

# The HIGHLANDS Current

DECEMBER 6, 2019

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Model Pets  
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## Haldane Coach Pleads Guilty to Reduced Charge

*Superintendent plans to recommend dismissal*



Tyrone Searight  
*File photo*

By Chip Rowe

Initially charged with three felonies, Tyrone Searight, the longtime coach of the Haldane High School varsity girls' basketball team, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct on Nov. 26 after being accused of defrauding the state workers' compensation system. He also paid nearly \$17,000 in restitution to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which employed him as a bus driver.

Haldane Superintendent Philip Benante said on Wednesday (Dec. 4) that he planned to recommend to the school board at its Dec. 17 meeting that Searight be fired.

Searight, who coached the Blue Devils for 11 seasons, has been on leave since his Oct. 29 arrest. The junior varsity coach, Jessica Perrone, was assigned at the time to coach both teams, and Athletic Director Chris Salumn said in a letter to parents on Dec. 4 that she would continue to do so for the 2019-20 season. The varsity girls were scheduled to play their first game today (Dec. 6) at Bronxville.

Searight said in an interview that Benante asked him to resign but that he declined. "They were questioning my character of being around the girls," he said. "I jumped through hoops to get the best situation in my case." He said he planned to seek legal advice on how to proceed and would "make an effort to be at the board meeting to see what is presented to them."

"My case should never have gone to court," he added. "It should have been handled

*(Continued on Page 16)*



**FIRST SNOW** — A winter storm hit the Highlands on Sunday (Dec. 1), dropping about 6 inches of powder and adding icicles to the holiday decorations. For more photos, see Page 7.

*Photo by Michael Turton*

## Big Monday for Beacon Council

*Four hearings, noise limits and budget on agenda*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council has a busy night starting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 9, when it is scheduled to hold

a regular meeting, a workshop and four public hearings because its Dec. 2 meeting was snowed out.

The council will hear feedback from the public on a request for a special-use permit to open a bar and arcade at 296 Main St.; proposals to regulate exterior lighting citywide and balconies in the waterfront,

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Has the Trolley Turned a Corner?

*Reports: Increased ridership, interest*

By Michael Turton

If the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has its way, passengers will be hopping aboard the familiar green trolley in larger numbers in 2020.

A committee created by the chamber to study how to increase use of the trolley in Philipstown recently sent its recommendations to Vinny Tamagna, the director of transportation for Putnam County, which operates the vehicles. He said he planned to incorporate most of its suggestions.

The trolley began operations in 2007, following weekend routes in Philipstown, Cold Spring, Garrison and, in recent years,

*(Continued on Page 16)*



The trolley carried nearly 1,900 passengers during its 2019 season.

*File photo by M. Turton*

## How They Voted

*Governor enacts another round of bills passed by state legislators*

By Chip Rowe

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has so far this year enacted 574 bills passed by the state Senate and Assembly, with another 61 waiting for his signature. He has vetoed 46.

Below are summaries of select laws enacted since Oct. 1 and the votes cast by Republican Sue Serino (whose Senate district includes the Highlands), Democrat Sandy Galef (whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Democrat Jonathan Jacobson (whose Assembly district includes Beacon). Serino did not respond to a request for details about her "no" votes.

### Election changes

- Election boards, such as those in Putnam and Dutchess counties, must create "user-friendly" ballot designs by Aug. 1, 2020.

#### Passed Senate 40-20

Serino ☒

#### Passed Assembly 143-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

- Election boards must post sample ballots online, beginning Jan. 1, 2021.

#### Passed Senate 41-21

Serino ☒

#### Passed Assembly 138-3

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

- By April 15 of each year, election boards must calculate and post the maximum contribution a person can make to the campaign of a candidate for a county, town, city or village office. The amount changes each year because it is based on the number of registered voters in the election district.

#### Passed Senate 55-5

Serino ☒

#### Passed Assembly 144-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

- Introduced in the Assembly by Galef, this law changes the process that allows people to add a write-in line to a primary ballot, which forces a vote if there is only one endorsed candidate. As part of the process, at least three members of the party must be listed as a Committee to Receive Notices; the new law requires those individuals to

*(Continued on Page 6)*





## FIVE QUESTIONS: CHOI FAIRBANKS

By Alison Rooney

Choi Fairbanks of Beacon created a cello choir that will perform at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 16, at the Howland Cultural Center.

### When did you begin playing the cello?

I grew up in South Korea, where my dad was a trumpet player. There were three of us girls — one played piano, and the other violin. I was the last one and didn't have a choice! At college, there was an exchange program between my school and the University of South Florida; that's what brought me to the U.S. My husband plays trombone and is a jazz composer and he won a residency in New York City, and that's why we came here. Before we moved to Beacon, I formed a string quartet that played in Greenwich Village every Monday night for five years at the Fat Cat. It was challenging but super-fun, playing Shostakovich in a bar.



### What do you love most about your instrument?

When you play it, the sound it makes, how it makes you feel, is so close to my heart it's like my inner voice. The range is close to a human voice, so you sing out through the cello. It resonates.

### Did you seek out other musicians after your move?

Definitely. We moved up to raise our kids somewhere with a river and mountains, and diversity. I'm a cellist. I needed to meet people and play with them.

I decided to do something about it, and went around picking up all the flyers for things like violin teachers that I could find, and I called them, asking if we could meet. I found musicians on Facebook, too. A

lot of musicians want to play, but without opportunities, they have to go to the city. Why not in Beacon? I invited them all to [music]-reading sessions at my house and eventually named the group the Beacon Chamber Ensemble. We did concerts at Chill Wine Bar.

### How did you end up with only cellists?

One day just cellists came and I got the idea. It can be a quartet or trio. If more than four people come, we double up on the one part. People who came to our last concert said they'd never heard such things in their life. In an orchestra you hear everything, but in a cello choir, everything is in this low register and there's harmony. It's like four baritones singing together.

### Can cello be daunting for kids to learn to play?

Sometimes the cello helps kids who can't calm themselves down. Some children never have alone time — the silent moments — and the cello makes them feel special, maybe because of the low sound, the slowness. When I introduce the cello to a child, I make comparisons to the human body: this is the shoulder, the waist, the pegs are ears, the bottom is, well, the bottom, and the neck. The bow becomes the arm, and the end pin becomes the leg. It's so different from a violin — it's perfect!

## ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What was one of your parents' favorite sayings?

“

“So, if everyone else jumped off a bridge, would you?”

”



~ Laura Bach, Cold Spring

“

“Better get it straight!”

”



~David Quill, Beacon

“

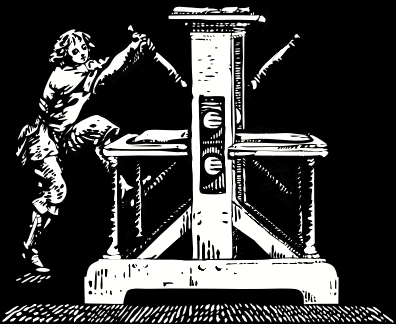
“If you don't stop that, I'll have your guts for garters!”

”



~Charlotte Brooks, Cold Spring

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Planning Board OKs Canopy at Garrison Gulf

*Proposal to sell used cars is dropped*

The Philipstown Planning Board last month unanimously approved the installation of a canopy over the gas pumps at the Garrison Gulf service station on Route 9D but stipulated that the lights must be turned off when the station is closed.

The owner of the Gulf, Arafat Ibrahim, also had asked for the OK to sell used cars from the station, but his attorney told the board that he has abandoned that plan for now. In February, Ibrahim acknowledged receiving a violation from the town for selling cars without permission.

The board, which has seven members, approved the measure, 4-0. Two members were absent and its chair, Anthony Merante, resigned recently, creating a vacancy.

## Putnam Man Surrenders after Standoff

*Sheriff blames social media for escalating situation*

A Mahopac man surrendered to police on Nov. 23 after a seven-hour standoff during which Instagram users encouraged him not to surrender.

Police said that after a Carmel officer responded to an earlier report of a domestic dispute, Alexander Booth, 28, barricaded himself inside his residence. Booth livestreamed on Instagram during the standoff, claiming officers were attempting to confiscate his weapons and using terms common among the far-right such

as *boogaloo*, for civil war, and *red coats*, for police officers who enforce gun laws.

Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. said Booth's claim that officers were responding to a court order to confiscate his weapons was incorrect. Nevertheless, he said, outraged gun-rights activists from around the country tied up his agency's phone lines for hours. "Social-media participants created a secondary crisis situation in the midst of our response," he said in a statement.

Police said they did not recover any weapons or ammunition from the home.

## Violence Task Force Regroups in Putnam

*Alliance fizzled 5 years ago after grant ended*

After a five-year hiatus, the Putnam County Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Task Force has regrouped.

It includes the Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center, the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Department, the Probation Department and local police departments.

