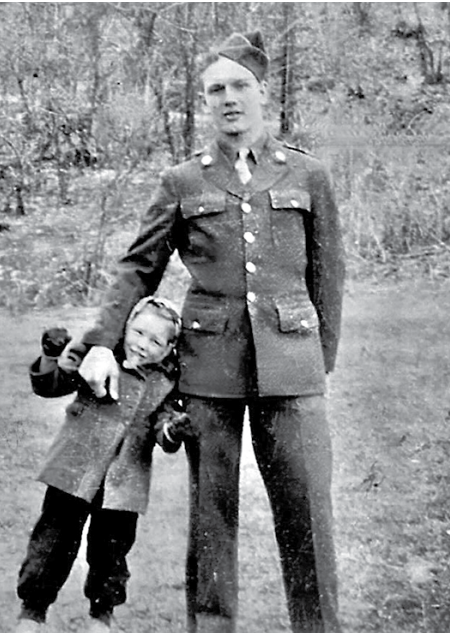


The HIGHLANDS  
Current

Flower  
Power  
Page 11



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Anne Johnson with her older brother, Buster  
Family photo

‘Dear Mom and Dad’  
Beacon resident transcribes soldier’s wartime letters

By Michael Turton

On Nov. 27, 1944, three days after his 20th birthday, Pfc. Edwin “Buster” Johnson was killed instantly by a sniper in the village of Kriegsheim in northeast France.

Eighty years later, in time for Memorial Day, Johnson’s 103 wartime letters to his family in Beacon have been published in a book, *Dear Mom and Dad*.

Johnson’s mother, Mary Moranski Johnson, kept the letters for decades in a trunk. In 2023, her daughter, Anne Johnson Thomas, loaned the collection to Joann Miskell, who had chaired the Veterans Banners Project spearheaded by the Melzingah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Miskell began to transcribe the letters, which were written in pencil, but many took time to decipher. “They had badly faded, but with a magnifying glass, sunlight and digital editing [to adjust contrast], I was able to get through them,” she says.

When Anne Thomas, 85, read the manuscript, she says she “felt like my brother was still alive and talking to me.” The last surviving of the six Johnson children, she is a longtime volunteer at the Castle Point VA Medical Center in Wappingers Falls.

Buster’s letters, written in 1943 and 1944, chronicle his 19 months in the Army,

(Continued on Page 21)

Back in Business  
Beacon visitor center reopens after lapse

By Jeff Simms

If you spend much time on Main Street in Beacon, you’re probably familiar with Carmen Johnson.

The city resident, a retired Social Security Administration claims representative turned crossing guard, helps pedestrians

navigate the tricky west end of Main, near the Bank Square Coffeehouse, on weekday mornings and afternoons. Now, she’s adding weekend hours.

Johnson is among a handful of volunteers who will assist Dutchess Tourism as it reopens the Beacon Welcome Center, a small building at Polhill Park that will be more visible when construction is complete at the consolidated fire station next door. She will be there from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays doing what comes naturally — talking to people about Beacon.

“I love telling people about the city —

the age of it, the history of it,” said Johnson, who volunteered and later managed the Welcome Center over a 14-year period while it was operated by the Beacon Chamber of Commerce. “It’s an honor.”

She noted that the building is well-situated. “As people come up that hill” from the Metro-North station, it is “the first face of Beacon,” she said. “There we are with our ‘open’ sign.”

The Welcome Center closed after the pandemic shutdown in 2020 and, with the Beacon Chamber in flux, struggled to reopen. Earlier this year, Dutchess Tourism,

(Continued on Page 6)

**ATTABOY** — The Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) raised over \$13,000 at its annual 5K Run & Walk with the Dogs on May 19 in Beacon. The race drew a record 225 participants, plus 13 children for an inaugural 1K fun run, and 70 dogs, all assisted by 45 volunteers. The top human finishers were Otto Vogrincic (19:04) and Krista Kowalczyk (20:05), both of Beacon. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org).

Photo by Ross Corsair



Work began this month on an access road to a cell tower planned in Nelsonville adjacent to the Cold Spring Cemetery.

Photo provided

Nelsonville Cell Tower Underway

Despite legal setback, Homeland begins construction

By Chip Rowe

After years of legal battles, Homeland Towers has started construction on a 95-foot cell tower overlooking the Cold Spring Cemetery.

A state judge ruled in December that the company could not dig up a shared access road to bury power cables. In response, it plans to string the lines on utility poles before routing them underground at the boundary of the parcel, which is located at the end of the private Rockledge Road in Nelsonville.

According to revised plans filed with the village on March 19, the gravel access road will be widened to allow emergency vehicles

to access the tower, which will be disguised as a fir tree or “monopine.”

Mayor Chris Winward said in a statement that taking the lines overhead did not require Homeland to submit a revised site plan. Instead, the building inspector determined that the off-site, overhead power lines were “a field change not requiring further approval.”

Homeland Towers did not return a phone message seeking comment.

The December ruling by state Judge Gina Capone, in response to a lawsuit filed by neighbors of the site, said other changes to the access road besides digging were OK, subject to a building permit Nelsonville issued in 2020.

In a letter to *The Current* (see Page 4), seven neighbors expressed dismay that

(Continued on Page 7)



5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: DENNIS VETRANO

By Mackenzie Boric

Dennis Vetrano is a divorce lawyer in Beacon who offers legal and relationship advice online. He has 440,000 followers on TikTok (@drvlaw) and 230,000 on Instagram.

Did you expect your social media to have such traction?

No! It just took off. I've learned a lot about divorce and family law and families in the past 25 years, and I wanted to help people through the process because our system is accustomed to putting people on a conveyor belt to get the divorce done. They come out the other side of the judgment not realizing all the little but important things that were overlooked. You're dealing with human beings who have been through what may be one of the most catastrophic events of their lives.

How did you figure out the nuts and bolts?

I asked a longtime friend with experience in radio how to be compelling. He said to be yourself. I started with TikTok. I try to make the reels feel like you ran into me at a bar. What would I tell you? I also have a podcast. We've done 47 episodes. They're about the divorce process but also have a bit of relationship advice.

What do you advise?

If you're going to get married, make sure you choose well. You can't do that until you know what you're looking for, and what you need from another human being. There are people who want to conquer

the world but also people I know who want to always have time on their hands. Be confident in who you are and what you have to offer; don't allow anybody to devalue you. I get the most satisfaction when people respond with, "I've taken your tips and I've used this in my marriage" or "I needed to hear that" because it kept them motivated.

How did you get into family law?

When I graduated from law school, I started with a firm in Albany and found that I gravitated toward family law because it put me in the courtroom. My next job was in Hudson, prosecuting child abuse and neglect. Family law is probably the most important area of law if you really care about people.

Has social media brought you clients?

It has, but I've also had people call for a consultation before they need me.



Free Advice on TikTok

“Do you want to know the major theme that I'm seeing in the divorce industry, as a divorce lawyer, as I do consults these days? I am seeing working moms doing it all, and I am seeing the husbands step back and say, 'Huh, I don't gotta do a thing! She's got the kids, she's got the groceries, she's got the laundry, she's got the meals, she's got the work. And, by the way, she's making all the money, and she's paying for the house and doing everything else. I'm going to go to the firehouse, I'm going to go play this, I'm going to hang out with my friends.' That's the theme.”

➔ 8.1 million views

“Don't ever take sides with anyone else over your spouse. You are a team together. You are always together. You support each other, absolutely, and I know this sounds melodramatic, but to the death, honestly. And, listen, if you have a disagreement with your husband or wife, you talk to them in private about it, after the fact.”

➔ 6.8 million views

“The act, the action of sleeping in the same bed with each other each night gives you an additional opportunity to connect. And it's not just sex and intimacy. It's being close to each other. It's even just a couple of minutes that you'll talk before you fall asleep. Those little windows of time are so valuable. We overlook them. Little windows of time to connect with each other: They are the most important thing in your marriage.”

➔ 1.4 million views

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What ferry have you enjoyed taking?

“In Australia, from Sydney to Manly Bay.”



Jeff Levin, Fishkill

“The catamaran ferry from Judith Point to Block Island, Rhode Island. Big swells!”



Denise Dyn, Atlanta (visiting Beacon)

“I explored New York on its ferry system and saw the city from a different angle.”



Eddie Karp, Philipstown

NOTICE

Bond resolution dated March 27, 2023. A resolution authorizing the purchase of school buses for the city school district of the city of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, at a maximum estimated cost of \$530,000, and authorizing the issuance of \$530,000 bonds of said school district to pay the cost thereof.

Objects or purposes:  
Purchase of school buses

Maximum estimated cost: \$530,000

Period of probable usefulness: 5 years

Amount of obligations to be issued:  
\$530,000 bonds

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## U.S. House Approves River Barge Ban

*Provision now goes to Senate*

The U.S. House on May 14 passed a bill that contains a provision that would permanently ban barge anchorages in the Hudson Valley.

Introduced by Rep. Pat Ryan, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, the proposal is part of the Coast Guard Authorization Act, which passed 376-16. Rep. Mike Lawler, whose district includes Philipstown, was among the yes votes.

The provision would amend a 2021 law to remove “any uncertainty related to geographic definitions,” Ryan said earlier. The Coast Guard said in July that the 2021 ban only applied to waters in the Port of New York, which extends to the Mario Cuomo Bridge at Tarrytown.

## Study: Lawler Among Most Bipartisan

*Ryan ranked No. 74 of 436*

A newly released study ranks Rep. Mike Lawler, a Republican whose district includes Philipstown, as one of the most bipartisan members of Congress.

The annual Bipartisan Index, compiled by Georgetown University and the Lugar Center, measures the frequency with which

a representative co-sponsored a substantive bill introduced in 2023 by a member of the opposite party and the frequency with which the member’s own bills attracted co-sponsors from the opposite party.

Marc Molinaro, a Republican and former Dutchess County executive who represents the 19th District, ranked No. 2 on the list of 436 U.S. House members, followed by Lawler at No. 4. Brian Fitzpatrick, a Republican from Pennsylvania, has been the most bipartisan representative for five years running, and the most partisan in 2023 were Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a Democrat from New York, and Jim Jordan, a Republican from Ohio.

Pat Ryan, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, ranked No. 74. Before his loss to Lawler, Democratic Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney was No. 359 in the 2022 index.

## Hunger Rises in Dutchess, Putnam

*More residents considered food insecure*

Ten percent of Dutchess County residents and 8 percent in Putnam did not always have access to enough food in 2022, according to newly released data from Feeding America, a network of national food banks.

The federal government defines food insecurity as “the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life.”

Dutchess had 29,700 food-insecure residents, including 6,620 children, in 2022, while Putnam County had 8,270, including 1,270 children. Both counties experienced increases from 2021.

A food security council proposed by Renee Fillette-Miccio, director of Dutchess Outreach, met for the first time on May 16 to advise policymakers and consider ways to reduce food waste. It includes representatives from county agencies, the United Way, Ten Mile Farm in Amenia and Vassar College.

“The charitable food system was never intended to provide long-term food support,” Fillette-Miccio said in a statement. “Yet here we are each week greeting more children, seniors and working people who cannot afford even one daily meal.”

## HHLT Applies to Renew Accreditation

*Public comments sought through June*

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission is accepting comments from the public on the Hudson Highlands Land Trust’s application to renew its national accreditation.

The commission first accredited the Hudson Highlands Land Trust in 2008 and requires organizations to renew their certification every five years. More information about the process can be found at [landtrustaccreditation.org](http://landtrustaccreditation.org).

Comments are due by June 30 and can

be submitted online, by emailing [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org) or by mailing the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments, 36 Phila St., Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

## Former Hudson Valley Hospital Employee Sues

*Denied religious exemption for flu vaccine*

A radiation therapist who said NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital fired her in January after denying her request last fall for a religious exemption from a mandatory flu vaccination sued the hospital in federal court on May 15.

Agnieszka Kracke said she began working at Hudson Valley Hospital in October 2019 and had previously accepted the annual vaccine. However, she said she is a Roman Catholic who holds a “sincere, bona fide religious objection” and “struggled for years with her conscience” over the inoculation.

Kracke, a Pennsylvania resident who earned more than \$100,000 annually her last two years at Hudson Valley Hospital, said the hospital twice denied her an exemption, even with a letter of support from a priest. Staff granted medical or religious exemptions must wear a mask at work during flu season.

Although the hospital said she resigned, Kracke maintains she was fired, according to court documents. She is seeking a return to her job, back pay and other damages.



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1800s  
1900s  
2000s  
2100s

**TIME STEPS**

JUNE 1, 2024

2pm and 6:30pm

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Tickets: \$20 for adults, \$15 for children under 12 and seniors  
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[BalletArtsStudio.com](http://BalletArtsStudio.com) [info@BalletArtsStudio.com](mailto:info@BalletArtsStudio.com)




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JUNETEENTH  
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Interested in being a vendor or performer? Scan the QR Code  
or go to [bit.ly/beacon-juneteenth](https://bit.ly/beacon-juneteenth) to apply!









LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

I remember the great gatherings at the river in Beacon or Croton when Pete Seeger had concerts to raise awareness about the polluted Hudson. Regardless of Pete’s political beliefs, I don’t think anyone else had the vision of cleaning the Hudson. Losing the sloop and Clearwater programs would be awful. When I think of Clearwater, I think of Pete Seeger and a clean Hudson River.

Jeff Kover, *Hopewell Junction*

Clearwater’s financial difficulties symbolize our approach to the environment: We won’t save it because it’s not cost-effective.

Jay Nicholas, *via Facebook*

It’s sadly ironic that Scenic Hudson, which once shared Pete Seeger’s vision of saving Storm King Mountain from private development, has since become a developer of the last few wild areas between Cold Spring and Beacon, to the tune of \$100 million (for the Breakneck Ridge area alone) with projected operating expenses of \$6 million to \$7 million annually.

A mere pittance of that would keep Clearwater and Pete’s legacy alive and well and put Scenic Hudson’s focus back where it belongs, as the environmental stalwart it purports to be.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

Electric buses

It’s insane that the unsubsidized cost of one electric school bus costs more than three gas-powered buses combined (“Election Guide: Schools,” May 17). This happens when governments offer rebates, subsidies and vouchers: Manufacturers jack up the prices. When I purchased a heat pump for my home, my regular plumber, who is not qualified for the rebate program, quoted me \$9,000. The plumber who is rebate-qualified quoted me \$13,500 for the same equipment. I received a \$5,500 rebate, reducing my cost to \$8,000.

I saved money, but I would rather pay \$9,000 with no rebates than stick taxpayers with \$5,500 for my heat pump. Governments should never be picking winners and losers. When they do, we the people all lose. It’s time for people to understand that the best thing to do is to let free markets work. Businesses will adapt and provide what the market wants, and competition will drive down prices. Instead of governments dictating technology, may the best one win.

As for buses, a fair price for an electric bus should be about \$200,000. Get rid of the vouchers and, over time, prices will become comparable to gas-powered buses. Get the damn government out of our lives.

Deran Soovajian, *Beacon*

Plastic waste

As *The Current*’s excellent *Talking Trash* series noted, the vast majority of plastic waste produced by our throwaway society is not — or cannot — be recycled. At any rate, the industrial process of recycling plastic spews toxins into our air and water and should not be encouraged. We need to reduce the amount of plastic produced in the first place.

With encouragement from Climate Smart Beacon, the Beacon City Council on

Corrections

An article in the May 17 issue stated that a Beacon man charged with attempted murder had been released by an appeals court that cited New York’s bail reform laws. In fact, the court cited a speedy trial mandate that predates those reforms.

In the story in the May 17 issue about the Analog Diary gallery, the titles of two pieces by Beatrice Modisett, “I Saw a Shadow Touch a Shadow’s Hand II” and “How a Place Comes to Be,” were transposed.

An article in the May 17 issue identified Jen Benson as the director of education for Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. In fact, she is the director of environmental action.

