

# The HIGHLANDS Current

MAY 16, 2025

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## Court Decision Will Shift Terms

*Philipstown, Dutchess  
County affected*

By Chip Rowe

An appeals court on May 7 upheld a law that will shift many county and town elections in New York to even-numbered years, including in Putnam and Dutchess — a change meant to align local elections with statewide and federal races.

Democrats argue that the law, which was approved two years ago, will increase turnout in local races. Republicans sued to block it, saying it violates the state constitution and could give Democrats a partisan advantage in higher-turnout election years.

State Sen. James Skoufis, a Democrat from Orange County who sponsored the legislation, said that town and county elections in odd years typically see 20 percent to 30 percent turnout, while those during presidential years can top 70 percent.

The appeals court ruled that the law can take effect immediately. The decision overruled a lower court that struck down the law, enacted in December 2023. The Republican-led Dutchess Legislature voted last year to spend \$100,000 to join the legal challenge to the legislation.

Under the law, anyone in office before 2025 will complete his or her term, but subsequent terms will be shortened. Here's what that means locally:

- Two of the four Philipstown Town

(Continued on Page 3)



Erin Detrick and Liz Rauch behind the counter at the new Signal Fire Bread location in Garrison

Photo by M. Turton

## Signal Fire Opens in Garrison

*Known for its bread, bakery relocates from Peekskill*

By Michael Turton

There's something in the air in Garrison — the smell of fresh bread.

Signal Fire Bread opened a new, wood-fired bakery on Thursday (May 15) on Route 9D in Garrison just south of the post office.

Its co-owners, Erin Detrick and Liz Rauch, are both experienced in the art of baking. Detrick baked professionally in New York City before establishing Signal Fire Bread in 2018. Rauch operated a home-based bakery before joining Detrick

at the Sparrowbush Bakery in Hudson. They joined forces in 2019 and two years later moved the bakery to Peekskill.

Rauch said their goal in Peekskill was to run a manufacturing plant for bread, but local zoning required them to include a retail component. "We were able to establish a strong business there, but the retail space was makeshift," Detrick said. "We didn't have great visibility, and we couldn't grow it."

(Continued on Page 20)

## Sheriff's Union Files Quota Complaint

*Says deputies punished for  
writing too few tickets*

By Leonard Sparks

The union representing Putnam County Sheriff's Office deputies said it has filed a complaint with the state labor board alleging that its members are penalized for failing to meet quotas for writing tickets.

The Sheriff's Office PBA announced on May 10 that an action has been filed with the state Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) against Sheriff Kevin McConville, Putnam County and County Executive Kevin Byrne.

Neither the union nor the sheriff or county executive's offices responded to emails about the allegation, but a Facebook post by the PBA said Capt. James Schepperly, who heads the Sheriff's Office's patrol division, has used quotas "as a gauge of a deputy's performance," in violation of department policy and state law.

The Sheriff's Office only publicizes its use-of-force policy. But state labor law bars police agencies from penalizing officers — including "reassignment, a scheduling change, an adverse evaluation, a constructive dismissal, the denial of a promotion or the denial of overtime" — for failing to meet quotas for writing tickets or arresting or stopping people.

(Continued on Page 8)



A student stands in front of the Little Red Schoolhouse, which was demolished in 1971.

Stony Kill Foundation

## Fishkill IDs Little Red Schoolhouse Owner

*Says New York state owns  
Route 9D property*

By Leonard Sparks

Fishkill has solved the mystery of who owns the property on Route 9D where a one-room schoolhouse educated children for 129 years before it closed and fell victim to a wrecking ball.

Town attorney Steve Gaba reported on May 7 that a title search uncovered a 1942 deed in which the Verplanck family transferred the land and structure to the state Department of Education.

The discovery is a milestone in a search

Fishkill launched with the goal of taking over the property to preserve it as a memorial to the school, which opened in 1830 and closed in 1959, shifting students to the Beacon school district. Gaba and town officials initially believed the district owned the property but will now contact the state.

If the town gets ownership, one idea for the property is to build a replica of the school, Supervisor Ozzy Albra said in February. "The more attractions we have, the more we can celebrate our history," he said.

Right now, that history is an empty lot at the southeast corner of Route 9D and Red School House Road. A sign installed at the property, along with the memories of

former students, photos and news clippings, are all that remain of the Little Red Schoolhouse. At the time it closed, when its veteran teacher retired in 1959, the one-room structure had seven grades — "pre-first" to six.

The school's history began with its construction in 1830 on property owned by the Verplanck family, large landholders who also donated the property for Stony Kill Farm, which sits across Route 9D. Elizabeth Travis, a Glenham native and Beacon High School graduate, taught there for 47 years, from 1912 until it closed. She would call one class at a time to a front bench.

"When she was doing a lesson with one

(Continued on Page 8)



# 5 FIVE QUESTIONS: MARJORIE VALES-THEDFORD

By Jeff Simms

Marjorie Vales-Thedford is directing the Animal Rescue Foundation's 10th annual 5K Run & Walk with the Dogs on Sunday (May 18) at Memorial Park in Beacon.

## What's the history of ARF?

It was founded in 1986 by Barbara Shea, who bought the lot [on Simmons Lane] from the city for \$1. There were two buildings; she gave one to Essie Dabrusin, the founder of Mid Hudson Animal Aid, which is next door.

## How did the 5K begin?

I moved to Beacon almost 20 years ago when I got married and started fundraising for ARF with Joan Roman, who passed away last year. I grew up with animals at home, but I'd never been involved with a shelter of this scale. Joan inspired me because she lived in Pennsylvania but commuted here for the events she organized. Running had always been part of my life, so after five years of volunteering, I created the 5K to bring the community together around a shared love for animals.

## What does ARF need most?

We need funding and people who can volunteer on a regular basis. ARF has no

paid staff; donations help us care for the animals and get them adoption-ready. We are working to adjust the physical structure of the shelter to stay compliant with New York State law. [Animal shelters and rescue organizations must be licensed by the state before Dec. 15.]

## What happens when a dog comes to the shelter?

The first two things are physical and psychological assessments. Trainers check the dogs and determine what type of work volunteers need to do, such as working on abandonment or socializing issues, to get them ready to be adopted. Volunteers come in the morning and in the evening to walk the dogs, clean their pans, feed them or take them to the vet, if that's necessary. All of our rescues are vaccinated, spayed or neutered. Once we feel the dog is ready to be adopted, we have another assessment with the trainer to determine what type of adoptee we should be looking for, to make sure we align the dog

with the right environment. There's also a trial period after adoption to make sure the family or individual that they're going with matches the animal's personality.

## What trends are you seeing with incoming animals?

We have 12 or 13 dogs and puppies and 30 to 35 cats waiting to be adopted. Some of them are lifelong residents, meaning they've never acclimated enough to be adopted. We get surrenders, which are animals that came from good homes but financial or other situations didn't allow people to care for their animals anymore. We've seen a lot of those in recent years. In terms of abandoned animals, we get a lot from down South, where the shelters are overcrowded and the animals get euthanized. We transport the animals up here and try to find homes for them.





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# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## Is fishing exciting or boring?

“It's as exciting as the depths of the unknown, especially with my son.”



David Mahoney, Beacon

“Boring. I haven't fished since I was a kid.”



Jessica Hall, Beacon

“I consider it meditative.”



Eric Tipler, Cold Spring

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Tarrytown Official Declares for District 17

*Joins five other Democrats seeking Lawler's seat*

A Village of Tarrytown trustee on Monday (May 12) became the sixth Democrat to announce a run for the congressional seat held by Rep. Mike Lawler, whose district includes Philipstown.

Effie Phillips-Staley, a nonprofit executive and the child of immigrants from El Salvador, denounced companies that are "not paying their fair share in taxes" while earning record profits.



Phillips-Staley

The candidate also said programs like Social Security and Medicaid are being "targeted" by President Donald Trump and Lawler, a Republican in his second term.

Five other Democrats have announced campaigns: Cait Conley, a former director of counterterrorism for the National Security Council; Beth Davidson, a Rockland County legislator; Jessica Reinmann, a nonprofit executive; Mike Sacks, a lawyer and former TV journalist; and John Sullivan, a former FBI intelligence analyst.

## Judge Bars Defunding of Library Agency

*Rules that vague justifications not sufficient*

A federal judge on Tuesday (May 13) temporarily barred the Trump administration from shrinking an agency that funds public libraries.

Judge John McConnell Jr. said Trump can't end funding and programs through an executive order for the Institute of Museum and Library Services or two other small agencies created by Congress. McConnell said the agency heads were not able to provide more than vague justifications for the cuts.

Twenty-one states sued over Trump's March 14 order, which directed the agencies to eliminate every program that isn't mandated by law and to cut staff to a bare

minimum. The federal ruling is consistent with one handed down last week in a lawsuit filed by the American Library Association and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

## Lawler Defends Removal

*'She didn't like my answer'*

During an appearance on May 10 on HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher*, Rep. Mike Lawler, a Republican whose U.S. House district includes Philipstown, defended the decision to remove a constituent from a town hall he hosted in Somers.

"The woman in question was called upon to ask a question which was fine — I answered it," he said. "She didn't like my answer and kept screaming. She got into a verbal altercation with my staff and was asked to stop by security and then by members of the state police. When she refused, she was removed."

"We had people throwing things, punching and verbally attacking my staff," Lawler said. "That kind of stuff is unacceptable. I am more than willing to take the heat. I have no problem with that. If people want to attend my meetings and have a constructive dialogue and discussion, I am all for it. If you want to protest, do it outside."

Lawler said he will host town halls in Putnam and Dutchess counties in June.

## Savage Wonder Receives \$460K Grant

*State funds will pay for main stage*

Savage Wonder, the veteran-centered gallery and performance space in Beacon, will receive \$460,000 from the New York State Council on the Arts to construct a main stage at its former bank building at 139 Main St.

The award, announced on Wednesday (May 14), was part of \$86 million in grants given to 134 projects across the state.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.

## Election Terms *(from Page 1)*

Board seats, which have four-year terms, will be on the ballot in 2027 for three-year terms. They will be on the ballot again in 2030 for four-year terms. The other two seats, which will be on the ballot in November, will be for three-year terms that end in 2028.

- The Philipstown highway commissioner and town clerk seats, which have four-year terms, will be on the 2027 ballot for three-year terms, then return to the ballot in 2030 for four-year terms. The town supervisor, who serves a two-year term, will be elected in November to a one-year term and the seat will appear on the ballot again in 2026 for a two-year term.

- The Dutchess County Legislature seats,

which will all be on the ballot in November, will be for one-year terms, rather than two, and return to the ballot in 2026. The election for county executive, a four-year position, will occur as scheduled in 2027, but the winner will serve only three years, until 2030.

- The law exempts villages, such as Cold Spring and Nelsonville. In cities, such as Beacon, elections can only be changed through a constitutional amendment. The law also exempts county races for sheriff, district attorney, clerk and judges.

- The law does not affect the Putnam County executive, whose four-year term is on the ballot in even-numbered years and next up in 2026, or Putnam legislators, who serve three-year terms.

*The Associated Press contributed reporting.*



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**LETTERS AND COMMENTS**

**Drive-thru ban**

There is a middle ground between a ban and anything goes: a special-use permit ("Beacon Bans Drive-Thrus," May 9). The city could require traffic controls or limit the vehicles that can queue. While a fast-food outlet may be undesirable, there are other uses that could enhance the development, such as ATMs or drop-off services for ancillary businesses. It would keep options open and let future Beacon decide what is best.

Ed McFarland, *Beacon*

Kudos to the City Council. Drive-thrus are a blight.

Bob Delap, *Beacon*

Here's hoping Jay Healey abandons his plans for a Dunkin' with a drive-thru and maintains an automotive center with its fumes, odors, solvents, oils, light pollution, noise and traffic. How dare a select group deny him the right to have a profitable feature for his business? This administration seems to be intent on making automobile travel as difficult as possible. So much for caring about the senior population.

Ralph Pettorossi, *Fishkill*

An internet search reveals there are an extraordinary number of accessible coffee,

doughnut and Dunkin' shops within 10 minutes of this proposed one. I'm glad an excuse was found to shoot it down. Beacon has managed to keep most fast-food chains away from its core.

Roberta West, *Fishkill*

I don't eat doughnuts, but my family likes Dunkin' and I have to drive to Fishkill to get them. They are so popular, there is always a line. The Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee wants the area to be promoted for pedestrian traffic. What is there to attract pedestrians? You don't need more bicycles; they don't follow the traffic laws now. What a joke this concept is.

Tom DiCastro Sr., *via Facebook*

I bet a vegan Dunkin' would be allowed.

David Dross, *via Facebook*

It's all the lazy people complaining.

Joe Rooney, *via Facebook*

I hope Mr. Healey hits these clowns with a lawsuit. This decision was retaliatory and discriminatory.

Howie Dewitt, *via Facebook*

We do not need more cars, pollution or

people causing a multitude of annoying things. Drive-thrus are too busy. Make your coffee at home if you're in such a rush.

Tabitha Smith-White, *Beacon*

When I ride my Harley with a modified tailpipe up and down Main Street all day for no reason, sometimes I get a hankering for a tub of Munchkins. You're telling me I have to get off my chopper? I'll be taking my business to the Dunkin' a block over.

Mickey Dwyer, *via Instagram*

Beacon doesn't need more doughnuts.

Jon Cronin, *via Facebook*

They aren't saying Dunkin' can't build there; customers just have to walk inside. This would be a good thing for health, community interaction and traffic calming, and it makes us all slow down an extra 30 to 60 seconds and look employees in the eyes when we order and possibly bump into a neighbor and say hello.

Harper Sanchez, *via Instagram*

Block the corporate garbage! One failed; this one will too. I hope the City Council sees the value in walking and biking infrastructure in an area like Fishkill Avenue. It slows things down. Businesses would want to be there if it wasn't such a stride.

Matthew Robinson, *via Instagram*

I'm happy about this. Fishkill is too fast, and Beacon needs space to grow.

