

The HIGHLANDS Current

Classic Wheels
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Jocelyn Apicello Photo provided

Philipstown Farmer Removed from Ag Board

Spoke out against Putnam Legislature decision

By Leonard Sparks

A Philipstown farmer who spoke out about the Putnam Legislature's decision not to add five farms to a special district has been removed from the Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board.

Jocelyn Apicello, who had been a board member since 2019 and its chair since 2022, was notified of her removal in a Dec. 31 memo from Paul Jonke, a legislator from Southeast who chaired the Legislature last year, to Neal Tomann, a Philipstown resident who is interim manager for the Soil & Water Conservation District.

Jonke did not give a reason for the removal and did not respond to a request for comment, but said in the memo, "I believe this to be in the best interest of Putnam County." He cited a section of state law that gives county legislative chairs the power to appoint volunteer Ag Board members, but it does not specifically address their removal.

Apicello said on Sunday (Jan. 5) that the decision surprised her. "I didn't expect it," she said. "I don't think it will solve the problem."

Apicello, who runs Longhaul Farm with her husband, Philipstown Town Board Member Jason Angell, was among the speakers at the August meeting in which legis-

(Continued on Page 7)

Deportation Pressure Begins

Putnam, Dutchess receive warnings from legal group

By Leonard Sparks

During an appearance in November on the cable channel Newsmax, Putnam Executive Kevin Byrne emphasized that the county is not a "sanctuary" for undocumented immigrants.

Despite that assertion and the county's passage in 2023 of a resolution declaring

it will cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, Putnam made a list of "sanctuary strongholds" compiled by America First Legal, a conservative nonprofit founded by Stephen Miller, who will become President-elect's Donald Trump's deputy chief of staff for policy on Jan. 20.

America First Legal said it sent letters in December to 249 public officials, including Byrne and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, warning that "it is a crime to

conceal, harbor or shield" undocumented immigrants or prevent federal officers from enforcing immigration law.

"We have identified your jurisdiction as a sanctuary jurisdiction that is violating federal law," the letter reads. "Such lawlessness subjects you and your subordinates to significant risk of criminal and civil liability."

The pressure is expected to increase on local officials when Trump takes office this month and sets about fulfilling a promise to deport millions of undocumented immigrants living and working in the U.S. To

(Continued on Page 6)



FIREMAN'S FAREWELL — First responders gathered at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring on Jan. 3 to honor Chris Johanson, 56, who died Dec. 26. The Nelsonville resident had been a member of the Lake Mohegan Fire Department for 24 years. Photo by Michael Turton

Former Member Rejoins Beacon City Council

George Mansfield returns but process faces pushback

By Jeff Simms

George Mansfield, a 14-year, seven-term veteran of the Beacon City Council who chose not to run for re-election in 2023, was appointed to the council on Monday (Jan. 6) to fill a vacancy created when Dan Aymar-Blair resigned after being elected Dutchess County comptroller.

The council's vote to confirm Mansfield was 5-1, with Jeff Domanski of Ward 2 voting "no."

Mansfield will serve the final year of Aymar-Blair's term as the Ward 4 representative. Mansfield said Tuesday that he plans to run in November, but for an at-large council seat, which could set up a Democratic primary if Amber Grant and Paloma Wake, the current at-large



Mansfield

representatives, both run again.

Beacon's charter gives the mayor the authority to fill a vacancy on the council, and for the second year in a row, Mayor Lee Kyriacou named a former member to fill an empty seat (he previously appointed Amber Grant, who served from 2018 to 2021, after Wren Longno resigned). Kyriacou said he received about "half a dozen" applications for the Ward 4 post after Aymar-Blair announced on Dec. 2 that he would leave at the end of the year.

(Continued on Page 5)

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: JOHN CRONIN

By Brian PJ Cronin

John Cronin (no relation) was recently named head of Pace University's newly created Gale Epstein Center for Technology, Policy and the Environment, funded by Gale Epstein, the co-founder, creative director and president of Hanky Panky, an intimate apparel company. Both Cronin and Epstein live in Philipstown.

What is the purpose of the center?

I've been doing environmental work for 50 years, and one of the big lessons I've learned is that no matter how hard we fight to prevent and treat pollution, some of it will reach people. For instance, people don't know what's in their drinking water before they drink it. They don't have a guarantee of clean water.

The City of Beacon issues an annual water quality report in June, but the data is from the previous calendar year, so it's 18 months old — useless. Let's say there's contamination. Beacon has 24 hours to inform you that the water is dangerous, using press releases, radio announcements, posters and door-to-door messengers. There is no requirement that you be immediately notified by text or email — nothing. No municipality in the country has that requirement.

If you had that immediate information, you'd stop drinking your water. But tens of millions of people get sick because they don't have that information in an emergency. If water suppli-

ers have other problems that aren't emergencies, they have 30 days to tell you. This is 2025! We get storm alerts on our phones and Amber Alerts [about missing children]. I get pollen alerts, for God's sake! I can tell you the weather on Mars but nobody knows what's in the water before they drink it.

This "right-to-know" concept is at the heart of the Epstein Center. People have a right to know the quality of their environment using the immediate means that we are all accustomed to. Instead of using laboratory analysis to detect what's in water, there will be sensors everywhere that identify pollutants and send out alerts.

How will the students be involved?

I'm located in the Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems, and these students are unbelievably talented. They've known what they want to do since they were little. It's hard to be a young practitioner if you're interested in law or business or journalism, but when you're 10 years old, you can be your family's IT officer. These students are so excited to use their skills to protect public health and protect people from environmental threats. We have sensors in our campus pond that deliver real-time water quality information, and one student developed a mobile app so my phone tells me when the oxygen level

drops. Another student created an SMS bot: You text the phone number and get a response that tells you the water quality within the last 15 minutes.

My students are also interested in policy. Last year, seven of them won UN Millennium fellowships. Based on their research and the work we've done, we're going to present a petition at the United Nations to make right-to-know drinking water quality a fundamental human right.

How has climate change threatened drinking water?

Increased rainfall, increased storms, increased erosion and sea-level rise mobilize contaminants. When we had Hurricane Sandy [in 2012] and the Beacon Metro-North parking lot was inundated up to the steering wheels, people tried to research all this unexpected water quickly. What was it mobilizing back into the river? All these events, particularly superstorms, mobilize pollutants and pathogens because of the proximity to parking lots, feedlots, agriculture and so on.

How would you pitch this to the incoming Trump administration?

First, if you provide this information in an immediate form, you're taking a burden off of municipalities and local water supplies. Second, it's a tech industry that could be worth a billion dollars. We can launch it here, but it could have a worldwide application. Third, it's a public health imperative. It doesn't gore anybody's oxen. We're not talking about a crackdown on a particular pollutant.

Do you think people would use the system?

Remember when The Weather Channel came out? Everybody laughed! Who's going to watch the weather? Now people are even watching other people's weather. They like direct, real information. You can do that with water.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's one of your restaurant pet peeves?

“ Not having all the orders arrive hot at the same time. ”



Bob Blair, Philipstown

“ People staring at me when I walk in. ”



Mari Ruiz, Beacon

“ Managers who don't treat back-of-the-house staff with respect. ”



Jay Arias, Beacon

NEWS BRIEFS

DEC Lifts Drought Watch*Had been in effect in Putnam, Dutchess*

The state Department of Environmental Conservation on Jan. 3 lifted a drought watch that covered all 62 counties, including Putnam and Dutchess.

"Recent precipitation and the vigilance of New Yorkers who heeded calls to conserve water resources have alleviated dry conditions across the state," said Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar in a statement.

The DEC tracks and evaluates drought conditions based on stream flows, lake and reservoir storage levels and groundwater levels.

Metro-North Offers \$1 Fares*Promotes Cold Spring and Beacon for weekend trips*

Metro-North on Jan. 4 announced a "Winter Weekend" program in which

monthly ticket holders on Metro-North can travel with up to two other passengers who will pay only \$1 each way on Saturdays and Sundays.

In a news release, the agency suggested trips to three locations on Metro-North: Cold Spring, Beacon and New Haven, Connecticut.

Discounted tickets can be purchased on the TrainTime app under Family Fares. The program is expected to continue through the end of March.

Rolison Names Chief of Staff*Promotes longtime state Senate staffer*

State Sen. Rob Rolison, whose district includes the Highlands, on Monday (Jan. 6) named Lydia Biskup as his chief of staff.

Biskup, formerly director of district operations, succeeds Dain Pascocello, who left to become chief of staff to Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne.

From 2015 to 2022, Biskup was director of district operations for former state Sen. Sue Serino, now the Dutchess County executive. The Poughkeepsie resident also worked as a senior vice president of merchandising at Loehmann's in New York City and taught fashion at Marist University for 17 years.

State Police Names Commander*Will lead troop that covers Dutchess, Putnam*

The New York State Police has named Major Mark Nielson as commander of Troop K, which covers Putnam, Dutchess, Westchester and Columbia counties.



Nielson

Nielson, 51, succeeds Major Kathryne Rhode, who was appointed staff inspector in the Professional Standards Bureau at headquarters in Albany.

Nielson, who grew up in New Paltz and graduated from SUNY Ulster, lives in Gardiner. He has been with the State Police for 22 years and was formerly an Ulster County deputy sheriff and Town of Ulster police officer.

Dutchess Launches Deed Watch*Allows residents to monitor properties*

The Dutchess County Clerk's Office has launched Deed Watch, a service that allows residents to monitor their property for fraudulent recordings.

Registered users will receive email alerts if a deed or mortgage is recorded on their residential property. See apps.dutchessny.gov/Dutchess-Deed-Watch.

"Every time property theft is in the news, we receive calls from concerned citizens about title to their property," County Clerk Brad Kendall said in a statement. "We hope to provide some peace of mind."

**Newburgh****City Gets \$2 Million for Community Programs**

New York State on Dec. 20 announced that 10 cities, including Newburgh, will receive \$2 million community grants through the Project RISE program. Newburgh also received a grant last year.

The Newburgh funds will benefit the Boys & Girls Club, M.A.R.C.S Friends, Dandelions are Flowers Too, Exodus Transitional Community, After Incarceration, The Restorative Center, Youth Advocate Programs and the HookElite Boxing Club.

Project RISE funding supports mentoring, mental health services, restorative practices, community trust building, employment and education support and youth development. The other recipients were Albany, Buffalo, Hempstead, Mount Vernon, Rochester, Syracuse, Troy, Utica and Yonkers.

