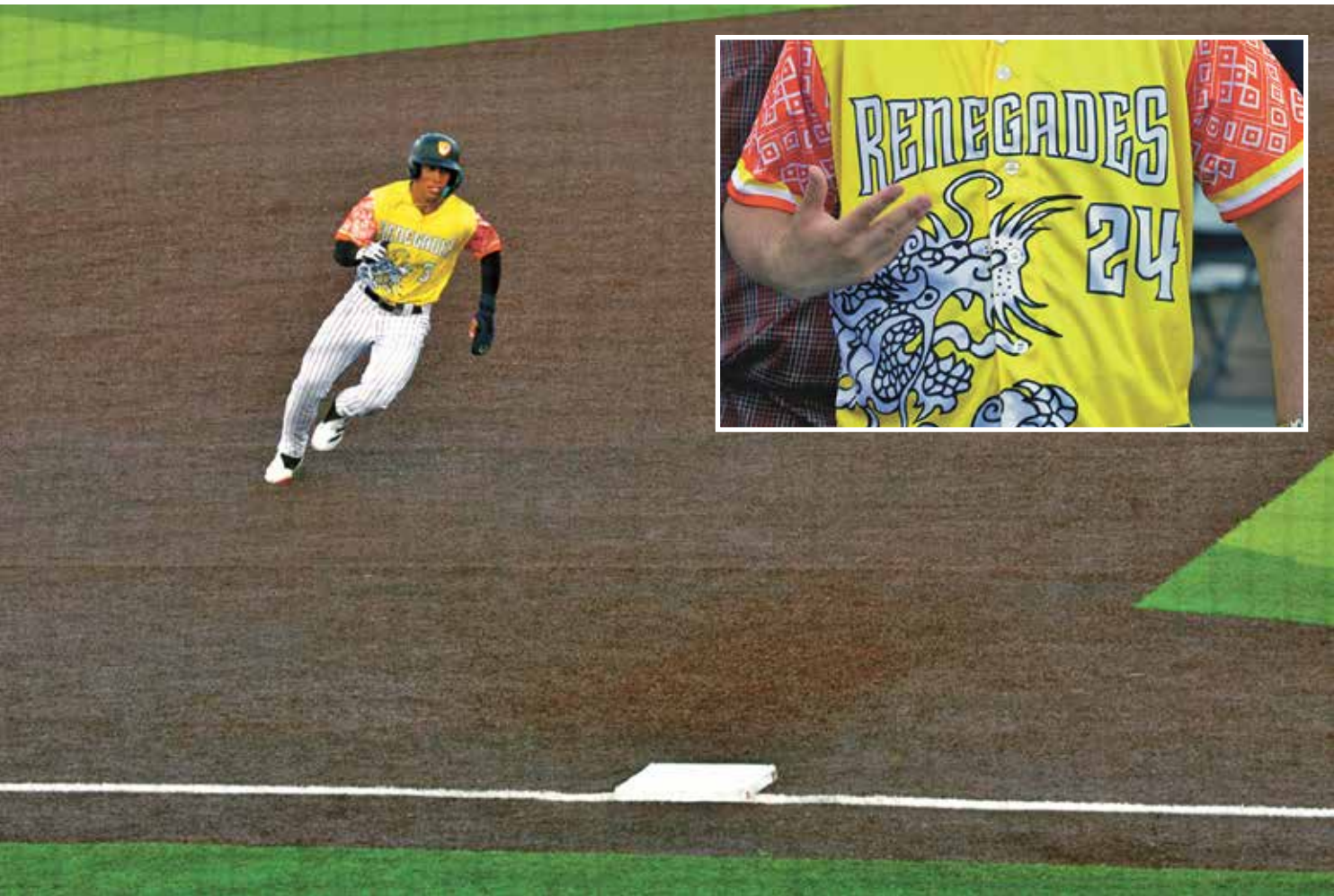


The HIGHLANDS Current



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TRIBUTE TO BHUTAN — A Hudson Valley Renegades runner rounds third base in a 10-0 win on Tuesday (Aug. 20) over the Wilmington Blue Rocks. The minor-league Yankees affiliate based just north of Beacon honored 12 teenage baseball and softball players visiting from Bhutan, a small country between China and India, with uniforms that featured the thunder dragon, an important part of the country's flag. See Page 20. *Photos by Ross Corsair*

Beacon Adopts Eviction Limits

Eligible landlords must show 'good cause'

By Leonard Sparks

The Beacon City Council on Monday (Aug. 19) adopted a law limiting when landlords can evict tenants or refuse to renew leases, four months after the state authorized municipalities to opt into a measure enacted in April. The “good cause” eviction law, approved 5-0 with two council members absent, restricts landlords who own more than one unit from evicting tenants except in specific circumstances, including when they have arrears that are not due to “unreasonable” rent increases. An unreasonable increase is defined by the state as 5 to 10 percent, depending on the consumer price index. In Dutchess County in 2024, it is 8.82 percent or more. *(Continued on Page 1)*

Out There River of Life

By Brian PJ Cronin



Some things about the Hudson River have changed. For example, on Aug. 10 at Little Stony Point, the tides washed up at my feet two distinct bags of branded, copyrighted, legal marijuana. Some things have remained the same. That same morning, I watched several people drag a seining net across the cove, which people have been doing at that spot for at least 5,000 years. The technology hasn't changed much, with two exceptions. The Native Americans used palm-sized pieces of sandstone instead of metal for the weights at the bottom of the net. At the end of the day, they'd leave the weights on the shore so the net would be easier to carry home. “Who wants to carry a bunch of rocks in their pockets, right?” asked Tom Lake, a naturalist for the state Department of Environmental Conservation. “Although I don't think they had pockets.” Lake said you can still find old sandstone weights, their edges circled with notches, along the river. *(Continued on Page 18)*

Another Local Veteran Hits 100

Parge Sgro has served country and community

By Michael Turton

Lifelong Cold Spring resident Parge Sgro celebrated his 100th birthday on Aug. 18. What does the latest local centenarian like to do with his time? “To tell you the truth, I enjoy doing nothing!” he said. Sgro's first name is Placito, “but my mom called me ‘Pargy,’ which people turned into ‘Parge,’” he said. Asked if it seems possible to have lived 100 years, Sgro replied, “It's a fact. There's not many left in my generation; I left a lot of them behind.” He said he never smoked and only had the occasional beer. “I wasn't a drinker.” By reaching the century mark, Sgro joins a select group of local World War II veterans,



Parge Sgro turned 100 on Aug. 18. *Photo by M. Turton* including Joe Etta of Cold Spring, who died in 2020 at age 102, and Carmine “Toot” Giordano *(Continued on Page 7)*

New Real Estate Rules in Effect

Commission changes sowing confusion, brokers say

By Joey Asher

In theory, new rules governing how real-estate commissions are divided among buyers' and sellers' agents could lower the cost of buying a home. In reality, many agents say, they add paperwork and make the process more confusing. A settlement in a \$418 million class-action lawsuit against the National Association of Realtors ended the practice of agents using the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) to indicate how a sales commission will be split between agents. The lawsuit, brought by a group of Missouri homeowners in 2019, claimed that automatically giving buyers' agents a commission violated antitrust laws and *(Continued on Page 5)*

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: NANCY SWANN

By Lucy Baldino

Nancy Swann, who has been the artistic director at the Philipstown Depot Theatre since 2005, is retiring Sept. 1. She will be succeeded by Alice Jankell.

How did you land the job?

I was on the Depot Theatre board when we hired Amy Dul as executive director. She was running the whole theater and a year or two later, when we were doing a lot more in the space, she asked for help. Another board member, Chris Nowak, said, “Maybe you should do this,” but I was unsure. I’m an actor and I just wanted to act. But I talked to my husband and he said, “You’d be good as the artistic director.” Twenty years later, here we are.

What are your responsibilities?

Probably not what a true artistic director should do. There are four of us on the staff, and we’re all part-time, so everyone does what they can to fill the holes. You must be flexible. Typically, Amy and I decide on the season and discuss children’s shows and films that are brought to us. We talk to prospective performers about one-nighters, and we take care of the building of the sets. I do a lot of set work and direct and,



of course, clean the theater. The crew feels like a close family. We all work together.

What was your favorite show?

I think it was *Secret Garden*, which we did in 2009. The set directors came up with a brilliant plan in which we used projections. One of my favorite moments was the song “Lily’s Eyes,” which is about a character who has died. We had a projection of the actor like a painting displayed on the back of the stage. Chris came up with this great idea to have the actor stand behind the projection so that, with just a little light, she appeared alive. Every time that happened, the audience would respond with shock. For me, that’s why you do theater. You want people to have that moment when they’re amazed at seeing an effect that blows the heartstrings.

How can people get involved?

We have all kinds of opportunities. There are notices for auditions online [at philipstowndepottheatre.org] and we have a documentary film program [Depot Docs] and one-nighters where people can perform for one show. We have a strong children’s program, and what’s exciting about that is watching the kids develop and grow. Quite often they are very young when they start out, and they work their way through getting more comfortable in theater. Kids can start off in the youth program and then end up in our main-stage productions. It’s rewarding to see their talent, and how theater affects their lives in ways where it helps them be more comfortable with themselves and their body and with talking to adults. We’ve had some children who had special needs become transformed by the process of being onstage.

Any memorable backstage disasters?

Well, there have been moments when the power went out. That is always bad. We hosted a takeoff of Sherlock Holmes by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and the power went out. We had someone drive a car onto the patio and shine the headlights through the windows to light the stage. Another time, we had people use their cell-phones to light the stage, and some people had flashlights in their cars. People would panic and say, “We’re going to have to send everyone home,” and I’d say, “No, no, we’re not going to do that. All these people came here to see the theater and we’ve got their money, so we’ll give them a show.”

