

The HIGHLANDS Current



Wild
Art
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DECEMBER 13, 2019

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MUSIC MASTER — David Anderson of Schoenstein & Co., a firm based in northern California, installs a new organ at St. Philip's Church in Garrison as part of a \$2 million renovation of the sanctuary, clock tower and grounds. The congregation, which held services in the parish hall during construction, returns to the church on Sunday, Dec. 15. For more, see Page 15.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Three-Story Limit on Main?

Beacon council must decide on trade-offs

By Jeff Simms

A Beacon developer wants to bring affordable housing, office space and a public park to Main Street — attractive amenities for any city — but says he needs four floors to do so.

The project, called 2 Cross St., was introduced earlier this year to the City Council and in November to the Planning Board by developer Joe Donovan. The City Council must approve a special-use permit for any four-story building to be built on Main.

The proposal calls for integrating the building at 172 Main St. that's occupied by Riverwinds Gallery and the brick building at 4 Cross St. with new construction and an undeveloped lot that sits between the buildings. On Main Street, Donovan wants to construct a four-story building with retail on the ground floor, nine units of affordable senior housing on the second and around 10,000 square feet of office space on the top two floors. The back side of the complex, on Cross Street, would be three floors.

(Continued on Page 3)

Putnam Legislators Deny Request from Sheriff to Shift Funds

Say transfers to cover overtime reflect poor planning

By Chip Rowe

The Putnam County Legislature on Dec. 3 turned down a request by Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. to move \$121,000 from his equipment and administrative budget lines to partially cover a deficit created by road patrol overtime.

The transfer was denied with a 7-1 vote, with Nancy Montgomery of Philipstown, the sole Democrat on the panel, casting the dissenting vote. Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Carmel) was absent.

During the meeting, Legislator Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) called the request by Langley, a first-term Democrat who in 2017 defeated four-term Republican incumbent Don Smith by 341 votes, "concerning on



Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. speaks to legislators in March.

File photo by Ross Corsair

multiple levels." She noted the money would be moved from 42 accounts and questioned whether the allotments for those categories were too high if each had a year-end surplus.

Of the transfers requested by Langley, the largest were from the lines for temporary hires (\$38,000), automotive expenses (\$20,000), school resource officer training

(\$13,000), uniforms (\$9,600) and equipment rental (\$7,000). Twenty-one of the 42 requested transfers were for less than \$1,000 and 15 of those for less than \$500. Transfers do not cost the county additional money over what was budgeted but the county charter says agencies cannot exceed their budget lines.

It was a sudden change of approach for the Republican legislators, who for years have routinely approved such transfers. In 2018, the Legislature OKed Langley's requests to move at least \$192,000 to cover overtime, and in 2012 and 2014 it approved requests from Sheriff Smith to move \$200,000 or more to cover overtime.

The Sheriff's Department, which includes the jail and probation officers, spent \$2.5 million on overtime in 2018, according to records obtained by *The Current* through a Freedom of Information Law request. Of the county's top 25 overtime earners, 15 are sheriff's deputies and nine are correc-

(Continued on Page 5)



FIVE QUESTIONS: BEN DARNOBID

By Chip Rowe

Bohdan “Ben” Darnobid is the author of *Prison Doc*, a memoir of his 35 years as a physician assistant, including at the Matteawan State Hospital (now the Fishkill Correctional Facility) in Beacon and the Downstate Correctional Center in Fishkill.

What were your responsibilities?

We worked with the nurse practitioners and physicians. A prisoner would make a request the day before to see a doctor, and in the morning we would pull his medical records and a corrections officer would bring him to a remote waiting room. We treated everything from diabetes to HIV, hepatitis C, tuberculosis. It was a very sick population. We tried to see everybody and sort out their problems.

Do you recall the arrival of AIDs?

We saw HIV before anyone knew what it was. Inmates called it “the monster.” We started seeing inmates with large lymph nodes in their neck, armpits and groin, and we couldn’t explain it. We’d refer them for biopsies. In one case a radiologist called me in to look at an X-ray — we took chest X-rays of every prisoner we saw to check for tuber-

culosis — and said, “I can’t explain what I’m looking at.” We brought the inmate in and he was sweating profusely, with a high fever and high pulse [due to pneumocystis pneumonia, which was common among people with AIDS]. He knew he had the monster but wanted to die alone in his cell.

At Fishkill, inmates who assaulted staff were threatened with the “loaf diet.” What was that?

Each day the prisoner would get a loaf of bread with vegetables such as carrots and cabbage baked in. That was breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus water from the sink. I wanted to bring it home to my sons and tell them, “This is what you get if you misbehave,” but the prison wouldn’t let me. I was never even able to taste it. It was a good threat, because it was rare that an inmate got the diet.

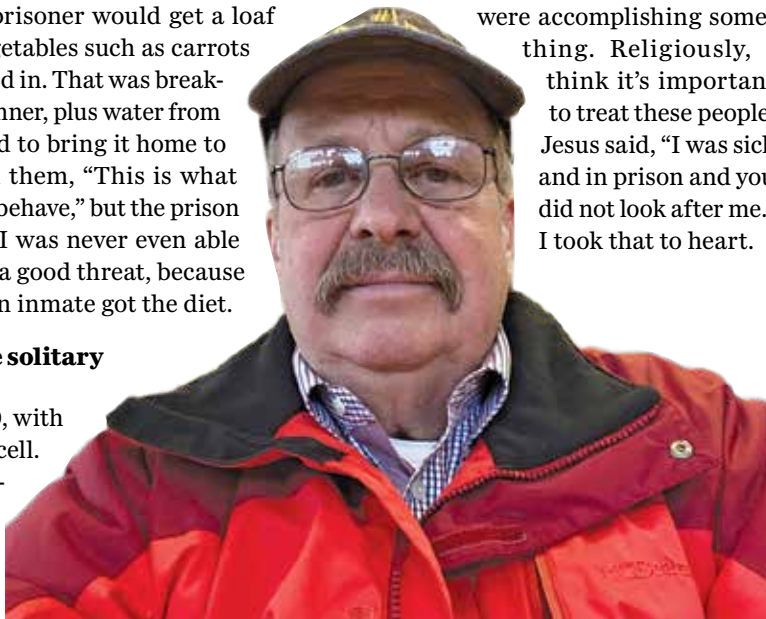
Did Fishkill use solitary confinement?

It had SHU 200, with two inmates in a cell. It was frightening for the prisoner, because he didn’t know who he would

be with, maybe a racist or a psychotic. In the early 1980s we had a lot of “slice-and-dice,” where inmates would be initiated into gangs by slicing another inmate on the cheek with a broken razor blade. The fear of “super solitary” put a stop to that.

You enjoyed the job?

The teamwork was wonderful, especially on difficult cases. We were on the cusp of major illnesses, and you felt you were accomplishing something. Religiously, I think it’s important to treat these people. Jesus said, “I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.” I took that to heart.



ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Do you collect anything?

“

Too many house plants, but I keep accepting more.

”



~ Christopher Mendez, Cold Spring

“

I’m an author, and I collect autographs in copies of my books.

