

The HIGHLANDS Current



A Funky Cookie
Page 16

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Clearwater Finds Safe Harbor

Raises \$347,000 to surpass emergency fundraising goal

By Brian PJ Cronin

A month ago, Clearwater was on the brink of financial insolvency, with employees being furloughed and the future of the storied environmental organization in doubt. But on Tuesday (June 4), the Beacon-based nonprofit announced it had surpassed its emergency fundraising goal of \$250,000 by \$97,000 and counting. “The response proves that we’re critically important to our community and to the Hudson Valley,” said David Toman, the group’s executive director. “Now we need to steward this goodwill and take it forward into the future.” While financial difficulties are not new for the 55-year organization, the most recent shortfall was unprecedented. When Toman spoke to *The Current* last month, he attributed the deficit to factors such as the pandemic, years of decreased bookings for

educational field trips aboard the historic sloop after the 2007 financial crisis, and several costly rainouts and cancellations of the Great Hudson River Revival fundraising concert. The problems were compounded by Clearwater falling behind over four years on annual voluntary third-party audits, which led to the group briefly losing its nonprofit status and becoming ineligible for grants. Although many in Clearwater felt that the group was turning things around because of increased bookings for the sloop, a new strategic plan and executive director was needed. Toman, who was chief financial officer for the Mohonk Preserve, was hired two years ago for his financial acumen and brought the group’s financial reporting back up to speed. The gap in grant funding meant it could no longer afford to pay staff or chart a course forward without immediate outside help. Toman said that gifts, small and large, poured in, including a \$25,000 matching grant. Alerted by news stories, two foun-

(Continued on Page 9)

Pleas Grow for Bridge Fencing

Lawmakers, advocates call for suicide barriers

By Leonard Sparks

Lorraine Lein brought her grief and anger, and an urn with her son’s ashes. She replayed June 30, 2023, for members of the New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA) board: driving her son, Jake Simmons, 17 years old and distraught over problems with his girlfriend, to Bear Mountain State Park for a mood-elevating hike; Jake fleeing after they arrived; police cars speeding to the Bear Mountain Bridge; Lein begging an officer blocking her path to grant access to where Jake had jumped. “A policeman standing next to me said, ‘Let her see’ and I saw him floating in the water,” Lein told the board Feb. 15. “I fell to my knees, screaming: ‘No, Jake! What did you do? What did you do?’” Simmons’ leap to his death is the kind of act that Lein and an increasingly frustrated chorus of surviving families and Hudson Valley lawmakers want to prevent on the



Bear Mountain Bridge Bridges and Tunnels

Bear Mountain and Newburgh-Beacon bridges, and the three other spans that NYSBA oversees: the Kingston-Rhinecliff, Mid-Hudson and Rip Van Winkle bridges. For years, NYSBA has been pressed to install suicide-deterrent fencing on those bridges. But the independent agency, which is funded primarily through tolls, has instead prioritized training employees working at the spans and relying on cameras and call boxes for emergencies. On Tuesday (June 4), the state Senate passed legislation authored by Sen. Pete Harchuk requiring that NYSBA install “climb-deterrent” fencing on its five

(Continued on Page 7)

Wildfires
Part 2

What Are the Risks?

The Highlands doesn’t have the terrain or conditions for the type of disaster that killed 101 people last year on the island of Maui in Hawaii. But that doesn’t mean there are no risks, especially if simultaneous fires forced a mass exodus.

By Richard Kreitner

Native Americans used sophisticated tools and strategies to shape the landscape. One of the most important was fire. Indigenous peoples set fires to open land for planting and to clear crinkly underbrush that alerted game to a hunter’s presence. Burning the land returned nutrients to the soil and encouraged growth that deer, turkey and quail depended on for food. Archaeologist Lucianne Lavin has uncovered evidence of controlled burns near Albany around the year 1000 A.D. They were almost certainly used in the Highlands, as well. “Such a fire is

a spectacular sight when one sails on the rivers at night while the forest is ablaze on both banks,” wrote Adriaen van der Donck, an important leader in New Netherlands in the 1640s. In the past few decades, controlled burns, or prescribed fires, have become a common part of preventing wildfires such as a 1988 blaze that consumed nearly 800,000 acres in Yellowstone National Park. The argument is now widely accepted that more than a century of rigorous fire suppression has created the conditions for even worse fires to break out and spread.

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A state forest ranger monitors a controlled, or “prescribed,” burn on Long Island last month. DEC

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FIVE QUESTIONS: DANNY BERNSTEIN

By Michael Turton

Danny Bernstein, who lives in Cold Spring, has achieved the highest ranking given by the American Poolplayers Association (APA).

How did you get into the game?

My dad was a bus driver and had a side job as a bartender on the Upper East Side [of Manhattan]. When I was 5 or 6, my mom and I'd visit him at the bar, and he'd teach me to play pool. It was awesome; I couldn't wait to play more. I was too young for most places, but the drivers' room at the bus depot had two tables. I'd hang out with him, shooting pool with guys in their 50s and 60s, and beating them. By age 17, I'd do anything to play, in pool halls, clubs, anywhere I could sneak in.

What keeps you playing?

It's such a mental game. If you're having a bad day, you have to forget it. If you miss a shot, you have to forget it, like it never happened. Most people can't do that. They get frustrated, become annoyed, lose and don't want to play anymore. If you're mentally strong, you can do well. I also like the atmosphere. Everybody's watching you. In leagues, you're talking 15 other players, plus their friends, plus whoever's in the bar. There's a lot of oohing and aahing and "Oh my god!" I love that.

What leagues do you play in?

I've played 8-ball on Monday nights in an APA league on the Lower East Side for nearly 30 years. You can play six nights a week, but I have two kids! There are about 15 divisions, and 10 to 12 teams per division, yet it's a small community; I know almost everybody. If you play someone, you make an impression on each other because you both love the game. If you win your division, you qualify for "the triangles." If you win that, you go to Las Vegas, all expenses paid. Win there and you're talking hundreds of thousands of dollars. On Thursdays, I'm in a Billiard Congress of America league on East 21st Street, play-



ing 8-ball, 9-ball and round robins. APA has 40,000 to 50,000 members in the city. BCA is larger but pays out less money.

What is most difficult for new players to master?

Playing safety [when you shoot not to

pocket a ball but to leave your opponent with a bad lie]. In the bars, burying your opponent like that, leaving him or her no shot, used to be considered dirty pool, but in league play it's acceptable. I did it to an older guy when I was about 20. He was furious! He hated me but after he watched professional pool, he realized you just do that to win. New players will say, "I play in the bar and beat everybody." It's different in leagues. Players are intelligent; they play all the time. It's soft; they don't hit hard. They study speed. They're not reckless with the cue ball. They're always playing two shots — trying to make their shot but, if they miss, playing safety.

What's the best movie made about playing pool?

The Hustler, with Paul Newman as Fast Eddie Felson and Jackie Gleason as Minnesota Fats. The best line is: "Preacher, rack 'em up!" They're playing straight pool. Fats has a great break, brings the cue ball all the way back, kisses the rail and says: "I didn't leave you much." Fast Eddie says: "You left me a lot." Phenomenal movie.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What tops your 2024 summer fun list?

“Going back to Montreal; it's so laid back.”



Henry Barish, Beacon

“Traveling in Europe, especially Italy and Croatia”



Juliette Barkman, Cold Spring

“Visiting my aunt, uncle and cousins in Jacksonville, Florida”



Augie Bentancourt, Cold Spring

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NEWS BRIEFS

Philipstown to Repurpose Pandemic Funding

County approves change in Garrison water projects

The Putnam County Legislature on Tuesday (June 4) approved a request by Philipstown to redirect \$370,000 in sales-tax revenue to connect a well for the Garrison Landing Water District.

The county originally approved the funds — which are part of \$740,000 in sales taxes and American Rescue Plan Act pandemic funding allocated to Philipstown — to connect the Garrison Institute to the water district.

Instead, Philipstown will use it for the well, which is expected to eliminate the need to purchase water for residents and businesses on Garrison's Landing. According to the town, trucking in water costs \$25,000 to \$30,000 a month.

Under state law, the fees collected from the 84 water district customers for operations and maintenance are capped at \$20,000 annually; the town has been spending reserve funds to cover the remainder.

Beacon Promotes Four Police Officers

Swearing-in ceremony on June 17

The Beacon City Council on Monday (June 3) approved promotions for four police officers.

Michael Confield, who has been with the Police Department since 2008, and Affdecrin Vargas, a Beacon officer since 2014, were each promoted to lieutenant. Confield will succeed Lt. Tom Figlia, who will become chief on Monday (June 10).

Alyssa Rudden, who was hired by the city in 2017, was promoted to sergeant to succeed Confield, and Carl Garofolo, also hired in 2017, was promoted to detective. The officers will be sworn in during the council's June 17 meeting.

Illegal Sewer Connections Must Be Closed

Beacon now requires proof of termination

The Beacon City Council on Monday (June 3) adopted a law that requires anyone found with an illegal connection to the city's sanitary sewer system, such as through stormwater drains or downspouts, to provide documentation that the connection has been permanently terminated.

Illegal connections must be closed because Beacon's wastewater treatment

plant, which is designed to take in 6 million gallons per day, has been inundated at times during heavy rains with more than 18 million gallons, which "impairs the biological systems that break down our sludge," City Administrator Chris White explained.

The council also approved a resolution allowing the Building Department to impose a \$100 quarterly fee for illegal sanitary sewer connections that are not "reasonably practical or possible" to terminate.

Loans Available for Local Flood Damage

Federal outreach center opens in Highlands Falls

The federal Small Business Administration is offering low-interest loans to Putnam County property owners, businesses and organizations that were affected by severe storms and flooding that hit the area in July 2023.

Homeowners can apply to borrow up to \$500,000 to repair and replace damaged structures and, along with renters, for up to \$100,000 to repair or replace personal property. Applications are due by July 15.

An outreach center at the Highlands Falls Senior Center, 15 Drew Ave., is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through Wednesday (June 12). Walk-ins are welcome or visit appointment.sba.gov. For more information, see sba.gov/disaster or call 800-659-2955.

Central Hudson Outlines Energy Bill Impacts

Higher rates proposed for electricity, gas

Bills for a typical Central Hudson residential customer would increase by \$16 per month for electricity and \$208 annually for gas if the state Public Service Commission approves new delivery rates recommended by two administrative judges.

A filing by Central Hudson on May 21 estimated the impact on customer bills from the judges' decision. They recommended that the utility be allowed to raise an additional \$75.4 million in delivery revenues for electricity and \$29.6 million for gas, below the company's initial request of \$139.5 and \$41.5 million, respectively.

Central Hudson's request is for one-year increases spanning July 1 to June 30, 2025. The estimates are based on a customer using 660 kilowatt-hours of electricity monthly and 780 Ccf (hundred cubic feet) of gas annually.

Central Hudson has said that the addi-

tional revenue is essential to replace aging transmission and gas lines, connect solar and wind projects to its system and add personnel and equipment to restore power after outages caused by extreme storms, which have become more frequent.

But the judges' decision noted that the "general sentiment" expressed at public hearings "was that Central Hudson is not providing basic service and should not be rewarded for its poor performance." The utility is being investigated over billing problems that began in 2021.

Hochul Hits 'Pause' on Manhattan Toll

MTA planned to impose \$15 fee starting this month

Gov. Kathy Hochul has directed the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to "indefinitely pause" its plan to begin levying this month a \$15 toll on drivers entering Manhattan below 60th Street.

Hochul announced her decision on Wednesday (June 5), as the MTA prepared to launch "congestion pricing," a years-in-the-works plan that the agency expected to generate \$1 billion in annual revenue for capital projects and reduce air pollution and gridlock in lower Manhattan.

"Let's be real: A \$15 charge may not mean a lot to someone who has the means, but it can break the budget of a working- or

middle-class household," said Hochul.

Under the first-in-the-nation plan approved by the MTA board in March, passenger and small commercial vehicles would pay \$15 during the day and \$3.75 at night. Trucks and some buses would pay higher tolls, \$24 to \$36 during the day depending on their size, and \$6 to \$9 at night.

The plan included various discounts and credits for low-income drivers and people who pay tunnel tolls and exemptions for government vehicles and people with disabilities. The MTA said the toll would raise \$1 billion yearly for capital projects.

