

The HIGHLANDS Current



Backdoor Pizza Page 18

JUNE 27, 2025

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CHILLIN’ — Cold Spring held its annual Community Day at Dockside Park on June 21, the first day of summer, and the hot, humid weather lived up to the forecast. Kids played it cool, romping in jump castles, climbing up and sliding down inflatable slides, and painting stones. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org. Photo by Ross Corsair



Nat Prentice



Ned Rauch

Prentice, Rauch Win Democratic Lines for Town Board

Cheah will appear on November ballot as independent; Maasik out

By Chip Rowe

Nat Prentice and Ned Rauch won the two Democratic lines on Tuesday (June 24) for the Philipstown Town Board, setting up a three-way race in the fall.

Rauch, who was endorsed by the Philipstown Democratic Committee, will appear on the Democratic and independent Philipstown Focus lines. He edged John Maasik by 24 votes for the Democratic line.

Ben Cheah, the other candidate endorsed by the Democratic Committee, also will appear on the November ballot on the Philipstown Focus line. Cheah and Rauch

(Continued on Page 7)

ICE Conducts Raid in Beacon

City says it was not notified or involved

By Jeff Simms

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers raided a residence on North Elm Street in Beacon on the morning of June 20, according to a statement issued by Mayor Lee Kyriacou.

City officials said they do not know who ICE detained. It is unclear whether a judicial warrant was presented or the nature of any charges. ICE did not respond to a request from *The Current* for information.

“I want to make clear that at no time leading up to this incident did city staff, including our Police Department, have any notice of or involvement in ICE operations,” Kyriacou said. “As a city, we remain committed to our safe, inclusive community policy, to preserving rights enshrined in the U.S. Constitution and to avoiding any policies which engender fear among law-abiding families.”

The mayor said his office had been informed about the raid by residents and that Police Chief Tom Figlia confirmed with the Federal Bureau of Investigation that an ICE operation had occurred.

(Continued on Page 6)



Beyond the Grid

PEAK POWER

By Brian PJ Cronin

Who’s to blame for these skyrocketing electricity bills? The causes are many: aging infrastructure, economic uncertainty, tariffs, wars, red tape, the failure to build enough renewable energy, inefficient construction, rising demand, the responsibility of investor-owned utilities to generate profits for shareholders and rapidly changing climates, both atmospheric and political.

Over the next few weeks, we’ll examine some of these causes and innovative solutions being proposed. But to understand utility prices, you first must understand how the largest machine in the world works — one so ubiquitous that although we use it every minute of every day, we hardly notice it.

New York’s power grid consists of 11,000 miles of transmission lines that can supply up to 41,000 megawatts of electricity. The problem is that the grid is losing power faster than it can be replaced. Fossil-fuel plants are aging out of service. Since 2019, New York has added 2,274 megawatts while

deactivating 4,315 megawatts.

“It’s an old system,” said Rich Dewey, president of the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), the nonprofit tasked with running the grid, on an episode of its podcast, *Power Trends*. “The expectation that it’s going to continue to perform at the same high level that it has, say, for the last couple of decades, is just not reasonable. We’re going to need to replace those megawatts” to maintain a reliable transmission system.

The state has undertaken several initiatives to boost the energy flowing through the grid. Six years ago, the state Legislature passed an ambitious law that stipulates that New York must be powered by 70 percent renewable energy by 2030 and 100 percent zero-emission electricity by 2040. Last year, 48 percent of the energy produced by the state was zero-emission; nearly all that energy is produced upstate, where solar and hydropower are abundant.

(Continued on Page 8)

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: PETE VIGEANT

By Leonard Sparks

Pete Vigeant, who lives in Beacon, is the creator of an interactive trivia contest that will next be held at The Yard on July 19. See thebigbuttongameshow.com.

You launched The Big Button Game Show in January. How does it work?

It is a series of mini-games, some of which are trivia-based, some of which feel more like a video game. Each team of up to five gets a single button, which is constantly moving between players. If your team wins a game, you get to play a bonus game. One of the things that people find charming is that I programmed the entire game. I built the communication layer between the computer that's running it and the buttons, and I programmed the buttons.

Has it been popular?

The response has been incredible. We've been getting 30 to 40 people per show, and I have groups that are regulars. I'm constantly adding stuff, so it's always changing and evolving and shifting in fun and surprising ways. I redid the game with art I've made over the last 15 years, so it has a distinct look. Someone who had gone to the first

show and came back to the 10th said: "I am speechless. It's remarkable how much it's evolved in just a short time."

What is your day job?

I am an experience and game designer. For the past 20-plus years, I've been making spaces, events, museums, public activations and brand activations, all centered around the idea of getting a lot of people together and using game-like mechanics to enhance their experience or create positive social moments. Making something, coming up with a rule set and watching people engage with that rule set and having fun with it is incredibly satisfying.

How does designing experiences differ from video games?

A game for an installation or an activation or an event or a museum, they're all ephemeral. A video game is a single idea, and you pack everything into that single idea. For The Big Button Game Show, I get to continue to

play with it. I have a notebook filled with the next stuff that I can add.

What other projects have you worked on?

I was the lead designer of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, a museum in Boston. The centerpiece is a scale replica of the Senate chambers. I produced a game-like experience where 100 people come in for 2½ hours and pretend to be senators. I also designed a 20-foot-by-20-foot interactive floor at the Adidas flagship store in New York City — celebrating a new shoe called the Lightstrike. I've toured the country running games and teaching people how to build and run games.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

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Ian Kiefhaber, Beacon

“A mango, sliced and with a bit of salt”



Isabela Leon Ferrer, Beacon

“Hard-boiled eggs, mixed green salad and 50-50 seltzer-orange juice”



Pierre Vittori, Cold Spring

NEWS BRIEFS

Lawler to Host Dutchess Town Hall

Scheduled for June 28 at John Jay High School

Rep. Mike Lawler, a Republican whose district includes Philipstown and parts of Dutchess County (not including Beacon, which is represented by Rep. Pat Ryan), has scheduled a town hall for 6 p.m. on Saturday (June 28) at John Jay High School in Hopewell Junction. It is the fourth of four events he said he would host, following those in Rockland, Westchester and Putnam counties.

Tickets are available at dub.sh/lawler-dutchess. According to the terms, attendees may be asked to provide proof of residency in District 17; no bags, signs, noisemakers, bullhorns, megaphones or face coverings will be allowed; questions can only be asked by the person whose ticket is called and must be limited to 30 seconds; and except for members of the press, no flash photography or audio or video recording will be allowed.

Beacon Police Arrest Men with Loaded Gun

Four detained following call to train station

Beacon police officers on June 20 arrested two men and a minor on charges of possessing a loaded handgun that had been stolen in Georgia.

According to a news release issued by the

Police Department, officers received a call on Friday morning about a dispute at the Metro-North station in which someone had been threatened with being shot.

Officers said they found Alfredo Robles, 20, of Beacon, running from the scene. He was arrested on an outstanding warrant for charges of third-degree assault, second-degree criminal contempt and endangering the welfare of a child, all misdemeanors.

While processing Robles, a vehicle parked in the City Hall lot. Believing it was involved with the dispute, officers questioned the occupants and found the gun.

Kiahron Thompson, 20; Malachi Cornwell, 19; and a 16-year-old who was not named because of his age, all Poughkeepsie residents, were each charged with three felonies, including criminal possession of a weapon and possession of stolen property.

Two Main Street Stores Will Close

Reservoir and Stella's announce final days

Reservoir in Cold Spring and Stella's Fine Market in Beacon each announced recently that they will be closing.

Erin Murphy operated Reservoir in Beacon for eight years before moving the apparel and homewares boutique to 101 Main St. in Cold Spring in 2021. "I feel the universe gently nudging me to slow down, to listen and choose to create again," she wrote on Instagram.

Nikki Hayes said on Instagram that she

will close Stella's Fine Market after nearly four years at 155 Main St. in Beacon. "Our rent increase became something I simply couldn't afford any longer," she wrote. Stella's sold food, drinks and kitchenware.

Putnam Closes Three Beaches Due to Bacteria, Algae

Blooms resemble paint spilled in water

Putnam County has closed three beaches because of elevated bacteria levels or harmful algae blooms, including Cortlandt Lake in the Continental Village section of Philipstown.

According to county health officials, harmful algae blooms can be blue-green, green, yellow, red or brown. There may be a scum on the surface or at the shoreline. Large blooms often look like paint spilled into the water.

