

The HIGHLANDS Current



JUNE 20, 2025

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State Legislature Approves Tax Share

Putnam will send revenue to towns, villages

By Leonard Sparks

On Monday (June 16), a day before its 2024-25 session ended, the state Legislature passed a bill to extend Putnam County's 4 percent sales tax for two years and create a revenue-sharing program with its

towns and villages. It also extended Cold Spring's authority to continue collecting a 4 percent occupancy tax and approved legislation expected to make Fishkill Creek eligible for more state grants. The Assembly passed Putnam's sales-tax extension and revenue-sharing program by a vote of 116-28, with support
(Continued on Page 7)

Has It Rained Every Weekend?

Wet weather spoils plans, but heat is on the way

By Jeff Simms

Today (June 20) is the first day of summer, but if you feel like you've been stuck inside more often than not during the last seven soggy weeks of spring, it's because you probably have.

Jesse Stacken, a weather monitor who is part of the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), has recorded rainfall at his Beacon home 31 out of 50 days since the beginning of May. He's seen measurable precipitation 14 of the last 15 weekends, dating to March 16. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 3.72 inches
(Continued on Page 9)



NO KINGS — Hundreds of demonstrators marched from Veterans Place to Polhill Park in Beacon on June 14 as part of coordinated, international protests against the policies of President Donald Trump. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org. Photo by Ross Corsair

She Loves *Jaws*

Cold Spring fan hooked for decades

By Michael Turton

The blockbuster *Jaws* was released 50 years ago today (June 20), and although Cold Spring resident Courtney Clark wasn't born until a decade later, it didn't stop her from becoming a megafan of the ocean thriller. "I've watched it at least 100 times," she says. Based on a novel by Peter Benchley and directed by Stephen Spielberg, *Jaws* is set in the fictional New England island community of Amity, where a great white appears at peak tourist season, terrorizing residents and visitors. After the predator has claimed three victims, Police Chief Martin
(Continued on Page 19)



Courtney Clark models her 50th anniversary *Jaws* T-shirt. Photo by M. Turton

Hoving Home Seeks Dam Removal

Project raises concerns about flooding

By Leonard Sparks

A proposal by the Hoving Home in Garrison to relocate a section of Philips Brook is projected to reduce flooding along Snake Hill Road but is raising concerns that it

will aggravate overflows on Avery Road and raise water levels downstream. Sondra Shah, a water resources engineer with Inter-Fluve, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Beth Greco, Hoving's president and CEO, on June 10 introduced an application for a wetlands permit to the Philipstown Conservation Board. Shah said that, using a \$1 million state

grant, the Garrison treatment program for women plans to remove a 10-foot-high dam built to create a swimming pond and shift 800 feet of the brook flowing across its property between Avery and Walter Hoving roads north. Despite multiple repairs, the dam and the stone walls constraining the brook as it heads west to Constitution Marsh have suffered extensive damage from storms, which are occurring more often, said Shah.
(Continued on Page 6)

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: GWEN LASTER

By Mackenzie Boric

Gwen Laster, who lives in Beacon, is a violinist and artist-in-residence at Bard College. In April, she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship.

How does it feel to be a Guggenheim fellow?

It feels like an affirmation for believing in what I want to do, how I want to expand as an artist and how I want to grow. That was a big thumbs-up for me — for people [on the selection committee] to read about what I’m dreaming of and affirm it.

How do you plan to use the grant?

I want to create a multidisciplinary work loosely rooted in the memoir I had to write for the application, which was called “Is My Black Still Beautiful?” I wrote about growing up as a dark-skinned girl in Detroit. There’s a lot of discrimination within the African American community based on skin shade. I’m going to include music, script/spoken word, choreography, possibly a vocalist! I was thinking of having a pod of seven or eight musicians. It will be presented in late 2026.

When you were growing up, what support system did you have for your music?

My mother loved music. She wasn’t a



Photo by Tom Moore

musician, but she was such a music lover. We would often have lots of people visiting because my mother liked to have folks over to entertain. There were a lot of great parties at my house. I started playing violin at school in the fourth and fifth grade. The instrument looked so mysterious and beautiful, the alignment of a bow pulling and pushing across the strings. The visuals of it were very attractive to me. In middle school, I had a jazz trumpet teacher who didn’t know how to teach strings, although he was upfront about it. He had just finished touring with an R&B band and took this teaching gig.

At Northwestern High School, my music teacher, Anderson White, was a violinist — he was the one to introduce me to improvisation. That spoke to me in the sense of my environment and the culture of the city. My teachers gave me difficult work to do on my violin and pushed me creatively. I was doing gigs around Detroit with my friends. I also was influenced by artists from my area like Nathan Watts [Stevie Wonder’s bass player] and Ray Parker Jr.

Now you’re teaching at Bard. What is that like?

I’m an artist-in-residence, or an adjunct. Even though I teach in the jazz department, some students don’t come with that background. Most are not music majors, which I find refreshing. I meet them where they are. We’ve been doing country, folk-rock, R&B and so on. If someone has been only educated with Western classical sensibilities, techniques and approach, when it comes time to take away the piece of paper and step away from executing what you’re reading, you can step into yourself and your imagination. When people aren’t music majors, they come with a broader artistic palette. I teach them the traditional jazz approach as a springboard to any genre of improvised music.

You have an appreciation for African American musical history. Do you use that in your work?

The music of the African diaspora inspires me and gives me ideas. That and how I grew up merges and finds its way into rhythms, melodies, tonalities, colors and textures.

MAGAZZINO
ITALIAN ART + artecinema

CINEMA IN PIAZZA

Weekend 1

Saturday, July 19, 2025
Taking Venice
by Amei Wallach, 2023, 98 min.
Pre-screening interviews
with Annina Nosei and Mario Fasani.

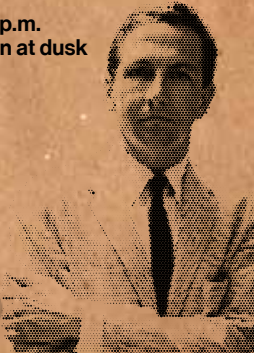

Sunday, July 20, 2025
Il Giardino dei Finzi Contini
(The Garden of the Finzi-Continis)
by Vittorio De Sica, 1970, 95 min.

Weekend 2

Saturday, August 23, 2025
L'uomo che comprò la Luna
(The Man Who Bought The Moon)
by Paolo Zucca, 2018, 102 min.

Sunday, August 24, 2025
C'è ancora domani
(There's Still Tomorrow)
by Paola Cortellesi, 2023, 118 min.

Doors open at 5 p.m.
Screenings begin at dusk



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Jaws is 50.
What did you think of it?

I saw it around age 12; it was very scary!



Yana Wagg, Philipstown

It’s one of the greatest, although it was probably considered a B movie at the time.



Michael Friedman, Beacon

It scared the crap out of me at age 8. I thought the shark was real!



Pam Maneri, Cold Spring

NEWS BRIEFS

Transportation Council Seeks Comments

Plans include Beekman Street rehab in Beacon

The Dutchess County Transportation Council is accepting comments on its draft 2026-30 Transportation Improvement Program, which details federally funded projects.

The plan, which is updated every three years, proposes spending on four highway projects, including \$3.8 million in 2029 to make pedestrian improvements and add a bike lane on Beekman Street in Beacon. A map at gis.dutchessny.gov/tip/ shows details.

Comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Monday (June 23) by email at dtcc@dutchessny.gov or online at dutchessny.gov/dtcc.

Play Airlines to Leave Stewart

Flights to end as early as Sept. 1

Play Airlines, which flies to Iceland and Europe, announced on June 9 that it will stop offering service from New York Stewart International Airport.

The airline's two largest shareholders plan to take over the company and cease all North American flights, the company said. As of Thursday (June 19), Stewart flights can only be booked at flyplay.com through Sept. 1. Play began offering direct flights to Reykjavik in 2022, with connections to Europe.

Only two other airlines offer service from



The Beacon City Council appointed Dar Sims (left) as a Fire Department lieutenant on June 16.

Photo provided

Stewart: Allegiant flies to locations in Florida and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Breeze to Florida and Charleston, South Carolina.

Man Trapped in Downstate Cell

Calls 911 from inside closed prison

A 19-year-old man from upstate New York was trapped in a cell at the former Downstate Correctional Facility outside of Beacon on June 13 before being rescued by police and firefighters.

State police said Cody Mallon, 19, of Argyle, in Washington County, entered the former prison on Red Schoolhouse Road in Fishkill by crawling through a hole in the perimeter fencing. He called 911 at midnight when he became trapped in a cell.

After troopers and Glenham firefighters

freed Mallon, he was arrested and charged with misdemeanor criminal trespassing.

State Fines Central Hudson

Utility missed customer-service targets

Central Hudson will be fined \$4.15 million for failing to meet customer-service performance targets in 2024, the state Public Service Commission said on June 12.

The utility, whose 316,000 electricity customers include 6,850 in Beacon, 3,648 in Philipstown, 1,271 in Cold Spring and 327 in Nelsonville, scored 74 percent on a customer-satisfaction survey, short of the 89 percent required to avoid penalties, according to the PSC. The rate of complaints made to the PSC about Central Hudson also exceeded the target.

Central Hudson has failed to meet customer-satisfaction targets since 2021, when it transitioned to a new information system that caused widespread billing problems. The utility did improve on its 2023 score, which was 63.5 percent.

Beacon Updates Drought Plan, Loitering Law

Also appoints fire lieutenant

Following public hearings earlier this month, the Beacon City Council on Monday (June 16) adopted changes to the city's drought emergency plan that allow the mayor to declare a drought emergency without a City Council vote.

The council also approved updating Beacon's anti-loitering law to permit marijuana use everywhere but in city-owned buildings and public parks, where smoking tobacco is already prohibited. The law had been out of alignment with state regulations after marijuana use was legalized for adults over 21 in 2021.

In addition, the council approved the appointment of Dar Sims as a lieutenant in the Fire Department. Sims has been a firefighter for 15 years and with the Beacon department since 2020. He was serving as an interim lieutenant following a retirement.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



Depot Docs: Folktales

June 20 at 7:30pm

AUDITIONS for Fall Show FOLLIES

June 27: 6-10pm

June 28: 12-5pm, 6-9pm

Sign up for audition times:
depottheatremembership@gmail.com

Or 845-424-3900

Sometimes Sundays

Play reading of
Mess by Heather Whaley

June 29 at 7pm

www.philipstowndepottheatre.org



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June 29 Kacey Morabito-Grean

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

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Always Present, Never Seen:

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 Contest Awards

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR (2021-23)

* New York Press Association, 2013 - 24

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* National Newspaper Association, 2016 - 23

NYNPA* Winner:
42 Awards for Excellence

* 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

Town Board

There is an elephant in the room. The elephant is the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. As the elephant continues to plod slowly and persistently toward our town and villages, I plan to vote in the Tuesday (June 24) Democratic primary for the Philipstown Town Board candidates willing to directly challenge its findings, assumptions and proclamations, not mistaking its lumbering persistence for goodwill. Ned Rauch and Ben Cheah have exhibited robust skepticism and a willingness to engage critically with the elephant. While I am confident that all four of these candidates could competently fulfill the basic duties of Town Board members, Ned and Ben have my vote for their elephant-watching abilities.

Ethan Timm, *Nelsonville*

In "Philipstown Primary Could be a Wash" (May 30), it's important to note that only two of the four candidates have been endorsed by the Philipstown Democratic Committee, which is one reason why this election should not be a wash.

The endorsement of only two candidates was not made clear in the article. While the emphasis is on these two candidates also running on an independent line in the general election, the fact of the Philipstown

Democratic Committee's endorsement is slipped in in such a way that the distinction is unclear.

The statement "That's because the two candidates endorsed by the Philipstown Democratic Committee, Ben Cheah and Ned Rauch..." is later followed by "The other two Democratic candidates, John Maasik and Nat Prentice," and could easily be read as though all four have been endorsed. This is an important distinction for local Democrats before they go to the polls.

Susan Peehl, *Cold Spring*

I want to clarify a key reason why you should vote for Nat Prentice and John Maasik in the Democratic primary even if you're unsure which two of the four candidates you support.

