

The HIGHLANDS Current



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Page 11

JUNE 13, 2025

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Downstate Prison Plan Shifts

*Fishkill wants water, sewer
and smaller units*

By Jeff Simms

New York State is reworking its development plans for the former Downstate Correctional Facility just outside of Beacon, including a 15 percent reduction in housing at the 80-acre site, after negotiations with the Town of Fishkill.

Supervisor Ozzy Albra said in an email to residents on May 30 that he and other officials have met with Empire State Development and Conifer Realty twice since the state awarded development rights to the Rochester firm. The result of those meetings, he said, is that the mixed-use development will have about 1,100 housing units, 200 fewer than first reported.

The town is also pushing for municipal benefits such as the extension of water and sewer facilities to the site, Albra said.

The state development agency
(Continued on Page 9)



New York State would like to see the former prison north of Beacon developed as a residential campus. File photo by J. Simms



BIRTHDAY BASH — The Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library in Cold Spring celebrated its 100th anniversary with a party on June 7 that began as a picnic but moved indoors because of rain. Dana Levenberg, whose state Assembly district includes Philipstown, presented members of the library board with a proclamation. From left are Dennis Gagnon, Kat Lukacher, Heidi Wendel, Levenberg and Candy Zgolinski. The cutout is a young girl, Maria Haldane, taken from a painting that hung in the Butterfield home. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Clarkson Leaves Dennings Point

*Plans for environmental
education complex in doubt*

By Brian PJ Cronin

An ambitious plan to transform an abandoned paperclip factory at Dennings Point in Beacon into an environmental education complex is in doubt because Clarkson University has left the site.

A representative from the state parks department, which partnered with the

university because it owns the land, confirmed last week that Clarkson, which operated the Beacon Institute of Rivers and Estuaries (BIRE) at the site, “elected to leave the facilities” in October.

Clarkson had operated its BIRE Water Ecology Center in a renovated, 19th-century brickworks building and started transforming the factory into the Beatrice G. Donofrio Environmental Education Complex. A representative

(Continued on Page 21)

Reporter's Notebook

Bird Killers

By Joey Asher



When my wife Johanna and I moved to the Highlands five years ago, we didn't intend to become bird killers. But that's what happened.

We live on a hill off Route 301 in Philipstown, near Fahnestock State Park. The master bedroom has a picture window about 15 feet above the driveway with a view of the woods and the hills above the Hudson River. “I won't ever get tired of that view,” my wife said while touring the house.

Little did we know that about a dozen times a year, we'd hear birds crash into that window, often breaking their necks.

There's typically a loud bonk. We then find tufts of sad, grey feathers stuck to the pane. Below the window we usually find a bird, often dead, its head twisted horribly. My wife assigned me the job of hurling the corpses into the woods with a shovel. If the bird was still breathing, my wife gently moved it to the grass. Sometimes it would fly away, but sometimes it died.

“We're a menace,” Johanna said after finding a soggy corpse under one of our back windows after the snow melted.

It's true. Our windows have killed cardinals, woodpeckers, robins, blue jays, sparrows, an oriole and, most recently, a yellow-billed cuckoo.

Those are just the birds we noticed. We're likely killing two or three times that, said

(Continued on Page 22)

Points for the Food Pantry

*Philipstown organization
gets a triple boost*

By Michael Turton

Seamus Carroll and his wife, Marie Wiecek, began shopping at Foodtown in Cold Spring when it opened in 2003 following a fire that had destroyed the previous supermarket at the location, the Grand Union.

Like other customers, they started accumulating 10 points in Foodtown loyalty awards for every dollar spent. The points could be redeemed for grocery gift cards.

Three months ago, the couple became the first Foodtown customers to reach 1 million points, according to the store manager, Mike Wilson.

Carroll said they decided to push for 1 million in 2008, when they hit 100,000. “It became a family joke,” he said, noting he would scold his daughters if they cashed in points to get discounts at the checkout. “I told them we were saving for 1 million; they laughed at that.”

When they hit the mark earlier this year, Carroll sent a photo of the receipt to his

(Continued on Page 7)



From left: Kristin Serrand and Mike Wilson of Foodtown, Marie Wiecek and Seamus Carroll, and Andrea Bach of the Philipstown Food Pantry

Photo by M. Turton

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: DANA RUBIN

By Mackenzie Boric

Dana Rubin, who lives in Beacon, is a speech consultant and the author of *Speaking While Female: 75 Extraordinary Speeches by American Women*.

What sparked the book?

I've been a speechwriter for a long time. I'm a judge for a major annual speechwriting contest, and I started noticing all the men who are quoted constantly, such as Winston Churchill, not just in speeches but in the media and our society. I started wondering: Where are the speeches by women? I started looking through anthologies and identified at least 250 in the English language, from the U.S. to Ireland to India. I put the women's speeches together at speakingwhilefemale.co, organized by category.

Glance at that and you can see how few speeches have appeared in collections, which is a signal that we have not valued what women have to say. I also found hundreds, if not thousands, of references to women who gave speeches, who were orators in their day, but no record of what they said. It's frustrating and infuriating. I still stay up into the early hours in the morning looking for speeches by women and adding them to the speech bank.

Why is this important to you?

Women changed history with their words, but we haven't acknowledged that. For example, in 1878 Claire Shortridge Foltz became the first female lawyer in California after challenging a state law that banned women from taking the bar exam. Then she challenged the law that said women couldn't go to law school. In 1893 she gave a speech in Chicago based on her personal experience in courtrooms, arguing that it's no crime to be poor, that everybody deserves representation. She argued for a public-defender system. She made it happen. History can be from the bottom up, not just from the top down. And women, of course, historically have been working from the bottom.

How did you get into public speaking?

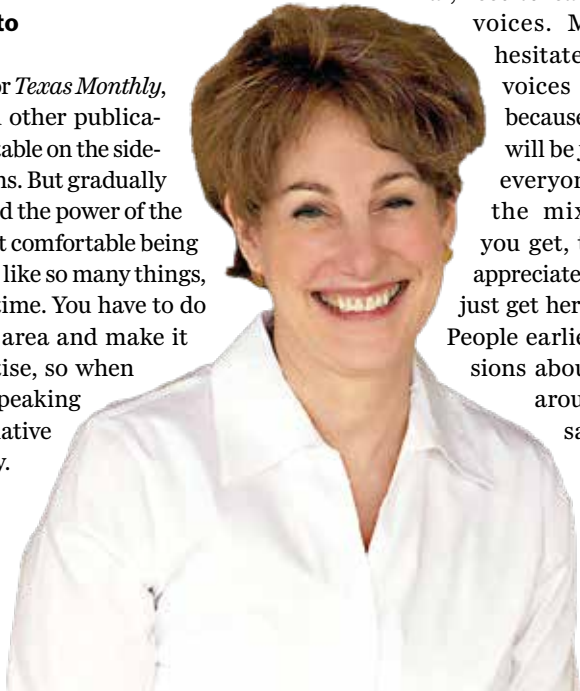
I was a journalist for *Texas Monthly*, *Reader's Digest* and other publications and felt comfortable on the sidelines, asking questions. But gradually I began to understand the power of the spoken word. I wasn't comfortable being a speaker myself but, like so many things, you get better with time. You have to do the reps. Find your area and make it your topic of expertise, so when you speak, you'll be speaking from a position of relative comfort and security.

Do you have a favorite speech by a woman?

I always say my favorite speech is the one that I added to the archive that morning. I get so excited about each one, because every speech is not just a speech. It's an aperture to a whole world. Why did this person speak? Why did they take this position? The questions are endless. I should note, the book includes a number of women who were from or who spoke in the Hudson Valley: Eleanor Roosevelt, astronomer Maria Mitchell, educator Emma Willard, abolitionist Sojourner Truth.

Why is public speaking important?

I would like all public schools to teach public speaking. Young women, in particular, need to learn to use their voices. Many people hesitate to put their voices in the world because they feel they will be judged. I want everyone's voices in the mix. The older you get, the more you appreciate that we didn't just get here by accident. People earlier made decisions about everything around us. In the same way, the world we live in can be improved by our actions.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What do you think of Ouija boards?

"I've never used one; I don't believe in them."



Sofia Kelly, Cold Spring

"They're from my parents' generation. I still have my old one – silly but fun."



Michael Vierra, Beacon

"They're fun to use, but I don't believe in them."



Ada Caccamise, Garrison

NEWS BRIEFS

Metro-North Gets \$25M for Hudson Line

Improvements could shorten travel times

New York State announced on May 30 that it will provide \$25 million to Metro-North for improvements on the Hudson Line that could shorten travel times.

The investment will fund projects such as a second track at Spuyten Duyvil; signal and track work at Croton-Harmon; more capacity at the Poughkeepsie Yard; climate resilience to protect tracks and equipment; and a signal redesign at Yonkers.

In addition, the Metropolitan Transportation Agency said it plans to evaluate adding a third track to the Harlem Line and connecting the Hudson Line to Penn Station. A working group will also develop plans for travel by Metro-North or the Long Island Railroad to MetLife Stadium for the 2026 World Cup.

Beacon Schools Launch Phone Survey

Bell-to-bell restriction begins in September

The Beacon City School District has launched a survey to ask students, parents and staff about a newly enacted state law that will ban students from having phones during the academic day starting in September.

The law requires students to turn off and store phones and other internet-enabled devices. The district's current rules, imple-

mented for 2024-25, allow students to use their phones during recess, lunch and between classes.

The school board is expected to adopt an updated policy at its July 21 meeting with communication strategies and details on how students will store their phones.

The survey is at dub.sh/BCSD-phone-survey through Monday (June 16).

Putnam, Dutchess Democrats Split on Endorsement

Letter offers 'complete' support for governor

The Putnam County Democratic Committee declined to sign a letter endorsing Gov. Kathy Hochul for re-election, pending what may be a primary challenge next year from her lieutenant governor, Antonio Delgado.

Committee chairs from 49 of the state's 62 counties endorsed Hochul, including Michael Dupree of the Dutchess County Democratic Committee. The letter promised "complete and unequivocal support" for the governor.

The Putnam chair, Jennifer Colamonico, said in a statement on June 6 that the decision came after consulting with the executive committee and party chairs in the county's six towns, including Philipstown.

"This action is in no way a criticism of Gov. Hochul, whom we hold in high regard," she said. "Her record is strong and she is getting better as she goes along."

Colamonico said the committee also will wait to endorse a Democratic candidate to challenge Rep. Mike Lawler, a Republican who represents District 17, which includes Philipstown.

On June 4, Peter Chatzky, a tech company founder and village trustee in Briarcliff Manor, became the seventh Democrat to announce his candidacy to challenge Lawler. Neal Zuckerman, a Philipstown resident who represents Putnam County on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board, previously expressed interest but said June 8 that he had decided not to run.

Clearwater Has Five-Year Plan

Strategy calls for diversified revenue

The Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, which faced a financial cliff last year, has developed a five-year plan to diversify its revenue, the Beacon-based nonprofit announced on Tuesday (June 10).

Clearwater needed an emergency fund-raising campaign last year to stay afloat. It said its board developed the plan over nine months with the assistance of a team of business, education, maritime and marketing professionals. It projects a 15 percent annual surplus over five years to give the organization more stability.

The task force included Bill Braine, Peg Brandon, Dean Lentz and Helen Pashley; Clearwater board members Samantha

Heyman Hicks, Peter Capek, Steve Stanne and Julia Wilson; and Clearwater staff David Toman, Jen Benson, Erin Macchiaroni, Emily Marcet and Meg Mayo.

Dutchess County Distributes History Funds

Societies plan programs for Rev250

Dutchess County announced on Wednesday (June 11) that it would allocate \$100,000 for 23 projects related to the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

The Beacon Historical Society will receive \$4,105 to create a map of Fishkill Landing and Matteawan during the American Revolution. (The villages merged in 1913 to become Beacon.)

The Fishkill Historical Society received \$1,450 to prepare and publish a colonial cemetery crawl booklet and website, and \$6,200 for a recorded performance of *The Fateful Hour*, a re-enactment of debates in 1788 between Federalists and Anti-Federalists at the Poughkeepsie Court House.

