

The HIGHLANDS Current

DECEMBER 20, 2019



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A sampling of LIC Rocks (above) and Rock Girl places a rock on the bench outside *The Current* office in Cold Spring. Photos by M. Turton

Mystery Rocks

*Mother-daughter team
pays it forward*

By Michael Turton

Last year, residents of Long Island City in Queens were mystified when hand-painted stones, many bearing messages, appeared in their neighborhood. Now, these mysterious rocks are showing up in Garrison, Cold Spring and Beacon. Acting on a tip from a reader, *The*

Current tracked down the mother-daughter team behind the secretive stones. They agreed to meet on the condition they be referred to only as Rock Mom and Rock Girl because no one in Long Island City has been able to identify them. “That’s part of the fun,” Rock Mom said. The team, which calls itself LIC Rocks, visits the Highlands often and recently decided to make its mark here. Stones have been placed at Garrison Landing, on Main Street in Cold Spring and on Main Street and at the waterfront in Beacon. Cold Spring resident Ed Currelley found two rocks at Beacon’s Long Dock Park,

both “hidden in plain sight.” One was simply painted beautifully but the other contained a welcome message. “I found a rock inscribed with ‘You are Strong’ at a moment when I needed the sentiment, at a low point in my day,” Currelley said. “The idea of LIC Rocks is wonderful: Giving without reward, encouraging people to open their hearts and paying forward.” Both mother and daughter admit to asking neighbors who they think is behind the rock conundrum, as a bit of misdirection. The adventure began last winter when the two were looking for a project to work

(Continued on Page 8)

Yes, Beacon, There is a Santa Claus

*Members of Facebook group
spread a little holiday cheer*

By Brian PJ Cronin

Santa Claus came early to Beacon this year — and he did it 61 times. That’s the number of families who benefited from a Facebook group called Beacon Santas created last month by

Stephanie Dignan, a city resident. Dignan said she realized that she had the means to buy presents this year for people beyond her family and friends but wasn’t sure how to find those in need. So she created a Facebook group. The idea was to identify families, learn what they needed for the holidays, and distribute requests to group members. She invited people she knew to join and made posts elsewhere on Facebook

(Continued on Page 8)



Becky Fraioli (left) and Madison Lee (with Oliver the dog) played Santa to Takiya Mitchell and her two children. Photo provided

Plastic Bag Ban Coming — in March, not January

*Dutchess enforcement
unlikely until state law
takes effect*

By Jeff Simms

Dutchess County law banning plastic grocery bags takes effect Jan. 1 but is unlikely to be enforced because a statewide measure effective March 1 will supersede it. The state regulation, signed into law on Earth Day (April 22) by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, bans single-use, carry-out plastic bags at any store that is required to collect sales tax. New York joins seven other states that have banned single-use plastic bags. The ban passed as part of the state

(Continued on Page 9)

Former Cold Spring Trustee Arrested by FBI

*Charged with attempted
child enticement*

By Chip Rowe

Charles E. “Chuck” Hustis III, a former two-term Village of Cold Spring trustee and recent mayoral candidate, was arrested by the FBI on Monday (Dec. 16) and charged with attempted enticement of a minor to engage in sexual activity, according to federal officials.



Hustis, 36, appeared before a federal judge in White Plains on Monday on the charge, which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison. He was represented at the initial court appearance by a federal public defender and released to home confinement on a \$150,000 bond, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York. The 2002 Haldane graduate, who could not immediately be reached for comment, served on the Village Board from 2010 to 2014 and also ran unsuccessfully for the Haldane school board in 2015. He challenged incumbent Mayor Dave Merandy earlier this year. According to the complaint filed with the court, a 16-year-old male teenager notified the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office that Hustis on Dec. 8 and 9 sent him sexually explicit photos over Facebook Messenger and solicited him to meet for sex. The teen told police that Hustis had been one of his substitute teachers. Hustis was certified by the state as a

(Continued on Page 8)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: RACHEL LEVIN

By Chip Rowe

Rachel Levin of Garrison, a former director at Saks Fifth Avenue, is a personal stylist. She blogs at rachellevinstyle.com.

Why does style matter?

It's a powerful tool for communication. While you



Photo by Karen Seifert

do have chances with content to correct a first impression, if you're not aligned visually, it's going to distract.

You spent 10 years in luxury retail. What kind of markup is there?

You mean, are customers paying a premium for luxury? Whether you're talking moderate or luxury, once stores hit the first major markdown they're making pennies on the dollar. Some companies, such as the Doen Collection and Tibi, are trying to maintain their margins and pay a living wage and be sustainable instead of being part of the markdown culture we live in.

Were you fashionable as a kid?

I like to think so, yeah, but I was more interested in other people wearing the clothing. I had my first job in fashion retail at age 14, helping to run a boutique at a tennis club. At age 19 I went to work for Saks in Cleveland as the company's youngest designer sales associate, and my first

job when I moved to New York was overseeing a \$6 million department for them. But I missed working with clients one-on-one.

A woman comes to you for styling. What is the first thing you ask?

What's going on in her life and in her closet, and what motivated her to call. I usually hear from people in the midst of a personal or professional change that prompts them to think about other things that have to shift. I love to start in the closet because it's a way to understand the editing and re-evaluation that has to be done. My favorite scenario is where I say, "It'd be great if you had X or Y," and we find the piece stuffed in the back. If there's been complete neglect and I have to start from scratch, it's incredibly stressful for myself and the client.

What is usually the first thing to go?

Anything "well-loved." Listen, I appreciate that you have your favorite black sweater, but life is too good to wear things with holes. But I understand. After I moved to New York, I had to downsize and had a girlfriend and my mother help me with my first closet cleanout. It took a week, and I felt physically ill. I tell clients, "If it's truly sentimental, keep it. But never leave the house wearing it."

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's your favorite holiday tradition?

“

I love Christmas Eve, the [Feast of the] Seven Fishes and midnight Mass.

”



~ Danny Alos, Cold Spring

“

Being with family for a good Spanish gathering and dinner with pernil and tostones.

”



~ Xio Mia, Beacon

“

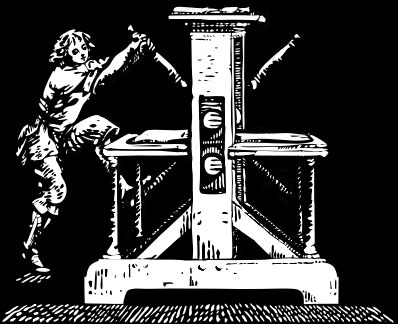
Our family comes from all over — Italy, Texas, California — lots of heavy food, meatloaf, Greek salad and red wine.

”



~ Eddie Burke, Cold Spring

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MORE PARKING — The Beacon City Council on Dec. 9 authorized city officials to buy this lot at the corner of Wolcott Avenue and Beacon Street from the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. for \$325,000. The city plans to open the lot, which is being used by the department and the adjacent St. Andrew's Church, to the public. *Photo by Jeff Simms*

NEWS BRIEFS

Dutchess DMV Restricts Services

Will no longer process licenses for Philipstown

The Department of Motor Vehicles office in Beacon will no longer accept or process applications for driver's licenses, driver's permits or non-driver ID cards for residents of Philipstown under a new regulation issued by Dutchess County.

As of Dec. 17, Dutchess County DMV offices only serve Dutchess County residents for licenses, permits and IDs, the agency said, although there are no residency restrictions on other transactions. Philipstown residents can use the Putnam County DMV at 1 Geneva Road in Brewster.

In addition, state residents must upgrade their driver's license, permit or non-driver ID to an enhanced or REAL ID by Oct. 1 to use it as identification on domestic flights or to enter military bases or certain federal buildings. A U.S. passport can be used for ID if a license has not been upgraded.

Dutchess Passes 2020 Budget

Beacon legislator votes 'no'

The Dutchess County Legislature adopted a \$514 million budget for 2020 by a vote of 22-2 on Dec. 5. Nick Page, whose district includes Beacon wards 1, 2 and 3, voted no, and Frits Zernike, whose district includes Beacon's Ward 4, voted yes.

Page said he was concerned that "there isn't enough attention being paid to environmental issues or to overruns on capital projects, including the second phase of the Dutchess County Stabilization Center, which is now on hold."

He also said he was worried about the status of the Dutchess County jail project, which "has been downsized because we have already seen a significant drop in the

number of people in our jail." In addition, because bail reforms scheduled to go into effect in 2020 may further reduce the jail population, he said he was concerned that "the county administration appears set to move forward with jail construction before we have clarity" on their impact.

The budget reduced the property tax levy for the sixth consecutive year and lowered the property tax rate for the fifth straight year, from \$3.45 to \$3.27 per \$1,000 of true value assessments.

Legislators added amendments that included \$50,000 to the Division of Veterans' Services to serve homeless veterans; \$575,000 to the Department of Planning and Development for competitive grant programs; \$200,000 to the Municipal Innovation Grant Program; \$20,000 to the Office for the Aging to fund senior home care; and \$20,000 to the Department of Behavioral and Community Health for additional opioid awareness, training and education.

The budget, with the amendments, was forwarded to County Executive Marc Molinaro for review and approval.

Haldane Hires New Facilities Director

Most recently at Westchester Community College

The Haldane school board last month approved the appointment of a new director of facilities.

Timothy Walsh was most recently superintendent of buildings and grounds within the Physical Plant and Operations Department at Westchester Community College. He also is a commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and holds a degree in engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and an MBA from Marist.

Walsh succeeds Nabil Botros, who was hired in October 2018 but terminated by the school board in August.



A HOLIDAY TREAT!

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watch your email next Friday for

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The HIGHLANDS Current

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8 Awards for
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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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.

Four stories

I just read the article about a developer's request to construct a four-story building on Main Street in Beacon ("Three-Story Limit on Main?" Dec. 13). Unfortunately, that cow left the barn long ago. When the three four-story buildings that now exist on Main were in the planning stages, I assume that the powers-that-be (Planning Board, City Council, et al) saw dollar signs ... oh, so many dollar signs. As a result, the view of Mount Beacon — that symbol of the city and all it stands for — has been lost forever. Stand on the corner of Main and Cross Streets and take in the magnificent view of brick, mortar and glass.

The developer proposes a four-story building with retail space on the ground floor. How many more businesses does Beacon need before it collapses under the weight of the promises of retail gold? How are people going to support all of these retail businesses, especially in that area of town, considering the parking crunch we are experiencing? How many more people are expected to re-locate to Beacon before the water, sewer, road and educational systems collapse?

When the developer proposed a four-story unit, did he include the height of the ceilings for each floor? A four-story unit with 12-foot ceilings will be significantly higher than one with nine-foot ceilings. (As an aside, how many of the units in the building across from the post office are occupied?)

It sounds as if the developer is playing on his home court: If I don't get my way, I won't include the public benefits, or I'll take my ball and go home.

Beacon has come a long way since I moved here in 1968. I am proud of this city, its development and its vision. But it is time to hit the brakes regarding the building boom that has taken place over the past few years. Like the stock market, there is going to be a correction, and the bubble will burst. Recall the

recession of the 1980s and how that affected the economy: jobs were lost, businesses closed, and some people never recovered what they once possessed. Are we willing to put ourselves, as a city, in that position again?