That reason is to preserve choice, the core of democracy. The primary has not been a genuine contest because of a tactic by the other two candidates, Ned Rauch and Ben Cheah.

Ned and Ben are running on independent lines as well as the Democratic. They will therefore be on the final ballot even if they lose the primary. This tactic relieves them of the burden of competing with Nat and John for votes in the primary. Ned and Ben need not show up for debates (they declined to attend one on June 18). They need not

present a case to voters.

By contrast, Nat and John are running solely as Democrats. They need your vote in the Democratic primary on Tuesday to remain on the ballot. Only a general election among all four candidates will ensure that voters gain all the information they need to make the best choices this November.

Eliza Starbuck, *Cold Spring*

Editor's note: For more commentary and reader endorsements, see highlandscurrent.org/town-board-25.

Downstate Prison

I have an idea: Reopen Downstate as a prison ("Downstate Prison Plan Shifts," June 13). It was a much-needed reception and transit prison that worked perfectly for its purpose. Intake and transit at the Green Haven Correctional Facility [in Stormville] is a nightmare because it was not built for that purpose. House well-behaved "honor" incarcerated individuals in a complex who earn a spot there, as it used to be. Trust me, you'll have no problem getting people to transfer there. Local businesses will reap the benefits and the schools will not be affected. Closing Downstate was a monumental mistake.

Nina Ledkovsky, *Salt Point*

Eleven hundred housing units? Are you kidding me? There is no way this small city with narrow roads, small schools, limited water and fewer firehouses than before can absorb 1,100 units.

Mary Kate Pendergast, *Beacon*

Clarkson

While it's unfortunate that so much expense was put into rehabbing the area around the factory, I am glad that fewer people will be going in and out of an area that had become wilderness over the last few decades ("Clarkson Leaves Dennings Point," June 13). It has returned to being a quiet haven for species like the bald eagle. Still, it would have been nice to have had an environmentally forward place like Clarkson University in Beacon, educating generations of young people. That would have been the best re-use of the old brickworks.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

The Beacon Institute of Rivers and Estuaries did a great job hosting walk-and-talks, as well as presentations at the center, before the takeover by Clarkson.

I remember an outstanding talk by a park ranger about bald eagles. It would be nice if they would bring back those programs and advertise them again.

Dave Mytych, *via Facebook*



(Continued on Page 5)

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

It's a tax write-off or something for the college: A lot of nothing has taken place, and they have presented all sorts of plans over the years.

Alan Flynn, *via Facebook*

It's an incredible place. It would be great if it were a low-key destination.

Kevin Byrne, *via Facebook*

Metro-North

Upgrading the Beacon station would be nice ("Metro-North Gets \$25M for Hudson Line," June 13). That place is a disgrace; you walk through muck.

Theo de Haas, *via Facebook*

The Cold Spring overpass is horrendous. Clean and fix it up, along with the vehicular overpass, which is dropping chunks of concrete and rusted metal.

Jeff Phillips, *via Facebook*

Pantry points

What an inspiring story ("Points for the Food Pantry," June 13). I believe more Food-town points donations will be made.

Anita Prentice, *Philipstown*

Bird strikes

Thank you to Joey Asher for fixing the problem with his "habitat" and explaining how to do so ("Reporter's Notebook: Bird Killers," June 13). Wind farms are another way countless bird strikes occur, but they are rarely mentioned.

David Baylis, *New Windsor*

The editor replies: According to the American Bird Conservancy, a group we cited in the story, the number of birds killed by wind turbines in the U.S. could reach 1.4 million annually by 2030 if the U.S. meets its goal of producing 20 percent of electrical energy with wind. That compares to the conservancy's estimates of 2.4 billion bird deaths caused annually in the U.S. by cats and 1 billion by window strikes.

Trail stewards

Shouldn't the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail foot the bill for Breakneck stewards ("Trails May Lose Stewards," June 6)? Its promenade boardwalk will feed thousands of visitors to the trailhead, so why wouldn't it pay for permanent stewards?

The HHFT website offers the new and improved trailhead steps and steward station as evidence of the Fjord Trail's progress. So, whose responsibility is it: public (state parks) or private (Scenic Hudson)?

Given Scenic Hudson and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's operating budgets, they can surely provide funding. However, panicking over \$100,000 in lost AmeriCorps funding doesn't bode well for the Fjord Trail, which will have a budget in the millions, if not tens of millions.

Michael Bowman, *via Facebook*

This is a real shame. The addition of trail stewards was one of the first initiatives to assist unprepared hikers at Breakneck. Ten

Primary Election Info

The primary for the Philipstown Town Board — open only to residents who are registered with the Putnam County Board of Elections as Democrats — will be held on Tuesday (June 24) from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The polling sites are the Garrison Volunteer Fire Department at 1616 Route 9 (which Continental Village voters should use) and the Cold Spring Methodist Church at 216 Main St. (which North Highlands voters should use).

Registered Democrats can vote early through Sunday at the Putnam County Board of Elections, 25 Old Route 6, in Carmel. See boe.putnamcountyny.gov.

The deadlines to register for the primary, change party affiliation or apply for a mail ballot have passed. Mail ballots must be postmarked by Tuesday. You can check registration status, including affiliation, at voterlookup.elections.ny.gov.

For reader endorsements and questions to the candidates, see highlandscurrent.org/town-board-25.

years ago, Hank Osborn of the Trail Conference was a key member of the steering committee that worked to find helpful ways to deal with the over-love of Breakneck.

Julia Famularo, *via Facebook*

Fundraiser BHS German Exchange Prog.



Sun. June 22 – 6 PM

SAINT RITA

The Music of Kurt Weill and Edith Piaf, performed by Kelly Ellenwood, Kathleen Bosman, Stephen Clair with Nate Allen, and Brad Hubbard
bit.ly/saint-rita-june22

Sat. June 21 – 2 PM

HAPPENSTANCE THEATER'S POCKET MOXIE

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bit.ly/pocket-moxie-hcc

Sun. June 22 – 1-3 PM

And "By Appointment and by Chance!"

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PATRICK PROSSER'S 1982 PHOTO COLLECTION
Experience the gritty city through Prosser's lens and uncover the significant transformations captured by four of today's local contemporaries
M.S. Goldfarb | W.A. Loeb | P. Johnston | T. Cenicola

June 20 - KEY OF Q

June 25 - STANZA CAMPERS - Free Monthly Series!

June 27 - Howland's Open Mic Night

June 28 - BLF & HH welcomes TEA Theatre Program

June 28 - RHYTHM RISING QUARTET

July 11 - LIT LIT

July 18 - NERD NIGHT Hudson Valley

July 20 - RACHEL SAGE

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VOTE FOR JOHN MAASIK

VOTE
JUNE
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DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

- 20 Years & Thousands of Hours Volunteering in Philipstown
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- Advocate for Health & Safety
- Collaborative & Solution-Oriented

“One of the best decisions I made as an elected official was appointing John Maasik to the Philipstown Recreation Commission. John has shown up for this community, supporting our kids, our seniors, and the spaces we all share. Now it’s time for him to serve on the Town Board.”

-Nancy Montgomery, Putnam County Legislator (D) and Member, Philipstown Democratic Committee

“John Maasik stands out for his long record of hard work and demonstrated experience. I hope Democrats in Philipstown will join me and show your support of him in the June 24th Primary Election”

**-Julia Famularo
Member, Philipstown Democratic Committee**

“John Maasik is my number one choice for Town Council. His outstanding community service, balanced temperament, work ethic, communications skills and background will serve Philipstown and the Council exceptionally well!”

-Janice Hogan, Former Chair, Philipstown Democrats

“I wholeheartedly voice my support for John Maasik in the upcoming Democratic Primary for Philipstown Town Council on June 24th.”

-Liz Corio, Member, Comprehensive Plan Committee

PLEASE VOTE JUNE 24th DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

MaasikForPhilipstown.com



The Hoving Home in Garrison would like to remove this dam in Philips Brook.

Photo by L. Sparks

Hoving Dam (from Page 1)

Water released by the dam’s failure could damage downstream properties, making the structure a risk to public safety, she said.

“There’s leakage through the dam, failure of the masonry and the reservoir is filled with invasives like knotweed and phragmites,” said Shah.

Along with the dam, some sections of the stone wall will be removed, as will one of the footbridges crossing the brook and one of its three weirs. Dirt excavated for the new channel will fill 300 feet of the brook’s existing pathway and the two remaining weirs.

Inter-Fluve has applied to the Army Corps of Engineers to release some of the sediment impounded by the dam downstream.

The new channel will be wider and shallower than the existing one. Boulders will be placed along its bed to create “step pools” — areas of deeper water whose goal is to slow the water’s flow and reduce erosion of the banks. The pools also provide “resting stops” for fish and oxygen-rich water during periods of turbulence, said Shah.

Inter-Fluve, which is also seeking a permit from the state Department of Environmental Conservation, will cover the new bank with native plants. In addition, said Shah, the reconstruction will avoid two areas of “archeological sensitivity” identified in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, which considers the property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

According to Inter-Fluve, modeling shows that the project will reduce flooding on Snake Hill Road without increasing the risk of flooding downstream of the

site. “Rivers are supposed to flood, and that’s typical, but this [existing] channel with the stone walls is highly undersized,” Shah said.

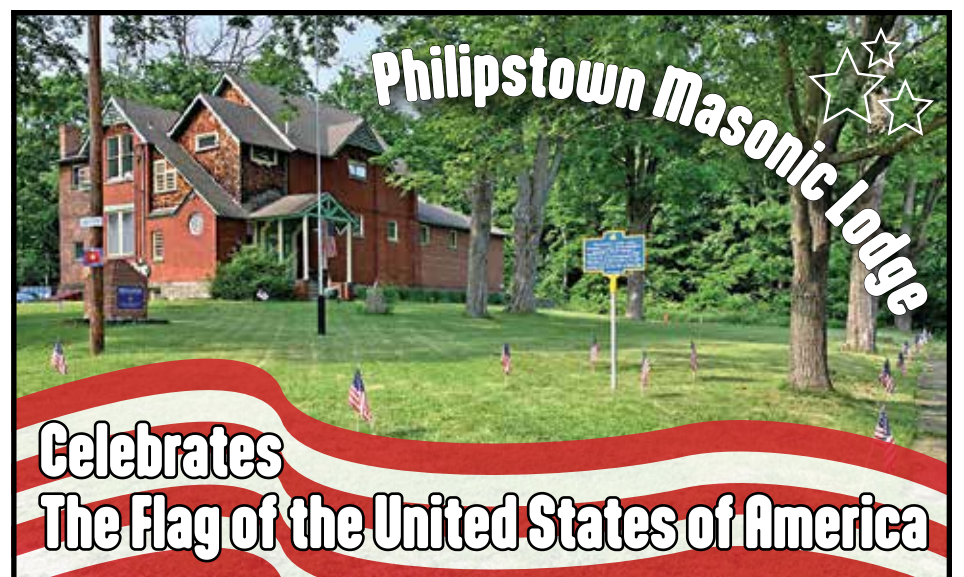
While flooding along Snake Hill Road is projected to lessen, the configuration will send “additional flow” to a culvert on the Avery side of Hoving’s property, according to project documents. It will also raise the brook’s elevation downstream by 1 inch during a 10-year storm and 2 inches during a 100-year storm, according to Shah.

To address Avery Road, Hoving has received \$200,000 to redesign a town-owned culvert and is planning to apply for another grant to underwrite its reconstruction, said Greco, adding that Hoving is “not going to flood our downstream neighbors. We won’t do the project. We’ll figure out something else, if we can’t.”

Andy Galler, who chairs the Conservation Board, requested that Inter-Luve create additional modeling to show how the reconfigured brook will affect residents living below Avery Road — “probably across Route 9D.”

Two Avery Road residents, Marianne Sullivan and her husband, James Hoch, also expressed concerns. In addition to more flooding on their street, Sullivan worried that releasing the sediment impounded by the dam would harm trout downstream. Hoch said that heavier flooding on Avery could damage the septic fields of its residents.

Hoch said that he felt “comforted” while reading the project documents before the meeting, but “now I’m a little worried, because I see this as moving water from one place to another place. It just so happens the place where it’s going is where people live.”



