

The HIGHLANDS Current



MAY 2, 2025

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Cold Spring Officer Launches Campaign for Sheriff

Plans to challenge Putnam incumbent as independent

By Michael Turton

Larry Burke, a former officer-in-charge for the Cold Spring Police Department, has announced a campaign to challenge incumbent Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville in the fall election.

Both men live in Philipstown. Burke said he plans to collect signatures for a nominating petition by a May 27 deadline to get on the ballot as an independent. McConville is seeking his second, 4-year term on the Republican and Conservative lines.

Burke, 59, has worked in law enforcement for 37 years, including 26 years with the New York City Police Department. He joined the Cold Spring department in 2013 and served as officer-in-charge for seven years. He resigned in 2024 but continues as a part-time officer. Burke has also served as a firefighter with North Highlands Fire Co. for 12 years.

He spoke with *The Current* on Thursday
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John Gilvey, Wendy Gilvey, Michael Benzer and Jennifer Smith founded Hudson Beach Glass in 1987 and later opened their Main Street gallery. Photo by Ross Corsair

Hudson Beach Glass for Sale

Main Street anchor in Beacon opened in 2003

By Jeff Simms

Hudson Beach Glass, a Main Street fixture in Beacon for the past 22 years, has put its building and business at 162 Main St. on the market for \$3.75 million. The two couples that own the glassworks hope to retire.

Founded in 1987, Hudson Beach Glass opened its Main Street gallery in October 2003, two years after John and Wendy Gilvey and Michael Benzer and Jennifer Smith paid \$270,000 to purchase 162 Main from the city. The three-story brick structure, built in 1893 as the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. firehouse, later was home to the nonprofit Community Action Coalition.

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The Hudson Beach Glass storefront

Photo by J. Simms

Haldane Will Reverse DEI Decision

Federal court rulings reassure board members

By Joey Asher

The Haldane school board plans to reinstate the district's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy at its Tuesday (May 6) meeting, two weeks after suspending the standards in a bid to safeguard \$450,000 in federal funding threatened by the Trump administration's opposition to DEI programs.

The reversal came after federal judges in Maryland, New Hampshire and Washington, D.C., on April 24 temporarily blocked the administration from cutting funding to schools with what the White House characterizes as "illegal" practices.

Those rulings occurred the same day the administration chose as the deadline for local school districts to certify they had eliminated DEI policies and operated in compliance with Title VI the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits racial discrimination in federally funded programs. The Haldane board also passed a resolution asserting the latter.

A day later, New York and 18 other states filed a federal lawsuit challenging the certification requirement. They called the directive "unprecedented and unlawful," and said DEI initiatives actually support civil rights law.

Haldane voted unanimously on April 22 to suspend its DEI policy pending

(Continued on Page 21)

Rep. Mike Lawler Faces Questions, Boos, Jeers

Two attendees ejected from Rockland town hall

By Leonard Sparks

Many of the 700 people attending Rep. Mike Lawler's town hall on Sunday (April 27) in Rockland County clearly brought vinegar when co-moderator Brendel Logan-Charles, the deputy supervisor for the Town of Ramapo, asked, "Who knows the end of this saying: 'You can get more with honey than you can with ...?'"

Catcalls and jeering erupted as she and

Teresa Kenny, the Orangetown supervisor, recited ground rules before Lawler, whose 17th District seat includes Philipstown, walked onstage in the auditorium at Clarkstown High School South in West Nyack. It was the first in a series of four town halls — Lawler has said he will visit Dutchess and Putnam counties in June, although locations and dates have not been announced.

Although Republican leaders have told House members not to hold town halls because of the negative response over federal cuts being implemented by the Trump administration, Lawler said in March he

would host four events to show his "independence and willingness to buck party leadership to engage with his constituents."

A town hall hosted in Poughkeepsie on March 19 by Rep. Pat Ryan, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, had a different tenor, although spectators expressed frustration over what they see as a tepid Democratic response to Trump. Several protestors supporting Palestine who began yelling at Ryan were removed.

Entering to a mixture of boos and applause in West Nyack, Lawler spent 90

(Continued on Page 8)



Rep. Mike Lawler

Photo by L. Sparks

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: CLARA LONGSTRETH

By Chip Rowe

Clara Longstreth, who lives in Philipstown, is retiring as musical director of the New Amsterdam Singers in New York City after leading the chorus for 57 years. She will conduct her final concert on May 16. See nasingers.org.

How did you come to direct the chorus?

In 1968 it was being conducted by a man named Allan Miller who left for another job. I was the assistant conductor, in which I did nothing, but it was enough for them to ask me to take over. It was called the Master Institute Chorus, after the building where we rehearsed. In 1971 we regrouped as the New Amsterdam Singers and were associated with the Bloomingdale House of Music [now the Bloomingdale School of Music]. After we became independent in 1978, we found a place that is the right size, a good location, decent acoustics, and that's the Broadway Presbyterian Church on 114th Street. We've been performing there for a long time.

Where did your interest in singing come from?

When I was a student at Harvard, the Radcliffe Choral Society was a big part of my life, in the way that non-academics sometimes become more important than your



academics. I spent a year as an apprentice music teacher at Milton Academy [in Massachusetts], and then for seven years I was the music teacher at the Riverdale Country School for Girls [in the Bronx]. I majored in government rather than music — my parents were Quakers, so I wanted to save the world — but I learned a whole lot in that job.

You commissioned 16 choral pieces. What is that process like?

Usually it is a composer whose works

you've sung. You ask if he has time, then you ask how long it will be, or you tell him how long you would like it to be. Based on that, he tells you how much he will charge, which is roughly \$1,000 per minute. For our most recent commission, I asked the composer, Philip Lasser, for secular music — we sing a lot of religious music — and he began looking for 13th-century love poetry. He didn't find anything he liked but came across an abecedary, which is a method for poets [each line begins with a letter of the alphabet, in order] but also an instruction manual for kids learning to read in which you have couplets for each letter. His piece went from eight minutes to 16 minutes because when you're on your way from A to X, you can't leave something out. Mercifully, he did not ask for more money. Also, I asked for it to be in French because he is French American and I love the language. That was a little bit selfish and mean of me because we had to put the singers through language study. But French people in the audience said it sounded French.

Do you have any favorite performances?

That's hard to answer. It's easier to say what repertoire I was overwhelmed with. There is a Swiss composer named Frank Martin [1890-1974] who wrote beautiful choral music. We've sung *Golgotha* by him and some lovely songs. They're favorites of mine and of the singers but not well-known to audiences.

What is the toughest task for a chorus?

It's a cappella — no instruments — because the singers must have a sense of the harmony in their inner ear and listen to each other and stay in tune so they end the piece in the same key that they started. If they go flat — which is what choruses do more than going sharp — they might end up in a slightly different key. That's not the end of the world, especially if everybody goes down a little bit together. As a conductor, if you are going to a certain place that has been a problem, you can make a lifting gesture, a reminder, the same as when you mouth the words of certain texts you want to bring out. You can show a lot in your face.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What was the best thing about April?

"I was grateful for its length; I like a slow spring."



Ian Blackman, Cold Spring

"The fact that it's over. The up and down weather was terrible."



Alyssa Kessler, Beacon

"It's my favorite month; things sprout, people are in a good mood."



Christopher Beggs, Cold Spring

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NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, May 15th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.**

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Planning Board May 2025.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Three Candidates for Three Seats

No challengers in Beacon school election

There will be three candidates for three open seats on the May 20 ballot for the nine-member Beacon school board. The deadline for nominating petitions was Wednesday (April 30).

Meredith Heuer, elected in 2016, will return for her fourth, 3-year term, while Semra Ercin will run for her first full term after being elected in 2023 to complete the final two years of a vacated seat. Alena Kush did not file for a second term and her seat will be filled by a newcomer, Catherine Buscemi, owner of Belfry Historic Consultants.

The other board members are Kristan Flynn (whose term ends in 2026), Anthony White (2026), Eric Schetter (2026), LaVonne McNair (2027), Flora Stadler (2027) and Christopher Lewine (2027).

Hudson Bridges Set Records

Most revenue, crossings in history

The New York State Bridge Authority reported on April 15 that it had a record amount of traffic and revenue in 2024.

The NYSBA oversees five bridges that cross the Hudson River, including Bear Mountain and Newburgh-Beacon.

In 2024, over 64 million vehicles crossed the bridges — an increase of 651,718, or 1 percent, over the previous record year in

2019. Tolls generated a record \$82 million, or 8.3 percent more than the 2023 total. The bridges are nearly entirely funded by tolls.

Newburgh-Beacon, the busiest of the five bridges, had 28.5 million crossings and generated \$45.6 million in tolls. Bear Mountain had 7.2 million crossings and generated \$7.1 million in tolls.

Philipstown Student Wins Merit Scholarship

Award sponsored by UPS

The National Merit Scholarship Corp. announced on April 23 that a Philipstown student has won a college scholarship funded by the United Parcel Service.

Tova Jean-Louis, who attends Walter Panas High School in Cortlandt Manor, was among 830 seniors nationwide to receive awards financed by 124 corporations, foundations and business organizations.

Jean-Louis plans to study environmental engineering. The UPS Foundation funds scholarships for the children of UPS employees.

Mobile Crisis Team Launched in Putnam County

People USA to provide free service

People USA announced on April 23 the launch of a Mobile Crisis Outreach Team in Putnam County that residents, providers, schools and police can contact

for no-cost assistance for someone having a mental health emergency.

A peer specialist and behavioral health clinician will be available, either in person or by telephone, to provide people of any age with support and referral to other services from noon to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday, according to People USA.

The team, which will also provide follow-up care, can be reached at 845-379-2463.

Another Candidate in District 17

Former FBI analyst announces run

A former FBI intelligence analyst from Rockland County has launched a campaign to unseat Rep. Mike Lawler, a two-term Republican whose district includes Philipstown.

“For 17 years I was an FBI intelligence analyst, working in secret to keep us safe from global threats and the insurrectionists who stormed our Capitol,” says John Sullivan in a video announcing his campaign. “But now that the threat is coming from inside the White House, I had to leave the FBI and step forward.”

Sullivan, 41, and his husband moved to Piermont in Rockland County this month. He had been stationed in Washington, D.C., and the New York City area, as well as for three years in Tel Aviv.

Sullivan is the fifth Democrat to announce he will seek the ballot line in 2026. The others are Beth Davidson, a

Rockland County legislator; Jessica Reinmann, a nonprofit executive; Cait Conley, a former director of counterterrorism for the National Security Council; and Mike Sacks, a lawyer and former TV journalist.

No Stress for Local Villages

Comptroller releases financial report

The state comptroller on April 17 released a report that scored villages on their fiscal stress, with Cold Spring and Nelsonville among the strongest financially.

Cold Spring had a score of 6.7 and Nelsonville 3.3, far below the 45 points that the comptroller says indicates potential stress. The scores are compiled for 518 villages based on self-reported data from 2024, although 108 villages did not file, including Fishkill and Wappingers Falls.

Island Park (Nassau County), Saugerties (Ulster) and Cambridge (Washington) were classified as being in significant fiscal stress and Cocksackie (Greene) and Washingtonville (Orange) are in moderate fiscal stress.

“The number of local governments with a fiscal stress designation remains low following several years of emergency federal pandemic aid that helped stabilize their finances,” said Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. “With that aid coming to an end and uncertainty coming out of Washington on state and local funding cuts, local officials should closely monitor their financial condition.”



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Food truck

Thanks to the Cold Spring Village Board for pausing the food truck ("Cold Spring Considers Food Truck," April 25). For sure, things must be reviewed. Using a residential property for a business that could create more traffic and litter is a bad idea. We have zoning for a reason. I would not want to see it next door to my house.

Home use for businesses is a good idea as long as it's passive. The existing restaurants and food venues are paying huge rents and the costs of complying with laws to do business. Is it fair to those who are doing it right?

Tony Bardes, *Cold Spring*

That plot of land should be a park, not an unsightly, busy and smelly food truck lot. Those who think this is a great idea need to accept trucks in front of their homes. Focus energy on improving the problems in the area (trash, traffic), not making them worse.

Lloyd DesBrisay, *Cold Spring*

This is at least the third time since 2019 I can remember a discussion of food truck permits that has gone nowhere. A six-month moratorium will do nothing. Street vendors are a common amenity that I have seen in practice around the world.

We are not a snow globe. I find it hard to believe that a 19th-century business model will upend our delicate village ecosystem. Instead of kicking the ball down the field another six months to hypothesize on the effects, why not grant a six-month permit to this single vendor and study the impact? It is time Cold Spring starts saying "yes."

Sean Conway, *Cold Spring*

I don't understand why everything has to be so difficult in a small village like ours. If it's an empty residential lot — why can't the board issue a temporary permit? Food trucks in the village are not a new idea, but we know many restaurant owners do not want the competition (and the former Village Board had a reputation for protectionism). Mediocre restaurants should not be the only ones privileged to sell food because they were here first. Competitive options improve local businesses and keep residents in town.

Our mayor and the trustees work hard, and they do a great job, often thankless. But in politics, a process is almost always designed to support a desired outcome. So, like the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, it will be interesting to see the board's position on food trucks after a "moratorium" ends in six months.

Thomas O'Quinn, *Cold Spring*

Farmer lawsuit

I am proud of the young generation of farmers in Putnam County for fighting back against the "irrational, arbitrary and capricious" application of one factor in a 2007 county resolution to deny five farms enrollment into the county's Agricultural District by our county Legislature and the interim Soil & Water District manager ("Farm Wins Lawsuit Over Putnam Rules," April 25).

Dan and Arielle Honovich at Ridge Ranch have sunk nearly a year of their lives — not to mention a mountain of legal fees — into their lawsuit against the Legislature's actions. Their time and dollars paid off with Judge Victor Grossman's ruling.

During this fight, our Putnam farmers have written letters, rallied their neighbors, attended public meetings and re-established the ties between folks who steward the land. I hope the county stops wasting resident dollars with an appeal and focuses its energy on doing what the county Ag Board has been trying to do since 2022: update the 2004 agricultural plan and revise its out-of-touch and antiquated Ag District resolution to better reflect state law and the changing face of farming. Our county's fired-up farmers and their friends will not give up in holding the Legislature accountable.