People and animals should not touch algae blooms or swallow water that contains them, the health department said. It noted that pets are at higher risk. "Dogs also swallow more water than humans while swimming and playing," the agency said. For updates, see putnamcountyny.gov/health/beaches.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



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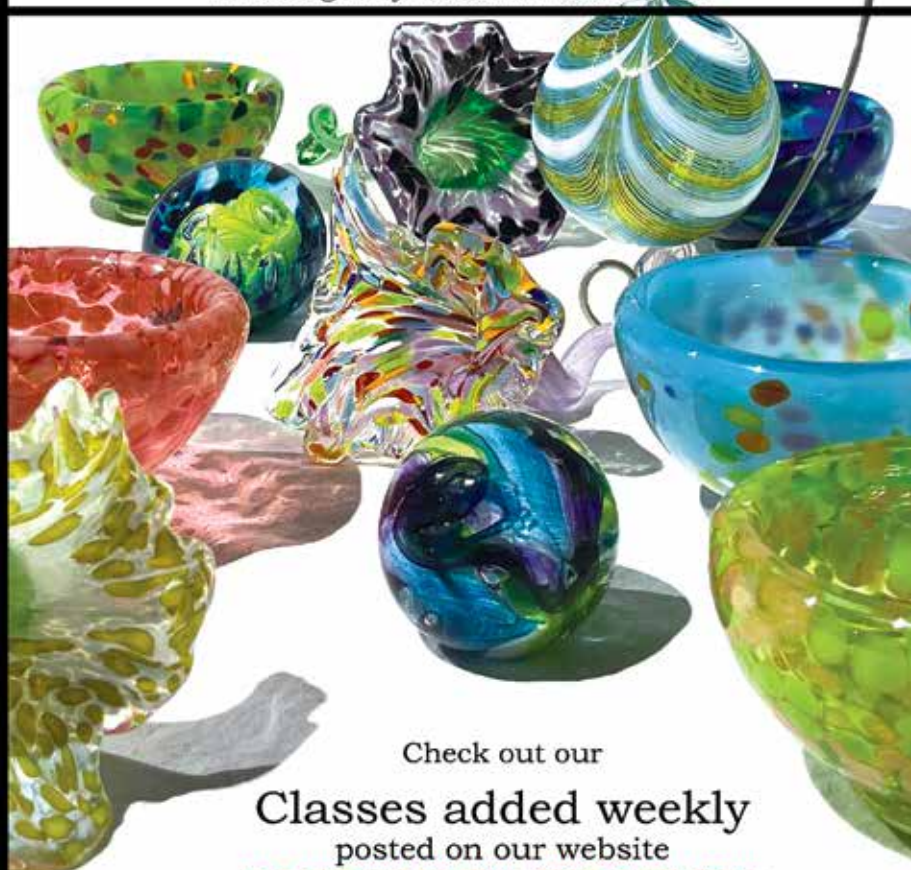
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The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Town Board

Last evening [June 19] at the Pride event on Main Street in Cold Spring — thank you, Barber and Brew, for hosting — Philipstown Town Board candidates John Maasik and Nat Prentice showed up. I spoke to a resident about the June 24 Democratic primary and he summed up the situation well: “Why should a group of 10 out of 15 committee members select two new Town Board members when we all [Democrats] have the opportunity to vote? We need to end the backroom dealmaking politics and let the people decide.”

It’s great that registered Democrats have the chance to vote in the primary. I’m grateful for it, as many issues have been raised and the discussions about the future of our community have been elevated to a level never seen before.

Larry Wiesler, Cold Spring

Didn’t we learn our lesson in November? Democrats don’t want to be told who to vote for by the “elephant-watching” establishment. Many Philipstown taxpayers are tired of the status quo.

Thomas O’Quinn, Cold Spring

Birds

Thanks to Joey Asher for his timely article (“Reporter’s Notebook: Bird Killers,” June 13). My wife and I now have three bird feeders

around the house and have noticed some birds crashing into the windows by the front door.

We assumed they believed they were attacking another bird, but Joey has given me cause to rethink this. For some reason, most of the birds enjoy the feeder at the back and don’t crash into the bay window.

Kene Iloenyosi, Johns Creek, Georgia

Jail break

He’s lucky he was able to get phone reception (“Man Trapped in Downstate Cell,” June 20).

Juawn Solosito, via Facebook

He probably found the phone in the cell.

Steve Buchman, via Facebook

You gotta love the creativity and contrarian thinking of a guy who breaks into prison.

Robert Culp, via Facebook

Play Airlines

Such a shame (“Play Airlines to Leave Stewart,” June 20). I had a great experience flying with them, and I’d prefer never to have to fly out of JFK again. I hope someone else takes their place; it sounds like it’s not managed well since Norwegian Air only lasted a short while, too.

Christopher Pascarella, via Facebook

Our visit to Iceland in 2022 was made infinitely easier and more pleasant by booking Play from Stewart. In some ways, Play reminded this Texas ex-pat of Southwest in the glory days when \$25 got you from Dallas to all the major state hubs. Boo to the investors who made this decision; if you had given it half a chance, Play could have been a contender.

Jan Nunley, via Facebook

Clarkson

I am perplexed by what has been going on there (“Clarkson Leaves Dennings Point,” June 13). It seemed Clarkson University was making all sorts of plans, spending all sorts of tax dollars on upgrading facilities, making statements and promises about supporting Beacon High School and Beacon kids and students, and then it bailed with no public statement of any value or substance.

Years of broken promises, and no politician seems to care or have much to say about it (Clarkson has wiped any reference to Beacon from its websites). It’s all very disappointing.

Harper Sanchez, via Facebook



The Current Hires
Summer Reporter
Marist student joins staff

Ben Leeds, a rising senior at Marist University, has joined The Current for the summer as a reporter.

Leeds is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in communication with a concentration in sports communication and public relations. A native of Trumbull, Connecticut, he is co-editor of Marist Circle, the independent student newspaper, and writes for Forever Blueshirts and Content Studio. He will report for The Current through August.

Funding for the summer reporter position comes from Current members who contribute to our Student Journalists Program and from the Marist University Community Journalism Initiative, a program of the Mary Louise Bopp Endowment.



Putnam Weighs Golf Course Payoff

Finance chief says loan hobbles contractor

By Leonard Sparks

Putnam's finance commissioner is recommending that the county spend \$4.7 million to pay off the loan used to acquire its golf course in 2003 and rebid the contract to run the operation.

Michael Lewis told the Legislature's Audit Committee on Monday (June 23) that the county would save \$477,000 in interest with the early payoff of the tax-exempt bonds whose proceeds were used to buy the former Lake MacGregor Golf Course in Mahopac. He also presented an alternative in which the county would use \$1.7 million to pay off a portion of the bonds, saving \$175,198 in interest, when they are eligible for redemption on Jan. 15.

In addition to saving on interest, retiring the bonds would release the county from IRS rules that have proved "restrictive" for Homestyle Caterers & Food Services of Yorktown Heights, the company hired to provide beverage and food service for golfers and events. Those rules mean that Homestyle cannot "claim ownership, claim depreciation and/or amortization deductions, investment tax credits or deduct for any payment" related to the golf course, according to Lewis.

Because of the restrictions, Putnam also owns the drink, food and pro shop inventory and is responsible for the cash-handling, said John Tully, the commissioner of general services. Without those rules, a company holding the golf course contract would own the inventory and simply pay Putnam a share of the revenue from the course.

In addition to Homestyle, Putnam contracts with Troon Golf to run and maintain the golf course and its pro shop, and a third company hired "to protect our interests and make sure that those two other contractors are playing nice in the sandbox, and that they're coordinating events and all things together," said Tully.

"There would be a benefit to the county to only have one person or one entity to deal with, and that entity could be one of the three operators that are there today or somebody new," he said.

Putnam spent \$11.35 million in 2003 to purchase a 375-acre property, which included the money-losing golf course and its banquet facility, the former Mahopac airport and Hill-Agor Farm. The county took the money from \$40 million it received under a watershed agreement signed with New York City but later had to repay \$5 million to the fund.

Since the purchase, the county has spent millions more on upgrades, ranging from repaving the parking lot to renovating the clubhouse. The upgrades included making the facility accessible to people with disabilities to settle a lawsuit filed in 2016 by Westchester Disabled on the Move Inc.

Homestyle has also faced accusations. A 2018 report by the *Journal News* centered on catering contracts that appeared to show that the campaign of then-County Executive MaryEllen Odell and a nonprofit founded by Legislator Amy Sayegh and directed by an Odell assistant were charged less than other groups for events at the course. Odell's campaign denied the accusation. Sayegh is now the Legislature's chair.

In 2022, the Legislature voted to use \$400,000 of Putnam's \$19.1 million in federal pandemic relief funds to renovate the golf course's restaurant, despite a \$272,000 profit the year before. Putnam reallocated the money after being told the golf course project did not meet eligibility guidelines.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, has repeatedly called for more disclosure about the golf course finances. "I like the idea of saving money," she said on Monday. "But I think, for the public's interest, we need to review everything from the inception of the golf course."



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Cold Spring May Regulate Food Trucks

Board proposes six-month moratorium to study licensing

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board has scheduled a public hearing for July 9 for feedback on a proposed six-month moratorium on allowing food trucks within the village.

The moratorium is intended to give the village time to develop regulations regarding the licensing, operation and location of food trucks on public and private property.

At its April 23 meeting, the board had discussed a request to operate a food truck on private property near the entrance to Dockside Park, an area zoned residential. Mayor Kathleen Foley said Chapter 71 of the Village Code offers guidance on licensing but is not specific to food trucks and does not address private property requests, leaving the board “ill-prepared” to license such operations.

The proposed local law establishing the moratorium, drafted by village attorney John Furst, points out that while food trucks have become popular since the pandemic and provide business opportunities within the village, issues such as traffic, parking, waste, noise and pedestrian safety must be addressed.

In other business ...

- The Village Board met on Friday (June 20)

after failing to have enough of the five board members able to attend the regularly scheduled Wednesday meeting in person. State law allows up to two trustees to attend meetings remotely if three attend in person. Foley and trustees Tweeps Phillips Woods and Laura Bozzi attended Friday's session at Village Hall but Trustees Eliza Starbuck and Aaron Freimark were absent. Foley said that Friday afternoon was the only time that week at least three board members were available.