Sales Tax *(from Page 1)*

from Dana Levenberg, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, and Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon. A companion bill had already passed the Senate, 51-8, in May with support from Rob Rolison, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands.

Gov. Kathy Hochul still must enact the legislation, but with her signature, Putnam will be authorized to extend until Nov. 30, 2027, a 1 percent increase in its portion of the sales tax — from 3 percent to 4 percent — first approved by the state in 2007. A series of extensions have maintained the rate, but the most recent one expires on Nov. 30, at which point the county’s tax would revert to 3 percent.

With the extension, consumers in Putnam County will continue to pay an 8.375 percent sales tax, with 4 percent going to the state and 0.375 percent to the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District.

A bid to lower the rate began in April, when five county legislators voted to reduce Putnam’s tax to 3.75 percent amid a \$90 million surplus. But County Executive Kevin Byrne vetoed the reduction and announced an agreement to share revenue with Putnam’s six towns and three villages if the 4 percent rate were extended.

Four of the five legislators acquiesced on May 19, endorsing the state legislation to maintain the 4 percent rate and send one-ninth of 1 percent of the proceeds to Cold Spring, Nelsonville, Philipstown and five other towns and villages.

For years, those municipalities have demanded a share of the sales-tax revenue; according to the state Comptroller’s Office, 50 of the state’s 62 counties have such arrangements. In Dutchess County, the 2025 budget includes \$46 million in distributions, including \$6.1 million for Beacon.

Under the new agreement, Putnam’s towns and villages will receive payments based on their populations and must spend the shared revenue on infrastructure. Each will receive at least \$50,000.

Cold Spring


Rolison and Levenberg won passage of a bill that will extend for two years Cold Spring’s authority to tax room stays at hotels, Airbnbs and other lodgings. The bill passed the Senate, 47-12, on May 27, and the Assembly, 108-36, on May 29, with Jacobson also voting for its approval.

Cold Spring first won state approval to tax lodgers up to 5 percent in 2022, but the three-year authorization would have expired this year. It now expires on July 21, 2027.


In August, the Village Board approved a 4 percent occupancy tax that affects four establishments: the Cold Spring Hotel, Hudson House River Inn, Pig Hill Inn and West Point Foundry Bed & Breakfast. Mayor Kathleen Foley said the tax will eventually apply to short-term rentals, but “we’re starting with the small number of hotels and B&Bs, as defined by New York State law.”

Fishkill Creek


Fishkill Creek will be added to the state list of designated “inland waterways” if

 **Real Estate**

Market Report (May)

 **Beacon Homes**

	2024	2025
New Listings	19	18
Closed Sales	9	5
Days on Market	32	51
Median Price	\$449,900	\$720,000
% List Received	105.4	101.7
Inventory	44	39


 **Beacon Condos**

	2024	2025
New Listings	4	2
Closed Sales	0	0
Inventory	10	7

Philipstown Homes

	2024	2025
New Listings	9	17
Closed Sales	5	6
Days on Market	83	114
Median Price	\$735,000	\$762,000
% List Received	96.5	92.8
Inventory	31	38

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.



Fishkill Creek runs for 33.5 miles on its way to the Hudson River. *File photo by L. Sparks*

Hochul signs legislation passed unanimously by the Senate on June 4 and the Assembly on June 13.

Introduced by Rolison in the Senate and receiving Assembly support from Jacobson and Levenberg, the bill will make Beacon eligible for funding from the state’s Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and the Environmental Protection Fund. The programs provide money for planning, design, land acquisition and other waterfront projects for designated coastal water bodies (such as the Hudson River) and inland waterways.

Clarkson University last month received a \$75,000 state grant to produce a watershed characterization for Fishkill Creek.

Other state-designated inland waterways include Wappinger Creek in Dutchess County and Lake Carmel, Lake Mahopac and Lake Nimham in Putnam.



Local Real Estate Pros

Contact these top agents to see the latest listings or to sell your home.



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melissacarlton.houlihanlawrence.com



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The Democratic Primary is June 24



Ben Cheah and Ned Rauch for Philipstown Town Board

Cast your vote on Election Day (June 24):

If you vote in Cold Spring:

Methodist Church

216 Main St, Cold Spring, NY 10516

If you vote in Garrison:

Garrison Firehouse

1616 US-9, Garrison, NY 10524

OR

Vote Early (June 14–22):

Putnam County Board of Elections

25 Old Route 6, Carmel NY 10512



Office/Oficina	Council Member (Vote for up to two) Concejal (Vote por hasta dos)	
Democratic	<input type="radio"/> Benjamin J. Cheah	<input type="radio"/> Ned Rauch
A		

PAID FOR BY **PHILIPSTOWN** DEMOCRATS

Rain *(from Page 1)*

of rain is normal for May in Beacon. Stacken measured 10.29 inches, “so we doubled it and then some,” he said. Normal rainfall for June is 4.47 inches; Stacken’s gauge had seen 3.54 inches through Thursday, including a Wednesday downpour that dumped nearly an inch in 45 minutes.

In Philipstown, CoCoRaHS monitors Joe Hirsch and Heidi Wendel have measured 24.12 inches of precipitation from Jan. 1 through Thursday, including 8.66 inches in May and 3.23 in June. During the same year-to-date period last year, the Nelsonville residents had seen 26.78 inches, with 4.33 inches falling in May 2024 and 1 inch in June through the 19th.

The rain has flooded fields and set production back at Common Ground Farm in Wappingers Falls. In addition to losing about 200 feet of kale — a third of what had been planted — and tomatoes to flooding, Rhys Bethke, Common Ground’s farm manager, said it was difficult this spring using a tractor on wet, compacted soil.

“If you can’t get the fields prepared in time, you don’t have crops in time,” Bethke said. Fungal and bacterial infections have also been more common because they thrive in wet conditions.

Foot traffic, particularly on the weekends, has been down on Main Street in Cold Spring, said Fran Farnorotto, the owner of The Gift Hut. “There are a lot of things that are impacting sales,” she said, “weather being one of the issues.”

Ben Noll, a meteorologist who grew up in Orange County and now lives in New Zealand, tracks weather for *The Washington Post*. He noted via email this week that rainfall in the Hudson Valley has been close to average in 2025.

January through April saw below-average precipitation, but May was the “big, wet standout.” June could end up having above-average rainfall, as well, he said.

And while it’s felt cool lately, temperatures in April, May and June were slightly warmer than the long-term (1991 to 2020) average. But because the climate is changing quickly, Noll said, people have grown accustomed to above-average tempera-

tures. When conditions are more “old normal” than “new normal,” it may feel cooler than it really is.

“The polar vortex, which is responsible for keeping cold air locked up in the Arctic, has been more disturbed than normal this year, allowing strands of cold air to surge southward in the central and eastern United States with greater regularity,” Noll said, adding that the same pattern led temperatures to reach near 80 degrees in Iceland in May, a record for that country. “That pattern is finished now and we’re about to see a big, warmer and more humid change in our weather.”

Indeed, we are. Temperatures are expected to reach 98 degrees on Monday and Tuesday. Rombout Middle School in Beacon will dismiss students at 11:15 a.m. both days; the district’s four elementary schools will dismiss at 12:10 p.m. The Regents week schedule at Beacon High School, which is air-conditioned, is unchanged.

Here’s why extreme heat is coming. The jet stream is about to be pushed north of the U.S., Noll said, creating a “heat dome” effect. “This essentially lumps our weather into the same basket as Florida, Texas and the rest of the South,” he said.

Noll’s outlook for the rest of summer is hot and humid, especially at night, “because of extremely warm ocean temperatures in the western Atlantic and Gulf.” He predicts that downpours will never be far away, although “I expect there to be plenty of sultry, sunny days, too.”

SplashDown Beach announced Wednesday that instead of closing for the season after Labor Day, the Fishkill water park will open Sept. 6 and 7 to make up for conditions that, as of Thursday, had only allowed it to open three days since Memorial Day weekend.

“The team is ready, the park is ready, but it just hasn’t been in the cards,” said Steven Vittoria, the director of marketing. “We can’t get cooperation on Mother Nature’s side.”

The last time the temperature in Poughkeepsie reached 100 degrees was in July 2011, and it has happened only twice in June, dating to 1931. “Let’s see if it happens next week,” Noll said.



Wags of the Week

Every so often, we visit the Animal Rescue Foundation shelter in Beacon to meet a dog or cat available for adoption. Recently, we met Champ. He’s eight or nine years old and weighs 15 pounds. Possibly a Dachshund mix, he’s friendly and loves walks and curling up on warm laps. He would do best in an adult family.

We also visited with Oden, a fun and friendly cat about 1½ years old. He’s easy-going and goofy and likes to play. He would love to have another active young cat as a friend in his new home.

For more information, see arfbeacon.org/adopt. To watch videos and browse other Wags of the Week, visit highlandscurrent.org/tag/wag.

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Encountering God.
Healing Lives.


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Beacon Rising Choir
Sunday, June 22
10:00 AM

Questions:
beaconpresbychurch.org
845 831 5322

QUIET CHURCH
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No Expectations
Come as you are —
Stay short or stay longer
Just time to sit with God
Every Thursday 6:30-7:30 PM

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30+ Brewers | 60+ Taps

Under the Big Tent

Cold Spring, NY
1 Chestnut St.

Saturday, June 21

Two - 2 Hour Tastings under Tent
Session 1 - Noon to 2pm
Session 2 - 3 to 5pm

21 and over under the Tent
LIMITED TICKETS

enjoy, and bring home!

TICKETS/SOON
HOPSONTHEHUDSON.COM

FREE Market
11am to 6pm
Makers/Beer Market
Food Live Music
Dog Friendly
Rain or Shine



▲ **REACT REHAB** — Vocational students from the Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES rehabbed the van used by Putnam County REACT, which provides safety radio assistance at community events. Officials picked up the rig on June 13 at the BOCES Tech Center in Yorktown Heights after auto-body students stripped old wiring, removed shelves and installed an AC unit; welding students added roof supports; carpentry students installed benches; and construction electricity students ran new wiring and installed outlets and lighting.



▲ **HERO BANNER** — Cindy Trimble, coordinator of the Philipstown Hometown Heroes Military Banner Program, was joined by Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne on June 12 outside Valenti Concrete on Route 9, where a banner honoring Mario Valenti, who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, was installed. The county helped secure approval to hang the banners along the state highway.

◀ **BIG HITTERS** — Rep. Pat Ryan (left), whose district includes Beacon, competed on June 11 in the Congressional Baseball Game, which raised \$2.8 million for charity. Ryan, who wore a Hudson Valley Renegades cap and West Point jersey during the friendly contest at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., is shown with Rep. Chris Deluzio of Pennsylvania. Photos provided

Cold Spring Art, Wine and Spirits Show

Free Admission | Live Music | Food
Dog Friendly | Rain or Shine

SUNDAY, JUNE 22 11:00 - 5:00PM

Cold Spring, NY
1 Chestnut Street

Event Info at
HopsontheHudson.com

The Calendar

Wild Lines

Two compelling exhibits open at BAU Gallery

By Marc Ferris

Soon after the opening of Bob Barry's show *The Other World* at the Beacon Artist Union (BAU) gallery on June 14, a visitor with a British accent praised the artist's glazed clay mammals and asked: "How do you get that bumpy texture?"

Expressing thanks, Barry replied that the process involves what is known as "lava, or volcanic glaze," which imparts a pockmarked quality resembling the moon's surface. More accolades flowed as the evening unfolded, and pieces began selling like beer at a ball game. At one point, a line formed in front of the desk as buyers claimed around half the items in the collective's showcase gallery.

The figures are "about a world we've lost and a tribute to animals, which we disregard," Barry says. "I respect nature and appreciate it."

It's easy to identify the species of several sculptures; others are more amorphous. Barry, who studied in Japan, embraces any "happy accidents" that occur when he fires up a beast to create a particular form, yet the result resembles something else. Is that a hedgehog or a porcupine?

"They speak to me and tell me what they want to be, but keeping things open is a good thing," he says. "People process art on an individual level."

The show occupies two of BAU's galleries, with larger works up front and palm-sized creations in the cozy rear room. One visitor said that the figures convey the gravitas of a cave painting. A buyer of one small piece said that the musk ox (or water buffalo's) expression "is like, 'What are you looking at?'"

