A Lost Officer Remembered

Beacon patrolman slain a century ago

By Jeff Simms

A century ago this week, Beacon police officer Charles Lucy was killed while responding to a neighborhood disturbance.

He remains the only officer the department, which was created in 1913, has lost to violence in the line of duty.

More than two dozen of Lucy’s descendants from Maine, Pennsylvania and Virginia visited Beacon this week to commemorate his death on Aug. 15, 1922. They included two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren and four great-great-great-grandchildren.

They visited the Police Department, the Beacon Historical Society and St. Joachim’s Church, where Lucy and his wife, Mary, were wed in 1900. She died in 1965, and the couple are buried at the church cemetery on Washington Avenue.

A framed newspaper front page with an account of Officer Lucy’s death hangs at the police station. The headline in what was probably an issue of the Beacon Daily Herald (the masthead is missing) reported that a “crazed” resident of North Street killed the officer by shooting him in the head.

According to the article, Lucy and his partner, Officer Joseph Judge, had returned to a call that Willie White, 30, “was causing trouble again.”

Along with the Beacon paper, The Associated Press, the Poughkeepsie Eagle-News and at least two New York City papers reported on the shooting, offering some accounts of the event. (Continued on Page 22)

READY FOR HARVEST

Dutchess farm prepares its first marijuana crop

By Leonard Sparks

Two miles from the Taconic State Parkway, a narrow road of homes set in recesses carved out of the woods leads to a 280-acre farm called Mystic Meadows.

For a quarter century, Ryan McGrath and his family have boarded horses and cut hay at the Hopewell Junction farm. Today, three years after McGrath and several partners began growing hemp to feed a demand for oils, lotions and other products made with cannabidiol, a compound in the plant, they are pioneers again with the state’s latest cash crop: marijuana.

On Aug. 13, a crew of workers holding scissors snipped away at the first plants harvested by Hudson River Hemp, a company McGrath owns with Alex Keenan and three other partners. The air carried the sound of music from a radio and the aroma of marijuana.

As early as the end of the year, buds from those plants will be available for purchase. (Continued on Page 6)

Five Republicans Vie for House District 17

Primaries scheduled for Tuesday (Aug. 23)

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

There will be five candidates on the ballot in the Republican primary on Tuesday (Aug. 23) for the redrawn U.S. House District 17, which will include Philipstown; the winner will face Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney during an Aug. 1 virtual forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Four of the Republican candidates met in a similar forum on July 28; this week we share their responses, lightly edited for clarity and brevity. The event can be viewed at bit.ly/17-Republican. The Republican candidates for District 17 are Shoshana David, a Westchester County resident who would be, according to her campaign, the “first Orthodox Jewish woman in Congress”; Charles Falciglia, a member of the Rockland County Legislature; William Faulkner, a corporate executive and Somers Town Board member in Westchester; Mike Lawler, a state Assembly member who represents part of Rockland County; and Jack Schrepel, who lives in Orange County.

Faulkner and Lawler are also competing in the Conservative Party primary. We invited David, who did not participate in the July 28 forum, to answer the questions posed by the League but she did not respond by our print deadline. Instead, we have included policy statements from her website, when applicable. (Continued on Page 22)
FIVE QUESTIONS: MADELINE SAYET

By Alison Rooney

Madeline Sayet, a member of the Mohegan Tribe, is performing her one-woman play, Where We Belong, at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival in Garrison through Monday (Aug. 22).

What is the origin of the play?

I began writing it after moving back home to Mohegan [in Connecticut] from the U.K. in 2016. It was a strange moment for me because it was the first time when I came home that my feet didn’t root quite right to the ground. It was the first time when I came home that I felt pulled between my love of Shakespeare and my love of my Mohegan culture. In that moment, in the midst of Brexit and all of these events in which societies were deciding to exclude instead of include people, I was curious about how lines get drawn.

How does the play connect with Shakespeare?

It begins with my love of Shakespeare, which is something the audience shares, so I can bond with them about that. The audience’s understanding. The play begins with words about the place spoken by Curtis Zunigha, who is Lenape, and the ways in which I feel we are grounded in place here and the ancestors of that place is so much stronger than anywhere else we have told the story. The land is also speaking.

Is there any correlation between the retention of language goal for Mohegans and finding accessible ways into Shakespeare’s language for young English-speakers?

We aren’t trying to retain it — we’re trying to reclaim it. The last fluent speaker of our language passed away in the early 1900s. So we are building back something that was taken from us — it will take generations of work. Most students are required to learn the language of Shakespeare. By contrast, there have been long periods of history in which Native arts have been illegal. Native languages were forcibly removed as a matter of policy in this nation. While they are both things that I love, I cannot imagine a more drastic difference than the support given to furthering Shakespeare versus the lack of support given to the Native languages of this place. We should have the opportunity to learn from many languages and honor the stories of the lands in which we live.

Do discussions of colonialism inevitably result in people being defensive?

It depends on peoples’ understanding of colonialism. It’s a system, not an event or time period. In the play, I try to address the ways in which colonialism is an ongoing set of behaviors, a way of setting up borders that weren’t there before, the us versus them. When people get defensive, it is because they feel they’re being told they are responsible for what their ancestors did, or because they aren’t willing to question valuing certain things above all else.

What’s one thing you want to do before summer ends?

Finish my home renovation project, then relax and enjoy what’s left of summer.

Robert Kelso, Beacon

I want to go up to 21 Burgers & Wings [in Wappingers Falls] before heading to college.

Olivia O’Connor, Cold Spring

One last big trip with my family, to a not-to-be-named lake in Fahnestock.

Seth Kelly, Cold Spring
Putnam Legislators Curious About Job Changes

Criticize county executive for lack of transparency

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Prompted by Legislator Nancy Montgomery, Putnam lawmakers last week criticized County Executive MaryEllen Odell for not informing them when top employees leave or move to other posts, or when remaining staff members assume multiple roles to fill vacancies.

The dissatisfaction emerged during the Aug. 9 Personnel Committee session in Carmel, where Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, called for an explanation of staff changes.

“I don’t know what’s going on, and it makes me suspicious,” said Montgomery. “I wish we did get the courtesy of knowing, at the very least, when a department head or someone with a major role with the county either switches positions or leaves,” he said.

Another committee member, Legislator Carl Albano of Carmel, who is not on the committee, suggested that legislators who have concerns consider revising the charter. Nonetheless, he said that “when a major change is made, we should be notified. It’s no big deal.”

The situation indicates that “we don’t have expertise; we don’t have leadership” in various offices, Montgomery said. “We’re just bombarding other employees and piling on work.” She questioned whether some employees got multiple titles — and salaries — to boost their pay levels before Odell leaves office Dec. 31. (She cannot run again because of term limits.)

Montgomery had pushed the county to join the state Climate Smart program, which it did in 2019. “Climate Smart was our [legislators’] initiative. We weren’t even given the courtesy of being informed when we lost our coordinator and a new one had been appointed,” she said.

As to the identity of the present senior environmental planner, Montgomery said: “We don’t know because we haven’t been informed.”
Democratic primary

Democrats vote at much lower rates than Republicans, and that is the only reason Democrats lose to Republicans in general elections. This is why I am thrilled to see so much energy and excitement around Alessandra Biaggi’s campaign to unseat Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney in the Aug. 23 Democratic primary for District 17 (“Maloney Faces Primary Challenge,” Aug. 12).

I am especially pleased to see how many young volunteers have been knocking on doors and phone-banking for Biaggi. It is this enthusiasm that carried Biaggi to two terms in the state Senate after unseating a moderate Democratic incumbent who outflanked her 10 to 1.

Biaggi’s proven commitment to abortion rights, environmental protections, working-family-centered tax policies and more are what garnered her endorsements from numerous abortion rights organizations and the Working Families Party.

Should Biaggi win in the primary, I believe she will get Democratic voters to the polls as she did in her state Senate races. And that is how we Democrats win elections.

Diana Hird, Philipstown

Thank you to The Current for publishing the text of the League of Women Voters’ forum with Maloney and Biaggi. I am a Biaggi supporter and I would like to briefly address the “elephant in the room” — namely, her June 2020 tweet in support of “defunding the police.”

I believe it is disingenuous of Maloney, and especially a political action committee that supports him, to attempt to use that tweet to suggest that if Biaggi were in Congress she would vote to zero-out police budgets. I recommend that voters read her detailed interview with The New York Times editorial board in which she confronts the issue head on. Suffice it to say, she is not for zero police budgets.

What she is for is holding police departments accountable for the misbehavior of some of their members. Does Maloney believe there are no problems in police departments? Does he not worry that bad apples are too often protected — thus threatening to destroy the entire barrel because of the bad wall of silence?

Finally, I want to make a more important point about the primary election. The support of whoever loses this primary must come together with supporters of the winner to unite against whoever the Republicans nominate. The Republican candidate who wins the primary may be nice and decent as an individual — I don’t know any of them personally. However, a Republican majority in either house of Congress will spend almost all of its time interfering with the prosecution of those who created the Jan. 6 insurrection. Failure to hold those leaders (including former President Trump) accountable will pave the way for a Trump (or Trumpist) victory in 2024.

With Trump (or a Trumpist like Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis) in the White House, the American democratic experiment will be over and we will end up with a fascist-style government. This is not hyperbole — it’s an obvious projection of the trends already visible in some states with respect to voting rights, women’s rights, you name it.

Michael Meepol, Cold Spring

Biaggi: Obsessed with “climate crises,” worries about it daily. Maloney: Founding father of the Green New Deal. What more do you need to know, folks?

Herbert Simon, Beacon

What I look for from our representatives is (1) Good versus evil/democracy versus autocracy; (2) focus on a better world, i.e., the climate crisis; (3) attention to drug abuse by big pharma, greedy doctors and pharmacists. There’s no doubt the drug manufacturers include lawsuits in their budgets — why are they not in jail?; and (4) quality education for all.