■ The board accepted in principle a policy in which employees can donate accrued paid time off to other employees who require leave for medical emergencies. The proposed policy, drafted by the village attorney, provides a way for village employees to help co-workers who would otherwise suffer a substantial loss of income resulting from unpaid leave. The policy does not entitle employees to take additional leave. “There are still some fine-tuned elements to work out,” Foley said. “I’d like to recognize the generosity of the staff who are willing to give the time,” Phillips Woods said. “It’s a great policy.”

■ As in previous years, the village office will close at 3 pm on Fridays during the summer.

■ The board approved hiring Jennifer Owen as a records clerk intern for 10 weeks for \$20 per hour.

ICE Raid *(from Page 1)*

Figlia said this week that ICE returned the following day (June 21), but he did not know if anyone was detained.

Andrew Canaday, a Beacon resident, wrote in a comment posted at highlandscurrent.org that he witnessed the raid. “ICE, the FBI and what appeared to be one police officer (not from the City of Beacon) staked out the house, parked at different locations along the street around 6 a.m., presumably to apprehend him on his morning commute,” he wrote. The federal agents were armed and wearing body armor, Canaday wrote. He declined further comment.

Once news of the action circulated, hundreds of residents in Beacon and surrounding areas created an “unofficial neighborhood watch,” according to one participant who asked not to be identified. They are concerned that ICE is “confronting and taking our community members from their homes without due process,” the person said.

Volunteers have circulated pocket-sized cards with phrases such as “I do not give you permission to enter my home” and “I choose to exercise my constitutional rights” in English and Spanish. A second card offers tips for bystanders, such as how to observe safely, when to speak up and how to document what they see if witnessing a person being detained.

Joseph Lavetsky, an immigration attorney in Beacon, said that people who have been in the U.S. for less than two years, or who don’t have proof that they’ve been in the country for more than two years, are the most at risk because they could be subject to expedited removal.

If a person is detained, they will be held pending a bond hearing in an immigration court, he said, which would not take place in Beacon. The nonprofit New York Legal Assistance Group has created Designation of Standby Guardian forms for at-risk immigrants who have children to file in Surrogate Court or Family Court.

Lavetsky noted that Donald Trump is hardly the first president to prioritize immigration enforcement. Barack Obama was nicknamed the “deporter in chief,” he said, but previous administrations were more willing “to close your case or take it off the docket” if an immigrant did not have a criminal record or was married to a U.S. citizen.

Now, “they’re trying to go after pretty much anybody,” Lavetsky said, to meet an administration goal of 3,000 arrests per day. “That’s difficult to do if you’re only going after people with criminal records.”

Lavetsky created a Know Your Rights document that reminds immigrants that ICE cannot enter their home without permission and a warrant signed by a federal judge. It also cautions that the agency may use “tricks and deception” to gain entry.

‘Safe and Welcoming Place’

The Beacon City Council in 2017 adopted a resolution declaring the city “a safe and welcoming place” where all residents should feel comfortable interacting with police and other municipal officials.

The resolution avoided using the phrase *sanctuary city*, a designation that had been targeted by the administration of President Donald Trump, but said that city employees and officials would not “stop, question, interrogate, investigate or arrest an individual based solely on actual or suspected immigration or citizenship status” or “inquire about the immigration status of an individual, including a crime victim, a witness, or a person who calls or approaches the police seeking assistance, unless necessary to investigate criminal activity by that individual.”

Regardless, the city, along with Dutchess and Putnam counties, was included last month on a list of jurisdictions the federal Department of Homeland Security accused of “obstructing” the Trump administration’s effort to deport millions of undocumented immigrants. The list was removed from government websites within days.

In response, Kyriacou read this statement at the beginning of the council’s June 2 meeting: “It is absolutely not the case that the city is deliberately obstructing the enforcement of federal immigration laws. While the city has yet to receive any formal communication from the federal government, we remain confident the city is abiding by all applicable state and federal laws and judicial orders. Our city and our Police Department remain committed to protecting public safety, and any statements to the contrary are misleading and inaccurate.”

“They will say anything to get someone to open the door,” he said. “They might say that a crime has been committed and they need the resident’s cooperation, or that they’re investigating an electric issue and need to inspect their apartment. The recent trend seems to be waiting for someone to leave or come home from work and grabbing them outside, instead of trying to get into their home.”

“They’re trying to go after pretty much anybody [to meet an administration goal of 3,000 arrests per day]. That’s difficult to do if you’re only going after people with criminal records.”

~ Joseph Lavetsky, an immigration attorney in Beacon

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Brian Cronin

**WED.
JULY 16**

6:30–8:00 PM

at Beahive
in Beacon

**RSVP by Monday, July 14 to
Lauren Cook at lcCook@highlandscurrent.org.**

Free Meals Coming to Haldane

State will provide funds for breakfast, lunch

By Joey Asher

Haldane students will receive free breakfast and lunch at school in 2025-26 thanks to a newly created state program funded largely by the federal government.

The Universal Free Meals program, included in the state's 2025-26 budget, will provide breakfast and lunch at no charge beginning in the fall, said Carl Albano, the interim superintendent. About half of the district's 800 students in kindergarten through 12th grade buy meals in the

cafeteria, and about 150 students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

In Garrison, meanwhile, the district included funding in its 2025-26 budget to offer lunch to its 200 students in kindergarten through eighth grade but has encountered obstacles. Garrison students bring their lunches except on Friday, when they can purchase pizza provided by the eighth-grade class as a fundraiser. The district budgeted \$150,000 to pay for upgrades to its kitchen and for staff to launch a pilot lunch program in the fall but has had trouble finding another district to partner with.

Because Garrison's kitchen is not currently equipped to provide meals, the

district hoped to have Hendrick Hudson in Montrose send lunches from its high school cafeteria, said Superintendent Greg Stowell. The plan was to sell meals for about \$6 on weekdays except Friday, when the pizza fundraiser would continue.

About two weeks ago, he said, the plan fell apart when Hendrick Hudson High School joined the Universal Free Meals program, which has requirements that complicate partnerships. Hendrick Hudson is also going through personnel changes among its food-service supervisors.

Stowell said Garrison is trying to determine how much it would cost to partner with another district and provide Garrison students with free lunches, a decision that would need to be made by the end of July. If the district becomes subject to the regula-

tions of the Universal Free Meals program, it would have to serve meals five days a week and could not have the Friday pizza fundraisers, which last year raised \$8,000 for eighth-grade programs, including a class trip.

The Beacon school district has provided free breakfast and lunch for all its students since January 2024 through a different state program called Community Eligibility Provision, said Anthony Rollins, its lunch director. To be eligible, a district must show that 25 percent of its students would qualify for free or reduced lunch under the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs, which were established in 1946. Rollins said the Beacon district, which has 2,600 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, serves 900 breakfasts and 1,700 lunches a day.

Primary Results (from Page 1)

filed independent petitions by a May deadline, putting their names on the general-election ballot regardless of the primary results. There are no candidates from other parties.



Ben Cheah

Voters had to be among the 3,597 residents in Philipstown registered with the Putnam County Board of Elections as Democrats. The turnout was 31 percent. The Board of Elections said some votes remain to be counted, such as affidavit ballots filed at the two polling sites and absentee ballots postmarked by June 24 that arrive by Tuesday (July 1). The results below are unofficial until certified.

Nat Prentice	631 (29%)
Ned Rauch	543 (25%)
John Maasik	519 (24%)
Ben Cheah	467 (22%)

In a statement on Wednesday, the Philipstown Democratic Committee congratulated Prentice and Rauch, thanked all four candidates and said it looked forward "to supporting our candidates in doing the good work."

It added that, "as a committee, we are disappointed that our candidate Ben Cheah was not selected yesterday; we thank him for the passion, hard work and thoughtfulness for service to the town he put into this campaign."

The committee did not respond to an email asking whether it would endorse Prentice.

In a statement on Wednesday, Maasik said, "I'm proud that the non-endorsed candidates combined for the majority of the votes and gave the town a choice in this election."



John Maasik

He added: "The community deserved to have an opportunity to see all four candidates at one forum to better understand our similarities and differences, and I wish we could have made that happen."

Two Cold Spring residents invited all four candidates to a June 18 forum at their home, but Rauch declined the invitation on behalf of himself and Cheah, telling Marianne Sutton and David Watson that "Ben and I are unavailable on the 18th. With just two weeks remaining until the primary, our schedule is already packed." Watson said about 25 people attended to hear Prentice and Maasik.

Jason Angell and Megan Cotter, Democrats elected to the Town Board in 2021, did not seek second terms. John Van Tassel, who is running unopposed for his third term as supervisor, will appear in November on the Democratic and Philipstown Focus lines.

Because of a new state law that pushes most town and village elections to even-numbered years, the winners of the two open seats will serve until 2028, or three years, rather than four. At the same time, the supervisor position, usually a two-year term, will be on the ballot again next year.

Putnam County

There will be three open seats on the nine-member Legislature, which has eight Republicans and one Democrat (Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley). Each member serves a three-year term.

