January 20, 2019
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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, 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 on a tip from a reader, The Current

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.

Stephanie Dignan, a city resident.

(Continued on Page 8)

Plastic Bag Ban
Coming in March, not January
Dutchess enforcement unlikely until state law takes effect

By Jeff Simms

A 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 8)

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 teacher in 2004 and 2005, according to the state’s Education Department.

(Continued on Page 8)
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 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?

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.”

Rachel Levin
Dutchess DMV Restrictions 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

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.

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
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-fourstory 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.
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

I t 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 for driving without a license.

Burke praised officer Bill Bujarski, who worked his last shift on Nov. 19 after serving in the department for 25 years. The state parks department wants to make one more hire to bring the total number of Hudson Valley communities.

### Recruiters

**Village of Cold Spring**

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<th>Zoning Board of Appeals</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron Wolfe (chair)</td>
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<td>Laura Bozzi</td>
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<td>Donald MacDonald</td>
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<td>John F. Martin</td>
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<td>Erik Werth</td>
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<td>Historic District Review Board</td>
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<td>Al Zgolinski (chair)</td>
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<td>Carolyn Bachan</td>
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<td>Andrea Connor</td>
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<td>Planning Board</td>
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<td>Matt Francisco (chair)</td>
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<td>Lara Eldin</td>
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<td>Stephanie Hawkins</td>
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<td>Sue Meyers</td>
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<td>Dave Marion (Alternate)</td>
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<td>Recreation Commission</td>
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<td>Ruth Ann Barr (chair)</td>
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<td>Stephen Etta</td>
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<td>John Merante</td>
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<td>Jeff Phillips</td>
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<td>Paul Henderson</td>
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<td>Michael Reisman</td>
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<td>Tree Advisory Board</td>
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<td>Jennifer Zwarch (chair)</td>
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<td>Tony Bardes</td>
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<td>Taro Isotaka</td>
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<td>Kory Riesterer</td>
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<td>Charles Day (tree nursery manager)</td>
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**Village of Nelsonville**

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<td>Steve Marino (chair)</td>
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<td>Ezra Clementson</td>
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<td>Paul Helbock</td>
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<td>Dennis Meekins</td>
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<td>Zoning Board of Appeals</td>
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<td>William Rice (chair)</td>
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<td>Harold Akselrad</td>
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<td>Chris Keeley</td>
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<td>Steve Merando</td>
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<td>Judy Meyer</td>
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**Philipston**

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<td>John Conner (chair)</td>
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<td>Dennis Gagnon</td>
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<td>David Hardy</td>
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<td>Peter Lewis</td>
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<td>Neal Tomann</td>
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<td>Neal Zuckerman</td>
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<td>Conservation Board</td>
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<td>Mark Galezio (chair)</td>
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<td>Jan Baker</td>
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<td>Kristal Ford</td>
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<td>Andy Galler</td>
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<td>Lew Kingsley</td>
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<td>MJ Martin</td>
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<td>Bob Repetto</td>
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<td>Max Garfinke (natural resource officer)</td>
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**Recreation Commission**

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<td>Joel Conybear (chair)</td>
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<td>Ben Cheah</td>
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<td>Aric Kupper</td>
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<td>John Maassik</td>
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<td>Claudio Marzello</td>
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<td>William Mazzucca</td>
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<td>Lydia McMahon</td>
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<td>Board of Assessment Review</td>
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<td>Gordon Casement (chair)</td>
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<td>Melissa Carlton</td>
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<td>Dorothy Gilman</td>
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<td>Irene McGrath</td>
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<td>Kathryne Tomann</td>
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**Beacon**

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<td>John Stella (chair)</td>
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<td>John Berry</td>
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<td>Nancy Musacchio</td>
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<td>Robert Palisi</td>
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<td>Michele Rios</td>
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### HELP WANTED

**GARRISON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

P.O. BOX 193, GARRISON, NY 10524

- **CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**
  Confidential Secretary to the School Superintendent wanted. Full-time, competitive salary & benefits. Five years responsible clerical experience & excellent computer skills required.

- **SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK – PART TIME**
  School District Clerk to be appointed by and report to Garrison Board of Education. Stipend position calls for mature judgment in independently carrying out School Board policies and legally required procedures. Minimum three years responsible clerical experience required.

