Three Grads, Three Paths

By Michael Turton

As a new academic year begins, we caught up with three Philipstown residents who took different paths after graduating from high school in June.

Higher education

April Ransom is settling in at SUNY Binghamton, where she will study biology and environmental science.

The Haldane graduate had considered a number of careers, from hairdressing to criminal justice to architecture. But it might have been her infatuation with fairies that tipped the scales.

“I was super into fairies as a kid,” she said. “They love nature, they love animals. I was also a huge nature kid; I had my own notebook and would draw the animal and plant life just outside my house.”

Ransom, who finished with a 4.0 GPA, gives credit to a criminal justice course she took in the ninth grade. “That class helped me become comfortable with public speaking,” she said. “It made so many other classes easier going forward.”

Her list of prospective colleges didn’t include Binghamton, but at her parents’ insistence, she visited. “After seeing it, I knew I had to go there,” she said.

“I remember walking through the food court and the tour guide saying students had created it,” she said. “It wasn’t just a bunch of teachers lording over them; they have the freedom to create their own school environment.”

She hopes to find a career that involves fighting climate change. “I’m debating between research and developing technology,” she said. “There’s a lot of carbon-capture technology that is interesting.”

She knows she will miss Cold Spring, but the feeling is tempered by a sense of adventure. “This has been my home for a

Beacon Fire Station Rehab On Track

Tomkins Hose will be rebuilt, modernized

By Jeff Simms

The design of a centralized Beacon fire station is on schedule to be completed this year, with construction to begin early in 2023. If the removal of rock and hazardous materials goes as planned, the new station could open by the spring of 2024.

The project is expected to cost about $11.7 million, City Administrator Chris White told the City Council on Tuesday (Sept. 6).

The city announced plans in April to rehabilitate the 94-year-old Lewis Tomkins Hose Co. station at 13 South Ave. The Fire Department, once a mix of paid firefighters and volunteers spread across three companies, is now comprised primarily of paid “career” staff, and will be based out of the rebuilt station, a structure that architect Bob Mitchell assured the council “should last many generations.”

Once complete, Beacon will close the Mase Hook and Ladder station, which was built on Main Street in the 1920s. The project will cap nearly two decades and, by Mitchell’s estimate, more than 2,000 hours of study and debate, around Beacon’s firehouses. A third station, the 130-year-old Beacon Engine on East Main Street, was closed in 2020.

The most visible change will be reorienting Tomkins Hose to face City Hall, with three bays opening onto Route 9D. The Fire Department, once a mix of paid firefighters and volunteers spread across three companies, is now comprised primarily of paid “career” staff, and will be based out of the rebuilt station, a structure that architect Bob Mitchell assured the council “should last many generations.”

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Zelenskyy? Ukrainian president Volodymyr

Should Americans be surprised by

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It's been clear for a long time that Putin had

Donbas and with the annexation of Crimea.

FIVE QUESTIONS: JESSICA PISANO

By Alison Rooney

J

Jessica Pisano, an associate profes-

sor at The New School for Social

Research in New York City, will speak

at 7 p.m. on Thursday (Sept. 15) at the Cold

Spring Coffeehouse about her book, Stag-

ing Democracy: Political Performance in

Ukraine, Russia and Beyond.

Could we have predicted the war and

how it's gone so far?

The full-scale invasion is the expansion of

a war that Russia started in 2014 in the

Donbas and with the annexation of Crimea.

It's been clear for a long time that Putin had

ambitions beyond Russia's borders. What I

don't expect is the use of prohibited weap-

ons and the focus on civilian targets such

as thousands of schools. Americans should

keep Ukraine on the radar. Americans are

spending a lot of money to support Ukraine,

with good reason; protecting global democ-

racy and stability. Many countries rely on

Ukrainian agriculture, and Russia’s war may

mean more hunger, rising prices and

political upheaval the longer it continues.

Should Americans be surprised by

Ukrainian president Volodymyr

Zelenskyy?

Many Ukrainians have known Zelen-

skyy longer than Russians have known

Putin. In fact, many Russians, too, have

known Zelenskyy longer than Putin. He

was very popular in comedy competitions.

Along the way, he was offered opportuni-

ties to advance, but he stayed with his

team so it could advance, too. He ended

his stage career with the same people he

started with. Even there, he had a valiant

loyalty which transcends the current move-

ment. For people who followed him, Zelen-

skyy today is not a surprise: He was loyal
to his teammates and is loyal to his coun-

dry. There have been lots of attempts to
discredit him, but he’s been a stable pres-

ence in Ukrainians’ lives through TV and

the internet for more than 20 years.

What does political performance mean?

In this book, it refers to the staged perfor-

mances of democratic institutions that the

Kremlin uses to govern Russia and will try to

use in temporarily occupied territories of

Ukraine. The book goes backstage at these

elections and demonstrations to show how

they work at the local level. These prac-

tices are corrosive for democracy because

people who participate come to imagine

every election is rigged and staged.

You’ve designated the Karazin

Foundation to receive a portion of the

book’s proceeds. What does it provide?

The need is huge and everywhere, espe-

cially for the coming winter. But this orga-

nization is especially deserving because

Kharkiv, where Karazin University is located,
is only 18 miles from the border with Russia

[about the distance between Beacon and

Peekskill]. I serve on their board of trustees

and chose it because I’ve known the people

who run it for more than 20 years. The univer-

sity sustained major infrastructural damage

but it’s still operating, with 30,000 people

part of its community. It needs help providing

food and warm clothing to students who are

now studying in basements. There are sirens

and shelling every night where the univer-

sity is located. In the future, it will need help

rebuilding classrooms.

What could Americans learn from the

people of Ukraine?

Ukraine wasn’t always so united: The
country was highly polarized until recently.
The Kremlin’s troll factories bear some

responsibility for that: They would use

social media to amplify disagreements

among Ukrainians. Under Zelenskyy,

Ukrainians have learned to tune out that

noise. They’ve learned they can still work

together for the good of their country even

though they may deeply disagree about

certain policies. Americans might take a

page from this, at the moment.
The Highlands Current
September 9, 2022

Fire Station (from Page 1)

The Tompkins Hose Co. firehouse will be renovated and expanded.

The energy-efficient, all-electric station will be built with six bedrooms for firefighters, a modernized “mission-control” dispatch office, training facilities, an exercise room, a dining room, a conference room and a sprinkler system.

The city also plans to pave and restripe the parking lot adjacent to the station, providing about 55 public spaces.

The City Council in July approved a five-year capital spending plan that allocated $10.5 million in bond funding for design and construction. On Tuesday, council members approved paying Mitchell’s firm, Mitchell Associates Architects, $819,000 for its continued design of the upgrade and to oversee construction. The firm received $250,000 in April for the first phase of its services.

In June, the city also hired Tim Dexter, its former building inspector and a longtime volunteer firefighter, as a consultant to coordinate with Mitchell, review construction plans and bid documents, and assist in securing regulatory approvals, among other tasks.

It’s expected that the interior of the station will feature mementos from the three volunteer companies, although White said that some volunteers have been reluctant to commit. Chief Gary Van Voorhis acknowledged on Tuesday that firefighters can be slow to accept change.

“From back in the days when we had standard transmission [in fire trucks] and went to automatic, they didn’t want it,” Van Voorhis said. “Here we are making a major change, from fire stations with 100 years of history to a station that’s more modernized and safer. We can get together and still hold the tradition that should be in any fire station.”

Beacon Fire Chief Retires

After 36 years as a firefighter and assistant chief in Peoria, Illinois, Gary Van Voorhis made the 950-mile trek to Beacon in 2013, when he accepted the job as the city’s first full-time, paid fire chief.

Van Voorhis, 67, quietly announced his retirement earlier this year but agreed to continue part-time until a successor is named. City Administrator Chris White said on Wednesday (Sept. 7) that he hopes to introduce a candidate to the City Council by late fall.

After the Beacon job is filled, Van Voorhis said he plans to spend time with family, here and in Illinois. He also plans to volunteer as a firefighter in Fishkill, where he lives.

During his nine years in Beacon, Van Voorhis oversaw the expansion of the Fire Department to 16 paid firefighters, the most it has ever had. The growth allowed the department for the first time to have four firefighters on duty around the clock.

He also guided the department through increased training requirements and brought it up to date as a professional, efficiently run agency, White said. “I couldn’t speak more highly of Gary Van Voorhis,” he said.

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The HIGHLANDS CURRENT
**LETTERS AND COMMENTS**

**Chickie**

We love our Aunt Chickie (“5 Questions: Chickie Pidala,” Sept. 2). I’m sure she loved doing this interview and probably had more to say!

Donna Pidala, Garrison

Chickie is a community treasure.

Patty Klubnick, via Facebook

**Indian Brook parking**

“Trails (Too) Well Traveled” (Sept. 2) covers a lot of ground and is a great introduction to this complex topic of overcrowding of natural resources.

However, I’d like to make a clarification: It was not representatives from various local Audubon chapters who advocated closing the parking lot at Constitution Marsh, but Mike Burger and Eric Lind of Audubon New York. They are the administrators of the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, not the local chapters. In addition, the June meeting you cited was hosted by Mike and Eric, not by the local chapters. Every chapter in the lower Hudson Valley, including ours, wants the parking lot at the marsh to be reopened. We are attempting to work this out.

Pete Salmansohn, Philipstown

Salmansohn is the education chair for the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society.

We need timed entries at Breakneck Ridge, or fees on weekends. I only visit on weekdays or at dawn to avoid crowds. It is sad to hear about Constitution Marsh. I enjoyed visiting for a quick stroll. It’s not a spot where I’d pay that kind of entry fee at Boscoel [to park] — it should be a smaller fee for hikers.

David Licata, via Instagram

**Stream protection**

Most of Putnam County’s legislators have repeatedly shown that they are out of touch with their constituents, as the overwhelming majority of us are asking for the protection of our water supply for drinking and recreation (“Putnam Revives Measure Opposing Stream Protection,” Sept. 2).

Instead of representing Putnam families, they choose the agenda of donors and/or the developers who want expedited development. Their reasoning is that the protection of Class C streams by the state “would create the need for more than 40 times the applications to go to DEC and delay projects at least 26 months.”

If the developers that the legislators are catering to are anything like the ones who designed and built the ticky-tacky houses on Camarda Ridge that make the west-bound approach to Carmel on Route 6 one of the ugliest views of small-town America I have ever seen, then they should be delayed 26 months or stopped altogether.

Are the legislators’ families aware that their health and welfare are being subverted to the builders who would destroy the environment?

The Legislature is wasting time and our taxpayer dollars in consideration of this resolution. It will have no effect except to draw the governor’s attention to the fact that Putnam County has a completely dysfunctional government.

Judy Allen, Putnam Valley

Seastreak

You reported in the Sept. 2 issue that the Seastreak cruise line will pay the Village of Cold Spring $33,792 in docking fees this year. In exchange, this private company will turn a profit by bringing hordes of people to our village and negatively impact our quality of life, as well as our water supply in a time of drought? Seriously?

Clearly, the Village Board is happy to prioritize the profit margin of Seastreak. They have sold the village out, and for a pathetically low amount. We should demand, at least, to not be sold out on the cheap. The board should have extracted a higher fee from Seastreak. Imagine all the infrastructure projects that the village could have afforded if the board had played hardball.

Anyone who watches the board meetings on YouTube understands that that was never going to happen, given that the board acts more as an auxiliary of the Chamber of Commerce and the owners of Seastreak than officials who swore an oath to defend the public’s interest. Last month, a board member spoke openly during a meeting about how it was best if the boats also came on Fridays since that would help the bottom line for her own Main Street business.

That was a staggering ethical breach, and a telling moment. Those of us who voted for these officials because they claimed that they would prioritize our quality of life now have proof of their hypocrisy. Sadly, until the next election, our residents will continue to pay the price.

Gaston Alonso, Cold Spring
Putnam Legislature Asks for Veto

Opposes state oversight over streams
By Leonard Sparks

The Putnam County Legislature voted 6-1 on Tuesday (Sept. 6) to ask Gov. Kathy Hochul to veto legislation that would extend state oversight to waterway projects on “Class C” streams. Nancy Montgomery, whose district covers Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, was the “no” vote. The sole Democrat on the otherwise all-Republican panel, she called the bill “reasonable” and “necessary,” and said claims about the burden on the Department of Environmental Conservation were “speculation.”

“I know this might add a layer of bureaucracy, a layer of protections,” she said. “I don’t think that’s a bad thing.”

The bill, introduced in the state Senate by Pete Harekham, a Democrat whose district includes parts of eastern Dutchess and Putnam counties, would add Class C waterways to those requiring DEC permits for projects that disturb stream banks and beds. As of Thursday (Sept. 7), it had yet to be delivered to Hochul.

Permits for C streams are currently only required when they are used by trout to travel or spawn. The legislation would apply the same level of oversight as Class A streams, used for drinking water, and Class B, which are suitable for swimming and fishing.

Former Gov. Andrew Cuomo vetoed a version of the legislation in November 2020, saying it would have a “tremendous fiscal impact” on the state and local government. The DEC, backing Cuomo's veto, predicted that the added workload would “set conservation efforts back 50 years” by delaying permit approvals.

Dozens of local residents, and groups like Sustainable Putnam, sent letters urging the Legislature to reject the bill, which is supported by environmental groups like Riverkeeper and the seven Hudson Valley municipalities that draw drinking water from the Hudson River, into which many local streams drain.

Although Putnam's resolution expresses confidence in the ability of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to protect streams, even Sayegh acknowledged on Tuesday that Putnam County's SWCD is in “disarray” and has been understaffed for a decade.

“Something with Soil and Water Conservation needs to happen, and it needs to happen now — yesterday,” said Sayegh, who, along with Legislator Carl Albano, is a liaison to the district.

Formed in 1967, it is one of 58 Soil and Water Conservation Districts statewide that work with municipalities, property owners and residents on programs that range from distributing rain barrels and planting trees to monitoring water and restoring stream banks.

Vinny Tamagna, a Philipstown resident and former legislator who is the county’s transportation manager and Climate Smart coordinator, is serving as the agency's interim manager.

The Legislature on Tuesday voted 6-1 to appoint three members (Chris Ruthven, the county director of parks, and farmers Brian Bergen and Ervin Raboy), although Montgomery and Legislator Paul Jonke complained that the SWCD failed to provide material on their qualifications. Montgomery cast the “no” vote.

Putnam Creates Redistricting Panel

Montgomery questions balance of members
By Leonard Sparks

The Putnam Legislature voted Tuesday (Sept. 6) to create a commission that will recommend changes to the county’s nine districts based on 2020 census figures that showed the county lost about 2,000 people since 2010.

A resolution creating a redistricting commission described as “bipartisan” was approved 6-1, with Nancy Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, voting “no.” (Two legislators were absent.)

“I don’t feel this is a truly bipartisan committee.”

~ Legislator Nancy Montgomery

As in the past, the commission will be chaired by the legislative counsel and include the legislative chair (Neal Sullivan) and Rules Committee chair (Toni Addonizio), both Republicans. It will also include Jennifer Bumgarner, the county attorney; Thomas Lannon, the director of information technology; and Catherine Croft and Kelly Primavera, the Democratic and Republican elections commissioners. The Legislature also can appoint other members.

Putnam County's population fell to 97,668, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Based on the change, its nine districts would average about 10,852 people, or about 27 fewer than under the current boundaries.

Before the vote, Montgomery introduced a motion to appoint Gary Ditlow, a data scientist from Garrison who expressed interest in serving. (She was told appointments would have to be approved by the Rules Committee.) Montgomery, who is the only Democrat on the Legislature, then introduced a motion to have herself appointed. “I don’t feel this is a truly bipartisan committee,” she said.

Addonizio invited Ditlow to attend the next Rules meeting. “I have no objection to this gentleman,” she said. “I look forward to reading about his qualifications.”

In Dutchess County, legislators created a commission with two members appointed by Democrats, two by Republicans and the remaining three by the four appointees.

That commission finished its work in June, approving a plan that largely left unchanged the two districts that include parts of Beacon.

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The Highlands Current
September 9, 2022

### BEACON FARMERS MARKET

The market’s mission is to feed and engage the community, support local farms and businesses and create a more just food system. See beaconfarmersmarket.org for a schedule of vendors.

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### LITTLE STONY POINT GLOBAL MUSIC INITIATIVE

September 16
Haleh Gafori
Martha Redbone

September 23
Nakshatra
Arun Ramamurthy Trio

September 30
Mac & Cheez Balkan PowerTrio
Los Cumpleaños

UPCOMING MUSIC

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SEPT. 18: Emily Beck
OCT. 2: Callie Mackenzie / Jan Moore

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ShowS Begin 6:30pm

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SupportS by:
Bailey Dentistry / Cold Spring General Store
CTC Creative / Highlands Current / Hudson River Expeditions
Juanita’s Kitchen / Marbled Meat Shop

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Go to highlandscurrent.org/join
OBITS

Recent Deaths

**Phillipstown**
- David Dickinson, 74
- Susan Fitzgerald, 70
- James Gallagher, 86
- Dorothy Gordon, 99
- Jerry Irish, 85
- Hannah Langer, 23
- Mitzy LeFever, 92
- Helen Livermore, 89
- Alice Otruba, 65
- Zafiria Toscano, 85
- Carol Vatlike, 85
- George Guzman, 72
- Leonard Haas, 80
- Barbara Lasquina, 89
- Maida Martinez, 62
- Stephen Meagher, 73
- Maxine Moody, 81
- Jason Pynnnonen, 48
- Joanne Smith, 64
- Darren Villani, 28
- Linda Way, 73
- Howard Youngs, 74

**Beacon**
- David Barksdale, 65
- Charles Best Sr., 82
- John Best, 73
- Patrick Bocchino, 99
- Mary Ann Bopp, 67
- John Cataldo, 90
- Robert DeSaye, 54
- James Dotter, 27
- Irene Durst, 95
- William Faletta, 47
- Dorothy Foy, 78
- Margaret Goodall, 104
- Darren Villani, 28
- Linda Way, 73
- Howard Youngs, 74

For obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Trails Committee Surveying Parents**

Seeking input for trail along or near 9D

The Phillipstown Trails Committee is conducting a study on the possibility of developing a safe walking or biking trail that would link neighborhoods from Cold Spring to Garrison along or near Route 9D.

As part of that study, the committee is asking parents to complete a brief, anonymous survey about pedestrian safety along or near 9D. See bit.ly/9DPedSafety. The deadline is Thursday (Sept. 15).

**Newburgh-Beacon Bridge Nearly Done**

Redecking project in final stages

The westbound lanes on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge are expected to return to the north span this month and the eastbound lanes to the south as a $95 million redecking project nears completion.

Some “behind-the-scenes” work will continue through June, according to the New York State Bridge Authority, which oversees the bridge.

When completed, the westbound span will have two lanes and the eastbound span will have three lanes. Both spans also will have a breakdown lane.

The north span, which opened in 1963, has been redecked three times and the south span, which opened in 1980, has been done twice.

**COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS**

**PUTNAM COUNTY**

Number of cases: 28,155 (+115)
Positive Tests, 7-day average: 9.2% (.0.7)
Percent vaccinated: 83.8
Cold Spring: 95.9 / Garrison: 88.5
Number of deaths: 130 (0)

**DUTCHESS COUNTY**

Number of cases: 75,786 (+307)
Positive Tests, 7-day average: 9.5% (.3.3)
Percent vaccinated: 78.2
Beacon: 73.8
Number of deaths: 693 (+3)

Source: State and county health departments, as of Sept. 7, with totals since pandemic began and change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those who have received at least one dose as of Sept. 2.

**PAID NOTICE**

Susan Fitzgerald
(1952-2022)

Susan Alice Fitzgerald, 70, a former resident of Garrison, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, September 6, 2022.

She was born to the late George and Alice Harper on March 23, 1952 in Wantagh, NY. Growing up in Stewart Manor, Long Island with her two siblings, Bob and Joanne, who knew her are invited to attend Sue’s Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 10, at St. Augustine Catholic Church (located at: 381 Albany Post Rd, Ossining, NY 10562).

For obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.
Three Grads (from Page 1)

long time, but it is all I know,” she said. “I’m excited to experience something new more than I am sad to leave, because I am planning on coming back.”

Athletics

Tomas Struck hopes his path will lead him to the professional gridiron.

The 17-year-old Garrison resident, who graduated from James O’Neill High School in Highland Falls, attends the IMG Academy, a preparatory boarding school in Bradenton, Florida.

Established in 1978, IMG is known as a sports powerhouse. In 2020-21 its football team won the High School Football America National Championship.

Struck received offers from a few Division III schools in New York but said he aspires to a higher level of competition and believes IMG can help him reach it. The school’s football schedule includes games against leading high schools across the U.S., as well as junior college and college freshmen teams.

The Ascenders lost their 2022 season opener to Miami Central, 20-14, on Aug. 26. The team is ranked third in Florida and 13th nationally.

“The program is pretty fun,” Struck said. “But it’s nothing you just breeze through; it’s a lot of work.”

Struck, who is studying business, said he could attend IMG for the next school year or enroll in college in six months.

He plans to attend a Division I college and is considering Syracuse and Florida Atlantic University. But his goal is to play professionally. “To be honest, I hope that college gets me to the NFL scouting combine,” where teams evaluate prospects, he said.

It’s been done; there are 15 active NFL players who attended IMG. Struck said he is considering switching positions to safety because he is relatively small, at 6-feet, 1-inches and 205 pounds, for a linebacker.

Full-time work

Michael Covelli wasted no words when asked how he felt about graduating from Haldane High School. “It was great,” he said. “I’ve been waiting for this the whole time, to start working, because I love money!”

Covelli is no stranger to work. Throughout high school he worked part time at local restaurants and at Marc’s Landscaping, where he is now employed full-time.

During his junior and senior years, Covelli studied auto mechanics at the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) campus in Yorktown Heights.

“I just wanted to know how to work on my own vehicle, rather than have to take it to a shop,” he said, adding that he and his dad installed a lift in the family’s garage.

At BOCES, he enjoyed the hands-on learning. “You’re always in the shop, learning how to do what you came there to do,” he said. “And you meet a lot of people — instructors and students; I met some of my best friends there.”

But he said he’s not interested in a career in auto repair. “I want to be an operating engineer, working with heavy equipment, like excavators and loaders,” he said. “That’s what my dad does; I’ve always wanted to do that.”

Covelli is operating landscaping equipment with Marc’s but said his goal is to pursue the training required for membership in the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 137.

In the meantime, he relaxes with smaller machines, including dirt bikes, quads and his Harley Dyna Wide Glide motorcycle.

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&

E.J. McMahon
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“New York’s Fiscal & Economic Outlook”

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- New York State Assembly Member Terry Schekman
- New York State Assembly Member Steve Englebert
- New York State Assembly Member William Becker
- New York State Assembly Member Kevin Cahill
- New York State Assembly Member Chris Pappas
- New York State Assembly Member John Culleton
$63 million in unclaimed funds due Highlands residents

By Chip Rowe

Every so often, we publish a list of some of the thousands of people and businesses in the Highlands who are owed money by New York State.

Companies are required by law to report dormant accounts to the state agency, and once the accounts are located, turn over the funds to the comptroller. The agency maintains a public database of these “unclaimed funds” — utility refunds, the balance of forgotten bank accounts, stock dividends, insurance payouts, security deposits, unused gift cards — to match lost money with lost people.

According to the state, there are 2,594 dormant accounts owed to current and former Cold Spring and Phillipsburg residents and businesses, with a value of $1.6 million; 1,724 accounts worth $1 million owed to Garrison residents; and 7,573 accounts worth $37.3 million owed to Beacon residents, for a total of $6.3 million. You can search for your name or business at ouf.osc.state.ny.us/ouf. If you are owed money, or you are the next-of-kin, you complete a form that can usually be submitted online but in some cases must be mailed. Call 800-221-9311 with questions. To search for funds in other states, see missngmoney.com.

The list below contains names from the Highlands added to the state database from January 2021 to August 2022.

Cold Spring / Phillipsburg

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<td>Carroll Claire E</td>
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The Highlands Current
HANGING BY THREADS — Luna Deasy (left) and Andrea Murrillo (right), who, along with Kyle Driggs, make up the 3AM Theatre circus, performed Aug. 28 at Opus 40, a landscape sculpture in Saugerties created 37 years ago by Harvey Fite.

SOLD OUT — The Emerson Quartet played Boscobel in Garrison on Sept. 3 as part of its farewell tour. During its four decades together, the quartet has recorded 30 albums and won nine Grammy Awards. It was the first of four concerts in the historic site’s Chamber Music Series, which continues through Sunday (Sept. 11).

Photos by Ross Corsair

Aery Theatre Company’s 20/20 One Act Play Festival
Sept 9-18

Michael Musgrave
Touch and Tone: Piano music from Scarlatti to Brahms
Friday Sept 23 at 7:00pm

Empire Trio:
The Broadway Show
Sunday, Sept 25 at 7pm

Depot Docs:
Unfinished Business
Sept 30 at 7:30pm

Daniel Kelly Jazz Trio
Oct 1 at 7pm

An Evening with Liz Callaway
Oct 2 at 7pm

September Events!
SAT., SEPT. 17TH, 7:30 PM
Mamie Minch and Tamar Korn
Old school blues and Americana with a modern femme sensitivity!

SUN., SEPT. 18TH, 3:00 PM
Poets’ Corner Open Mic
Featuring Sean Singer
Playful, experimental, and jazz-influenced Poetry!

THROUGH OCT. 1ST
“Ordinary Wonders”
The photography of Dorene Battles
(Please visit during events)

tompkinscorners.org
729 Peekskill Hollow Rd., Putnam Valley

Hudson Beach Glass
Fine art gallery located on second floor

Matt Kinney
Paintings, Drawings, Sculpture
Sep 10 — Oct 2, 2022
Opening reception 2nd Sat, 5-8pm

162 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 845-440-0068
www.hudsonbeachglass.com
If there’s anywhere that needs calming art, says Sarah Heitmeyer, it’s the hospitals, airports and other institutional spaces where we bide our time. “What we seek in sanctuaries is a quiet space to process and consolidate thoughts, step out of our habitual norm to reflect and find hope,” writes the ceramic artist, whose work will be one half of a two-person exhibit with Scott Lerman, Natural Order, that opens Saturday (Sept. 10) at the Garage Gallery in Beacon. Hospitals and airports, which “accommodate large numbers of people going through immense change,” can “put their captive audience at ease with the support of beauty, so they may gather hope in life’s changes,” she said.

Heitmeyer focused on drawing and painting in high school but switched to ceramics at Alfred University. “I immediately felt the energy of all the other people working in clay,” she recalls. “I dove right in, wanting to pursue this energy.”

At her first class on the wheel, Heitmeyer found herself “enjoying how much command clay has, with so many material properties and so much process I was interested in. I also worked in a darkroom, finding I loved that process. At the same time, in my painting class, I noticed the lack of materiality. A year later, when I took a tile class, it fused my interests in two-dimensional work.”

She knew she wanted to pursue the residencies and internships necessary in building a portfolio for graduate school — she eventually attended SUNY New Paltz — and aspired to work in a design and production studio, “putting my work out into the world.”

Heitmeyer wound up doing just that, working for ceramic studios such as Klein-Reid, Kala Stein Design and ModCraft Tile, as well as at the Hudson Valley Additive Manufacturing Center, a digital design and fabrication lab.

Most of her fabrication is done at her Fishkill studio, where she creates commercial prototypes and gallery pieces. Much of her work is decorative wall tile, emulating tides and other properties of water. The modular works range in size, she says, “from intimate to monumental, and bring the restorative power of nature into the built environment.”

She prefers creating pieces that can be hung on the wall, “something parallel to your body, at eye level. I prefer to make modular pieces, rather than ephemeral, temporary art installations; I love working with multiples and dividing spaces.”

Her technique evolved while she was in graduate school. “I was always trying to create this feeling of calm, with movement,” she says. “I struggled because I wanted to be specific on the feeling. I was doing a photography class and realized how many photos I had taken of water ripples, with their gradient color and scale — it became obvious how drawn I was to this imagery. “At the same time, I was developing skills in computer-assisted design while working at a digital fabrication lab. I learned how to translate a photograph of water into a 3D form, and once I had that tool I was able to play around with how I rendered that image, altering the form into any tile pattern I wanted.”

Heitmeyer says she begins a piece with a vague landscape in mind that connects to an emotion or the feeling of being in a certain place. She uses CAD to process photos of water to sculpt and integrate into a pattern; she brings these forms into her home studio by using processes such as 3D printing.

From there, she presses clay directly onto the form or uses it to make a plaster mold for slip-casting, pouring liquid clay into the mold. She says the work is finished by choosing a glaze to convey the emotion she hopes to capture.

Heitmeyer created her home studio during the pandemic while stretched between part-time jobs and a new baby. “Being home more, it helped me realize that I could shift my focus and strategize more on getting myself and the work out there,” she says. For inspiration, she frequently finds herself at the Hudson River, seeking a “large expanse that feels immersive. The river and lakes have that glassy quality where you can study the movement — much more so than the ocean.”

The Calendar

CALM MOVEMENTS

Artist captures water in clay

By Alison Rooney

“Symmetry Meditation, Northwest Creek, NC”

“Beyond Knowing Tides”

Sarah Heitmeyer with “Reduce Me To Silence”

“Levels”

“Water With Lines”
Bridge Music, with Dancing, on Film

Choreography added to composer's unusual work

By Alison Rooney

In 2009 Joe Bertolozzi had a lot of convincing to do.

The composer and musician was trying to explain his idea to record a “sound art” installation derived from interacting with the Mid-Hudson Bridge in Poughkeepsie.

Bertolozzi wanted to turn the bridge into a percussion instrument as one of the events marking the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s sail up the river. The Poughkeepsie resident would record an album, Bridge Music, by striking parts such as guard rails and girders with mallets of various sizes.

In June 2009, the album reached No. 18 on Billboard’s Classical Crossover chart.

More recently, Bertolozzi added dance to the mix. He partnered with Livia Vanaver of the Vanaver Caravan dance company, who asked 10 groups to each choreograph a movement in Bridge Music.

On June 25, each group performed on the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie — the forms included Latin fusion, tap, soca, post-modern, hip-hop, ballet and Karnatic, or Indian classical — then joined an improvised finale to celebrate “the connecting force of bridges to their communities.”

The performances were filmed by a crew directed by Jesse Brown; The resulting 40-minute documentary, The Bridge Music Dance Project, will be screened at Story Screen in Beacon on Sept. 17, with Bertolozzi, Brown and Vanaver answering questions.

“I’ve always had an interest in dance,” Bertolozzi explains. “Ballet, modern. I’m always looking for people who could turn my music into dance. I got the idea a long time ago that the Vanaver Caravan dance company would be great collaborators. Livia was always interested, too, but the planets never aligned. We were done in again by the pandemic.”

As a child, Bertolozzi planned on becoming a painter but shifted to music following the arrival of the Beatles. A few years later, his parents bought him a classical-for-kids record that he “must have played a dozen times. After a few days, I wanted to become a composer.”

He began piano lessons and filled a notebook with one- and two-line melodies. “As I got older I started writing more sophisticated pieces,” he says. After graduating from Vassar College, his career shifted to the organ; today he plays for two churches and a temple.

When his wife gave him a set of gongs as a birthday gift, he began composing for that instrument. “I was excited by it, a Javanese type, and in the course of three or four months I amassed a collection of 60 gongs, which I arranged in a U-formation,” he recalls.

He had a notion of playing the Eiffel Tower, but knowing that Gustave Eiffel was a bridge designer, began looking for a nearby suspension bridge. “I know it’s a little crazy, but I made an appointment with the [Mid-Hudson] bridge people, and I brought along some of my orchestral recordings,” he says.

“I told them: ‘Give me three days to sample the surfaces. I’ll write a song with those sounds and, if you don’t like it, we’re done.’”

Bridge Music can be heard along the pedestrian sidewalk at the Mid-Hudson Bridge or in the parks near the bridge on 95.3 FM.

Story Screen is located at 445 Main St. in Beacon. The Bridge Music Dance Project will be screened at 6 and 9 p.m. on Sept. 17 and include a discussion with Bertolozzi, Brown and Vanaver. Tickets are $20 at storyscreenbeacon.com/special-screenings.

Members of the dance department at the Fei Tian College in Middletown perform during the Bridge Music Dance Project.

Photo by Irving Solero

Sara Mikulsky Wellness Physical Therapy
18 W. MAIN ST., BEACON NY INSIDE BEACON PILATES
www.saramikulsky.com
sara@saramikulsky.com
845-219-5210

INSIDE BEACON PILATES
18 W. MAIN ST ., BEACON NY
Therapy
Wellness Physical
Sara Mikulsky
The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival on Sept. 2 released conceptual drawings of the open-air theater it plans to build at the former site of The Garrison golf course.

It said in a news release the images, created by Studio Gang, will be submitted to the Philipstown Planning Board as part of an ongoing environmental review process.

At its former home at Boscobel in Garrison, HVSF used a fabric tent that was installed and removed each summer. At the new site, it hopes to construct a year-round outdoor theater “with a thin, ground-hugging profile” and “a floating timber-framed roof” with “shallow horizontal curves [that] echo the ridge lines,” it said.

The structure would be the first purpose-built theater in the country with platinum certification by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the festival said. The plans include solar panels, rainwater capture, reduced embedded carbon and other elements. It would sit amid vegetative screening.

HVSF also said it has dropped plans to add an entrance and bridge on Snake Hill Road. It said the existing entrance was sufficient during performances over the summer. “The bridge would have been a major expense, and we are greatly relieved that it appears to be unnecessary,” said Davis McCallum, the HVSF artistic director, in a statement.

“Our audiences this summer loved our new home,” he added. “We operated without any of the impacts or problems that some had feared” and expressed during the Planning Board review.

The festival’s season continues through Sept. 18. The Planning Board next meets on Thursday (Sept. 15); it did not meet in August.
**THE WEEK AHEAD**

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

**SUN 11**

**Memorial Service**

**CARMEL**

8:45 a.m. Bureau of Emergency Services 112 Old Route 6 Members of the Putnam County Youth Bureau will read the names of those lost in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

**SUN 11**

**Memorial Service**

**BEACON**

11 a.m. Elks Lodge | 900 Wootcott Ave. A commemoration at the lawn memorial will honor people impacted by the attacks.

**SUN 11**

**Candlelight Vigil**

**CARMEL**

7 p.m. Spain Cornerstone Park 1 Fair St. | putnamcountyny.org More than 50 artisans, artists and craftspeople will present their work. There will also be live music. There will also be a raffle and live music from Stephen Clair and The Costellos. Free

**MON 12**

**Blood Drive**

**BEACON**

2:30 - 7 p.m. St. John’s Church 35 Willow St. | nybc.org

Register online to donate at this drive organized by the Knights of Columbus.

**SAT 17**

**Farm to Table Ride**

**BREWSTER**

Tilly Foster Farm | 100 Route 312 putnamcountryparks.org

In this fundraiser organized by the Putnam Community Action Partnership to combat poverty, participants can drive a route that begins at the farm with stops at the Chuan Yen Monastery in Kent and Minisink, the Garrison Art Center, the Philipstown Depot Theatre and Antipodean Books in Garrison. It concludes at 4 p.m. with dinner at Ryder Farm in Brewster. Cost: $100 ($75 dinner only)

**SAT 17**

**Tag Sale**

**COLD SPRING**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

Shop to support the library’s programs at its second annual sale.

**SAT 17**

**Walk-a-Thon**

**GARRISON**

11 a.m. 2 p.m. Saint Basil Academy 79 Saint Basil Road | sbagoa.org

Enjoy a walk on the campus, a cookout, kids games and a raffle. Cost: $25 suggested donation

**SUN 18**

**Catoberfest**

**BEACON**

4 - 8 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery 7 E. Main St. catoberfest.brownpapertickets.com

This annual benefit for Mid-Hudson Animal Aid will include craft beer and Groundlings pizza. There will also be a raffle and live music from Stephen Clair and The Costellos. Free

**STAGE & SCREEN**

**SAT 10**

**Aery Theatre One-Act Play Festival**

**GARRISON**

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900 philipstowndepottheatre.org

During this 16th annual competition, audience members choose which plays proceed. Also SUN 11. See the website for each day’s lineup. Cost: $20

**SAT 10**

**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 MON 12, THURS 15, SAT 17. Cost: $10 to $95

**SAT 10**

**The Artichoke**

**BEACON**

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 artichokeshow.com


**SUN 18**

**Garden Party**

**GARRISON**

2 p.m. Boscobel 1601 Route 9D | 845-452-3077 communityfoundationshv.org

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley is hosting its 26th annual benefit at the historic site. It will honor youth activist Tay Fisher of Kingston, environmentalists Anne and Fred Osborn of Garrison (below) and Joan Sherman, who created the Poughkeepsie Head Start program in 1965. Cost: $250 to $500

**SUN 18**

**SUN 18**

**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 WED 16, FRI 16, SUN 18. Cost: $10 to $95

**SUN 18**

**People Make It Happen**

**BEACON**

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

In this program for the 150th anniversary of the Howland Public Library, artists, musicians and actors will share historical writings. Free

**SAT 10**

**Singin’ in the Rain**

**GARRISON**

7:30 p.m. Boscobel 1601 Route 9D | coldspringfilm.org

For its final showing of the season, the Cold Spring Film Society will present the 1952 musical starring Debbie Reynolds, Rita Moreno and Gene Kelly about the transition from silent films to sound. Free

**SAT 17**

**Bridge Music Dance Project**

**BEACON**

6 & 9 p.m. Story Screen | 445 Main St. storyscreenbeacon.com

Composer Joseph Bertolozzi, choreographer Livia Vanaver and director Jesse Brown will screen a documentary about dances set to movements from Bridge Music. See Page 12. Cost: $20

**SAT 17**

**Henry Rollins**

**POUGHKEEPSIE**

8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St. 845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Rollins, the frontman for the punk band Black Flag who is also an actor and spoken-word artist, will share stories from his life. Cost: $36 to $41

**SECOND SATURDAY**

**SAT 10**

**Planet Rainbow Sparkles**

**BEACON**

3 - 6 p.m. Clutter Gallery 163 Main St. | clutter.co

The sixth installment of this group show will feature hundreds of pieces by more than 90 artists. It will be followed by an opening from 6 – 9 p.m. for a solo show by Jagbot. Through Oct. 7.

**SAT 10**

**Natural Order**

**BEACON**

4 – 7 p.m. Garage Gallery 17 Church St. | garagegalleries.com

Sarah Heimetz’s ceramics and Scott Lerman’s photo-based prints will be on view in this two-person show. See Page 11. Through Sept. 25.

**SAT 10**

**Matt Kinney**

**BEACON**

5 – 8 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass 162 Main St. | 845-440-0068 hudsonbeachglass.com

The Beacon artist will share his paintings, drawings and sculptures. Through Oct. 2.

**SAT 10**

**Linda Lauro-Lazin | Robyn Ellenbogen | Melissa Schlobohm**

**BEACON**

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St. 845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Lauro-Lazin’s Terra Ingoigna v. 2 will be on view in Gallery 1; Emergent Patterns by Ellenbogen (with metalpoint drawings, a 12th-century technique) in Gallery 2; and Schlobohm’s Glow Show in the Beacon Room. Through Oct. 2.

**SAT 10**

**Johan Ayyob**

**BEACON**

6 – 8 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery 150 Main St. | 845-831-6348 bannermancastle.org

The artist will discuss his drawings in The Beacon Series. The exhibit continues through Sept. 25.

**SUN 18**

**Sean Singer**

**PUTNAM VALLEY**

3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center 729 Peeksskill Hollow Road tomkincorners.org

Singer, whose most recent collection is Today in the Taxi, will share his poems, followed by an open mic.

**COMMUNITY**

**SAT 10**

**Modern Makers Market**

**COLD SPRING**

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary’s Church 1 Chestnut St. | hopeonhestudson.com

More than 50 artisans, artists and craftspeople will present their work. There will also be live music. Donations benefit the church.

**SAT 10**

**Annual Lawn Party**

**GARRISON**

4 p.m. Slean Estate 61 Lisburne Lane | 845-265-4010 putnammuseum.org

This benefit for the Putnam History Museum will include guided tours of the 1864 mansion, as well as music by the Todd Londagin Quintet, a brief historical presentation and a visit from an actor portraying railroad magnate Samuel Sloan (1877-1907). Register online. Cost: $50 to $250

**SAT 10**

**Raise the Rake**

**PHILPSTOWN**

5 p.m. Glynnwood Center 362 Glynnwood Road | 845-265-3338 glynnwood.org

This live auction and dance will include dinner, drinks and music by Bennet Konesni. Cost: $50

**For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.**
SAT 10

NashSkill
PEEKSKILL
2 p.m. Factoria | 5 John Walsh Boulevard
nashskill.com

The fifth annual festival will have continuous live music and food for sale. Free

SAT 10

Open Book
GARRISON
3 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

This family concert by duo Michele and Rick Gedney will feature music from their forthcoming release and other favorites. Free

SAT 10

Schubert's Trout Quintet
GARRISON
6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

The trombonists will perform a new composition, “Waves,” as part of the closing of Randy Gibson’s Infinite Structures.

SAT 10

After the Rain
NEWBURGH
7:30 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College 330 Powell Ave. | 845-913-7157
newburghsymphony.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will launch its 28th season of music with a program of Bruckner, Mozart and Debussy. Free

SAT 10

Paper Sun
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Sun is a duo of red hot originals. Free

SAT 10

Pete Donnelly Combo
BEACON
9 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnsbeacon

The trio will perform music from their album, Perpetual Tryst. Harrison Manning will open. Cost: $10

SAT 10

FRI 16

River of Dreams
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Billy Joel tribute band will play all the singer’s hits. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

FRI 16

Doansburg Chamber Ensemble
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. The Yard 4 Hanna Lane | annalysseandryan.com

For this ongoing series, Daria Grace, Matt Dickey, Brad Hubbard, Neil Alexander, Jeremy Portwood and Tisten Napoli will perform music from its new release, Shores of Opulence. For more information, visit: www.dosburgchamberensemble.org

FRI 16

Mamie Minch and Tamar Korn
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center 729 Peeksskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Mamie, a blues guitarist and singer, will perform with Korn, who specializes in American, bluegrass and Yiddish traditional songs. Cost: $20

FRI 16

Address: Earth
PEEKSKILL
3 – 5 p.m. Hudson Valley MOCA 1701 Main St. | inspirationartgroup.org

Organized by the Inspiration Art Group International and curated by Rhiana Huang Mathies, this group show includes works by 20 artists that address critical global issues. Through Oct. 30.
THE WEEK AHEAD

TALKS & TOURS
MON 12
Memoir Writing for Seniors
COLD SPRING
10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
In this, the first of a four-session workshop, Carolyn Ricapito will lead the group with prompts. Registration required.

TUES 13
Social Media Mental Health for Adults
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Ryan Bircree, the digital services librarian, will discuss how to use social media to make positive connections and avoid “doom scrolling,” screen addiction and other unhealthy habits.

WED 14
The Flower Garden
COLD SPRING
3:30 p.m. Stonecrop Lane
81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000
stonecrop.org
Take a guided tour of the English-style flower garden at its peak. Cost: $10 (free for members)

THURS 15
Creating Pollinator-Friendly Communities
BEACON
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org
Master Gardener Joyce Tomaselli will discuss how to create pollinator-friendly landscapes and what it means to have connectivity.

THURS 15
Staging Democracy
BEACON
7 p.m. Cold Spring Coffeehouse
92 Main St. | 845-265-2080
splitrockkids.com
Jessica Pisano will discuss her book on “political performance” in Ukraine and Russia. (See Page 2.) She will be joined by Ukrainian native Julia Kiela Taylor. Book sales will benefit the Karatin Foundation.

SAT 17
Bird Walk
PHILIPSTOWN
3:30 p.m. Hubbard Lodge
2880 Route 9
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Members of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will lead a hike to view migratory warblers in the wetlands. Cost: $10

SUN 18
Echoes from Wuhan
GARRISON
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Gretchen Dykstra will discuss her new memoir, which details the two years she spent as a teacher in China.

ECHOES FROM WUHAN
SAT 17
Calligraphy and Origami, Sept. 17
SUN 11
College Essay Workshop
COLD SPRING
Phillipstown
7:30 a.m. Hubbard Lodge
2880 Route 9
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Members of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will lead a hike to view migratory warblers in the wetlands. Cost: $10

KIDS & FAMILY
SUN 11
College Essay Workshop
COLD SPRING
Phillipstown
7:30 a.m. Hubbard Lodge
2880 Route 9
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Members of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will lead a hike to view migratory warblers in the wetlands. Cost: $10

SAT 17
Calligraphy and Origami
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
The Mid-Hudson Japanese Community Association will host this workshop for students ages 8-12 and 13-18. Registration required.

CIVIC
MON 12
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 12
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beacon12.org

MON 12
Dutchess Legislature
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. Legislative Chambers
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100
dutchessny.gov

WED 14
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 14
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

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We’re helping families with our Maternal & Newborn Care Unit at our Hudson Valley Hospital. We’ve added more private rooms for moms and partners, as well as coaching before, during and after delivery. Just a few more ways to make bundles of joy more joyful.

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MORE WESTCHESTER
NYP.ORG/MOREWESTCHESTER

NYP.ORG/MOREWESTCHESTER

STAY
AMAZING
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Presbyterian
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Columbia
WellCornell
Medicine
DRIED FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLASS

THURSDAY, 9/29
6.30-8.30 PM

BOOK NOW AT
WITCHHAZELNY.COM

In our workshop, we’ll go over:

• Selecting the best dried flowers
• Composing unique, balanced arrangements that suit your style
• Color theory options so your design looks intentional
• Vases and supplies to make even more designs at home!

WITCHHAZEL
176 MAIN STREET, BEACON, NY
TRAILS

Storm King is a mountain which should be left alone. It rises like a brown bear out of the river, a dome of living granite, swelling with animal power. It is not picturesque in the softer sense of the word, but awesome, a primitive embodiment of the energies of the earth. It makes the character of wild nature physically visible in monumental form ... It can still make the city dweller emotionally aware of what he most needs to know: that nature still exists, with its own laws, rhythms and powers, separate from human desires.”

~ VINCENT SCULLY

A professor of art history at Yale, testifying in 1967 against Con Ed’s plans for Storm King

Consolidated Edison’s 1962 proposal (right) to build a power plant in Storm King Mountain (left) was abandoned in 1979.

PEOPLE POWER

The idea of a national park in the Highlands found little support in the nation’s capital, so activists turned their attention to creating a state park. In the 1930s, newly formed conservation groups bought land to preserve, most notably parts of Breakneck Ridge and Anthony’s Nose. But not much progress was made until a new threat arose that was bigger than a quarry or factory.

Sixty years ago this month, in 1962, The Nature Conservancy began investigating how it could acquire private tracts stretching from Mount Beacon to Breakneck Ridge to Mount Taurus. It did not consider Storm King, across the river, as a candidate for preservation — the idea that anyone would touch such a majestic landmark was too outrageous.

Four days later, a headline on the front page of The New York Times proved them naive. “Huge Power Plant Planned on Hudson,” it read. Con Edison had announced its intention to construct a hydroelectric plant in a cavity carved into Storm King.

That began a nearly 20-year fight to save the mountain — a battle that helped form a canon of environmental law and established the idea that scenic beauty can be as important, legally, as industry.

What’s often forgotten about the Storm King saga is that there were two power plants in development: Central Hudson also wanted to build at Breakneck Ridge.

In addition, Georgia Pacific wanted a wallboard factory at Little Stony Point, which it had just purchased. Locals believed that, if the plant was built at Storm King, it would set off a chain of dominoes.

The Storm King plant was seen by the state as a foregone conclusion; in a bid to appease the angry residents of the Highlands, it bought the land at Breakneck and Little Stony Point, and the Hudson Highlands State Park was born. The state, with the assistance of nonprofits such as Scenic Hudson and the Open Space Institute that purchase additional tracts and donate them, continue to expand the boundaries of the park, which has more than 70 miles of trails.

For a park that was created mainly to serve as a consolation prize, Hudson Highlands State Park has exceeded all expectations. Over the past 10 years, it has drawn more than 3 million visitors, with attendance increasing sharply around 2015. That was when Breakneck Ridge, aided by photos taken atop its lookout spots and posted to social media, became one of the busiest trails in the country.

The park’s popularity vindicates the conservationists of the early 20th century who fought for the land to be preserved, although one of them — if he were alive — would probably not be happy about what it has become.

Howell, the man who delighted in Cold Spring being the deadest town on the lower Hudson, hoped that any park in the Highlands would contain no infrastructure: no parking lots, no places nearby to stay, no trails. “There is a wild charm and isolation about the Highlands that will fly forever when the ‘improvements’ begin to come in,” he wrote.

The Hudson Highlands State Park has grown both in acreage and popularity, but the improvements have struggled to keep up, as the past few years of overcrowding...
has shown. Now the park is about to undertake its biggest change: the Fjord Trail as the eastern bank of the river that aims to ease overcrowding and congestion, keep hikers off busy roads and from overwhelming the streets of Cold Spring, and provide alternate trailheads and attractions instead of funneling every hiker who comes to the area to Breakneck.

The project has already received pushback from locals who fear that it will make the problem worse by drawing more people to the village and Breakneck, and would prefer to follow Howell’s maxim to leave “improvements” out of the Highlands before the park is improved to death.

UNTRAILED TRAILS

Fifty miles north, another outdoor hotspot elevated by the sentimental Hudson River School is finding the only way to improve on nature is to take the extraordinary step of keeping every human out. The Catskills 3500’ Club was created in 1962. Inspired by the Adirondack 46ers Club, membership is contingent upon summiting the peaks in the Catskills above 3,500 feet, an elevation at which the vegetation transitions to evergreens such as the balsam fir that serve as the home for the rare Bicknell’s Thrush. There were 35 such peaks; four had to then be climbed a second time in the winter.

Even in the early 1960s, there were concerns that the challenge might bring too many people to the mountains. So the fledgling club went over the prospective list with the state Department of Environmental Conservation and decided that about half of the peaks would remain “untrailed”: no marks, no blazes.

The idea was to leave these peaks alone so hikers could experience the “wild” and rely on their own navigational skills. The only sign of civilization would be canisters that the club attached to trees at the summits containing notebooks that hikers would sign to prove that they had arrived.

The only access to two untrailed peaks — Graham and Doubletop — was through private land, but the club arranged with the owners to allow hikers to call and ask for the OK to pass through. Aside from the occasional misadventure or social faux pas, things went relatively smoothly for 58 years. Then came the pandemic, and people found themselves languishing, and in need of a project.

The untrailed peaks of the Catskills saw the same crowds that so many outdoor spots did during early COVID: full trails and cars parked where they didn’t belong. But the untrailed peaks took a particular beating. When you’re not on the trail, every hoofprint crushes something. That wasn’t much of an issue with limited numbers and everyone taking a different route. But when inexperienced hikers show up and follow the same path, the effects are quickly visible.

The onslaught was particularly devastating at Graham and Doubletop, which now have trails because hikers tied ribbons to trees to create blazes. This led the landowners to ask themselves: Can a mountain be “wild” if there are people on it? Is there value in having places in the Catskills that are free of humans?

After discussions with the DEC, the Catskill 3500’ Club and The Catskill Center, the landowners announced that their property was off limits. The 35 high peaks became 33. With crowdsourced trails now showing up elsewhere, the conversation has continued: Do the unmanaged Catskills need to be managed?

MORE THAN A LIST

Even before the pandemic, the number of hikers in the Catskills had been steadily increasing for years. “We felt it was important, before it went any further, to start thinking about solutions,” said Maria Bedo-Calhoun, a past president of the 3500’ Club.

The DEC is conducting field research to determine if the untrailed peaks need a visitor management plan. By examining the canister notebooks, noting where informal trails have sprung up, and examining public GPS data that hikers had posted using apps such as AllTrails and Strava, the DEC was able to establish a baseline of activity. While the study isn’t complete, Pine Roehrs of the DEC, who is leading it, said it shows a significant increase in negative impacts on the peaks since an initial study was completed in 2019.

When planning trails, designers consider which routes will cause the least amount of erosion. They look at fragile, rare plants and nesting grounds for endangered species. They consider whether a rocky scramble is challenging but doable, or flat-out dangerous.

An inexperienced bushwhacker on a high peak is not going to take any of those things into consideration. Many simply make a beeline to the top, which tends to therefore be steep, leading to increased erosion as rainwater always finds the easiest route down. Roehrs said impacted areas are also seeing an increase in noxious, non-native species such as Japanese barberry and garlic mustard, which thrive in impacted soil, and the hemlock woolly adelgid, which may be hitching a ride on unsuspecting hikers.

Many rare and endangered mountain birds also build their nests on or close to the ground, making them vulnerable to hikers who aren’t using a trail. In a cruel irony, Bicknell’s Thrush, the bird that inspired the Catskill 3500’ Club, is having one of its few habitats threatened by hikers attempting to qualify for membership. Roehrs said that the DEC is planning a study in 2023 that will focus on the effect of encroachment on endangered and threatened bird species in the Catskills.

The DEC’s report-in-progress will likely have recommendations for each of the untrailed peaks. For some, it’s likely that no action will be taken. But on others, Bedo-Calhoun believes the agency will recommend a practice that is already being undertaken in the Adirondacks on its untrailed peaks: managed “herd” paths. A herd path typically refers to an unplanned trail created by people and/or animals walking the same route. But if the DEC determines that, on peaks where multiple paths have formed, one path has less environmental impact, it may be designated as a “preferred informal trail” and hikers encouraged to use it. Meanwhile, the problematic informal trails can grow over.

Bedo-Calhoun says a nuclear option — closing the Catskills 3500’ Club — would not be so simple. Members of other clubs pursue extreme challenges such as hiking all the high peaks in a month. Roehrs said two untrailed peaks that weren’t part of any club challenge until the last few years have seen the most damage.

Perhaps, Bedo-Calhoun suggested, hikers have lost sight of what made completing a list of high peaks special in the first place: It requires you to spend a lot of time in a beloved place that has mystified and enchanted people for centuries. Their joy is not about reaching the peak, but being there, experiencing the effect of encroachment on endangered and threatened bird species in the Catskills.

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More than a list

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COMMUNITY DAY

Cold Spring
Sept 3rd

Photos by Ross Corsair and Michael Turton
Roundup (from Page 24)

“Devyn Kelly also played strong defense, and Rory LaDue gave us a spark on offense.” Beacon (1-1) is scheduled to host Middletown on Wednesday (Sept. 14) at 4:15 p.m.

BOYS’ SOCCER
Haldane picked up a 3-0 win over Walter Panas on Sept. 2 in Cortlandt behind a hat-trick from Ryan Eng-Wong.

Before traveling on Sept. 16 to Port Jervis.

Aidan Sullivan-Hoch, Clement Grossman and Brandt Robbins each had assists, and keeper Ronan Kiter had four saves.

Coach Ahmed Dwidar said it was satisfying to defeat a well-coached, larger school. “Our defense — led by Will Sniffen, Matt Nachamkin, Ty Villella and Aidan — won this game for us,” he said.

Haldane (2-0) will visit Hastings today (Sept. 9) before traveling to Poughkeepsie on Monday.

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.

Football (from Page 24)

Returning starters are senior Alex Khalil and juniors Michael Varian and Jayden Quintana.

The Bulldogs also return 14 other players, led by seniors Joey Vollaro and Joseph Battle, junior Owen Lynch and sophomores Rayan Wandji, Cashmere Jackson and JoJo Cesar.

“We have a lot of big, physical athletes,” said Phelan. “We’re young, with a lot of new players, and our success will be based around how we play in the trenches.”

Urbanak will take over as quarterback.

“Danny works very hard,” Phelan said. “He went from being a soccer goalie and punter to being our QB, and making nice deep throws. And he makes good decisions. It will be interesting to see how we do with our taller playmakers on the outside. We have bigger receivers than we have had in the past, and we’re hoping with that size we can do some things, take advantage of some mismatches.”

The Bulldogs will be tested the first four weeks of the season, hosting Warwick Valley at 6 p.m. today (Sept. 9), followed by road games at Valley Central, Monroe-Woodbury and Goshen.
Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

ACROSS
1. Milan’s La —
6. Mops the deck
11. First game of the season
12. Fortune-telling decks
14. Gift giver’s words
15. Not level
16. Italian “three”
17. Trombone part
19. Coach Parseghian
20. Coup d’—
22. Summer on the Seine
23. Not kosher
24. Hose material
26. 1955 Platters hit
28. — — di-dah
30. Pinnacle
31. “Pretty please?”
35. From the area
39. Writer Kingsley
40. Highland hat
42. Elephant Boy actor
43. UV ray-blocking stat
44. James — Garfield
46. Stanley Cup org.
47. Spill the beans
49. “Pst!”
51. Dodged
52. Knight suits
53. Basilica areas
54. Inclines

DOWN
1. Stylish
2. Breakfast bowlful
3. Whatever amount
4. Late July babies
5. As — (usually)
6. Pupil
7. Diminish
8. “Right you —!”
9. Emma of fiction
10. Sound system
11. Frequently
12. Fortune-telling decks
13. Major mix-up
18. “Am — blame?”
21. Bridge fees
23. Printing errors
25. Aye undoer
27. Texter’s chuckle
29. Sites of rapid growth
31. Squander
32. Chevy model
33. Boost
34. Eg. and Syr., once
36. Big gorge
37. Loathes
38. Humdingers
41. Taj —
44. Out of the storm
45. Simple
48. Pro Bowl stats
50. Singer Sumac

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7 LITTLEWORDS

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 creative mix of ingredients (10) ______________________
2 firm in one’s purpose (8) ______________________
3 utterly astounded (10) ______________________
4 deep pinkish red (6) ______________________
5 short theater production (7) ______________________
6 provoking anger (11) ______________________
7 newspaper’s apology (10) ______________________

CONC YLET GOB ON KED
LUTE IAT ON INF TRAC
UR RE RISE SMAC RESO
CE TI OCTI ING PLA

© 2022 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

SUDOCURRENT

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

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Answers for Sept. 2 Puzzles

TO WEL I DO AD J
AFIRE NO W LOU
BALSA SUN BIRD
DENSER LE IA
PIC NPR PUNCH
SNAG UTTER
ANTLER HUB CAP
OTTER SOLE
COMBS MOS RAP
AREA GOBLIN
MALL RAT UDDER
ETE S OLE ME OWS
LEE TED PAG ET

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

1. GRAPPLE, 2. DEFT, 3. WALT, 4. CACTI, 5. CAMOUFLAGE, 6. SPIRO, 7. ASSUMPTION

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.
By Skip Pearlman

Haldane Coach Ryan McConville is looking to a group of experienced and athletic returning players to guide this year's edition of the Blue Devils football team through the regular season and into the playoff battle.

Haldane lost to Moriah in the first round of last year's regional tournament after earning an at-large bid following a loss in the Section I, Class D title game to Tuckahoe. The team finished 6-4.

The Blue Devils open the season on Saturday (Sept. 10) at Irvington. Its home opener, against Albertus Magnus, is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 17.

Haldane will miss wide receiver and defensive back Ryan Irwin, free safety/running back Giancarlo Carone and lineman Will Etta, all gone to graduation. But the returning players include quarterback Ryan Van Tassel, running back Evan Giachinta, Dylan Rucker, Jack Hartman, Luca DiLello, Mike Murray and Eric Stubblefield, all juniors, and seniors Jake Mason and Thomas Tucker. Sophomore Jake Thomas also returns.

Newcomers include senior Dylan Horan, sophomores Brady Corless and Anatoliy Alhov and freshman Merrick Williams.

“We have guys returning who have played significant minutes in the sectionals and the regionals,” McConville said. “They've had a lot of playing time, and opportunities, so we're excited about the experience they have.”

There are question marks, including the offensive line and secondary, but the team is hoping Van Tassel and Giachinta will provide a spark at the skill positions.

“Both of them started every game as sophomores,” McConville said. “Evan can run the ball, and he can also catch. And Ryan has improved the mental aspect of his game.

“We're looking to replicate a lot of our explosive plays from last year,” he said. “We want to have tempo on offense, and our defense allowed just 16.5 points per game last year — that's in the top three in our league. Our goal is to replicate that: Play fast and force turnovers.”

BEACON

The Bulldogs had a solid season last fall — their first competing in Section IX after a move from Section I — going 5-3 before losing in the first round of the playoffs to Washingtonville.

This season's team wants more but lost a group of leaders to graduation, including quarterback Jason Komisar, a four-year starter and All-Section pick; Tyler Haydt, another All-Section selection; and All-League selections Louis Del Bianco, Sam Lundsford, Ahmir Bell, Isaac Hanson and Jose Rodriguez.

But Coach Jim Phelan does have a core of returning starters who are seniors, including captains Leibenson Perez-Novas, Aaron Pegues and Danny Urbanak.

(Continued on Page 22)

By Skip Pearlman

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Beacon boys won handily in a meet against Port Jervis and Fallsburg on Wednesday (Sept. 7) at Camp Huguenot, taking the top seven spots. The Bulldogs were led by Henry Reinke, with Jack Twining two seconds behind.

In the girls' race, Ella Cason and Rachel Thorne took the top spots.

“We kept today's meet very low-key, and just looked to complete our first race injury-free and successfully,” said Coach Jim Henry. “We accomplished both of those goals and discovered some areas for improvement.”

Beacon will travel to the Washingtonville Invite on Saturday (Sept. 10).

By Skip Pearlman

GIRLS’ SOCCER

Getting off to a slow start against Lourdes turned out to be costly for Beacon on Wednesday (Sept. 7), as the Warriors dominated in the first half, leading 3-0 at the half on their way to a 5-1 victory at Beacon High School.

“We played better in the second half; we were more alive. It just took us some time to adjust,” said Coach Mike Lenti.

Reilly Landisi scored Beacon's only goal, heading in a pass from Chelsea DerBoghosian in the 30th minute of the second half. Keeper Hope Cleveringa had eight saves.

Lenti did see bright spots. “Sara Gonzalez played well at center back,” he said.

(Continued on Page 22)