Newburgh**Family Sells Historic Building**

The Kaplan family, which has owned the former Regal Bag Corp. factory on the waterfront for nearly 73 years, announced on Dec. 20 it has sold the building to Ted Doering, who founded Motorcyclepedia. The Water Street building, which was built in the early 20th century as a cotton mill, is now filled with artist studios.

"This decision was not made lightly as the time we've spent building a community in

this space has been one of the most rewarding chapters of our lives," the family wrote. "Your dedication, creativity and partnership have made this building so much more than just a property — it has been a hub of collaboration and inspiration."

Putnam Valley**Airbnb DJ Cited**

The Putnam County Sheriff cited the DJ at an overnight party at an Airbnb rental for excessive noise.

The sheriff said deputies were dispatched at 7:45 a.m. on Dec. 16 to a residence on Lake Drive, where they found a party with loud music. A deputy had responded earlier about the same complaint, but the DJ turned off the music. There also had been multiple complaints to 911 over two days about noise and parking.

Jesus Oliveras-Sosa, 25, was cited for violating a town code that bans "unreasonably loud, disturbing or unnecessary noise."

Poughkeepsie**School District to Rename Three Buildings**

The city school district plans to rename the Samuel F.B. Morse and Gov. George Clinton elementary schools and its Christopher Columbus administrative offices.

The names are "out of alignment with our most important community values," said Fatimah Carmen Martinez Santiago and Andrew Rieser, co-chairs of an Ad-Hoc Committee Building Names Study Group, in a statement. The district asked residents in a survey for suggestions for new names.

Morse was co-creator of Morse code and Clinton was New York's first governor. The committee said the three men had no direct connection to the school system and owned slaves or supported slavery.

Newburgh**Town to Build Rec Center**

The town on Dec. 19 celebrated the launch of construction of a 36,400-square-foot, \$13 million recreation center on land it owns at Chadwick Lake.

The center is being funded by state and federal grants and a \$4 million donation

by Resorts World. The town is contributing \$2.5 million.

The center will have a gymnasium, two full-sized basketball courts, an indoor soccer field, volleyball and pickleball courts, a two-lane walking track, an exercise room and office space. A ribbon-cutting is scheduled for August.



The Hudson Highlands Pipe Band

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Putnam farming

The Putnam County Legislature's anti-farming position is, as a fellow Philipstown farmer put it to me, "a real shame for those of us trying to preserve farming in Putnam County" ("Farmer Sues Putnam County," Jan. 3).

In August, five of the eight county legislators present voted against adding five viable farming operations to the Agricultural District, reinterpreting a resolution adopted in 2007. I have never seen fellow members of the Agriculture Board or legislators find such arbitrary and capricious reasons to exclude farm parcels.

I have served as a volunteer farmer on the county's Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board since 2019 and as its chair from 2022 through Dec. 30, when Legislative Chair Paul Jonke sent a memo to the interim Soil & Water District manager, removing me from the board, effective immediately.

Since I became chair, the Legislature denied the Ag Board the ability to educate the public and elected officials about the Agricultural District. This lack of public education has manifested in ill-willed, uninformed and shameful actions by most of our legislators and the interim S&W District manager.

I encourage residents of Putnam County to email in support of their farming neighbors and the Ag District to the Legislature at putcoleg@putnamcountyny.gov. I also encourage the hardworking farmers in our county to attend public meetings to keep an eye on legislative actions that hurt farmers and even polish up those farming boots to take steps to challenge anti-farming elected county officials.

Jocelyn Apicello, *Philipstown*
Apicello is the co-owner of Longhaul Farm.

Cold Spring dam

Since our announcement and *The Current's* article ("Cold Spring Gets \$2.5 Million for Dam Repair," Dec. 27), I've received a few inquiries about the Upper Dam repair, so it's important to emphasize the big picture.

Our water supply consists of five impoundments: the two on Foundry Pond Road, known as the Upper and Lower Reservoirs; the beaver pond on Fishkill Road, where we work with nature as free labor to retain water stores; the coffer dam, which is the concrete structure near the road on one of Fishkill's big bends; and the holding dam at the water treatment plant, where supplies are retained before being treated, piped and sent to our homes, businesses and institutions.

The repair work, at a price tag of just

under \$8 million and for which the village has been awarded partial funding, is for the Upper Reservoir impoundment wall. The Lower Reservoir (i.e., from the other side of the impoundment wall to Foundry Pond Road, in the lower portion of the aerial photo printed with *The Current* article) has its own engineering and repair needs at significant costs. The same is true for the other two constructed impoundments.

The impoundments need varying amounts of work. The grant we've received will help fund the repair of only the wall separating the Upper and Lower Reservoirs; you can see it clearly in the aerial photograph, just under the blue words "Cold Spring Reservoir."

The reservoirs on Foundry Pond Road date to the 1860s, when they were built by the West Point Foundry to power its operations. The village bonded to acquire them in 1922 when the foundry shut down. Repairs were made in the 1920s and 1930s and the additional impoundments were built. The bond notes are framed and hanging in Village Hall if anyone would like to see them — they're a cool bit of our history that then-Mayor Seth Gallagher unearthed and preserved for us all.

Securing and preserving our drinking water supply is a massive infrastructure project that will take many years and a great deal of funding. The work has been deferred for far too long, and doing nothing is no longer an option. The Board of Trustees will continue to pursue grants to help fund these costs. And we all need to be aware that bonding will be part of our community's future for some time. We'll do everything possible to offset consumer costs, but rate increases are inevitable as we do the work.

As I've said in relation to drought conditions, our drinking water is a precious resource; we must always protect it and use it judiciously.

Kathleen Foley, *Cold Spring*
Foley is the Cold Spring mayor.

Flipping Beacon

I am stunned by the amount of money developers have been pouring into Beacon's old homes ("Flipping Beacon," Jan. 3). Perhaps it was inevitable, but I remember a different community just 20 years ago, when we scabbed and saved and worked on our down-at-the-heels homes a little at a time, exchanging tips and asking for help on modest projects.

That sense of being part of a community of doers and artists who were content to live in smaller homes, proud of the architecture and Beacon's heritage, seems to have gone by the wayside in favor of bigger and better and, of course, more lucrative.

(Continued on Page 5)



Beacon *(from Page 1)*

Mansfield told *The Current* in January 2024 that a break from the council would tie in well with the September 2023 closing of Dogwood, the restaurant and bar he owned on East Main Street. However, he left open the possibility of returning, and this week said he applied to be part of the conversation regarding development at the Metro-North station, the possible rezoning of the Fishkill Avenue corridor and the future of the city’s two closed firehouses.

After interviewing candidates, the mayor said he chose Mansfield because he’s “somebody who knows exactly what they’re doing and can come to the table and start right off the bat.” Appointing someone who had not previously won a contested election “kind of gives them a free election,” Kyriacou said.

A year ago, Kyriacou appointed Grant to represent Ward 3. At the same meeting, Pam Wetherbee, a former Ward 3 representative who had been elected in November 2023 as an at-large member, shifted to that seat, and Grant became an at-large member.

Grant and Wetherbee were required to run in November to keep their positions. Both ran unopposed and were sworn in on Monday.

Kyriacou did not reveal the names of other applicants for Aymar-Blair’s seat but acknowledged that council members were likely aware of them.

Domanski called the appointment a “missed opportunity” because “there was no consultation or broader conversation that was had to explore the candidates in a more formal way, even in executive session.”

Before voting, Wake asked if council members had suggestions for amending the charter guidelines. Wetherbee said the value of an experienced “plug-and-play” member outweighed concerns for her because Mansfield will have to run for election in less than a year. Domanski advocated a more collaborative process but made no proposal.

To change the city charter, the council must approve a policy and hold a public vote. While the mayor has appointed council members two years in a row, before last year it apparently had not happened since the city went to a “strong mayor” structure in 1991, with ward representatives rather than at-large commissioners.

Firehouse broker

By a 5-1 vote, the council on Monday

Mansfield “can come to the table and start right off the bat.”

~Mayor Lee Kyriacou

selected Gate House Compass Realty to broker the sale of the Mase Hook and Ladder and Beacon Engine Co. fire stations, with Domanski abstaining.

City officials issued a request for proposals on Dec. 2 for agencies to facilitate the sale of the century-old stations. The proceeds will be used for the \$14.7 million central fire station that opened recently at 1140 Wolcott Ave.

City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis said representatives from 10 companies toured the empty stations last month. Gate House, a Beacon agency owned by Charlotte Guernsey, was one of four firms to submit proposals by the Dec. 19 deadline.

Of the four, “Gate House was the one that stood out to us,” Ward-Willis said, because of its history of sales in Beacon and a competitive commission. The other proposals came from Beacon Coldwell Banker Realty, McGrath Realty Inc. and Absolute Auctions & Realty, Inc.

Once the sites are marketed, council

members will be updated on offers in executive session. The council will be asked to review final offers, but “generally, the contract does not become public until after it is approved by the council,” Ward-Willis said.

Several council members on Monday explored scenarios in which the city could retain the buildings or lease them inexpensively to a nonprofit organization. However, if the firehouses are not sold, ongoing initiatives such as parks and road and sidewalk improvements would lose funding, City Administrator Chris White said, while a low-cost lease would be at odds with the council’s responsibility to act in taxpayers’ best interest.

Both properties are part of the city’s historic district and will be sold with covenants that restrict renaming them or altering historical features.

Appointments

The council approved Kyriacou’s reappointments of Karen Quiana and J. Randall Williams to the Planning Board; Stowe Boyd, Elaine Ciaccio and Montos Vakirtzis to the Zoning Board of Appeals; Robert Palisi to the Board of Assessment Review; and Peter Bailey and Andy Bell to the Tree Advisory Committee.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

I find many renovations completely soulless. They all have the same engineered floors, open floor plans, granite countertops, craftsman-style front doors, stark colors and black windows. The streets are dotted with these bot-like buildings, whose sole aim is to make as much money per square foot as possible.

Although the housing shortage has not helped, I hope it’s not too late to find a way to honor and preserve the remaining housing stock.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

The article raises questions: What options are available for homeowners to learn about maximizing their property’s value? Why do so many wait until a life event forces a sale? How does a lack of accessible capital or financing options impact their ability to plan and improve?

Who benefits when homeowners sell quickly without enhancing their property’s potential? How could we create better resources to help homeowners capture profit to build generational wealth? Finally, what programs already exist to help residents build generational wealth in real estate? Are they funded and accessible?