Both positions beginning 3/2/20. Send letter(s) of interest & resume to Superintendent of Garrison Union Free School District via email to mail@gufs.org by January 10, 2020.
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 could.”

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 committed $54,000 to a TVA manager to secure contracts. The firm was fined $82 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.

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 underaccruing the decommissioning fund at Holtec.

To push New Jersey to grant the tax breaks, Holtec signaled it would also do at Indian Point.

“What’s that fund is for,” he said. “And there’s a complicated set of LLCs [limited-liability corporations] designed to shield Holtec International, the core corporation. 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 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.
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 he was 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 antiquers,” 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 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 celebrating 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.”

Cold Spring Train Elevator Closed

Repairs expected to take months

By Chip Rowe

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

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.
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**

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 Philippston 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**

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 Benenate 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 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 also 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 16,” 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.
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, would 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 Pilius, 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.

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The Plastic Bag Business

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

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Plastic Bag Ban (from Page 1)
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.
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 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’ve 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.”

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)
THE WEEK AHEAD

HOLIDAY SERVICES
SUN 22
Lessons and Carols
GARRISON
10:30 a.m. St. Philip’s Episcopal Church
1301 Route 9D | 845-424-3367
stphilipshighlands.org

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

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

Christmas Eve Mass
COLD SPRING
4 & 8 p.m. St. Andrew’s Church
15 South Ave. | 845-831-1369
standrewsbeaconny.org

Christmas Eve Service
BEACON
5 p.m. Tabernacle of Christ
483 Main St. | 845-228-4167
stmaryscoldspring.org

Christmas Eve Service
COLD SPRING
5 p.m. Cold Spring Depot
Cold Spring Aglow
5 – 9 p.m. Main Street
Enjoy 18th-century music by Steve Kelman, with mulled cider and snacks, a poem-reading and activities for children. Hosted by the Fishkill Historical Society.

HANUKKAH CELEBRATION
SUN 22
Hanukkah Celebration
COLD SPRING
5 p.m. St. Mary’s Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St.
Our Lady of Loretto 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
Hanukkah Celebration
COLD SPRING
5 p.m. St. Mary’s Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St.
ourladyofloretto.org

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

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

Christmas Eve Service
GARRISON
7 p.m. St. Philip’s Episcopal Church
50 Liberty St. | 845-831-5322
beaconpresbychurch.com

Christmas Eve Service
BEACON
7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
850 Wolcott Ave. | 845-831-1369
beacon-episcopal.org

Christmas Eve Service
BEACON
10 p.m. St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
Trailsidezoo.org

Christmas Eve Service
COLD SPRING
5 p.m. Cold Spring Depot
Cold Spring Aglow
5 – 9 p.m. Main Street
Enjoy 18th-century music by Steve Kelman, with mulled cider and snacks, a poem-reading and activities for children. Hosted by the Fishkill Historical Society.

WED 25
Menorah Lighting
COLD SPRING
5 p.m. Cold Spring Depot
COLD SPRING Menorah Lighting, Dec. 29 (4 p.m. on FRI 27)

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.

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
The North Highlands Engine Co. No. 1 will escort Santa to stops around Philipstown. See schedule on Facebook.
School Break Mini-Camp
MON 23
CORNWALL
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hmm.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: $10/25 (88 members)

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 Bonanza. Cost: $15 ($20 door, $30 students)

SAT 21
Joy to the Dawg
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St.
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com
Stephen Chir 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 | towncrier.com
The singer and songwriter is known for his storytelling. He will be joined by Laurie MacAllister of Red Molly. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

SUN 29
California Dreamin'
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | towncrier.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).

Saint Mary-in-the-Highlands
Episcopal Church
WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Christmas Eve
Festival Midnight Mass
AT 10:00 PM
MUSIC BEGINS AT 9:45PM
RECEPTION FOLLOWS IN THE PARISH HALL
845-265-2539
www.stmaryscoldspring.org

