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The HIGHLANDS Current

DECEMBER 25, 2020

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Frost Named Beacon Police Chief

Appointment must be confirmed by council

By Jeff Simms

Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou on Monday (Dec. 21) named Lt. Sands Frost as the city's new police chief, pending confirmation by the City Council.

Frost, a 37-year veteran of the department, has been its acting chief since August. After hearing public comment, the council is expected to vote on the appointment at its next meeting, on Jan. 4.

The search committee was led by Council Member Terry Nelson and included Air Rhodes, another council member. Because

Kyriacou also has a vote, presumably only one of the other four council members will need to support Frost for him to be confirmed. (Two members reached on Tuesday said they support Frost but would not say how they will vote.)

Monday's announcement completes a nearly five-month search following the retirement in July of Kevin Junjulas, who had been chief since 2018.



Lt. Sands Frost

Photo by J. Simms

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Joe Etta Dies at Age 102

Veteran fought in three WWII invasions

By Chip Rowe

Joseph C. "Joe" Etta, 102, a lifelong resident of Cold Spring and World War II veteran who fought in three major invasions, including at Normandy, died Tuesday (Dec. 22) at the Castle Point VA Medical Center in Wappingers Falls.

Etta was born in Cold Spring on April 22, 1918, the son of Giuseppe and Francesca (Botta) Etta. He graduated from Haldane High School in 1938 and enlisted in 1941 in the U.S. Army. In 35 months of service

during World War II, he participated in three major Allied invasions — in North Africa in 1942, Sicily in 1943 and Normandy in the D-Day invasion of June 1944 — and rose from private first class to sergeant.

In 1947, in Cold Spring, he married Catherine Fitzgerald, who died in 1998.



Joe Etta on the day he received the French Liberty Medal in 2009

Photo by Ande Merante

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When a tree dies, it opens a hole in the canopy that allows invasive species to thrive.

Photo by B. Cronin

THE FADING FOREST

Ash, beech and hemlock trees are being threatened by causes known and unknown, changing the forests of the Highlands in drastic, and dangerous, ways

LAST OF A SERIES

By Brian PJ Cronin

For the most part, the 3,194 acres of Black Rock Forest across the Hudson River in the western Highlands are not old-growth forest. Much of it was pasture and farmland cleared in the 18th century: One of the main roads through the forest, Continental Road, dates to the Revolutionary War.

There are, however, a few places that predate European settlers. There's Mineral Springs near the forest's southern border, shrouded in hemlocks which have stood since before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, only to now be stripped bare by an invasion of hemlock woolly adelgid. There's a labyrinthine oak, hundreds of years old, at the intersection of Continental Road and a hiking trail.

About a century ago, early environmentalists attempted to return the fields to the forest.

"They put white spruce over there," says William Schuster, the executive director of Black Rock Forest, as we walked down Continental Road in the fall. "Red pine over here. They started a lot of experimental

(Continued on Page 6)



RIVER IGLOO — Brigid Slattery, a Clearwater crew member, stands outside the sloop at its berth at the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston on the morning after last week's storm. For more snow photos, see Page 20. Photo provided

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: MATT WOODS

By Michael Turton

Matt Woods, who is a sergeant with the Counterterrorism Bureau of the New York City Police Department, was recently named Firefighter of the Year by the Cold Spring Fire Co.

What motivated you to join the fire company — not enough stress in counterterrorism?

I've always thought about firefighting, but when I lived in Queens there were no volunteer firefighters. After I moved to Cold Spring, I'd drive past the firehouse every day because it's a stone's throw from my house. I knew in a small community like this firefighting is especially important. Plus, instead of just meeting other expats from New York City, I met a whole different group of people who live here.

How did it feel to be named Firefighter of the Year?

I was surprised. I had just finished my second year with CSFC. I never saw it coming. When I walked in the firehouse that night I wasn't thinking about Firefighter of the Year — until the chief started talking about the award and it sounded like someone familiar! I was blushing a bit.



Matt Woods during Firefighter 1 training. Photo provided

Were you surprised by the amount of training required?