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

How far from home do you venture each week?

Usually nowhere, but New York City once in a while.



Ying Guo, Cold Spring

Normally no more than 15 miles, to get to work.



Michael Iverson, Cold Spring

Yorktown Heights each weekday, occasionally New York City.



Cara Lake, Beacon



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NEWS BRIEFS

Police Investigate Beacon Stabbing

Teenager accused of assaulting his girlfriend

Beacon police said they arrested a 16-year-old on Aug. 17 on suspicion of stabbing his girlfriend.

Police said they responded to an address on Eliza Street to investigate a report that a female had been stabbed. They said they found a girl, 16, bleeding from what appeared to be a stab wound to her leg. Officers arrested the boy, whom she identified as her boyfriend; he allegedly resisted and struck an officer in the face.

According to police, a witness stated that the two had been in a physical altercation and video taken inside the building showed the female cowering as the male approached her just before officers arrived.

The boy was charged with two felony counts of assault, a misdemeanor count of resisting arrest and a misdemeanor count of criminal possession of a weapon. He was arraigned and transported to a "secure facility," police said. The girl was taken to a hospital by ambulance and treated for her injuries. Police withheld their names, citing their ages.

If you or someone you know is in need of immediate assistance with domestic violence, call the Beacon Police Department at 845-831-4111. Additional resources are

available at familyservicesny.org.

On July 31, Beacon police responded to a report of a fight near South Avenue Park, where they determined that three teenagers had been stabbed. None of their wounds were life-threatening.

Putnam Reject Farms for Agricultural District

Vote follows debate over program rules

Putnam legislators voted on Tuesday (Aug. 20) to reject properties in Philipstown and four other towns for inclusion in the county's agricultural district, two weeks after tabling the matter over a disagreement about the program's requirements.

By a 5-3 vote, the Legislature denied George Whipple's application to add Castle Rock and three other Philipstown properties to the district. The Putnam Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board earlier had voted 9-2 to allow the designation.

The Legislature's vote also affected four other operations approved by the board: Big Red Barn Farm in Putnam Valley and Cascade Enterprises in Carmel, which board horses; and Lobster Hill Farm in Southeast and Ridge Ranch in Patterson, which breed livestock.

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, joined William Gouldman of Putnam Valley and Erin Crowley of the Town of Carmel in

voting to accept the Agricultural Board's recommendations.

Established by the state in 1971, the Agricultural Districts program is intended to "conserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement" of farmland. The benefits to farmers include being exempt from "unreasonable" local laws that might restrict operations.

HHLT Seeks Name for Garrison Preserve

Residents have until Sept. 8 to propose ideas

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust has launched a survey asking residents to propose names for a new preserve the nonprofit is creating from 57 acres of woods and wetlands at the former Garrison Golf Course.

HHLT said it wants a "distinctive, descriptive and memorable" name for the property. The organization is undertaking a biological survey and developing plans for restoration and public access.

Proposed names should "celebrate nature, history and/or the landscape," according to HHLT. Participants will be entered in a drawing for nature-themed prizes.

The survey can be completed at bit.ly/hhlt-naming. The deadline is Sept. 8 and HHLT hopes to announce the winner at its fall benefit on Sept. 22.



CAUGHT WITH THE CURRENT — Leonora Burton, who ran The Country Goose on Main Street in Cold Spring for 37 years before moving back to her native U.K. in 2022, was surprised by a copy of last week's *Current*, hand-delivered by Diane Landtroop to The Sherlock Holmes pub in London.

Photo provided

The HIGHLANDS Current Ice Cream Passport

We are excited to announce our 2024 winners!

David Hart

Josh Kelly / Naomi Ely

Katie Kunin



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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Fjord Trail

I recently came across a story in *The Current* from August 2018, "Saving Blue Hole: How a Catskills Swimming Spot Could Protect Breakneck," by Brian PJ Cronin. He wrote: "Like Breakneck Ridge, Blue Hole was in danger of being loved to death."

The article notes that in the western U.S., people have become used to checking online to see if day permits are required before they visit a site. Why can't New York state parks require permits for Breakneck? That might slow down the hordes of hikers from New York City coming to the most exciting and beautiful climb accessible and convenient in the metro area.

Annie Patton, *Garrison*

Brian PJ Cronin responds: "I've asked State Parks about this numerous times over the years; its stance is that a permitting system wouldn't work at Breakneck because the ridge has too many access points. At Blue Hole, there is only one way in and out, making it easier to restrict access."

Having grown up in western New York, among streets with empty storefronts and the economic disparity that resulted from that, I welcome as many visitors to Beacon as care to come. Traffic can be annoying, but it beats the alternative. I feel blessed to

live in a place where people want to spend their free time.

In the 10 years that I've lived in Beacon, I've gotten the impression that some people in Cold Spring believe they live in a gated community. If that's what you want, move to a private golf course, not a major tourist attraction.

I look forward to riding my bike to Cold Spring on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. Hopefully, the minority of stakeholders don't ruin it for the majority who want this trail completed.

Eric Ortner, *Beacon*

Hey HHFT, give Cold Spring what they want and drop that end. Beacon residents welcome your plan and look forward to a trail crossing Fishkill Creek. Arguing you shouldn't change Dutchess Manor is ridiculous ("Fjord Trail Foes Cross the Border," Aug. 16). Once you're linked to our Madam Brett Park, the Riverfront Trail and Long Dock Park, we're ready to roll!

Gary Chapman, *Beacon*

The facile and dismissive tone assumed by proponents of the HHFT and taken by our neighbors from the north is unfortunate yet perhaps unsurprising given the fate of the disjointed and ugly stretches of Route

9 that run through the southern portion of the Town of Fishkill south of Interstate 84. Pitting neighbor against neighbor is high up on the list of divisive tactics used by developers to weaken the public interest.

The same tactic was used in the unfair weighting of the previously released poll touting broad public support for the HHFT. Of course, the HHFT should be reviewed in its entirety — whatever you think of the project, you should carefully examine the shenanigans exploited by developers to get their projects approved with as little public oversight as possible and avoid the instinct to dismiss the concerns of your neighbors as unfounded.

Ethan Timm, *Nelsonville*

Build that border wall already! We'll need it with the hordes of people who will come. Keep them up there in Beacon, please.

Lloyd DesBrisay, *Cold Spring*

Trailer

It's been such an amazing journey for Oui Oui Cuisine ("An Artist, a Chef and a Gleaming Trailer," Aug. 9). I built the trailer and am so happy to see Laura and Georges Goba-Byrne using it to its fullest. Congrats!

Benjamin Maynard,
Cherryville, Pennsylvania

Farms

Local farms are highly popular in Putnam, as they are in Westchester ("Putnam County May Rewrite Farm Rules," Aug. 9). Weekends find farmers markets in nearly every town that are well-attended and liked for the freshness and quality of their produce. The Legislature's Physical Services Committee should encourage more farms, not refuse to allow them to operate.

Holly Cohen, *Brewster*

Garden

Miriam Wagner and I were friends in the 1960s to 1980s when we were young mothers in Garrison ("Goddess Flora Moves on to New Plot," Aug. 16). I remember her well and fondly. This was a beautiful article about a beautiful woman. Thank you!

Jackaline Ring, *via Facebook*

Recipe

I found a fresh chicken-of-the-woods mushroom and made a risotto with it, but I thought Joe Dizney might have a fresher take on this mushroom ("Small Good Things: Good & Plenty, Nice & Easy," Aug. 2).

Stephen Fay, *Shelter Island*

Joe Dizney responds: "I have to say I have never found chicken-of-the-woods satisfying. They're about the texture — like meat, especially if you get them young — but not particularly flavorful. As impressive as they look, I've learned to avoid the woody mature



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

ones, opting for the more tactilely tender young ones. I trim away the tougher stalks, simmer them until just tender (in chicken or vegetable stock) and slice them into strips and use them like chicken for soups, stews and stir-fry. Your risotto sounds like a good idea. I like them with sweet summer corn and the combo makes a good chowder. You might even be able to get away with grilling them, but they'll require an assertive sauce. I hope this helps."

Parking

The hope is that dropping parking requirements for developments could push some projects from too risky to profitable, which creates more housing ("Beacon Drops (Some) Parking Requirements," Aug. 16). Housing is far too expensive for "affordable" unless it's subsidized.

James Petty, *via Instagram*

Studies have concluded that greed adds significantly to the cost of housing and hinders the development of affordable units.

Howard Condyles, *via Instagram*

Correction

A story in the Aug. 16 issue stated that David Rothenberg and Edwin Torres traveled to central Louisiana to hear the cicadas. In fact, it was central Illinois.

Real Estate *(from Page 1)*

artificially inflated costs.

The changes, which took effect Aug. 17, clarify that sellers are not obligated to pay a commission to the buyer's agent. In a typical transaction, the seller might pay a 5 percent commission, which their agent would offer to split with the buyer's agent. On a home that sold for \$500,000, that would be \$25,000, or \$12,500 each.

Under the new rules, a buyer's agent can't show a home — in-person or remotely — unless their client signs a document acknowledging that all fees are negotiable, are not set by law and that they understand how the agent will be paid, said Crystal Hawkins-Syska, a board member of the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors, which represents 13,000 agents in the lower Hudson Valley. (The agreement is not required if a potential buyer is just speaking to an agent at an open house or asking about services available.)

Under the new rules, the payment to the buyer's agent could be a commission from the buyer or seller, a flat fee, an hourly charge or some other arrangement, she said. According to the National Association of Realtors, it cannot be vague, such as "whatever the amount the seller is offering to the buyer."