Officials from New Jersey and the Hudson Valley, residents of lower Manhattan and New York City teachers are among the groups who filed lawsuits over congestion pricing.

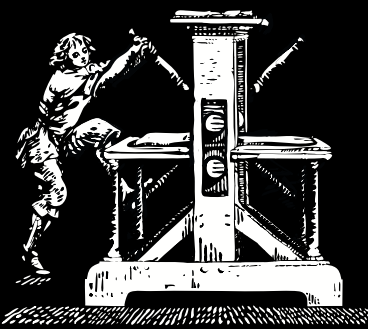
Putnam County Names Tourism Director

Legislature must approve choice

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne on Thursday (June 6) announced the appointment of Tara Keegan as director of tourism. She succeeds Tracey Walsh, who retired after five years in the position.

Keegan, who is the interim director of tourism, previously worked at a law firm and for the state Assembly. Her appointment must be confirmed by the county Legislature.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Wildfire risks

It's great to see forest management issues covered in *The Current* ("Wildfires: What Are the Risks?" May 31). I'm looking forward to the next installment.

One thing to add regarding northern hardwood forests as a bulwark against fire: Be careful what you wish for! The same forests that act as a fire buffer may, with time, change in other potentially undesirable ways.

For example, as our hardwood forests thicken and become more mesic (wet and fire-resistant), shade-tolerant species such as beech, mountain laurel and a variety of invasives will outcompete fire-adapted species like oaks and lowbush blueberries.

This is happening to an extent on the Shawangunk Ridge, where laurels are growing into areas where burning was once common and produced the ridge's famed blueberry picking industry and pitch pine forests. It'd be a shame to lose those unique ecosystems.

Fire resistance may rightfully be the primary concern for Hudson Valley residents, but we ought to be aware that we are sacrificing species richness and perhaps forest quality. Thoughtful and goal-oriented forest management is key. I'm sensing a segue — should we have controlled burn?

Bob Delap, *Beacon*

Iceland

This great article inspires me to buy a ticket to Reykjavik ("Day Trip: Iceland," May 31). The cod mashed potatoes and cheese sounds delicious. Beacon as a sister city makes sense. Go for it, Viking (Norse) and Dutch (New York) — there's a connection there.

Ron Donofrio, *Beacon*

This was a wonderfully written description. Although I was recently in Iceland, I'll use this article as a guide if I go back.

Diane Abatemarco,
Lambertville, New Jersey

Musician

I love Cem's music ("The Musician Next Door: Cem Manisali," May 31). He is so charismatic, passionate and kindhearted. Thank you for sharing more about him.

Yulissa Torres, *Palenville*

School AC

This article had me laughing out loud ("Too Hot to Learn, or Teach?" May 31). I'm no genius, but wouldn't central air conditioning in the classrooms work? I lived in Arizona, and the schools had AC. Amazing, right? I always wondered why the administration

offices have window units but nothing for the students.

Laurie Gallio, *via Facebook*

Fjord Trail

Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou is aware that the preferred trail for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail goes through private property owned by residents, and I would love to hear his proposal for rectifying this issue. If he is happy to allow construction to start in Beacon, clearly this is not an important issue for him. He should take a walk and see the impact that 600,000 visitors (HHFT estimate) would have on the families whose property this trail will bisect.

Justin Lynch, *Beacon*

Editor's note: To clarify, planners have said they expect the Fjord Trail to attract 120,000 people annually in addition to the 480,000 who already visit the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve.

Ukraine visit

It was a joy to finally meet Michael Reisman during his most recent visit ("My View: Letter from Lviv," May 31). Thanks to him for making it happen in the midst of his busy, crazy schedule. Until next time, united we stand with Ukraine. Все буде добре [All will be well]!

Marla Osborn, *Lviv, Ukraine*

Honking revoked

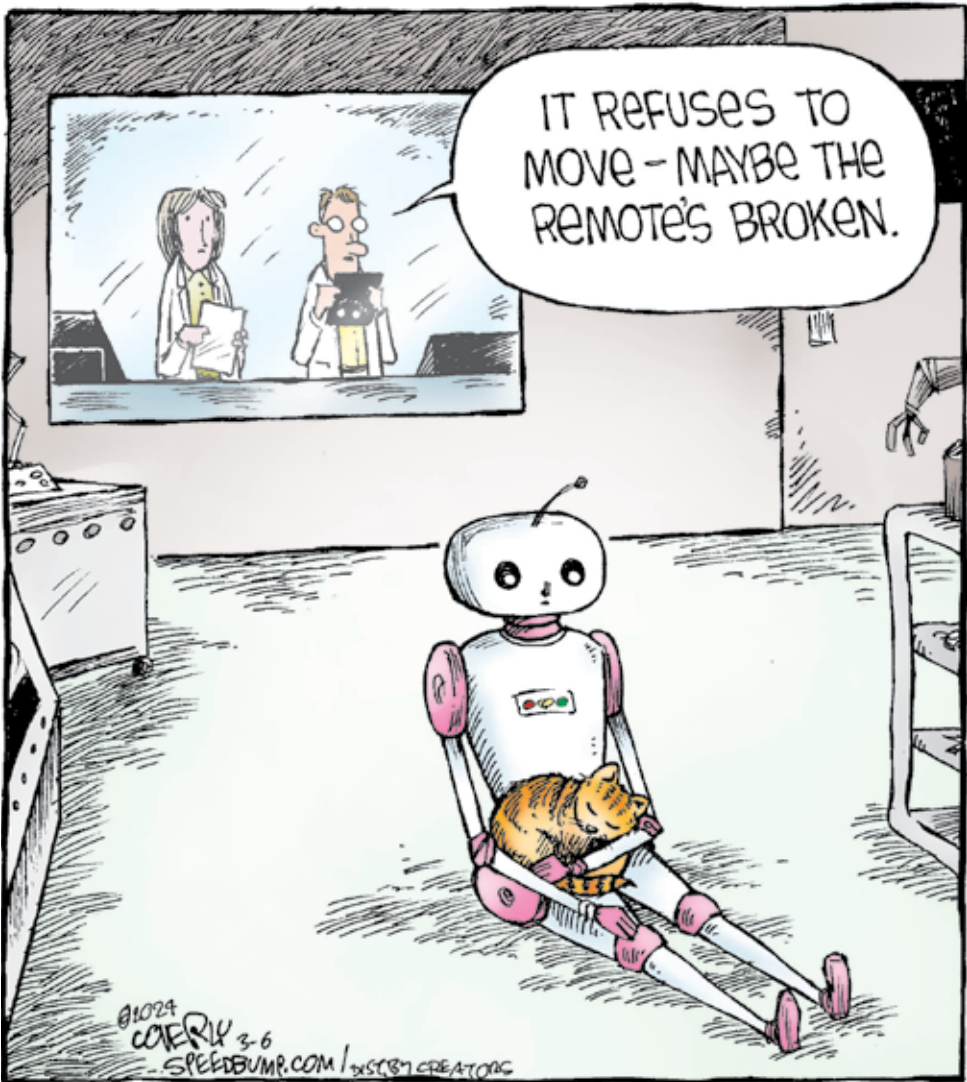
I drive a super-recognizable little truck: It's bright blue and covered in stickers and stencils. So when I do something lame while driving, I feel extra ridiculous. I have two apologies I'd love to make official.

The first incident took place on Main Street in Cold Spring. A student driver was parallel parking; I was waiting in the west-bound lane. A driver pulled around both of us to continue down Main. I lost touch with my rational mind. I laid on the horn and went after them. Frustrated at being misunderstood as a double parker, and for being jumped in line, I felt red hot. But it was me who made the scene ugly and dangerous.

Second incident: A school bus was coming down Fishkill Avenue in Beacon in the opposite lane. We slowly approached each other. When the driver did not extend the side arm stop sign, I thought, "Nice, he is waiting for me to pass" and waved. The driver was stone-faced as I drove past and then I was met with a mind-scrambling blast of his dual-tone horn.

I hate thinking that the student driver thought I'd lost patience. And I don't want to imagine what the bus driver thought. I've revoked my honking privileges, learned my lesson on the school bus rules and doubled down on not taking other drivers' actions so personally. See you on the road.

Simone Goldenberg, *Beacon*



AROUND THE REGION



Goshen: Man Accused of Police Vendetta

An Orange County grand jury on May 18 indicted a Middletown man on charges he set fire to the home of a New York State trooper's father.

Tyler Williams, 26, was charged with attempted murder and arson. He allegedly had sought revenge on a state trooper who ticketed him on Dec. 20.

According to *Mid Hudson News*, investigators determined that Williams had searched online for the trooper's home address but could only find the address of the trooper's father.

Kingston: City Approves Dwelling Design

The Building Department has approved a code-compliant design that Kingston residents can use to build accessory dwelling units.

The design, by DEMO Architecture, won a city-sponsored competition called Yes to ADUs! Property owners can download the

construction documents at no charge.

Mayor Steve Noble noted in a statement that a revised zoning code allows ADUs citywide, which will add "much-needed affordable housing, creating density and diversifying housing type." The city said it hoped the plans would reduce the costs of constructing the units.

Albany: Corruption Law Not Enforced

According to the *USA Today* Network New York, the state Public Integrity Reform Act enacted in 2011 and a constitutional amendment approved in 2017 contain a glaring defect: "Corrupt officials were supposed to be at risk of losing all or part of their pensions. Instead, their pensions have largely been kept whole."

The investigation could find no cases in which convicted officials had lost their pensions. The 2011 law, it noted, was passed six months after Vincent Leibell, who had been elected as Putnam County executive, resigned before taking office while facing federal charges that he extorted lawyers in Putnam County. Leibell later pleaded guilty to grand jury obstruction and tax evasion. He receives \$63,683 annually because of his earlier service as a state senator.

The report noted that pension forfeiture is not automatic: a prosecutor must go to court. The laws also exempt police officers, teachers and rank-and-file municipal employees.



Kingston has approved a design for accessory dwelling units.

Albany: State Proposes School Sports Rules

The state Board of Regents has proposed revisions to its regulations regarding school sports that would make teams gender-neutral.

In its proposal, the state notes that girls who want to participate on a boys' team, such as football or ice hockey, must be approved by a review panel. It cites the case of a female student who wanted to play football but had

to pass a fitness test and undergo a health exam that included a measurement of her "sexuality maturity."

The revisions would eliminate the puberty exam, which the board called "intrusive and demeaning," and place more emphasis on tryouts. Districts would be required to have the same criteria to judge every student who wants to participate in a sport, regardless of gender. A 60-day comment period ends in July and the board will vote on the proposal in September. Comments can be sent to regcomments@nysed.gov.

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2 Cross St. Back to ‘Affordable’

State grant allows Beacon development to shift, again

By Jeff Simms

Gov. Kathy Hochul on May 29 announced the first awards for the Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund, a \$150 million initiative created to increase housing stock in the seven-county region.

One of the awards, for \$2.5 million, will go to 2 Cross St. in Beacon, a mixed-use project that in April shifted seven of its 18 apartments from “affordable” to market rate. Developer Joe Donovan said on May 31 that the change was due to a delay in receiving a loan from New York State but that the Mid-Hudson grant makes it feasible to return to his original plan.

Donovan said he is hopeful construction will begin “within a matter of weeks” on the three-story, 24,000-square-foot building at the corner of Main and Cross streets. Of its 18 apartments, nine were to be designated for the “frail elderly,” above retail space on the street level.

That number is not confirmed but will be worked out in the coming weeks, Donovan said.

The Cross Street development was one of



The project at 2 Cross St. will include 18 apartments priced below market rates.

File photo by J. Simms

13 projects receiving \$67 million in funding that the state says will unlock more than \$576 million in private investment and create 2,400 housing units, including more than 1,300 affordable units, throughout the region.

The Mid-Hudson fund focuses on mixed-use housing and infrastructure projects. The state said the winners in this round of

funding were selected based on alignment with the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council’s strategic plan, public support, the number of affordable units being created and, for infrastructure projects, their ability to either create or upgrade systems that would increase housing density.

2 Cross St. has received several grants allowing Donovan to build below-market-rate housing. Last year it received \$1.58 million from Dutchess County’s Housing Trust Fund, and the Dutchess Industrial Development Agency agreed to exempt the project from some sales, real estate and mortgage-recording taxes.