May 6 passed a resolution urging the state Senate and Assembly to pass two bills to reduce plastic pollution.

The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act would require companies to greatly reduce plastic packaging — the bag-within-bag phenomenon — and mandate that businesses cover some disposal costs for the packaging waste they generate rather than forcing municipalities to foot the bill.

The Bigger, Better Bottle Bill would increase deposits on returnable bottles for the first time since 1983 (from 5 to 10 cents) and add wine and liquor bottles. This would reduce the waste going to landfills and cut down on roadside litter, which, in our area, often ends up in the Hudson River.

Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, whose district includes Philipstown, is a co-sponsor of both bills, and Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, is a co-sponsor of the Packaging Reduction Act. But Rob Rolison, whose district includes the Highlands, is not a co-sponsor of either in the Senate. The plastics industry is lobbying hard against these bills.

Let’s encourage our elected officials to display the same leadership the Beacon City Council showed by ensuring these bills are passed.

Heidi Wendel, *Nelsonville*

Fjord Trail

Bravo to Cold Spring Village Board members Aaron Freimark and Eliza Starbuck (“Two Trustees Endorse Fjord Trail at Dockside,” May 17). I struggle to see who in town won’t use the trail when it is built. Even relatively small improvements like the West Point Foundry Preserve have brought the community together and provided a safe place for children and grandparents to appreciate our beautiful surroundings.

Phil Mackinstosh, *Cold Spring*

Beacon growth

There have been many anti-everything comments about Beacon development. I wonder how many job creators are actually chiming in.

Robert VanCott, *via Instagram*



In Memoriam

*The men remembered here died during their wartime service, either in combat or from disease or accidents.*

Beacon

World War I

John Bump  
Thomas B. Carroll  
Frank Cramade  
H. Gordon Deicke  
George Delahay  
George E. Deveson  
Frank D. Fairclough  
Frederick A. Garrison  
Frederick Harris  
Francis J. Murphy  
Austin T. Robinson  
Pasquale Salese  
Jesse E. Slater  
George Stafford  
James J. Tomlins  
Frank H. VanHouten Jr.  
William Wilson

World War II

Arthur J. Baxter  
John H. Beattie  
Robert A. Bennett  
Luigi F. Bettina  
William J. Brennan  
John W. Briggs

Frederick H. Brewer  
Thomas B. Carrol  
Calvin Clensay  
John Collins  
Nicholas T. Coppola  
Raymond W. Detweiler  
Andrew B. Eichorn  
George J. Eichorn  
Paul L. Facticeau  
Robert M. Faris  
Ralph L. Fleming  
David Fontaine  
George P. Frederick  
Saul Gerlich  
Alexander J. Grudzina  
Michael J. Groza  
Joseph Halbosky  
Gordon E. Hughes  
Henry I. Idema  
Edwin J. Johnson  
John Keto  
Albert A. Knight  
Orville Kranz  
Ernest H. LaChance  
George LaChance  
Arnold E. Lasko

Robinson C. Lent  
Walter M. Lewis  
Judah H. Lewittes  
James J. Lockwood  
Michael E. Maskewicz  
Joseph McGaughan  
Peter Menger  
Howard G. Mitchell  
John F. Mignault  
George S. Mitchell  
William T. Morrison  
Patrick J. O’Brien  
Francis G. Peattie  
Guy D. Pendleton  
George Perrault  
Kenneth G. Perry  
Dominick J. Phillippo  
Carmen A. Ramputi  
Robert V. Resek  
Lester F. Roberts  
Peter J. Seranto  
Francis T. Splain Jr.  
Burton Stevens  
Stuart F. Stripple  
Richard E. Sutton  
William J. Tallman

Rody J. Tighe  
Francis J. Toth  
George P. Turiga  
Andrew Urbanak  
Joseph C. Usifer  
Rosco L. Vaughn Jr.  
James J. Walker  
John P. Wasnorowicz  
Louis J. Westerhuis  
Rene’ Zahner

Korea

Anthony N. Scalzo

Vietnam

John J. Bennett  
Thomas E. Devine  
Everett Foster  
Philip R. Mattracion  
Terrence E. O’Neil  
William R. Phillips  
James S. Pittman  
Emilio Rivera  
Joseph T. Slinsky

Philipstown

World War I

Percy W. Arnold  
Edward J. Burns  
George A. Casey  
Charles N. Clainos  
Walter H. Croft  
Charles DeRham Jr.  
John R. Fischer  
Clarence Fahnstock

James Harvey Hustis  
J. Paulding Murdock

World War II

Martin E. Adams  
H. Ellis Bowden  
Edward Budney  
Gerald Dale  
Warren Eitner

W. Russel Farrell  
Ralph Fleming  
Arthur Gilman  
Walter Glanville  
Thomas Lutz  
Stanley Matthews  
Anthony Nastasi  
Allen W. Olsen  
Joseph V. Richardson

Lester B. Roberts  
Arthur Warren

Vietnam

Aldon Asherman  
John Bennett  
Keith Livermore



# New Beacon Police Chief Confirmed

City adds members to Fjord Trail committee

By Jeff Simms

Tom Figlia was unanimously confirmed by the City Council on Monday (May 20) as Beacon's next police chief.

He will assume the job on June 10. Sands Frost, who has been chief since 2020 and spent nearly 41 years with the department, will retire on June 14, so the two will overlap for a week.

Figlia was hired in 2006 and promoted to lieutenant in 2018. He oversaw the introduction of body cameras for officers in 2018 and, beginning in 2017, led a project to review and rewrite department policies. He is also in charge of internal investigations.

During a May 13 workshop, Council Member Molly Rhodes asked Figlia if any recommendations by the Police Advisory Committee, which disbanded last year, still need to be addressed. The nine-member committee was created in 2021 in response to a state mandate to municipalities to review law enforcement policies and procedures.

Figlia said he wants to continue analyzing

data, such as the statistics gathered through traffic enforcement, to inform policing and how the department deploys its resources.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said Wednesday that he, Frost and Figlia attended the advisory committee's final meeting. It agreed that its work was complete, Kyriacou said, but left two follow-up items for the officers: (1) deciding whether Beacon should participate in a county-run youth police academy in addition to one run by the city (which has included two participants who later joined the department) and (2) reviewing monthly and annual data that is to be released publicly.

The department will focus on its own Youth Police Academy and will provide the City Council with an annual report that would include reported crime, department activity and other statistics of public concern, Figlia said.

**Fjord Trail**

Kyriacou on Monday announced that he is appointing Amber Grant, an at-large City Council member, and Zack Smith, a Beacon resident, to the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail's Visitation Data Committee, which is analyzing the projected impacts of the 7.5-mile trail between Cold Spring and

Beacon. Grant is a digital director who leads a team that, through data analysis, implements large-scale initiatives for a financial institution. Smith is a data scientist.

Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra is also adding himself and Planning Board Chair Jonathan Kanter to the committee.

Five committee members from Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown issued a statement last month expressing concern over the ongoing data effort. Two weeks later, the mayors of Cold Spring and Nelsonville and the Philipstown supervisor publicly opposed plans to start the trail in Cold Spring.

That prompted Kyriacou and Albra on April 23 to issue their own statement supporting the project and calling for "completion of an objective analysis of potential impacts" to be reviewed by the full Data Committee. Kyriacou and Albra also asked for increased representation for their municipalities on the committee.

On Monday, Kyriacou encouraged city residents to voice their support for the trail and again said he would be happy for construction to begin in Beacon if there are concerns to address on the other end.



Figlia

# Putnam Sheriff Reports on Plate Readers

Helped ID suspect in Philipstown thefts

By Leonard Sparks

An automated license-plate reader helped investigators with the Putnam County Sheriff's Office identify a man accused of stealing from mailboxes in Philipstown, according to Sheriff Kevin McConville.

In his first quarterly report on the use of license-plate readers (LPR), delivered Tuesday (May 21) to the Putnam Legislature's Protective Services Committee, McConville named the Philipstown case as one of several in which the 11 LPRs used by the department have led to the identification of suspects and arrests.

The briefing gave Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, an opportunity to renew her demand that the Sheriff's Office publicize on its website the policy

(Continued on Page 7)



The Beacon Welcome Center will be open Saturday and Sunday.

## Beacon Center (from Page 1)

a nonprofit agency funded primarily by the county government, contacted city officials to discuss a relaunch.

An organizational meeting at City Hall last month drew about a dozen volunteers. The center's anticipated hours are Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dutchess Tourism also hopes to staff the Welcome Center on Friday afternoons, depending on foot traffic. All hours will depend on staff availability.

"So many people come to the city, but they don't necessarily have a plan," said Melaine Rottkamp, the president and CEO of Dutchess Tourism. "Sometimes they just want to explore." Greeting them with a map of Main Street or Free Loop bus schedule is "really, really valuable."

Rottkamp and members of her staff spent Wednesday (May 22) on a "Beacon tourism blitz," walking Main Street to spread word about the center and its potential impact on local businesses. According to Dutchess Tourism, visitors in 2022 spent nearly \$2 million per day in the county.



The center is located in Polhill Park at the foot of Main Street. Dutchess Tourism (2)

## What's in a Name?

The Beacon Chamber of Commerce was founded soon after the city was created in 1913 from the villages of Fishkill Landing and Matteawan but went dormant before being revived in 1945. Over the next 65 years, it cycled through five names — the Beacon Area Chamber of Commerce (1963), Beacon-Fishkill Area Chamber of Commerce (1970), Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce (1976), Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce (1986) and Beacon Business Association (1994) — before returning to the original in 2009.

## What Happened to the Beacon Chamber?

The once-vibrant Beacon Chamber of Commerce has become a bit of a mystery.

Patrick Moroney, a Cold Spring native who was elected president in February 2022, said last year that the organization would "re-engage in 2023" but that he would step away after he finished his two-year term. He said elections were scheduled for early 2024.

Moroney said the group held monthly meetings, hosted free trainings and reformed its board of directors. In August, the City Council gave the chamber a one-year, \$10 lease for the Welcome Center, with options for four renewals. In 2022 and 2023, the chamber and real-estate agent Charlotte Guernsey organized the Hocus Pocus Halloween parade, which had been suspended during the pandemic.

However, on Wednesday (May 22), Moroney said that the chamber has paused operations. He cited a lack of support and said it no longer made sense to keep the organization going.

Ron Donofrio, a Beacon real estate agent who runs MainStreetBeacon.com, said he agreed last year to convert his website into the official chamber site, "but next thing I knew," Moroney and his partners had "disappeared."

"I give him an A for effort," Donofrio said. "But you can't do a chamber with four people." Donofrio said he hopes to soon relaunch Main Street Beacon, which now states it is not affiliated with the chamber.

Moroney said in an interview last year that he visited local merchants to introduce his vision but missteps from the past kept resurfacing.

"People would say, 'Well, here's what happened a few years ago,' but I told them, 'Leave it there; it didn't involve me,'" he said. "This old baggage makes things challenging."

One of Moroney's initiatives was to give Beacon business owners access to Locally, an app he developed. But in December, James Murphy III, one of his partners, sued Moroney in state court, alleging that Moroney "improperly and illegally utilized" more than \$120,000 that Murphy had invested in the project.

Moroney filed a response in January, denying the claims. He countered by saying that Murphy was guilty of "egregious acts of tortious interference, defamation, libel, intent to inflict emotional distress, fraudulent misrepresentation and breach of contract" and asked for a \$137,000 judgment. The case is pending.

With the chamber inactive at times over the last decade, the Beacon Arts Community Organization, or BeaconArts, has tried to fill the gap, stating on its website that after the introduction of the after-hours Second Saturday concept it became "a sort of de facto chamber of commerce when one did not exist."

Marc Ferris contributed reporting.



Plate Readers *(from Page 6)*

governing LPRs, which the Legislature revised last year and approved in December.

Under a policy, McConville is to report quarterly on their use, including the number of scans, orders to disclose data and requests from other police agencies and private entities through the state Freedom of Information Law (FOIL).

More than 8 million license plates were scanned between January and March and deputies received 6,336 alerts, McConville said. Investigators armed with Ring camera footage searched the scan data to identify the suspect in the Philipstown thefts, he said.

“He’s also involved in the same crimes in Dutchess County and we’re working with Dutchess County authorities to effect an arrest,” he said.

Scans also helped capture a suspect in a fatal shooting in New York City and led to the arrests of six people involved in a burglary ring with origins in South America, said McConville. The group is “rather extensive and highly organized,” he said.

Deputies used the LPRs to locate a teenager considered at risk of harming herself, said McConville, and to capture suspects who had been using stolen personal information to open credit accounts at businesses in Putnam County.

Police agencies made 15 requests for data, which is stored at Westchester County’s Real Time Crime Center and retained for two years, but the Sheriff’s Office did

not receive any orders to disclose data. The state parks department submitted the only FOIL, and a “search was done with negative results,” he said.

McConville said in December that the Sheriff’s Office is undergoing the accreditation process and that, once the department and its policies are certified, commanders will determine which policies to post online.

He reiterated that position on Tuesday in response to questions from Montgomery about giving the public access to the LPR policy. A report from a committee set up to study the Sheriff’s Office recommended in 2021 that policies be posted online.

Ginny Nacerino, who represents Patterson and chairs the Protective Services Committee, said McConville “gets to analyze and determine what he feels is important.” But Montgomery asked: “Where does that leave the integrity of the policies we passed in 2021?”

The Sheriff’s Office plans to purchase additional LPRs, body cameras and other surveillance equipment using a \$119,000 grant from the state Department of Criminal Justice Services. The Sheriff’s Office provided three LPRs to the Cold Spring Police Department that are mounted on Route 9D just south of Peekskill Road, at Little Stony Point Park and in Nelsonville on Main Street (Route 301), just east of Peekskill Road.

In 2023, Beacon installed LPRs on utility poles at four locations: northbound and southbound Route 9D, Route 52 and Washington Avenue.

Cell Tower *(from Page 1)*

construction has begun, charging that Homeland “has endless funds and favorable federal telecom laws to help them steamroll tiny towns like ours.”

In Fishkill, meanwhile, neighbors are battling a Homeland Towers proposal for a

150-foot tower along Route 9 just north of the Putnam County border and the Carol Lane neighborhood. The tower would be constructed behind the commercial building that houses Lisikatos Construction, Burke Services and other businesses.

*Leonard Sparks contributed reporting.*

For Neighbors, A Losing Battle

July 2017

Homeland Towers and Verizon file an application with the Village of Nelsonville to construct a 110-foot tower on a 9.6-acre parcel owned by Doug Logan, who manages the Cold Spring Cemetery.

November 2017

The village suggests an alternative site: a 4-acre wooded tract it owns behind the American Legion on Cedar Street. The idea is soon discarded.

May 2018

The Zoning Board of Appeals votes 3-2 to deny a special-use permit for the tower. The majority says a 110-foot structure would have an “adverse visual impact.” The village attorney warns that Homeland will likely sue.

June 2018

Homeland and Verizon sue in federal court, asking a judge to order the village to issue the permit. AT&T also sues.

December 2018

Mayor Bill O’Neill urges Philipstown to resume negotiations with Homeland to place a tower at the town highway garage, which might end the litigation against Nelsonville. Instead, in July 2019, the Town Board approves the settlement of a federal lawsuit filed against Philipstown by Homeland and Verizon, clearing the way for a 120-foot tower on Vineyard Road near the intersection of routes 9 and 301.

January 2020

Nelsonville approves a settlement: Homeland will reduce the tower to 95 feet and the village will issue a building permit. Logan announces he plans to sell his parcel to Homeland, rather than lease it. He says his alternative plan was to construct up to five homes, “which would make a real mess, right up against the cemetery.”

June 2020

Nelsonville issues a building permit after the Cold Spring Fire Co. allows an exemption for the access road, which is too steep, because the risk of an emergency at the tower is low. The permit allows the firm to widen and resurface the road, remove trees and dig trenches to bury power lines.

