

The HIGHLANDS
Current



JANUARY 24, 2025

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LIGHT PARADE — Preparations are underway for a parade in Beacon on Feb. 22 to celebrate “the coming spring, lunar new year, light, hope, warmth, renewal and kids,” according to organizers. Participants such as Katherine Dhurandhar (shown here) made paper lanterns on Jan. 18 at the Desmond-Fish library in Garrison; other workshops are scheduled for 1 and 2 p.m. on Sunday (Jan. 26) at the Howland library in Beacon and Feb. 1 at the Newburgh Free Library.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Police Officers Needed in Beacon

Two hires sworn in but shortage remains

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council on Tuesday (Jan. 21) approved the hires of police officers Derek Sherman and Ryan Cross, with Mayor Lee Kyriacou swearing them in moments later.

Sherman, 21, and Cross, 31, will report on Feb. 3 to a 21-week training course at the Rockland County Police Academy, followed by three months of field training with Beacon police. If all goes well, both officers will join a Beacon patrol squad before the end of the year.

Isabella Nocerino, whose hire was approved by the council in August, will grad-

uate Feb. 6 from the Dutchess County Law Enforcement Academy. Nocerino, 21, participated as a teenager in the city’s Youth Police Academy and, throughout high school, the Town of Fishkill police cadet program. She should be on patrol by summer.

Once Nocerino joins the Police Department, which is budgeted for 36 officers, including Chief Tom Figlia, it will have eight openings, with two more patrol officers out with injuries.

(Continued on Page 8)

Trump Pardons Jan. 6 Rioters

At least 10 area men exonerated by president

By Chip Rowe

In one of his first acts in office, President Donald Trump on Monday (Jan. 20) pardoned more than 1,500 men and women charged with participating in the attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, during the certification of Joe Biden’s election win.

Those receiving “full, complete and unconditional pardons” include at least five local men convicted of felonies.

Trump, declaring Monday to be “liberation day,” also commuted the sentences of 14 people associated with the Proud Boys or Oath Keepers and convicted of seditious

(Continued on Page 6)

Shakespeare Housing Approved

Project entails 32 units for performers

By Leonard Sparks

Hudson Valley Shakespeare on Jan. 16 received approval to construct a residential compound for performers and guests that it says will eliminate the expense of housing actors at Fishkill hotels.

After a three-month review, the Philipstown Planning Board approved five buildings that will form an L-shaped compound on the 98-acre property off Route 9. HVS anticipates the 32 units will be ready by the summer of 2026, about six months after the anticipated completion of Shake-

(Continued on Page 7)

Reporter’s Notebook

Tice on Ice

By Joey Asher

Myron Tice is a passionate ice fisherman with business cards that read “Have Ice? Will Travel!”

Thanks to global warming, the 85-year-old Philipstown resident has been traveling



a lot in recent years, trekking as far north as Lake George and Lake Ontario searching for fishable ice.

When I asked Tice to take me fishing last week, I was hoping we wouldn’t have to travel that far. Ice fishing in the Highlands opened Jan. 14 on Canopus Lake in Fahnestock State Park, the first time since the pandemic winter of 2020-21. Park regulations require 6 inches of ice before opening lakes for winter sports.

(Continued on Page 9)



The fishermen on the West Branch Reservoir in Carmel

Photo by Ross Corsair

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: MEREDITH HAIRSTON

By Zach Rodgers

Meredith Hairston is executive director of the Tioronda Learning Center, a preschool at Christ Church United Methodist attended by generations of Beacon children. Her responses are excerpted from an interview for the *Beaconites* podcast.

What has been your path as an educator?

One of my early teaching jobs was at the Corlears School in New York City. My second day there was Sept. 11, 2001. After that year, I was broken as a teacher, so I went home to Vermont to sing “Kumbaya” and light candles. But I wasn’t done in New York City. I went back and took a job working at the Trinity Church preschool near Wall Street and later at The Episcopal School on the Upper East Side.

How did you come to Tioronda Learning Center?

I had my daughter in 2010 and we moved from Brooklyn to Beacon in 2013. I commuted to the city five days a week. It was a grind. I was introduced to Dina Wood, who was running Tioronda and had been for many years. She was a teacher there and a member of the church. Eventually she said, “You should have this.” I became director in 2019.



That was right before the pandemic. You seem to have a knack for starting new jobs just before the shit hits the fan.

Yeah, that’s kind of a thing. It seems to follow me around. I’m getting used to it.

What is the school’s history?

It started as a nursery school and parents’ co-op for the children of employees at the Texaco Research Center in Glenham. The community met on Tioronda Avenue and later moved to the church. We have photos from 1966 and its history probably stretches back well before that. Dina kept the original play-centered learning while adding skill-based learning. It was a structured program, helping those children become ready for the new pressures of kindergarten that even in her time were starting to happen. When I took over, I expanded the classroom space and added an additional room for small-group instruction, as well as for children who qualify for additional services. I hope that I’ve held onto the legacy and carried it on.


What downstream effects did the

pandemic have on children’s development and socialization?

Every child is different, and every family is different, but collective angst is a big one. Anxiety took helicopter parenting to the next level. These things are still very much in our community and in these babies. And the lockdown-era affected behavior. How are children supposed to behave when they’re at grandma’s house? How are they supposed to behave when they’re at the grocery store? How about if they’re all in masks and you can’t see anything under their eyes? If people are deprived of social interaction, or if that’s mostly mediated through technology, we can expect some serious issues.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What’s your favorite hot food during a cold snap?

“My lemon-chicken soup, made from scratch.”



Erin Hunt, Beacon

“Pho — Vietnamese chicken soup; it can be spicy!”



Rey Gonzalez, Beacon

“Chicken potpie, with hot coffee.”



Chloe King, Cold Spring



Wappingers Falls

Soldier's Remains Located

The remains of a soldier from Wappingers Falls who went missing during World War II have been recovered, the Pentagon said on Jan. 21.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency said U.S. Army Air Force Staff Sgt. Eugene J. Darrigan, 26, died when his B-24D Liberator heavy bomber crashed on March 11, 1944, in what is now Papua New Guinea. He was its radio operator. The plane apparently was hit by Japanese anti-aircraft fire.

In 2013, a family member of another missing airman from the B-24D began investigating its possible location and, in 2017, the wreckage was located with sonar. Divers excavated the site in 2023. Darrigan, who will be buried on Long Island, was survived by his wife, Florence, and their 7-month-old son, Thomas.



Eugene J. Darrigan

Putnam Valley

Couple Sentenced for Prostitution Ring

A husband and wife were each sentenced to a year in prison on Jan. 17 for running a prostitution ring through massage parlors they owned in Mahopac, Yonkers and New York City.

Hong Ru "Bruce" Lin, 51, and Kena "Angela" Zhao, 46, each faced up to five years. They were ordered to forfeit \$1.3 million in profits, plus \$69,000 in cash found in their home on Peekskill Hollow Road. During the three years they ran the parlors before their arrests in September 2023, the couple set performance goals for their roster of women.

Wappingers Falls

Counselor Arrested on Drug Charges

After receiving tips, Dutchess County law enforcement on Jan. 14 arrested a drug rehabilitation counselor who was allegedly selling illegal narcotics.

Undercover officers said they purchased crack cocaine from Alvis J. Lewis Jr., 54, of

Wappingers Falls, multiple times before his arrest during a traffic stop. They said Lewis worked the overnight shift at an in-patient treatment facility in Carmel. A search of his home and cars turned up drugs packaged for sale, police said.

Lewis was arraigned on two felony counts for possession of a controlled substance and sent to the county jail without bail.

Goshen

Republican Appoints Democratic Chairs

Kevin Hines, the newly elected Republican chair of the 21-member Orange County Legislature, this month appointed Democrats to lead two of its committees, Health and Mental Health and Human Services.

"That's what government is supposed to be," Michael Paduch, the Democratic minority leader, told *Mid Hudson News*. "It will be great for the county, and it opens up more for better communication."

Carmel

Legislator Sued Over \$40K Debt

A Putnam County legislator has been sued over an unpaid \$40,000 debt.

According to *The Journal News*, Erin Crowley, whose district includes Carmel and Mahopac, borrowed \$40,000 from a friend, Kevin Fitzell, to buy a pontoon boat. They knew each other from the Mahopac VFW. According to court documents, Crowley agreed to repay the loan within a week.

Fitzell sued four months later, seeking to recover his money, plus interest and legal fees. Crowley told *The Journal News* that the lawsuit is politically motivated and that Fitzell refuses to accept payments. Fitzell said he wasn't interested in a payment plan.

Christine Simone, the former chief of staff for then-County Executive MaryEllen Odell, said this week she will challenge Crowley for her seat. Both are Republicans.

Carmel

Legislator Threatens to Sue Rival

Greg Ellner, the deputy chair of the Putnam County Legislature, has threatened to sue Patricia Sheehy for charges she made in a letter to the editor, according to *Mid Hudson News*. Sheehy, a former director of the Office for Senior Resources, challenged Ellner in the Republican primary in 2022.

In the letter, Sheehy accused Ellner of "granting pay raises to himself and other elected officials," the news site said. Ellner countered that he supported a cost-of-living increase for county employees but excluded himself.

"By making and publishing these baseless claims, you have harmed our client's personal and professional reputation and exposed him to public ridicule and contempt," Ellner's attorney wrote Sheehy, according to the news site. Sheehy said she may again challenge Ellner this year for the seat representing Carmel.

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Archipelago

While I am saddened to hear that Tim Chevtaikin is closing his magnificent Cold Spring shop, my only surprise is that he lasted this long ("After 27 Years, Archipelago to Close," Jan. 17). It is a testimony to his excellent taste and artist's eye that kept him in business this long while fighting Amazon, et. al.

Let's face it: All brick-and-mortar shopping has changed since people find it so much easier to use their phones or computers. You can have Christmas every day of the year! Instant gratification is all that matters.

During the time I had my tiny Side Effects shop up the block, I could see how people's brains had become wired differently because of screen addiction. Young people especially would come in, look around and take pictures. I couldn't figure it out since my stuff was cheaper than what they'd find online, plus more unusual.

When I asked them why they were photographing, they said that I had such a nice shop that they wanted to have pictures to send to their friends. I suggested that if they bought something, they could show them the actual item.

In any case, it is the end of an era on Main Street with Tim leaving. He always had the most beautiful windows in every season and his incredible merchandise

never failed to delight me. I wish him the best and thank him for all the beauty and style he brought to Main Street for so many years.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

It's sad how much the village has changed. Tim had the best shop in town. Now there is no reason to visit.

Kim Pitt-Foster Bjorge, *via Facebook*

Tim, you'll be missed. Now write that cookbook so I can buy it.

Michael Casale, *via Instagram*

I wish Tim well — he had a good run. When I opened my shop in Beacon, Flora Garden and Home, in 2015, I quickly realized I could not compete with online merchandise or the Javits trade shows in New York City. Retail shops up and down Main Street started to carry similar merchandise, so I began doing my buying the hard way: visiting flea markets, rural antique and junk shops and working with local craftspeople.

It was a lot of work, but it paid off handsomely because I ended up with a shop full of unique finds. I'd sometimes see people in my shop Google various things and end up buying what was in front of them or, better yet, gush about something they hadn't seen

before. But it isn't for everyone to find products this way. It takes time and you must have a passion for it.

I'd happily do it again, but I don't like to charge ridiculous prices just to pay skyrocketing rents.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

Committee-free

I again wasn't appointed to any committees on the Putnam County Legislature, but I accomplish more by not serving (Jan. 17). Everything is decided behind closed doors [during Republican caucus meetings] anyway. Free from the chaos, I can commit myself to issues my constituents find important.

Legislative time and resources belong to the people. Yet, they spend it on legislation that creates controversy, legislation that cripples farmers, legislation that stifles the public voice, legislation that keeps their documents secret, legislation that chips away at democracy. The new chair and current legislators have served on the Health and Personnel committees for years. Yet, for the past three years, they have failed to heed the calls and proposals from health officials asking for resources to prevent cutting critical programs.