Charles Dunn, *Beacon*

I'm all for progress — just make it affordable. I'm just not seeing the space to fit this proposal.

Cynthia Simmons, *via Facebook*

I can't even manage to walk down Main Street on the weekend, and I live on Main! Don't get me started with creative parking.

Karen Spivey, *via Facebook*

A park? Where will they put a park? We don't need any more housing on Main Street.

Donna Idema, *via Facebook*

Sheriff overtime

There is clearly an additional factor to be weighed, in addition to finances, when considering overtime in the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, and that is the fatigue factor ("Putnam Legislators Deny Request from Sheriff to Shift Funds," Dec. 13). Police officers who might be called to make split-second, life-or-death decisions should not be expected to work excessive overtime, which is the case here when some deputies' overtime earnings exceed half their salaries.

The Putnam Legislature's denial of hiring requests by Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., who is in the best position to know what is needed, is reckless and dangerous. The warning signs are obvious and it's time to assess staff needs before it's too late. The worry factor is human fatigue, not the money the county has already had to pay for the overtime.

Michael Leonard, *Philipstown*

Leonard is a member of the Philipstown Town Board.

Maloney: Impeachment 'Necessary' But 'Heartbreaking'

*Congressman votes to
impeach President Trump*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Philipstown resident whose House district includes the Highlands, on Wednesday (Dec. 18) termed twin votes to impeach President Donald Trump "as necessary as they are heartbreaking."

The House voted along party lines, 230-197, to impeach Trump for abuse of power and 229-198 to impeach him for obstruction of Congress. The president now faces a trial in the Republican-controlled Senate.

Maloney, of the 18th District, and Rep. Antonio Delgado of Rhinebeck, from the 19th District, were among 28 Democrats who voted for both articles of impeachment and represent districts where Trump won the race for president.

In 2-minute speech before on the House floor before the vote, Maloney attributed impeachment to an obligation "to support and defend the Constitution" and to Trump's own "mendacity" and misdeeds.

"It's the president, not any member of this House, who has brought us to this sad place," said Maloney, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, which investigated Trump's actions.

"Today is about right and wrong and whether we still know the difference," Maloney said. He emphasized that the House holds the president accountable, because failure to do so would allow future presidents to regard "corruption as without consequence. And there our democracy goes to die."

Maloney's position has evolved in recent months. In May, he said he preferred voting Trump out of office as "the biggest and best opportunity" to remove him. Two months later, he said he would support impeachment if the House compelled a vote but still considered an electoral victory and "aggressive oversight" as preferable.



Correction

In the Dec. 13 issue, we provided an incorrect online address to order tickets to the Dec. 22 reading at the Howland Cultural Center of Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory." It is christmasmemory.bpt.me.



Fred Martin of the Little Stony Point Citizens' Association and Evan Thompson of the Hudson Highlands State Park discuss with the Cold Spring board the state's desire to tap into the village water and sewer systems.

Photo by M. Turton

Reorganizing a Village

Cold Spring makes annual appointments

By Michael Turton

It is a formality, but one that ensures the nuts and bolts of running a village are in place for another year.

The Cold Spring Village Board held its reorganizational meeting for 2020 on Dec. 10, approving more than 30 appointments, schedules and policies ranging from the selection of board representatives to Putnam County and the Cold Spring Fire Co. and naming of legal counsel to the approval of village fees and meeting dates.

The reorganization underscores the elected board's dependence on volunteers to do much of the month-to-month work of village government. Trustees approved the reappointment of five, 5-member volunteer boards: the Planning Board, Recreation Commission, Historic District Review Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Tree Advisory Board.

(For a list of volunteer boards in the Highlands, see right.)

Police report

The Cold Spring Police Department responded to 58 calls for service in November. Three arrests were made, including one for driving without a license.

The other arrests stemmed from an incident on Nov. 3 in which two pedestrians ignored barricades and entered the pedestrian tunnel beneath the Metro-North tracks when it was closed to foot traffic. Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke said when the pedestrians fled, an officer went to the other end of the tunnel and arrested them for trespassing.

The department also issued 75 parking and 55 traffic tickets, including 20 for speeding.

Burke reminded the board that the village must soon hire an attorney to act as justice

court prosecutor for minor traffic violations. In the new year, Putnam County prosecutors will no longer handle such cases. Mayor Dave Merandy said no local lawyers have expressed interest in the job, which last year involved 17 cases for such offenses as driving with a suspended license.

Burke praised officer Bill Bujarski, who worked his last shift on Nov. 19 after serving in the department for 25 years. The board approved hiring officer Scott Morris to succeed him. Burke said he would like to make one more hire to bring the total number of officers to 15. All Cold Spring officers, including Burke, work part-time.

In other business ...

■ The state parks department wants to connect facilities at Little Stony Point to the Cold Spring sewer system. Little Stony Point, located just north of the village boundary, is part of the Hudson Highlands State Park. If approved, the cost of the sewer line would be paid by the state. (See highlandscurrent.org for story.)

■ The Code Update Committee has completed revisions to the village code. Deputy Mayor Marie Early, who served as liaison to the committee, said the Village Board must now accept or modify the recommended changes to the 500-page document and submit the revised code to New York State by the end of 2020. Committee members met with the Village Board on Dec. 11 to begin a detailed review.

■ The board approved two beer fests to be held at Mayor's Park, on June 27 and Sept 19. Hops on the Hudson organizer John Sherer requested approval to sell 1,500 to 2,000 tickets for each event but Burke asked that attendance be capped at 1,500, citing parking and police staffing issues, and the board agreed.

Sherer also proposed a Hometown Heroes project in which veterans would be honored on banners hung from Main Street utility poles. Merandy asked him to submit a detailed proposal for the project, which has been adopted by a number of Hudson Valley communities.

Civic Volunteers

Village of Cold Spring

Zoning Board of Appeals

Aaron Wolfe (chair)
Laura Bozzi
Donald MacDonald
John F. Martin
Erik Werth

Historic District Review Board

Al Zgolinski (chair)
Carolyn Bachan
Andrea Connor
Sean Conway
Kathleen Foley

Planning Board

Matt Francisco (chair)
Lara Eldin
Stephanie Hawkins
Sue Meyers
Vacancy
Dave Marion (Alternate)

Recreation Commission

Ruth Ann Barr (chair)
Stephen Etta
John Merante
Jeff Phillips
Vacancy

Code Update Committee

Karen Doyle
Paul Henderson
Michael Reisman

Tree Advisory Board

Jennifer Zwarich (chair)
Tony Bardes
Taro Ietaka
Kory Riesterer
Charles Day (tree nursery manager)

Village of Nelsonville

Planning Board

Steve Marino (chair)
Sue Branagen
Ezra Clementson
Paul Helbock
Dennis Meekins

Zoning Board of Appeals

William Rice (chair)
Harold Akselrad
Chris Keeley
Steve Merando
Judy Meyer

Philipstown

Planning Board

Kim Conner (chair)
Dennis Gagnon
David Hardy
Peter Lewis
Neal Tomann
Neal Zuckerman
Vacancy

Zoning Board of Appeals

Robert Dee (chair)
Vincent Cestone
Paula Clair
Granite Frisenda
Leonard Lim

Conservation Board

Mark Galezo (chair)
Jan Baker
Krystal Ford
Andy Galler
Lew Kingsley
MJ Martin
Bob Repetto
Max Garfinkle (natural resource officer)

Recreation Commission

Joel Conybear (chair)
Ben Cheah
Aric Kupper
John Maasik
Claudio Marzollo
William Mazzuca
Lydia McMahon

Board of Assessment Review

Gordon Casement (chair)
Melissa Carlton
Dorothy Gilman
Irene McGrath
Kathyrine Tomann

Beacon

Board of Assessment Review

John Stella (chair)
John Berry
Nancy Musacchio
Robert Palisi
Michele Rios

Planning Board

John Gunn (chair)
David Burke
Richard Muscat
Jill Reynolds
J. Randall Williams
Vacancy
Vacancy

Zoning Board of Appeals

Robert Lanier (chair)
Jordan Haug
David Jensen
Judith Smith
Vacancy

Board of Ethics

Joe Galbo (chair)
Scot Arnold
Andre Richards
Montos Vakirtzis
Vacancy

Recreation Commission

Danny Hairston (chair)
Jeb Berry
Will Hough
Brooke Simmons
Vacancy
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Vacancy

Human Relations Commission

Michael Deane (chair)
Kim Faison
Helena Laurino
LaVonne McNair
Ricardo Pacheco
Paul Sund

Conservation Advisory Committee

Brian DiFeo (chair)
Sam Adels
Holly Bogdanffy
Benjamin Cox
Danielle Levoit
Antony Tseng
Nicole Wooten
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Changing Hands at Indian Point?

Riverkeeper objects to potential transfer

By Brian PJ Cronin

Entergy is looking to the future of Indian Point and hoping that it no longer includes Entergy.

Last month, the energy company filed an application with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to transfer its licenses to operate Indian Point to Holtec International after the shutdown of the last reactor at the nuclear plant, which is scheduled for April 2021.

Holtec would then begin mothballing the facility, using a \$2.1 billion decommissioning fund that has been accumulated by Entergy during the life of the plant. Holtec also has said it would hire about 300 Indian Point workers.

“Entergy is in the power-generation business, and decommissioning is a line of work that we’re not involved in,” said Jerry Nappi, an Entergy representative. “Holtec specializes in the management of used fuel and its affiliates have special expertise in decommissioning. They can decommission the plant decades sooner than Entergy would be able to.”

Entergy’s original plan had been to take 60 years, the maximum time allowed by the

Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Holtec plans to do it in 15. (Holtec did not respond to a request for comment for this story.)

The accelerated timeline doesn’t concern Richard Webster, the legal director for Riverkeeper, the Ossining-based environmental group. Many decommissioning projects start with a process called SAFSTOR, in which the plant is monitored for up to 45 years to give the radioactive materials time to decay and lower the amount of hazardous material. By skipping SAFSTOR, “15 years is a reasonable amount of time to do it,” said Webster.

Nevertheless, Riverkeeper has asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (or, failing that, Gov. Andrew Cuomo) to deny the transfer to Holtec.

“Our objections can be summed up as: Bribes, lies, poor safety record and undercapitalization,” said Webster.

Holtec is no stranger to controversy. In 2010, the inspector general for the Tennessee Valley Authority, a federal agency, found that Holtec had funneled \$54,000 to a TVA manager to secure contracts. The firm was fined \$2 million and barred from federal contracts for 60 days.

In Ohio, Holtec was awarded tax credits following a 2009 promise to bring 200 jobs to its facility in Orrville. But the jobs never appeared — in fact, the plant lost four positions — and the tax credits were rescinded.



The Indian Point nuclear plant in Peekskill

Photo by B. Cronin

Then, when applying for tax breaks in New Jersey in order to bring a facility to Camden, the company claimed that it had never been barred from working with federal agencies. To push New Jersey to grant the tax breaks, Holtec said Ohio and South Carolina had made generous counterproposals, an assertion both states denied.