Barry creates his own glaze colors, which are mostly muted, although some shimmer. "These are not commercially available — it took a long time mixing and matching," he says.



"Enigmatic Prayer," by Nansi Lent



"Blue/Black Bull," by Bob Barry



"Deer Family," by Bob Barry

Sandwiched between the two rooms with Barry's totems to the natural world is a show of 13 abstract wall works by Nansi Lent, many of which pay homage to calligraphy and the written word with an alphabet she is developing. A couple of letters resemble a B and a G.

The show, *Said, Not Said*, reflects Lent's fascination with words and the process of writing by hand, "an antidote to the digitization of our world," where "words saturate every medium yet so often fail to convey true meaning," according to her wall statement.

The flowing lines in "Language is Melting" evoke graffiti. Her layering process, using different paints, some of which include glitter, involved working with one color at a time.

"I didn't want to stop and pick up the next day; I had to keep the flow going," she says. Someone compared it to work by Jasper Johns, the American flag guy from the 1950s, due in part to the prevalent hues of red, white and blue.

Four more digital prints hang in one of the gallery's picture windows. The psychedelic circles in "Rhapsodic Extrapolated Semiotics" are mesmerizing, and "My Heart Explodes," which evokes Toulouse-Lautrec's Belle Epoque prints, features Lent's creative lettering.

"For years I kept journals, but I didn't want to read them, and I didn't want anyone else to read them either," she says. "I just like the physicality of writing."

The BAU Gallery, at 506 Main St., is open from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday and noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment. See baugallery.org. Both exhibits continue through July 6.



Michelle Silver with some of her pieces

Photo provided

The Pain and Joy of Parenting

Distortion Society show addresses dilemma

By Marc Ferris

Michelle Silver gets physical when she paints, cranking up the tunes to sing and dance with abandon. Sometimes, she slows down to focus on details while caking oil on canvases and linen backgrounds like frosting.

Her latest solo show, *What She Builds, She Must Destroy*, at Distortion Society in Beacon (which she co-owns with her husband, Bradley), features extreme abstractions that began life as figurative iterations. Most of them are now smudged beyond recognition, but stare at the menacing maelstrom long enough and maybe an unintended face emerges ("In the Belly of the Beast"). Perhaps "A Thousand Words" becomes a beach scene as the sun glows in the top left corner.

In "Holding Pattern," based on a candid photo taken when Silver began going into labor with her second child, the facial expression reads, "Let's do this."

The work "What She Builds, She Must Destroy" depicts a naked figure lying on her back, surrounded by an inky black cloud, a pose that references the acts of creating a child and delivering a baby.

Raising two sons, now 7 and 3, forced Silver to become more productive in her Philipstown home studio because, when she sets up to paint, "I might only have two hours that I have to maximize, so there's less time to dwell and overthink things," she says.

On the flip side of parenthood for her, "it's already hard to make a living with art, and doing so while parenting young kids is very challenging."

Many of the frames at the show explore "the contradictions inherent in motherhood: the tension between creation and destruction, restriction and permission, duty and desire," she writes in the program.

"My style is strident and over-the-top on purpose," she says. The harsh strokes

swarming on the canvas or linen surfaces generate a tempest of tension and emotion. Sometimes Silver wields a brush, but her primary tool is a silicone spatcher blade.

Dominant motifs center on splashes of menacing reds softened and contrasted with splotches of lighter colors and others hardened by darker streaks. It only looks like she used a trowel to separate the overlapping layers of colors with stepped edges. From afar, the swirls in "Concentration of Energy" resemble a finger painting.

Many of the frames at the show explore "the contradictions inherent in motherhood: the tension between creation and destruction, restriction and permission, duty and desire."

The show is a manifesto trumpeting her "power and right to do what I want with my life and my art," she says. One aim is to "destroy the idea that mothers must subsume their identities and pour their entire beings into caring for their children while neglecting themselves."

Silver, 38, rebels against defined roles and narrow lanes. "We're seen as martyrs dedicating our lives to the children," she says. "But we're multifaceted human beings who make mistakes but also do wonderful things, like kissing boo-boos."

Then comes the inevitable as kids grow up. "This is the wildest journey, I love it so much, but it's the hardest thing I've ever done by far," she says. "After all of that, now I can see with my oldest that the snuggle times are dwindling, and it's sad to think, 'Oh no, that's it for him.'"

Distortion Society, at 155 Main St. in Beacon, is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. See distortionsociety.com or call 845-202-0680. *What She Builds, She Must Destroy* continues through Aug. 10.

[THE WEEK AHEAD]

PRIDE

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.

COMMUNITY

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 will 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)*

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*

SAT 21
Dance Party
BEACON
7 p.m. Masonic Hall | 33 Verplanck Ave.
Bring the kids for activities and dancing at this fundraiser for the Beacon Spring Celebration of Light. It's family friendly until 9 p.m., then 21 and older. *Cost: \$30 (ages 17 and younger free with adult)*

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*

SAT 28
PHM Lawn Party
GARRISON
4 p.m. Highlands Country Club
955 Route 9D
putnamhistorymuseum.org
This benefit for the Putnam History Museum will include prizes for the best women's and men's 18th century-style hat in the spirit of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. The Todd Londagin Quintet will perform. *Cost: \$70 to \$250*

TALKS & TOURS

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 and Editor Chip Rowe did for a series published in 2022.

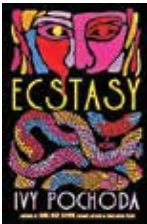


SAT 21
Hudson Valley Poets
BEACON
6 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.
baugallery.org
Catherine Arra, Tina Barry and Lissa Kiernan will read their work.

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.

TUES 24
Camp Nitgedaiget
BEACON
7 p.m. Elks Lodge | 900 Wolcott Ave.
beaconhistorical.org
Diane Lapis of the Beacon Historical Society and Steven Payne, director of the Bronx County Historical Society, will discuss Camp Nitgedaiget, a Dutchess Junction resort for Jewish progressives and Communist sympathizers, and the Coops, a related housing development in the Bronx.

FRI 27
Ecstasy
BEACON
7 p.m. Stanza Books
508 Main St.
845-440-3906
stanzabooks.com
Ivy Pochoda will read from and discuss her latest novel, a dark retelling of a Greek tragedy.



Community Day, June 21

STAGE & SCREEN

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. Register online. *Free*

SAT 21
The Importance of Being Earnest
BEACON
7 p.m. Savage Wonder
139 Main St. | savagewonder.org
Eric Tucker directs Mike Labbadia, Dylan Crow and Shonita Joshi in this "wildly staged" reading of the Oscar Wilde classic. Also SAT 28. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 21
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 MON 23, WED 25, FRI 27, SUN 29. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

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)*

SUN 22
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 THURS 26, SAT 28. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

FRI 27
Peekskill Film Festival
PEEKSKILL
6 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The festival, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary, will screen shorts, feature films, documentaries and animation. Also SAT 28. *Cost: \$17 to \$38*

FRI 27
Dance Showcase
BEACON
7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
beaconopenstudios.com
The Beacon Open Studios program will feature choreographer Skyla Schreter's series, *Love is an Action 3.0*, with live music. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 28
LitFest Drama
BEACON
6 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
This Hit House Creative and Beacon Litfest program, rescheduled from June 14, will feature a discussion led by Shane Killoran with Vieve Radha Price and Chuck Obasi, directors of Téa Artistry. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 28
A Good Ol' Fashioned Queer Comedy Show
BEACON
8 p.m. Dennings Point Distillery
10 N. Chestnut St. | dub.sh/queer-comedy
Headliner Arjun Banerjee will be joined by local performers Caroline Contillo, Jamie Mulligan and Ely Kreimendahl. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 28
Ferris Bueller's Day Off
COLD SPRING
8:30 p.m. Dockside Park
34 West St. | coldspringfilm.org
The Cold Spring Film Society opens its summer series with the 1986 comedy starring Matthew Broderick as a teen trying to get

away with skipping school.

SUN 29
Broadway in Beacon
BEACON
6:30 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
beaconopenstudios.com
The Beacon Open Studios theater program hosted by Jennifer Malenke and Will Reynolds features Broadway performers and local talent singing showtunes. Sign up at 6:30 p.m. for limited slots. *Cost: \$20*

KIDS & FAMILY

SUN 22
Messy McFarlen's Tomato Garden
COLD SPRING
10:30 a.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.



TUES 24
Color Our World
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Learn about the science of color through family-friendly experiments. Registration required.

WED 25
Summer Reading Kick-off
COLD SPRING
Noon. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Stop by for ice cream and face painting when you sign up for the program. Register online.

WED 25**Campers Book Clubs****BEACON**4:30 & 5:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | stanzabooks.com/bambini

Stanza Books hosts this monthly story time for children, with badges, treats and creative writing. Children ages 5 to 7 are welcome at 4:30 p.m. with caregivers, and ages 8 to 12 at 5:30 p.m. with caregivers or drop off. *Free*

SAT 28**Summer Reading Kick-off****GARRISON**Noon. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

The theme is "color our world"; the library will have prizes for readers of all ages.

NATURE & OUTDOORS**SUN 22****Master Gardener Guided Hike****PATTERSON**9:30 a.m. Ciaiola Conservation Area
480 Haviland Hollow Road
cceputnamcounty.org

This strenuous, 4-mile hike includes a waterfall, views and a hemlock forest, along with discussion of the area's history. Registration required. *Free*

FRI 27**All the Light and Shadow****GARRISON**3 p.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

The tour will include a talk by Alyson Baker, curator of River Valley Arts Collective, about this season's exhibit, as well as conversation with some of the participating artists. *Cost: \$50*

SUN 29**Garden Tour****BEACON**11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St. | mountgulian.org

Take a tour of the gardens and learn about the site's horticultural history and the lives of Mary Anna Verplanck, who designed it, and James F. Brown, a fugitive enslaved man who was the estate's master gardener. *Cost: \$17 (\$14 seniors, \$8 ages 6 to 18, free ages 6 and younger and members)*

**More Horse, June 29****VISUAL ART****FRI 27****Group Show****BEACON**Noon – 6 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | beaconopenstudios.com

Artists participating in Beacon Open Studios will have work on view. Also SAT 28, SUN 29.

SAT 28**Open Studios****BEACON**Noon – 6 p.m. Various
beaconopenstudios.com

See the website for a map to the studios and exhibitions at this annual event. See Page 18. Also SUN 29.

MUSIC**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. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 27**Joe Crookston****BEACON**8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The multi-instrumentalist and folk singer will play songs from his latest

**Deni Bonet & Chris Flynn, June 28**

release, *Nine Becomes One*. Antje Duvekot will open. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 28**Spring Music Festival****BEACON**Noon – 3 p.m. Industrial Arts
511 Fishkill Ave.
industrialartsbrewing.com

Adult bands from The School of Rock will perform. *Cost: \$16*

SAT 28**Music Showcase****BEACON**7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
beaconopenstudios.com

This Beacon Open Studios program includes sets by Martin Fowler, Odetta Herman with Letz and Illari. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**Camp Nitgedaiget, June 24****SAT 28****The Rhythm Rising Quartet****BEACON**8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

The Latin jazz band includes Tomas Martin Lopez (percussion), Victor Catanzaro (vibraphone), Doug Correllus (piano) and Ron Figueroa (bass). *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 29**The Hendersons****PHILIPSTOWN**3 p.m. Marbled Meat | 3091 Route 9
marbledmeatshop.com

The benefit for the Philipstown Food Pantry includes BBQ. *Cost: \$20 donation*

CIVIC**SAT 21****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. Also SUN 22. See site for hours.

TUES 24**Democratic Primary****COLD SPRING**6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Methodist Church
216 Main St. | boe.putnamcountyny.gov

Voters who usually vote at the North Highlands Fire Department should use this site.

TUES 24**Democratic Primary****PHILIPSTOWN**6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Garrison Fire Department
1616 Route 9 | boe.putnamcountyny.gov

Voters who usually vote in Continental Village should use this site.