Jocelyn Apicello, *Philipstown*

Apicello, the co-owner of Longhaul Farm in Philipstown, is the former chair of the Ag Board.

Haldane DEI

I have great respect for the members of the Haldane school board and empathize with the difficult position they have been placed in ("Haldane Suspends DEI Policy," April 25). I am confident their decision was made with the best interests of our children at heart. I know they did not come to this conclusion lightly, especially given that our community deeply values equality, diversity and inclusion.

As we take time to process the impact of this decision, I encourage everyone to direct their frustration and concern toward the broader issues at the Capitol rather than at this dedicated group of volunteer neighbors who were tasked with considering the financial realities affecting our students. I also trust the board when they assure us that this decision will not alter the way people are valued, hired or treated at Haldane.

Dave McCarthy, *Nelsonville*

If 60 years of affirmative action weren't effective, what makes people think that the racist policies of DEI would work? The white-privileged "progressives" will always be in the minority.

Ralph Pettorossi, *Fishkill*
(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Why ignore the support of state leaders, who have decided prudently to await proper judicial or legislative direction? New York State gave the district a path out, saying, “We have your back, let’s stand together,” and Haldane answered by bowing down. By suspending this policy, the message to educators and students is: We as a community no longer support marginalized people and experiences. Anyone considered to be outside the historically acceptable norm in race, gender, religion, ability or identity will now understand what Haldane expects of them: self-censorship.

In historian Timothy Snyder’s lessons to deal with tyranny, his No. 1 rule is: Do not obey in advance. Rule No. 2 is to defend institutions, because they are how we preserve decency.

Amy McIlwaine, *Cold Spring*

Considering the recent federal court stay, this preemptive compliance was unnecessary and deeply disheartening.

Sasha Biro, *Cold Spring*

With the recent vote to increase school taxes by nearly 7 percent over three years, I and many others expect that money to be used in a way that uplifts and protects all students. I implore the board to reconsider and reaffirm our commitment to fostering an inclusive, equitable and supportive environment for every student and faculty member.

Susan Hyatt, *Cold Spring*

Correction

A story in the April 15 issue stated that Howland Public Library board members serve 3-year terms. In fact, they serve 5-year terms.

A few days after the board suspended the DEI policy, its members sent a letter to the community acknowledging that the decision was rushed. Why did they do it? Maybe because, in the words of Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, “We are all afraid.”

As a former school board member in Garrison, I respect the Haldane board members and the hard choices they must make in the face of Trump’s singular achievement: a pervasive climate of fear. By firing several hundred thousand federal workers, snatching people off the street and sending them to gulags, defying court decisions, stealing powers that belong to Congress and so much more, Trump has made millions of us, including Haldane’s school board, very afraid. What to do? I hear that the best way to deal with fear is to stand up to it. That’s a good reason for the board to take heart from the many districts that have chosen not to succumb and to reinstate the DEI policy at its meeting on May 6.

David Gelber, *Philipstown*

Step by step, we will be pulled into compliance with an increasingly fascist

regime. Now that the policy is changed, the curriculum and individuals’ rights in the school are easily eroded.

Ilana Friedman, *via Facebook*

Yay. Working for it and getting it because you earned it is the most rewarding feeling ever. Fact.

Jeff Phillips, *via Facebook*

You may be confusing DEI with affirmative action. Diversity, equity and inclusion policies are to create environments where all people can thrive regardless of their race, gender, sexuality or social class. It’s not about people “earning” things. It’s about creating hospitable environments for all.

Daniel Bentley, *via Facebook*

DEI is affirmative action by another name. Equality of opportunity did not satisfy the goal, so it became equity of outcomes. Everyone is a winner. Most egregious of all is the elimination of gifted classes. More recently it was the attempt by the LBG and trans radicals to penetrate the educational system, which led to plummeting literacy and math scores. We need a unifying curriculum and ideology, not one based on group identity and grievance but on individual effort and merit.

Ann Fanizzi, *via Facebook*

LGBTQ initiatives caused plummeting

literacy and math scores? I haven’t heard that one before.

Greg Costello, *via Facebook*

DEI has nothing at all to do with merit. It means disabled people, people of color, gay students, etc., are valued in a world where they so obviously are not. If you had a child with developmental disabilities, taking away DEI does nothing more than say, “You don’t matter — no more special accommodations for you, so step up your efforts.”

Schools are doing this because they’re being held hostage, and it’s breaking my heart because kids with disabilities are back to being seen as “other.” This isn’t about effort. This is about pushing the people you don’t like out of the way to make room for the people you do.

One board member is quoted as saying, “I have been assured that there will be no change in curriculum.” Assured by whom? It can’t be state officials, because they refused to comply.

Jennifer Blakeslee, *via Facebook*

Keep in mind that Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin and George Washington were radical ideologues in 1776. There is nothing more American than radical progress, and nothing less American than the attempt to stifle it.

Aaron Srugis, *via Facebook*

What a shame the board didn’t stand up

(Continued on Page 6)



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

for its students.

Stephanie Varricchio, *via Instagram*

Do the least-diverse places find it easiest to drop their DEI efforts?

Rusty Stahl, *via Instagram*

Do the right thing and DEI is not an issue. Haldane always did that when we were there.

Becky Janes, *via Facebook*

Diversity makes us strong; equity makes us fair. Inclusion makes school a welcoming place for everyone.

Donna Minkowitz, *via Facebook*

This reminds me of the famous poem: Then they came for my funding / And there was no one left / To speak out for me.

Max Goldberg, *via Instagram*

Haldane should follow Harvard's example.

Patricia Yeager, *via Facebook*

To think Haldane needs DEI is disappointing and disrespectful. Haldane has always had the best interest of students and employees at hand. Using the government to force DEI policies or remove DEI policies is ridiculous. It only creates animosity and divisions. Haldane almost always gets it right. For those who accuse the board of knuckling, it's just your turn, because I am

sure the other side accused them of knuckling when they were forced to adopt DEI.

Ralph Falloon, *via Facebook*

Community Nursery

Your story unintentionally approaches *Onion*-level absurdity in its apparent position that the arrival of universal pre-K in Philipstown is sad news ("Community Nursery to Close," April 18). In fact, by any measure, free high-quality childcare is a public good that benefits children, families and the local economy. While it is appropriate to mark the end of an institution that has existed in a community for over 50 years, *The Current* paints an absurd picture in which universal pre-K is a menace to the community.

In the article, an irrelevant discussion of "state regulations" that make it difficult for private pre-K programs to offer more than three hours of care per day is used to imply that public universal pre-K has an unfair advantage on the "free market" and is forcing "community" (that is, private) pre-K programs to close.

In fact, the reason that Philipstown families with 4-year-old children are opting for public rather than private pre-K is that even "affordable" private pre-K options are not affordable for most working families. The median household income in Philipstown is \$133,672 annually. According to the state comptroller, full-time childcare costs in New York state range from \$16,000 to \$26,000 annually.

Perhaps a better local angle on the long-overdue advent of universal pre-K in Philipstown would be a story profiling a few families whose children are enrolled in Philipstown's new Universal Pre-K program. I am willing to bet this would paint a very different — and more accurate — picture of the impact of universal pre-K on the working families of Philipstown.

Carla Bellamy, *Nelsonville*

I thought *The Current* did a great job with this piece — it did not at all read as an indictment of universal pre-K but rather sheds light on another angle of the complex issue of childcare affordability.

While the arrival of universal pre-K is indeed a boon to many families, it appears that it comes at the cost of the loss for some families of flexible, affordable, part-time programs such as the Community Nursery School.

One can favor certain proposals and policies while still acknowledging the reality of the downstream effects. Engaging in objective discussion of trade-offs is the only way we solve complex problems. Good job to *The Current* for doing so.

Kathleen Taylor, *Nelsonville*

Drive-thrus

I appreciate the Beacon City Council considering a prohibition of dangerous drive-thrus on Fishkill Avenue ("Beacon Council to Vote on Drive-Thrus, Self-Storage," online,

April 18). Transportation engineers know that every driveway creates opportunities for a crash and, as the Florida Department of Transportation concluded, "drive-thru drive-ways had the largest impact on roadway safety." Personal injury lawyers specifically advertise to people injured at drive-thrus.

I drop my son off at a preschool in Newburgh every morning. It's a busy area, but by far the worst contributor to backups and dangerous driving is people trying to turn in and out of the drive-thru Dunkin' at North Street and Route 9W.

We have the chance in Beacon to avoid adding more traffic and putting more people in danger. I hope we take it.

Steven Higashide, *Beacon*

Higashide is an urban planner, writer and transportation researcher.

Storage facility

I'll take "Trucks and cars that you know damn well will be making U-turns on Route 9D" for \$1,000 ("Study Finalized for Storage Proposal," April 25).

Laurie Gallio, *via Facebook*

It's such a weird choice of location for a self-storage facility. It seems better suited for Route 9.

Kyra Stoddart, *via Facebook*

Visit highlandscurrent.org for more letters and comments.



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Nelsonville Board Approves Budget

Board votes to override levy cap

By Leonard Sparks

The Nelsonville Village Board on April 21 approved a \$377,540 spending plan for 2025-26 after voting to exceed the state’s 2.77 percent cap on levy increases.

Expenses are projected to be 6.6 percent higher, and the adopted levy rises by 5.21 percent to \$326,697. Taxes for the average property owner will increase by \$68, said Mayor Chris Winward.

Anticipated legal spending will increase by 20 percent, to \$15,000 annually; Keane & Beane has had to defend the village from multiple lawsuits while also reviewing contracts, Winward said. Electricity bills are expected to be 33 percent higher and Nelson-

ville allocated an increase of 13.6 percent, to \$28,411, for insurance for its buildings (including the one leased by Putnam County for a sheriff station) and court actions against its elected and appointed officials.

An additional 9.42 percent was appropriated for employee benefits. The court and village clerk will receive 3 percent raises and the deputy village clerk will receive a 2.55 percent boost.

Winward’s salary will remain at \$4,500 annually and the trustees will continue to receive \$2,650.

Court changes

The Nelsonville trustees voted to appoint Philipstown Justice Angela Thompson-Tinsley as the acting village justice in place of Stephen Tomann, who retired.

The board also renewed a \$150-per-hour contract with Kevin Irwin, a Pawling attorney who prosecutes traffic tickets and other non-criminal violations for Nelsonville, and approved the use of a credit-card reader given to the village by the state’s Unified Court System.

Melissa Harris, the village clerk, said she hopes the machine will increase revenues from fines. “A lot of the time, people will say, ‘I only have a card; can I have a week to pay and mail it in?’ And then they don’t,” she said.

New meeting day and time

The board voted to move its monthly workshop and regular meetings to the second and third Wednesday of each month, respectively. The meeting time will also change, beginning a half-hour earlier, at 7 p.m.

Mondays present a problem because many holidays fall on that day, and compiling information packets for trustees by

Friday afternoons has proved difficult, said Winward. “This will give us a lot more time to be able to prepare for meetings,” she said.

No parking

A sign prohibiting parking on Spring Street should be installed soon. Nelsonville approved a ban on Spring Street in December in response to drivers parking along the side of Blacksmith Wines, leaving only one lane.

Trustee Dave Moroney said the installation of a no-parking sign had to be postponed because of equipment problems. There are new no-parking signs on Secor Street. Winward said the village anticipates more hikers parking there to use Nelsonville Woods because Breakneck closed for two years starting April 21.

“It’s only a matter of time until people figure out that they can just have the same view going up Bull Hill,” she said.

Beacon Schools Settle Lawsuit With Former Principal

Also, public hearing on budget scheduled for Tuesday

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon school board agreed March 24 to a \$60,000 payment to end a lawsuit filed by Daniel Glenn, a former South Avenue Elementary principal who was fired in 2023.

Glenn, who is Black, alleged in a federal civil suit filed last year that he had been the victim of “disparate treatment and a hostile work environment due to his race.” He asked for damages and to be returned to his job with back pay.

After being hired in August 2021, Glenn said he told district officials in 2022 “that his job was permeated with racial discrimination on a continuous basis in the struc-

ture of how the school operated.” He said he received no notice allowing him to contest allegations against him before being terminated in June 2023.

Glenn had been removed from his position five months earlier, replaced by an acting principal, Brian Archer, then the district’s director of evaluation and student services. Before coming to Beacon, Glenn taught first and second grade for 19 years in the Newburgh district and was an assistant principal in New Paltz.

The district’s response to his lawsuit, filed in June 2024, argued that there was insufficient evidence to “plausibly claim” that Glenn’s dismissal was racially motivated. The district said the allegation that Superintendent Matt Landahl believed only the accounts of “unidentified teachers and students”

whose racial identities were not named was “insufficient to allege discriminatory intent.”

The settlement agreement, obtained through a Freedom of Information Law request, notes that Glenn’s employment record was amended to show he was not dismissed but resigned. The district also agreed to provide a neutral reference that provides only his title and dates of employment. For his part, Glenn agreed not to apply for employment in the district “until the end of time.” The settlement was paid by the district’s insurance carrier.

Second lawsuit

A lawsuit against the district that alleged a student was assaulted by a classmate at school and on the bus has been resolved, according to court records. In legal docu-

ments, a parent alleged the child had been “sexually abused,” “falsely imprisoned” and “psychologically tortured” during the fall of 2022.

The state judge held two settlement hearings before closing the case in July. In response to a Freedom of Information Law request filed by *The Current*, school officials said the district “is not in possession of any documents” concerning a settlement. Eric Richman, the attorney who represented the parent, said he could not discuss the case because it had been sealed.

Budget hearing

The Beacon school board will hold a public hearing during its Tuesday (May 6) meeting on the district’s \$87.7 million budget proposal for 2025-26, the final step before voters are asked to approve the spending plan on May 20.

(Continued on Page 8)

Sheriff *(from Page 1)*

(May 1). His responses have been edited for clarity and brevity.

What was your role with NYPD?

I was a transit police officer for five years, riding and patrolling the subways in all the boroughs, 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. After that, I did regular patrols in the 40th precinct, South Bronx, for two years. I moved to the community policing unit, where you patrol a five- to 10-block area.