Last year, a contractor at the San Onofre nuclear power plant in California, where Holtec has been contracted to manage spent fuel, brought to light an apparent near accident involving a dry cask filled with radioactive fuel. (Plant officials said there was never any danger to the public.) The worker also alleged the site was understaffed and its supervisors often replaced with less experienced managers.

Finally, on the financial side, Webster said he was alarmed at Holtec’s decision at the Oyster Creek nuclear plant in New Jersey, which has been decommissioning for less than a year, to transfer money from the decommissioning fund to spent fuel management, a move that Holtec has signaled it would also do at Indian Point.

“That’s not what that fund is for,” he said. “And there’s a complicated set of LLCs [limited-liability corporations] designed to shield Holtec International, the core corpo-

ration. We just don’t have much information about the financial viability [of the company]. If you were running a huge international business that was making money, you shouldn’t be so desperate to get tax breaks that you have to lie on a form.”

At Entergy, Nappi said that Holtec’s recent approvals from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission show that the issues raised aren’t of concern. “The NRC has approved the transactions for two previous nuclear power plants to Holtec, and that only happens if a company can demonstrate that it has the technical and financial qualifications needed,” he said. “We feel confident that Indian Point will receive approval.”

If that happens, Webster said he hoped that it would at least come with certain conditions, such as the creation of a citizens’ oversight committee with the power to (1) audit the decommissioning fund, (2) subpoena documents, (3) have specialists look at difficult situations, and (4) transfer questions of safety to the NRC.

At the least, Webster said, Holtec should not be allowed to keep anything that remains in the decommissioning fund at the end of the project, as it might encourage the firm to do the job as cheaply as possible at the expense of safety and other concerns.

TIM BRENNAN
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

1975

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Dutchess Marketplace to Close

Community college to help fill Route 9 space

By Arvind Dilawar

The holiday spirit appears to be in full swing at the Dutchess Marketplace on Route 9 in Fishkill, next to Home Depot. Holiday music is piping through the cavernous flea market. Hundreds of vendors hawk everything from new clothing to antique furniture. In the back, between the stalls offering Mexican food, Santa and Mrs. Claus are posing for photos.

But beneath the surface, the mood is somber. Many retailers and customers are saying goodbye, because this weekend and next will be the market's last days after six years in the space. The indoor market will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and the outdoor market, weather permitting, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bill Sabia and Roy Lobosco opened Dutchess Marketplace at the largely vacant Dutchess Mall in 2013 in a two-story, 220,000-square-foot building that had been a post office, an IBM office and a department store. They also operated the market from 1997 to 2004 in a former Service Merchandise store next door, before the building was demolished to make way for Home Depot.

At its height, the latest marketplace had more than 300 indoor vendors and another

140 outside, Sabia said.

Sabia said the owner of the building, the Brooklyn-based firm JW Mays, told him in May it would be ending the lease. The firm hired Rob Hebron, a real estate agent with Ingram-Hebron, to find new tenants.

"Look, my wife and I are big antiques," Hebron said. "We love the market. But hopefully it's going to become something that's going to lift the community up further, instead of just a shopping venue."

One tenant has committed to the space: Dutchess Community College signed a 15-year lease to move its Wappingers Falls campus into 50,000 square feet on the second floor, with classes expected to begin in August. The school said in a statement that the move "would better accommodate the needs of those who live and work in southern Dutchess and Putnam counties."

Hebron said he also hopes to find a day care, gym and restaurant, which he believes would make the building into "kind of a mini-Google campus."

That hasn't appeased many Dutchess Marketplace vendors. One, who declined to give her name, responded that "we need another gym, day care center and restaurant like a hole in the head."

She said she and her husband, who sell ceramic figures and collectible toys, have been vendors at the market since it opened. "I love my stuff," she said of the figurines lining her stall. "I have a small house and I can't live



Bill Sabia and Roy Lobosco outside the Dutchess Marketplace

Photo provided

with it all myself, so I get to enjoy it here."

They learned of the closure, along with the other vendors, over the summer. The couple have moved some of their inventory to the Newburgh Vintage Emporium, but because it sells on consignment, there's no space for them, only their wares.

She said she and the other vendors have become friends over the six years. Because the market was only open on weekends, she said it typically attracted sellers who were retired or semi-retired. Some supplemented their income, but the market also provided an opportunity to socialize. "Tonight, we're going out to dinner, we're celebrat-

ing a birthday," she said. "That's what we're going to miss."

Another vendor, who also declined to be identified, works with a real-estate agency to clean out homes for resale or rental, selling the goods secondhand. He said "outdoor shows are plenty. It's the indoor shows that are hard to find. Very rare."

He said he's heard there is another indoor market set to open about an hour west, in Middletown, but the waiting list is already 20 vendors deep.

Sabia said he and Lobosco are searching for a new venue and volunteered that "something's in the works."



The elevator on the northbound platform at the Cold Spring station is expected to be closed for months.

Photo by Michael Turton

Cold Spring Train Elevator Closed

Repairs expected to take months

By Chip Rowe

The elevator on the northbound track of the Cold Spring train station will be out of service until the spring, Metro-North announced this week.

Metro-North said that a recent inspection found the floor beams in the elevator were so badly deteriorated that the entire cab needed immediate replacement. A new cab will take about four months to design, review, fabricate and install, it said.

Pete Smith, a Cold Spring resident whose wife uses a cane and takes Metro-North into New York City twice a month, said the elevator has been closed since early December. "She can manage the stairs but it's slow and difficult," he said.

The agency directed those needing elevator

access to use the Garrison or Beacon stations. The northbound platform is connected by a ramp from Main Street and the southbound platform by a ramp from the parking lot.

Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who represents Putnam County on the MTA Board, said he had not been notified that the elevator would be shut down.

"I am frustrated that the MTA didn't inform me and elected officials, as far as I know, in the community," he wrote in an email. "That this is happening in the winter months, when the elevator is a useful alternative to often-slippery stairs, is a further challenge."

"In our Metro-North committee meeting yesterday [Dec. 16], in the elevator status report, there was no mention of any months-long outage at Cold Spring," he wrote. "If it was, I would have certainly communicated that as widely as possible."

Michael Turton contributed reporting.



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Beacon Santa *(from Page 1)*

where she had seen people ask for help.

Within 15 minutes, she had a “match” between a Beacon Santa and a family, she said.

“I was pleasantly surprised by the warmth with which people received the idea,” she said. “But I’m never surprised by people’s willingness around here to come together for good.”

Word quickly spread online among teachers and social workers, and soon Dignan was receiving referrals from shelters and schools. There were homeless families, families dealing with the loss of a job or car, families with medical emergencies, single parents, widows, or any combination of circumstances. The requests were all the same: Parents wanted to give their children a memorable Christmas at the end of a tough year.

One of the people Dignan invited to the group as a Santa was Madison Lee, who said her fiancé had shared stories of his own tough holidays while growing up in Beacon when his large family was dependent on the generosity of churches and neighbors. “His parents weren’t always

able to provide a nice Christmas,” she said, so he’d been hoping to help a young family in the same way that so many Beaconites helped his own.

Searching through the stories in the group, the couple found a request from a widowed mother with twins. A fellow Beacon Santa, Becky Fraioli, and her husband pitched in. The three families got together to share gifts and eat cookies with the children.

Similar meetings played out 60 times over the past two weeks, Dignan said, with Santas pitching in with clothes, toys, gift cards, electronics, and a holiday tree or two.

With Christmas less than a week away, the project has finished for the year, Dignan said, but she is already planning for 2020. Santas can join by searching Facebook for “Beacon Santas,” and those in need or who work at shelters, schools and churches can email Dignan at beacon-santas@yahoo.com.

“If we were able to help 60 families with no planning, no infrastructure, no notice, no anything, then next year we could easily help 100,” she said. “Who knows what we could do with a little knowledge and experience?”



I was pleasantly surprised by the warmth with which people received the idea. But I’m never surprised by people’s willingness around here to come together for good.” *~Stephanie Dignan*

NEWS BRIEF

Foundations Award \$117K in Grants

Program invests in local nonprofits

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley last week awarded \$117,000 in grants to nonprofits in Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster counties.

“As a capstone to our 50th anniversary year, we are proud to award more than ever before to these worthy programs and projects,” said Nevill Smythe, the interim president and CEO. “The Foundations is enormously grateful to the community

of generous donors whose contributions made this year’s grants possible.”

In the Highlands, grants were awarded to Highlands Current Inc. (\$1,000 for staff training), the Philipstown Depot Theatre (\$2,000 for a donor management system), the Putnam History Museum (\$1,000 for a historic kitchen exhibit), Beacon Community Advancement Corp. (\$3,150 to connect public housing residents with tablets and the internet), the Howland Chamber Music Circle (\$2,700 for pop-up concerts), the Howland Cultural Center (\$3,600 for an upgrade to LED track lighting), and Hudson Valley Seed (\$3,000 to support school gardens).

Trustee Arrested *(from Page 1)*

teaching assistant from February 2012 to January 2015, and, in a statement issued Dec. 17, the Haldane school district said he had worked there as a substitute teacher as recently as 2016.

“Please be assured that we will actively monitor” students’ reactions, Superintendent Philip Benante said in a letter to faculty and parents. “Out of an abundance of caution and respect for the emotional safety of our students and families who may be directly impacted by this matter, I am seeking your assistance in encouraging our children not to engage in any speculation about who may have been involved.”

In a Facebook exchange quoted in the complaint, Hustis initiated an explicit conversation with the teen, asking him how his school year was going and stating that he (Hustis) was “getting hit on by sugar daddies all the time” at the Foodtown grocery store in Cold Spring, where he is a manager. He also told the teen that he was “cute,” called him “sexy boy” and said that he had watched him playing sports at school, according to the complaint.

Hustis allegedly asked the teen how old he was, to which he replied, “16.” He also told the teen that there were job openings at Foodtown, “but since you are 16 you can’t legally work grocery till you are 18,” according to the complaint.

On Dec. 12, an FBI agent took over the Facebook account to continue the communications while posing as the teenager, according to the complaint. Hustis allegedly sent photos of his penis to the teen and later to the special agent, as well as photos of his face, including one that had been posted on his Facebook campaign page during his run for mayor.

In addition, Hustis solicited photos from the agent (posing as the teen) and at one point wrote, “When you are off from school, I’ll invite you to my place for fun,” the complaint said. It also alleged Hustis said he wanted to meet at his apartment because “it’s illegal to have sex with a minor” and “I want to play this by the letter of the law to protect both of us.” (The legal age of consent for sex in New York State is 17.)

The agent, posing as the teen, agreed to meet Hustis in the Foodtown parking lot at 10 a.m. on Monday, which the agent told Hustis was during the teen’s “free period” from school, and walk from there to Hustis’ apartment. Agents said they arrested Hustis in the parking lot when he arrived for the meeting.

The FBI said anyone with relevant information should contact the agency at 800-225-5324.

Rock Girl *(from Page 1)*

on together that didn’t involve plastic. To date they have painted and placed more than 1,000 rocks, usually eight at a time, some with graphics, others with messages. When Rock Mom learned a neighbor was battling cancer, a “Stay strong — you can do this” stone was left at the person’s doorstep.