”



~ Eva Elsigue (visiting from Washington state)

“

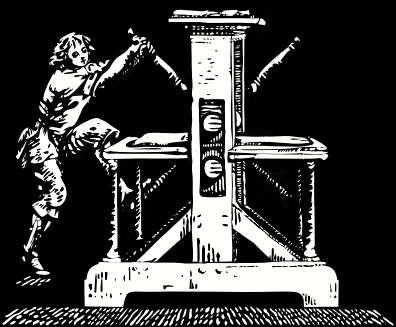
Pokémon cards. I have way too many to count.

”



~ Mark Aakjar, Beacon

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Beacon Developer *(from Page 1)*

A portion of the undeveloped lot, which has been used in recent years by the Green Teen gardening program, would remain as a park. Donovan said he would help relocate Riverwinds, the Green Teens and tenants living at 4 Cross St.

Two years ago, he said, the project could have been easily accomplished. But when the City Council revised the Central Main Street zoning district last year, it moved the Cross Street parcel (which does not face Main) into the PB (Business Off-Street Parking) zone, which does not allow office or multi-family uses. The revision also added the requirement that the City Council approve any new four-story buildings in the Central Main Street zone.

Even with a permit from the council, a fourth floor under the new zoning must be “set back” at least 15 feet so it’s smaller than the three floors below it.

Beacon’s historic district, which regulates design standards, adds yet another layer of complexity. 172 Main is in the historic district; 4 Cross is on a list of parcels that could soon be added.

On Monday night, Donovan asked the council for three concessions: to bring his Cross Street parcel under Central Main Street zoning; to approve a parking plan that would put some off-site parking in nearby residential neighborhoods but add eight more spaces than required; and to allow him to construct a four-story building without a setback.



A rendering presented to the Beacon City Council shows how Main Street might look if the four-story project were approved. The Hudson Beach Glass building is at left.

If approved, he said, his building would still be 7 feet shorter than the neighboring three-story Hudson Beach Glass building, which is also in the historic district (and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places).

But after four-story buildings were constructed at 226, 249 and 344 Main — none of which would have been approved under the revised zoning — Donovan acknowledged his plan might be a tough sell.

Four floors are “a huge sticking point,” he said, “but in return we’re offering a lot of stuff. We’re offering a public plaza; we’re offering two floors of work space;

we’re offering affordable senior housing and additional public parking.”

Donovan’s proposal comes just after the council began its own discussion on whether four-story buildings should be allowed in return for “trade-offs” from developers that benefit the public. A public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 21 on a law that would make trade-offs mandatory for four stories.

Although serious negotiations on 2 Cross St. won’t begin until next month, after Lee Kyriacou replaces Randy Casale as mayor and newcomers Dan Aymar-Blair and Air Rhodes join the council, preliminary feed-

back this week was mixed. On Monday, the City Council seemed amenable to Donovan’s first two requests but balked at the request for four floors.

“We all just ran for election and overwhelmingly the people I spoke to told me they did not want four stories on Main Street,” said Council Member Jodi McCredo. “If I now approve a building with four stories on Main, I am not representing my constituents the way that I promised I would.”

Council Member Terry Nelson said he agreed with McCredo, but both indicated they would consider a fourth floor with a setback in exchange for trade-offs.

If the council won’t grant a fourth floor without a setback, Donovan said he could build a three-story building without the public benefits, or not build at all.

On Tuesday, however, members of the Planning Board seemed more willing to entertain a four-story building along that stretch of Main.

“If the historic building adjacent to the proposed development is not stepped back, as long as the new development maintains that height, I don’t know why we would expect a setback,” said Board Member David Burke.

The decision will likely fall to the City Council, which on Monday, Dec. 16, is expected to name itself the lead agency to review the project’s environmental impacts, a job typically handled by the Planning Board.

The Planning Board could challenge the request but Chair John Gunn said Tuesday that it’s not likely to.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Leaf blowers

Thank you, Astrid Lundgren! As you point out, the use of leaf blowers is a serious health, safety and environmental issue (*Letters and Comments*, Dec. 6).

A landowner who hires "landscapers" to care for his or her lawn should tell them: "Mow, don't blow." That will cut the time they're on your place and the cost of maintenance.

The health consequences to the individual running the machines must be serious, as well. How often have you seen workers going along, intent on doing their job, without ear, eye or lung protection? Are these workers simply expendable?

There is a noise ordinance on the books in Philipstown (175-40, Environmental performance standards, paragraph C), but as Greg Wunner, the code enforcer, has told me, it's basically unenforceable. He has no equipment, training or baseline data with which to monitor excessive decibel levels.

Enjoy the holiday, everyone! Let's hope for lots of snow, which will provide us with a much-needed respite from the disarming drone of the dreaded leaf blowers.

John Benjamin, *Garrison*

I don't know why leaf blowers are tolerated, but the proposed Beacon noise ordinance exempts landscaping equipment ("Big Monday for Beacon Council," Dec. 6). Outrageous!

Joan Martorano, *Beacon*

I have a rake. It works great.

Nicholas Leiss, *via Facebook*

I'm with you, Astrid. With the planet in peril, we should be considering the habitat of our native flora and fauna. The time has

passed for gas-powered leaf blowers. Leave the leaves and plant natives and watch the birds and bees return. No pesticides!

Kathleen Kourie, *Garrison*

Ban leaves!

Denise Gouldner, *via Facebook*

The gas leaf blower invasion is intolerable. If we have a noise ordinance, I am sure that every one of those machines is in violation. You cannot think with them nearby. And it's not just during leaf season. Landscapers use them to blow cut grass during the mowing season, when a little sweeping was the old method. I've even seen them used for light snow removal on Main Street. It is an addiction of landscapers and, unfortunately, some homeowners.

Sometimes the operators have ear protection, but that doesn't help residents, and, as Lundgren mentioned in her letter, it is more than noise that is the problem. They are simply not for use in populated areas. The village itself uses them without compunction.

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.

Please, public officials, do your duty in maintaining quality of life. In addition, if we are truly a Climate Smart Community, we need to eliminate all unnecessary fossil fuel use.

Stephen Rose, *Cold Spring*

The manufacturers of leaf blowers admit the air fired from their machines reaches 239 mph and averages 190. That's three times hurricane speed being fired into insect, hibernator and pollinator habitats at close range. It annihilates them, robbing birds of their winter food supply.

One aspect of the machines that isn't declared enough is this: they're all but useless on damp or wet leaves. Even on dry, sunny fall days, only that day's recent leaves will be dry enough to blow. The rest will have soaked up all the night mists and recent rain and be unmovable except with a rake.

Yes, a rake! Having raked a great deal in recent weeks, I have this to say to the world as a fact: raking leaves is half as strenuous as riding a bicycle. I do both (not at the same time), so I can compare precisely. And I'm 55, overweight and asthmatic. If I find raking leaves easy, anyone half my age has no excuse to reach for a blower.

Why the need to clear all leaves? From paths, driveways, sidewalks, roofs and lawns fair enough, but why in woodlands? That's wildlife land, not human land, where leaves are meant to be, to mulch down, nourish the soil, protect against ground frost and house myriad bugs and insects. But now Blower Man stalks the Earth, claiming he knows better. He does not.