Bancks Holmes, *via Instagram*

**Town hall**

I attended Rep. Mike Lawler's town hall in Somers ("Lawler Hosts Another Raucous Town Hall," online, May 5). Early into the evening, a 64-year-old social worker asked Lawler what it would take for him to call out President Trump's flagrantly unconstitutional behavior. When Lawler skirted the issue, the woman repeatedly asked (off microphone) for him to answer her question.

Others in the audience joined the call for him to answer the question. This resulted in the woman being removed by security officers and state troopers. As disturbing as this was to witness, more troubling is Lawler's penchant for labeling those who disagree with him as "radical far-leftist activists," which is what he did the next day on Facebook.

Another example: Two female constituents wrote an op-ed in *The Journal News*, warning about the harmful repercussions from likely cuts to Medicaid and other safety-net programs by the Republican majority in Congress. Lawler responded with an op-ed of his own, calling the women (you guessed

(Continued on Page 5)





## My View

# We Can Afford to Cut Tax

By Paul Jonke



I would like to clear up some of the confusion, much of it caused by local elected officials, regarding sales tax and the sharing of Putnam County funds with the towns and villages.

■ Robert Kearns of the Carmel Town Council confidently stated that the county was sending \$5.3 million back to New York State. That is ridiculous, and I'm shocked no one on the board stood up to correct it. There is no money going back to the state. The intent is to cut the sales tax and save residents \$5.3 million on their purchases.

■ Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley attended a legislative meeting and lectured us about how sharing surplus funds would have a large impact on her municipal budget. The problem was that she, as the chief fiscal officer for the village, misrepresented her budget amount by 30 percent. She has no idea what her budget is and is telling the

Legislature that it is acting irresponsibly.

■ Putnam Valley Supervisor Jacqueline Annabi, the mouthpiece for the mayors and supervisors, behaved unprofessionally at our meetings. She is demanding that we increase sales tax to support initiatives in her town, which is the responsibility of the supervisor and her board. She seems to have forgotten the help the Legislature gave Putnam Valley by finishing the Peekskill Hollow Road Bridge.

The Legislature passed a sales-tax reduction bill, by a 5-4 vote, that lowered the sales tax by a quarter percent. This was vetoed by County Executive Kevin Byrne, who held a news conference with a sign that read "Tax Relief — Where it Matters." Only in this bizarre administration can vetoing a sales-tax cut be called tax relief.

It puzzles me that the county executive has a newfound interest in sharing sales tax with the towns and villages. There was no mention of it in last year's disastrous budget process. There was no mention of

it in his State of the County address. At the start of the process to keep the sales tax at 4 percent rather than 3 percent, Byrne indicated there was a dire need to collect the entire 1 percent. Now he's rounded up the supervisors and mayors to play a political game. They have held meetings with state and local officials and not invited a key player in the decision-making process: the legislative chair. Why the secrecy?

The county executive went so far as to conduct an online survey on what we should do with your money. This statistically useless exercise is the equivalent to an Albany "push poll" that directs the result in a desired direction. I voted five times and kept waiting for it to stop me. The desired results were sales-tax reduction is bad; property-tax reduction is good. For the record, this proposed "historic tax relief" for a home assessed at \$500,000 would be \$25 annually.

If the county executive is capable of this chicanery and trickery, what's next? What future issues will he try to manipulate? This is a betrayal of public trust.

The reason I support a quarter-point reduction is because the county has a fund balance of \$140 million and an unassigned fund balance of \$90 million. Our property tax levy is \$46 million. We could eliminate 100 percent of property tax for two years

if we thought that was prudent. (I'm not advocating that.)

Sales tax is collected on every phone bill, electric bill, gasoline purchase, restaurant bill, retail purchases, car purchase, etc. Over the past five years we have had a dramatic increase in sales-tax revenue because of the Wayfair litigation decided in 2018 by the U.S. Supreme Court, which struck down the requirement that a vendor must have a "physical presence" in a state to be subject to sales tax. We have also had significant inflation, so now you're paying more tax because the cost of goods is higher. This is tantamount to double taxation.

I'm proud that during my two years as legislative chair, we reduced the property tax levy by \$500,000 and held it for a second year. We need to continue to lower taxes while we have an obscene amount of your money sitting in our treasury.

With a \$90 million surplus, the Legislature can afford to lower sales tax by a quarter of a point (\$5 million), offer the surplus to the towns and villages (\$5 million) and reduce property taxes next year by at least \$2 million. That would be a meaningful and tangible benefit for our residents.

*Jonke represents the Town of Southeast on the Putnam County Legislature.*

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

it) "extremists" and "radical leftists."

Maybe this is dog whistle for the MAGA base, a shorthand way of saying "pay no attention to these crackpots." But it's Lawler's job to represent everyone in District 17, not just those who agree with him.

Lawler likes to portray himself as moderate and bipartisan. But dismissive, contemptuous and dishonest name-calling does nothing to elevate the "conversations" that he purports to want with voters, nor does it inspire trust in his leadership.

Celeste Theis, *Croton-on-Hudson*

Lawler proudly cites his ranking as the fourth-most bipartisan member of the House. But a closer look reveals that his bipartisan votes are usually on issues with little partisan divide and rarely on matters of consequence. When it comes to the defining issues of our time, his record reliably supports the GOP agenda.

Take the recent budget resolution: Lawler voted for a bill that narrowly passed, 217-215. It proposed \$880 billion in Medicaid cuts to help fund \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks, primarily benefiting the wealthy.

Lawler insists he is "not cutting benefits for any eligible recipient" yet refuses to define who counts as eligible. He singles out undocumented immigrants, but that alone can't account for \$880 billion in cuts. Who else does he believe should lose coverage? Seniors? Children? The unemployed? If he's going to support cuts this deep, his constituents deserve clarity, not evasion.

If Lawler wants to be seen as a true moderate, he must break with his party on

more than just low-stakes votes. The time has come for Lawler and others in his party to stop pretending the emperor is clothed.

Alan Brownstein, *Beacon*

### Sales tax

It is so gratifying to witness County Executive Kevin Byrne and the town and village boards work together for Putnam County taxpayers ("Putnam Legislature Debates Plan to Share Savings," May 2). For the first time, every mayor and supervisor is unified behind a bipartisan plan to extend the 4 percent sales-tax rate and share a modest portion for roads, bridges, sidewalks and other public projects.

It is my understanding that the plan resulted from a historic compromise between state, county, town and village governments to rely less on property taxes. As the former Carmel supervisor and deputy county executive, I urge the Legislature to get behind this plan.

Even if this compromise wasn't the legislators' first choice, it's better than the alternative, which would do nothing and let the sales tax rate return to 3 percent, costing the county over \$20 million in annual revenue and shifting the burden to property taxes. I commend our elected officials for their care and concern.

Frank Del Campo, *Mahopac*

### NEA grants

As a co-founder of Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley (which has not received National Endowment for the Arts funding), I am dismayed about what these NEA cuts will mean for institutions all over the country, especially those who bring daring new work to their communities

("Shakespeare Loses NEA Grant," May 9).

For one man — who as far as I can tell has no appreciation of the arts — to determine what arts projects receive funding is chilling. If there are artists and/or arts organizations in your life, now is a good time to support them.

Judy Allen, *Putnam Valley*

The arts are essential to a civil, democratic society because, among other benefits, they provide us all with a broader perspective. When President Trump reserves for himself the decision as to what art is funded by tax dollars, the nation's artistic heritage and creativity is constricted.

That's the point of concentrating government power in one man's hands: to restrict the sharing of information, ideas, values and opinions — the antithesis of democracy. Let this news be another call to raise our voices and do whatever we can to stop this madness.

Joseph Montuori, *Mahopac*

*A clarification to our story: Space on Ryder Farm in Brewster, which was to receive \$20,000 to support residencies for theater artists and organizations through an NEA grant that was among those canceled, closed in June 2024.*

### Sheriff

Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville has done an excellent job and improved the department. Plus, he's local [from Philipstown]. Larry Burke has been a very good Village of Cold Spring police officer, but things are working great under Sheriff McConville and I feel no change is needed ("Cold Spring Officer Launches Campaign for Sheriff," May 2).

Jeff Phillips, *via Facebook*

Improved how? Being local, I'm all for. But the standard before wasn't hard to top.

Craig Moran, *via Facebook*

### Hudson Beach Glass

Here's to all that Hudson Beach Glass brought to our community — it was always a beacon of class and glass ("Hudson Beach Glass for Sale," May 2).

Nancy Yambem, *via Facebook*

Best of luck! You have created such a special place with such a beautiful collection of glass and jewelry. Thank you for hosting wonderful shows in your gallery and always being so welcoming.

Tina Bernstein, *via Facebook*

Wonderful people! A staple in the community for decades. Always willing to help. True artists. They will be missed by many.

Ed Mendoza, *via Facebook*

### Mobile pantry

I hope the fact that no identification is required when utilizing the Cornell Cooperative Extension food pantry truck is not giving greedy residents the green light to use this precious resource to supplement their already bountiful pantries at home ("Pantry on Wheels," April 25).

The people of Chestnut Ridge and the Philipstown senior center are more susceptible to food insecurity, which is the reason this amazing program was created. This grant that funds it is for food insecurity and should not be used by the more affluent since no validation of need is required to pick up food.

Lisa Silvestro, *Cold Spring*



# School Votes Set for Tuesday

## Budget and trustee elections in Philipstown, Beacon

By Jeff Simms

Voters in the Highlands will go to the polls on Tuesday (May 20) to consider school district budgets for 2025-26 and elect board members. Here's a rundown.

### Beacon

Beacon's \$87.7 million budget proposal includes a 5.09 percent tax-levy increase, just under the maximum allowed for the district by New York State. The levy will generate more than \$50 million in property taxes. At \$31.6 million — an increase of \$572,000 (1.9 percent), state aid makes up the bulk of the remaining revenue. The district expects to spend \$2.5 million of its savings in 2025-26, an increase of \$500,000 over this year.

Most of the discussion in recent board meetings has revolved around the tax levy, which stands to increase because of new development in Beacon — meaning the "pie" is divided into more pieces through the addition of taxpaying households — and debt service on a \$50 million capital project approved last year by voters.

The capital improvements will begin in 2026 and include secure building

entrances, creation of cooling centers in schools, air conditioning in up to 50 percent of elementary classrooms, infrastructure upgrades such as roofing, upgrades to the Beacon High School baseball and softball fields and renovations to the theater at the high school.

District officials say that, if approved, the budget will allow them to maintain improvements made in recent years, including smaller elementary class sizes, increased mental health support for students and a full-day pre-K program.

For the first time, the district plans to launch a summer workshop program for incoming high school students and create an in-school mental health clinic at Rombout Middle School. It will also add teachers for elementary students struggling in math and reading and hire a part-time elementary speech instructor.

While the proposed levy increase is more than 5 percent, the addition of new households to the tax rolls means homeowners' bills may not go up by the same percentage. The district estimates that the owner of a \$420,200 home (the median value) in Beacon would see their taxes increase by \$240 annually.

Meredith Heuer and Semra Ercin are running unopposed for re-election to the nine-member school board. Heuer will

return for her fourth, 3-year term; Ercin is running 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, the owner of Belfry Historic Consultants, who is also running unopposed.

The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Beacon residents vote at the high school at 101 Matteawan Road; Fishkill and Wappinger residents vote at Glenham Elementary School, 20 Chase Drive.

### Haldane

Haldane's \$30.2 million proposal translates to a 2.8 percent tax-levy increase.

Using the state's tax-cap formula, the district could have asked for a 3.38 levy increase. School board members debated this spring whether to go "to cap" but opted to forgo about \$132,000 in revenue after voters last year approved an increase of 6.95 percent over three years to pay for \$28.4 million in capital improvements. State aid for 2025-26 will be \$4.55 million, an increase of \$73,000 (1.6 percent).

The budget includes funding for a science-of-reading curriculum; software to improve student outcomes; a new pre-K program; special education funding for out-of-district placements; increased field trip spending; a softball field dugout; classroom air conditioners to comply with New York state's maximum temperature requirement; auditorium stage and performing arts equipment; and a transportation system analysis.

The district estimates that taxes on a home valued at \$500,000 will rise by \$197 annually.

Board members Sean McNall and Ezra Clementson are running unopposed to retain their seats on the five-member school board. Clementson will seek his second,

3-year term and McNall his third term.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Haldane Elementary School, 15 Craigsides Drive in Cold Spring.

### Garrison

Garrison's \$14.7 million budget proposal, if approved, will add an armed police officer and a school lunch program. Both initiatives are pilots that will be evaluated after the 2025-26 school year.

The proposed tax-levy increase of 3.58 percent is far below the 5.78 percent allowed for the district under the state's tax-cap formula. To avoid raising the levy further, Garrison administrators propose paying for the pilot programs with \$1.4 million in savings. State aid will be \$1.23 million, an increase of \$51,000 (4.4 percent).

The district plans to hire a Special Patrol Officer, a retired police officer whose role would be limited to security. An SPO is not the same as a School Resource Officer (which Haldane has), who is supplied by the Putnam County Sheriff's Office and trained to teach classes on personal safety, cyberbullying and drug awareness. According to the district, the cost for the SPO would be \$53,900, compared to \$100,000 for an SRO.

Student lunches would be available Monday through Thursday; on Fridays, the school will continue to sell pizza as a fundraiser.

The district estimates that a Philipstown home assessed at \$300,250 would see its taxes rise by \$306 annually.

Sarah Tormey will run unopposed for her third, 3-year term on the seven-member school board, while Kent Schacht is also running unopposed for his second full term after being elected in 2021 to fill a vacant seat.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the school, 1100 Route 9D.

Joey Asher contributed reporting.