The alliance disbanded when a grant that came through the Probation Department expired but Ann Ellsworth, director of the Women's Resource Center, organized an effort to again work together to share information and promote services available to victims.

District Attorney Robert Tendy said each of his nine assistant district attorneys is trained in handling domestic violence cases. In addition, many cases are intertwined with drug and alcohol abuse by offenders and victims, he said.

"At any point in a day, you're probably sitting next to someone who is touched by domestic violence," he said. "This task force is a place they can turn to."

## I-84 Overpass Work Complete

*\$16.3 million project raised clearance*

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Nov. 15 that rehabilitation of the Interstate 84 overpass atop Route 9W in the Town of Newburgh, on the west approach to the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, was completed under budget and ahead of schedule.

"The I-84 overpass atop 9W has been brought to current highway standards and has a new deck that will last for decades into the future," he said in a statement.

The project, which began in April 2018, involved raising the overpass by 2 feet, to 16 feet, to provide higher clearance for trucks. The project occurred on property belonging to the New York State Bridge Authority, which operates the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge.

## Census Bureau Hiring

*Looking for workers in Putnam, Dutchess*

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring residents to assist with its 2020 count. The Peekskill office will pay \$21 per hour plus mileage and expenses for census takers in Putnam County and the Pawling office will pay \$14.50 to \$19 per hour in Dutchess County plus mileage and expenses. Apply at [2020census.gov/en/jobs.html](https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html).

# Merger of 911 Dispatchers Moving Slowly

*Technical, personnel issues have been challenge, Putnam officials say*

By Holly Crocco

A plan to move Putnam County Sheriff Department dispatchers to the county's 911 call center is taking longer than expected and has legislators questioning whether the merger can be completed.

"There are still a lot of moving parts," said Ken Clair, commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services (BES), at a meeting last month of the county Legislature's Protective Services Committee.

The plan is to have dispatchers for fire, police and medical emergencies under one roof at the Emergency Operations Center in Carmel, he said.

Technical issues have slowed progress, Clair said, as have the challenges of merging personnel represented by two unions,

such as determining which dispatchers will have seniority and whether the sheriff's dispatchers will report to Clair or Sheriff Robert Langley. Clair said the initial plan was to have the sheriff's dispatchers eventually become BES employees.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) expressed disappointment at the delay.

"When this was proposed, our objective was to improve efficiencies," she said. "If we're going to get caught up in 'The sheriff's guys aren't going to answer to Kenny,' there's a disconnect."

Langley, who was at the meeting, said he and Clair had been ironing out a chain of command that all employees are comfortable with. "The bottom line is, if there's a supervisor in that room, you better listen to the supervisor," he said.

Nacerino seemed unconvinced.

"Wasn't it the objective to have these dispatchers dually trained to do each other's jobs?" she asked. "Why is there this segregation?"

Langley said that goal remains, but the

path to get there is not as straight and narrow as they had hoped it would be. "Fire service [dispatching] has different demands than that of law enforcement," he said. "They talk different languages."

But, he added, "it can work, and it will work."

"Is this something that can happen, or is this something that we're just dreaming about?" asked Legislator Paul Jonke (R-Brewster). "Because I don't want to spend any more taxpayer money on a project that's not going anywhere."

"I'm 100 percent vested in this," replied Langley. "I see this as the right direction to go."

"If everything goes just peachy, when is this going to happen?" Jonke asked.

"Summertime?" said Clair.

"I was thinking we'd be in there already," said Langley. "We want this to work flawlessly for the interest of public safety."

Lawmakers said they expect another update in January.

## Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

- A group of Haldane Middle School students drew praise from Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy at the Village Board's Nov. 26 meeting for murals they painted in the Metro-North pedestrian tunnel. "It looks great," the mayor said. "You guys did a super job." The initiative was almost two years in the making, according to seventh-grade teacher Heidi Gesson.
- Most facilities owned by the Village of Cold Spring will soon be lit by solar power, the board announced at its Nov. 19 meeting. Deputy Mayor Marie Early reported that the village is joining a Hudson Valley Community Power program which will provide solar-generated electricity to light village streets, Mayor's Park, Tots' Park, the bandstand, the pedestrian tunnel, the Highway Department garage, the firehouse and three pumping stations.
- The board approved spending \$5,000 to install LED lighting in the Highway Department garage, which could save \$1,500 annually in energy costs.
- Taro Ietaka, an arborist, was appointed to the Tree Advisory Board.
- The village received a positive review of its financial practices for the 2018-19 fiscal year as part of an annual audit conducted by a Rochester accounting firm.

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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Bus-shelter art

Thank you for writing about this project, and for featuring all the artists ("A Rider's Guide to Beacon's Bus-Shelter Art," Nov. 22). I'd like to make a correction: The article mentions people who helped with the project in previous years, but in 2019 Michelle Alumkal and I received graphic-design assistance from Chris Neyen and installation help from Anna West, Kelly Ellenwood, Greg Slick and Marc Bernier.

Karlynn Benson, *Beacon*

Thank you for featuring the Beacon Bus Shelters — it is a project I'm very proud of. Just a quick clarification: The Beacon City Council did not provide funding for this project, although the city did provide support in executing a license agreement with BeaconArts to install the artwork, as well as support in repairing several of the shelters that had been vandalized.

One City Council member at the time — Ali Muhammad — suggested that we include a student artist, and we have been able to do that for the past two years. The following year we were successful in securing funding for the shelters via the Dutchess Partners in the Arts program through Arts Mid-Hudson and Dutchess Tourism, as well as support from a few Main Street businesses. Congratulations to all of the artists and the current leaders of BeaconArts for making this happen for the third year!

Kelly Ellenwood, *Beacon*

### Graffiti busters

I enjoyed your story on Laura Bergman's efforts to ameliorate the graffiti at Little Stony Point ("Now You See It, Now You Don't," Nov. 22), but why not try a more

natural solution I once read about? That is, paint over the graffiti with a mixture of organic glue and plant food. The glue sticks in place, and the plant food encourages moss and lichens to grow on the stone, hiding the graffiti.

Reagan Upshaw, *Beacon*

### Leaf blowers

It's that time of the year: Earsplitting noise, flying rubbish and pollution from leaf blowers, sometimes two or three at once.

Leaf blowers propel into the air dirt, dust, pollen, fecal matter, mold, fungus spores, pesticides, herbicides, lead and elemental carbon. Absorbed into the lungs, particulate matter can increase the number and severity of asthma attacks and other lung diseases, particularly among children and the elderly.

According to emissions tests conducted by *Edmunds*, using a commercial leaf blower with a two-stroke engine for 30 minutes of yard work produces about the same hydrocarbons as driving a Ford F-150 pickup for 3,900 miles.

## Tell us what you think

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, 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.



Two leaf blowers at work in Cold Spring on Nov. 27

Photo by Astrid Lindgren

Any other resident dreaming of a ban on leaf blowers? Or at least some regulation? If you employ landscapers who operate a leaf blower to clean your manicured lawns, could you please talk to them and maybe look for courteous and environmentally sound alternatives for clearing leaves and driveways? Thank you.

Astrid Lindgren, *Cold Spring*

### Note of thanks

This is a quick note to express my wife's and my gratitude to the combined emergency services of Philipstown and the North Highlands.

On Monday, Nov. 25, at 6 p.m. our carbon monoxide detectors went off. My wife had been experiencing slight headaches, so a call was placed to 911. Within two to three minutes, Putnam County Sheriff's Deputy Anthony Tolve was on the scene, quickly followed by Chief Pat Scherer of the North Highlands Engine Co. No. 1. Engines with other dedicated firefighters and the Philipstown Ambulance Corps. rounded out the response, which included about a dozen volunteers.

Fortunately, it was a false alarm — just an out-of-date set of detectors. However, it was still quite heartening to witness the professionalism and attention paid by the first responders. We are fortunate to have these individuals in our community.

Dave and Diane Winne, *Philipstown*





# Hunger in the 'Land of Plenty'

*Beacon resident examines U.S. 'food-insecurity' crisis*

By Arvind Dilawar

When Maggie Dickinson was pursuing her doctorate in cultural anthropology, she learned that enrollment in the federal food stamp program has been growing since the 1980s, even as other welfare initiatives were scaled back. Yet hunger remains a persistent problem in the U.S., with more than one out of 10 households facing "food insecurity," or days when every meal is not certain, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

How can that be?

That was the question Dickinson set out to answer while researching her book, *Feeding the Crisis: Care and Abandonment in America's Food Safety Net*, published last month by the University of California Press. A Beacon resident since 2014, Dickinson will discuss her findings at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14, at Binnacle Books, 321 Main St., to benefit the Fareground community cafe.