Sometimes we use ‘secret agents’ to help place rocks. They say placing them is almost as much fun as finding them. *~Rock Girl*



The biggest drop was on Easter, when they placed 150 “eggs” around Long Island City. Other holidays also have themes. At Thanksgiving rocks may have a “Grateful you are my friend” message. Skeletons were featured at Halloween. This year’s Christmas offering includes seasonal graphics.

Some rocks even have eyes that glow in the dark. “We always experiment,” said Rock Mom. “It’s never the same; we never plan.”

Others are painted but left blank in the hope the finder will add a message of his or her own. “We encourage finders to pass their rock on to others — or simply keep it,” Rock Mom said. Many new rock owners acknowledge their discovery by posting messages at LICRocks.com, Facebook or Instagram. (The rocks include contact information.) “People even post videos of themselves with their rock,” Mom said.

After the team’s visit to *The Current* office, 25 stones were added in Beacon and Cold Spring, with some discovered as early as the next morning.

A large number of rocks is occasionally left in one place on the Long Island City waterfront. “We should do that in Cold Spring and Beacon too,” Rock Mom mused, adding she sometimes puts hints online to aid searchers.

While the pair primarily work alone to keep their identity secret, they occasionally accept help. “Sometimes we use ‘secret agents’ to help place rocks,” Rock Girl said. “They say placing them is almost as much fun as finding them.”

The shared secrecy is a big part of the satisfaction for both mother and daughter.

“I like that we connect with people, but without them knowing who we are,” Rock Mom said.

“I don’t even tell my friends!” Rock Girl, who is in elementary school, added.

Her mom said they have been asked to consider sponsorship. “We wouldn’t want a sponsor; it’s our own little thing,” something she said costs next to nothing and can be shared even on a rainy Monday. “It’s fun the way it is.”

Asked if anything has surprised her about the project, “people’s kindness” was Rock Mom’s quick reply. “People are very respectful of the project and only take one rock; they’ll often give one to a small kid.”



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The Plastic Bag Business

3,000

Number of people employed in New York state by the plastic bag business, according to the American Progressive Bag Alliance

12

Percentage of plastic bags and films that are recycled each year in the U.S., according to the Environmental Protection Agency

23,000,000,000

One estimate of the number of plastic bags used annually in New York state

Plastic Bag Ban *(from Page 1)*

budget. Sandy Galef, whose Assembly district includes Philipstown, and Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, both Democrats, voted for all 10 bills that comprised the budget, while Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, voted against all 10.

Once the state law goes into effect, plastic will only be allowed in select circumstances, such as for bulk items, to bundle fruits or vegetables, or to hold uncooked meat and food sliced to order. Single-use paper bags may be available but stores will not be required to stock them. Otherwise, consumers will be encouraged to bring their own reusable bags or to carry small purchases.

The law exempts newspaper bags, garment bags, plastic bags provided by restaurants and plastic bags provided by pharmacies for prescription drugs.

According to the state Department of Environmental Conservation, New Yorkers use more than 23 billion single-use plastic bags each year. Many inadvertently enter glass or aluminum recycling streams, where they're considered one of the worst contaminants because they clog sorting machines or force workers to remove them by hand.

The state law allows counties and cities to impose a 5-cent fee on paper carryout bags, with 40 percent of the revenue kept by the county or city to buy and distribute reusable bags and the remaining 60 percent contributed to the state Environmental Protection Fund. Purchases made using federal programs such as food stamps would be exempt from paper-bag fees.

Cuomo has also proposed banning single-use polystyrene foam containers ("Styrofoam") and polystyrene loose fill

packaging (packing peanuts) by 2022. A year ago, the Putnam County Legislature considered a ban on the use of foam plastic cups and cartons by chain restaurants but did not vote on the measure.

The Dutchess County law, adopted by legislators a year ago by a 23-1 vote, will ban disposable plastic bags but does not include a surcharge.

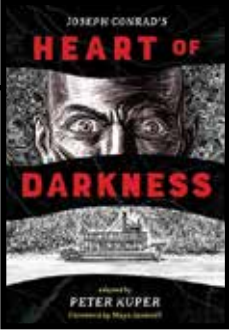
Frits Zernike, a Democrat whose district includes part of Beacon, was the only Dutchess legislator to vote against the ban, saying the bill had been stripped down too much by not including a bag fee, allowing the county to "lurch toward some progress" instead of shifting in a larger way "from disposability toward a more sustainable outlook."

Before being amended, the Dutchess proposal would have added a 10-cent per bag surcharge to paper bags, with retailers keeping the proceeds. Much like a measure approved in Ulster County earlier in 2018, the fees would have been waived for seniors or customers paying through federal food programs.

Because state law supersedes local legislation, and the measures are so similar, Dutchess County won't enforce its law during the first two months of 2020.

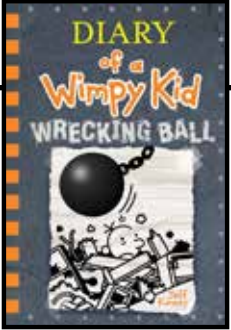
"There aren't going to be penalties," said Colleen Pillus, a county spokesperson. "We're trying to be realistic for businesses and to not make things confusing."

Legislator Nick Page, who represents much of Beacon and was part of a group of lawmakers that introduced the county law, said Wednesday that he supports implementing a 5-cent paper bag fee but doesn't think it has enough support to be enacted in Dutchess. Fees have "been shown to be the prime driver of a shift to bring-your-own-bag," he said.



Local Bestsellers

Rankings are combined hardcover and paperback sales reported for November by Binnacle Books, 321 Main St., in Beacon, and Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.



	Position	last month	TITLE	AUTHOR
ADULT	1	-	Heart of Darkness	Peter Kuper
	2	-	Encyclopedia of Political Record Labels	Josh MacPhee
	2	-	Emergent Strategy	Adrienne Brown
	2	4	The Overstory	Richard Powers
	5	2	Year of the Monkey	Patti Smith
	5	-	Playing Changes: Jazz for the New Century	Nate Chinen
CHILDREN	1	-	Diary of a Wimpy Kid 14	Jeff Kinney
	2	2	Guts	Raina Telgemeier
	3	4	Boy-Crazy Stacey	Ann Martin
	4	3	Dog Man: For Whom the Ball Rolls	Dav Pilkey
	5	-	Sofia Valdez, Future Prez	Andrea Beaty

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AROUND TOWN



▲ **MILESTONE** — Badey & Watson, the Philipstown-based surveying firm founded in 1973 by Glennon Watson and the late George Badey, recently completed project number 25,000. As it had done with project 10,000, the firm surprised the client — in this case Maria Ricapito of Cold Spring — by waiving its fee. From left are principal Stephen Miller, Ricapito (with Amber), president Jennifer Reap, and Watson.



◀ **HONOR FOR HASTINGS** — The Hastings Center in Garrison and its late co-founder Dan Callahan were honored by the Collaborative for Palliative Care at its annual conference on Dec. 12 at Iona College. Hastings President Millie Solomon gave the keynote speech, noting that the U.S. and other wealthy nations are “aging societies” with more people over 65 than under 15. “But neither our individual families, nor our societies, are ready,” she said. Solomon, right, is shown with CPC founder Mary Beth Quaranta Morrissey and Hastings fellow Joseph Fins.



◀ **NEW OFFICER** — The Beacon Police Department on Dec. 5 welcomed its newest member, Ryan Murphy, shown with Chief Kevin Junjulas and Mayor Randy Casale.

Photos provided

Eric Erickson
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Sun. Dec. 29 – 2:30 to 4:30 pm
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Sat. Jan. 4 – 8 pm
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presents Fei-Fei
Fri. Jan. 17, Thom Joyce’s Open Mic

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The Calendar



Hot Takes hosts Jack Kolodziejski (left) and Robby Anderson (right), with their trusty pod mike

Photo provided



Jennifer Clair (right), of Kitchen Radio, with Meredith Heuer

Photo by Meredith Heuer



Greg Cayea's podcast nook

Listen Up!

A guide to local podcasts, from cooking to movies to travel and careers

By Alison Rooney

By one estimate, there are more than 700,000 podcasts in more than 100 languages drawing 32 million American listeners each month — including a number produced, and heard, in the Highlands. Here are six.

Kitchen Radio

Host: Jennifer Clair, Beacon

Why do it?

"I run a cooking school and have published a cookbook, so this was another avenue to reach people to teach them how to cook. It's a ton of fun and gets me out of my own space and back into people's home kitchens, where I started. Most of the expenses were one-time — recording equipment, logo design; the only ongoing cost is a sound engineer who helps me make the kitchen recordings sound vaguely professional."

What is it?

"For each episode I go into my guest's home kitchen to teach them a dish they've always wanted to learn. [The Dec. 24 episode will be "Lamb Chop-Off" recorded in Beacon with photographer Meredith Heuer.] I love focusing on how to make something listeners can't see into something palpable and hunger-inducing. The kitchen itself is filled with so many great sounds: Chopping, sizzling, stirring.

"Recently, I experimented with having my guest teach me how to cook something. It allowed me to be a curious student. I may give equal play in the future to being the student, because it's more about teaching listeners and using me as the vehicle."

Where is it?

homecookingny.com/podcast

Hot Takes

Hosts: Robby Anderson and Jack Kolodziejski, Beacon

Why do it?

ROBBY: "We were producing podcasts for three years when Mike Burdge, the founder of Story Screen Beacon, asked us to spearhead an effort to get podcasts for his website. It now has many shows, all centered on conversations about movies between friends. What struck me about the format was how casual yet informed it was."

JACK: "Robby and I were close friends long before we started podcasting, and we bonded over long chats about games, movies and television, so having the same conversations in front of a microphone came naturally."

What is it?

JACK: "Robby and I go to see a movie and we share our first impressions. We wanted to capture the kind of energy you have when you leave the theater and turn to your friends and say, 'What did you think?' Often we find ourselves working out how we feel about a movie in real time; our feelings can evolve over the course of the show."

Where is it?

storyscreenbeacon.com/podcasts

Beaconites

Host: Zach Rodgers, Beacon

Why do it?

"I'd been thinking about doing a Beacon podcast and 2020 felt like the right time,

especially with the rise in development and the impact on people and business. I host an unrelated podcast as part of my day job [as editor of a trade publication] and the medium is great for conveying specialized information in an on-demand format. My hope is that it will be a platform for people who are doing cool, interesting and important things. It will be a point of entry to learn, engage and help create the next version of Beacon."

What is it?

"The first episode will be an interview with outgoing Mayor Randy Casale and subsequent weekly episodes will feature a range of local figures, including artists, business owners, naturalists, elected leaders, developers, educators, musicians, religious leaders and other characters telling their stories and helping to articulate a vision for the city. The episodes are recorded at the Beacon AV Lab, a recording studio and audio/video workshop at the old Beacon High School."

Where is it?

beaconites.com

Simple Eats

Host: Tito Dudley ("Chef T"), Beacon

Why do it?

"Podcasting started as a voice diary, which grew into repurposing the content and sharing it as a podcast. Voice technology will be massive in the future. We're already experiencing it with Alexa and other devices."