I’ve been receiving invites to free lunches from candidates. Do they really think they could buy my vote with a free picnic? Can they buy yours?

Fern Sartori, Wappingers Falls

Boat Club

Richard Dorritie’s letter to the editor in the Aug. 12 issue about the Cold Spring Boat Club caught my eye. He noted that the boat club has a “sweetheart deal” and that the Village Board “seemed pensive about securing residents’ rights guaranteed in the lease.”

That made me curious, so I read the lease myself. It’s for 20 years, $1,000/month for the first three years and the club pays the property tax. The market rate for the property is three to four times higher than the lease rate. The property is taxed at less than a quarter of market value. In total, the village “gifted” the Boat Club $1.5 million to $2 million over the course of its lease.

Additionally, the lease clearly states that the club “shall provide access to launch into the Hudson River for the residents of Cold Spring” and “shall post a clear, prominent and permanent sign” with “hours of operation, rules and regulations regarding access … for both residents and non-residents.”

The lease was effective Nov. 8; and as of Aug. 14, there is no such sign.

I agree with Mr. Dorritie: The club has
(Continued from Page 4)
a sweetheart deal, and village taxpayers are picking up a multi-million-dollar tab. Is there any reason we should not expect to see the signs posted in a week or two?
Bill Pugh, Cold Spring

Rock Street wall
The other day, as I drove toward the intersection of Rock Street and Kemble Avenue, I saw a man was walking on Rock Street. There is no sidewalk there; cars park on the north side of the street and recently a stone wall was built abutting the south side of the street. There is nowhere to walk but in the street; this dangerous situation has been made worse with the new wall.
Fortunately, I am aware of the potential danger of smashing a person between the parked cars on the left or the stone wall on the right, so I waited for the man to walk. He was appreciative!
My concern is that someone not familiar with this dangerous intersection will have a terrible accident. Many people walk along Rock Street — children going to the school, visitors to the Foundry Park, residents of Constitution Drive, the Boulevard and Forge Gate; and all of us who live on Rock Street and Kemble Avenue.
Please remove this dangerous stone wall before someone is squished or someone is walking their dog and the dog is squished.
Jane Silver Timm, Cold Spring

Pride flag
Rather than deal with the serious issues facing Cold Spring, over the last two months Mayor Kathleen Foley mounted a fear-mongering campaign to convince the public that if a LGBTQ pride flag is allowed to fly again on village property, we would be sued by right-wing groups and plunged into a “culture war” (“Policy Limits Official Flag Displays,” Aug. 12).
Rather than spend time reaching out to more experienced officials to learn how other towns have flown the Pride flags without facing all the terrible outcomes she suggests are inevitable, Foley chose to double down on her baseless claims. She zealously pushed on, creating the very “culture war” she said she wanted to avoid. As a result, Foley has put Cold Spring on the list of towns that officially will not fly the LGBTQ pride flags.
This distinction matters because if Foley really wanted to ban the latter but allow the former to fly, she could have revised the flag policy to specifically prohibit the village from flying flags that represent membership organizations. But that wasn’t the point. The point was to scare the liberal politicians who constitute her electoral base into supporting her flag ban by suggesting that a request by the NRA was inevitable and would result in either the village having to fly their flag or risk being sued.
The only option, she argued, was to ban the flying on village property of all flags except the U.S., New York and POW flags. Of course, as I explained above, that was not the only option. When it came to Foley justifying her flag ban, facts and reason didn’t matter, only inflammatory rhetoric did.
At last week’s meeting, Trustees Fadde, Bozzi and Starbuck — despite seeming personally uncomfortable — sadly failed to muster up the courage to stand up to Foley. Instead, they went along with her campaign to change the village’s flag policy in such a way that Cold Spring won’t be able to fly LGBTQ pride flags in the future. (Deputy Mayor Woods was not present.)
When pressed about the anti-LGBTQ message sent by not flying Pride flags in the future, they all said, as your article suggests, that they wanted to do something to prove they were not anti-LGBTQ. However, the meeting video shows that when the public suggested concrete ideas — passing a local anti-discrimination ordinance, establishing a local human rights commission and creating Rainbow crosswalks — board members either dismissed them outright or explained away with vague reasoning.
Cold Spring deserves better than what Foley, Fadde, Bozzi and Starbuck did Aug. 10. Let’s hope that in the future we can elect public officials who will not resort to using baseless allegations to inflame public fears and divide our village along cultural lines as strategies to draw attention away from their failure to improve their constituents’ quality of life.
Gaston Alonso, Cold Spring

PUTNAM COUNTY

DUTCHESS COUNTY

This policy is a punishment in search of a crime. Shabbily written and hastily passed, the resolution is an act of fear for what may be, in ignorance of actual reality.
The trustees received no complaints about the Pride flag, only praise; and conversely, they heard no public support for this resolution, only valid concerns for its consequences. If they can light up the courthouse in Carmel or the White House in rainbow colors every year, why is Village Hall running scared?
In turning their backs on our LGBTQ neighbors, the trustees have carelessly banned everything from our Arbor Day flags to the ceremonial banners hung at our firehouse to honor lost members, while creating a clear and unfortunate precedent for bad-faith challenges to other expressions of our community’s identity, such as the menorah, the holiday wreaths and the Christmas tree at our bandstand.
They have telegraphed quite explicitly to every crackpot in the area with an ax to grind that with even the slightest whiff of controversy, our trustees will give up and fold, rather than fight for Cold Spring’s values.
Sean Conway, Cold Spring

Newburgh trees
As I scan our “local” daily (nowadays not-so-local) paper, it is becoming more and more rare to find a story about the Hudson Valley’s largest, most diverse and most vibrant city: Newburgh. I was delighted to see in The Current your terrific column by Brian PJ Cronin about Newburgh’s ongoing efforts to re-green the city, and about how trees are helping us physically, socially, financially and psychologically (“Out There: Seeing the City for the Trees,” Aug. 12). A big thank you to Mr. Cronin, and to The Current.
Genie Abrams, Newburgh

Same as it ever was
Your Looking Back columns should be must-reading for those who bemoan how “everything has changed.”
Sara Dulaney, Cold Spring

PUTNAM COUNTY

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Source: State and county health departments, as of Aug. 17, with totals since pandemic began and change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose.

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Alexander Technique with Miles Bukiet

Work with alignment, breathing, and movement to establish improved physical, emotional, and mental functioning for health, peak performance, and peace of mind.

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Republican Primary

(From Page 1)

Abortion / Supreme Court

LAWLER: The decision by the Supreme Court basically overturned Roe vs. Wade and made it a states’ rights issue. Each state now will determine abortion policy with respect to its own citizens. Obviously, the position of Sean Patrick Maloney, as well as Alessandra Biaggi, is one that is very extreme. They believe in abortion up to the day of birth. They believe non-doctors should be allowed to perform abortions. Most residents across the country want a reasonable discussion on this topic. And that’s something that I think is going to be decided state-to-state across the country, based on the Supreme Court decision.

FAULKNER: I would leave it to the states. The overturning of Roe vs. Wade does not change anything at all in the state of New York. It remains legal. It’s too liberal in New York and I believe that abortion up to and including the day before birth is too extreme. That is really where the discussion should be, as opposed to: “Should it be a national issue?” This is something that should be left to the states.

SCHREPEL: The court’s decision certainly took it out of the federal equation, turned it over to the states, as was just stated. There are extreme conditions in considering, you know, what is right and what isn’t. If the mother’s life is in jeopardy, that would be something to take under serious review — and an option. But at this point, it’s up to the individual states. And that’s where I’m at with it.

FALCIGLIA: I don’t really believe that states should be deciding this. It is the United States’ issue. So to say we should have states’ rights with this, when you’re talking about reproducing the human race, is wrongheaded. We only hear the far end of this issue: That at conception, that’s it; you're wrongheaded. We only hear the far end of what is right and what isn’t. If the mother’s life is in jeopardy, that would be something to take under serious review — and an option. But at this point, it’s up to the individual states. And that’s where I’m at with it.

District 18 (Beacon)

Because they did not meet for a forum, we asked the three Democratic candidates in the redrawn House District 18, which will include Beacon — Aisha Mills, Moses Mugulushi and Pat Ryan — to respond to questions by email. Those we received are posted at highlandscurrent.org. The Republican candidate will be Colin Schmitt, who represents parts of Orange and Rockland counties in the state Assembly.

State Races

There is no primary on Aug. 23 for the state Senate seat that will represent Beacon and Philipstown. The Democratic and Working Families candidate will be Julie Shirioshi, a Beacon resident who is Jacobson’s chief of staff, and the Republican candidate will be Rob Rolison, the mayor of Poughkeepsie.

The primary for the state Assembly was held in June. Dana Levenberg won the Democratic line for the district that includes Philipstown and is represented by Sandy Galef, who will retire. The Republican candidate is Stacy Haifler. Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, will run unopposed.

How to register

The deadline to register to vote in the Aug. 23 primary has passed. If you are not sure of your status, visit voterlookup.elections.ny.gov.

Early voting

The polls are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily from through Sunday (Aug. 21). Philipstown voters can vote at the North Highlands Firehouse, 504 Fshkili Road, and Beacon voters at Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52.
Yorkers rely on natural gas. We need to be realistic about where the technology is today, with respect to renewables, and the need for dispatchable energy. Natural gas has reduced carbon emissions by more than 30 percent, greater than oil and coal. So, as we are transitioning toward that renewable future, we need to be realistic about what we need to get there. Natural gas really is that bridge to help us get there. With Indian Point shutting down, with Danskammer being blocked, one of my big concerns for the region, and for our energy grid, is whether we’re going to be able to produce enough electricity to help keep us powered in the way that we need to. And especially when you’re talking about things like trying to attract manufacturing, you need cheap, reliable energy.