Some real estate agents say the rules only add paperwork to the process. "They're saddling us with yet more forms for people to fill out," said Daniel Aubry, who operates a real estate agency in Beacon. "It's

Home Rules

If you are buying a home:

- An agent can't show you a home — in-person or remotely — unless you sign a document acknowledging that all fees are negotiable, are not set by law and that you understand how your agent will be paid (e.g., a traditional commission split with the seller's agent or a commission, flat fee or hourly rate).
- An agreement is not necessary if you are visiting an open house or just asking agents about their services. However, some agents are asking open-house visitors to acknowledge that they understand the agent represents the seller and, if they want to make an offer on the spot, they may need to sign another disclosure about representation and compensation

If you are selling a home:

- You are not obligated to pay a commission to the buyer's agent. However, it might be a good marketing strategy to tell potential buyers that you will do so. Any commission being offered to the buyer's agent (e.g., 2.5 percent) can no longer be included in the Multiple Listing Service, although you can offer to pay other costs, such as closing fees.

just adding another layer of confusion and anxiety," said Charlotte Brooks, of House Finch Realty in Cold Spring.

So far, the disclosures haven't had much practical impact, Aubry said. In two cases in which he showed a home, the sellers agreed to compensate the buyer's agent.

That's smart, said Bill Hussung of Robert A. McCaffrey Realty in Cold Spring. "It's a good sales tactic to tell potential buyers, 'Look, I'm covering your costs.'"

Whether the rules will drive down commissions is not clear. Hussung says that commissions have always been negotiable and have dropped over the last decade from 6 to 5 percent. Aubry agreed that commissions have come down.

One effect of the rules might be that buyers may be tempted to hire the seller's agent, a practice known as "dual agency." But that's not ideal, said Jonathan Miller of JonCar

Real Estate

Market Report (JULY)

Beacon Homes

	2023	2024
New Listings	12	11
Closed Sales	12	12
Days on Market	69	33
Median Price	\$516,000	\$588,400
% List Received	98.7	102.1
Inventory	45	24

Beacon Condos

	2023	2024
New Listings	2	4
Closed Sales	0	2
Days on Market	—	48
Median Price	—	\$1,213,000
% List Received	—	101.4
Inventory	18	8

Philipstown Homes

	2023	2024
New Listings	12	13
Closed Sales	3	10
Days on Market	16	69
Median Price	\$445,000	\$695,000
% List Received	99.0	95.3
Inventory	42	38

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



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AROUND THE REGION

BREWSTER

Camels Provide Therapy

Green Chimneys, a school and residential treatment center founded in 1947 that serves children with special needs, hosted workshops on Aug. 17-19 on human-camel therapeutic interactions.

According to Green Chimneys, camels are not trained in the same manner as horses or dogs for interaction with humans. “There is no moving a 1,500-pound animal with a halter,” it notes on its site. “There’s

a higher level of social connection that camels seek and respond to.”

Green Chimneys has three camels at its Farm & Wildlife Center; they were joined by others from the Texas Camel Corps. Its founder, Doug Baum, noted to the *Mid Hudson News* that “camels can be taught basic manners for safety around folks such as standing quietly and patiently and how to behave while being touched. They are a prey animal, like a horse or a goat, so they need to be acclimated to touch because a safe camel is a mentally and emotionally more healthy animal.”

NEWBURGH

Horse Dies of Encephalitis

The Orange County Department of Health said on Aug. 16 that a horse in the Town of Newburgh had died of Eastern Equine Encephalitis, a rare but often fatal infection spread by mosquitos that causes inflammation of the brain and can affect humans.

The horse had not been vaccinated and had not traveled outside the county, the agency said in a statement. The virus that causes EEE is not spread among people or

from animals to people.

People older than 50 and younger than age 15 are at greatest risk, it said. About a third of patients die, and many who survive suffer brain damage.

The Orange County health commissioner told the *Times Herald-Record* that, until the hard frost, people need to protect themselves from mosquito bites. “A positive test in a horse lets us know that EEE is circulating in mosquitos that bite mammals, including humans,” said Dr. Alicia Pointer.

Good Cause (from Page 1)

Tenants who violate lease conditions, cause substantial damage or commit or permit a nuisance are also not afforded protections under the law, which will sunset on June 15, 2034, when the state legislation expires. Landlords can also refuse to renew a lease if they want to convert a unit to personal use.

New York State’s enabling legislation, included in the 2024-25 budget, generally exempts landlords owning 10 or fewer units and does not extend protections to tenants paying more than 245 percent of their county’s fair market rent, but it allows municipalities to change those criteria.

Beacon chose to apply its version to landlords owning more than one unit and raise the fair-market-rent threshold to 345 percent, which is \$4,900 for a one-bedroom

unit, \$6,300 for a two-bedroom and more for larger units.

The state law exempts for 30 years buildings that received a certificate of occupancy on or after Jan. 1, 2009, which means nearly all apartments constructed in Beacon during its recent development boom are exempt.

Council Member Paloma Wake had sought a threshold of 500 percent of fair market rent that would have expanded the law’s reach to more high-end properties. No tenant should be evicted “without any reason,” she said.

Monday’s vote also repealed good-cause legislation that Beacon adopted in 2022. The city was one of five municipalities in the state to adopt a local act; all were struck down in court or repealed, with judges ruling that the municipalities lacked authority under state law.

City Court Judge Rebecca Mensch ruled in November that Beacon’s good-cause

law was unconstitutional as part of her denial of a Main Street resident’s motion to dismiss an eviction proceeding.

The landlord, identified in court documents as 201-211 Main St. LLC, went to court in July 2023 when the tenant refused to vacate his apartment after receiving 90 days’ notice that his lease would not be renewed.

Essential Invest LLC also challenged the city’s good-cause law when a tenant who had been paying subsidized rent of \$850 at 455-457 Main St. faced eviction after the company did not renew his lease.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou voted against Beacon’s law in 2022, warning the council about its legality. While he voted for the measure adopted on Monday, he noted that most evictions will not qualify for good-cause protection because they are for nonpayment of rent or other reasons not covered by the law.

“I also take some objection to dividing the world into good people and bad people, and assuming that all landlords are greedy and that all tenants require protection,” said Kyriacou. He said that “rents would be plummeting” if new housing had been built to address a statewide shortage that Gov. Kathy Hochul has estimated at 800,000 units.

“For the rents to be where they are isn’t the cause of one side or the other,” said Kyriacou. “It’s the nature of the market.”

Beacon joins a growing list of municipalities approving good-cause.

Albany, the first city in the state to have its local good-cause law struck down, became the first municipality outside New York City to opt into the state program in July. Kingston, Ithaca and Poughkeepsie followed suit and the City of Newburgh is expected to vote next month on its version.

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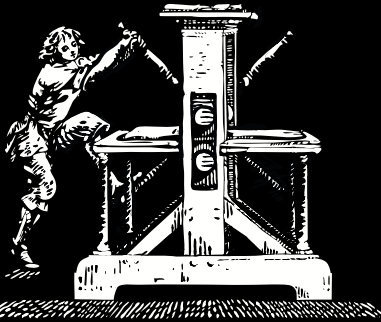
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Veteran Hits 100 *(from Page 1)*

of Beacon, who died in December at age 102.

One of five children, Sgro grew up in an apartment on Main Street across from Dalzell's newsstand and dry goods store. As a kid, he'd talk to his best friend, Angelo Percacciolo, through the thin wall that separated their adjoining homes.

In winter, a horse-drawn plow was used to clear snow from streets and sidewalks. For recreation, he and his friends played "tackle" on the lawn of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. "It was like football; we'd have two teams," he said. "We had a lot of fun."

Sgro admits he did not make the honor roll in high school, but adds, "I got through." His favorite subject? "I liked playing basketball for the Haldane team," he said. "I loved basketball. I wasn't one of those rough guys made for football."

"When I was a kid, they used to give out free Yankees tickets, but you had to buy milk, I think it was," to get them.

He recalled seeing Joe DiMaggio play the one time he visited Yankee Stadium. "There was another player who more or less matched DiMaggio as far as his qualifications," he said, trying to remember the other player's name. "Mantle!" he said, after a moment. "Son of a gun — it was Mickey Mantle!"

DiMaggio and Mantle played together for just one season: 1951.

Sgro was an electrician for most of his working life, a trade he learned while serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II.



Sgro served on the USS Flaherty.

Photos provided

"I like to tell everybody I enlisted," he said. "In a way, I did, because in those days, the armed forces were slim, so they gave you a choice" of services.

Because he always liked the water, he selected the Navy and was sent on a 16-week training program to learn the electrical trade. He served in the Pacific on the destroyer escort USS Flaherty and for 30 months on the USS Barnett, a luxury liner that was converted to serve as an attack transport.

"It was a little different on board ships in wartime," Sgro recalled. "You had to watch the generators, make the electricity, put it

on the switchboard, then switch the electricity to various parts of the ship."

When ships were in battle, "you had to know how to knock off the electrical systems in parts of the ship that got damaged," Sgro said. "You had to isolate those damages so that the ship can still stay afloat and still do its job."

Sgro, who was also called to serve in the Korean War, said he rarely thinks about either conflict. "You try not to think of those parts of your life," he said.

He has been an active member of the Cold Spring community throughout his life.



Sgro when he served in the U.S. Navy

In 2013, when he stepped down from the Planning Board after serving for 39 years, then-Chair Joe Barbaro wrote *The Current* with a letter of appreciation.

"Parge brought a workingman's common sense to the Planning Board, along with a feistiness that made you think he was really a 20-something," he wrote. "Planning Board members absorbed every morsel of Parge's wisdom."