October 2020

The homeowners at 16 Rockledge Road file suit, contending that Homeland does not have the right to change the right-of-way that crosses their property. Eighteen residents also sue Nelsonville, Homeland and Verizon, asking a judge to overturn the settlement. They argue that the companies “bullied and intimidated our elected officials.”

March 2021

A federal judge denies a request by the 18 residents for a temporary restraining order to prevent Homeland from removing trees.

November 2021


A state judge dismisses the lawsuit filed by the 18 residents.

February 2022

A state judge issues a temporary order preventing Homeland from making any changes to the shared access road.

December 2023

A state judge rules that Homeland cannot dig trenches but that it can make other changes to the access road under the 2020 building permit.



**HIGHLANDS CHAPEL**  
*Home of the Highlands Choral Society*

**THIS SUNDAY:**  
**MOLLY PATTERSON**  
**“ABRAHAM’S CHILDREN: JUDIASM CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM”**  
**MAY 28 @ 11:00AM**  
**FOR WORSHIP REFLECTION & SONG**

**June 2** Benefit Concert by Loten Namling

**June 8** Spring Yard Sale

**June 9** Rev. William Ladd

The Highlands Choral Society is a nonprofit organization offering nondenominational services and community.

**216 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY**  
**HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG**



**Depot Music:**  
**Okkerville River and The Antlers**  
**SOLD OUT**  
**May 28 at 7:30p**

---

**Depot Docs:**  
**Bad Press**  
**June 7 at 7:30p**

---

**Depot Pride Show**  
**June 8 at 4p and 7p**

---

**Glass Ceiling Breakers:**  
**One Acts and Short Films**  
**June 14-16**

---

**Cinema Depot:**  
**Everybody’s Talking about Jamie**  
**June 21 at 7:30p**

---

**Lolo’s Boyfriend Show**  
**June 28 at 7:30p**

**www.philipstowndepottheatre.org**

**Community Nursery School and Learning Center**  
**NOW OFFERING AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS!**

Now accepting applications for the Sept.-Dec. 2024 school term.

Visit our website at [www.cnscoldspring.com](http://www.cnscoldspring.com) and/or  
Email us at: [communitynurseryschoolcs50@gmail.com](mailto:communitynurseryschoolcs50@gmail.com)

**The Happiest Place in Town!**



# School Budgets Pass with Flying Colors

*Voters approve tax increases for 2024-25*

**Beacon**

By a 720-244 vote, residents of the Beacon school district on Tuesday (May 21) approved an \$83.9 million spending plan, an increase of 3 percent, for 2024-25. The tax levy will rise to \$47.7 million, a 3.9 percent increase that is the maximum allowed under the state's tax cap.

According to the district, the annual increase for a Beacon resident who owns a home worth \$425,000, the median value in Dutchess, will be about \$88. For Fishkill and Wappinger residents in the district, the estimated increase will be \$100 and \$106, respectively.

Voters also filled three open seats on the school board, returning incumbent Flora Stadler (695 votes) and electing newcomers LaVonne McNair (657) and Chris Lewine (596). Each will serve a three-year term. Meg Phillips received 514 votes and was not elected.

Stadler will fill the seat vacated last year by John Galloway Jr., who resigned, while

McNair and Lewine on July 1 will take Stadler's seat and that of Yunice Heath, who did not run for a second term.

Lewine, a former high school principal and math teacher, is the chief of data strategy and product innovation for Connecticut RISE Network. McNair is an analyst with Carrington Mortgage Services and a board member of I Am Beacon.

In addition to the budget, Beacon voters approved \$50 million in spending on an array of capital projects (711-244); the purchase of a second electric school bus (595-364); and the purchase of three 72-passenger, gas-powered buses (668-289).

**Haldane**

By a 336-112 vote, Haldane district residents approved a \$29.2 million budget that represents a 3.45 percent increase in spending. According to the district, property taxes on a home valued at \$500,000 will increase by \$203.

The budget funds the addition of a second English as a New Language teacher (\$100,000) and a third counselor (\$100,000), and allocates \$77,000 to give the district two full-time psychologists.

Voters also approved borrowing \$275,380 to purchase two buses and a riding mower (342-106), and spending \$750,000 from savings to replace the athletic field turf (322-125).

There were two open seats and two candidates for the five-member board. Maggie Valentine was elected to her second, 3-year term with 379 votes and newcomer Michelle Kupper, the immediate past president of the Haldane School Foundation, received 370 votes. Kupper will take the seat of John Hedlund, who did not seek a third term.

**Garrison**

Garrison district residents, by a 190-55 vote, approved \$13.4 million in spending, an increase of 6.4 percent. The levy will rise by 4.4 percent to \$11.2 million, the maximum amount allowed under the state tax cap; the district said annual taxes on a property valued at \$400,000 would increase by \$143.

The budget includes funding for a kindergarten teacher (\$116,700) to meet a projected enrollment increase, an arts-in-education program (\$69,000), a new school sign (\$30,000) and field trips (\$25,000).

In addition, projected high school tuition expenses rose by \$168,034 and the district plans to spend \$125,000 to replace the gym roof.

The ballot included three proposals that passed easily. Two authorize the district to extend its contracts with Haldane and O'Neill high schools through June 2029. The other allows the district to register voters throughout the year rather than on two specific days.

There were three candidates for three open seats on the seven-member board. An incumbent, Jennifer Harriton-Wilson, an education technology coordinator, was elected to a three-year term with 193 votes, while Peter Lesser, who works in educational publishing, received 194 and Eric Arnold, an editorial director at a marketing agency, received 190. Lesser and Arnold will take seats held by Courtney McCarthy and David Gelber, who did not run for re-election.

## School Votes

	Beacon	Haldane	Garrison
% budget approved	75%	75%	78%
Voter turnout	6%	10%	11%

# Desmond-Fish Proposes Outdoor Pavilion

*Project includes solar panels, book-sale storage*

By Leonard Sparks

The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison has applied to the Philipstown Planning Board to install an outdoor pavilion with an open area for events and programs, an enclosure to store used books for its annual sale and rooftop solar panels.

Margaret McManus of project engineer Badey & Watson introduced the proposal on May 16 and the board voted to declare it a "major" project and scheduled a site visit for June 9. (Planning Board Chair Neal Zuckerman, a Desmond-Fish trustee, recused himself.)



A rendering of the proposed library pavilion Janko Rasic Architects

The pavilion, according to the submission, meets two needs identified by patrons in surveys: a place to hold outdoor meetings and a community resource during natural disasters.

The timber-frame pavilion would

measure nearly 2,000 square feet, with 1,350 square feet of covered space under a gray metal roof. It would sit west of the library parking lot, and a brick walkway with bollard lighting would connect it to the main building. The design includes an uncovered patio space and dark-sky-compliant lighting.

"It grew out of a need before the pandemic, but especially during the pandemic, for outdoor covered meeting space," Dede Farabaugh, the library director, said on May 17.

The south face of the roof would hold 20 solar panels, which would feed energy to a backup battery in the library. According to the project documents, the power would "support the community during an emergency by serving as a comfort station, providing clean restrooms and a warm space for people to gather."

A 24-foot-by-24-foot section with a service window will house books for Desmond-Fish's annual sale. Last year, the sale included more than 35,000 titles and raised \$18,000, according to the library.

"Right now, they all get stored downstairs

in the program room, which makes the room unusable for other things," said Michael Rauch, a Desmond-Fish trustee who heads the board committee overseeing the project.

The library last came to the Planning Board in 2021 with a proposal for a reading garden and walking path, which were approved, and an outdoor solar array mounted atop poles in a winding "ribbon" pattern. But the solar panels drew complaints from neighbors who said they would mar views from Route 9D.

Situated on the northeast corner of the intersection of routes 9D and 403, the library's 11.5-acre property is part of the town's Scenic Protection Overlay District, which applies to sections of roads "visible to the public" and seeks to preserve the town's "scenic beauty and rural character."

The library later withdrew its plans for the solar array, citing a delay in grant funding and the need to focus on the search for a new director.

Neal Tomann, a member of the Planning Board, warned that Desmond-Fish could face a similar backlash to its new proposal. However, the library said the structure, which will be 19 feet high, should not be visible from Route 9D.

Desmond-Fish's submission included supportive emails from neighbors, who were the focus of "extensive outreach," said McManus. Those residents included the "immediate neighbors who were most vocal about the project" said Tim Rasic, a former board member and the project's design architect.

"We were told that this was a very attractive site from their standpoint because it really wouldn't be visible to any of the immediate neighbors," he said.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.

Public Open House

SAT. MAY 25

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

26-30 Beverly Warren Road Garrison, NY 10524

\$3,562,500

The Locally Owned Market Leader

Robert A McCaffrey Realty

140 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY

WEB: [www.mccaffreyrealty.com](http://www.mccaffreyrealty.com)

PHONE: 845-265-4113

EMAIL: [info@mccaffreyrealty.com](mailto:info@mccaffreyrealty.com)



The HIGHLANDS

Current

presents...

A Conversation with Nicholas D. Kristof

New York Times op-ed columnist and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner

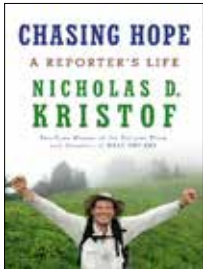
Saturday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m.

The Main Hall of Garrison Institute, 14 Mary's Way, Garrison, NY

This event is a fundraiser to kick off the start of *The Current's* 15th year!



Kristof, known for his coverage of human rights abuses and social injustice, will discuss his journalism with **Christopher Buck**, a Highlands resident and founder and Board Chair of Retro Report, which creates documentary videos on critical news topics.



**Tickets at \$65** will include Kristof's new book, *Chasing Hope: A Reporter's Life*.

For tickets and more details, go to [highlandscurrent.org/Kristof](http://highlandscurrent.org/Kristof)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Kristof with child he interviewed in Yemen.



Photo by Giles Clarke Interviewing Darfuris who had fled their villages for Chad.



AROUND TOWN



**FUTURE SCIENTISTS** — The Garrison School hosted its annual Climate Action Day on May 17, with class projects that included a time capsule created by the first graders to open in 2044 and a community mural.



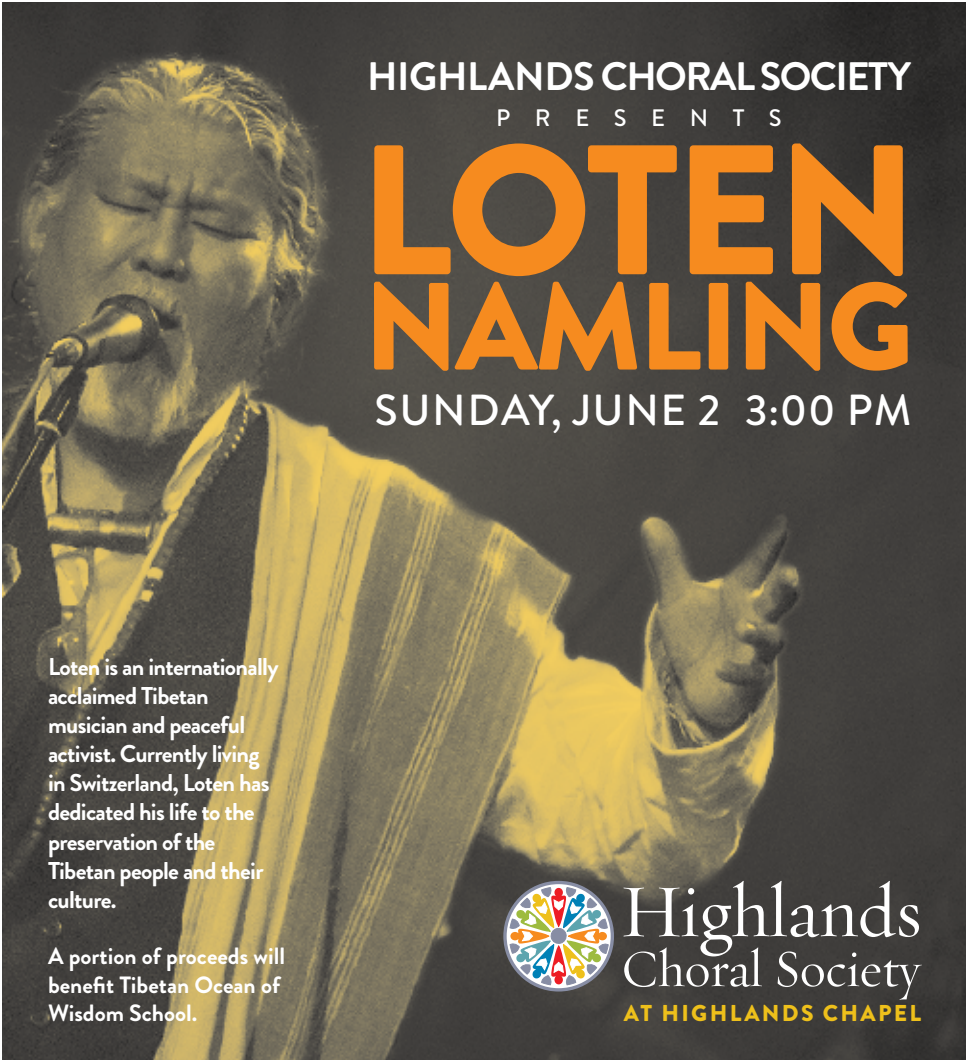
**TOP DOGS** — Two dogs owned by Priscilla Marsh, who lives in Garrison, came home winners from the 148th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show held in Queens from May 11 to 14. Ruthie, a Great Pyrenees handled by Kristen Greenwood, was named the best dog of the opposite sex of the winner for her breed, and Dolly, a Bernese Mountain Dog handled by Monique Mastrapasqua, was awarded Grand Champion Select. The show featured 3,000 canines representing 200 breeds.

Photo provided



**DIA AT THE FARM** — Bel Falleros led a family workshop on May 18 at Common Ground as part of Dia:Beacon's Studio on the Farm series. Participants approached the environment in novel ways, such as drawing with their eyes closed or viewing their surroundings through a tube or mirror.

Photos by Ross Corsair




HIGHLANDS CHORAL SOCIETY  
PRESENTS

# LOTEN NAMLING

SUNDAY, JUNE 2 3:00 PM

Loten is an internationally acclaimed Tibetan musician and peaceful activist. Currently living in Switzerland, Loten has dedicated his life to the preservation of the Tibetan people and their culture.

A portion of proceeds will benefit Tibetan Ocean of Wisdom School.