In District 5, which includes the hamlet of Carmel and eastern Lake Carmel, Jake D'Angelo, 23, defeated incumbent Greg Ellner for the Republican line. Brett Yarris will appear on the Democratic and For the People lines and D'Angelo on the Conservative line. Ellner was elected to the Legislature in 2022.

Republican	
Jake D'Angelo	374 (63%)
Greg Ellner	217 (37%)

In District 6, which includes Southeast, Tommy Regan won the Republican line over Tom Brann and Brann won the Conservative line over John O'Connor. Thomas Sprague will appear on the Democratic and Serving Southeast lines. The winner in the general election will succeed Paul Jonke, who did not seek a fourth, 3-year term.

Republican	
Tommy Regan	313 (66%)
Tom Brann	158 (33%)
Conservative	
Tom Brann	50 (89%)
John O'Connor	6 (11%)

In District 9, which includes the Town of Carmel and Mahopac, there was no primary. Lenny Harrington will appear on the Democratic, Working Families and A Better Putnam lines, while incumbent

Erin Crowley will have the Republican and Conservative lines.

Putnam Valley

Jacqueline Annabi, the Putnam Valley supervisor, fought off a challenge for the Republican line from Stephanie Waters. Annabi will face Alison Jolicoeur, the Democratic candidate, in November.

Republican	
Jacqueline Annabi	301 (54%)
Stephanie Waters	258 (46%)

SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL '25

SATURDAY JUNE 28 - INDUSTRIAL ARTS

BRITISH INVASION

MATH ROCK

SUNDAY JUNE 29 - CITY WINERY

BEST OF THE '90s

FOLK ROCK

HARD ROCK RADIO

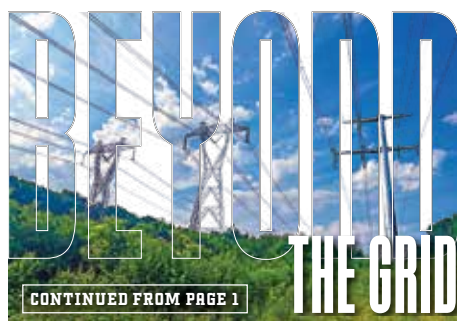
THE BIG 5

ROCK 101

HOUSE BAND

SCHOOL OF ROCK

BEACON, NY



The \$6 billion Champlain Hudson Power Express, which will carry 1,250 megawatts of renewable energy from Quebec to New York City, and passes by the Highlands buried beneath the Hudson River, is expected to go online in 2026. This week, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced her intention, citing the Build Public Renewables Act of 2023, to construct nuclear plants that will produce at least 1 gigawatt.

The site or sites for those plants are expected to be in less-populated areas upstate or in western New York, which would make them subject to the same problem that prevents solar and hydropower from reaching downstate, including the Highlands: a bottleneck where the upstate and downstate grids meet.

The \$2 billion question

If Jeffrey Seidman, a Vassar College professor, sounds philosophical when discussing climate change, it's to be expected. Seidman is an associate professor of philosophy.



Seidman

A few years ago, he began having second thoughts about his chosen field of study. "Watching the world visibly burning, I began to doubt that continuing to teach philosophy was morally defensible at this moment," he said.

A career change seemed out of the question — Seidman had just turned 50 — but Vassar's Environmental Studies department is interdisciplinary. So he developed a class called Climate Solutions & Climate Careers.

Lately, he has been taking his lectures outside the classroom to clear up misinformation for lawmakers. Renewable energy faces strong headwinds these days, as President Donald Trump's executive orders and proposed legislation demonstrate that he intends to make it more difficult to build wind and solar projects. Before relenting, the federal government briefly halted an offshore wind project that was under construction off Long Island.

At a June 3 meeting of Dutchess County mayors and supervisors, Seidman explained the potential of battery energy storage systems (BESS) to facilitate the transfer of renewable energy from upstate to the Hudson Valley. Jennifer Manierre of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) discussed how the state can help municipalities quickly and safely site renewable energy projects. And Paul Rogers spoke about his experiences at the New York City Fire Department, where he was tasked with



A battery storage unit in Warwick that supplies Orange & Rockland Utilities customers caught fire in 2023.

Photo by Scott Rausenberger

helping the city develop fire codes for BESS within dense urban environments.

Al Torreggiani, the supervisor for the Town of Hyde Park, was unimpressed. "Where are you going to come in and save me money?" he said. "Because everything you're talking about is going to cost me money."

At the same time, municipalities are enacting moratoriums on renewables. Last year, Carmel and Putnam Valley passed moratoriums on battery energy storage systems and other projects. In some cases, doubts are fueled by conspiracy theories that wind and solar cause cancer (they don't). In others, the resistance is for aesthetic reasons.

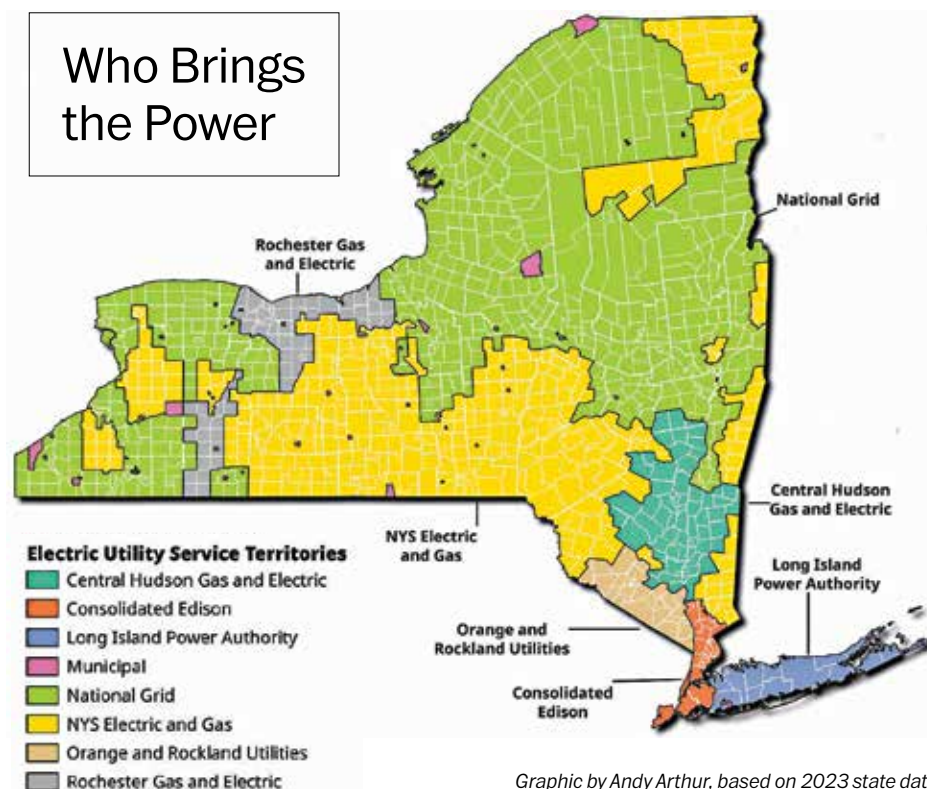
Battery energy storage systems are needed because solar and wind power suffer from being, to use the industry term, "intermittent." Fossil fuels may be dirty, expensive and subject to the whims of war, but you can burn them whenever you want. Although the infrastructure costs of solar energy have dropped by 90 percent over the last decade, we have not yet figured out how to keep the sun from dipping below the horizon. Batteries store the excess power collected from solar panels and wind turbines for use when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing.

"As prices [of battery units] have plummeted, it's made deploying them at the scale where they can support the whole electrical grid more and more feasible," Seidman said.

The downside is that they can catch fire. In 2023, three BESS units in New York caught fire, including one in Orange County. The state says no hazardous chemicals were released.

Seidman thinks that the risks and dangers have been overblown. During his talk on June 3, he explained how battery units are becoming safer and more affordable. Like solar, battery costs have come down 90 percent over the past decade. He noted that 15 years ago, cellphones caught fire.

Who Brings the Power



Graphic by Andy Arthur, based on 2023 state data

"The reason you don't read those stories is because we have gotten so much better at making these things," he said. "Even though billions of people carry them in their pockets, they don't catch fire." Likewise, the batteries that power electric vehicles have also gotten safer. According to the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, a gas-powered vehicle is 60 times more likely to catch fire than an electric one.

Paul Rogers, the former FDNY lieutenant who spoke at the June 3 meeting, explained the increasingly rigorous safety testing that battery storage units undergo, including making sure that if one battery catches fire, it doesn't spread. Several firefighters attended the meeting to hear about training programs for fighting BESS fires (water isn't effective) and to develop site-specific

emergency plans.

In the Hudson Valley, there's not as much open, available and affordable space for wind and solar projects. But with battery storage units, the downstate grid could receive the ample renewable energy from upstate to replace closer but more expensive and dirtier fossil-fuel plants. With battery units in place, renewable energy could be sent downstate at night, when transmission rates are cheaper and the grid is less crowded.

That is one answer to the "Where are you going to save me money?" question: Renewable energy sent to battery storage units could lower the "supply charges" section of electricity bills. In addition, with battery storage units, utilities don't have to spend

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued from Page 8)

as much on substations and transmission lines, costs passed on as “delivery charges” on customer bills. A recent NYSEERDA study showed that putting 6 gigawatts of battery power in New York by 2030 would save rate-payers across the state \$2 billion.