Brett Miller, *Beacon*

Just because one can does not mean one should.

Danielle Moses, *via Facebook*

It would be a lot more bearable if these homes didn’t look like they were created by artificial intelligence that was asked to “design the worst HGTV ‘after’ picture that could plausibly be a Hampton Inn lobby.”

Ryan Biracree, *via Facebook*

Home values are meaningless unless you’re selling. What do we get for all this nonsense if we choose to stay in our homes, as 90 percent will do?

Paul Yeaple, *via Facebook*

I wish *The Current* would have taken a more critical lens. The flippers are contributing to the housing crisis, and the article just smiles and nods as they offer their milquetoast justifications.

Will Duffy, *via Instagram*

Who is buying these homes at these prices? Did they even research the Beacon City School District? Because it’s not a \$1.1-million district.

Lori Merhige, *via Instagram*

It’s sort of cute that there are millionaires willing to pay to live the Beacon life. Hopefully, they continue to invest in the community.

Jen Tavalacci, *via Facebook*

I lived across the street from the Washington Avenue house for 15 years. It’s darkly hysterical and genuinely devastating to see this happen to the neighborhood.

Bryanne Figlia, *via Facebook*

Fjord Trail

In the letter from Cold Spring Trustee Eliza Starbuck in the Jan. 3 issue about the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, her citation of the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2012 says it all. The comp plan is based on statistics from before the immense flood of tourism; it’s no longer representative of reality in Cold Spring. We shouldn’t approve any large developments until it is thoroughly updated.

Michael Bowman, *Nelsonville*

A poster bearing a strange and inscrutable message has recently appeared at some intersections and in a few yards around Cold Spring: “Fjord Trail is our Pjark.”

Another poster with “Fjord Trail” crossed out broadcasts a simpler and clearer message. In any campaign, the side with the better slogan has an advantage. As one who opposes the Fjord Trail and the ruin it would bring to Cold Spring, a place that I love, I propose the following slogans:
* We can’t afford the Fjord Trail.

* Too many tourists spoil the view / It’s bad for them and worse for you.

* If you think traffic and parking are bad now, just wait for the Fjord Trail.

* Projected pjark makes us pjuke.

* Stick a fjork in it; the Fjord Trail is cooked.

* Let’s bail on the Fjord Trail.

* Keep Cold Spring Great — Ban the Fjord Trail!

* [F]*ck the Fjord Trail!]

We need to oppose this unnecessary and ruinous project with words and music and smart advertising. Vote for your favorite slogan or propose your own!

Benjamin Yarmolinsky, *Cold Spring*

Catskill Aqueduct

I can’t help but wonder how incredible the construction of the Catskill Aqueduct seemed to those alive at the time (“A 20th-Century Marvel,” Jan. 3). My grandfather, Bill Reilley, born in Cold Spring in 1898, must have been in awe.

Patricia Klubnick, *Beacon*

The “siphon” under the Hudson — as it was called on some old maps — could only have been created with a relatively new product called dynamite. And the story

behind ascertaining the depth of the river floor is worthy of an article in itself: Glacial melting had brought about 800 feet of boulders and debris downstream. All of this is a fascinating aspect of the fjord history.

William Harris, *Philipstown*

There are two aqueduct buildings at Breakneck, one on the shoreline and the other a few hundred yards up the mountain, secured.

David Baylis, *New Windsor*

Return to Vietnam

Thank you for this story (“Return to Vietnam,” Jan. 3). There are so many paths in life.

Lori Adams, *East Fishkill*

I’m so grateful to *The Current* for having Ross Corsair on staff (full disclosure: he’s been my friend for over two decades); he sees things in ways most photographers don’t. His work is always exemplary, and, justifiably, award-winning. But this spread of photos, and his prose describing not just his recent trip but a bit of his family history in Vietnam, took my breath away. Thank you so much for sharing this with your readers.

John Plummer, *Cold Spring*

Louvin Brothers

I’ve loved the Louvin Brothers since I first heard Emmylou Harris’s cover of “If I Could Only Win Your Love” in the 1970s (“Brother Act,” Dec. 20). I’d welcome a chance to hear the Lousin’ Brothers pay tribute!

MK Pendergast, *Beacon*

Have something to say? Email your letters to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

Deportation *(from Page 1)*

accomplish that, the administration will likely need help from local authorities, including county sheriffs.

While some outspoken sheriffs are vowing to assist, Rob Milby, the sheriff in upstate Wayne County and a member of the National Sheriffs' Association's border security committee, told News 8 in Rochester in December that discussions with Trump representatives have yet to produce a definitive policy.

"If our [federal] law enforcement brothers and sisters do come into Wayne County and they ask for assistance, immediate assistance, for something that's going on, we're certainly going to respond," he said. "But as far as going out and leading the charge on immigration issues, we don't have any plans to do that."

In Dutchess, Capt. John Watterson, a representative for the Sheriff's Office, said on Tuesday (Jan. 7) that "immigration laws fall under the jurisdiction of federal authorities, and at this time we are not aware of any plans to have the Sheriff's Office become involved in their enforcement."

In Putnam, Byrne's office said on Wednesday (Jan. 8) that the county has "not had any direct communication with the federal government on this issue." On Thursday, Sheriff Kevin McConville said he also had not been contacted by federal authorities "regarding the matter of illegally entered migrants," although the department "has



During an appearance on Newsmax in November, Putnam Executive Kevin Byrne said that the county is not a "sanctuary" for immigrants.

discussed the matter internally." The sheriff said he had no further comment "until such time as we are officially contacted by a federal agency and have the opportunity to thoroughly review any such proposal."

Byrne appeared on Newsmax after an undocumented man from Chile was charged with shooting his girlfriend and her two teenage sons in Somers, killing one of the boys. He mentioned his signing in July 2023 of a resolution declaring Putnam to be a "rule of law" county that works with ICE to "properly identify arrested felons and gang-associated members who are suspected violators of federal immigration law."

The resolution had earlier passed the Legislature by a 7-1 vote, with only Nancy Montgomery, a Democrat who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, voting no.

"Sanctuary policies, quite frankly, they're stupid," Byrne told Newsmax. "Anything that prevents law enforcement from sharing information with other partners in law enforcement, including federal law enforcement such as ICE, you're limiting our ability to keep our community safe."

On Tuesday, the U.S. House passed, 264-159, a bill vote requiring the detention of undocumented migrants accused — but not necessarily convicted — of theft or burglary. Mike Lawler, a Republican whose district includes Philipstown, voted yes and Pat Ryan, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, voted no. The legislation's prospects are uncertain in the Senate.

Also on Tuesday, state Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, said that "everyone agrees it should be easier" to deport people involved in violent crimes and organized crimes like drug trafficking. Studies have shown, however, that immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than native-born Americans.

Some lawmakers in the Democrat-led state Assembly and Senate are contemplating legislation ensuring residents have access to legal assistance in immigration proceedings, said Levenberg. She would back that legislation, as well as codifying that "police funded by local and state taxpayers are there to enforce local and state laws."

Having local police "deputized" by the federal government would "take them away from the jobs they are supposed to be doing — keeping us safe," said Levenberg.

An estimated 11.3 million undocumented immigrants (23 percent of the foreign-born population) live in the U.S., including 850,000 in New York, according to the Migration Policy Institute, a think tank in Washington, D.C. Thirty-seven percent are from Mexico and 18 percent from three Central American countries (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras), according to the Pew Research Center.

There are no estimates for the number of undocumented residents in Dutchess or Putnam counties. According to federal

census data, Putnam has 13,500 foreign-born residents (about 13.5 percent) and Dutchess has 35,400 (12 percent), which includes naturalized citizens and legal residents.

Undocumented immigrants paid \$97 billion in federal taxes in 2022, including \$3.1 billion in New York, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, another think tank. More than a third of those taxes supported programs that undocumented immigrants cannot access, such as Medicare and Social Security.

"Immigrants are important, critical members of our communities, and protecting immigrants is about keeping families together, keeping our communities stable and supporting our economy in the midst of a labor shortage," said Levenberg.

Although Congress controls spending, Trump's aides have said he plans to target Democratic-led "sanctuary" cities such as Chicago, whose mayor recently vowed "there will not be any cooperation" with ICE deportations. When Trump made the same vow after he took office in 2017, local municipalities were careful to avoid using the word in resolutions.

In April 2017, for example, the Philipstown Town Board passed a resolution, by a 3-2 vote, forbidding town employees from assisting ICE "unless such investigation or inquiry is required by state or federal law or by court order."

Although listed on the agenda as a measure "declaring Philipstown a sanctuary town," the resolution does not include the word *sanctuary*. Instead, it speaks of upholding "the rights of all," regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and immigration status.

John Van Tassel, who later became supervisor, voted against the measure. "This, to me, is way outside of anything we should be involved in," he said at the time.

Earlier that same month, the Beacon City Council unanimously passed a resolution declaring the city to be "welcoming, safe and inclusive" but also avoiding *sanctuary*.

In addition, neither Putnam nor Dutchess are part of a federal program called 287(g) that trains police officers to enforce immigration laws by screening people they arrest. They are also authorized to "execute administrative warrants" on jailed noncitizens. As of December, the program had agreements with 135 police agencies in 27 states.

Most of the 287 (g) agencies are in Florida, North Carolina and Texas; only one in New York, the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office, participates.

In 2007, some Putnam residents protested when then-Sheriff Don Smith declined to join.

He said the Sheriff's Office already reported undocumented immigrants to ICE and held detainees for its agents. Putnam had turned over 13 wanted immigrants in the first half of that year, Smith told *The Journal News*.

Four years later, in an op-ed published by the newspaper, Smith said that participation in 287(g) "would have cost the taxpayers significantly more money and could have hurt our community policing efforts because it would have involved my office in the enforcement of civil violations of immigration law versus the mere identifications and reporting of criminal immigrants."



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Gov. Hochul to Reveal School Funding in Address

Educators await governor's budget proposal

By Jeff Simms

The Rockefeller Institute of Government, a public-policy think tank, fulfilled Gov. Kathy Hochul's request last month by issuing a 314-page analysis of New York's formula for allocating unrestricted funding known as "foundation aid" to nearly 700 public school districts, including Beacon, Haldane and Garrison — a system that many parents and educators believe is flawed.

At the same time, Columbia University's Center for Educational Equity and the American Institutes for Research are publishing additional reports with recommendations for a more equitable distribution of educational dollars. The partnership is led by Michael Rebell, an attorney who in 1993 brought the lawsuit that, 14 years later, forced state leaders to begin sending foundation aid to schools.