Highlands  
Choral Society

AT HIGHLANDS CHAPEL

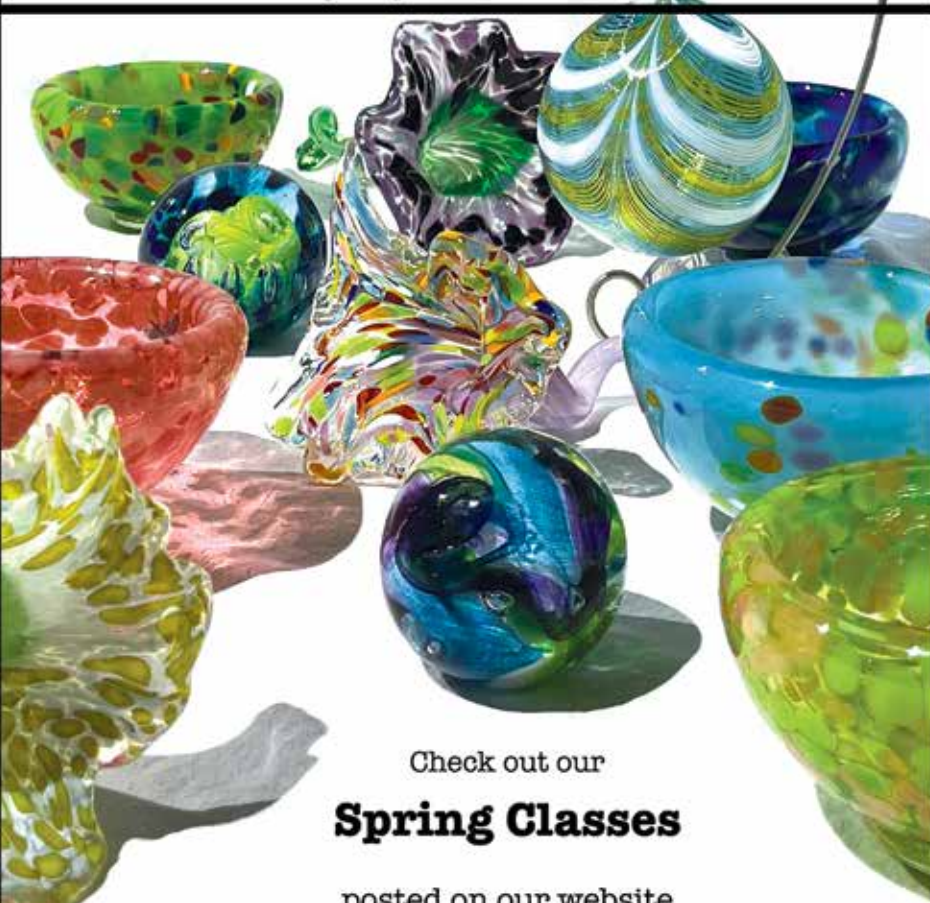
ALL ARE WELCOME. \$20 DONATION IS SUGGESTED.  
216 MAIN STREET | COLD SPRING, NY

HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG  
[highlandschoralsociety.ticketspice.com/lotennamling6-2-24](https://highlandschoralsociety.ticketspice.com/lotennamling6-2-24)



## Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor



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[www.hudsonbeachglass.com](http://www.hudsonbeachglass.com)



## The Calendar

## FLOWER POWER



"GRAS (generally regarded as safe)"



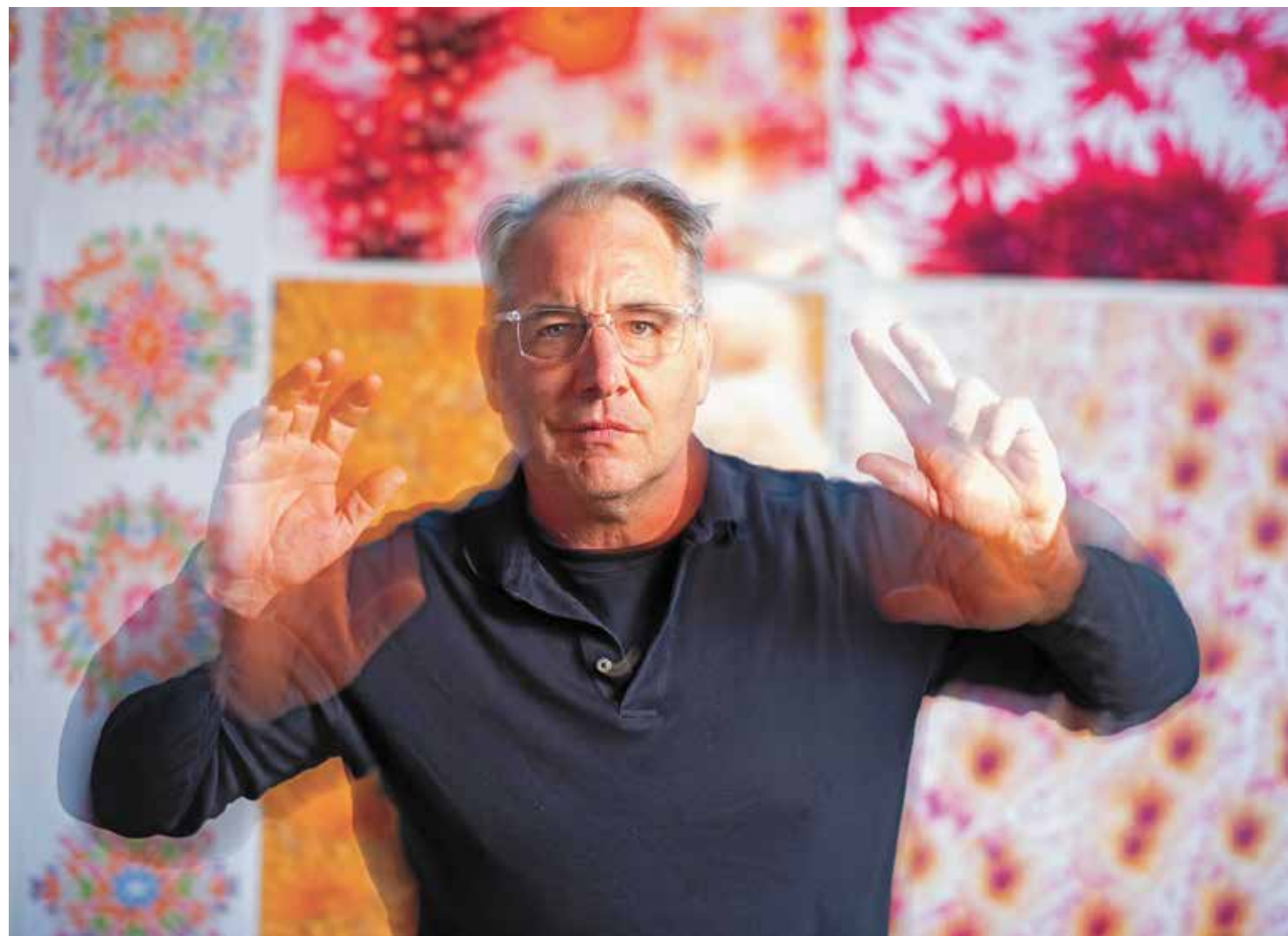
"Dahlia Study Figure 1"



"Dahlia Study in Red and White 1"



"GRNAS (generally regarded not as safe)"



Dirk Westphal

Photo by Liz Westphal

## Philipstown artist turns his digital eye on dahlias

By Marc Ferris

As a young photographer working in darkrooms, Dirk Westphal disdained technique in favor of "bolder things," he recalls. "But even early on, I realized that to create special effects, you had to know your equipment."

Over the years, he made peace with the digital realm, and on June 2, he will share his manipulated photos of flowers culled from his garden in *Dahliamania*, an open-studio show in Philipstown.

Westphal says he became enamored with the quirky, colorful flowers — there are no blue hues, for instance — about 10 years ago.

At first, he took a documentary-style approach with a high-powered Zeiss lens. Displeased with the results, he turned to technical wizardry. After placing acrylic over a light box to provide a neutral background or color contrast, he arranged the flowers in patterns.

Each image incorporates at least three layers — close-up, foreground and background — which are altered with Generative Fill, a collaging component of Photoshop that Westphal says he discovered by accident.

"It took three years to get it to do what I want it to do," he says. "I'm not pressing a button and

generating an AI image. The analog version would be multiple exposures on the same sheet of paper or moving the paper or print as it is being exposed, or both. It's a mashup."

Although they are printed on metal, the dreamy, textured images look soft to the touch and make it difficult to discern where the photo montage ends and the resemblance to a painting begins. The depth of field, Westphal writes, provides "more for the viewer to see than the naked eye can perceive."

He achieves the desired results by zooming in on the plant's eyeball, getting the right light and "cutting the focus in a certain way to limit the sharpness of the near, far and middle photos," he says.

Sometimes, flowers fill the frame. Other prints look like geographical features on a map, except that the "water" is sometimes red, as in "GRAS (generally regarded as safe)."

Raised in Columbus, Ohio, Westphal opted not to take over his father's one-man medical practice. Instead, he attended art school in Los Angeles and then moved to the Lower East Side of New York City.

Commercial jobs irked him because shadows are forbidden. "They don't want people to get distracted," he says.

Turning his attention to projects that "catalog, elevate and transform seemingly commonplace objects into captivating displays of colorful patterns," according to his artist's statement, he scored a hit with photos of goldfish, which he placed in a

clear, wedge-shaped acrylic tank to keep them from flitting around too much.

After buying a rundown property in Garrison, he fell in love with the great outdoors and approved when the architect suggested a studio above the garage with a gently tilted roof and picture windows.

"It was a compound in the woods that smelled great," he says. "I lived in the city all those years and everything up here amazed me, like, 'Wow, I grew a flower.'"

Westphal figures that shiny rock flower anemones in a fish tank would make good subjects but has yet to make them pop. He also photographed many dogs of Philipstown, and his series *Flying People* captured people barreling off a 10-meter diving board against a deep-blue sky.

Sometimes, he works sans camera and computer, like when wielding a scalpel to cut slivers from colorful Hostess CupCakes and Snoballs released during the holidays to create pieces resembling Amish quilts, which he laminates into acrylic and then photographs.

Like Westphal's dahlia studies, the snack-cake collages are pretty trippy. He says: "That's my mission, to make them more interesting than they are in reality."

*Dahliamania will be exhibited from 2 to 6 p.m. on June 2 during an open studio at 302 Indian Brook Road in Garrison. Call 917-754-4184.*



THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a complete listing of events, see [highlandscurrent.org/calendar](https://highlandscurrent.org/calendar).

MEMORIAL DAY

**MON 27**  
**Parade and Ceremony**  
**COLD SPRING**  
9 a.m. Main Street

The parade will begin on lower Main and proceed to the cemetery on Peekskill Road in Nelsonville for the ceremony. Afterward, the American Legion on Cedar Street will serve hot dogs and soft drinks.

**MON 27**  
**Wreath Laying**  
**BEACON**  
10 a.m. East Main Street Bridge

This ceremony will remember those lost at sea.

**MON 27**  
**Ceremony**  
**BEACON**  
11 a.m. Memorial Building  
413 Main St.

The raising of the colors with a flyover and cornerstone unveiling will follow the ceremony at Peattie Square.

COMMUNITY

**SAT 1**  
**Household Hazardous Waste Disposal**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Department of Public Works  
626 Dutchess Turnpike | 845-463-6020  
[bit.ly/dutchess-ewaste](https://bit.ly/dutchess-ewaste)

Register to drop off household products and electronics. See the website for details. *Cost: \$10*

**SAT 1**  
**Putnam Pride Parade**  
**CARMEL**  
1 p.m. Gilead Presbyterian  
9 Church St. | [putnampride.com](https://putnampride.com)

Angel Elektra and Shay D’Pines will kick off the event at the church before leading a car caravan to Memorial Park at 201 Gypsy Trail Road in Kent, where there will be

DJs, food trucks, entertainment and children’s activities until 5 p.m. *Free*

**SAT 1**  
**PHM Lawn Party**  
**GARRISON**  
4 – 7 p.m. Private home  
[putnamhistorymuseum.org](https://putnamhistorymuseum.org)

This annual Putnam History Museum benefit will include a discussion of Hudson River School painters, music by the Todd Londagin Quintet and food and drinks. Ticketholders will receive the address. *Cost: \$65 to \$250*

**SAT 1**  
**History Dinner**  
**BEACON**  
4:30 p.m. Mount Gulian  
145 Sterling St. | [mountgulian.org](https://mountgulian.org)

Actors at this 28th annual dinner will portray explorers Lewis and Clark and the meal will be based on those served during their expedition. *Cost: \$185*



**SUN 2**  
**Repair Cafe**  
**BEACON**  
1 – 4 p.m. Beacon Rec Center  
23 W. Center St.

Bring broken items to be repaired or mended by volunteers, including electronics, furniture, jewelry and clothing.

TALKS & TOURS

**TUES 28**  
**Exploring the Postcard Collection**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Elks Lodge | 900 Wolcott Ave.  
[beaconhistorical.org](https://beaconhistorical.org)

Diane Lapis of the Beacon Historical Society will share examples from its collection of postcards that reflect the life and times of the area. *Free*

**WED 29**  
**Tea Light Luminaries**  
**BEACON**  
3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](https://beaconlibrary.org)

Adults will use pressed flowers to make a candleholder during this crafting event.

**WED 29**  
**Crappy Craft Club for Adults**  
**COLD SPRING**  
6 p.m. Barber and Brew  
69 Main St. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](https://butterfieldlibrary.org)

This is the monthly meeting of “the club with no rules.” Register at the Butterfield Library site.

**THURS 30**  
**Collaborative Symmetry**  
**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](https://beaconlibrary.org)

Donna Mikkelsen will demonstrate a meditative way to make art.

**SAT 1**  
**Jeff Golden**  
**BEACON**  
Noon. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](https://beaconlibrary.org)

Golden will read from his book, *Reclaiming the Sacred: Healing Our Relationships With Ourselves and*



Memorial Day, May 27

*the World*, which describes ways to explore joy, meaning and connection.

**SAT 1**  
**George Whipple**  
**GARRISON**  
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](https://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Whipple will discuss his book, *Garrison*, which is a volume in Arcadia Publishing’s Postcard History Series.

KIDS & FAMILY

**TUES 28**  
**Family Book Club**  
**BEACON**  
6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](https://beaconlibrary.org)

Participants will discuss *My Father’s Dragon*, by Ruth Stiles Gannet.

**FRI 31**  
**After Hours Game Night**  
**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](https://beaconlibrary.org)

Students in grades 5 to 12 are invited to play board and video games.

**SAT 1**  
**Intro to Babysitting**  
**COLD SPRING**  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](https://butterfieldlibrary.org)

This course is designed for students ages 10 and older. Registration required.

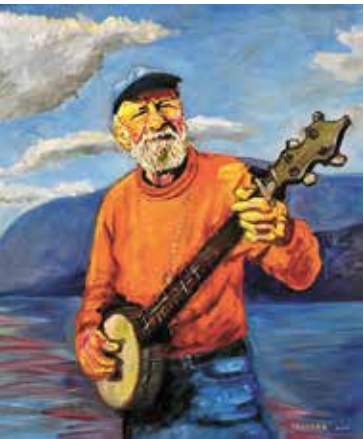
VISUAL ARTS

**SAT 25**  
**Werner Sun | Margaret Lanzetta, Niki Lederer & David Packer**  
**GARRISON**  
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](https://garrisonartcenter.org)

Sun’s digital images will be on view in *Rose Window*. In *Travelers, Liars, Thieves*, Lanzetta, Packer and Lederer explore the theme in paintings, sculpture and textiles. Through June 23.

**SAT 1**  
**30 Year Retrospective: Buffalo**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
Noon – 5 p.m. H-Art Gallery  
1 S. Division St. | [coulteryoung.com](https://coulteryoung.com)

Coulter Young will share his portraits of well-known musicians.



(Continued on Page 13)

JOIN US June 14, 2024 6pm

for the Desmond-Fish Public Library’s

Tales and Cocktails with Special Guest

Jean Hanff Korelitz

and honoring T. Jefferson Cunningham III




Interviewed by Charity Shumway

author of *Bountiful* and *Ten Girls to Watch*

The Highlands Country Club, Garrison

Catering by Riverview

Tickets at [desmondfishlibrary.org/talesandcocktails](https://desmondfishlibrary.org/talesandcocktails)





**SUN 2**  
**Dahliamania**  
**GARRISON**  
2 – 6 p.m. 302 Indian Brook Road  
[dirkwestphal.com](http://dirkwestphal.com)  
Dirk Westphal will host this open studio of photographs of the dahlias from his garden. See Page 11.

**SUN 2**  
**Faces of Fantasy**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
2 – 4 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)  
This show features Michael Garland's surrealist paintings and book illustrations. Through July 14.

**NATURE & OUTDOORS**  
**TUES 28**  
**Container Gardens**  
**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org)  
Volunteers from the Cornell Cooperative Extension will demonstrate how to create a garden in any space.

**SAT 1**  
**Family Nature Day**  
**GARRISON**  
2 – 4 p.m. Hudson Highlands Land Trust  
20 Nazareth Way | [hhlt.org](http://hhlt.org)  
Bring a blanket and chairs to enjoy an afternoon of interactive nature activities, animals and refreshments. Registration requested.