At no point in Seidman’s talk did he mention climate change or the state climate laws. That’s intentional. Seidman said it’s easier to explain the benefits of the transition to renewable energy by focusing on less pollution and lower bills, which everyone wants. Some elected officials at the meeting discussed using BESS moratoriums to collaborate with the state on creating guidelines, rather than rejecting the technology outright.

What if your house was the battery?

Imagine you own a department store with an oversized parking lot that is full only one day of the year: Black Friday. As it happens, there’s another lot next door that’s always empty, including on Black Friday.

You ask your neighbor if, on Black Friday, your customers can use his parking lot. Sure, he says, for \$1,000 per car. He says he needs that much to pay his property taxes, since the lot is otherwise empty.

Sounds ridiculous? In a nutshell, that’s how the electrical grid works. For 360 days of the year, the grid has enough power. However, on peak days — such as during this week’s heat wave — it requires more. So, operators turn to “peaker” plants, such as Danskammer, located on the Hudson River north of Newburgh.

Because these fossil-fuel plants operate only a few days a year, they charge exorbitant rates to cover their operating expenses. That drives up costs across the grid. For example, on Tuesday (June 24) at 5:51 p.m., with the peaker plants running, the price per megawatt in the Hudson Valley was \$2,886. A month earlier, on a mild May afternoon, the price was \$26.

These plants release copious amounts of pollution on days when air quality, because of the heat, is already poor. In addition, they tend to be built in low-income neighborhoods.

What if, on Black Friday, instead of paying an exorbitant rate to rent your neighbor’s lot, you coordinated with customers so they didn’t all show up at 6 a.m. when the doors opened? If they did that, you could lower your prices even more.

That’s the concept behind virtual power plants. Electricity customers join a program in which a smart meter in their home or business distributes energy, so that everyone is not using the grid at once. That allows operators to “reduce the peak and those extraordinarily high costs,” said Seidman. Like battery storage, it’s a way of getting more power from the grid without having to build costly substations and transmission lines.

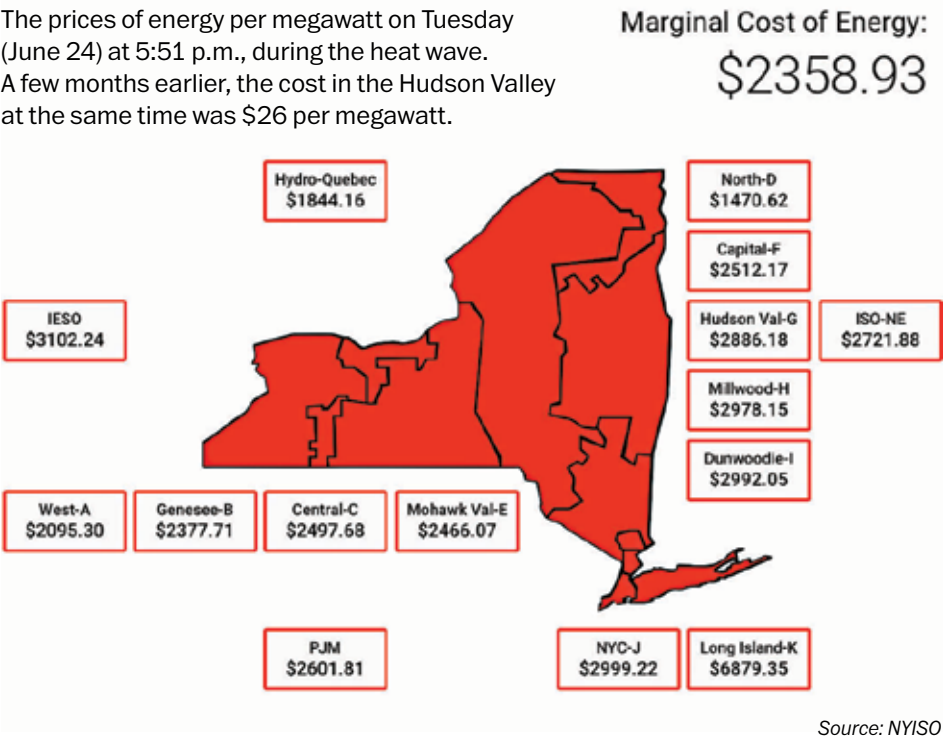
Many people with EVs plug their cars in when they return home for the day, so they will be charged in the morning. With a virtual power plant, a utility can spread

Grid Basics

The U.S. electric grid dates to 1882, when Thomas Edison opened the first power plant at the Pearl Street Station in lower Manhattan. Today, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, plants that burn coal, oil or natural gas create 59 percent of the nation’s energy, nuclear plants account for 18 percent and renewables 23 percent.

To transport electricity over long distances, utilities use high-voltage lines. When the power reaches local substations, it is converted to a lower wattage to be sent to homes and businesses. The national grid includes 11,000 plants, 3,000 utilities and 2 million miles of power lines. Due to the substantial costs of infrastructure, most utilities are granted local monopolies but are heavily regulated.

This map, created in 2022 by Andy Arthur from public data, shows the major power lines that move electricity through New York.



out the charging of cars, saving it for the middle of the night, when power is cheaper and the load is lighter. The same can be done with water heaters — after your morning shower, you don’t need your water to be hot again immediately.

Homes equipped with solar panels and battery storage can create their own peaker plant. When the grid needs more power, it draws from the battery unit instead of relying on a more expensive fossil-fuel plant.

“We call it a virtual power plant because we’re calling on all these smaller batteries to give us the power of a much larger system,” said Christian Woods of Orange & Rockland Utilities, which operates across the Hudson River. “It’s not a big eyesore installation that takes up a lot of space. It’s diluted across the system.”

During this week’s heat dome, customers participating in the Orange & Rockland virtual power plant fully charged their batteries thanks to ample sunshine. At night, O&R

drew from those batteries and dispatched about 1.6 megawatts into the grid. On a day when the grid statewide was carrying more than 30,000 megawatts, 1.6 MW might not seem worth the trouble. However, that came from just 346 of the 300,000 homes O&R services in the two counties.

Orange & Rockland launched the program in 2015, when New York State offered funding to utilities that developed methods that cleaned up the grid while lowering costs for customers. Virtual power plants were moving from theory to practice in California and Texas, where they are credited with eliminating many of the rolling brownouts and blackouts that plagued the states due to insufficient power.

After receiving funding from the state, O&R developed a system in which new customers of Sunrun, a rooftop solar installation company, received a free battery storage unit if they agreed to allow the utility to draw from it during peak periods. If

there’s an “outflow,” the customer receives a bill credit.

Solar systems are designed to provide up to 110 percent of a home’s annual usage, Woods said. There are seasonal fluctuations in energy usage, “but once you go through a full year, you’ve built up enough credits that you don’t need to buy energy from us,” he said.

Woods called it a win-win-win situation: Sunrun got new customers, O&C didn’t have to build substations and rate-payers got a free battery and lower bills. He said the most challenging part about implementing the program was convincing customers it wasn’t a scam.

Not everyone was eligible for the program: It was only for new customers who had roofs that could support solar panels and got enough sunlight, and who had garages with room for a battery. But Woods said the pilot program provides valuable data. “We’re seeing how much energy is being released through these systems and trying to extrapolate from that,” he said. “What if we had one in every 10 homes? In every five homes? We can take that data to our regulator and say, ‘This is what we’re looking to spend, and this is the benefit.’ This can defer the need to build out traditional infrastructure.”

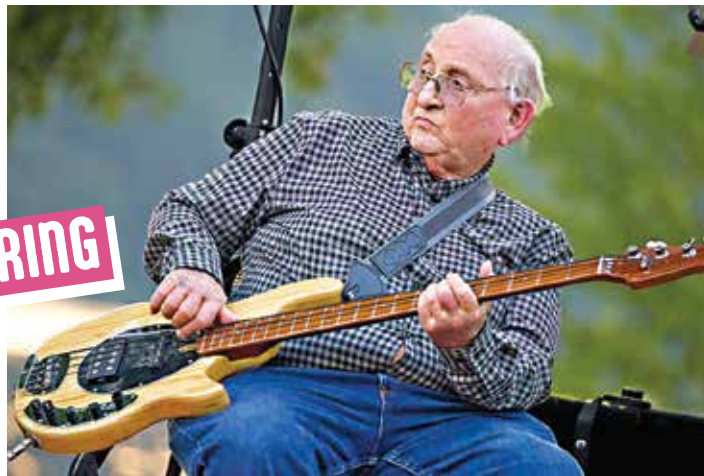
Together, battery storage and virtual plants could be the solution to preparing the grid for the renewable energy era without raising rates. For that to happen, the state and utilities will need to develop plans that benefit a broader range of people. Even as the mayors and supervisors in Dutchess County warmed up to the idea, there was still skepticism.

“Does Central Hudson have to be involved with any of this?” asked Torreggiani, the Hyde Park supervisor, pointing to photos of battery storage units that Seidman had projected on a screen. “Because they’ll just jack the shit out of the price.”

NEXT WEEK: Bills, bills, bills



COLD SPRING



COMMUNITY DAY



PHOTOS BY ROSS CORSAIR



JUNE 21

For more, see highlandscurrent.org.