But the million-dollar — or in this case, \$25 billion — question is what Hochul will recommend when she presents her 2025-26 budget proposal during the annual State of the State address on Tuesday (Jan. 14) in Albany.

This year's budget includes \$25 billion in foundation aid, an increase of \$934 million over 2023-24, but it almost didn't. Hochul last year raised alarms by proposing a budget that would have seen more than 300 districts, including Beacon and Garrison, receive less aid than the year before. Beacon, the largest of the three districts, would have lost about \$1.3 million, or 6

percent, compared to 2023-24.

By mid-April, however, the governor and Legislature agreed on a final spending plan that restored Beacon's foundation aid to \$21.3 million, the same as the year before. (Districts receive other state aid, but because foundation aid is the largest source and there are no restrictions on how the funds can be spent, it is considered the most critical.)

Foundation aid accounts for about 25 percent of Beacon's \$84 million budget. By contrast, the Garrison district received \$600,000 in 2024-25, or 4.5 percent of its \$13.4 million budget. Haldane received \$2.9 million, or 10 percent of its \$29.2 million budget.

The final state budget last year also included \$2 million for the Rockefeller Institute to study the foundation aid formula. When it released its report on Dec. 2, after holding five public hearings and parsing 1,800 written comments, the institute largely agreed with critics, saying the state should update poverty measures to better reflect economic distress, update cost-of-living differences, account for the greater instructional needs for new English language learners and change the formula to remove some elements better treated separately.

The report also acknowledged that districts face burdens that previous generations did not, such as providing mental health services and the transition to electric buses.

The New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) called the Rockefeller report "a worthwhile starting point" but noted that, given the quick turnaround, its



Gov. Kathy Hochul

Governor's Office

recommendations "understandably lack the type of detail necessary to know how they will impact individual school districts."

NYSSBA also addressed recommendations regarding "hold harmless," or the guarantee that a district won't receive less one year than it did the year before, saying the report proposes formula changes that would likely lead to reductions in foundation aid for many districts.

Melinda Person, the president of New York State United Teachers, which represents nearly 700,000 current and retired educators, said in a statement that her organization is concerned about suggestions that "arbitrarily lower the foundation aid amount instead of considering the necessary support for our schools' evolving student populations." Changes to the formula "must prioritize stability and predictability," she said.

Since October, the Columbia University and American Institutes for Research coalition (CEE/AIR) has published 10 bulletins and short reports as its study continues. On

Dec. 18, the agencies issued their response to the Rockefeller report, including a half-dozen "actions the governor and Legislature should take in the 2025 legislative session."

Those recommendations include continuing to use the national consumer price index (CPI) as the inflationary tool to determine aid allocations, rather than an average of CPI rates over the last 10 years, as Hochul has proposed.

The agencies also suggest continuing "hold harmless" for at least another year, despite decreases in student enrollment. That would benefit Beacon, which, according to the most recent state data, lost 675 students between 2012-13 and 2023-24.

Other recommendations include state funding for "urgent current needs," such as homeless and migrant students, and, echoing a Rockefeller proposal, increased funding for school-based centers that provide mental health support for low-income students and emulating the shared-services approach used by Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in lieu of establishing health clinics in every school.

Finally, CEE/AIR suggested delaying unfunded state mandates, including Hochul's order that all school bus fleets be fully electric by 2035. The Rockefeller Institute report asks the state to fully underwrite the cost of the electric bus mandate, while CEE/AIR said the mandate should be delayed for a year while alternative financing measures are considered.

The agencies said the governor and Legislature should begin developing a new foundation aid formula "as the first order of educational business in the 2025 legislative session," which began Wednesday (Jan. 8).

Ag Board (from Page 1)

lators voted 5-3 to reject the applications of farms in Philipstown and four other towns to be added to the Agricultural District. Under a 1971 state law, the district protects farms from "unreasonable" local restrictions.

The applicants had been recommended in a 9-2 vote by the Ag Board, which consists of six farmers and representatives from the Legislature; the Department of Planning, Development and Public Transportation; Real Property Tax Services Agency; Soil and

Water Conservation District; and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County.

Despite the board approval, the applicants — all livestock or horse farms — failed to meet one or more of eight factors that the county determined in 2007 "shall be considered" for inclusion, Tomann told legislators in July.

Those factors include an on-site assessment by the board, the absence of local, state or federal violations and adherence to best practices. Tomann said that none of the properties met another factor, despite not growing crops — that each must contain at

least 50 percent of "prime farmland and/or statewide important soils" in one of the first six of the state's 10 classifications for soils.

During a public hearing before the Legislature's vote, Apicello noted that the application to be included in the Agricultural District does not mention soil types as a criteria, and that the 2007 resolution only directed that the board "consider" the eight factors.

In addition to "arbitrarily and capriciously" interpreting those criteria, she said the Ag Board received pushback from the Legislature in 2022 when members proposed creating a one-page information sheet on the Agricultural District that could be distributed to the public and municipal officials. Since then, the board "has been shut out from any sorts of decision-making," she said.

Members of the board were not notified about nor involved in crafting a proposal to require more information from applications, including site and stormwater protection plans and a soil analysis, Apicello said. She said she supports updating the application but not "rushing it through" without input.

"There's clearly an anti-farming stance among some of the Ag Board members who happen to not be the farmers," she said.

Although approved on Dec. 16 by the three legislators on the Physical Services Committee, the proposal was not on the agenda for the Legislature's year-end meeting on Dec. 19. The day of the committee vote, one of

"There's clearly an anti-farming stance among some of the Ag Board members who happen to not be the farmers."

~ Jocelyn Apicello



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\$2,107,500

75 Oak Hollow, Philipstown
4 beds, 4.5 baths, 3,640 sq ft, 7.15-acre lot



\$2,000,000

11 Creek Drive, Unit 102, Beacon
3 beds, 3.5+ baths, 4,559 sq ft



\$1,600,000

221 Indian Brook Road, Philipstown
2 beds, 3 bath, 3,922 sq ft, 2.25-acre lot



\$1,455,000

58 Moog Road, Philipstown
4 beds, 3 bath, 4,087 sq ft, 4.01-acre lot



\$1,450,000

230 Jaycox Road, Philipstown
4 beds, 3.5 baths, 3,531 sq ft, 3.83-acre lot



\$1,210,000

43 Ackerman St., Beacon
3 beds, 3.5 baths, 3,261 sq ft, 0.14-acre lot



\$1,117,000

37 N. Elm St., Beacon
4 beds, 4.5 baths, 2,260 sq ft, 0.15-acre lot



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Depot Docs: Patrice

Friday, January 17, at 7:30pm
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Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

■ Mayor Kathleen Foley opened the Wednesday (Jan. 8) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board with a tribute to Robert McCaffrey, who died Jan. 2. She described the lifelong resident, well-known real estate agent and former village trustee as a “generous local philanthropist, businessman and all-around great human being.”

■ The board discussed its schedule for commenting on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. The Village Board, as well as standing boards such as planning and zoning, will submit comments to Greenplan, the consultant assisting with analyzing the DGEIS. The board expects to vote on Greenplan’s conclusions on Feb. 26, before the state’s March 4 deadline. Residents can submit comments to hhft.plan@parks.ny.gov. Virtual online hearings will be held at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesday (Jan. 14). See dub.sh/HHFT-jan-14.

■ Matt Jackson, the officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department, reported that larcenies, especially shoplifting, increased in the village last year between April and November. Jackson plans to meet with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss ways shopowners can work with police to reduce thefts.

■ Officers handled 128 calls for service in December, including 26 assists to emergency medical services and fire and police departments, 11 traffic stops and three assists to people in crisis.

■ The board approved a new contract between the village and the Police Benevolent Association through 2030.

■ The Cold Spring Fire Co. reported responding to 235 calls in 2024, its 129th year of service. The top three volunteer responders were Stephen Etta (190 calls), Aaron Leonard (125) and Charlotte Brooks (101). Emphasizing the importance of the department to the community, Foley said, “When you dial 911, it’s your neighbors who respond.”

■ Applications for 2025 resident parking permits, which cost \$50, are available at coldspringny.gov. Enforcement staff have been giving warnings but will soon begin issuing tickets.

■ Water Superintendent Matt Kroog reported that village reservoirs are at 83 percent capacity. The annual inspection of the dams, which had been postponed, is scheduled for Jan. 24.

■ The Historic District Review Board has adopted a new schedule: Applications must be submitted by the first of each month, and the board will meet on the third Tuesday.

NEWS BRIEF

Haldane Opens Pre-K Registration

Program to begin in September

Haldane plans to begin a pre-K program in the 2025-26 school year, joining the Garrison and Beacon districts. Children who live in the district and will turn 4 years old on or before Dec. 1 of this year are eligible. If more than 18 students are registered, the district will hold a lottery. Interim Superintendent Carl Albano said the program had not been offered earlier because of a lack of classroom space, but that changed with relatively low

enrollment in the first grade. The district expects to have more space after capital upgrades approved by voters in November. The pre-K class will have one teacher and one aide at a cost of about \$160,000, Albano said. The state provides partial funding of \$5,400 per student. Both Beacon and Garrison also offer state-funded pre-K programs. Registration for Garrison opens Feb. 15; registration in Beacon opens in March. An orientation meeting for the Haldane program is scheduled for Feb. 12, with a registration deadline of March 31. See dub.sh/haldane-prek.



GARRISON INSTITUTE

Father Thomas Keating

A daylong event to explore and celebrate the founder of the Centering Prayer movement.

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Tenzin Priyadarshi
Colleen Thomas

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Albany, NY 12238

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT AND THE DGEIS

qrco.de/ft_linktree



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Quick Links



AROUND TOWN



Sworn In

(1) At the Dec. 11 meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, Trustees Laura Bozzi and Tweeps Phillips Woods (center) were sworn into office for new two-year terms by Justice Camille Linson. Both ran unopposed. The children are Woods' daughter, Birdie, and friends she invited. *Photo provided*

(2) Dutchess County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair took the oath on Jan. 4 at a ceremony in Union Vale. The Beacon resident was elected to complete the final year of the term of Robin Lois, who left for the state comptroller's office. *Photo by Mike Lawrie*

(3) Students D'Andre South and Ella Morel administered a ceremonial oath at Peekskill High School to state Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, who won a second term. Her district includes Philipstown. *Photo by Laura Belfiore/Peekskill CSD*



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VISIONARIES
OPENING RECEPTION Jan 11 – 1-3 PM

Jan 17 - KEY of Q - HV's LGBTQ+ allied a cappella singers
Jan 19 - One EARTH, so green and ROUND - FREE concert
Jan 25 - Classics 4 Kids - Silent Films and Live Music

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The Calendar

The Breaking Point

Beacon artist examines the shock of parenting

By Marc Ferris

Judging by several titles of her experimental photographs — “Bad Dream,” “Boiling Point,” “Nothing Left to Give” — motherhood challenged Emma McDonald Diamond.