DAVID PROVAN

OCTOBER 3, 1948 - APRIL 18, 2024

We are sad to announce that David Provan, 75, of Cold Spring, NY, passed away on April 18th, 2024, surrounded by his family. David Provan was born in Glendale, California on October 3rd 1948 to Lois Wayman Provan and Wilfrid Provan. The family later moved to Palo Alto, where Wilfrid worked as a watercolor artist, painting marine landscapes. In 1966, at 17, David joined the US Navy in the Vietnam War. He was stationed in Japan, Guam, and Vietnam. After his service, David lived in Yokohama and worked as a carpenter building traditional Japanese houses. After leaving the Navy, David went to India and Nepal, where he lived for two and a half years. During this time he was ordained as a Buddhist monk at a monastery near Kathmandu, under the guidance of a renowned Tibetan Rinpoche, and studied Tibetan and Indian miniature painting at Visva-Bharata University in Shantiniketan, West Bengal, India. After returning to the U.S., David received a BA in Art and Architecture from Yale University in 1979 and an MFA in Painting from the Royal College of Art of London in 1981. David moved from San Diego to New York City in 1985. While living in NYC he began working in sculpture, painting, furniture, ceramics, and architecture. He married fellow artist Ann Knutson in 1991. They lived together in SoHo for several years before moving to Brooklyn with their young twins, Evan and Zoë. David maintained a studio in DUMBO, Brooklyn where he worked mainly on metal sculpture and ceramics. He later taught ceramics at Greenwich House Pottery and TASOC. In 2006, the family moved to Cold Spring, NY. David was a prolific



creator and showed his work in many galleries and museums in the U.S. and around the world, also gaining a large following on Instagram. In his new studio in Cold Spring, he produced many welded steel sculptures as well as paintings, ceramics, and mosaics. His work was influenced by his time in Asia, Asian philosophies, mythology, physics, astronomy, and biology. He was brilliant, thoughtful, and well-loved, and is deeply missed by his family and many friends. He is survived by his wife, Ann Provan, his children, Evan Provan and Zoë Provan, his sister, Janice Provan, and his nephew, Casey Provan. A memorial event will be held in the future.

More information and artwork can be found at: davidprovan.com

Bridge Fencing (from Page 1)

bridges. Passage by the state Assembly and enactment by Gov. Kathy Hochul are needed for the legislation, which would take effect in three years, to become law.

Five days earlier, Harckham, whose district includes eastern Putnam County, described NYSBA's bridges as a "magnet for those looking to end their lives" in a letter signed by him and other state legislators, including Dana Levenberg, whose Assembly district includes Philipstown. Levenberg is also a co-sponsor of the legislation.

More than 100 people have used the spans to kill themselves since 2007, and there have been an additional 43 attempts that were interrupted, said Harckham.

Recent fatalities include a 49-year-old Beekman woman who jumped from the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge on Nov. 14, her

birthday, and a 49-year-old New Jersey man who leaped from the Bear Mountain Bridge on Jan. 11. A man who died after jumping from the Bear Mountain Bridge on May 17 was among four suicide attempts and two fatalities on NYSBA bridges last month, said Harckham.

Those attempts "attest to a heartbreaking problem," he said. "We have given the New York State Bridge Authority ample opportunity to address this issue on its own, but we simply can't wait any longer."

A consultant hired to study fencing on NYSBA's bridges told the agency's board in April 2022 that costs for the five spans would range from \$10.5 million for chain-link barriers to \$45.5 million for mesh, \$63 million for horizontal wire and \$85 million for picket fencing.

The NYSBA operates entirely on tolls collected at its bridges. In May 2023, the

agency implemented the last phase of a four-year incremental increase in fees to pay for capital projects such as the \$95 million redecking of the north span of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, completed in 2022.

NYSBA said in a statement on Tuesday that it is "actively evaluating deterrent fencing options" and has issued, for the Bear Mountain Bridge, a request for proposals for a redecking design that includes "an evaluation of suicide-deterrent fencing." The project has been accelerated by a year, said NYSBA.

"NYSBA is committed to zero fatalities in our bridges," said the agency. "Our staff works tirelessly to protect all of our patrons, working hand-in-glove with our partners and local first responders to keep New Yorkers safe."

Several employees received recognition during the board's May 22 meeting for recog-

nizing and assisting someone in distress on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge on April 30, as did an employee who "engaged with" a person in distress on the Mid-Hudson Bridge on April 18 until police arrived.

Maria Idoni, the Hudson Valley/Westchester area director for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said the organization trains NYSBA employees how to respond when they recognize a potential jumper. Asked if training is sufficient, she responded succinctly.

"Absolutely not," said Idoni. "Until they put up physical safety nets, we try to provide them with enough resources. But the bottom line is — they know it, we know it — they need fencing."

In distress? The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24 hours a day by calling or texting 988.

Editor's Notebook

Surviving Bear Mountain

By Chip Rowe

One of the most memorable stories I have read in *The New Yorker* was published in 2003. It was called "Jumpers." The author, Tad Friend, interviewed



people who had survived plunges off the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

Ken Baldwin was 28 and depressed. He said: "I still see my hands coming off the railing. I instantly realized that everything in my life that I'd thought was unfixable was totally fixable — except for having just jumped."

Kevin Hines was 19. His first thought was, "What the hell did I just do? I don't want to die." He later told *The New York Times*: "I know that almost everyone else who's gone off that bridge, they had that exact same thought at that moment. All of a sudden, they didn't want to die, but it was too late.

Somewhat I made it; they didn't; and now I feel it's my responsibility to speak for them."

I wondered if anyone had survived a fall from the Bear Mountain Bridge and found two: a 20-year-old West Point cadet in 2005 and a 16-year-old girl from Mohegan Lake in 2014.

I also found two who survived the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge: a 20-year-old man in 1998 and another man in 2022 who was rescued by a police officer on a jet ski.

I wanted to ask them if they had thoughts similar to Hines' but only the cadet was identified. He did not reply to an email, which is understandable.

The fact is, scientists have researched whether bridge barriers save lives, and the conclusion is that they can be effective. An argument leveled against them, besides the cost, is that people intent on killing themselves will find another way.

But mental health professionals believe that bridges and firearms (which 25,000 people use to kill themselves annually) empower impulsive decisions, and that if the person encounters an obstacle, the cloud often passes. One study in the 1970s tracked people who had been prevented from jumping from the Golden Gate; it found that just 10 percent went on to kill themselves.

In other words, "90 percent got past it," Richard Seiden, who conducted the study, told *The New York Times*. "They were

having an acute temporary crisis, they passed through it and, coming out the other side, they got on with their lives.

"At the risk of stating the obvious," he added, "people who attempt suicide aren't thinking clearly. They might have a Plan A, but there's no Plan B. They get fixated. They don't say, 'Well, I can't jump, so now I'm going to go shoot myself.' And that fixation extends to whatever method they've chosen. They decide they're going to jump off a particular spot on a particular bridge, or maybe they decide that when they get there, but if they discover the bridge is closed for renovations or the railing is higher than they thought, most of them don't look around for another place to do it. They just retreat."

Another researcher, Dr. David Rosen, interviewed 10 people who had survived bridge jumps. "What was immediately apparent," he told *The Times*, "was that none of them had truly wanted to die. They had wanted their inner pain to stop. They wanted some measure of relief, and this was the only answer they could find. They were in spiritual agony, and they sought a physical solution."

Like anyone who suffers from depression, I know how despair can fuel thoughts of a quick escape. For that reason, like many people in my boat, I will never own a firearm. As for a bridge, Kevin Hines jumped and returned with a message: He made a huge mistake. But he got a second chance.



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June 16 Irene O'Garden
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The Highlands Choral Society is a nonprofit organization offering nondenominational services and community.

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AROUND TOWN



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Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail's Invasives Strike Force will lead a monthly effort to remove invasive plant species in the Breakneck Ridge corridor and plant native ones. We are looking for committed individuals (ages 16 & up) that can volunteer once a month for **3 hours per month from June thru October 2024**. All volunteers will receive training from experts in the fields of botany, ecology, and invasive species management; an Invasives Strike Force T-shirt; and so much more!



Kickoff: June 22, 2024

3 hours per month, 9 am -12 pm on:

Saturday 6/22, 7/20, 8/10, 9/14, 10/26



Questions? Email
Rebeca Ramirez at
rramirez@hhft.org



Sign up!

Sign up to become a member of the Strike Force: <https://qrco.de/hhft-isf>

Democrats See ‘Purple’ Putnam

Registration parity fuels hopes for more offices

By Leonard Sparks

Randall Mulkins ticks a lot of boxes: U.S. Army veteran, president of the Patterson Fire Department, third-generation resident of the Town of Patterson.

Mulkins, 29, is also a Democrat and the party’s candidate for the Putnam County Legislature seat held by Ginny Nacerino, who cannot run because of term limits. She has represented District 4, which includes most of Patterson, since 2012.

“He’s a phenomenal candidate who has a lot of support in town from Republicans and Democrats because he grew up there,” said Jennifer Colamonico, chair of the Putnam County Democratic Committee.

If he wins a three-year term in November, Mulkins will relieve Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, of being the sole Democrat

on the nine-member Legislature.

A win “helps Democrats everywhere in Putnam” because it “shifts the conversation” in the Legislature, said Colamonico. “Nancy could get a second on a motion,” she said. “Having a second would allow a debate, a discussion.”

Mulkins would hand the party its first major victory under the Purple Putnam Project — a five-year campaign launched by the Democratic Committee to win county offices currently dominated by Republicans.

The campaign’s name reflects the relative parity in major-party registration in Putnam County. Republicans have an edge of just 1,612 active voters, a gap that is nearly half of what it was in 2019.

Colamonico said her priority is “to build a structure, to build resources and to build camaraderie and focus at the county level” after years in which the county committee deferred to the towns “and just didn’t have great results with that.”

Fielding competitive candidates is a must, said Colamonico, who became county chair in February 2023 after years leading

Carmel’s Democratic Committee. “We need to be thinking countywide, particularly for some of these races, and then empower the towns to build off that movement,” she said.

“We’ve had a struggle to field candidates the last couple of races,” she added. “Letting [County Executive Kevin] Byrne go uncontested [in 2022] was a colossal mistake.”

According to Colamonico, Putnam is defined by “chunks” of Democrats and Republicans. One of those chunks is District 1, which Montgomery has represented since defeating Republican incumbent Barbara Scuccimarra in 2018. (Montgomery defeated Scuccimarra again in 2021.)

Philipstown is heavily Democratic, mirroring the significant registration advantage Republicans have in Carmel. But active-voter registration tilts Democratic in Putnam Valley and in Kent, giving outsized importance to the Conservative Party, whose members generally vote for

Republicans, and unaffiliated voters, who skew conservative, said Colamonico.

In 2023, Democrat Maggie Ploener lost to incumbent Legislator William Gouldman by 342 votes in their race for the District 2 seat, which comprises most of Putnam Valley. Only 34 percent of Putnam Valley’s 2,744 active Democrat voters turned out.

In the same election, Democrat Kathy Kahng fell 197 votes short against Republican incumbent Toni Addonizio in District 3, which includes most of Kent. With 46 more Democrats casting ballots than Republicans, Addonizio owed her victory to the 243 votes from Conservative Party members.

In 2021, against Democratic challenger Stacy Dumont, Nacerino won 60 percent of the vote in District 4. While Mulkins will have the Democratic line in November, the Republican candidate will be either former county attorney Jennifer Bumgarner or accountant Laura Russo, based on a June 25 primary.

Putnam Party Breakdown

| | DEMS | REP | CONS | NONE |
|------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 2019 | 19,221 (32%) | 19,221 (32%) | 1,779 (3%) | 16,211 (27%) |
| 2024 | 21,770 (33%) | 21,770 (33%) | 1,677 (3%) | 19,617 (30%) |

Clearwater *(from Page 1)*

dations made first-time, \$25,000 gifts and promised to continue support. “We struck a chord with a lot of people who want to make sure that Clearwater is here for the

long haul,” he said.

With the staff back on the payroll, Toman is assembling specialists to plan. The priority will be finding ways to diversify the revenue stream, particularly during the slow periods of late summer (when schools

and camps are out of session and not booking sails) and the winter (when the sloop is docked in Kingston for annual repairs).