Dickinson, an assistant professor of interdisciplinary studies at CUNY's Guttman Community College in Manhattan, spent three years researching the apparent contra-

diction between the growing enrollment in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known colloquially as food stamps, and persistent food insecurity. That included volunteering at soup kitchens and food pantries, where she helped people apply for SNAP benefits.

Dickinson's book follows eight families as they attempt to navigate the bureaucracy of food-assistance programs. She also interviewed policy-makers, welfare-office employees and program administrators.

"Instead of pushing for a higher minimum wage or more job protections, policy-makers at the federal, state and city levels found it easier to subsidize low-wage workers with public benefits like SNAP," she said.

The key to the paradox of more food benefits but more hunger, Dickinson said, is that SNAP requires those who receive

food stamps to be employed. That pushes people to accept jobs that don't pay a living wage so they can qualify, and it also excludes those who are unable to find jobs or who work odd jobs for cash. "Some of the hungriest people I met had the most difficult time getting food assistance," she said.

(On Wednesday, Dec. 4, the USDA eliminated the ability of states to waive work requirements for adults without children in areas with more than 10 percent unemployment or "a lack of sufficient jobs." The move will disqualify about 700,000 people from SNAP.)

Besides unshackling SNAP from its employment requirements, Dickinson argues that changes are needed far beyond the food stamp program. The crisis in her book's title refers to food insecurity as well as wage stagnation, rising living costs, and increasingly precarious employment.

Dickinson believes solutions will have to come from federal funding for community meal programs, as well as from local initiatives such as Fareground, which has been offering pay-what-you-can meals through its pop-up cafes in Beacon since 2015. It

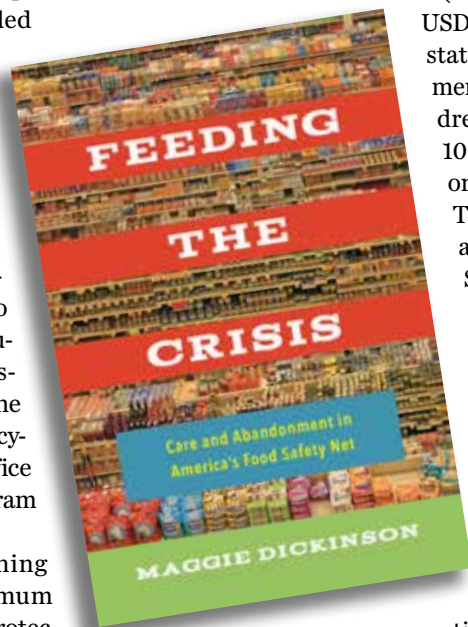


Maggie Dickinson

Photo provided

most recently operated out the Beacon Community Resource Center but hopes to establish an independent location.

"Fareground is trying to do something similar to what I'm imagining — create a community cafe that benefits all types of residents without shame or stigma," Dickinson said. "Imagine what towns like Beacon or Newburgh would be like if we had federal funding for community meal programs, where people from different walks of life could eat together for free."



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**SATURDAY, DEC. 7**  
6 pm Another Not-So-Silent Night in Beacon II: A Room Full of Misfits / feat. Last Minute Soulmates - No Music Cover  
8:30 pm McKrells' Christmas

**SUNDAY, DEC. 8**  
11:30 am & 2 p.m. Music Cottage Recitals  
7 pm Phil Ochs Song Night

**THURSDAY, DEC. 12**  
7 pm Film Night - No Cover  
"Newburgh, the Sixth Borough" & "AMERICA, America"  
7 pm Ukulele Open Mic - No Music Cover

**FRIDAY, DEC. 13**  
7 pm Adam Falcon - No Music Cover  
8:30 pm Livingston Taylor  
+Matt Cusson

**SATURDAY, DEC. 14**  
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MORE DETAILS: PAGE 13






## How They Voted *(from Page 1)*

acknowledge their appointments. Galef introduced the bill after she received the Women’s Equality Party endorsement in 2016 but was challenged in the primary by an Opportunity to Ballot Petition, and the three members of the party identified as the Committee to Receive Notices each said they had no idea they were on it.




**Passed Senate 61-1**  
Serino   
**Passed Assembly 120-28**  
Galef  Jacobson 

- A second law introduced by Galef allows a voter to provide an email address when registering to receive information such as polling locations or changes to election laws. It takes effect Nov. 26, 2020.

**Passed Senate 62-0**  
Serino   
**Passed Assembly 139-4**  
Galef  Jacobson 




### Neutral language

- On Oct. 29 Cuomo signed legislation to replace phrases such as “husband/wife” in the law that regulates estates, powers and trusts with phrases such as “spouses, husbands or wives” to recognize same-sex marriages. In the procedures for surrogate court, “father and mother” was replaced by “parents.”




**Passed Senate 61-0**  
Serino   
**Passed Assembly 121-23**  
Galef  Jacobson 

### Rental units

- On Nov. 6, Cuomo expanded a law that prohibits landlords from collecting rent or evicting a tenant for nonpayment if the property does not have a certificate of occupancy, which indicates the space is legally habitable. Previously, the law applied only in cities with more than 350,000 people; it now includes all cities, including Beacon. The law also prohibits renters from living in an apartment or house that doesn’t have a certificate of occupancy.

**Passed Senate 56-4**  
Serino   
**Passed Assembly 141-0**  
Galef  Jacobson 




- On Dec. 3, Cuomo signed legislation that makes it a misdemeanor for landlords to create “unsafe, disruptive or uninhabitable conditions” to force a rent-regulated tenant to move, such as shutting off the heat and hot water or scheduling continual construction.

**Passed Senate 42-17**  
Serino   
**Passed Assembly 108-39**  
Galef  Jacobson 




### Veterans’ bills

- A state program allows veterans who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and who joined the military before graduating from high school to be awarded diplomas. On Nov. 11, Cuomo extended Operation Recognition to



include veterans of Operation Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Passed Senate 61-0**  
Serino   
**Passed Assembly 147-0**  
Galef  Jacobson 

- Also enacted Nov. 11, this law directs the state Division of Veterans’ Services to create a Discharge Upgrade Advisory Board to review evidence prepared by veterans who want to appeal less than honorable discharges. The board can write an advisory opinion for the veteran to submit with his or her appeal.




**Passed Senate 43-19**  
Serino   
**Passed Assembly 146-0**  
Galef  Jacobson 

- On Nov. 12, Cuomo signed legislation that gives LGBTQ veterans who were denied an honorable discharge because of their sexual orientation or gender identity the right to apply to have their state benefits restored. Under federal law, a service member who receives a less than honorable discharge is not eligible for benefits and must apply for a discharge upgrade (see above). The law also restores state benefits eligibility to veterans who received less than honorable discharges as a result of military sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder.

**Passed Senate 61-0**  
Serino did not vote  
**Passed Assembly 146-0**  
Galef  Jacobson 




### Birth certificates

- On Nov. 14, Cuomo enacted legislation allowing adoptees to receive a certified copy of their birth certificates when they turn 18. If the adoptee has died, his or her legal representative or descendants will have access.

**Passed Senate 56-6**  
Serino   
**Passed Assembly 140-6**  
Galef  Jacobson 

### Reproductive health

The federal Affordable Care Act recently required that plans offered in the Health Insurance Marketplace cover contraception (excluding abortions and vasectomies) with no out-of-pocket costs. As a result, “some employers have attempted to prevent employees from accessing this benefit because it conflicts with their personal beliefs,” and more than 100 lawsuits have been filed, according to the governor’s office. On Nov. 8, Cuomo signed legislation that requires employers to allow workers to use the benefits, although health plans sponsored by religious employers such as churches or religious hospitals and colleges are exempt.

**Passed Senate 56-6**  
Serino   
**Passed Assembly 105-33**  
Galef  Jacobson 

### Telemarketers

This law, signed by the governor on Dec. 2, requires telemarketers to inform custom-

## Big Monday *(from Page 1)*

linkage and Main Street districts; and various proposals for traffic signs.

The council is also expected to vote on the city’s 2020 budget, a five-year capital spending plan (below) and a revision of the law that regulates noise levels (right).

## Top Projects

### 2020

- Road reconstruction: Fishkill Avenue from city line to Main: \$4.7m\*
- Wastewater treatment plant upgrades: \$2.9m
- Re-facing Mount Beacon dam: \$2.5m
- Road reconstruction: Teller Avenue from Main to Wolcott: \$2.2m\*
- Improvements to West Main sewer pump station: \$2.1m

*\* The city received \$6.6m in state grants for the two road reconstruction projects.*

### 2021

- Fowler Street water main replacement: \$476K
- John Street water main replacement: \$411K
- Fulton Street water main replacement: \$402K
- Wastewater treatment plant – removal of underground tank and installation of natural gas generator: \$350K
- Riverfront Park restoration (basketball courts, parking lot, walkway, fencing): \$315K

### 2022

- Wastewater treatment plant upgrades: \$1m
- Highway – 6-wheel truck with plow: \$600K
- Memorial Park shed: \$300K

### 2023

- Fire Department pumper truck: \$600K
- City Hall roof: \$250K
- Highway — trackless mower: \$175K

### 2024

- Highway — excavator: \$225K
- Highway — front-end loader: \$175K

## Facing the Music

*A proposed law in Beacon would limit noise levels in decibels to:*

	Indoor	Outdoor
Residential Daytime	50db	60db
Residential Nighttime	40db	50db
Commercial 24/7	55db	65db
Industrial 24/7	60db	70db

For comparison, a whisper is 30db, light traffic is 50db, a shower is 70db, a motorcycle is 100db and a firecracker is 145 db.