For the first time in 10 years, she has assembled a solo show, *The Thief*, which plumbs the depths of emotion. It opens Saturday (Jan. 11) at Super Secret Projects in Beacon.

“There’s a lot of joy being a parent, but I lost so many things, like my spontaneity, my individuality and my creativity,” says McDonald Diamond, 40. “Now, I’ve bounced back and found myself again.”

The artist is upbeat. She and her husband can tap into a full family system to help with their two boys, ages 2 and 4. But early on, she found it difficult to cope.

One day, an overtired son could not stop crying or be consoled for “what felt like eternity,” she says. “I thought about taking him to the hospital. I didn’t know what to do.” Eventually, he fell asleep in her arms as they sat in a rocking chair, a gentle breeze sweeping over the porch, “but it was something I’ve never experienced before, and it shocked me to the core.”

Most of the imagery in the exhibit is mired in the dire times. With elaborate staging, a Polaroid Lab, multiple manipulations, unorthodox darkroom techniques and a vintage 120mm Rolleiflex camera, McDonald Diamond aimed to create works that were ethereal and haunting.

She dislikes self-portraits but trained the camera on herself for several shots, including “Only the Wind,” which refers to the breeze that helped calm her son. As she reposes in a bathtub, eyes closed, tilt-

ing toward the camera, a big black blotch covers part of her head.

McDonald Diamond, or friend and model Alice Graff, also pose covered with a membrane of chiffon as if they’re inhabiting a gauzy womb or cocoon, distanced from the world. In “Shell,” Graff lies in a fetal position with her back to the camera and covered in black twine, as if tied down.

Several photos, taken through a rippled glass plate, generate harrowing, splintering effects. The subject in “GODS” seems to be suffering from a nightmarish migraine as head, face and hands look like they’re splitting apart.

Beyond art, McDonald Diamond says another aid to her recovery was the Beacon community. After moving from Brooklyn in 2021, McDonald Diamond plunged right in, co-founding the Beacon Photo Club, which meets monthly at Hudson Valley Brewery. The group’s first exhibition, *Black & White*, at Big Mouth Coffee Roasters, 387 Main St., continues through Jan. 30.

A couple of images in *The Thief* hint at McDonald Diamond’s turnaround. In “Two Truths,” Graff stands seminude, hinting a smile with hands clasped behind her head and elbows sticking out. The image suggests movement, as if she’s boogying to a disco beat.

Even more revealing is “Don’t Look for Me in Person I Was Yesterday,” a 5-foot sculpture that strings 624 photos together with trellis netting and looks like scales on a giant fish. From the top, shades progressively fade from inky-dark hues into gray midway, ending at the bottom with bright shots of her smiling children.

“The last thing I want is for someone to see this show and think, ‘I’ll never have kids,’” McDonald Diamond says. “My mother, a pediatric nurse practitioner, always said that if people knew how hard it is to raise a child before becoming parents, there would be fewer people.”



“Control”



“Only the Wind”



“Shell”



“Boiling Point”

Super Secret Projects is located at 484 Main St. in Beacon. The Thief opens on Jan. 11 with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. See supersecretprojects.com. The Beacon Photo Club next meets on Thursday (Jan. 16). See beaconphotoclub.com.

[

THE WEEK AHEAD

]

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 11
Visionaries: Double Header Arts
BEACON
1 – 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
View works in all mediums curated by the Bannerman Castle Trust and the Towne Crier. Through Feb. 23.

SAT 11
Emma McDonald Diamond
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com
In her solo experimental photography show, *The Thief*, the artist explores the emotional state of becoming a mother. See Page 11. Through Feb. 1.

SAT 11
Ilse Schreiber-Noll
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org
Schreiber-Noll's woodcuts are on view in the Beacon Room while *Fresh Start: The Promise of New Beginnings*, a group show by members, fills Galleries 1 and 2. Through Feb. 2.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 11
Concert for Kids
BEACON
11 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Mr. Corbitt will perform an interactive show for children ages 8 and younger.

SAT 11
Rest and Restore
GARRISON
11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
This is the first in a series of “de-stress” sessions for teens. Make aromatherapy eye pillows and learn methods to relax.

SAT 11
Inside Out 2
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Children are invited to watch the 2024 animated sequel about the emotions of a teenage girl. Registration recommended.



FRI 17
Fame The Musical Jr.
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
beaconplayers.com
The Beacon Players Younger Company (grades 5 to 8) will stage the hit musical about a performing arts school in New York City in the 1980s. Also SAT 18. Tickets sold at the door.

SAT 18
Musical Stories for Kids
COLD SPRING
10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Daniel Kelly will combine music and storytelling for children ages 4 to 8 as he retells the “stone soup” story.

SUN 19
One Earth So Green and Round
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
bit.ly/earthsgreenhcc
Puppeteer Lydia Adams Davis, accompanied by Elly Wininger, will perform songs of nature. Registration required. *Free*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 11
Pontoon
GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
Rick Ehrstin will perform his one-man show about customized pontoon boats, growing older and possibilities for wonder. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 11
The Artichoke
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | artichokeshow.com
Tamar Vezirian, Kate Greathead, Gastor Almonte, Carly Ciarrocchi, Ajay G and Gabe Mollica are the storytellers this month. *Cost: \$25*

FRI 17
Patrice: The Movie
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
Depot Docs will screen this documentary about a disabled couple who wants to marry but faces losing the benefits they need to survive. The director and producer will answer questions after the film. *Cost: \$25*

TALKS & TOURS

SUN 12
Power, Politics and the Presidency
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
David Goldberg, a constitutional lawyer who has represented 150 cases at the U.S. Supreme Court, will discuss with journalist Jane Spencer the court's role in shaping U.S. law and its implications. *Free*

WED 15
Dream Song
COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Composer and pianist Daniel Kelly and singer and songwriter Tara O'Grady will collaborate with



Patrice: The Movie, Jan. 17

the audience to make a “soundtrack for your dreams.” *Cost: \$15 donation*

THURS 16
Chopping Wood
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club
2 Red Flynn Drive | beaconsloopclub.org
David Bernz will be joined by his son, Jacob, as he shares stories about Pete Seeger from his new book and leads a sing-a-long.

SAT 18
Fat Talk
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com
Virginia Sole-Smith will be joined by cookbook writer Amy Palanjian to discuss her book about the impact of body shaming and diet culture.

COMMUNITY
TUES 14
HHFT Hearing
2 & 6 p.m. Via Webex
dub.sh/HHFT-jan-14
Register to listen and/or

comment on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail during these public forums hosted by New York State Parks.

TUES 14
Haldane Superintendent Search Forum
COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | haldaneschool.org
Provide input during this focus group for parents and community members on what qualities are needed in a new Haldane school district leader.

THURS 16
Dance Workshops for Seniors
BEACON
11 a.m. Friendship Center
1 Forrestral Heights
Anna Brady Marcus will kick off a weekly series of dance-step classes. *Free*



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Learn more

Senior and Living in Philipstown?

Please join us for Philipstown Aging at Home's OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, January 22, 2:30 pm
Desmond Fish Public Library

SPECIAL BRIEFING: Passwords, Scams, and Internet Security
By Ryan Biracree from Desmond Fish

Come learn about our programs and tell us what you'd like to see

THURS 16
Community Puzzle Swap
BEACON
4 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Drop off a puzzle and take home a new one.

THURS 16
Beacon Photo Club
BEACON
6:30 – 9 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery
7 E. Main St. | beaconphotoclub.com
Share your work, get feedback and hang out with other photography lovers at this monthly gathering.

SAT 18
Skill Swap
COLD SPRING
1 – 2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Share a skill or learn new ones with friends and neighbors. Sign up to teach a mini-session or register to attend one.

SAT 18
Lantern-Making Workshop
GARRISON
3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Members of the Beacon Spring Celebration of Light team will demonstrate how to make Year of the Snake lanterns for a February parade. Registration required.

MUSIC
SAT 11
Sharkey & The Sparks
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Sharkey McEwen, his son Ben and other musicians will perform songs from the 1960s and '70s. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*



Guy Davis, Jan. 17

SAT 11
The Stephen Clair Transmissions
BEACON
8 p.m. Industrial Arts | 511 Fishkill Ave.
industrialartsbrewing.com
The group will play music from its recent release, *Transmissions*.

SUN 12
The Cann Duo
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
The Howland Chamber Music Circle kicks off its annual piano festival with sisters Kimberly and Michelle Cann playing a program that will include works by Mendelssohn, Leibowitz, Bach, Beethoven and Ravel. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

SUN 12
The McKrells
BEACON
6 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band merges American Celtic music with a bluegrass edge. The show was rescheduled from Dec. 20. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

FRI 17
Low Fiction
BEACON
7 p.m. Denning's Point Distillery
10 N Chestnut St.
denningpointdistillery.com
The band will be joined by King in Yellow for a heavy metal show. See Page 14. *Cost: \$10 donation*

FRI 17
Key of Q is Unstoppable
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
The LGBTQ+ a capella group will perform songs of resilience and resistance. *Cost: \$15*

FRI 17
Guy Davis
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The blues artist will play songs from his latest release, *The Legend of Sugarbelly*. Robinson Treacher opens. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 18
The Nelsonvillians
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
Dave and Carolyn Llewellyn, Sandy McKelvey and other local musicians will play sets of original and cover songs. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 18
The Best of the Beatles
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The tribute band focuses on the Beatles' music from 1966 to 1970. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 19
Brickyard Saints
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band will play music from its album *Cobblestone*. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

VISUAL ART
SAT 11
Annual Member Show
GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org
The exhibit will showcase work in all mediums by art center members. Through Jan. 26.

SUN 12
Mary Fetherolf
MAHOPAC
2 – 4 p.m. Mahopac Library
668 Route 6 | mahopaclibrary.org
The Beacon artist will exhibit paintings through Feb. 4.