Simon Fielder, *via highlandscurrent.org*



NOTICE

All bills outstanding against the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York must be submitted for payment by 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 27, 2019 to the Town Clerk's Office at 238 Main Street, PO Box 155, Cold Spring, New York 10516.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
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DATED: December 11, 2019

Moving the Money

A number of Putnam County agencies each December ask the Legislature to move unspent funds from budget lines that have surpluses to those that have shortfalls, and, with the exception of the vote on Dec. 3, such transfers are typically OKed without debate. The approved Sheriff's Department transfers below, taken from meeting minutes, do not include money moved from one overtime line to another.

2018 (Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.) – \$192K

- **\$10K** from jail food temp jobs → medical and jail food overtime
- **\$43K** from Emergency Response Team, automotive, equipment, maintenance, uniforms, computers, books, medical equipment, office supplies, travel, and bike and patrol overtime → general overtime
- **\$23K** from jail personnel services → jail medical overtime
- **\$15K** from temp jobs → general overtime
- **\$60K** from prisoner boarding → patrol overtime
- **\$15K** from compensatory time → patrol overtime
- **\$8K** from range supplies → patrol overtime
- **\$2K** from medical exams → patrol overtime
- **\$5K** from compensatory time → investigators' overtime
- **\$11K** from jail personnel → jail medical overtime

2017 (Sheriff Langley) – \$33K

- **\$15K** from temp and training → overtime
- **\$18K** from unfilled jobs → first responder training overtime

2016 (Sheriff Don Smith) – \$88K

- **\$88K** from unfilled jobs → general overtime

2015 (Sheriff Smith) – \$126K

- **\$22K** from overtime, software and insurance → a new police vehicle

- **\$25K** from temp jobs → a second police vehicle
- **\$42K** from unfilled jobs → general overtime
- **\$37K** from unfilled jobs → jail and medical overtime

2014 (Sheriff Smith) – \$200K

- **\$53K** from cleaners and temp → miscellaneous, building security overtime, courts overtime and \$40K in patrol overtime
- **\$102K** from prisoner board out, transport overtime, printing, food overtime, software and maintenance → medical overtime, training overtime, food temp and jail overtime
- **\$45K** from temp, maintenance, education, equipment, gas and cleaners → general overtime

2013 (Sheriff Smith) – \$64K

- **\$64K** from personnel, cleaners, bike patrol overtime, education and training → patrol and narcotics overtime

2012 (Sheriff Smith) – \$217K

- **\$78K** from personnel and temp → general overtime
- **\$106K** from electric, training overtime, uniforms, office supplies, education and training → jail overtime
- **\$14K** from travel, software and accessories → jail overtime
- **\$19K** in miscellaneous, equipment rental, equipment and maintenance → prisoner transport overtime

Sheriff *(from Page 1)*

tions officers. By comparison, the Highway Department spent \$541,000 and all other agencies a total of \$465,000.

Montgomery said her colleagues should not be surprised by Langley's request.

"I believe [in 2018] the sheriff was told 'no new hires,' and I believe then he warned that there would be this [overtime] deficit in 2019," she said. "It is in our best interest for public safety to vote 'yes' on this because we did not give him the resources he needed to hire new people."

'Poor planning'

Nevertheless, Legislator Carl Albano (R-Carmel) accused Langley of poor planning. "You should have an idea of where the budget is going, and be in the ballpark," he said.

"This is not a public safety issue, this is a respect-for-our-taxpayers issue," added Legislator Paul Jonke (R-Southeast). "You don't spend money that you don't have."

Legislator Amy Sayegh (R-Mahopac Falls) said that when the county transfers money that was intended for one purpose to another line item, the budget process is not transparent.

"It is understood that we need to pay our deputies for their service and their overtime," Sayegh said. However, she questioned why there is money left over that was meant for uniforms, books, postage, paper, and other equipment and materials.

"If you don't need that much money in those lines, why is it budgeted, just to play this shell

game at the end of the year?" she asked.

Added Nacerino: "I cannot, in good faith, approve 40 lines being transferred to road patrol when none of those monies was encumbered for that purpose. There is something wrong with that formula."

Budget challenges

In a statement released after the vote, Langley, who lives in Philipstown, commended the legislators for questioning the proposed transfers, "as they should with all county departments."

However, the sheriff noted that budgets are projections created in the fall for the next calendar year, and that money is often moved "because no department can determine unanticipated costs a month or a year in advance. That is why, traditionally, money is and has always been transferred between budget lines in Putnam County not only at the end of year, but throughout the entire year," he said.

Langley said he held off purchasing various items until the end of the year to make sure the funds were available.

"This is the reason I requested to transfer some money for purchases and did not purchase other items, instead choosing to transfer other funds to patrol overtime, which has been substantially underfunded for many years," he said.

According to Langley, his office brought in at least \$350,000 this year in additional revenue for the county by renegotiating the daily housing rate paid by the U.S. Marshall's Service to board prisoners.

(Continued on Page 6)



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Sheriff *(from Page 5)*

“This rate was established in 1992 and not renegotiated since,” he said. “Moreover, our Civil Division increased its revenue by over 60 percent in 2019 by updating its policies and procedures to be consistent with existing laws.”

Since the road patrol overtime has already been paid, and the account remains in the red, Finance Commissioner William Carlin said that at year’s end he will likely move money from various departments and line items to settle the account.

Patrol levels

In her own statement, County Executive

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sheriff	631	683	593	600	506	693	708	789
Jail	418	524	497	531	510	525	556	461

Source: Putnam County budgets

MaryEllen Odell, a Republican, said the Legislature had “taken a stand to protect taxpayers” against a “last-minute request” by Langley for “unexpected overtime costs” and “budget manipulations.”

Langley was grilled on Nov. 11 during a meeting of the Legislature’s Protective

Services Committee meeting before it voted 2-1 to send his request to the full Legislature. (The Audit & Administration committee also voted 2-1 to send the request to the full Legislature.) When a legislator asked why there was so much overtime, Langley said there were three officers at the acad-

emy for five-month periods, and that he had minimum staffing of six officers during the day and five to six on overnight shifts.

When Jonke suggested that Langley could reduce staffing, the sheriff said he had inherited those levels from Smith and asserted, “I put public safety above personal politics.” Jonke, the committee chair, responded: “This is not personal politics. This is a set of rules we all have to live by. If you have to manage things in a different way and still protect the public, that’s on you. You can’t just spend whatever you want on the overtime and ask Bill Carlin to figure out where it will come from.”