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

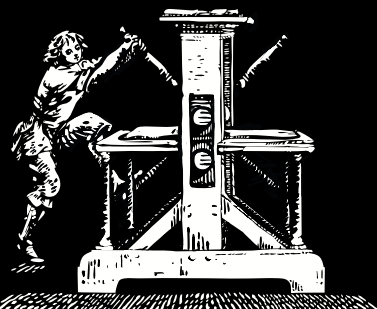
Sometimes Sundays

Play reading of
Mess by Heather Whaley

June 29 at 7pm

www.philipstowndepottheatre.org

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The Calendar

A Madcap Comedy of Errors

Hudson Valley Shakespeare rolls with the punchlines

By Marc Ferris

Highbrow and lowbrow collide as history and pop culture are run through a blender in the production of *The Comedy of Errors* at Hudson Valley Shakespeare.

The play opens with a few notes of *The Godfather* theme, rewinds to the Big Band Era, then fast-forwards to 1950s rock 'n' roll. There's also a bawdy "Star-Spangled Banner" joke, another one associating "wee wee" with "yes yes" in French and three kick-line dance numbers.

"That's the good thing about doing plays that have no copyright or family members alive — you can do anything you want," says director Ryan Quinn.

Movement fuels the madcap mayhem: The opening scene unspools like a silent film that animates a long backstory monologue by Kurt Rhoads as Egeon. The actors sway on deck as their ship goes down, a segment choreographed by Susannah Millionzi and punctuated by Sean McNall running around in a gleaming-yellow fisherman's bucket hat.

It's funny to watch Zach Fine as the servant Dromio of Syracuse get chased. Or just stand and make strange faces, eat popcorn and shake his legs. After Fine's



The HSV company in a scene from *The Comedy of Errors*

Photos by Daniel Albanese/HSV

scene-stealing appearance with the ribald French joke, national anthem quip and dose of Robin Williams, the audience on June 22 erupted with applause.

Quinn added a dash of *Guys and Dolls*: the more menacing characters and two female roles deliver the Bard's words with faux Brooklyn accents. As Luciana, Helen Cespedes channels the renowned squeak of Adelaide from the 1950s play and Katie Hartke (Adriana) joins the fun as cases of mistaken identity erupt into chaos.

The flaw to Shakespeare's logic is that each set of twins shares the same names. And, to keep the ruse going, they must be dressed in the same garb.

Nonetheless, Luis Quintero (Antipholous of Syracuse), plays a low-key foil to Fine's Dromio as a happy-go-lucky chap who finds himself in maddening situations. As the other brother, Antipholous of Ephesus, Anand

Nagraj presents a blustering blowhard who amalgamates the Wicked Wolf and Ralph Kramden when the hijinks get out of hand.

The cast metes out more beatings than a Three Stooges film and Quinn leans into slap-schtick territory. At one point, cast members play-slap the entire audience and even the stage manager hurls water balloons at Antipholous of Ephesus. Tactful ad-libs, mostly from Cespedes, add to the playfulness and lack of pretense.

One of Shakespeare's early works (circa 1594), with rhyming lines that sometimes flow like rap, *The Comedy of Errors* is funny not so much because of the words but in the situations. That means it's up to the actors to put it over.

As written, the Dr. Pinch scene is staid, but McNall's manic depiction of an exorcism elicited howls of laughter. After arriving in what looks like a moon buggy

with two white-coated helpers in glittering goggles, he gesticulates wildly and unleashes otherworldly noises. Holy water is splashed about like kindergartners in a kiddie pool.

Beyond the funning and fighting, Quinn focuses on family. In one subtle, recurring gag, after the Syracusans are introduced, they walk up the hill behind the stage, and the servant Dromio tries to hold his master's hand but is swatted away.

The gimmick occurs a few more times, but at the end, both Dromios in near-identical costumes clasp hands with vigor as they exit stage rear, reunited. And it feels so good.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare is located at 2015 Route 9 in Philipstown. Tickets are \$10 to \$100 at hvshakespeare.org or at the door. *The Comedy of Errors* runs on select evenings through Aug. 2.



Luis Quintero, Nance Williamson and Anand Nagraj



Zach Fine and Carl Howell

THE WEEK AHEAD

COMMUNITY

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*

THURS 3
Silent Book Club & Book Swap
BEACON
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Enjoy reading in the company of others and find your next book. Bring up to three books to share.

FRI 4
Free Admission
NEW WINDSOR
10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road | dub.sh/storm-king-free

The First Friday program includes a highlights tour at 1:15 p.m., a children's program that starts at 2:30 p.m. and a young artists' concert at 6 p.m.

KIDS & FAMILY

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.

SAT 5
Sonic the Hedgehog 3
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Watch the 2024 animated film as Sonic, Knuckles and Tails take on a new villain.

SAT 5
Coco
BEACON
6:30 & 7:30 p.m. Boats leave dock
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org

Watch the 2017 Disney film on Bannerman Island about a boy who journeys through the Land of the Dead to learn more about his ancestor, a legendary singer. *Cost: \$45 (\$35 for ages 8-11)*

TALKS & TOURS

TUES 1
Investing 101
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Brooke Busi of Brooke Builds Wealth will share tips and discuss how to start investing.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 28
Peekskill Film Festival
PEEKSKILL
10 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
peekskillfilmfestival.org

The festival, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary, will screen shorts, feature films, documentaries and animation. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 28
LitFest Drama
BEACON
1:30 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 Chuk Obasi, directors of TÉA Artistry. See Page 14. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 28
The Importance of Being Earnest
BEACON
7 p.m. Savage Wonder
139 Main St. | savagewonder.org

Eric Tucker directs Mike

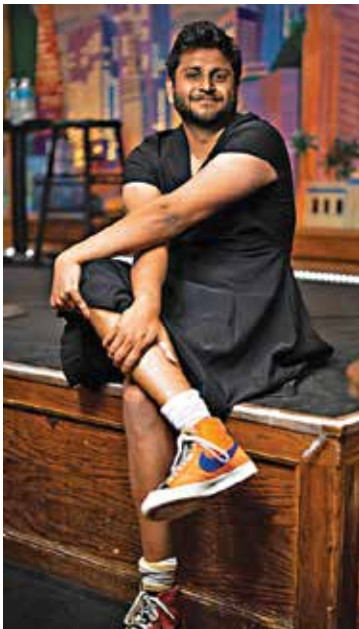
Labbadia, Dylan Crow and Shonita Joshi in this "wildly staged" reading of the Oscar Wilde classic. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 28
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 MON 30, WED 2, FRI 4, SUN 6. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

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 (below) 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 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*

SUN 29
Mess
GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

This reading of Heather Whaley's play is directed by Alice Jankell. Registration required. *Free*

SUN 29
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 THURS 3, SAT 5. See Page 11. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

VISUAL ART

SAT 28
Clay Instrument Workshop
BEACON
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The River Center
8 Long Dock Road | soonisnow.org

The artist Koyoltzintli, whose exhibit *Tinkuy* is on view, will demonstrate how to make whistles, flutes and rattles with self-hardening clay. *Cost: \$50*



SAT 28
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 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. Also SUN 29.

SAT 28
Kurt Steger
PHILIPSTOWN
2 p.m. Ligenza Moore Gallery
78 Trout Brook Road
ligenzamooregallery.com

Steger will talk about his work on view in *Destination Earth*.

SAT 28
etheReality
NEWBURGH
5 – 7 p.m. Ann Street Gallery
104 Ann St. | annstreetgallery.org

This group show, "from breath to air and back," includes work by Bel Falleiros, Ghost of a Dream, Sanie Irsay, Mollie McKinley, Jason Mitcham, Megan Pahmier, Linda Stillman and Amy Talluto. Through Aug. 31.

MUSIC

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*



FOURTH OF JULY

FRI 4
Celebration
PHILIPSTOWN
10 a.m. Mekeel's Corners Chapel
321 Route 301
putnamhistorymuseum.org

The annual event in the 19th-century chapel includes readings of founding documents and music.

FRI 4
Reading of the Declaration of Independence
BEACON
11 a.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza

Join elected officials and community members for the annual reading of the nation's founding document.

FRI 4
Fireworks
POUGHKEEPSIE
6 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson
Parker Avenue | walkway.org

Watch the fireworks from the pedestrian bridge over the river. Advance tickets required. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 seniors, veterans; free for ages 12 and younger)*

FRI 4
Concert and Fireworks
WEST POINT
7 p.m. Trophy Point
westpointband.com

The concert band will perform before fireworks at dusk celebrating the Army's 250th birthday. *Free*

FRI 4
Concert
PHILIPSTOWN
7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform before the West Point fireworks. *Cost: \$59 (\$28 ages 4 to 18, free ages 4 and younger)*

SAT 5
Fireworks
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Memorial Park
Robert Cahill Drive | beaconny.gov

Come early and enjoy food and entertainment before the fireworks at dusk.

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

This Beacon Open Studios program will include sets by Martin D. Fowler; Odetta Herman with Letz; and Illari. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door; \$75 tent seating)*



Free Admission to Storm King, July 4

SAT 28

Deni Bonet & Chris Flynn

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Bonet (violin) and Flynn (guitar) sing and play Americana and folk-rock. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 28

More Horse

BEACON

8 p.m. Quinn's
330 Main St. | quinnsinbeacon.com

The band will celebrate its first single with Brothertiger and nabbler.

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)*

SAT 28

SoulShine

BEACON

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

This Allman Brothers tribute band plays the hits. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*



KJ Denhert, July 5

SUN 29

The Hendersons

PHILIPSTOWN

3 p.m. Marbled Meat | 3091 Route 9
marbledmeatshop.com

The concert is a benefit for the Philipstown Food Pantry and there will be BBQ available for purchase. *Cost: \$20 donation*

SUN 29

Metropolitan Klezmer

BEACON

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

The band brings together a diverse Yiddish repertoire. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

TUES 2

Lyra Music Benefit

BEACON

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
lyramusic.org

Pianist Michael Stephen Brown and students will play a program that includes works by Beethoven, Brown, Faure and Rachmaninoff. *Cost: \$50*

FRI 4

Gratefully Yours

BEACON

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

The band will play a Grateful Dead set. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 5

KJ Denhert & The NY Unit

BEACON

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

The band will be joined by The Whispering Tree and songwriter Debbi Deane as part of its All About the Song series. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

CIVIC

MON 30

Putnam County Executive

COLD SPRING

2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Kevin Byrne will visit the library to chat with constituents.

TUES 1

Putnam Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountyny.com

WED 2

Village Board

COLD SPRING

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

THURS 3

Town Board

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

NATURE & OUTDOORS

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)*



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



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Insights for Actors

Workshop will explore ‘spiritually grounded theater’

By Marc Ferris

For 13 years, Vieve Radha Price has been developing the concept of Insight Artistry, a method to stimulate creativity and “activate and inspire humanity through art,” according to its website.

With help from Hit House Creative, Price’s T  A Artistry is welcoming observers to an experiential workshop at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on Sunday (June 28).

The event had been scheduled for LitFest weekend earlier this month but conflicted with the No Kings demonstration. The troupe is inclusive rather than radical, but producer and moderator Shane Killoran wanted to play it safe.

Killoran met Price and her husband Jaime about 15 years ago and helped them develop a performance about the founding of the Peace Corps in the 1960s set against a backdrop of civil unrest in the Dominican Republic.

The process “is like a method actor,



Chuk Obasi and Vieve Radha Price, the directors of T  A Artistry

Photo by John Keon

where you arrive at the space in the present and aware,” says Killoran. “We’re looking through a lens of unity, healing, community and listening to each other.”

Four facilitators — including Price and her co-director at T  A Artistry, Chuk Obasi — will converge on the Howland Center. The approach can help artists stuck in a rut, says Price, but it’s also “spiritually grounded theater designed to cultivate communities of self- and socially aware artists.”

TEA once stood for theater, engagement and action, but the focus now is Insight

Artistry, a process based on the teaching of Canadian philosopher Bernard Longerman. Its three stages include critically discovering, creatively exploring and aesthetically expressing, which require mindfulness but letting go.

“We’re being introspective and use our own data in the moment to explore issues people are having,” said Price. “There’s no stage — it’s an interactive workshop and exercise in creativity.”

Insight Artistry’s first step involves “insight conversations” that explore the way participants are thinking, feeling and

“We’re looking through a lens of unity, healing, community and listening to each other.”



~ Shane Killoran, Hit House Creative

acting in the moment. Next comes insight design labs, “the structured process T  A uses to research, devise and stage its theatrical performance pieces,” per the website. At the end, a performance piece provides “a dramatic opportunity for change.”

The event fits with LitFest because “it’s a look into how we create our scripts, and after 90 minutes, we’ll have done some poetry and make the link of drama as literature,” Price says.

Killoran has watched the insight process grow from the beginning but has yet to see the latest iteration. “It’s learning how to be responsible and accountable as artists through that process of what insight invites,” she says. “The method keeps evolving.”

The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. in Beacon. Tickets for the workshop, which begins at 1:30 p.m., are \$20 at beaconlitfest.org/events.

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A Tartan of Its Own

Pipe Band registers Highlands 'sett'

By Michael Turton

A distinctive look can establish pride and set a group apart, whether it's Yankee pinstripes, the golden helmets of the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame or the iconic painting scheme of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

For the Hudson Highlands Pipe Band, what distinguishes it from other bands is its tartan, or "sett," which became official when it was listed last year in the Scottish Register of Tartans, established by the country's Parliament in 2008.

"For years, we wore the Royal Stuart tartan," says James Hartford, the band's pipe major. Red is its dominant color, making it popular with fire departments.

The local pipe band, established in 2005, was originally associated with the Cold Spring Fire Co. but later became Cold Spring Pipes and Drums and, more recently, the Hudson Highlands Pipe Band.

Hartford, an architect, designed the tartan with help from Aeneas Eaton, a graphic designer who sometimes plays bass drum with the band.

Each of its colors represent an aspect of the Highlands' history or geography, Hartford says: blue for the Hudson River; amber for the mountains and foliage; red for iron industries, including mines and West Point Foundry; blue-grey tones for West Point; and two white lines for the railroads that flank the river.

A tartan can have three to five variants. The Hudson Highlands tartan features the "Hunter" version, historically associated with stealth because it can blend in with woodland surroundings. The band also considered "ancient" and "contemporary" variants that feature muted and vivid tones, respectively.

Creating the tartan inspired considerable



James Hartford models a kilt with the pipe band's new tartan. Photo by Lawrence Eaton

debate among the band's 25 members, Hartford says, particularly over the colors. Hartford says the group reached consensus once he explained the rationale behind each color.

The fabric, a heavy wool, was produced by Lochcarron of Scotland. The first kilts arrived in the fall. In the U.S., *tartan* and *plaid* are often used synonymously, but while a tartan is a plaid, not all plaids are a tartan. Tartans have the same pattern of stripes running vertically and horizontally, creating overlapping square grids. Plaids are not necessarily identical in both directions and can vary in size, pattern and color. Tartan is also usually woven in a two-over-two twill pattern, creating an illusion of new colors when the original hues are blended.

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Young EMTs

*Student ambulance corps
relaunches in Beacon*

By Jeff Simms

Hillary Williams, a senior at John Jay High School in Fishkill, sat in the patient care compartment of an ambulance, facing the rear of the vehicle, on a Tuesday last month in Beacon.

One by one, she called out items from a check sheet: Are the pads on the automatic external defibrillator expired? Is the battery on the device good? Is the oxygen cylinder filled and operating? Are there splinting devices on board?

Surrounding her inside the ambulance, five other teenagers — three girls and two boys — helped complete the rig check, their first task after reporting to the evening class. The teens are members of the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps' Junior Corps, a program that flourished decades ago but went dormant in the early 2000s.

Relaunched in 2023 as a class that meets twice a week, the program offers students the opportunity to become licensed EMTs before graduating high school. Bolstered last year by a Dutchess County grant that helped the nonprofit Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps (BVAC) purchase uniforms, equipment and "Annie," a \$13,000 training mannequin, the youth corps grew from one participant to 17 within a year.

Seven of the students, after learning CPR, first aid, radio communications and other skills over four to six months, can ride along on ambulance calls. Each works at least a four-hour shift, during which they assist and observe. After an emergency, they'll break down the call with the staff, discussing the situation and what it required.

"We're giving them lifesaving skills, but we also want to give them leadership skills," said Piero Giangrosso, BVAC's vice president, who noted that the longer-tenured students are expected to mentor the newer ones. "We're teaching them to teach others."

The hope is that the Junior Corps will spur interest in emergency medical care, a field in which low wages, burnout and limited opportunities for advancement have people "leaving in droves," said Mike Zingone, BVAC's executive director. In New York State, Giangrosso added, municipalities are required to provide fire and police protection but ambulance service isn't considered essential.

BVAC has served Beacon since 1958, when a crew of volunteers began driving a refurbished 1948 Cadillac ambulance. It survived without municipal support until 2021, when nationwide issues with the mutual-aid system led the city to hire Ambulnz, an advanced-life support provider that also has contracts with Putnam County and Newburgh.

The City Council added \$50,000 in its 2022 budget for BVAC to supplement Ambulnz coverage. Last year BVAC responded to 3,635 emergency calls, or an average of 10 per day.



Junior Corps members check the rig supplies during a BVAC class.

Photo by
Ross Corsair

The agency sees the youth program "like a farm league, to bring interest back into the field," Giangrosso said. After the relaunch, word spread organically. "Kids started talking, and they understood what we have here," he said.

Despite dwindling numbers statewide — one study reports a nearly 18 percent drop in EMS responders between 2019 and 2022 — Giangrosso said there's plenty of interest among young people. Some apply to BVAC's program to get a taste of medicine. Others will go into nursing or pre-med after graduating.

BVAC modeled its program after New York State's EMT training criteria, which allow students as young as 17 to become certified. Two Beacon participants earned licenses this month after completing

an additional semester-long course at Dutchess Community College.

Next month, Williams, the John Jay senior, will report to San Antonio, Texas, for advanced individual training in the U.S. Army. She plans to become a combat medic and said her time in the Junior Corps program "has given me real-world scenarios to think about."

Cory Pittore, a rising sophomore at SUNY Purchase, was the first student to join the revamped BVAC program in 2023. His grandfather was an EMT and "I want to carry on his legacy and give back to my community," Pittore said.

The Junior Corps is open to students ages 15 to 17 and requires at least three hours per week. See beaconvac.org/volunteer.