I can focus on programs that benefit the public. This past year, without committee assignments, I've accomplished more for the people — from restoring critical funding to our libraries and arts programs to securing more funding for mental health services to advancing climate initiatives and securing outside funding for failing infrastructure. It freed me up to work closely with our firefighters to secure their tax exemption and collaborate with outside agencies and municipal partners to ensure real, tangible results in getting the resources needed in their communities.

My work extends beyond legislative votes; it's about directly engaging with our communities. I remain committed to the policies that benefit our residents, farmers, first responders, taxpayers and future generations. I remain committed to fighting for transparency.

Nancy Montgomery, *Philipstown*
Montgomery, the Legislature's sole Democrat, represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley.

Fjord Trail

On Jan. 14, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation hosted its public hearing for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS). More than 200 people attended the hearing over two sessions, and about 90 people gave verbal comments. It was a powerful testament to this community's level of engage-

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

ment with the project and in the public process. We know how busy you all are, so we are extremely grateful to everyone who devoted their time to participate.

We heard a lot of positive comments — over two-thirds of speakers expressed strong support for the project. Just as importantly, we heard concerns about specific aspects of the project, and we received some constructive feedback that will enhance the project as we move forward. This is how the public process should work: present information, get feedback, make the project better.

As someone who is new to this community, I was quite moved by it all. The level of understanding of the project, the thoughtful articulation of the project's attributes, including expanding accessibility to our state parks and protecting our landscape's ecological resilience, and the commitment to the needs and aspirations of the community were truly inspiring. I've been involved in several public space projects, in a variety of contexts.

While projects of this type share consistent elements, taking full account of their unique characteristics (including the physical and cultural) is what makes them successful. The Hudson Highlands is a unique part of the Hudson River Valley, with an extraordinary landscape and close-knit communities, and I look forward to continuing to find ways to foster a more intimate connection with it.

I encourage all who are interested to review the DGEIS and share their comments on the Fjord Trail project with NYS Parks during the public comment period, which continues through March 4. Thank you for your interest and engagement.

Peter Mullan, *Poughkeepsie*
Mullan is the president & CEO of Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc.

I was disappointed by the hearing. As Stephanie Hawkins so aptly noted in her comment, many speakers expressing strong support were employed by, consultants to or family members of HHFT. To tout their number here is a bit disingenuous. I would have thought that HHFT would want to know the true feelings and opinions of

community members at this point, not just those of their devotees.

Susan Peehl, *Cold Spring*

Many expressions of support did not qualify as substantive, as laid out by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and the lead agency is bound to assess the relevance of those comments on that basis. The Hudson Highlands is unique and intimate. How do you preserve that uniqueness and create intimacy? By pouring concrete in the river, compromising wetlands, expanding parking, increasing traffic and impervious surfaces and generally placing an unsustainable load on an already-fragile ecosystem?

I'm still waiting to hear how, without budgets and construction bids, HHFT will raise upward of \$200 million to \$500 million over the lifetime of its contract with state parks to pay for the trail when so far it has raised only \$60,000 from individual donors. Is [HHFT Board Chair] Chris Davis going to bankroll the entire cost, using 20 percent to 25 percent of his foundation's assets?

The Hudson River Park Trust, which manages a 4-mile-long park along the river, spends \$30 million a year in operating costs. The Little Island in the Hudson River cost \$260 million to build. Barry Diller and Diane von Furstenberg paid for it and will also maintain it to the tune of \$120 million over 20 years. Mr. Mullan, if you are sincere, how about showing us the money?

Andrew Hall, *Cold Spring*

Immigration

Why is a local politician like Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne appearing on the partisan "news" channel, Newsmax ("Deportation Pressure Begins," Jan. 10)? This serves no purpose to his constituents and only serves his narcissistic interests.

Regardless of whether one agrees with his stances, using Newsmax as a megaphone/dog whistle undercuts any potential progress locally to address these and other serious issues. He should be ashamed, although if he's a regular consumer of channels like Newsmax, I doubt he has the capability to feel shame or the ability to form nuanced legislation.

Harper Sanchez, *via Instagram*

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Thomas Webster (left), of Goshen, was released from prison this week when President Trump commuted his 10-year sentence for attacking police officers at the Capitol on Jan. 6. *FBI*



Edward "Jake" Lang of Newburgh, in a gas mask, stands outside the Capitol on Jan. 6.

Photo by Shannon Stapleton/Reuters

Jan. 6 (from Page 1)

conspiracy for mounting an organized, military-like assault. Because they did not receive pardons, they will continue to face restrictions such as a ban on voting and owning firearms.

More than 700 of the 1,100 people convicted received no prison time or have completed their sentences. But as of this week, about 400 others were incarcerated. At least 387 rioters were convicted of assaulting police officers or journalists, according to a tally by *The Washington Post*.

Rep. Mike Lawler, a Republican whose district includes Philipstown, two weeks ago said he didn't think anyone who committed violence on Jan. 6 should be pardoned. In a statement on Tuesday (Jan. 21), a spokesman said Lawler's stance hasn't changed but that, "as President Biden proved by preemptively pardoning his entire family, the president has absolute pardon authority."

Rep. Pat Ryan, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, said in a statement that Trump had "pardoned insurrectionists convicted of violently assaulting police officers. That doesn't make life more safe for Hudson Valley families."

William Pepe, Beacon

On Tuesday, federal prosecutors asked a judge to dismiss the indictment against Pepe because of Trump's order.



William Pepe removes a police barricade on Jan. 6. *FBI*

Pepe, who now lives in White Plains, was found guilty in a bench trial on Oct. 23 of a felony (obstructing law enforcement during a civil disorder) and four misdemeanors. He was identified by prosecutors as president of the Hudson Valley chapter of the Proud Boys and accused of coordinating with other Proud Boys by radio and moving a police barricade.

Pepe was arrested six days after the riot and fired from his job at Metro-North in Brewster. He had been free until sentencing, which was scheduled for March 11.



Gregory Purdy pushes against a police barricade on Jan. 6. *FBI*

Gregory Purdy Jr., Hopewell Junction Matthew Purdy, Hopewell Junction Robert Turner, Poughkeepsie

A federal judge on Tuesday dismissed indictments against Purdy Jr., a 2016 Carmel High School graduate, and Turner, his uncle.

Purdy was convicted by a jury in June of six felonies. Turner, 42, formerly of Poughkeepsie, was convicted of three felonies. Both were found guilty of assaulting, resisting or impeding officers. Gregory Purdy's younger brother, Matthew, was convicted of two misdemeanors.

The government had asked that Purdy Jr. be sentenced to five years. On Dec. 6, Matthew Purdy was sentenced to 90 days and sent to a detention center in Philadelphia.

The Purdy brothers are sons of Gregory Purdy-Schwartz, a Republican from Kent who in 2016 challenged then-Assembly Member Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose district included Philipstown, for her seat. According to a LinkedIn profile, Purdy Jr.

managed his father's campaign.

"To all the haters out there, President Trump kept his word," Greg Purdy said in a phone call on Monday to supporters waiting outside the Washington, D.C., jail where he was being held, according to *The Washington Post*.

In a court filing after Purdy Jr. was arrested in November 2021, the FBI cited videos he posted on social media and footage retrieved from body cameras worn by two Metropolitan Police Department officers confronted outside the Capitol at 2 p.m. by Purdy Jr. and Purdy-Schwartz, about 20 minutes before the House and Senate chambers were evacuated. According to the FBI, Purdy Jr. told the officers, "You gotta let us by," and his father said, "You're going to make a decision."

Purdy Jr. later posted to Instagram, according to a criminal complaint: "Inside the capital getting tear gassed! My eyes and skin still are irritated! Wasn't as bad as I thought it would be." He promised to post more footage with his brother and uncle from inside the Capitol and to explain "how I got out of it with no charges and nothing on my record and got out of DC without being in a jail cell."

Edward "Jake" Lang, Newburgh

The FBI said Lang, 26, was recorded striking officers' shields with a bat. On Jan. 7, the day after the riot, Lang posted to Twitter, according to the charging documents: "I watched a woman die yesterday in front of my eyes. I saved two others from being trampled and suffocated by Capitol Police. They murdered her and tried to murder many, many more. This is an act of war by TYRANTS against the American people."

He was arrested 10 days after the riot; in December 2021, a prosecutor said Lang had turned down a plea deal with a sentence of up to 6½ years. He has been incarcerated since his arrest; after many delays, prosecutors asked that the trial begin Jan. 27. A judge dismissed the indictment on Tuesday.

Christopher Finney, Hopewell Junction

Finney was arrested in February 2024



Christopher Finney carried a knife into the Capitol riot on Jan. 6. *FBI*

and charged with two felonies and five misdemeanors. He agreed on Oct. 18 to plead guilty to a felony count of obstructing, impeding or interfering with law enforcement, and prosecutors requested a 15-month sentence. On Monday, prosecutors asked a judge to dismiss the case, citing Trump's order.

According to the FBI, Finney was among the rioters pushing against a police line in a tunnel on the grounds. He was recorded saying: "We're gonna storm the Capitol. They're not gonna keep us outta there. We're gonna make sure that this is done correct and that Donald Trump is still our president."

The FBI said Finney was wearing goggles, a protective plate carrier vest with pouches containing plastic flex cuffs and what appeared to be a chemical spray, and a knife in a holster.

Roberto Minuta, Newburgh

Minuta, the former owner of a tattoo parlor in Newburgh, was among four members of the Oath Keepers convicted on Jan. 23, 2023, of seditious conspiracy. He also was convicted of conspiracy to obstruct

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

an official proceeding and conspiracy to prevent an officer from discharging any duties. Trump commuted his 4½-year sentence and he was released from a prison in Texas on Monday.

Minuta, then 37, was arrested in Newburgh on March 8, 2021. An FBI agent testified that he was at the Capitol “equipped with military-style attire and gear,” including ballistic goggles, a radio earpiece and radio, hard-knuckle tactical gloves, bear spray and apparel emblazoned with a crest related to the Oath Keepers. He “aggressively berated and taunted” officers before entering the building.

William Vogel, Pawling

The FBI said that Vogel, 27, recorded himself inside the Capitol and posted the video to Snapchat. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building and was sentenced in June 2023 to 30 days in jail and three years of probation. He has since moved to Albany County.

Robert Ballesteros, Mahopac

Ballesteros, 28, posted a video on Instagram of himself inside the Capitol wearing a black mask. When asked online by another Instagram user if he had been inside, Ballesteros said he had “made my stand.” He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of parading, demonstrating or picketing inside the Capitol and was sentenced in April 2022 to 36 months of probation and 40 hours of community service.

Robert Chapman, Carmel

Chapman, 51, drew the FBI’s attention after a person with whom he interacted through an online dating service alerted agents that he had written: “I did storm the Capitol. I made it all the way into Statuary Hall.” His potential date replied: “We are not a match.” He conceded: “I suppose not.” Chapman pleaded guilty to misdemeanor parading, demonstrating or picketing and in May 2022 was sentenced to 18 months of probation (including three months of electronic monitoring) and 60 hours of community service.

Anthony Vuksanaj, Mahopac

Vuksanaj, 52, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor parading, demonstrating or picketing and was sentenced in April 2022 to three years of probation that included three imprisonments of 14 days each and three months of home confinement. An FBI agent said that police detained Vuksanaj on June 6, 2020, in connection to a robbery at knifepoint. He denied being involved but a search warrant revealed that his phone had been at the Capitol on Jan. 6, the FBI said, and the agency received video clips that appear to show him inside the building.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



A rendering of the 32 housing units Hudson Valley Shakespeare plans to build on its 98-acre parcel in Philipstown.

Shakespeare (from Page 1)

speare’s new open-air theater.