The Dutchess County Historical Society received three grants: \$3,000 to publish a collection of articles on the war from its annual yearbook; \$2,700 for a traveling banner exhibit; and \$10,000 for a recorded performance of *Lafayette's American Journeys of Freedom*, about a visit on Sept. 16, 1824, to Poughkeepsie by Marquis de Lafayette, a hero of the Revolution.



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Black History of
the Hudson Highlands**

**Saturday, June 21 at 3P.M.
at Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison**

During this presentation, the senior editor of *The Current*, Leonard Sparks, will delve into the newspaper's award-winning series on the Black history of the Highlands, which examined an overlooked history of our area.

About the Presenter:
Leonard Sparks has been reporting for *The Current* since 2020. The Peekskill resident holds a bachelor's degree in English from Morgan State University and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Maryland and previously covered Sullivan County and Newburgh for *The Times Herald-Record* in Middletown.



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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR (2021-23)

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* New York News Publishers Association, 2017 - 24

Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Trail stewards

When I was a recent college graduate, an AmeriCorps opportunity helped me find a meaningful path in life while providing a valuable service to the community in which I served ("Trails May Lose Stewards," June 6).

Non-military national service is a win-win: Young, enthusiastic people develop valuable skills and relationships, and communities are infused with vibrant energy to accomplish much-needed tasks. The dollar value provided by AmeriCorps volunteers far exceeds the meager pay they receive.

It is shortsighted and foolish that we as a nation have chosen to squash the enthusiasm that I am sure these eager volunteers would have brought to their upcoming AmeriCorps placements. I have called and written to Rep. Mike Lawler, imploring him to work to restore funding, but have received nothing but form letters in reply.

Ethan Timm, *Nelsonville*

Current support

I just delightedly completed a donation to *The Current's* 15th-anniversary fundraising campaign, in addition to the monthly contribution I gladly make for this invaluable community resource. I ask everyone reading this latest excellent edition of a freely distributed, award-winning publi-

cation to do the same.

Since even this is now a source of contention, I'll say how happy I am that the "protest" story was reported on an inside page of a prior issue ("Presidential Protest," May 30). There are many local topics, most of them just as contentious, that are properly the focus of this local paper.

I personally turn to *The Current* for a break from the civil war over presidential politics that overruns every other outlet in our media universe. *The Current* staff gave the protest event the size and placement it needed, and they not surprisingly have walked away with another slew of awards. Congrats!

I have nothing but thanks and admiration for these dedicated public servants — and I'd put our exceptional Haldane school board into this same class of local heroes — who are simply doing their best to navigate perilous waters in impossibly polarized times.

Jacqueline Foertsch, *Philipstown*

Town Board

I organized the candidate meeting for the Philipstown Democratic Committee and was told by at least one member that the issue of candidate John Maasik's party enrollment would come up because people had questions about it. I asked him to come prepared to

speak about his Republican Party affiliation.

His story goes back to his youth and his family's gratitude to America for its support of Estonia in seeking independence from the former Soviet Union. I thought the committee would appreciate his story, but since no one asked, it seemed like it was not a big deal. I handed him a registration form at the meeting, and he changed his party. As Democrats, this is something to celebrate. Welcome to the Democratic Party, John!

Julia Famularo, *Philipstown*

The Philipstown Democratic Committee endorsed Ben Cheah and Ned Rauch in the June 24 Democratic primary because they best exemplify the qualities that are most important in a Town Board member.

We believe that Town Board members should dedicate themselves to working for the benefit of all the people of Philipstown, not just the few, and we found that in Ben and Ned. They have the same level of dedication to the almost overwhelming number of everyday — and not necessarily headline-making — issues constantly before the board, such as infrastructure, health and safety services for residents, safe roads, protection of our environment, support for EMS and fire department services and financial responsibility, including continuing to push for improved tax-sharing from the county and increased cooperation with Cold Spring and Nelsonville to improve services, financial stability and quality of life.

We were impressed that, when they met with the committee, both Ben and Ned emphasized their commitment to genuine Democratic principles of human rights and human dignity.

We prioritized candidates who will commit for the long term — there is a learning curve for every elected official and experience counts for a great deal. While re-election can't be assured, if we have a choice of candidates like Ben and Ned, who are ready and able to serve for as long as the voters elect them, we can't ignore that in making our choice.

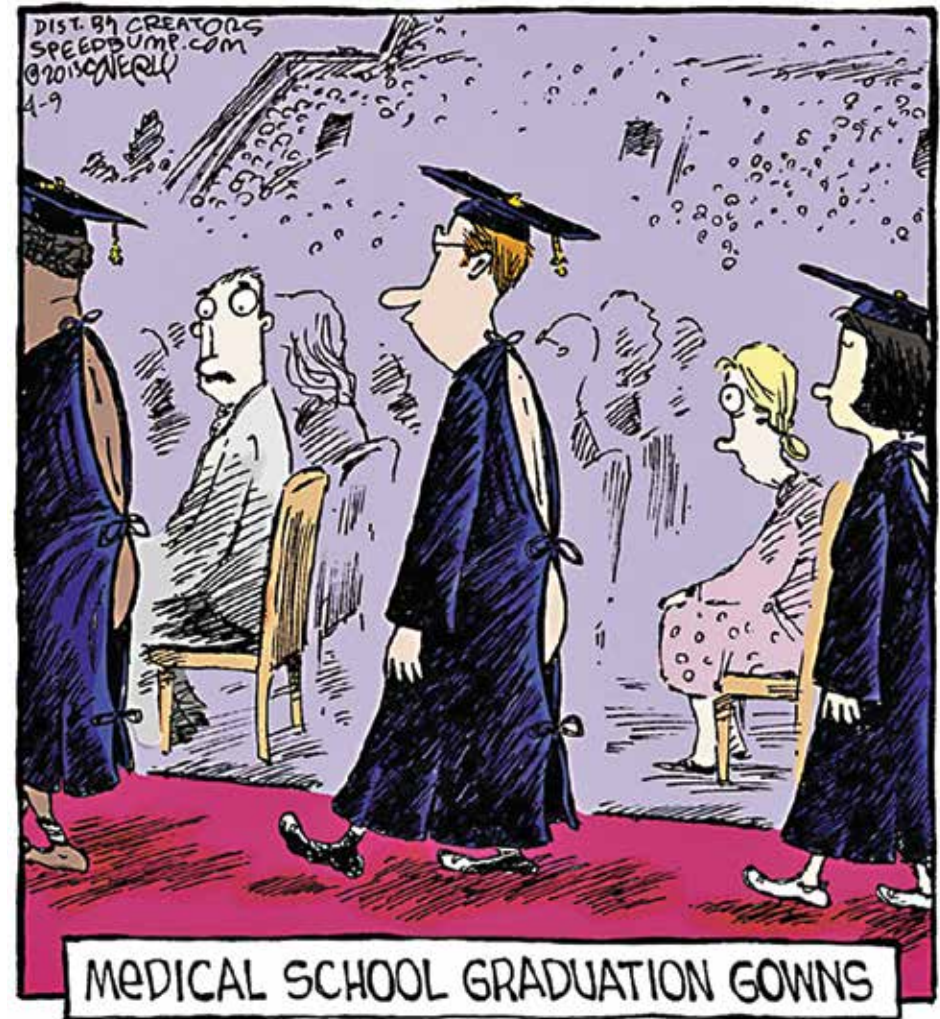
Finally, we considered which two candidates most exemplified the core responsibility of an elected official — to set aside personal preferences and special interests and focus solely on achieving the best results for our town.

The candidates who most fulfilled all these considerations are, unequivocally and overwhelmingly, Ben Cheah and Ned Rauch. Please vote for both in the June 24 primary.

Shelley Gilbert and Grace Kennedy,
Philipstown

Gilbert and Kennedy are co-chairs of Philipstown Democrats. This letter was also signed by committee members Linda

(Continued on Page 5)



Lawler Hosts Putnam Town Hall

Fields questions about Social Security, military parade

By Leonard Sparks

Rep. Mike Lawler, whose district includes Philipstown, held a town hall on June 8 at Mahopac High School, the third in a series of four he has promised constituents.

After being introduced by Kevin Byrne, the Putnam County executive, Lawler spent two hours fielding questions about the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which passed the U.S. House, 215-214, with Lawler's support and is being amended by the Senate.

In addition to tax cuts and an increase to the cap on deductions for state and local taxes, the legislation contains changes to programs like Medicaid and food stamps that are expected to lead to a loss of benefits for some enrollees. Lawler also fielded questions about Social Security, cuts to foreign aid and the estimated \$45 million price tag for a military parade being held in Washington, D.C., on Saturday (June 14), which is President Donald Trump's birthday.

Below are some of Lawler's statements and a review of statistics he cited.

"We [New York] spend 83 percent more on Medicaid than the average of the other 49 states."

According to data from KFF (formerly the Kaiser Family Foundation), Medicaid spending in New York totaled just under \$98 billion in 2023, second only to California. The spending was 83.77 percent more than the average for the other 49 states.

However, the average does not account for each state's population. Wyoming, for example, has 588,000 residents, compared to 20 million in New York. It also means using costs in states that, unlike New York, opted out of a provision in the Affordable Care Act to expand Medicaid so that more people qualify; the federal government pays 90 percent of the additional cost.

Alternative methods to measure Medicaid spending among the states include per-capita or per-enrollee. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

Services, New York ranked fourth in per-capita Medicaid spending in 2022 (\$11,203), behind North Dakota, Minnesota and Pennsylvania. The national average was \$8,919. New York placed third among states in Medicaid spending per enrollee in 2021 (\$9,688), according to KFF. Virginia and Minnesota had the highest per-enrollee spending.

"If [the Tax Cut and Jobs Act] expired, it would have been about a \$4,000 increase in taxes on the average family in our district."

The Tax Cut and Jobs Act, passed in 2017 during the first Trump administration, expires this year. If it is not extended by Congress, taxes will increase in the 17th Congressional District, on average, by \$3,530, according to the Tax Foundation, a think tank founded in 1937 that analyzes tax policy.

Drilling down to specific income levels with a calculator created by the Tax Foundation (dub.sh/tax-calculator), annual taxes would increase by \$933 for a single person without dependents who earns \$50,000 annually, and by \$2,622 for an individual earning \$100,000.

Taxes would increase by \$5,091 annually for a married couple with two children and a household income of \$150,000; the same couple earning \$250,000 would owe \$9,320 more. Those scenarios omit 401(k) contributions and other deductions, but the calculator can adjust for those, as well as other household sizes.

"There are over 3 million people in this country who are able-bodied adults, without dependents, who refuse to work."

Lawler is referring to Medicaid coverage. A provision in the House's version of the One Big Beautiful Bill requires that able-bodied recipients between ages 19 and 64 who don't have dependents work at least 80 hours monthly or be participating in a "qualifying activity," such as job training.

The work requirement would increase



Kevin Byrne (right), the Putnam County executive, admonishes the crowd during a town hall with Rep. Mike Lawler in Mahopac on June 8.

Photo by Kelly Marsh/Journal News

the ranks of the uninsured by 4.8 million people by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Although the CBO did not specify why people would lose coverage, Republicans have equated the figure with people who chose not to work.

According to the KFF, 64 percent of the 26.1 million adults between ages 19 and 64 receiving Medicaid in 2023 worked full-time or part-time and 29 percent were not working because they were caregivers, ill or disabled or attending school. The remaining enrollees reported that they were retired, unable to find work or not working for other reasons, according to KFF.

An analysis by the Brookings Institute of 2022 data concluded that of 36.7 million recipients between 19 and 64, an estimated 300,000 did not work by choice. Critics argue that most of the people who will lose coverage are eligible but will be removed for failing to meet verification deadlines.

"The utility costs in our region have skyrocketed precisely because we shut down Indian Point without a replacement."

Utility costs are rising across the U.S. While Central Hudson's average prices for supply have been falling, its fixed-rate charge for delivery continues to rise and routinely makes up the biggest portion of electricity bills.