I was able to get through the Firefighter 1 course in 2019, my first year. It's a big-time commitment. I've been through a

lot of training with the Marine Corps, the LAPD [Los Angeles Police Department] and NYPD, and was surprised how difficult firefighter training was. There's a saying: "There are volunteer firefighters but no volunteer fires." The training took that mantra seriously. You get in tight spaces that are scary, with zero visibility, wearing a pack, and it's hard to breathe. I gained a new respect for professional firefighters who fight fires on a regular basis. It's not an easy job.

How does volunteering with CSFC compare to working for NYPD?

With NYPD, I'm a boss. Here I'm just a firefighter. That's refreshing. When you're a police officer living in New York City, you don't have that village feel. But there are similarities. Both are a lot of fun. Both involve serious decisions and dangerous work. Both require knowing how to treat trauma. And there's definitely an adrenaline rush with both.

What's it like to answer calls?

Finding time to go on calls is an issue. I spend a lot of hours working in the city and commuting. So, when I'm here, I have to be ready. When I get home, I think about what I'm wearing, make sure my pager is turned up. I'm a homebody; I park my car and I'm never far from the firehouse. When a call comes in, I run to the firehouse with my two dogs, tie them to the couch, text my wife and let her know where the dogs are. Then we're gone. Some of the mountain rescues get ridiculous — people going up unprepared. Some don't necessarily need to call; they're a bit tired and need some volunteers to hike up and get them? But I wouldn't do this if I didn't want to do the calls. False alarms never bother me. If you get 100 of them and the 101st is the real thing, you're glad you're there. Even elevator calls. You might think firefighters see those calls as tedious, but it's all just part of being a first responder.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What holiday song do you look forward to most?

“Michael Bubl 's “Christmas.” His energy gets you right into the holiday spirit.”



~Nori Berisha, Beacon

“Joni Mitchell’s “River.” I find the words moving, the melody transcendent.”



~Jevina Lackhan, Beacon

“Christmas with the Cambridge Singers.” It’s classic Christmas.”



~Alex Wilcox Cheek, Cold Spring

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The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Broken window

I would like to address a broken window at a Main Street business in Cold Spring. On Nov. 2, the night before the election, a window on the side of the building that houses Chapeau was cracked. Because the owner of Chapeau, Archie Broady, is Black, community members have raised concerns that the window damage may have been intentionally done as an act of racism.

As officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department (CSPD), I take accusations of bias crimes seriously and I expect that all of my officers do as well. I investigated the window damage at Chapeau myself; I spoke to the business owner and the building owner. The damage was a crack in a side window, on an alley. In general, bias crimes are bold statements intended to be visible, and to intimidate. The crack could have been caused by a thrown object, but it also could have been caused by accidental means. Context is important as well. The business owner did not report any previous threats or vandalism. In this case, the evidence does not necessarily point to a bias crime, so, the incident was not recorded as such.

Having said that, the facts of the window

damage do not negate the shop owner's apparent experience of bias while operating his business in Cold Spring. Sadly, racism exists in every community. To counter it, we all have to listen to each other, learn from each other and be good neighbors.

The outpouring of support for Mr. Broady and his business, by the Chamber of Commerce and community members, is great to see. It says a lot about the goodness we have around us in Cold Spring and Philipstown.

The CSPD continues to remain in contact with Mr. Broady to monitor for possible follow-up incidents. We protect this shopkeeper and his business as we protect all our Main Street businesses. Vandalism happens, even in the village. Sometimes it may be hate-based. Other times it is simply mindless and destructive. We investigate all cases, and we do our best to identify those responsible and bring them to justice.

Racism, and community conversations about it, are central to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's executive order on police reform and reinvention. The village trustees and I are working on a review of existing policies. In the new year we will be turning to the public to tell us about your experiences with CSPD, the values you expect us to hold up and how we move forward as partners in public safety.

In the meantime, my officers and I are committed to serving this community. You don't need to wait for a public meeting to share your concerns or ask for help. If you know about incidents of bias, or want to talk about any other public safety matter, please contact me directly. I will talk to anyone, anytime. My email is lburke@cold-springny.gov or you can leave a message at 845-265-3407.

Larry Burke, *Cold Spring*

Questions for the mayor

I loved the Q&A with Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy (Dec. 18). With great, direct questions and genuine answers, it was a refreshing read in the midst of this politicized climate. Thank you, Michael Turton, for a smart and honest interview.