Four buildings — two-story cottages totaling 1,000 square feet each — will have two separate bedrooms with a private bath on each floor, a kitchen and living area off the entrance and 100-square-foot porches. An additional 16 one-bedroom units with kitchens and bathrooms will be contained in a “barn” building with a 1,300-square-foot porch and a common kitchen, dining area and laundry.

Under town law, performers cannot occupy the units for more than nine consecutive months. They will also be subject to quiet hours between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m., a restriction included in the Planning Board’s approval in July of the organiza-

tion’s master plan for the property.

During its offseason, HVS can rent the units to guests for stays capped at one month. Adam Stolorow, a representative for the project, said those lodgers would likely be guests attending weddings at Shakespeare’s property, which includes a banquet hall, restaurant and eight-room inn.


Hudson Valley Shakespeare held a groundbreaking in September for Phase 1 of its master plan, the hub of which is the hilltop Samuel H. Scripps Theater Center that honors the former lighting designer and performing arts patron.

That 13,850-square-foot structure will seat 500 and be the first purpose-built theater in the U.S. with platinum certification by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). It will have a green

roof, solar panels and rainwater capture and be constructed of low-carbon materials. Since 2022, the festival has been staging its plays in a seasonal tent elsewhere on the site.

Phase I also includes a back-of-house facility for actors and technicians, and concessions and bathroom pavilions. The plan allows for 12 additional housing units in a northeast section of the property.

During the September groundbreaking, HVS said \$50 million in private and public funding had been raised for the theater, ecological restoration at the property and financial reserves, with an additional \$8 million needed for the lodging. A month later, Davis McCallum, HVS’s artistic director, said a \$10 million state grant for the theater and other funding had closed that gap.



HIGHLANDS CHAPEL
Home of the Highlands Choral Society

THIS SUNDAY:
TERASINA
HANNA
“GRACE”
JAN 26 @ 11:00AM
FOR WORSHIP
REFLECTION
& SONG


Feb 2 Rebecca Pearsall

Feb 9 Edie Meeks

Feb 16 David Gelber

Feb 23 Kimberly Sabatini

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

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The Hudson Highlands Pipe Band

BURNS NIGHT

February 1st, 2025 | The Garrison Inn

Join the Hudson Highlands Pipe band in a celebration of Scottish music, poetry, good cheer and Haggis at The Garrison Inn in Cold Spring

Tickets are on sale at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
Or scan the QR code



All other inquiries can be made via HHPBinfo@gmail.com



Officer Derek Sherman was sworn in on Tuesday (Jan. 21) by Mayor Lee Kyriacou.



Officer Ryan Cross is congratulated by Chief Tom Figlia.

Photos provided

Police (from Page 1)

Like all law enforcement agencies, the Beacon department has long dealt with the comings and goings of officers, but since 2020 the shortage has grown more chronic, and costly. Officers are retiring soon after reaching 20 years of service, City Administrator Chris White said. At the same time, the city in 2024 paid nearly 25 percent more overtime (\$1,032,233) than budgeted (\$842,233) to meet its contractual agreement with the police union to have at least four officers on each shift. That minimum has been in place since at least 2006, when Figlia was hired as an officer.

Beacon officials have implemented several policies aimed at stemming the tide. In 2023, the council approved a plan allowing officers to "sell back" unused vacation days, rather

than "burning" them, which often forces other police to work overtime to cover shifts. Kyriacou included \$1,000 "retention" raises for all municipal staff, including police, in the city's 2024 budget and, in August, the council authorized additional 5 percent raises for police, an effort to bring their salaries closer to those of neighboring jurisdictions. To boost morale, the city also began renovations Thursday on the police station's locker room and gym, facilities largely unchanged since being constructed in the 1990s.

Last month the council approved another measure, a \$5,000 signing bonus for officers making lateral transfers from the state police to Beacon. A \$5,000 bonus is also available to Beacon officers who refer transfers to the city. The program was authorized for 2025 only but could be renewed if it's successful.

"Our thought was: If we establish this incentive, it helps to offset the imbalance in salaries with some of the municipalities that surround us," White told the council in December.

According to figures provided by the city, a patrol officer in Poughkeepsie reaches the top pay of \$106,414 after four years of service. In the Town of Poughkeepsie, it's \$117,266 after five years. In Beacon, a patrol officer would hit the ceiling of \$98,553

after six years. Last year's 5 percent raise brought the number to \$103,481. It grew to \$106,068 this year with increases already in the union contract.

"We are in crisis," White said. "Unless we get some more bodies in the door, it's really hard to staff."

It's not just Beacon. The New York City Police Benevolent Association reported in 2023 that New York City had 3.5 percent fewer officers than a decade earlier. Statewide, police forces shrank 23 percent, the most in the nation, between 2022 and 2023.

Figlia acknowledged this week that the murder of George Floyd in May 2020 by a Minneapolis officer amplified the anti-police sentiment that had been brewing nationwide since at least 2014 due to high-profile killings of Black Americans by police.

Figlia began investigating complaints filed against Beacon police in July 2020. In that time, he said he has investigated 32 complaints, the "vast majority" of which involved either discourtesy or improper handling of a call, and, in most cases, officers were found to have acted consistently with policy.

Three of the complaints involved use of force, with video evidence showing that officers reacted to suspects' actions, used

reasonable force and acted in a manner consistent with protocol, Figlia said. None of the suspects were injured.

Yet, while only 0.29 percent of the Beacon department's 8,416 calls for service in 2023 involved any physical force, "when a profession doesn't have the same shine on it that it once did, that's going to impact people wanting to go into that profession," the chief said.

Not only is it costly to run a police department short-staffed, it adds logistical challenges. It can be difficult scheduling training sessions, Figlia said, because there aren't always enough bodies to do the training while covering shifts.

And as officers' mental well-being has come under the microscope, a younger generation of recruits "less apt to gobble all that overtime up" has emerged, he said. Case in point: When police investigated a shooting on Mill Street in October, Figlia was called in on a day off to direct traffic, among other responsibilities, at the scene.

White said Thursday that he hopes to soon bring a transfer candidate to the council for consideration. "Having an officer say, 'Hey, I moved to Beacon; it's a great department, we have spaces and there's a sign-on bonus,' might help us get some momentum here," he said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Beacon Man Killed in Rte. 9 Crash

Accident closed lanes in both directions

A 74-year-old Beacon resident was killed in a collision with a tractor-trailer truck on

Route 9 in southern Philipstown on Jan. 17. The crash closed both lanes of the highway for nearly eight hours.

Norton "Chino" Segarra was pronounced dead at the scene, according to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. The truck driver, Glen Cochran, 60, of Milford, Connecticut, was taken to Westchester Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries.

Emergency personnel were dispatched to the accident, just south of the intersection with Route 403, near Graymoor, at 1:30 p.m., the sheriff said.

The New York State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit determined that Segarra was driving southbound when he crossed the center line and collided with the truck. The road remained closed until 9:30 p.m.

Segarra's family and friends will gather on Tuesday (Jan. 28) from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey,



Segarra

2 Beekman St., in Beacon. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, followed by burial with military honors at St. Joachim Cemetery.

Sheriff Launches Autism Program

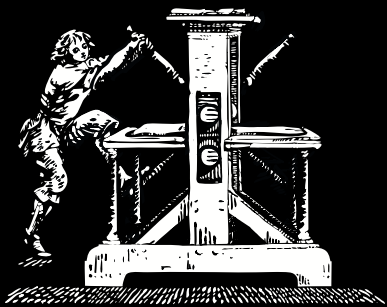
Blue envelopes available to drivers

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office has launched a program for drivers with autism to alert officers during traffic stops.

"There have been some unfortunate incidents where the officer has misinterpreted the driver's movements, or the driver's failure to appropriately respond to requests or to directions," said Sheriff Kevin McConville in a statement.

Drivers with autism can obtain a blue envelope from the Sheriff's Office to store licenses, registrations, insurance cards and other documents that an officer might request during a traffic stop. The envelope will signal that the driver is autistic. To receive an envelope, call Deputy Claire Pierson at 845-225-4300, ext. 42432.

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Depot Cabaret

Feb. 1 at 7pm

Ann Talman presents
Shadow of her Smile

Songs and stories honoring Liz Taylor

Depot Cabaret

Broadway legend Lane Bradbury

Feb. 2 at 3pm

Comedian John Fugelsang

Feb 8 at 7pm

www.philipstowndepottheatre.org



The anglers caught three yellow perch.

Photos by Ross Corsair

Ice Fishing *(from Page 1)*

Canopus Lake anglers last week wasted no time dropping lines and catching yellow perch and largemouth bass. "It's a miracle that we can go ice fishing this year," said Brian Booth, of Millbrook. "I got out three days last year, but it was not optimal."

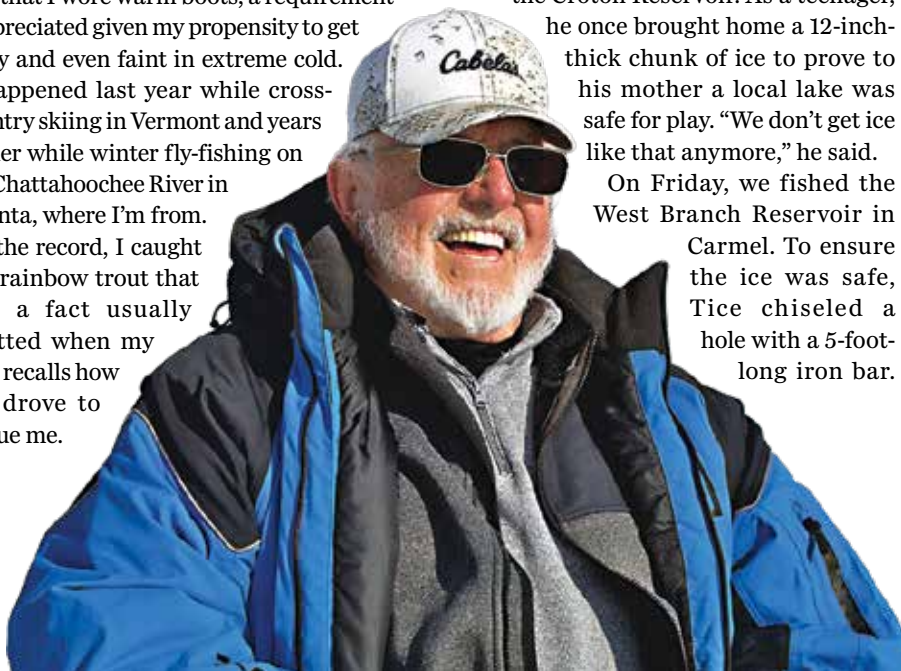
Tice agreed to take me fishing on the condition that I wore warm boots, a requirement I appreciated given my propensity to get dizzy and even faint in extreme cold. It happened last year while cross-country skiing in Vermont and years earlier while winter fly-fishing on the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta, where I'm from. For the record, I caught five rainbow trout that day, a fact usually omitted when my wife recalls how she drove to rescue me.

When I met Tice at the B&L Deli on Route 9 last Friday morning, it was 25 degrees and I was bundled warmly in a battery-heated fleece, long johns, fur-lined boots and mittens stuffed with chemical hand warmers.

"We might not catch anything," Tice warned as I boarded his truck. "There's a front coming that could hurt the fishing."

Tice grew up in Buchanan, ice fishing on the Croton Reservoir. As a teenager, he once brought home a 12-inch-thick chunk of ice to prove to his mother a local lake was safe for play. "We don't get ice like that anymore," he said.

On Friday, we fished the West Branch Reservoir in Carmel. To ensure the ice was safe, Tice chiseled a hole with a 5-foot-long iron bar.



Tice sits with his sled, which reads "Tice on the Ice," his rods and a drill-powered auger.