**DAVID:** While climate change is real, it is not an excuse to impose increased regulations and a socialist model. We must invest in forward-looking technologies rather than rework existing technologies. Aspirational legislation is the answer, not restrictive and regulatory.

**Gun violence**

**FALCIGLIA:** It’s not just gun violence. It’s violence in general in this country. It goes back to the fact that the word illegal has become cheap; there’s no penalty anymore. Only 2 percent of gun violence — which is still 2 percent more than we should have — comes from these mass shootings and so on; 98 percent is just typical street violence from handguns. We need to put another 100,000 law enforcement people on the streets and in office: 50,000 cops on the street patrolling and 50,000 prosecutors, FBI agents and U.S. marshals and so on, doing the back-work. That’s where I would fund.

**LAWLER:** Our citizens have the right to exercise their Second Amendment. We need to make sure that our laws treat people fairly, and certainly, as long as they are eligible, that they’re able to exercise their Second Amendment rights. But what we’re dealing with right now is a scourge of violence where guns are being used in the commission of a crime — and, in the cases of Buffalo and Uvalde, involve mass shootings and deranged young men using a gun to kill many, many innocent lives. That cannot be tolerated. But we need to address a number of issues. No. 1: Bail where repeat violent offenders are being released. No. 2: Raising the age where 18- and 17-year-olds who are using guns in the commission of crime are being treated in family court rather than criminal court. We need to address mental health within our states, in our country. I support red-flag laws [to keep guns from mentally unstable persons] as long as there is due process. We need to have universal background checks. I’m open to training, especially. States like Texas have training for pistol permits. And school safety: We need to harden our schools.

**FAULKNER:** I swore an oath three times to protect and defend the United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, including the Second Amendment. I think this issue is very much warped from what it should be. It’s not an issue of guns. It’s certainly not an issue of legal guns. And I think the statistics that Mr. Falciglia noted are even higher: 99 percent of legal gun owners will never use their gun in any sort of crime. It’s the 1 percent, which is bad. But 99 percent of crimes that include a gun are by illegal gun owners or not gun owners at all. Those are the people who should be gone after. I’ll do my job at the federal level. Get rid of illegal guns.

**SCHREPEL:** With regard to rights and owning a handgun and supporting the Second Amendment — I’m all for that. It’s, to Mr. Faulkner’s point, that 1 percent where the issue may lie with legal gun owners. The majority falls with illegal use of handguns. And the law should be strengthened to just really enforce that it’s a felony: You’re walking around with a loaded weapon without a permit, without it properly registered, you’re going to jail, and there’s not going to be any release. There has to be a stronger deterrent. The problem lies in gun violence with those who get a hold of a weapon illegally and use it. And the law is not enforcing that it’s a felony.

**DAVID:** The Bill of Rights affords every citizen the right to own a weapon. That right must be safeguarded with background checks and a limitation on some weapons of war. Not everyone can have police at their defense so quickly. Citizens deserve the right to protect themselves and their families. We must use technology allowing for 99 percent of all background checks to be completed within three hours.

**Health care**

**LAWLER:** We need to continue to look at ways to reduce the cost of providing health care, ways to reduce the cost of purchasing health care. We need to look at ways to ensure that there is competition within the marketplace. Obviously, in New York State, we invest heavily in providing health care assistance to those who can’t afford it, to children, to making sure that people have had access to it. That’s something that I want to continue to certainly focus on from a federal level. But a lot of these decisions are made at a state level with respect to policy and plans. And so we need to look at ways to help reduce those costs at a state level, to make sure that people have access to it.

**FAULKNER:** In terms of terms of coverage for health care, we obviously have Medicare and Medicaid for everybody, one or the other for everybody. And we also have emergency room access to anybody in the country, whether they’re here illegally or not. So they do get the emergency care they need — anybody, anytime. I do believe in the principle of those who can afford it should be able to afford it, rather than leaving it to government agencies; there’s a sense of personal responsibility. If you’re 26 years old or more, you’re no longer able to be on your parents’ policy; you have to be on your own. That’s a good thing, again, in terms of personal responsibility. What I would like to see more attention put on is mental health. We know we have people who genuinely need help, and who genuinely are not getting it, and they are causing harm for themselves and others. There’s got to be a better way to pull them into a system where they can get the treatment they need.

**SCHREPEL:** I’m very supportive of expanding and making it more competitive, more choices for individuals to make. Many people who are employed have health care through their companies, and they make the contribution. Children being covered up to age 26 — I continue to support that. Medicare and Medicaid is provided along with emergency access, which is all good. But to make it more accessible, alternatives have to be developed within the health care industry through an expansion of benefits they can offer. That’s essential to reaching out to those that may not be aware of it, don’t have the means to afford it. Also, I was looking at first-responders. So many of them deal with emotional and mental issues while on the job or after completing an assignment. That mental health care has to be expanded so that they’re mentally and emotionally fit, as well as physically. We need we need to look at how we can enlarge on those benefits for them.

**FALCIGLIA:** I don’t know if there’s any correct answer on how to cover everybody. One of the biggest expenses of health care is health care insurance companies, because before they issue a check, they pay their employees, the heat, the lights, etc. I’ve toyed with the concept over the years of creating hospital zones. I’m in the public school district, but I should be in the hospital-zone district, where part of my pay and my employer’s contribution goes right to the hospital. They would have to manage that, of course; government would have to subsidize those hospitals, for example, that fall short. I think it was Mr. Faulkner’s point: Anyone who needs care in some kind of emergency is going to be able to go to an emergency room. We’re not like some countries where we turn you away. But it all goes back to where we subsidize this from.

**DAVID:** All Americans should have choice in health care. At the same time health care is a human right, and the government must ensure that all American can access health care. Medicare-for-all is unrealistic and un-American. We must incentivize healthy living because healthy citizens give more and take less from the government.

**Calling All Singers**

The Putnam Chorale is searching for singers to round out its 35-person chorus. The Chorale draws performers from Putnam, Westchester, Dutchess counties in NY and Fairfield County in CT. The fall program will present an All-JS Bach concert in early December, consisting of well-known cantatas written by the renowned composer. There is a special need for singers for the tenor and bass sections, but all singers are welcome. While there is no audition requirement, it is expected that the participants have some music background, or prior experience in singing in a choral/choir group. The Chorale will begin rehearsals on Monday, August 29 at the Carmel High School Music Building (adjointing the main school building). The first rehearsal will start at 6:30 pm, to allow for registration and music distribution. Subsequent rehearsals will begin on Monday, September 12, 2022, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Questions are welcome, and can be directed to: contactus@putnamchorale.org.

If you are interested, you may also call 845.279.5099 for more information.
Marijuana (from Page 1)
in New York’s first marijuana retail stores, a milestone for a fledgling industry born on March 31, 2021, when then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the Marihuana Regulation & Taxation Act.
His signature made it legal for adults 21 and older to possess up to 3 ounces of marihuana for recreational use and keep up to 5 pounds in their residences. It also established a system of farms, processors and retail shops to supply smokers as well as consumers of oils, tinctures, edibles and other products made with marijuana.
The legislation included an estimate that sales tax on marijuana — set at 13 percent, with 9 percent going to the state and the remainder to localities that allow retail shops, including Cold Spring and Beacon — would raise as much as $436 million annually for schools, community grants and a drug treatment and public education fund in the state and $336 million for New York City. (Beacon will allow smoking lounges, although Cold Spring will not. Nelsonville and Philipsburg will not allow either.)
Small farmers like Hudson River Hemp also hope the crop will preserve their livelihoods. While the farm grows hemp and also sells its own brand of CBD-infused products, including gummies, oils and dog treats, hemp prices have plummeted, said McGrath, who is the managing member.
“Our core values stem from wanting to preserve our farmland,” he said of growing marijuana. “Outside of that, we just saw a tremendous opportunity in the market.”
Hudson River Hemp felt like it was “part of history,” said Keenan, when in April it became one of the first 52 hemp farms awarded a license to grow recreational marijuana by the Cannabis Control Board, a five-member oversight body for the newly created state Office of Cannabis Management.
The control board will also approve licenses for retailers, smoking lounges and the processing operations that extract THC for products.
Whereas hemp by law can contain no more than 0.3 percent of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive ingredient in marihuana that produces a “high,” the marijuana grown at Mystic Meadows will range from 15 to 25 percent, said McGrath. Even bigger than the differing THC amounts, Keenan and McGrath said, are the more-stringent rules governing marijuana and the expectations of consumers, farmers, retailers and the state.
“The regulations have changed, it’s a more-sought-after product, there’s a lot more at stake and at the same time there’s not even purchasers approved to buy it yet,” said McGrath. “So we kind of started on a hope and a prayer.”
Each cultivation license allows farmers to grow marijuana on up to 1 acre or 25,000 square feet of greenhouse space. Another option allows growing both indoors (up to 30,000 square feet) and outdoors (20,000).
Keenan and McGrath explained as they stood in a field striped with rows of waist-high plants. Relying on the advice of two genetics companies, they decided to grow strains that are mostly indica-based instead of sativa, the other dominant group of cannabis plants.
The first plants harvested are known as “autoflowers” because they were grown from five strains bred to flower, or bud, in 70 to 90 days, independent of the amount of light they receive, said McGrath. The farmers chose another 10 varieties for their long-term harvest. These plants, which require 13 or more hours of light daily, grow larger and have more THC, should be ready by mid-September to mid-October.
“It’s a test year,” said Keenan. “We’re going to see what the market wants, what does well. Next year, we’ll narrow it down.”
Harvested plants are dried at between 60 degrees and in 60-percent humidity for about two weeks. Then, the flowers are separated from the plant and cured, a process that involves placing them in airtight containers and occasionally allowing air in.
“The length of the cure depends on the final use, but actually allows a bit of moisture back into the flower and finishes it off,” said McGrath.
On Monday (Aug. 15), the Cannabis Control Board approved licenses for 15 hemp processors that will also begin selling the legal marijuana market. The board also approved licenses for another 19 hemp farms, bringing the total to 242, including 15 in Dutchess County and 22 in Orange.
Chris Alexander, the executive director of the Office of Cannabis Management, said on Monday that OCM officials have been touring some of the farms now growing marijuana. “We have seen some outstanding product that’s about to come online,” he said.
The next step, giving the farmers and processors a place to sell their products, begins Thursday (Aug. 25), when firms that hope to operate dispensaries can begin submitting applications. The deadline is Sept. 26.
Just as the state began with hemp farmers for cultivation licenses, it is prioritizing people with marijuana convictions for retail licenses. The idea is to have legalization benefit communities, primarily Black and Latino, that justice advocates say were targeted for arrests.
Under regulations approved in July, the first conditional licenses to sell marijuana will go to residents who had a marijuana-related conviction before March 31, 2021 (or a parent, guardian, child, spouse or dependent of someone with a pot conviction before that date) and experience owning and operating a business. Certain nonprofits that serve former prisoners can also apply.
The state’s 2022-23 budget includes $200 million to help dispensary owners with startup costs.
“This is a monumental step in establishing the most equitable, diverse and accessible cannabis industry in the nation,” said Alexander.
Cold Spring: Can We Influence Fjord Trail?