**STAGE & SCREEN**  
**SAT 1**  
**Time Steps**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
2 & 6:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
[bardavon.org](http://bardavon.org) | 845-473-2072  
Students from the Ballet Arts Studio in Beacon will perform ballet, tap and other dance styles.  
*Cost: \$20 (\$15 seniors, students, ages 12 and younger)*

**SAT 1**  
**Bump**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
This performance will be a collaboration of long-form improv and dance. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**SUN 2**  
**Michael Carbonaro**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
7 p.m. Bardavon  
35 Market St. | [bardavon.org](http://bardavon.org)  
The magician and illusionist will perform. *Cost: \$45 to \$85*



**MUSIC**  
**SAT 25**  
**Faded Rose**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The alternative band with a '90s flair will play with Roots Reverie.  
*Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**SUN 26**  
**The Bob Cats**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The Catskills band will play the music of Bob Dylan. *Free (\$20 minimum for food and drinks)*

**FRI 31**  
**The Father Who Stayed**  
**BEACON**  
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
Jeremy Schonfeld, a songwriter and composer, will present his film and perform, followed by a question and answer. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**FRI 31**  
**Slambovian Circus of Dreams**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The band will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its album, *A Good*

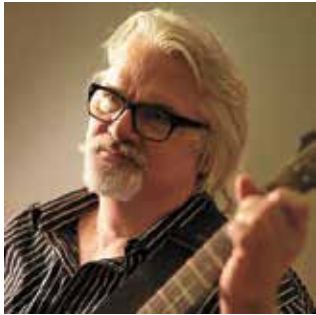
*Thief Tips His Hat*, on the eve of its U.K. tour. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*  
**SAT 1**  
**The Last of the Mo'Ricans**  
**COLD SPRING**  
4 p.m. 10 Whitehill Place  
As part of the Hudson Valley House Concert Project, the band will perform traditional Puerto Rican jibaro music. Reserve a seat by sending payment via Venmo to @Sandy-McKelvey. *Cost: \$25*

**SAT 1**  
**Improvvised Soundscapes**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)  
Bob Frye (keyboards, synthesizers) and Alexander Harris (saxophone, synthesizers) will play jazz, funk and other styles. *Cost: \$20*

**SAT 1**  
**James Keepnews and Billy Stein**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. St. Andrew's | 15 South Ave.  
The jazz guitarists will perform. *Cost: \$20*

**SUN 2**  
**Loten Namling**  
**COLD SPRING**  
3 p.m. Highlands Choral Society  
216 Main St. | [highlandschapel.org](http://highlandschapel.org)  
The Tibetan musician and peace activist, who lives in Switzerland, will perform. *Cost: \$20*

**SUN 2**  
**Billy Prine & The Prine Time Band**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)  
The singer will perform songs by his late brother, John Prine. *Cost: \$32 to \$45*



**CIVIC**  
**TUES 28**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | [beaconny.gov](http://beaconny.gov)

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RIVERWINDS GALLERY

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Fri. May 31 – 7:30 PM

JEREMY SCHONFELD

The Father Who Stayed - Songs. Film. Stories.

Q&A with Scott Ramsey

Tix: [bit.ly/jstfws](http://bit.ly/jstfws) (\$25 adv - \$30 door) door opens 7:00

Sat. June 1 – 8 PM

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Jun 11 - 2nd Tuesdays: Southern Fiddle Tune Jam

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## The Musician Next Door

## August Eriksmoen

By Marc Ferris

August Eriksmoen is an orchestrator and album producer of Broadway musicals and cast recordings, including a credit with *Water for Elephants*, now playing at the Imperial Theatre.

The Beacon resident, who has been nominated for a Tony and a Grammy and won a Laurence Olivier Award from the Society of London Theatre for *Come from Away*, works with high-end equipment and expansive ensembles.

Yet the main photo on his website shows him holding a mandolin, a shot taken during a performance by Bees in the Barn, his modern string band that is rooted in country music.

"It's my favorite thing to do," he says. "I compose songs for film and TV and aspire to write for theater, but this format gives me a lot of space."

When commissioned, Eriksmoen receives a piano sketch, the vocal parts and the number of instruments to write for (usually eight to 18 for Broadway shows and 25 to 100 for TV and film). "The band size is often dictated by the budget," he says. "I have no control over what the configuration of musicians will be."

After devising parts in his head, he inputs them to notation software. Whenever possible, he knocks out a song per day and plays back the scores to see if he missed a flat here or a sharp there.

Then, he attends early rehearsals to work with the composer and fine-tune. "I'm there to help the musicians with the interpretation and get instant feedback from the composer," he says. "We tweak the orchestration on the stands, right there."



August Eriksmoen

Photo by Ross Corsair

His film and TV work includes ABC's *Once Upon a Time*, the Hulu series *Only Murders in the Building* and the Disney film *Descendants*. Broadway credits include *Prince of Egypt* and *Million Dollar Quartet*.

The Tony nomination recognized his score for the Steve Martin and Edie Brickell musical *Bright Star*, which is rooted in bluegrass.

Bees in the Barn — consisting of Eriksmoen on mandolin, Sara Milonovich on fiddle, guitarist Jordan Shapiro and upright bass player Nate Allen — specializes in songs and instrumentals loosely based on 18th-century fiddle tunes that veer into experimental territory.

The group releases its songs online and plays occasional gigs, like a recent show in Poughkeepsie sponsored by the Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association. Eriksmoen served as master of ceremonies.

The sophisticated arrangements of his original songs can present musical minefields when played live. Jagged, percus-



Bees in the Barn includes Sara Milonovich, Jordan Shapiro and Nate Allen. Photos provided

sive passages requiring pinpoint timing melt into fluid melodic moments. In some tunes, the rhythm lopes along and then the dynamic turns on a dime as the tempo begins racing and feet start tapping.

Unlike nearly every country-rooted string band across the land, Eriksmoen notates the music and reads it off an iPad during performances. At the gig, he cued the other musicians to impending changes, which they hit with the precision of a Swiss watch.

The compact compositions blend in elements of Tin Pan Alley ("Malting Waltz"), classical ("Waterbug," "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot") and gypsy jazz ("Fermata," "Memorial" and "Moose on the Loose").

Parts of "Fermata" evoke something Frank Zappa might have composed for a four-piece string band. The thrill ride "Eclipse" starts with a chugging vamp. After the fiddle plays a squiggly melody line, intricate shifting parts fray into strands that eventually interlock. Out of nowhere, a bluegrass-style guitar solo breaks out.

Eriksmoen grew up in southern California and his father often played country. "I heard a lot of Chet Atkins," he recalls. His wife, Jessica Welch, a native of Arkansas, will perform Patsy Cline songs on Bannerman Island in July.

After attending Berklee College of Music in Boston, Eriksmoen moved to Manhattan, then relocated to Beacon in 2011 after visiting



friends. The Bees began to buzz six years later.

He took up the mandolin in part, he says, because it's tuned like a violin and helps with his string arranging. "I get a better sense of the violinist's left hand, what intervals work and how I can move around note-wise," he says.

During the Poughkeepsie show, Eriksmoen brought up a second fiddler and a banjo picker to play a few bluegrass standards like "Blue Moon of Kentucky" (with lead vocals by Welch) and the barn-burner "Rolling in My Sweet Baby's Arms."

"I love the local bluegrass community," he says. "Ninety-nine percent of the time, I'm at home alone doing my work, so it's nice to get out, play with a group and bond with other musicians."

To hear Bees in the Barn's music, see [beesinthebarn.com](http://beesinthebarn.com).

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Winter clouds seen from the south summit of Mount Beacon Photo by B. Cronin

Out There

# Old Man Yells at Cloud

By Brian PJ Cronin

I’ve often day-dreamed about driving north until I run out of road to see the Northern Lights.



From the Highlands, the end of the road is a 20-hour drive to the terminus of James Bay Road in Radisson, Quebec, a charming village of 300 people near a hydroelectric station and the eastern shore of James Bay. Beyond that, the paved highway ends and you need a small plane or high-grade shocks to continue. Once my daydream involves a tire jack, I wake up.

So you can imagine my surprise when the aurora borealis showed up in my backyard a few weeks ago, fulfilling a lifelong dream to see it. Or, at least, it *would* have fulfilled a lifelong dream, because I was in New Jersey, where it was cloudy. I took photos anyway, but they were all of black clouds in a black sky over the black Manasquan River.

“Clouds are the most egalitarian of nature’s wonders. They are indifferent to status and wealth.”

It was the second time in two months that clouds came between me and a generational celestial event (the other being last month in Rochester, when they blocked the total eclipse), prompting me to reconsider my membership in the Cloud Appreciation Society.

You think I’m joking, but I’ve been a member for a decade. It costs \$35 a year. In addition to discounts on cloud-related merchandise, the society provides access to online cloud-spotting courses, identifica-

tion guides and discussion forums in which members post photos of clouds and people comment, in dozens of languages, that the photos are very nice. No one advances any conspiracy theories, even about contrails. It is the last good place on the internet.

The society, which is based in the U.K., believes clouds are the most egalitarian of nature’s wonders. They exist everywhere. They are indifferent to status and wealth. You do not have to drive 20 hours, purchase equipment or fly on a specific day to see clouds. You likely can see clouds *right now*.

I’m sure those of you who saw the Northern Lights and/or the total eclipse will remember it forever. But I’m willing to go out on a limb, or a long, thin volutus cloud, and bet you also remember clouds. I will never forget that day atop Fishkill Ridge when I looked south and saw a thin strip of clouds running parallel to the wind, long and straight as if a child with chalk had run it across the sky. (I have since learned that these are officially known as *cumulus radiatus*, or “cloud streets.”)

I once spent an hour at the Spruceton Valley lookout in the Catskills watching a towering and stately *cumulus congestus* slowly float across the sky, becoming more golden as the sun sank. Everyone has equal access to clouds, but the cloud watching on Catskill high peaks during summer afternoons is spectacular, thanks to the warm, moist air rising throughout the day. The wind blows this air into the sides of mountains, forcing it upward until it begins to cool and the vapor becomes visible, like your breath on a cold morning.

All of this makes it hard for me to stay mad at clouds, although in the last two months they’ve blown through the goodwill it’s taken a lifetime to accumulate. Thanks to their convenience and ubiquitous nature, it won’t take long to rebuild the stockpile. Here’s to a long, hot summer of clouds along the banks of the Hudson, the tops of the Highlands and my back porch.



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# LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

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

## 150 Years Ago (May 1874)

A litter of six foxes was removed from a den at Mr. Snook's farm at Low Point [Chelsea] and killed. In the hole were the remnants of a turkey, goose, hen, woodchuck and two weasels.

A man walking along the tracks near Dutchess Junction was crossing the drawbridge when trains approached from both directions. He saved himself by jumping into the water.

The Savings Bank in Fishkill Landing installed an iron front manufactured at Stanton's works in Newburgh.

Swift's Hall, a former church, was sold at Matteawan to Horatio Nelson Swift, known as "the lawnmower man" because of his



A print made from an early photo by C.A. Palmer of Washington's Headquarters

innovations in that industry.

After a reader threatened to punch him over an article, a reporter for the *Newburgh Telegraph* commented that "he's an idiot who thinks or believes that a reporter can please everybody."

The Sunday School teachers and students at St. Luke's at Matteawan presented Dr. Duncan, the church's pastor for nearly 20 years, with a gold watch.

*The Matteawan Enterprise* folded. The competing *Fishkill Standard* attributed the closure to "the fact that there is room and patronage sufficient for but one newspaper

in this neighborhood."

Made despondent by illness, Richard Omerod, 57, of Matteawan, a felt skirt printer at the seamless clothing plant, killed himself with a razor. He was survived by his wife and four children.

Passengers on the northbound express arriving in Poughkeepsie reported large fires on the Fishkill Mountains as the train emerged from the Highlands.

Charles Hoag was killed when his team became unmanageable and crossed the tracks in front of a train. The horses also died.

After a young clergyman in Brockport

commented that the women in town could make rich cake but not good bread, he received loaves from 14 single women in his congregation.

## 125 Years Ago (May 1899)

A northbound express hit four brickyard employees near Dutchess Junction, killing one and seriously injuring the others. The men said they did not see the train until it was almost upon them.

Fishkill Landing officials borrowed a road-scraping machine from Cold Spring.

C.A. Palmer of Fishkill Landing, and formerly of Cold Spring, was credited with taking the first photograph of Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh 36 years earlier.

Michael Sliney, a model prisoner at the Matteawan asylum, where he had been sent for life after being convicted of murder, accompanied a guard to the pitch-black basement to make a repair. The men made their way with matches, and as the guard lit a new one, Sliney hit him with an iron pipe. The men grappled in the darkness until the physicians upstairs heard the guard's cries. A few years earlier, Sliney had starred in a minstrel performance at the prison, but praise for his acting brought him notoriety and attention to his crime, so he withdrew.

The debate team from Haldane High School visited Matteawan High School to discuss the question: "Resolved, that the U.S. construct and operate the Nicaragua canal." [The U.S. abandoned plans to build the passage after

*(Continued on Page 17)*

## Book Launch & Author Talk

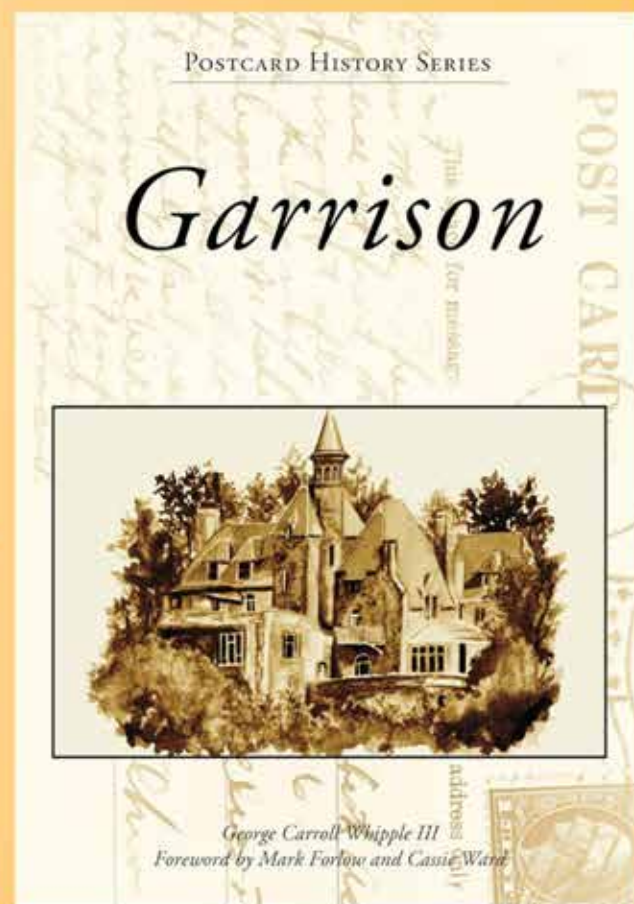
A local history conversation with George Carroll Whipple III, author of *Garrison*.

**Saturday**  
**June 1**  
**2:00 PM**



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(Continued from Page 16)

it purchased interest in the Panama Canal.]

A service at the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church at Fishkill Landing ended in chaos. The Rev. S.V. Gumbs had been investigated but exonerated by the trustees after he called several times on Alice Hunt, which led to “talk” in the congregation. During a baptism, Alice’s sister, Emma, apparently having taken offense at Addie Henry’s role in the episode, punched her in the face, prompting a fight that led to a steward, Thomas Lefevre, being thrown through a window.

A Cold Spring man who rode his bicycle to a Matteawan saloon came out to find someone had slashed its tire.

About 500 brickyard workers went on strike for higher wages and lower daily quotas. Most employers granted the demands and the men returned to work.

### 100 Years Ago (May 1924)

Sarah Greene left her \$5,000 estate [about \$92,000 today] to the Highland Hospital, apparently because she had received such good care.