Tito Dudley ("Chef T")

What is it?

"It's focused on food, cooking, recipes, nutrition tips and cannabidiol, cannabis and hemp. Each episode is 5 to 30 minutes. I'm a

(Continued on Page 19)

Why Do People Listen – and Produce?

Ryan Biracree, the digital services coordinator at the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison, believes podcasts have thrived because "they offer an intimate, personal connection — most listening is done through earbuds or alone in the car — while demanding little from the listener."

"They're also inexpensive to produce and often free to distribute, so there's a lot of freedom for niche interests and marginalized voices to find an audience," he added. "The audience need not be enormous to make the podcast worthwhile."

Biracree recently led a team of students from the Garrison School which, over six weeks, produced "a truly fun and truly hilarious" podcast called *Flamingo Dogs*. "As they sat in front of the microphone, with no camera to worry about, their brilliant and delightfully unhinged personalities shone in ways I don't think they would have if they hadn't had the freedom to just use their voices," he said.

[THE WEEK AHEAD]

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

HOLIDAY SERVICES

SUN 22
Lessons and Carols
GARRISON
10:30 a.m. St. Philip's
Episcopal Church
1101 Route 9D | 845-424-3571
stphilipshighlands.org

SUN 22
Lessons and Carols
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Methodist Church
216 Main St. | 845-265-3365
facebook.com/csshumc

SUN 22
Christmas Concert
BEACON
5 p.m. Tabernacle of Christ
483 Main St. | 845-831-4656
tabernacleofchristchurch.com

SUN 22
Hanukkah Celebration
COLD SPRING
5 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St.
philipstownreformsynagogue.org

SUN 22
**Illumin8: Bicycle
Menorah Lighting**
BEACON
6 p.m. Polhill Park
Main Street at Route 9D
beaconhebrewalliance.org
Also daily MON 23 to SUN
29 (4 p.m. on FRI 27)

TUES 24
Christmas Eve Mass
COLD SPRING
4 & 8 p.m. Our Lady of Loretto
24 Fair St. | 845-265-3718
ourladyofloretto.org

TUES 24
Christmas Eve Service
GARRISON
5 p.m. Family Service
11 p.m. Service
St. Philip's Episcopal Church
1101 Route 9D | 845-424-3571
stphilipshighlands.org

TUES 24
Christmas Eve Service
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Methodist Church
216 Main St. | 845-265-3365
facebook.com/csshumc

TUES 24
Candlelight Service
COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St. | 845-265-3220
presbychurchcoldspring.org

TUES 24
Candlelight Service
BEACON
7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St. | 845-831-5322
beaconpresbychurch.com

TUES 24
Christmas Eve Service
BEACON
7 p.m. St. Andrew's Church
15 South Ave. | 845-831-1369
standrewsbeaconny.org

TUES 24
Christmas Eve Service
COLD SPRING
9 p.m. St. Mary's Episcopal Church
1 Chestnut St. | 845-228-4167
stmaryscoldspring.org

TUES 24
Christmas Eve Service
BEACON
10 p.m. St. Luke's Episcopal Church
850 Wolcott Ave. | 845-831-1369
beacon-episcopal.org

WED 25
Menorah Lighting
COLD SPRING
5 p.m. Cold Spring
Main Street near Cold Spring Depot
putnamchabad.org

COMMUNITY

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.

SUN 22
Sunday Tea & Knitting
COLD SPRING
1 – 3 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Pat Angerame will lead an all-
levels knitting roundtable, and
participants can learn how to
create texture with knit and purl.
Materials provided. Also SUN 29.

SAT 28
Holiday Open House
FISHKILL
6:30 – 9 p.m. Van Wyck Museum
504 Route 9 | fishkillhistoricalsociety
Enjoy 18th-century music by
Clara Schuman and contemporary
music on guitar and mandolin by
Steve Kelman, with mulled cider
and snacks, a poem-reading and
activities for children. Hosted by
the Fishkill Historical Society. *Free*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 21
Santa Run
BEACON
8:30 – Noon. Various stops.
Firefighters will escort
Santa around the city in a
fire truck — including down
Main Street — while his elves
hand out candy canes.

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 – 3 p.m. Various locations |
nhfd21.org
The North Highlands Engine
Co. No. 1 will escort Santa to
stops around Philipstown.
See schedule on Facebook.



Illumin 8: Beacon Menorah Lighting , Dec. 22-29



Beacon Santa Run, Dec. 21



Roomful of Blues, Dec. 28

MON 23
School Break Mini-Camp
CORNWALL
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hnm.org
Children ages 6 to 9 can meet an animal each day and learn about its winter survival tricks. In addition, there will be hiking, games and crafts. Also THURS 26, FRI 27. *Cost: \$50 per day (\$45 members)*

THURS 26
Bring the Kids
GARRISON
9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org
During a flashlight tour of the mansion, children will hunt for gingerbread kids and then

make a seasonal craft (candle dipping). Also FRI 27 (pomander balls). *Cost: \$12 (\$8 members)*

THURS 26
Youth Open Mic
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-401-4062 | townecrier.com
Youth ages 18 and younger can show their talent with two songs. Register in advance by calling Miss Vickie. *Free*

STAGE & SCREEN
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. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*

SAT 28
Cirque de la Lune
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
cirquedelalune.bpt.me
Hayden Wayne’s original musical features Kelly Ellenwood, Rhiannon and Rowan Parsaca, Leah Siegel and Michael Bonanno. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door, \$10 students)*

MUSIC
SAT 21
Handel’s Messiah
POUGHKEEPSIE
2 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
The Hudson Valley Philharmonic will perform with Cappella Festiva under the direction of Christine Howlett. *Cost: \$40 to \$58 (\$36 to \$53 seniors/members)*

SAT 21
’Tis the Season
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
theseason.bpt.me
Tony DePaolo (guitar, piano) and Russell Cusick (vocals) will perform holiday classics

both sacred and secular. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door, \$10 students)*



SAT 21
Joy to the Dawg
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St.
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com
Stephen Clair and His Effin Great Band and Liz Kelly and Her Better Half will perform to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the Dogwood restaurant and bar.

FRI 27
Ellis Paul
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The singer and songwriter is known for his storytelling. He will be joined by Laurie MacAllister of Red Molly. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 28
Roomful of Blues
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The five-time Grammy

nominees will perform their signature rock, blue and R&B blend. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 29
California Dreamin’
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band will cover music popular in Southern California in the 1960s and 1970s. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

VISUAL ART
SUN 29
Inclusion
BEACON
2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
This is the closing reception of an exhibit of works by Latino-American artists who live in the Hudson Valley, such as Jose Gonzalez-Soto (below).



Everyone Welcome

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8:30 pm The Costellos Christmas Show
+Open Book, Dimitri Archip

SATURDAY, DEC. 21
8:30 pm. The Slambovian Circus of Dreams
“A Very Slambovian Christmas”

SUNDAY, DEC. 22
11:30 am Dan Stevens - No Music Cover

THURSDAY, DEC. 26
7 pm Youth Open Mic - No Cover

FRIDAY, DEC. 27
7 pm Jim Pospisil - No Music Cover
8:30 pm Ellis Paul
+Laurie MacAllister of Red Molly

SATURDAY, DEC. 28
6 pm Lucky Luna - No Music Cover
8:30 pm Roomful of Blues

SUNDAY, DEC. 29
7 pm California Dreamin’

TUESDAY, DEC. 31
7 pm New Year’s Eve Salon
with Judith Tulloch Band

TUESDAY, DEC. 31.
9:30 pm New Year’s Eve Celebration
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8:30 pm Adam Ezra Group

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Small, Good Things

East to West and Back Again

By Joe Dizney

It all started with a David Lebovitz recipe for roasted squash and preserved lemon.



Israeli couscous was the specified basis for the dish, in this case a cinnamon-scented layer that supported the vegetables and amplified the fragrance of the preserved lemons — in other words, a nice dish for a vegetarian meal or holiday side.

The first version seemed a bit insubstantial. The thought occurred: why not substitute fregola? An uncommon Sardinian pasta, it's made by rolling moistened durum semolina into pea-sized orbs that are dried and toasted in the oven before being boiled and drained like pasta.

It is a practical shape traditionally used as a medium for seafood or meat sauces. It lends a particularly toothsome texture and toasty bite, it's useful in soups or salads, and it's small enough to substitute for risotto. It can be difficult to locate but in Cold Spring you can sometimes find traditional Sardinian Casa Del Grano Fregola Sarda at the Riverview Home Chef behind

the Riverview Restaurant.

At last check, alas, Riverview was out, so in offering this recipe it occurred to me to return to the original couscous and make a slight modification.

Israeli couscous, which is also known as pearl or giant couscous, is a relative culinary newcomer. Known in Hebrew as ptitim ("flake"), it was created in the 1950s in Israel as a replacement for rice during times of austerity. It was originally called Ben-Gurion rice in honor of David Ben-Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel, and extruded in rice-like shape and size, much like Italian orzo.

It later came to be made in the more familiar small, dense spheres of durum semolina. It is also toasted, like fregola, to give it a similar nutty flavor.

I find that fregola is a bit denser and usually more toasted. The easy fix is a quick toss in a hot skillet to further color the couscous. And thanks to Bob's Red Barn Mills, even more niche varieties of pearl couscous are available in a traditional pearl or whole-wheat version. For this recipe, stay away from the "golden" couscous, which is a smaller North African variety.

That brings us back to the recipe at hand and a realization that it doesn't make that much difference which you use, and in further retrospect the thought that the spices here will stand up well to a variety of other substitutions: spelt, kamut or even wild rice would more likely create respectable takes on the formula.



Fregola with Preserved Lemon, Roasted Squash, Dried Cherries and Pistachios

8 to 10 servings

- 1½ pound butternut squash, peeled and seeded, cut into ½-inch cubes
- Olive oil
- 1 large onion, peeled and diced
- 1 preserved lemon
- ½ cup golden raisins
- ½ cup dried cherries, coarsely chopped
- 2 cups fregola or Italian couscous*
- 1 cinnamon stick
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped fine
- ¾ cup pine nuts or shelled pistachios, toasted

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Bring a large pot of liberally salted water to boil for the fregola. Toss squash with a generous glug of olive oil; season with salt and pepper and spread in a single layer on a parchment-lined sheet pan. Roast on top rack of preheated oven for 20 minutes.

2. While squash cooks, heat about 3 tablespoons of olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat; when hot, sauté onions until translucent. Remove from heat, season with salt and reserve in a large bowl. Cut preserved lemon into quarters; scoop flesh from the rind, reserving the inner flesh in a separate bowl. Dice rind and add it to the onions. Press the reserved lemon flesh through a strainer to extract any juice, adding it to the onions. Add cooked squash to the bowl when done.

3. When water boils, cook fregola with the cinnamon stick for about 10 to 11 minutes until al dente. Drain, but don't rinse. Remove cinnamon stick (it can be rinsed, dried and used again for another recipe) and add pasta to the squash-onion mixture. Add raisins, cherries, ground cinnamon and toss all to mix. (The recipe can be prepared to this point up to a day in advance and reheated.) When ready to serve, correct seasoning, drizzle with a bit more olive oil, add nuts and chopped parsley, tossing again to mix. Serve warm or at room temperature.