Lingering concern over impact on village

By Michael Turton

With initial construction on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail drawing near, the Cold Spring Planning Board met with project officials via Zoom on Aug. 11 to discuss how the village can influence planning.

Cold Spring will be the southern gateway to the 7.5-mile path, which will follow the Hudson River shoreline north to Beacon.

Trail development at Breakneck Ridge is slated to begin late this year. The second phase of construction, from Dockside Park to Little Stony Point and north along the shoreline, is scheduled for 2024, followed by the Breakneck-to-Beacon section.

In May, Planning Board Chair Jack Goldstein expressed concern that “over-tourism intentionally generated” by the Fjord Trail will have a negative effect on Cold Spring, which already experiences summer and fall crowding, parking and traffic issues.

“there needs to be some way for the village to express itself in the moderation of this project,” Goldstein said, citing, as an example, plans for a swimming area at Little Stony Point.

While the designs are beautiful, he said, the plans are "presented in the context of usage by the community, but not all the people this project is going to bring here.”

Amy Kacala, the executive director of Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (HHFT), said residents have provided input and want the trail to enhance the community’s quality of life by including amenities such as the swimming area and outdoor spaces for use by schools — facilities she said will help compensate for the disturbance caused by increased tourism.

The project's roots, Kacala said, were in managing visitation that has increased in recent years even without the trail, along with the need for improved infrastructure.

"The question is, do we do nothing, and just suffer?" she asked. "Or do we try to come up with ways to channel visitation and try to manage it?"

MJ Martin, the trail's director of development and community engagement, underlined that she and others working on the project live locally and want the trail to be a community resource.

"I want it to work for the community," she said. She added that the proposed trail goes through state park land that is "for New York state residents, all of them. Everyone has a right to use these parks."

Goldstein agreed, but not, he said, to the extent that the park becomes unusable.

"Simply saying that the problem is getting worse and so, let's make it even worse, doesn't make sense to me," he said.

He asked to what extent local input can influence the trail's master plan and questioned who, including the state parks department, has the authority to make final decisions.

As an example, he asked, if the public spoke against building the trail out into the Hudson River to link Dockside with Little Stony Point, "can state parks compel HHFT to redesign the project?"

"Can state parks compel HHFT to redesign the project?"

~ Planning Board Chair
Jack Goldstein

Kacala said state parks is conducting the environmental review and is also the lead agency on the project. She said changes to the master plan would involve dialogue between HHFT and state parks, "but it is state parks' process, and they’re the lead agency."

The village maintains Dockside Park though an agreement with state parks, which owns the property. The agreement can be canceled at any time by either party.

Foley said while Main Street is important, "we can't be looked at as a ‘market.’ We have to be looked at as a community that needs to maintain its residential quality of life."

She asked that HHFT study vehicular and pedestrian traffic flows, which she said have shifted significantly since the pandemic.

Kacala said the vehicular study was done and is being updated and that HHFT intends to undertake a pedestrian study.

Planning Board Member Yaslyn Daniels suggested HHFT provide an “overlay” of the master plan, detailing the process and how and when the village can comment.

On Tuesday (Aug. 16), Kacala said Daniels’ idea was a “big takeaway” from the meeting and that HHFT will develop a concise summary of “all planning processes started or planned so that it is clear what is being studied, when, and who will be involved.”

Goldstein said on Tuesday that while the overlay summary will be helpful, "in the broad sense, we are still operating in a world of pretty pictures and vague projections."
Cold Spring Declares Water Emergency
Village orders restrictions on use

The Village of Cold Spring on Aug. 12 issued a state of emergency for public water usage because of a prolonged drought that has required the use of its reserve supply. It will remain in effect until ended by the mayor or Village Board. Violators may be ticketed and fined, the village said.

According to an order issued by Mayor Kathleen Foley:

- Residents are asked to use the minimal amount of water needed for domestic and sanitary purposes. Keep showers brief; turn off faucets while washing dishes and brushing teeth, etc.; skip toilet flushes when reasonable.
- Limit landscape watering to new or fragile plantings. If you must water, do so early in the morning or later in the evening when water is more likely to be absorbed before evaporating.
- Do not wash cars or buildings.
- Limit refills on pools and/or hot tubs. Do not use sprinklers or hoses for water play.
- Business and industries may use the minimum amount of water reasonably necessary to conduct operations.

At the same time, the state Department of Environmental Conservation updated its drought watch to include most New York counties, including Putnam and Dutchess. A watch is the first of four levels of drought advisories and does not require mandatory restrictions.

Beacon Gets Sidewalk Grant
Will fund South Avenue repairs

Dutchess County on Aug. 12 announced $1.85 million in grants for 18 projects. The City of Beacon will receive $177,588 to replace the sidewalk on the east side of South Avenue from West Center Street to Wolcott Avenue with one that will be 5 feet wide.

Law Allows Lower Speed Limits
Officials can drop to 25 mph

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Aug. 12 enacted a law that allows cities, villages and towns in New York to lower speed limits to 25 miles per hour. The previous law set the minimum at 30 mph. The measure passed in the state Senate, 59-4, with Sue Serino (whose district includes the Highlands) voting yes, and in the Assembly, 149-0, with support from Sandy Galef (Philipsburg) and Jonathan Jacobson (Beacon).

Former Chair Files Ethics Complaint
Alleges Maloney misused staff

The former chair of the Dutchess County Democratic Committee filed a complaint with the Office of Congressional Ethics on Aug. 3 against Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney following a story in the New York Post that alleged possible violations.

Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands, is in a primary race for the Democratic line on the November ballot.

The allegation raised by the Post and a complaint filed by Elisa Sumner is that Maloney used campaign and House funds to pay a staff member to perform personal services for him and his family.

Maloney's representatives denied that the staff member did any personal work, describing his duties as “transportation and logistical support as the congressman’s driver and ‘body’ person,” or assistant.

Mia Ehrenberg, a representative for his campaign, told City & State that Sumner, who supports Maloney’s opponent, “has a longstanding personal vendetta against Congressman Maloney and does not even live in our district, or New York state for that matter … There is absolutely no basis to these slanderous accusations.”

If the Office of Congressional Ethics investigates, its findings would only become public if it reaches the final stages and after it concludes. It would take several votes by its members to reach that point.

Man Charged in Beacon Gun Incident
Allegedly displayed weapon to officer

An Ulster County man was arrested in Beacon on Wednesday (Aug. 17) after he allegedly drew a handgun on family members and a police officer.

The Beacon Police Department said an officer who responded at about 1:50 p.m. to a 911 call for a domestic disturbance on Fishkill Avenue encountered Aaron Thomp- son, 26, of Ellenville, yelling in the roadway. When the officer approached, Thompson displayed a loaded, unregistered 9mm handgun, police said. The officer drew his own weapon and took cover, telling Thompson to drop the weapon. He did so and was arrested. Thompson allegedly had pointed the gun at family members. He was charged with felony criminal possession of a weapon, menacing and endangering the welfare of a child, and is being held at the Dutchess County Jail.

Kick off Community Day
by joining friends and neighbors
at Cold Spring’s RiverFront Bandstand
on Saturday, September 3
at 9:30 am!

All proceeds support local mental health and addiction resources

Register today: https://www.philipstownhub.org/race
CONTEST

Thank you for your help in creating Cold Spring's Community Day event!

Find out at the Community Day Block Party 2022
Saturday, September 3
Bring your pies at 3pm
Block Party 4-8pm (Rain date: September 4)

DJ
Food
Face Painting
Street Games & More!

Followed by FIREWORKS!

Who is Cold Spring's best amateur baker?
Find out at the Community Day Block Party 2022

PIE Baking CONTEST

Saturday, September 3
Bring your pies at 3pm
Block Party 4-8pm

Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley
GARDEN PARTY 2022
Honoring Tay Fisher | Fred & Anne Osborn | Joan Sherman
Event Chair: Melanie Matero

For Tickets & Underwriting Opportunities, please visit https://communityfoundationshv.org/Garden-Party

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Go to coldspringny.gov for details, rules and entry form. Good Luck!