What won’t change is the focus on environmental education and bringing the public out on the river to help them imag-

ine a cleaner and more accessible Hudson. “We know there are environmental leaders in government and nonprofit organizations who are protecting the river right now who got their start from Clearwater,” Toman said. “This is only the beginning.”

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AROUND TOWN



▲ **DAD TROLLEY** — Matt DeGraaf of Cold Spring uses his electric cargo bike, which he bought in October, to ferry his three children — Cadence (6), Mason (4) and Bridger (3) — to and from Haldane each school day.

Photo by Michael Turton



▲ **STUDENT HONORED** — Sarah Jones, a senior at Haldane High School, was honored on Tuesday (June 4) for her work in the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES sports medicine program. Sarah, who said she was inspired by Haldane's athletic trainer, Meghan Crowe, is shown with Superintendent Philip Benante and school board members Peggy Clements, Ezra Clementson, Maggie Valentine and John Hedlund.

Photo provided



▲ **DIY RESCUES** — Beacon residents brought torn clothing and long-broken small appliances, electronics and jewelry to a city-sponsored repair cafe at the Recreation Center on Sunday (June 2), the first since the pandemic. Phil Stamatis of the city's Conservation Advisory Committee said organizers hope to host another in the fall.

Photo by Leonard Sparks



▲ **TINY STEPS** — One hundred and seventy-three dancers from the Ballet Arts Studio and the Dutchess Dance Company, both based in Beacon, performed 37 choreographed pieces on June 1 at the Bardavon in Poughkeepsie. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair

BOSCO & THE STORM

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The Calendar



Illustration by Matias Del Carmine

What? No Shakespeare?

Not so fast, says festival

By Marc Ferris

Many Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival fans raised a tempest when they realized that the lineup for its 37th season has no plays written solely by the Bard.

Davis McCallum, the artistic director of the Philipstown-based festival, concedes that even his mother expressed reservations about the schedule. “She likes the straight Shakespeare, but his influence infuses all of these plays,” he says.

The 2024 productions include *By the Queen* (which incorporates dialogue from *Richard III* and *Henry VI*), *Medea: Re-Versed* and *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*. All three shows begin in previews next week; the latter two are world premieres.

“We love these plays and have a high degree of confidence that audiences will love them, too,” says McCallum. In 2010, the festival produced *A Bomb-itty of Errors*, a rapped adaptation of *A Comedy of Errors* that went over well, he says.

“Shakespeare wasn’t ‘the Bard’ in his time,” he says. “People had to support him or else none of his work would have survived. We went for it this summer because these plays are great and we’re committed to developing the next generation of fantastic writers. This is my 10th year here and we’ve



Whitney White



Heidi Armbruster



Luis Quintero

never been more excited about a season.”

(To be fair, HVSF brought a 90-minute version of *Much Ado About Nothing* to local schools in March and April and the company will present a reading on Aug. 17 of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, directed by Orlando Pabotoy, which it intends to produce in 2025.)

By the Queen is written by Whitney White, a 2024 Tony Award nominee for her direction of *Jaja’s African Hair Braiding*. White recasts the queen in question, Margaret, who “ages through her appearances” in *Richard III* and all three parts of *Henry VI*, says director Shana Cooper. “Of the three plays [being produced], this is the punk rock one.”

At least half the dialogue is by Shakespeare, says Cooper, and three actors portray Margaret at various stages of her life. “It’s like his greatest hits molded into a radical

and inventive interpretation,” she says.

The play premiered in Providence, Rhode Island. “I went up there and I’ve never seen anything like it,” says McCallum. “It’s a killer piece of theater.”

Under the HVSF tent, it will feature Luis Quintero, Jacob Ming-Trent, Travis Raeburn, Malika Samuel, Stephen Michael Spencer, Sarin Monae West and Nance Williamson.

Another potential standout, *Medea: Re-Versed*, adapts the 2,500-year-old Greek saga of a woman scorned, though she perpetrates some horrible things to earn the wrath. Quintero, 30, in his fifth year as an HVSF cast member, wrote the inventive script and musical score.

Director Nathan Winkelstein co-conceived the project, which lashes the audience with creative wordplay and improbable rhymes that illuminate the

work’s inherent conflicts.

The chorus members will rap, sing and speak as they prowl the stage, casting imploring gazes and menacing glances. Though they engage in a sophisticated call-and-response, the proceedings appear to unfold with spontaneity, like a freestyle lyrical battle.

The actors are accompanied by a band with minimalist guitar riffs from Siena D’Addario, furious bass lines by Melissa Mahoney and Mark Martin’s looped beat-box parts assembled on the fly.

After the run in Philipstown, the proceedings move to off-Broadway in Manhattan.

For its third production, HVSF commissioned *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, adapted by Heidi Armbruster from a 1926 Agatha Christie novella. Directed by HVSF veteran Ryan Quinn, it stars Mahoney, Raeburn, Samuel and Williamson, along with Sean McNall and Kurt Rhoads.

“Heidi tells the story in such a fluid and filmic way that is so right for us,” McCallum says. “The main question is: Will you figure out the murderer before the inspector and his apprentice?” Fourth-wall-busting soliloquies convey deep thoughts, “so people have to turn on their gray cells to keep up.”

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is located at 2015 Route 9 in Philipstown. Tickets are \$10 to \$100; see hvshakespeare.org or call 845-265-9575.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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



Jean Hanff Korelitz, June 14

COMMUNITY

SAT 8 City-Wide Yard Sale

BEACON
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
bit.ly/beacon-yard-sale-2024

Locations will be posted on the morning of the sale.

SAT 8 Tag Sale

COLD SPRING
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. First Presbyterian
10 Academy St. | 845-265-3220
presbychurchofoldspring.org

Find treasures at this benefit for the Philipstown Food Pantry. Rain date: SUN 9.

SAT 8 Flag Day Ceremony

BEACON
11 a.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave.

Celebrate and honor our nation's flag at this annual commemoration.

SUN 9 Strawberry Festival

BEACON
Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | beaconsloopclub.org

The Beacon Sloop Club will host its annual celebration with strawberries, shortcakes and smoothies and music by Mighty Girl, Ubaka Hill Drumsong Orchestra, Spook Handy and the Beacon High School Chorus. Take a ride on the Woody Guthrie and enjoy food and children's activities. Donations welcome. *Free*

SUN 9 Lawn Party

PHILIPSTOWN
1 – 4 p.m. Glynwood Center
362 Glynwood Road | 845-265-3338
glynwood.org

Support the farm's programs while enjoying a picnic lunch, live music, games and the beautiful setting. *Cost: \$200 to \$500 (\$80 ages 4 to 10, ages 3 and younger free)*

THURS 13 Open House

GARRISON
5:30 p.m. The Hastings Center
21 Malcolm Gordon Road
thehastingscenter.org

The center's new president, Vardit Ravitsky, and other scholars will discuss their programs and ethics as applied to artificial intelligence and other subjects. RSVP to vizzis@thehastingscenter.org.

SAT 15 Putnam Culture Fest

CARMEL
11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Memorial Park
201 Gypsy Trail Road | bit.ly/culture-fest-24

The festival will feature performers from Westchester Circus Arts, as well as music and food trucks. *Free*

TALKS & TOURS

FRI 14 Singing the Body

COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Learn new approaches to making sound and songs.

SAT 15 Garden Tours

BEACON
11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St. | mountgulian.org
Learn about the horticultural history of gardens originally tended by James F. Brown, a formerly enslaved person. Also SUN 16. *Cost: \$14 (\$12 seniors, \$8 ages 6 to 18, free for members and ages 6 and younger)*

SAT 15 Secret Gardens Tour

BEACON
12:30 – 3:30 p.m. Various
The Tioronda Garden Club is hosting this self-guided tour. Rain date: SUN 16. Email fullergeri@yahoo.com for tickets. *Cost: \$20*

LITERARY

SAT 8 Beacon LitFest

BEACON
1 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
bit.ly/beacon-litfest-2024

The program will include fiction writers Jennifer Egan and Jodé Millman, memoirists Amitava Kumar and Abigail Thomas, playwright David Herskovits and poets Timothy Liu, Tina Cane and Edwin Torres. (The memoir and fiction workshops are sold out.) *Cost: \$35*

SUN 9 Mike Jurkovic

PUTNAM VALLEY
3 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
29 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

The poet will read from his collected works, including *Buckshot Reckoning* and *mooncussers*. A poetry open mic will follow. *Cost: \$10*

TUES 11 Haldane Writers

COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

Elaine Llewellyn, Trajan McCarthy, Camilla McDaniel and Percy Parker will read from their creative work.

THURS 13 Jennifer Kabat

COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Split Rock Books
97 Main St. | splitrockbks.com

The author will read from and discuss *The Eighth Moon: A Memoir of Belonging and Rebellion*.

FRI 14 Jean Hanff Korelitz

GARRISON
6 p.m. Highlands Country Club
955 Route 9D | desmondfishlibrary.org

At this annual benefit for the Desmond-Fish library, Hanff Korelitz will read from her latest novels, *The Plot* and *The Latecomer*. T. Jefferson Cunningham III also will be recognized for community service. *Cost: \$175+*

FRI 14 Lit Lit

BEACON
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

Sign up to read work from any genre at this literary open mic.

SAT 15 Jason Koo

BEACON
8 p.m. Stanza Books
508 Main St. | 845-440-3906
stanzabooks.com

Koo will read his long-form poems from *No Rest*.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 8 Stories from a Collection

COLD SPRING
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Studio Tashtego
160 Main St. | studiotashtego.com

View works by designers Russel and Mary Wright, including some rarely shown pieces, in this collaboration with Manitoga. Through Aug. 4.

SAT 8 Margaret Lanzetta, Niki Lederer & David Packer

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

The artists will discuss their work in *Travelers, Liars, Thieves*.

SAT 8 Healing Hudson

COLD SPRING
5 – 7 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Selva Ozelli's exhibition about the Hudson Valley environmental movement will open for viewing.

SAT 15 Wind Breath Water

BEACON
1 – 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

The sound and vision exhibit will include works by artists of Chinese descent. Through Aug. 4. At 1 p.m. on SUN 16, the artists will discuss their work.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 8 What to Know at Your First Job

GARRISON
1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

At this workshop, teens will learn what to expect regarding wages and working conditions and how they should be treated. Registration required.

SAT 8 Lightyear

GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children can watch the 2022 Disney film about the *Toy Story* character, Buzz Lightyear, on an intergalactic mission.

SAT 8 Family Nature Meet-Up

PHILIPSTOWN
2 p.m. Hubbard Lodge | 2920 Route 9
philipstowngardenclubny.org

Jackie Grant will lead a scavenger hunt and bingo game along the School Mountain Trail for families with children ages 4 to 12. Rain date: SUN 9. Registration required.

SAT 8 Cub Scout Summer BBQ

GARRISON
2 – 4 p.m. Philipstown Rec
107 Glenclyffe

Meet the Scouts and learn about their activities.

SUN 9 Youth Business Market

BREWSTER
Noon – 4 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 Route 312
putnamcountyny.com/ybm

Entrepreneurs ages 5 to 17 will sell services or products they have created.

WED 12 Check Please | The Harold

BEACON
7 p.m. Prophecy Hall
1113 Wolcott Ave. | compassarts.org

Members of the Beacon Youth Theatre Ensemble will perform two comedies.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 8 Depot Drag

GARRISON
4 & 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Three drag queens will perform a celebration of inclusion and acceptance. The early show is princess-themed and appropriate for children and families while the later show is for a mature audience. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 8 I Am My Own Wife

PEEKSKILL
7 p.m. Museum of Contemporary Art
1701 E. Main St.
studiotheaterinexile.com

Doug Wright's one-person play, starring Thomas Kramer, is based on the recollections of a German transgender woman who "survived the Nazis and the Stasi in a dress." Weekends through June 23. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 students, seniors, members)*

FRI 14 Glass Ceiling Breakers

GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Theatre Revolution is hosting its fourth annual festival of short plays and films by women. Also SAT 15, SUN 16. *Cost: \$25*



SAT 15 Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood

PEEKSKILL
7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The duo from *Who's Line Is*

It Anyway? will turn audience suggestions into comedy. *Cost: \$55 to \$75*

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 8
Get Outdoors & Get Together Day

WAPPINGERS FALLS
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

Enjoy a bird walk, interpretive hike, bird lesson and crafts with the state Office of People with Developmental Disabilities.

