provoked the attack by reading one of the guard's newspapers without permission.

John Valis, a laborer on the construction of the Meltingah reservoir dam, was awarded \$4,100 [\$74,000] in workers' compensation after his right leg was crushed in a concrete mixer. Valis, who spoke little English, asked for a lump sum so he could return to Italy, where he said it would be cheaper to live.

The Appalachian Mountain Club led a 10-mile hike from Storm King over Breakneck to Lake Surprise, then to the summit of South Beacon, descending by Devil's Ladder to Beacon.

Raymond Kieb, superintendent of the Matteawan asylum, was one of two doctors who visited Sing Sing to conduct mental health examinations on 10 of the 19 convicted killers on death row. The physicians were sent by Gov. Al Smith to preclude any last-minute claims of insanity.

William Pearse, the principal of Beacon High School, suspended all sports until an investigation could be completed on a fight between the Poughkeepsie and Beacon boys' basketball teams. By one report, a Beacon player threw a punch, which prompted the taxi drivers who had brought the squad to Poughkeepsie to rush onto the

court, followed by other spectators.

Beacon officials began a campaign to improve mail service from New York City, noting that a letter posted to Poughkeepsie or Albany at 7 a.m. was not advanced until the departure of the 1:54 p.m. mail train. Another problem, they said, was that northbound mail trains did not have sorting clerks aboard.

Guards at the county jail assumed a woman visiting Ernest White, a Beacon man accused of abandoning his children, was his wife. In fact, she was Lillie Milensky, who had been named by Mrs. White in her divorce filings. A judge put an end to the visits. "We will at least stop the courtship of divorced people and the co-respondents while they are in jail," he said.

Petitions circulated to charter a Beacon chapter of the Benevolent and Protected Order of Elks.

Construction was underway for a brickyard north of Beacon that would daily manufacture 150,000 stiff-mud, pressed bricks with smooth surfaces for "fine" construction.

Wappingers Falls canceled its ongoing boys' basketball series with Beacon following a game that was repeatedly stopped by officials because of fights and arguments. Wappingers star Charley Leroy said he received 19 scratches and had his jersey torn.

75 Years Ago (March 1949)

The American Legion post said it was ready to give Dutchess County 4 acres of land it owned in the Town of Fishkill, including a pond, for a public park.

The Texaco Oilers from Beacon defeated Schatz, 34-32, in Poughkeepsie to clinch the Dutchess Industrial Basketball League title with a 12-2 record.

Sponsored by the Men's Club of the First Presbyterian Church, the Blackface Minstrel of 1949, with a cast of 60, performed two shows at the Roosevelt Theatre.

After pleading guilty to passing a bad check for \$70 [\$900] at a Poughkeepsie clothing store, a New York City man was remanded to Beacon to answer a charge of passing a bad check for \$15 [\$200] at the Whitestone Hotel.

The state Education Department ordered the Beacon school district to reinstate William Hamm as director of physical education. It ruled that while the school board had eliminated Hamm's title and reduced his annual salary by \$750 [\$10,000], he was still doing the same job.

The state suspended the liquor license of the Beacon Elks for 10 days after an inspector discovered slot machines in its clubhouse.

Beacon's three fire companies agreed to a request by the mayor that only one leave the city at a time for parades or conventions.

Rabbi Irwin Isaacson of Beacon spoke on "the place of the Jew in American life" at a forum on racial tensions hosted by Trinity Methodist Church in Poughkeepsie.

50 Years Ago (March 1974)

After scoring a school-record 41 points against Roosevelt, Rodney Paulin had 26 in the boys' basketball team's 75-72 victory over Kennedy in the first round of the

(Continued on Page 15)