### Among the uses that the law would prohibit:




- Outdoor loudspeakers and public-address systems during nighttime hours, unless needed for public safety
- Portable music devices in public spaces that are “plainly audible” 25 feet away, including cars playing music
- Animal noises such as barking that disturb or interfere with the peace and comfort of any resident
- Cars without mufflers
- Nighttime construction

### The law would exempt:

- Non-motorized landscaping and power tools from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Religious services
- Snowblowers
- Burglar alarms
- Emergency warning systems
- Garbage trucks
- Airplanes

Bars, restaurants and music venues in most cases would have to apply for a permit for outdoor music. The sounds coming from these establishments, including from patrons, could not exceed 55 decibels measured during the day at the property line of an affected person. During nighttime hours, an establishment would be in violation if the noise is plainly audible within the dwelling of an affected person with all windows and doors closed.




ers that their number can be added to the seller’s do-not-call list. It also forbids telemarketers from sharing an individual’s information without written permission. The law takes effect March 1.

**Passed Senate 62-0**  
Serino   
**Passed Assembly 144-0**  
Galef  Jacobson 

### Credit scores

This law, enacted by Cuomo on Nov. 25, prohibits credit-reporting agencies from using a person’s social media network when computing his or her credit score, which is

used by lenders to determine whether to approve loans. It follows reports that the agencies have considered using the scores of the people in a consumer’s social network as a variable. “It is obvious that individuals in low-income communities will have a social network of similar individuals based on geography only,” lawmakers noted.

**Passed Senate 61-1**  
Serino   
**Passed Assembly 138-3**  
Galef  Jacobson 

Visit **highlandscurrent.org** for news updates and latest information.





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hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com

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AROUND TOWN



◀ **BUCKET HEAD** — Two officers from the state Department of Environmental Conservation were called to Putnam Valley on Nov. 20 to rescue a deer that had a Halloween bucket stuck over its nose with the handle caught in its antlers. While being pursued, the deer ran behind a wood pile, where it managed to knock the bucket free. The officers said the yearling buck reunited with a larger doe and headed into the woods.

DEC



▲ **GIVING SEASON** — At left, Patrick Halvey, owner of the Riverview Funeral Home, is shown with some of the donations collected at his business for the Beacon Community Kitchen. The kitchen, located at the Tabernacle of Christ Church at 483 Main St., is open Monday to Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to noon. At right, Harold Delamater, commander of Beacon's Veterans of Foreign Wars post, presents \$300 in grocery gift cards to the food pantry at the Castle Point VA.

Photos provided



▲ **NOT SO LONG AGO** — This shot by Cynthia Careccia of Beacon was among the finalists in Central Hudson's seventh annual Fall Foliage Photo Contest.



# PASQUALE GRASSO QUARTET

Holiday Concert  
Saturday, December 14, 2019  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Magazzino Italian Art Foundation  
2700 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Stefano Doglioni *Bass clarinet*  
Ari Roland *Bass*  
Keith Balla *Drums*  
Pasquale Grasso *Guitar*

Tickets are available on Eventbrite

MAGAZZINO  
ITALIAN ART



# The Calendar

## RUFF SHOTS

*Photographer specializes in capturing pets*

By Alison Rooney

Photographer Jim Dratfield's subjects never insist on being shot from what they consider to be their most flattering angle. Then again, some have clawed him.

Although reluctant to add kibble to the fire, Dratfield is willing to discuss his clients publicly — and to invite controversy with observations such as: “The hardest dog is easier to photograph than the easiest cat.”

Dratfield, a new Beacon transplant, has been photographing animals for decades through his business, Petography. Most are felines and canines but he's also posed ferrets, birds, retired circus elephants, horses and skinks. An exhibit of his photos, *Dog, Cat and Horse Days of Autumn*, is on display at The Lofts at Beacon Gallery at 18 Front St. through Dec. 30.

Even with decades of experience, Dratfield says he never knows what to expect from each shoot. “Photo sessions are always chaotic, but something always works,” he says. “Shoots are done at the speed of the animal's readiness; I wait it out.”

He also must assess the owner. “I encourage the humans to be in some shots,” he says. “People who are uncomfortable in front of the camera melt when they're holding their pet. Even the most stoic CEO gets on his or her hands and knees and makes animal noises to help me get that perfect shot. By the end, we're hugging each other. It's a very satisfying thing to experience. It's a part of a family you're getting unconditional love from.”

Dratfield, who moved to Beacon four months ago after 11 years in Carmel and 30 years in Manhattan, seemingly chanced upon his career 25 years ago. At the time, he was a struggling actor; trying to get noticed, he mailed postcards to casting directors with a photo of himself with his Akita, named Kuma.

The photos he took turned out so well he asked the owner of the restaurant where he was waiting tables if he could put some of the pup shots on the walls. “I

thought someone must be doing this [pet photography], but no one was,” he recalls. A few days after they were hung, a literary agent dining at the restaurant offered to help him pitch a book. About a week later, they had two offers from publishers.

Dratfield switched from film to digital about 10 years ago. “I remember opening up canisters of film at the airport, 40 rolls or more, and it was getting to be too much,” he says. “One great aspect of digital is it gives me an immediate sense of how I'm doing on a shoot — should I alter my shots?”

Dratfield is familiar with airports because he travels frequently. He shoots in Los Angeles and Florida a few times each year, and in Washington, D.C., at least once. He's even been flown to Iowa to photograph three generations of therapists and their poodles.

He's also completed 11 books since that first, including nine about dogs (e.g., *A Dog for All Seasons*, *Day of the Dachshund*, *Pug Nation*), two about cats and one about horses that took him to Mongolia and Iceland.

Dratfield says his favorite subjects are “animals of character.” He explains: “I did a shoot in Arizona of a dog whose previous owner had thrown sulfuric acid on it. A vet tech adopted the dog. There was fur grafted onto the burned areas. At first I was taken aback, but the dog was so happy with its new owner, I caught myself — you realize that beauty is fur deep. The homeliest ones are pure souls.”

Dratfield says people sometimes want him to photograph an older dog. Those shoots are poignant, he says, because they bring back memories of Kuma. “He gave me a gift, a legacy,” he says. “If not for him, I wouldn't have had this career. Doing the work I do, I found my sweet spot.”

His current dog, a black lab, is no Kuma. “He's the worst subject,”

Dratfield says. “He will not cooperate. My 12-year-old son is the second-worst.”

*The Lofts at Beacon Gallery is located at 18 Front St. Call 845-202-7211. For more of Dratfield's work, see [petography.com](http://petography.com).*



Photo provided



Photos by Jim Dratfield/Petography



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)  
For a complete listing of events, see [highlandscurrent.org/calendar](http://highlandscurrent.org/calendar).

## COMMUNITY

### SAT 7 Holiday Boutique

#### GARRISON

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Shop for unique, handcrafted and locally made gifts from dozens of artisans. See the library website for a preview. Open Thursday to Sunday during library hours through SUN 15.

### SAT 7 Christmas Fair

#### BEACON

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. John the Evangelist  
35 Willow St. | 845-838-0195  
[stjoachim-stjohn.org](http://stjoachim-stjohn.org)

Shop for holiday gifts, breakfast and lunch foods and enter a raffle.

### SAT 7 Atlas Winter Market

#### NEWBURGH

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Atlas Studios  
11 Spring St. | 845-391-8855  
[atlasnewburgh.com/market](http://atlasnewburgh.com/market)

Find artisan jewelry, pottery, fabric goods, holiday wreaths and flowers, as well as farm-distilled spirits. There will be crafts for the kids. Also SUN 8.

### SAT 7 Christmas Holiday Craft Fair

#### COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | 845-265-2539  
[stmaryscoldspring.org](http://stmaryscoldspring.org)

Find gifts and handcrafted items such as baked goods, soups and chilis, gift baskets and houseplants.

### THURS 12 Hop & Shop

#### BEACON

5 – 9 p.m. Various locations  
[facebook.com/hopandshopbeacon](https://facebook.com/hopandshopbeacon)

About 60 businesses plan to be open late for holiday



Joseph Squillante, Dec. 10

shopping, services, sales and specials. Also FRI 13.