FRI 14
Community Hike

GARRISON
10 a.m. Glenclyffe
butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar

Join a guided hike along Marcia’s Mile. Registration required.

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 8
Paint-Out and Photo-Out

BEACON
4 – 6 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery
150 Main St. | 845-831-6346
bannermancastle.org

See works created on Bannerman Island by more than 40 artists. Through Aug. 4.

SAT 8
Urban Cuba / Cuba Urbano

BEACON
5 – 7 p.m. ChangoLife Arts
211 Fishkill Ave. | changolifearts.com

Franc Palaia’s multidisciplinary work about street art in Cuba will be on view through Aug. 4.

SAT 8
Clay Play

BEACON
5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St. | 845-440-0068
hudsonbeachglass.com

This exhibit features works by students at the Anderson Center for Autism guided by ceramic artist Elizabeth McGiff. Through July 7.



SAT 8
Kelly O’Brien | Robin Adler | Karen Allen

BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | 845-440-7584
baugallery.org

In Gallery 1, O’Brien uses biodegradable materials to explore



The Fly Birds, June 8

how we handle a challenging world in *A Spell Against Despair*. In Gallery 2, Adler’s paintings will be on view in *Points of Origin*. In the Beacon Room, Allen uses collaged, painted and recycled materials in *Curiosities*. Through July 7.

SAT 8
Through the Diamond Window

BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com

Tom Stringer’s photographs of commercial construction sites will be on view.

SAT 8
Sunlight Through Our Eyes

BEACON
7 – 9:30 p.m. Distortion Society
155 Main St. | distortionsociety.com

Gemma Bailey’s works on paper explore the natural world through plants. Through Aug. 3.

MUSIC

SAT 8
Big Band Sound

PHILIPSTOWN
6 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org

The 20-piece jazz orchestra returns for a night of music and dancing. *Cost: \$25 (\$15 ages 4 to 18)*



Through the Diamond Window, June 8

SAT 8
Summit and Vale Concert

NEWBURGH
7:30 p.m. Mount Saint Mary
330 Powell Ave. | 845-913-7157
newburghsymphony.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra’s program at Aquinas Hall will include works by Montgomery, Elgar and Prokofiev. *Cost: \$30 to \$75*

SAT 8
The Fly Birds

COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

Elizabeth Baker (banjo), Mary Dunlap (bass), Sarah Twigg (guitar) and Crystal Shipley (fiddle) play alternative bluegrass and Appalachian music. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 8
Steve Forbert

BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The folk singer will be joined by opening acts Frank Carillo and Eddie Seville. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 9
Here Comes the Sun

BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St. | 845-855-1300
townecrier.com

The tribute band will play the music of the Beatles. *Cost: \$40 (\$45 door)*

FRI 14
Rock of Ages

PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Musicians and singers from the Broadway show will perform hits

from the ’80s. *Cost: \$42 to \$62*

FRI 14
Satisfaction

BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Rolling Stones tribute band will play all the hits. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 15
Jog Blues

PHILIPSTOWN
6 p.m. Magazzino
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

The performance will blend jazz, blues and Indian classical music. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 seniors and local residents, \$5 students)*

SAT 15
Lisa Gutkin & Christina Crowder

PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Gutkin (fiddle, guitar, vocals) and Crowder (accordion, banjo) tell stories through song. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 15
Willie Nile

BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

In this solo performance, the rocker will debut music from his upcoming release. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 16
Oren Fader

COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

The guitarist’s program will include works by Bach, Dowland, Milan, Bogdanovic and Albeniz. Donations welcome. *Free*

SUN 16
Vance Gilbert

BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Gilbert and Julie Corbalis will play music from his new album, *The Mother of Trouble*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

CIVIC

MON 10
Dutchess Legislature

POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. Legislative Chambers
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100
dutchessny.gov

WED 12
Village Board

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

The Distillery with a House Band

Beacon's 'Mr. Blues' organizes a rotation

By Marc Ferris

Denning's Point Distillery in Beacon is an under-the-radar musical hotspot.

On any given weekend, bartender Alana McGovern might stream classic soul, classic country or a mix of songs by obscure bands from the 1980s, including the long-defunct L.A. punk-roots group The Gun Club.

On occasion, live tunes fill the space. After owner Susan Johnson anointed the Black Coffee Blues Band as the house rockers last month, Second Saturday gained a regular sonic component. The group will next perform at 7 p.m. on Saturday (June 8).

Dimitri Archip, known around Beacon as "Mr. Blues," organizes ensembles from a rotating group of musicians with known entities on their resumes. Some are locals and others come up from New York City. The only constant is Archip.

Ian Hatton, who lives in Glenham and played guitar with the hair metal band Bonham, led by Jason Bonham, son of Led Zeppelin drummer John Bonham, often sits in. Hatton also accompanied Robert Plant in The Honeydrippers, which dipped into the blues canon.

Other pros might include keyboardist David Bennett Cohen, a founding member of Country Joe and the Fish, which performed at Woodstock; guitarist Arthur Neilson, who is touring with Shemekia Copeland; or Steve Holley, a drummer for Paul McCartney and Wings.

Archip, a Brooklyn native who left a white-collar job to pursue acting and singing, says he's absorbed a variety of musical styles in his lifetime, including jazz, classical and Romanian folk music.

Playing with bar bands, he gravitated toward stripped-down Mississippi Delta and plugged-in Chicago blues standards as interpreted by 1960s and '70s classic rock bands.

"I'm a late starter with the blues," says Archip, who moved to Beacon in 2015. "But I was comfortable singing Led Zeppelin and the Allman Brothers, so that was my entrée." He learned guitar to "communicate with my fellow musicians, but I have no goal of becoming a virtuoso."

Hatton says he grew up with the blues before turning to rock. "Dimitri gets good players who love and know the music — that's the key," he says. "Some people think, 'Oh, it's the same three chords and 12 bars,' but it's about the feeling and what you do with them."

Archip fell in with blues guitar star Popa Chubby, who turned relentless gigging at long-gone club Manny's Car Wash on the Upper East Side into a touring career. The



From left: Dimitri Archip, Popa Chubby, Tom Papadatos, Arthur Neilson and Edwin Cartagena
Photo by Amy Kubik

band's name is the title of a 2002 Popa Chubby album on which Archip appeared.

When Chubby isn't touring, he sometimes sits in with the Black Coffee collaborative, a name that fits the pick-up band's caffeinated, late-night lifestyle and fervid approach to the music.

In 2012, a reporter for *The New York Times* followed Archip around Brooklyn with a video camera to display a typical day in the life, where he does laundry, eats a meal in a restaurant and drives around town at night, like Robert DeNiro in the film *Taxi Driver*.

The final cut is a beer being placed on the bar after his group played the old chestnut "Kansas City" (covered by the Beatles) at a dive without a stage.

Also no-frills, the Denning's Point headquarters presents a challenge for electrified

bands because the interior is all hard edges. Yet the sound warms up when the fermenting tanks are full, says Johnson, and Archip knows how to dial in the right mix.

Now a decade old, the distillery has hosted music from its early days, when The Costellos packed the room. After instituting a blues jam a few years ago that fizzled, Johnson let Mr. Blues do his thing.

Though the tunes bang during the bar's open hours and Johnson plans to expand the entertainment offerings, there is a caveat: "I don't see weekly live music any time soon," she says. "We plan to host boozy bingo, literary events and a storytelling confessional but, really, we're a manufacturing facility."

Denning's Point Distillery is located at 10 N. Chestnut St. in Beacon.

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Q&A: Allison Pataki

Bestselling author discusses her writing process

By Marc Ferris

Allison Pataki is settling into historical fiction that features women she identifies as “forgotten leading ladies who have been footnoted or sidelined,” including Peggy Shippen Arnold, wife of Benedict; Sisi, wife of Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph; and breakfast cereal heiress Marjorie Post.

Her latest novel, *Finding Margaret Fuller*, spotlights the journalistic pioneer and founding mother of the women’s rights movement. Fuller made a stop in Beacon — memorialized by a marker in Polhill Park — and hobnobbed with contemporary bold-faced names until her death at age 40 in an 1850 shipwreck. Pataki says the next hero will be Evelyn Nesbit, an actor whose jealous husband shot and killed architect Stanford White in 1906.

Why take this approach over nonfiction?

I love historical fiction as a reader and a writer because it puts us into these amazing scenes. It’s educational but also entertaining, and I get to tell an immersive, transportive story. There’s a great quote by E. L. Doctorow: “The historian will tell you what happened. The novelist will tell you what it felt like.”

How closely do you stick to the facts?

I want to get it right and pass the standard of credibility. I would never write a bodice ripper or disrespect the history

or person I’m writing about. I do have composite characters and sometimes shift or conflate things to simplify the story, but my subjects are compelling so there’s no need to embellish. There are parallel tracks: one line is the history, the who-what-where. The other is where I put on the flesh with storytelling.

Some quotes are drawn from primary sources [and rendered in italics], but it’s fiction, so I also pull from rumors and mythology to tell the story in a way that feels accessible.

Fuller’s thoughts narrate the story. Is that your voice or hers?

I try to capture her voice as I take in the research, going to the places she visited and lived, soaking up as much of her world as I can. At a certain point, the character morphs into a living, breathing, talking character. That’s when I start writing. But Fuller wrote and spoke in a stilted manner, so I did bring her voice into the modern world.

Why did you choose her?

I was reading about this genius cluster in Concord [Massachusetts] with Emerson, Alcott, Hawthorne and Thoreau, all of whom we grew up reading as part of the American canon. But this Margaret character leaped off the page. Why did Emerson call her the “radiant genius and fiery heart” of the Transcendentalists? Why are there rumors that



she inspired the Hester Prynne character in *The Scarlet Letter*? Who knew that she mentored Louisa May Alcott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton? This is leading lady material.

Why did she remain obscure?

She died young and was about a century ahead of her time. The book she prized over all others [an eyewitness account of the Italian revolution in the late 1840s] has never been found. After she died, Emerson put out her memoirs and it became the bestselling book in the U.S. until *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* [in 1852]. Women like Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth

Cady Stanton lived much longer. People just forgot about her.

Do you think historical fiction appeals to people who like history but may be intimidated by all the names, dates and facts?

One of the nicest things I hear is, “I never enjoyed history growing up, but I like how you do it.” All of the best material is in the historical record. You can’t make this stuff up, that Fuller was frenemies with Poe, became involved with the Italian revolution and her scandal [bearing a child out of wedlock in Italy]. This is juicy, epic stuff.

More Notable Books by Local Authors

A Brutal Design

By Zachary Solomon

In this debut novel by the Beacon writer, a Jewish architecture student fears he and his friends are bound for a prison camp after a fascist takeover. Instead, he finds himself in an experimental utopian city, Duma, where he searches for a long-lost uncle, an avant-garde artist. Gradually, a dark truth is revealed.

The Abyssal Recitations

By Heller Levinson

In this latest collection, the Garrison-based poet shares staccato prose that breaks many rules (machine-gun alliteration, weird word mashups and an alternative grammar universe), but conveys vivid ideas and images.

Amerikaland

By Danny Goodman



In the Beacon resident’s debut novel, two famous athletes are brought together after a major terrorist attack upends their lives, but a secret tests their relationship.

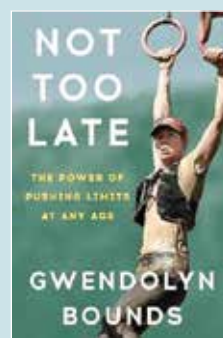
Kirkus Reviews called the book

a “contemplative, richly imagined and occasionally thrilling exploration of the near future.”

Not Too Late

By Gwendolyn Bounds

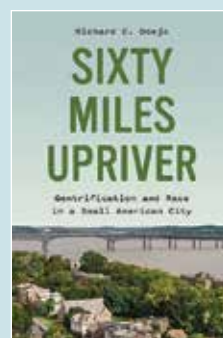
The Philipstown resident, who is a board member of Highlands Current Inc., which publishes this newspaper, recalls attending a dinner party in her mid-40s at which someone asked a girl: “What do you want to be when you grow up?” She was struck that no one asks that question of adults. It set her



on an unexpected, five-year path in which she became a Spartan Race competitor — racing through obstacles. Bounds, who interviewed scientists, doctors, philosophers and athletes on how to reimagine

Sixty Miles Upriver

By Richard Ocejó



our limits at any age, will discuss her findings on June 22 at the Desmond-Fish library in Garrison.