He married his wife, Luchrezia ("Lu"), in 1954 and they raised five children: Mary Lou, Barbara, Michael, Stephen and Peter. Lu died in March at age 95 and Pete died in 2016 at age 56. "I miss them both terribly," he said.

Asked if he has any regrets about his life so far, Parge said: "No, I don't think so."

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Jon Koon at RowSeeLee



A view inside RowSeeLee in Cold Spring



Beignet

Photos provided

The Calendar

STOPPING FOR TEA

Serial entrepreneur with bad back slows it down

By Marc Ferris



Strawberry milk with boba

Stepping into RowSeeLee teahouse at 81 Main St. in Cold Spring is like entering a portal to another dimension.

On one hand, the juxtaposed interior is sleek, modern and bright, with shiny white-and-black tile floors that resemble marble. Futuristic French jazz bounces off the brick walls and a mesmerizing digital fireplace stretches half the length of the storefront.

Yet the flowing water, petrified birch trees, wooden tables and live terrarium with bright green moss lining the floor and a trough behind the wood-slatted booths smooth the harder edges.

For years, Jon Koon, 41, has shaped his high-end and conceptual retail outlets to draw on all five senses. (For a quick summary, see his Wikipedia entry.) Lately, he's slowed down. Instead of jetting all over the world to make the scene at fine art and designer fashion events with bold-name celebrities, he shuttles from Cold Spring to his other tea parlor in Mahopac, which opened last year.

RowSeeLee is a phonetic representation of the name Rosie Lee, a term in Cockney English rhyming slang that refers to a cup of tea.

Conversing with Koon can be like pulling the rip cord on an outboard motor. In his telling, life unfolded like an action movie: He says that Hollywood exaggerated his lifestyle to create the *Fast and Furious* franchise after he became a millionaire at age 16 by modding four-cylinder Japanese cars and racing them on the mean streets of Queens.

With the right gear, "I can beat a Porsche," says Koon, whose career also mirrors a VH1 *Behind the Music* episode about rise, fall and resurrection. This one stars the only child of hardworking immigrants from Hong Kong who urged him to be a doctor or lawyer but who instead became an artist helming international brands and opening buzzy retail outlets with the rich and famous. Then, he's laid low — not by drugs, in this case, just a bad back.

"I worked so hard hunching over a drafting board or a drawing while designing clothes that I ruptured two-thirds of my

discs," says Koon.

After buying a home in Putnam County and downshifting, Koon is doing more fishing. But as a serial entrepreneur, he created

the RowSeeLee brand, which includes candy, fragrances and retro T-shirts.

The spiffy spot, formerly the home of Cape Cod Leather and the Cold Spring Candy Co.,

is a lightning rod. One merchant says: "He must've spent half a million dollars. How many cups of tea would you have to sell to pay that off?" A visitor offers: "It doesn't seem like it belongs in Cold Spring."

Koon dismisses these sentiments: "Food and beverage employs more people than any other sector on Earth and, now that the pandemic is over, people are going back out to eat. I noticed that the subcategory 'alternative drinks' priced at \$3 to \$10 that people buy even when they're not thirsty spiked upward, and the needle sticking up the highest is alternative tea."

On a recent Saturday soon after RowSeeLee opened, a parade of people skewing young plunked down \$6.95 to \$8.95 for fruit tea, slush tea, milk tea and fresh milk tea. Fine tea (cold and hot brew) is \$4.50 to \$6.50.

Koon is especially bullish on bubble tea, which he said is expected to become a \$6 billion global industry. The shop also offers coffee, matcha, four kinds of sandwiches and desserts.

Though Koon intended the Cold Spring location to be his flagship, the venture became mired in red tape because the building's former owner, the nonprofit Knights of Columbus, had to clear the deed transfer with New York State.

Koon and his team built and designed the interior, including the furnishings and artwork, based on his technical drawings for "every tile, piece of wood and sprig of moss down to the millimeter."

During his heyday, "I never stayed in one city for more than 14 days straight," he says. "When my back went out, it humbled me. My body isn't a rubber band, so I can't keep running around like I did. I have to be more selective with my energy and calm down a bit."

RowSeeLee, at 81 Main St., is open Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. See rowseelee.com or call 845-809-5788.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 24
Dutchess County Fair
RHINEBECK
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds
6550 Spring Brook Ave.
dutchessfair.com

The annual event features 4-H projects and animals, rides, games, food and Kissnation at the grandstand. Also SUN 25. *Cost: \$18 (\$12 seniors and military, free ages 11 and younger, \$40 unlimited rides)*

SAT 24
Free Paper Shredding
NEWBURGH
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Newburgh Mall
1401 Route 300

A shredder service will dispose of documents at this event hosted by state Sen. Rob Rolison.

SAT 24
Book & Media Sale
GARRISON
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

The library’s annual secondhand



Collaborative Concepts, Aug. 31

book and media sale includes books, CDs and DVDs in all genres. Through Sept. 4.

SAT 24
Last Burn
BEACON
6 – 11 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
bit.ly/last-burn-2024

This end-of-the-summer party will have immersive art, music from Ghost Funk and Cuborica, dancing and food and drink. *Cost: \$25*



VISUAL ARTS

SAT 24
Joseph Radoccia | Jackie Skrzynski
GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Radoccia’s portraits of friends and elders will be on view in *Looking Back*, and Skrzynski will share her paintings of plants featured in uncommon ways. Through Sept. 15.

SAT 31
Collaborative Concepts
BREWSTER
1 – 4 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 Route 312
collaborativeconcepts.org

This is the opening reception for the annual show of outdoor sculptures, which this year includes works by 25 artists. Open daily through Oct. 27.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 24
Play Sets
BEACON
10:30 a.m. Dia Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

Families with children ages 5 and older are invited to explore the galleries; in this session, Dia educators will focus on the work of Fred Sandback. On SUN 25 it will be Louise Lawler and on SAT 31, Michael Heizer. *Free*

SAT 24
Back to School Block Party
BEACON
Noon – 3 p.m. South Avenue Park
facebook.com/iambeacon

I Am Beacon and Key Food will host this annual party to gather supplies for classrooms and students. There will be a DJ, activities for children and food. Bring donations to “stuff the bus” with school supplies.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 24
Medea: Re-Versed
PHILIPSTOWN
2 & 7:30 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org

This is a hip-hop version of Euripides’s play with Sarin Monae West in the lead. Also FRI 30, MON 2. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

SUN 25
By the Queen
PHILIPSTOWN
5 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org

Shakespeare’s story of the War of the Roses is retold through the perspective of Queen Margaret. Also THURS 29, SAT 31. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

MON 26
The Murder of Roger Ackroyd
PHILIPSTOWN
7:30 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org

This adaptation of an Agatha Christie novel features Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson in lead roles. Also WED 28, SUN 1. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

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In this role, the Growth Director will be supported by the Advertising Director (handling logistics and administration), as well as the Membership Manager (handling member support systems and campaign administration). The Growth Director will work with advertisers to promote compelling solutions that best fit their marketing needs, and with members to engage them in long-term relationships as supporters of our journalism.

The Growth Director will work approximately 4 days a week or equivalent hours.

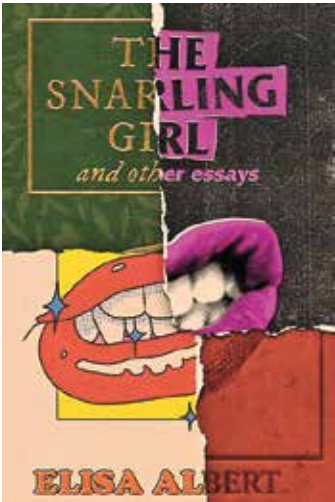


For details, see highlandscurrent.org/current-jobs.

WED 28
Ferris Bueller's Day Off
BEACON
8 p.m. Memorial Park
Robert Cahill Drive
facebook.com/beaconrec
Watch the 1986 comedy about a teen and his friends skipping school.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 31
The Snarling Girl
BEACON
8 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.
845-440-3906 | stanzabooks.com
Elisa Albert will read from her new book of essays.



MUSIC
SAT 24
Paper Sun
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The tribute band plays the music of Traffic from the 1960s and '70s.
Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)

SUN 25
Fearless
PEEKSKILL
5 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Rikki Lee Wilson will perform Taylor Swift's hits with a backing band. *Cost: \$49*

WED 28
Broadway in Beacon
BEACON
7 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar | 173 Main St.
bit.ly/broadway-beacon-2024
Will Reynolds and Jen Malenke host this monthly musical theater open mic. See Page 14. To sing, have your binder or PDF handy for the pianist. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for sign-up. *Cost: \$10 or \$15*

FRI 30
Romantic Journey
PHILIPSTOWN
7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
The annual Chamber Music



Last Minute Soulmates, Sept. 1

Festival kicks off with a performance by the Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach of works by Brahms, Bruch and von Dohnanyi. *Cost: \$65 (\$45 ages 5-18, free 4 and younger)*

FRI 30
Van the Band
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The tribute band will play the hits of Van Morrison. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 31
Pop-up Concert
PHILIPSTOWN
7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
As part of its annual Chamber Music Festival, Boscobel will host a

concert at the Cold Spring Farmers Market. *Free*

SAT 31
The Dark Horses
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band will play the music of George Harrison. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 1
Last Minute Soulmates
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Russ St. George, Carla Springer and Rik Mercaldi will play a range of originals and covers. \$15 minimum purchase.

NATURE & OUTDOORS
SAT 24
Local History via Kayak
PHILIPSTOWN
4 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D
hudsonriverexpeditions.com
Guides from the Putnam History Museum will share the history of the Hudson Highlands from the river. *Cost: \$95*

CIVIC
MON 26
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

TUES 27
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Middle School Library
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

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

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Park it here for a minute... and **get the facts** on Fjord Trail parking plans

The Fjord Trail is designed to make travel along 9D safer for pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists. That includes a parking plan that substantially moves current trail parking off-road and improves traffic flow.