**To further accentuate the similarity to the fregola, heat a skillet over medium-high; add the couscous to the dry pan and swirl it around, keeping an eye on it until it begins to color slightly. Don't let it burn. Remove toasted couscous from the pan and cool before cooking as per recipe.*

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WHAT I LEARNED AT THE THIRD HUDSON VALLEY UKULELE INVITATIONAL:

FIRST, UKULELE IS PRONOUNCED "OOKOOLAYLAY."
SECOND, IF YOU SO MUCH AS PICK UP AN "OOKOOLAYLAY,"
YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A SOCIAL LIFE.

There's a social component.
You go to any ukulele concert,
everyone plays along.

Wendy
Matthews

Hosted by
The Educated
Fleas

Greg
Doyle

We're
missing that
in our lives.

I think of the
Open Mic nights
as Community
Service.

MUCH LIKE WHAT HAPPENS
WITH DOGS AND OFFSPRING,
YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF GOING
TO GATHERINGS SO THE
UKES CAN PLAY TOGETHER.

Jan
Horowitz

Gmaj7

Racheal Houghton

UKES ARE SOCIAL ANIMALS-
THEY NEED TO GET OUT. IT
WOULD BE CRUEL TO LEAVE
THEM IN THEIR
CASES.

I'm
Alabama
bound...

Liz
Hester

Jim
Marks

By Dob
Lucke

THE UKULELE IS GOING TO SHOW
THE INNER YOU TO THE OUTER
WORLD IF YOU LET IT.

Sal
Amato Janet
Khan

Laura
Selleck

Marty
Sprock

THE AUDIENCE

SOON, WITHOUT NOTICING, YOU'RE PART OF
A UKE DUO AS WELL AS A UKE GROUP AND
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT AN ORCHESTRA.

BUT IT'S A LOW-RISK SITUATION,
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO THE
AUDIENCE WILL PLAY ALONG.

Woo--
Woo--

--Who
knows
the
reason
why?

I sing
this
lullaby.

Donna
Nestler

BANJO UKES

Rick
Nestler

Ben Mazer

Greg
Doyle

It's an inclusive
instrument.

I'm having
such a
good time.

Wendy
Matthews

OPEN MIC AT
TOWNE CRIER
MONTHLY

SWING JAM AT
BANK SQUARE
SECOND SATURDAYS

YOU'LL TRAVEL TO FESTIVALS AND
OPEN MIC NIGHTS-- YOU'RE AN ACT.

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What members are saying...



“

The Hudson Highlands has the rare blessing in these perjurious times of a truly independent news source on local affairs as well as on wider topics that affect our communities. Commercial publications in other places can only envy the perspective and balance we see each week in a paper that anyone can pick up and read without charge. It's a real privilege to play a part in this enterprise as a reader and contributor.

Ardal Powell, Beacon
New Monthly **PARTNER** 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+
<i>The Highlands Current</i> tote bag	●	●	●
<i>CurrentPlus</i> : A weekly newsletter featuring insights, calendar highlights and other exclusives	●	●	●
Priority invitation and reception before annual community forums		●	●
Priority early digital delivery of Friday's print paper		●	●
Annual patrons' lunch with <i>The Current</i> editor and members of the Board of Directors			●

BONUS: Make a recurring contribution of \$10 or more a month and receive free mail delivery of the paper for the year in addition to the Partner benefits.

... And your gift will be matched TWICE!

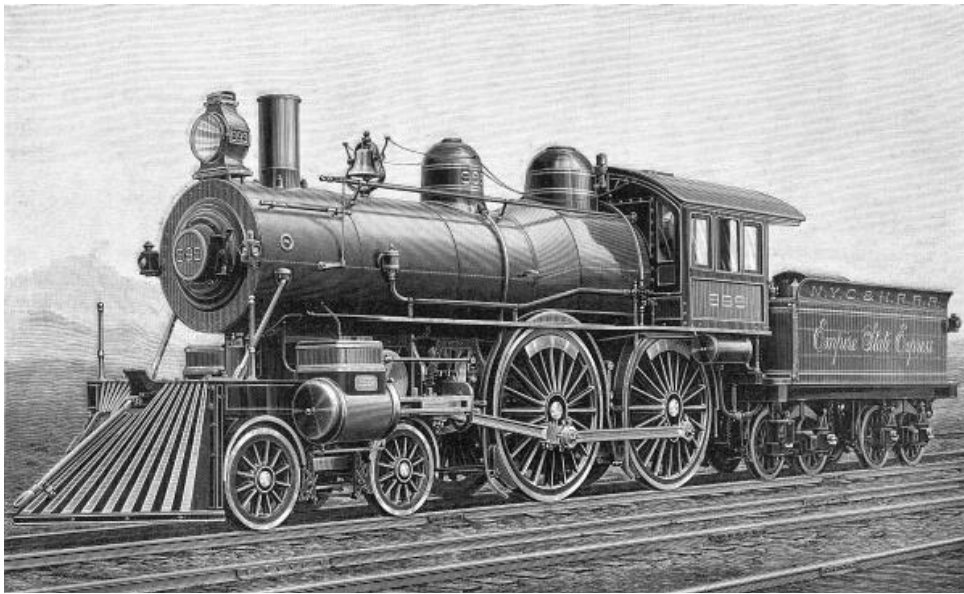
By NewsMatch 2019, a national program promoting nonprofit journalism, and by a generous local donor.

Donations up to \$1,000 made Nov. 1 to Dec. 31 this year will be matched, to a total of \$20,000.

Gifts totaling
\$20,000
will mean
\$60,000
for our newsroom!

It's Easy!

- Just go to highlandscurrent.org/membership
- OR
- Send a check to *The Highlands Current* at our new address, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.



The Empire State Express No. 999 raced past Cold Spring in 1894.

Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (December 1869)

The Rev. Henry Pah-tah-qua-hong Chase (Coming Thunder), a member of the Ojibwa [Chippewa] tribe of Canada who had converted to Christianity some 20 years earlier, visited Cold Spring as a guest of the rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. The Anglican priest was raising money to build a chapel for the Oneidas near Syracuse.

William Wells of Cold Spring wrote from Savannah, Georgia, to say that "the weather here is delightful. I am writing with the windows up and no fire. Savannah is a thriving city and a large amount of cotton is shipped from the port. Business is good in the South and everything quiet."

In a quick trip, Capt. Bowne, of the schooner at Furnace Dock, left on Monday with a cargo of pig iron, unloaded at Brooklyn on Tuesday, shipped coal at Weehawken on Wednesday and returned to Cold Spring on Thursday at noon.

The first snow allowed Mr. Goodsell's horse to pull a hand sled with three boys aboard who fell off every few rods but didn't seem to mind.

A loaded pistol was found in the snow and taken to the post office for its owner to claim.

A man who had been pelted with a snowball on Main Street got out of his sleigh and chased down one of the Curry boys on Furnace Street, bringing him back to Main Street by his collar. George Purdy, taking pity, intervened.

The Rev. David Gibson of the Highland Church and David Haight of Fishkill Road each came out in the morning to feed their horses and found them gone. The minister also lost his harness, blanket and wagon, and a neighbor of Haight's, James Boyce, lost his wagon. A hypothesis was formed that the thieves took the preacher's gray and his trappings and swapped wagons at Boyce's and horses at Haight's before heading north. A search party found the horse and wagon under a hotel shed at Channingville [Wappingers Falls], but the thieves had fled.

Henry Knapp of Breakneck Hollow smelled burning cloth but could not locate

the source until he put his hands in his pockets and found some matches there with his pocketknife and keys that had burned the pocket and his pants and were starting on his drawers.

125 Years Ago (December 1894)

Gov. Roswell Flower commuted the sentence of John Trumpboar, who was convicted in 1871 for killing a man during a bank robbery in Cold Spring. Trumpboar, who was 20, threw red pepper into the eyes of a National Bank of Fishkill messenger at Main and Rock and grabbed his deposit bag, which had \$8,000 in receipts collected from village merchants. When a coachman, Elijah Jones, gave chase, Trumpboar turned and shot him dead. He was serving a 40-year sentence but years earlier had applied for clemency for good behavior. His release was endorsed by 11 of the jurors who convicted him.



Gov. Roswell Flower

Meg Merril [Merrilles], the "famous woman reporter of the *New York World*," waved her handkerchief from a window of the Empire State Express No. 999 [claimed to be the fastest in the world] as it sped past Cold Spring on its way from New York to Albany. Merrilles was writing a story about the experience. [Meg Merrilles was the byline given to "girl" reporters at the *World* who did "stunt reporting" by editors who did not want any of them to achieve the singular influence of their predecessor, Nelly Bly.]

Mrs. William Nelson's home on Fair Street received a new coat of paint, and the

(Continued on Page 18)



▲ This 1958 photo of Haldane cheerleaders at a football game was taken from a negative that sold on eBay this month for \$10 (and was watermarked by the seller).



◀ **LOST AND FOUND** — On Monday (Dec. 16), contractor Sammy Pavic was picking up construction debris from the renovation of St. Philip's Church in Garrison when he spotted a carved wooden stick under the porch outside the sacristy. A plaque on its handle reads: "Used at the Consecration of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands A.D. 1862." Designed by architect Richard Upjohn, the stone structure was consecrated on May 1, 1862 by the bishop of New York, Horatio Potter. "We had no idea this crozier existed," reports Jan Anderson, co-chair of the restoration committee. "Its appearance now, when we have just celebrated a major renewal of this beautiful church, feels like a true blessing." Photo provided

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FIND ANY ONE'S NAME.

A Curious Arrangement of Letters Which Never Fail.

You can find what any person's name is by following these rules: First arrange the letters of the alphabet in five columns thus:

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

Having the letters properly arranged, ask the person whose name is to be revealed to tell you which upright column or columns contains the first letter of his name.

If it be in only one column it will be the top letter; if in more than one you find it by adding the alphabetical numbers of the top letters of these columns, the sum of which will be the alphabetical number of the letter sought. In the alphabetical numbering A is one, B is two, and so on through the list.

By taking one letter at a time in this way the whole name can be ascertained.

Take the name John for illustration. J is found in the two columns commencing with B and H, the second and eighth letters of the alphabet. Add two and eight and you have ten, and the tenth letter of the alphabet is J.

The second letter of the name, O, is found in the columns commencing with A, B, D and H, or the letters that number one, two, four and eight. Add these numbers and we have fifteen, and the fifteenth letter is O.

So on with every letter until the entire name is found.

Just why the given arrangement of the alphabet should produce these results I leave the wise man to explain. The fact remains, however, and whether you can understand it or not, it may be used to mystify your friends in a delightful manner.

▲ A brainteaser that appeared in the Dec. 7, 1894, issue of the *Cold Spring Recorder*. Does it still work?

Looking Back (from Page 1)

residence of James Ladue on Chestnut was improved by raising the second story.

The Cold Spring Village Improvement Association placed wire guards around the trees on Main Street.