The sociology professor embedded himself in Newburgh for four years to provide a snapshot of gentrification, which he writes “signals either hope and

excitement for a genuine rebirth, or skepticism and fear of being left behind and displaced.”

The Slow Death of Slavery in Dutch New York

By Michael Douma

The historian, a key source for *The Current*’s 2022 history of Black people in the Highlands, challenges traditional assumptions about slavery in early New York, arguing that it was mostly rural, heavily Dutch and profitable because of wheat production.

So, What Happens Is

By Bob Bozic

In his memoir, the Beacon resident, a former heavyweight boxer, bartender and raconteur, recounts the crazy days before becoming a father and settling down. As Zach Rodgers says on the May 29 episode of his *Beaconites* podcast, “Bob Bozic’s life story reads like pulp fiction.” A launch party is scheduled for Sunday (June 9) at Fanelli Cafe in Manhattan, where Bozic worked for 25 years.



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Small, Good Things

Messing With The Formula

By Joe Dizney

Where do recipes come from? I don't want to get too abstruse, but sometimes the inspiration is as ethereal as a great pop song or poem — a creative act that seems like it has always existed, waiting to be discovered.



I have been obsessed with Eric Kim's recipe for a gochujang caramel cookie since seeing just its name in *The New York Times* last year. He's honest about its genesis: It's possibly the third-generation iteration of a candy-sprinkled sugar cookie and an M&M-dotted variant, "kid stuff" that jumps to a sophisticated morsel. I mean: gochujang caramel? Where has this been all my life? It even sounds like umami plus.

If you don't know, gochujang is a spicy, sweet, salty and funky condiment used in

Korean cuisine, with its bite coming from gochu-garu chili powder, its sweet from fermented glutinous rice and its funk from fermented soybean powder that covers most Samin Nosrat flavor bases in a single spoon.

The caramel comes from brown sugar and butter. The sugar and butterfat temper the chili heat a bit (and if you let it sit for a bit it gets smooth), but the fire is still there.

Although the thought of gochujang caramel makes me want to slather it all over a pork tenderloin, duck breast or shrimp for the grill, the idea of using it in a cookie seems revolutionary. Chilies have made dessert appearances before, such as the 1990s spate of Meso-American chili-chocolate pairings or an Asian-infected chocolate-Sichuan peppercorn variation.

Regardless, this is all proof that there's still room to play. In the recipe below, I've added chocolate chunks to Kim's formulation, because, well, *chocolate!*

Want to take it further? How about chopped walnuts? Or forget I mentioned chocolate and try chopped bits of crystallized ginger, which may be my next variant, bolstering the heat and the Asian reference. Who knows where this could lead?

Gochujang Caramel Chocolate Chunk Cookies



Adapted from Eric Kim
Makes 8 to 10 large cookies

For the gochujang caramel

- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon gochujang (Mother-In-Law's original suggested)

For the cookie dough

- 7 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¾ teaspoon kosher salt

- 1 to 2 ounces bittersweet chocolate, cut into small, rough chunks (Guittard suggested)

For the gochujang caramel

- 1. Mix 1 tablespoon butter with brown sugar and gochujang until it forms a smooth paste. Set aside.

For the cookies

- 2. In a large bowl, cream the 7 tablespoons butter with sugar, egg, vanilla, salt and cinnamon with a hand mixer until smooth.

Whisk the flour and baking soda together in a separate bowl. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the butter-sugar mixture, stirring by hand to combine. Refrigerate dough for 15 to 20 minutes, until soft and workable but not too sticky. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line one large baking sheet pan with parchment paper.

3. Remove dough from refrigerator. Spoon the gochujang caramel over the cookie dough in 3 to 4 spaced-out dollops. Swirl the caramel with a spoon in long, circular strokes into the dough to create caramel streaks throughout. (Don't overwork the dough — you want wide, distinct stripes of the orange-colored caramel distinct from the lighter dough.)

4. For the cookies, measure ¼-cup rounds. (An ice cream scoop is perfect for this.) Spaced about 3 inches apart, you should get 8 to 10 cookies. Bake for 6 to 8 minutes until the individual cookies start to flatten and spread. Remove the pan from the oven and scatter chocolate chunks over the cookies, lightly pressing them into the dough. Rotate the pan and return to the oven, baking for another 6 to 8 minutes until the cookies are just barely browning at the edges.

5. Remove from the oven and cool completely on the pan. (The cookies will flatten and continue to cook a bit as they cool.) Keep in an airtight container at room temperature for about two days.

Classic Wheels

1970 Dodge Challenger

By Michael Turton

Tim Baisley could have ended up as a Chevrolet guy:

His first car was a 1967 Chevelle Super Sport, handed down from his brother.

But he chose an automotive path that would have made Walter P. Chrysler smile. “I’ve spent a lot of time loving and owning Mopars,” said the 63-year-old Peekskill resident.

That love affair has included an infatuation with Dodge Challengers. “I’ve had four very desirable 1970 Challengers,” he said, including the 383-cubic-inch RT and the 340-cubic-inch six-pack TA.

Baisley said that while he loved those Challengers and their mag wheels, stripes, fiberglass hoods, spoilers and tachometers, his favorite is the model he bought in January for \$56,000 at auction: a stripped-down 1970 Challenger powered by a slant-six engine.

The slant-six Challenger is unusual enough that he had never seen one in person until the car was shipped to him from Chicago. Dodge built 83,000 Challengers in 1970, but only about 16,000 came with the slant six, and most were converted to V8s. “Owners never restored them, loved them or took care of them,” Baisley said. “There are so few left.”

His Challenger has already appeared at local car shows, including the Tuesday evening cruise at the I-84 Diner in Fishkill and the Wednesday evening show at Bear Mountain State Park. Baisley also plans to take it to Pennsylvania for the Carlisle Chrysler Nationals, which features nearly



3,000 vehicles.

The first-generation Challenger was produced by Chrysler from 1970 to 1974, a “pony car” to compete with the Ford Mustang, Chevy Camaro, Pontiac Firebird and AMC Javelin. It shared parts with its slightly smaller cousin, the Plymouth Barracuda.

Before he bought it, Baisley’s Challenger went through a “roisserie” restoration: Everything from the wiring, brake cylinders and fuel lines to the sheet metal and paint was replaced if not in good condition. Because of that attention to detail, Baisley said he considers the car to be an original, as if it was just off the California assembly line.

“It was born with Go Mango orange paint,” he said. “It was born with the slant six. It was born with a manual transmission.” (The transmission is a slight departure from the factory original; the Challenger is outfitted with a 1980 four-speed manual truck transmission with overdrive.)

THE SPECS

- ASSEMBLY: Commerce, California
- BODY: 2-door hardtop
- TOTAL PRODUCTION: 83,000 (16,000 slant six)
- ENGINE: 225 cu in slant six
- HORSEPOWER: 145
- CARBURETOR: Single, one barrel
- TRANSMISSION: 3-speed manual
- FUEL ECONOMY: 20 mpg
- COST: \$2,850 (\$23,000 today)

The bare-bones, black vinyl interior lives up to the base model’s “stripper” nickname. It has crank windows. There is no power steering, no air conditioning, no console, and no radio. The windshield wiper fluid is activated with a foot pump.

Baisley describes the handling as “sloppy-dirty,” even with new steering components. “There’s an inch or two of play, left and right, before you start turning the wheels,”

he said.

He likes how the slant six and four-speed transmission perform. “I’ve gone up to 65 mph in third gear,” he said. “The car wants to go in fourth gear above that speed; that’s amazing.” The clutch is a bit stiff, and the car has “no super acceleration,” Baisley said. “It takes a bit to get it going 30 mph but it’s extremely happy at 65 mph. I don’t go faster than that.”

Current Classifieds

HELP WANTED

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.

GROUNDSKEEPER — 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.

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How Scenic Hudson's Overblown 'Safety Crisis' Claims Got the Fjord Trail \$20 Million in Taxpayer Funds

Want to know how Scenic Hudson was able to get \$20 million out of New York state to help pay for the gargantuan Fjord Trail project?

Mark Stillman's new investigation lays it all out. Stillman and co-editor Phil Weiss demonstrate in vivid detail how Scenic Hudson invented and promoted a fictional "safety crisis." The aim: state approval and support for massive construction on public land and in public water. The "environmental organization" quietly and thoroughly transformed into a large-scale developer. Scenic Hudson's scare campaign extended right up to the governor's office: according to *Watching the Hudson*, Chris Davis, the financier and prime mover behind the Fjord Trail, had a private lunch in Manhattan with the governor two years ago, before the approvals went through.

But the safety alarms were misleading and overblown to say the least.

Stillman and Weiss's report – posted at *Watching the Hudson* (<https://watchingthehudson.substack.com>) – blows up Scenic Hudson's claims.

For instance, Ned Sullivan, president of Scenic Hudson, warned of "immediate and dire public safety hazards at Breakneck Ridge" caused by large crowds of hikers walking along Route 9D.

In fact, police accident reports show that, over the past 10 years, there have been no fatal auto accidents, and

no auto accidents with serious injuries, along Route 9D in the Breakneck area.

Even more questionable was Sullivan's assertion that "hiker train accidents" at the Breakneck Ridge station had caused the death of one hiker and the maiming of another. When actually, neither incident was caused by crowds of hikers. Sadly, in both cases (in 2019 and 2021) the victims had sat beside the train track. MTA police reports show that one incident, and likely both, were acts of self-harm.

Watching the Hudson's team goes on to show how Scenic Hudson used the safety claims to get a fast-track environmental review by State Parks of a narrow portion of the 7-1/2 mile long boardwalk/trail – or a "segmentation" of the project. But this manipulation of the regulatory process is generally barred and Scenic Hudson, when it was acting to preserve green space, stopped other development projects specifically over the use of this loophole.

You may remember Stillman's work from his investigation of the supposed financial genius of Fjord Trail chairman Chris Davis in December. Stillman exposed the fact that over the last 16 years Davis Funds have seen a mass exodus of investors – a whopping \$78 billion, or 83 percent of the funds once under management. And this is the wunderkind that the state is allowing to disfigure Cold Spring and the state parks, with who knows who holding the bag!

Read the full article here:



ProtectTheHighlands.org

A Fitting Tribute

Howland Center fundraises for portico, and beyond, to honor Northcutt

By Jeff Simms

Shortly after moving to Beacon in 2007, Thomas de Villiers, the vice president of the Howland Cultural Center’s board of directors, recalls meeting Florence Northcutt, the center’s longtime champion, who died last month at 97.

De Villiers was sitting on a bench, reading a book, near his Main Street apartment when Northcutt, then 80 and president of the Howland board, parked nearby. “She had her dog, Major, who she took everywhere,” de Villiers said. “She invited me to come inside. I said, ‘I will, a little later.’”

A couple of hours later, after an appointment, de Villiers walked into the ornate brick building at 477 Main St., which in 1973 became the first structure in Beacon to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There, he found Northcutt on a step ladder, patching the walls of the performance room.

“She said, ‘I need some help,’ and I became a volunteer,” de Villiers said. “She did that with just about everybody.”

That room was renamed Northcutt Hall in 2022. For the past year, de Villiers and the other officers — secretary Craig Wolf, treasurer Hannah Brooks and president Theresa Kraft — have overseen a campaign to raise \$150,000 to restore the Howland’s deteriorated portico and central facade (the front doors and everything above them).

The 152-year-old building’s need for repairs is never-ending, but the portico project dates to 2020, when the board discussed painting the wooden support

columns. As they looked closer, they discovered rot. In other spots, aging brick needed repair, and the foundation was no longer sufficient to support the portico.

So they launched “Pennies for a Portico,” named after a penny drive undertaken 26 years earlier by Beacon school children to help rebuild the slate roof. That effort, engineered by Northcutt, raised nearly \$10,000. Students from Glenham Elementary raised \$3,000 on their own.

This time around, as hoped, coffee cans filled with bills and coins began to appear on the center’s stoop. Board members found envelopes with cash left anonymously with the mail. Someone even left a 2-gallon orange Home Depot bucket filled with coins.