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**May 18, 2025**

**10 am - 2 pm**

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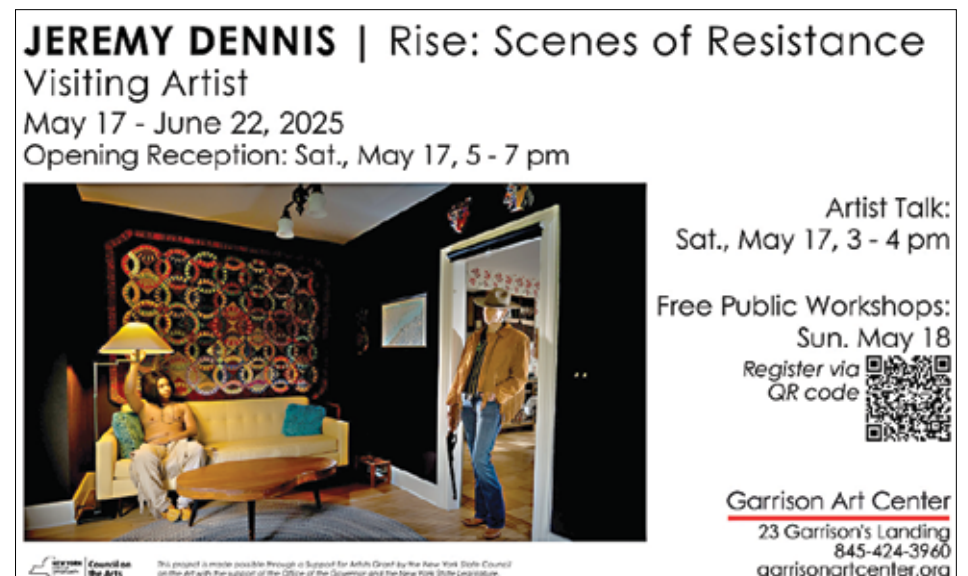
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# Concerns Raised Over Clove Creek

## Waterway runs near Route 9 projects

By Leonard Sparks

A mining company's proposal to build a cement plant on Route 9 just north of Philipstown is drawing concerns about risks to Clove Creek and the aquifer beneath it, which supplies drinking water to several municipalities.

Ted Warren, public policy manager with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, joined Philipstown residents in expressing reservations to the Fishkill Planning Board during a May 8 public hearing.

Century Aggregate wants to add the 8,050-square-foot plant to its 310-acre property at 107 Route 9, as well as 11 parking spaces, a well to supply 10,000 gallons of water daily and an on-site septic system. The portion of the property was formerly occupied by the Snow Valley Campground.

The plant would operate from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 6 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, the firm said. Vehicles would use an existing bridge over Clove Creek, a protected waterway that snakes through the property.

Along with concerns from residents

about truck traffic, noise and dust, and endangered and threatened wildlife such as the timber rattlesnake, Warren said newly paved surfaces risk sending contaminated runoff into the creek, to the detriment of water quality and fish.

"Given the increase in extreme precipitation events that we are facing these days, and the fact that the proposed plan is located at the base of steep slopes, the potential for storms to overwhelm the proposed containment and drainage systems during heavy precipitation events should be closely examined," he said.

Century Aggregate's daily withdrawal of 10,000 gallons of water could also affect the creek and its underlying aquifer, said Warren. The aquifer parallels Route 9 from East Mountain Road South to the town border with Fishkill. Its groundwater feeds private wells that supply residents and businesses along Route 9, the towns of Fishkill and Wappinger, the Village of Fishkill and Beacon.

"The dust and the pollution that's going to come from the operating of that plant is going to definitely have an impact on the environment, the creek and the living conditions of businesses and houses," Carlos Salcedo, a Philipstown resident



Clove Creek bisects the former Autamar property on Route 9. Photo by L. Sparks

whose property on Old Albany Post Road borders the creek, told the Planning Board.

Clove Creek's waters bisect the front and back parts of another property where a proposed project is raising concerns: 3070 Route 9, whose owner is seeking Planning Board approval to convert the former Autamar into a gas station with a convenience store and Dunkin'. Clove Creek flows north toward Fishkill about 50 yards from the front of the property.

The owner, Misti's Properties 3070, notified the Philipstown Conservation Board

in March that it had decided to revise its proposal. An engineer for Misti's told the board that the owner found "substantial environmental impacts — a lot of earth-work" and other conditions that would make it difficult to construct a planned office building and solar farm.

Andy Galler, chair of the Conservation Board, said on Tuesday (May 13) that the previous owner used fill and allowed old vehicles and other debris to accumulate within the 100-foot protective buffer required for watercourses and wetlands. The abandoned vehicles have been cleared, he said, but the fill remains, along with a bridge connecting the front and back sections of the property.

The bridge is "not ideal" because it constricts the creek's flow, he said, and could spur a blockage from debris carried during heavy rainstorms.

"The ideal situation would be, if somebody is going to develop the front part of the property, that hopefully the giveback is that there is some remediation to put back a flood plain area that would be natural and native," said Galler.

Despite continued industrial development along Route 9, the creek is "amazingly intact" and rated by the state Department of Environmental Conservation at "just about the highest standard" for water quality and trout habitat, he said. "It runs clear," said Galler.

# Central Hudson Wants Another Rate Increase

## State must approve three-year agreement

By Leonard Sparks

Central Hudson on Tuesday (May 13) announced a three-year agreement with the state and other parties that would raise electricity and gas delivery rates for most customers.

If the plan is approved by the state Public Service Commission, a typical Central Hudson customer will pay \$5.43 (5.09 percent) more per month for electricity delivery during the first year, beginning July 1, and \$6.25 and \$6.62 more for the subsequent two years. Lower-income

customers enrolled in an energy-assistance program would see decreases of \$3.85 (4.2 percent) per month. The delivery charge for gas would increase by \$7.73 (6.6 percent) per month during the first year and \$11.27 and \$12.37 in subsequent years.

After applying \$44 million in bill credits, Central Hudson would collect \$144 million in new revenue over the three years, according to a summary of the proposal. The company said it would spend that revenue on infrastructure, higher labor costs and bonuses, energy-efficiency and heat-pump programs and a 9.5 percent return on shareholder equity.

Central Hudson also agreed to provide customer bills in Spanish, continue outreach

to households about energy assistance and award up to \$200,000 in grants for workforce training in green-energy fields.

Opponents and supporters of the proposal, whose signatories include the state Department of Public Service, have until May 23 to submit statements to the PSC, which scheduled a hearing for June 16.

"At Central Hudson, we understand the financial challenges that rising bills place on our customers, and we are committed to easing this burden by implementing a rate plan that balances essential system investments with the need to keep costs as low as possible," said Steph Raymond, the utility's president and CEO.

Those costs, however, have been rising

for Central Hudson's 315,000 electric and 90,000 gas customers. The most recent rate increase, approved by the PSC in July 2024, was for a one-year hike of \$12.65 per month for the average electric bill and \$12.25 for gas.

The following month, Central Hudson submitted a request for another one-year increase to electric and gas delivery rates of \$9 a month. The agreement announced on Tuesday replaces that request.

Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, issued his verdict on Wednesday (May 14), urging the PSC to reject the proposed agreement. He said the return on equity is "good for shareholders of Fortis [Central Hudson's parent company] but not for its customers," who include 6,853 households in Beacon, 3,646 in Philipstown, 1,270 in Cold Spring and 326 in Nelsonville.

## SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

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PBA Complaint (from Page 1)

Putnam deputies who did not write enough tickets “had their schedules changed and were subjected to a change of duty assignment or location as punishment,” according to the PBA. “It’s our expectation that once our case is heard by PERB they will side with the PBA and these unlawful, retaliatory actions, that create an increase in tax dollars, will stop.”

According to data provided by the state Department of Motor Vehicles, Putnam deputies wrote 5,422 tickets in 2024, 20 percent fewer than 2023. Most drivers were cited in Southeast, followed by Philipstown and Putnam Valley. The most common infraction was an expired or missing state safety inspection, followed by driving without a license, lack of registration, speeding and disobeying a traffic device.

According to Jackie Fielding, a fellow with the Brennan Center for Justice in New York City who co-authored a 2022 report on ticket quotas, they “can incentivize officers to prioritize enforcement activities that can be completed quickly and easily,” rather than “investigating more complex or violent crimes that significantly impact public safety.”

“In the more extreme case, officers can resort to malfeasance to meet their quotas: fabricating a reason for a stop or arrest, assigning tickets to fictitious drivers or even recording tickets for dead people,” she said.

One case occurred in February 2023,

Putnam Sheriff's Office Tickets

COURT	2023	2024
Brewster	119	155
Carmel	377	312
Cold Spring	36	39
Kent	67	33
Nelsonville	97	84
Patterson	1,221	979
Philipstown	1,607	1,173
Putnam County	19	9
Putnam Valley	1,184	895
Southeast	2,083	1,743
Total	6,811	5,422

Source: NY Department of Motor Vehicles

when the Westchester County district attorney charged a state trooper, Edward Longo, with writing at least 32 tickets over 10 years on the Sprain and Taconic parkways for drivers he never stopped, including someone who had died before the ticket was issued. Longo was charged with 32 felony counts.

The trooper who filed the paperwork charging Longo said his division “monitors its officers for performance-related goals in the issuance of traffic tickets,” according to *The Journal News*, and may counsel those “who do not meet expectations or whose productivity falls below their peers.”



Fishkill is considering building a replica on the former site of the Little Red Schoolhouse.  
Photo by L. Sparks

Red Schoolhouse (from Page 1)

grade, we had to be quiet and do our studies,” said Maryanne Cavaccini, a Fishkill resident known as Maryanne Greggo when she attended the school.

Cavaccini entered as a kindergarten student in 1956, when the Little Red Schoolhouse may have been the only one-room school left in Dutchess County. Her brother Frank also attended the school, which drew students who lived in Baxtertown and on Red Schoolhouse and Stony Kill roads and Route 9D.

Sitting in the I-84 Diner in February, Cavaccini recalled the DeSoto that her teacher drove, the potbelly stove that provided heat and a swing students hung to fling themselves into a pond. One newspaper account credited Travis with saving the structure

from a fire by organizing a bucket brigade of students that extended to a nearby stream.

A truck filled with candy once overturned outside the school, said Cavaccini, spilling its contents and drawing students outside. “We were screaming, ‘We got the candy,’” she said. “The teacher came out screaming, ‘You can’t do that.’ Well, we did it.”

When the school closed, Cavaccini was about to enter the third grade. She transferred to South Avenue Elementary and later graduated from Beacon High School. The Little Red Schoolhouse was demolished in 1971.

Five years later, Travis attended a ceremony marking the installation of a sign made by students at Glenham Elementary School in Fishkill, which is part of the Beacon district. She died in 1984 at Highland Hospital in Beacon.

May 17  
Todd Keisling  
with  
Jonathan Lees

stanza  
author  
events

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

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# What’s in the New York State Budget?

*Laws adopted in education, climate, taxes and other issues*

By New York Focus

Nearly four months after Gov. Kathy Hochul unveiled her proposed budget, lawmakers on May 9 passed a \$254 billion final agreement — after having just a few days to comb through thousands of pages of fine print.

The largest budget in state history came in a couple billion dollars higher than Hochul had proposed in January but several billion less than the Senate and Assembly suggested in their one-house proposals.

Two of the budget’s biggest sticking points — rolling back discovery reforms and expanding involuntary commitment — made it through, as did a provision to restrict mask-wearing in public. The Legislature avoided deep cuts to social service programs that are likely to be first on President Donald Trump’s chopping block.

Budget negotiations are opaque, even for the people who participate in them. This year’s process drew particular ire from legislators and advocates alike: State Sen. James Skoufis, a Democrat from Orange County, blasted the governor for running “roughshod over a legislature that is effectively relegated to making suggestions and pleading for scraps.”

Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, said on May 9 that “the good in it certainly outweighs the bad” in explaining her support for the budget. “There are many things in this budget that do positively reflect our values,” she said, citing initiatives that included funding for school meals, housing vouchers, childcare subsidies and payments to low-income families for new babies. “I am a ‘yes’ for all of that.”

But Levenberg criticized the last-minute insertion of language easing enforcement of state regulations requiring that religious and independent schools provide an education that is “substantially equivalent” to public schools. The change is seen as acquiescence to lobbying by Hasidic communities, which have been accused of neglecting basic academics in their yeshivas.

“Our state constitution says that all students, no matter where they come from or what school they attend or who educates them, are entitled to a sound basic education,” said



Gov. Kathy Hochul on May 14 announced that “inflation refund” checks of up to \$400 would be sent to most New York households beginning in October. Photo by Susan Watts/Governor’s Office

Levenberg. “Substantial equivalency is how we protect that important constitutional right.”

The long delay in approving this year’s budget means legislators have less than a month in the session, which ends June 12, for everything else.

Here are highlights of the enacted budget:

### Fiscal policy

- Households with incomes below \$323,000 will see their taxes cut by 0.2 percent, part of Hochul’s “affordability agenda.” In addition, about 8.2 million households (including 924,000 in the Mid-Hudson region) will receive an “inflation rebate” check for \$150 to \$400.
- This year, families with kids under 4 will see the maximum child tax credit they can receive tripled, from \$330 to \$1,000 per child. Starting next year, families with children aged 4 to 16 will see a small bump up to \$500.
- After building its savings to record levels, the state will use \$8 billion from its rainy day fund to pay off its debt to the federal government for unemployment checks New Yorkers received during the pandemic. It will also put some of the money into the unemployment trust to make it solvent.

### Housing

- The budget did not include any significant measures to address the housing

shortage. Many areas, particularly in New York City’s suburbs, use restrictive codes to limit or ban new housing. Suburban lawmakers have fiercely resisted attempts to shift this status quo.

- The budget includes a measure, proposed by Hochul, to ban private equity firms and other institutional investors from bidding on single- or two-family homes until they’ve been on the market for 90 days. The budget also bars large investors from accessing some tax benefits associated with home ownership. These provisions are meant to make home ownership more accessible to regular households.
- A proposed ban on algorithmic software used to set rents did not make it into the budget after both chambers rejected it. Some housing experts and the U.S. Department of Justice claim that the software functions as a monopoly and inflates prices for tenants.
- The budget allocates \$50 million for low-interest loans to developers who include affordable housing in new buildings outside of New York City. The money is intended to be recycled: Once a developer pays it back, it can be lent out again.
- The budget sets aside \$50 million to create a new housing voucher program that will help homeless individuals and families rent apartments and assist those at risk of homelessness. Tenant and homeless advocates had sought \$250 million.