Goals	Existing		Planned*	Change in # of spaces
 peak day, north of Breakneck	Use currently fallow parking lot at Dutchess Manor, plus additional lot, to increase parking supply north of Village of Cold Spring	8 on-road		0 on-road 80 in lot +72
	Remove on-road parking	180 (currently not available to public)		180 in lot 0
 parking behavior at Breakneck	Make Route 9D safer and parking more organized	0		90 in lot +90
	Reduce on-road parking as much as possible Better accommodate first responders in case of emergency	200+ on-road		34 in small lots 69 formal parallel spots on east side ONLY, with safe clearance from 9D -97
 peak day at LSP/Washburn lot	Move on-road parking into lot	48 in Washburn lot		96 in expanded Washburn lot
	Increase number of spots available for hikers north of the Village of Cold Spring	27 on-road across from lot		0 on-road +21
				
		463 Existing	549 Future	+86 Change

*Master Plan & DGEIS documents identify the *maximum* number of spots allowable for any given lot. In most cases, the planned number of spaces will be beneath those thresholds.

A Note About:

Boscobel: HHFT and Boscobel have been in EARLY conversation about shared parking, with HHFT shuttle connection, potentially reducing traffic by allowing some trail users arriving from the south to park BEFORE they reach Cold Spring.

Metro-North Lots: Train station parking in Beacon and Cold Spring is used by a variety of people on weekends. HHFT does not plan to promote the use of these lots for trail-bound visitors.

Inside the Operating Room

Cold Spring filmmaker shares hospital history

By Marc Ferris

The hour-long documentary, *On the Shoulders of Giants: The History of NYU Langone Orthopedics*, is not for the squeamish.

During extended operating room scenes, doctors slice through body parts and there's blood everywhere. That's nothing compared to the sounds of orthopedic surgery: hammering, grinding, sawing. The camera also lingers on graphic photos, X-rays and descriptions of gruesome injuries.

On the flip side, many people will enjoy watching procedures that can improve people's lives.

The movie, produced and directed by Cold Spring resident Peter Sanders, will be available for streaming on Tuesday (Aug. 27). Commissioned by the hospital, it earned a nomination this year for best feature film at the Tribeca X festival, which considers marketing and promotional material, but lost to a film created for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

With special access, Sanders explored the world of orthopedic surgeons at the historic and influential Hospital for Joint Diseases in Manhattan, renamed in 2006 after a \$1 billion gift from Home Depot mogul Ken Langone and other donors.

"Orthopedists are a cross between carpenters and artists, making split-second decisions and carving like sculptors," Sanders says. "They're super doctors who can help you walk again and move things around with your hand, stuff we take for granted."

Sanders knows this firsthand. Ten years ago, he broke his leg. During treatment, he gave Dr. Kenneth Egol a DVD of his 2014

documentary, *Altina*, a portrait of Sanders' grandmother, artist Altina Schinasi. Among other accomplishments, she created the "Harlequin" cats-eye eyeglass frames and made a documentary nominated for an Academy Award in 1960.

In 2020, the filmmaker shattered his foot in 10 places and visited Dr. Egol again. "He said, 'You should do a documentary on this hospital,' and that became my first commission," says Sanders. "This was solely intended to stream on the hospital website, but I wanted to bring it to a larger audience."

Sanders is also credited as director of archival research, which involved digging through museums, libraries and other repositories for photos and other historical material.

On-screen, he highlights this gem from an old book: "Treatment is extended to all persons regardless of race, creed or color, suffering with acute or chronic joint diseases, or any deformity, congenital or acquired. *Free beds to the poor.* No charge for splints or apparatus to the indigent."

Founded in 1905, the teaching hospital helped pioneer now-standard procedures such as MRIs, plates and screws for broken bones and hip and other joint replacements. The first female orthopedic surgeon in the country to publish an article in a peer-reviewed journal worked there and teaching doctors at the hospital helped pioneer minimally invasive procedures now grouped under the term *sports medicine*, including arthroscopic surgery.

Like ballplayers, politicians and philosophy professors, orthopedists revere their forebears. One scene in the film unfolds in the hospital's modest historic display, which shares space with a small library of leather-bound books.

Another telling moment unfolds in the doctor's lounge as they prepare for surgery. "If I have a hard case, there are plenty of



Dr. Kenneth Egol, center, in the operating room

812 Sanders Productions

shoulders to cry on, although there is no crying in orthopedics — only inside," quips one doctor.

"It's good for us to sit here and BS a little bit and discuss cases and discuss life," he says, letting his voice drift and staring off into space as he gets ready to cut someone open. After walking through the tunnel in uniform to take the field, the team restores movement to a man's arm.

Sanders and his X-rays make cameos — "my Hitchcock moment," he says. Success with the film led to more commissions crafting shorter works about the institution's people and programs.

Orthopedists do amazing things, but if someone is at the hospital for an appointment, something's wrong. "No one ever expects to meet me," says Egol in the film. For Sanders, beyond regaining the ability to walk, the encounter worked out: "I had to get a break to get a break."

On the Shoulders of Giants will stream on Apple TV, Hoopla, iTunes, Amazon Prime and other providers. Sanders was assisted by cinematographer Bryan Sarkinen, composer Malena Kuss, editor Andrew Coffman and sound designer Pat Donohue.



Sanders at the Tribeca Festival

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Photos by Alex Kunz

Broadway in Beacon

Wine bar hosts monthly open mic

By Marc Ferris

Along with Beaklyn, Baby Brooklyn and Brooklyn North (aka BroNo or NoBro), Beacon recently acquired

another nickname: Broadway North.

Singers gotta sing and there's enough critical mass that the Broadway in Beacon open mic fills Reserva Wine Bar on Main Street each month with a raucous crowd raring to revel in musical theater — tap dancing included.

"There's been a real shift in work-life balance and theater folks don't have to suffer for their

art anymore by living in tiny boxes," said co-host and pianist Will Reynolds. "People try out for Broadway shows from all over the country [virtually] and, if they get the part, they move. We in Beacon don't have to relocate."

Jen Malenke devised the idea for a Broadway satellite after attending an event at Reserva at which the performer invited people to come onstage and sing. Malenke took inspiration from Manhattan piano bars that allow singers to hand their sheet music to an in-house accompanist and put over one tune.

In Beacon, that pianist is Reynolds, who pulls off the task well. "I know 60 to 70 percent of the songs," he said. "The rest, I'm just going for it."

The evening unfolds with an element of improvisation. Though the hosts map out the pace, they will shift acts on the fly.

"We alternate the ballads with the up-tempo songs and also mix young people with older folks," said Malenke. "We don't want four ringers in a row, so we spread them out. We have these tentpole moments, but we're storytelling and don't want to stay in one mood forever."

After an opening number, Act 2 kicks off with a Mad Libs, which takes a beloved number and recasts key words in the lyrics (often in ribald fashion). Everyone belts out the final version.

Last month, Reynolds performed a localized take of "On Broadway," by The Drifters, that referenced the waterfall, the dummy light and climbing Mount Beacon, "but just don't go on the weekend / because the city folk will all be there." He conducted folks to echo the phrase "in Beacon" after the main "on Broadway" refrain.

During the show, Malenke zipped around as MC and cheerleader. Beyond doling out high-fives, she joined the harmony parts, adjusted the microphone mid-song for performers, turned sheet music pages and handed Reynolds glasses of white wine (which he kept by his feet).

She also sang two tunes and introduced the month's special guest: Rueby Wood, a fellow cast member from the first national

tour of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* that began in 2018.

Truth be told, booze lubricates much of the revelry. Reserva "is usually closed Wednesdays, but this is one of their highest revenue nights," said Malenke. "The best thing is that local people can walk home."

Joanne Tetteris, who lives in Beacon, dressed like a performer but didn't sing. "It's nice to be able to see something local like this on a weeknight," she said.

Ken Martinez and Janet Rossbach came from Newburgh. "I laughed a lot, and it was a phenomenally good night out," said Martinez. "I didn't think they'd be *this* good."

On the small stage by the door, Connor Bond and Ali Grieb improvised a ditty about gonorrhea and falling in love at Target. "It was everything I dreamed of and more," said Malenke from the wings. "I'm crying over here."

"It's nice to be in Beacon, the heart of Broadway."

~ Brian Waite

In between an appearance by Mylee Rose, a high school student from Lagrangeville, and ringer Carrie Gibson, who held out her last note for dramatic effect, Gianna Cusato pulled on tap shoes and shuffled her feet to "I Got Rhythm."

Shooting sideways glances at the music stand and sometimes closing her eyes during a rendition of "She Used to Be Mine," by Sara Bareilles, speech therapist Daria Gates, whose office is down the block, nailed the high note at the end and sent the audience into a frenzy.

Brian Waite, who performed "No Time at All" from *Pippin* and received raucous applause, thanked the crowd and joked that "it's nice to be in Beacon, the heart of Broadway."

Reserva Wine Bar is located at 173 Main St. The next Broadway in Beacon is Wednesday (Aug. 28); doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the 7 p.m. show. Tickets are \$10 or \$15 plus fees at bit.ly/broadway-beacon-2024.

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Cyan Rivers, 10, operates Cyan's Camp Coffee.



Aiden and Molly Campbell run Campbell's Creations.



Seneca Angel, 12, of Seneca's Freshly Cut Flowers

Photos by Ross Corsair

By Michael Turton

These Kids Mean Business

First children's business fair attracts 15 vendors

No one thinks running a business is child's play, but it seems quite a few kids in the Highlands have a flair for it.