DJ
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AROUND TOWN

▲ HOOPS CHAMPS — A team of high school players from the Hudson Valley, including Haldane senior Matteo Cervone (right), went 6-0 on Aug. 5-7 to win the nine-team Basketball Coaches Association of New York annual summer tournament. Cervone was the only Putnam County player on the team, which otherwise consisted of competitors from Westchester. Photo provided

▲ ELECTRIC FORCE — The Beacon Police Department recently put into service the city's first all-electric vehicle, a Ford Mach-E used by detectives. The agency also has two hybrid patrol vehicles and a plug-in hybrid for detectives. The latest purchase was funded by a state clean-energy grant. Photo provided

▲ BOOK SALE RETURNS — The Friends of the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison will host its annual used book sale this month for the first time since the pandemic shutdown. Members will get a sneak preview tonight (Aug. 19); the public sale opens Saturday and continues through Aug. 29. The pandemic had no effect on donations, said volunteer Aurora McKee, shown here, with about 25,000 books to be sorted, or about twice the usual. The sale raises as much as $25,000 to support library programs. Photo by Michael Turton

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NEW MURAL — In 2019, the Wee Play Community Project in Beacon commissioned Joe Pimentel to outline animal designs on a building at Memorial Park, which were then painted by community members. Last month Wee Play again hired Pimentel, this time to brighten up a building at Green Street Park.

Photos provided

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

UNIVERSAL PRE-K PROGRAM 2022–2023

Haldane Central School District is accepting proposals from qualified agencies to administer a Universal Pre–K Program for the 2022–2023 school year.

PROPOSALS DUE:
AUGUST 30, 2022

DETAILS AT HALDANESCHOOL.ORG

DRUG WORLD PHARMACY

BACK TO SCHOOL

PRE–ORDERS

FOR EVERY PRE-PACKED SCHOOL SUPPLY ORDER RECEIVED, DRUG WORLD MAKES A DONATION TO THE CLASSROOM.

LET US DO THE WORK. SKIP THE LINES AND GET BACK TO SUMMER!!

www.drugworld.com
Earlier this year, the Holland Tunnel Gallery celebrated its 25th anniversary, with most of those years spent in Brooklyn but the last four in Newburgh. Its 2022 exhibits continue with the Saturday (Aug. 20) opening of Othersness, curated by longtime Hudson Valley gallery owner and artist Carl Van Brunt, which weaves his work with that of Joseph Ayers and Chantelle Norton. The three share interests in time, history, myth and phenomenology.

Paulien Lethen, a Dutch artist who founded Holland Tunnel, and Judy Thomas, the associate director, are always looking for established artists whose work is new to the gallery, which is what brought them to Van Brunt. He, in turn, reached out to Ayers and Norton.

For his own work, Van Brunt uses drawings and sketches, as well as fractal and 3D renders, and transforms them with artificial intelligence technology into seemingly infinite permutations. He says he approached Norton and Ayers to participate because he admires their “skill, seriousness and courage. Courage in art involves making work that others may not like or understand at first, or ever, but which is the inevitable outcome of being true to oneself. The inability to accept otherness is pandemic in our society, a malady in many ways worse than COVID.”

For Othersness, Ayers created drawings, paintings, sculptures, and “video sculptures.” “As a multimedia artist I think a lot about appearances and perceptions, and how relationships between these two things influence and, to some degree, have author-

ty over, everything we experience,” he says. Norton interprets the myth of Medusa through ceramic plates and wallpaper designed with drawings. “My idea to incorporate ceramic plates came from thinking about stoneware and Medusa’s power turning men to stone, and Athena’s circular shield with an image of Medusa’s head,” Norton says. Her wallpaper patterns retell this ancient myth.

Says Thomas: “We haven’t shown anything like [these works] in the gallery. We’re very excited to have them.”

Lethen founded Holland Tunnel in 1997 by co-opting a garden shed in her backyard in Williamsburg. It could hold six people at a time and became a cultural hub for the neighborhood.

“It was very much of the ’90s,” says Thomas. “There wasn’t much internet, and it was very much artists, many who moved from the Lower East Side to Brooklyn, creating their own venues for exhibiting the work, with big signboards to publicize it. The idea of a ‘gallery’ was no longer the mainstream for showing your work — and this is how Paulien conceived her space.”

In 2015 Lethen purchased a circa-1860 townhouse in Newburgh that had been used as a warehouse and carriage and sleigh hospital. She turned it into a gallery that opened to the public in 2018, and the next year, she closed the Brooklyn space.

“Paulien’s intention with the gallery, part of her mission, is to show mid- and late-career artists who have been underrepresented in the art world,” says Thomas. “There’s a focus on abstract art and also sculpture, because the space can accommodate it.”

The space is open to other uses, too. In 2020, Thomas organized a salon-style exhibition, with the walls covered floor-to-ceiling with works from 120 artists, “Artists next to unknowns,” she says. “It opened four weeks before the pandemic shutdown — the last big party for a long time.”

Lethen spends her summers in Greece, where, since 2000, she has organized exhibitions with art, jazz and poetry in Paros. Because of the pandemic, this is the first summer that her Newburgh gallery has been open; last month it participated in Upstate Art Weekend, which brought in many new faces. Thomas says Lethen “has stayed true to her original intentions as founder and director in that I would describe the gallery as an ‘artist-empowered’ exhibition space. The original Holland Tunnel Gallery artists would propose an exhibition and self-curate, self-promote, sitting in the gallery — all things which inevitably brought them closer to the audience.”

As they did in Brooklyn, the artists lend a hand. “I need help with things like writing press releases, connecting with fellow group show artists, all those things many artists assume will be done by the gallery,” Thomas says. “There are many absolutely capable artists out there, and I need that help from the artists in order to make it happen.”

The Holland Tunnel Gallery is located at 46 Chambers St., in Newburgh. The gallery will present Ben Neill on his “mutant trumpet” on Sept. 18 as part of Newburgh Open Studios. Othersness continues through Sept. 25. The gallery is open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, or by appointment; see hollandtunnelgallery.com or call 917-520-8971.
THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY
SAT 20
Annual Book &
Media Sale
GARRISON
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 40S | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Find gently used books and
media at this sale organized by Friends of the Library to support
library programs. Continues daily
through MON 29.

SAT 20
Garrison Craft
GARRISON
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing
Free admission.

SAT 20
Mid-Hudson Comic Con
POUGHKEEPSIE
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsconviccevent.org
The convention will include
collectibles, cosplay, panel
discussions and appearances by
celebrities, artists and wrestlers.
Also SUN 21. Cost: $23 ($15
students, seniors, military; free
dates 6 and younger)

SAT 20
Toy & Comic Book Show
BEACON
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. VFW Hall
41 Main St.
facebook.com/beacontoyandcomicshow
Browse comics and collectibles
from dozens of vendors. Cost: $2
(free dates 16 and younger)

TUES 23
Dutchess County Fair
RINEBECK
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds
6550 Spring Brook Ave.
dutchessfair.com
Enjoy carnival rides and games,
food, 4-H exhibits and animals, a
rodeo and live music during the 176th
annual event. Continues daily through
SUN 28. Cost: $18 ($12 seniors,
military; free dates 11 and younger)

THURS 25
Blood Drive
FISHKILL
1 – 6 p.m. Hyatt House
100 Westage Business Center Drive
redcrocrossblood.org
State Sen. Sue Serino has partnered with the American Red
Cross to organize this event to
address shortages.

STAGE & SCREEN
SAT 20
Where We Belong
GARRISON
7:30 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org
In this limited-engagement,
one-woman show, Madeline Sayet
will explore Shakespeare and
colonialism through self-discovery.
Continues through MON 22. See
Page 2. Cost: $20 to $95

SAT 20
The Talented Mr. Ripley
COLD SPRING
8:30 p.m.
Dockside Park
coldspringfilm.org
Based on Patricia Highsmith’s
novel, this 1999 thriller stars Jude
Law, Matt Damon and Gwyneth
Paltrow. Hosted by the Cold Spring
Film Society.

SAT 20
Optimize Your Phone
PHILIPSTOWN
10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Stonecrop 81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000
stonecrop.org
Don Dempsey will lead workshops
on how to take great flower photos
using a smartphone, including apps
for post-production. Cost: $30

TUES 23
Darei Lynne & Friends
RINEBECK
7:30 p.m. Fairgrounds
6550 Spring Brook Ave.
dutchessfair.com
The 17-year-old ventriloquist,
who won America’s Got Talent, will
perform as part of the Dutchess
County Fair. Cost: $37 ($42 door)

THURS 25
Bored Teachers Summer
Comedy Tour
PEEKSKILL
7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
Paramounthudsonvalley.com
Teacher-comedians from the
popular online series will perform.
Cost: $35 to $55

THURS 25
Romeo and Juliet
GARRISON
7:30 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org
Kurt Rhoads and Nance
Williamson star in this
interpretation of the fated lovers’
story directed by Gaye Taylor
Upchurch. Also SAT 27, MON 29.
Cost: $30 to $95

FRI 26
Mr. Burns, A Post-
Electric Play
GARRISON
7:30 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org
After the electrical grid fails, a
group of people come together to
share memories and stories that
have been lost on hard drives. Also
SUN 28. Cost: $30 to $95

MUSIC
SAT 20
Hudson Valley
Jazz Festival
KINGSTON
hudsonvalleyjazzfest.org
More than a dozen acts will perform,
including at venues in Warwick,
New Palz and Woodstock. See website
for schedule. Also SUN 21. Free

SAT 20
At the Point
WEST POINT
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point
westpointband.com
The West Point Band will perform a
range of classics, including
military marches and Broadway hits.

SAT 20
Rory Block &
Cindy Cashdollar
BEACON
8:30 p.m.
Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
Hollandtunnelgallery.com
Doreen Battles, winner of the
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center’s
one-woman show, Madeline Sayet
will explore Shakespeare and
colonialism through self-discovery.
Continues through MON 22. See
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SUN 21
The Pound Ridge
Massacre
PUTNAM VALLEY
11 a.m. Putnam Valley Library
810 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
poundridgehistory.org
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SUN 21

Tony DePaolo
BEACON
11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Boats leave dock
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org

The guitarist will perform while visitors take self-guided tours of Bannerman Island. Cost: $40 ($35 children)

SUN 21

Linda and Robin Williams
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The country music duo has reunited after 25 years as bandleaders. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

MON 22

Manix
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnsbeacon

Chris Bowman, John Bruschini, John Mulkerin and Steve Peskoff will perform as part of Quinn’s weekly jazz series. Cost: $15

FRI 26

Cherish the Ladies
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Elks Temple
H 503 Main St.