### Criminal justice

- Hochul targeted the process known as discovery by which prosecutors share the evidence they have against criminal defendants. Her proposal would have given prosecutors more leeway to decide what to share and made it harder for judges to dismiss cases over discovery violations, but neither the Assembly nor Senate included discovery changes in their budget counter-proposals. Negotiations significantly held up the budget. While Hochul did win some

## How They Voted on the Budget

The Highlands are represented in the state Senate by Rob Rolison, a Republican, and in the Assembly by Dana Levenberg, a Democrat (whose district includes Philipstown) and Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat (whose district includes Beacon).

### Health and Mental Hygiene (S3007C)

Passed by Senate 42-20

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly 101-49

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

### Public Protection and General Government (A3005C)

Passed by Senate 41-21

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly 104-46

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

### Education, Labor, Housing and Family Assistance (S3006C)

Passed by Senate 44-18

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly 112-37

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

### Taxes and Business (A3009C)

Passed by Senate 35-27

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly 103-46

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

### Transportation, Economic Development, Environment (S3008C)

Passed by Senate 40-22

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly 103-47

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

changes, the budget language indicates that her victory was less sweeping than how she characterized the deal.

- Under state law, police are allowed to take someone experiencing a mental health crisis to the hospital against their will if officers assess that the person poses a risk to themselves or others. Hochul pushed to expand those parameters, and the budget allows involuntary commitment if a person is “at substantial risk of harm due to their inability to meet basic needs like food, shelter, or medical care.” The legislature altered Hochul’s proposal so that ambulances, not police, transport those committed to a hospital. The changes also require hospitals to provide more assistance upon a person’s release.
- The governor and both chambers proposed requiring corrections officers to wear body cameras and turn them on when interacting with prisoners. The final agreement requires corrections officers and security supervisors to wear body cameras (and make sure they’re on) “at all times” on duty.

### Climate

- For the first time, New York is devoting a meaningful sum from its general budget —  
(Continued on Page 21)

## ‘Inflation Rebate’

New York State will mail refund checks beginning in October to everyone who filed a 2023 state return and meets the income requirements below:

FILING STATUS	STATE RETURN (LINE 33)	REFUND
Single	Up to \$75,000	\$200
Single	\$75,001 to \$150,000	\$150
Married joint	Up to \$150,000	\$400
Married joint	\$150,001 to \$300,000	\$300

Source: [ny.gov/inflationrefund](https://ny.gov/inflationrefund)



# NEW TRUCK, ATV FOR GARRISON FIRE

By Michael Turton

The Garrison Volunteer Fire Co. has purchased two new vehicles: a mini-pumper truck and an ATV. The pumper,

mounted on a Ford F550 frame, is “ideal for navigating Garrison’s narrow roads and driveways,” said President Mike Viveros. The ATV ensures firefighters can access difficult terrain in remote

areas, he said, noting that “prudent fiscal management” allowed the company to make the purchases without a tax increase or borrowing money.



2025 POLARIS RANGER XD 1500 CREW

2025 SEAGRAVE MINI-PUMPER

Photo by M. Turton

## THE SPECS

- 2025 Polaris Ranger XD 1500 Crew

Cost: \$66,000

Passengers: 4 to 6

Engine: 1500 cc inline 3 cylinder

Horsepower: 110

Drive: AWD

Haul capacity: 1,500 pounds

Onboard water: 85 gallons

Foam: 2.5 gallons

Features: EMS Patient Platform / Stokes Rescue Basket
- 2025 Seagrave Mini-Pumper

Cost: \$500,000

Passengers: 4

Chassis: 2023 Ford F-550 4x4


Engine: 6.7 liter V8 diesel

Horsepower: 330

Pump capacity: 1,250 gallons/minute

Onboard water: 300 gallons

Foam: 15 gallons



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Celebrate an American icon on his 84th birthday with an afternoon of live performances, poetry readings, and storytelling inspired by his work.

The Complete Unknowns, an eclectic powerhouse group of talented musicians, will take you on a journey through Dylan's timeless catalog, as well as tunes by The Dead, The Band, and others.

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MONDAY, MAY 19 7:00PM

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SEE YOU ON THE RED CARPET!





## The Calendar

# Butcher and the Blues

— *Marbled Meat to host house concert* —

By Marc Ferris

Strolling down Main Street in Beacon while eating, drinking and making merry on a beautiful weekend day, Aaron Miller outlined his vision for a music series that “builds community,” a phrase often bandied about.

But he gets things done. His first show with blues guitarist Jon Shain takes place on Sunday (May 18) at an unusual venue: the Marbled Meat Shop on Route 9 in Philipstown. Miller created a logo for what he calls his “butcher block party.”

“I always wanted to do house concerts and thought it would be a bougie thing with wine and cheese for 20 friends, but my girlfriend figured that we might ruin the carpet,” Miller said.

The couple decided to hold it outside, but when Lisa Hall of Marbled Meat heard about the plan, she urged caution. “Lisa goes, ‘You know, you’ll trample the lawn and maybe

affect the septic tank, so why not have it here and we can do a pop-up barbecue?’ ”

The BYOB event will raise money and collect non-perishables for the Philipstown Food Pantry. “When I heard about cuts to meals programs, I got fired up and decided that I had to give back,” says Miller, who moved to Beacon in January. “On Saturday morning, 63 families signed up to get fed, and that kills me.”

Hosting the show provides a kid-friendly alternative to live music in a bar, says Hall. After Marbled opened 10 years ago, it presented Tall County and other groups. “Now the tunes have come back in an organic way,” she said.

Shain, who lives in North Carolina, attended Duke University in the 1990s. So did Miller, a fan of the guitarist’s college band, Flyin’ Mice, which broke up long ago. “I guess I was on his short list all these years,” says Shain, who will teach and perform at the Acoustic Getaway guitar



Jon Shain

Photo by Tom Bagby

camp in Stony Point this weekend.

Specializing in post-World War I Mississippi Delta blues, Shain plays with bare fingers and often uses a thumb pick to pluck the bottom strings. Strumming is rare. Masters of this mesmerizing form

seem to simulate two instruments playing at once.

After branching into jazz, ragtime and bluegrass, Shain partnered with a music publisher to release two instructional books, *Jon Shain’s Fingerstyle Guitar Method* and *Gettin’ Handy With the Blues*, a reference to W.C. Handy, author of “St. Louis Blues,” one of the genre’s oldest and most popular songs.

The concert will take place on the covered patio. Inside the shop, shelves showcase goods from local craft creators like LL Pottery and Maria Pierogi, along with Understory Market and Split Rock Books on Main Street in Cold Spring.

“We know the experience of running errands down there on the weekends, so we brought some of them up here to support other businesses and help people avoid the crowds,” says Hall.

Miller is already planning his next butcher block party. “I’m good at stirring up trouble and trying to make a difference,” he says. “There’s always a sense of community that centers on eating, drinking and music. Marbled Meat was crazy enough to let me do this.”

*Marbled Meat is located at 3091 Route 9 in Philipstown. The concert begins at 3 p.m. on May 18; a \$20 donation is requested.*

# Dean of the Music Scene

— *Russell St. George, retired welder, plays with fire* —

By Marc Ferris

Any band would relish having a cheerleader like Shirley Maloney. At a recent show by Last Minute Soulmates at the Towne Crier in Beacon, she acted out the words, exhorted the crowd to sing along and pounded on tables during the final song, a funky cover of “Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This).”

A good portion of the rowdy crowd almost reached Maloney’s level of enthusiasm. House staff created an impromptu dance floor by clearing tables near the stage as people swung their partners with elbows locked together during “Maggie’s Farm” and danced in circles during a heavy version of “Hound Dog.” At one point, two men started screaming, ostensibly out of joy.

The group’s founder, Russell St. George, moved to town in 1986 and is a dean of Beacon’s music scene. He focuses on original songs but likes to mix in atypical versions of covers, including “Your Cheating Heart” as a deliberate shuffle.

“I’m not good enough to play them like the record, but I do like to shake things up with the arrangement or approach,” he says. “And I still write, including songs about what’s going on, like one about gun violence called ‘When’s it Gonna Stop?’ ”

His originals, some of which feature a reggae tinge, keep things simple and rely on



Russell St. George

hooky choruses that get people singing. At one point, almost the entire audience, including the waitstaff, belted out the words.

Working as a welder in Peekskill, a job he held for 37 years, St. George heard that houses in Beacon could be had on the cheap. His first local band, Daarc Ages (an acronym of members’ first names), released a couple of CDs and opened for Dee Snider, Uriah Heap and Blue Oyster Cult at The Chance in Poughkeepsie and other venues.

“We’d make a CD and someone would quit, so we had to keep finding musicians and never really got off the ground,” he says. “Besides, I was kind of shy.”

That’s odd because he sports flowing hair, a goatee and moustache. His fashion sense includes hats, big round glasses and black, accented with scarves, a look that



Last Minute Soulmates is Harry Lawrence, Mitch Florian, Russell St. George, Rik Mercaldi and Carla Springer.

Photos by Mickey Deneher

leans more toward the hippie camp than the blue-collar world.

Over the years, he played every local venue and hosted a 17-year monthly jam at Joe’s Irish Pub (now MoMo Valley) that he called St. George and Friends.

“The whole time, I never missed a date,” he says. “But I turned 60, COVID hit and the end arrived.” Last Minute Soulmates started as an acoustic duo that grew into an electric project by 2011. Self-effacing,

he credits band members for any success.

Not shy about his left-leaning political views, he lost some followers over the years. He feels no compulsion to record his new tunes, in part because working in the studio is a drag compared to playing for a responsive audience.

“Streams and other delivery systems don’t get a lot of traction,” he says. “If people want to hear my songs in their best light, come see me live.”

*Last Minute Soulmates, with St. George (vocals, guitar), Carla Springer (vocals), Rik Mercaldi (guitar), Harry Lawrence (bass) and Mitch Florian (drums), will perform at 9 p.m. on May 23 at Gleason’s, 23 S. Division St., in Peekskill.*



[

THE WEEK AHEAD

]

COMMUNITY

**SAT 17**  
**Birdathon**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org  
Join the annual bird count led by Putnam Highlands Audubon guides to raise money and collect data. Donate or join a walk. *Cost: \$10*

**SAT 17**  
**Rummage Sale**  
**BEACON**  
9 a.m. – Noon. St. Joachim's 51 Leonard St.  
This annual fundraiser organized by the Women's Parish Club of St. Joachim / St. John the Evangelist Church has values galore, as well as a red-carpet section with higher-end items.

**SAT 17**  
**Master Gardeners**  
**MILLBROOK**  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Farm and Home Center 2715 Route 44 | ccedutchess.org  
The Cornell Cooperative Extension sale will include vegetables, herbs and flowers.

**SAT 17**  
**Modern Makers Market**  
**COLD SPRING**  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary's Church 1 Chestnut St. | hopsonthehudson.com  
Shop for art, jewelry, candles,

accessories and crafts from more than 60 makers. Rain or shine. Also SUN 18.

**SAT 17**  
**Pride in the Sky**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
4 – 10 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson 61 Parker Ave. | biggayhudsonvalley.com  
The daytime festivities will include a fun run, tours and drag story time, along with entertainment, food and booths. At sunset, there will be a procession unfurling a 500-foot-long Pride flag and the world's largest Trans Pride flag. *Free*

**SUN 18**  
**ARF 5K Run/Walk**  
**BEACON**  
9 a.m. – Noon. Memorial Park Robert Cahill Drive | bit.ly/arf-5K  
Support the Animal Rescue Foundation's work by joining this 5K run or the 1K fun run. Dogs welcome. See Page 2. *Cost: \$35 (\$20 ages 3 to 10)*

**SUN 18**  
**Tango with the Depot**  
**GARRISON**  
4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Depot Theatre 10 Garrison's Landing depottheater.org  
This benefit on the theater patio will include live music, group tango lessons and Argentine food. *Cost: \$145+*



Pride in the Sky, May 17

**THURS 22**  
**Senior Resources**  
**COLD SPRING**  
1 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org  
Learn about what Putnam County has to offer for caregivers and people over age 60.

**THURS 22**  
**Cheese Board Game Night**  
**COLD SPRING**  
6 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St. 845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com  
Join Planned Parenthood for community, games and snacks. Please bring menstrual products to donate.

**KIDS & FAMILY**  
**SAT 17**  
**Car Seat Check**  
**GARRISON**  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org  
Putnam County Sheriff's deputies will ensure children's car seats are properly installed.

**SAT 17**  
**Family Nature Meet-Up**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
2 p.m. Humble Bee Hollow Snake Hill Road philipstowngardenclubny.org  
Families and children ages 4 to 12 are invited to join a scavenger hunt led by Jackie Grant of the Philipstown Garden Club. Rain date: SUN 18. Registration required.

**MON 19**  
**Student Film Festival**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Beacon Movie Theater 445 Main St. forbeaconschools.org/film-festival  
Films by middle and high school students will be screened at this fourth annual festival hosted by the Foundation for Beacon Schools. *Cost: \$8 (\$4 students)*

**FRI 23**  
**Movie Night**  
**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St. | 845-831-1134 beaconlibrary.org  
Students in grades 5 to 12 will select a movie to watch together. Register online.

**TALKS & TOURS**  
**SAT 17**  
**The Sundowner's Dance**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St. 845-440-3906 | stanzabooks.com  
Todd Keisling, a horror and suspense author, will read from his latest novel about growing old and dealing with grief and dementia.

**SUN 18**  
**Death is Not Real**  
**BEACON**  
Noon – 4 p.m. The Yard 4 Hanna Lane | theyardbeacon.com  
This workshop will explore ancient spiritual teachings, near-death experience accounts and

practices such as guided meditation, sound journeys and heart-brain coherence. *Cost: \$55 (\$65 door)*

**SUN 18**  
**Suzanne Cleary**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
3 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C. 729 Peekskill Hollow Road tompkinscorners.org  
The poet will read from her new collection, *The Odds*, followed by an open mic. *Cost: \$10*

**THURS 22**  
**Plant Bingo**  
**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St. | 845-831-1134 beaconlibrary.org  
Win seedlings for your garden. Registration required.

**FRI 23**  
**Financial Freedom**  
**BEACON**  
1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St. | 845-831-1134 beaconlibrary.org  
Enjoy lunch while Community Housing Innovations covers how to build a strong financial future. Registration required. *Free*

**FRI 23**  
**The American Revolution in the Hudson Highlands**  
**COLD SPRING**  
5 – 7 p.m. Putnam History Museum 63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010 putnamhistorymuseum.org  
This new exhibition includes reproductions, artifacts and documents that reflect the region's history.