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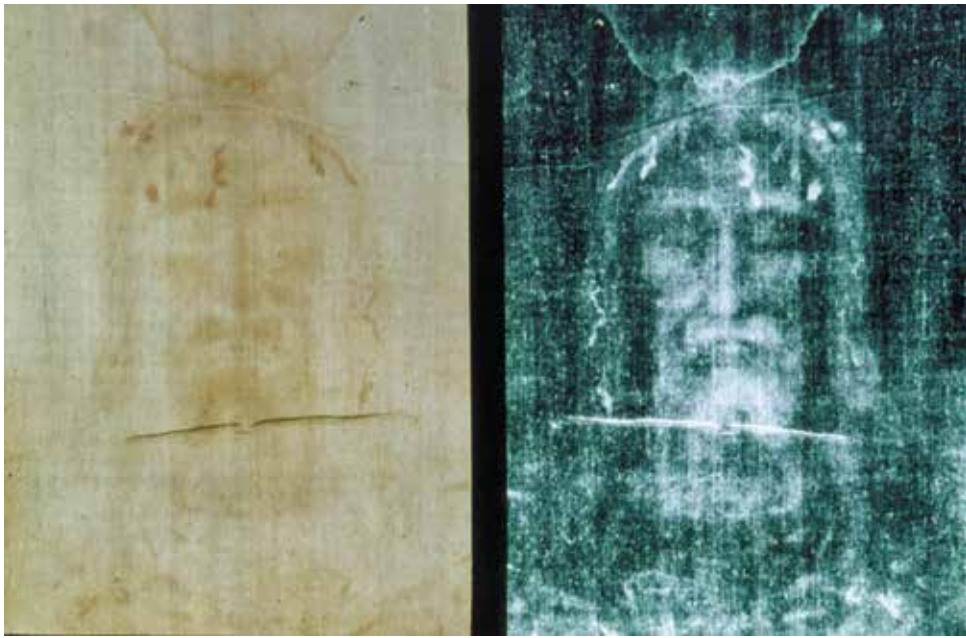
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Pastor Kenneth Stevenson of Beacon was considered an expert on the Shroud of Turin.

(Continued from Page 14)

Section I, Class B tournament. In the second round, George Hughes scored a career-high 32 points in a 73-59 win over Irvington. In the title game, Paulin scored 32, including making one of two free throws with no time left to force overtime, but Beacon fell to Peekskill, 80-77. [Paulin and center Joe Simmons were inducted last year into the Beacon High School Athletic Hall of Fame; Hughes was inducted in 1998.]

Fifty volunteers spent a Saturday morning removing counters from the Fishman building at 313 Main St. to make room for the Howland Public Library. The lumber was delivered to the Sloop Restoration, which planned to build a dock.

In response to a resident who suggested that the City Council survey voters for their thoughts on a tax issue, Mayor Robert Cahill said: "I'm not interested in a public opinion poll. I will do what I think is best for the majority of the people, not what the majority of people want. They're two different things."

The managers of the Chemprene rubber plant and Beacon Piece Dyeing and Finishing Co. said they might be forced to close after the city's largest gas station, Gallagher Shell, shut off its pumps. The station owner was protesting his allocation from the state Fuel and Energy Office, which was rationing gas because of a national shortage. The managers said the "pump out" could prevent employees from getting to work.

Two consultants hired to create a master plan for the city told the Planning Board that Beacon had a potential for 25,900 residents because only 50 of its 1,430 acres were being used for high-density residential developments. [Beacon's population was about 13,000.]

A Beacon man who was accused of being drunk when he killed a 22-year-old Army officer in a crash on Route 9D was sentenced to five years of probation.

A traffic and safety committee recommended to the City Council that, because of congestion, parking be eliminated on the south side of Main Street between Tioronda and Fishkill, and the west side of North Elm between Church and Oak.

The Planning Board approved a site plan for Highview Apartments, a Conklin Street development that would include 239 condos

and 97 townhouses on the site of the former Matteawan Hospital.

The private Craig House psychiatric hospital was hiring registered nurses, promising "excellent working conditions on the beautiful grounds and a friendly atmosphere."

A 26-year-old Beacon man who was convicted of burglarizing the Fishkill Landing Lumber Co. and certified as a drug addict was sentenced to five years of probation, including up to one year as a patient at a Drug Abuse Control Commission facility. Under a previous state law, certified addicts had to spend their entire sentence at a facility unless they were cured.

At a City Council meeting, Mayor Cahill said he was "aghast" to learn that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority had bulldozed a "buffer zone" of trees between the Penn Central parking lot and a planned \$225,000 [\$1.4 million] riverfront park.

25 Years Ago (March 1999)

A local real-estate broker said that the 292,000-square-foot former Nabisco plant on the riverfront had been "removed from the market," fueling speculation that the Dia Center for the Arts planned to open a modern art museum. The Beacon assessor estimated the city would lose about \$50,000 [\$93,000] annually in tax revenue if a nonprofit bought the 28-acre site, but City Council Member Steve Gold said thousands of visitors could provide a financial boost for local businesses.