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SUN 12
Beekeeping for Not-Yet Beekeepers
WAPPINGERS FALLS
2 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org
Learn everything about setting up a hive. *Cost: \$20*

THURS 16
The Devil's Element
MILLBROOK
7 p.m. Cary Institute
2801 Sharon Turnpike
caryinstitute.org
Dan Egan will discuss his book about phosphorus, "a source of great bounty – and now great peril – all over the world." Also via Zoom.



CIVIC
MON 13
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 13
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

WED 15
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Week Ahead edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a full listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

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Low Fiction



Jack Kolodziejski

Photos by Christian Lopez

METAL IN A BLENDER

Low Fiction brings sonic fury from pits of hell

By Marc Ferris

Taking the stage at The Yard in Beacon in October, the metal band Low Fiction flipped the switch from a dirge-like breakdown to a deafening rumble that unleashed a sonic fury conjured from the pits of hell.

The spectators, 60 strong, bobbed heads, convulsed bodies and roared their approval during the quartet's 10-song set. They demanded and received an encore.

Despite declarations about its alleged death, guitar-driven rock 'n' roll remains a conduit for rebellious youth and older folks who cling to the music of their teen years.

“Metal mixes well with other edgy styles,” says lyricist, guitarist and lead vocalist Jack Kolodziejski, who lives in Newburgh but retains close ties to Beacon, where his 30-something bandmates are residents. “We take all our influences — punk, hardcore, metal, alt-rock, stoner rock, shoegaze — throw it into a blender and see what comes up.”

Low Fiction will perform on Friday (Jan. 17) at Denning's Point Distillery in Beacon with King in Yellow.

The group, whose name is intended to be a lowbrow antithesis to the term high art, shares a rehearsal space with several other plugged-in hard rockers at the KuBe Art Center.

On Bandcamp, they identify as “heavy metal,” by now a generic term with a massive tent, although the genre's more commercial acts are often associated with some melody, fast guitar solos, flowing locks of hair and at least semifrequent

chord changes in a quasi-pop song format.

By contrast, Low Fiction's tunes flow like the lazy Hudson in a hypnotic, rhythmically repetitive but deliberate manner. The songs create an ambient ensemble sound before subtly shifting in mood and intensity.

“We're like the Grateful Dead of metal,” says Kolodziejski. “We prefer to keep it pretty laid back.”

Neither he nor Beacon-born guitarist Noah Mandia “shred,” slang for running up and down the neck playing lightning-quick licks. At The Yard, they played maybe three subdued solos in their set.

The collaborative, riff-based compositions drench the guitar sounds with feedback, overdrive and distortion. Even Brian Caprari's bass blasts with an effects-pedal-driven sonic boom.

The lulls provide space for drummer John Scelzo to pummel the skins and cymbals with menace, especially during the song “Dark Ride.”

“At first, I learned to play the right way, with reading and finesse, but I use none of that technique here,” says Scelzo. “The goal is maximum volume and effect.”

The most toe-tapping song, “Break Your Brain,” ended with a breakdown, where bands slow the song's dynamics, then ratchet the tempo and intensity back up or shift into a fast-chord sequence. In this case, the band's sludgy pulse faded to near stasis.

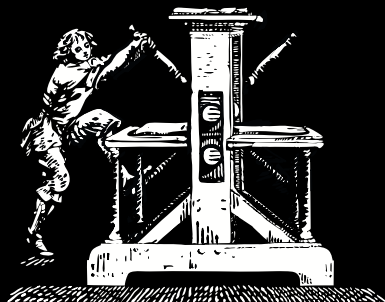
Band members jammed around town with other musicians until the quartet congealed in 2022. They released their first albums, *Dungeon Demo* and *Midnight Demon* in 2023, and an EP, *Vestige*, last year.

Despite working white-collar day jobs, they celebrate the dark side. Songs unfold like horror flicks, and their artwork

features eerie imagery.

“That's the stuff we often talk about, slasher movies and other gory things,” says Scelzo. “Murder and deceit are primal, and it all goes back thousands of years, but we channel it with loud, pounding rock 'n' roll.”

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Denning's Point Distillery is located at 10 N. Chestnut St. in Beacon. The show begins at 7 p.m. and a \$10 donation is suggested. Follow the band at [instagram.com/lowfictionhv](https://www.instagram.com/lowfictionhv) and download music at lowfictionhv.bandcamp.com.

Classic Wheels

1975 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible

By Michael Turton

It never entered John Torzilli's mind to buy the Rolls-Royce.

In 2009, on a tip from a cousin, the Fishkill resident headed to West Virginia to look at vintage cars whose owner had died. "I went there for a 1932 Ford Deuce coupe, but the only cars left were the Caddy and a Rolls-Royce," he recalls. "I wasn't buying a Rolls!"

He did buy the Eldorado for \$4,000, the equivalent of about \$6,000 today.

What does he like about the car? "Everything — it's great for comfortable, relaxing drives," especially in summer with the top down, he says.

The car has 103,000 miles on the odometer; over its 50-year life, that's an average of 2,060 miles per year. The Eldorado was in great condition, and Torzilli says he's purchased only a few replacement parts.

He did update the interior, "which was all orange," he says. "The guy who owned it before me stained it white, but the orange bled through, so I had it redone in orange and white." He tried to find a replacement convertible top in orange but had to opt for white.

In 1975 the Eldorado was available in any of a startling 23 colors. It was also the only new luxury car in the U.S. that year offered



as a convertible. When built, it also was the only car in the world to combine front-wheel drive, power steering, automatic level control and automatic climate control. Other features included a leather interior available in 12 color combinations, AM-FM stereo, power antenna, six-way power seats, power windows and door locks, and white-wall steel-belted radial tires. It is considered a six-passenger car.

The 1975 Eldorado marked the end of the "land yacht" era, a term that wasn't usually meant as a compliment. Luxury cars, including Cadillacs, became smaller as consumers looked for fuel efficiency.

Torzilli hasn't pushed the car beyond 75 miles an hour; he chuckles when asked about gas mileage. "If I'm doing 60, I get good mileage," he says. "But around town, it's lousy, maybe 6 or 7 miles per gallon of high test." That's not surprising, given the 500-cubic-inch V8 engine, four-barrel carburetor and 2½-ton curb weight.

What would he change about his Eldorado? "Nothing," Torzilli says.

When Cadillac announced it would end production of the Eldorado convertible in anticipation of stricter government standards for rollover safety, sales went from fewer than 9,000 units in 1975 to 14,000 in 1976, the



ragtop's last year. The last 200 convertibles off the assembly line were decked out in red, white and blue stripes in honor of the U.S. bicentennial. When the stricter regulations didn't materialize, the Eldorado convertible was reintroduced in 1984 and 1985, although sales were not strong.

The Cadillac Automobile Co. was created in 1902 and produced its first car the following year: a single-cylinder, 10-horsepower Runabout "horseless carriage" that sold for \$850, or about \$30,000 today. The company was purchased by General Motors in 1909.

Cadillac produced 532 first-generation Eldorados in 1953 as a concept car for its golden anniversary. Torzilli's convertible is the ninth generation, and the car had 12 generations before GM halted production in 2002.

The Specs

- Assembly:** Detroit
- Body:** 2-door convertible
- Total Production:** 44,752
- Convertibles:** 8,950
- Engine:** 500-cubic-inch V8
- Horsepower:** 190
- Drive:** Front-wheel
- Transmission:** 3-speed hydra-matic
- Carburetor:** Single Rochester 4-barrel
- Curb weight:** 5,170 pounds
- Top Speed:** 110 mph
- 0-60 mph:** 13.1 sec
- Fuel economy:** 11.8 mpg
- Price:** \$10,350 (\$60,700 today)

NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Historic District Review Board for the Village of Cold Spring will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider the application by Our Lady of Loretto Church, 24 Fair Street Cold Spring, New York 10516 to replace existing slate roof with an asphalt roof as well as exterior changes such as chimney rebuilding and gutter replacement, etc.

The subject property is **24 Fair Street, Cold Spring, New York, 10516**, designated as Tax Map Section 48.8-2-5. The property is located within the ERC Zoning District as well as the National Historic District.

Hard copies of the application materials are available for review in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516, by appointment only. Please call the Village Clerk at 845-265-3611 to make an appointment.

Application materials are also available to view on the Village website: <https://www.coldspringny.gov/historic-district-review-board/pages/current-applications>

Written comment on the application can be mailed or hand-delivered to Village Hall, or emailed to the Village Clerk, vcscerk@coldspringny.gov. Written comment must be received by **Monday January 20, 2025** to be included in the public record.

The public is welcome to join the hearing via videoconference: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85246257150?pwd=SHlaMm5rbTRVaVpVS0F1UzlGeFhwZz09> Join by phone: +1 646-876-9923

Meeting ID: 852 4625 7150 **Passcode:** 005635

BY ORDER OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW BOARD ALBERT ZGOLINSKI, CHAIR

NOTICE

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Pre-K Program:
The Haldane Central School District is beginning the Pre-K registration process for the 2025-2026 school year. Children turning four on or before December 1, 2025 and who live in the Haldane Central School District are eligible for the Pre-K Program.

Parents are invited to attend a **Pre-K Orientation Meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM**. Parents should enter Haldane Middle School through the Main Entrance, Orientation will be held in Elementary Room 117.

To register, please complete the registration packet on our website: www.haldaneschool.org. Click on **Parent Quick Links, Registration** then **Pre-K Registration**. Fill out and submit all of the required forms along with supporting documentation. Please note that the Pre-K program is through a lottery and registration and all documentation needs to be completed by March 31, 2025 in order to be entered into the lottery. Families will be notified if they were selected in April.

Kindergarten Program:
Children turning five on or before December 1, 2025 and who live in the Haldane Central School District are eligible for the Kindergarten Program.

Parents are invited to attend a **Kindergarten Orientation Meeting on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 6:00 PM (2/13/25 Snow date)**. Parents should enter Haldane Middle School through the Main Entrance, Orientation will be held in Elementary Room 116.

To register, please complete the registration packet on our website: www.haldaneschool.org. Click on **Parent Quick Links, Registration** then **Kindergarten Registration**. Fill out and submit all of the required forms along with supporting documentation then kindly schedule a phone appointment with **Tanesha Watkins @ 845-265-9254 ext. 122** between **January 21 and 31 (8:15am-2:00pm)** to complete the registration process.

Parents requiring in person registration or having additional questions should contact Mrs. Watkins directly at 845-265-9254 ext. 122.