**STAGE & SCREEN**  
**SAT 17**  
**White Rabbit Red Rabbit**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. 24 Willow St. dub.sh/white-rabbit  
The play by Nassim Soleimanpour, an Iranian forbidden to leave his country, will be performed by a local actor seeing the script for the first time. Also SUN 18. See Page 17. *Cost: \$10 to \$32.24*



ARF 5K Run/Walk, May 18

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**SAT 17**  
**The Bald Soprano**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Savage Wonder  
139 Main St. | [savagewonder.org](http://savagewonder.org)  
The new theater will present a “ludicrously staged reading of the absurdist classic” by Eugène Ionesco. Also SAT 24. *Cost: \$25*

**SAT 17**  
**Big Fish: The Musical**  
**WAPPINGERS FALLS**  
8 p.m. County Players Theater  
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491  
[countypayers.org](http://countypayers.org)  
This musical adventure tells the larger-than-life story inspired by a father’s tales. Also SUN 18. *Cost: \$30 (\$28 seniors, military, students)*

**SAT 17**  
**Liturgy for Longing**  
**BEACON**  
9 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center  
327B Main St.  
[liturgyforlonging.brownpapertickets.com](http://liturgyforlonging.brownpapertickets.com)  
The artist, Emily Clare Zempel, explores longing with the audience through a series of questions. Also SUN 18. *Cost: \$15 to \$40*

**WED 21**  
**God’s Puppets**  
**BEACON**  
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
The Hit House Reading Series will stage a reading of Gwynne Watkins’

play about a feminist minister using puppets to get a message out. *Cost: \$10*

**THURS 22**  
**The Peekskill Riots**  
**GARRISON**  
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)  
Watch Episode 3 of a documentary series about racist violence in Peekskill during a Paul Robeson concert. A Q&A with the director will follow.

**SAT 24**  
**Feedback**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
Rooster will show a video art performance while Don Romaniello does improv. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

**MUSIC**  
**SAT 17**  
**Here Comes the Sun**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
This Beatles tribute band celebrates the hits. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

**SUN 18**  
**Toland Brothers Band**  
**BEACON**  
11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Boats leave dock  
845-831-6346 | [bannermancastle.org](http://bannermancastle.org)  
The local duo will play rock and



pop classics, as well as originals, during tours of Bannerman Island. *Cost: \$45 (\$35 ages 11 and younger)*

**SUN 18**  
**Beacon Rising Choir**  
**BEACON**  
1 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road | [compassarts.org](http://compassarts.org)  
The choir performs music that celebrates community and social justice. Come early to meet local organizations and enjoy snacks. *Cost: \$10 to \$40*

**SUN 18**  
**Let’s Sing Taylor**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
2 p.m. MJN Center | 14 Civic Center Plaza  
[midhudsonciviccenter.org](http://midhudsonciviccenter.org)  
This tribute band performs the songs of Taylor Swift. *Cost: \$40 to \$78*

**SUN 18**  
**Jon Shain**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
3 p.m. Marbled Meat | 3091 Route 9  
[marbledmeatshop.com](http://marbledmeatshop.com)  
The blues guitar singer and songwriter will play a solo set that includes a BBQ pop-up. See Page 11. *Cost: \$20 donation*

**SUN 18**  
**Charlotte Hu**  
**COLD SPRING**  
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | [chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)  
The pianist’s program will include works by Liszt, Granados and Debussy. Donations welcome. *Free*

**SUN 18**  
**Imani Winds**  
**BEACON**  
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | [howlandmusic.org](http://howlandmusic.org)  
The quintet’s program will include works by Simon Shaheen, Kalevi Aho, Valerie Coleman, Paquito D’Rivera and Stevie Wonder. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

**THURS 22**  
**Ignite a Noise**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Savage Wonder  
141 Main St. | [savagewonder.org](http://savagewonder.org)  
Rich Johnson, a “one man jazz fusion orchestra,” will perform on trumpet, electronics and pedal steel guitar. *Free*

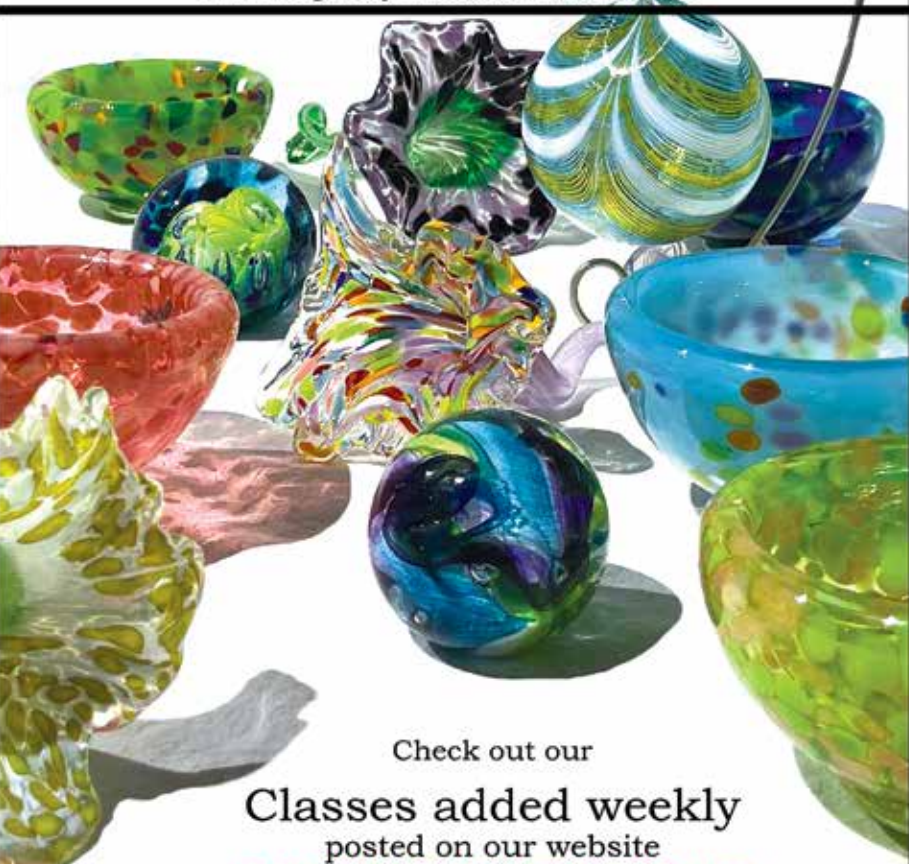
**THURS 22**  
**The Dirty Grass Players**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | [chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)  
Connor Murray (bass), Alex Berman (banjo), Ben Kolakowski (guitar) and Ryan Rogers (mandolin) play bluegrass with an edge. *Cost: \$25*

**FRI 23**  
**The Heartstrings Project**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The group plays indie folk and Americana music. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

(Continued on Page 14)

# Hudson Beach Glass

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[www.beaconmusicfactory.com](http://www.beaconmusicfactory.com)



THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 13)

SAT 24

Bob Dylan Birthday Bash

PUTNAM VALLEY

2 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompkinscorners.org

The Complete Unknown will play Dylan's music. There will also be poetry readings at this family-friendly celebration. *Cost: \$20 (children free)*



SAT 24

Sharkey & The Sparks

BEACON

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

Sharkey McEwen and his son, Ben, and their band will play covers from the 1960s and '70s. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 25

The Bob Cats

BEACON

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

This tribute band will play the

music of Bob Dylan to celebrate his birthday. There is a \$20 minimum food and beverage purchase. *Free*

VISUAL ART

SAT 17

Llèncols de Aigua

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Magazzino  
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

The art institute will open an installation by Antonio Marras and Maria Lai. There will also be a full-day symposium about Lai. *Cost: \$30 (\$20 seniors; students and members free)*

SAT 17

Elizabeth Blake

COLD SPRING

4 – 6 p.m. Studio Tashtego  
160 Main St. | studiotashtego.com

The ceramic artist's solo show, *Arcadia*, will be on view until July 13.

SAT 17

Jeremy Dennis

GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

The visiting artist's show, *Rise: Scenes of Resistance*, explores Indigenous identity and storytelling. Dennis will lead two workshops on SUN 18, including one for families.

SAT 24

Destination Earth

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon – 5 p.m. Ligenza Moore Gallery  
78 Trout Brook Road  
ligenzamooregallery.com

Works by more than a dozen artists, including Tony Moore, Judy Pfaff, Chris Martin and Katherine Bradford, will be on view at this new gallery's opening show. Through July 27.

SAT 24

Half the Sky

BEACON

2 – 4 p.m. KuBe Art Center  
211 Fishkill Ave. | ecfa.com/kube

The group show, curated by Joan Lebold and Ethan Cohen, includes works by 10 contemporary Chinese women artists.

SAT 24

Can Art Change the World?

BEACON

2 – 4 p.m. KuBe Art Center  
211 Fishkill Ave. | ecfa.com/kube

Journalist Karen Michel will facilitate a discussion with Jerome Cohen, Gwen Laster, Deb Lucke, David Ross and Edwin Torres. *Cost: \$10 donation*

CIVIC

MON 19

City Council

BEACON

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

TUES 20

Budget Vote and Trustee Election

BEACON

6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road

District residents in Fishkill and Wappinger vote at Glenham Elementary, 20 Chase Drive.

TUES 20

Budget Vote and Trustee Election

GARRISON

7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Garrison School  
1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3689  
gufs.org

TUES 20

Budget Vote and Trustee Election

COLD SPRING

7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Haldane Elementary  
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254  
haldaneschool.org

TUES 20

Budget Vote and Trustee Election

CORTLANDT

7 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Van Cortlandtville Elementary  
3100 E. Main St. | lakelandschools.org

Lakeland district residents in Continental Village vote here.

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



Elizabeth Blake, May 17

WED 21

Constituent Forum

COLD SPRING

9:30 a.m. Foundry Dock Park  
putnamcountyny.gov

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne will hold an informal discussion before taking a short walk with constituents.

WED 21

Village Board

COLD SPRING

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

WED 21

Village Board

NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.  
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov



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DESTINATION EARTH  
May 24 — July 27

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Marieken Cochius  
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Simeon Lagodich  
Cal Lane  
Chris Martin  
Tony Moore  
Garry Nichols  
Helen O'Leary  
Judy Pfaff  
David Provan  
Jeff Shapiro  
Greg Slick  
Kurt Steger  
Don Voisine

OPENING EVENT  
Saturday, May 24 | 12-5pm

Gallery Hours:  
Saturdays & Sundays 12-5pm  
78 Trout Brook Rd Cold Spring  
ligenzamooregallery.com



Depot Theatre  
Spring Benefit

"Come Tango with us!"  
May 18, 4:30-6:30PM

Glass Ceiling  
Breakers

One Act Plays and  
short films Festival  
Written and directed by women  
June 6-8

Depot Pride  
Performance

June 14  
4pm- family show  
7pm - Ages 13 and up

Depot Docs:  
Folktales

June 20 at 7:30PM  
With Director Rachel Grady and  
reception at Dolly's

Tickets at  
www.philipstowndepottheatre.org





Rhoda Averbach and Olive Jones take requests from the Towne Crier stage.



Latin Dance Nite in Beacon draws dancers from around the Hudson Valley. Photos by Ross Corsair

# THE LATIN BEAT

## Towne Crier hosts monthly dance night

By Marc Ferris

Rhoda Averbach hires a roadie to lug three bulky speakers so she can present Latin Dance Nite at the Towne Crier Cafe every month.

But her sparse DJ rig consists of a laptop. “Other DJs use all that stuff to look impressive; that gear really isn’t necessary,” she says segueing seamlessly between salsa, rumba, merengue, bachata, cha cha, reggaeton “y mas,” according to one of her flyers.

Beyond the laptop, Latin night unfolds in analog. Dancers peruse notebooks filled with lists of song titles, write down their selections on a slip of paper and hand them to Olive Jones, who sits next to Averbach onstage.

The two, who both live in Beacon, also host Funky Dance Night at the Elks Club on the first Saturday of each month, with numbers from the disco era.

One slogan is, “If the music is good ... dance.” Averbach has a fine ear for music and knows how to get the dance floor bumping. A trained composer who melded jazz and classical, she worked with David

Liebman and Michael Gerber to record several CDs and tour the country.

She became enamored with Latin music after realizing that it “gives people pleasure, and I like to see them happy.”

Reading the room is an essential skill. “For me, it’s about the music. If a song doesn’t take off, I’ll fade it out within 30 seconds and move on to something else,” she says. “You can’t go wrong with Marc Anthony.”

Fast songs featuring hypnotic bass lines populate the floor. Latin dancing is akin to ballroom styles but offers more fluidity and room to improvise. As the repetitive music pulses through the room, bodies spin like tops, feet keep shuffling and hands are clasped over heads and behind backs.

When the first notes of the 2004 reggaeton hit “Gasolina,” by Daddy Yankee, spilled from the speakers, people popped from their seats. One couple picked a spot in front of the kitchen door and almost caused a collision, but the waitstaff acclimated.

The music — and the scene — draws people from all over the Hudson Valley. There are similar events in New Rochelle and Middletown, and many of the dancers knew each other from Nyack.

Sitting with a group of friends she met across the river, Joanne Williams, who lives in Poughkeepsie, slipped in and out of her padded high-heel dance shoes, which help keep a dancer’s center of gravity leaning forward. “I’ve met a lot of people through Latin dancing,” she says. “It’s a nice community.”

For self-proclaimed salsa addict Lisa Rodriguez, who lives in Bloomingburg, “the music is contagious and there aren’t many places to dance in the area.”

Mastering the steps is all about counting, she says: Salsa is 1-2-3 / 5-6-7 (out of eight)

and bachata is straight 1-2-3-4.

“I like playing sports, so it’s good exercise that gets your dopamine going,” Rodriguez says. “I enjoy the challenge of following the cues as the man leads. To do it well, you can’t think too much — you have to go with the flow.”