Big checks came in, too. On May 20, the Beacon City Council agreed to renew a \$50,000 community facilities grant that was awarded to the center in 2021 for facade improvements but had been deferred while it secured additional funding. The Howland also recently received \$50,000 from the New York State Council on the Arts for the project.

After accounting for revenue from a gala held last month at the Roundhouse, the board met its goal. The fundraising, however, continues, to cover the cost of materials and construction driven higher by inflation and “for the unseen that we’ll uncover” when the project begins, Kraft said.

The organization is working with architect Jeff Wilkinson and contractor Tom Clemmens, who specialize in historic preservation. Reconstruction is expected to begin this year and will include reinstalling scrollwork that fell from the roof’s gables decades ago “and hasn’t ever been seen by anyone alive,” Wolf said.

Board members said that seeing the project through to completion, and continuing to save



Florence Northcutt at the dedication of Northcutt Hall in 2022 Photo by Ross Corsair

for future rehab work, is a fitting way to honor Northcutt, who spent 38 years — including 21 as board president — promoting art, music, theater and all things cultural at the center.

The building was acquired in 1978, two years after its first and only other occupant, the Howland Circulating Library, moved to 313 Main St. and became the Howland Public Library. A year after the acquisition, programming began under the Howland Cultural Center banner.

The change in ownership happened “at a poor time in a poor town,” Wolf said, but when Northcutt moved to Beacon in 1984, while still working as a speech therapist in Westchester County, she labored tirelessly to integrate the new center into the community.

“She was very good at pulling people in and selling the concept of a cultural center in a town that didn’t have a lot of interest in culture,” Wolf said. After retiring in 1997, “she had a lot of tread left on the tires, to our eternal gratitude.”



The Howland Cultural Center File Photo

By the time of her death on May 17, Northcutt was ready to pass stewardship of the Howland to her fellow board members, Kraft said. “She said she knew it was in good hands.”



Start Reading Now

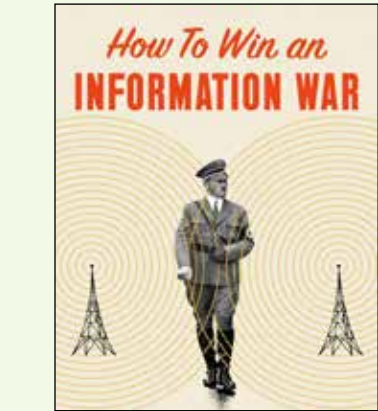
June book club selections

Howland Book Club
TUES 11, 1 P.M.
The Midnight Library, by Matt Haig
Howland Library, Beacon
Register at beaconlibrary.org/calendar.

Fantasy Book Club
TUES 11, 7 P.M.
Luck in the Shadows, by Lynn Flewelling
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

Lit Book Club
MON 17, 7 P.M.
Martyr!, by Kaveh Akbar
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

Page-to-Screen Book Club
THURS 20, 3 P.M.
The Price of Salt, by Patricia Highsmith
Desmond-Fish Public Library, Garrison
Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events.



History Book Club
THURS 20, 7 P.M.
How to Win an Information War, by Peter Pomerantsev
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

Butterfield Book Club
MON 24, 7 P.M.
Less, by Andrew Sean Greer
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Desmond-Fish Book Club
TUES 25, 6:30 P.M.
The Plot, by Jean Hanff Korelitz
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison
Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events.

Librarian’s Choice Book Club
WED 26, 3 P.M.
This is How You Lose the Time War, by Alai El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison
Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events.

Beacon Book Club
THURS 27, 7:15 P.M.
Demon Copperhead, by Barbara Kingsolver
Brother’s Trattoria, Beacon
Register at meetup.com/beacon-bookclub.

Special Edition Book Club
FRI 28, 6 P.M.
My Favorite Thing is Monsters, by Emil Ferris
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splitrockbks.com/event.

Escape Route



In August, the seaside town of Lahaina on the island of Maui burst into flames. Critical infrastructure faltered under the strain, and cellphone service failed. In some neighborhoods, evacuation notices arrived after homes were already ablaze.

As darkness descended and winds whipped up, confusion reigned. Which roads were blocked by flames? The main road near the waterfront became choked with panicked residents. Some leaped into the ocean and were pulled from the ashy water by Coast Guard crews as they dodged embers.

The disaster in Maui may seem remote from Mount Beacon's vantage point, but Natalie Simpson of the University at Buffalo School of Management notes that Lahaina shares certain features with Beacon and Philipstown: fairly compact communities lodged between mountains and water, with only two-lane highways to get in and out.

"You could have the same problems," she says. "It's important for communities nestled this way to think about what it would look like if everybody had to get out."

The Highlands has no evacuation plan specific to wildfires, although there is one for nuclear disasters. For decades, municipalities within 10 miles of the Indian Point nuclear power plant south of Peekskill were required to have robust protocols in place. (The southern half of Philipstown is within range; Beacon is just outside it.) A booklet created by Putnam County, *Are You Ready?*, included a map in which all the arrows pointed north; a page at putnamcountyny.com/ preads advice on preparing for disasters such as blizzards, extreme heat, flooding, tornadoes and nuclear explosions but not wildfires.

Tina Volz-Bongar, a community activist in Peekskill, says the plans never inspired much confidence. For instance, while they called on parents to wait to pick up their children at school bus stops, she predicts they would, in fact, rush to the schools, likely disrupting the "orderly movement of people" envisioned.

Ralph Falloon, a former Cold Spring mayor who is deputy commissioner of the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services, says the evacuation plans for Indian Point are still useful. "We will forever be grateful

for having that technology and planning still at our disposal," he says. The Putnam agency is now more focused on threats such as severe storms or toxic chemical spills related to the huge volumes of freight traffic that cross through the area by truck and train.

Kelly McKinney has two decades of experience responding to disasters for the American Red Cross and the New York City Office of Emergency Management. "Evacuation is a challenging, complex situation," he says. "There will be multiple simultaneous operations going on all at the same time."

If the emergency is a massive wildfire, authorities must predict where the fire is going, notes McKinney, who is now chief of emergency management at NYU Langone Health in New York City. If necessary, officials would use the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS), a reverse 911 system, to send automatic emergency alerts to cellphone users in designated areas.

According to Dutchess County's Hazardous Materials Community Emergency Response Plan, the decision to evacuate residents is made by "incident commanders" — whoever is in charge — taking into account the severity of the danger, the resources available and the time it would take to evacuate.

Once the call is made, police officers would go door-to-door alerting residents and directing traffic. Others would prepare buses and other forms of transportation for people without cars. Sections in the county's 38-page Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan relate to evacuating livestock and pets, although Red Cross shelters don't allow animals.

Evacuees are warned not to use phones so they don't overwhelm networks used by emergency responders. Those fleeing by car should close vents and keep the AC off.

"Emergency preparedness is a labor-intensive process," McKinney says, noting that cash-strapped local governments rarely have the budgets to anticipate every scenario. "New York City has resources because of 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy," he says. "You learn those lessons. Maui is going to be resourced after this. East Palestine [Ohio, the site of a 2023 train derailment and chemical fire] is going to

be resourced. You want to be resourced before the disaster, rather than after."

Local governments should involve the public in planning, he says, noting that unorganized volunteers are worse than no volunteers. Natalie Simpson of the University of Buffalo cautions against overreliance on cellphone alerts. "If that goes down, as cellular communication did in Lahaina, you have nothing," she says.

If the power goes out or some other widespread disaster strikes, a better bet might be more old-fashioned: the car radio. Specific stations issue alerts (primarily, in our region, 1420 AM and 100.7 FM). If a massive cyberattack takes down the power grid and cell towers, AM and FM transmitters would likely be brought back online first, she says.

Simpson notes that the Highlands has a resource that Maui did not: neighboring communities. "There are things that I'm not impressed with in Lahaina's emergency response to the wildfire, but I sympathize with them, because they're on an island and there aren't secondary resources to draw on," she says. "Flying things in is much, much slower. In the Hudson Valley, you can draw on nearby towns and counties to help out."

But Erica Smithwick, director of the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute at Penn State University, points out that East Coast municipalities "are intermingled in a way that's different from in the West. Even if the fire risk is less severe, the potential human impact could be larger under the right conditions."

What especially concerns Smithwick is that, when a fire does break out, it's not always clear who's in charge. "The complexity of land use and management is more heterogeneous and intermingled than in the West," she explains. "Here you have so many municipalities and government agencies that have to coordinate and manage smaller tracts of land."

That could pose a problem in the Highlands, where, thanks to quirky municipal boundaries (e.g., Mount Beacon is in Fishkill), overlapping jurisdictions (Cold Spring is part of but also distinct from Philipstown) and huge parcels of state-owned land, the lines of responsibility can be confusing. "In the context of emergency preparedness," Smithwick says, "that often leads to more trouble."



Joseph Pries, the DEC fire ranger for Dutchess and Putnam, traveled with other firefighters to battle blazes in Quebec last year.

Photo provided

Wildfires (from Page 1)

Erica Smithwick, director of the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute at Penn State University, who specializes in eastern U.S. wildfires, has studied the issue of controlled burns and worked with land managers, hunters and conservationists to put intentional fire back on the radar in Pennsylvania.

While the practice faced some resistance, she notes that managers in the Pine Barrens region of New Jersey have been conducting controlled burns for years. As part of her pitch, she points out that controlled burns reduce tick populations.

There are two problems with controlled burns, however. The first is capacity, because it takes training. New York State does some training at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, in Minnewaska State Park and on Long Island, but not enough for fire agencies around the state to adopt the practice.

Evan Thompson, the manager of the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, believes it would be difficult to introduce controlled burns in the park's rugged landscape, which spans some 25,000 acres on both sides of Route 9. "You can't burn everything from Garrison to Fahnestock," he says.

Still, Joseph Pries, the state Department of Environmental Conservation fire ranger for Dutchess and Putnam counties, says the agency is ready to draw up plans for controlled burns for any agency or manager who wants them.

The second limitation is public acceptance. Many people, thoroughly indoctrinated by decades of Smokey Bear commercials, remain skeptical of the idea that starting a fire can stop a fire. Liability is key: If a controlled burn gets out of control and destroys property (which has happened), who pays the bill? Anticipating this, in 2009, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a law protecting public agencies and non-governmental organizations that employ trained burned bosses from lawsuits over damage.

Because there are so many homes along the perimeter of the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, Thompson worries about a

(Continued on Page 21)



Smoke from Canadian wildfires blanketed the Highlands last year. Photo by Michael Turton



Intense drought, low humidity and wind gusts fed the Walland and Gatlinburg fires in Tennessee in November 2016. Photo by Bruce McCamish

(Continued from Page 20)

controlled burn that escapes its handlers. “It could have disastrous consequences,” he says.

The same thing that could make a wildfire in the Highlands so destructive — the encroachment of homes into the woods — is what makes using controlled burns to mitigate the risk so difficult.



According to Smithwick, many places lack a forest management plan to sort through the intricate web of entangled species and conflicting demands that make up forest ecology.

Lauren Martin, a park steward at the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, agrees. “Forest management is a constant give-and-take,” she says. Dead trees can fuel intense fires but also shelter wildlife and would be expensive to remove.

“Something you do for one reason is always going to be detrimental to some other goal you have,” Martin says. A comprehensive plan for the Hudson Highlands park, if the state provided the funds, would be an invaluable resource in helping park managers balance the interests of wildlife management and fire protection, she says.

Smithwick recommends that communities concerned about wildfires join a program called Firewise USA, developed by the National Fire Protection Association, which has programming that can provide a bridge between land-management agencies and residents.

Educators “help people learn how important it is to clear brush from around their homes, not to stack wood under their decks” and to clean their eaves and gutters — measures that help reduce the risk of a wildfire spreading quickly to a home, she says. Firewise communities are also encouraged to develop evacuation protocols, especially near retirement communities.

The type of blaze most likely to break out in the Highlands is not the Maui inferno of 2023, or any of the fires that have scorched Califor-

nia, but the Walland and Gatlinburg fires of November 2016, which devastated tourism-dependent communities in eastern Tennessee. Exacerbated by intense drought, remarkably low humidity and wind gusts as high as 87 mph, the fires tore through 10,000 acres, killed 14 people and injured nearly 200. The destruction would have been far wider had it not started to rain, recalled Bruce McCamish,

a Knoxville photographer on the scene.