TOWN CRIER CAFE
379 Main Street, Beacon
FRIDAY, DEC. 20
8:30 p.m. The Costellos Christmas Show
9 p.m. Great Wine Specials
SATURDAY, DEC. 21
8:30 p.m. The Siambovian Circus of Dreams
“A Very Siambovian Christmas”
SUNDAY, DEC. 22
11:30 a.m. Dan Stevens - No Music Cover
THURSDAY, DEC. 26
7 p.m Youth Open Mic - No Cover
FRIDAY, DEC. 27
7 p.m. Jazzy Christmas - No Music Cover
9 p.m. Ellis Paul
- Laurie MacAllister of Red Molly
SATURDAY, DEC. 28
8 p.m. Lucky Luna - No Music Cover
8:30 p.m. Roomful of Blues
SUNDAY, DEC. 29
7 p.m. California Dreamin’
TUESDAY, DEC. 31
7 p.m. New Year’s Eve Salon
with Judith Tulloch Band
TUESDAY, DEC. 31
10:00 p.m. New Year’s Eve Celebration
Siambovian Band & Dan Brother Band
FRIDAY, JAN. 3
9 p.m. Adam Ezra Group
www.townecrier.com • 845.855.1300
Direct line: 4 & 5

To access the accessibility tools at highlandscurrent.org, select CTRL-U or click on the blue circle at the bottom right corner of any page.
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 and 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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**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
- ½ 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.

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What I Learned at the Third Hudson Valley Ukulele Invitational:

First ukulele is pronounced "o-koo-lay-lay." Second, if you pick up an "o-koo-lay-lay," you are going to have a social life.

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

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 ukuleles can play together.

Ukes are social animals—they need to get out. It would be cruel to leave them in their cases.

Soon, without noticing, you're part of a uke duo as well as a uke group and you're thinking about an orchestra.

Woo... woo... Who knows the reason why?

I'm Alabama bound.

You'll travel to festivals and open mic nights— you're an act.

The next thing you know, you're wearing a wig and performing as "Luca Lele."

My wife, Lucia, she needs electrolysis.

Sai Amato politically incorrect as Luca Lele. "...or claiming to be a one song Willy with the same tune for every song."

When you're smiling... When you're smiling, the whole world smiles with you.

Hello, Dolly. Well, hello, Dolly. It's so nice to have you back where you belong.

On the road again.

The ukulele is going to show the inner you to the outer world if you let it.

But it's a low-risk situation, no matter what you do, the audience will play along.

It's an inclusive instrument.

I'm having such a good time.

Open Mic at Towne Crier Monthly

Swing Jam at Bank Square Second Saturdays

By Deb Lucke
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER BENEFITS</th>
<th>Friend ($24 to $119)</th>
<th>Partner ($120 to $599)</th>
<th>Patron ($600+)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Highlands Current tote bag</td>
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<td>CurrentPlus: A weekly newsletter featuring insights, calendar highlights and other exclusives</td>
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<td>Priority invitation and reception before annual community forums</td>
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<td>Priority early digital delivery of Friday’s print paper</td>
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<td>Annual patrons’ lunch with The Current editor and members of the Board of Directors</td>
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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.
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.

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.

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...
Looking Back (from Page 1)

A brainteaser that appeared in the December 20, 2019. Does it still work?

The Recorder

The Highlands Current board meeting that Cora Ellison, who accused of stealing chickens there.

The flags were flown at half-mast at the Old Blast 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 the Cold Spring men who died during the Argonne offensive in France, visited the village. He told Margaret Carey, the mother of Sgt. George Carey, 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 deKham was also mortally wounded.

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

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 Phye gave birth to a 15-pound baby boy. The husband, at least, was reported to be “all smiles.”

The Village Board gave permission to P.A. Rider to improve the second story.

25 Years Ago (December 1994)

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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.

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 Rettig 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.
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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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.

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

“All the world is happy when Santa Claus comes.”

- Maud Lindsay,
Santa Claus, A Wonder Story for Little Children
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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 VICTOR1016A5B large-screen television stand with assorted screws $20. (2) Danby 3 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.

NOTICES

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SPORTS

(Continued from Page 24)

Croton-Harmon High School last weekend 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 Analise Compagnone of Beacon on its first team.

Compagnone joined Jade Vililela 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.

(Continued from Page 24)
7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

**Saturday**

- **33/18**
- Increasing cloudiness

**Sunday**

- **42/23**
- Partly sunny and not as cold

**Monday**

- **46/27**
- Mostly sunny

**Tuesday**

- **44/29**
- Periods of clouds and sun

**Wednesday**

- **41/23**
- Times of clouds and sun

**Thursday**

- **35/26**
- Sunny to partly cloudy

**Friday**

- **38/26**
- Plenty of sunshine

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

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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
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**

**Answers for Dec. 13 Puzzles**

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

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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.

Beacon (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 Corton.”

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)