Four years ago, he fell into Lake Otsego near Cooperstown. "I pressed down with my foot and fell in," he said. The water was over his head. He leaned on the ice and kicked with his feet to get out. Then he drove three hours home, having done no fishing. Tice's wife, Susan, now forbids fishing alone, a rule my wife also favors.

We towed Tice's gear-laden sled to a spot 50 yards from the road. Using an ice auger and a power drill, he made three holes — one for me, one for him and one for the Vexilar sonar fish finder, which indicated we were fishing in 22 feet of water.

The fish finder was an innovation over the other time I went ice fishing, about 35 years ago on a frozen pond in Montrose, near where Tice grew up. Through a friend, I had met a Vietnamese man named Dang who wanted a fishing buddy. Dang spoke little English but was a fine angler. Amazingly, we caught 50 crappies in an hour and then left. For bait, we used white maggots from a local bait shop.

This time, Tice and I fished with maggots he bought online from Ja-Da Bait in Pulaski, Wisconsin. Two bags of 1,000 maggots cost \$40, enough for the season. "I give leftovers to the chickens," he said.

Tice sometimes fishes with eyeballs gouged from a freshly caught perch. The retired

As a teenager, Tice once brought home a 12-inch-thick chunk of ice to prove to his mother a local lake was safe for play. "We don't get ice like that anymore."

union carpenter and construction worker has even fashioned a wooden tool with a metal scooper to do the gouging. For the record, no eyeballs were gouged for this story.

The maggots produced three yellow perch, which we tossed on the ice. I also caught a white perch deemed too small. We dropped it back in the hole. A nearby angler caught a gorgeous 20-inch brown trout. Tice said the biggest fish he ever caught ice fishing was a 2-foot pike on Cayuga Lake in Ithaca.

For lunch we ate perch fillets that Tice made at home. They were fried after being dredged in egg and breadcrumbs with a little salt and pepper. They tasted like fish candy. Delicious.

At 12:30 p.m., we left. "We didn't get skunked," said Tice. "We didn't catch as many as we wanted. But that's fishing."

I was just happy I didn't faint.



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GARRISON INSTITUTE

Father Thomas Keating

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

March 7
9 am-6 pm
14 Mary's Way
Garrison, NY

garrisoninstitute.org

Presenters
Sabina Alkire
Cynthia Bourgeault
Adam Bucko
Cyprian Consiglio
David Frenette
Peter C. Jones
Tenzin Priyadarshi
Colleen Thomas



AROUND TOWN



◀ **LANTERN-MAKER** — A young artist readies her paper lantern during a workshop held in Garrison on Jan. 18. The lights are being created for a parade next month in Beacon; two workshops are scheduled for Sunday (Jan. 26) at the Howland Public Library. *Photo by Ross Corsair*



◀ **EAGLE PROJECT** — Louis Ferreira, a senior at Haldane High School, designed and constructed standing desks for Haldane teachers for his Eagle Scout project. He is shown with Principal Julia Sniffen. *Photo provided*

▲ **STORYTIME** — Corbitt Williams visited the Howland Public Library in Beacon on Jan. 11 to hand out tambourines and rattles and share stories and songs with children and their adults. *Photo by Ross Corsair*



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WINTER EVENTS

Birds Restoration Projects: Worldwide Accomplishments

Lecture by Dr. Scott Silver

Sat. JAN. 25th 3-4pm

Learn how creative strategies are being used to help preserve and protect endangered birds such as Peregrine Falcons, Whooping Cranes, Andean Condors, and more.

FREE EVENT • REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Register: desmondfishlibrary.org/event/bird-restoration-projects/

Located at the
**DESMOND-FISH
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



10th Annual Eagle Watch

**Sat.
FEB. 8th
10am-2pm**

Located at
BOSCOBEL

Bundle up to search for wintering Bald Eagles from the scenic cliffs of Boscobel as experts from Putnam Highlands Audubon help you find and identify these majestic birds. Audubon will have scopes and some binoculars available.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:
boscobel.org/events/eagle-viewing

Half of all registration fees will support Putnam Highlands Audubon Society, whose mission is to promote and protect birds, wildlife and our environment.

The Calendar



"To the South Tower," by Thom Johnson

The Castle and Crier

Exhibit at Howland Center honors two Beacon institutions

By Marc Ferris

At its annual gala on May 15, the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon will honor Phil Ciganer, owner of the Towne Crier Cafe on Main Street, and Neil Caplan, founder of the Bannerman Castle Trust. Plenty of tales will be told, but to get an early jump on the festivities, an exhibit titled *Visionaries* has been mounted at the center through Feb. 23.

Although the show honors "two of Beacon's longest running and renowned

cultural arts and music organizations and venues," according to organizers, the castle gets the lion's share of the space because the island on which it sits is an inspiring setting for artists and photographers. The namesake Bannerman family appreciated art, and two playful watercolors by Jane Bannerman, who married one of the scions, are on view.

The Towne Crier, which has long specialized in rootsy, acoustic-based musical acts, moved to Beacon from Pawling in 2013. An eye-drawing photo on the wall opposite the entrance portrays Pete Seeger smiling onstage.

(Continued on Page 14)



Phil Ciganer in 1974 at the original Towne Crier Cafe in Beekman

Photo provided



The Elm Chamber Ensemble

Photos provided

Sunday Music Series Turns 25

Carnegie Hall quality on the Cold Spring riverfront

By Michael Turton

Barbara DeSilva finds it hard to believe that it's been 25 years since she created the Sunday Music Series at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring.

DeSilva and her husband, Ronald, served on the board of the riverfront venue when the nonprofit in 1996 acquired a George Bozeman custom pipe organ. DeSilva says someone suggested that, because the chapel's acoustics were amazing, it would be nice to have concerts.

"I said I'd do it," she recalls, "not realizing what I got myself into."

While not a musician, she had worked with musicians and composers as a dancer and choreographer. "I had a few piano and classical guitar lessons — good enough to play for kindergarten classes," she says with a laugh.

That first year, in 2001, she scheduled three performances. Over the next 23 years, she estimates there have been about 180 more. "I used to just call everybody I knew," she says. "We got good audiences."

Classical music has been the mainstay, but the series has included baroque, jazz, opera and traditional Chinese music.

The chapel added a piano in 2003. The venue's board had authorized her to bid up to \$20,000 on a Steinway being auctioned in New Hampshire. "We got it for \$10,000," she says. "It was in fabulous condition." The auctioneer was a friend and donated his \$1,500 buyer's fee.

The Sunday Music Series has hosted musicians who have played all over the world. "When they see the chapel, they say, 'Oh, my God, this is my favorite place,'" DeSilva says. "The musicians are always so happy to play there."

She says she is especially proud that the series has endured. "We have not charged an admission fee, but ask for donations," DeSilva says. "It was important to me that everyone be able to attend."

Last year DeSilva turned over the series to fellow board members Yalin Chi and James McCain, who serve as co-artistic directors. "It's great to have two people doing the series," DeSilva says. "It's too much for one."

Chi studied at The Juilliard School, where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees



James McCain and Yalin Chi are the artistic directors of the Sunday Music Series at the Chapel Restoration.

in music before continuing her studies at the Yale School of Music. She joined the West Point Band in 2008 and has worked with musicians and played in venues around the globe, including at the Chapel Restoration.

McCain managed the research program at the League of American Orchestras and now works at New York Public Radio. He has an MBA from Marist University and degrees in music from the Peabody Conservatory and the University of Michigan. He started his career as a saxophonist with the West Point Band.

The former Philipstown residents, who now live in Fort Lee, New Jersey, say they are not concerned about putting their mark on the series. "We're doing this purely for the love of great music and the love of bringing it to the community," Chi says.

"Barbara set up a great series — there's a great audience, and we want to continue that," adds McCain. "We hope to introduce some new performers, but we're bringing back a lot of favorites to help celebrate the 25th year."

"The chapel offers the audience a chance to be up close to the performer," he says. "In return it's also a chance for the performer to have an intimate conversation with the audience."

"It's not like sitting up high in the nose-bleed section of Carnegie Hall," Chi says. "We're bringing in Carnegie-level musicians to Cold Spring."

The Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market St. in Cold Spring, adjacent to the Metro-North station. The 2025 Sunday Music Series will include eight performances, kicking off with Eric Cha-Beach with the Bard Percussion Studio on April 13 and ending with pianist Steven Beck on Nov. 16. See chapelrestoration.org.

THE WEEK AHEAD

COMMUNITY

SUN 26

Lantern Workshop

BEACON

1 & 2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.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.

MON 27

Blood Drive

WEST POINT

11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Ike Hall
655 Pitcher Road
dub.sh/army-drive-2025

Register online. Also TUES 28, WED 29, THURS 30.

TUES 28

Community Housing Innovations

BEACON

1 – 2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Get advice and resources on issues such as buying a home or preventing a foreclosure.

FRI 31

Blood Drive

BEACON

12:30 – 4:30 p.m. Beacon Rec Center
23 W. Center St. | redcrossblood.org

Help replenish the supply limited by weather-related cancellations. Register online or walk in.

SAT 1

Art Sale and Open House

COLD SPRING

1 – 5 p.m. 59 Chestnut St.
dub.sh/key-castle-2025

Paintings by Bill Papaleo, a Key to the Castle art workshop facilitator, will be on view and for sale. RSVP requested by SAT 25. Snow date: SUN 2.

SAT 1

Hudson Valley Wingfest

POUGHKEEPSIE

5 – 8:30 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
famousfoodevents.ticketleap.com

The 18th annual festival will include food trucks, restaurants and caterers bringing their best wings. There will also be live music, entertainment and games. *Cost: \$39 (\$75 for 3:30 p.m. entry)*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 25

Buster Keaton Films

BEACON

5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org

Pianist Tomomi Sato will accompany the silent films *One Week* and *The Balloonatic* at this Classics for Kids program. *Cost: \$15 (free for children)*

TUES 28

Lunar New Year

GARRISON

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

Family Science Night will celebrate the Year of the Snake with crafts involving dragons and snakes. Registration required.

WED 29

Ice Skating

BEAR MOUNTAIN

10 – 11:30 a.m. Ice Rink
3020 Seven Lakes Drive
dub.sh/girl-scout-skate

Join the Girl Scouts for outdoor skating. Register online. Price includes skate rental. *Cost: \$15 (\$5 non-skaters)*

WED 29

Lunar New Year

GARRISON

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

Children ages 3 to 10 will learn about the holiday during story time and make a craft.

THURS 30

Wildlife Wonders

BEACON

4:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Elementary school students can learn about animals with hands-on activities.

THURS 30

3D Perler Bead Projects

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Students in grades 5 to 12 are invited to create 3D shapes and figures.

VISUAL ART

SAT 25

Evergreen Minds Workshop

BEACON

10:30 a.m. Dia Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-231-0811 | dub.sh/evergreen-dia

The nonprofit will host a workshop for people living with dementia and their caregivers focused on creative responses to works by Andy Warhol. Register online. *Free*

SAT 25

Steve McQueen Symposium

BEACON

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dia Beacon
3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811
diaart.org

Throughout the day, Solveig Nelson, Michael Veal, Zoë Hopkins and Stanley Wolukau-Wanambwa will discuss McQueen's immersive installation, "Bass." *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students, disabled visitors, \$5 ages 5 to 11, free for Beacon residents)*



SAT 1

Figure Draw-a-Thon

GARRISON

11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Drop in or stay all day at this fundraiser. Bring supplies. Ages 18 and older. *Cost: \$80*

SAT 1

Black and White

COLD SPRING

3 – 5 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
123 Main St. | busterlevigallery.com

The group show will showcase work by 15 artists using monochromatic colors. Through Feb. 23.

TALKS & TOURS

SUN 26

Collage Your Troubles Away

BEACON

10:30 a.m. Beahive | 6 Eliza St.
845-418-3731 | bit.ly/beahivecollage1-25

Work with paper, images and textures to release stress and anxiety. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 26

What is Fascism?