The Children's Business Fair held Aug. 17 on the lawn of St Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring featured 15 fledgling businesses operated by young entrepreneurs between the ages of 6 and 14.

Garrison resident Julie Arora organized the fair, modeling it after the Houston-based Acton Academy, which began children's business fairs in 2019 and offers them across the U.S. and in many parts of the world.

"Their model is based on the three seeds of entrepreneurship: Kids come up with an idea, make it with their own hands and sell it to people who are strangers," Arora said.

Creativity and business savvy were evident on Saturday, along with a wide range of products.

Molly and Aiden Campbell, ages 9 and 7, live in Kent and operate Campbell's Creations. "We kind of thought of the name together," Molly said. The siblings sell handmade greeting cards, dog cookies and pom-poms.

They both create the artwork for the greeting cards. "Half the cards are mine and half are my sister's," Aiden said. Asked how he gets an idea for a card, he said: "It just comes up in my head!"

Molly said they try to match a funny phrase with a picture in a way that makes sense. "Like Aiden's Crabby Birthday card

has a drawing of a crab," she said.

Asked what is hardest about the business, Aiden said it's probably making change for customers. "Sometimes I use a calculator if the math is too hard," he said.

The cards are Molly's favorite aspect of the business. "I like painting them and often when people see there's a deal, they get more than one," she said. The children brought dog cookies to sell "because lots of people in Cold Spring have dogs."

Cyan Rivers, 10, who lives in Beacon, operates Cyan's Camp Coffee, a business she started when her family began RV camping across the country during the pandemic. She has sold coffee at campgrounds in 42 states, as well as Canada.

"When we set up camp, we usually get the coffee from the local roaster," she said. "Here, we got it from Catskill Roasters," who, along with Big Mouth Coffee in Beacon, sponsored her setup in Cold Spring.

"I want to expand because when I grow up, I want to have my own coffee shop," Cyan said. She charges \$3 for hot coffee and \$4 for cold brew.

Jayden Mansfield of Garrison, 8, operates Chai Kid out of his family's kitchen, offering Rice Krispies squares, muffins and chai (his biggest seller).

"My grandmother helped me with the chai, but my mother helped me with the other stuff," he said.

Jayden had considered adding blackberry and raspberry jam to his product line but changed his mind after making one batch. "I realized the ingredients were too expensive," he said.

Seneca Angel, 12, of Garrison, runs Seneca's Freshly Cut Flowers. "I do everything," she said, describing how she researched, ordered and planted the seeds for 22 types of flowers. "The hardest part was probably watering; I had to water them a lot!" she said. "And there's a lot of weeding."

She has changed her pricing along the way. "I used to sell bouquets for \$15 and large bunches for \$25," she said. "But I changed them all to \$15; it was more reasonable."

She is not looking to be a florist. "It's more of an after-school thing, a hobby," she said. "I've also been doing dance since I was 3."

Amara Janetta's business is Amara's Confections, which produces cookies and cake pops for \$2 to \$3 each. Her biggest challenge has been the amount of time spent baking. "It's a lot of hours to make enough," she said. "My Rocky Mountain cookie hasn't been selling but my cake pops are; I only have two left."

The entrepreneurs each had support from

their families, and it seems adults and kids got to know each other better in the process.

"I've learned she can be pretty impatient, wanting immediate results, not really planning properly and then getting upset," said Shala Janetta, Amara's mother. "But she's also learned to be pretty independent, how to sell her own stuff and talk about it, and that is great."

Amara was equally balanced in assessing her mom's role in the fledgling business. "She was crazy at times!" she said, adding that her mom would often question her methods by saying: "That's so wrong; what are you doing?"

But she admitted her mom "did help with stuff," including researching the best methods for making cake pops, suggesting they had to be refrigerated so that they wouldn't fall off the stick.

Arora, the event organizer, said she was surprised by how the young business operators reacted when foot traffic was slow. "They started hustling, standing on the street corner waving people in, which is an exciting business experience, too," she said. "They felt like they were part of creating something. It wasn't just a fair that was set up for them; they were making it happen."

She estimates 200 people attended. Tutto Pizza and the Cozy Corner Cafe provided lunch for the vendors while the Pig Hill Inn and Split Rock Books made financial contributions. Arora is planning a second fair for Oct. 20. Children and teens can sign up at bit.ly/business-fair-CS.



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Joanna Page Espy (1942-2024)

Joanna Page Espy of Cold Spring, N.Y., passed away on Aug. 1, 2024, at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital after a long battle with cancer.

She was born on Oct. 23, 1942, the daughter of authors Willard R. Espy and Hilda Cole Espy and grew up in Mount Kisco, N.Y. She graduated from MacDuffie School, which is a rigorous college preparatory school located in Granby, Mass. After that, she went to a famous secretarial school in New York City, The Gibbs School.

One of her first jobs was as an employee of the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C. She loved the Peace Corps. Her most cherished memory from that period was attending the March on Washington with her sister, Mona, and hearing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech on Aug. 28, 1963.

She later returned to New York, working as an assistant to Brandon Stoddard, an ABC executive who served as president of the network's prime-time schedule. She had many interesting jobs. Her last job was working for lawyers at Price Waterhouse Cooper. PwC is considered to be the world's most prestigious and progressive accounting firm, located in New York City.

Joanna was known for her zany and quirky humor, the joy she brought to the lives she touched and her incomparable generosity. She was a benevolent contributor to many and varied causes.

Joanna is survived by her sisters, Mona Espy Schreiber of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., and Cassin Espy of Cold Spring, N.Y. She was predeceased by brothers Jefferson Taylor Espy and Freddy Espy Plimpton.

Joanna adored her nieces and nephews, Taylor Plimpton, Medora Plimpton, Alexander, Elliott, Joanna Bruno and Jeremy Schreiber. She loved her great nieces and nephews, too, and all her family members.

Joanna will be missed dearly by her family and many lifelong friends and especially her soulmate.

LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (August 1874)

Charles Watts, a machinist, and James Coleman, 13, swam from Newburgh to Dennings Point, a little over 1¼ mile, in an hour.

Philip Smith, the editor of the *Pawling Pioneer*, put a call out for material for what became the *General History of Dutchess County, from 1609 to 1876, Inclusive*.

Prospectors continued their search for iron ore in the Fishkill Mountains east of Dutchess Junction.

Some of the iron recovered from the vessel of two men arrested in Poughkeepsie and accused of being river pirates came from Fishkill Landing.

A deckhand was kicked in the mouth aboard the Union ferryboat by an unruly cow.

Walter Brown, 8, drowned in the reservoir of the new hat works.

The Hudson River Railroad adopted a

new method of collection: The conductor punched tickets, and the collector followed behind to take them.

An iron box supposed to contain Capt. Kidd's treasure was discovered in the creek. After a great effort to get it ashore, it turned out to be a mill door made of oak and bound with heavy strips of iron. It was 3 feet by 5 feet and weighed about 1,000 pounds. "Visions of sudden wealth vanished in an instant," said *The Cold Spring Recorder*.

James Jones, the street sprinkler, closed his business for lack of funds.

Jon Jones, 16, lost the tip of three fingers to a hay cutter.

John Haley, who lost a leg to a train at Dutchess Junction, sued the Hudson River Railroad Co. for \$10,000 [about \$275,000 today].

A contractor was hired to carefully disassemble a wooden bridge at Matteawan to recover the materials but instead demolished it.

A passenger on the Newburgh ferry, while checking the time, dropped his \$35 [\$1,000] pocketwatch into the river.

An alcohol lamp exploded at the Seamless Clothing factory, seriously burning a carpenter named Divine, who was blamed for the accident.

Fishkill Bay was filled on a Sunday afternoon with rowboats, sailboats, yachts and miniature steamers.

A 16-year-old Fishkill boy arrested for stealing a \$10 [\$275] accordion was sentenced to six months in jail. His 8-year-old brother was not charged.

Citing prices that had fallen by nearly 70 percent, brickyard owners said they would close unless workers accepted a reduction in pay.

At Fishkill Landing, a husband who kept a "whiskey ranch" [distillery] began breaking the dishes during a fight with his wife. According to a news report, she "asserted the supremacy of women's rights" by knocking him down with a single punch and choking him until he surrendered.

The highway commissioners decided to erect an iron post bridge at Fountain Street. They awarded the job to Mr. Hutchinson, who bid \$2,225 [\$61,000].

The 43-year-old *Fishkill Journal* changed its name to the *Matteawan Journal*.

After a creditor seized the assets of the Sluthoun & Son's Circus during its stop in Fishkill Landing, the performers who remained in town after losing their jobs organized a troupe that performed a sold-out show at Swift's Hall in Newburgh.

125 Years Ago (August 1899)

The Beacon Hose Co. chartered the Emeline for a moonlight family excursion.

While digging a ditch, a farmer near Newburgh discovered what appeared to be the bones of a mastodon. He declined an offer from the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences to buy them.

Barton Fitzsimmons died at the General Hospital at Fishkill Landing after being stricken with hiccups [hiccups] for five days.

Members of the Matteawan yacht club traveled to New York City to retrieve its new boat, the Matteawan.

Michael Hora was shot in the chest at a

brickyard, renewing tensions between Black and Arab workers, but declined to name the assailant. *The New-York Tribune* claimed that more trouble was expected because every worker "carries a large revolver."

Rosanna Wakeman of Newburgh died of blood poisoning after she pared her corns too closely with a razor.

100 Years Ago (August 1924)

In swimming races at Dennings Point organized by the Beacon Playground Association and the *Beacon Journal*, T.W. Wilson of Cold Spring won the half-mile men's race, followed by Frank Cassidy of Beacon. Stella Moranski of Beacon was second in the girls' 50-yard dash.