You get to know people, the residents, store owners and the bad guys. You learn about cultures; that people from Colombia, Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic are different culturally in how they bring up their family, how they do certain things. It’s how I learned community policing. You get into people’s lives, understand them, understand their kids, understand where they’re from. They might distrust the police because the military may have run the police department [in their native countries]. It was a learning experience for me,

a white police officer in a predominantly minority neighborhood. It was good. It was about gaining friendships and mutual respect.

There must have been culture shock coming to Cold Spring.

The crime was a lot less than what I dealt with before! One school, one neighborhood, stores on Main Street. You get to know people a lot quicker. I was experienced but still had to start on midnights. I found it a little hard to adjust to seeing three deer in the middle of the street but no people at 2 a.m. When I started day shifts, I got out of the patrol car, started walking, got to know the community.

Is being an officer-in-charge enough experience to be sheriff?

I had to run a small police department. I knew how to be a patrol officer, but I didn’t know about budgets. I didn’t know about manpower. I didn’t know how to deal with the county, the state. I learned a lot in seven years. I went through seven

budget processes, learned what we could and couldn’t afford, what to fight for, what to let go until the next cycle. I learned about hiring people and letting people go.

As my responsibilities increased, it built my confidence. I did the administrative work and I know I can do that with the county. I will reach out and hire a staff with expertise in the civil unit, the corrections unit, captain of patrol, captain of communications and other positions. I want to surround myself with intelligent people who know the police world. I want mutual support and to do the best job I can.

Is running as an independent realistic?

It is to me. There should be no politics in policing whatsoever, especially with today’s atmosphere. Everyone’s fighting at the national, state and county level. I’m a police officer and a volunteer firefighter. We don’t look to see who’s a Democrat and who’s a Republican. We serve. I knew it was going to be hard running as an independent, but I’m not going to push one political party or another. And no one should run unopposed.

Why should residents vote for you?

I’ve dealt with Sheriff McConville personally. I’ve been in meetings with him, along with the chiefs of other police departments in the county, and what I’ve seen is division. It’s his way or the highway. That doesn’t sit well with me. And I hear it from the deputies when I’m backing them up on calls. They are not happy; they’re telling me morale is the lowest it’s ever been. We’re all in law enforcement together, and we should be working together. I want to bring that back.

On a personal level, why are you running?

I was put on this Earth for a reason, to go as far as I can. I still have a lot of fight in me, to make this a better place, to serve the public. I took up firefighting later in life. I like a challenge and I would make a really good sheriff. A friend approached me when I was considering running. He said, “How can you sit idly on the sidelines when you know you can do what you need to do?” That made me think hard. Why should I sit on the sidelines?

Town Hall *(from Page 1)*

minutes parrying questions about cuts to federal programs and employees, Medicaid and Social Security, the Trump administration's deportation practices and the belief that Congress is failing to oppose the Republican president's decisions.

Police and security guards escorted at least two people from the event and warned several others. But the warnings did not stop intermittent shouts of "liar," "blah, blah, blah" and other jeers as Lawler answered questions. Part of his final comments were drowned out by chants of "Leave her alone" as police and security guards surrounded a woman they wanted to eject.

Below are most of the questions, in the order they were asked, and excerpts from Lawler's answers. Both have been edited slightly for brevity and clarity.

You describe yourself as a moderate, yet you support the policies this authoritarian administration is putting forth. ... What are you doing to stand in opposition to this administration, and what specifically are you doing that warrants the label "moderate"?

My record speaks for itself. I have been rated the fourth-most-bipartisan [member of the U.S. House] for a reason, which is a simple fact that unlike many of my colleagues, I do work across the aisle; I do sit down with my colleagues.

At the end of this year, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act [passed in 2017 under the first Trump administration] is going to expire. If the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expires, do you know what will happen? The standard deduction will be cut in half. That will be the largest tax increase in American history. The corporate tax rate is set at 21 percent and I don't support lowering it. ... I do support lifting the [\$10,000] cap on SALT [deduction for state and local taxes], which directly impacts all of us in this room.

Tariffs are obviously something that has been a big point of discussion for many years. [Sens.] Chuck Schumer [of New York] and Bernie Sanders [of Vermont] said [in the past] they supported increasing tariffs, and part of the reason is because other countries have had significantly higher tariffs, barriers to entry and price controls on U.S. goods.

You supported a budget that cut Medicaid and education in our district. How does that serve your constituents? [Republicans, who control both houses of Congress, are debating cuts to Medicaid to offset lost revenue from tax cuts.]

When it comes to Medicaid, I've been very clear: I am not cutting benefits for any eligible recipient, period. The fact is that our



Spectators filled most seats at Rep. Lawler's town hall in Rockland County. Photo by L. Sparks

community relies on these vital programs. There are about 25 of us within the conference who have been very clear with leadership. We've met with the president about it, we've met with the administration, and we continue to make sure that as we negotiate the tax bill, that we absolutely safeguard these vital services and programs. When it comes to illegal immigrants, in New York state, \$1.2 billion of our taxpayer money has been spent on Medicaid. I'm sorry. That is not a proper use of taxpayer money.

[The Current has asked Lawler's office for the source of this statistic. In New York and a few other states, undocumented immigrants can receive Medicaid for emergency and prenatal care or full benefits if they are age 65 or older. In 2023, while arguing that Medicaid should be expanded in New York to all low-income, undocumented immigrants, advocacy groups estimated it would expand the rolls by about 250,000 people at a cost to the state of \$1.2 billion annually but argued that cost could be absorbed by its \$2 billion health-fund surplus. They also noted New York already pays \$500 million annually for emergency and prenatal care for undocumented immigrants.]

This administration deported three children, ages 2, 4 and 7, who are U.S. citizens — the 4-year-old has a rare form of metastatic cancer, receiving treatment and deported without medication. ... Where is your line on these illegal actions?

With respect to the deportation of U.S. citizens, that should not happen. They should be immediately returned, and the administration should facilitate their return now, as the Supreme Court ruled on the case of Mr. [Kilmar] Abrego Garcia. [The court has ordered the Trump administration to "facilitate" the return of Garcia, who was mistakenly deported to a prison in El Salvador.]

What is Congress going to do to help enforce what should be done by the administration?

I have reached out to the administration

with respect to the issue pertaining to the deportations where there is a court order and believe fundamentally they should abide by it. If they do not, the mechanism for enforcement of that is through the court, and the court will take action to enforce their order. If then, they [Trump officials] still do not adhere to a court order, then Congress certainly would have purview for oversight.

Do you think [Robert F. Kennedy Jr.] is the right man for that job [health and human services secretary], and do you approve of what he has been doing and the changes he's going to make to our medical care?

On the issue of vaccines, for instance, I've been very critical of many of his statements, especially statements pertaining to autism. I think, obviously, it is certainly something that all of us should want: research on causes of autism, or why we have seen over the last 20-plus years a significant increase in the number of autism cases. But I fundamentally believe in the efficacy of vaccines. I have disagreed with him on a number of decisions and have written him numerous letters with respect to, for instance, cuts that would impact the World Trade Center Health Fund.

You talk about pushing back against all these cuts that they're doing to the NIH [National Institutes of Health] and to the FDA [Food and Drug Administration]. ... What do you need to do to make sure you're successful?

What I have done, and what I continue to do, is engage directly with the president, with his cabinet secretaries, with the administration, with the staff on a daily basis. And sometimes we're successful in getting them to reverse, and other times we're not, and that is just a reality of government.

What is Congress doing to coalesce behind a movement to stop this administration creating chaos and destruction, not only in this country, but all over world?

Congress is going to be going through

[budget] reconciliation, appropriations and a rescissions package, and through that process, Congress will exert its constitutional authority of power of the purse and control of the spending. And that is the give and take. The administration has an ability to put forth rescissions that they would like to see. That does not mean that we have to accept it.

Social Security has not been cut, but the people who administer it have been cut. How is it possible to give the people who have paid into it what they deserve when the ability to implement it is gone?

The federal workforce prior to COVID was 2.7 million people. At the end of Joe Biden's administration, the federal workforce was about 3 million people. Based on all the estimates that we have, based on changes that the [Trump] administration has made to the federal workforce, they are still above 2.8 million in the federal workforce. [The Social Security Administration said in February it plans to cut 7,000 of its 57,000 employees. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the federal workforce was 2.84 million in December 2019 and reached a six-year high of 3.16 million in August 2020, under the first Trump administration.]

What is your position on holding federal funds back from institutions of higher education [such as Harvard]?

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act requires these institutions to enforce federal law and crack down on antisemitism. They have, in a large measure, failed in that responsibility. ... In the last Congress, I introduced legislation that absolutely would strip any of these institutions of higher learning of federal dollars if they promoted or sanctioned antisemitism on their campuses. I would also say the flow of foreign dollars into our universities and institutions from countries like Qatar and China needs to be cracked down on because they are using those dollars to exert control over what is being taught in these institutions by endowing a chair.

I'd like to know what your thoughts are on the fact that the United States, in the last 100 days, has suffered a terrible loss of pride. People are just ashamed of their country.

On the issue of America's standing in the world, we're going to strongly agree to disagree. The fact is, after four years of Joe Biden's foreign policy, America and the world are in the most precarious place since the lead-up to World War II. You had that disastrous withdrawal in Afghanistan, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the terrorist attack against Israel, the threats emanating in the Indo Pacific from China.

Beacon Schools *(from Page 7)*

On April 22, the board unanimously approved the \$87.7 million plan, which includes a 5.09 percent tax-levy increase. Most of the discussion in recent board meetings has revolved around the levy

— or the total amount of property taxes the district can collect — which stands to increase because of new development and debt service on a \$50 million capital project approved last year by voters.

The proposed revenue for 2025-26 includes \$50 million in property taxes,

about \$32 million in state aid and \$2.5 million taken from savings.

Administrators said the budget will allow the district to maintain smaller elementary class sizes, increased mental health support for students and a full-day pre-K program. For the first time, the district would launch

a summer workshop program for incoming high school students and create an on-site mental health clinic at Rombout Middle School. The district would also hire additional teachers for elementary students struggling in math and reading and a part-time elementary speech instructor.

Putnam Legislature Debates Plan to Share Savings

Towns, villages would split sales-tax revenue

By Leonard Sparks

Putnam legislators on Monday (April 28) discussed a plan to share sales taxes with the county's municipalities — including Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown — two weeks after County Executive Kevin Byrne outlined a proposal.

Members of the Audit Committee reviewed a proposal to distribute \$3 million of \$90 million in reserves to aid the county's six towns and three villages. The money, allocated based on population, could be used on infrastructure and capital projects and "essential services," but not payroll.

Legislator Toni Addonizio suggested increasing the outlay to \$5 million and allotting the same amount in 2026. She referenced a charge by Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley that Putnam was "hoarding" money. "We don't want to hoard money; we want to give it out," said Addonizio.

Putnam's surplus, including savings allocated to expenses, hit \$134 million this year, a level which Legislator Paul Jonke called "obscene." Michael Lewis, the finance commissioner, said Monday that unspent funds from unfilled positions and inflation-driven increases in sales-tax revenue fueled the surplus.

Legislator Greg Ellner said that Putnam's next annual audit, when released, will show another \$8 million to \$12 million in the surplus.

By sending some of that money to municipalities, Putnam would join 50 of the state's 62 counties that share revenue. Dutchess, for instance, distributes 2.35 percent of sales taxes collected to Beacon, 5.41 percent to the City of Poughkeepsie and 9.5 percent to its towns and villages.

A proposal unveiled by Byrne on April 15 and endorsed by the municipalities would share one-ninth of the 1 percent of sales-tax intake, which would have amounted to about \$2.3 million based on 2024 revenue. It would take effect only if the state passes a pending bill allowing Putnam to continue collecting 4 percent, which it has done since 2007 when the state permitted the county to raise its rate by 1 percent.

The 4 percent rate has been repeatedly extended but expires on Nov. 30. State lawmakers must pass another extension before the end of the current session on June 12 or the rate will revert to 3 percent. The total sales tax in Putnam is 8.375 percent, which includes 4 percent for the state and 0.375 percent for the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, said she likes Byrne's proposal because it is based on sales-tax revenue. If the county came to a point "where we have no fund balance," the money would not be distributed.

Montgomery, who once proposed a plan in which the municipalities would receive 50 percent of sales taxes over the amount budgeted, offered several amendments to the Audit Committee resolution: (1) that Byrne be involved in crafting the agreement, (2) that municipalities be allowed to spend on personnel "tied to short-term and public needs" and (3) that it include reporting and audit requirements.

"While I appreciate the efforts in including our municipalities in the resolution that you wrote, I think it requires a lot more," she told her colleagues. "I really wish you would have considered my resolution."

Foley, who was at the meeting, also expressed concerns, including that the proposal does not establish a minimum amount that municipalities would receive. Byrne's plan guarantees each town and village at least \$50,000, a commitment particularly important for Nelsonville, whose 600 residents make it the county's smallest municipality.

Foley called for assurances that revenue-sharing would continue beyond next year, such as the long-term agreements Dutchess and other counties have in place.

Because of the surplus, the Legislature voted last month, 5-4, to ask the state to allow the county to lower its sales-tax rate to 3.75 percent, but Byrne vetoed the reso-

lution and proponents did not have the six votes needed to override. The county executive cited the loss of an estimated \$5 million in revenue from a lowered rate and found allies in a bipartisan coalition of town and village officials.

That support was noted by state Sen. Pete Harcham in legislation he introduced on April 22 to extend the 4 percent rate to Nov. 30, 2027. Matt Slater submitted a companion bill in the Assembly on April 24.

Ag Board

Before the Audit Committee met, the full Legislature approved a resolution adding Ridge Ranch in Patterson to the county Agricultural District to comply with a court order in a lawsuit filed by the livestock farm.

State Judge Victor Grossman ruled on April 16 that the Legislature in August had improperly rejected a recommendation from its Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board to add Ridge Ranch to the district, whose benefits include exempting farms from "unreasonable" local laws that might restrict operations.

Legislators based their August vote on an "erroneous" criterion established in 2007 that requires farms in the district have one of the top six of the state's 10 classifications for soil, said Grossman. That requirement

is "irrational, arbitrary and capricious" because the classifications concern crops, not livestock, he ruled.