WED 25**Village Board****COLD SPRING**7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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

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PHILIPSTOWN GRADUATES *Class of 2025*



Marc Firpo
VALEDICTORIAN



Scotia Hartford
SALUTATORIAN

HALDANE



Amelia Alayon
Anatoliy Alhov
Ivan Antonio
Domenica Awananch
Dahlia Beck
Dustin Berkley
Claire Bolte
Alexandra Cairns



Gray Cardoso
Brody Corless
Christopher Coronel
Judine Cox
Owin Cuite
Kira Drury
Edwin Dubroff
Hunter Erickson



Fallou Faye
Christian Ferreira
Louis Ferreira
Josephine Foley-Hedlund
Sienna Fredricks
Robert Freimark
Andalou Frezza
Martin Garnier



Leif Heydt-Benjamin
Frederick Hohenberger
Catherine Horton
Jake Hotaling
Helen Hutchison
Tyler Hyatt
John Illian
Zohra Kapoor



Sophie Koch
Frank Lanza
Stephanie Lazo
Rain Lee
Patrick Locitzer
Thomas Locitzer
Lorelai Luoma
Gia Massas



Elijah Mauricette
Martha McBride
Mary McBride
Micah Morales
Aleksander Noormae
Milo Pearsall
Nicole Perez
Gabriela Perilli



Oliver Petkus
Jake Powers
Gabriel Reyes
Brandt Robbins
Wilson Robohm
Charles Rowe
Laurel Sassano
Amelia Scarpino

Julian Schwarz
Brendan Shanahan
Keira Shanahan
Matthew Silhavy
Caroline Sniffen
Ashley Sousa
Dana Spiegel
Harley Sporbert

Nathaniel Stickle
Izona Tavares
Jake Thomas
Crystal Timmons
Theresa Timmons
Jayden Treloar
Shania Vasconcelos

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Clara Tripp



REGIS HIGH SCHOOL
(NYC)
Jude Morrison

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DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Robert Bohl (Engineering)
Amanda Rodino (Early Childhood Education)
Walker Thompson-Tinsley (Humanities)

SUNY ORANGE

Christina Fernandes

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Maria Barry
(Communication, Global Gender Studies)
Hayden Mayer (Sociology)
Afton Spiegel (Computer Science)
Luke Wimer (Anthropology)

VALEDICTORIAN

Marc Firpo

By Joey Asher

Marc Firpo's mother, Elisa Llorens, sensed that her son was destined for academic success when, at age 10, he asked if he could take French lessons because, he explained, "French is the language of diplomacy."

Whether he becomes a diplomat or not, Marc today speaks fluent French and Spanish. He is also Haldane's valedictorian.

"I just saw going to school as a job," says Marc. "I did my assignments, did my homework and one day they called me into the office and told me the good news."

To hear his teachers tell it, he did those assignments with creativity and curiosity.

"He truly tries to understand things," says Louis Sassano, the AP Statistics teacher. As an example, he pointed to a project that Marc completed as a sophomore in which he wrote a computer program in Python to do a statistical analysis of Minecraft, a video game with an internal marketplace.

"We basically found the best way to flip items for profit," Marc says.

In a class called Math, Money and You, Sassano was struck by Marc's approach in an annual stock market competition in which students invest an imaginary \$1 million. Most students select blue-chip companies like Nike and McDonald's. "Marc researched some great stocks and won the project," Sassano says.

Marc bought international, financial and



pharmaceutical stocks like AstraZeneca, Roche, BBVA, NVIDIA and SoFi and saw a 6.67 percent return in two weeks, or about \$67,000. "The majority of my success came from a lot of research, having a diverse portfolio and making moves at both market open and close," he says.

Marc delivered a presentation on the cultural differences toward ultra-processed foods in Europe and the U.S., says Amy Hopkin, his AP French teacher, to obtain a seal of biliteracy in French. "It was fascinating," she says.

Teachers have learned to leverage Marc as a Spanish translator. "He accompanied the mother of one of my freshmen to open house night," Hopkin says.

Even though he has lived in Spain and

both his parents speak Spanish, Marc commuted weekly to Manhattan to attend classes sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education. He obtained a C1 fluency certification. Marc has also worked as translator for his parents' travel-related business.

His Spanish helped him as Haldane's varsity soccer goalie. He has been known to shout encouragement and instructions to his Spanish-speaking teammates, especially the speedy wings when they are slow getting back on defense.

Marc is headed to Yale University in the fall to study applied math and biochemistry. He would like to work in the pharmaceutical and healthcare industry, perhaps starting in the private sector and moving to the federal government to negotiate drug prices. "I would love to help fix the medical system and revolutionize how health care is viewed and approached in the U.S.," he says.

BEACON GRADUATES

Class of 2025

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL

- Riley Adnams
Nicholas Albra
Mason Alencastro
Kendall Alston
Beckett Anderson
Matthew Apostolou Jr.
Isabella Baffuto
Kekoa Baysa
Kevin Beal
Taryn Beardsley
Jessica Belgrave
Jude Betancourt
Sally Betterbid
Angelina Bottiglieri
Dakari Bradshaw-Clarke
A'Jah Bradshaw-Washington
Daniel Bridges
Isabel Bunker
Ahmaria Bunn
Lila Burke
Carmelo Bynum
Devin Byrne
Jaidyn Caccomo
Catherine Calle-Ortiz
Shyla Camacho
Elizabeth Carbone
Liana Carpio
Christopher Carton Jr.
Malia Celestin
Christine Chen
Aiden Claudio
Parthib Das
Avery Davis
Danica del Puerto-Vitti
Ayanna Dennis
Sofia Diaz
Evelina Diebboll
Jordan Dortch
Dante Dyer
William Echevarria
- Bryan Espinoza
Chiara Fedorchak
Amadea Ferris
Amir Figueroa
Tayler Finley
Lucas Foret
Willia Freedman
Anthony Fryar
Messiah Gardner
Justin Gerardes
AvaMaria Gianna
X-Havier Gonzalez
Ja'mes Gorden
Arianna Gowie
Shane Griffin
Fallon Groza
Noelle Haase
Mackenzie Harman
Omavetaqua Harvey-Semple
Derrick Heaton
Amaya Hernandez
Bailey Hernandez
Eliana Herrera
Jayson Hibbert
Autumn Hoppe
Hunter Humeston
Lee Humphreys
Samuel Hutchison
Sarah Lynn Jaafar
Cashmier Jackson
Jalen Jackson
Jeannae' Jean-Francois
Ernesto Jenkins
Karma Jones
Londyn Jones
Mercer Jordan
Brady Juhn
Angel Jurado
Kaden Kearns
Charlie Klein



Anabelle Arginsky
VALEDICTORIAN



Addison Miller
SALUTATORIAN

- Vincent Komer
Luke Kozlik
Rory LaDue
Joseph Lamothe
Reilly Landisi
Azari Lane
Rowan Lane
Amira Lawrence
Lani Lopez
Ela Lyons
Ethan Maignan
Ariana Maldonado
Josephine Mallon
Mark McCabe
Paige McCredo
Allen McKay
Jada Medley
Emma Merola
Ryann Meyer
Madison Mianti
Annalea Miller
Elijah Mitchell
Izaiah Mitchell
Genan Mohammed Murtada
Darryl Montgomery Jr.

- Ronan Moran
Evelynn-Jane Moreno
Rory Mowen
Connor Murphy
Megan Nicholson
Amelia Padilla
Jada Patterson
Lindsay Pedersen
Geordan Penn
Brianna Perez-Sample
Mackenzie Phillips
Cassidy Pierce-Castanon
Josue Pintado
Anjani Powell
Albion Qelaj
Alexander Quinci
Matthew Reeves
Michael Reeves
Codie Reinoehl
Jacob Reynolds
Shilo Reynolds
Nathan Richardson
Pedro Rivera III
Christine Robinson
Jalaysia Robinson

- Daveya Rodriguez
Santiago Romero
Bethany Rudolph
Breanna Rudolph
Katherine Ruffy
Fia Rumnit
Mehr Sagri
Gabriel Salcedo
Nixon Salinas Jr.
Alana Santana
Alexi Santana
Anastasia Santise
Samiratu Sayibu
Jenna Marie Serino
Sabina Shafi
Kayli Shand
Chloe Sheffield
Jacob Signorelli
Makhi Smith
Ryan Smith
Serenity Smith
Jean Paul Solano
Craig Solcz
Emma Soltish
Azryella Soto

- Jayla Soto
Kristine Soto
Travis Spencer
Jax Spodek
Serena Stampleman
Natalia Sulsona
Mika-Gisselle Tates
Rayana Taylor
Jessica Testa
Amya Thompson
Brody Timm
Siarra Tobar
Sortia Tripaldi
Sharod Tuggle
Siddiq Umrao
Jake Urban
Michael VanBuren
Sierra VanDemark
Morgan Varricchio
Daniel Vasquez
Cirsten Vaughan
Roque Vianna
Brayden Vlasaty
Xavier Wade
Tatyana Walker
Rayan Nestor Wandji
Nzwessa
Stan Constant Wandji
Nzwessa
Christopher Weise
Sevana West
Jazziah Whitted
Holly Whittemore
Jaden Williams
Joseph Williams
Malcolm Wilson
Saniyah Wiltshire
Saoirse Woods
Eric Yanqui
Charles Zellinger
Ava Zeoli
Francis Zezza

COLLEGE GRADUATES

DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- ▷ ADOLESCENT EDUCATION
Liam Murphy, Alexis Rosa
- ▷ ART
Faith Delgado, Lauren Hernandez, Jake Titka
- ▷ AVIATION SCIENCE
Andrew Kronk
- ▷ BUSINESS
Kim Cook, Veronica Klein, Jeremiah Long, Anjali Persaud, Brandon Torres
- ▷ COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA ARTS
Bridget Bell
- ▷ EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Campbell Kitzrow

- ▷ GENERAL STUDIES
Dylan Derasmo, Calvin Serpico, Rebeca Soto, Nick Thivierge
- ▷ HUMAN SERVICES
Alenah Christopher, Haleigh Zukowski
- ▷ HUMANITIES
Alexander King, Michael Serino, Rachel VanBuren, Isabella Wiand
- ▷ NURSING
Kristopher Barnes, Christine Burgos, Hayden Joyce, Aryan McNett
- ▷ SCIENCE
Wesley Brooks

EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY (PA)
Samantha Engel (MS Athletic Training)

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND
Chase Green (Data Science/Statistics)

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Shane Green (Computer Engineering)

SUNY ONEONTA
Madalyn Miller (Music Industry)

SUNY ORANGE
Jada Williams

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO
Ryan Rabenda (Mechanical Engineering)

UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA
Gabrielle Bonnes (Allied Health)

WALTER PANAS VALEDICTORIAN

Tova Jean-Louis

By Joey Asher

When his daughter, Tova, was in the eighth grade, Josh Jean-Louis told her: “I think you can be valedictorian if you want.”

“She ran with it,” he says.

Earlier this year, Tova, who lives with her family in Continental Village, was named valedictorian of

Walter Panas High School in Cortlandt. “I knew that it was possible,” she says. “It was a matter of actually putting in the work.”

Her father says Tova was always bright. By age 4, she was carefully spelling her name when introduced; by age 7, she had asked her dad for a subscription to *National Geographic* and made corrections if her babysitter misidentified dinosaurs.

“She still loves dinosaurs,” her dad says, noting that she wrote about them for her college admissions essay.

When Tova was younger, she preferred writing to science. Her friend, Jax Mirchandani, says they often wrote short stories together, typically science fiction, horror and fantasy. But in eighth grade, Tova was inspired by her Algebra I teacher, Asad Sankofa. He notes that, during the pandemic, most students attended class via teleconference. But Tova came in person wearing a mask and was often the only student in the classroom.

“Having her as my student was an honor and a privilege,” he says. Sankofa remembered assigning students to calculate the



rate of decay of bacteria. Tova derived the correct answer using “the inverse of the exponential function,” something not taught until Algebra II.

Amazed, Sankofa asked if her dad had helped. “No, I looked it up online,” Tova replied.

Her academic career had a few rocky moments. There

was a 70 on a pre-calculus quiz. “I had to draw a graph and completely messed it up,” she recalls. “I was horrified. I realized as soon as I handed it in that I had done it wrong. But I couldn’t take it back.” During her junior year, she was stretched thin taking four concurrent Advanced Placement (AP) classes. “That was insanely more” than the previous year, she said.