“We don’t have any other department that

(Continued on Page 7)

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Putnam Top 10 Overtime Earners

Position	Base Pay	OT Pay	Gross Pay	OT hours	Weekly av.
Highway Crew Chief	\$92,915	\$58,471	\$151,386	859	16.5
Deputy Sheriff	\$91,544	\$56,370	\$147,914	857	16.5
Corrections Officer	\$96,448	\$54,554	\$151,002	843	16
Corrections Officer	\$77,569	\$52,713	\$130,282	916	17.6
Deputy Sheriff	\$92,338	\$50,127	\$142,465	757	14.6
Deputy Sheriff	\$91,104	\$43,870	\$134,974	671	13
Deputy Sheriff	\$97,961	\$42,694	\$140,655	635	12
Deputy Sheriff	\$91,708	\$39,922	\$131,630	607	11.7
Deputy Sheriff (Sgt.)	\$102,859	\$39,714	\$142,573	542	10.4
Deputy Sheriff	\$103,276	\$37,328	\$140,604	570	11

Source: Putnam County payroll records, 2018

(Continued from Page 6)

does this,” asserted Sullivan, another member of the committee. “The Sheriff’s Department is really an issue when we’re so far in the red. We need to see things change. It’s unsustainable.”

Langley asked the Legislature for \$762,000 in the 2020 budget for overtime after spending \$789,000 in 2018. It approved \$520,000, a 2 percent increase over 2019.

Philipstown response

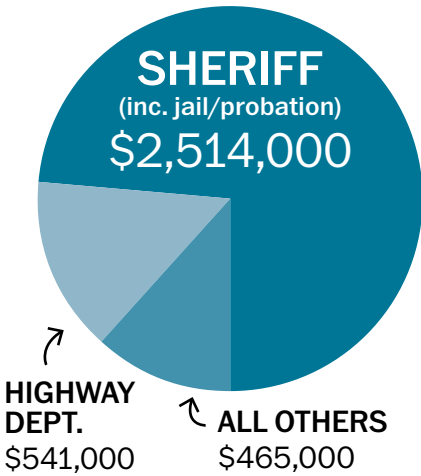
Two days after the Dec. 3 legislative meeting in Carmel, the issue came up at the Philipstown Town Board when Councilor John Van Tassel reported that he had attended the Legislature meeting and found that the “party politics are pretty rough” there.

Van Tassel, a longtime volunteer firefighter, said overtime costs can be difficult to forecast, “especially in emergency services. If an emergency happens, it’s just that — an emergency” and deputies must deal with it.

He pointed to a recent, seven-hour stand-off in Mahopac where a man barricaded himself in his home. Van Tassel said legislators commended Langley on the way his department and the Carmel police resolved the situation while also blasting the sheriff for his proposed budget transfers. “I’m sure overtime was accumulated that night, but you have no choice,” Van Tassel said.

Montgomery described the uproar over Langley’s request as “playing politics with public safety” and said other departments

Putnam Overtime by Department



Source: Putnam County payroll records, 2018

making transfer requests do not face such scrutiny.

Langley “is in an extremely difficult position. You don’t want to have people on the Legislature setting you up,” said Supervisor Richard Shea.

Councilor Robert Flaherty suggested the county devote some of the sales tax it collects to police overtime.

Shea, who has long urged the county to share sales tax revenue with villages and towns, concurred. “At least then we’d know where it’s going,” he said.

Holly Crocco and Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong contributed reporting.



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WEB# PO1572791 | Cortlandt Manor | \$349,000

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AROUND TOWN



◀ ART WALK

— This group of revelers said they traveled to Cold Spring from New York City on Dec. 6 after seeing a post online about the open house and an exhibit of landscapes by Philipstown artist Rick Gedney at *The Current's* new offices at 142 Main St.

Photo by
Michele Gedney



◀ GIFT OF GIVING

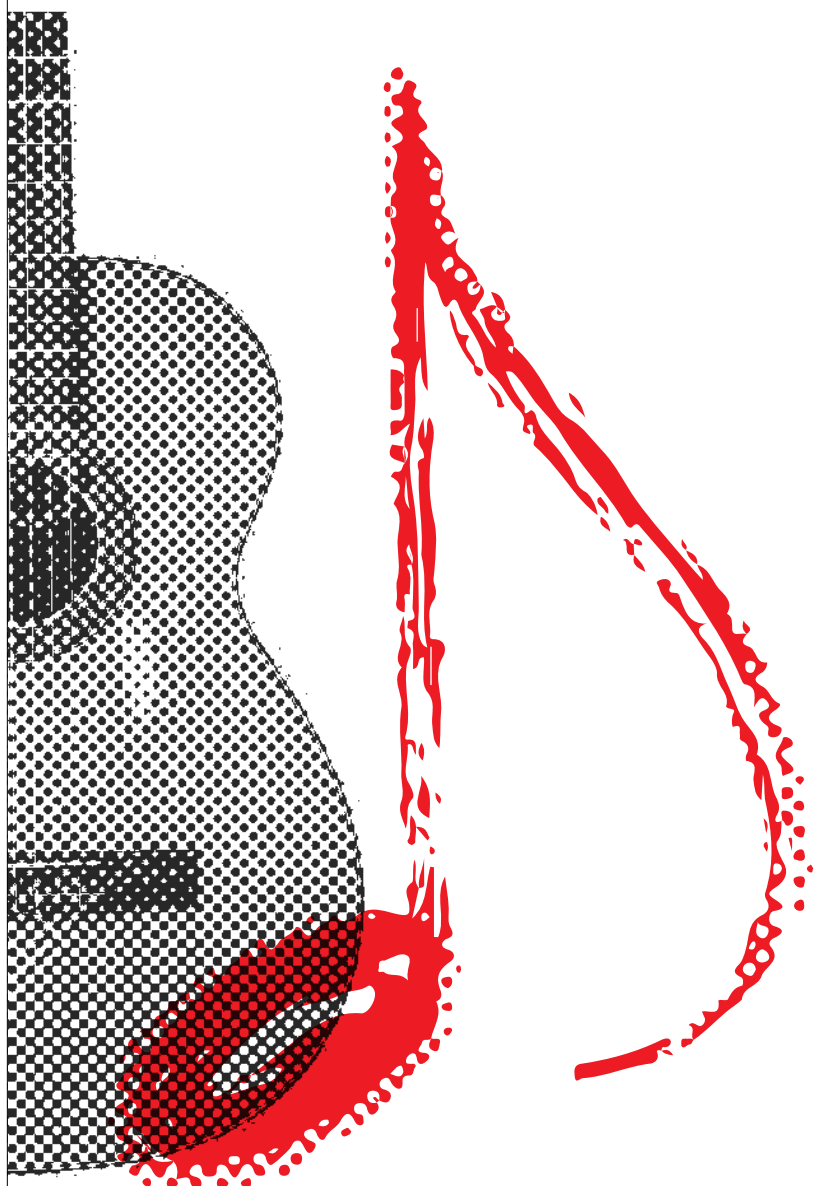
— The Dutchess County chapter of the International Renegade Pigs Motorcycle Club, which is comprised of police officers and firefighters, presented the Women's Veteran Program at the Castle Point V.A. hospital with \$400 in department store gift cards to distribute. Bob Simmonds, Gary Simmonds, Mike DeRosa, Tim Pagones, Max Aponte and Mark Thomas are shown with program director Lauren Incontrera.



◀ CLIMATE CAROLS

— Members of the grassroots Hudson Highlands Extinction Rebellion group sang traditional holiday songs with lyrics revised to emphasize the dangers of global warming and handed out cookies to morning commuters on Dec. 4 at the Garrison and Cold Spring train stations.