Daniel Honovich, a veterinarian, runs Ridge Ranch with his wife, Arielle, who has a degree in animal science and teaches special education for the Mahopac school district. The couple raises and breeds Scottish Highland, Brahman Gyr and Zebu cows, along with chickens, goats, mini donkeys and rabbits. They also host tours, birthday parties, "goat yoga" and other activities.

"I would like to apologize to the Honovichs and the farmers of Putnam County," said Montgomery, one of three legislators who supported adding Ridge Ranch and four other farms to the district. "It didn't have to go this way."

Elections reporting

The Audit Committee approved a request from the Board of Elections to spend \$66,000 on a four-year contract with a Florida company, Enhanced Voting, that offers real-time results, including graphs and maps, for elections.

Dutchess County already uses the system, which automatically tabulates results and posts them online, said Cathy Croft, the Democratic election commissioner. "You guys will love it, I promise you," she said.

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AROUND TOWN



▲ **PIGGY BANK RETURNS** — Barbecue returned to Beacon on April 26 with the reopening of the Piggy Bank by Kamel Jamal of Ziatun and Greg Colon of Draught Industries at 446 Main St. Inspired by barbecue joints on the South Side of Chicago, Doug Berlin opened the original Piggy Bank in 2000; it closed about 12 years ago and the former bank was later home to restaurants such as Dim Sum Go Go and The Vault.

◀ **AUTHOR VISIT** — Susan Minot, whose most recent novel is *Don't Be a Stranger*, spoke at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring on April 27 as part of its Sunset Reading Series.

Photos by Ross Corsair



▲ **GREEN FEST** — The Hudson Valley Brewery in Beacon hosted an environmental fair on April 26 to celebrate Earth Day following a citywide cleanup.

Photo by Ross Corsair

◀ **BEGINNINGS** — The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail had a booth at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market on April 26, where it shared the seeds of native plants that will be planted on the west side of Route 9D near Breakneck.

Photo by Leo Grocott



The Philipstown Depot Theatre presents:

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May 2-18

photo by Cecilia De Bucourt

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PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE

The Calendar

Jazz Jam

Quinn's in Beacon hosts monthly open mic

By Marc Ferris

Aside from local celebrity Mary Poppiins playing the spoons and Beacon High School junior Teo Fairbanks sitting in on drums, the house band and most of the visiting musicians at Quinn's monthly jazz jam in April came from afar.

Pianist Elliot Steele, who drove 75 minutes from Catskill, has attended every first Monday session for the past three years. (It happens again at Quinn's on May 5.) Trumpet player Josh Economy trekked across the river from Walden, and drummer Jeremy Holman bopped down from New Paltz to check out the vibe and socialize. "I'm way out of practice," he says.

Steve Scholz, a piano player who lives an hour away in Germantown, says it's worth the trip — not so much to jam along on two songs, but because "there's a big sense of community."

Horns, guitars and spoons are BYO. Chris Talio (bass) and Matthieu Carvin (electric keyboard) offer their instruments to regulars and strangers alike as host Bryan Kopchak reads the room to assemble compatible



Steve Frieder and Kristina Koller perform at Quinn's.



Drummer and host Bryan Kopchak, drummer Bob Meyer and saxophonist Steve Frieder

Photos by Nik Bucci

combos. Most participants play piano or drums and the house set, a compact vintage Ludwig model, is well-suited for jazz.

Because no other bass players showed up at Quinn's on April 7, Talio put in yeoman's work. During his dinner break, Poppiins pulled out the spoons and improvised with Kopchak, who lives in Central Valley.

"This is the bestest place to be on a Monday night in Beacon," said Poppiins, who established the rhythm. Kopchak started on brushes, then picked up the sticks and hit the drums' metal rims. Sounding like tap dancers, they created enough variation to keep things interesting.

According to Kopchak, the jazz cats began hanging at Quinn's about 10 years ago, took a hiatus during the pandemic and returned in February 2022. The forum gives younger students a chance to mix it up with experienced musicians in a real-world setting.

Fairbanks plays trumpet with the high



Quinn's holds a jazz jam on the first Monday night of each month.

File photo

school big band and a smaller group, but he is also adept behind the drums. Anticipating his turn at Quinn's, he took a seat near the stage, bobbing his head, tapping his feet and staring at the kit.

After Kopchak counted off "one, two, you know what to do," Fairbanks locked in with Steele on piano as they exchanged improvised call-and-response riffs. When Talio took an experimental flight, Fairbanks

kept pace, incorporating the tom-toms into beats that complemented the tune.

Fairbanks' parents, professional trombone player Jeff and cellist Choi, instilled a love for the form. His younger brother, Kyle, plays alto sax and would have shown up to the jam but got bogged down with homework.

Teo would like to study jazz in college. "There's nothing else like it; you can be creative with the dynamics of the solos and slip in your own material on the fly," he said. "It's where the unexpected happens."

Jazz also fosters communication onstage and off. "I can have anxiety speaking with people sometimes, but when I play, it's like me talking and it's not as awkward," Teo says. "I've made a lot of friends through this music."

Quinn's is located at 330 Main St. in Beacon. The music begins at 8 p.m. There is also a jazz jam on the third Wednesday of each month at The Falcon in Marlboro.

A Liturgy for Longing

Beacon performer blurs line with audience

By Marc Ferris

It took a while for Emily Clare Zempel to accept that she swims against the tide. "I faked it for so many years," she says. "I'm from Wisconsin and know about overly polite people-pleasers, but I just don't have the juice to pretend anymore."

Loss and grief are central elements of her edgy, experimental theater work, "Liturgy for Longing," which opens May 9 at the Beacon Performing Arts Center.

After the death of a close family member, Zempel, an actor and academic, let everything pour out. The result is an interactive, collective experience that blurs the line between performer and audience, limited to 10 per show.

"People can participate to whatever degree they want, even if it's zero," she says. "I'm not pulling anyone from the audience onstage. There is no stage and the focus



Emily Clare Zempel



Zempel during a rehearsal



Photos provided

shifts from me to all of us and back again."

Zempel says she designed the ambitious project to expand form and technique as she addresses taboos. "I'm aiming to pull these things from the shadows so we can shake away our fear, come together and know we're not alone," she says.

The core of her work is an exploration of mental health. "Traumatic events made me think about the things I haven't done," she says, so she pierced her nose, adopted a cat and sat for her first tattoo.

"Early on in life, I wore a mask and tried to behave in a way that other people wanted," she says. "Now, I'm learning to trust my weird little brain and let it loose. A lot of my art comes

from deep passion, ongoing feelings and a wellspring of introspection, which can ignite an inner fire or be a paralyzing emotion."

The ritualistic concept consists of moving people through a set performance. Because the room is a white box, Zempel shifts dynamics from one component to the next, with props and collective rituals.

Her soul-stirring prompted a deep dive into poetry, fairy tales, scientific articles, blog posts by psychotherapists and literature in languages beyond English. "Longing is the core of human existence," she says. "You must face the inevitable loss of everything, yet we long for this to be untrue."

In addition to raising two sons and work-

ing on a doctorate at the University of Birmingham in England about how actors approach emotion in Shakespeare's plays, Zempel says she only does acting work she feels connected to.

"I know commercials can pay the bills, but I can't get there," she says. "I'd much rather make strange and interesting things in a small space in Beacon."

The Beacon Performing Arts Center is located at 327B Main St. The first three performances have sold out, but seats are available for May 15-18. Tickets are \$15, \$25 or \$40 at liturgyforlonging.brownpapertickets.com.

THE WEEK AHEAD

COMMUNITY

SAT 3
Spring Thrift Apparel Sale
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St.
coldspringthriftalliance.org
Shop for adult clothing, shoes and accessories to benefit the church and Philipstown Food Pantry. Also **SUN 4**.

SAT 3
Houseplant Swap
GARRISON
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Bring a healthy plant, take a healthy plant.

SAT 3
Opening Day
WAPPINGERS FALLS
1 – 4 p.m.
Sports Museum of Dutchess County
72 Carnwath Farms Lane
sportsmuseumofdutchesscounty.org
Join the museum for an opening day ceremony, dedication of the Patsy “Pat” Zerbe Women in Sports Room, refreshments and entertainment.

SUN 4
Hudson Valley Marathon
HIGHLAND
5 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Walkway Over the Hudson
87 Haviland Road
hudsonvalleymarathon.com
Participate in a marathon, half-marathon, 10K, 5K or 1-mile race.
Cost: \$22 to \$135

WED 7
Hudson Valley Fair
WAPPINGERS FALLS
5 – 10 p.m. Heritage Financial Park
1500 Route 9D | dub.sh/HV-fair-2025
The fair will include rides, games and food. Daily until **SUN 11**. Free admission and parking. Unlimited rides are \$37.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 3
Willy Wonka Kids
BEACON
10 a.m. & 12:30, 3 & 5:30 p.m.
Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Ave.
beaconperformingartscenter.com
Four casts from the Beacon Performing Arts Center will stage the Roald Dahl classic about a magical candymaker. *Cost: \$10 (\$17 seniors, \$6 children, teens)*

SUN 4
Fishing Derby
PHILIPSTOWN
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Cold Spring Reservoir
Fishkill Avenue
This annual event is organized by the Nelsonville Fish & Fur Club for children and teens ages 15 and younger. *Free*

SUN 4
Opera for Kids
BEACON
1 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
The Met Chorus Artists will stage an interactive performance of Mozart’s *The Magic Flute* for children ages 6 and older. *Cost: \$15 (children free)*

SUN 4
Big Button Game Show
BEACON
3 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | theyardbeacon.com
Teams of up to five, armed with only one button, battle through five rounds of brain-busting challenges. *Cost: \$5 (children under 13 free)*

WED 7
The Anxious Generation
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Philipstown Hub
5 Stone St. | 845-809-5050
philipstownhub.org
The Haldane PTA and the Hub have partnered for a discussion of Jonathan Haidt’s book about youth struggles tied to social media and helicopter parenting.

FRI 9
Book Binding
BEACON
5:30 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Students in grades 5 and higher are invited to learn how to make a bound book or journal. Registration required.

SAT 10
Paws & Paint
BEACON
5:30 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Pat Schories, the illustrator of the *Biscuit* series, will talk with children ages 4 to 8 about how books are made and her creative process. Registration required.

PLANT SALES

SAT 10
Master Gardeners Plant Sale
CARMEL
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Memorial Park
201 Gypsy Trail Road
845-278-6738 x 220
putnam.cce.cornell.edu
Browse garden accessories, flowering plants, pollinator favorites, vegetables and herbs, and bog and carnivorous plants. Families and children can enjoy a fun 4-H day of pony rides, crafts and educational displays.



Fishing Derby, May 4

SAT 10
Plant Sale
FISHKILL
9 a.m. – Noon. Town Hall | 807 Route 52
facebook.com/verplanckgardenclub
The Verplanck Garden Club sale will include flowers and vegetables.

SAT 10
Plant Sale
BEACON
Noon – 4 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery
7 E. Main St. | commongroundfarm.org
The Common Ground Farm offerings will include herbs, veggies, flowers and fruit.

MOTHER’S DAY

SAT 10
Garden Party
COLD SPRING
5 – 7 p.m. Split Rock Books
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080
splitrockbks.com
Katherine Whiteside and Dr. Peter Gergely will sign books and there will be bouquets for sale to benefit a Memorial Sloan-Kettering program that provides books to children.

SUN 11
Mother’s Day Tea
GARRISON
11 a.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
The buffet-style tea will include tulips and a family portrait. *Cost: \$70 (\$50 ages 4 to 18, free ages 4 and younger)*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 3
Losing Darkness
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
A panel that includes Shannon Calvert, president of the Westport Astronomical Society, and Joseph Montuori, president of Sustainable Putnam, will discuss how light pollution affects our health and the natural world.

FRI 9
Nightshining
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com
Jennifer Kabat will discuss her book, *Nightshining: A Memoir in Four Floods*, with Summer Hart.

FRI 9
The Worst Drug Crisis in History
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | philipstownhub.org
In this presentation hosted by the Philipstown Hub, Regina LaBelle, former director of the U.S. Presidential Office of National Drug Control Policy, will discuss the past, present and future impact of addiction and overdose in the U.S. with Brandon del Pozo, a health policy professor and former police chief. Register online. *Free*

SAT 10
Poetry in the Garden
GARRISON
Noon. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Mary Newell, Alison Granucci and Heller Levinson will read their poetry.

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 3
I Love My Park Day
9 a.m. – Noon. Various
Cleanup sites include Hubbard Lodge, Stony Kill Farm, Bannerman Castle and Little Stony Point. Find sites and register at ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day.

SAT 3
Riverkeeper Sweep
BEACON
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Various
dub.sh/riverkeeper-sweep
Volunteer to help with the annual cleanup organized by Riverkeeper at the Beacon waterfront, Dennings Point, Long Dock Park or by kayak. Register online.

SAT 3
Riverkeeper Sweep
COLD SPRING
9 a.m. – Noon. Dockside | 34 West St.
dub.sh/riverkeeper-sweep
Volunteer to help with the annual cleanup organized by Riverkeeper. Register online.

SUN 4
History Hike
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Ave. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org
Learn about the role of the foundry in the Civil War and the Industrial Revolution. *Cost: \$15 (\$12 members)*

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 10
Diana Vidal
BEACON
4 – 7 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com
For her solo show, *The Hard and Soft of It*, Vidal will explore lived experience over time with painting, sculpture, and text. Through June 7.