Dia announced its plans the following week, saying it would spend \$15 million to \$20 million [\$28 million to \$37 million] to renovate the building, which had been donated by its owner, International Paper.

For Women's History Month, the Howland Cultural Center hosted an exhibit of artwork by four sets of sisters.

After Cheryl Brown dragged her unconscious 81-year-old grandfather from their burning home at 25 Cliff St., two firefighters restarted his heart with a defibrillator.

The city agreed to back a state grant application by Scenic Hudson to build a 15-acre park on Route 9D to provide easier access to Mount Beacon. The only access was from Reservoir Road and a trail at the east end of Main Street.

The city applied for state funds to build a \$65,000 [\$121,000] bike path from

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Verplanck Avenue to the site of a proposed \$30 million [\$56 million] high school on Asylum Road. The path would alleviate the need to build a sidewalk, which could not be done with grant money.

As part of Reading Week, Rep. Sue Kelly visited Sargent Elementary to read *The Garden of Abdul Gasazi* to a fourth-grade class.

Kenneth Stevenson, the pastor of the Everlasting Covenant Christian Ekklesia at the Beacon Theater, completed his third book on the Shroud of Turin. In it, he explained how "equidistance letter sequencing" he had discovered in Scrip-

ture authenticated the linen as the burial garment of Jesus. "I found the following encoded in both English and Hebrew: shroud, image, light and son," he said. [In 1988, radiocarbon dating by three labs had determined the linen was made between 1290 and 1390, and other evidence points to the image as a 14th-century painting.]

Beacon residents voted 2,455 to 421 to approve construction of the high school, with the state paying 90 percent of the cost. Even after several additions, the current building, constructed in 1915, was too small for its 800 students.

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Sports

Rough and Tumble

Rugby players forge bonds over sport

By Marc Ferris

Joe “Pips” Miller reels off a list of typical rugby injuries like they’re no big deal. “Broken fingers, broken ribs, sometimes a concussion,” he said. “Once, I separated my clavicle and the surgery was worse than the injury.”

Gabbi “Gibbi” Tutoni got a scare while wrestling an opponent to the ground. “Someone landed on top of me and hit something in my back the wrong way,” she recalled. “But it was just a strain and I was fine.”

Despite the peril of playing a rough sport with only a mouth guard for protection, the Hudson Valley Rugby Club — known as the Rebels — fields men’s and women’s teams during league play in the fall and friendly exhibitions in the spring. The players include residents of Philipstown and Beacon as well as Poughkeepsie, Middletown, Marlboro, Hopewell Junction, Highland, Wappingers Falls and Newburgh.

On March 13, at the first weekly outdoor practice of the season at Sarah Taylor Park in Fishkill, one player said he felt like an unleashed dog. In no time, legs and shirts became caked with mud and knees got skinned. Ten women practiced the proper tackling technique, which is to wrap up ball carriers at the thighs and throw them to the ground.

Tutoni said she appreciates the game’s egalitarianism. “In other sports, there are all these modifications in the women’s rules,” she said. “It’s empowering to have a contact sport like rugby where the rules are the same for every player, at every level.”



Grace “Wildcard” Mei, the women’s club president, shows off her mouthguard. “On the field and in life, I am unpredictable,” she said, to explain her nickname.



Gabriel Salas, the men’s coach, instructs Rebel players during a drill at a recent practice. Photos by M. Ferris

Despite what looks like a free-for-all, players suffer fewer injuries than other physical games, claimed Garrison resident Gabriel Salas, the men’s coach.

“Rugby channels controlled aggression,” he said. “The purpose of the collision is to take the ball away, not throw a shoulder and knock the person over. We wrap correctly and never touch anything above the sternum.”

To fans of American football, rugby’s more violent offspring, the goalposts will look familiar. Kickers can score a field goal by booting the ball through the uprights on the fly.

But the action looks chaotic because the oblong ball is in constant motion and there are few stoppages of play during the 80-minute matches. Players, who can only pass backward, lurch about like an amoeba. If the ball falls forward during a possession, each team converges in a scrum to secure control.

“On the field, it’s like a big jiu-jitsu fight,” said Kilian “Frenchie” Duclay, who lives in Beacon. “The adrenaline is crazy.”

Rugby is a derivative of soccer that evolved during the 1840s at the Rugby School in England, then spread within the British Empire and beyond. The game became an Olympic sport in 2016, with seven players per side.

Salas said he learned the game in Chile while attending a British school and Duclay has watched matches for nearly his entire life because his father, who grew up in France, played the sport.

Since the Hudson Valley club’s inception in 2001, the Rebels have bounced around the area, said Miller, who grew up in Garrison and is the men’s team captain. For 15 years, its home field was at Rombout Middle School in Beacon, where players would sink PVC pipe into the turf to install metal goalposts for practices and games.

After matches or on off-days, players sometimes meet at Max’s on Main in Beacon at the behest of Justin “Snorlax” Lamoree, who lives nearby and summons the faithful via phone app. Asked about his nickname — a rotund Pokémon character — he rubbed his belly and smiled.

For players, the camaraderie can be more important than the activity, and the specter of violence forges tight bonds among combatants.

“We’re in the mud together and it’s one of the best feelings in the world,” said Duclay. “When you’re on the field, nothing else matters and you look past the possibility of injury because it’s so damn fun. Then you grab beers with the opponent you’ve been tackling all day. It’s a great culture.”

The first match of the spring season for the men’s team is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday (March 23) at Sarah Taylor Field against the Suffolk Bullmoose. The women will kick off at 11 a.m. on April 6 against an opponent to be determined. See hudsonvalleyrugbyclub.com.

The Basics of Rugby

Rugby is traditionally played with 15 players on each team. A game consists of two 40-minute halves, with a running clock.

A team receives five points if it crosses the opponent’s goal line with the ball, known as a “try.” After scoring, a team can attempt to score two more points by kicking the ball between the crossbars at the front of the end zone as a place or drop kick. Drop-kicking the ball through the crossbars during play is worth three points, as is a penalty kick awarded by the official.

A player can throw the ball to a teammate but it must travel across the field or backward. If a forward pass is made, the referee will award a “scrum,” in which players from each team compete for possession.

Only a ball carrier can be tackled. When brought to the ground, the runner must release the ball, the tackler must release the runner and the players must roll away from the ball. This allows other players to fight for possession. A “ruck” is formed when the ball is on the ground and players close around it. They must use their feet to move the ball so that it emerges where it can be picked up.

Source: World.rugby

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Evan Giachinta, who will play lacrosse next year for High Point University, battled underneath against Moriah.



Joe Virgadamo had a message for his players during the semifinal win over Moriah.

Photos by Joey LaFranca



Matteo Cervone (left), a member of the 2022-23 Haldane team that reached the Class C final, attended the Saturday game. He is shown with senior Evan Giachinta. Cervone, who plays for Bowdoin College, had knee surgery in January.

Photo by Kim Giachinta

Haldane (from Page 20)

Bell nailed a three-pointer to put Moravia up, 40-38, with 2:11 left.

Haldane had opportunities to tie the game, but after an errant pass the Blue Devils had to foul to stop the clock with 4.8 seconds left. Moravia hit one of two free throws to make it a 3-point game; Nachamkin grabbed the rebound and went full steam up the court for a chance to tie with a three but the ball was knocked away.

Nachamkin finished with 19 points, eight rebounds and three blocks, but his teammates scored only 19 points combined.

Haldane loses nine seniors to graduation — Nachamkin, Esposito, Michael Murray, Evan Giachinta and Ryan Van Tassel, as well as Erik Stubblefield, Jordan Hankel, PJ Ruggiero and Dylan Rucker — and will move to Class B next year after the state shifted the enrollment numbers for each of its six divisions. (At Haldane, only football and cross-country will remain in Class C; lacrosse will be in Class D.)

It was the fourth trip to the Final Four and the third trip to the title game for Coach Joe Virgadamo, who finished his 18th season at 21-4 and 25 years ago this month, as a Haldane senior, helped the Blue Devils win their first sectional title.

“Most teams want to make it to the Westchester County Center and win the section — these guys wanted to make it to the Final Four,” he said after the game.

Nachamkin said that as much as he enjoyed being on the court with his teammates, it was the moments off the court he’ll miss the most. “You don’t remember every play,” he said. “But you remember every joke or fun song that we sing on the bus. I’m going to miss that side of the team.”

Nachamkin and Esposito were named to the All-Tournament team and Murray received a sportsmanship award. Proper of Moravia was the MVP.

Haldane reached the title game by defeating Moriah, 67-59, on March 15. The Blue Devils opened with a 7-0 run, and Moriah didn’t score until the 4:47 mark of the first quarter. But after Cooper Allen and Chase McGinness hit back-to-back three-pointers for the Vikings, Moriah took an 18-14 lead.

Haldane’s Luke Bozsik came off the bench to score five points in the last minute, includ-

2024 Class C Runner-Up

BOYS’ BASKETBALL HALDANE BLUE DEVILS

- 1 **Ross Esposito** SENIOR
- 2 **Fallou Faye** JUNIOR
- 3 **Alexander Del Pozo** SOPHOMORE
- 4 **Michael Murray** SENIOR
- 11 **Ryan Van Tassel** SENIOR
- 12 **Erik Stubblefield** SENIOR
- 20 **Ryder Griffen** SOPHOMORE
- 21 **Jordan Hankel** SENIOR
- 22 **Luke Bozsik** SOPHOMORE
- 23 **Nate Stickle** JUNIOR
- 24 **Matt Nachamkin** SENIOR
- 25 **Evan Giachinta** SENIOR
- 50 **Peter Ruggiero** SENIOR
- 51 **Dylan Rucker** SENIOR

Joe Virgadamo	HEAD COACH
Tom Powers	ASSISTANT COACH
Nick Nastasi	ASSISTANT COACH
Daniel Rotando	ASSISTANT COACH
Anthony Sinchi	ASSISTANT COACH
Ed Crowe	ASSISTANT COACH
Meg Crowe	ATHLETIC TRAINER

ing a three at the buzzer, to give the Blue Devils a one-point lead. Bozsik, a sophomore who earlier in the season was brought up from the junior varsity, scored eight points in the first quarter and finished with 13.

The Vikings took a five-point lead with 4:14 left in the first half, but Nachamkin scored seven points down the stretch and Haldane took a 33-32 lead into halftime.

The Blue Devils went on an 11-3 run in the third quarter to put themselves up, 44-35. Moriah scored six in a row to cut the lead to five, but Van Tassel, coming off the bench, scored on two layups in 16 seconds to close out the third quarter and widen the lead to seven.

With 3:55 left in the game, the Blue Devils were up 60-50, but a corner three and a

three-point play by the Vikings brought them to within four with 2:45 left before Nachamkin hit four free throws to ice the game. He finished with 22 points and 14 rebounds. Allen scored 19 for Moriah, but was limited to five in the second half.

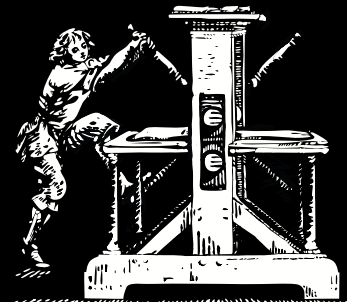
On Tuesday (March 19), Virgadamo was awarded the John Martino Service Award by the Lower Hudson Basketball Coaches Association and Nachamkin was named to the association’s All-Star team. Earlier, on March 7, Nachamkin had been named to its scholar-athlete All-Star team.



Nachamkin scored 19 points in the title game.

Photo by Skip Pearlman

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16				17		
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52				53				54				
55				56				57				

ACROSS

- 1. Gold-loving king
- 6. Soviet space station
- 9. Actress Dennings
- 12. "That — I ask"
- 13. Longoria of TV
- 14. Writer LeShan
- 15. "What — mean?"
- 16. Journal
- 18. Singer Timberlake
- 20. Monster
- 21. Med. plan option
- 23. Sweetie
- 24. Different
- 25. Exile isle
- 27. Russian villa
- 29. Deceived
- 31. There
- 35. Rocker Adams
- 37. Harvard rival
- 38. City near Venice
- 41. Prefix with gender
- 43. Shriek bark

44. Teensy bit

- 45. Frenzied
- 47. Pampering places
- 49. Dizzying designs
- 52. Dad on *Black-ish*
- 53. Swiss canton
- 54. Bellini opera
- 55. Feminine side
- 56. Favorite
- 57. Idyllic spots

17. Plant science

- 19. Hot rum drink
- 21. Skirt edge
- 22. Roman 1051
- 24. Discoverer's call
- 26. Photo collections
- 28. Doubter
- 30. Notable time
- 32. Workplace perk, maybe
- 33. Yalie
- 34. Gym unit
- 36. Nails the test
- 38. Rice field
- 39. Arcade pioneer
- 40. Senior member
- 42. 14 pounds
- 45. Aesopian also-ran
- 46. Apple product
- 48. Young dog
- 50. LBJ's successor
- 51. Prof's aides