Photos provided



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

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The Calendar

Endangered Species, Close to Home

Artist incorporates animals into sculpture

By Alison Rooney

Eileen Sackman has strong convictions about the many species endangered by human indifference, and she hopes her art reflects a belief that “we can turn things around for not just the animals that live on the planet but everyone who inhabits it.”

Her latest works will be exhibited at the Beacon Artist Union (BAU) Gallery in a show titled *Endangerment* that opens on Second Saturday, Dec. 14, with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m.

“It’s a lot to say that this show will bring awareness to every topic I’m passionate about, but I really want people to take a stand about poaching and hunting these animals,” she explains. She hopes her art evokes “a sense of family, relationship, sorrow, loneliness, abandonment, strength and power through the eyes of Asian and African mammals, as well as various whales.”



African White Rhino vase

She continues: “I’ve had a connection to animals my whole life. In grad school, I did a lot of political work. I was upset about animals that had been used in traditional Chinese medicine. It was 2011 and people weren’t talking about it.”

For her show at BAU, she did sculpture and low-reliefs of endangered species such as African bush elephants, rhinos, whales,



Eileen Sackman at the wood-fired kiln

crocodiles and orangutans on functional pottery like teapots and vases.

“I feel like my sculptures and my pottery communicate,” Sackman says. “It’s about combining emotions, which comes through in how the animals interact with each other. A lot of the pieces will have a mother and child together. There’s a teapot with a male elephant on one side and a female elephant



Humpback whale pitcher Photos provided

and her baby on the other. It’s displaying a deeper connection to the family unit, which we share.”

Sackman, who has a master’s degree in studio art from Adelphi University and a master’s of fine art in ceramics from SUNY New Paltz, found herself drawn to Anagama tunnel kilns, which use wood

(Continued on Page 17)

A Holiday Tradition Comes to Beacon



Scott Ramsey

Photos provided

*New resident to read
‘A Christmas Memory’*

By Alison Rooney

Best known for his books *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* and *In Cold Blood*, Truman Capote in 1956 also wrote a short story for *Mademoiselle*, “A Christmas Memory,” that has endured.

The affectionate story, set during the Depression, is about one of the few stretches of time during his childhood in which Capote said he felt cared for. (Capote’s mother abandoned him in early childhood, leaving him with relatives in rural Alabama.) It recalls, from an adult’s vantage point, Capote’s childhood relationship with an elderly, touched-by-the-pixies cousin with whom he shares sneaky delights such as kite flying and baking fruitcakes.

The narration is a treasure trove of

sharp-tongued, Southern-tinged language that newly minted Beacon resident Scott Ramsey will share when he reads the story aloud at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22, at the Howland Cultural Center.

“It’s about providing a wonderful moment during the holidays where people can reflect, listen and be a part of it,” says Ramsey, who runs his own marketing company, Fort Beacon Studios. “My mantra is, ‘We have to see beyond the hard edges of people to see how alike we are.’”

Ramsey became acquainted with “A Christmas Memory,” which has been adapted into short films and was once recorded by Capote, when his ninth-grade English teacher in Texas read it to the class. He encountered the story again after moving to New York City in 1997 to pursue a career in musical theater. While performing in a regional production, he bought a copy of the book for 25 cents at a library sale.

A few months later, Ramsey and his part-



Ramsey’s treasured copy of Truman Capote’s “A Christmas Memory”

ner, Brian Donnelly, were hanging out at the Hourglass Tavern in Manhattan, which has a small, third-floor space. “Brian said, ‘You should do “A Christmas Memory” in this

(Continued on Page 17)



She is small and sprightly, like a bantam hen; but due to a long youthful illness, her shoulders are pitifully hunched. Her face is remarkable — not unlike Lincoln’s, craggy like that, and tinted by sun and wind; but it is delicate too, finely boned and her eyes are sherry-colored and timid.”

~Truman Capote’s description of Sook

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 14

Holiday Boutique

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Shop for unique, handcrafted and locally made gifts from dozens of artisans. Also SUN 15.

SAT 14

Tree & Wreath Sale

PHILIPSTOWN

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

All proceeds will benefit 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

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

SAT 21

Beary Merry Holiday Party

BEAR MOUNTAIN

10:30 a.m. Trailside Zoo
trailsidezoo.org

Make and wrap snacks for the black bears, who will receive their presents at 11 a.m. Parking is \$10 per vehicle and zoo admission is \$1 per person. Allow 20 minutes to walk from the lot to the zoo. Snow date SUN 22.

SAT 21

Cold Spring Aglow

COLD SPRING

5 – 9 p.m. Main Street

Take a stroll on the longest night of the year while the sidewalks are lined with candle-lit paper lanterns in an event organized by the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 14

Breakfast with Santa

COLD SPRING

7:30 – 11:30 a.m. Methodist Church
216 Main St. | 845-265-3365
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)*

SAT 14

Breakfast with Santa

GARRISON

9 a.m. – Noon. Garrison Fire Co.
1616 Route 9 | 845-424-4406
garrisonfd.org

Call to reserve for 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. seating hosted by the fire company auxiliary. Donations appreciated.

SAT 14

Santa Run

COLD SPRING

Noon. Various stops.

Members of the Cold Spring Fire Co. will escort Santa around the village.

SAT 14

An Interview with Santa

BEACON

2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Artist Cyrus Quadland will read a new play for children ages 4 and older.

SUN 15

Santa Run

PHILIPSTOWN

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Various stops
facebook.com/cvfd14

Members of the Continental Village fire company will escort Santa around the village. Snow date SUN 22. See schedule online.



SUN 15

Mooseltoe

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 about a moose that wants to join Santa's team of reindeer.

SUN 15

Holiday Tours

BEACON

3 – 6 p.m. Mount Gulian | 145 Sterling St.
845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

Docents will offer tours of the historic site, and at 4:30 p.m. Lorraine Hartin Gelardi will share



Cold Spring Aglow, Dec. 21

a children's story. Tours repeat on WED 18 and THURS 19 from 1 – 4 p.m. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 senior, \$6 children, members free)*

THURS 19

The Polar Express

GARRISON

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

The library will screen this 2004 film based on a children's book about a boy who takes a train ride to the North Pole. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

FRI 20

Winter Tidings

BEACON

5:30 p.m. Rombout Middle School
84 Matteawan Road | 845-831-1870
balletartsstudio.com

Dancers from the Ballet Arts Studio will perform. *Free*

SAT 21

Nutcracker, Short and Sweet

PEEKSKILL

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

This hour-long, narrated version, presented by the Hudson Valley Dance Theatre, is designed to hold the attention of the youngest ballet fans. *Cost: \$15*

SUN 22

Make Felted Ornaments

BEACON

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Beacon Farmer's Market
Veterans Place at Main
commongroundfarm.org

Common Ground Farm invites families and children ages 5 and older to create handmade ornaments from naturally dyed wool taken from Hudson Valley sheep. Register online. *Cost: \$7 per ornament (\$35 unlimited)*

SUN 22

Santa Run

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Various locations | nhfd21.org
The North Highlands Engine