Dr. C.C. Robinson and his sister, who had wintered in St. Petersburg, Florida, traveled to Elkins, New Hampshire, for the summer.

A wealthy Brooklyn manufacturer of medical supplies who in 1921 had shot and killed a police officer argued for his release from the Matteawan asylum, saying he had been cured of his psychopathic personality and was prepared to stand trial. Before the killing, the defendant carried a gun everywhere he went, including to the theater, saying he feared sabotage.

Edith Gluckman, 39, of Manhattan, was sent to the Matteawan asylum after she killed her husband with an ax while he slept. She was said to suffer from epileptic attacks and homicidal mania.

A state judge granted an “Enoch Arden divorce” to Mary Raymond, whose husband had gone missing in 1908. The couple had married in Beacon in 1891 and had two children. [The Enoch Arden doctrine, named for Tennyson’s 1864 poem, allows a divorce when a spouse has disappeared, typically for at least seven years.]

The City Council voted down a resolution to revoke the liquor license of William King after two commissioners said they had witnessed a crowd of unruly drunks outside his tavern on a Saturday night. “If the police don’t take care of it, I move that we suspend every one of them,” said one.

John Buris, who served as a boy in the Boer War in South Africa and was wounded eight times in World War I, died at age 45.

### 75 Years Ago (May 1949)

Firefighters used ladders to rescue occupants of the second and third floors of the former Bradley Hotel at Spring Valley and Churchill streets, including John Bradley, its former operator, who ran a grocery at street level. The tenement blaze was discovered at 1:30 a.m.

Beacon City Judge Benjamin Roosa was arrested in Poughkeepsie for a parking ticket. The officers waived his \$2 bond. As he left headquarters, Roosa greeted the chief and praised the officers. “The boys

are all right,” he said.

A Poughkeepsie patrol officer fired five shots as he chased a Beacon man accused of petty larceny through the downtown streets — three into the air as a warning and two in the direction of the suspect, George Van Orsdall, a handyman who had stolen a cancer fund container from Braw’s tavern that contained \$15.20 [\$200].

James V. Forrestal, 57, a Beacon native who served as secretary of the Navy and the first secretary of defense during and after World War II, was buried at Arlington National Cemetery after he jumped from the 16th floor of the Navy hospital where he had been admitted for mental health treatment. Rep. Lindy Boggs (D-Louisiana) said Forrestal had been “subjected to a campaign of abuse and vilification” that “should give pause to the irresponsible elements of the press and radio.” President Harry Truman said, “This able and devoted public servant was as truly a casualty of the war as if he had died on the firing line.”

The Beacon Theatre was showing the color films *South of St. Louis*, with Joel McCrea and Alexis Smith; *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*, with Frank Sinatra, Esther Williams and Gene Kelly; and *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, with James Stewart, Jean Arthur and Claude Rains.



### 50 Years Ago (May 1974)

A 24-year-old Park Avenue woman was in critical condition at Vassar Hospital after her husband said he found her sitting on the steps of their home at 3 p.m. with a head injury. Police said it appeared she had surprised a burglar, who struck her with a hammer. The second floor of the home was ransacked, although nothing was taken, including the \$100 [\$635] in her purse.

The Fulton Fish Market was again selling Hudson River shad. “Four years ago, no one wanted to touch a fish from the Hudson,” said Nick Gadaletto, a fish merchant in Highland. “The fish tasted oily and after working with the fish for a while, your hands began to smell like diesel oil.”

Beacon High School closed for a day following a brawl that involved up to 50 students. When the school reopened, eight police officers in plain clothes and six clergymen were stationed inside the building.

A 23-year-old man was arrested after he struck his former landlord in the head with an 8-inch-long chisel during an argument over back rent at her rooming house.

After a six-man race, Harry Lynch and John Raymond, a Black employee at IBM,



## Map Sliders

Old Maps Online, at [oldmapsonline.org](http://oldmapsonline.org), allows visitors to compare old and new maps by using a slider. We’ve created links to sliders for maps of Fishkill Landing and Matteawan from 1867 and 1891 at [highlandscurrent.org/map-sliders](http://highlandscurrent.org/map-sliders).

were elected to the school board.

John “Cookie” McMichael, 34, a guard at the Matteawan State Hospital, was killed during a shoot-out in Queens with two Housing Authority officers. According to police, McMichael had walked out of a bar and started firing wildly into the street.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Hammond Plaza, a condo project at Beekman and Ferry streets.

A 30-year-old man who pleaded guilty to selling heroin to an undercover police officer on Main Street for \$20 [\$125] said the officer first gave him marijuana and, after they smoked together, said he felt sick and needed heroin.

The City Council went into closed session after the finance commissioner, Joseph Gallio, voted “no” on the routine approval of \$43,000 [\$273,000] in invoice payments. Reporters heard shouting between Gallio and the mayor; Gallio later said he was miffed because he had not seen four or five of the smaller invoices.

Gov. Malcolm Wilson enacted a law creating the Beacon Industrial Development Agency.

A 20-year-old Wappingers Falls man was killed when a stolen car he was driving hit a tree on Howland Avenue at 1 a.m.

The Boujikian Art Gallery at 478 Main St. hosted an art fair with the Dutchess County Association for Retarded Children. James Boujikian, the art director at West Point, had opened the gallery in 1963.

### 25 Years Ago (May 1999)

Martina Heath, a senior at Beacon High School, won four events at the Section I, Class B state track qualifier in Montrose: the long jump, high jump, 100-meter hurdles and 200-meter dash. Jorge Rojas set a school record while winning the boys’ pentathlon and La’Shawn Martinez was first in the girls’ 100-meter dash.

A man was arrested after he confronted a 19-year-old woman in the parking lot of the Beacon Market on Fishkill Avenue and stole her car and \$16 in cash.

For the fourth vote in a row, there were no challengers to incumbents running for re-election to the school board.

Following the killings at Columbine High School in Colorado, students at Beacon High School covered a 20-foot mirror with pledges of support for “a safe, nonviolent and tolerant” school. Tamika Moore, the student council treasurer, came up with the idea.

To encourage residential development, the City Council doubled the lot-size minimums for Craig House, Beacon Hills and University Settlement Camp.

Tahir Gecaj of Beacon submitted an application with Jewish Family Services of Dutchess County to have his family from Kosovo resettled in the U.S. His mother, sister, brother-in-law and their five children were among 600,000 refugees who fled fighting between Albanians and Serbs.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for more news.



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# Improving the experience for both residents and trail-bound visitors...

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail will use a variety of **tools, amenities, and services** to help manage existing and future trail-bound visitation and **relieve pressure on our communities.**



## Wayfinding Signage

for both trail users arriving by train and cyclists/motorists on the road

will help get people to their destination efficiently



## Public Restrooms

maintained by HHFT staff

8 stalls each at Dockside, Little Stony Point, Breakneck, Dutchess Manor and Notch



## Trash & Recycling Collection

managed by HHFT staff

at every trail entry and other key locations along the trail



## Improved Breakneck Station

40-foot train platforms, safety lighting, restrooms, and an off-road route from train to trail, will encourage usage of the station



## Visitor Center at Dutchess Manor

restrooms, programming, exhibits, information, snack and drink options, and ample parking, will draw arrivals to the heart of the trail



## Shuttle Service

vans will reduce traffic and improve pedestrian safety

will connect users to parking areas, train stations, and most Fjord Trail entries between Cold Spring and Beacon



## Expanded Parking

Thoughtfully placed new parking spots will be located north of the Village of Cold Spring, including at Dutchess Manor, Breakneck, Wade's Hill, and Notch



## Technology & Communications

live information on current parking space availability and a shuttle tracker will be available on HHFT's mobile app, website, and digital signage



## Tools to Explore

parking reservations, timed entry, and incentivizing public transit use and carpooling are tools being explored for future consideration

want to learn more? visit **hhft.org**

concept rendering

**ft** Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail



Community Edition

## THE BLUE PRINT



Each year, the members of Ashley Linda's journalism class at Haldane High School publish a newspaper, *The Blue Print*. With support from the Haldane School Foundation, *The Current* is working with the students to share their reporting with the community. Selections from the two most recent issues appear below.

**Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Linda    **Senior Editor:** Eloise Pearsall

**Reporters:** William Busselle, Anotonio Cardoso, Julian Constantine, Henry Foley-Hedlund, Shep Macinnes, Milla Maxwell, Corinna Mueller, Kayla Ruggiero, Dashiell Santelmann, Ivan Sicilliano, Ty Villella, Lincoln Wayland



## Rep. Lawler Visits Haldane

By Will Busselle and Eloise Pearsall

On Feb. 26, Rep. Mike Lawler visited Haldane High School.

During lunch, juniors and seniors packed Room 211. Lawler, wearing a blue suit and holding a large Dunkin' Donuts cup, began his visit by talking about how he first got involved in politics by interning for John McCain's presidential campaign. He took a broad range of questions from students, including some tough questions about his stances on divisive issues such as abortion, immigration and wars overseas.

"He was a very confident person talking to a group of teenagers," said senior Bella Tomizawa, who noted that many students can be opinionated and stubborn.

Lawler answered fewer questions than expected and did not leave room for much

(Continued on Page 20)

## "Ask Lisa" About Teen Mental Health

By Eloise Pearsall

Having good mental health doesn't equal happiness, according to Lisa Damour, the mother of two daughters, the author of three New York Times bestsellers on teen mental health and the co-host of the *Ask Lisa* podcast, where she discusses how to recognize emotions and challenges in teenagers' lives.

Damour, a senior advisor to the Schubert Center for Child Studies at Case Western Reserve University, also speaks to schools,

professional organizations and corporate groups around the world. She recently spoke in Cold Spring about her book, *The Emotional Lives of Teenagers*.

"Teenagers have huge feelings," she said. When assessing mental health in teenagers, an important question to ask is, does the feeling make sense in context?

Damour states that



it is normal for teenagers to feel extreme emotions, and they should. When a teenager expresses "big" emotions, parents should take a deep breath: This is one sign, of many, that their teen has good mental health. In fact, Damour talks about how adults should be worried if their teen isn't expressing big emotions.

(Continued on Page 20)

## Would You Give Up TikTok?

By Eloise Pearsall

I gave up TikTok for a week and became aware of how it impacts my everyday life.

Whether it's the newest news, concert tours or college advice, TikTok's algorithm knows what you and I like watching the most. TikTok fills half my daily screen time. Oftentimes, I scroll mindlessly through what must be hundreds of short videos, wasting valuable time I could be using to do something productive.

"I try not to open it, because as soon as I do, I know I'm going to be on there for so much longer than I want to be," said senior Percy Parker. "I feel like I'm getting less smart the more time I spend on it because it's killing my attention span."

When I had the thought of deleting the app for just a week, I was worried about not being able to talk about things with my friends. The fear of missing out is pretty

daunting. But I realized that few conversations were actually centered around niche online content but on daily life outside social media.

Senior William Busselle offered reassurance. "I don't know the dances, but I don't feel like I'm missing out on much."

During my first two days without TikTok, I found loopholes such as Instagram Reels. I was not alone. Wilson Robohm, a junior, said he tried to limit his TikTok time to an hour a day but "that just made me switch to Instagram Reels, which I'm on for like 2½ hours a day." Another senior,

Quin Carmicino, said she deleted TikTok but still uses Instagram Reels.

By the end of the week without TikTok, my screen time was down 36 percent. I am noticing that I use TikTok far less. Knowing that I could go through my day without feeling excluded from online content gave me the reassurance I needed to disconnect.



## Identity Interlocutor

By Julian Costantine

At first glance, we may view people or sets of people as scarcely accurate stereotypes. Some artists believe that it is their responsibility to challenge these.

Maxwell Cloe, a 26-year-old queer artist from the Appalachian Mountain region, is looking to change people's perspective. He spoke recently to the Haldane Identity Club about his research and work.

Cloe grew up and lives in Richmond, Virginia. He said his work began as a way to challenge the misconceptions that most people have about this region of the U.S. He helps promote work by artists from Appalachia, such as Bob Morgan, Julie Rae Powers, Liz Williams, Mo

(Continued on Page 20)

## An Assignment to Use ChatGPT

By Lincoln Wayland

With AI generators like ChatGPT, cheating has never been easier, especially for English: Type in whatever prompt your teacher gives you and it'll give you a great (or, at least, middling) essay.

Earlier this year, Mrs. Martinez gave an unusual assignment to her senior honors class: Students were allowed to write an essay using ChatGPT.

After attending a regional conference about AI and its effects and applications in education, Mrs. Martinez said she wanted to address the question: How much will AI help students?

She assigned an essay on the *Barbie*

movie, which ChatGPT is likely not yet trained on, meaning students would have to tell the language model about the plot.

"I wanted them to see the limitations of the chatbots, and I wanted them to learn how to craft a prompt, which helps with thesis development, and see how AI can be used as an editing helper," Mrs. Martinez said.

While grading the essays, she said she found students did better the less they relied on ChatGPT. With AI assistance, "the grammar was correct, but the content wasn't quite as good," she said.

Some students expressed frustration with AI's limitations. For instance, it was hard to get ChatGPT to give them 1,000 words in one go.

## 5 Questions: Scotia Hartford

By Milla Maxwell

What's a school dance without its music? I reached out to Scotia Hartford, one of the juniors who worked on the music playlist for the winter dance.

**Who asked for the playlist?**

Mrs. Granese and Mrs. Peparo and some fellow Student Council members. I was originally just there to help start the playlist but I got engulfed by the whole task. I am not complaining, though, it was a lot of fun.

(Continued on Page 20)







# THE BLUE PRINT

Community Edition

## Health (From Page 19)

"Stress is OK only when paired with adequate restoration," she said. Damour compares this to strength training in the gym. Working hard in the gym only works when one pairs it with adequate rest; those who do not take rest days burn out.

For parents and teachers, being a "steady presence" is of utmost importance when it comes to a teenager's distress and holding the space for them to build tolerance to distress is being a steady presence. A parent's ability to

tolerate stress in their children is "the thing that builds their ability to tolerate distress in themselves," Damour emphasized.

In addition to their family, teenagers spend a lot of time with their teachers. For the past two years, teachers at Haldane have participated in book talks as a way to look at their teaching practice through a science-based lens.

Last year, they read *Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention*, by Johann Hari, which informed a new policy requiring students to store their phones during class.

## 5Q (From Page 19)

### How do you choose the songs?

We added our favorites and reached out for recommendations. We kept in mind some "classic" dance songs from previous dances. Our goal was to curate a wide playlist that most people would like or have fun dancing to.

### How long did it take?

We did most of it during a Student Council meeting during lunch. We added songs along the way until a couple of days before the dance. Mrs. Granese and Mrs. Peparo

only required that the playlist last at least four hours and was clean [non-explicit].

### Did you get any input from other students?

We got a fair amount of input from other students, but it was ultimately our decision whether to add a song, so we filtered out many requests.

### What is your favorite song or favorite artist?

This is such a tough question. I am a big fan of Drake, Brent Faiyaz and Kendrick Lamar. I've been playing "Dark Days," by 21 Savage and Mariah the Scientist, on repeat.

## Identity (From Page 19)

Kessler and Megan King, on his website (maxwellcloe.com) and social media. Their art centers on themes such as U.S. history, colonialism, queerness and Indigenous people.

Kiera Shanahan, a junior at Haldane, invited Cloe to speak to the Identity Club. They are cousins, so the connection was easy to make.

Much of the art shown on Cloe's website is made with everyday objects. In "God Willing and the Creek Don't Rise," Kessler uses yarn to connect two trees and a gazebo. Morgan creates sculptures, such as "Fires of Pangea," from buttons, toys, dolls and paint.



"Fires of Pangea," by Bob Morgan ►

## Lawler (From Page 19)

discussion during his 35-minute visit. "He kind of did not answer peoples' questions," said Tomizawa. "They wanted a straight answer."

Lawler has been making many public appearances in the district to connect with constituents, including on Feb. 9 at Philip-

stown Town Hall.