DOWN

- 1. Central
- 2. Equal (Pref.)
- 3. Nine-to-five gigs
- 4. Matty of baseball
- 5. Melting snow
- 6. Islamic holy city
- 7. Infamous tsar
- 8. Shaft of light
- 9. IRA relative
- 10. Worship
- 11. Greedy sort

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

CROWD

PROPS

MICRO CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Rock 'n' roll pioneer ____ Domino
- 5. "Yeah, r-i-i-ight..."
- 6. Maker of WorkCentre printers
- 8. "Rule, Britannia!" composer
- 9. Loaves that may be seeded

DOWN

- 1. Predicament
- 2. "Fuzzy Wuzzy was ____"

1	2	3	4	
5				
6				7
	8			
	9			

- 3. *Waiting to Exhale* author McMillan
- 4. Cold open?
- 7. Ballot markings

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

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

	R	A	F	A
	A	R	E	S
S	I	L	A	S
A	T	E	S	T
C	A	S	T	S

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STOKE
STONE
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PHONE
PRONE

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2024 HALDANE BLUE DEVILS

BOYS' BASKETBALL
CLASS C RUNNER-UP

THE ROAD TO THE FINAL

Regular Season

Haldane	62	Pleasantville	51
Haldane	62	Blind Brook	67
Haldane	56	Briarcliff	40
Haldane	59	Irvington	55
Haldane	56	Valhalla	46
Haldane	72	Chester	42
Haldane	62	North Salem	43
Haldane	75	Sleepy Hollow	45
Haldane	66	Pawling	47
Haldane	45	Putnam Valley	48
Haldane	83	Greenburgh-No. Castle	56
Haldane	55	Leffell	48
Haldane	74	Croton-Harmon	40
Haldane	62	Beacon	67
Haldane	68	North Salem	41
Haldane	58	Spackenkill	48
Haldane	65	Croton-Harmon	29
Haldane	61	Pawling	42
Haldane	56	Putnam Valley	38
Haldane	64	FDR-Hyde Park	46

Section I Title

Haldane	64	Leffell	49
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Regional Title

Haldane	60	Millbrook	41
Haldane	73	Southold	39

Semifinal

Haldane	67	Moriah	59
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FINAL

Haldane	Moravia
38	41



Haldane coach Joe Virgadamo comforted Matt Nachamkin while Moravia players celebrated their win.

Photos by Skip Pearlman

Sports

For Second Year, Haldane Just Short of a Title

For the second straight year, the Haldane boys' basketball team came within two baskets of a state title.

Moravia, a school located southwest of Syracuse, won the Class C state championship, 41-38, over the Blue Devils on March 16 in Glens Falls. The Moravia girls' team also won the Class C title this year.

A parade scheduled for Sunday along Main Street in Cold Spring to welcome the players home was canceled at the request of the team, which said in a statement it "felt it was a lot to emotionally deal with the day after our loss."

"We are very sorry we were not able to bring it home, but we hope we entertained you in the wild ride that we took to play until the very last day," the players said.

The Blue Devils lost in the championship game last year to Randolph, 58-55, after

Blue Devils fall to Moravia in Class C final

By Jacob Aframian

nearly overcoming an 18-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

This year's game was different. It was a defensive battle from the start, with Haldane held to its lowest point total of the season. From the get-go, baskets were hard to come by — the first quarter ended with Haldane leading, 12-9. Senior Matt Nachamkin, who will play next season for Williams College, scored seven of those points for the Blue Devils.

In the second quarter, senior Ross Esposito scored nine points and the Blue Devils held a nine-point lead with 2:14 left in the half.

But Moravia responded with back-to-back three-pointers from Kyler Proper and Logan Bell and a basket in the lane at the buzzer by Proper to cut the deficit to three, 25-22.

With 5:40 left in the third, Proper tied the game at 27 with a three-pointer before Moravia went cold. After Nachamkin hit two free throws, Haldane held a five-point lead with two minutes remaining before Bell scored five points in a minute — two free throws and a three-pointer — to bring it even at 32.

After the teams traded baskets to start the fourth, three minutes passed with the scored tied at 34. At 4:02 Nachamkin scored on a layup but 12 seconds later Proper answered with another three.

Nachamkin hit two free throws with 3:04 left to give Haldane a one-point lead but

(Continued on Page 18)



Ross Esposito was named to the All-tournament team.



Haldane again lost the title game by three points.