A string trio with flute and oboe will perform works by Cambini, Susmomay, Boccherini and Mozart.

SAT 27

Doansburg Chamber Ensemble
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
206 Main St.

doansburgchamberensemble.org

A string trio with flute and oboe will perform works by Cambini, Susmomay, Boccherini and Mozart.

CIVIC
SAT 20

Early Voting
PHILIPSTOWN
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road | putnamboe.com

Philipstown voters who are registered with the Democratic, Republican or Conservative parties can cast ballots in congressional primaries for District 17. Also SUN 21.

TUES 23

Democratic Primary
BEACON
6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Memorial Building
413 Main St. | elections.dutchessny.gov

Other polling sites for District 18 will be located at the Rombout and J.V. Forrestal schools and the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. See the website for where to vote for District 18.

TUES 23

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

The meeting will include a public hearing on the district safety plan.
Roots and Shoots

Last Plant Standing

By Pamela Doan

Last year I wrote about my painful experience with New York’s native cactus, a prickly pear (Opuntia humifusa). To recap: Wear gloves, use tongs and apply duct tape to remove the invisible needles that may get in your skin. As the drought deepens, I’ve been watching to see which plants are holding up better than others. The cactus is fine. Everything else, not so much.

I’ll confess here that the cactus is living under a bench in the box it came in from the online nursery. I never planted it because I couldn’t decide where it should go without being a hazard to a family member or pet. I also couldn’t compost it or bring myself to throw it away. It’s growing away, though — not thriving but surviving, even without soil, just cardboard and whatever rain makes it under the bench.

That’s your answer about a plant that can handle drought, heat, neglect and indecision. In the shifting weather of climate change in the Hudson Valley, my bets are on prickly pear cactus. Just handle it carefully. Gardeners, meanwhile, are depressed. It’s tough to see a landscape you care about and care for in distress, and to feel helpless to save it. With conservation measures in place for reservoir users, and well users feeling nervous or panicked, landscapes and wildlife are left to the elements.

I spoke with Francis Groeters, an insect ecologist and the founder of the Catskill Native Nursery, which opened in 1997 in Kerhonkson. The biggest fear for gardeners now is that their plants won’t make it through the season. It’s one thing to watch your landscape turn brown and wither, but will we all be replacing plants in the spring, too?

Groeters said no — or maybe. “Plants are going dormant right now, packing it in. Depending on what happens the rest of the fall, we don’t know. This is new ground. We don’t have experience with this climate and research hasn’t been done that I know of.”

While our part of the Hudson Valley is expected to get more rainfall in the long term because of climate change, it’s going to come in bigger events. That’s been the trend for decades. Longer periods of hot, dry weather will become more common, too. Even plants that are drought-tolerant are stressed. While converting to “xeriscaping” (requiring little or no irrigation) may not be necessary or desirable, it could help our landscapes and peace of mind to mix in plants that are better able to withstand a lack of rain.

Groeters mentioned butterflyweed, prairie grasses, Baptisia's, native alliums and pea family plants like wild senna as possibilities. My wild indigo (Asclepias tuberosa) does look normal, as does the butterflyweed (Asclepias tuberosa). Prairie grasses are deep-rooted and could include little blue stem, sideoats grama, prairie dropseed and big bluestem. They won’t have the 40-foot roots they are capable of in our rocky region but will still access deeper water resources than most plants.

There’s a cascading effect to our plants’ distress that I’ve noticed as the number of bees and butterflies I saw in mid-July has dropped significantly. When the plants are stressed by extreme heat and drought, they don’t bloom, or have smaller blooms. Berry and seed production is affected, too.

Insects, especially pollinators that depend on these plants for food and habitat, are suffering, as well. Moving up the food chain, the wildlife and birds that depend on the plants and insects are impacted. I’ve seen deer browsing on woodland plants that haven’t been touched in years past.

That’s why I’m using the last drops from my rain barrel and limited hose-watering to prioritize seedling trees, plants that provide food, and late-season pollinator plants like asters, Chelone and goldenrods. If you can water, use mulch to help retain the moisture in the soil. Building up organic matter is helpful, so consider adding shredded leaf mulch to beds in the fall. For next season, think about ways to build sustainability and resilience into the landscape.

Hopefully, the lessons we can take away from this season as gardeners will make our landscapes better for extremes. And in other mixed news, The New York Times recently reported that meteorologists still expect a severe hurricane season ahead. So rain may be coming, just not in exactly the ideal way.

NOTICE OF SCHOOL TAX

The Warrant for the Collection of Taxes for the City School District of the City of Beacon, New York, for the School Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 has been delivered to me.

Check or money order must be for the full amount of the tax bill payable to the Beacon City School District. Please be sure to include the BILL No. and a daytime phone number.

In person payments (check or money order only) will be received in the District office, 10 Education Drive, Beacon NY between the hours of 9:00am – 1:00pm Monday - September 6, 2022 to October 5, 2022 only.

Please Note: We strongly recommend that tax payments be mailed to our account at M&T Bank as follows:

Mail Payments to: Beacon City School District
School Tax Collection
P.O. Box 1330,
Buffalo, New York 14240-1330

COLLECTION PERIOD: Sept. 06, 2022 - Oct. 05, 2022 Penalty Free
Oct. 06, 2022 - Nov. 04, 2022 must include a 2% Penalty

Payments will be accepted with a Post Office Post Mark of no later than NOVEMBER 04, 2022.

SIGNED: Florence Zopf, School Tax Collector | Beacon City School District

Tax Bills/Receipts are available online at: www.infotaxonline.com

845.440.7894
226 Main St. Beacon, NY
www.HudsonValleyGoldsmith.com
A Dill Detour

By Celia Barbour

The kitchen finally turned cool enough to cook in last week. After sundown most nights, our furloughed oven roared back to life, roasting eggplant and zucchini, baking harissa salmon, turning chocolate chip cookies golden and melty.

It felt a little reckless, to be honest. The recent heat wave has left me wary — “once bitten, twice shy,” as the saying goes. And that, I might add, has been especially true for tomatoes. The heat wave has left me wary — “once bitten, twice shy,” as the saying goes. And that, I might add, has been especially true for tomatoes.

Yet serving smoothies for supper night after night felt like a cop-out, so tomatoes quickly became the staple of our heat-wave diet. Pass through a strainer set over a bowl, pressing down on the skins and seeds to squeeze out all the juices. Discard any solids left in the strainer. Taste and adjust for salt and acidity. Transfer to the refrigerator and chill until quite cold, at least two hours. Meanwhile, make the dilled goat cheese. Serve cold, in cups or bowls, topped with a dollop of dilled goat cheese.

Mouths to Feed

No-Cook Tomato Soup with Dilled Goat Cheese

Makes about 4½ cups

Note: This is a great way to use blemished tomatoes. Because different tomatoes vary in their sweet-acid balance, adjust the agave or sugar and vinegar to taste.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 ounces red onion, chopped</td>
<td>about ½ cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 clove garlic, chopped</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tablespoon red wine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vinegar, plus more to taste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 teaspoon agave, sugar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or maple syrup (see note)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 teaspoons salt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tablespoons olive oil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pounds tomatoes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ cup cold water</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In a large bowl, combine all the ingredients except for the tomatoes. Toss well to combine. Slice or chop the tomatoes, and add to the bowl. Toss again, and set aside to marinate for at least 15 minutes, and up to one hour, tossing regularly. Transfer the tomato mixture to a blender. Blend for 20 to 30 seconds, or until thoroughly pulverized. Add the water and blend again.

Pass through a strainer set over a bowl, pressing down on the skins and seeds to squeeze out all the juices. Discard any solids left in the strainer. Taste and adjust for salt and acidity. Transfer to the refrigerator and chill until quite cold, at least two hours. Meanwhile, make the dilled goat cheese. Serve cold, in cups or bowls, topped with a dollop of dilled goat cheese.

Dilled Goat Cheese

Leftovers can be used to make tomato sandwiches.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 tablespoons crème fraiche</td>
<td>or heavy cream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 ounces fresh goat cheese</td>
<td>(chevre), at room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 scallion, minced</td>
<td>temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tablespoon minced fresh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tablespoon olive oil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt and pepper to taste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In a medium bowl, whisk the cream or crème fraiche until slightly thickened. Crumble the goat cheese into the bowl and mix well to combine. Add the minced scallion and dill, the olive oil and salt and pepper. Taste and adjust for seasoning. Transfer to the refrigerator until ready to serve.

Once I realized that the tomato-basil pairing was in fact an international institution, I didn’t just add it to my repertoire. I superimposed it over all my tomato memories, burying the tomato salad of my childhood as if it was some hayseed eccentricity. Until last week, that is, when I found myself craving tomatoes with dill.

I cast aside the ball of mozzarella, minced dill and scallion, and mixed it into goat cheese along with a little olive oil. I then spread that on our tomato sandwiches. Goodness, I thought, where’ve you been hiding?

A few days later, I made a cold tomato soup, and quickly realized the same goat cheese-dill-scallion mixture would make a terrific dollop. Even Dosi, a tomato skeptic, agreed. And so this recipe was born — out of blustering heat and forgotten summers, plus a yen for suppers prepared in a blender.
Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

Editor’s note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (August 1872)

The Howland Public Library opened on Aug. 5 in a newly constructed building at 477 Main St., now the Howland Cultural Center. It was named for Gen. Joseph Howland, the first president of its board, and designed by his brother-in-law, Richard Morris Hunt. (The library moved to its present location at 333 Main St. in 1976.)

Charles Ledwich, of Aldorf & Ledwich of Fishkill Landing, received a patent for a water-closet (toilet) attachment that allowed the porcelain bowl to be removed for cleaning.