The Towne Crier is located at 379 Main St. in Beacon. The May 29 dance is sold out, although tickets may be available at the door (call 845-855-1300). The next event is scheduled for June 26; see [dub.sh/latin-dance-june](https://dub.sh/latin-dance-june). Tickets are \$11.

## ANTONIO MARRAS AND MARIA LAI: LLENCOLS DE AIGUA

Curated by Paola Mura  
May 17– July 28, 2025

New installation in Gallery 2  
as part of the ongoing exhibition  
*Maria Lai. A Journey to America*

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**OPENING MAY 17**

The HIGHLANDS

# Current

**Survey Closes**  
**SUN. May 18**  
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# *Feast of St. Anthony at Graymoor*

**Thursday, June 12****Jubilee Mass at 4:00pm with Bishop Gerardo J. Colacicco**

Outdoors at St. Anthony Shrine

**Friday, June 13****Feast of St. Anthony of Padua Celebration**11:00am | Trilingual Mass & Exposition at  
Our Lady of Atonement Chapel  
(English, Italian and Spanish)

3:00pm | Novena &amp; Benediction

**Saturday, June 14****Our Lady of Atonement Chapel****Mass Schedule**

11:00am | English

12:00pm | Creole &amp; French

4:00pm | English &amp; Spanish

**Sunday, June 15****Our Lady of Atonement Chapel****Mass Schedule**

11:00pm | English &amp; Italian

1:00pm | Creole &amp; French

4:00pm | Novena and Benediction



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# The Play No One Talks About

*Beacon actors will 'cold read' work*

By Marc Ferris

Like thousands of actors before him, from Australia to Zimbabwe, Alexander Florez will rip open a sealed manila envelope tonight (May 16) and cold read a 2010 play, *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, in the backyard of his Beacon home. Two other performers will take the plunge in yards on Saturday and Sunday.

The premise — some call it a gimmick — is that everyone in a confined space takes an hour-long journey akin to a one-off jazz solo. Though details have leaked, audiences and the theater community (including reporters) have kept the broad outline and most revealing moments under wraps.

The playwright, Nassim Soleimanpour, includes a clause in the contract for producers: “This play is *not* overtly political and should not be portrayed as such. It operates on a deeper, metaphoric level, and very expressly avoids overt political comment. All media and press agents have to keep in mind that the playwright lives in Iran. We therefore ask the press to be judicious in their reportage.”

Florez is a math teacher who will never pass muster with the grammar police. He avoids capital letters as an act of resistance and his email tag links to “the case for lowercase” style guide on his website, which includes instructions about turning off caps on devices and in programs.

“I have a lot of respect and disdain for academia,” he says. “I’m impressed with education but also dismayed with the gate-keeping and barriers to entry. One way to



Alexander Florez

Photo provided

oppress is by making complicated grammar and spelling rules the standard for everyone, even though a select few invented them.”

Pushback against authority is reflected in the play. According to Soleimanpour, he wrote it after he refused to serve in the Iranian military and the regime denied him a visa to leave the country. (He is now thought to live in Berlin.) The production requires props, but the playwright’s website touts the lack of sets, directors and rehearsals.

Studying for his practical teaching certificate at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, Florez fell in with the acting crowd (he works at the Manitou School in Philipstown). After bouncing around the Hudson Valley, he moved to Beacon in 2022 and got involved with the improv and comedy scene.

*White Rabbit Red Rabbit* had an off-Broadway run in 2016: Nathan Lane, Whoopi Goldberg and Alan Cumming, among others, unsealed the script and got to work — for the first and last time. *Play-*

*bill* called it “the most-talked about (and least-talked about) new show.”

Beacon resident Jamie Mulligan read the script to prepare the actors, gather props and make staging suggestions. But per the legal agreement, the plot and other elements may not be divulged or discussed by anyone involved.

At first, Florez figured he’d reach out to local performance venues, but Mulligan suggested staging the play at an art gallery, coffeehouse or other offbeat space. James Phillips, a theater professor at Mount Saint Mary, will read in his yard on Saturday and Twinkle Burke walks the high wire on Sunday outside the home of Hannah Brooks (with contingency plans for inclement weather).

The play stems from experimental theater of the 1960s, Mulligan says, and “requires the audience and actor to encounter these subjects simultaneously, a connection that creates a level of spark that can only happen when everyone learns about this together.”

Broad outlines address elements of exis-



A design by Lily Friedrich for the production

tential oppression and the role of individuals in society. “Someone told me that every play is about hope, so it places the human condition into primal conflicts, like man versus nature or man versus god,” says Mulligan. That so many details have remained a secret for 15 years “speaks to the integrity of theater-makers.”

*White Rabbit Red Rabbit* will be performed by Florez at 7 p.m. at 119 Howland Ave. in Beacon, at 7 p.m., on Saturday (May 17) at 24 Willow St. by Phillips and at 3 p.m. on Sunday at 99 E. Main St. by Burke. Tickets are \$10 to \$32.24 at [dub.sh/white-rabbit](http://dub.sh/white-rabbit).



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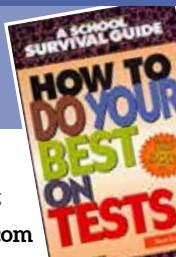
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# LOOKING BACK

## IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

### 150 Years Ago (May 1875)

Charles Odell of Mollysville [Nelsonville] reported that a 25-year-old willow basket in his cellar that he had filled with potatoes in the fall had rooted into the dirt floor.

A West Point sergeant was taken to an insane asylum. "Considerable force was necessary in getting him on the train," according to *The Cold Spring Recorder*.

The Methodist Episcopal Church held its annual pew renting.

A West Point cadet, C.S. Hall, was fatally injured when he was thrown from his mount during a cavalry drill.

Archibald McFarland of Nelsonville moved to Detroit.

The Cold Spring Village Board voted to raise \$391.21 [about \$11,400 today] in taxes to settle two judgments against the village.

A group of ferry passengers ran to catch the last southbound train of the day as it pulled out. The engineer spotted them, blew the brakes, shut off steam and stopped the rear car across Main Street so they could board.

James Haldane set out on a railroad trip to San Francisco.

### 250 Years Ago (May 1775)

Following a patriot battle with the British on April 19 at Lexington and Concord that kicked off the Revolutionary War, the 100-member New York Committee recommended each man arm himself and seek military training. It also ordered residents of Staten Island, a Loyalist stronghold, to stop selling provisions to British ships in the harbor.

James Duane, a delegate from New York, traveled to Philadelphia to ask the Continental Congress what to do if the

British attacked New York City. Congress decided to form a committee.

Cadwallader Colden, a former New York governor who had a home near Newburgh, wrote to officials in London to report the "state of anarchy and confusion into which this province has run since the actual commencement of hostilities."

A congressional committee recommended that King's Bridge in Manhattan and the Hudson Highlands be fortified, and that the New York Provincial Congress raise an army of 3,000 men.



A Garrison woman burning a pile of brush destroyed 40 acres of woods.

The new store wagon of James Dyke-man had locals wondering if it had been purchased abroad. But it was the work of J.H. Boyce & Sons in the North Highlands.

*The Recorder* reported that, at 10 p.m. on a Tuesday, three men had a running fight down Kemble Avenue "with clubs, stones and German adjectives."

The Rev. Benjamin Bowen, who had been dismissed by the trustees of the First Baptist Society of Philipstown but promised a one-year contract renewal by rogue parishioners, found himself in court after being accused of trespassing. Stephen Mekeel testified that he had bolted the door and posted a notice from the trustees that the church was closed. He later heard pounding and saw Bowen kicking in a panel. "He put his hand through the opening, unbolted and unlocked the door and went in," Mekeel said. When he came out, Bowen tore down the notice. The court set bail at \$250 [\$7,300]. The following Sunday, Bowen led services at Town Hall.

Samuel Hadden, formerly of Nelsonville, was arrested in Yonkers on suspicion of stealing a horse. He was allowed one telegraph.

### 125 Years Ago (May 1900)

Mr. Hunkele bought Truesdell's pickle plant on Market Street and offered farmers \$1.25 cash [\$48] per 1,000 cucumbers that were 3 inches or longer.

Fishermen were catching so many shad,

they were having trouble disposing of them, according to *The Recorder*. One Garrison fisherman caught 280 in one drift.

A blind tenor performed a 90-minute concert at the Baptist Church. "All present were inspired to better thoughts and to live a nobler life," said *The Recorder*.

William Murphy, an umbrella mender, pleaded guilty to sneaking into Mary McClary's home and stealing a pair of gold-rimmed spectacles.

Gov. Theodore Roosevelt enacted a bill that allowed Cold Spring and Nelsonville to require street merchants to get local business licenses. The village set peddler fees of \$3 to \$10 [\$114 to \$381], depending on the goods.

W.J. Geer, a Rochester newsboy who was pushing a wheelbarrow and trunk from New York to San Francisco to win a wager, arrived in Cold Spring.

A lawsuit filed against Julia Butterfield over the estate of her first husband, Frederick James, was back in court. When James died in 1884 in Cold Spring, leaving a \$2 million [\$65 million] estate, his wife received half its \$25,000 [\$952,000] annual income; the other half went to Frederick's siblings and their children. A nephew sued Butterfield, and a court ordered her to pay \$102,000 [\$3.9 million]. She argued that, because it cost \$25,000 annually to manage the estate, there were no funds to distribute.

After several cadets broke the electric light in front of J. Kelley's saloon, Officer McCaffrey visited West Point to have a talk

with them and returned with \$10 [\$380].

Web Warren of Nelsonville raised a disturbance because his son had been thrashed for missing school. "Web seems to think he can defy the compulsory education law," said *The Recorder*.

The Mohican Association of Haymakers raffled off a barrel of flour at its Memorial Day picnic.

Ann Crawford, who lived alone on Main Street, had not been seen for a few days, so neighbors forced entry and found her in bed. She said she was OK but didn't want anyone around. With great difficulty, the neighbors forced her to eat.

Carrie Ireland, a servant for Mrs. William Lawson, who lived at Main and Chestnut, narrowly escaped death when a spark from the kitchen stove set the back of her dress afire. Mrs. Lawson smothered the flames with a coat.

A Phoebe songbird built a nest in the wheelhouse of Barrett's mill. When the wheel was in motion the water sometimes reached the nest, but the bird seemed satisfied with the location.

Officer McCaffrey was called to the foundry to arrest a laborer named Westin who had been fired but refused to leave the premises.

A cold snap destroyed thousands of tomato plants in the North Highlands.

A permit was granted to the steamer General Slocum to land at the U.S. Military Academy with a party of young Brooklyn schoolteachers. "June 2nd will be a great day at West Point," said *The Recorder*.

The Highland Golf Club hired a Japanese chef and a Japanese steward.

The 21-month-old son of Sherman Mekeel died of the measles, which he contracted after recovering from the whooping cough.

The railroad informed Alexander Tait and H.S. Butler, express deliverymen between Poughkeepsie, Cold Spring and New York City, that they could no longer carry packages aboard the trains, forcing them out of business.

### 100 Years Ago (May 1925)

The state Public Service Commission granted a franchise to Central Hudson to provide service in Cold Spring. The Village Board asked the Cold Spring Light, Heat and Power Co., which lost its franchise, to remove the lights suspended over Main Street, and Central Hudson sent 200 men to erect white cedar poles and string wire.

The Haldane school board passed a resolution to memorialize a longtime trustee that began: "Whereas the Eternal Father has summoned our fellow townsman, Gerald V. Grace, to the Mysterious Realm, where each must take his chamber in the Silent Halls of Death..."

Bear Mountain Park began charging 25 cents [\$4.50] for parking, 5 cents [\$1] for dances at the pavilion and 50 cents per hour [\$9] for rowboat rentals. Officials said state funding did not cover maintenance.

The North Highland Cemetery Association hosted its annual Community Day.

Charles Mosher, Cold Spring's oldest resident, died at 93. Known as "Squire," he was born in the old stone house on the family farm at Breakneck.

(Continued on Page 19)

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### NOTICE

The bond resolution, summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on May 6, 2025, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the City School District of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. The purpose authorized by such bond resolution was approved by the voters of the School District on May 21, 2024.

A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the School District Clerk for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Dated: May 6, 2025

Vickie Jackson, District Clerk



(Continued from Page 18)

Negotiations were completed for Smith's Garage in Nelsonville to be converted into a movie theater called The Playhouse.

Members of the Loretto Fourth Degree Assembly cleaned up the burying grounds on Mountain Avenue.

Walter "Chubby" Daniels purchased the McCarty property at Main and Kemble occupied by a meat market and a barbershop.

Inspector Lynch of the Albany Automobile Bureau, who had recently been on duty in Cold Spring, was arrested in Hastings. According to a couple whom Lynch pulled over, he used profane language while asking for a driver's license and shoved a police officer who came upon the scene.

An accounting filed in state court showed that Anna Harden-Hickey, 60, daughter of John Haldane Flagler, a Cold Spring native and founder of the National Tube Co., had trust funds worth \$750,000 [\$13.7 million]. For the previous 18 years, she had been an unresponsive patient at a sanitarium in Connecticut. At her death, the estate would pass to her uncle, Harvey Flagler. [She lived another 25 years.]

#### 75 Years Ago (May 1950)

Robert Nelson, a junior at Haldane High School, was selected for a summer indoctrination course [internship] at Central Hudson.

Mr. Neilson posted a notice asking that "the party who borrowed the roll of wire fencing" from his property on Albany Post

Road "kindly return it at night the same as you borrowed it and there will be no questions asked."

Walter Cocking, who was a science teacher and band director at the Haldane Central School from 1936 to 1947 before becoming a professor at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute [now Auburn University], was killed in a car crash in Georgia. A funeral service was held at St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring.

The Haldane baseball team defeated Peekskill Military Academy, 7-1, but had to put Manager Ronald Monroe in uniform because several players were at a track meet in Carmel.

The New York Telephone Co. raised its rates for the first time in 20 years — to \$3.75 [\$50] per month — but said the phones that could be reached through the operator without an additional toll would increase from 1,300 to 6,600 in Cold Spring and 1,300 to 9,900 in Garrison.

John Lyons of Parsonage Street was an Army file clerk in Yokohama, Japan.

The Cold Spring Village Board created a Zoning Commission to recommend boundaries and regulations.