### THURS 12 Holiday Mixer

#### GARRISON

6 p.m. Garrison Institute | 14 Mary's Way  
[coldspringnychamber.com](http://coldspringnychamber.com)

The Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will party, bid on silent auction items and vote for its 2020 leadership. *Cost: \$35 (\$30 members) before MON 9; \$45/\$40*

### SAT 14 Tree & Wreath Sale

#### PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
North Highlands Firehouse  
504 Fishkill Road

All proceeds support Boy Scout Troop 437. Also SUN 15.

### SAT 14 Holiday Quilt & Craft Sale

#### GARRISON

1 – 4 p.m. St. Philip's Church  
1101 Route 9D | 845-424-3571  
[stphilipshighlands.org](http://stphilipshighlands.org)

The fundraiser will benefit the church's new organ and renovations. *Free*

## STAGE & SCREEN

### SAT 7 Elf Jr., The Musical

#### GARRISON

2 & 4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
[brownpapertickets.com/event/4442944](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/4442944)

In a tale based on the holiday film, Buddy the Elf searches for family and identity. Different casts perform each weekend. Also SUN 8, SAT 14, SUN 15. *Cost: \$12*

### SAT 7 The Laramie Project

#### COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane School  
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254  
[haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org)

Members of Haldane Drama will present this play about the aftermath of the killing in 1998 of Matthew Shepard, a gay 21-year-old University of Wyoming student who was beaten and left to die tied to a fence. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 students, seniors free)*

### TUES 10 True Justice

#### BEACON

6:30 p.m. Beahive  
291 Main St. | [beaconfilmsociety.org](http://beaconfilmsociety.org)

The Beacon Film Society will present this 2019 documentary about Bryan Stevenson, founder and director of the Equal Justice Society, and his fight to eradicate racial discrimination from the criminal justice system. Producers Matthew Henderson and Elyse Frenchman will answer questions after the screening. *Cost: \$10*

### THURS 12 The Nutcracker

#### POUGHKEEPSIE

9:45 a.m. and Noon. Bardavon  
35 Market St. | 845-473-2072  
[bardavon.org](http://bardavon.org)

The New Paltz Ballet Theatre

will present its 22nd annual performance of the classic holiday story of a magical journey to the Kingdom of Sweets. Also FRI 13, SAT 14, SUN 15. *Cost: \$29 to \$34*

### THURS 12 Newburgh: The Sixth Borough

#### BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

In this Mark Gamma feature film, Gamma plays an old man who settles in at a bar for an evening of nostalgic monologues with Jack the bartender listening and refreshing his beer. Gamma's film *AMERICA*, *America* will also be shown. *Free*

## KIDS & FAMILY

### SAT 7 Breakfast with Santa

#### BEACON

9 a.m. – Noon. Memorial Hall  
413 Main St.  
[bit.ly/beacon-santa-breakfast](http://bit.ly/beacon-santa-breakfast)

This inaugural event, presented by New Covenant Learning Center PTA, will include a buffet, photos with Santa and holiday crafts. *Cost: \$10 (teens \$5, children free)*

### SAT 7 Nature in Winter

#### CORNWALL

10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
100 Muser Drive  
845-534-5506 ext. 204 | [hnm.org](http://hnm.org)

Learn during a hike how to recognize signs of animals and plants that stay green year-round and meet an animal to find out how it survives winter. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children; \$7/\$5 members)*

### SUN 8 Winter Celebration

#### PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Manitou School  
1656 Route 9D | 845-809-5695  
[manitouschool.org](http://manitouschool.org)

Enjoy crafts and the immersive Crystal Cave. Shop for handcrafted gifts and greenery. There will also be a bonfire, hot chocolate bar, bake sale and lunch booth. *Cost: \$10 per family*

### SUN 8 No Strings Marionettes Co.

#### BEACON

1 & 4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

Puppeteers Dan Baginski and Barbara Paulson of Vermont will bring their handcrafted puppets to life for a performance of *Treasure Hunt* at 1 p.m. and *Jack and the Beanstalk* at 4 p.m. *Cost: \$10 (children free)*

### TUES 10 Gingerbread Dog Workshop

#### BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org)

Children ages 6 to 9 are invited to hear a story and make a stuffed animal. Registration required. *Free*

### TUES 10 Lantern-Making Craft

#### GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Make your own lantern and take a walk while you light up the night.

### FRI 13 Science Fair

#### COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

The 2018 documentary, shown as part of the Reel Life Film Club for middle-school students, follows nine high school students competing at the International Science and Engineering Fair. Pizza and a discussion with David Sampliner, a cinematographer, and John Christian Plummer, a director, will follow the screening. Registration required. *Free*



### SAT 14 Breakfast with Santa

#### COLD SPRING

7:30 – 11:30 a.m. Methodist Church  
216 Main St. | 845-265-3365  
[facebook.com/CSSHUMC](https://facebook.com/CSSHUMC)

Enjoy pancakes and other breakfast goodies while kids meet Santa at this event hosted by the Cold Spring Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary and the Cold Spring United Methodist Women. *Cost: \$8 (\$7 seniors, \$5 children)*

### SUN 15 Santa Claus Tour

#### PHILIPSTOWN

9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.  
[facebook.com/cvfd14](https://facebook.com/cvfd14)

The Continental Village Volunteer Fire Department will escort Santa around the village. Snow date SUN 22. See schedule online.



The Nutcracker, Dec. 12



SUN 15

Moseltoe

GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children can enjoy hot chocolate and a story with author Jim Semmelman.

VISUAL ARTS

FRI 6

Rick Gedney: Landscapes

COLD SPRING

6 – 9 p.m. Highlands Current  
142 Main St. | 845-809-5584  
highlandscurrent.org

As part of First Friday, *The Current* will host an open house for its new offices and a wine-and-cheese reception for an exhibit of paintings by Gedney, a Philipstown artist. Stop by to say hello.

FRI 6

The Persistence of Memory

COLD SPRING

6 – 8:30 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery  
121 Main St. | busterlevigallery.com

Panel paintings by Grey Zeien.

SAT 7

Inclusion

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org

This exhibit features the works of 17 Latino-American artists from the Hudson Valley. Through Dec. 29.

SAT 7

Analecta / PHOTOcentric

GARRISON

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

Cali Gorevic's solo show, *Analecta: Excerpts from a Whole*, includes her photography and ceramic puzzle sculptures. In addition, Gorevic and Robin Rice juried the art center's biennial photography exhibit, selecting 50 works from more than 700 entries. Through Jan. 5.

SAT 7

Small Works Show

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Catalyst Gallery  
137 Main St. | 845-204-3844  
catalystgallery.com

Artwork submitted to this juried show could be no larger than 20 inches and no more expensive than \$500. Through Jan. 12.

SUN 8

Art History with a Twist

PEEKSKILL

3 p.m. Hudson Valley MOCA  
1701 E. Main St. | 914-788-0100  
hudsonvalleymoca.org

In this presentation on social and political commentary in Western art, Marcy B. Freedman will discuss how artists such as Goya, Nancy Spero, David Hammons and the Guerrilla Girls explored war, racism and gender inequality. *Cost: \$20 (\$10 members)*



The Persistence of Memory, Dec. 6

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 14

Eileen Sackman / Melissa Schlobohm

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Sackman uses ceramic vessels with portraits of Asian and African animals and whales to communicate emotional memorials in *Encroachment*, while Schlobohm relies on found and made objects in resin for *Beauty Found, Beauty Wrought*.

SAT 14

Gift Wrapped Show

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery  
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505  
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery

SAT 14

Thomas Van Winkle

BEACON

7 – 9 p.m. Oak Vino | 389 Main St.  
845-765-2400 | oakvino.com

MUSIC

SAT 7

Cajun Jam and Potluck

PUTNAM VALLEY

2 – 5 p.m.  
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Bring your instrument, and/or your dancing shoes, and a dish or snack to share. The center will have a pot of vegetarian chili on the burner. RSVP requested to info@tompkinscorner.org.