Jaime Barry (1960-2025)

Jaime Barry, 64, of Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, New York, died suddenly June 8. He was born in the Bronx Oct. 6, 1960, to the late Patricia and James Barry.

The third of six children, Jaime was born to dance his way around the world. A proud member of Actors' Equity, Jaime was an accomplished modern jazz dancer and choreographer.

Jaime is survived by three siblings: Gene (Edalyn) of the Philippines; Kevin (Mary Pat) of Cold Spring, NY; and Maura (Eddie) of Bristol, England. He was predeceased by his younger brother Stephen in 2023 and older brother Christopher in 2022.

He is also survived by nine nephews and four nieces: Liam, Kevin, and Maria Barry of Cold Spring; Daniel Barry of California; Mitchell, Jimmy and Conner Barry of Thailand; Brendan Barry of Florida; Patricia and Isabella Barry of the Philippines; Dylan Boyle of Brooklyn, NY; Julia Boyle of Bristol, England; and Jack Barry of Chico, California. He was also very close to his sister-in-law's sister, Nadine Gorman, of Yorktown Heights, and longtime friends Allen and Karen Brady, of Weehawken, NJ.

Jaime grew up in Yorktown Heights, NY and attended St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Lakeland High School in Shrub Oak, NY. Jaime studied Irish step dancing for four years and successfully performed jigs and reels at Irish feisanna in the Bronx. He was a member of Lakeland's gymnastics team and studied dance at the Country Academy of Dance and Art under Broadway choreographer Dee Erickson Parenti and Carol Hanzel.

Jaime was featured in Lakeland's productions of West Side Story and Godspell. He finished high school early in 1978 and began an exciting theatrical career with summer stock at the Surflight Theater in Beach Haven, NJ. After blazing through 14 musicals in three months, Jaime began traveling the world with the Tommy Finnan Dancers and performed professionally for audiences in Puerto Rico, Egypt, Portugal, Thailand, Japan, and Singapore, to name a few.


Jaime helped open the Tropicana Casino in Atlantic City performing in the Monte Carlo Carnival, followed by a revival of Cole Porter's *Can-Can*, starring Yvonne DeCarlo. He was invited to Bogota, Colombia, where he taught, choreographed, and performed in *A Salute to Broadway*.


Jaime's athleticism and grace fused the best of Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor and Fred Astaire. He loved Christmas, musicals, Broadway plays, Judy Garland, *The Wizard of Oz*, classic movies, sunbathing, cooking, traveling and spending quality time with his family and friends. Jaime will be remembered for his joyful personality, free spirit, love of dance, theatrical knowledge, sense of humor and his eagerness to help in the kitchen and prepare for big celebrations.

Jaime was cremated and his family is planning a memorial service, according to his wishes. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Jaime's memory to Entertainment Community Fund (formerly The Actors Fund) at entertainmentcommunity.org.

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Pizza Around Back

New Beacon vegan joint already has a following

By Brian PJ Cronin

Despite running a pizza place, Mickey Dwyer is not sick of pizza.

"I don't get to eat *enough* of my pizza, actually," he said while sliding a sausage and peppers pie into the oven at Trixie's, the pizzeria he owns and operates. "I keep selling out and then I'm bummed that I don't have any left for myself."

Dwyer sells out despite a lack of advertising and his pizzeria being impossible to stumble upon. It's located in the rear of 144 Main St. in Beacon, next to a semi-secret soccer field. Its unlikely location keeps the rent cheap, which comes in handy since it took Dwyer and friends a year to get the former guitar repair shop up to code before he could open.

Trixie's, named after his family's late chihuahua, had a soft opening in April that went so well Dwyer's never had a chance to have an official opening. Pizza orders open online on Wednesdays in 20-minute slots for Thursday, Friday and Saturday pickup. They fill quickly; Dwyer can only fit four pizzas at a time in the oven.

"I like the time slots so I can tell how many pizzas to make," he said. "There's less food waste. And the pizza is just gonna come out better. I understand that everyone in Beacon wants to eat at 6:15, but if I made pizza for everybody at 6:15 then some are going to be undercooked. This way I can give every pizza the same amount of attention."

There's one other thing that makes Trixie's unique: Everything is vegan. "I can't use 2 pounds of cheese as a crutch to cover up 'mid' pizza," he said.

The sausage is made of a meat substi-

tute; Dwyer adds sage, garlic and fennel. The mozzarella is cashew-based, and what looks like parmesan is a potato starch-based substitute that's not available in stores. Even the hot honey is vegan, made from apples and chilis.

If potato-starch cheese doesn't sound appealing, rest assured that Dwyer, who grew up in Wisconsin, is picky about cheese. "All the cheese that the New York pizzerias use is made in Juda, Wisconsin," he said. "You might not think we know a lot about pizza in Wisconsin, but we know a lot about cheese."

Dwyer himself isn't vegan but guesses most of his customers aren't either. "Vegans make up less than 6 percent of the population, so you're going to go under unless you make something that appeals to everyone," he said. Beacon's vegan doughnut shop, Peaceful Provisions, is an example of this. "Nobody cares that it's vegan — they just care that it's a delicious doughnut."

Before he had the Main Street space, Dwyer used the commercial kitchen at Peaceful Provisions to make 100 pounds of dough on Wednesdays. He said the Saturday doughs, with their longer ferment, had more complex flavors, although he admitted he may be the only one who noticed the difference.

With all the dough now made at Trixie's, the dough for each pizza gets a two-day cold ferment. "That means every pizza takes three days start to finish," he said. "Everybody thinks that pizza is fast food, but good pizza is slow food."

Dwyer began making pizza as a hobby



Mickey Dwyer puts the finishing touches on a vegan pie.

Photos by B. Cronin

soon after he moved to Beacon in 2016. Around the same time, he and his wife began eating less meat and dairy, and creating a vegan pizza that didn't taste like a vegan pizza recipe became an obsession. Dwyer bought an old coffee trailer and sold pizzas from his driveway.

At Trixie's, Dwyer is working on building a small outdoor patio and has applied for a beer and wine license. He's also finally with a food distributor so he no longer must drive back and forth to Adams and Shop-Rite for ingredients.

This month he hired his first employee. "She'll be taking orders and talking to people," he said. "I was spreading myself too thin. I'd be talking to customers and answering their questions, and the pizzas would be in the back, burning. Now I'll just be able to focus on the pizzas. I can make more, and I can make them faster."



Dwyer stands outside the entrance to Trixie's Pizza.

Trixie's Pizza, behind 144 Main St. in Beacon, is open 4 to 9 p.m. on Thursday and 4 to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, or until sold out. Orders can be placed at trixiespizza.com. Pizza drops are announced on Instagram (@trixiesveganpizza).

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15. French perfume brand

16. Western toppers

18. Treeless plains

20. Thoreau piece

21. Remiss

22. Boxing legend

23. Stupefies

26. Spy’s asset

30. Compass dir.

31. Actress Tyler

32. Tic-tac-toe win

33. Sound systems

36. Ridicule

38. Last (Abbr.)

39. Airline to Sweden

40. Ballroom dance
43. First-rate

47. Big name in pianos

49. Architect Saarinen

50. Memo

51. 100%

52. Work on proofs

53. Hot tubs

54. Hwy.

55. Cushions
- DOWN
1. Goals

2. “Act now!”

3. Lotion additive

4. Christie sleuth Jane

5. English county

6. — and crafts

7. Shad product

8. Moscow’s land

9. Son of Seth

10. Pinta’s companion

11. Online crafts site

17. Far (Pref.)
19. — de deux

22. Off-roader (Abbr.)

23. — Moines

24. Busy insect

25. Wye follower

26. Bro’s sib

27. Singer Rawls

28. Heavy weight

29. Sizzling

31. Parking place

34. July birthstones

35. Panache

36. Menlo Park monogram

37. In dreamland

39. Fashion

40. Taxpayer IDs

41. Perched on

42. Self-referential

43. Popcorn seasoning

44. Castor’s mother

45. Desertlike

46. Decays

48. Series of battles

SUDOCURRENT

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

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WORDSEARCH

THEME: Modes of Transport

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

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.

G	H	O	S	T	Leave hanging
					Wiring problem
					Different
					Inhabitable planet
					Judged
					Imagine

G N U S R A T A L T A

R A S H E V E B U Y S

A D E E S I X P A C K S

F A R R A H T I C K E T

S U G A R P E A S Y N E

E R R S E R B O O I L

A N A G S A O P A U L O

L O U I S E N E P H E W

S T A M P P A D E U R O

T O T E I R E C L A N

S E E S C A D T A S K

Answers for June 20

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

SWING, GOWNS, SWORN,

WORSE, SHORE, HOMER

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

NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, July 8th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.**

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

The HIGHLANDS Current

20 JUNE 27, 2025

For mail delivery, see highlandscurrent.org/delivery

Little League Action



The baseball and softball teams of the Philipstown Little League recently ended their spring season. The players sometimes played through tears, either after getting beamed, having a tough inning on the mound or making the last out. But their teammates and coaches quickly offered support.

In one softball game, a player was hit in the head by a line drive. This being Philipstown, one coach had paramedic training, the umpire was a member of the Cold Spring Fire Co. and a parent in the stands was a doctor. A baseball pitcher endured a miserable, unending, terrible inning, but in the next frame found his zone.

For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photos by Ross Corsair