Make Felted Ornaments, Dec. 22

Co. No. 1 will escort Santa to stops around Philipstown. See schedule on Facebook.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 14

Elf Jr., The Musical

GARRISON

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

In a tale based on the holiday film, Buddy the Elf searches for family and identity. Also SUN 15. *Cost: \$12*

SAT 14

It's a Wonderful Life Radio Play

BEACON

1:30 p.m. Story Screen | 445 Main St
bpt.me/event/4459775

The Hudson Valley Players will bring to life the holiday classic about the importance of family and community. Also SUN 15. *Cost: \$13*

SAT 14

The Nutcracker

POUGHKEEPSIE

2 & 7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The New Paltz Ballet Theatre will present its 22nd annual performance about a magical journey to the Kingdom of Sweets. Also SUN 15. *Cost: \$29 to \$34*

SUN 22

A Christmas Memory

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
christmasmemory.bpt.me

Scott Ramsey, directed by Barry Hoff, will read Truman Capote's story based on his memories of sharing holiday adventures with his best friend and cousin, Sook. See Page 9. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*

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* (see Page 9), while Schlobohm relies on found and made objects in resin (such as below) for *Beauty Found*, *Beauty Wrought*. Through Jan. 5.



SAT 14
Gift Wrapped 2019
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery

This seventh annual exhibit will include works’ from more than 100 artists, each priced at \$200 or less. Through Jan. 4.

SAT 14
Listening to Light
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St. | 845-440-0068
hudsonbeachglass.com

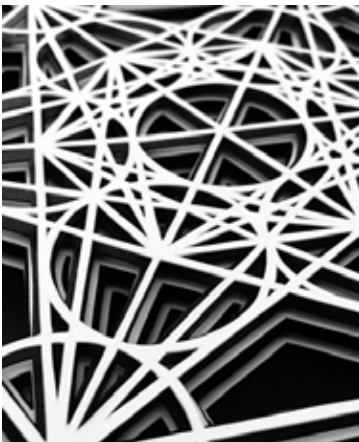
This show will feature monoprints by Carol Struve and photographs by J.D. Weiss. Through Jan. 5.

SAT 14
Small Works Show
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Catalyst Gallery | 137 Main St.
845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

Works by more than 70 artists that are each less than 20 inches and priced at no more than \$500. Through Jan. 12.

SAT 14
Thomas VanWinkle
BEACON
7 – 9 p.m. Oak Vino | 389 Main St.
845-765-2400 | oakvino.com

This solo show by the abstract artist runs through Jan. 31.



TALKS & TOURS

SAT 14
Feeding the Crisis
BEACON
7 p.m. Binnacle Books | 321 Main St.
845-838-6191 | binnaclebooks.com

Peter Frase, author of *Four Futures: Life After Capitalism*, will discuss with Maggie Dickinson her new book on food stamps and food insecurity. Proceeds will benefit the Fareground community kitchen.

MON 16
MWBE Certification
BEACON
6:30 p.m. Beahive | 291 Main St.
845-363-6432 | wedcbiz.org/events

This workshop, produced by the nonprofit Women’s Enterprise Development Center, will explain how to get Minority/Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) certification before applying for state contracts. Register online. *Free*

THURS 19
The Battle of Brooklyn
FORT MONTGOMERY
7 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site
690 Route 9W | 845-446-2134
parks.ny.gov

Historian Frank Licameli will discuss this pivotal battle of the Revolutionary War, citing firsthand accounts and newly discovered maps. Phone reservations required. *Cost: \$5 donation (\$3 members)*

MUSIC

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

Led by Cat Guthrie, the choir



Jessica Lynn, Dec. 14

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 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

Goldee 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)*

MON 16
Cello Choir
BEACON
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

Cellists from the Beacon Chamber Ensemble will perform a holiday concert with carols led by Kristin Gornstein. *Free*

FRI 20
The Costellos’ Christmas
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St. | 845-855-1300
townecrier.com

Lynn and Bob Costello will mix rock, pop, surf and country in their annual holiday concert with Open Book and Dimitri Archip. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

SAT 21
A Very Slambovian Christmas
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Slambovian Circus of Dreams will return for a high-energy holiday show that typically sells out. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

CIVIC

MON 16
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

MON 16
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

The agenda includes updates on Airbnb regulations, snow removal and Secor Street, as well as the reappointment of building inspector Bill Bujarski.

TUES 17
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane High School (Room 211)
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

TUES 17
Board of Trustees
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 18
Haldane Strategic Coherence Plan
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Middle School Library
15 Craigsides Dr. | haldaneschool.org

Superintendent Philip Benante will provide an update on the initiative.



Jingle All the Way, Dec. 15

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Priscilla Kramer adding to her creation



Tools of the trade: Tinsel and glitter glue

Photos by A. Rooney

Memorable Holiday Sweaters

Although you may well want to forget

By Alison Rooney

Ugly is in the eye of the beholder. And the women beholding the ugly (read: outlandish) holiday sweaters they created at the Howland Public Library in Beacon last week certainly did not consider them to be in the category, despite their best efforts.

"It seemed like a fun, holiday-time thing to do," said librarian Alison Herrera of the event, a first at the Howland.

The library provided everything but the canvas, i.e., the sweatshirts and sweaters each participant decorated. The embellishments included cut-outs of snow people and gingerbread people, buttons, red and green felt, and the crucial bling and glitter glue.

"If you need smiley faces, I have 'em," someone offered.

Some couturiers brought their best game. Mary Roth began with a tie-dye garment — "in non-Christmas colors — it's versatile" — with a hat to match. Asked whether she was making it as a gift, she replied, "Oh, I never even thought of that!"



Trending: tie-dye plus Charlie Brown characters, as modeled by Mary Roth



Christine Mikolajczak going for the gold

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Sunday Best

Historic Garrison church gets a makeover

Text and photos by Ross Corsair

Over several months this year, there has been work going on inside and around St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Garrison for its first large-scale renovation since it was designed by Richard Upjohn and completed in 1865.

The congregation has been meeting for services, in the meantime, in the parish hall. But at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15, it returns to the stone church, where the leaks in the bell tower have been repaired, the pews refinished and the walls painted. The choir also will present a Christmas concert at 4 p.m. that day.

"When we opened up the building, we found it had not been touched in 150 years," said Jan Anderson, who is co-chair with Jamie Copeland of the restoration committee. The initiative, which cost \$2 million raised through a capital campaign, also includes a columbarium; a wheelchair-accessible entrance; climate control, sound and alarm systems; and a bathroom that is still being designed because of the challenge of integrating it with Upjohn's design.