How will the proposed Fjord Trail help manage existing and future trail-bound visitation?



Wayfinding Signage

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

will help get people to their destination efficiently



Public Restrooms

maintained by HHFT staff

at Dockside, Little Stony Point, Breakneck, Dutchess Manor and Notch



Trash & Recycling Collection

managed by HHFT staff

at every trail entry and other key locations along the trail



Improved Breakneck Station

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



Visitor Center at Dutchess Manor

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



Shuttle Vans

will reduce traffic and improve pedestrian safety

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



Expanded Parking

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



Technology & Communications

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



Tools to Explore

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

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!
SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENT BY MARCH 4, 2025
qrco.de/ft_hearing



Out There

Time to Focus

By Brian PJ Cronin



The holidays may be over, but we all received one last gift: the light blanket of snow on Monday. Not enough to cause trouble but enough to make everything look pleasing. I took advantage of the stillness of the day to go for a run near Dennings Point and work on my New Year's motto.

I'm done with resolutions. They're too arbitrary and too hard to keep. Instead, I pick a motto. One year, it was: "You have to *want* to do it." I had been battling chronic procrastination, so I focused on the positive. Mustering up the enthusiasm to clean the kitchen late at night is difficult, so I'd focus on how happy I'd be in the morning to not wake up to a sink full of pots and a cloud of fruit flies.

This year's motto comes from everyone's favorite self-help guru, the Nieman Journalism Lab. At the end of each year, it asks journalists and pundits to predict where the industry is headed. One foresees the resurgence of print.

I love print. Perhaps you do, too. Perhaps you are reading this in print. If you are, you can luxuriate in the deep sense of calm that comes from knowing that, at no point during our time together here, will we be separated by a pop-up ad. The newspaper you are holding is only trying to be a newspaper, not a phone, weekly digital planner, jukebox, emergency broadcast service and packed dive bar where everyone is screaming at you.

Print allows for surprise: You turn the page, see something you know nothing about and become fascinated. An algorithm will never surprise you because it will only show you what you already like. Print means you found it yourself instead of waiting for algorithmic tides to wash it upon your social media shores.

If your social media shores are anything like mine, they are increasingly strewn with garbage. They put journalistic institutions on equal footing with influencers and grifters, as if Mark Zuckerberg grabbed your paper and replaced 19 of the 20 pages with memes and AI-generated photos.

It may get worse. This week Meta, the company that runs Facebook, Instagram, Threads and WhatsApp, announced it is getting rid of its fact-checking team. If you read something in print, someone almost certainly looked it over before it went to the printer. On social media, well, "_(:_)/".

In that Nieman poll, Aimee Reinhart, an Associated Press manager, responded: "The coming year will prioritize focus over immediacy." That's my motto. I don't consider myself a pundit, but I feel confident saying a *lot* is going to happen in 2025.

A few people have told me that they plan on tuning out the news for the next few years. I get it, but it only benefits people with terrible intentions. Instead, I'd encourage you to think about ways to



The newly cleared-away outlook over Fishkill Bay

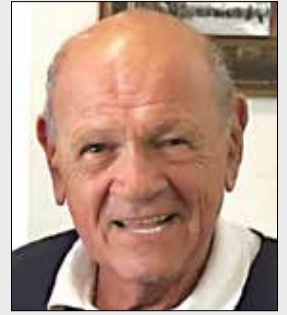
Photo by B. Cronin

engage with the news at a slower pace. Maybe tune out all week and catch up in print on weekends. Maybe it's less social media and more documentaries and long-form journalism. "This isn't about disconnecting from news," said Reinhart. "It's about creating healthier boundaries that let us focus beyond the latest grievance."

The motto doesn't just work for news. It will behoove all of us to make sure we are setting aside time on a regular basis to simply think and process. Maybe it's looking out the window on the train instead of your phone.

Maybe it's a walk or meditation or just staring at the bird feeder for a few minutes.

Or maybe it's the first Monday after the holidays and there's a light snow falling. You go for a run to Dennings Point, without headphones. It's the beginning of the week and there are innumerable tasks that you probably should be doing, but you go out into the cold and the quiet, to the stillness of Fishkill Cove, look out across the water to Storm King ringed with clouds, and stop. The wind softly picks up. Across the cove, a bald eagle spreads its wings and takes off.



Bob McCaffrey
(1943-2025)

Robert "Bumpy" McCaffrey Jr. was born on March 27, 1943, at Butterfield Hospital to the late Robert and Mary (Landolfi) McCaffrey. He was a lifelong, third-generation Cold Spring resident. Robert passed away peacefully on Jan. 2, 2025, at NYP Hudson Valley Hospital. He was 81.

Growing up in Cold Spring, Bumpy spent many years at McCaffrey's, a bar and restaurant owned and operated by his parents at the intersection of 9D and Main Street in the village.

He graduated from Haldane in 1960 and went on to pursue a teaching career at Monmouth University. Bob taught business classes at Lakeland High School for over 20 years before a friend suggested that he obtain his real license. Little did Bob know, this would lead to another long and successful career of entrepreneurship at the well-known Robert A. McCaffrey Realty. Over the years, many of his clients became dear friends to Bob.

Some may not know that Bumpy was an avid philanthropist who contributed to many local charities and organizations that were near to his heart. He served on numerous boards which reflected his profound love for the arts, local history and his church.


Throughout his life, he enjoyed travel, dancing, fine dining, spending time with family and friends and never went out before dressing in his finest attire. In his retirement, he enjoyed sitting on the front porch of his Main Street residence where he would strike up friendly conversations with neighbors. Those who were fortunate enough to know him would often hear him say, "Don't get old, stay young and wonderful!"

Bumpy is survived by many beloved family members and a host of dear friends that will cherish his memory.

Bob was waked on Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., Cold Spring. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Loretto Church, 24 Fair St., Cold Spring. Interment followed in Cold Spring Cemetery.

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Claire Costello (1927-2024)

Claire Costello, a resident of Oak Hill, Florida, formerly of Cold Spring and East Denis, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on Dec. 28, 2024, at home, with her son at her side. She was 97.

She was born on March 24, 1927, in Cold Spring to the late George and Carla Tierney. Claire attended Our Lady of Loretto Catholic School and graduated from Haldane High School, where she was salutatorian. She attended Syracuse University and graduated from Marist College. She was an assistant librarian at the Butterfield Library for 20 years and an organist at Our Lady of Loretto Church for over 25 years. She enjoyed sewing, quilting and a good round of golf with her husband, Joseph.

Claire is survived by her children, Robert Costello and his wife Rachel, and Debra Costello King of Cold Spring, and her grandchildren, Brandon Costello and his wife Teresa and Teresa's daughter Giovanna; Brianna Costello; Melissa Dangerfield and her husband David Sr.; Arthur Head Jr.; Joseph Edward Palmer; and William King.

She is also survived by her great-grandchildren, David Dangerfield Jr, Grace Devo Dangerfield, Kiara Head, Monica Head Sieminski, Gabriel Palmer and Kendal King, and her great-great grandson, Aiden Michael Sieminski.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Joseph E. Costello.

Friends may call on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, from 4-7 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., Cold Spring. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Loretto Church, 24 Fair St., Cold Spring. Interment will follow in Cold Spring Cemetery.

PAID NOTICE



Barbara Jane Perkins (1939-2024)

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Barbara Jane Perkins, 85, who was born on May 21, 1939, in Queens, New York, and passed away on Dec. 28, 2024, at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, New York. Barbara spent her final days surrounded by love and support from family and friends whose presence brought light to our family during a challenging time.

Barbara's life was a tapestry woven with creativity, curiosity and compassion. Her natural talents and boundless imagination fueled her passions, while her thirst for knowledge gave her life depth and purpose. She touched countless lives with her kindness and left an enduring legacy through the many hearts she graced with her warmth and generosity.

As a mother, Barbara guided her children with wisdom and resilience. She taught them that life is an adventure — filled with beauty and trials alike — and encouraged them to embrace its complexities with courage. Her unwavering love and guidance will forever be cherished by her children, Robert, Elizabeth and Sarah Johnson, as well as by her 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind numerous friends who will remember her fondly with loving memories.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Barbara's honor in the spring of 2025.

Barbara Perkins' memory will continue to inspire those who knew her to live fully and love deeply. May we all carry forward the spirit of kindness she exemplified throughout her remarkable journey.

PAID NOTICE

Daniel North (1935-2024)

Daniel North died at the age of 89 on July 11, 2024, in Jersey City, NJ, after a brave and long struggle against lymphoma and Parkinson's disease. He was a gifted writer and editor, a lover of nature, committed to his community, and a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Dan was born in New York City on June 6, 1935. Soon thereafter, his parents, Joseph and Helen North, moved their family to the Mount Airy community in Croton-on-Hudson, NY, joining other socialist and communist writers, artists, and activists like themselves.

Dan stood for social justice at an early age. In his elementary school cafeteria, a bully once told him, "I'm not sitting with any Jews." Young Danny, Jewish by ancestry but raised in an atheist home, stood up and replied as he walked away, "Then, you're not sitting with me." A few years later, he wrote a letter to *The New Masses*, a paper edited by his father, demanding living wages and benefits for professional athletes.

Dan entered Columbia University at age 16 through an experimental Ford Foundation scholarship. While there, he worked on the Columbia student newspaper, *The Spectator*. He graduated in 1955 with a major in anthropology. Apparently, the government was aware that his parents were communists. He was given a permanent military deferment because, first he had "a close and continuing relationship" with his mother and second, he had "a close and continuing relationship" with his father.

After college, he hitchhiked and drove around the United States for four years, working mostly in construction. Once, an African American truck driver took him to his grandmother's house in Chester, PA. Dan went in first to ask if it was okay to bring the driver into the house. He said that this was the only time that his grandmother ever got angry at him; she was offended that he thought he had to ask permission to bring a Black person into her house.

Eventually, he earned a master's degree in anthropology from San Francisco State University and worked as a reporter for the daily *San Francisco Examiner*. To get his next newspaper job, he wrote 100 letters to newspapers across the country, hand-typing on a manual typewriter using two fingers. He got a job at the *Daily Eagle* in Claremont, New Hampshire. His editor there, Nelson Bryant, ultimately became the *New York Times* outdoors reporter and a family friend, regaling Dan's sons with feats such as setting his chest hairs on fire.