The Indian Point nuclear power plant near Peekskill, which supplied electricity to Westchester County and New York City, shut down on April 30, 2021. When the supply rate rose to 21 cents per kilowatt-hour in February 2022, Central Hudson blamed a greater reliance on natural gas because of Indian Point's closure, as well as heightened demand from colder temperatures and diminished gas supplies. Russia also invaded Ukraine that month.

The supply prices for Central Hudson's 315,000 electricity customers, including 6,853 in Beacon, 3,646 in Philipstown,



Rep. Mike Lawler had a reporter from *The Journal News* removed from the town hall in Mahopac. David McKay Wilson wrote that he was told he had violated a rule by taking this photo of a Lawler staff member, Erin Crowley, the deputy district director, who is also a Putnam County legislator. *Journal News*

1,270 in Cold Spring and 326 in Nelsonville, averaged 7 cents per kilowatt-hour in 2021. They rose to an average of 11.2 cents in 2022 amid a harsh winter, but the average price fell in 2023 and again last year, to 8.3 cents per kilowatt hour.

Through June 11, Central's Hudson's average monthly prices are higher than the first six months of 2024, with the Energy Information Administration forecasting price increases nationally through next year.

Meanwhile, Central Hudson has announced a tentative agreement on a three-year rate plan that would raise monthly delivery costs for a typical customer by \$5.43 per month in the first year (beginning July 1), and by \$6.25 and \$6.62 per month in subsequent years.

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POTTERY ON THE PATIO

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Pot Swap 6/22

34 Talbot Ave, Beacon



BETH WEINTRAUB



The Peters family collected donations for the food pantry outside Foodtown on June 1.

Photo provided

Food Pantry (from Page 1)

daughters, who live in England and China, respectively. They responded with smiley faces, he said.

This week, Carroll and Wieck donated their points to the Philipstown Food Pantry, which operates on Saturday mornings at the First Presbyterian Church in Cold Spring. The pantry redeemed the points for \$1,150 in Foodtown gift cards. The supermarket donated another \$350 in cards for an even \$1,500.

"We thought this would be a way to leverage the gift cards, prompting others to donate," Carroll said. "It's a reminder that you can give points to the food pantry [at the customer service desk]; I'm sure people forget this option."

The food pantry will receive another unexpected gift on Saturday (June 14) when Donna Anderson delivers a \$1,017 donation from Philipstown Senior Citizens of Putnam County, which disbanded at the end of 2024.



Anderson

Anderson, who served as president for the final two years, said the club was formed in 1974 and at one time had more than 100 members. But by last year, the remaining members voted to dissolve the club and donate its fund balance to the pantry because many seniors suffer from food insecurity.

Anderson was a vocal advocate for establishing a county senior center at the redeveloped Butterfield Hospital site. After the Philipstown Friendship Center opened there in 2018, she said the need for a seniors' group diminished.

On June 1, a Nelsonville family — Karen and Ryan Peters and their daughters, Callie and Sadie — set up a table outside Foodtown to solicit donations for the pantry. In less than three hours, they collected \$359 in cash, \$175 in Foodtown gift cards and 50 pounds of nonperishable food. Customers also visited the service desk to donate points that were redeemed for \$560 in Foodtown gift cards.

"We wanted to give back to our community and show our children the importance of community service," said Karen Peters. "It was amazing to see how generous and eager people were to donate to this cause."

Food Insecurity Widespread

Even amid wealth, many people struggle to make ends meet. An annual report by the United Way known as ALICE (for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) "is an alarm bell for what we see every Saturday" at the Philipstown Food Pantry, said Kiko Lattu, its coordinator. In May, the pantry provided food and other necessities to an average of 71 households each week.

The United Way argues that the federal poverty level does not accurately reflect the number of people struggling financially to meet basic needs. Using census and other federal data, it calculated for its latest report, released in May, that 38 percent of Cold Spring/Philipstown and 35 percent of Garrison households don't earn enough to cover the costs of essentials such as housing, food, transportation, health care, child care and a basic phone plan.

"Even more troubling, 51 percent of seniors and about two-thirds of single-parent households in Putnam County are likely struggling," Lattu said.

In Putnam County, the United Way calculated that a single adult needs at least \$54,180 annually to meet basic needs, or \$135,660 for a family of two adults with two children in child care.

In Beacon, the United Way calculated that 42 percent of the city's 8,367 households struggle to meet a basic survival budget for Dutchess County of \$40,296 for a single adult with \$114,996 for a family of two adults and two children in child care. By contrast, the federal poverty level is \$14,580 for an individual and \$30,000 for a family of four. See unitedforalice.org.

The HIGHLANDS Current CONGRATULATE YOUR GRADUATE

As we do every year,
we will list the names of
High School and College Graduates

Give your graduate some extra recognition with a special ad in *The Current*! Display ads include a one-year digital membership to *The Highlands Current* for your graduate.



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850 Character limit for 1/4

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Scan the QR Code to submit
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hcurrent.org/grad-ad

Submission Deadline: **JUNE 17**

For more info, email Michele Gedney ads@highlandscurrent.org

KEEP THEM CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY.

The Philipstown Food Pantry, at 10 Academy St. in Cold Spring, is open from 8:30 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays. During the summer, donations can be dropped off between 9:30 and 11 a.m. on Fridays. See presbychurchcoldspring.org/food-pantry.



BOSCO & THE STORM BEACON4BLACKLIVES

BEACON'S THIRD ANNUAL JUNETEENTH RIVERFRONT FESTIVAL

PETE & TOSHI SEEGER RIVER-FRONT PARK BEACON, NY
THURSDAY 6.19.25 11AM-5PM

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT FEATURING:

- Marching Band -Cowboy Carter Photo
- Line Dancing Station with Mini Horses
- Food -Merch
- Vendors -and more!

**Free Parking at the
Train Station!**

Riverside Parking for Elderly and
Disabled
City Side Parking for General
Admission

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Scan the QR
Code or go to bit.ly/beacon-juneteenth-help to support!



Town to Bill Garrison's Landing for Water

Philipstown also approves zoning for solar

By Leonard Sparks

Philipstown is planning to bill the Garrison Landing Water District's nine users for the first time in over a decade and require them to reimburse the town for some of the \$2 million it has spent buying water and digging a new well.

The Town Board has scheduled a public hearing for June 24 on a proposal to borrow \$500,000 for the Garrison Landing Water District, whose residents and businesses are receiving water from the new well drilled and connected at town expense when the existing wells failed.

Philipstown also purchased water for the district and repaired leaks in its system to the extent that it has "basically repaired every single water line in Garrison Landing at this point," Supervisor John Van Tassel

said when the board met on June 5.

Now it is looking to recoup some of those expenses through the bonding, which will be repaid by water district users. "We will stretch the bond payments out for as long as we can to make it easier for them, but they will ultimately be responsible for paying back a good portion of this," Van Tassel added on Wednesday (June 11).

Part of the proposed borrowing will fund meters. The existing meters have not worked in 15 years, said Van Tassel. The town did not have money for the meters, he said, and had been mistakenly told that state law prohibited billing users more than the \$20,000 annually they've been paying collectively since the town acquired the system in 1998.

"We will come up with a flat rate for residential use, we're going to come up with a flat rate for commercial use, and then there will be a rate per gallon for the water usage," said Van Tassel at the June 5 meeting. "Everybody will pay their fair share for water."

A state audit released in May calculated that Philipstown spent \$2.4 million between 2018 and 2023 to fill Garrison Landing's water needs, shrinking its general-fund balance from \$1 million to \$53,137. Annual expenses for the district rose during the same period from about \$85,000 to \$975,000, "the most significant factor of the town's financial decline," the audit said.

Solar guidelines

The Town Board on June 5 approved zoning for private and commercial solar systems. Under the guidelines, property owners who want to install roof- or ground-mounted systems for personal use can do so if they follow the regulatory process required for accessory structures, such as garages.

The zoning limits the height of panels on pitched roofs to 8 inches, flat roofs to 2 feet or the height of parapets, and ground-mounted solar systems to 12 feet. Panels must have anti-reflective coating

and ground-mounted systems cannot be larger than 5,000 square feet and must be shielded from neighbors.

Commercial solar farms are allowed everywhere except the Ridgeline Protection District and only in the Scenic Overlay District with a special permit. The guidelines specify that solar farms, "to the greatest extent possible," be installed on industrial properties; Superfund sites that have undergone environmental cleanup; mining sites; abandoned parcels; landfills; parking lots; and the roofs of commercial buildings.

In addition, companies building community solar projects, which allow residents to buy shares of the electricity they generate, must target Philipstown residents for subscriptions, particularly low- and moderate-income households. Requests for variances can be made to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Solar farms capable of generating up to 5 megawatts of electricity need 7-foot-high fencing with a self-locking gate to secure the mechanical equipment. Systems over 1 megawatt need a plan for decommissioning, removal and site restoration.

Fishkill Prison *(from Page 1)*

announced in June 2024 that Conifer, which has offices in New York, New Jersey and Maryland, had been selected to convert the former maximum-security prison into a residential campus with community space.

The project was said to support Gov. Kathy Hochul's campaign to build 15,000 housing units to address a statewide shortage, as well as recommendations made by the Prison Redevelopment Commission, an advisory panel the governor created to consider repurposing closed prisons. The first phase of construction in 2026 was to include 375 housing units, with at least 20 percent set aside for households earning less than 80 percent of the area's annual median income (\$97,056).

Albra at the time called the idea a "bad deal for the taxpayers" that, if built as proposed, would overwhelm Fishkill.

A Conifer representative this week confirmed the reduction in housing units. Muammar Hermanstynne, its vice president of development, said in an email that Conifer had signed a contract with New York State "giving us site control." If a preliminary proposal is approved, he said, Conifer could bring an application to the Fishkill Planning Board as early as this fall.

Hermanstynne did not respond when asked who would need to approve the preliminary proposal, writing only that Conifer looks forward "to providing more details as we continue working with the community and local officials."

An Empire State Development representative seemed to contradict part of Hermanstynne's statement, calling Conifer the project's "conditional designee." The company is finalizing a development plan with Empire State and the Town of Fishkill, "at which point a binding development agreement can be executed," the spokesperson said. Until then,

the state's request for proposals at the site "will continue to be an open procurement."

Hermanstynne said Conifer has agreed to limit construction to 2½-story buildings because the nearest fire department, in Glenham, does not have a ladder truck.

In a statement released last year, the Glenham Fire District, which for years served Downstate prison through a contract with New York State, said its boundaries would need to be expanded to include the redeveloped site. The department relied on tanker trucks because the surrounding homes use wells for their water, while Beacon provided water and sewer service at the prison.

Until Conifer and the state "figure out proper fire coverage," the project "isn't going to go anywhere," Albra said on June 3.

In addition to asking New York State to extend municipal water and sewer service to the site, the supervisor said he will advocate specialized housing, such as for seniors or veterans, and smaller units, to keep from overwhelming Glenham Elementary, which is part of the Beacon City School District.

In a letter to Hochul last July, the Beacon school board said its four elementary schools, including Glenham, are "already at or near capacity." While the district lost 675 students between the 2012-13 and 2023-24 academic years, according to state data, recent initiatives to reduce class sizes would suffer from a sudden influx of students, officials said.

Citing Hochul's support of walkable communities, Fishkill also will ask the state to construct sidewalks to bring residents closer to the Beacon Metro-North station, which is nearly 4 miles, through high-traffic areas, from the former prison.

Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou has previously suggested that New York State create a road connecting Route 52 (Fishkill Avenue) to Matteawan Road in Beacon.

While neither Empire State nor Conifer would comment on whether access to Downstate should be improved, if such a road were built "all of the sudden you'd be able to get into the urban grid of Beacon pretty easily," Kyriacou said.

Albra, however, said that lingering questions about essential elements such as fire coverage have led him to grow skeptical of the project. "If they want to develop this site, they would be pushing to get this done," he said.



COMMUNITY YARD SALE!

SATURDAY, JUNE 14 | 9:00AM – 3:00PM

Christ Church, United Methodist-Beacon
60 Union Street (corner of Union and Phillips)

Come see all the great bargains and deals!
Lots of clothes, baby items, toys, books, collectibles, furniture, housewares, jewelry and much, much more!