SAT 10
Daniel Berlin | Iain Wall
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | 845-440-7584
baugallery.org
Berlin’s show, *Swallowing the Sun*, explores the concept. *In This Place*, a group show, will fill Gallery 2 and Wall’s *Precious Stones* is in the Beacon Room. Through June 8.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 3
The Tango Diaries
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing
845-424-3900 | depottheater.org
Alice Jankell directs this play framed by the passionate dance form. Also **SUN 4**, **FRI 9**, **SAT 10**, **SUN 11** and weekends through May 18. *Cost: \$25 to \$45*

SAT 3
Big Fish: The Musical
WAPPINGERS FALLS
8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491
countyplayers.org
This musical adventure tells the larger-than-life story inspired by a father’s tales. Also **FRI 9**, **SAT 10**, **SUN 11** and weekends through May 18. *Cost: \$30 (\$28 seniors, military, students)*

SUN 4
The Center Will Not Hold
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Watch the 2017 documentary about the writer Joan Didion, followed by a discussion led by Priscilla Goldfarb. The director, Griffin Dunne, will appear at a library event on June 15. *Free*

SUN 4
Feel Recordings in the River Field
BEACON
4 p.m. River Center | 8 Long Dock Road
feelrecordings.eventbrite.com
Poet Edwin Torres will be joined

by Alex Waterman (cello), Sean Meehan (snare) and Gryphon Rue (electronics) for an eco-poetic sound event. *Cost: \$10 or \$15*

TUES 6
Bound
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon Theater | 445 Main St.
beaconfilmsociety.org

This indie film follows a young woman as she attempts to escape an abusive home life. A meet-and-greet with director Isaac Hirotsu Woofter will be hosted by the Beacon Film Society at 6 p.m. at Kitchen & Coffee, and he will answer questions after the screening. *Cost: \$15 (\$13 seniors, military)*

THURS 8
Hello Dolly!
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Watch the 1969 film that was filmed in Garrison and inspired by Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker," followed by a discussion led by Davis McCallum, who will direct the play this summer for Hudson Valley Shakespeare.

THURS 8
Broadway in Beacon
BEACON
7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
theyardbeacon.com
Will Reynolds and Jen Malenke will host this night of magic and



Bound, May 6

mayhem. Sign up to sing starting at 6 p.m. *Cost: \$20 or \$25*

FRI 9
The Bald Soprano
BEACON
7 p.m. Savage Wonder
139 Main St. | sawagewonder.org
The new theater will stage a reading of Eugène Ionesco's absurdist play. Also SAT 17. *Cost: \$25*

PETE SEEGER

SAT 3
Pete's Birthday
BEACON
1 p.m. Sloop Club | 2 Red Flynn Drive
beaconsloopclub.org
Bring an instrument and join a circle of song to honor folk singer Pete Seeger, a longtime Beacon resident who died in 2014 at age 94.

SAT 3
Pete's Birthday
BEACON
6 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
David Bernz, Jacob Bernz and Steve Kirkman will celebrate Seeger's music on the Salon Stage. *Free*



Pete Seeger

SUN 4
Pete Seeger Festival
PUTNAM VALLEY
2 – 5 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
This annual festival will include sets by the Move Choir, the Trouble Sisters, Rick Nestler and others. Donations welcome. *Free*

SUN 4
Songs and Stories
BEACON
6:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Lydia Adams Davis and Roland Mousaa will perform on the Salon Stage. *Free*

MUSIC

SAT 3
Rising Artists
PHILIPSTOWN
6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
The Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach will stage a program that includes works by Shostakovich, Puccini and Dvorak. *Cost: \$55 (\$35 ages 4 to 18, free for 4 and younger)*

SUN 4
Metropolitan Opera Chorus Artists
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
Whitney George will lead a

program featuring seven singers performing arias, duets and ensembles from the eras of opera. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

FRI 9
Bruce Molsky
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The American roots master will be joined by Swedish composer Ale Möller. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 10
Jazz of Now
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | musicatstmarys.com
Lindsey Horner (bass) and Neil Kirkwood (piano) will play originals and jazz classics. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 10
New Muse 4tet
BEACON
7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
theyardbeacon.com/upcoming
Gwen Laster (violin), Teddy Rankin-Parker (cello), Melanie Dyer (viola) and Andrew Dury (drums) will debut their new album, *Keepers of the Flame*. *Cost: \$22 (\$25 door)*

(Continued on Page 14)

MUSIC  ST MARY'S



Jazz of Now

Lindsey Horner, bass
Neal Kirkwood, piano
playing music of Ellington, Strayhorn, Monk and ourselves.

Saturday, May 10, 2025 @ 2 PM



Free - donations in support of Music at St Mary's accepted

St. Mary's Episcopal Church • Corner of 9D & Main Street • Cold Spring, NY



May 17
Todd Keisling
with
Jonathan Lees



May 29
Paula Bomer
Marcy Dermansky
with
Jackie Corley

What My Father And I Don't Talk About
Sixteen Writers Break the Silence
edited by Michele Filgate

May 31
Michele Filgate
Robin Reif
with
Sari Botton



stanza
author
events

HOT

AIR

MARCY

DERMANSKY



508 main beacon
845-674-4707

stanzabooks.com



Start Reading Now

May book club selections

Lit Book Club

TUES 6, 7 P.M.
Stone Yard Devotional, by Charlotte Wood
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/book-clubs.

Fantasy Book Club

TUES 13, 7 P.M.
Biting the Sun, by Tanith Lee
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/book-clubs.

Page-to-Screen Book Club

THURS 15, 3 P.M.
Me Before You, by Jojo Moyes
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison
Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events.

Butterfield Book Club

MON 19, 7 P.M.
Stay True, by Hua Hsu
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Graphic Novel Book Club

TUES 20, 3:30 P.M.
Flung Out of Space, by Grace Ellis and Hannah Templer
Underwater Welder, by Jeff Lemire
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison
Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events.

Sci-Fi Book Club

TUES 20, 7 P.M.
The Left Hand of Darkness, by Ursula K. Le Guin
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/book-clubs.

Queer Book Club

TUES 20, 7 P.M.
Imogen, Obviously, by Becky Albertalli
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splitrockbks.com/event.

Wednesday Book Club

WED 21, 2 P.M.
Educated, by Tara Westover
Howland Library, Beacon
Register at beaconlibrary.org/calendar.

Fiction Book Club

THURS 22, 7 P.M.
On the Calculation of Volume (Books I and II), by Solvej Balle
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splitrockbks.com/event.

Graphic Novel Book Club (Ages 7-11)

FRI 30, 3:15 P.M.
Minecraft (Vol. 2), by Sfe R. Monster
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 13)

SAT 10
Ensemble Sangineto
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The group brings a contemporary take to ancient Irish, Scottish, Breton and Italian songs. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 10
Elgar's Friends & Ravel at 150
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Ave.
hudsonvalleysymphony.org
The Hudson Valley Symphony Orchestra will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the French composer's birth. *Cost: \$55 to \$68 (\$38 seniors, \$15 students, ages 5 and younger are free)*

SAT 10
John Blum & Michael Foster
BEACON
8 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Luke
15 South Ave.
blumfoster.eventbrite.com
The firebrand pianist and saxophonist will perform jazz. *Cost: \$20 (\$30 door)*

SAT 10
Shark?
BEACON
8 p.m. Quinn's
330 Main St. | quinnsinbeacon.com
The band celebrates middle age with their songs from *A Simple Life*.

SAT 10
StrangeMagicNY
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Electric Light Orchestra tribute band will perform. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 11
Satisfaction
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
This Rolling Stones tribute band has been playing together for 20 years. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

VISUAL ART

SAT 3
Between Observation and Abstraction
COLD SPRING
5 – 7 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St. | busterlevigallery.com
This show by Lisa Diebboll features her studio work. Through May 31.



Michael Foster, May 10

SAT 10
Pallas Athene
PUTNAM VALLEY
2 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The artist will exhibit her sculptural collage series. Through July 4.

SAT 10
Art Now in the Hudson Valley
GARRISON
3 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org
A live auction and raffle will feature works by Hudson Valley artists and benefit the art center. *Cost: \$25*

CIVIC

MON 5
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

TUES 6
Putnam Legislature
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountyny.com

TUES 6
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

TUES 6
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Middle School | 15 Craigside Drive
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

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

WED 7
School Board
GARRISON
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

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



Gifts & Joyful Surprises for Mother's Day

www.brassmonkeyhome.com | shop online | pick up in store
26 Main Street, Cold Spring | Through the tunnel



SATURDAY, MAY 10, 7:30PM

Italian Strings and Voices for World Music

Ancient harmonies meet modern rhythms—this vibrant ensemble creates fresh arrangements encompassing traditional Irish, Scottish, Breton, and Italian tunes, along with original compositions shaped by a diverse range of genres—from classical and folk to Gregorian chant, musical theater, pop, and Celtic music.



ADDRESS:
729 Peekskill Hollow Rd, Putnam Valley, NY

WEB:
tompkinscorners.org



BREAKING BEACON



Eight times each year, the members of Kelly Hamburger and Jacob Arbor's newspaper club at Beacon High School publish *Breaking Beacon*, the first student-run publication at the school in more than 30 years. Here, we share excerpts from the January/February, March, April and May issues.

Editors-in-chief

Annabelle Notarthomas,
Kayla Selander

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Jordan, Ela Lyons, Mikaela Sanchez,
Liliana Rybak, Eliza Verdichizzi

Photographer

Aron Li

Blades of Brilliance

Beacon High School alumnus competes in the Winter Special Olympics

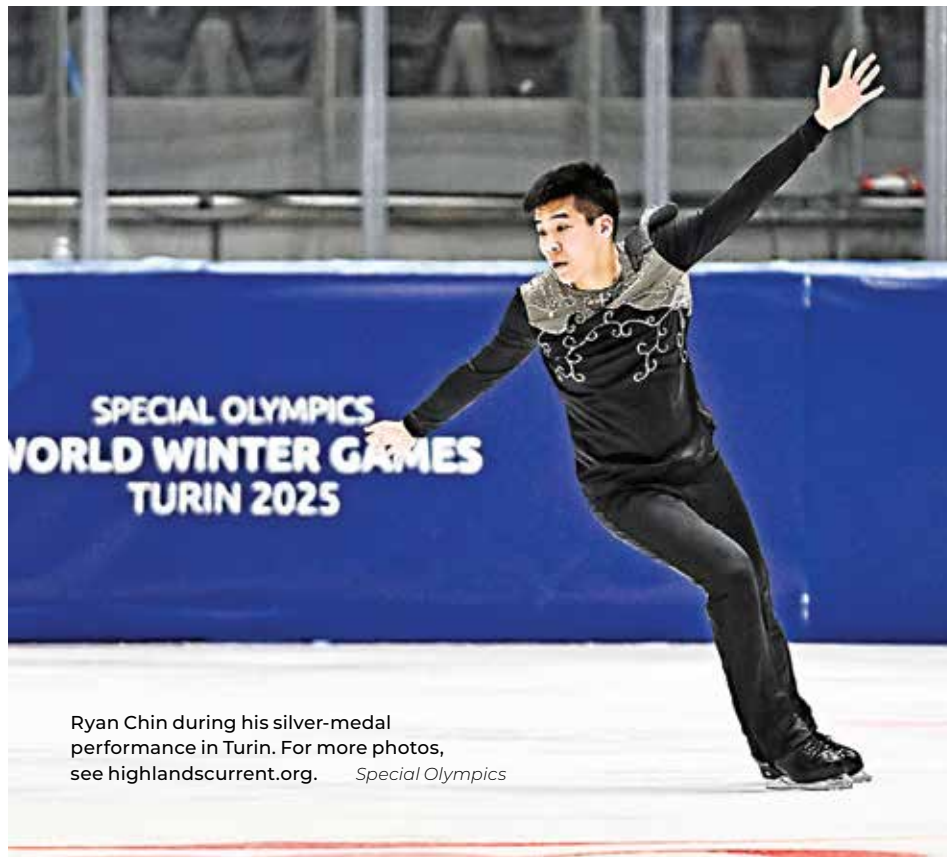
BY ANNABELLE NOTARTHOMAS

Beacon High School alumnus Ryan Chin achieved a remarkable victory in March, winning the silver medal in figure skating at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Italy.

His journey from Beacon to the Olympics exemplifies perseverance and determination, with the support of a dedicated coach, Deirdre Bonanno, who, coincidentally, works in the Beacon City School District office.

Chin has been skating for 12 years. His journey toward Olympic-level competing started at McCann Ice Arena of Poughkeepsie, where Ryan participated in a Sunday therapeutic class. He was introduced to Bonanno, a coach at the facility who has an immense background in figure skating,

(Continued on Page 16)



Ryan Chin during his silver-medal performance in Turin. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org. *Special Olympics*

Three Decades at Beacon



Mrs. Fontenot with senior Mason Alencastro

Mrs. Fontenot

BY ANNABELLE NOTARTHOMAS

After 34 years in the Beacon school district, special education teacher Mrs. Gina Fontenot plans to retire this summer.

Fontenot began her career in education at the ARC early-intervention preschool program for one year before joining BCSD. She believed "Beacon was the place I was supposed to be." Fontenot taught at South Avenue Elementary, JV Forrester Elementary and Rombout Middle School before moving to Beacon High School in 2003.

In retirement Fontenot plans to relocate to Louisiana to be closer to her in-laws. Fontenot leaves behind a legacy of dedication and support for her students, forever brightening the BCSD community.

Ms. Malin

BY ZOOEY DEDRING

Ms. Laurie Malin, a longtime science teacher at Rombout Middle School, will retire after 35 years of teaching.

Her career has spanned a juvenile detention center, middle-school classrooms and — her personal favorite — preschools, where she introduced young children to exotic animals. Now, she says it's finally time to kick back and relax.

When asked about her retirement plans, Ms. Malin shared dreams of traveling to the

(Continued on Page 16)

Beacon Battles Bus Shortage

Beacon fights against busing issues felt nationally

BY NADEEN AHMED

It's no secret that the Beacon City School District struggles with busing issues. This is especially evident to teachers who try to

plan field trips but find it difficult to secure a bus and to sports coaches and student-athletes who sometimes must reschedule, cancel games or share a bus with another team.

Beacon is not alone in this struggle; it is a problem faced by schools nationwide. This is a complex issue to solve, but the reasoning behind

(Continued on Page 16)

Lose to Gain

Growing up as a second-generation American

BY MADISON ABRAHAMSON

In the early 1960s, my great-grandmother, Angelica, immigrated to New York from the Dominican Republic as an au pair, hoping to better herself by pursuing an education. She recalled being looked down upon by white people for not knowing English and having a darker skin tone. She shared that she had to enter stores, such as Woolworth's, through the back rather than the front, where white patrons entered.

Despite these obstacles, Angelica worked hard to advance within the country. She cared for children during the day and attended nursing school at night. Using money she inherited from her father and earned from her job, she purchased a multi-family home in the Bronx and was able to bring her husband and four children to the U.S.

Twenty years later, my mother's family immigrated to Michigan from Trinidad. Despite the progress made since the 1960s, many immigrants and Black individuals still faced discrimination. My grandfather, Earl, a skilled sailor and welder, sought better

(Continued on Page 16)

Bridging the Gap

Bringing orchestra to Beacon schools

BY PIPER BRUNO

Beacon High School has a talented band program. Band students march in parades, perform at football and basketball games and help unite the school community.

Additionally, BHS offers a pit orchestra open to students who can play an instrument. The orchestra accompanies the Beacon Players in their productions. Since 2022, the orchestra has performed in *Les Misérables*, *The Phantom of the*

(Continued on Page 16)



The pit orchestra performs at Beacon Players musicals.

BREAKING BEACON



Ryan Chin *Special Olympics*

Ice skating (from Page 15)

starting at age 4. In training for the games, Ryan worked with several coaches, adapting to different styles while picking up a little of everyone’s strengths and techniques.

Chin steadily bonded with Bonanno, who accompanied him to Turin, Italy, where he competed. Needless to say, Bonanno is proud to be coaching the Olympic champion. “Ryan met Olympian Nancy Kerrigan, coming home to tell us that he was taking lessons with Olympian Paul Wylie in Lake Placid, but I guess the most memorable moment was when we got the call” that Chin had been selected for the Winter Games, she said.

Not only can Chin check off the dream of being an Olympic athlete, but he can proudly say he has indulged in true Italian cuisine, as his lesser-known interest is cooking.

School Bus (from Page 15)

it is straightforward: There simply aren’t enough people with commercial driver’s licenses (CDLs) interested in driving school buses. Because of this national shortage, districts across the country are in need, and potential drivers have many options. This makes recruiting new bus drivers highly competitive.

According to Mr. Dwyer, the district is exploring ways to attract drivers by reviewing pay and other incentives. All we can do is hope that the district’s efforts succeed, making busing less of a problem for our schools.

Orchestra (from Page 15)

Opera and, recently, *Man of La Mancha*.

However, some wonder: If we have a pit orchestra, why don’t we have a full orchestra? There seems to be limited interest in a beginner orchestra class at the high school level, likely because students haven’t had opportunities to learn string instruments in earlier grades. Few are willing to pick up a string instrument and start learning in high school.

If elementary schools offered orchestra programs, it could pave the way for BHS to introduce orchestra classes.

Lose to Gain (from Page 15)

opportunities for his family, but on construction sites, he endured hateful comments and slurs. Many American workers overlooked him, despite his superior qualifications.

These family stories highlight a common struggle most immigrants face in this country: prejudice. Many immigrants experience discrimination due to negative stereotypes perpetuated by American media. To combat these biases, many immigrants work twice as hard as native-born Americans to prove themselves. Though racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination remain obstacles, many immigrants prevail, rising above the odds because they came to this country with a purpose.

Ms. Malin (from Page 15)

Galápagos Islands or setting off on a cruise to Antarctica. Eventually, she hopes to settle on a goat and crop farm.

Ms. Malin recalled a time working as a researcher in a lab, before quickly realizing it wasn’t for her. “I couldn’t stand being inside all day long,” she said. It was her mother who encouraged her to pursue teaching, despite her initial hesitations. That nudge changed everything. “I ended up absolutely adoring the profession,” she said.

As she prepared to say goodbye, Ms. Malin shared, “I will miss being a part of a large group doing something fun.” She has been a beacon of understanding, guided by the philosophy: “Kids will make mistakes — that’s how they grow.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Ms. Holder competed in e-sports in college. At their first national competition, her team made it to fifth place out of 150 teams.



Thursday | May 15, 2025 | 5:30 PM | Roundhouse

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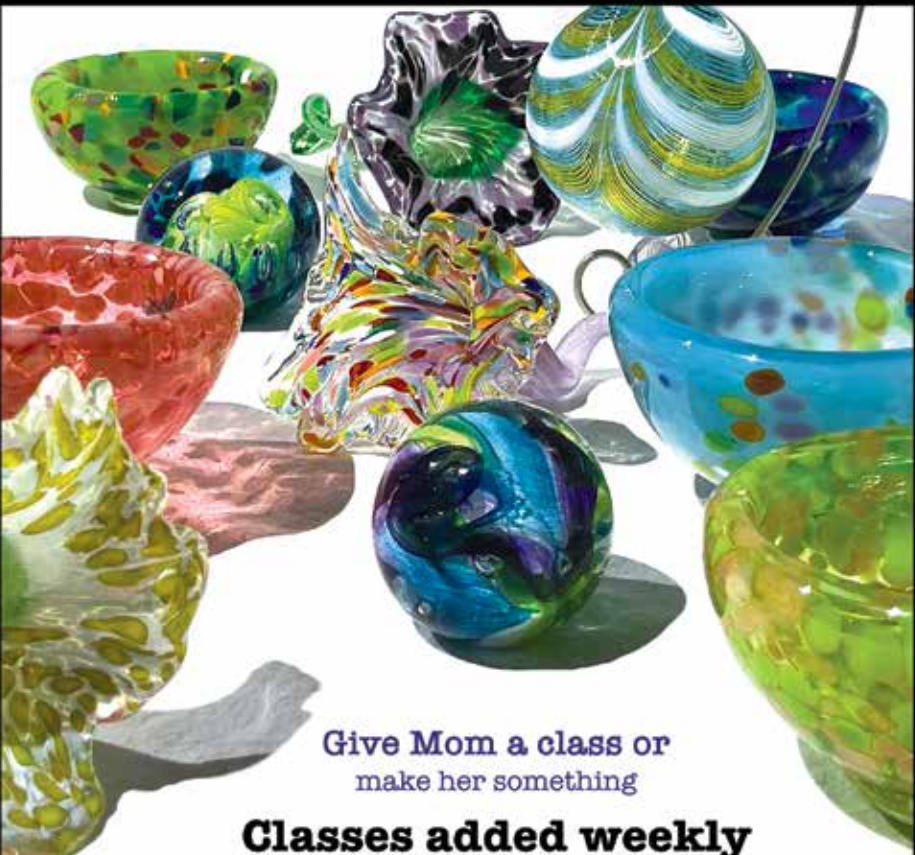
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Hail the Insects



Hudson Valley Shakespeare's fourth annual Highland Lights procession took place in Philipstown on April 26 just after a thunderstorm; the theme this year was microcosmos. The lanterns were more colorful and elaborate than ever.

Photos by Ross Corsair





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NOTICE

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF THE TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT ROLL PURSUANT TO SECTON 506 AND 526 OF THE REAL PROPERTY LAW

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned assessor for the Town of Philipstown, County of Putnam has completed the tentative assessment roll for the current year. A copy will be available May 1, 2025 at the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY, where it may be examined by any person interested until May 27, 2025. On that day, the Board of Assessment Review will sit at the Town Hall, Cold Spring, NY between the hours of 4P.M. – 8P.M. to hear and examine all complaints in relation to such assessments.

The Real Property Tax Law requires that all grievances be in writing. Forms for written submission are available in the Assessor's Office, Town Hall, Cold Spring, NY.

Dated this 22nd day of April 2025

Brian Kenney, Assessor

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – May 15th, 2025

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 15th, 2025 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 to consider the following application:

Gatekeepers, 3691 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516, TM#7.-1-4

Project: Amended Site Plan, Major: The property is developed with an existing 10,000 sf retail/warehouse building. The Applicant is seeking amended site plan approval to utilize 2 acres of their 11.6 acre site for use as a landscaper/contractor yard.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring (behind Town Hall). Prior contact with Cheryl Rockett is required to arrange access to the documents, at (845) 265-5202.

Application and supporting materials for this application can also be seen at the below links:

<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/planningboard/mar-2025>
<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/planningboard/april-2025>

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 17th day of April, 2025.

Neal Zuckerman, Chair

Current Classifieds

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PROPERTY CARETAKER — The Property Caretaker will manage the maintenance and upkeep of multiple properties on the farm, some of which host events and overnight guests. This is a hands-on position that is responsible for painting, plumbing and electrical work while also overseeing a preventative maintenance program. Please see our website at glynwood.org/job-opportunities for a full job description and to apply.

FARM STORE — The Glynwood Farm Store is a mission-driven local foods store and retail destination located in a beautiful setting on Glynwood's working farm and 250-acre historic property. The Farm Store serves as both a welcome center and gateway to the public (visitors, supporters, customers), as well as a reliable food access point for our community. At the shop, we sell our own grown USDA-Organic vegetables, nose-to-tail cuts of Animal-Welfare-Approved meat, and distinctive products from regional farms. Please see our website at glynwood.org/job-opportunities for a full job description and to apply.

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DESIGN WITHIN REACH SOFA — Sofa purchased in 2020 in excellent condition. Natural linen, removable pillow and seat covers. Non-toxic down and foam. Dimensions: 78" long, 42" deep (24" seat depth), 15" seat height. Originally \$6,000; asking \$2,000, or best offer. Email poorbaughc@gmail.com.

NOTICES

BEACON CLASS OF 1965 — We are searching for our Beacon High School classmates to hold our 60th reunion in Beacon on Oct. 4. If you graduated with us, we'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to one of the following: Linda Salvatore Beasimer (lbeasimer@gmail.com), Barbara Conley Gosda (bgosda4765@gmail.com) or Connie Perdreau (corneliaperdreau@yahoo.com). Please feel free to share this information with other classmates from the Class of '65 so we can reach everyone. We also welcome suggestions for a venue and other comments.

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🌿The Magic of Alpines Workshop
Saturday, May 10th, 9am-1pm
\$70 / \$50 (members)

🌿The Rock Garden at NYBG with Michael Hagen, Curator
Saturday, May 10th, 2pm-3:30pm
\$20 / \$15 (members)

Ham Radio in the Highlands

A hobby — but also disaster response

By Michael Turton

It wasn't marked by parades, fireworks or an interview on *60 Minutes*, but World Amateur Radio Day was April 18.

For many, amateur, or "ham" radio, is viewed as a hobby from the past. But it's very much alive and more than a pastime, locally and internationally.

The century-old International Amateur Radio Union estimates there are 3 million operators in 160 countries, including 700,000 in the U.S., 540 in the immediate area, 50 in Philipstown and 43 in Beacon.

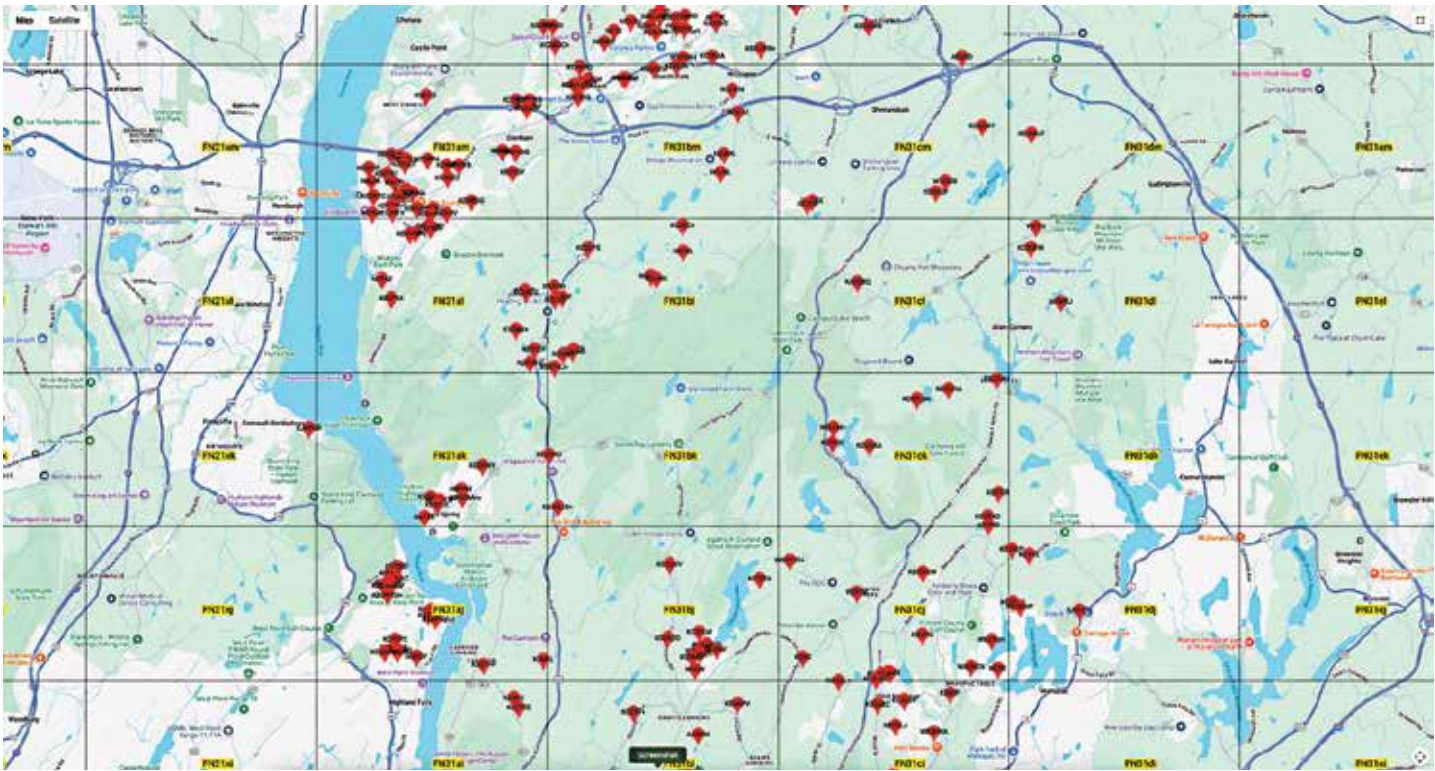
For many, interest in ham radio began early in life. As a 10-year-old, Joe Barbaro of Cold Spring loved listening to English-language, shortwave broadcasts from Germany, Russia and other faraway countries. "Radio Moscow was a favorite," he said. "Even at a young age I knew they were full of it, but it was fun to listen to."