Many Haldane students will be able to vote for the first time in the 2024 election, in which Lawler will be running for reelection. Public appearances like these could give voters more certainty on who they will vote for.

When discussing Lawler's visit, we noticed that many students were not well-informed about political issues.

## Current Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

**CARE COORDINATOR** — The Community & Crisis Care Coordinator is a new position at the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, reporting to the executive director and working with other care coordinators. The Hub runs on passion: You have a passion for helping people to help themselves and/or their families through crises. Specifically, you are interested in and have experience with mental-health issues and experience with the challenges facing individuals battling addictions. See [philipstownhub.org/carecoordinator](http://philipstownhub.org/carecoordinator).

**POOL MANAGER, LIFE GUARDS** — Small environmental and recreational organization that is working to keep the Hudson River clean and provide safe swimming opportunities is looking for a pool manager and certified lifeguards for small wading pool in Hudson River in Beacon. Part-time - Pool Certified, \$18 to \$25 per hour, weekend availability, in-person. Contact [info@riverpool.org](mailto:info@riverpool.org).

**GROUNDKEEPER** — Local nonprofit looking to fill a part-time, seasonal groundskeeping role to support lawn mowing, weed wacking and general outdoor clean-up. Some prior experience preferred, but willing to train. Students looking for after-school or summer

work are encouraged to apply. Hourly rate up to \$20. To apply, send an email with your background or experience, a cellphone number and an email to reach you to [jobs@garrisoninstitute.org](mailto:jobs@garrisoninstitute.org).

### SERVICES

**TUTOR** — College professor with over 20 years of experience teaching math, economics, Excel and related subjects in high school and college available to tutor in person or online until June 17 and online for the rest of the summer for \$50 an hour. Email [rumvra@yahoo.com](mailto:rumvra@yahoo.com).

**HEALING BODYWORK** — Featured in NY Magazine as "one of the 15 best massage therapists offering CranialSacral Therapy," with a specialty in SomatoEmotional Release. In addition, I offer Swedish massage incorporating CranialSacral Therapy. Trained in Medical Massage, Process Acupuncture, Meditation and Foot Reflexology with over 30 years' experience. Garrison and Ossining locations. House calls available. Call 914-519-8138 or visit [Joymatalon.com](http://Joymatalon.com).

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### FOR RENT

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**BEACON** — Professional private office in quiet and bright corner office available off Main Street in Beacon. Professional building with adjacent

parking lot on Rombout Avenue. 250 square feet with a private bathroom. Amenities include a lobby for customers or clients. Utilities included heat, air conditioning and WiFi. All inclusive \$1,250 monthly. 1-year lease available. Email [info@rocpilates.net](mailto:info@rocpilates.net).

**COLD SPRING** — Studio apartment in the heart of the village, 4-minute walk to train, AC, MW, DW, off-street parking available. No pets/smoking. \$1,125/mo + utilities, 2 months security. Call Bill at 845-380-1108.

### FOR SALE

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**TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See [highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](http://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).**



## WWII Letters *(from Page 1)*

from his enlistment in Beacon and processing on Long Island, through training in Kentucky and Maryland, to deployment to England and France.

In one letter, he wrote: "We'll dig fox holes and crawl in and let tanks drive over us." Says Miskell: "I can only imagine how his mother felt" reading that.

While in Kentucky, Buster married his high school sweetheart, Dorothea Tompkins, 16. He wrote: "If you buy me anything for Christmas, Mom, I wish you'd buy something Dot and I both could use and send it to her. That way I'd have it when I come home."

Buster's letters while in the U.S. included descriptions of basic training and camp life. Once overseas, the correspondence became less frequent and was heavily censored to ensure it had no details that might benefit the enemy, such as a unit's location, movements or engagements. While in France, Buster never mentioned combat but hinted at it, frequently commenting he'd "been very busy lately."

Below are excerpts from a sampling of Johnson's letters:

### From Kentucky

**June 9, 1943:** "I'm learning to fire two rifles, 33mm and 50mm machine guns, and a 37mm anti-tank gun. We take long hikes carrying full packs and guns weighing about 70 pounds."

**June 12:** "I like Dorothea Tompkins a lot."



Dot and Buster (left) pose for a family photo in March 1944 while Buster was home on leave before departing for Europe. His parents, Albert and Mary Johnson, are at right.

*Family photo*

I'm seriously thinking of becoming engaged. Of course, I want to know what you think. She's willing to become a Catholic."

**June 14:** "I'm dead tired. I never realized I could be so tired."

**July 2:** "Three guys went AWOL. They caught one of them."

**July 10:** "The Chicago Cubs are playing an exhibition game here against the post team."

**July 12:** "I was sent to the rifle range yesterday. I didn't do too good. I was scared. I couldn't hold the rifle steady because I was shaking. Today I was better."

**Aug. 11:** "Boy, it's hot and crowded at service club dances. You're soaked with sweat. I stayed 15 minutes. There's 15 guys to each girl. You're lucky if you get to dance two steps with a girl."

**Aug. 14:** "Gee, this food is getting worse every day."

**Aug. 30:** "I got your letter with pictures of Joe DiMaggio and your package. The cakes are already gone."

**Sept. 11:** "We're going out to the assault course; we crawl on our bellies with machine guns firing over our heads. It's going to be



tough, but I guess I can take it now."

**Dec. 15:** "Today we are out in the field. Some of our men dressed as Germans, and we had to attack them. Boy, that machine gun is heavy when you carry it for a while."

**Dec. 25:** "I hope everyone is well and happy this Christmas. I went to midnight Mass. Right now I'm on guard at the stockade. I stand in the tower outside the prison fence and make sure no one tries to climb it. The weapon they gave me is a 12-gauge shotgun."

**Jan. 28, 1944:** "I had my first boxing bout. I finished my man off in the third round. He couldn't take it anymore."

**Feb. 11:** "Last night we had a beer party. Gosh, it's too bad I don't drink beer. They had a few Cokes for us weaker men who couldn't take the beer."

### From England

**May 1944:** "I've finally arrived safely in England after a trip that wasn't so bad as I thought it'd be. The scenery is really beautiful."

**June 7:** "I received a letter from Dot; she said [uncle] Frank had been home. Tell him I'll meet him in Berlin pretty soon. Now that the invasion has started, things may start popping."

**June 28:** "When it's not raining, it's getting ready to. I'll be glad to get back home again when the war is over."

### From France

**July 11:** "I'm now in the 79th Division fighting here in France. It was one of the first to enter Cherbourg when it was captured. So, you can see I'm with a good outfit."

**Sept. 8** (to his sister, Marion): "I received your pictures. The boys here were surprised I had such a good-looking sister. They all plan to stop at Beacon after the war."

**Oct. 14:** "I went to Mass and communion in a small French church. It looked like it had been very pretty. Now there's nothing much of it standing."

**Oct. 28:** "I was able to see a USO show, *The Puddle Jumpers*. It was pretty good."

**Nov. 8:** "How is everyone at home these days? I'm feeling fine. I'll write to you again as soon as I can."

Buster did not write again. His mother wrote three times, noting in each he had not written in some time. On Dec. 3, she wrote: "I keep wondering if you're not in the front lines." The letters were returned, unopened. On Dec. 8, she received this letter:

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

I have been directed by the regimental commander to write these few lines to express to you the profound sympathy of the officers and men of the regiment in the loss of your son Private First Class Edwin J. Johnson, who was killed in action November 27, 1944, while fighting as a member of this organization during the campaign in Western Europe.

Your son was buried in a military cemetery in France. A chaplain of the Catholic faith officiated at the burial. Security regulations forbid revealing details with regard to the exact time place and circumstances of your son's death.

Although words can in no way decrease or soften your sense of loss, I write these few lines to assure you that he died bravely, and that his regiment deeply mourns the loss of a soldier who so courageously gave his life for his country.

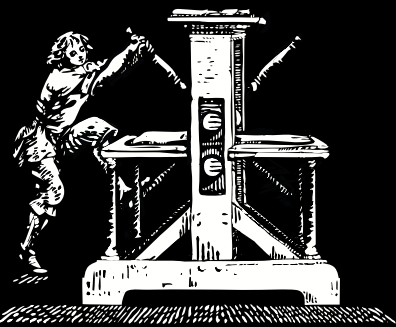
Through your sorrow we hope you will understand our pride in his heroism and devotion to duty.

Sincerely,  
Emmit A. Joyner  
Ass't Adjutant

On Nov. 17, 1945, Buster was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart. He was interred in the military cemetery in France until 1948, when his remains were returned to Beacon for burial at St. Joachim's Cemetery.

*Dear Mom and Dad* is available by emailing [jwmiskell@gmail.com](mailto:jwmiskell@gmail.com).

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## NOTICE

The bond resolution, summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on March 27, 2023, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the City School District of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. The resolution was approved by the voters of the School District on May 16, 2023. A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the School District Clerk for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Dated: Beacon, New York, May 22, 2024

Victoria Jackson, School District Clerk



# Beacon High School Honor Roll

## Students recognized for third-quarter grades

### Grade 12

#### Principal's List

Isabella Amundson, Ella Cason, Gabriella Espinal, Jacqueline Griesing, Harsh Gupta, Serena Jabar, Shy’anne Kush, Myasia Lewis, Tiannah Lindsay, Evan Lombardo, Hannah Marin, Alexandria McCollum, Isabella Migliore, Vanessa Murphy, Twyla Nelson, Emilia Pastorello, Vanessa Piciacchio, Luis Rivera, Nina Rivers, Elizabeth Ruffy, Rachel Thorne, Brandon Warren, Emily Wei, August Wright, Ryan Zingone Redfield

#### High Honor Roll

Imroz Ali, Jack Antalek, Ronnie Anzovino, Wiles Assael, Anthony Borromeo, Sophia Campagiorni, Vanessa Campanelli, Douglas Capawana, Rubio Castagna -Torres, Eleanor Cunningham, Olivia Del Castillo, Luke DeLuise, Marina Elias, Jayden Featherstone, Nathan Filc-Helmuth, Nora Folkes, Sara Gonzalez, Cadence Heeter, Keira Istvan, Emma Joyce, Georgia Kane, Zuhir Kasem, Zakary Krachy, Olivia Lapaz, Anthony Lazo, Amerie Madigan, Bryce Manning, Stephen McDowell, Nico McKible, Christopher Milewski, Aryah Montefusco, Karimah Muhammad, Lillie O’Leary, Elisa Pahucki, Christopher Pirrone, Nahari Powell, Arden Ragone, Henry Reinke, Keira Robinson, Kiarra Rodriguez, Matthew Sandison, Kasey Senior, Jackson Shrawder, Owen Skorewicz, Riley Slosson, Andrew Spiconardi, Michael Varian, Peter Vermeulen, Wallace Wei, Jon-Paul Wood, Noelle Young

#### Honor Roll

Myah Aguilar Montano, Jackson Atwell, Ariana Bedell, Caleb Bennett, Henry Betterbid, Emma Campagiorni, Nicole Coliman, Grace Delgado, Damani Deloatch, Enis Dika, Kiana Dugger, Michael Fontaine Jr., Derek Fortes Jr., Max Goodhill, Sienna Gorey, Alexander Guobadia, Pearl Kirigi, Gabrielle Kuka, Meara Kumar, Nicholas Lentini, Samantha Lopez, Owen Lynch, Anthony Marzov’illa, Gia Morgan, Liam Murphy, Mia Nelsen-

Cheyne, Thomas Nocerino, Sophia Principe, Jayden Quintana, Merilyn Rinaldi, Jenna Rojas, Gabriella Roscino, Brandon Soria, Allison Thomas, Xiomarys Williams

### Grade 11

#### Principal's List

Kendall Alston, Beckett Anderson, Anabelle Arginsky, Taryn Beardsley, Amelie Brandl, Isabel Bunker, Christine Chen, Evelina Diebboll, Tayler Finley, AvaMaria Gianna, Mackenzie Harman, Sarah Jaafar, Charlie Klein, Lani Lopez, Ela Lyons, Josephine Mallon, Emma Merola, Addison Miller, Ronan Moran, Amelia Padilla, Katherine Ruffy, Kayli Shand, Jax Spodek, Serena Stampleman

#### High Honor Roll

Daniel Bridges, Lila Burke, Avery Davis, Willa Freedman, Justin Gerardes, Fallon Groza, Bailey Hernandez, Jeannae’ Jean-Francois, Karma Jones, Reilly Landisi, Paige McCredo, Allen McKay, Jada Medley, Madison Mianti, Genan Mohammed Murtada, Darryl Montgomery Jr., Lindsay Pedersen, Josue Pintado, Albion Qelaj, David Quezada, Nathan Richardson, Daveya Rodriguez, Bethany Rudolph, Breanna Rudolph, Anastasia Santise, Chloe Sheffield, Jacob Signorelli, Mika-Gisselle Tates, Sortia Tripaldi, Malcolm Wilson, Ava Zeoli, Francis Zezza

#### Honor Roll

Isabella Baffuto, Kevin Beal, Angelina Bottiglieri, Ahmaria Bunn, Devin Byrne, Jaidyn Caccamo, Shyla Camacho, Christopher Carton Jr., Aiden Claudio, William Echevarria, Amadea Ferris, Messiah Gardner, Ja’mes Gorden, Noelle Haase, Jalen Jackson, Vincent Komer, Rory LaDue, Mark McCabe, Elijah Mitchell, Zoe Moreno, Megan Nicholson, Brianna Perez-Sample, Shilo Reynolds, Pedro Rivera III, Mehr Sagri, Gabriel Salcedo, Emma Soltish, Jayla Soto, Natalia Sulsona, Michael VanBuren, Roque Vianna, Holly Whittemore, Saoirse Woods, Charles Zellinger

### Grade 10

#### Principal's List

Nadeen Ahmed, Alianna Alijaj, Farhana Antora, Alexander Browning, Skylar Clair, Christian Clay, Peter Cohen, Tye Elias, Jonah Espinosa, Marisah George, Samiha Golden, Zenia Haris, Everly Jordan, Alina Joseph, Gabrielle Khalil, Savana Kush, Irene Loza Argudo, Alma Mart, Aril McKee, Oscar McKible, Mira Miller, Annabelle Notarthomas, Yoland Rofaeil, Liliana Rybak, Mikaela Sanchez, Kayla Selander

#### High Honor Roll

Madison Abrahamson, Macy Alencastro, Mira Bagriyanik, Logan Blum, James Bouchard III, Parker Capawana, Lola Ciccone, Teo Fairbanks, Kayla Hammond, Dylan Hetrick, Grace Hockler, Ayden Hooten, Ruby Hotchkiss, Vincent Joao Jr., Oren Kelleher, Taylor Kelliher, Griffin Kitzrow, Kiran Kumar, Carlos Lampon III, Aron Li, Brayden Manning, Nora Marshall, Jayden Mihalchik, Aiden Montleon, Adrien Okoye, Nolan O’Malley, Jonathan Richards, Zachary Schetter, Thomas Senior, Anna Sevastianova, Gannon Statini-Perez, George Walker, Alexander Young, Addison Zittel

#### Honor Roll

Eduardo Arellano, Ella Brill, Stephanie Bustamante Cruz, Samuel Callan, Emi Dickinson Case Leal, Kiera D’lppolito, Sofia Domanski, Alejandro Flores Urzua, Isabella Galbo, Gabriel Godbee, Brianna Green, Javier Gutierrez Jr., Natalie Hayden, Chance Hunter, Milo Isabell, Maceo Koerner, Ryan Landisi, Tania Lindsay, Julia McGuire-Soellner, Silena Negron, Brea O’Flaherty, Amaya Paulin, Michael Ramos, Angelina Richards, Jalaysia Robinson, Aiden Spiecker, Alex Trama, Vinicius Trichinato, Juan Tutasí Jr., Marcos Velasco, Ri’Kya White, Mya Wright