#### 50 Years Ago (May 1975)

A 31-year-old Peekskill man driving a Bill's Food Market van was killed in a four-car crash on Route 9 about a mile north of Travis Corners Road.

The new county clerk, Joseph Peloso, asked the Board of Supervisors to remove the switchboard extension from the Records

Room and install a public payphone.

Haldane students presented the Cold Spring board with a petition asking for the construction of a bike path from the North Highlands to the village.

The Hand-to-Mouth Players at the Depot Theatre opened its 1975 season with *Enter Laughing*, which had debuted on Broadway in 1963 starring Alan Arkin.

Bernie Dillon died at age 73. The Seattle native, who came to Cold Spring as a trainer for the late heavyweight boxer Ray Impellittere, helped organize the Philipstown Little League in 1952 and served as its president from 1953 to 1971.

Twenty-one Haldane seniors took a three-day trip to the Pines Resort in Sullivan County. One said a highlight was "meeting a swinging group of senior citizens from Yonkers" who invited the students to play bingo and Name That Tune. In return, the students invited the seniors to "an evening of rock music."

A Putnam County Sheriff's deputy was called to a residence in Garrison at 10:55 p.m. to destroy a 32-inch copperhead in the cellar.

Otto Verne added 300 cast-iron garden pieces to the stock of his three-story antique store on Main Street, purchased from an Ossining estate. The pieces were scarce because many had been used for scrap metal during the world wars.

#### 25 Years Ago (May 2000)

A 45-year-old woman suffered a head

injury after jumping from a moving vehicle at Main and Church streets during an argument with the driver, who was arrested for driving under the influence.

Cathy Lilburne announced she would seek re-election to the Garrison school board. Elected in 1995, she was the last trustee to serve five years before the terms were changed to three.

For the first time in a century, white suckers (*Catostomus commersoni*) made it past the first dam in Foundry Brook — a group of Haldane students, working with Building Bridges, Building Boats, created a "fish ladder."



Ryan Cuneo was recognized for his 50th year as a member of the Garrison Volunteer Fire Co. He recalled in the 1960s rescuing three spelunkers trapped 100 feet down in the old copper mine at Manitou.

The Putnam County Health Department voted to restrict smoking in public buildings and required restaurants to provide smoking sections.

The Putnam County attorney told the Legislature that Robert Bondi, the county executive who earned \$110,000 [\$204,000]

(Continued on Page 20)



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Photo: Mike Viveros, Interior Firefighter, Company President  
 © Jay Brenner



Looking Back *(from Page 19)*

annually, was entitled to a 20 percent raise because the charter said he had to be the highest-paid employee whose salary was controlled by lawmakers. Although the district attorney’s \$131,400 salary [\$244,000] was set by the state, the attorney argued that the Legislature voted on it when it approved the budget. The Legislature decided, 5-4, against the move.

Robert Boyd, 85, and his sister, Elma Boyd Gregg, returned for a visit to the Office Building at the West Point Foundry, where they had grown up. Their father, who manufactured women’s silk undergarments, bought the property in 1926 to open a second plant. The Boyd family lived in the building until 1936.

Cold Spring announced that it had created email accounts for the mayor and trustees.

The Depot Theatre presented *Quilters*, a musical with 40 characters and 21 songs.

Haldane added boys’ lacrosse to its middle school sports, with plans for a varsity team.

Robert Millis, owner of Cold Spring Gardens, was found not guilty of violating the sidewalk code. The previous summer, he had been issued 25 tickets for refusing to remove planters from the front of his shop at 6 Market St. In his defense, Millis said the planters were not “goods, wares or merchandise” as required by the statute and that they sat within 20 inches of his building, which was not village property.

Signal Fire *(from Page 1)*

They were not actively looking for a new home but said they couldn’t resist when the Garrison location became available. “The space came to us,” Rauch said. “We considered it for a while, and it was like, ‘Yes, this is what we imagined we’d like to be.’” They closed the Peekskill facility in late 2024 to focus on the move.

Signal Fire’s initial retail selection will include 12 to 15 types of bread, from baguettes, spelt, brioche and miche, to East Mountain levain, Ammerland rye and honey whole wheat. There will also be scones, muffins, cookies, biscuits, galettes and rolls.

“We’ll add pizzas, sandwiches and salads eventually and, hopefully, soups by the fall,” Detrick said. “We want to add more breakfast and lunch items as we get our legs and train staff.” Coffee + Beer in Ossining will supply coffee. Signal Fire will continue to have a booth on Saturdays at the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market, where it has a loyal following.

Rauch and Detrick are aware that the building, which began life as a gas station, has seen a succession of short-lived cafes and restaurants. “That was an early concern, but we’re already well-known in this community and feeling so much support everywhere we go here,” Detrick said.

Grain and the flour derived from it are the raw materials that fuel a bakery. Signal Fire works with Farmer Ground Flour, which grows organic grain on five farms in the Finger Lakes region and grinds it



Signal Fire’s initial retail selection will include 12 to 15 types of bread.  
*Photo provided*

into flour using pink granite millstones.

That process mills together the grain’s three elements — bran, germ and endosperm — to maximize flavor and nutrient value. “It can be sifted if you want a lighter wheat, or left whole,” Detrick said. They sometimes source flour from New Jersey and Maine, as well.

Rauch said 90 percent of what they bake uses natural wild yeast. “Sourdough is natural wild yeast; it’s in the air,” she said. They mix flour, water and yeast twice a day. “We’ve been maintaining that culture since we opened; it’s a constant process of keeping it healthy and happy.”

The name Signal Fire is tied to the region’s geography and history. Signal fires were lit on mountaintops in the Highlands as a means of communication, both during the Revolutionary War and prob-

ably earlier by Native Americans. “I loved that image of fires burning on the mountaintops,” Detrick said.

Both bakers admitted to a slight case of the jitters as opening day approached. “We’ve been prepping for a year,” Detrick said. “It’s a blend of excitement, nerves and curiosity about what’s going to actually happen when people come through the door.”

Rauch added: “I’m feeling positive and optimistic. I’m also nervous because we’ve never run an operation like this. We’re jumping off the diving board!”

*Signal Fire Bread, at 1135 Route 9D in Garrison, will be open today (May 16), Saturday and Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beginning May 22, it will be open daily except Wednesday. See [signalfirebread.com](http://signalfirebread.com).*

NOTICE

BEAR MOUNTAIN BRIDGE PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

The **New York State Bridge Authority** invites you to an open house to learn more about the Bear Mountain Bridge Deck Replacement Project and to share your input on the project’s concept designs!

DATE: **Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

TIME: **6:00 PM**

LOCATION: **The Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave, Peekskill NY 10566**

The **Bear Mountain Bridge** is a vital connection carrying NYS Routes 6 and 202 and the Appalachian Trail over the Hudson River. Opened in 1924, this 2,255-foot-long suspension bridge has served vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists for a century.

The **Bear Mountain Bridge Deck Replacement Project** will:

- **Replace the aging bridge deck** to enhance **safety** and extend the bridge’s lifespan.
- **Widen sidewalks** for improved **accessibility**.
- **Improve barriers** and enhance scenic overlooks for safe, accessible viewing areas.

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NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

The bond resolution, summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on March 18, 2024, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the City School District of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

The resolution was approved by the voters of the School District on May 21, 2024.

A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the School District Clerk for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Dated: Beacon, New York, May 19, 2025.

Vickie Jackson, School District Clerk

BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 18, 2024.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN AND FOR THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF BEACON, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$49,950,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$49,450,000 BONDS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.

Objects or purposes: School District Improvement Program, including site work

Maximum estimated cost: \$49,950,000, which includes Capital Reserve funds in the amount of \$500,000

Period of probable usefulness: Thirty years

Amount of obligations to be issued: \$49,450,000 bonds



## NYS Budget *(from Page 9)*

\$1 billion — to fight climate change. About half of the money will go toward cutting pollution from buildings, with an emphasis on “thermal energy networks,” which allow electrification of heating and cooling at a neighborhood scale. Another \$250 million or so will help local governments and businesses pay for electric vehicles and the charging infrastructure needed to support them, especially school buses, trucks and other heavy-duty vehicles. And \$200 million will go toward grid upgrades and public renewable energy projects, including those from the New York Power Authority and municipalities. That leaves about \$100 million for the administration to move around.

■ For the third year running, the flagship climate legislation known as the NY HEAT Act failed to make it into the budget. The Senate was alone in pushing to include it this year, and it did not gain much traction in budget talks. The legislation, which would allow the state to gradually transition homes off fossil fuels, remains a priority for green groups.

■ For the seventh year straight, New York will put \$500 million toward cleaning up drinking water. That money will help fund a broad swath of projects, including upgrades at sewage treatment plants, replacing leaky pipes, testing for “forever chemicals” and managing road salt. The Senate and Assem-

bly both tried to increase the funding — in part by dedicating \$100 million to replacing lead pipes — but were rebuffed.

■ Another flagship program, the Environmental Protection Fund, will get a slight boost this year — to \$425 million, up from \$400 million. It’s a smaller increase than the Senate and Assembly sought but still means the state will have a record amount to spend on conserving its lands and waters.

■ A \$5,000 credit for homeowners who install solar has not seen an increase since 2006. The Assembly and Senate wanted to increase the credit to \$10,000 and also make it easier for co-op and low-income residents to receive. The reforms did not make it into the final budget, although similar reforms to tax credits for geothermal heating systems (doubling them to \$10,000 and making them refundable) did make the cut. To date, New York’s solar subsidies have gone disproportionately to high-income homeowners.

### Education

■ The state allocated \$36 billion for education, on par with last year’s budget. Of that, \$26.4 billion will go toward Foundation Aid, the formula the state uses to distribute most aid to schools. That’s an increase of more than \$1 billion. The budget also updated the formula for the first time since its implementation in 2007 by changing how student poverty is measured and adding more fund-

ing for English-language learners.

■ Beginning in the fall, the state will require public school districts to adopt full-day, “bell-to-bell” restrictions on smartphones and internet-enabled devices at every grade level, including during lunch and study halls. Haldane High School in September 2023 began requiring students to stow their phones in a restricted area during class and the Garrison School and Beacon’s middle and high schools followed suit last fall. But the districts do not have full-day bans. Districts will develop their own storage plans and alternative methods for parents to reach students. The policy includes exemptions for students with medical conditions or who use phones for translation, family caregiving or emergencies.

■ Students will have access to free breakfast and lunch thanks to a statewide universal free meals program. About 90 percent of students were covered in 2024-25 and the new funding will cover the rest.

■ Students aged 25 to 55 who do not have a college degree can attend community college free if they enroll in certain programs among high-demand fields, such as technology, cybersecurity, nursing or teaching.

*New York Focus is a nonprofit news publication investigating power in New York. For a longer, interactive version of this story, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).*

## Current Classifieds

### SERVICES

**HEALING BODYWORK** — Featured in NY Magazine as “one of the 15 best massage therapists offering CranialSacral Therapy,” with a specialty in SomatoEmotional Release. In addition, I offer Swedish massage incorporating CranialSacral Therapy. Trained in Medical Massage, Process Acupuncture, Meditation and Foot Reflexology with over 30 years’ experience. Garrison and Ossining locations. House calls available. Call 914-519-8138 or visit [Joymatalon.com](http://Joymatalon.com).

**MUSIC LESSONS** — Instruction in guitar, bass, saxophone, woodwinds, piano, jazz, Irish music. 40+ years’ experience. Beginners to advanced, my studio or your home. Call or text 917-846-7020.

### FOR SALE

**FRENCH BULLDOGS** — We have two French bulldog puppies for sale. Rare and beautiful blue and fawn females. Raised in our living room with kids, dogs and kittens. Very much loved and socialized. Wormed, first shots and very nice confirmation. Local. Email [cgry@aol.com](mailto:cgry@aol.com).

### FOR RENT

**OFFICE SPACE** — 3182 Route 9, Philipstown Square, 2nd Floor, 500 to 1,000 square feet, well-maintained, private bathroom, easy access parking, large operating window. 24/7-access security cameras, furnished or unfurnished. Call 914-490-9606 or email [renatocottini@aol.com](mailto:renatocottini@aol.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](mailto:lbeasimer@gmail.com)), Barbara Conley Gosda ([bgosda4765@gmail.com](mailto:bgosda4765@gmail.com)) or Connie Perdreau ([corneliaperdreau@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

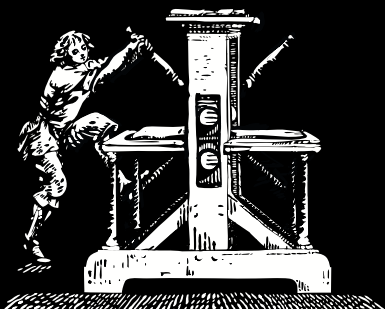
### TAG SALES

**GARRISON** — Yard sale on Saturday (May 24) and Sunday (May 25), from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. 384 Old West Point Road West (at the intersection with Butter Hill Road). Moving sale! Items include sofas, chests of drawers, dresser, desks, kitchen utensils, household and garden tools, pictures and much more.

### WANTED

**ADOPTABLE DOG** — We are an older couple in Putnam Valley looking to adopt or rescue another dog. We have a nice house with a fenced-in yard and deck that are ideal. Our sweet beagle will be crossing the Rainbow Bridge in the near future and we are looking for someone to take her place. Ideally, we’d like a small adult dog (no puppies), 25 pounds or less. Will consider most breeds (but love beagles and JR terriers). Thanks for any information or recommendations. Email [patty10579@gmail.com](mailto:patty10579@gmail.com).

## HIGHLAND STUDIO



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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Sealed bids for the North Campground Shower Facilities at Clarence Fahnestock State Park, Putnam County New York, will be received by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), via email at [HUDSON.CAPITALPROCUREMENT@PARKS.NY.GOV](mailto:HUDSON.CAPITALPROCUREMENT@PARKS.NY.GOV).