As the accolades and awards piled up, her dad saw her competitive streak come forward, with fist pumps each time she walked from the stage with an academic prize.

Tova loves music and sings in the school’s chamber choir. She is also a member of the school’s Equity Club and the Gender-Sexuality Alliance/Gay-Straight Alliance. Her father said that when she was in fourth grade, she walked a friend who was being bullied to the principal’s office to report what was going on.

Tova will attend Princeton University in the fall to study environmental engineering. She says she hopes to help “strengthen infrastructure and promote sustainability, and maybe eventually run for public office.”

BEACON VALEDICTORIAN

Anabelle Arginsky

By Joey Asher

When Theresa Lucarini spotted an incorrect answer on one of Anabelle Arginsky’s tests, she didn’t automatically take out her red pen. As had happened in the past, the Beacon High School calculus teacher suspected Anabelle was right and her answer key was wrong.

“She always wants to dig deeper, always pondering, always asking questions, always looking for the next, second or third or fourth step,” says Lucarini, known to students as “Ms. Luc,” of Beacon’s 2025 valedictorian.

“I’ve always been the type of person who doesn’t understand something unless I understand the why,” says Anabelle, who has been at the top of her class since middle school.

Anabelle says that becoming valedictorian was “something that I’ve worked toward naturally,” a byproduct of her curiosity and love of learning. That curiosity helped in many ways, including overcoming discomfort with dissecting a cat, says Laura Thomas, who teaches biology. “She realized that she could gain a lot of first-



hand information regarding body systems.”

Anabelle loves theater, participating in many school productions, including *Phantom of the Opera* and, most recently, *Guys and Dolls*, in which she played Arvide Anthony, traditionally presented as the grandfather of Sarah Brown, the main character. Anabelle

instead portrayed Arvide as Sarah’s sister and sang “More I Cannot Wish You,” hoping her younger sibling finds true love.

Anabelle’s father, Michael Arginsky, says that as a family, they would watch shows like *Singin’ in the Rain*, prompting his daughter’s love of costumes and dancing, including ballet, which she did for many years. She would stage shows and skits with her friends and sister, says her mother, Deana Morenoff, adding: “She values what the strength of the ensemble does for the whole.”

Beginning in the fall, Anabelle will study food science (and participate in theater) at Binghamton University. “I’ve always loved food and cooking,” she says, noting that she works part-time at Barb’s Butchery in Beacon.

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JAIDYN!

Abuelo and Abuela are so proud of you. Keep up the good work @SUNY Brockport.

We love you, xoxo



CONGRATULATIONS
CHARLES!

We are proud of your hard work, sense of humor and creativity! We wish you all the best at college and beyond.

~ Love always, Mom and Dad

Congratulations to the last Rowe leaving Haldane! We wish you the best.

~Much love, Mimi and Granddaddy



EARLY LOOK:

BEACON
OPEN
STUDIOS

Popular showcase on tap for next weekend

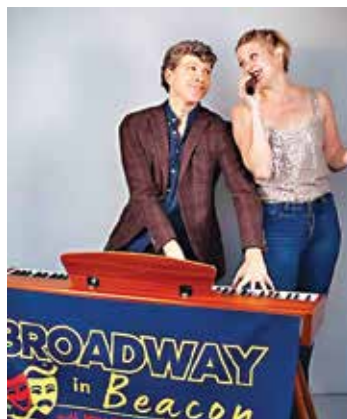
By Marc Ferris

Last year, Darya Golubina, the savior of Beacon Open Studios, expressed interest in showcasing a theater component to complement the citywide event, which runs June 27 to 29. She got her wish.

After their initial home at La Reserva Wine Bar shuttered, Jennifer Malenke and Will Reynolds brought their Broadway in Beacon open mic shows to The Yard and will host a performance there on June 29.

The Hanna Lane venue serves as the hub for open studios and will host a weekend-long group show of visual artists, the Beacon-based Skyla Schreter Dance Company on Friday and three musical acts on Saturday.

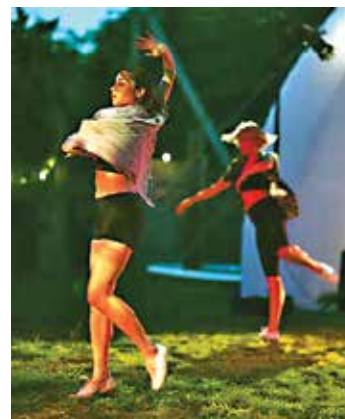
Beyond the shift in dates from July to June, new this year are showings in the



Broadway in Beacon



Odetta Hartman



Skyla Schreter Dance



Peter Davey

KuBe Art Center, including an interactive installation by video artist Rooster at Clutter Gallery. The lot at 14 North Cedar St. will become a sculpture garden, and a group show at Hudson Beach Glass opens for a month-long run on July 12 (it ran during and after last year's weekend).

A former dancer for the San Francisco Ballet and co-owner of LotusWorks Wellness on Main Street, Schreter (and members of her company) will present an improvisational work at open studios for the second time. The piece, *Love is An Action 3.0*, is a "raw, real-time collaboration" with Jeremy Wilms, who will be playing synthesizers and string instruments backed by drummer Mike Pride.

Though Golubina is assisted by Chris Ams, John Menzie, Evan Samuelson and Julia Zivic, she ticks off a dizzying array of recurrent tasks

that whittle down to creating labels for every work on display at dozens of spots around town, including The Yard, shops along Main Street, the Howland Public Library, an old church and a woodworking studio.

"I keep doing this because there's nothing else like it here," says Golubina, who hired a designer for the pink posters plastered around town. "Everyone shows their work together, united. It's super rewarding, but it does take a personal toll."

The event builds community. "I love seeing partnerships grow," she says. "Shop owners often welcome an artist back to show their work outside of open studios. That's one of my favorite parts of the process."

Ams helped recruit an offbeat venue this year at Hudson Valley Guitar Fix, owned by Eric Alfredo, who turned a rotting garage

on Rombout Street into a spiffy 198-square-foot shop. A visual artist since he began to draw at age 3, Alfredo will show some of his cyanotypes, along with works by Ams, Bam Bowen and Eliot Debryun.

The place smells like wood, naturally. Guitars in various states of repair lie on benches like patients at a hospital. For one weekend, the Clash, Joy Division and Echo & the Bunnymen posters are coming down.

"I always hear from people that this place reminds them of their basement, bedroom in high school or dorm room in college," says Alfredo. "It'll be nice to bring some beauty into the world and meet some people who don't play guitar."

To purchase tickets and download a map, see beaconopenstudios.com.

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Jaws (from Page 1)

Brody (Roy Scheider), marine biologist Matt Hooper (Richard Dreyfuss) and shark hunter Capt. Quint (Robert Shaw) head out in the fishing boat Orca to confront the menace. The hunt does not go well.

Clark first watched *Jaws* when she was 10, in Pleasantville, when her family rented the video. "My mom finally decided I was old enough," she recalls. "I was scared, but I didn't appreciate all the nuances I've come to love about the film."

Within a year, Clark saw it again, in a friend's darker, scarier basement. By her mid-teens, she was hooked, watching it about three times a year. That habit continues four decades later. "I watch it as much as my husband Dan will tolerate," she says with a laugh.

Clark says her favorite line in the 124-minute film is when Quint, aboard Orca, offers a toast to Hooper and Brody: "Here's to swimming with bow-legged women."

She can recite much of the movie's dialogue from memory, except for Quint's "Indianapolis" speech. In the monologue, one of the movie's most gripping scenes, Quint recounts in grizzly detail the story of the USS Indianapolis, which was torpedoed by the Japanese near the Philippines in July 1945 during World War II and sank in 12 minutes. Only 316 of 890 sailors survived in the shark-infested waters.

Clark feels the movie, which cost \$9 million (about \$54 million today) to make and grossed \$478 million worldwide (\$2.9 billion), stands the test of time, even after half a century. "It's always as exciting as the first time I watched it," she says. "Even though I know every scene and what's coming, it's still shocking. I still find details I hadn't noticed before."

"I love its style, the '70s, the outfits; it's a little slice of life of that time," she says. "It's so perfectly made; every shot is like a work of art."

Her favorite scene is when the shark attacks young Alex Kintner in a rubber raft



Courtney Clark shows off some of her *Jaws* memorabilia.

Photo by M. Turton

near the beach. "The camera pans, you see people walking by, and it keeps going back and forth between Brody's face and the water. The feel of that scene is amazing."

Her scariest scene: When they find fisherman Ben Gardner's boat, badly damaged by the shark. Hooper goes into the water, and Gardner's head pops out from a hole in the side of the boat.

Her favorite character: "Brody, Quint and Hooper are all incredible, but I relate most to Hooper; I appreciate that he's a marine biologist."

Events behind the scenes also captured Clark's imagination. "The making of *Jaws* is as iconic as the film," she said, adding that *The Jaws Log*, by Carl Gottlieb, the film's screenwriter, details what went on during filming, most of which was on Martha's Vineyard. Clark finds it especially amusing that producers toyed with trying to train a shark to play the central character, rather than building a mechanical double.

Gottlieb's book describes how residents coped with a movie crew disrupting life on the island and how the filmmakers dealt with a fake shark that rarely functioned as planned.

Ironically, those difficulties may have contributed to the movie's success. There were so many problems with the shark, nicknamed "Bruce" after Spielberg's lawyer, that it appears on screen for only four minutes. "The fact that they had such limited footage makes it much more suspenseful when you actually see the shark," Clark says. Unlike many critics and fans, she enjoyed

all three sequels: *Jaws 2*, *Jaws 3* and *Jaws: The Revenge*, with Michael Caine, "although they don't hold a candle to the original," she says. "They're like B-grade horror movies."

Clark also has a collection of *Jaws* memorabilia, including an early drawing of the shark signed by production designer Joe Alves; a painting, "Drinking Buddies," that shows Quint aboard Orca pouring a beer into the shark's mouth; unworn special-edition Hooper denim sneakers, complete with a shark bite mark on the side; a 1,500-piece Lego set featuring the shark and the Orca; the 25th-anniversary VHS edition of the film and the *Making of Jaws* documentary; a 50th-anniversary T-shirt; and a movie poster acquired on Wednesday (June 18).

She says that on Friday (today), she may do "a full-day marathon, watching it as many times as I can. Then I'll follow it up with the sequels."

Asked if she is nervous swimming in the ocean, Clark says: "I think about *Jaws* every time — including just a week ago — especially knowing there are great white sharks where I swim."

Jaws memories?

Share them at highlandscurrent.org/jaws.



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LOOKING BACK

IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

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

150 Years Ago (June 1875)

A Matteawan judge fined three drunken young men from Newburgh \$25 [about \$730 today] for throwing coal at pedestrians.

According to the Matteawan correspondent for *The Cold Spring Recorder*: "This village is a very peculiar place and most miserably governed. Our people support over 60 gin mills — most of which are running full blast on the Sabbath."

A Fishkill Landing resident was selling his trotting stallion, Nicotine.

The body of a female newborn was found in the back of the ladies' waiting room at the Fishkill Landing train depot.

John Falconer, of the Seamless Clothing Co. in Matteawan, was building a second factory to make Brussels-style patterned carpets.

Commodore Thomas Ramsdell installed a buoy between Low Point and the Fishkill Landing dock to mark a sandbar where vessels often went aground.

Three Matteawan boys were brought

before Justice Schenck for playing ball in the street. One was fined \$1 [\$30] and the others were dismissed.

A Fishkill Landing trustee obtained arrest warrants for three men accused of racing their horses on Sunday, in violation of village ordinance.

A bull and three cows died on a farm near Fishkill from an unknown disease. Before dying, the animals threw back their heads and walked in circles for 12 to 14 hours.

George Peattie, while drunk, came into Drewn's barbershop in Fishkill Landing and attacked James Gogswell as he sat in the chair.

Zebulon Phillips, 80, a farmer near Fishkill, was killed when he fell off his roof, which he was repairing.