SAT 7

Beatles vs. Stones

PEEKSKILL

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The tribute bands Abbey Road and Satisfaction will stage a showdown. *Cost: \$30 to \$60*

SAT 7

McKrells' Christmas

BEACON

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

Kevin McKrell (Groucho) and Brian

Melick (Zeppo) will perform as the Marx Brothers in an interpretation of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 8

Andy Grammer

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The pop star will perform a holiday show. *Cost: \$30 to \$105*

SUN 8

Phil Ochs Song Night

BEACON

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

Phil's sister, Sonny Ochs, will host this show of emerging folk talent. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 14

Pasquale Grasso Quartet

PHILIPSTOWN

6 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art  
2700 Route 9 | maggazzino.art

Hear classical jazz from Armstrong to Coltrane with Grasso (plectrum guitar), Ari Roland (double bass), Keith Balla (drums) and Stefano Doglioni (bass clarinet). *Cost: \$15*

SAT 14

Jessica Lynn: A Very Merry, Country Christmas

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Dancers, singers and musicians

will accompany the country singer in this benefit for Toys for Tots. *Cost: \$25 to \$35*

SAT 14

Mighty Girl

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org

Lena Fahringer (guitar), John Knowles (bass), Mark McNutt (guitar) and Bill Fahringer (drums) celebrate the release of their latest album. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*

SAT 14

Sloan Wainwright

BEACON

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

For her 20th annual “holiday whiz-bang shin-dig,” the singer and songwriter will be joined by her band and the harmony-singing Sloan Flakes, Hubby Jenkins, the Empty Bottle Ramblers and other guests. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 15

Dream Choir Concert

COLD SPRING

3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
10 Academy St. | 845-265-3220  
presbychurchcoldspring.org

Led by Cat Guthrie, the choir will perform a concert of Beatles songs. *Cost: \$10 donation*

SUN 15

Holiday Concert

GARRISON

4 p.m. St. Philip's Church  
1101 Route 9D | 845-424-3571  
stphilipshighlands.org

The St. Philip's Choir will present a concert to celebrate the renovation of the church and the installation of a new pipe organ with John Rutter's *Gloria* for choir, brass, percussion and organ, along with Anglican anthems by Parry, Howells, Gardiner and Wood. *Free*

SUN 15

Jingle All the Way

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
brownpapertickets.com/event/4442198

Greene and her band, The Wolves, will be joined by Russell Cusick and the Souls United Gospel Choir for caroling and sing-a-longs

accompanied by Tom McCoy and The X-tremes. *Cost: \$15 (\$10 seniors, students, \$5 children)*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 7

Climate Change: Heading for Extinction

GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

This presentation includes a discussion of ways individuals can push back against global warming.

SAT 7

Twilight Tours

GARRISON

3:30 – 8 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Tour the candle-lit mansion, stroll the lighted grounds and enjoy music and a reception. Tours depart from 3:30 to 7:15 p.m. Also SUN 8. *Cost: \$26 (children \$16, 5 and younger free)*

SUN 8

Birds, Climate Change and the Marsh

GARRISON

9 a.m. & 2 p.m. Constitution Marsh  
127 Warren Landing | 845-265-2601  
constitution.audubon.org

The program features conversations on what residents can do for the future of local birds with reference to a new Audubon report, *Survival by Degrees*.

TUES 10

Joseph Squillante

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

The photographer has spent 40 years photographing the Hudson River from its source to its mouth to raise awareness of its beauty and nature. His talk is a collaboration between the museum and the Butterfield Library. *Free*

CIVIC

MON 9

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

TUES 10

Garrison Fire District Vote

GARRISON

5 – 8 p.m. Firehouse | 1616 Route 9  
845-424-4406 | garrisonfd.org

TUES 10

North Highlands Fire District Vote

GARRISON

6 – 9 p.m. Firehouse | 504 Fishkill Road  
845-265-7285 | nhfd21.org

WED 11

School Board

GARRISON

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



Pasquale Grasso, Dec. 14



# Life Lessons from Local 'Celebs'

## St. Basil's program guides kids past trauma

By Alison Rooney

Rebecca Pearsall says she is always trying to come up with ways to help the children and teenagers at the Saint Basil Academy in Garrison navigate past trauma. It's not easy.

"Children who have been through trauma understand that tough times do not discriminate," said Pearsall, who is the director of clinical services and education at the residential center, which is run by the Greek Orthodox Church. "Our kids believe that connection and relationships are unsafe. When they come here, they fight, take flight or freeze, even when a healthy connection is offered."

St. Basil's offers shelter, education and guidance to children who typically come from homes wracked by illness, poverty, abuse or other difficult situations.

To help the children overcome the effects of trauma, Pearsall tested a program in which students interview a local "celebrity." The first two participants spoke with Anthony Tolve, a deputy with the Putnam County Sheriff's Department.

"The goal was to help the children develop

their social and emotional skills and expose them to different vocational choices," Pearsall explained. Initially, the boys were intimidated and resisted, she said, but after some reassurance were able to do the interview, during which Tolve shared personal experiences of trauma and linked his tough times to why he became a police officer.

With that success, Pearsall expanded her concept to have a team of children videotape an interview. She also gave it a name: just BEing human. "I'm hoping that through the excitement of meeting a community celebrity, the kids can feel less threatened and more open to new relationships," she said. "On a biochemical level, I want to change the way their body reacts to relationships and connectedness; from a fight, flight or freeze chemical reaction to a healthy serotonin and oxytocin chemical reaction."

Before each encounter, the children are instructed in how to conduct an interview and given questions designed to help process and understand their own trauma while acknowledging they are not alone in facing obstacles.

Before the initial session, the children each chose whether to be an interviewer, director, producer, editor or audience member. The subjects were Randy Florke, a real-estate agent and interior designer who lives in Philipstown and is a mentor



Randy Florke spoke to the St. Basil's students about his life growing up in rural Iowa.  
Photo by Kim Ruperdl



Eliud Suarez, who lived at St. Basil's from age 5 to 21, spoke to students about his life there.  
Photo by A. Rooney

and host for St. Basil students, and Eliud Suarez, 32, a St. Basil alumnus who is an electrician for the Long Island Railroad. Both were invited by Pearsall because she felt their stories would resonate.

The program began with select students asking each man a series of quick-fire icebreakers such as: "Have you ever worn socks with sandals?"; "Who has it easier, men or women?" and "What makes you happy?"

Suarez, who lived at St. Basil's from the age of 5 to 21, joked that "the last time I was in this room, I think I was in trouble" but also confessed to the students that "as time went on, I started to miss not having my mother and father there. I was scared. I didn't know

what was happening. I'd have nightmares about my parents; I was so confused. Most of all, I was living a different life than other kids. That was the hardest thing of all."

Responding to questions, Suarez described how his life took a turn for the better once he made personal connections. "Talking to the guidance counselors was big for me, learning how I should deal with my stress," he said. "I know it's hard to open up, but as I got more comfortable with certain people it got easier."

Asked about moments that defined who he became as an adult, Suarez said: "In middle school I was a problem child — I got into lots of fights. The principal laid it

(Continued on Page 17)

## Cali Gorevic: photographs

Analecta: Excerpts from a Whole

Dec 7–Jan 5, 2020 / Opening Reception Dec 7, 5–7pm



0486, 16.5x16.5, photograph

The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center  
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garrisonartcenter.org 845-424-3960

Garrison Art Center  
THE RIVERSIDE GALLERIES

## PHOTOcentric 2019

Juried by Robin Rice and Cali Gorevic:

a photography exhibition presented in the Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center

EXHIBITION Dec 7, 2019–Jan 5, 2020 Opening Reception Dec 7, 5–7pm



Kaitlin Sullivan: sunset gaze

### 2019 PHOTOcentric Award Winners

**Peter Janecke**  
**Paul M. Murray**  
**Arnold Kastenbaum**  
**Eva Iacono**  
**Amy Pilkington**  
**Saman Majd**  
**Russ Rowland**  
**Elizabeth Arnold**  
**Scott Smith**  
**Peter Janecke**  
**Kaitlin Sullivan**

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**1st Place Open**  
**1st Place People**  
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**2nd Place Open**  
**2nd Place People**  
**3rd Place Nature**  
**3rd Place Open**  
**3rd Place People**  
**Director's Choice**

### Additional 2019 PHOTOcentric Selected Artists

Jim Allen  
Joy Bush  
Bonnie Coe  
Sarah Corbin  
Ross Corsair  
Joe Duraes  
Kev Filmore  
Connie Frisbee Houde  
Dennis Geller  
Mary Ann Glass  
Stephen Honicki  
Marilyn Joseph  
Gerry Katzban  
Elliott Kaufman  
Ken Konchel  
Ron Lake  
Joan Lobis Brown  
Mick McGuire  
Leah Oates  
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Brian Sheridan  
Annette Solakoglu  
H. David Stein  
John Verner  
Michael Washburn  
Brian Wolfe

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Garrison Art Center  
THE RIVERSIDE GALLERIES



# What members are saying...



I greatly admired the founder of *The Highlands Current*, Gordon Stewart, for creating this paper to serve the Hudson Valley community. I value the paper and I want our children to learn that there is an alternative to their devices – it’s called a newspaper! I know we can get the paper free but I encourage my Beacon neighbors to support the paper by becoming members. We should never lose our newspapers.

Flora Jones, Beacon  
New FRIEND Member

## Become a member today!

### Help The Current engage and inform The Highlands . . .

TO INTRODUCE OUR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM, we are planning two community forums next year on issues of the moment, and we will invite all on our email list at the time of the event.

TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, we are offering our members these benefits:

MEMBER BENEFITS	Friend \$24 to \$119	Partner \$120 to \$599	Patron \$600+
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Priority invitation and reception before annual community forums		●	●
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## Out There

## Mr. Bright Side

By Brian PJ Cronin

It's hard to outrun a rain cloud, but after the second somersault, it was clear I didn't have a choice.



A few weeks ago I was in Maryland, running the JFK 50 Miler, which began in 1963 and is the oldest ultramarathon in the country. The first 15 miles are mostly on the Appalachian Trail and extremely "technical," which in trail-running lingo means "rocky." It's also narrow, which makes it hard to pass people, so you settle in and take it easy until the trail widens.

I fell in behind two runners, a man and a woman, who didn't know each other but had some familiarity with the race and were swapping stories about the horrific injuries that had befallen others who had previously run the JFK 50. Then the woman started complaining about the rocks. Then she complained about last year's weather, when 6 inches of snow fell the day before the race. And then she was flying through the air.

I'm not sure what tripped her but it sent her into a flip, with her feet pointed to the

sky and her head pointed to the ground. Thankfully, she was OK. Two minutes later, she flipped again. Then the man she was running with tripped. Then I tripped.

The trail was rocky, but not that rocky. And I'm bad at running, but not that bad.

What caused us all to start tripping? Mystical bad vibes brought about by recalling injuries? Lack of focus caused by whining about the weather? I'm not sure if the answer is metaphysical or practical, but I have seen it repeatedly in races: If you are in a bad mood, bad things happen. And that bad mood can spread.

Of course, there are exceptions, especially during a long race. If you hit a rough patch, you sometimes just need a quick pity party. If another runner will empathize, you can recover. People often tell me their problems on the trail. I'd like to think it's because I have a kind face, but it's more likely because if you're running slow enough that I can pass you, you're probably having a bad day.

At other times, inexplicably, melancholy shrouds you during a run. I don't feel anyone is responsible for that feeling, or has any control of it. But some people seem determined to wallow in it. This is one reason ultrarunners are conditioned to thank volunteers, aid station workers and first responders they encounter during the race — it's the right thing to do but also puts you in the right mindset. Each of these people chose to be out there in the cold, the rain and the snow to help you. Realizing



Suck it up, buttercup.

Photo by B. Cronin

that you are being cared for and protected is, as the kids say, a mood.

To escape the bad vibes of the tumbler at the JFK 50, I went off trail, hoping I was

at least trampling invasive species. Soon I was running with a group of three women who had come to the race together — one had run it nine times, and the others were newbies. They said they were nervous and terrified, but they said so while laughing. I asked the leader what she thought last year of the snow. "Oh, that was horrible," she said with a smile. "We're lucky the weather is so good today."

We ran into each other a few times throughout the day; whenever we passed each other, we shouted encouragement. "We got this!" I said as day turned to night. "You're killing it!" they yelled as they passed me in the final miles.

They finished the race about 10 minutes ahead and were congratulating

other finishers when I arrived, in a cold rain.

As for the couple I had to run around, I didn't see them again. Perhaps they're still up there, complaining.

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## Coach (from Page 1)

outside of court. I know deep down I didn't do anything wrong. I made a mistake on a form because I never thought of Haldane as a 'job' — it's my passion. I support everything at the school, go to all the events, spend 12 months of the year working with basketball."

Searight earned a \$5,677 stipend for coaching the girls' team last year and was set to receive \$6,081 this year. He also received a \$4,164 stipend as an assistant football coach in 2018.

Searight, who lives in Peekskill, pleaded guilty in Town of Ramapo Court to a single count of disorderly conduct, a violation. The state Offices of the Inspector General, which investigated the case, said Searight was prosecuted in Ramapo because he had a medical exam there related to his claim.

The coach earlier directed questions about his plea to his attorney, Michael Borrelli, who said in a statement: "On Nov. 26, Tyrone Searight's matter that was pending in Ramapo Town Court was concluded without Mr. Searight being convicted of any crimes [i.e., a misdemeanor or felony]. Mr. Searight is happy that the case is over and looks forward to getting back to coaching."

The state inspector general said Searight reported a work-related knee injury to the MTA in November 2016 and collected worker's comp until May 2017. However, investigators said they found that while Searight claimed he wasn't able to work, he continued to coach at Haldane and did not appear to be seriously injured.

"Video surveillance showed Searight bending, squatting, pacing, waving his arms and abruptly standing up from the sidelines at several games," the inspector general said in a statement.

Prior to appearing in court on Nov. 26, Searight paid \$16,912.92 in restitution to the MTA, which fired him based on the state findings.

## Trolley (from Page 1)

Beacon. The service runs from Memorial Day through mid-November.

"The trolley is not only a vehicle; it is becoming a destination," Tamagna said. "It is not a bus or a van; it is 'the trolley,' and people want to ride in it."

The trolley carried 1,883 passengers in the 2019 season, Tamagna said, a number he described as "phenomenal," noting it was a 58 percent increase over 2017 and a 19 percent increase over 2018. However, in its first year of operation, the trolley carried 8,300 passengers, and ridership decreased each year before hitting a low of 792 in 2017. That nearly doubled in 2018, but it was still the trolley's second-worst year.

The vehicle got a boost from two travel articles over the summer in *The New York Times* that mentioned it, but Tamagna said much of the increase could be attributed to promotion by the chamber and the addition of Magazzino Italian Art, a modern-art museum on Route 9 in Philipstown, as a stop. The trolley also stops at the train stations in Garrison, Cold Spring and Beacon.

The chamber said its optimism stems from the results of a survey it conducted to determine interest in using the trolley, which has been viewed primarily as serving visitors.

Chamber president Eliza Starbuck said the 300 people who responded said they would use the trolley more often if they knew its schedule and routes, and if they believed it was reliable. According to the



Inside the trolley

File photo by M. Turton

survey, "there is a part of the community, seniors and families in particular, who would use it," she said.

While 75 percent of those surveyed said they were aware the trolley makes stops at museums, galleries, train stations and other sites, only 11 percent said they knew its schedule. More than 60 percent said they wanted to know more about the trolley and its stops and indicated the \$2 standard fare would not deter them.

The chamber's major recommendations included: (1) switching to a single, two-hour, looped route; (2) adding signage at stops; (3) making schedule and route information available on Google Transit; (4) offering a \$5, all-day pass with reduced rates for seniors; and (5) improved marketing.

When the chamber presented its recommendations to the Cold Spring Village Board earlier this year, trustees questioned the change to a two-hour route as well as the

route continuing to include stops in Beacon.

Starbuck said that with only one trolley in service at a time, the two-hour route is more desirable. Under federal transportation regulations, an identical vehicle is kept on standby in Carmel but used only if the first trolley breaks down.

She said the chamber recommended keeping Beacon on the route "because we looked at the flow of people from there to Cold Spring."

The trolley committee did heed the Cold Spring board's advice to eliminate stops at Lunn Terrace and Village Hall because they disrupt Main Street traffic.

In Nelsonville, the chamber recommended adding stops at Village Hall and Homestyle Bakery. Members of the Village Board said the stops are warranted because of the large number of hikers who could use the service.



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SUNDAY, DEC. 8  
**Poet's Corner**  
 Featuring Margaret Fox

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## St. Basil's *(from Page 12)*

out for me. He told me where my life was going if I continued down that path. That day I told myself I would change; it wasn't an immediate thing. I was stubborn. But I appreciate that he let me have it. I've learned that sometimes it helps to walk away, take a step back, avoid regrets.

"Having people come over and spend time with me was the greatest thing," he told the children. "St. Basil's gave me the life I would never have had."

Florke shared with the children his hard-scrabble journey from a difficult childhood in rural Iowa to a new life after moving at age 18 to New York City.

"My parents were married at 16 and divorced at 28," he recalled. "At 14 I went to live with my aunt and uncle" after being told that if he left, he could never return. He said his family did not contact him again until he had lived in New York for nearly 17 years.

"When you suffer trauma, you get

frozen," he said. He touched upon how he and his longtime partner and now husband, U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, adopted children from a home probably not unlike some of the ones St. Basil's kids come from.

In response to a question, Florke asked the kids if they knew what an "Achilles heel" was, and then explained that he had an associate's degree because he had no family financial support as a young man and could not commit to four years of college. "My Achilles heel is that I haven't had more education," he said. "I've lived all over the world and got education in different ways, but I wish I had a more formal education. Education allows you space to mature, gives you confidence."

After inviting the older students to a talk he'll be giving at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in January on growing up gay, Florke noted: "Being gay is the best thing about me. Growing up in a place like St. Basil's is the same: a life experience as a child that no one else has had. What we thought was a problem is actually a solution."



**T**his feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Jessica and Doug Nash of Beacon shared this photo of their daughter, Camilla, with Trudy. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org).