The Trinity Council of the Knights of Columbus celebrated its 25th anniversary by hosting a 10-act vaudeville show and dance at Mount Beacon.

The Forrestal Company was awarded a \$50,000 [\$918,000] contract to construct a chapel at Hiddenbrooke, the Ursuline novitiate for Roman Catholic nuns.

The former Gotham Straw Works on Wiltsie Avenue reopened under the management of Abramson and Sherman, manufacturers of boys' wash suits and clothing novelties. It had 125 employees and a \$2,500 [\$46,000] weekly payroll.

After John Clifton contracted in 1922 to sell his property at 610-616 Main St. to John Jakubiel, former Mayor Samuel Beskin sued, saying Clifton had promised the place to him. Soon after, Clifton died, but the lawsuit delayed probate until January 1924, when Beskin also died. Jakubiel immediately sued both estates for the deed and, citing the 1922 contract, moved himself in. Clifton's widow, Sadie, tried to get him evicted, but a state judge ruled he could stay.

Two Englishmen arrested near Beacon and lodged in the county jail on suspicion they were illegal immigrants from Canada appealed for help from the British consul in New York City, saying they hoped to become U.S. citizens.

Mrs. Harry B. Rockefeller, aka Frieda Cooper, recanted her accusations against four men she claimed assaulted her on a Staten Island beach. She said that, after leaving her husband in Beacon nine weeks earlier, she became a performer on Coney Island.

Construction on the \$190,000 [\$3.5 million] Melzingah Dam was completed.

The state awarded 10 scholarships, valued at \$100 [\$1,800] annually, to Dutchess County students to attend the University of the State of New York based on their Regent's test scores. Nine were from Poughkeepsie and one, Joseph Sherman of 309 Main St., from Beacon.

A 47-year-old man who had served time in Sing Sing was arrested on charges of carrying an unlicensed gun after he allegedly threatened to shoot his wife.

Two Newburgh men arrested on Mount Beacon for disorderly conduct were fined \$15 [\$275] each by a city judge. They were then brought before another city judge and fined \$35 [\$645] each for disorderly conduct at the police station.

The *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* reported that Barbara Rutherford Hatch, 29, a socialite whose marriage to Morton Hargis, a man

(Continued on Page 17)

GARRISON ART CENTER

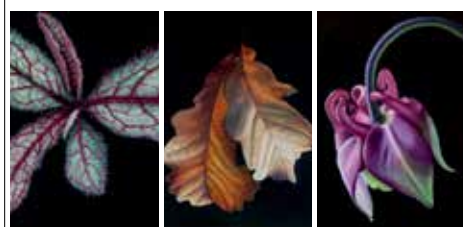
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(Continued from Page 16)

“known to the police of many cities,” caused a scandal in New York City, had recently been a patient at the Craig House sanitarium. A stepdaughter of William Vanderbilt, she was “identified by her lavish display of jewelry.” After her treatment, Hatch retreated to her \$200,000 [\$3.7 million] summer home in Nyack, where she was a devotee of Pierre Bernard, a yogi known as Oom, the Omnipotent.

75 Years Ago (August 1949)

During the conspiracy trial of 11 leaders of the Communist Party of the United States, the judge said he would jail witnesses who refused to identify other party members. The admonition came as Samuel Hall, an organizer from Alabama, was testifying about a school for southern Communists he attended in 1946 at Camp Beacon. The prosecutor asked the judge to dismiss Hall unless he would name the party members who ran the school.

A Poughkeepsie woman was arrested for disorderly conduct after she had a Beacon taxi take her home, then told the driver she didn't have the \$5 [\$92] fare.

The Beacon Bears football club announced it would open its season by hosting the Peekskill Indians.

The firefighters defeated the police, 3-2, in a donkey baseball game at Memorial Field.

Joe Vallo shot a 71 (+3) to repeat as Southern Dutchess Country Club champ.

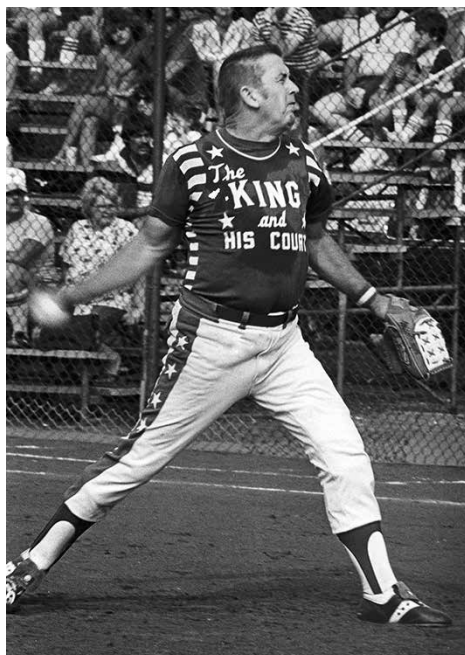
The boxer Melio Bettina forfeited a \$2 [\$25] bond when he failed to appear in court following his arrest for sitting in his parked car on Garden Street at 3:55 a.m. with the headlights off.

There had been no polio cases since Jan. 1 in Beacon, although Poughkeepsie reported 19. The only fatality in Dutchess County had been a 16-year-old Hyde Park boy.

Burglars stole \$3,150 [\$42,000] worth of motion-picture equipment from the Beacon Hills sanatorium on Wolcott Avenue that was used to entertain patients.

50 Years Ago (August 1974)

Four Beacon men in their 20s were indicted



Eddie “The King” Feigner visited Beacon for a charity game in 1974.

on charges that they held up the A-1 Delicatessen on Old Glenham Road for \$380 [\$2,400].

Officials at the Matteawan State Hospital said they would review security procedures after an inmate escaped during a visit to St. Francis Hospital. Guards had removed the prisoner's handcuffs so he could use the men's room; soon after, he was seen sprinting out the front door.

A team of Beacon all-stars faced the barnstorming King and His Court in a softball game to benefit youth sports. The four-man team was Eddie “The King” Feigner, whose fastball had been clocked at 100 mph, catcher Eddie Feigner Jr., first baseman Al Jackson (who hit 94 home runs the previous season) and shortstop Gary West.

Herman Osten, the publisher of the *Beacon Free Press* and three other papers, settled a complaint by the U.S. Department of Labor that he had failed to pay overtime, employed “oppressive child labor” and permitted advertising that violated the Age Discrimination Act. He said the charges involved \$226.40 [\$1,400] in back pay, an ad that sought “young men” and teenage carrier delivery of business flyers separate from the newspaper.

Mayor Robert Cahill was not a fan of a training center proposed by city firemen for a Simmons Lane parcel formerly used by the sewage treatment plant. “They won't get any money from the city,” he said. The firefighters hoped to construct a facility like one operated by the county in Hyde Park.

Sanford Cohen, a 31-year-old Beacon High School teacher, said he had collected three times the signatures required to get his name on the ballot as the Free Libertarian Party candidate for the 25th Congressional district. He planned to challenge Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr., the Republican incumbent. *The Poughkeepsie Journal* noted that Cohen had been “inundating the media with daily news releases and position papers.”

Engineers spent two days searching for a break in a line in the Glenham Water District before it was found in an Interstate 84 embankment.

Dutchess County Executive William Bartles said he had a few issues with a “sunshine law” proposed by Legislator Glenn Houghtalin (R-Beacon), namely that it did not apply to political caucuses, where he said most decisions were made, and required 24-hour public notice for meetings between two or more county officials discussing policy.

Peter Allen, who owned the Mount Beacon Incline Railway, which had closed in 1972, said he was inspecting the facilities to see if they could be reopened.

The Dutchess health commissioner wanted the county to absorb the city-operated health department, noting that it could provide Beacon with mosquito control, regular restaurant inspections and nursing services.

An “emotionally impaired” convicted killer last seen mopping the kitchen floor at the Matteawan State Hospital was missing during a 10 p.m. bed check. Bloodhounds could find no scent on the prison's 900-acre grounds. Weeks later, he was still at large.

A 58-year-old woman was struck and killed by a taxicab in the parking lot of the Grand Union on Main Street on a Friday evening. The driver said she hit the gas instead of the brake.

An engineer at the Texaco Research Center in Beacon disputed as “patently untrue” a claim by the Sono-Tek Co. of Poughkeepsie

that it had invented a small, \$200 [\$1,300] device that improved furnace efficiency by 35 percent through sound waves. The engineer said the savings from the Ultrasonic Fuel Atomizer would be closer to ½ of 1 percent.

A Plattekill teenager celebrating his 17th birthday broke his arm when an Amtrak train passing through the Beacon station snagged his coat. Police said he had been standing at the platform's edge while “fooling around” with friends.

Charles Schell, a physical education teacher and golf coach at Beacon High School, moonlighted as an official for the newly created World Football League, which he said was “here to stay.” Schell had officiated football, soccer, baseball and basketball for 24 years.

25 Years Ago (August 1999)

A man accused of smoking a crack pipe in the Grand Union parking lot was charged with resisting arrest after he allegedly fought with officers.

The Conservation Advisory Commission organized volunteers to monitor Fishkill Creek for sewage and silt.

The city applied for \$400,000 [\$755,000] from the state Clean Air/Clean Water Bond Act, including \$61,000 for a skateboard park.

A southbound tug dragging its anchor ruptured two gas transmission lines in the Hudson River near Poughkeepsie, creating a bubbling spray. Boats dispatched by the Dutchess County sheriff caught up with the tug just north of the Newburgh-Beacon bridge, stopping it about 100 feet shy of an underwater power line.

A lack of rain caused the salt line — the dividing line in the river between sea and freshwater — to advance as far as Mile 72, near the IBM plant in the Town of Poughkeepsie. It typically stayed south of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge.