He graduated to ham radio at age 14. "England was about the best I could do" for conversations, he said. "I didn't have powerful enough equipment for beyond that," he said. "I was kind of a minor-leaguer."

Another Cold Spring resident, Damian McDonald, got started at age 6. "My uncle was a Franciscan priest based in Bolivia, and the only way we communicated was ham radio," he said. "It was kind of magical, even with the static."

It motivated him to build his own ham radio from a Heathkit; today he has a mobile ham station in his car. Before he retired from a career in cybersecurity, he enjoyed conversations with other operators during his daily commute to New Jersey. "I could hold a conversation with the same person all the way down," he recalled.

McDonald noted that "emergency preparedness is still a core tenant of amateur radio," and Anesta Vannoy of



A map at haminfo.tetranz.com shows the locations of licensed ham radio operators.

Beacon would agree. She got into ham radio in 2018 as a disaster response chaplain. She wanted to assist at emergencies but, as a senior citizen, thought it could be difficult getting to the scenes of incidents.

She belongs to four networks: Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Mount Beacon Amateur Radio Club, Orange County Amateur Radio Club and the Harlem Emergency Network. "I like that I'm preparing myself to help others," she said.

She hones her skills at events such as the New York Airshow at Orange County Airport and the St. Patrick's Day parade in Wappingers Falls. She also attends trainings led by "elmers" from her networks — lingo for more experienced operators. Part of her weekly routine is checking her five radios to ensure each is charged and operational.

Her son, Raheem, will soon take the entry-level test for licensing by the Federal Communications Commission. Operators must pass tests at progressive levels: Technician, General and Amateur Extra.

Raheem is relearning Morse Code, a skill he acquired as a Boy Scout. Although Morse Code is no longer required, "it can still be useful in certain emergency situations," he said.

First responders see ham radio as an asset. Ralph Falloon, a Philipstown resident who is deputy commissioner of the Putnam Bureau of Emergency Services, said operators are considered part of the county's emergency preparedness network and provide vital backup in situations such as interruptions to the power grid.

"The Putnam Emergency and Amateur Repeater League, or PEARL, has an office in our building," in Carmel, he said. "They have radio equipment here and mobile towers they can set up for mini-networks."

Robert Cuomo, Putnam's director of emergency medical services, offered an example: If the grid goes down and a hospital generator fails, ham operators could set up on site and communicate with ambulances. That's what happened in 2005 in New Orleans when the region's infrastructure was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. "In many cases, the only communication in and out was ham radio," he said.

PEARL hosts field days for operators. It includes contests to see who can speak to the most people around the world[but also covers disaster training, Cuomo said. "They can't use commercial power — just a battery or generator. They throw antennas up in trees or bring in portable towers."

There are four basic types of ham radios. Handheld transceivers, the most common, have a range of a few miles but, when used through a repeater station such as one atop Mount Beacon, can achieve global reach; mobile stations that are typically installed in vehicles; base stations in fixed locations such as inside a home; and portable stations that are useful for emergencies and field operations.

The term "ham" dates to the turn of the 20th century; it was not a compliment. Professional radiotelegraph operators referred to amateurs as "hams" or "plugs." The first amateur radio satellite was launched in 1961, and more than 100 have followed.

Licensed Ham Operators

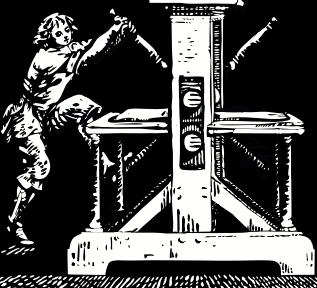
Fishkill	129	Putnam Valley	32
Newburgh	121	Cold Spring	31
Wappingers Falls	97	Cornwall	21
Beacon	43	Garrison	19
New Windsor	39	Highland Falls	8

Source: RadioQTH.net



Anesta Vannoy with her ham radios

Photo by M. Turton

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Classic Wheels

1961 BMW R60

By Michael Turton

Jack Rohrs remembers the moment he knew he had to own a BMW motorcycle. It was in the 1960s, and he was riding home from the Laconia racetrack in New Hampshire on his Triumph.

“It was vibrating so much, it was taking the screws out of my eyeglasses,” said Rohrs, 82, with a laugh. “A guy went by me on a BMW with tooled leather saddle bags; he looked so comfortable he could have been smoking a pipe.”

He now owns several BMWs. His greatest find was 22 years ago, when a hunter told him about an old bike in a barn not far from Rohrs’ home in Putnam Valley.

He put a note in the mailbox, but it turned out to be the wrong one. “Several weeks later, a man responded, saying he didn’t have a motorcycle. But he said the girl next door used to have an old Honda or something.”

The bike turned out to be a 1961 BMW R60, in good condition. A Connecticut dealer went over the motor at Rohrs’ request and found no problems, other than it hadn’t been



started in a long time. “The carburetors needed cleaning, the valves needed adjustment and it needed tires,” Rohrs said. “But it wasn’t beat up, and I was happy with that.”

He had the bike painted in a fresh coat of BMW’s trademark black and added a small rack to the back. “I’ve worked hard to get it set up right,” Rohrs said. “I can pretty much take my hands off and it doesn’t veer left or right.” Asked what he’d change, he said, “It needs a new seat.”

He doesn’t take the bike much past 60 mph but “they’re so smooth,” Rohrs said.

“Years ago they used to say BMWs don’t win the races, but they finish; when they were allowed to use superchargers, they won races for years.”

He describes his ‘61 as a fun ride. He bought the sidecar from a farmer in the Finger Lakes. Like the bike, it had sat in a barn for years. “It’s a Globe, a BMW knockoff,” he said. “I restored it and made brackets.”

His wife is a frequent passenger, and it’s also ferried a celebrity. Ten years ago, Rohrs was riding near Lake Oscawana and pulled up beside a woman walking along the road. “I

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- Total Production: 20,133
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- Horsepower: 28-30
- Gear box: Manual 4-speed, foot shifter
- Carburetors: Twin Bing
- Starter: Kick
- Curb weight: 437 pounds
- Top Speed: 90 mph
- 0-60 mph: 8.3 seconds
- Quarter mile: 16.6 seconds
- Fuel economy: 58 mpg
- 1961 Price: \$1,131 (about \$12,000 today)

said, ‘Hop in sweetheart. I’ll give you a ride,’” he recalled. “I didn’t know her from Adam.”

The woman liked the sidecar. “She hopped right in,” Rohrs said. It was Ruth Westheimer, the sex therapist who died last year at age 96.

Though the odometer reads 45,000 miles, the farthest Rohrs has taken the bike is Rhinebeck, including to a BMW rally there that included a sidecar parade. Replacement parts have been easy to find, he said, and being a member emeritus of the Finger Lakes BMW Motorcycle Club provides valuable contacts.

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Hudson Beach Glass

(from Page 1)

When the new owners took over, the structure was “in terrible shape, with plumbing issues and windows falling out,” said John Gilvey. But “we knew we were on the precipice of something happening,” Smith said — which was the arrival of Dia Beacon, a 240,000-square-foot museum on the waterfront that jumpstarted a cultural renaissance for the city.

After buying the building, the couples had \$30,000 left. They completed the rehabilitation with a \$300,000 federal loan.

John Gilvey and Benzer met in 1975, the year Gilvey began making glass. They kept in touch sporadically before running into each other at All Sport Health & Fitness in Fish-kill in 1984. “All of the showers were taken, so we’re both standing there naked,” Benzer recalled. “It was a perfect way to start a business.” Gilvey had been taking his creations to trade shows since 1977 and, by 1982, had contracts with major department stores.

After graduating from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1982, Benzer began hot-casting glass tiles and custom shapes out of a Maple Street facility that still doubles as his home. Placing an ornamental bowl on a tile-turned-saucer, his work was both decorative and functional,



Hudson Beach Glass occupies the former Tompkins Hose Co. firehouse, shown here in the 1920s.

Photo provided

“and it took off — fast,” said Gilvey.

Benzer and Smith handled manufacturing and shipping while the Gilveys, craft-fair warriors, managed marketing and customer service. In 1999, a college friend called Benzer to alert him that the Dia Art Foundation was negotiating to open its museum in a former Nabisco box factory.

“That’s when we concentrated all our energy on finding a location” for a glassworks and showroom, Benzer said. They looked on the east end of Main, where Ron Sauers and Doug Berlin were redeveloping brownstones.

They considered the building that is now home to Alps Sweet Shop. Eventually they beat out two other bidders for the 6,300-square-foot former firehouse, which had been decommissioned two decades earlier.

“It was perfect timing to stop schlepping things around and have people come to us,” said Wendy Gilvey. “People came all this way, and when they got up to Main Street, they were happy to find us.”

On a cold, rainy day in January 2003, Hudson Beach Glass opened its doors for Beacon’s first Second Saturday, which was

modeled on Philadelphia’s First Fridays. Despite having no heat and only a single shelf of glassware, “people actually came and bought stuff,” John Gilvey said. “We started bringing in people who wouldn’t normally come to a glass studio. That worked for us. When those people needed to buy a wedding gift, they came here.”

Mayor Lee Kyriacou, who joined the City Council in 1993, said he hopes that similarly creative investors will emerge to purchase the decommissioned Beacon Engine and Mase Hook and Ladder fire stations that the city listed for sale this week. “You’re walking up Main Street and it’s hard to miss them,” he said of Hudson Beach Glass. “You can see how important they are and what a great job they did” rehabbing a high-profile building.

Once 162 Main St. is sold, the Gilveys plan to travel with their three children and two grandchildren. One son considered taking over the business but opted instead for Boundless Life, a program that offers a “globally connected education” for families willing to travel. It will take the family this fall to Tuscany for three months, with Japan, Greece and Spain as possible future destinations.

Benzer and Smith will remain in their Maple Street home “growing food and making stuff,” Benzer said. Artists never really retire, they say.

Haldane DEI (from Page 1)

“clarification of the conflict between the respective positions of the state and federal governments regarding Title VI and DEI,” according to the resolution.

On Wednesday (April 30), the district issued a statement that said its legal counsel had advised that the federal rulings could be interpreted to mean “there is no longer an imminent risk of losing funds.” The statement said the board will reinstate the DEI policy “without modification and will continue to address all policy revisions through its standard review process.”

Carl Albano, the interim superintendent, said the five-member board made the decision after meeting in a closed session on Tuesday with Michael Lambert, its attorney from Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, which represents and advises many area districts.

“The board was surprised by the level of acrimony” from the community in response to its vote, said Peggy Clements, its president. “Many of us wish we had said more during and after the [April 22] meeting to explain that the suspension was temporary, that this was a difficult decision for us given our commitment to the aims of the policy, that we believed federal funding was truly at risk if we didn’t act by April 24, and that we were making the decision because we believed that protecting the funds was in the best interests of students.”

Clement said that she and another board member will be at a Haldane PTA meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday (May 5) at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring to answer questions about the DEI policy.

Albano said that district residents told

him they had hoped the board would take a more defiant stance, as Harvard University did when it refused changes demanded by the administration despite a threat to end \$2.2 billion in federal grants and contracts. “We don’t have a \$53 billion endowment like Harvard,” said Albano.

The Haldane district has an annual budget of about \$30 million. The \$450,000 in federal funds are used to educate students with disabilities, provide school lunches and fund other initiatives, he said.

The Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery district, which includes O’Neill High School, which Garrison district students can attend, quietly voted last month to suspend its DEI policy. Halfway into its April 10 meeting, the board went into executive session for an hour. When it reconvened, the members voted unanimously to

rescind the policy, without discussion, then adjourned. The board also uses Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert for its counsel.

“To protect our district from the potential loss of federal Title VI funding, we reviewed our policies for inconsistencies,” Superintendent Michael McElduff told *The News of the Highlands*. “This review led to the decision to remove Policy 3430 from our policy manual, as we believe it serves our best interests.”

Across the country, a handful of districts rescinded their DEI policies ahead of the Trump administration’s deadline, including in Palm Beach, Florida; Virginia Beach, Virginia; and Decatur, Georgia, according to news reports, although Decatur, like Haldane, on April 29 reversed its decision.

State education officials in at least 15 states, including New York, refused to comply with the administration order. “We

understand that the current administration seeks to censor anything it deems ‘diversity, equity and inclusion,’” wrote Daniel Morton-Bentley, a lawyer for New York’s Education Department. “But there are no federal or state laws prohibiting the principles of DEI.” He added that the government has “yet to define what practices it believes violate Title VI.”

The Haldane policy provides guidelines for integrating DEI into family and community engagement, student support, discipline and training. Regarding curriculum, it asks educators to “incorporate diverse perspectives, materials and texts so that students are taught topics not just from one single perspective, but from multiple perspectives.” Additionally, it directs the district to create a workforce “that is not only diverse and inclusive, but one that recognizes and values the differences among people.”

NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.**

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Philipstown Conservation Board May 2025.



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OBITUARIES

Jan Morrell (1947-2025)

Jo-Anne “Jan” Riley Morrell, 77, of Beacon, died April 11 at her home.

She was born Sept. 13, 1947, in Providence, Rhode Island, the daughter of D. J. and Margaret (Frances) Riley. Her family moved to Beacon when she was 6 weeks old, and she graduated from Beacon High School in 1965 and from Krissler Business Institute in 1966. She married Joe Morrell in 1981.

Jan worked for the Beacon City School District from 1966 until her retirement in 2006 as secretary to the superintendent. Jan had an uncanny ability to recite former students’ birthdays, home addresses and phone numbers when she ran into them on Main Street.

Her favorite activity in retirement was caring for her grandson, John. They spent many happy hours together fishing, at the playground, playing silly games and reading during her monthly trips to Arlington, Virginia. During the pandemic, “Nanny” served as John’s personal audiobook, reading to him in marathon sessions for hours a day over FaceTime.

Jan enjoyed volunteering to provide meals for Beacon residents at the Salvation Army and, later, the Tabernacle of Christ Church. She served as a commissioner for the Dutchess Junction Fire Co. She also enjoyed shopping for bargains and cooking for her family. She was a parishioner at St. John the Evangelist Church, where she attended elementary school.