Defenders of Matty Howe, 32, of Fishkill, who was accused of strangling his newborn, said that her sederer had deserted her and that her parents had ceased their visits to their daughter in the county jail. While imprisoned, she began a relationship with another inmate, Eugene Schmitland, who was charged with grand larceny. They decided to wed, but the jailer refused to summon a minister or allow the couple to attend court together to be married by a judge.

The Phoenix Manufacturing Co. of Matteawan introduced a sewing machine controlled by a foot pedal that could run at full speed for 75 minutes and allow its operator to create up to 2,500 stitches per minute.

The Matteawan and Fishkill Landing chapter of the Greeley and Brown Club reported it had 125 members. The men supported Horace Greeley for president against the incumbent, Ulysses S. Grant. Greeley’s running mate was Benjamin Gratz Brown, the governor of Missouri.

Three men were loading a wagon with gravel at Toohy’s Grove at Matteawan when a bank gave way and buried one of them. He managed to move his hands enough to create a breathing space and was rescued.

The 90-foot steamboat William Baxter, which was built at the Fishkill Landing Machine Co., made its maiden voyage to Newburgh to take on 100 tons of cement bound for Buffalo. The Newburgh Journal noted that the boat, powered by two 4½-foot propellers, could reach a speed of 5 mph while consuming only 10 pounds of coal per mile. It was constructed in an attempt to secure a $100,000 prize offered by New York State for a way to move ships faster and cheaper than with horses along the 352-mile Erie Canal.

In New York City, The Church Journal published an ode signed F.W.S. to the newly dedicated Howland Library, including this stanza: “Honor to him who builds for nobler uses / On deep foundations rears his solid walls / A graceful temple raises to the Muses / A refuge sweet within its airy halls.”

125 Years Ago (August 1897)

A milk peddler in Matteawan was arrested on charges that he assaulted the 11-year-old daughter of a customer after offering her a ride in his covered wagon. Extra guards were stationed at the jail to prevent any “summary justice” by angry residents or the girl’s father.

John Haight, of Fishkill Landing, planned a trip to England to research a genealogy he planned to publish of his family. John Murphy, the captain of a brick sloop, was shot and wounded during a strike at Lahey & Bowe’s brickyard at Fishkill Landing.

An eight-sided home built in Fishkill by Orson Fowler, the famed phrenologist and author of The Octagon House, had to be destroyed with dynamite when Fowler decided to rebuild it because it had been constructed entirely out of concrete.

and was thought to live in Chicago.

Two inmates escaped from the Matteawan asylum by removing a window catch with a contraband screwdriver.

The superintendent of the asylum read a paper at the annual Prison Association of New York conference titled, “Who is the Insane Criminal?”

Augustus Mosher saved the daughter of the engineer of the ferryboat Union after she fell overboard at Long Dock.

A survey of Fishkill Landing and Matteawan recorded nine churches, two public schools, a public library, two weekly newspapers, a daily newspaper, three printing offices, a national bank, two savings banks, three machine shops, a rubber manufactory, four hotels, a gas utility and saloons “as thick as the locusts in Egypt.”

Tom Hickey, a Socialist from Texas and founder of The Rebel, dismissed as fabricated a report in the New York Sun that said his lecture at Matteawan to 300 people had led to a riot and stabbing. The paper mockingly identified him as Jacob Startiski and labeled him an anarchist.

The former Howland Public Library

The Rebel Insane Criminal?

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The Rebel Insane Criminal?
who suffered from shell shock on charges he had annoyed a woman and arresting an Italian immigrant on North Chestnut Street for possession of a loaded revolver. The Poughkeepsie Eagle-News reported that residents were also especially vigilant, “keeping tabs on town characters” they judged potentially violent. At the same time, a guard was placed outside the home of the killer to prevent any more items from being removed as souvenirs.

The city commissioners approved spending $35,000 to repair the dam.

Police were searching for a man who sold all the family furniture for $30 before disappearing two weeks before the birth of his youngest child.

The Board of Health issued a warning about swimming in the Hudson River because of the risk of typhoid.

On the advice of his physician, a 42-year-old widower surrendered to police for treatment as a morphine addict. He said he became hooked while working as a young man at a pharmacy. When told he would be committed to jail, he said, “I guess that will be the end of me” but was reassured by his doctor.

Two sheriff’s deputies found a 9-foot square, brittle, iron-like substance in a 10-foot-square hole in a remote area near Mount Beacon, which the Poughkeepsie Eagle-News suggested might be part of a meteor.

75 Years Ago (August 1947)

A 65-year-old Public Works employee died after falling from a dump truck on Grove Street.

A counselor at Camp Beacon was diagnosed with diphtheria.

The firefighters at Tompkins Hose dedicated a plaque honoring Lt. Francis Peattie, a member of the company who had been missing in action since June 1943. Peattie, a bombardier, was killed when his Flying Fortress crashed in the South Pacific. Through the efforts of the lone survivor of the crash, Col. Jose Holguin, Peattie’s body was identified and returned to Beacon in 1985.

Conrad Nagel, who in 1940 received an honorary Academy Award, appeared for a week in Petrified Forest at the Roosevelt Theater with his estranged wife, Lynn Merrick, star of A Close Call for Boston Blackie, Voice of the Whistler and other films. That was followed by a week with John Carradine in Rain, based on a novel by Somerset Maugham, and a week of Miriam Hopkins in There’s Always Juliet.

Tommy Hopper, 17, won the qualifying round in the first Poughkeepsie Junior Golf Tournament but lost in the final to Lido Lucarini, 16, the defending Dutchess Amateur champ.

Police investigated a complaint by Pink Waters, of River Street, that a man shot a gun from a window. A 40-year-old housewife was fined $15 for disorderly conduct after she used abusive language at police headquarters and threw her shoe at the desk sergeant.

50 Years Ago (August 1972)

The Penn Central Railroad offered to lease the city a former waterfront dump truck on Grove Street.

Francis Peattie sits in the nose of a B-17E with a bomb sight during a combat mission in 1943. Photo by Jose Holguin.
Support our nonprofit. Become a member!

Keep Cats Indoors

Domestic cats make wonderful companions and pets, but when allowed to roam outside, they are the greatest human-caused source of mortality to birds.

Cats now function as introduced predators in many different habitats across the world. When outside, cats are invasive species that kill birds, reptiles, and other wildlife. Because most cats—whether feral or owned by humans—receive food from people, they also exist in much higher concentrations than wild felines do. But despite being fed, they kill wild birds and other animals by instinct.

There are now over 100 million free-roaming cats in the United States; they kill approximately 2.4 billion birds every year in the U.S. alone, making them the single greatest source of human-caused mortality for birds.

Free-roaming cats also spread diseases such as Rabies, Toxoplasmosis, and Feline Leukemia Virus, and face many more threats like vehicles and predators. Living outdoors shortens a cat’s lifespan to just 2-5 years, whereas indoor cats can live to be 17 and beyond.

The easiest way you can help prevent needless bird deaths and keep you and your pet safe is by keeping your cat indoors.

* Paid for by a concerned citizen

Phi lipst on e to Convey Land for Bridge

Needed for replacement of span in 2023
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A year — almost to the day — after Putnam County legislators voted to replace the Sprout Brook Road/Canopus Creek bridge in Philipstown, the Town Board agreed to convey 296 square feet of land to the county and grant a work easement.

In return, the town will receive $400.

The board acted at its formal monthly meeting in Town Hall on Aug. 4.

The county Legislature approved the bridge rebuilding on Aug. 3, 2021. Putnam has estimated that replacing the 87-year-old span will cost $1.6 million. In 2021, when evaluated by New York State, the bridge, described as “considerably deteriorated,” received a rating of 3 on a scale of 1 to 7. That was the lowest of any Highlands bridge.

According to county records, the new bridge, 28 feet long and broader than its predecessor, will have a 10-foot-wide roadway and two shoulders, each 5 feet wide. The 296-square-foot parcel from the town will become part of a reconfigured approach from Winston Lane.

At the Town Board meeting, Supervisor John Van Tassel noted that residents of Continental Village, where the bridge is located, have expressed concerns about the loss of the walkway on the existing bridge. He pointed out that at each end of the current bridge the walkway stops, with no sidewalk. He said that town officials “have no say whether we’re getting a walking path on it.”

In 2021, on the same night that the county Legislature authorized the bridge replacement, it adopted a Complete Streets policy that calls for considering “walking, cycling, driving automobiles and public transportation” in policymaking.

Adopted by a 4-0 vote (with one member absent), the Town Board’s resolution on Aug. 4 pointed out that residents who oppose town involvement in the bridge project have until Sept. 3 to seek a “permissive referendum” by collecting signatures of registered voters and getting the issue placed on the ballot of an upcoming election. If no successful petition drive ensues, the Town Board’s approval takes effect.

Van Tassel acknowledged that along with qualms over losing the walkway, some residents have reservations about the project’s impact on traffic during construction.

“There’s a lot of cars.” He said town officials have been conferring with the county Highway Department to minimize problems.

Town Attorney Steve Gaba said construction is expected to begin in 2023.

This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Polina Myagkov Hansen and Katherine Hansen of Cold Spring shared this photo of Artem with pup Dolly. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

Baby & Dog
The Highlands Current
STUDENT JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

The Current is looking for a few good high school journalists.

Now in its third year, our Student Journalists Program provides an opportunity for students who attend high school in Philipstown and Beacon to be mentored by professional journalists while they serve as correspondents for our nonprofit newspaper and website.

The reporting of correspondents selected for the program will appear at highlandscurrent.org and select stories will be printed. The staff, when editing stories by our student correspondents, will provide detailed feedback and suggestions to improve and refine their reporting.