There will be yummy **Bacon, Egg & Cheese Sandwiches** for sale in the morning, **Hot Dogs, Chips & drinks** for lunch and yummy **Homemade Cookies** and other baked items.

AROUND TOWN



◀ **SWEET!** — The Beacon Sloop Club held its annual Strawberry Fest on June 8 at Seeger Riverfront Park, including the always-popular strawberry shortcake tent. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.
Photo by Lucy Baldino



▲ **COMPCORD** — The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on June 8 hosted the Composers Concordance, an annual confluence of eclectic musicians. Shown here is Franz Hackl on the trumpet. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.
Photo by Ross Corsair



◀ **NATURE DAY** — The Hudson Highlands Land Trust hosted its third annual Family Nature Day on May 31 at Winter Hill in Garrison. It included a live animal show with birds of prey and reptiles from Robinson's Wildlife.
Photo provided



▲ **BIG DIG** — In October, volunteers harvested more than 20,000 pounds of sweet potatoes from land owned by Philipstown near the Desmond-Fish library; the bounty was distributed to food pantries. On June 6, volunteers planted this year's crop, which should yield 12,000 potatoes, as well as butternut squash.
Photo provided

Hudson Beach Glass

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Curated by Kirsten Kucer
Opens SECOND SATURDAY June 14, 5:00 — 7:00 PM



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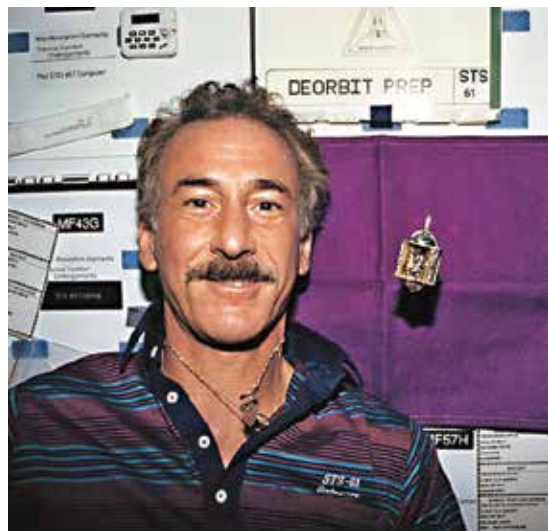
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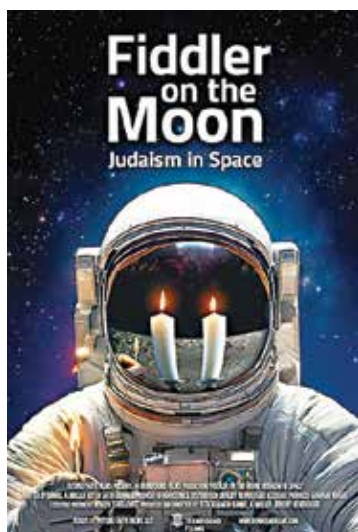
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The Calendar



Jeffrey Hoffman, a Jewish astronaut featured in the documentary



Jews in Space

Garrison filmmakers examine the question

By Marc Ferris

The team behind Ironbound Films leans into its religious roots.

"We met at a Jewish sleepaway camp as kids — it's such a part of our identity," says Jeremy Newberger, one of three director/producers at the documentary film and commercial video office located at Garrison's Landing. "Part of the crisis du jour is that the far right and the far left are united in their hatred of Jews. We were taught to embrace our Judaism and love for Israel."

Ironbound's most recent film, released this year, is *Fiddler on the Moon*, about Jewish astronauts. According to their cheeky marketing copy, which Newberger says was inspired by Mel Brooks' *Spaceballs*, the film "finally answers the question that has plagued scientists, theologians and comedians for millennia: Will Judaism survive in space?"

The film "finally answers the question that has plagued scientists, theologians and comedians for millennia: Will Judaism survive in space?"

Many cities, small and large, host Jewish film festivals; over the summer, the crew will screen the 30-minute documentary in Dayton, Ohio; Toronto; Rochester; Berkshire, Massachusetts; and Tampa. They also screen films for Jewish organizations, camps and foundations.

At first, the trio, which includes Seth Kramer and Daniel Miller, tackled secular topics like climate change (*The Anthropologist*), talk show host Morton Downey Jr. (*Evocateur*) and dying languages (*The Linguist*), but a friend who worked for Major League Baseball suggested they

cover the Israeli national baseball team, made up mostly of American Jews.

Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel led to a second film about the club's experience at the 2021 Olympics, *Israel Swings for Gold*. After completing *Yung Punx*, a doc about a band of 8- to 12-year-olds who headlined at the Warped Tour, Ironbound produced *Blind Spot*, an examination of antisemitism on college campuses.

"We're all in our 50s, and there comes a time when you realize that you got away from your faith," says Newberger. "Doing the baseball film got us reconnected to the values and religion we grew up with. It hit us. We identified."

Ironbound has filmed on nearly every continent (including on the Pacific Ocean island of Kiribati). Funding comes from business clients, angel investors and grants from the National Science Foundation.

Now in production is a documentary about David "Mickey" Marcus, the only person buried at West Point who fought for a foreign country. David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, handpicked Marcus to establish the nascent nation's army in 1948 during the war for independence. Killed by friendly fire, Marcus was the last fatality of the conflict before the United Nations implemented a truce between Israel and its neighbors.

"When you think you've heard it all, you come across Mickey Marcus, who is an incredible but little-known figure," says Kramer. "On its own, the story is a winner: Before he went to Israel, he helped put mobster Lucky Luciano away, drafted surrender papers for Italy used for all the other Axis powers and helped define the term *war crime* for the Nuremberg trials."

The film will investigate why Marcus' name recognition is limited and how the 1966 Hollywood biopic, *Cast a Giant Shadow*, starring Kirk Douglas, John Wayne and Frank Sinatra, flopped at the box office.

For more information, see ironboundfilms.com.

Dora Schram Tells of the Torture She Suffered While in Matteawan

Patients Beaten Without Provocation, Declares Girl Court Has Decided Sane.

DRUGGED FOR TALKING.

Attendants Are Savages and Doctors Are Indifferent, She Asserts.

By Marguerite Moore Marshall. This is the remarkable story told yesterday by Miss Dora Schram, the seventeen-year-old girl who has just been declared sane after being confined for a year in the Matteawan State Hospital for the Insane. Miss Schram is now living with her uncle at No. 126



BEACON GHOST STORIES

Tour guide continues Seaman saga

By Marc Ferris

Robin Lucas does her homework to enhance her Beacon walking tours, which center on ghosts.

Her tales reveal horrors that took place at the Matteawan State Hospital, ostensibly for insane criminals, and belie the notion that the facility offered "moral treatment," in vogue through the 1950s, with a gentle experience for patients in a stress-free, routine environment.

Building on her first video, *The Abraham Seaman Tragedy*, Lucas returns with two sequels that feature a cadre of then-famous inmates. Part 3 intimates that Nellie Seaman, committed in 1907 without trial for allegedly shooting her husband, exacted revenge in 1913 by conjuring a storm to torment her enemies.

Lucas also released a video about the city's Omnibus War in 1876, which features characters from the Seaman saga and chronicles a period of "mob law" and "roisterous" drunks as two horse-drawn carriage companies competed for business. The videos include revealing photos, zippy narratives and contemporary newspaper accounts.

"I want people to hit the stop button and read a little, although what appeared in print muddies the water because a lot of it was hearsay and twisted into a point of view," she says. "The facts were there to be manipulated."

A prevalent theme in the Seaman series is the railroading of women into the Matteawan hospital to "shut them up and put them away," says Lucas.

In 1908, Jennie Blunt wounded lawyer Charles Sanford in Brooklyn for drug-

ging and raping her, she said. A *New York Times* headline read: "Shot at His Desk by a Crazy Woman."

The authorities declared her insane and she ended up at Matteawan.

"There were all these accusations of wealthy men committing sexual crimes and getting away with it," says Lucas. "Just like the Jeffrey Epstein and Diddy cases, so far, no list has ever been made public."

Though Matteawan guards sometimes abused their power, the job could be dangerous: In 1906, killer Lizzie Halliday (known as "the worst woman in the world") stabbed nurse Nellie Wicks 200 times with a pair of scissors.

Inmate Dora Schram, who served alongside Seaman and was released in 1911, claimed that the "actively unkind" nurses acted like "savages," which led patients to "hit back whenever possible," making everyone in the prison "all crazy together."

For Lucas, who contends that her historic home in Beacon is haunted, the videos augment her walking tours, "otherwise we would be standing outside for four hours," she says.

"In my ghost tour, you have to suspend some disbelief, but I found facts surrounding all of this, put it together and laid it out, like, 'Look what happened, what do you think?'"

For more information on Beacon Walking Tours, see beaconwalkingtours.com or call 845-440-5300. Lucas' videos are posted at [youtube.com/@BWT7773](https://www.youtube.com/@BWT7773).



Robin Lucas



Nellie Seaman



Lizzie Halliday

THE WEEK AHEAD

PRIDE

SAT 14
Putnam Pride Parade
CARMEL
1 – 5 p.m. Historic Courthouse
40 Gleneida Ave. | putnampride.com

This sixth annual event will include a rally with speakers, followed by a celebration at Veterans Memorial Park on Gypsy Trail Road with vendors, food trucks, an open mic and children's activities.

SAT 14
Drag Queen Cabaret
GARRISON
4 & 7 p.m. Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3900 | depottheater.org

The first show is for all ages and the second show for ages 13 and older. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 15
Drag Story Hour
COLD SPRING
10:30 a.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Angel Elektra will read and share stories for kids. Register online. *Cost: \$10*

SUN 15
Beacon Family Pride
BEACON
1 – 5 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | queerfam.org

The celebration will include food, games and activities for all ages. *Free*

FRI 20
Key of Q
BEACON
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

The chorus will perform *Divas, A Wildly Incomplete Celebration of Queer Icons* for its annual Pride show. Reservations suggested. *Cost: \$15 donation*

SAT 21
Pride on the Green
NEWBURGH
Noon – 5 p.m. Safe Harbors Lobby
107 Broadway | safe-harbors.org

This family-friendly celebration will include performances, music, DJs, Drag Story Hour, activities for children and food.

SAT 21
Trans Closet Popup
BEACON
Noon – 4 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

The Hudson Valley mutual-aid group will offer free gender-affirming clothing and accessories.

JUNETEENTH

THURS 19
Festival
BEACON
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive
facebook.com/beacon4blacklives

The third annual celebration will include music and performances, community groups and businesses, and food and activities.

THURS 19
Celebration
KENT
2 – 4 p.m. Arts on the Lake
640 Route 52

The Putnam County festival will include speakers, raffles, entertainment and refreshments.

SAT 14
Pink Unicorn's Magical Day
BEACON
10 a.m. Kitchen & Coffee | 420 Main St.
dub.sh/pink-unicorn-day

Celebrate community and connection at the launch of this children's book inspired by Beacon's pink unicorn, Dave Shelly. Sales benefit the Beacon Unicorn Fund, which supports local arts.

SAT 14
Kid's Business Fair
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. Mary's Lawn
1 Chestnut St. | www.childrensbusinessfair.org/coldspring-ny

Children and teens ages 6 to 14 will show off their entrepreneurial skills with services and goods for sale.

TUES 17
Tween Rainbow Hangout
BEACON
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

LGBTQ+ youth in grades 6 to 8 can connect in a supportive space and enjoy snacks and a craft.

FRI 20
End-of-the-School Year Celebration
COLD SPRING
3:15 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades 5 to 12 are invited to wear light-colored clothing and prepare for a messy, fun, color war. Bring eye protection. Register online.

SUN 22
Messy McFarlen's Tomato Garden
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Barry Waldo will read from his children's picture book, followed by a garden activity.



COMMUNITY

SAT 14
Citywide Yard Sale
BEACON
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Various
dub.sh/beacon-sale-2025

See the website on the morning of the sale for listings.

SUN 15
Cocktail Party
PHILIPSTOWN
5:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
desmondfishlibrary.org

This benefit for the Desmond-Fish library will feature an interview with actor, director and author Griffin Dunne by filmmaker Ivy Meeropol. Kim Conner and Nick Groombridge also will be honored for their community service. *Cost: \$250+*

MON 16
Successful Aging
BEACON
2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

The Dutchess County Office of the Aging will host this seminar about how to plan for living arrangements and healthcare.

WED 18
Mystery Model Sketch
COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Kick off the adult summer reading program by drawing local models. Registration required.

SAT 21
Historic Home Tour
BEACON
Noon – 4 p.m. 1190 North Ave.
dub.sh/northcutt-tour

The former home of the late Florence Northcutt, a longtime president of the Howland Cultural Center, and one of the oldest houses in Beacon, has been restored and will be open for tours. Proceeds benefit the Howland Cultural Center and Beacon Historical Society. Also SUN 22. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 21
NY Craft Beer Tasting and Market
COLD SPRING
Noon – 2 p.m. & 3 – 5 p.m.
St. Mary's Lawn | 1 Chestnut St.
hopsonthehudson.com

Sample beer from dozens of craft breweries. There also will be food, live music and a maker's market. *Cost: \$65 (\$25 for non-drinkers)*



Battle of Bunker Hill, June 21

SAT 21
Community Day
COLD SPRING
4 – 8 p.m. Dockside Park | 34 West St.

This annual event will feature live music, children's games and activities and food. Rain date: SUN 22. *Free*

SUN 22
Art, Wine and Spirits Show
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary's Lawn
1 Chestnut St. | hopsonthehudson.com

Sample Hudson Valley wines and spirits while enjoying art, music and food. Rain or shine. *Free*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 14
LitFest
BEACON
10:30 a.m. Beahive
6 Eliza St. | beaconlitfest.org

The third day of this annual festival starts with a free poetry reading with Ruth Danon, John Yau and Gregory Pardlo, followed at 5 p.m. by panels with fiction and nonfiction writers and a cocktail party at the Memorial Building (413 Main St.). Also, sign up for LitWorks, a series of writing workshops that begin at noon on SUN 15. *Cost: \$30 or \$45*

SAT 14
Forest Euphoria
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Split Rock Books
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080
splitrockbks.com

Patricia Ononiwu Kashian will read from and discuss her new book about “the abounding queerness of nature.”

TUES 17
Smoke in the Cypress
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Garrison native Owen Pataki will read from and discuss his latest novel about a Napoleonic officer in New Orleans in the early 19th century.

FRI 20
Hazel Was a Good Girl
BEACON
7 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.
845-440-3906 | stanzabooks.com

In his book, Jerry Drake tells the story of a murdered woman, Hazel Drew, which inspired the

television series *Twin Peaks*. Following the reading, there will be an attempt through channeling to communicate with Drew.

SAT 21
Always Present, Never Seen
GARRISON
3 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
highlandscurrent.org/black-history

Leonard Sparks of *The Current* will talk about the history of Black people in the Highlands, extending the reporting he did for a series that ran in 2022.

SAT 21
Battle of Bunker Hill
BEACON
7 p.m. Denning's Point Distillery
10 N. Chestnut St.

As part of the Cannons & Cocktails series, military historian Sean Sculley will speak with host Scott Ramsey about the battle on June 17, 1775, during the siege of Boston by British troops.

SUN 22
Learn Your Housing Rights
BEACON
1 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Advocates and experts will discuss protections for tenants under Beacon's “good cause” eviction law.

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 14
Garden Photography
PHILIPSTOWN
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Stonecrop
81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000
stonecrop.org

After a presentation on composition, color and light, explore the gardens practicing the techniques. Rain or shine. Bring lunch. *Cost: \$80 (\$60 members)*

VISUAL ART

SAT 14
Daisy de Puthod
COLD SPRING
4 – 6 p.m. Oh! Designs Interiors
3 Stone St. | ohdesignsinteriors.com

The artist's show, *Plein-Air: A Collection*, will feature paintings of local sites and landmarks. Through July 6.

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 14
Beacon Reimagined
BEACON
1 – 4 p.m. Beacon Building
427 Main St.
scottlerman.com/beaconreimagined
Scott Lerman's photographs of iconic buildings on Main Street will be on view in the courtyard.

SAT 14
Properties
BEACON
1 & 3 & 4:30 p.m. Long Dock Park
23 Long Dock Road | diaart.org
In connection with Cameron Rowland's exhibit at Dia Beacon, the program will include talks by people who were important to the artist's work. See website for schedule. *Free*

SAT 14
We/Us/Ours
BEACON
4 – 7 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com
The group show explores community and ways that people depend on each other. Through July 6.

SAT 14
Holly Sumner
BEACON
5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St. | hudsonbeachglass.com
The artist's paintings on maps and cloth will be on display for her show, *Drifters*. Through July 6.

SAT 14
Bob Barry | Nansi Lent
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. Bau Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org
Barry's show, *the other world*, will feature his ceramic sculptures. In Gallery 2, Lent's show, *Said, Not Said*, has paintings and photographs. Through July 6.

SAT 14
What She Builds, She Must Destroy
BEACON
7 – 9 p.m. Distortion Society
155 Main St. | distortionsociety.com
The solo exhibition of Michelle Silver's paintings marks moments of motherhood. Through Aug. 10.

STAGE & SCREEN

TUES 17
The Matchmaker
PHILIPSTOWN
7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org
Nance Williamson stars as Dolly Levi in the Thornton Wilder play that inspired the 1969 film *Hello, Dolly!* Also WED 18, FRI 20, SUN 22. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

SAT 14
Hudson River Music Festival
CROTON-ON-HUDSON
11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Croton Point Park
1 Croton Point Ave.
hudsonrivermusicfestival.com
Presented to honor Pete and Toshi Seeger, this day of music will feature performances by Grahame Lesh, Lucius, Madison Cunningham, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Jorma Kaukonen, Steve Earle, Tom Chapin, David Amram and the Chapin Sisters, as well as family activities. Parking is \$20 cash. Rain or shine. *Cost: \$89.95 (\$99.95 door; children younger than 12 free)*

SAT 14
The Importance of Being Earnest
BEACON
7 p.m. Savage Wonder
139 Main St. | sawagewonder.org
Eric Tucker directs Mike Labbadia, Dylan Crow and Shonita Joshi in this "unhinged and wildly staged" reading of the Oscar Wilde classic. Also SAT 21. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 14
The Comedy of Errors
PHILIPSTOWN
7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org
Shakespeare's comedy includes two sets of twins separated at birth and searching for soulmates. Also SUN 15, SAT 21. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

SUN 15
Gary Vider
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
In this Father's Day show, the comedian and former host of the



podcast *#1 Dad* will do stand-up. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

FRI 20
Chloe Radcliffe
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The actor, writer and comedian, best known for her one-woman show, *Cheat*, will perform stand-up. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

FRI 20
Hallelujah
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
Watch the 2021 documentary about the life of singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen and how his hymn became one of the most recorded songs. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 21
Pocket Moxie
BEACON
2 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Happenstance Theatre will stage a vaudeville show, complete with a ventriloquist and dummy. Register online. *Free*

SAT 21
Work Sucks
BEACON
8 p.m. Beahive | 6 Eliza St.
845-418-3731 | dub.sh/beahive-events
This improv comedy show will feed off audience suggestions and work stories. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

MUSIC
SAT 14
Robin and the Hoods
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | musicatstmarys.com
The classic-rock group plays songs from the 1960s. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 14
The Rascals
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Founding members Felix Cavaliere and Gene Cornish and their band will perform the group's hits as part of a 60th-anniversary tour. *Cost: \$68 to \$88*

SAT 14
The Weeklings
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The tribute band plays music by the Beatles. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 15
Claremont Trio
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
Emily Bruskin (violin), Julia Bruskin (cello) and Sophiko Simsive (piano) will perform. Donations welcome. *Free*

SUN 22
Saint Rita
BEACON
6 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Kelly Ellenwood (vocals), Kathleen Bosman (violin/viola), Stephen Clair (guitar), Nate Allen (double bass) and Brad Hubbard (woodwinds) will explore the musical connection between Kurt Weill and Edith Piaf. See Page 15. *Cost: \$20*

CIVIC
SAT 14
Early Voting
CARMEL
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Board of Elections
25 Old Route 6 | boe.putnamcountyny.gov
Putnam County residents who are registered Democrats can vote before the June 24 primary for Philipstown Town Board. Daily through SUN 22. See site for hours.

MON 16
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov
The council will hold public hearings on the 2026-30 capital program and a series of recommendations by the Traffic Safety Committee.

MON 16
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

TUES 17
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Middle School Library
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

WED 18
School Board
GARRISON
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

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

Join us June 15, 2025 at 5:30pm
for the Desmond-Fish Public Library's
Associates Cocktail Party honoring
Griffin Dunne
Producer, director, actor, author
Interviewed by Ivy Meeropol
and honoring Kim Conner and Nick Groombridge
for their community service
Tickets at desmondfishlibrary.org/cocktails

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Join HHFT's Invasives Strike Force!

MAKE FRIENDS STEWARD THE LAND LEARN NEW SKILLS SPEND TIME OUTDOORS

Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail's Invasives Strike Force is back this summer to continue removing invasive plant species in the Breakneck Ridge corridor. We are looking for volunteers (ages 16 & up) that can help out **once a month for 3 hours from June thru September 2025.**



Monthly Sessions

Saturdays, 9 am -12 pm on:
6/28, 7/26, 8/23, 9/27

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Hudson Highlands
Fjord Trail

Questions? Email Rebeca Ramirez at rramirez@hhft.org

A Tribute to Weill and Piaf

Concert will benefit Beacon exchange program

By Marc Ferris

Ten years ago, singer and actor Kelly Ellenwood lost her voice after contracting whooping cough, an ironic twist because for four years she played the part of an opera prima donna who began singing like a frog in *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway.

To help regain the vocalizing, in 2016 she joined Stephen Clair (guitar) and Kathleen Bosman (violin, viola) to perform songs by German American composer Kurt Weill and French chanteuse Edith Piaf. On June 22, at 6 p.m., the Saint Rita trio (supported by Nate Allen and Brad Hubbard) will perform a program called *Lost & Found* at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon featuring deep cuts and popular songs from the pair's repertoire.

The show is a benefit for Beacon High School's German American Partnership Program, established in 2022 with support from the German founders of the Beacon-based software firm Docuware. It brings foreign students to Beacon in October. On June

28, to complete the annual exchange, 18 Beacon teens and two teachers leave for Munich.

Ellenwood, known for getting things done around town, got the call and implemented the nuts and bolts with the Parent Teacher Student Organization. This year, with help from the U.S. State Department and the Goethe Institute in Manhattan, the school district took over responsibility for its administration.

Growing up in Nebraska, Ellenwood studied in Finland as an exchange student and aimed to be a diplomat, but the arts beckoned. There is no German language program at Beacon High School, she says, but "last year, a bunch of students, led by Skylar Clair, started a German study group and some of the kids are going this year, so this is changing lives."

Rita, "patron saint of the impossible," says Ellenwood, is also the name of a new 100-seat music venue at the KuBe Art Center that she and her family plan to open with trombonist Dick Griffin on July 19 in the former high school's band room. Relevant to the concert, Piaf is said to have asked friends "to pray for Saint Rita, patron



Kathleen Bosman, Kelly Ellenwood and Stephen Clair perform together as Saint Rita.

Photo by Katy O'Hagan

saint of lost causes" before her death from liver cancer in 1963 at age 47.

The June 22 show will include Piaf's most popular song, "La Vie En Rose," which sold 1 million discs in the U.S. when released as a single in 1947. After Mack David translated the lyrics into English in 1950, eight artists charted with it, including Bing Crosby and Louis Armstrong.

Weill fused pop and classical music and collaborated with Ogden Nash, Bertolt Brecht and Ira Gershwin, among others. His hits

include "Mack the Knife," "Bilbao Song" and "Alabama Song" (covered as "Whisky Bar" on the first album by The Doors). "We do a down-and-dirty version" of the latter, says Ellenwood, which is saying something because the song is about "prostitutes looking for the next trick — sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll — in 1930."

The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. in Beacon. Tickets are \$20 at dub.sh/saint-rita-show.

An Evening with Tom Chapin

Song, Stories, and Inspiration

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LOOKING BACK

IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (June 1875)

John Cox, the flagman at Garrison's station, was suspicious of banks and paper money. On a Thursday night, while John was at work, five masked men pushed through the door and bound Mrs. Cox and the couple's two sons, ages 14 and 20. After ransacking the house, they left with a box of silver and gold coins valued at \$1,100 [about \$32,000 today]. Two tramps at the station were arrested after the Cox family said they resembled the suspects — one with a dark complexion, an ugly face and a bad eye and another who was "more honest-looking."

Signor Sebastian, a circus performer, broke his leg at a Friday performance in Cold Spring when he was thrown from a horse while riding bareback seated in a chair. He was taken to the Pacific Hotel and, a few days later, returned by train to his home in New York City. A few weeks later, a baggage-car fire on a sidetrack in Connecticut destroyed all the troupe's baggage and musical instruments.

Shortly after midnight, Thomas McAndrew, the watchman at the lower railroad switches, heard a noise and found two men

standing at a broken door on a freight car on the sidetrack. When the larger man put his hand into his pocket and threatened to shoot, McAndrew dropped him with a shot to the neck. The man — who said his name was McKinseynally — was taken to Town Hall, where Dr. Murdock removed the bullet.

Three people held solid-silver life passes for the Hudson River Railroad: John Jervis, the first chief engineer, his wife and Gouverneur Kemble of Cold Spring, the founder of West Point Foundry and an early supporter of the railroad.

Commodore Foote and his sister, Eliza, "celebrated Lilliputians," performed at Town Hall. The Indiana natives claimed to be the smallest people in the world and were as well-known in their time as Tom Thumb.

A six-horse team delivered a 7,530-pound load of bedplate to Sunk Mine for its steam-powered machines.

The Methodist Episcopal Church held its annual Strawberry, Ice Cream and Floral Festival.

The Recorder noted that a new state law made it illegal, punishable with a fine of up to \$10 [\$290], to mutilate shade trees near schools, churches, public buildings or highways. "It is well known that people from the farming districts are the principal offenders," the editor wrote. "They come into town to do some business and seek a comfortable shade for their teams. All right, so far; but how about the shade next year if the horses girdle the trees while standing thereat?"

A reader complained to *The Recorder*

that people were taking water by the barrel from the Main Street pumps to irrigate their strawberries and gardens.

After the first baseball game of the season on Vinegar Hill between a club from West Point and the Kellogg team (which the latter won, 22-19), the *Newburgh Telegraph* said the Army boys lost only because of the "considerable partiality shown by the umpire who, of course, proved to be a resident of Cold Spring." *The Recorder* retorted that the visitors lost because they did not score enough runs.

On a Tuesday at noon, while Isaiah Jaycox of the Highlands was driving at a good speed down Main Street seated atop a cord of wood, a front wheel on his wagon fell off as he passed High Street. Passersby lifted the corner of the wagon with levers so he could return it to the axle.

The 3-year-old child of John Maher of Market Street died suddenly while playing outside, seized by what a doctor said was "paralysis of the heart."

While neighbors were talking by a gate on Garden Street, a bullet tore through a fence board nearby. "Such carelessness is almost criminal," *The Recorder* said.

After Thomas Jaycox began yelling "Thieves!" a group of young men at Mekeel's Corners gave chase to two suspected burglars. They were found hiding in a closet and brought back to the scene to be frisked for missing valuables. It turned out the suspects were two well-known young women dressed as men — apparently, out of boredom, they hoped to create some excitement. "After their revelation, the proposed search was not so rigid as was expected," *The Recorder* reported.

125 Years Ago (June 1900)

James Greene, the census enumerator, said one man refused to answer his questions but changed his mind when Greene said he would be arrested.

Stephen Romaine, 21, a Yonkers resident known as "Steeple Jack," fell 150 feet to his death from the Methodist Episcopal Church. He had been hired to regild the ball but declined to install safety measures, saying it would take too long and he wanted to catch the 4:30 p.m. train home. Romaine was known for his acrobatics: In 1899, in New York City, he climbed 375 feet above Park Row to polish the gilt ball on the Pulitzer Building.

A few days later, "Steeple Bob" Merrill arrived to regild the ball and paint the woodwork. He was accompanied by his wife, who kept a close eye on him.

The younger members of the Haldane Cadet Corps were given wooden rifles.

The West Point Foundry baseball team visited Newburgh, losing 21-10. *The Newburgh Press* noted that spectators were allowed to stand 3 feet from each baseline.

Frederick Birdsall, his wife and two other women, all visiting from Yonkers, went for a row on the river but their boat was upset by the wakes of two tugs. Mr. Birdsall was able to save the guests but not his wife.

The secretary of war, Elihu Root, visited the Highlands Country Club for a benefit to supplement the pension income of military survivors. The widows of enlisted men received \$12 [\$457] per month, plus \$2 [\$76] per child.

250 Years Ago (June 1775)

British troops in New York City were evacuated to transports anchored in the harbor. A small group of Sons of Liberty confiscated five wagonloads of royal weapons.



Maj. Gen. Philip Schuyler of New York and George Washington, the newly appointed commander of the army, left Philadelphia for New York City. Addressing fears of military rule, Washington reassured the New York Provincial Congress that, after the establishment of liberty, he would return to private life.

On June 26, Washington and Schuyler crossed King's Bridge into Westchester County. The next day, slowed by well-wishers, they made it only as far as New Rochelle, where Schuyler headed to Albany and Washington toward Boston.

A German man named "Gus" picked a fight on a Saturday night with a West Point corporal named Barry. The fight ended when Gus bit and gnawed on Barry's little finger. Dr. Richard Giles dressed the wound, but blood poisoning set in and Barry lost the finger, then his hand and arm.

Louis Di Tomasso, 28, an Italian working in the cut below Garrison, was killed when he stepped out of the way of a freight train and was hit by the express. He had been in the U.S. for three months and had no family here.

The brother of Mrs. J.M. Winslow of Cold Spring, William McElwain, died in Amsterdam, New York. An hour before the funeral, her brother Henry also died there.

After Officer McCaffrey stopped an unauthorized baseball game on a Wednesday night, the players appealed to the village president, Samuel Condell, who overruled the constable. McCaffrey submitted a letter of resignation in protest of this challenge to his authority, and the Village Board voted, 3-2, to accept it.

Charles Henyan, a liveryman, and William Yates, a jeweler, had a good day fishing but, when it was time to return home with their catch, found their horse missing — it had returned to its stable in Cold Spring. The men were seen trudging home along the highway, bowed under the weight of their catch.

A pile driver and crew of men arrived to rebuild Beverley Dock in Garrison, which had been owned by Beverley Robinson during the Revolution and was the spot where Gen. Benedict Arnold went aboard the vessel that took him to British-occupied New York City following the discovery of his betrayal.

The Recorder reported that Sam McIlravy of Garrison, who had returned from the Spanish-American War and been greeted as a hero, was spotted ill-clad and unshaven drinking from the Osborn fountain. He said he was considering enlisting in the Army to

(Continued on Page 17)

"Nat has been doing the real, often invisible work of local government for well over a decade."

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Eliza Starbuck

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Sean Conway

"Nat's commitment to public service is exemplary."

Jeff Mikkelson

"Thank you, Nat, for who you are in the life of this community. You make it a better place."

Pete Salmansohn

Vote for NAT PRENTICE

June 24

(Continued from Page 16)

fight in China against the Boxers so he could earn a purse to liquidate his indebtedness to several Garrison residents.

A glass bottle thrown from the window of the flats over T.F. Doran's store broke on the sidewalk and cut Walter Baxter's horse, which was tied in front of the building and choked itself trying to pull away.

Haldane High School celebrated its four graduates: Mary Shea, William Herrick, Egbert Nelson and Stephen Mekeel.

The fire department put out a blaze in the butler's pantry at the St. Mary's parsonage with a bucket brigade. A tenant, Mrs. James Bushnell, who was using the gasoline stove to heat irons, had just stepped out of the room when it exploded.

100 Years Ago (June 1925)

M.A. Malone returned home from Philadelphia, where he attended the funeral of his 8-year-old nephew, William, who had visited Cold Spring the previous summer with his mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kelley of New York City spent the weekend at the home of her parents. They started home by automobile on Sunday evening but because of the traffic had to return to Cold Spring and wait until Monday.

Col. Jacob Ruppert, the owner of the New York Yankees, who had a home in Philipstown, placed a classified ad in *The Recorder* for his lost beagle.

Eugene McGrath, 34, who two years earlier had been among the men employed in Philipstown on the New York City aqueduct and played for the local baseball team, died on Staten Island, where he lived. He was the first batter in a game between his National Baseball Club and the visiting Clover Athletic Club of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, when the first pitch struck him over the heart.

Haldane High School had 10 graduates (five boys and five girls), the largest class in its history. James Patterson won the prize for penmanship.

The first graduate of the Our Lady of Loretto School, Gerald Heckler, received a diploma and a gold medal.

With the Cold Spring baseball team down one run in the ninth against the visiting Rainbows of Newburgh, the locals hit four straight singles before Mooney won the game with a bases-loaded double.

75 Years Ago (June 1950)

After considering Cold Spring for a web offset lithography plant, the Eton Publishing Co. selected Silver Spring, Maryland.

The Haldane school bus transported the ninth-grade social studies class to Carmel to observe a trial at the county courthouse.

A two-story cottage owned by Charles Tennenbaum on Lane Gate Road was destroyed by fire after being struck by lightning.

Voters approved a \$155,000 [\$2.1 million] bond to add two classrooms, a principal's office, kindergarten, playroom-auditorium and stage at the Garrison School.

Harry Hustis Jr. of Pine Street came home for the summer from Harvard.

The London cast of *Mister Roberts* — including Tyrone Power, Jackie Cooper and George Matthews — took over Bill Brown's Health Farm in Philipstown for a weekend to rehearse. Henry Fonda and Bill Harrigan of the Broadway cast and John Forsyth of the Boston cast also visited.

50 Years Ago (June 1975)

A 16-year-old girl visiting from Yorktown Heights saved a 37-year-old Poughkeepsie woman from drowning. The woman had fallen off a boat and was pulled unconscious from the water at Dockside. After a bystander attempted mouth-to-mouth resuscitation without success, Sharon Consaga, a youth member of the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps, took over. After 30 minutes of effort, the woman was revived and taken to the hospital.

The eight surviving members of the Haldane Class of 1925 held a 50th anniversary reunion dinner at the Southern Dutchess Country Club in Beacon.

Haldane voters rejected a proposed \$2.48 million [\$14.7 million] budget, 447-325. In a second vote, they adopted five of eight propositions but rejected spending plans for building renovations, two 15-passenger vans and new furniture.

Fernando Berarducci of Nelsonville demonstrated to a *Putnam County News & Recorder* reporter how to make charcoal, which he had learned as a young man in his native Abruzzi, Italy.

Dianne Ogley, 20, a former Cold Spring resident, was touring with a British illusionist, Malcolm Shorrocks, 24, as Vadell



The Pastime Baseball Team of Cold Spring in 1907
Putnam History Museum

and Sue. They met on a cruise where Ogley was working as a hostess.

Elzear Duquette, the "king of the walk," spent a few days in Cold Spring on his way to Lake George. According to Duquette, he started walking in 1934 in Montreal and had traveled 200,000 miles through 54 countries. He pulled a cart that resembled a coffin, which he used for supplies and to sleep in.

Fred Selleck, 88, of 41 Fair St., who in 1907 was running a sporting goods and newspaper store on Main Street, shared a photo with the *PCNR* given to him that year by the manager of Cold Spring's Pastime Baseball Team.

25 Years Ago (June 2000)

A Category F1 tornado, with winds of up to 100 mph, touched down in Continental Village at 7:30 p.m. on a Friday, snapping trees and power lines. "It was surreal," said a firefighter. "One street looked fine, then we'd turn the corner and — devastation."

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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 & Benediction

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

11:00am | English

12:00pm | Creole & French

4:00pm | English & Spanish

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

11:00am | English & Italian

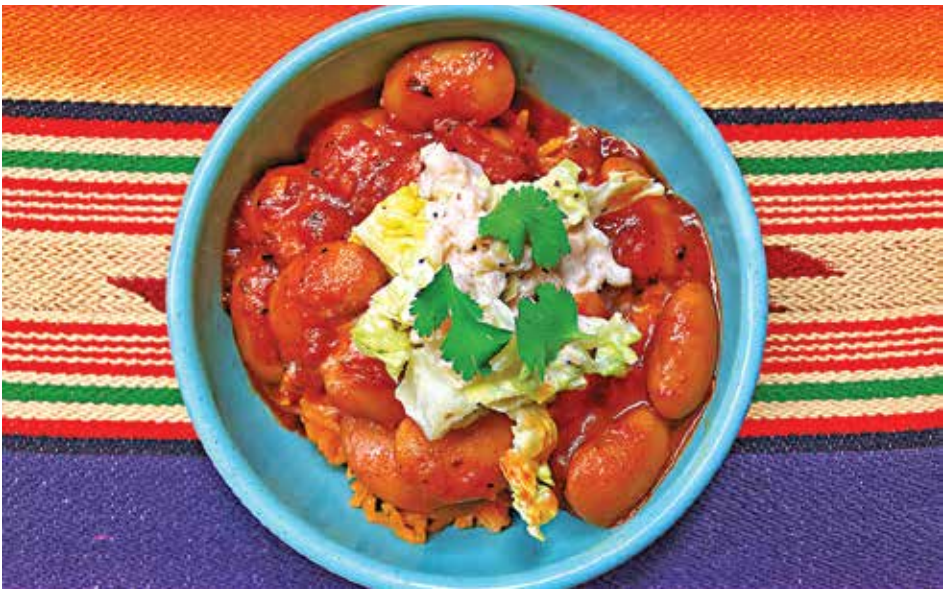
1:00pm | Creole & French

4:00pm | Novena and Benediction



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Small, Good Things

A Winning Argument

By Joe Dizney



Puebla, a landlocked south-central Mexican state, is home to a culinary history that stretches to earliest Mesoamerica. But the Poblano (Pueblan) use of heritage ingredients there — corn, tomatoes, chiles, seeds, avocados, beans, squash — was distinctly impacted by the European influences, techniques

and traditions that the earliest Spanish settlers (and later French) brought to the old New World.

As has been said: “Puebla is a place where you can devour the world, but it will be the world filtered through the Mexican kitchen.” In particular, the sauces familiar in most Mexican cooking — elaborate moles, nutty pipians and tangy adobos — would not exist in Puebla but for the cultural crossover.

Tinga is representative of this. The sauce, redolent of chiles, tomatoes, vinegar, onions, garlic and oregano, serves as the basis for a braise of chicken known as tinga de pollo, widely served as a filling for tacos, tostados, molletes and other street-food antojitos (“little cravings”).

While Mexican slang dictionaries translate *tinga* as “an argument,” “a quarrel,” “a dispute” or “an uproar,” which suggests a fiery, aggressive concoction, in practice slow-and-low cooking tempers the mellow heat of smoky chipotles in adobo. Tomatoes and vinegar add a tang and unexpected smoothness. Tingas of pork, beef, fish and shrimp show its versatility.

This recipe for tinga de frijoles — brined and tinga-braised large white beans — piqued my interest for other reasons: Brining was the real curiosity. Dried beans are soaked for 8 to 12 hours at room temperature in a salt-and-baking soda solution that breaks down pectins in the hard-skinned varieties called for here. That allows for better absorption of the cooking liquid, resulting in creamier, tastier beans.

As with other Mexican “soup-stews” (a handy Diana Kennedy designation), this tinga de frijoles is best served in a bowl — perhaps over Spanish rice, as shown — with greens dressed with a lime-crema dressing in the same bowl.

Garnish further with sliced avocado, radishes and cilantro, if you like. An extra dollop of crema and a basket of warm tortillas will quell any burgeoning uproar or dispute at the table.

Tinga de Frijoles

Adapted from Paola Briseño-González (via Rancho Gordo); serves 6 to 8

- 1 pound large dried white beans (royal corona, gigante/gigandes or large canellini), picked over and rinsed
- 3 tablespoons salt
- 1¾ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil (avocado, olive, canola)

- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon Mexican oregano
- 2 medium yellow onions, peeled, halved and sliced thin
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 4 canned chipotles in adobo, chopped fine
- 28 ounces canned crushed tomatoes (Muir fire-roasted suggested)
- 1 quart chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar, plus 1½ teaspoons
- ¾ teaspoon sugar
- ¼ cup Mexican crema (substitute crème fraîche)
- 4 cups greens (butter lettuce, little gems, baby romaine), torn or sliced into bite-sized pieces
- ½ cup cilantro leaves
- Zest and juice of one lime
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Warmed corn tortillas for serving
- Optional: Spanish rice, chopped avocado and/or sliced radishes

1. In a large bowl, cover beans with 2 quarts fresh water with 3 tablespoons salt and the baking soda; stir to dissolve. Soak beans at room temperature for 8 to 12 hours. Drain and rinse well under running water. Heat oil in a heavy 8-quart pot or Dutch oven over medium. Add onion and garlic, stirring often; cook until soft, about 5 minutes. Add cumin and Mexican oregano; sweat about 2 minutes until fragrant. Add beans, chipotle, tomatoes, broth and

1½ cups fresh water; bring to a boil and adjust the heat to low for a gentle simmer.

2. Cover and cook, stirring until sauce turns a deep red and beans have cooked through (about 3 to 3½ hours). Test beans — they should be tender and creamy. Add sugar, cider vinegar and correct seasoning. Add ¼ to ½ cup to achieve a saucy, creamy consistency. Taste again and adjust seasoning. Keep warm.

3. Mix crema (or crème fraîche), lime zest and juice in a bowl. Season to taste with salt. In a separate bowl, toss greens with enough crema dressing to coat. Reserve.

4. Serve tinga de frijoles in shallow bowls alone or over Spanish rice. Top with some of the dressed greens and garnish with chopped avocado, sliced radishes, more crema sauce and cilantro. Serve with lime wedges and warm corn tortillas.

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Fair Street Construction to Begin in Cold Spring

Also, Community Day scheduled for June 21

By Michael Turton

At the Wednesday (June 11) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, Hahn Engineering, which serves as village engineer, reported that construction along the north end of Fair Street is expected to begin next week.

Will Angiolillo of Hahn said the work will take at least three months. One lane will remain open to traffic and a pedestrian walkway will be maintained. Crews for the \$1.8 million project will install two 42-inch pipes, replacing a single 30-inch stormwater drain that failed during severe storms

and heavy rains in July 2023.

Parking along the west side of the street near Mayor's Park has been prohibited since 2023. The Fair Street drain takes in stormwater from a 160-acre watershed that extends upstream as far east as Bull Hill.

Clerk-Treasurer Greg Henson said updates will be issued at coldspringny.gov and on social media as the project progresses.

In other business ...

■ Community Day is scheduled to be held at Dockside Park on Saturday (June 21) from 4 to 8 p.m. The festival will include six bands, food and beverages, and activities ranging from cornhole competitions, a dunk tank and speedball to dance lessons,

face-painting and a bounce castle.

■ The Historic District Review Board notified the Village Board of five instances of exterior alterations or sign installations without approval. The infractions, all on Main Street, were forwarded to the code enforcement officer.

■ The board approved the purchase of a 2025 Ford F-150 Lightning electric pickup at a cost of \$45,377. Ferrario Ford of Elmira submitted the lowest of four bids. The purchase will be funded through a state grant.

■ Attorney Luke Hilpert was appointed as associate village justice to succeed Camille Linson, who is moving out of the area. Hilpert also replaced Linson as a Philipstown town justice.

■ Officer-in-Charge Matt Jackson said the Police Department responded in May to 154 calls, made 36 traffic stops and assisted other first responders 19 times. Other calls included six motor vehicle crashes, five welfare checks, four persons in crisis, three reports of trespassing, a domestic incident and disorderly conduct.

■ The Cold Spring Fire Co. responded to 12 calls last month. Chief Matt Steltz said the incidents included three activated fire alarms, two mutual aid calls, two medical assists, a mountain rescue, a motor vehicle crash, a downed power line and reports of smoke and gas odors. Twenty-six volunteer firefighters responded to at least one call, he said.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

NEWS BRIEFS

Ryan to Co-Chair Veteran Caucus

New group includes Democrats who served

Rep. Pat Ryan, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, said on June 9 that he and two other members of the U.S. House would chair a newly created Democratic Veterans Caucus.

A West Point graduate, Ryan served in the U.S. Army as a combat intelligence officer from 2004 to 2009, including two tours in Iraq.

Along with Ryan, the caucus includes

17 members from districts in California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Putnam OKs Preschool Learning Center

Will cater to students in special education

The Putnam County Legislature on Tuesday (June 10) approved the creation

in Patterson of a learning center that is expected to benefit preschool students eligible for special education services.

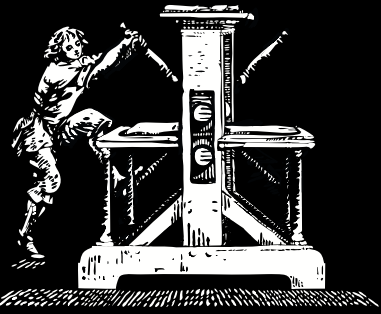
County officials said the opening of the center at Hudson Valley InterArts, in partnership with Community Based Services, will save money by reducing the costs of transporting children long distances for services, including to other counties.

It will combine occupational and speech therapy and other services for 40 to 50 special-education children with class-

room instruction, and host classes for pre-K students from the Brewster and Carmel districts.

Putnam will pay \$2.2 million in construction and financing costs to build space at InterArts, plus \$15,000 a month in rent. The investment "will cut commuting times for children, save taxpayers money on a mandatory educational service and provide well-deserved peace of mind to parents of special-needs students," said County Executive Kevin Byrne in a statement.

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June 13 - BLF event at the Center - WOMEN IN NOIR
June 20 - KEY OF Q
June 22 - SAINT RITA
June 25 - STANZA CAMPERS - Free Monthly Series!
June 27 - Howland's Open Mic Night
June 28 - RHYTHM RISING QUARTET
July 18 - NERD NIGHT Hudson Valley
July 20 - RACHEL SAGE
July 26 - LIVE WRITING - Poet Laureate Event
Visit; website, social media for more events, info, tickets

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The Water Ecology Center is fenced off (top); work was stopped on the environmental complex (left).
Photos by B. Cronin

Dennings Point *(from Page 1)*

from Clarkson said that the university “concluded the multi-year research we were doing at Beacon and decided to withdraw from the site.” Clarkson said BIRE will continue to provide programming to K-12 schools.

The Water Ecology Center, which hosted lectures and classes, has sustainable features such as a green roof, natural ventilation and composting toilets. It received LEED Gold certification as an adaptive project.

State parks said it has not determined what it will do with the two buildings, although it does plan to update the HVAC in the Water Ecology Center. The agency is also responsible for the repaved walkways, new

benches and informational kiosks installed last fall.

Clarkson announced its intention in May 2020 to transform the paperclip factory into the Donofrio complex. The exterior shell was completed in 2021, the same year that BIRE moved from its offices at 199 Main St. in Beacon into the Water Ecology Center. In 2022, state parks announced it would make a \$3.2 million investment in the site, although it’s not clear if any of that funding was spent.

When the project was announced in 2020, Michael Walsh, then the president of BIRE, said the former factory was in good shape. “The majority of the building is salvageable,” he said. “The concrete floor meets 100-year flood standards, and the structural seal is sound.”

What’s Online at HighlandsCurrent.org

These resources can be accessed through the pulldown menu on the top of each page, under “Reader Guide.”

Editorial Standards

This document explains our policies, including for corrections and legal issues.

Community Calendar

This is the full Monty — we only have room for the highlights in print.

Storm Updates and Resources

Storm-watcher resources and contacts for when the power goes out.

Podcast Archives

Here are links to all the episodes of our podcast, for easy listening. The three most popular downloads so far have been interviews with a barefoot Ironman competitor; Dinky Romilly of Philipstown, who discussed her civil rights work and her famous mother; and the author of a book about stone walls.

How They Voted (Congress)

Summaries of consequential and newsworthy legislation in the U.S. House and how Rep. Mike Lawler (Philipstown) and Rep. Pat Ryan (Beacon) voted. Updated weekly when Congress is in session.

Free Updates by Email

Sign up to receive daily or weekly emails with links to our latest news and calendar items.

Community Directory

This is a continually updated guide to local businesses and cultural sites, with addresses, phone numbers and web links.

Obituaries

We don’t have room to publish most obits in print, but we seek them out and post them online. You also can sign up for email alerts.

Back Issues

This is an archive of our past issues, in PDF format, from June 2012 to date, except for the latest issue, which is emailed to *Current* members on Friday morning.

Local Officials

This is a list of elected and appointed officials at the local, state and federal level and how to contact them with your praise or protests.

NOTICE

The Beacon City School District seeks quotations for the following for the 2025-2026 School Year:

- STANDBY PLUMBING SERVICES
- ELEVATOR PREVENTIVE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES
- BOILER SERVICE AND STANDBY HVAC SERVICES
- ELECTRICAL SERVICES
- AS NEEDED TREE SERVICES

Additional information can be found at: <https://www.beaconk12.org/Page/2137>

Your response by **June 10, 2025** would be greatly appreciated. Please send your reply to:

Jesse Morrill, Director of Facilities
10 Education Dr. Beacon, NY 12508

You may also submit a proposal via email to: Morrill.j@beaconk12.org

Any questions, please call: **845-838-6900 ext. 2014**

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HELP WANTED

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS — The Philipstown Food Pantry needs Friday morning drivers with

truck or van for food bank pickup; 2- to 2½-hour commitment. Gas stipend possible. Call 845-612-2040.

EVENTS

CRAFT BEER SHOW — Two amazing events produced by Hops on the Hudson of Cold Spring are happening in Cold Spring in June! June 21: Get your tickets now for our NY Craft Beer Tasting and Market (30 NY Breweries under one gigantic tent plus food trucks, live music and a market). June 22: Cold Spring Art, Wine and Spirits Show (over 50 artists, six wineries and six distilleries). Free admission. For more information go to HopsontheHudson.com.

TAG SALES

MOVING SALE — 32 Knollwood Lane, Cold Spring. Friday, June 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday,

June 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everything must go. Furniture, kitchen table, couches, tables, beds, dressers, mirrors, rugs, artwork, picnic table, outdoor furniture, kitchen items. Priced to sell.

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.

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and meadows. Minutes to Village of Fishkill, I84. 700 or above credit score. No pets, no smoking on property. Offered by JonCar Realty. \$2,200 per month; 1 month security, ½ month broker fee. Call 845-546-2614.

NOTICES

LOST ON METRO-NORTH — Silk Hermes scarf, Sunday afternoon, April 27, on northbound train (4:50 from Grand Central). Got off at Garrison. Blue, red and beige. Was my mom’s. Heartbroken! Cash reward + good karma. Thank you. Call 914-643-2710.

TAG SALE? Car for sale?
Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.

Bird Killers *(from Page 1)*

Christine Sheppard of the Glass Collisions Program at the American Bird Conservancy. Even if birds survive, Sheppard said, they may be weakened enough to become easy prey.

After hearing about our house, Sheppard said it sounded like a perfect storm for bird killing because we live in the woods near the Hudson, a migration highway. My wife's garden and our two feeders are also an attraction. "You do have a bad house," Sheppard said. "Birds don't understand glass. The windows reflect that beautiful view and they fly right through."

Last month, during migration season, we participated in a webinar offered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology on how to stop bird collisions. For the record, a bird hit our window during the webinar.

Windows kill an estimated 1 billion birds annually in the U.S., said Tina Philips, a Cornell scientist who led the webinar: 44 percent hit houses and 56 percent hit low-rise office and apartment buildings. Despite perceptions, high-rise buildings kill few birds.

Birds "are programmed over millions of years to take these migrations of thousands of miles," Philips said. "We have introduced buildings and glass into their landscape in the last 100 years or so. Evolution doesn't happen that fast."

Windows are the third-leading cause of a 25 percent drop in the U.S. bird population in the last 50 years, Philips said. The lead-



Joey Asher disposes of a bird that died after hitting the picture window, above.

Photo by Johanna Asher



This is the view with anti-bird film.

Photo by J. Asher

ing killer is habitat loss, followed by cats: 100 million outdoor cats kill 2.4 billion birds annually.

In 2019, New York City amended its building code to require glass and building materials that birds can see. State legislators have proposed similar measures such as the FLACO (Feathered Lives Also Count) Act, named after Flaco, the Eurasian eagle-owl that escaped the Central Park Zoo and died last year after crashing into a building on the Upper West Side.

To prevent bird strikes, the Cornell Lab

recommends bug screens, window stickers, special glass and curtains with cords that hang over the window.

For our picture window, we applied a film with a grid of gray dots 2 inches apart. After a day, we didn't notice the dots, but birds see them. We've had no strikes on that window since.

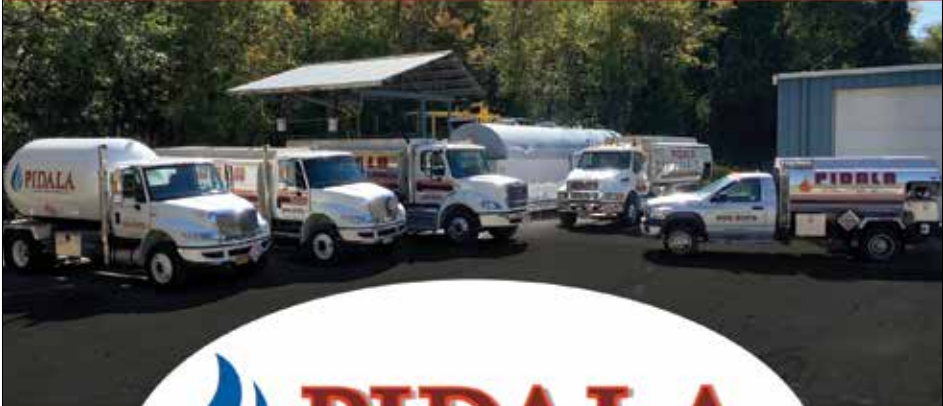
Applying the film is technical and done by experts like Jamie Dohrenwend of Hudson Valley Window Film in Wappingers Falls. He said he mostly applies coatings for security, safety, privacy, glare reduction


or UV protection. Once a month, he gets calls from bird killers.

We may be sending him more work. A bird died the other day by our front-door window. It was another yellow-billed cuckoo, a breed deemed threatened out west because of habitat loss. In the Hudson Valley, they're still plentiful, for now.

For more information on preventing bird deaths, see the guides created by the Cornell Lab ([dub.sh/prevent-bird-hits](#)) and the American Bird Conservancy ([abcbirds.org/glass-collisions](#)).

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12							13					
14							15					
16						17	18				19	
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32			33					34				
35					36					37		
		38		39		40			41			
42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51				52	53				
54							55					
56							57					

- ACROSS
1. Bog

6. Sidesteps

12. Net defender

13. Swiss metropolis

14. *The Joy Luck Club* author

15. Porter

16. Cuban money

17. Despot

19. Mormon church, for short

20. "Shoo!"

22. Hot tub

24. Egyptian cobra

27. Curved molding

29. Ethereal

32. 2002 Aerosmith single

35. Lamb alias

36. Salt formula

37. "Mayday!"

38. "Ain't — Sweet" (classic song)

40. Memorandum

42. Halloween mo.

44. Star Wars actor El-Masry

46. Bulletproof garment

50. Enter

52. Asian capital

54. Expired

55. Roast hosts

56. Off the hook

57. Indulgent nana, e.g.
- DOWN
1. Not all

2. Methods

3. Choir members

4. Ms. Farrow

5. Military headquarters

6. Taj Mahal city

7. Swerves

8. Finale

9. Captures again

10. Tube spot

11. Chumps

12. Hiatus

18. Pop rocker Gwen

21. Lettuce variety

23. Shriver of tennis

24. Mature

25. Part of RSVP

26. Immaculate

28. Accompanied

30. Classic car

31. Cen. parts

33. — -di-dah

34. Last (Abbr.)

39. Devour

41. Kick out

42. Folklore monster

43. Cajole

45. Abolitionist Lucretia

47. "En garde" weapon

48. Crystal gazer

49. Poetic contraction

51. — de plume

53. I love (Lat.)

SUDOCURRENT

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

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WORDSEARCH

THEME: Spring Flowers

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

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	A	C	O	S	A hard or soft food choice
					Sunday dinner staple
					It gives you a foot up
					Prep for competition
					Empty
					Restaurant patron

LABALECPRAM
ALAILIPA EARN
CATTIEEST DECO
ENSIGN AVA
RNSLILITH
BALES GPA DRE
OLESCIA NEAR
SIAVALREAMS
STRICT PIP
ORS EVADES
ANEWCATALLINA
NCAAXELNON
TORNNESS ASS

Answers for June 6
R F E M O R Y P Q C
L E A R V W W E P L
X R P D E D Q L P E
W E S U Z M E X S O
K B U K B B U R X P
T I W Y I L A S H A
W T S A B S I Y S T
K T N S E E S C G R
S E N A T E U F K A
Z N C E Y Q L K R P

SHORT, STORE, TEARS,
LATER, TABLE, BLADE

325981467

981746235

674523189

753169842

846257391

219834756

592478613

437615928

168392574

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Sports

Varsity Roundup

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

TRACK AND FIELD — Haldane is sending two athletes to the Class C state finals today (June 13) at Middletown after Owen Powers qualified to represent Section I in the 1,600 meters and Shayla Ochoa in the pentathlon. In the qualifiers last week at Lagrangeville, Powers finished first in Class C and second overall with a personal best of 4:25.05, while Ochoa won the Class C event at Hendrick Hudson High School with 2,174 points. Other top finishers at Lagrangeville were Merrick Williams in the 110-meter hurdles (second in 17.58); Rhys Williams in the long jump (fourth with 18-5); Silas Emig in the high jump (fourth, at 5-8); and Gavin Mahoney in the triple jump (fifth, with 36-7.25). The boys' team also finished second in the 4x400 relay (3:42.27).

SOFTBALL — Section I coaches named their all-star teams last week, including Callie Sniffen, who was named to the Diamond Nine Plus One team of seniors who were selected based on grade-point average, years of playing softball, awards and extracurricular activities. Lainey Donaghy and Sniffen received honorable mentions on the sectional all-star team and Allegra Clementson was named pitcher of the year for League 3-D.

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

TRACK AND FIELD — Beacon will send three athletes to the Class B state finals at Middletown today (June 13): Jayden Mihalchik will compete as the 20th overall seed in discus after qualifying with a throw of 139-3; Jahcier Ballard will be the 17th seed



Kat Ruffy of Beacon was named to the Section IX, Class A all-star softball team.

after qualifying in the high jump (6-4); and Noah Spiak earned the eighth seed by recording a time of 55.89 in the 400-meter hurdles.

GIRLS' GOLF — After finishing fifth in the qualifier, ninth-grader Heidi Maeng joined nine other golfers from Section IX at the state finals on June 8 and 9 at the Wild Wood Country Club in Rush, outside



Beacon ninth-grader Heidi Maeng competed on June 8 and 9 at the state golf finals. *Photos provided*

of Rochester. Maeng finished tied for 79th place among the 106 golfers. The state champion, Nina Choe of Ursuline High School, was the only golfer to shoot under par, at minus 6, with scores of 70 and 68.

SOFTBALL — The Section IX coaches last week named their all-star teams, including, in Class A, Kat Ruffy of Beacon. The senior recorded her 100th career hit in May.

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COMMUNITY DAY

Saturday,
June 21
4:00-8:00pm
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at Dockside Park