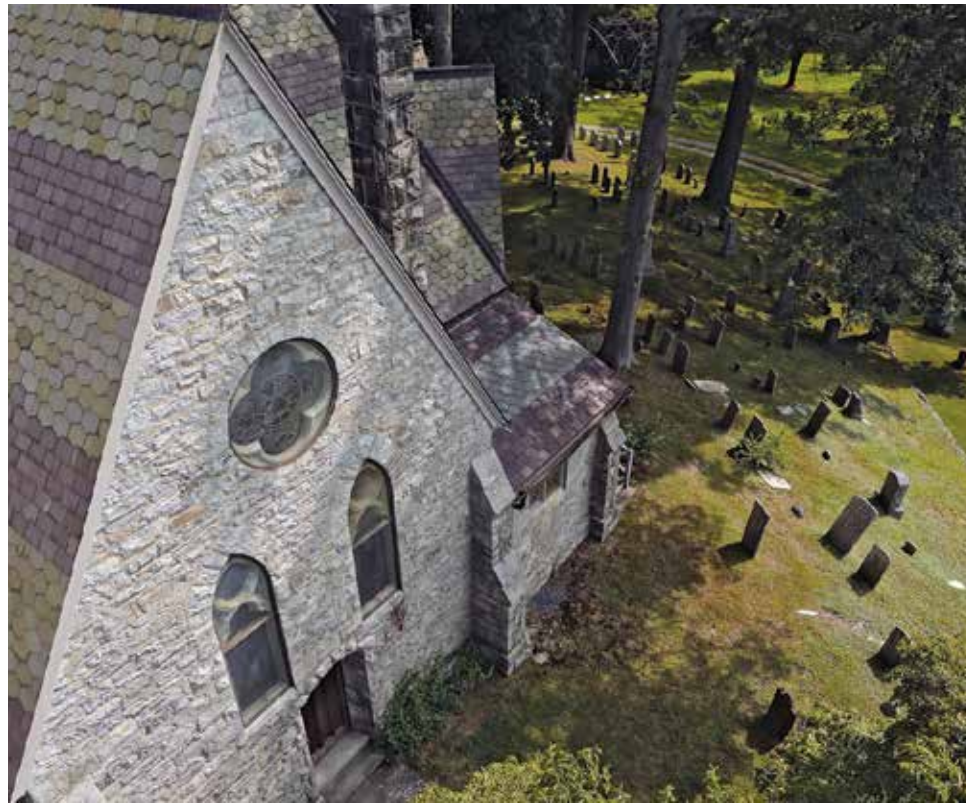
The crowning glory of the upgrade is a new \$700,000 organ built and installed by Schoenstein & Co., a northern California firm founded in 1877. Two of its employees stayed for four weeks in Garrison to assemble it: foreman Chris Hansford, who has been with the company for 28 years; and builder David Anderson, who holds a master's degree in organ technology. Jack Betharts, the firm's president and fine-tuner, also visited.

The firm built the instrument at its shop, disassembled it, and shipped the parts to Garrison to rebuild. It has nearly 1,000 pipes (some made of wood and others of tin and lead) and more than 1,000 pneumatics.

"We try to match, in each pipe, the tone of the organ to the acoustics of the building," Betharts said. "It also would be a different design if the denomination was, say, Baptist. This organ was built for the Episcopal liturgy."

He said Schoenstein has built organs with 10,000 pipes. One in Salt Lake City took three years to install.

For more photos,
see highlandscurrent.org.





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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
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DEC 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

DEC 29 - First Sunday After Christmas
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Carols & Seasonal Hymns


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Humpback whale and Nile crocodile sculptures by Eileen Sackman

Photos provided

Endangerment *(from Page 9)*

as a fuel source. They originated in Asia in the fifth century but didn't make their way to the U.S. until the 1970s and are still relatively scarce here. Wood ash is pulled through the kiln's body, landing on the ceramic wares. As the temperature climbs, the ash begins to melt and fuse to the clay body, creating a natural glaze.

For past six years, Sackman has been wood-firing with Pennsylvania artist Jack Troy. Because the kilns are typically 15 feet long and require constant monitoring, "it's much easier when you have a core group of people, working in shifts," Sackman explains. "I go three times a year. We fire Jack's small kiln twice a year for a five-day firing, and his big kiln once a year for seven days, then have to load and unload. A lot of the work that will be in this show I got out of the kiln just this

past Sunday. You can make 100 pieces and a third of them come out the way you want them. It's a practice in letting go, sometimes."

Asked whether people tend to respond to what she produces as art, objects, or functional items, Sackman replies that if one of her mugs "becomes your go-to, to me that's the best thing. I do a lot of arts shows and high-end crafts fairs with people who come back each year. If I hear, 'My husband and I fight over it,' that's the best news. I'm indirectly becoming part of your every day. If you're going to think about the animal every time you look at it, they become part of it, too."

The BAU Gallery, located at 506 Main St. in Beacon, is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m., or by appointment. Call 845-440-8089. A portion of the proceeds from Endangerment will be donated to a South African rhino sanctuary.

Christmas Memory *(from Page 9)*

room; it's so quirky and special," Ramsey recalls. "That immediately felt right to me."

Ramsey reached out to the Truman Capote Literary Trust, which approved his request to present the story, as long as he did it as a reading, read the entire story and donated any proceeds to charity. Nine years of annual readings at the Hourglass followed.

"We don't go down that road of trying to capture Capote's [peculiar speaking] voice, yet sometimes in the things he writes, there's a timbre that you can fall into unintentionally," Ramsey says. "This is not a dramatic reading, it's meant to be comfortable, just sharing the story, a reflection."

After moving to Beacon with Donnelly earlier this year, Ramsey came upon the Howland Cultural Center, then brought his director and friend Barry Hoff to see the space. "He walked in, gobsmacked," Ramsey says. "It's a nice expansion of what we've been doing at the Hourglass."

Tickets for "A Christmas Memory" are \$10



Truman Capote (left) was influenced by his cousin Sook. Their relationship is at the center of "A Christmas Memory."

at christmasmemory.bpt.me or \$15 at the door. All proceeds will benefit the Big Horizon Project, which provides scholarships for Beacon High School students pursuing degrees in the fine arts. The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St.

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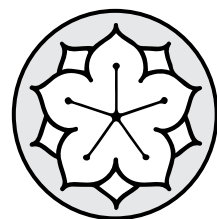
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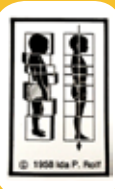
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The HIGHLANDS

Current

7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

Saturday

52/39

Cloudy and milder with heavy rain tapering off

POP: 80%

SSW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 52/33

Sunday

45/26

Mostly cloudy

POP: 20%

W 8-16 mph

RealFeel 38/16

Monday

37/29

Some sun

POP: 15%

W 6-12 mph

RealFeel 38/23

Tuesday

42/24

Cloudy with a bit of snow

POP: 60%

W 7-14 mph

RealFeel 40/17

Wednesday

33/17

Partly sunny and colder

POP: 20%

WNW 8-16 mph

RealFeel 25/11

Thursday

32/19

Clouds limiting sun

POP: 25%

WNW 7-14 mph

RealFeel 23/16

Friday

33/20

Mostly sunny

POP: 0%

NW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 34/21

Snowfall

Past week

Trace

Month to date

10.9"

Normal month to date

1.3"

Season to date

10.9"

Normal season to date

3.2"

Last season to date

4.9"

Record for 12/13

0.0" (0)

SUN & MOON

Sunrise Sat., 12/14

7:14 AM

Sunset Sat. night, 12/14

4:27 PM

Moonrise Sat., 12/14

6:58 PM

Moonset Sat., 12/14

9:27 AM

Last

New

First

Full

Dec 18

Dec 25

Jan 2

Jan 10

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.