Students will be expected to submit photos and video (when applicable) as part of their assignments. Due to the generous support of our Highlands Current members, correspondents will be compensated for the stories and photos that we publish online and/or in print. If you are interested in becoming a student correspondent, you can review the requirements and apply at:

highlandscurrent.org/sjp

Chip Rowe, Editor
The Highlands Current

To help support our Student Journalists Program, see highlandscurrent.org/donate.
Officer Lucy (from Page 1)
times conflicting details. The county coro-
nor would later conduct an inquest and
criticize the Beacon Police Department for
its response, which ended with the unarmed
White being fatally shot through a window.

The killing
According to testimony at a coroner’s
inquest, the incident began when White entered
a neighbor’s home threatening Dr. George Jennings, who was there visiting
a patient, accusing him of killing his father.
White later pointed a shotgun at Jennings
from his porch, the doctor said. The doctor
drove to police headquarters to report the inci-
dent, and Lucy and Judge were dispatched.

The officers, accompanied by Jennings,
were met at the door by Mrs. White, who
asked them “not to take my boy.” When the officers entered the home, Willie White
retreated upstairs. Lucy followed and
White, positioned on the landing, fired
a shotgun blast that killed him instantly.
Judge said he heard a click as if White had
tried to fire again, but then he disappeared.
Judge retreated to the porch and called
for backup. The first two officers who
arrived helped him remove Lucy’s body,
and Mrs. White was taken to headquarters.

Soon an agitated crowd of armed boys
and men gathered; the New-York Tribune
described it as “the entire Police and Fire
Department” plus “1,000 citizens.” By some
reports, bystanders began taking potshots
at the second-story windows.

Two companies of the Fire Department
blasted water into the windows to force
White out, while officers positioned them-
selves in trees or adjoining homes, including
a firefighter, James Devine, and the police
chief, Theodore Moith, who went to the
second floor of a house next door.

At the coroner’s inquest, Moith testified
that White spotted them and fired two or
three shotgun blasts. They returned fire,
“blazing away together,” he said. “I do not
know which of us hit him.”

The Tribune said the crowd chanted, “Kill
him!” as police cleared a path with their
clubs to get the wounded man into an auto-
mobile and to Highland Hospital. Inside the
home, officers said they found rifles, revolv-
ers and more than 1,000 rounds of ammuni-
tion. Police said they planned to ask a judge
to commit White’s mother, who suffered
from dementia, to an asylum.

White died that night. The Tribune
reported that he had been digging a grave
for his mother in the cellar, and that he had
been roaming Beacon “armed and only partly
clad” during the week before the shooting.

Months after the killing, the coroner crit-
icized the Beacon police for their “crude and antique” attempts to apprehend White,
concluding he had been unarmed through-
out the hour-long standoff and noting that
investigators had found only a single empty
shell inside the home. The coroner also said
that the department, knowing that White
was mentally ill, should have taken action
earlier to have him committed, which
might have prevented Officer Lucy’s death.
He concluded that White’s killing had been
unnecessary but justified because he had
evaded arrest after committing a felony.
However, he said, “a much safer and more sane
manner could have been employed.”

The officer
Lucy was killed two weeks before his 49th
birthday. “His party was being planned but
it didn’t occur,” said Judy Glenn, 62, one of
his great-grandchildren, who, along with a
cousin, organized the family’s trip to Beacon.
Chief Moith was scheduled to be away on
a fishing trip on Aug. 15, so Lucy expected
him to be behind a desk in the office that day.
When the chief’s trip was canceled, Lucy
was back “walking the beat,” said Glenn,
who lives in Philadelphia.

While out, Lucy ran into his youngest
son, who was on his way to Mass at St.
Joachim’s, said Glenn. “Tell your mother I’ll be home for lunch,” the officer said.

Before his death, Glenn said that Lucy
advocated in Albany for a law that would
allow survivors of slain police officers to
receive “hardship benefits.” He died around
10:30 a.m.; the Legislature adopted the bill
that afternoon.

Because his family was ineligible by hours
for the benefits, Glenn said Beacon residents
chipped in to raise about $3,000, or about
$48,000 today. City officials also filed for
workers’ compensation benefits, Glenn said.

Once approved, Lucy’s widow received a
monthly check for $10.73 until her young-
est child turned 18. From that point, she
received $8.05 per month.

On the day Lucy’s body was returned
for the funeral, following an autopsy, his
family received word that the governor had
approved his request to become an instruc-
tor at the state police academy. That would
have taken him off street patrol.

Sands Frost, Beacon’s current chief, said
the department has been fortunate not to lose
any other officers, noting that “that same type
of incident could happen today.” (In fact, on
Wednesday, an agitated man in Beacon was
arrested after he displayed a loaded hand-
gun when an officer responded to a domestic
disturbance call. See Page 10.) Over the years,
the city’s police have recognized the value
of knowing their community and bolstered
training in communications, de-escalation
and crisis intervention techniques, Frost said.
They’ve also benefited from “a little bit
of luck,” he added.

While Glenn never met her great-grand-
father, she heard stories throughout her
childhood, as well as accounts of Beacon
residents’ generosity after his death.
“A hundred years may be a long time,” she
said, “but it’s something the family should
remember. When you see that it meant so
much to people in Beacon back then, it feels
a little like home.”
Puzzles

CrossCurrent

Across
1. Felines
5. Discoverer’s call
8. Brewer’s kiln
12. Owl call
13. Massage
14. Leg joint
15. Not-so-noble protagonist
17. Rat—
18. Green sauce
19. Realm
21. Penny
24. Help
25. Persian leader
28. Knitter’s need
30. Assoc.
33. Bit of wit
34. Rehab process
35. — chi
36. Even so
37. Slanted type (Abbr.)
38. Darmed
39. Hollywood’s Lupino
41. Take five
43. Burning
46. Leslie of Gigi
50. Songs for one
51. Daughter of Oedipus
54. Mon. follower
55. Half of XIV

Down
1. Bloke
2. First-rate
3. Youngsters
4. Do needlework
5. Raw mineral
6. Ben—
7. Slender woodwind
8. Giraffe’s kin
9. Poison remedy
10. Char
11. Head, to Henri
16. Weeding tool
20. Tailless cat
22. Russian refusal
23. Early Mongolian
25. Covert agent
26. Coloration
27. Cuba, Jamaica, etc.
29. Actor’s quest
31. Cold and damp
32. Tonic’s mixer
33. Bit of wit
34. Actress Cameron
35. — chi
36. Even so
37. Slanted type (Abbr.)
38. Put on, as a play
40. Dagwood’s dog
42. High school subj.
43. Wine region
44. Boxing match
45. Roof overhang
47. Former Dallas QB Tony
48. Taking action
49. Tennis barriers
52. Wee bite
53. Spanish aunt

SudokuCurrent

Answers for Aug. 12 Puzzles

Across
1. UN SAL TED
2. IN SI N U AT ED
3. STA T ECRAFT
4. SHOR T A G E
5. BOU LE VA RD
6. THUM BP R INT
7. LA ZE

Sudoku

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Guy Felixbrodt competing barefoot in the bike portion of the Ironman

**Feet of Iron**

**Beacon athlete sets barefoot record**

By Brian PJ Cronin

Completing a triathlon is hard. Completing the Lake Placid Ironman Triathlon — a 2.1-mile swim in Mirror Lake followed by a 112-mile bike ride through the Adirondacks before winding things down with a marathon — is harder.

Guy Felixbrodt, who lives in Beacon, took it a step further last month when he did it barefoot, the first person to accomplish the feat. It took 16 hours and 49 minutes.

It’s actually his second record. A few years ago, at the Half Ironman World Championships in South Africa, he juggled during the entire 13.1-mile run. The forward motion makes juggling easier, not harder, he says.

“What I couldn’t make up in speed, I made up in skill.”

Modern barefoot running came into vogue in 2009 with the publication of Christopher McDougall’s *Born to Run*, which suggests that “running shoes may be the most destructive force to ever hit the human foot.” The theory is that today’s over-cushioned shoes weaken our feet by causing them to over-pronate, leading to a host of injuries and misfortunes.

Although he’s read *Born to Run* and agrees with its premise, Felixbrodt lost his shoes by a different path: A YouTube video that introduced him to the concept of “Earthing.”

The earth, says Felixbrodt, thrums with energy from the stratosphere, deposited via constant lighting strikes. “We’re basically walking on charged — some call it sacred — ground,” he says. “And then we do the most dangerous thing possible: We insulate ourselves from it. We have rubber-soled shoes, rubber-soled sandals, flip-flops, all of it disconnecting us from the earth.” Walking barefoot “grounds” a person, connecting the body to the earth’s electrons, he says.

“I’m a person who likes to think differently,” Felixbrodt says.

Felixbrodt became involved in triathlons because he was going to donate stem cells to a stranger and felt he had to get in shape. “I wanted to give him the creme de la creme of stem cells,” he says.

After switching to barefoot running, he says the aches and pains in his feet faded away and his body was generating, instead of feeding it back into their muscles, wearing them down. “You’re improving your fitness but ruining your body,” he argued.

With the race behind him, Felixbrodt is ready to hit the road. He’ll soon be leaving with his dog to travel around the country in a trailer and launch a business as a physical consultant known as The Body MC. He’s looking forward to traveling long distances without worrying about cutoff times that might disqualify him.

“Like we say in biking: When you’re going downhill, enjoy the wind, and when you’re going uphill, enjoy the view,” he says. “Along the way, you might just set a world record or two.”

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**Iron Friar**

Guy Felixbrodt isn’t the only local notable when it comes to the Ironman. Father Dan Callahan of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Graymoor in Garrison has been competing in the events for 25 years, earning him the nickname the “Iron Friar” and helping to raise more than $350,000 for charities.

In June, the 71-year-old finished second in his age group in the Tupper Lake Tinman Triathlon and on July 24, in what he said would be his last race, competed at the Lake Placid triathlon for the 24th time, finishing in just under 17 hours.

“i don’t compete, i complete!” Callahan said in an interview posted on the friars’ website.

“That’s the strategy.”