J.G. Southard handed out 1895 calendars advertising the fire insurance companies for which he was an agent.

The large chimney at the old blast furnace was demolished with dynamite.

The Musical and Literary Circle of the Methodist Episcopal Church presented a musical drama, *The Merry Milkmaids*, at Town Hall.

Matthew Quinlan was appointed as the Haldane truant officer at a rate of \$50 annually, a position mandated by a law effective Jan. 1, 1895, requiring every child between 8 and 16 years old to attend school, and, further, that no child between 8 and 12 be employed while school was in session.

It was noted during a Haldane school board meeting that Cora Ellison, who taught the primary department, instructed 90 students, but state law only allowed 50 scholars per class.

Philip Reilley, a director of the National Bank of Cold Spring-on-the-Hudson, died at age 35 of peritonitis.

The flags were flown at half-mast at Haldane following the loss of its principal, LeRoy Z. Collins, 52, who dropped dead at home while taking off his overcoat. He had attended Philip Reilley's funeral earlier in the day.

The Cold Spring Recorder quipped that "an inventive minister has devised a contribution box in which the quarters and halves land on a piece of velvet while the pennies strike a gong."

The wife of Duncan Phyfe gave birth to a 15-pound baby boy. The husband, at least, was reported to be "all smiles."

John McClary, an engineer at Thomas Edison's concentrating iron works in New Jersey, was at home in Cold Spring for a holiday visit.

Albert Ireland of the Sunk Mines asked *The Recorder* to correct its earlier report that he was dead.

Floyd Barrett, a fugitive since he sawed his way out of the Carmel jail, was discovered in the Kingston jail after being accused of stealing chickens there.

Postmaster Timm was given a letter that read: "Dear Santa Claus, please bring me a

big doll and a red slay and a doll carriage, some candy, nuts and an orange. I have so many sisters; that is all I want. I have the same baby I had before. I am 9 years old. I have no more to tell you. I will close my letter now. Your friend, N."

After a year of fundraising, St. Joseph's Church in Garrison purchased a new organ for \$500 [about \$15,000 today].

100 Years Ago (December 1919)

The Rev. J. Inman of the Methodist Church presented two sermons on consecutive Sunday evenings: "The young man for whom the sensible girls are looking" and "The wife who is worth more to a man than a fortune."

Putnam County Sheriff Henry Stevens reached an agreement to board prisoners at the Elmsford penitentiary in Westchester for 57 cents a day. The going rate was 60 cents a day, but Elmsford charged less because it put the prisoners to work.

Maj. Joseph Fogarty, who was with two Cold Spring men who died during the Argonne offensive in France, visited the village. He told Margaret Casey, the mother of Sgt. George Casey, that his company had suffered a direct hit from a large German shell during a 6 a.m. advance on Sept. 27. Casey died at 3 p.m. the following day and Lt. Charles deRham was also mortally wounded.

Perry & Reilley removed the gas system in their store and connected with the electric light system.

Robert McCaffrey was severely injured when a horse kicked him in the mouth and loosened all of his upper teeth, which had to be extracted at Peekskill hospital.

A shortage of coal led the National Railroad Administration to cut 131 trains for five days on the East Coast, including three daily northbound and two daily southbound trains operated by the New York Central.

Jesse Starr and William Conklin pleaded guilty to assaulting John Caray in 1917 and were each sentenced to three to four years in prison.

The Village Board gave permission to J.G. Southard, president of the Cold Spring Light, Heat and Power Co., to place a Christmas tree on Main Street.

Parishioners at St. Mary's Catholic Church surprised the Rev. Joseph Bergen on the 25th anniversary of his ordination with 25 roses and a silver purse containing \$50 in gold coins. When he visited the Loretto school, the 34 children shouted in unison, "Happy Jubilee, Father!"

75 Years Ago (December 1944)

Harold Post, the proprietor of W.L. Post & Son's Garage, died at 56 of a heart attack. He opened the garage after running a blacksmith shop for many years.

An assembly was held at Haldane Central School in which Sgt. James Hoffman, a 1942 graduate, gave an account of his 50 missions as an aerial gunner. The assembly also featured a film about how to win basketball games.

Technical Sgt. Willard Lusk Jr. of Beacon, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Lusk of Cold Spring, was awarded the Bronze Star. Lusk was the crew chief of a B-26 bomber that completed 74 missions without any mechanical failures.

Lt. Gerald Dale of the Army Air Force, the son of Capt. and Mrs. Francis Dale of Chestnut Street, was killed in action in Belgium.

The estate of the late furniture manufacturer Louis Ferguson, who lived in Garrison, was appraised at \$2.7 million [about \$25 million today].

A German helmet sent from France by Sgt. James Peattie was on display at his father's store in Beacon. It was inscribed by Peattie and the men serving with him, including Maj. Donald Berrigan of Cold Spring.

The Rev. Elbert Floyd-Jones observed his 50th Christmas as rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

50 Years Ago (December 1969)

The friends of author Cora Hardy Jarrett, who lived in the area for a number of years, donated a collection of her books to the Butterfield Library. Jarrett wrote six novels and two books of short stories, some under the pseudonym Faraday Keene.

Veterans held a "Peace with Honor" march through Cold Spring and Nelsonville.

The Marathon Battery Co., which makes Sonotone nickel-cadmium batteries, consolidated its operations into a location on Kemble Avenue in Cold Spring.



25 Years Ago (December 1994)

The Garrison School held a student debate competition on the topic: "Resolved: Should there be censorship in the music industry?"

Index Design of Garrison donated to the Garrison Volunteer Fire Co. two emergency rescue tools it had received from the Hurst Tool Co. for evaluation.

A 22-year-old Beacon man was arrested on charges of assault in the first degree after a stabbing at 22 Market St.

Tracy Johnston, the daughter of Jim and Susan Johnston of Garrison, was selected as a Rhodes scholar. The Wellesley College student met Bill Clinton during her first semester and became the youngest staffer, at age 19, on his presidential campaign before returning to her studies.

The Garrison Volunteer Fire Co. installed a "dry hydrant" on Route 9 connected to a pond north of Papa John's Restaurant [now Garrison Restaurant & Pizzeria].

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Greg Cayea

Photo provided

Listen Up! *(from Page 11)*
cancer survivor and my goal is to provide listeners with tools, knowledge and ideas that inspire them to become skillful eaters.”

Where is it?
simpleeats.com/podcasts

Vagabond Secrets
Host: Greg Cayea, Beacon

Why do it?
“Podcasting is the perfect method to conduct interviews because you can listen

to them on the road. I have a podcast studio I made in my apartment that came out kinda cool.”

What is it?
“I published a book last month called *Vagabond Secrets: A Beginner’s Guide to Traveling the World*. On the podcast, which will debut Feb. 1, I will interview famous travelers and ask them how they do it. We’ll chat about everything travel.

“I love travel because I was stuck at an infamous ‘therapeutic boarding school’ when I was kid and became obsessed with

Kerouac and beatnik literature — the idea of pure freedom. When I was 16, I ran away and lived on the road, hitchhiking. Travel was the place I went to clear my head and get my life on track. I’ve been a traveler my whole life and hold the Guinness World Record for the longest journey by car in a single country [the U.S.]. It’s the one thing that has always been there for me: hitting the road.”

Where is it?
vagabondsecrets.com

See highlandscurrent.org for links.



Strings Attached

Dan Baginski and Barbara Paulson of the Vermont-based Strings Marionette Co. returned to the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on Dec. 8 for two shows. Even Elvis showed up (below).

Photos by Ross Corsair



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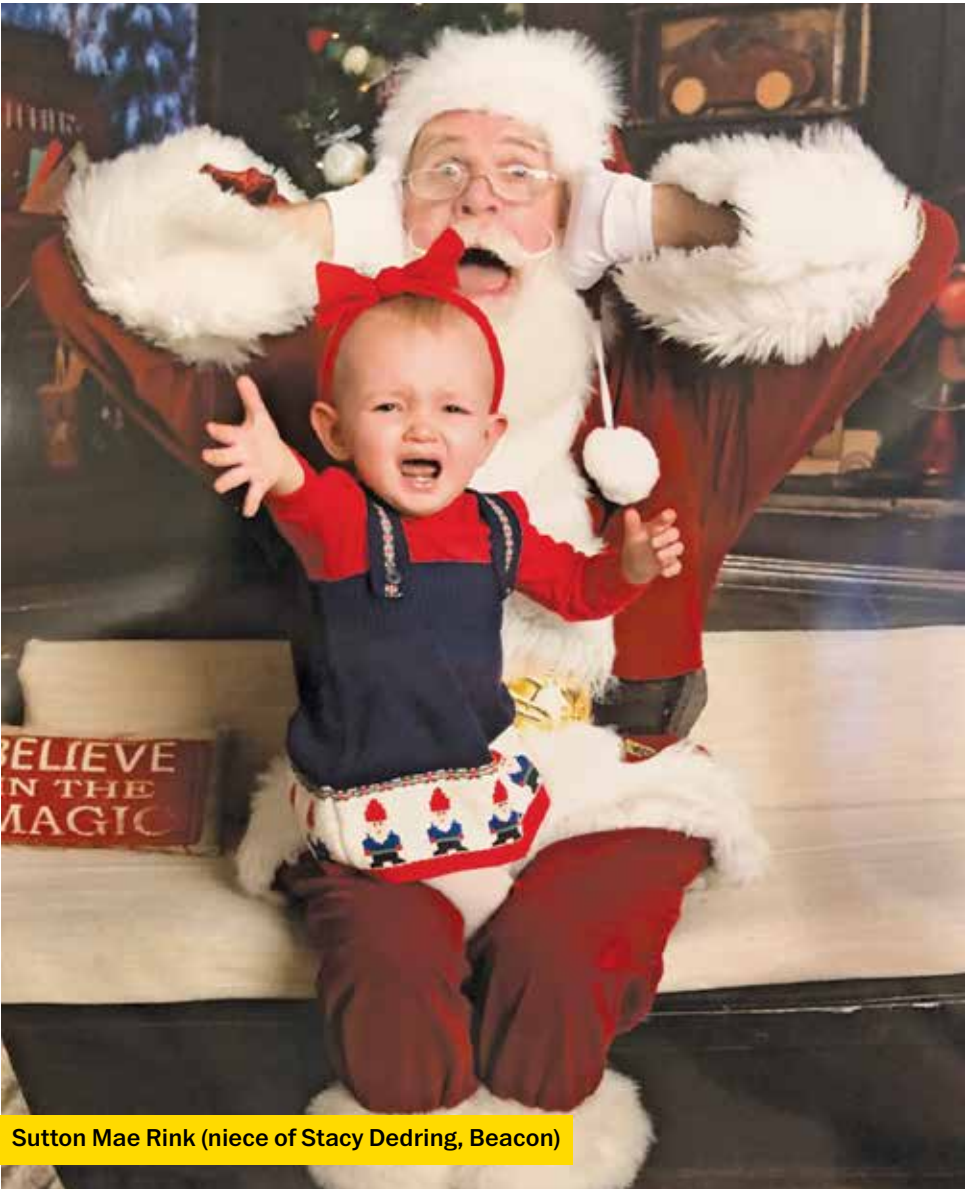
MAGICAL

MELTDOWNS

Why is anyone surprised when a child loses his or her cool when meeting Santa Claus for the first time? Sure, the old man takes requests, but he also has a beard so thick you can't see most of his face, he wears a blood-red suit and he lives at the mall. Last year we asked readers to share their photos of children who were none too happy to meet Santa, and this year we did it again. Happy holidays to all who responded, and good luck.