### Grade 9

#### Principal's List

Mikayla Acevedo, Maayan Alon, Atlas Baltz, Charlotte Bowen, Jerry Chen, Terry Chen, Shannon Colandrea, Emily Coldrick, Theodore Concepcion, Zamaya Cone, Travis Dickston, Ka’Dera Elliott, Elijah Epps, Fionn Fehilly, Lily Figlia, Emilio Guerra, Elma-

Taherin Hassan, Miguel Herrera, Shaun Jabar, Ruby King, Wenang Kobarsih, Katelyn Kong, Mary Lopez, Molly Lyons, Lily Mack, Kylie Maloney, Ash Marcus, Ethan Maxaner, Victoria McKay, Isaac McKible, Lily Murr, Stella Reinke, John Rose, Charlotte Rossi, Finch Simons, Elias Smith, Harper Strang, Elliott Thorne, Gavin Troiano, Isaac Tschang, Farrah VanCott, Jesse Vermeulen, Lila Welsh, Parker White, Julie Whittemore

#### High Honor Roll

Cecilia Allee, Emma Bellis, Savannah Brace, Myasia Burch, Mateo Cruz, Magdalena del Puerto-Vitti, Victoria Diaz, Khordae Facey, Adriana Fazioli, Hailey Fish, William Flynn, Hudson Fontaine, Khloe Franklin, Valeria Garcia, Kayla Gerardes, Julian Hannah, Abigail Haydt, August Hayes, Ryan Huynh, Adelina Llamas,Yianniz Male, Yadriana Manzano Cabello, Shyanne McNair, Gianna Mercer, Luna Neyra, Madelyn Pellerin, Brady Philipbar, Sarah Ramkalawon, Lillian Ray, Julian Rivers, Katherine Sendelbach, Tabitha Smith-White, Januario Stageman, Savannah Steinman, Nolan Varricchio, Rudolph Vergolina, Fabiola Vogrin-cic, Aslynn Way, Aine Woods, Ny’el Woods

#### Honor Roll

Molly-Rose Archer, Tamirnesh Bernstein, Juniper Breault, Hartley Brickman, Aniyah Brown, Misleidy Cruz Cruz, Naim Dika, Abigail Durkin, Tyler Evans, Brandon Fremer, Ayham Ghazzawi, Maliah Graham, Teanna Jennings, Gabriel Khan, Syeira Kozlik, Penelope Lipari, Ryan Mowen, Lakota Newman, Joseph Pallone, David Ramirez, Bella Ridore, Samuel Riquelme Jr., Noah Sanderson, Vladimir Sevastianov, Stella Sheehy, Caeleb Smith, Jamir Spence, Kiarra Tice, Brevin Timm, Connor Varricchio, Slater Way

### BOCES CTI

#### High Honor Roll

Ahmaria Bunn, Ayanna Dennis, Zakary Krachy, Amerie Madigan, Ryann Meyer, Aryah Montefusco, Nathan Richardson, Luis Rivera, Pedro Rivera III, Riley Slosson, Brayden Vlasaty, Joseph Williams, Noelle Young

#### Honor Roll

Darryl Montgomery, Brianna Perez-Sample

# Haldane High School Honor Roll

## Students recognized for third-quarter grades

### Grade 12

#### Principal's List

Penelope Andreou, Scott Bailey, Lily Benson, Vanja Booth, Alissa Buslovich, Quin Carmicino, Luca DiLello, Liam Gaugler, Evan Giachinta, Colin Hopkins, Madeleine Hutz, Finola Kiter, Ronan Kiter, Helena Kottman, Amelia Kupper, Mac Lake, Gabriel Lunin-Pack, Trajan McCarthy, Camilla McDaniel, Ella Mekeel, Matthew Nachamkin, Ellen O’Hara, Percy Parker, Eloise Pearsall, Ruby Poses, Julie Shields, Ryan Van Tassel, Joseline Vasquez, Max Westphal

#### High Honor Roll

Alexandra Busselle, William Busselle, Liliana Cappello, Emily Gilleo, Jeremy Hall, Jack Hartman, Ivy Heydt-Benjamin, Olivia Knox, Elaine Llewellyn, Jacqueline Muth, Simon Pieza, Keira Russell, Nicholas Stathos, Emily Tomann

#### Honor Roll

Jon Bastys, Grace Bradley, James D’Abruzzo, Frankie DiGiglio, Oscar Donahue, Clement Grossman, Mary Junjulas, Isadora Kaye, Lola Mahoney, Michael Murray, Henry O’Neil, PJ Ruggiero, Dashiell Santelmann,

Olivia Scanga, Iain Starr, Isabella Tomizawa-Rincon, MacKenzie Warren

### Grade 11

#### Principal's List

Amelia Alayon, Domenica Awananch, Dahlia Beck, Dustin Berkley, Alexandra Cairns, Owin Cuite, Marc Firpo, Josephine Foley-Hedlund, Robert Freimark, Scotia Hartford, Frederick Hohenberger, Helen Hutchison, John Illian, Zohra Kapoor, Micah Morales, Charles Rowe, Julian Schwarz, Brendan Shanahan, Keira Shanahan, Matthew Silhavy, Caroline Sniffen, Ashley Sousa, Dana Spiegel, Nathaniel Stickle

#### High Honor Roll

Brody Corless, Christopher Coronel, Judine Cox, Hunter Erickson, Christian Ferreira, Louis Ferreira, Andalou Frezza, Leif Heydt-Benjamin, Sophie Koch, Frank Lanza, Rain Lee, Gabriela Perilli, Oliver Petkus, Jake Powers, Shaun Russell, Amelia Scarpino, Jayden Treloar

#### Honor Roll

Anatoliy Alhov, Claire Bolte, Gray Cardoso,

Kira Drury, Edwin Dubroff, Tyler Hyatt, Patrick Locitzer, Thomas Locitzer, Brandt Robbins, Wilson Robohm, Laurel Sassano, Jake Thomas, Crystal Timmons

### Grade 10

#### Principal's List

Dylan Ambrose, Ada Caccamise, Zane Del Pozo, Louise Denehy, Leo DiGiovanni, Aine Duggan, James Frommer, Leo Grocott, Amelia Kaye, Sofia Kelly, Carl Kester, Seth Lunin-Pack, Elliott Mahoney, Ember Mahoney, Giovannina Manfredi, Lincoln McCarthy, Anna-Catherine Nelson, William O’Hara, Marisa Peters, Maxwell Sanders, Henry Schimming, Louisa Schimming, Owen Sullivan-Hoch, Roth Westphal

#### High Honor Roll

Philip Cappello, Lenny Chandler, Eleanor Chew, Diego DiGiglio, Savannah Duggan, Vivian Eannacony, Ryder Griffin, Nicolas Lagerman, Nicolo Massella, Thiago Pluas Gomez, Owen Powers, Tyler Schacht, Giovanni Siciliano, Tomas Simko, Luke Tippet, Jasmine Wallis

#### Honor Roll

Anthony Bailey, Molly Bernstein, Luke Bozsik, Daniel Campanile, Joel Felipe Mejia, Aine Fortuna, Jonah Mangan, Kayla

Ruggiero, George Stubbs, Ty Villella

### Grade 9

#### Principal's List

Nadine Alayon, Alexa Arcigal, Hazel Berkeley, Marco DiLello, Frances Donahue, Henry Foley-Hedlund, Noah Green, Lela Gurvich-Andrews, Margaret Hall, Lugh Hartford, Tess Hereford, Benjamin Hutz, Christine Junjulas, Connor Keegan, Nicolas LeMon, Una Lentz, Maisie Matthews, Jacqueline McCormick, Ruby McCormick, Fischer Moss, Lily Parker, Taya Robinson, Gemma Sabin, Oliver Sanders, Plum Severs, Delia Starr, Lincoln Wayland

#### High Honor Roll

Polina Buslovich, Ryan Cavallaro, Ryan Duncan, Juan Fajardo, Alexander Gaugler, Clara Gelber, Stella Gretina, Eva Hohenberger, Liv Holmbo, Griffin Lucca, George MacInnes, Bianca Manfredi, Milla Maxwell, Sydney Merriman, Julianna Minos, Corinna Mueller, Amelia Nova Martinez, Caden Phillippi, Patrick Shields, Aaden Wik, Rhys Williams

#### Honor Roll

Dessa Bellamy Tarantino, Cooper Corless, Julian Costantine, Silas Emig, Jaiden Gunther, Rosie Herman, Jacob Medoff, Graham Weppler, Hudson Yeaple



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			

- ACROSS
1. Make over
5. Lucy of *Kill Bill*
8. Sch. for tots
12. Flair
13. Leb. neighbor
14. Bart’s sister
15. Suffix for million
16. Kipling poem
18. “Even Now” singer
20. “Old MacDonald” refrain
21. French article
22. PC linkup
23. Type of wheat
26. Prayerful chants
30. Commotion
31. Do sums
32. “As I see it,” to a texter
33. “How-to” books
36. Dull
38. Boy king
39. Mandible
40. Gold mold

43. Capital of Nicaragua
47. Work force
49. Reddish brown
50. Jai —
51. Flamenco cheer
52. Pedestal part
53. — Hari
54. Quirky
55. Swindle
19. Permit
22. Young fellow
23. Cheers bartender
24. Hi-tech organizer
25. Very long time
26. Rx writers
27. Shred
28. “— dreaming?”
29. Turf
31. Flight stat
34. Perfect place
35. Car
36. Mover’s vehicle
37. Prizes
39. Hollywood’s Leto
40. Mosque VIP
41. *The Lion King* lioness
42. Bitty biter
43. Blend
44. Avocado dip, for short
45. Fed. food inspector
46. Physics bit
48. Romance

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

FLAME

GRACE

MICRO  
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. Nursery rhyme trio
5. “Black \_\_\_\_\_” (1926 Georgia O’Keeffe painting)
6. As \_\_\_\_\_ resort
7. Retailer for Fido and Fluffy
8. Before surgery, informally

- DOWN
1. Track athlete
2. Seeing red
3. Tech giant headquartered in San Jose, CA
4. Bar, legally
6. “Killer” software

	1	2	3	4
	5			
6				
7				
8				

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

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

A	A	H	
F	R	I	C
A	C	T	O
R	H	O	N
	N	E	W

RACER  
LACER  
LAGER  
LATER  
WATER  
WAFER

Answers for May 17 Puzzles

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## Sports

# VARSITY ROUNDUP

## HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**SOFTBALL** — Seeded No. 2 in the Section I, Class C tournament, Haldane easily advanced to the title game with a 16-4 win over No. 3 seed Alexander Hamilton on Monday (May 20). But they faced a tougher challenge against No. 1 seed Tuckahoe (13-5) at North Rockland High School.

After a devastating third inning, the Blue Devils lost to the Tigers, 13-1, on Thursday to finish at a respectable 7-11. It was the first season that the school had fielded a varsity softball team since 2019, and it had four middle school players in the starting lineup and only one senior.

In the opening round against Hamilton, Sophia Taylor went 2-for-3 with three RBIs, Sydney Merriman was 1-for-2 with two RBIs and Callie Sniffen was 1-for-2 with a double and two RBIs.

**BOYS' LACROSSE** — After a second-round upset, the fifth-seeded Blue Devils (8-8) faced No. 1 Pleasantville (14-2) on Thursday (May 23) in the semifinals of the Section I, Class D tournament but lost, 19-4.

The Blue Devils reached the game with a victory on Monday at No. 4 Croton-Harmon, 13-12. Haldane led early, 6-3, before the game became a tit-for-tat, with the Blue Devils scoring and the Tigers matching.

Haldane managed a two-goal lead early in the fourth behind scores by Evan Giachinta and Fallou Faye, but the Tigers scored twice to tie. Faye notched his fifth goal for a 12-11 lead, which Croton-Harmon equaled with 3:16 left. Faye then hit the game-winner with just over a minute remaining.

Goalie Jordon Hankel, who had 20 saves, preserved the win. "Jordon has mastered his craft," Faye said.

In the first round of the tournament on May 17, Haldane easily defeated No. 12 Rye Neck, 18-4. Giachinta scored six times.

**BASEBALL** — Assigned the third seed in the Section I, Class C tournament, Haldane upset No. 2 Leffell, 4-0, on Tuesday (May 21) to advance to the Thursday title game at Purchase College but didn't have enough firepower to overcome No. 1 Tuckahoe (14-4-1), losing 12-3. The Blue Devils also lost to Tuckahoe in the first game of the season, 11-1, on their way to a 4-14 regular-season record.

Haldane blanked Leffell on Tuesday behind the pitching of Hunter Erickson, who threw a complete game, giving up one hit while striking out 18. Trajan McCar-



Derrick Heaton tosses the ball to Ryan Smith to force an out against Saugerties.



Any Mercurio takes a cut against Hamilton on May 20. Haldane won, 16-4.

Photo by Skip Pearlman

thy recorded three hits and Jake Hotaling had two.

**TRACK AND FIELD** — Haldane competed last weekend in the 10-team Section I Northern Counties Championship at Arlington High School. For the boys, Owen Powers won the 1,600 meters in 4:39 in a field of 48 runners and Jack Illian was sixth in 4:48.19; Jake Thomas was second in the javelin with a throw of 141-01; and Merrick Williams was fourth in the pentathlon with 2,277 points.

For the girls, the top finishers were Eloise Pearsall, who was eighth in the 800-meter run in 2:46.77; Ashley Sousa, who was third in the 1,500 meters in 5:28.59; Plum Severs, who was seventh in the javelin with a throw of 65-06; and Shayla Ochoa, who was third in the pentathlon with 1,541 points.

Haldane travels today (May 24) to Valhalla for the Class C championships.

## BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**BASEBALL** — Beacon (15-6) won the first two games of the Section IX, Class A playoffs to advance to the title game on Saturday morning (May 25) against No. 1 Marlboro (13-5) at Cantine Field in Saugerties.

Marlboro won an April 27 game between the teams, 8-7. It received a bye in the first round of the tournament and then avoided an upset by No. 4 Red Hook, 4-3.

Seeded No. 3, the Bulldogs opened the postseason with a 3-0 win on Monday over No. 6 Saugerties behind five innings by Mikey Fontaine and a save from Derrick Heaton, who also had two RBIs.

Beacon followed that with an upset on Wednesday over No. 2 Rondout Valley, 11-5.



Mikey Fontaine threw five scoreless innings for Beacon in a playoff win over Saugerties.

Photos by Cadence Heeter

Mercer Jordan was 4-for-4 and Jackson Atwell was 3-for-3.

**SOFTBALL** — Seeded fifth in the Section IX, Class A playoffs, Beacon's season ended in the first round on Monday (May 20) with a 12-6 loss at No. 4 New Paltz. Beacon led 6-4 before New Paltz scored eight runs in the sixth. The Bulldogs finished 6-12, two wins better than last season.

**TRACK AND FIELD** — Beacon competed at the 24-team OCIAA Championship at Warwick this past weekend.

For the boys, sophomore Noah Spiak "ran the race of his life," according to Coach Jim Henry, to win the 400-meter hurdles in 56.98, trimming 3 seconds off his personal best. Damani DeLoatch won the triple jump in 47-01; Jayden Mihalchik was fourth in the javelin with a throw of 130 feet; and Rubio Castagna-Torres finished fourth in the pentathlon with 2,259 points after running the 1,500 meters in 4:48. For the girls, Isabella Migliore was 12th in the 800 meters in 2:25.23 and Kira Sheehan was third in the javelin with a throw of 67-01.

Beacon will compete on Saturday (May 25) at the Section IX, Class B championships at Goshen.

**BOYS' GOLF** — Will Martin shot a 74 at the Section IX playoffs on Tuesday (May 21) in Kingston and advanced to the second round on Thursday in Poughkeepsie.

**BOYS' TENNIS** — Beacon had two representatives in the Section IX tournament this week in Goshen after Frank Zezza and Charlie Klein qualified in doubles. They won their first round match against a team from Lourdes (6-3, 6-1) but were eliminated by a team from Monroe-Woodbury High School (6-2, 6-4).