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Via Zoom | magazzino.art

To commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Pieranna Cavalcini will discuss Fabio Mauri's performance piece from the 1970s. The lecture is sold out but will be broadcast on Zoom and YouTube.

THURS 30

Bike Story Night

BEACON

6 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery
7 E Main St.

Share a memorable story that involves a bike at this program hosted by the Beacon Bicycle Coalition.

FRI 31

Cynthia Weiner

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

For the launch of her novel, *A Gorgeous Excitement*, the author will be joined by Julia Dahl to discuss growing up in the 1980s.

SAT 1

Jodi Fernandez

GARRISON

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

Fernandez will read from her memoir, *Elevators: A Bronx Girl's Tale*, in which she describes growing up in the projects during the crack epidemic.

STAGE & SCREEN

WED 29

The Price is Right Live!

POUGHKEEPSIE

7:30 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org

This stage show based on the television game show will include participation by audience members. *Cost: \$45 to \$171*

FRI 31

White Dog

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

The Reel Talk series will kick off with Samuel Fuller's 1982 film exploring racism through a dog that is trained to attack Black people. A discussion will follow.

SAT 1

Aida

POUGHKEEPSIE

12:30 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St. | bardavon.org

Watch the Met HD livestream of Verdi's opera with soprano Angel Blue as the Ethiopian princess. *Cost: \$30 (\$28 members)*

SAT 1

Depot Cabaret: Ann Talman

GARRISON

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

For her cabaret show, *The Shadow of Her Smile*, Talman will share stories and songs about her long friendship with Elizabeth Taylor. *Cost: \$30*

SUN 2

Depot Cabaret: Lane Bradbury

GARRISON

3 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

In her cabaret show, Bradbury will talk about her role in the original production of *Gypsy* and other recollections. *Cost: \$30*

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 25

Bird Restoration Projects

GARRISON

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

Conservation biologist Scott Silver, who lives in Philipstown, will discuss global efforts to protect and restore endangered bird populations in this program presented with the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society.

SAT 1

EagleFest

CROTON

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Croton Point Park
1 Croton Point Ave.
teatown.org/events/eaglefest

There will be bird shows, bird walks and opportunities to learn about eagles throughout the day. Snow date: SUN 2. *Cost: \$35 (\$20 children, \$30/\$17 members)*

MUSIC

SAT 25

Delia Starr

COLD SPRING

3 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

The Haldane High School student, a two-time recipient of the Young Composers Award from the New York State School Music Association,

will perform a program on piano of her compositions, as well as those by Gershwin, Lecuona and Mozart. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 25

Alexis P. Suter Band

BEACON

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

The band plays a blend of blues, rock and soul. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 25

Marsh King's Daughter

BEACON

8 p.m. Industrial Arts | 511 Fishkill Ave.
industrialartsbrewing.com

The local jam band will perform.

SUN 26

Chaeyoung Park

BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org

The Howland Music Circle's piano festival continues with Park's program of Vivaldi, Mendelssohn and Unsuk Chin. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

SUN 26

Arun Ramamurthy Trio

BEACON

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

With Damon Banks on bass and Sameer Gupta on drums, the group plays a blend of Raga music and jazz. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*



Chaeyoung Park, Jan. 26

THURS 30

Invisible Collage

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Beahive | 6 Eliza St.
845-418-3731 | bit.ly/soundsalon1-25

The duo will perform an Immersive Sound Salon with electronic, acoustic and handmade instruments. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 31

New York Noise

BEACON

7 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | theyardbeacon.com

Paul Beladino, the Dirt Bikes and Buoy George will play sets. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 31

Cliff Eberhardt

BEACON

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

The singer will play songs from

his latest release, *Knew Things*, and be joined by Vance Gilbert. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 1

Saint Rita: Lost and Found

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

Kelly Ellenwood (vocals), Kathleen Bosman (violin/viola) and Stephen Clair (guitar) will play the music of Edith Piaf and Kurt Weill. *Cost: \$20*

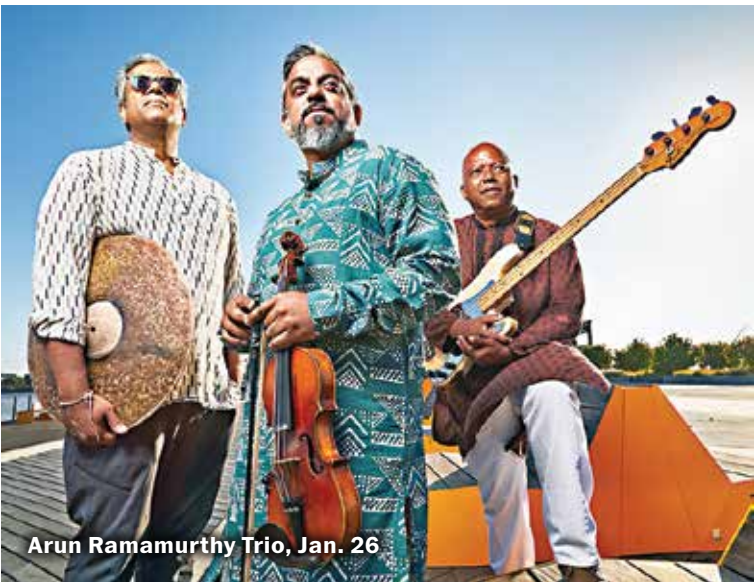
SAT 1

DizzyFish and the Uptown Horns

BEACON

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

Singer and guitarist Eric Herbst will celebrate his birthday at the



Arun Ramamurthy Trio, Jan. 26

show as the band plays the best of 1970s rock. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

SUN 2

Genticorum

BEACON

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

The folk band from Quebec will play traditional music. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

CIVIC

MON 27

City Council

BEACON

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

MON 27

School Board

BEACON

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

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

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.

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The Artist Next Door

Martha Ferris

By Marc Ferris

"Once Upon a Time in Palestine," a painting by Martha Ferris included in the member show at the Garrison Art Center that ends Sundsy (Jan. 26), is pleasant enough: A woman tends to an olive tree with gnarled trunks set against a bright pink and yellow background.

Other works in the artist's latest series are more ominous. The colors remain vibrant but the trees are on fire beneath a hazy orange sky and bear no fruit. Another piece in her Philipstown studio features dozens of silhouettes where people and animals migrate to the left of the frame against another flaming backdrop. Subjects walk, bicycle, ride in a tractor and push a wheelbarrow as a donkey pulls a cart.

"It's hard to live in the world and not be political," says Ferris (no relation).

Like many artists, Ferris often creates a series and, when tired of zigging, she zags. Her career features many media and subject matter switchbacks. In 2023, a solo show at Fischer Galleries in Jackson, Mississippi, her home state, featured bright, bucolic scenes around her hilltop home and garden in New York.

Beyond visual arts, Ferris pursued acting in Los Angeles, appearing in the film *Monaco Forever* and in episodes of *L.A. Law* and *Hill Street Blues*. She and her husband, writer Kos Kostmayer, lived on her family's farm near Vicksburg for 28 years.

In 2018, after selling the place (which also inspired a series of paintings), the couple intended to move to New York City to be closer to family but thought they would get more value in the suburbs. The house they bought, "which needed a lot of work," sits atop a ridge in Philipstown.

Adopting a grab-bag of styles and approaches, Ferris's artistic statement relates her commitment "to a program of continuous experimentation and constant change." In one corner of her studio, a black background with a pointillist image dabbed in white ink depicts Kostmayer. A close-up of a flower focuses more on texture than precision. In contrast, another painting in her foyer showcases the family farm



Martha Ferris in her Philipstown studio

Photo by M. Ferris



"Once Upon a Time in Palestine"

with sharp detail.

The series depicting her home and environs is sunny and upbeat. One work, "The Bedroom," looks askew in part because of its perspective (the burgundy floor seems to be tilted) and the contrast between the blue bed, an orange wall and a colorful rug. Even the glass-enclosed shower gets a painting, and there are lots of trees, flowers and shadows rendered in fine lines.



"Woods in Snow"

Ferris has achieved a degree of fame in the Magnolia state, receiving an award in the visual arts from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. She also designed two mosaic splash pools at the Mississippi Museum of Art and several of her murals hang in public places around Vicksburg.

As another testament to her versatility, an installation at the McWillie School consists of acrylic and enamel on steel and

seven panels for the Mill Street Project are made from fired porcelain on steel.

Other examples of artistic whipsawing include pastels, dyed fabric, monotype prints, encaustic wax paint creations and modernistic cityscapes featuring stark shapes and patterns.

Asked amid all that to define "the real Martha Ferris," she pauses, then says: "I'm all of the above."

Howland (from Page 11)

Judging from the 20 or so posters from the mid-1970s, Leon Redbone, Jay Ungar, Chris Smithers and the Wretched Refuse String Band performed often. In 1976, they charged \$3 admission, or \$3.50 for "special shows" (the equivalent of \$17 to \$19 today). The calendars contain groovy graphics and the modest display evokes the post-hippie years.

Most of the more serious works depict some aspect of Pollepel Island, used by the Bannerman family as a storage facility for their military surplus business. Several photos and paintings captured the castle

before a series of collapses in 2009 and 2010 claimed a significant portion of the building.

Laurie Clark at the Bannerman Trust put out an open call to artists for the exhibit and received a broad response. Some items, like the Jane Bannerman paintings, come from the Trust's collection. Founded in 1993, it brings artists to the island so they can comb for inspiration, helping to build a trove of work throughout the Hudson Valley.

The exhibit is almost split between painters and photographers, some of whom rendered their subjects with an impressionistic lens, including oils by Cynthia Dill, watercolors from Susan Hennelly and

pastels by Susan Story and Beacon-based Andre Junget.

Some paintings look like photos, including Patricia Collins Broun's "Bannerman Tower" and "Looking South from Bannerman," by Kristen Lowe. In contrast, many of Alec Halstead's large photos resemble manual works, in part because they're printed on canvas. In a stark piece on aluminum that contrasts with his more colorful photos, swirls of lightning add a creepy effect.

Thom Johnson's two black-and-white pictures look like mirror images. Sandra Belitza-Vazquez took advantage of light in

her three works and manipulated photos by Mary Ann Glass convey ethereal skies as the buildings seem to lean and strike off-kilter poses.

The singular work in the show is a white 3-D printed portion of the castle's portcullis, the first piece in a planned re-creation of the entire island and its buildings rendered in what Beacon artist Brandyn Yeoman calls a "mixed-media model."

The Howland Cultural Center, at 477 Main St. in Beacon, is open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. See howlandculturalcenter.org.

Reviving Reefer Madness (The Musical)

Beacon actors working on returning show to stage

By Marc Ferris

In 2001, after *Reefer Madness: The Musical* had run for nearly two years in Los Angeles, its actors and backers built up big expectations for the show's off-Broadway premiere. Then, four days before curtain, 9/11 happened.

"All of a sudden, a comedy about questioning and criticizing authority lost its vibe," recalls Christian Campbell, who created the lead role of Jimmy Harper on stage and later screen.

Now, with recreational marijuana legal in many parts of the country (including New York) and lampooning business and government figures a staple of the entertainment world, Campbell is part of a production group eyeing a revival.

"We have horses running in New York and London and look to line up investors," he says. "This is *the* most relevant show out there, by far. It's based on a kitschy film, but it's really about misinformation and propaganda."

Campbell and his sister, Neve Campbell, are third-generation actors. He's married to actor America Olivo, who is also helping to revive the musical, along with actors Alan Cumming and Kristen Bell, director Andy Fickman and Dan Studney, who wrote the book and music.

The song-and-dance version of *Reefer Madness*, originally a campy, preachy 1936 film about the dangers of cannabis that developed a cult following, opened in 1998 in Los Angeles. Its ill-fated New York run in 2001 lasted only a few weeks. Four years later, Showtime aired *Reefer Madness: The Movie Musical*, also starring Campbell.