Electronically submitted bids must only be attached in PDF format– hyperlinks will not be accepted. Note: There is a 20MB limit when submitting attachments via email. If email is not an option for the bidder an alternate address will be provided upon written request to a designated contact. Deadline for bid submission is 12:30 PM local time, June 17th 2025. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read via WebEx only at 1:00 PM local time, June 17th 2025. The Contract D number should be clearly marked in the subject line of your email, along with the words “BID SUBMISSION”. Each bid must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders and must be accompanied by a scanned Bid Security in the form of a certified check, bank check, or bid bond in the amount indicated below.

Note: The original hardcopy bid bonds for the two lowest bidders must be postmarked and sent via certified mail within 48 hours of receiving the bid summary from the Office.

The Bid opening will be conducted **ONLY** via WebEx at the link listed below:

<https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=m78a559b0009ca7b3457ad2eb97044404>

MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION GOALS (MWBE)

The following goals for MWBE participation on this project have been established at:

Minority Owned Business Enterprise (MBE)

GC: 13% MC: 27% PC: 18% EC: 17%

Women Owned Business Enterprise (WBE)

GC: 17% MC: 3% PC: 12% EC: 13%

SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS (SDVOB) GOALS

The following goals for SDVOB participation on this project have been established at:

Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business  
- Good Faith Efforts

PUBLIC BUILDING LAW § 8(6)

Pursuant to Public Building Law § 8(6), any contracts over \$5,000 for the work of construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, or improvement of any State building, a responsible and reliable NYS-certified Minority or Women-Owned Business Enterprise that submits a bid within ten percent of the lowest bid will be deemed the apparent low bidder provided that the bid is \$1,677,139 or less (maximum amount has been adjusted for inflation effective January 1, 2025). If more than one responsible and reliable MWBE firm meets the requirements, the MWBE firm with lowest bid will be deemed the apparent low bidder.

PROJECT COMPLETION

The completion date for this project is 365 days after agreement has been approved by the NYS Comptroller’s Office.

Project Specific Liquidated Damages  
(Refer to Article 14.10 of the General Conditions).

Starting on the advertisement date, the Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge and obtained via email from **Shereen.Sheikh@parks.ny.gov**

In accordance with State Finance Law, Section 139-j, the following agency staff have been designated as contacts for this contract:

- Kurt Kress

518 584 2000 | [Kurt.Kress@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Kurt.Kress@parks.ny.gov)
- Karlee Kussel

845 889 3843 | [Karlee.Kussel@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Karlee.Kussel@parks.ny.gov)
- Shereen Sheikh

518 450 9055 | [Shereen.Sheikh@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Shereen.Sheikh@parks.ny.gov)
- Magen Bauer

518 474 3258 | [Magen.Bauer@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Magen.Bauer@parks.ny.gov)

Please note that contacting any other agency staff regarding this contract may be a violation of State Finance Law, Section 139-j, resulting in a determination of contractor non-responsibility.

CONTRACTOR REGISTRY REQUIREMENT in December 2024

Newly established subsection 220-i to NYS Labor Law Article 8 requires contractors and subcontractors to register with the Bureau of Public Work and Prevailing Wage Enforcement for public work. Contractors must complete registration prior to bidding on public work projects covered under Article 8 of Labor Law.

The effective date of the registration requirement was **December 30, 2024**. Bidders must prove they are registered at the time of bid opening by submitting a digital copy of their company’s registration certificate with their bid. **Failure to provide the registration certificate at bid opening will result in automatic disqualification.** The apparent low bidder will additionally be held responsible to provide copies of registration certificates for all subcontractors on their approved Utilization Plan before subcontractors commence work.

Please refer to this website for information: <https://dol.ny.gov/contractor-and-subcontractor-landing>

The registration login page is found here: Log In - Management System for Protecting Workers’ Rights

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 16

The successful bidder will be required to furnish an Executive Order No. 16 certification form prior to contract award.

The Executive Order can be found here: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/executive-order/no-16-prohibiting-state-agencies-and-authorities-contracting-businesses-conducting>

The Executive Order Certification Form can be found here: [https://ogs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/04/eo16\\_certification.pdf](https://ogs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/04/eo16_certification.pdf)

BONDS

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Labor and Material Bond/Payment Bond in the statutory form of public bonds required by Sections 136 and 137 of the State Finance Law, each for 100% of the amount of the Contract.

There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting at: **10:00 AM on May 22, 2025 at Clarence Fahnestock State Park Campground**. Park Office address: 1570 Route 301, Carmel Hamlet NY 10512. (The Campground entrance is approximately ½ mile North-east of the Park Office)

All Requests for Information (RFI’s) are due by: **3:00 PM on June 2nd, 2025**.

(RFIs received after this due date and time will not be processed).

RFI’s should be mailed to:  
**[Karlee.Kussel@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Karlee.Kussel@parks.ny.gov)**

<b>General Construction Contract</b> Shower House & Related Site Work Estimated Range: \$2,185,000 - \$2,955,000	D006371	\$128,488.50	One hundred twenty-eight thousand, four hundred eighty-eight dollars and fifty cents
<b>Electrical Contract</b> Lighting & Electrical for New Shower House Estimated Range: \$550,000 - \$745,000	D006372	\$32,388.00	Thirty-two thousand, three hundred eighty-eight dollars.
<b>Mechanical Contract</b> Mechanical for New Shower House Estimated Range: \$207,000 - \$280,000	D006373	\$12,170.25	Twelve thousand, one hundred seventy dollars and twenty-five cents.
<b>Plumbing Contract</b> Plumbing & Fixtures for New Shower House Estimated Range: \$327,000 - \$443,000	D006374	\$19,271.65	Nineteen Thousand two hundred seventy-one dollars and sixty-five cents.



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		

- ACROSS
1. Swedish car
5. Do sums
8. Gym pads
12. Bruins' sch.
13. Cattle call
14. Modern money
15. Tall, thin person
17. Bickering
18. Sound from a hot wok
19. Small bill
20. Elitists
21. Warm-up run
22. *Top Gun* target
23. Fall flower
26. *Hamilton* or *Rent*
30. Old money of Rome
31. Weir
32. Tiers
33. Not generic
35. Flaxen, as hair
36. Stitch
37. Hosp. workers
38. Smiles broadly

41. Bikini half
42. Solidify
45. *The Wire* actor Idris
46. Tilt toward
48. Region (Abbr.)
49. Kreskin's claim
50. Without
51. "Shoo!"
52. Holy Fr. woman
53. Sch. supporters
- DOWN
1. Long lunches?
2. High cards
3. Regrettably
4. Prohibit
5. Surrounded by
6. Hand (out)
7. Anonymous Jane
8. 2004 Lindsay Lohan movie
9. Prefix with pilot
10. Chicago paper, for short
11. Lushes
16. Indigent

20. Venus, to Serena
21. *Hacks* actress
22. Silent
23. Cleric's tunic
24. Navy address
25. — -la-la
26. Frenzied
27. Bill's partner
28. Bristle
29. Leary's drug
31. Morning moisture
34. — Moines
35. Muffin choice
37. Cover with cloth
38. Wagers
39. Power co. supply
40. *East of Eden* girl
41. Optimum
42. Bitty biter
43. Sicilian spouter
44. Privation
46. French article
47. AOL, for one

SUDOCURRENT

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

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WORDSEARCH

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

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.

T	U	N	E	D	Prepared to play
					"Divine" poet
					Matched
					Water vapor
					Form of postage
					Type of religious music

ALL I RA OVER  
LA IC SET PIPE  
EL AL UFO EDAM  
CAROB I MAN  
SAP SLIDES  
PRAIRIE ENERO  
LAWN ELM GMAN  
OMEGA KATNISS  
DISCOS TRI  
OKIE EGGED  
BEEES LUG HULA  
MEAT ORE TSAR  
WETS SOL TNT

Answers for May 9  
H L E F V T Z F P D  
E A E V D P E O P E  
R F N F S E L A O T  
X I R D M I T N E E  
E R E I C R R Y X C  
G G R E O U G E O T  
D C N L H J F W N I  
A M F U F T C F A V  
B I L K N R R D S E  
E F F S Q O I D A R

BURMA, MURAL, REALM,  
CAMEL, CLIME, CHILE

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

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## Sports

# VARSITY ROUNDUP

## HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**BOYS' LACROSSE** — Haldane hosted Briarcliff on May 9 and fell behind, 7-1, in the first half before losing, 15-3. Nate Stickle, Alex Gaugler and Lugh Hartford each scored for the Blue Devils. Haldane rebounded to defeat North Salem at home, 13-8, on Tuesday (May 13). Hartford scored six goals and Fallou Faye had three, helping Coach Ed Crowe record his 100th career win. On Thursday (May 15), the Blue Devils (7-7) traveled to Dobbs Ferry and at 2 p.m. on Saturday will host Rye Neck.

**GIRLS' LACROSSE** — The Blue Devils won at Tuckahoe, 17-10, on May 9 behind seven goals from Kayla Ruggiero, five from Samantha Thomas and four from Marisa Peters. The next day at Edgemont, Haldane lost a thriller, 17-14. Trailing 14-11 in the fourth quarter, the Blue Devils scored three goals in three minutes to tie it up with 7:31 left before Edgemont scored three straight of its own. Haldane (6-6) hosts Keio Academy today (May 16) and Port Chester on Monday. Both matches start at 5 p.m.

**BASEBALL** — Haldane lost its fifth game in a row on May 10 at Edgemont, 7-1, but snapped the streak on Monday (May 12) with a 7-1 win on the road over Leffell. Hunter Erickson went 2-for-3 with two RBIs, while Pat Shields pitched five innings and recorded six strikeouts. The Blue Devils followed that up with a 5-4 win over Pawling on Tuesday at home when Shields singled in the bottom of the sixth to send home the winning run.



Haldane honored its three seniors on May 13, from left, Jake Hotaling, Milo Pearsall and Hunter Erickson. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

Haldane ended the season with a 4-12 record and awaits its game against Tuckahoe (12-7) for the Section I, Class C title.

**SOFTBALL** — The Blue Devils lost, 10-7, at Valhalla on May 10, although eighth-grader Allegra Clementson struck out 13 batters, Sydney Merriman went 3-for-3, Lainey Donaghy went 2-for-4 and Sophia Taylor went 2-for-3. Haldane dropped a tough game on Monday (May 12), 3-2, at Putnam Valley but bounced back on Tuesday with a 16-8 thrashing of Croton-Harmon at home. Donaghy went 3-for-4 with two doubles and senior Callie Sniffen went 2-for-4 with a triple and collected her 100th career hit. On Thursday (May 15), Haldane (8-5) hosted Putnam Valley and on Saturday travels to Pawling.

**TRACK AND FIELD** — Haldane competed in the 38-team Middletown Invitational on May 10. For the girls, Shayla Ochoa finished fourth in the 400-meter hurdles (18.86), 18th in the 100-meter dash (13.61) and 11th in the long jump (14-10). Hazel Berkley placed 18th in the 1,500-meter run (5:51.3).

For the boys, Owen Powers won the 3,000-meter steeplechase (10:32.06), followed by Jack Illian in third (10:50.21); Rhys Williams was ninth in the 100-meter dash (11.40) and 10th in the 200-meter dash (23.12); Silas



Photos by Lee Erickson

Emig was sixth in the long jump (17-7.75), followed by Williams in eighth (17-5). The Blue Devils travel to Pawling today (May 16) for the Northern Counties Championship.

## BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**BASEBALL** — After three wins this week, the Bulldogs have won six in a row. After blowing out O'Neill on May 8, 11-1, at Heritage Financial Park, Beacon blanked Liberty in a doubleheader, 18-0 and 10-0, on Tuesday (May 13). In the first game, Ryan Smith hit a grand slam and Elijah Epps launched a three-run homer. In the second game, Mercer Jordan had two home runs and three RBIs. Ryan Landisi struck out six in the opener while James Bouchard recorded seven in the second game. Beacon (12-4) hosts Port Jervis at 4:30 p.m. today (May 16) and FDR at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Next week they finish the regular season at Warwick on Monday and O'Neill on Tuesday.

**SOFTBALL** — Beacon continued its slump, extending its losing streak to eight games. The Bulldogs fell, 13-1, at Port Jervis on Monday (May 12) and 12-0 at New Paltz on Tuesday. Beacon (2-10) closes its season

with six games in seven days, starting with Liberty on Thursday (May 15), Burke Catholic today (May 16), two home games on Saturday (Washingtonville at 11 a.m. and Chester at 1:30 p.m.), and trips to Liberty on Tuesday and Highland on Wednesday.

**GIRLS' GOLF** — Beacon won two matches to move to 11-6, defeating FDR, 146-172, on Monday (May 12) and Pine Plains, 150-168, on Tuesday. The Bulldogs (12-7) traveled to Millbrook on Thursday (May 15) before the sectional tournament begins on Tuesday.

**BOYS' TENNIS** — Beacon won at Warwick on Monday (May 12), 6-1. Beckett Anderson, Julian Rivers and Silas Stampleman won at singles and Charlie Klein/William Flynn, Shaun Jabar/Charlie Zellinger and Theo Concepcion/Isaac McKible at doubles. Beacon (11-4) closed the regular season at Minisink Valley on Thursday (May 15) and begins postseason play on Tuesday.

**TRACK AND FIELD** — Beacon competed at the Middletown Invitational on May 10. For the girls, Khloe Franklin was second in the long jump (15-1.5), third in the 400-meter dash (1:05.5) and fifth in the 400-meter hurdles (1:16.13), while Stella Reinke finished eighth in the 800-meter run (2:32.04) and Bethany Rudolph placed eighth in the discus (82-11).

For the boys, Noah Spiak placed second in the 400-meter hurdles (57.64); Jahcier Ballard was third in high jump (6-4) and Jayden Mihalchik finished third in the discus (139-3) and fifth in the hammer throw (156-5). Caellum Tripaldi came in fourth in the 800-meter run (1:59.63); Sofien Oueslti was fifth in the long jump (18-1); and Jaden Jones finished sixth in the triple jump (39-1). Beacon travels to Warwick today (May 16) for the OCIAA Championships.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — The New York State Sportswriters Association on May 8 announced its 2024-25 all-state team, including Beacon senior Reilly Landisi, who was named to the seventh team in Class A.



Haldane senior Callie Sniffen (center, wearing hat) poses with her teammates and coaches on Tuesday (May 13) after recording her 100th career hit. Photo provided