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN 2019

**DEC 14 - Jazz Nativity Service with special guest vocalist Renee Bailey**  
5:30 p.m. Our usual and renowned mix of musicians, great jazz, and special guest vocalists. Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler preaching.

**DEC 15 - The Third Sunday of Advent**  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Christmas Pageant  
Bake Sale after worship - proceeds will go to our own Community Nursery School

**DEC 21 - Longest Night Service**  
7:30 p.m. While there is much merry-making during the holiday season, the winter nights grow longer and the losses in our lives, events in our country and world can dampen or almost extinguish the joy of the season. We may find ourselves in a spiritual and emotional winter. The Longest Night, held on the longest night of the year, Winter Solstice, is a service that offers those gathered a sacred space filled with candlelight and an opportunity for remembrance, consolation and assurance.

**DEC 24 - Christmas Eve**  
7:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service  
This service features the Chancel Choir, Director of Music Tom McCoy, and an ensemble of guest musicians

**DEC 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**DEC 29 - First Sunday After Christmas**  
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## NOTICE

### NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF FINAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN FOR THE YEAR 2020

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Final Budget for the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020, has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk of said Town, where it is available for inspection by any interested persons during regular business hours.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk

*Dated November 27, 2019*



## Youth Players: Elf, Jr.

Dec. 7, 8, 14, 15

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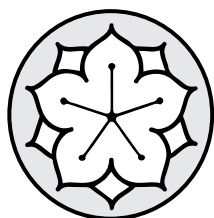
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The HIGHLANDS

Current





7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

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Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
35/12	38/30	50/44	61/32	33/16	30/22	34/30
Mostly sunny and cold	Intervals of clouds and sunshine	Cloudy and milder with rain becoming steadier	Cloudy and milder with rain possible	Sun and clouds with flurries possible; much colder	Cold with plenty of sunshine	Low clouds
POP: 0%	POP: 5%	POP: 90%	POP: 35%	POP: 30%	POP: 0%	POP: 15%
WNW 6-12 mph	S 3-6 mph	S 3-6 mph	SSW 6-12 mph	WSW 6-12 mph	SSW 3-6 mph	ESE 6-12 mph
RealFeel 32/14	RealFeel 38/31	RealFeel 46/39	RealFeel 58/28	RealFeel 31/6	RealFeel 33/23	RealFeel 27/24

POP: Probability of Precipitation; The patented **AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature®** is an exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure and elevation on the human body. Shown are the highest and lowest values for each day.

Snowfall	
Past week	8.5"
Month to date	8.5"
Normal month to date	0.4"
Season to date	8.5"
Normal season to date	2.3"
Last season to date	4.9"
Record for 12/6	0.0" (0)

SUN & MOON			
Sunrise Sat., 12/7	7:08 AM		
Sunset Sat. night, 12/7	4:26 PM		
Moonrise Sat., 12/7	2:10 PM		
Moonset Sat., 12/7	2:13 AM		
Full	Last	New	First
			
Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25	Jan 2

CROSS

CURRENT

By  
King Features

ACROSS

1. Zinger
5. Nuisance
9. Oprah's network
12. Chills and fever
13. Viscous
14. Dove's call
15. Short musical works
17. "Hail, Caesar!"
18. Yule quaff
19. Fairy tale villains
21. Chic
22. Island porch
24. Formerly
27. Evergreen type
28. Break suddenly
31. Tasseled topper
32. Lobe locale
33. Gorilla
34. Dread
36. Attempt
37. Car sticker no.
38. Batman's pal
40. Proceed
41. Dishes
43. Commercial song
47. Scoot
48. Varieties of wheat
51. Carte lead-in
52. Handle
53. Point
54. Clear the tables
55. Stitches
56. Wan

DOWN

1. Foundation
2. Enthusiastic
3. Ladder step
4. Cap with a propeller
5. Bluenose
6. A billion years
7. Hot tub
8. Mike of the ring
9. Simple wind instruments
10. Used a loom
11. Vetoers' votes
16. Heavy weight
20. Petrol
22. Memorize
23. Distorted
24. Vacationing
25. Born
26. Ivan's and Peter's wives
27. Bigfoot's cousin
29. Spring mo.
30. Vigor
35. Director Howard
37. *Friends* role
39. Soaks up some rays
40. Hodges of baseball lore
41. Seafood entree
42. Streaming video giant
43. Apple co-founder
44. Wildebeests
45. Whip
46. Catch sight of
49. Away from WSW
50. Do some lawn work

SUDO

CURRENT

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

Answers for Nov. 29 Puzzles

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

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



## SPORTS

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### VARSITY ROUND-UP

#### VOLLEYBALL

Grace Tomann of Haldane was named to the first team of the Class D All-State squad and her teammate Olivia Monteleone to the second team. The senior captains were each also named All-Section and All-League, along with senior captain Melissa Rodino.

#### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Haldane won its season opener on Tuesday (Dec. 3), edging Rye Neck on the road, 61-59. Daniel Santos had 23 points (including four 3-pointers in the final quarter to erase a 10-point deficit), and his brother, Darrin, made two free throws with 3.8 seconds left. The Blue Devils are scheduled to host Hamilton on Dec. 9 and Keio Academy on Dec. 11, with both tip-offs at 6:15 p.m.

#### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Beacon dropped its season opener to Brewster, 54-38, on Tuesday at home. The team was scheduled to play in a tournament in Yorktown on Dec. 5 and Dec. 7.

Haldane was set to open its season today (Dec. 6) at Bronxville before traveling to Blind Brook on Dec. 9 and to Croton-Harmon on Dec. 12.

#### BOYS' SWIMMING

Beacon won its home opener on Tuesday, defeating Keio Academy, 89-71. The Bulldogs visit Eastchester on Dec. 10 and host Port Chester on Dec. 13.

#### WRESTLING

Beacon, the No. 20 seed, went 1-1 on Tuesday at the Section 1 Dual Meet Tournament, losing to No. 13 Carmel, 58-30, but defeating No. 29 Mount Vernon, 66-9. Chris Crawford, Sean Cooper, Javon Dortch, Angel Feliz and George Pinkhardt all went 2-0. The Bulldogs travel to Pawling on Dec. 12.

#### BOWLING

After the Beacon girls defeated Kennedy, 7-0, to extend their winning streak to 36 games over four seasons, Mahopac ended it with a 7-0 victory. (The Bulldogs defeated Arlington, 7-0, to start a new one.) The boys lost to Kennedy and Arlington but topped Mahopac, 5-2.



Sophomore Jason Komisar secures a rebound on Dec. 3 against Rye.



Shane Green is the only returning starter for the Bulldogs.



Senior Kam Torres goes to the hoop against Rye.

Photos by S. Pearlman

## Preview: Beacon Boys Basketball

*It's a rebuilding year after Bulldogs lose four starters to graduation*

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School boys' basketball team is coming off a solid season in which the Bulldogs finished 15-8, losing in the quarterfinals of the sectional tournament to Horace Greeley.

But the squad returns just one starter

from the 2018-19 campaign — senior guard Shane Green — having lost All-Section pick Day'ion Thompson (who contributed 20 points per game), Aaron Davis and Manny Garner to graduation.

Joining Green from last year's team are seniors Tre Smith, Ian Bautista, Adrian Davis, Lionel Cumberbatch and Kam Torres. Newcomers include senior Quazir Hayes, juniors Tsamaj Powell, Regan Ladue and Caden Cutinella, and sophomores Jason Komisar, Dillon Kelly, Tristan Reid and Chase Green.

The Bulldogs opened their season Tuesday (Dec. 3) at home with a 65-37 loss to Rye. Davis had 11 points, Torres added nine and Powell had eight points and 11 rebounds. Beacon trailed by seven points at the half, but the Garnets pulled away in the third quarter.

"In the third we struggled to put the ball in the basket," said Coach Scott Timpano. "Rye is a very experienced team, a [state tournament] semifinal team last year, and we have [four] new starters. They were a tough matchup."

Timpano noted he's never had four sophomores on the team, and that his younger and new players are still trying to find their roles.

"We have an athletic group," Timpano said. "We are fast, and our starters [Green, Smith, Davis, Bautista and Torres] have been in the program. But they haven't played a lot of minutes. Our bench players only had one year of junior varsity, so it will be a learning process. The speed of the varsity game is very different."

The Bulldogs host Kennedy High School today (Dec. 6) at 7 p.m.; before the game,

Beacon High School will hold its annual Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The team hosts Poughkeepsie on Dec. 10 and Dobbs Ferry on Dec. 11.



**AT THE LINE** — Drew Kelly shoots a free throw for the Loretto Knights fourth-grade girls' squad. For results from the first two weeks of the CYO season, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

Photo by Dan Dillon



Adrian Davis scored 11 points against the Garnets.