This past November, fires ignited again in the region, forcing the closure of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail.

Because of climate change, those fires could foreshadow what’s ahead for the northern Appalachians, which includes the Highlands. “I don’t want to be the person who tells people not to worry,” Smithwick says.

How to Prepare Your Home

- ☐ Remove vegetation (e.g., grass, weeds, shrubs, vines, plants, trees) and ground covering (e.g., mulch, pine straw) within 5 feet of your home, and trim branches that overhang.
- ☐ Install ground cover such as gravel, pavers, river rocks, stepping stones or concrete in the zone, as well as around decks or covered porches, including under stairs.
- ☐ Replace wood or plastic fencing in the zone with aluminum or chain-link.
- ☐ Do not park or store vehicles, boats, RVs or ATVs within 5 feet of the home. Ideally, they should be in a closed garage or parked at least 30 feet away.
- ☐ Do not store anything combustible, such as firewood, potted plants, outdoor furniture, trash cans, pet houses, lawn tools or playsets in the zone.
- ☐ Remove dry grass, brush and dead leaves within at least 30 feet of your home. Space trees and shrubs at least 10 feet apart. Reduce the number of trees in heavily wooded areas.
- ☐ Remove branches within 10 feet of your chimney. Cover chimney outlets with nonflammable screens of ½ inch or smaller mesh.
- ☐ Locate liquid propane gas tanks at least 30 feet from any structure and surround them with 10 feet of clearance on all sides.
- ☐ Stack firewood and scrap wood piles away from any building and clear flammable vegetation close to the piles.
- ☐ Prune the lower branches of tall trees to within 6 feet of the ground to keep ground fires from spreading into treetops.
- ☐ Clear pine needles, leaves or other debris from your roof and gutters. Remove limbs or dead branches hanging over the roof. Remove nearby heavy ground vegetation and stumps.

Sources: Insurance Institute for Business & Home Security (ibhs.org/wildfireready), New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (dhses.ny.gov/wildfire-safety-tips)

Types of Wildfires

Crawling

Spreads via low-level vegetation, e.g., bushes.

Crown

Spreads to the top branches of trees; can advance at an incredible pace.

Jumping

Burning branches and leaves carried by wind jump over roads and rivers to start distant fires.

Source: dhses.ny.gov/wildfire-safety-tips

The Fire Above

Beacon is named for fire, taking its name from the signals lit by the Continental Army on the mountain. The 60-foot metal watchtower at the top of the southern summit, built in 1931 to replace wood structures that were vulnerable to lightning strikes, is a monument to the ongoing danger.

In 1922, *The New York Times* reported on a fire that burned for three days and threatened the cottages and hotel on the northern summit. Five years later, a hotel on the mountain burned to the ground. It was rebuilt, but in 1936, 30 passengers descending on the incline railroad had to pass between walls of flame attributed to a discarded cigarette.

In the ensuing decades, the incline railway fell prey to fires that finally put it out of commission in 1978. Five years later, 50 acres burned, destroying what remained of the hotel.

For Part I of this series, see highlandscurrent.org.

“Forest management is a constant give-and-take. Something you do for one reason is always going to be detrimental to some other goal you have.” — Lauren Martin, Hudson Highlands park steward

Out There

Why Did the Turtle Cross the Road?

By Brian PJ Cronin

While out for a run, I once came across a snapping turtle in the middle of the road. A woman was blocking traffic but said she was too nervous to move the turtle since she had heard that they bite, which is true! It's right there in their name.



A snapping turtle in a happier place

Stock photo

I offered to help. I firmly grasped the turtle by the rear of its shell, out of the way of its jaws and claws. The turtle did not care for this. It thrashed the claws furiously and its mouth snapped at impressive speed. As I learned, snapping turtles are anxious when out of the water, especially when airborne.

I bring this up because, according to the state Department of Environmental Conservation, now is the time to Give Turtles a Brake. May and June are busy months for local turtles as they search for sandy areas or loose soil to lay their eggs.

Thousands of turtles in New York are killed by vehicles every year; at the same time, most native species are on the decline. Because it takes about 10 years for turtles to reach breeding age and because they lay just one small clutch annually, the loss of even a single pregnant turtle can decimate the local population for years.

If it's not the snapping variety, moving a turtle across a road is easy. Using both hands, gently lift it by the sides of the shell and carry it in the same direction it was headed. Do not redirect the turtle to a creek or stream; the turtle knows what it wants



In June 2018, while biking from Beacon to Cold Spring, Current reporter Jeff Simms stopped to move a snapping turtle away from Route 9D.

Photo by Mark Price

better than you do. And do not take the turtle home, because you need a permit. That could go without saying, but I've heard from DEC officers that people have kept deer in their homes under the false belief that it's legal if the deer has been in your

home for a certain number of weeks.

If it is a snapping turtle, and you have access to car mats, pick the turtle up by its shell about three-quarters of the way back. (Do not underestimate the reach of that short and stubby neck.) You may be tempted to drag the turtle by its alluring and highly grabbable tail, but its tailbones are connected to the rest of its skeleton so that is a quick way to dislocate its spine.

Once you (safely!) have hold of the turtle, place it on a car mat and drag it across the road. You may need to spin the mat around so your hands are not within reach of its jaws, but remember to spin it again when you reach the roadside. If you have a blanket, so much the better. In a pinch, you could use a shovel.

If you don't have any of those tools, you'll have to carry the turtle. Keep it low to the ground and be prepared for the turtle to thrash (again, watch out for the claws). Remember that, as unpleasant as the experience may seem to be for the turtle, it beats getting hit by a car.

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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- ACROSS
1. Haunting

6. Seizes

11. Cancels

12. More apt to seep

14. April 1 gags

15. Consult

16. Scrooge portrayer Alastair

17. Feudal workers

19. Oahu, for one (Abbr.)

20. Nobel Prize subj.

22. San Francisco's — Hill

23. Sufficient, informally

24. Philosopher Kierkegaard

26. Droning reed

28. Tease

30. USO patrons

31. Flood protection

35. Cabaret director Bob

39. Tactic

40. Pantheon member

42. Future doc's exam

43. Gore and Green

44. Bamboozles

46. Med. plan option

47. "— shabby!"

49. Take it slow

51. Saunter

52. Andean pack animals

53. Rescued

54. Austin native
- DOWN
1. Physicist Fermi

2. Captivate

3. Skedaddle

4. Sorts

5. Ruhr Valley city

6. Course load?

7. Aussie hoppers

8. Dye type

9. Two-piece suit

10. Establishes

11. Basilica areas

13. Husband of Pocahontas

18. Filch

21. Hardly hip

23. — salts

25. Pen tip

27. Computer image, briefly

29. Novelist Enid

31. Bridges

32. Doles out

33. Cosa —

34. Sticky stuff

36. Blueprint, e.g.

37. Pacific islander

38. Short jackets

41. Resided

44. Only

45. Auction

48. "Mazel —!"

50. Jazz band instrument

SUDOCURRENT

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WORDLADDER

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

POCHER

EATER

MICRO
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. Triangular sails

5. 1300 hours

7. Olympic swimmer Ledecky

8. Still-life pitchers

9. Editor's marks
- DOWN
1. Kidded

2. Blown away

3. Kind of nut or palm

4. Cathedral topper

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Answers for May 31 Puzzles

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Sports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

TRACK AND FIELD — Damani DeLoatch, a senior at Beacon High School, will compete today (June 7) for the triple jump state championship at Cicero. He finished second last year behind Aiden Bryant of Midlakes High School in the Finger Lakes, who will again be his chief competition.

At the state qualifiers on May 30 at Goshen, DeLoatch won the triple jump and was fifth in the long jump. Other top finishers for the Bulldogs included Henry Reinke (sixth in the 400 meters), Noah Spiak (fifth in the 400-meter hurdles) and Jayden Mihalchik (sixth in the pole vault). For the girls, Mikaela Sanchez was 15th in the 400 meters and Isabella Migliore was 16th in the 800 meters.

Haldane competed in the state qualifiers on May 31 at Suffern against other small schools. The Blue Devils' top finishers were Merrick Williams (third in the pentathlon) and Owen Powers (fourth in the 3,200 meters). For the girls, Shayla Ochoa was sixth in the long jump and Ashley Sousa was ninth in the 1,500 meters.

SOFTBALL — Haldane's Jeff Sniffen was named co-coach of the year for League 3-D by Section I coaches and Callie Sniffen was League 3-D player of the year and All-Section. For Beacon, junior Kat Ruffy was named to the Section IX, Class A team.

BOYS' GOLF — Senior Will Martin of Beacon shot a 79-80 (159) in two rounds at the state golf championships on June 2 and 3 to finish tied for 60th in the field of 99. Josh Yan, a sophomore at Newburgh Free Academy, finished third with 139.



Beacon's Will Martin reached the golf state finals.

Photo provided

Generals Win First League Title

*Travel baseball squad tops
Yorktown Heights*

By Kent Schacht

It took six seasons, four years of waiting and an inning that didn't want to end, but the Cold Spring Generals 13U travel baseball team on Sunday (June 2) won its first league title.

The Generals, who compete in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League (GHVBL), defeated East Coast Athletics of Yorktown Heights, 8-5, in the D3 Gold Championship Bracket played in Danbury, Connecticut.

The title marks the club's first since its founding in 2021 and the first appearance by any Philipstown team at any age level in a GHVBL championship game. In addition to its 13-and-under squad, Cold Spring fields 9U and 12U teams.

After jumping ahead, 3-1, in the second inning, the Generals added runs in the third, fifth, sixth and seventh to take an 8-2 lead.

The Athletics had one more at-bat; Oliver Herman, who took the mound for the Generals in the fifth inning, got the first hitter to fly out. But then things got interesting. After the second batter reached base on an error, Herman got another to fly out.

New Hockey Team in the Highlands

*Franchise moving to
Newburgh in fall*

Hockey fans in the Highlands will have a new team to cheer in the fall.

Pat Manning, who owns the Hudson Valley Vipers in Poughkeepsie, purchased the minor league Elmira River Sharks and will move the team to the Town of Newburgh.

Renamed the Hudson Valley Venom, the squad will play at Ice Time Sports Complex. Its 56-game season begins in October.

The Venom will remain in the Federal Prospects Hockey League, competing in a division that includes teams from Binghamton and Watertown; Danbury, Connecticut; and Fraser, Michigan.

The Vipers, who defeated the Toledo Monsters on May 18 to win the 2023-24 American Premiere Hockey League title, will be a farm team for the Venom.



The Cold Spring Generals 13U travel team on June 2 won its first league title.

Photo provided

But the runner tagged and scored to make it 8-3.

With two outs, the Athletics put another runner on due to another Generals error. A batter then dinged Herman for a line-drive double to make it 8-4. Three more singles made the score 8-5 with the bases loaded and the winning run at the plate.

Herman stood tough and, on a 1-1 count, induced a fly ball to left field, where Harry McGrory caught it to secure the title for the Generals.

The intense seventh followed a consistent performance at the plate by the Generals. After failing to score in the first, the club put three runs on the board in the second. Theo Swan and Aidan Kane each singled and, after a walk loaded the bases, Hudson Schacht's RBI single scored Swan. Kane scored from third on a pitch that got by the catcher and Dylan Drew added an RBI line drive to center.

In the third, Kane hit an RBI single; in the fifth, Lughan McIlwaine scored on a fielder's choice; and in the sixth McGrory came home after a wild pitch.

McIlwaine and Herman each scored in the top of the seventh on two more wild pitches.

McIlwaine started the game and threw four innings, striking out five batters and giving up one hit and two runs. Herman had two strikeouts while giving up three runs.

In the sixth, with Athletics runners on first and second and no outs, McGrory ended the inning with three consecutive outs at third base. First, he nabbed a grounder and made a diving play to touch the bag before the advancing runner. The Generals catcher, Drew, finished the frame by throwing out two consecutive runners as they attempted to steal third, with McGrory applying the tags.



BATTER UP — The Philipstown Little League, which has four boys' baseball teams and two girls' softball teams, completed its regular season at the end of May. The Grey Wolves will play the Fanta Force on Saturday (June 8) in the boys' Majors division title game. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair