

The HIGHLANDS Current



Feet
of Iron
Page 24

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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 responded 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-

(Continued on Page 22)



Officer Charles Lucy in 1921



DUMMY LIGHT RETURNS — The historic traffic light at the intersection of Main and East Main streets in Beacon returned to service Aug. 12, about four months after being damaged by a paving truck. The light, which was installed in 1926, was repaired and restored by the city Highway Department and painted by Erica Hauser. Photo by Brian PJ Cronin

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 8)

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 or state Sen. Alessandra Biaggi, who has challenged Maloney for the Democratic line.

Last week we published, in print and

at highlandscurrent.org, the responses by Biaggi and 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 6)



Shoshana David



Charles Falciglia



William Faulkner



Mike Lawler



Jack Schrepel

5Q 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. I asked myself, "Does missing England as a Mohegan person make me a traitor?" In grappling with that, the first draft spilled out. 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 it feel to perform in sight of the Hudson River?

It has been transformative. We are on Lenape, Wappinger and Mohican land — not in my homelands, but still within the traditional travel and trade routes of the Mohegan people and by far the closest to my homelands that we have told this story



so far. This is our first time doing the play in the Northeastern woodlands, so it feels as if the world around us is contributing to 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.

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 audi-

ences at Hudson Valley so far have been good about going on the journey with me. Performing at a Shakespeare theater that is also outside has given it a resonance, because people become aware of the tension of being in a Shakespeare theater on Native land. The style of the space also helps the story because the play was written with Shakespearean structure. It has a prologue that grounds us in the physical place and an epilogue that brings us into the present moment and includes a lot of direct address and poetic text that works well in Shakespearean theaters.

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.

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.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

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

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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, the sole Democrat on the nine-person Legislature. "If we were just informed, there wouldn't be this suspicion."

Legislator Paul Jonke of Southeast, who chairs the Personnel Committee, said he found it "uncomfortable" to send a memo to a high-level employee only to discover the person no longer works for the county.

"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 Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, agreed

that "it would be a practical thing, to be apprised. Often, we hear things on social media or in the street."

Uncertainties began to surface July 14, when Montgomery wrote Odell asking about changes in the Planning Department. The legislator noted that, on a county message earlier that day, John Tully, deputy commissioner of Highways and Facilities, had identified himself as the interim planning commissioner. The planning commissioner had been Sandra Fusco.

A day later, Odell replied that the county charter says a county executive can "exercise supervision and control over all administrative departments, offices and agencies of county government. The only time my office is required to apprise the Legislature of a new appointment resulting in a staff change is where the charter requires that such an appointment be confirmed by the Legislature."

Montgomery asked the Personnel Committee to discuss the issue at its Aug. 9 meeting; she listed jobs, including those of the planning commissioner, Climate Smart coordinator and Soil and Water Conservation District manager, that had experienced turnover in the last year.

But when Jonke requested that Paul Eldridge, the personnel director, attend the meeting, Odell objected.

Again citing the charter, Odell said that "the administration is under no obligation or duty to notify the Legislature of day-to-

day staffing changes or changes in individual employee assignments."

When the committee met, Jonke said legislators don't need to know of day-to-day operations but that concerns arise "if we have major players, important people, and we find out a month later that 'by the way, they don't work here anymore.'"

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."

Vincent Tamagna, a Philipstown resident and former Republican county legislator who is Putnam's transportation manager, became the Climate Smart coordinator in 2021, when Lauri Taylor resigned. (Taylor also had been Soil and Water District manager and senior environmental planner.) According to materials for an Aug. 25 Physical Services Committee meeting, Tamagna now oversees the Soil and Water Conservation District. He is out of town but on Wednesday (Aug. 17) told *The Current* he could discuss Soil and Water District matters after his return on Sept. 3.

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The same area will be closed to traffic entirely except for emergencies on Saturday, 9/3, between 1:00 p.m. and approximately 10:00 p.m.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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 outfunded 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 blue wall of silence?

Finally, I want to make a more important point about the primary election. The supporters 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 person-

ally. 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 Meeropol, *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 on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(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).
There is absolutely no evidence to back up her claims. First, the flag already flew in our village for the month of June without any public complaints or lawsuits being filed. Second, state law already forbids the display of hate flags or symbols on public property. Third, local governments do have the power to make decisions regarding what flags they choose to fly as expressions of their govern-

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

PUTNAM COUNTY			
Number of cases:	Positive Tests, 7-day average:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
27,764 (+151)	9.7% (-0.5)	83.6	128 (0)
Cold Spring: 95.8 / Garrison: 88.3			
DUTCHESS COUNTY			
Number of cases:	Positive Tests, 7-day average:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
74,721 (+460)	11.7% (-1.4)	78.0	685 (+3)
Beacon: 73.5			

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.

ment speech. Fourth, every year municipalities across the Hudson Valley and the nation choose to fly LGBTQ flags without lawsuits or even controversy ensuing.
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 voters 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 them 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 dividing 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*
Editor’s note: A longer version of this letter appears at highlandscurrent.org.
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*

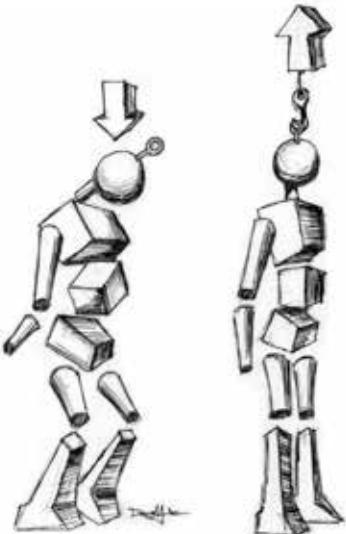
Newburgh trees

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*

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Here Are Your Primary Choices

Candidates who will appear on the ballot for the upcoming primary are listed in alphabetical order. Unlike in the general election, you must be a registered member of the party to cast a ballot.

The polls will be open Tuesday (Aug. 23) from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. There are two polling place changes in Philipstown for the primary: If you usually vote at the Continental Village clubhouse, you will vote at the Garrison firehouse at 1616 Route 9. If you usually vote at the North Highlands Firehouse, you will vote at the Methodist Church at 216 Main St. in Cold Spring. See below for early voting hours and locations.



FOR PHILIPSTOWN

17TH CONGRESSIONAL

Democratic

Alessandra Biaggi
Sean Patrick Maloney

Republican

Shoshana David
Charles Falciglia
William Faulkner
Michael Lawler
Jack Schrepel

Conservative

William Faulkner
Michael Lawler

FOR BEACON

18TH CONGRESSIONAL

Democratic

Aisha Mills
Moses Mugulusi
Pat Ryan

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 Fishkill Road, and Beacon voters at Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52.

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 have to have the birth. Or, you can have an abortion a day before you give birth. There’s a wide chasm there. This should be a national referendum — to answer or clear up these questions. And I would go as far as having just women vote on it.

Farming

FAULKNER: The importance of farming is, or should be, recognized nationwide. Anybody who likes to eat should be respecting farmers. With regard to farming subsidies: back them to the extent it makes sense. And I would throw into that, in terms of what makes sense, we’re going to need to increase the buffer. Whatever the production level is, based on what happened in Ukraine, the breadbasket of Europe and how their supply was severely disrupted, we’re going to need to make sure that we’ve got capacity. And much like we should be energy independent, we should certainly be food independent. That’s why I certainly support farmers, have since I was a teenager.

SCHREPEL: It’s so essential that we maintain our nation of farmers. This one farmer’s wife made it clear to me that whatever

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 Mugulusi 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 Shirioishi, 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 Halper. Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, will run unopposed.

you do in your campaign, do not make the farmer irate: Help them in any which way you can, from a federal level, whether it be with subsidies, low-interest loans, helping them with new equipment. They’re obviously the bread-and-butter of this country, to help feed us, and we should, with all the land we have throughout the country, be food independent. I would wholeheartedly support whatever programs are necessary to help increase farm productivity.

FALCIGLIA: Unfortunately, you’ll find many times, someone owns a farm. A developer comes along, offers them so much money that they say: “Well, here’s my chance to get out.” So what we have to do is, maybe, buy the land, and lease it back to those farmers. And I also agree that as far as the equipment for farming — I wouldn’t even loan money to them. I would allow them to have a tax credit, or just a giveaway, so that they can buy up-to-date and modern equipment. The thing is you have to keep them there. You don’t want them selling the land. Rockland County used to be full of farms. And now there’s very few left.

LAWLER: Agriculture is the largest industry in New York state, a critical part of our economy here, related to the food supply, as well as sourcing of goods and materials. A lot of the challenges have to do with cost: the cost of living, the cost of goods, the cost of manufacturing, the cost of energy. We need to focus on taxes and tax relief, on estate taxes. So many of these family farms get impacted severely by estate taxes. And the labor market is critically important. Many regulations that New York state puts in have a negative impact on these family

farms. So we have to look from a regulatory standpoint, from a labor-market standpoint, how we can help these family farms thrive and also ensure that we have the goods and the product available. Finally, it goes back to energy. We need to make sure that we have cheap, reliable, affordable energy for our industries across the state.

Climate

FAULKNER: There’s two broad categories for energy: fossil fuels and renewable fuels. And my philosophy, my game plan, would be all of the above; I would also include nuclear. I don’t know why we’re having a lack of energy, an energy crisis, and then we’re turning and shutting down Indian Point, which powers a lot of New York City. It’s completely counterintuitive. Two things have to occur concurrently. Short term, we have to make sure that we open up our drilling to our U.S. companies, who are going to pump out the oil and send it through the pipelines and give it to you, the American consumer. That’s going to have a trickle effect, because it’s going to reduce inflation and it’s going to help the overall economy. Renewables are also important. We had an opportunity in town where, for your home electricity, you could have green, greener or greenest energy sources. We gave people the option and most want the greener option.

SCHREPEL: We have to continue research on different sources of energy beyond fossil fuels. In our lifetime, it’s likely we will not run out of oil. But we can’t continue to rely on that. Electric-powered cars are a great alternative and should continue to be researched. With nuclear power, there are a number of different generators that are being brought online and are under development. That should be expanded. But we have to keep in mind what we need currently. In getting back on course, we have to unlock the pipelines and utilize what we currently have as we’re developing new technologies, whether it be solar power, to keep everything latent running in your phone, to hydrogen fuel cells, possibly as an alternative to run your automobiles. There are a number of things out there that have been tabled over the years and they should be revisited.

FALCIGLIA: There’s two avenues, I guess, to go. One is nuclear power. We should build or be investing in building more plants. On top of that, we should invest heavily with solar panels. I see them on the roofs of more and more houses. I understand you have to put in some safeguards, which are expensive. But once again, the government usually subsidizes those, but I’m talking more about solar panel fields. So those are two areas that I would look into. We are increasing electric cars and are going to have a day where you’re going to go into the gas station and charge your car instead of putting gas in it. So those two areas I would invest heavily in.

LAWLER: I’m all in favor of renewables and the effort to reduce our carbon emissions. We want to make sure that we have clean air. I have solar panels on my house, so I have no problem with it. But 60 percent of New

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

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 16- 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 ahold 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 (adjoining 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.

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Alex Keenan and Ryan McGrath

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 marijuana 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 Philipstown 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 mari-

juana 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). The initial license expires in two years, when farmers in good standing can apply for another. Other rules govern how the plants are grown and shipped.

Hudson River Hemp had to decide which strains would thrive in the climate of a state without a history of marijuana cultivation, 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 partners 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



Keenan and McGrath in the fields (above); workers trim plants (below). Photos by L. Sparks

off,” said McGrath.

On Monday (Aug. 15), the Cannabis Control Board approved licenses for 15 hemp processors that will also begin serving 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 prioritiz-

ing 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.

Real Estate

Market Report (July)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
New Listings	14	8	23	8
Closed Sales	11	7	12	8
Days on Market	30	22	126	46
Median Price	\$460,000	\$594,000	\$572,500	\$699,750
% List Received	105.2	101.8	95.5	97.8
Inventory	25	18	42	33

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Excludes condos. Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.

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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.

For HHFT, which will oversee the trail’s construction, to make improvements at

Dockside, the agreement would have to be canceled and a new agreement created, Kacala said.

Mayor Kathleen Foley expressed concern over Cold Spring’s ability to address the trail’s impact. “This is a project not of the village’s choosing,” she said. “It is far beyond the scope of the village budget.”

She took exception to a consultant for HHFT’s Shuttle and Parking Committee referring to the village as “a market.”

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.”

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NEWS BRIEFS

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 (Philipstown) and Jonathan Jacobson (Beacon).

Cold Spring recently updated its Village Code, which had a 15-mph limit, to conform with the state's 30-mph minimum, while the Beacon City Council in January of this year passed a resolution in support of a 25-mph minimum.

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 Thompson, 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.



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mental health and
addiction resources



Register today: <https://www.philipstownhub.org/race>

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*



Join Us at
BOSCOBEL
September 18, 2022 / 2:00-5pm



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>



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
(Rain date: September 4)

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

- DJ
- Food
- Face Painting
- Street Games & More!

Followed by
FIREWORKS!

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



AROUND TOWN



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



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The Calendar

The Holland Tunnel Reaches Newburgh

A gallery born in Brooklyn embraces its new home

By Alison Rooney

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 *Otherness*, 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.



Paulien Lethen

Photo provided

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 *Otherness*, 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-



(top) A still from a video sculpture, “How We Learn About Ourselves,” by Joseph Ayers

(below) Detail from “Medusa 3,” by Chantelle Norton

ity 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 the first floor into exhibition space with a grand piano and antique wooden bar. It 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, “A-listers 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 exhi-



(top) “A-eye Rose,” a photograph

(below) “A-eye Andy 2022 (Gaze),” an animation still by Carl Van Brunt



bitions 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. Otherness 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 403 | 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
garrisonartcenter.org

More than 50 artisans will show their furniture, art, jewelry, textiles and ceramics at this annual juried event. Rain or shine. Also SUN 21. *Cost: \$10 (free ages 9 and younger)*

SAT 20

Mid-Hudson Comic Con

POUGHKEEPSIE

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.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 ages 6 and younger)*

SUN 21

Toy & Comic Book Show

BEACON

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. VFW Hall
413 Main St.

facebook.com/beacontoyandcomicshow

Browse comics and collectibles from dozens of vendors. *Cost: \$2 (free ages 16 and younger)*

TUES 23

Dutchess County Fair

RHINEBECK

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 ages 11 and younger)*

THURS 25

Blood Drive

FISHKILL

1 – 6 p.m. Hyatt House
100 Westage Business Center Drive
redcrossblood.org

State Sen. Sue Serino has partnered with the American Red



Darci Lynne & Friends, Aug. 23

Cross to organize this event to address shortages.

SAT 27

Hudson River Seafood Festival

BEACON

1 – 6 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | bap.ticketleap.com

Restaurants and vendors will serve seafood, craft beer, wine and cider, accompanied by live music. Also SUN 28. *Cost: \$20 to \$99*

VISUAL ART

SAT 20

Blinky Palermo

BEACON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811
diaart.org

The artist's series, *Times of the Day*, made from 1974 to 1976, will return for viewing. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students and visitors with disabilities; \$5 ages 5 to 11; free ages 4 and younger)*

SAT 20

People Make It Happen

BEACON

1 – 2:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St.

Jean-Marc Superville Sovak will discuss his work in this exhibit to mark the 150th anniversary of the Howland Public Library, and Myra Beth Young Armstead will talk about her book, *Freedom's Gardener: James F. Brown, Horticulture, and the Hudson Valley in Antebellum America*.

SAT 20

Ordinary Wonders

PUTNAM VALLEY

1 – 3 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Doreen Battles, winner of the center's *Love* exhibit, will have her first solo photography show. Through Oct. 1.

WED 24

Systematic Order Beds

PHILIPSTOWN

5:30 p.m. Stonecrop
81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000
stonecrop.org

A horticulturist will lead a tour of the garden beds. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

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: \$10 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.



SUN 21

The Pound Ridge Massacre

PUTNAM VALLEY

11 a.m. Putnam Valley Library
30 Oscawana Road
putnamvalleylibrary.org

Jon Scott Bennett, a filmmaker and historian, will screen his documentary about the 1644 attack against a Native American village by colonists, the deadliest on the East Coast. Cohosted with the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center.

SAT 20

Otherness

NEWBURGH

5 – 7 p.m. Holland Tunnel
46 Chambers St.
hollandtunnelgallery.com

Chantelle Norton, Carl Van Brunt and Joseph Ayers will explore the relation of the self to others. See Page 13. Through Sept. 25.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 20

Back-to-School Block Party

BEACON

Noon – 4 p.m. South Avenue Park
iambeacon.org/beacon-back-to-school

Pick up school supplies at this annual event by I Am Beacon.

TALKS & TOURS

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*



Bored Teachers Comedy Tour, Aug. 25

TUES 23

Darci Lynne & Friends

RHINEBECK

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: \$10 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: \$10 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 Paltz 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.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Known as the Sisters of Slide, the duo will perform Delta blues and other genres. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

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

FRI 26
Chris Janson
RHINEBECK
7:30 p.m. Fairgrounds 6550 Spring Brook Ave. dutchessfair.com
The country music singer and songwriter will perform as part of the Dutchess County Fair. *Cost: \$37 (\$42 door)*

FRI 26
Cherish the Ladies
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Irish flute and whistle champion Joanie Madden leads this Celtic group, which performs traditional music and dance. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

SAT 27
Doansburg Chamber Ensemble
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. St. Mary's Church 1 Chestnut St. | 845-228-4167 doansburgchamberensemble.org
A string trio with flute and oboe will perform works by Cambini, Sussmayr, Boccherini and Mozart.

Attend in person or watch a virtual performance at the website. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 27
Howard Britz Trio
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center 729 Peekskill Hollow Road tompkinscorners.org
The jazz musicians will perform music from their latest release, *Comfort and Joy*. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 27
Buskin & Batteau
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The duo combines piano and violin with harmonies that include ironic, silly and gritty folk music. Native American songwriter and flute player Bill Miller will open. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

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.

SAT 20
Early Voting
FISHKILL
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Fishkill Town Hall 807 Route 52 | elections.dutchessny.gov
Beacon voters who are registered Democrats can cast ballots in the congressional primary for District 18. Also SUN 21.

MON 22
Dutchess Legislature
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. Legislative Chambers 22 Market St. | 845-486-2100 dutchessny.gov

TUES 23
Primary Election
COLD SPRING
6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Methodist Church 216 Main St. | putnamboe.com
Village and Philipstown voters who are registered with the Democratic, Republican or Conservative parties can cast ballots in the congressional primaries for District 17.

TUES 23
Primary Election
GARRISON
6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Firehouse 1616 Route 9 | putnamboe.com
Garrison and Continental Village voters who are registered with

the Democratic, Republican or Conservative parties can cast ballots in the congressional primaries for District 17.

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. Haldane | 15 Craigsides Drive 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

WED 24
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St. 845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 24
School Board
GARRISON
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.

REAL ESTATE MARKET

HOME SALES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE LAST 30 DAYS

BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPERTIES	CITY	BEDS	BATHS	SQ FT	SOLD!
32 South St.	Beacon	2	1/1	1,186	\$456,000
312 Wildwood Dr.	Fishkill	3	2/0	1,612	\$510,000
100 Union St.	Beacon	3	1/1	1,615	\$525,000
387 Liberty St.	Beacon	3	2/0	2,076	\$600,000
129 South Ave.	Beacon	3	2/0	1,344	\$625,000
146 N Walnut St.	Beacon	4	2/0	1,516	\$655,000
598 Washington Ave.	Fishkill	3	2/0	2,150	\$700,000
7 Aldridge Pl.	Beacon	4	3/0	2,000	\$729,500
19 West Willow St.	Beacon	5	2/1	2,400	\$1,050,000
135 Sargent Ave.	Beacon	3	2/1	3,063	\$1,900,000

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OPEN HOUSES



55 South Brett St.
Beacon, NY
3 Bedrooms
2/1 Bathrooms
4,400 Sq Ft
\$1,295,000
OPEN HOUSE
Sat., Aug. 20th
12-3 PM



27 Willow St.
Beacon, NY
3 Bedrooms
2/1 Bathrooms
2,076 Sq Ft
\$849,900
OPEN HOUSE
Sat., Aug. 20th
12-3 PM



THE
GATE HOUSE
TEAM

COMPASS

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 on the patio 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.



This tenacious cactus has survived in a box with no soil or care for more than a year.

Photo by P. Doan

Groeters mentioned butterflyweed, prairie grasses, Baptisia's, native alliums and pea family plants like wild senna as possibilities.

My wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*) does look normal, as does the butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). Prairie grasses are deep-rooted and could include little bluestem, sideoats grama, prairie dropseed and big bluestem. They won't have the 10-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


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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.

2 ounces red onion,
chopped (about ⅓ cup)
1 clove garlic, chopped
1 tablespoon red wine
vinegar, plus more to taste
1 teaspoon agave, sugar or
maple syrup (see note)

2 teaspoons salt
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 pounds tomatoes
½ cup cold water

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.

3 tablespoons crème fraiche or heavy cream

4 ounces fresh goat cheese (chevre), at room temperature

1 scallion, minced

1 tablespoon minced fresh dill

1 tablespoon olive oil

Salt and pepper to taste

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.

Mouths to Feed

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 summer’s teeth seem only to be getting



sharper with each passing year.

I was surprised at how quickly I worked through every no-cook dinner in my repertoire during that string of 90-something days; surprised to realize how many of my summer standbys — corn on the cob, potato salad, egg salad, BLTs — require actual *cooking* to become edible. I was not about to cook. Yet serving smoothies for supper night after night felt like a cop-out, so tomatoes quickly became the staple of our heat-wave diet.

Tomatoes have long been the superstars of high summer. They thrive in hot weather, embody sunshine and taste delicious raw. Best of all, it turns out that the most delicious way to serve them requires zero cooking, just a generous supply of basil, olive oil and mozzarella, along with some crusty bread.

Indeed, for the past few decades, I have taken on faith that tomato season requires

a constant supply of these ingredients.

But as I sliced my way through the fourth or fifth mozzarella ball, I grew a bit weary. And that’s when a buried memory nudged its way to the surface. As a child, I’d eaten tomatoes almost exclusively with dill. My mother, being Scandinavian, adored dill, so naturally she was going to lavish it upon the gorgeous, crimson tomatoes she grew in our garden. On good nights, she’d also smear them with little dabs of mayonnaise.

So linked were tomatoes and dill in my mind that, even after I moved to Manhattan, it took me many summers to realize that the local fad for tomatoes with basil wasn’t just some one-off novelty. (I was likewise surprised to hear New Yorkers going on and on about Jersey tomatoes, because everyone knows that *Indiana* tomatoes are the best, duh. But evidently this truth hadn’t reached the East Coast yet.)

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 blistering heat and forgotten summers, plus a yen for suppers prepared in a blender.

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David Dickinson (1948-2022)

David W. Dickinson, 74, died July 28, 2022 in Cold Spring, NY.

David was born and raised in Prairie du Chien, WI, the son of Wayne and Mildred Dickinson. He attended University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse and graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a liberal arts degree. He began his early career as a teacher, a family tradition, and enjoyed his experience teaching in Sydney, Australia. He became a successful manager of B. Dalton stores in Milwaukee, Chicago Flagship, San Jose, and Capitola, California.

Dave had an expansive intellect and loved books and the arts. He had a quest for philosophy, politics, and the spiritual. Each book customer was important to Dave; he often suggested titles, special ordered, looked out for his regulars, many of whom became friends over the years.

He relocated to Cold Spring, NY and became office manager for the Dow Corporation for 15 years. He grew to love the area, particularly New York City and its culture.

David was predeceased by his parents, Wayne and Mildred Dickinson, and his partner of 52 years, William Whipp. He is survived by his brother, Ray Dickinson, and spouse Kathleen O'Boyle of Factoryville, PA; his sister, Nancy Dickinson and spouse Patrick Traut of Sioux Falls, SD, as well as his many friends in Cold Spring and all his various residences. He will be missed.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home-Cold Spring.

PAID NOTICE

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 313 Main St. in 1976.]

Charles Ledwich, of Alsdorf & 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, 22, of Fishkill, who was accused of strangling her newborn, said that her seducer 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 Toohey'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



The former Howland Public Library

Beacon Historical Society

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 because it had been constructed entirely out of concrete.



Fowler's octagon house

According to an account in the *New York Evening Journal*, Albert Knapp, a farmer residing near the Fishkill mountains, was attacked in his cellar by four copperheads. He stunned one snake with a club while another wrapped itself around his leg. Friends came to his aid, and he was not bitten.

Officer Valentine, "in a moment of exasperation," knocked down and beat a suspect until bystanders managed to pull the man to safety in a nearby drugstore.

Henry Trostler (or Frostlar), 49, was released from the Matteawan asylum for the criminally insane and ordered to return to his native Austria. In 1879, while working as an usher at a New York City theater, he shot at a cashier who was flirting with his wife, sending a bullet through the man's hat. A lawyer said his newly freed client refused to board a steamer to Hamburg until he saw his daughter, who had been an infant when he was committed

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.



"Red" Tom Hickey visited Matteawan.

100 Years Ago (August 1922)

Officer Charles Lucy was shot and killed by a "crazed" resident when answering a call on North Street. (See Page 1.) In the days that followed, the police cracked down, detaining a World War I veteran

(Continued on Page 19)

(Continued from Page 18)

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 Department of 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



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

for \$1 a year if it made the parcel into a commuter lot.

A 15-year-old girl died in a fire at her Rombout Avenue home. One of her older brothers was among the volunteer firefighters who responded. Her father and three other siblings escaped.

The Planning Board approved plans by the Chemprene Division of the Richard-

son Co. to construct a 150,000-square-foot plant on Fishkill Avenue at the site of the former Matteawan State Hospital.

Police Chief Warren Hughes said there had been 21 burglaries in June and 23 in July, or nearly half the number reported in all of 1971. He suspected most were "committed by youngsters to support a drug habit" because 75 percent happened during the day, which was not the modus operandi of professionals.

A fire destroyed a vacant building at 288 South Ave. that had been the site of the Misericordia Novitiate. The assistant fire chief said there had been a problem when firefighters connected lines to a hydrant on the former convent grounds and another on South Avenue only to find they were connected to the same main and drawing water from each other.

A year after the start of construction, the developers of the 123-unit Davies South Terrace Apartments opened a rental office. Priority was given to families displaced by urban renewal.

25 Years Ago (August 1997)

The building inspector ruled that apartments at 65, 67, 69 and 71 Main St., all owned by the same landlord, were unsafe and ordered them closed. Six families were displaced. The apartments lacked smoke detectors, were infested with roaches and had blocked exits and holes in the floors and walls; the tenants said they could not afford anything better.

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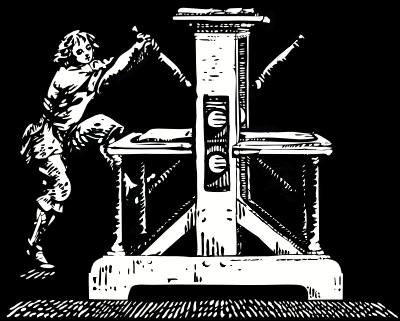
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Domestic cats make wonderful companions and pets, but when allowed to roam outside, they are the greatest human-caused source of mortality to birds.

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.

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Philipstown 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.

“That’s what everybody’s biggest concern is, navigating narrow roads” in detours, a resident said during the meeting.

“Continental Village used to be a little weekend community and now it’s full-time” residential, Van Tassel said. “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.



Baby & Dog



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.

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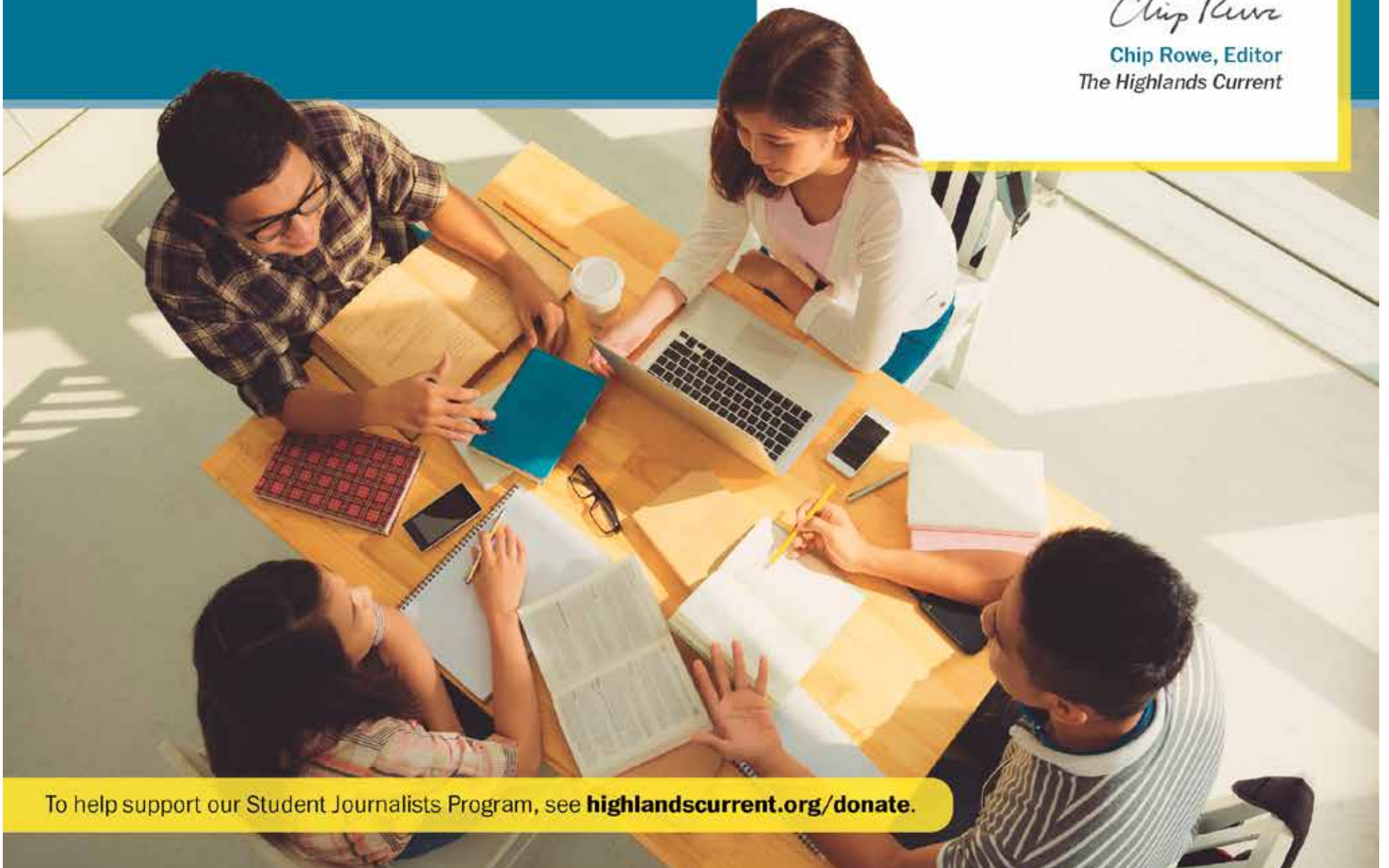
The reporting of correspondents selected for the program will appear at highlandscurrent.org and select stories will be printed. The staff, when editing stories by our student correspondents, will provide detailed feedback and suggestions to improve and refine their reporting.