Smith Van Buren, a Fishkill Landing resident who was the son of former President Martin Van Buren, was confined to the Hudson River Hospital for the Insane in Poughkeepsie with dementia. [Van Buren died the following year, at age 59, and is buried at St. Luke's Church.]

125 Years Ago (June 1900)

James W.F. Ruttenber, editor of the *Newburgh Sunday Telegram*, was found guilty of publishing an obscene newspaper based on gossip printed in his Feb. 4 issue. The jury deliberated for less than 10 minutes. Ruttenber had been indicted in Dutchess County because the *Telegram* was distributed in Fishkill Landing and Matteawan. The judge sentenced the editor to 15 days in jail and a \$15 fine [\$575].

The offending paragraphs, by an unnamed Fishkill and Matteawan correspondent, included a report that "a Land-ing girl sent word to a young man in town that he could see her disrobe for 10 cents. Of course, the young man was unnerved by so sudden and cheap an offer. Still, there is no telling what she will do next if he doesn't accept her proposition. Take her up, George, before she changes her mind." He also wrote: "Poker as it is played on Cedar Street does not always require a pocket full of money. I am told that the females in the house are sometimes put up as an equivalent."



Clarence Chatham Cook (above) died at his home at Fishkill Landing at age 72. The Harvard graduate gained fame in 1863 with critical articles on American art in the *New York Tribune*. "He treated most of the work of American artists with merciless sarcasm and injured his influence by his extreme verdicts," according to one obituary. Cook later caused a stir when he suggested that many of the statues from Cyprus in the newly opened Metropolitan Museum of Art were fakes. He created an art periodical, *The Studio*, and in 1878 published a book, *The House Beautiful: Essays on Beds and Tables, Stools and Candlesticks*.

Julian Ralph, who had worked as a station agent at Dutchess Junction and as a reporter for the *Fishkill Standard*, was the chief correspondent for the London *Daily Mail* covering the Boer War in South Africa. He had written four books, including *On Canada's Frontier* and *Alone in China*.

Two brickyards at Dutchess Junction employed about 100 Black men who migrated each year from Virginia and North Carolina. They ate in squads of 25, with one man appointed to cook in a camp kettle. Many brought their fiddles and banjos from the South.

The residents of Fishkill Landing voted to install sewers.

James Greene, of Fishkill Landing, was admitted to West Point as an alternate after a candidate from Kingston failed the entrance exam. He was the son of Maj. Henry A. Greene, who was born in Matteawan in 1856 and graduated from West Point in 1879.

A new play, *Traitor to the Flag*, was presented at the Academy of Music at Fishkill Landing, with electric fans promised for the audience.

C. Smith Lee, a handyman at Timoney's brickyard in Dutchess Junction, and a widower with six children, was married at Fishkill Landing to Maggie Matthews of Cornwall. They met after Lee advertised for five weeks in a local newspaper for a wife, and Matthews and about 900 other women responded (including 80 who sent photos). Margaret arrived to meet Lee dressed in white. After greeting each other, they asked the Rev. McPherson of the Methodist Episcopal Church to marry them.

Weldon Weston, a former mayor of Matteawan, organized a group of investors from his native New Hampshire to purchase 200 acres on Mount Beacon from the Schenck family to build a hotel 1,000 feet above the river.

100 Years Ago (June 1925)

Frederick Goodfriend, 12, died at his home. It was reported he had been poisoned by impurities in the water while swimming.

Nicholas Anthony, 80, who lived at the Veteran Firemen's Home, died after falling down a flight of stairs.

Police searched for Josh Williams after he cut off a woman's ear with a razor at the Brockway brickyard when she refused his advances.

Ten brickyards at Dutchess Junction and Brockway closed when 1,000 workers went on strike for 10 days. The men, who were earning \$3.75 to \$4.25 [\$70 to \$78] a day, wanted more money, but one owner said the price of bricks was so low it was impossible to pay more. The strike was settled when owners agreed to pay per brick and raise wages if prices rose.

Eight men riding in two cars held up an auto truck with pistols on the state road near Beacon. They claimed to be revenue agents in search of illegal alcohol.

There was no opposition at a state hearing to a plan by Central Hudson to buy three Beacon public utilities — Citizens Railroad Light and Power, Southern Dutchess Gas and Electric and Fishkill Electric — for \$398,500 [\$7.3 million].

A 47-year-old Ralph Street woman died of heart failure brought on, doctors said, by shock she suffered during a lightning storm two weeks earlier.

A group of boys who went for a swim in Fishkill Creek near the Green Fuel Co. discovered the body of a newborn in the bushes.

Two men were arrested and charged with kidnapping a 14-year-old domestic helper. She was found bound and gagged in bushes near Albany Post Road.

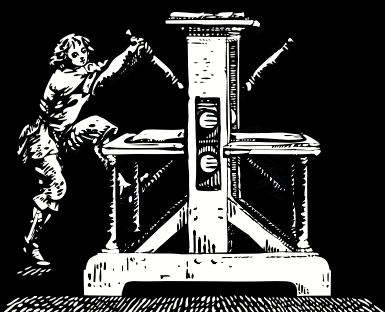
A 53-year-old Ferry Street woman died after her clothing caught fire from a bonfire she built in her yard. She was blind in one eye, and neighbors suggested she had not seen the sparks land on her dress.

Beacon police feared a man had drowned in the river after two women found a pair of overalls and underclothing in a neat pile at the end of Long Dock. Neighbors said they had heard a splash shortly after midnight.

Henrietta Gillespie, a Black resident of Brockway, was sentenced to six months in St. Ann's Home in Albany after being found guilty of intoxication, profanity and disorder.

(Continued on Page 21)

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(Continued from Page 20)

derly conduct.

An oak tree that measured 5 feet in diameter and stood for more than a century beside the entrance to Mount Gulian was marked for removal because of the construction of the new state road.

Arthur Way, 40, of Chelsea, suffered only a dislocated shoulder after being struck by a train and tossed 35 feet by its cowcatcher.

75 Years Ago (June 1950)

Richard Monroe of St. John's School won an essay contest sponsored by the Dutchess-Putnam Division of the Archdiocesan Holy Name Union. He was invited to read his entry, "Serving God in Religion is Life's Greatest Adventure," on the Catholic Hour Program on WKIP and WHVA.

Burglars stole \$500 [\$6,700] from a safe inside a restaurant on Beekman Street operated by Clarence Horton. Two Beacon men were arrested.

A jury dismissed a lawsuit filed by Benjamin Kissam of Newburgh, who claimed that three Beacon police officers had beaten him following his arrest in 1946 for disorderly conduct. He sued in 1948 for \$25,000 [\$330,000] and a jury awarded him \$6,000 [\$80,000]. But an appeals court ordered a new trial.

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* profiled George Reiche, a 1935 Beacon High School graduate who was the "crier" for the Dutchess County Court who announced, "All arise..." and "Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye"

when court began each day.

A lab assistant was seriously injured when a "reaction bomb" exploded in the Synthetic Fuels Research department at the Beacon laboratories of the Texas Co. The device was a pressure vessel in which chemicals were mixed.

A 15-year-old boy who lived on Rombout Avenue was struck by a train when he tried to get his dog off the tracks. The pet did not survive, and the boy was admitted to Highland Hospital with leg abrasions.

50 Years Ago (June 1975)

Daniel O'Keefe, 22, who represented the Town of Poughkeepsie on the county Legislature, proposed spending \$350,000 [\$2 million] to create a youth conservation corps. He warned that teen unemployment would likely lead to unrest over the summer in Beacon and Poughkeepsie.

A state police investigator working undercover testified that he purchased \$80 [\$480] for 12 packets of heroin on Christmas Eve from a suspect at a gas station at Main Street and Fishkill Avenue. An informant set up the transaction.

The city said it would crack down on 20 delinquent water-district users who lived just outside Beacon. The city was stymied because, while it could put liens on the property of city residents, its only recourse otherwise was to shut off the water.

The chair of the Dutchess Legislature said he would introduce a resolution to

study opening a satellite social services office in Beacon, noting that 20 percent of the county's welfare recipients lived there.

The federal government charged Tuck Industries, a manufacturer of adhesive tapes, with 24 violations of federal pollution laws. The indictment was the result of an investigation by the Environmental Protection Agency using information supplied by People's Pipewatch, a citizens' group founded in 1974 by John Harris-Cronin and Riverkeeper Thomas Whyatt. The group took 150 samples from 57 pipes emptying from the plant into Fishkill Creek, including 15 that had not been registered with the EPA.

Mount Gulian was dedicated on June 14 as a historic site. The home, built in 1740, had been destroyed by fire in 1931 but rebuilt on its foundation.

About 50 white and Black students brawled in the Grand Union parking lot on Main Street at 11:30 p.m. on a Monday. There were no arrests, but police said some students were burned by potassium chloride. It was the first major confrontation since November, when a fight touched off a week of racial unrest.

25 Years Ago (June 2000)

Gov. George Pataki visited Beacon to break ground for the \$50 million Dia Beacon at a former factory on Beekman Street that had been empty since 1991. He was joined by Leonard Riggio, chair of the Dia Center for the Arts.

A team of South Avenue Elementary

students placed 45th of 2,491 teams nationally in News Bowl 2000, a current-events competition.

Matt Sheers was named to the first team of the boys' high school tennis all-stars by the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, and Dave Ryley was named coach of the year.

WSPK-FM, based in Beacon, hosted K104 Fest V at Dutchess Stadium with performances by Michael Fredo, Anastacia, Westlife, Eiffel 65, Sonique and Olive, Shannon, and Mr. Big.

La'Shawn Martinez, a senior at Beacon High School, qualified for the state 100-meter dash semifinals near Syracuse on a Friday, drove home to attend prom, then returned to Syracuse the next morning to race again. She finished 13th overall in 12.67 seconds.

Police arrested a young couple and a 17-year-old following a raid on a home on Sycamore Drive where officers said they seized 11 ounces of cocaine with a street value of about \$30,000 [\$56,000], a loaded 9mm handgun, cash and drug paraphernalia. A 7-year-old child in the home was released to relatives.

In partnership with the Beacon Soccer Club, Tami and Scott Pryor founded Challenge 2000, a two-week camp for disabled players, such as their 7-year-old son, T.J.

City police were looking for nearly \$15,000 that a Town of Wappinger man claimed he lost at the Metro-North station. He said he was loading a Jet Ski onto a vehicle at 7 p.m. on a Wednesday when he dropped the money.

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Wally Schaefer Jr.
(1961-2025)

Waldemar “Wally” Schaefer, Jr., of Garrison, NY, entered into rest on Friday, June 13, 2025, at the age of 64. In his final year, he met the challenge of illness with quiet bravery, choosing to live each day with optimism and a steady devotion to the activities and people he loved.

The son of Waldemar Schaefer, Sr. and the late Barbara (Stewart) Schaefer, he was born on March 16, 1961, in Middletown, NY. He is survived by his father Waldemar, Sr., son Alex, daughter Carolyn, partner Rajika Bhandari, brothers Glenn (Dawn), Rob, and Steve (Ellecia), sister Erica (Rocky) Plateroti, ex-wife and mother of his children Linda, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Wally was a lifelong music enthusiast. He played guitar in a local band, GG & the Shades, and enjoyed the friendships he built with the other members as much as the music itself. He also played, composed, and recorded pieces at home, attended local concerts, and simply loved to listen. His love of music was something he joyfully shared with his children.

Wally also passed on his passion for soccer, coaching his children’s teams for many years when they were younger. He enjoyed gardening, cooking, cross-country skiing, and hiking, and was talented at woodworking and nature photography. With a deep appreciation for the outdoors, especially in the Hudson Valley, where he was a longtime resident, he was passionate about protecting the environment and preserving the planet’s beauty and wildlife.

He will be remembered for his reserved strength, thoughtful generosity, and subtle yet clever sense of humor. His home radiated peace and reflected the care and creativity he brought to everything he did. He was a loving father, partner, friend, family member, and neighbor whose presence brought a sense of calm, color, and meaning to those around him. His influence will live on in the many lives he touched.

Plans for a private Celebration of Wally’s Life will be announced to friends and family at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Wally’s memory can be made to the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary (audubon.org/constitution-marsh).