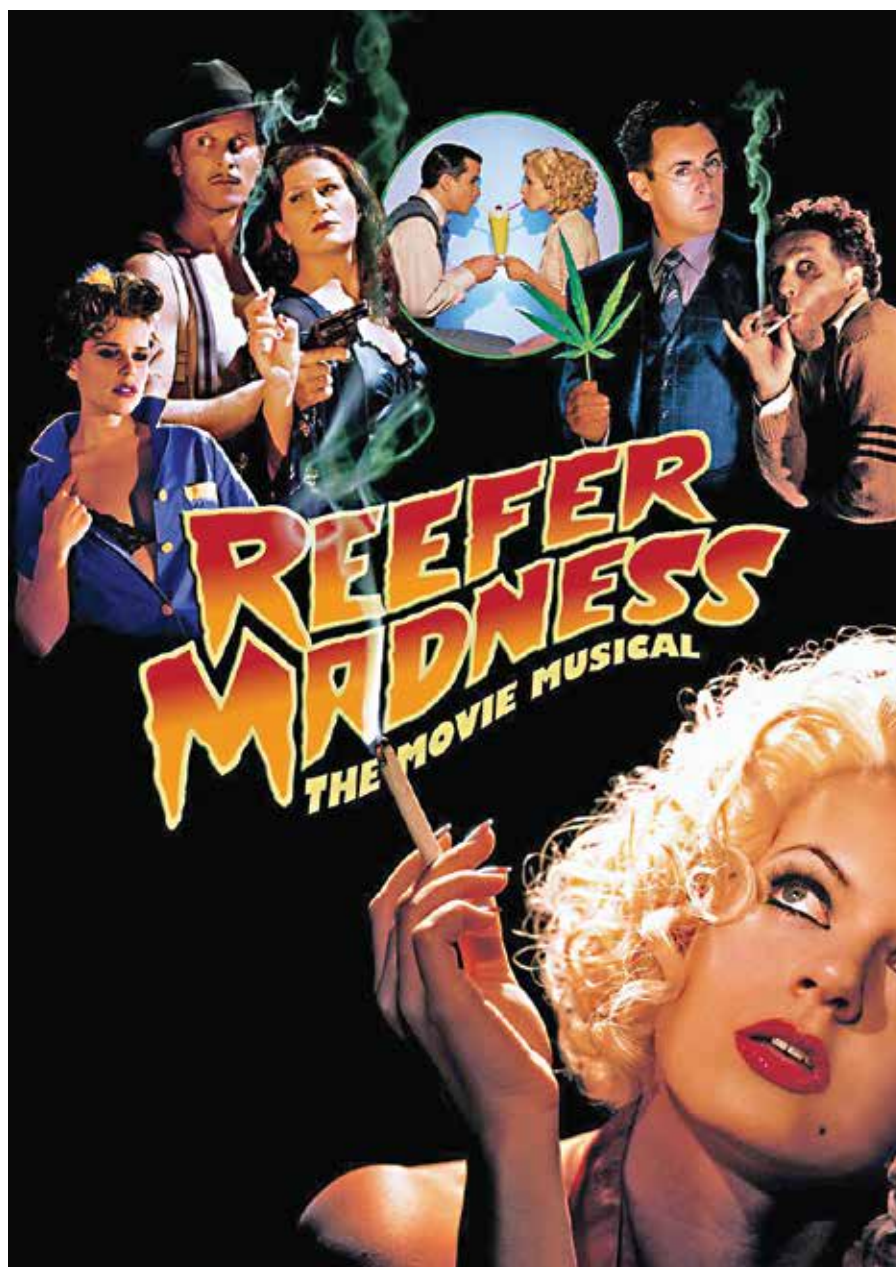
In 2014, the movie cast reunited to support the BabyQuest Foundation, a nonprofit that helps couples with fertility treatments. Campbell and Olivo had difficulty conceiving a child, but five years ago a "miracle baby" arrived.

The couple, who got engaged two weeks after meeting, moved north from Hell's Kitchen on a whim in 2016. "We kept hearing about Beacon at parties and planned to visit Dia," Campbell says. "Four hours after arriving, we put an offer on the place. So far, we've done well with our eye-blink decisions."

Taking advantage of the shift in current events and the 25th anniversary of the initial play's awards, a new cast in 2024 revived *Reefer Madness: The Musical* in Los Angeles, where it ran for four months. A soundtrack album was released on Jan. 10 (see reefermadness.com).

For the moment, Campbell has paused his thespian career, which included most recently the lead in Beacon resident Jeremy Schonfeld's *The Father Who Stayed* and a year on his mother Marnie Neve's favorite soap opera, *All My Children*, as the fourth incarnation of Bobby Womack.

"We laugh at the fact that a character can



A poster for Showtime's *Reefer Madness: The Movie Musical* (2005)



America Olivo, Marnie Neve, Christian Campbell and Neve Campbell at the opening of *Reefer Madness: The Musical* in Los Angeles in May 2024

Photo by Jeffrey Mayer / Alamy

disappear for a long time without explanation and just come back as a completely new person who doesn't even resemble the actor that previously played the part," he says. "My guy had blond hair and blue eyes and one day he went up into the attic to get some ski equipment and never came down. Years

later, he magically reappears — as me."

Acting on a soap opera, he says, is "one of the hardest gigs there is — I gained new respect for the craft. You have to turn water into some form of wine. It may taste like Manischewitz in the end, but at least it's better than before."

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LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

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

150 Years Ago (January 1875)

When a 54-year-old employee of the Glenham Company died, it was discovered he had \$8,000 [about \$230,000 today] on deposit at five banks in New York City. He left the money to his sister's children in Ireland except for \$100 [\$2,900] bequeathed to his landlady.

Although navigation on the Hudson River stopped on Jan. 4 because of the ice, the ferry was still running between Newburgh and Fishkill Landing.

In a single day, Thomas N. Avery & Co. shipped 815,000 paper bags from its factory in Fishkill Landing.

The Rev. Jabez Marshall, pastor of the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Matteawan, answered a call to lead the church at Ludingtonville, a hamlet in the Town of Kent.

The "arithmetic man" at the *Newburgh Journal* calculated the distance between the Newburgh dock and Dutchess Junction as 2 miles and 22 feet. The distance between the Dutchess Junction and Fishkill Landing train stations was 1.57 miles.

William Morgan, who had been arrested at the Fishkill Landing depot for stealing a \$50 government bond, was sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Nathaniel Cerine of Matteawan lost his brood of Dorking hens to thieves.

The Matteawan Fire Department called a community meeting to explain its need for a steam fire engine. Two factory owners pledged \$1,000 [\$29,000] and residents raised \$800 [\$23,000]. Mr. Alden of the rubber works at Wiccopee donated \$300 [\$8,600] and offered to provide the hose at cost.

Justice Barnard refused to sanction a disciplinary plan adopted by the Fishkill school board, saying he objected to sending misbehaving students to jail or the poorhouse but was open to other places of confinement.

Diphtheria killed several Matteawan residents.

Dewitt Hall was seriously injured while crossing Mountain Lane when he was run down by a sled.

An early morning fire at Melham's in Matteawan destroyed \$5,000 [\$143,000] worth of shoes.

125 Years Ago (January 1900)

After a three-day trial, a jury ruled that Mrs. Lillian Ash of Fishkill Landing had to pay \$15,000 [\$564,000] in damages to Malvina Prunier of Vermont for alienation of the affections of Frederick Prunier, 32. She had asked for \$75,000 [\$2.8 million]. According to the *Vermont Phoenix*, Frederick Prunier was a nurse who cared for William Campbell, a wallpaper manufacturer, during his last days. In his will, Campbell left nearly \$1 million [\$38 million] to Ash, who had been his housekeeper and whom he had hoped to marry, if he could persuade her husband to divorce her. Prunier was arrested for non-support and allegations he attempted to kidnap one of his children but successfully appealed to Gov. Theodore Roosevelt to avoid extradition to Vermont.

Mr. Oakes, the photographer, and his wife welcomed a 12-pound baby girl.

According to the *Fishkill Standard*, August Dondero, a "relic hunter" in Matteawan, purchased a black walnut and brass piano from James McIlravy of Cold Spring. Made by J.H. & M. Leib of New Haven and New York around 1785, it was formerly located in the Longfield House on Market Street in Cold Spring. Inside the piano, Dondero found a photo of Mr. Longfield and a page of sheet music from 1819 entitled "Mountain Belle Schottische."

"Washington Crossing the Delaware," a poem by J. Hervey Cook of Fishkill Landing, was expected to be published as a book with illustrations.

Charles Taylor, a dog breeder in Matteawan, sued the American Express Co. for \$800 [\$30,000] for the loss of two Scotch collies, Beacon Chief and Beacon Flossie. After competing at a Pittsburgh dog show, he shipped them home. One arrived dead and the other died the next day, he said, allegedly because they had been delayed in transit and not fed. Taylor said he had paid \$350 [\$13,000] for Beacon Chief but American



Express argued the dog had no market value. "I have always held that a dog is property," said Judge Barnard, who heard the case. "You can't separate a dog from man; they have been together since the world began."

According to the *Fishkill Herald*, a Matteawan businessman showed promise as a competitive pedestrian by walking to Cold Spring and back in a "remarkably quick time" to win a wager.

After six stays over four years, Edward Clifford lost his last appeal when the governor declined to commute his death sentence. The former railroad detective in 1895 had captured the infamous train robber Oliver Curtis Perry, who was sent to the Matteawan asylum for the criminally insane. A year later, Clifford was fired for being drunk on duty and responded by killing his supervisor. Friends said he started drinking only after receiving a \$1,500 [\$56,000] reward for catching Perry.

100 Years Ago (January 1925)

Robert Kent Jr. failed to appear for his retrial on charges he slapped and knocked down a Beacon attorney, Robert Doughty, during a deposition. After a court-ordered psychiatric exam, Kent was sent to the Matteawan asylum. Two doctors found him to have "an exaggerated ego to a great degree" and a belief that people were conspiring against him.

Stanley Jakubiel, 21, who had attended St. Joachim's School before leaving for college, died of injuries sustained in a car accident in New Jersey. Riding with six friends, he was ejected during a collision at 1 a.m. on New Year's Day.

Harry Malone, the editor and publisher of *The Yonkers Record*, died at his home of pneumonia at age 42. The Matteawan native moved to Yonkers in 1904 to become a reporter for *The Yonkers Herald*. Eight years later, he founded *The Record*, which published on Sundays.

The Mount Beacon Incline Railway said it would take people up the mountain on the morning of Jan. 24 to view the total solar eclipse. At St. Joachim's Church, meanwhile, Alice Devine and John Branigan were married at 9 a.m. during the two minutes of darkness.

Dutchess County requested the extradition of Murray Robinson, a former Beacon resident who was in custody in Virginia. Edward Phalen alleged that he sold Robinson a car on a conditional bill of sale until the title was transferred but that Murray drove it out of state. After Phalen traveled to Richmond and had Robinson detained, the suspect sued him

Beacon Crossings

An exhibit at the Beacon Historical Society that continues through March highlights the city's bridges, including crossings at East Main Street, Churchhill Street, Wolcott Avenue, Long Dock Park and Dennings Point, as well as the historic Tioronda and Bridge Street/Groveville bridges and two former railroad bridges at Sucker Falls and Rocky Glen. Shown here are some of the 315 local men who worked during the Great Depression to build the Wolcott Bridge, notable for its Egyptian and Art Deco motifs. Completed in 1933, it was nicknamed the Cooperation Bridge because it required a partnership between the city and state. The historical society, at 61 Leonard St., is open from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursdays and 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. See beaconhistorical.org.

for \$50,000 [\$900,000] for false arrest.

John Austin, 40, was critically injured after being crushed under a henhouse that he was attempting to move by himself. He was found unconscious and taken to the hospital with several broken ribs and a punctured lung.