While in Claremont, he married Margaret Stoughton, a teacher, and they eventually returned to his childhood home in Croton with their two young sons, Dave and Sam. Dan had a brief stint teaching history in Highland Falls, NY, to sons of military officers from nearby West Point. He said that even if he included some of his progressive views in his lessons, his students parroted back whatever he said!

In 1968, after responding to a help-wanted ad in *The New York Times*, he began working for 1199, the New York healthcare union, as a reporter for *1199 News*, the union publication chronicling the struggles, victories, and everyday lives of healthcare workers in the re-



gion. Later, he became editor. He worked for the union full-time until his retirement in 1999, and part-time afterward. His goal for the union's publication was to focus on the work, the lives and the views of union members. While at the union, Dan helped write and edit *Not for Bread Alone* (Cornell University 2002), a memoir by Moe Foner, an 1199 leader.

Dan remarried in 1992 to Tara Levy, a labor lawyer, and settled in Jersey City, NJ, near the Hudson River. They frequently enjoyed long bike rides in the countryside, stopping to look at birds on their way. They repeated their honeymoon in rural France during each of many summers.

In retirement, Dan pursued two of his great loves, being in the natural world and writing. He frequently walked in the Hudson Highlands, in Liberty State Park and in western New Jersey. He wrote two books about his observations on his walks, *The Slow Walker* (Black Trumpet Press 2011), and *November Sun* (Black Trumpet Press 2017). He contributed a column titled *The Slow Walker* to the *Putnam Highlands Audubon Society Newsletter*. He also taught journalism for fifteen years to working adults at the Center for Labor Education at The City College of New York.

He volunteered for many years at Hudson Cradle in Jersey City, a facility for boarder babies, where he held homeless infants. He also devoted much of his time to supporting people in rehabilitation programs in Jersey City.

Ten years ago, Dan diagnosed himself with Parkinson's disease based on what he read on the Internet, and he turned out to be right. Five years later, he was briefly hospitalized for shortness of breath. As he was discharged, while walking out the door, a physician's assistant suggested, based on his scans, that he undergo testing for lymphoma. Ultimately, Dan elected to be treated for cancer at Memorial Sloan Kettering in Basking Ridge, NJ, near some of his favorite walks. He was treated by all of the staff at MSK with extraordinary kindness and intelligence. After his options for treatment ended, he eventually died in a hospice in Jersey City near his home. During much of his illness, he received kind care from home healthcare workers employed by a New Jersey agency.

Dan was smart, kind and curious, especially about other people. He forgave freely. He will be missed by his friends, community, and family.

In addition to his wife and sons, Dan is survived by his sisters Susan North of Rome, Italy, and Nora North of New York City, and his grandchildren Sage and Theo North, and Tess and Jack Lundgardh.

PAID NOTICE

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
1. Screen star Lamarr
5. Abrupt turn
8. Wild party
12. Half a sextet
13. Equi-
14. Tennis great Arthur
15. Crystal-tapping sound
16. Solicit
18. Funnel-shaped bloom
20. Herrings' cousins
21. Squealer
22. Chemical suffix
23. Montana city
26. Scare badly
30. Buckeyes' sch.
31. Tibetan bovine
32. *Ulalume* writer
33. Dress store section
36. Broadway duds
38. Cat doc
39. Life story
40. Madonna role
43. "Cutie," e.g.
47. Peevish
49. Actor Jannings
50. "No — I!" ("Sure thing!")
51. Quibble
52. Sandwich option
53. "Auld Lang —"
54. Away from SSW
55. Ladies of Spain (Abbr.)
- DOWN
1. URL opener
2. Toledo's lake
3. Force
4. Dairy case buy
5. "Hush!"
6. On the Aegean, say
7. Inherited
8. Tub user
9. China setting
10. Not barefoot
11. Coop group
17. "— It Romantic?"
19. Scot's refusal
22. "A spider!"
23. Jazzy style
24. Exploit
25. Boy king
26. Mas' mates
27. Wall St. debut
28. Dandy guy
29. "You bet!"
31. However
34. ICU hookup
35. Pond duck
36. In shape
37. Hermits
39. Davis of *Jezebel*
40. Actor Omar
41. Quite
42. Lay — the line
43. Nabokov novel
44. Love god
45. — *18* (Uris novel)
46. Right angles
48. Raggedy doll

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

BLAME

STARE

WORDSEARCH

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

SCRUBODESSSA
YEMENIGROANS
ALOMARRANTAT
MANIDREGUPA
TASESUR
MELNEVEADAM
ORANGEEXTTRACT
DADO DREA YE A
YRS SROS
MSG ABETEGGY
RIALTO IDCARD
IMGOOD OUTIEES
SPAWN S NASTY

Answers for Jan. 3 Puzzles
A I R F W H D Y S O
B L A C K B E A R D
M W E E D V R E P Q
J O P R K D T M T U
K E U N U A I T P B
R G A P R S O K K S
R L I I U R A Z I B
P H P P R A R E D M
S M M A Y K E V R E
Z Y P Y V R U C S T

TRACK, CRACK, CLACK,
BLACK, BLANK, BLAND

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

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Sports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — In the annual Battle of the Tunnel game on Monday (Jan. 6), at Beacon, the Bulldogs prevailed, 42-26.

Beacon's full-court press caused Haldane problems offensively, although the Blue Devils cut into a 26-8 halftime deficit to get within 12 points in the second half.

"The message in the locker room at halftime was just that we have to go out and play hard, and they absolutely answered that call," said first-year Coach Scott Timpano. The Blue Devils were led by Marisa Peters with 12 points and Kayla Ruggiero with six.

Haldane (2-4) hosted Hastings on Thursday and travels to Bronxville on Monday (Jan. 13) before hosting North Salem at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday.

BOYS' BASKETBALL — After playing their first four games on the road, Haldane hosted Briarcliff on Tuesday (Jan. 7) but lost, 48-43.

The game was a defensive battle. Briarcliff took a six-point lead into the second quarter and, with less than two minutes left in the half, extended the lead to 11.

Down seven points in the third quarter, the Blue Devils went on a 7-0 run with baskets from Fallou Faye and four quick points from Connor Keegan. The fourth quarter began with Haldane behind by three, 32-29, but the Blue Devils couldn't take the lead. Zane Del Pozo finished with 11 points, followed by Luke Bozsik (9) and Nate Stickle (8).

Haldane (3-2) was on the road on Thursday (Jan. 9) at Pearl River. It will host Rye Neck at 7:15 p.m. on Monday (Jan. 13) before traveling to North Salem on Wednesday.

WINTER TRACK — On Monday (Jan. 6), at

The Armory in New York City, Haldane won the league championship for the first time in school history.

The boys' team finished with 192.5 points, easily distancing itself from Hamilton, Putnam Valley, Croton-Harmon and North Salem. The girls' team also won easily, with 176 points.

The boys had nine first-place finishes: Owen Powers in the 3,200-meters and 1-mile run, Jack Illian in the 1,000-meters, James Frommer in the 600-meters, Milo Pearsall in the long jump, Silas Emig in the high jump and Jake Thomas in the shot put. The boys also won the 4x200 and 4x400 relays.

The girls won five events: Clara Schmitt in the 55-meter hurdles, Ashley Sousa in the 1,000-meters, Anna Nelson in the long jump and Near Selvilla in the high jump. They also won the 4x800 relay. The next meet will be Thursday (Jan. 16) at Arlington.

HALL OF FAME — Haldane High School is accepting nominations through April 1 for its Athletic Hall of Fame. See haldane-school.org/athletics/hall-of-fame.

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

BOYS' BASKETBALL — Beacon opened 2025 with a win, knocking off John Jay East Fishkill, 70-65, on Monday (Jan. 6). Michai Thompson led the Bulldogs with 20 points and Marciano Rodriguez had 19, plus 11 rebounds. Beacon (7-4) traveled to Liberty on Thursday (Jan. 9) and will visit Monticello on Saturday and Burke Catholic on Tuesday.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — Beacon won its third straight Battle of the Tunnel over Haldane, 42-26, on Tuesday (Jan. 7). Lila



The Beacon girls won the Battle of the Tunnel for the third season in a row. For more photos, including from the junior varsity game, see highlandscurrent.org. Photos by Cadence Heeter



Marisa Peters drives against Beacon.



Reilly Landisi takes the ball to the basket.



Fallou Faye scored a basket in the third quarter that started a Haldane run.

Photo by
Skip Pearlman

Burke scored 14 points and Rayana Taylor added 11. Beacon won the junior varsity contest, 34-19.

Earlier, Beacon fell to John Jay East Fishkill, 56-45, on Jan. 2 but recorded a league win with a forfeit by Fallsburg on Wednesday (Jan. 8). The Bulldogs (3-4) host Liberty today (Jan. 10) at 4:30 p.m., visit Marlboro on Saturday, host Middletown at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday (Jan. 14) and travel to Port Jervis on Thursday.

WRESTLING — Beacon placed ninth at the Jamie Mormile Invitational Tournament in Ravena on Jan. 4. Jude Betancourt won the 152-pound class with a pin in the title round, and fellow 152-pounder Caeleb Smith placed seventh. Avery Davis placed third in the 170-pound class and Brody Timm was fifth in the 190-pound class.

Beacon also scored a league win on Jan. 2 over Wallkill, 44-27. The Bulldogs (2-2) took on Cornwall on Jan. 8 and will battle Pine Bush on Thursday (Jan. 16).

BOYS' SWIMMING — Beacon notched its

first win of the season, knocking off Valley Central, 87-82, on Tuesday (Jan. 7). Fionn Fehilly, Gavin Troiano and Kiran Kumar each won two gold medals. The Bulldogs (1-4) will take on Rhinebeck on Thursday (Jan. 16).

WINTER TRACK — At the Armory Hispanic Games on Jan. 3 and 4, Beacon placed fifth in the 4x400 (3:52.23) and fourth in the 4x800 (9:35.64). Elijah Epps placed fifth in the long jump at 18-9.25 and Jayden Mihalchik was seventh in the pole vault (9-0) and ninth in the shot put (36-7).

For the girls, Katherine Ruffy placed ninth in the shot put (25-2) and 10th in the long jump (14-10.5) and Khloe Franklin was ninth in the 55-meter hurdles (10.53). Beacon will compete today (Jan. 10) in the Suffern Invitational.

BOWLING — Both the boys' and girls' squads fell 5-0 to Kingston, each falling to 1-6 on the season. Both squads battled Marlboro on Thursday (Jan. 9) and will take on Port Jervis on Tuesday (Jan. 14).