Although with her husband of 44 years, Jan is survived by her son, Joe Morrell (Eileen) and their son, John; her brother, Robert Riley (Jane) and niece Caitlin; and her lifelong friends, Trish D’Angelo, Pat O’Brien, Paulette Pettorossi and Jean Sablinksi. Her brother, D. Patrick Riley, died earlier.



A Mass of Christian Burial was offered April 16 at St. John the Evangelist in Beacon, followed by interment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Gene Murphy (1943-2025)

Eugene Murphy, 81, of Beacon, known to friends and family as “Gene” or “Murph,” died April 15 in a house fire.

He was born Oct. 24, 1943, in Beacon, the son of Arthur and Evelyn (Booth) Murphy. He retired in 2000 as a supervisor with the City of Beacon Highway Department. He also was the dog warden and a member of Beacon Engine Co. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle, playing cards, “junking” and watching pro wrestling. He always seemed to have a cigar in his mouth, his family said.

Gene is survived by his wife, Martha Murphy; his children, Eugene Murphy (Debbie), Korrin Murphy and Charles Murphy; his stepchildren, Jeanette Olson, John Olson, Erik Olson and Peter Olson; his sisters, Sylvia Long (Dan), Grace Padworski (Tom) and Elma Bennett; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His sisters, Katherine Cross, Joan Brenner and Nina Mandigo, died earlier.

A memorial service was held April 22 at the Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home in Wappingers Falls, followed by interment at Clove Cemetery in Lagrangeville. Memorial donations may be made to the Glanzmann’s Research Foundation (curegt.org).

Rory Seeber (1950-2024)

Rory Litchfield Seeber, 74, died Nov. 15.

A writer, editor and journalist, Rory was raised from 1950 to 1971 with his five siblings in Garrison.



When his family moved to Colorado, he remained in New York until his graduation from Hartwick College in 1972 with a degree in English. The day after graduation, he and his identical twin brother, Rick, drove their respective “beater” cars on the nearly 2,000-mile journey to Colorado.

Rory loved writing, editing, reading, sailing, traveling the world and the solitude and peacefulness of hiking and camping. He had known since grade school at the Garrison School that he wanted to be a writer and journalist and wrote and published his first one-page newspaper for his family before the age of 10.

He cared deeply for his community and, with his wife, purchased, published and wrote a niche newspaper, *Life on Capitol Hill*, in Denver. Before that, he was an editor for many outlets and wrote engagingly funny articles and press releases, as well as farcical musicals with Rick. His play, *The Singular Dorothy Parker*, ran off-Broadway in 1985.

Rory is survived by his wife, Hilleary, his son, Garrison, and his siblings, C.J. (Tom), Melinda, Timothy (Dena) and Rick (Patti). His sibling Kerry died earlier.

Jacqueline Weissner (1946-2024)

Jacqueline Weissner, 78, of Hopewell Junction, died April 15, 2024.

She was born Jan. 20, 1946, in Hackensack, New Jersey, the daughter of Sidney Sammis and Jean Pisaturo. She worked as a florist and women’s hat designer from the late 1980s until her death and was best known as a pioneering shop owner in Beacon. She opened her shop, Jacqueline, in 1999, and was remembered as “the hat lady with the cute dog” (her silky terrier, Zach).

She was a founding member of the Beacon Arts Community Association (now



BeaconArts) and established the Beacon Hat Parade, a celebration of the city’s hat-making heritage. In addition, Jacqueline served as a board member of the Howland Public Library.

She is survived by her son, Todd Spire, her grandson, Sidney Spire, and her sister, Brenda Scott.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday (May 3) from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., in Beacon. Attendees are encouraged to wear a hat and share stories or contribute a note or personal remembrance, and the family asks that a perennial be planted in Jacqueline’s honor. Condolences may be sent to P.O. Box 1, Phoenicia, NY 12464.

Other Recent Deaths

Beacon

Patricia Bennett, 60
Elizabeth D’Aquisto, 61
JP Dowd, 52
Pat Heaney, 80
Arno Kano, 90
Bobby Maksim, 61
Mark Munoz, 64
Peggy Scannell, 98
Rosemarie Scarano, 86
Carolyn Serino, 71

Philipstown

Douglas Banker, 88
Joey Carano, 76
Charmaine Choi, 40
Ruth Eisenhower
Charles Gorges, 75
Maxine Kavanda, 80
Doris Koziak, 99
Gayle Needelman, 69
Jerry Rubino, 80
Bill Schlich, 86

For obituaries,
see highlandscurrent.org/obits.

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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					

- ACROSS
1. German sausage
6. Hoops great Curry
11. More minuscule
12. Succeed
14. Ridiculous
15. Eventually
16. Bygone bird
17. Valleys
19. Pensioned (Abbr.)
20. Taking action
22. Label
23. Corrida bull
24. Tennis star Rafael
26. Dessert that jiggles
28. Violin tuner
30. Novelist Deighton
31. "The Peasant Dance" painter
35. Everglades wader
39. Give temporarily
40. Lumber unit

42. Wrestling style
43. "Nasty!"
44. Thread holder
46. Damage
47. South Carolina river
49. La Brea attraction
51. Oral
52. Moving vehicles?
53. Ceases
54. Garlic crusher
- DOWN
1. Actress Ryder
2. Tacit
3. Estuary
4. Dispatch
5. Pick up the tab
6. Classic catalog giant
7. Catches some rays
8. Tolkien creature
9. Christie sleuth
10. Arm bones
11. Shakespeare's — of Athens
13. Rockies range
18. Trail the pack
21. Recorded
23. Zesty flavors
25. Pants part
27. Director Spike
29. Smooth writing implements
31. Ecstasy
32. Summaries
33. Detangle
34. Brit's restroom
36. Ado
37. Inbox fillers
38. Civil wrongs
41. Arose
44. Ooze
45. Cowardly Lion portrayer
48. Ring decision
50. Arctic explorer John

SUDOCURRENT

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

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WORDSEARCH

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

FIVE SPOT

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

B	A	S	I	C	Simple
					Savory jelly
					Nutmeg or cumin
					Breadth
					Plays first card in bridge
					It may be smart

DUBAI
VSIGN
ROGET
MERITS
LEA
AMMO
BIANCA
CULPA
FLOAT
EARL
TRAL
ACT
SHE

FIB
ARE
CANT
ITS
ADO
ERODE
SITARS
PA
EKE
SCARAB
ALA
BAN
CVS

OPS
HEE
ATA
WRIT
MEATS
S
SLOT
ICY
AB
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ER
TE

Answers for April 25

G
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COUNT, COURT, TRUCE,
CRATE, HEART, SHARE

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

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on
Monday, May 12th, 2025
at 7:30 p.m. at the
Philipstown Town Hall,
238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Zoning Board May 2025.

Sports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

BOYS' LACROSSE — The Blue Devils snapped a five-game losing streak on April 25 with an emphatic 14-0 win at Port Chester. Haldane scored seven goals in the first quarter and six more in the second. Nine players scored, led by Fallou Faye with three goals and David Powlis, Nicholas Gaugler and Alex Gaugler with two each. The Blue Devils (4-6) traveled to Westlake on Thursday (May 1) and will host Briarcliff at 5 p.m. on May 9.

GIRLS' LACROSSE — Haldane lost a high-scoring game at home on Tuesday (April 29) to Blind Brook, 21-15. Kayla Ruggiero continued her impressive season, scoring seven goals, followed by Samantha Thomas with three. Vivian Eannacony had 15 saves in goal. On Wednesday, the Blue Devils picked up a 20-10 win at Valhalla behind 12 goals by Ruggiero and six from Thomas. Martha McBride added two. Down 3-1 early, Haldane rallied to take a 5-4 lead and stayed in control for the remainder. The Blue Devils (3-5) travel today (May 2) to Keio Academy and on Wednesday to Port Chester.

BASEBALL — The Blue Devils dropped three games to fall to 2-9. They lost, 11-9, at Sleepy Hollow on April 25, then dropped a game at Millbrook, 11-5, on Monday (April 28). On Wednesday they were blanked, 14-0, at home by Putnam Valley. The Blue Devils travel to Putnam Valley today (May 2), host Dover on Monday and Pawling on Tuesday at Mayor's Park (both games begin at 4:30 p.m.) and travel to Pawling on Thursday.

SOFTBALL — Haldane lost on April 25, 16-6, at North Salem, then fell on Monday (April 28) at home to Edgemont, 10-9. The visitors had a 5-0 lead going into the third inning, but the Blue Devils began chipping away, scoring on an error and a sacrifice fly by Lainey Donaghy. Edgemont scored three runs in the fourth but Sydney Merriman led off the fifth with a triple. Callie Sniffen followed with another triple and Donaghy delivered another sacrifice fly.

In the seventh, Edgemont scored two runs with two outs for a 10-6 lead. Haldane scored three in the bottom half but fell short. "I'm really happy with the fight," said Coach Jeff Sniffen. "But I'm frustrated with the way that we came out that put us in this position in the first place."



Khordae Facey competes in the 200 meters in a meet on April 23 and Caellum Tripaldi in the hurdles on April 30.



Photos by Aron Li

On Wednesday, Haldane won at Croton-Harmon, 17-11, behind Donaghy, who was 3-for-5 with two doubles and three RBIs. The Blue Devils (7-3) hosted Croton-Harmon on Thursday (May 1), travel to Putnam Valley on Saturday and host Pawling at 4:30 p.m. on Monday.

TRACK AND FIELD — The Blue Devils traveled to Marlboro on April 25 for the Iron Duke Relays. For the girls, Ruby McCormick won the high jump, followed by Jacqueline McCormick; Plum Severs was third in the javelin (72-2) and Shayla Ochoa was second in the 400-meter hurdles (1:14.07), followed by Clara Schmitt in fourth (1:15.35).

For the boys, Rhys Williams finished second in the long jump (19-10), fourth in the 100-meter dash (11.39) and ninth in the triple jump (36-7); Merrick Williams finished fifth in the high jump (5-4) and third in the javelin (103-11); and Jack Illian was eight in the 1,600 meters (4:46.95). Haldane travels to Hyde Park on Saturday (May 3) for the FDR 10th Annual Race.

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

BASEBALL — Beacon hosted its 2025 Spring Bash tournament on April 27. The Bulldogs lost in the opener, 4-2, to Chester. Naim Dika picked up his first varsity hit during the loss while Kayden Durkin went $5\frac{1}{3}$ innings on the mound with four strikeouts. The Bulldogs won the consolation game over Rhinebeck, 12-0. Zach Schetter and James Bouchard each hit solo home runs and Mercher Jordan had a two-run homer. On Monday (April 28), Beacon defeated Burke Catholic, 13-6, behind Ryan Landisi, who went four innings with four strikeouts. At the plate, Durkin was 3-for-3 with five RBIs, including two home runs, and Dika was 3-for-4. Beacon (9-4) won, 12-2, at Port Jervis on Wednesday (April 30) and will host FDR at 1 p.m. on Saturday



The Beacon girls' golf team won the Section IX, Division 5 Championship on Monday (April 28) at Dinsmore Golf Course in Staatsburg.

Photo provided

before traveling to Liberty on Monday and hosting Liberty at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday and O'Neill at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday.

SOFTBALL — Beacon lost at home on April 25 to Port Jervis, 19-4. Aslynn Way and Kat Ruffy each had two hits. On Tuesday (April 29), the Bulldogs fell to visiting Spackenkill, 20-6, with Ruffy going 3-for-3, with a home run, triple and double. Megan Nicholson was 2-for-3 with a double and five RBIs. Beacon (2-8) hosts Chester at 4:30 p.m. on Monday (May 5) before traveling to Newburgh on Thursday.

BOYS' TENNIS — Beacon defeated Monroe-Woodbury, 5-2, on April 25 before losing, 4-3, at Goshen on Monday (April 28). On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Bulldogs defeated Warwick, 6-1, and Cornwall, 4-3. The Bulldogs (10-3) close out the season with three matches next week; the team is at Warwick on Monday (May 5), hosts Washingtonville at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday and travels to Minisink Valley on Thursday.

BOYS' GOLF — Beacon picked up its first win of the season, knocking off Port Jervis, 258-270, on April 23. The next day, the

Bulldogs lost at Minisink Valley, 269-234, before falling at home to Burke Catholic on Wednesday (April 30), 252-242. Tom Senior shot a 42. The Bulldogs (1-8) faced Valley Central on Thursday (May 1) and will play in a five-team tournament on Monday (May 5) before hosting Cornwall on Tuesday.

GIRLS' GOLF — After winning the Section IX, Division 5 Championship on Monday (April 28) at Dinsmore Golf Course in Staatsburg behind Heidi Maeng's low score of 42 among 24 golfers from six schools, Beacon defeated visiting New Paltz, 159-178, on Tuesday, led again by Maeng, who shot a 41. On Wednesday, the Bulldogs fell in their closest match of the season at Onteora, 161-159. Beacon (8-6) hosted Lourdes on Thursday (May 1) and has matches next week against Valley Central, Ellenville and Pine Plains.

TRACK AND FIELD — Beacon competed at the Iron Duke Relays in Marlboro on April 25. For the girls, Khloe Franklin won the 400-meter hurdles (1:13.94) while Bethany Rudolph was second in the javelin (79-1), third in the discus (80-5) and fourth in the hammer throw (91-4, breaking a school record set in 2003 by Anna Cannon). Lily Mack finished third in the high jump while the 4x400 meter relay team was fourth (4:38.40).

For the boys, Jayden Mihalchik won the javelin (139-5) and was second in the hammer throw (160-9) and eighth in the discus (123-8); Noah Spiak was second in the 400-meter hurdles (1:00.43); Dylan Hetrick was second in the 3,000-meter steeplechase (11:36.10); Jaiden Rivera was second in the triple jump (40-2.5); Sofien Oueslati was fourth in the long jump (19-4); Caellum Tripaldi was sixth in the 1,600 meters (4:32.05); and the 4x100-meter relay team placed fourth of 20 teams (45.72).

Beacon hosted Liberty in a meet on Wednesday (April 30), with the boys winning, 86-54, and the girls, 69-66, and will compete Saturday (May 3) at the Race at the Oval Office hosted by Sloatsburg.