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highlandscurrent.org/sjp

Chip Rowe

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 coroner 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 incident, 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 themselves 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



Descendants of Officer Charles Lucy gathered this week for a photo outside the Beacon Police Department. Two of his grandchildren (center) hold a plaque with his photo and badge created by the police union in 1991.

Photo by Valerie Shively

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 automobile and to Highland Hospital. Inside the home, officers said they found rifles, revolvers and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition. 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 criticized the Beacon police for their "crude and antique" attempts to apprehend White, concluding he had been unarmed throughout 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 been evading 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 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 youngest 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 instructor 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 handgun 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-grandfather, 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."

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

- 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. Darned
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

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56. Send forth
57. Teeny
58. Ecol. watchdog
59. Pixels
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
34. Actress Cameron
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

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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 agreements (5)	_____
2 protect (9)	_____
3 Zn, to a chemist (4)	_____
4 prepared cappuccino milk (7)	_____
5 Fenway Park event (8)	_____
6 it keeps a roof overhead (5)	_____
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Answers for Aug. 12 Puzzles

A	P	E	S		B	A	G		A	Q	U	A
L	A	M	A		O	A	R		L	U	G	S
P	R	I	M	R	O	S	E		M	I	L	E
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8	7	5	1	4	9	6	2	3
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7	4	9	8	3	5	2	6	1
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4	9	1	7	6	8	5	3	2
2	5	7	3	9	1	4	8	6
6	8	3	4	5	2	1	9	7

1. UNSALTED, 2. INSINUATED, 3. STATECRAFT, 4. SHORTAGE, 5. BOULEVARD, 6. THUMBPRINT, 7. LAZE



Sports

Feet of Iron

Guy Felixbrodt competing barefoot in the bike portion of the Ironman

Photos provided

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 lightning strikes. "We're basically



Felixbrodt, a Beacon resident, juggled throughout the 13.1-mile running segment of one Ironman.

Photo by Brian PJ Cronin

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 he was able to recover more quickly between runs. He also ditched his biking shoes and bought grounding wires at AutoZone to turn

his bike into an "Earthing-Cycle."

Felixbrodt's feet are not, in fact, indestructible. He prefers not to run on sharp gravel and he wears shoes in the winter while walking his dog. But he says if he tries to run in shoes now, he trips. So he goes barefoot pretty much everywhere, helpfully explaining to people in grocery stores who report him to the manager that there is no state health code that prohibits it.

Besides, he asks, what's unsanitary about feet? "Am I going to go into the grocery store and pick up the cucumbers with my feet?" he asks. "Yet people shove their hands in there, and who knows where their hands have been?"

When Felixbrodt took his barefoot gospel to the Adirondacks, some competitors told him he was crazy. He says he responded that it was an inherently crazy event. To those who were intrigued, he explained that going barefoot would allow them to discharge the energy their 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."



The 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."



Felixbrodt finishing the Lake Placid Ironman Triathlon last month