Liam Hussung, Garrison



Sutton Mae Rink (niece of Stacy Dedring, Beacon)



Charles Rowe, Garrison



Theo Peters, Cold Spring

"All the world is happy when Santa Claus comes."

- Maud Lindsay,
Santa Claus, A Wonder Story for Little Children



Emelia and Olivia Lusk



Gretchen and Jack Smith, Cold Spring

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FOR SALE

ITEMS FOR SALE — *The Current* moved to our new offices and have some items available for sale. (1) Philips VIC WK1016A5B large-screen television stand with assorted

screws \$20. (2) Danby 3.2 Cu. Ft. Compact Refrigerator – Black \$100. (3) Walker Edison Glass Solo Computer Desk with keyboard tray \$50 19.75" by 32", 29" high. Email tech@highlandscurrent.org with interest.

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SPORTS

(Continued from Page 24)

Croton-Harmon High School last week-end but couldn't keep up with the host in the championship game, falling 69-32. The Blue Devils will take on Beacon at noon on Dec. 28 in a tournament at Spackenkill.

BOWLING

Both Beacon boys' and girls' teams swept Poughkeepsie, 7-0, on Dec. 18. Last week against Carmel, the boys lost, 7-0, and the girls won, 5-2.

BOYS' SWIMMING

Beacon defeated Port Chester, 99-62, in a home meet on Dec. 13 to improve to 4-1.

GIRLS' SOCCER

Haldane senior Jade Villella was named

to the first team of the Class C All-State squad selected by the New York State Sportswriters Association and was also honored as the region's co-player of the year by the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

The paper named Steve Schweikhart of Haldane as the region's coach of the year and included freshman Chloe Rowe of Haldane and senior Analiese Compagnone of Beacon on its first team.

Compagnone joined Jade Villella on the All-Section team, which is selected by the Section 1 coaches. The All-League team included Jade Villella, Bela Monteleone, Liv Villella, Bianca Harmancin, Ella Ashburn and Mazzie Maxwell, with honorable mentions to Sara Ferreira, Allie Ferreira, Abigail Platt, Anna Rowe and Chloe Rowe.

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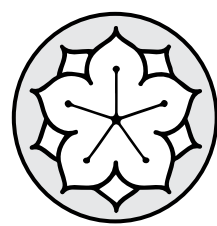
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The HIGHLANDS

Current

7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

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Saturday

33/18

Increasing cloudiness

POP: 0%

SW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 34/14

Sunday

42/23

Partly sunny and not as cold

POP: 0%

WSW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 42/23

Monday

46/27

Mostly sunny

POP: 0%

N 6-12 mph

RealFeel 44/27

Tuesday

44/29

Periods of clouds and sun

POP: 10%

SSW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 44/28

Wednesday

41/23

Times of clouds and sun

POP: 25%

WSW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 41/23

Thursday

35/26

Sunny to partly cloudy

POP: 5%

NW 8-16 mph

RealFeel 31/15

Friday

38/26

Plenty of sunshine

POP: 0%

NW 7-14 mph

RealFeel 32/20

Snowfall

Past week2.4"

Month to date10.9"

Normal month to date2.3"

Season to date10.9"

Normal season to date4.2"

Last season to date4.9"

Record for 12/200.0" (0)

SUN & MOON

Sunrise Sat., 12/217:18 AM

Sunset Sat. night, 12/214:29 PM

Moonrise Sat., 12/212:03 AM

Moonset Sat., 12/211:37 PM

New

First

Full

Last

Dec 25

Jan 2

Jan 10

Jan 17

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CROSSCURRENT

By King Features

ACROSS

1. Grill fill

6. Easily split rock

12. Give in

13. Beer gut

14. Fitting

15. Camelot role

16. First victim

17. Bullets and such

19. Big bother

20. Director Kazan

22. Unruly group

24. Trouble

27. Taj Mahal city

29. "— Misbehavin' "

32. New Orleans neighborhood

35. Criterion

36. Yanks

37. Sauce source

38. That girl

40. Send forth

42. Raw rock

44. Sheltered

46. Capri, e.g.

50. Swiss city

52. Country

54. TV's *Superman* portrayer

55. Nasal qualities

56. First-born

57. Have a hunch

DOWN

1. — Your Enthusiasm

2. Reed instrument

3. More than enough

4. Whopper

5. Unwavering

6. Unwanted email

7. Ricochet, in billiards

8. Shack

9. Occupies

10. Gulf War missile

11. "Comin' — the Rye"

12. Masseur's workplace

18. Theater canopy

21. Fond du —, Wis.

23. Scull need

24. Sternward

25. Anger

26. Diminished

28. Increases

30. Ultramodernist

31. Have a go at

33. Ultimate

34. "— was saying ..."

39. Icicles' homes

41. Saturn's largest

42. Storybook baddie

43. Stagger

45. Survive

47. Deadly septet

48. Playgoers' box

49. Type measures

51. Previous night

53. Shock and —

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SUDOCURRENT

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

Answers for Dec. 13 Puzzles

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

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

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

SPORTS



Follow us at twitter.com/hcurrentsports



Baseball Stadium In Holding Pattern

Needs lease agreements from county, Beacon schools

By Jeff Simms

The long-term future of Dutchess Stadium and its tenants, the Hudson Valley Renegades, remains uncertain pending a new agreement between Major League Baseball and its 162 minor league teams.

The agreement ends after the 2020 season, and one proposal would eliminate 42 teams in the Single-A, short-season leagues that begin play in June, which includes the Renegades, to streamline travel and cut costs. Another proposal would promote the Renegades to Single-A ball, extending the team's season into April and May.

The Renegades, an affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays, have been based at Dutchess Stadium for 26 seasons. On Dec. 6, *Baseball America* named the Renegades the top Short-A operation of 2019, an award the team last won in 1998.

The Renegades last year agreed to a five-year extension of the lease with Dutchess County for the 4,500-seat stadium after the Legislature approved \$2.4 million in bond funding to replace stadium chairs and repair the concrete seating bowl and other surfaces. Renegades ownership at the time said that a long-term agreement was contingent on a second phase of improvements that the club would help pay for.

Those discussions are ongoing, but with possible minor league realignment looming, "no one wants to sign anything that could be changed," said Colleen Pillus, a representative for the county.

A second agreement that is important to the team's future involves the Beacon City School District, which owns the land under Dutchess Stadium and leases it to the county. In 2018 and this past October, the school board approved one-year extensions of the \$29,000 annual lease while the sides negotiate a long-term deal. The county and district are waiting to receive an appraisal of the land beneath the stadium and 21 undeveloped acres adjacent to it before proceeding, said school board President Anthony White.

Haldane Board Votes to Fire Coach

Accusations of racism leveled at members

By Chip Rowe

The Haldane school board voted unanimously on Wednesday (Dec. 18) to fire girls' varsity basketball coach Tyrone Searight, who pleaded guilty to a violation this month related to allegations of workers' compensation fraud.

Searight had coached the Blue Devils for 11 seasons. After being arrested on Oct. 29 and charged with three felonies, he pleaded guilty on Nov. 26 to disorderly conduct and paid nearly \$17,000 in restitution to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which had employed him as a bus driver.

Following his claim in November 2016 that he had injured his knee on the job and could not work, investigators said Searight continued to coach at Haldane and did not appear seriously injured in game videos.

Following his arrest, Searight went on leave and the junior varsity coach, Jessica Perrone, was elevated to succeed him.

Unlike most school board meetings, this one drew a packed house. In public

comments following the vote, a number of audience members questioned the decision. A Haldane parent, Jennifer Gordineer, claimed there had been teachers "in a lot more trouble than this" who were not fired, compared the termination to "an old-fashioned lynching" (Searight is African American) and said Searight had a bright future because "any school district in the Hudson Valley will be happy to have him."

Another person called the firing "racist" and others expressed surprise the board was hearing comments only after it had already voted.

Searight, who was not an employee of the district but was set to receive a \$6,081 stipend this season for coaching the team, demanded board members "tell me what you're firing me for."

After a number of interruptions from audience members, Superintendent Philip Benante told Searight he would receive "something from me in writing." Benante had recommended to the board that Searight be fired.

During the meeting, the board also approved the appointment of Will Charkowsky as the junior varsity girls' coach for the 2019-20 season to succeed Perrone,



Tyrone Searight on the sidelines of a Haldane game on Dec. 18, 2016, a month after he filed a worker's compensation claim with the MTA.

File photo by Richard Kuperberg Sr.

who was coaching both teams. Charkowsky will be paid a stipend of \$4,307.

Charkowsky, a Haldane graduate, teaches physical education in the Carmel school district. He played varsity basketball at Haldane and baseball for Mitchell College.

VARSITY ROUND-UP

By Skip Pearlman

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Beacon played in the Dan Dinan Tournament last weekend at Tappan Zee, falling to a team from Virginia, Forest Hills, 74-59, in the consolation round after dropping a 61-47 decision to the host Dutchmen a day earlier.

Senior forward Tre Smith led Beacon (1-5) with 15 points against Forest Hills, and Dillon Kelly added 13. Shane Green led the Bulldogs against Tappan Zee with 12 points, and Tsamaj Powell had nine points, five rebounds and two blocks. Smith was named to the All-Tournament team.

"We played against some big, physical teams, and our inexperience showed," said Coach Scott Timpano. "It was a good learning experience."

Beacon was set to play Wednesday (Dec. 18) at John Jay Cross River, but a power outage pushed the game to Thursday. The Bulldogs will compete next week in the Dutchess County Coaches Tournament at Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls, with its opener scheduled for 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 26.



Tsamaj Powell, shown here in a game against Rye, had nine points, five rebounds and two blocks for Beacon in a loss to Tappan Zee. File photo by S. Pearlman

Haldane (3-1) defeated The Leffell School, 89-43, on the road on Monday (Dec. 16), and was scheduled to travel to Chester on Dec. 27 and face North Salem on Jan. 4 at Carmel High School in the Putnam Challenge tournament.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Beacon (4-4) defeated Roosevelt High School, 64-32, on Wednesday (Dec. 18) at home. Lejdina Gecaj led the team with 11 points, and Grace Affeldt and Enita Rodriguez each scored nine. "It was nice to get the younger girls in and have everyone play," said Coach Christina Dahl. "Every player on our team scored, and we hope to carry this momentum to Friday [Dec. 20] at Gorton."

The Bulldogs also rolled past Keio, 46-28, on Dec. 14 but came up short on Dec. 12 against Walter Panas, 51-29, in a tournament hosted by Panas. Beacon opened the tournament with a 61-56 win over Lakeland.

Haldane (2-2) edged Carmel, 55-54, in the first round of a tournament at

(Continued on Page 22)