PAID NOTICE



Virginia Pfundstein
(1924-2025)

Virginia Grace Pfundstein, 100 years young, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on May 23, 2025.

Virginia is survived by her seven loving children and spouses: Rev. Edward Pfundstein, Annette Andersen (Paul), Marian Bottinelli (Roberto), Mark Pfundstein (Diane), Ariana Morningsong (Gary Hall), Ellen Glanowski (Ray) and Terry Sochacki (Ed), 12 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Virginia (“Ginny”) Dondero was born in 1924 in Beacon, New York, a quaint town along the Hudson River. She had a full childhood, despite losing her father at an early age, from World War I casualties. Her parents, Charles and Grace Dondero, owned the Dondero Block building at 174-176 Main St. in Beacon, New York.

In high school she worked in a “Rosie the Riveter”-type role, gluing pockets in rafts. Inspired by her mother, who was a teacher, she continued her education and graduated from Cornell University in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science. Before she was married, she had several jobs as a home economist, enabling her success and independence.

While at Cornell attending a Newman Club dance, she met Gerard Pfundstein, her future husband. They remained in contact, continuing to date over the next few years, and eventually married in 1949. They were married for 65 years.

Virginia’s heartbeat was to be a fulltime mom when her children were young. As the youngest became school age she took the opportunity to fulfill her other passion of working. Her love of using what she learned and being with people found its place teaching preschool, working many years in hospital dietetics in New York and Florida. She also was the caregiver for her mother until her death. After moving to Florida, she and Gerard were involved in St. Margaret Mary Church as Eucharistic ministers for 25 years.

They both enjoyed traveling, family time and reunions, being outdoors, biking, cooking and baking, reading, and adult education. She maintained close friendships with several women for up to 80 years, writing letters in a “round-robin” style, which gave her strength throughout life’s challenges. Virginia was a real people person, enjoying life to its fullest with tremendous vitality, noted for her infectious laugh, love of God and maintaining unity in the family.

A Celebration of Life was held June 3 at Wages and Sons Funeral Home in Stone Mountain, Georgia, and a funeral Mass on June 4 at the St. Oliver Plunkett Catholic Church in Snellville, Georgia.

PAID NOTICE

OBITUARIES

Eddie McElduff (1961-2025)

Edward McElduff, 63, known as “Eddie Mac” to his family and friends, died May 18 at his Beacon home, surrounded by loved ones.



He was born Nov. 7, 1961, at Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh, the son of Jerry and Anita McElduff. After graduating from Beacon High School, he earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Marist College and spent over 34 years at Pepsi-Cola of the Hudson Valley.

A Beacon High School football alum known by many as “Mad Dog,” he played in local softball leagues and coached Little League, Pop Warner, girls’ basketball and girls’ softball. From Super Bowls and World Series games to concerts (including Taylor Swift) and golf tournaments, he never missed a moment to enjoy life. What set Eddie apart was his warmth, wit and gift for storytelling, his family said.

Eddie is survived by his children: Michael, Danielle, Aidan-Elizabeth and Lauren, as well as his sons- and daughter-in-law, Abdool, Michelle and Ricky, and his

grandchildren, Nora, Audrey and Noah. He is also survived by his siblings, Jerry (Mary) and Maureen (Kevin).

A funeral Mass was held May 24 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon, followed by internment at St. Joachim’s Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the American Kidney Fund (kidneyfund.org).

Other Recent Deaths

Beacon

Arlene Cohn, 78	James Sandford, 67
Marianne Haase, 82	Bob Sylvester, 68
Christine Hajba, 61	Mike Sylvester, 62
Nancianne Horan, 67	Janet Volz, 84
Sylvia Jones, 86	John Way, 87
Kathleen Keenan, 86	Diane White, 62
Robert Maurice, 67	Mary Jane Yanarella, 93
Miguel Perez, 64	

Philipstown

Larry Codacovi, 91	Hans Noë, 96
Marie Corless, 88	Jean Roberts, 97
Michael Klubnick, 76	Stella Rossi, 100
Peter Lisikatos, 80	Ben Sarconi, 84
Barney McHenry	Tony Speziale, 68

For more obituaries,
[see highlandscurrent.org/obits](http://highlandscurrent.org/obits).

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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. 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.

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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.

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16			17				
18				19			20					
			21			22		23				
24	25	26					27		28		29	30
31				32				33		34		
35			36		37				38			
		39		40		41						
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49						50			51			
52					53				54			
55					56				57			

- ACROSS
1. Wildebeests

5. Snitch

8. Utah ski resort

12. Impetuous

13. Adam’s mate

14. Acquires

15. “Zip- — -Doo-Dah”

16. Beer purchases

18. Fawcett of ‘70s TV

20. Speeder’s punishment

21. Chanteuse Edith

23. Chap

24. Edible pod

28. “Auld Lang —”

31. Blunder

32. — -Croat

34. Texas tea

35. Scrambled wd.

37. Brazilian city

39. Dad on *Black-ish*

41. San — Obispo, Calif.
42. Thelma’s buddy

45. Brother’s son

49. Ink-loaded accessory

51. Continental coin

52. Carry

53. Rage

54. Family

55. Beholds

56. Scoundrel

57. To-do list item
- DOWN
1. Tennis great Steffi

2. Zilch

3. Addict

4. Everest guide

5. Molds anew

6. Bird (Pref.)

7. Libretto

8. You can count on it

9. Comment to a jackpot winner

10. Youngster
11. CEO’s aide

17. Farm squealer

19. Melodies

22. Untamed

24. Salty expanse

25. Samovar

26. School alumnus

27. Was plentiful

29. Zero

30. “Strange Magic” group

33. Mayberry boy

36. Tony-winner Tammy

38. Phase

40. “Sixth sense”

42. D-Day carriers

43. Oklahoma tribe

44. Grand tale

46. Luau dance

47. Historic times

48. Policy expert

50. Notre Dame coach

SUDOCURRENT

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

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WORDSEARCH

THEME: Humor

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

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.

S	W	I	N	G	Dance to big band music
					Formal wear
					Type of testimony
					Not as good
					Where to find the ocean
					Bart’s dad

SWAMP

GOALIE

AMYTAN

PESO

SCAT

ASPOGEE

GIRLS

ELIAN

SHE

OCT

GOINTO

RANO

EXEMPT

VERTS

GENEVA

REDCAP

LDS

SPA

AIRY

SUMMER

SOS

NOTE

VEST

TAIPEI

EMCEES

DOTER

Answers for June 13

JSA YLLILZD

FORSYTHIAL

SYSLPMFXA

QGUZUIFZJV

KQRLCOLFCE

EQUZDOAAAYN

RTQIJJRSCD

QNLMMVICWA

GCVOOACOGRR

BQBNDDCCPWR

TACOS, ROAST, STAIR,
TRAIN, DRAIN, DINER

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

NOTICE

NOTICE OF FILING
FINAL ASSESSMENT ROLL
WITH THE TOWN CLERK

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned assessor has completed the Final Assessment Roll for the Town of Philipstown in the County of Putnam for the year of 2025. A certified copy will be filed in the Office of the Town Clerk on the 1st day of July 2025 where it will remain open to public inspection until July 31 2025.

Dated this 21st day of June 2025
Brian Kenney, Assessor



Garrison rower in elite company

By Clara Tripp

Every year, as many as 300,000 spectators flock to the banks of the Charles River in eastern Massachusetts to cheer on some 2,000 boats at the Head of the Charles. As one of the largest and most prestigious rowing competitions, the regatta is notoriously difficult to enter.

Eleanor Mercurio, a Garrison resident and rising junior at O'Neill High School in Highlands Falls, has been lucky enough to compete not once, but three times.

Mercurio began rowing in seventh grade, training with the Cortlandt Community Rowing Association in Verplanck and participating in scattered competitions. By the spring of that year, she had moved up to a varsity women's 4+ level (4 rowers and a coxswain) and raced in the New York high school championships. She was hooked.

After two years, Mercurio transferred to the Rockland Rowing Association in Valley Cottage, where she sought more competitive training. Rockland instructors have years of experience, including head coach Macarena Urdiles, who rowed and coxed for the Chilean National Team and coaches at U.S. Olympic Youth Development camps.

Rockland focuses on sculling, which uses two oars, rather than sweeping, which has one. Mercurio started sculling primarily as a single rower, navigating the challenging technical shift from sweeping.

"I had never rowed a single before, and it's the most unsteady boat," she said. "But one of my coaches said, 'If you push harder, it's more stable,' so I pushed harder."

With only two weeks of sculling under her belt, Mercurio raced in a single at the nationals qualifier and finished in the top six. This spring, competing at the same race in the same single, her time was 90 seconds faster.

In January 2024, Mercurio was invited to a U.S. Rowing Association recruitment camp in Princeton, New Jersey. After a tryout, she was offered a spot at Youth Development Camp, a program for young rowers in Chatta-

Eleanor Mercurio competed in May at the Mid-Atlantic Youth Regionals in New Jersey.



Mercurio, second from left, was part of a team that won bronze at the Head of the Passaic competition in 2024.

Photos provided

nooga, Tennessee, where she launched from the McCallie preparatory school boathouse on the Tennessee River. Each day involved four hours of training on the water, a weightlifting or yoga session and discussions on nutrition, mental health and career advice.

At the camp, Mercurio was able to experiment in boats with two, four and eight seats on a much longer river than Rockland's 15,000-meter lake. Mercurio's first 2,000-meter race in December 2022 took her 8 minutes and 15 seconds to finish. After a year of training at Rockland and attending the U.S. Rowing camp, she shaved off 42.3 seconds.

Beyond the physical challenge, rowing has provided Mercurio with a tight-knit community. She remains close with many of her roommates and campers from the U.S. Rowing program. The rowers at Rockland bond with team breakfasts every Saturday, bowling and trampoline park trips. During the Summer Olympics last year, the team huddled for a 3 a.m. watch party.

"It's not like any other team — we're all really close, we all care about each other and we support each other," said Mercurio. "We're not singled out just because we're rowing in singles."

Eleanor's mother, Jennifer, rowed for Columbia University while attending Barnard

College and at the Cortlandt Community Rowing Association with Eleanor. Mother and daughter traveled to England two years ago to watch the Henley Royal Regatta. After the race, they rowed together on the Thames. "It was interesting seeing our different styles play out in the boat," Eleanor Mercurio said.

Early morning practices with Rockland loom ahead, but for now, Mercurio enjoys training daily after school. Her immediate goal is to cut another 15 seconds off her 2K time. She hopes to row in college and continue in U.S. Rowing's developmental circuit, perhaps one day reaching the U.S. Olympic National Team.

This summer Mercurio will return to Chattanooga to participate in U.S. Rowing's U19 Elite Women's Pairs Camp, the next step in the circuit. As one of the camp's top 16 athletes, Mercurio will be coached by Olympic medalists.

"I knew that I needed to drop my 2K to under 7:40 to be able to get into this camp," said Mercurio. "I worked over the winter season and kept dropping until I got there. Next year, hopefully I'll drop like that again."

Clara Tripp, a Philipstown resident and recent graduate of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School in the Bronx, is a member of The Current's Student Journalists Program.

Sports

Varsity Roundup

HALDANE

TRACK AND FIELD — On June 13 and 14, Haldane juniors Shayla Ochoa and Owen Powers competed in the state championships at Middletown. Powers finished 41st of 67 competitors in the 1,600-meter run in 4:24.84, and Ochoa was 39th of 41 athletes in the pentathlon with 1,962 points.

LACROSSE — Fallou Faye, a senior, was named this week by coaches to the Section I all-star team.

BEACON

TRACK AND FIELD — At the state finals in Middletown on June 13 and 14, Noah Spiak finished 15th among 20 Division B competitors in the 400-meter hurdles in 58.02, Jahcier Ballard tied for 32nd in the high jump at 5-10 and Jayden Mihalchik was 13th in Division B and 38th overall in the discus at 133-1.

BASKETBALL — Jahcier Ballard is among the 12 players named to the Section IX boys' team for the annual Basketball Coaches Association of New York summer tournament, scheduled for Aug. 1 to 3 at Monroe-Woodbury High School.



Haldane juniors Owen Powers and Shayla Ochoa competed at the state track finals in Middletown last weekend. Photo provided