Alfaretta Stevens sued her estranged husband, George Stevens, the owner of the North Avenue Garage, for non-support. On the stand, Stevens admitted he earned \$9,000 [\$162,000] annually and had \$90,000 [\$1.6 million] in the bank.

75 Years Ago (January 1950)

Mrs. and Mrs. Percy Sweet spent the holidays with their son, Birdsall, 32, at Vassar Hospital in Poughkeepsie, where he was confined to an iron lung because of infantile paralysis [polio] contracted in Beacon when he was 13. He had been able, until May 1949, to attend movies and tour the hospital grounds in a wheelchair but always had to return to the lung to sleep. [When Birdsall died in April, after nearly 19 years living with polio, *Time* published an obituary: "Through most of his ups and downs, Birdsall Sweet kept his spirits high, learned to make the best of his ironclad life. He learned checkers, chess and cards, dictating his plays to a nurse. He followed baseball avidly, improved his bridge with the help of visiting Vassar girls. He read, with a nurse turning every page, and worked his eyes so that he soon had to have strong glasses. Last

(Continued on Page 17)

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Garrison Art Center

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(Continued from Page 16)

year he learned canasta.”]

A 16-year-old passenger who injured his nose in a car crash was awarded \$350 [\$6,300] in damages from the other driver. A Brooklyn police officer charged with manslaughter for killing his uncle, who was dying of throat cancer, was declared insane and sent to the Matteawan asylum.

Francis “Dutchy” Farmer, 48, was fatally injured on Route 9D when the car in which he was a passenger collided head-on with a taxi and he went through the windshield.

Augustus Bopp, a patrol officer with the Beacon Police Department for 37 years, was honored with a retirement dinner at the Whitestone Hotel.

Beacon Motors, at 285 Main St., held daily drawings for a 50-gallon gas card for customers who stopped by to see the new Dodge and Plymouth models.

A 2-year-old boy died in a fire on Meade Avenue. He was being watched by his aunt while his parents worked when a kerosene-burning kitchen range exploded. The aunt, outside getting water from the well, could not reach the bedroom where he was sleeping.

A Smith Street man was arrested for driving 65 mph in a 25-mph zone on Fish-kill Avenue.

A 95-year-old South Cherry Street woman injured her foot and ankle when she was knocked down at Main and Hamilton streets. The driver said her foot slipped off the brake as she was making the turn.

Dr. C. Jonathan Slocum, a psychiatrist who co-founded the Craig House sanatorium, died at age 76. He and Dr. Robert Lamb purchased Gen. Joseph Howland’s estate, known as Tioronda, in 1915.

50 Years Ago (January 1975)

John Raymond, a school board member, said he was opposed to any measures, such as busing, to balance the “alleged racial imbalance” of the city’s elementary schools unless there was evidence it was harmful to learning.

Beacon’s Hall of Fame Inventor

George Judson, a Beacon native who co-created the continuous-flow blood separator, will be inducted on May 8 into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, the group announced on Jan. 15.

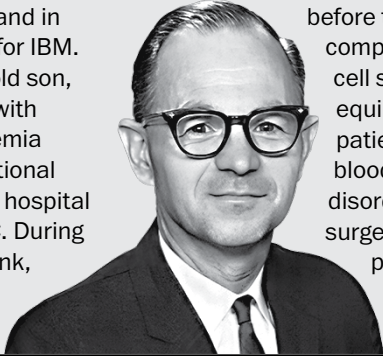
Judson (1918-1992) is one of 17 inductees in the 2025 class. The awards are presented in partnership with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

After growing up in Beacon, Judson studied civil engineering at the University of Kansas and in 1952 began working for IBM. In 1962, his 17-year-old son, Tom, was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia and admitted to a National Cancer Institute (NCI) hospital near Washington, D.C. During a tour of the blood bank, Judson noted the

cumbersome process of removing and replacing white blood cells in patients and envisioned a simpler and quicker method with continuous flow.

He took his idea for a machine that would separate blood’s components to Dr. Emil Freireich, director of the leukemia program at NCI, and IBM gave him a year’s paid sabbatical to develop a prototype. Freireich, who died in 2021, will also be inducted May 8.

Tom Judson died in 1964, before the machine could be completed. But today, blood-cell separators are standard equipment to treat cancer patients, burn victims, blood and bone marrow disorders and during heart surgery. Before the machine, patients could only receive whole blood.



Glenn Houghtalin, 32, a Republican who represented Beacon on the Dutchess County Legislature, was elected chair, deposing the incumbent Republican, George Reid, in a 22-12 party-line vote. Reid’s supporters and the Democrats had pushed for a secret ballot but failed on a 19-16 vote.

The Beacon council dissolved the city health department and turned its functions over to Dutchess County.

The City Council promised a “belt-tightening” budget but almost immediately had to allocate \$50,000 [\$293,000] to fix a sewer line that collapsed on Water Street.

Beacon police ended their investigation of a Dec. 7 fire that killed six children on Cliff Street. They could not determine its origin but concluded the flames spread quickly because

the interior woodwork had been painted with deck enamel thinned with lighter fluid. Investigators said the parents, while escaping through second-floor windows, caused an updraft that fanned the blaze.

The City Council approved a four-bay building for the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps on a site off Delavan Avenue donated by Highland Hospital. The building would be constructed by Navy Seabees.

A 23-year-old patrol officer was suspended after being charged with assault for throwing a Spring Valley Court woman against a car while attempting to break up a fight. The woman, her husband and her sister were charged with disorderly conduct. The sisters began fighting while the husband was being arrested for a previ-

ous assault. Oscar Nieves, identified by *The Poughkeepsie Journal* as a “spokesman for Puerto Ricans in Beacon,” said the incident “would not have occurred if Hispanics were on the Beacon police.”

In response, Mayor Robert Cahill said the 33-man force, which had two Black officers, would need only one more Black and one Hispanic officer to reflect the racial makeup of the city, which was 11 percent Black and 5 percent Hispanic. He also claimed it would be difficult to hire a Hispanic officer because most Hispanic residents of Beacon were elderly, children or women and the job required a high school diploma and a clean record.

Gary Sickler, a former Beacon resident convicted in 1969 of killing Kathleen Taylor, 20, of Wappingers Falls, made a final appeal to overturn his 25-years-to-life sentence. When he killed Taylor, he was out on parole after serving eight years for raping a 9-year-old girl in the woods near the New York Rubber Co. [The state Court of Appeals upheld his conviction. Sickler died in prison in 2013.]

25 Years Ago (January 2000)

About 100 children were enrolled in the school district’s half-day pre-K program, the only one of its kind in Dutchess County.

The school board submitted blueprints for a 200,000-square-foot high school to the state Education Department for approval. The current school, built in 1915 and expanded in 1937 and 1987, had 830 students in a space designed for 600.

The Ballet Arts Studio hosted an open house for Scott Beall, the author of *Functional Melodies: Finding Mathematical Relationships in Music*, who had recently moved to Beacon from San Francisco.

The city received a \$40,000 state grant to demolish a 175-foot smokestack off Dennings Avenue that had been part of the city’s incinerator before it was closed because of federal pollution controls.

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OBITUARIES

Grant McCabe (1982-2025)

Grant W. McCabe, 43, who owned Smokers Mecca on Main Street in Beacon and formerly owned The Leaf, died Jan. 16.

He was born Jan. 14, 1982, in Joliet, Illinois, the son of William and Debra (Dorich) McCabe. He grew up in Illinois and was a professional motocross racer.



Along with his Beacon businesses, Grant owned online stores, stores in Florida, a distribution business in New Windsor and an ATM business covering the tri-state area. He began his career as a car salesman.

Grant was a caring and giving person who helped many people down on their luck over the years, his family said. He met his fiancée, Darcy Wang, four years ago and called it love at first sight. She survives him, along with his mother.

Family and friends will gather on Saturday (Jan. 25) from noon to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., and on Sunday (Jan. 26) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman St. in Beacon. A service will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home.

Other Recent Deaths

- Philipstown*
Louise Allen, 83
Claire Costello, 97
Carol Filmanski, 71
Bob McCaffrey, 81
Edward McCormick, 92
Bill Zablinis, 82
- Beacon*
Maryann Boonstra, 85
David Coviello, 63
Joseph Flynn II, 85
Joyce Flynn, 79
Carol McGovern, 77
James Osekoski, 77
Julio Ramos Jr., 45
Rosemarie Rinaldi, 94
Fred Timpanaro, 82

For obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.

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A HANNEHÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO



Carol Filmanski (1953-2025)

Carol Pierce Filmanski died of bone marrow cancer/leukemia on Jan. 21, 2025. She was from Cold Spring, NY, and formally from Blue Point, NY.

She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Kenneth Filmanski, her daughter, Carly, Carly's husband, Edward J. Flora, and her precious grandpup, Kona. Carol was predeceased by her dogs King, Bingo and Snoopy, and her cats Pongo and Poquito.

She was born on Oct. 8, 1953, to Robert and Edith Pierce. Carol had a wonderful childhood until her teenage years, when trauma after trauma made her life very difficult. She persevered, however, graduated from Hunter College and lived her dream of working and having her own apartment in New York City.

She met Kenneth in 1981 and, after a whirlwind romance, they married that year. They made their home in Cold Spring in 1982. They were beyond blessed to have a daughter like Carly and their home was always filled with good food and good company. A family tradition was to watch Planes, Trains and Automobiles at Thanksgiving and Home Alone at Christmas and laugh uproariously at each viewing.

She gave up her career to raise Carly and, when Carly went to kindergarten, she became a per diem worker at Haldane. In 1997, she became administrative assistant to the elementary school principal. She ran a tight ship and helped families navigate the bureaucracy of public education. Carol was also CSEA President at Haldane for 12 years. Her proudest accomplishment was establishing a pathway to promotions and professionalism in the clerical staff.

Carol loved Ken's family as if they were her own. She adored her cousins, nieces and nephews. She valued her friendships immensely. Carol worshiped every Sunday at the Cold Spring United Methodist Church. She crocheted every Thursday with the Prayer Shawl Group, was a prolific crafter for the church's Fall Fair, and was a trustee.

In accordance with her wishes, she will be cremated and a celebration of her life will be held at a later date at the Cold Spring United Methodist Church. Guests will be invited to share their remembrances of her. Memorial gifts may be made in Carol's name to the Cold Spring United Methodist Church, 216 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home, Cold Spring.

PAID NOTICE



Small, Good Things

Two-or-More

By Joe Dizney

We generally take language for granted, but there's a lot to be learned from tracing words back to their etymological roots. Take *company*, which may suggest corporate entities, but taking a scholarly journey to its linguistic roots brings forth something more communal.



The Latin root, *com-*, means "together." When married to *panis* ("bread") you get *companio*, or "bread fellows."

Breaking bread is a common social ritual and seems particularly apt for this season of subfreezing temperatures and snow. Religious connotations aside, *communion* defines the mutual participation and sharing that is the root of civilization.

I recently had companionable reason to cook for a friend, and while bread is the staff of life, given the season and snow, something more comforting seemed in order.

I trimmed a beautiful head of cauliflower from the market, tossed it with smoky cumin, salt, pepper and olive oil and roasted it until lightly browned.

Sautéed leeks, with a bit more garlic, cumin and Aleppo pepper, became the basis for a vegetable broth. Seeing the final soup as a purée, chickpeas were added for a bit more body and protein, along with the roasted cauliflower, to cook for a bit and marry the flavors before puréeing.

The addition of white miso (I used South River chickpea miso, available at Marbled Meats, but any good white miso will do) creates comforting umami. A final splash of lemon brightens up this oh-so-silky-smooth soup.

Enjoy with a simply dressed green salad and, of course, a warm slab of crusty bread. It's a warm meal to share with a companion or two on a cold winter night.