CROSSCURRENT

By King Features

ACROSS

1. Chum

4. With 29-Across, Conrad novel

8. Faction

12. Whatever amount

13. Dermatology subject

14. Horn sound

15. Related to summer theater

17. "That hurts!"

18. Decorate a T-shirt, '60s-style

19. Old Olds

21. "— the fields we go"

22. Trite

26. McCartney cohort

29. See 4-Across

30. Praise in verse

31. Doves' place

32. Eviscerate

33. Actress Cannon

34. Commotion

35. Trot

36. Part of a Santa costume

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

37. 1935 Astaire/Rogers movie

39. Oppositionist

40. Swelled head

41. Pester

45. Oodles

48. Western hero's trademark

50. Suitor

51. Draftable

52. List-ending abbr.

53. Complain

54. Peruse

55. "Quiet!"

DOWN

1. History

2. Oppositionist

3. Orpheus' instrument

4. Attorney

5. Earth tone

6. Genetic stuff

7. Midwestern city

8. Remained upright

9. Debtor's letters

10. Elmer, to Bugs

11. Biblical verb ending

16. Worship

20. Shade source

23. Georgetown athlete

24. Hebrew month

25. See to

26. "Shool!"

27. — list

28. On

29. Moonshine container

32. Commence hostilities

33. Thick

35. Binge

36. Went by water

38. Excited

39. Porcelain

42. "I'll have what — having"

43. Wooden strip

44. Leave an impression

45. The Chew network

46. Meadow

47. Rowing need

49. Weeding tool

SUDOCURRENT

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

Answers for Dec. 6 Puzzles

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

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

Answers will be published next week.
See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive versions.

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Preview: Haldane Hoops

By Skip Pearlman

The Haldane High School's boys' basketball team is off to a strong start to the 2019-20 season, with the Blue Devils winning two of their first three games.

The team opened its season with a 61-59 victory at Rye Neck before losing at home to Hamilton, 66-52, and cruising past Keio Academy, 80-40.

Against Hamilton, senior Mame Diba led Haldane with 19 points, followed by senior Dan Santos with 11 and sophomore Soren Holmbo with eight.

"We got off to a good start, but in the second quarter they shot really well, and turnovers hurt us," said Coach Joe Virgadamo. "Mame had a phenomenal game, and Dan has had two great games for us so far."



Matt Champlin (5) and Soren Holmbo

Photo by S. Pearlman

The Blue Devils return four starters from last year's squad, which finished 14-7 and lost in the sectional semifinal to Hamilton, the starters include senior All-Conference forward Matt Champlin; Diba, who was an All-League selection; senior guard Alex Kubik; and Santos.

Seniors Jagger Beachak and Darrin Santos and junior Doug Donaghy also return, while juniors John Bradley, Christian Pezzullo and Vincenzo Scanga, Holmbo and freshman Matteo Cervone are newcomers.

"Our goal is to be as balanced offensively as possible," Virgadamo said. "Matt and Alex are both on the varsity for their fourth year, and Matt has the potential to be one of the best in the section. Alex has great vision and can score."

Haldane hasn't won a sectional title since 2016, after winning three in a row.

"Hamilton is the team to beat," the coach said. "But we'll get better throughout the year. Tuckahoe will also be good. The semifinals and finals are at the Westchester County Center this year, and that's a big deal. That's where it should be. The kids look forward to it, work hard, and they deserve it."

Haldane will travel to The Leffell School in Hartsdale on Monday, Dec. 16, and to Tuckahoe on Dec. 20. Its next home game is Jan. 4.

Graduation also was kind to the girls' basketball team, as last year's squad had only one senior, Julia Rotando.

The Blue Devils return four other starters for first-year coach Jessica Perrone, who is taking over after Tyrone Searight took a leave of absence after being accused of workers' compensation fraud. (Searight pleaded guilty to a violation in the case, and the Board of Education will decide on Dec. 17 whether to dismiss him. But the district has said Perrone, who coached the junior



Olivia McDermott goes behind her back against Bronxville.

Photo by Scott Warren

varsity and continues to do so, will be the head coach for this season.)

Haldane finished 5-14 last season but won its sixth consecutive sectional title before losing in the first round of the regionals to Millbrook.

"We have a team with six seniors, so we have a strong core, and they know the deal," Perrone said. "They know what's expected. I feel fortunate, and we're hoping to get further in the postseason."

The captains are seniors Bela Monteleone and Shianne Twoguns. They are joined by seniors Abigail Platt, Olivia McDermott and Sofia Viggiano, and sophomores Molly Siegel and Madison Chiera. Senior Olivia Monteleone (who sat out last year to focus on volleyball), juniors Essie Florke and Sydney Warren and sophomores Ella Ashburn and Marissa Scanga round out the lineup.

"I feel lucky to have Olivia returning," said Perrone. "She's our strongest rebounder, and she can also score. Bela is one of our strongest offensive players. McDermott is probably our best outside shooter and a scrappy defender, too."

"Our strength will be outside shooting," she added. "Most of the girls can hit that shot if it's open. And we are a good fast-break team. We are working harder on boxing out and rebounding, and defensively we'll be aggressive."

In addition, she said, "we have depth, we can play eight or nine girls, and they can all contribute."

The Blue Devils opened the season with a 55-45 win at Bronxville on Dec. 6, then lost at Blind Brook, 63-48, on Dec. 9.

At Bronxville, McDermott led the team with 20 points and four assists, and Bela Monteleone had 19 points and six rebounds. Olivia Monteleone grabbed 16 rebounds to go with six points, and Chiera had eight points.

At Blind Brook, Bela Monteleone recorded 17 points and six rebounds, Olivia Monteleone had 10 points and four boards, and McDermott added 10 points, three rebounds and two steals.

Haldane is scheduled to play in a tournament at Croton-Harmon on Saturday, Dec. 14, and in another tournament at Hendrick Hudson next week.

VARSITY SCOREBOARD

Boys' Basketball

Beacon 60, Ketcham 50
Quazir Hayes (12), Tsamaj Powell (10)
Poughkeepsie 78, Beacon 54
Dobbs Ferry 57, Beacon 51
Hayes (12), Ian Bautista (8)

Girls' Basketball

Yorktown 50, Beacon 29
Mount Vernon 52, Beacon 35
Beacon 46, Sleepy Hollow 35
Beacon 61, Lakeland 56
Grace Affeldt (17), Skyler Kurtz (16),
Enita Rodriquez (15)

Boys' Bowling

Saugerties 7, Beacon 0
John Jay East Fishkill defeated Beacon

Girls' Bowling

Beacon 7, Saugerties 0
Beacon 7, John Jay East Fishkill 0

Boys' Swimming

Beacon 87, Tappan Zee 83
Beacon 87, Eastchester 79



WILDCAT-BOUND — Grace Tomann, a senior at Haldane High School, signed a letter of intent on Dec. 11 to play volleyball for the University of New Hampshire.

Photo by Michael Turton