Two 18-year-old men were pulled over by a police officer about three minutes after they stole a station wagon parked on Fishkill Avenue.

Wilfredo Morel created a grassroots group called *Comite mi Gente*, or Committee of My People, to unify the city's Hispanic residents.

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EVENTS

LOOKING FOR MAKERS! — We are looking for designers, makers, artisans and artists to exhibit at our Modern Makers Market in

Cold Spring. Our dates are Sept. 7/8, Oct. 5/6 and Nov. 9/10. There is no reselling at our markets. You can attend any weekend. If you are interested, please email us your business info. and we will get back to you in a timely manner. You can always see our events at our Instagram or Website at Hops on the Hudson. Our website is www.HopsOnTheHudson.com.

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Fish Count *(from Page 1)*

The other recent innovation is a bag in the middle which billows as the net is dragged across the river bottom. “Fish are pretty smart,” Lake said. “They know they can swim faster than we can pull the net.” But when the bag expands, the fish are fooled into thinking it’s an opening and swim into it.

Bags were added about 100 years ago. “It’s worked for a long time,” said Lake. “Every time we release the fish, we worry that they will tell the others, ‘Don’t turn right when the net turns, keep swimming straight.’ So far they haven’t.”

There was one final difference. The Native Americans were fishing for a meal. “We’re fishing for discovery,” Lake said.

We weren’t the only ones dragging a net that morning. At eight spots on the river, from the Brooklyn Bridge to where the Mohawk and Hudson rivers meet north of Albany, educators, naturalists and citizen scientists were taking part in the 13th Annual Great Hudson River Fish Count.

“It’s a way to engage folks with the fish that live in their river,” said Sarah Mount, a science educator for the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve who, like Lake, has taken part in every fish count over the past 13 years (as has Lake’s 14-year-old grandson, Thomas, who was on the beach with us at Little Stony Point with two dozen other volunteers and half a dozen dogs).

The number and type of fish caught varies each year. On Aug. 10, the water was 81 degrees, and the salt front — the line where salty ocean water meets fresh water from the Adirondacks — had retreated to Yonkers because of heavy rains. Normally at this time of year, the salt line is between Little Stony Point and Beacon.

Even the tides play a role as to what we might find in the nets. “We’re between a new and a full moon, so the tides are kind of wimpy right now,” said Lake, who correctly predicted that most of what we’d find in the nets would be tiny herring. Born in freshwater, they swim to the ocean when they get bigger and return to the Hudson four years later to spawn.

With its tides, winds and muddy bottom, the river’s turbid nature makes it a perfect place for baby fish to avoid predators, as well as a terrible place to snorkel. “If these fish were out by Coney Island, they’d have a life



"Every time you open the net it's like opening a present" said Tom Lake.



A herring in hand



Seining at Little Stony Point in Philipstown

Photos by B. Cronin

expectancy of about 90 seconds,” said Lake.

About 240 kinds of fish live in the Hudson, half of which swim by Little Stony Point at some point in the year. Most of what the seining nets brought in were blueback herrings or alewives, two members of the herring family that look almost identical except the interior stomach lining of a blueback herring is black, while an alewives’ is pink.

graders and their attention wanders.)

Other identification techniques were less drastic. Spottail shiners, 3-inch-long minnows with a black spot near their tails, were named in 1824 by Gov. DeWitt Clinton, who “made time to think about science and the natural world,” said Lake.

When boats went by, the rolling waves brought white perch into the nets, who were drawn by the food stirred up from the disturbed river bottoms. A few baby striped bass turned up, as well as two “year-of-young” striped bass that stay in the river for a year before heading to the ocean, improving their chances of survival.

“Every time we release the fish, we worry that they will tell the others, ‘Don’t turn right when the net turns, keep swimming straight.’ So far they haven’t.”

~ Tom Lake
Naturalist for the state Department of Environmental Conservation

For the fish that don’t stick around for a year, prospects are grim. Lake estimated that only 10 percent make it back. The odds were lower for the ones pulled from the nets, because many herrings can’t handle the stress and go belly up when placed back in the river. “Nothing goes to waste,” said Lake, referring to the blue crabs and eels that will feed on the deceased that aren’t eaten by the dogs.

The catfish sometimes caught in the nets are another story. “I could put a catfish in my pocket, walk into the village, have dinner, walk back here and put it back in the river and it would be fine,” said Lake.

For Mount, the science educator, the best part of the day is watching people’s faces light up when they catch a fish for the first time. “It’s one thing when you stand on the banks of the river and look out and know, intellectually, that there are fish,” she said. “But to see how many fish you can catch with a small scoop of a net, you realize that there’s a whole world under there.”

Lake will be back at Little Stony Point with a seining net at 3 p.m. on Sept. 14.

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NOTICE

Beacon City School District Public Announcement for School Meals

Special Provision Options (Provision 2 Non-Base Year & Community Eligibility Provision)

The Beacon City School District today announced an amendment to its policy for serving meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2024-2025 school year, which would allow for all children at all schools/sites to be served meals at no charge.

For additional information please contact the following person:

Beacon City School District
Attention: Karen Pagano Food Service Director
Food Service and Child Nutrition
29 Education Drive, Beacon NY 12508
Pagano.k@beaconk12.org

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
- 1. Apt. coolers
 - 4. Fishing rod
 - 8. Choir voice
 - 12. New Deal agcy.
 - 13. "Zounds!"
 - 14. Chiefs coach Andy
 - 15. Boring types
 - 17. Tear
 - 18. Bad habit
 - 19. Woodland walks
 - 20. Computer problem
 - 22. Swedish auto
 - 24. Spartan queen
 - 25. Dijon products
 - 29. Tokyo's historic name
 - 30. Quick looks
 - 31. Hasten
 - 32. Sends on, as an email
 - 34. Kick back
 - 35. Bee's home
 - 36. Comic Hedberg
 - 37. Suitor

- 40. Shakespeare villain
 - 41. Reedy
 - 42. Birds of prey
 - 46. Queue
 - 47. Yankee nickname
 - 48. Debtor's letters
 - 49. Makes a choice
 - 50. Emmy winner Alan
 - 51. Record holder?
- DOWN
- 1. Moreover
 - 2. French vineyard
 - 3. Surrealist Dali
 - 4. Fuzzy fruit
 - 5. Shrek, for one
 - 6. Young fellow
 - 7. Sheeran and Harris
 - 8. Mexican shout of joy
 - 9. Onion relative
 - 10. Fork part
 - 11. Probability
 - 16. Kudrow of *Friends*
 - 19. Millinery
 - 20. Staff symbol
 - 21. Decorate anew
 - 22. Soft leather
 - 23. Requests
 - 25. TV mogul Griffin
 - 26. Art of speaking
 - 27. Platter
 - 28. Third son
 - 30. Ache
 - 33. Bellyaches
 - 34. Latvia's capital
 - 36. Tribute maker
 - 37. Normandy battle site
 - 38. Use an eggbeater
 - 39. "— She Sweet"
 - 40. Sport shirt brand
 - 42. Cote cry
 - 43. Internet address
 - 44. Scooby- —
 - 45. Heat source

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

COVEY

POKER

WORDSEARCH

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

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

Answers for Aug. 16 Puzzles

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

SPORT, SHORT, SHORE,
CHORE, CHORD, CHARD

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

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The Bhutan players posed in their traditional ghos.



Baron Stuart didn't allow a hit through six innings.

Sports

Baseball Burgeons in Bhutan

Renegades host special night for 12 young players

By Michael Turton

The Hudson Valley Renegades, the New York Yankees High-A affiliate, put on a show Tuesday (Aug. 20) by welcoming 12 young baseball and softball players from Bhutan, a small country (pop. 782,000) nestled between China and India in the Himalayan Mountains.

The game itself was a blowout as the 'Gades (59-54) overwhelmed the Wilmington Blue Rocks, 10-0, but the real story was in how the Bhutanese players ended up at the game at Heritage Financial Park just north of Beacon.

Baseball wasn't even played in Bhutan until 2010, when Matthew DeSantis, an American who lives there, and Karma Dorji, a Bhutan native in Australia, co-founded

the Bhutan Baseball and Softball Association (BBSA).

Within weeks, some 700 children had begun playing. That has since grown to more than 6,000.

Bhutanese baseball caught the eye of the Renegades' general manager, Zach Betkowski, after DeSantis posted a photo on social media of a game being played there on a stone surface before a giant Buddha.

The result was Tuesday's Bhutan Night, which brought the 12 teenagers from Bhutan to Dutchess County, all expenses paid.

On Sunday, the Bhutanese players toured the Hudson Valley and the next day attended a baseball clinic led by Renegades coaches and players.

At Tuesday's game, the Bhutanese players each donned a gho, the traditional robe of their country, and took the field where Renegades players wore jerseys that featured the thunder dragon, an important element of Bhutan's flag. They also were invited to throw out a first pitch, saw their nation's flag flowing in centerfield and heard their national anthem echo through the stadium.

To support the visit, the Renegades asked local businesses for contributions and auctioned off memorabilia, including a baseball autographed by Yankees pitcher Gerrit Cole and the thunder dragon jerseys. In an on-field ceremony, the BBSA was presented with a check for \$62,885.

On Wednesday, the Bhutanese ballplayers traveled to New York City to receive a VIP tour of Yankee Stadium, participate in batting practice with the Yankees and attend their first big league game. (New York fell to the Cleveland Guardians, 9-5.)

In an interview with Major League Baseball, DeSantis said he could envision a day when a Bhutanese player reaches the professional ranks.



The Renegades had an easy time with Wilmington, winning 10-0.



Bhutan players threw out a first pitch.

Photos by Ross Corsair