Puréed Cauliflower, Leek and Chickpea Soup

Makes about 2 quarts

- Extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large head cauliflower, broken into large florets, usable stems roughly chopped
- 3 to 4 cloves garlic (2 smashed whole; 2 minced)
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon Aleppo pepper
- 6 cups vegetable broth (you will have some left over)
- 4 large leeks, white and light green parts, cleaned, sliced about 1/2-inch thick
- 2 cups cooked, rinsed and drained chickpeas
- 2 tablespoons white miso (suggested: South River chickpea miso)
- Juice of 1/2 large lemon
- Salt and freshly cracked black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Toss cauliflower and two smashed cloves of garlic with olive oil, sprinkle with the 1 teaspoon cumin and salt and pepper. Spread all on a parchment-lined baking sheet and roast 20 to 30 minutes, rotating halfway through. Reserve.
2. Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil over medium-high heat in a large saucepan. When hot, add the leeks, stirring frequently for 5 minutes, adjusting heat so they don't brown. Add minced garlic and fry until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add the remaining cumin and Aleppo pepper, stirring for a minute. Add 4 cups broth and bring to a low boil. Add chickpeas and reserved roasted cauliflower and garlic. Once the pan returns to a boil, reduce heat to a simmer and cook for 20 minutes.
3. Remove saucepan from the heat and cool for 20 to 30 minutes. Purée the soup in batches, adding a splash of olive oil and a tablespoon of miso to each batch. Thin with additional stock to a soupy consistency. Correct seasoning (salt, pepper, more miso) to taste. (Note: Stop here and refrigerate the soup to serve over 2 or 3 days or freeze it in batches.)
4. To serve, reheat the soup gently. Add more stock or water if it's too thick. When hot, add the lemon juice and stir to incorporate. Serve in individual bowls, garnished with clipped chives or scallions if you have them.

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. Pickle holders
5. Klutz
8. Pre-weekend yell
12. Layered cookie
13. School org.
14. Nozzle site
15. Complaint
16. Mahal preceder
17. Memory method
18. Jungle trek
20. Apple product
22. "Lunch break is over!"
26. Sports bar fixture
29. "Mangia!"
30. Avril follower
31. Marsh plant
32. *Blue Bloods* airer
33. Nov. honorees
34. 401(k) alternative
35. Notable time
36. Trig terms
37. Consecutive
40. Puerto —
41. Small apes
45. Help a hood
47. Fanatic
49. Aswan's river
50. Roster
51. Compass dir.
52. Radiate
53. — -bitty
54. Carried out
55. Lushes
- DOWN
1. Want-ad listings
2. Region
3. Coral formation
4. Sleeper
5. Eye-related
6. One-time link
7. Tex-Mex wraps
8. Toss
9. Favorable sign
10. Follower (Suff.)
11. Service charge
19. Squealer
21. Soup cooker
23. Skewered entree
24. Assess
25. Smooch
26. Chicago paper, briefly
27. Actress Farmiga
28. *American Idol* host Ryan
32. Sang softly
33. Minnesota footballers
35. Catchall abbr.
36. Learning ctr.
38. Poker pot
39. Played a part
42. Actor O'Shea
43. Conspiracy
44. Stitches
45. Boxing legend
46. Morsel
48. Numerical prefix

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

TRADE

DRAIN

WORDSEARCH

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

MEW

PIPE

IONIA

QUICK

STSEWERS

PSAS

SKITS

SWAT

PEN

FASTFOOD

TARTAN

SEEDS

ERS

TIP

AARON

SPORES

THINKING

GOOSHUT

TRYST

TRON

MTA

CHAIN

OILED

MRI

SEA

Answers for Jan. 17 Puzzles

F B G Q X F Y V P D

O C A Z A Q Z A X M

Y R S B J V Y R A I

A U R I Y D S K W M

W N E Y A R O F O M

Y C K Y K W U U P P

K H C R X Z N T P Y

L G I F O D D J H M

I T N A S W W U N Y

M M S X I W T C R U

SLANT, PLANT, PLANS,
PLAYS, GRAYS, GRASS

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

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Sports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

BOYS' BASKETBALL — Haldane traveled to Springfield, Massachusetts, on Jan. 18 to play in the 64-team Hoophall Invitational tournament hosted by the Basketball Hall of Fame and the Army National Guard.

The Blue Devils won both of their games. In the opener at the Springfield High School of Commerce, they defeated the Springfield International Charter School, 75-54, the most points they've scored in a game this season. Nate Stickle had 20 points, while Luke Bozsik and Zane Del Pozo each contributed 17. The next day at Springfield Central, Haldane edged Swampscott (Massachusetts) High School, 44-36. Del Pozo scored 15 and Bozsik had 12.

Returning home, Haldane extended its winning streak to four games on Tuesday (Jan. 21) with an easy win over visiting Croton-Harmon, 67-41. The Blue Devils scored the first nine points of the game; Croton-Harmon responded by scoring seven straight before Haldane broke it open. The Blue Devils built on a 38-22 halftime lead in the third quarter behind Stickle, who finished with 20 points, and Bozsik, who had 17.

Haldane (7-4) hosted Pawling on Thursday (Jan. 23) and on Saturday will play Tuckahoe at Mahopac High School in the Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament. On Monday they host Putnam Valley at 6:45 p.m.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — Haldane lost a close game on Jan. 18 at Carmel, 50-44. The Rams led by eight points with two minutes left in the first quarter when the Blue Devils went on an 11-0 run, capped by a 3-pointer by Marisa Peters.

Haldane led, 25-22, at halftime and, after Kayla Ruggiero hit a 3-pointer with 7:18 left, had a six-point lead. But Carmel then outscored the Blue Devils, 12-4, and led by a basket going into the fourth. Haldane took a 42-40 lead with 3:31 left but, after two missed Haldane free throws with 1:04 left, Carmel held on.

On Tuesday (Jan. 21), the Blue Devils traveled to Croton-Harmon, falling 50-27. Haldane (3-8) visits Putnam Valley on Monday (Jan. 27).

WINTER TRACK — The Blue Devils competed in the 79-team Steve Borbet Invitational on Jan. 17 at The Armory in New York City. For the girls, Anna Nelson finished 45th in the 55-meter dash in 7.85, Savannah Duggan was 47th in the 200-meter dash in 33.70, seventh-grader Olive Allebrand placed 29th in the mile in



Daveya Rodriguez scores against Cornwall.



Drew Kelly avoids a Cornwall defender.

Photos by Cadence Heeter

6:18.25 and Clara Schmitt was 26th in the 55-meter hurdles in 11.21.

For the boys, Owen Powers finished eighth in the mile in 4:33.85, Milo Pearsall was eighth in the long jump in 19-10, James Frommer was 11th in the 1,000 meters in 3:01.41, Rhys Williams finished 12th in the 55-meter dash in 6.83 and Silas Emig and Merrick Williams tied for 17th place in the high jump at 5-03.

Haldane returns to The Armory on Sunday (Jan. 26) for the Rockland/Northern County Championship.

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

BOYS' BASKETBALL — A clutch shot in

the lane just before the buzzer by Marci Rodriguez gave Beacon a 53-52 win on Jan. 17 at Kingston.

Kingston led 18-8 at the end of the opening quarter as the Bulldogs missed 10 of their first 11 shots. But Beacon got on track and trailed by just a point at halftime and led, 42-39, at the end of the third.

The score went back and forth in the final 70 seconds. Kingston hit a basket with 1:10 left to break a 48-all tie, but with 35 seconds left, Brady Philipbar nailed a 3-pointer to make it 51-50. Kingston regained the lead with 10.3 seconds remaining on a pair of foul shots before Rodriguez won it on a pass from Michai Thompson.

Rodriguez finished with 13 points, followed by Ryan Landisi with 11 and Thompson with 10. The Bulldogs (11-4) travel to Fallsburg on Thursday (Jan. 30).

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — Beacon defeated Port Jervis, 47-29, on the road on Jan. 16 behind Reilly Landisi and Daveya Rodriguez, who each scored 12 points.

The Bulldogs also won at home on Tuesday (Jan. 21) over Cornwall, 60-56. Landisi had 21, followed by Rayana Taylor with 13 and Drew Kelly with a season-high 12. "It was a great team effort both defensively and offensively," said Coach Christina Dahl. "We made some adjustments in the second half and played with focus to limit our turnovers and get the job done."

The Bulldogs (5-5) hosted Newburgh on Thursday (Jan. 23) and will host Tri-Valley at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

WRESTLING — Beacon improved to 3-2 on Jan. 16 with a 35-30 win over Pine Bush. Four Bulldog wrestlers recorded pins: Mark Aakjar (116 pounds), Jude Betancourt (152), Brody Timm (190) and Nixon Salinas (215). On Jan. 18, Beacon traveled to Scarsdale for a tournament at which Avery Davis won at 170 pounds. Betancourt and Timm also reached the title match in their weight classes but Betancourt had to forfeit because of injury and Timm was pinned. Beacon will host its annual tournament on Saturday (Jan. 25), beginning at 9 a.m.

BOYS' SWIMMING — Beacon defeated Rhinebeck, 94-47, on Jan. 16 with first-place finishes from Gavin Troiano, Fionn Fehilly, Alistar Cunningham, Milo Isabell and the 200 freestyle and 200 medley relay teams. Later in the week, Beacon fell to Red Hook, 105-65, but Alejandro Herrera won the 500-meter freestyle in 6:19.48, his first gold of the season. The Bulldogs (2-5) will begin postseason play on Feb. 7 at the OCIAA Division One championships at Newburgh.

WINTER TRACK — The Bulldogs competed on Jan. 17 at West Point against other schools from Division 3 at the OCIAA Divisional Championships. Jayden Mihalchik won the

SPORTS BRIEFS

Running Clubs Open to Garrison Students

Two running clubs are available for students in the Garrison school district.

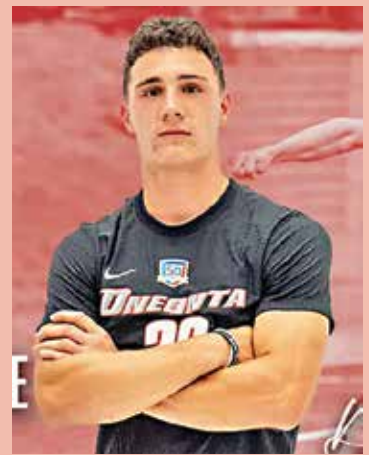
Rob Conklin, the longtime O'Neill High School cross-country coach, oversees a club for boys in grades 3 to 8. He offers gait analysis, stretching routines, nutrition plans, strength training and injury prevention. The club practices twice a week and runs a 5K monthly. Email conklin712@gmail.com. Parents are also invited. The club's first meeting is scheduled for Feb. 1.

Erin Smith, a junior at O'Neill, supervises a club for girls in grades 5 to 8 called Fast & Furious. Email 08eesmith@gmail.com for information. Both clubs are free.

Former Beacon Player Named Scholar-Athlete

Dillon Kelly, a 2022 Beacon High School graduate who plays for SUNY Oneonta, on Jan. 16 was named the Men's Soccer Scholar-Athlete of the Year for the SUNY Athletic Conference.

Kelly, a biology major, has a 3.95 GPA. The defender started 17 games for the Red Dragons this past season and was named a third team conference All-Star.



Dillon Kelly

weight throw at 47-5, Zachary Schetter was first in triple jump at 37-6 and Noah Spiak took honors in the 300-meter dash at 37.33. Other top finishers included Jaden Jones, who finished second in the high jump (5-6) and triple jump (11-0), and the 4x400 relay team, which was second in 3:58.87.

For the girls, Katherine Ruffy won the long jump at 14-9.5, Stella Reinke was first in the 1,000 meters in 3:43.50 and Mikaela Sanchez won the 600 meters in 1:50.96. Cecilia Allee placed second in the 1,500 meters in 6:10.53 and Lily Mack was second in the high jump at 4-6.