Jacqueline Azria, *Cold Spring*

What is school for?

In *Five Questions* (Dec. 18), Jevon Hunter, a professor at SUNY Buffalo State who advised the Beacon school board, said: "To be blunt, school does two main things: It helps construct the identities of young people, and it helps build empathy."

I thought public schools existed to provide an education to children, particularly in those areas deemed necessary for becoming a productive member of society. Mr. Hunter's vision looks more like dividing students into us/them groups and what each owes to the other rather than giving them an equal opportunity for a solid educational foundation for their lives.

William Cornett, *Beacon*

Dutchess Manor

Re: "Dutchess Manor Sold to Fjord Trail Project" (Dec. 18), my daughter and I both had our wedding receptions there. I hate to see it be anything other than Dutchess Manor.

Barbara O'Dell, *via Facebook*

Paycheck loans

I find it problematic that religious institutions received millions of Paycheck Protection Program loans while many small businesses in our area who pay business and sales taxes were unable to access federal business assistance loans and grants ("More Paycheck Protection Data Released," Dec. 18).

None of the religious institutions that made out so well pay taxes or contribute to the running of our government in any significant way, yet they constantly milk their struggling followers for even more money while wrapping themselves in gilt finery.

Lynn Miller, *Cold Spring*

(Continued on Page 5)



Joe Etta *(from Page 1)*

A carpenter by trade, Etta helped build the hall on Kemble Avenue for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where he was a member. Growing up in the 1930s, he had played on the dirt fields nearby. He also served as the village building inspector and was a longtime member of the Cold Spring Fire Co.

Etta was one of the Parsonage Street 21 — men who lived on Parsonage who served during World War II. In 2017, he recalled a boyhood on Parsonage filled with fun: block parties, baseball, boxing, shooting pool. But the war took its toll. “We grew up fast and missed a lot at home; people got hurt,” Etta said, including Guy Nastasi, who was killed in action. Of the 21 men, only Patrick Bocchino, 97, now survives.

When he returned to Cold Spring in June 1945, Etta had participated in campaigns in Algeria, French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe, the Rhineland and Ardennes, according to a news report from that time. He was greeted at Grand Central Station by his brother, Staff Sgt. Anthony Etta, who had arrived home seven days earlier after being liberated from a German prison camp.

“Joe was a hero to us as kids when he was in the service,” said Terry Lahey, a Cold Spring resident and Korean War veteran, on Tuesday. “When he came back from the war, I remember him standing in front of his house in uniform. All of Parsonage Street came out to greet him; it was unbelievable.”

Ed Murphy, who served in the U.S. Army and was commander of the local VFW, said “there are not many people who went through what Joe did; his service was honorable. When Joe returned to the U.S., the 1st Infantry Division presented him with a book chronicling his participation in World War II.”

Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy, who in 2018, on the occasion of Etta’s 100th birthday, proclaimed April 22 as Joseph C.



The Cold Spring Village Board honored Etta in 2018 a few days before his 100th birthday. He was flanked by his daughter, Maureen Etta, and Mayor Dave Merandy.

File photo by Michael Turton

Etta Day, called his death “another gut shot delivered by 2020. I’ve known Joe almost my entire life and can’t express the sadness I felt when I learned of his death.

“There is no one I held in greater esteem,” Merandy said. “He was iconic. He was the feeling of pride you have when thinking of the true America. He represented the selflessness and sacrifice of a nation. From firing salutes to fallen soldiers at the St. Mary’s monument on Memorial Day probably 60 years ago, to his drive-by birthday parade this year, Joe was a true-to-life Norman Rockwell painting. He will be greatly missed.”

While being honored in 2013 for his military service, Etta said, “I had never been out of Cold Spring in my life and then I went around the world.”

Etta recalled spending 34 days on the Mediterranean Sea waiting for President Franklin D. Roosevelt to give the go-ahead for the 1942 landing. Rather than participating in the intense fighting, Etta said, “I was in the picking-up and everything else.

I wasn’t a hero or anything.” He said his memories of the invasions remained vivid, especially from North Africa. “A lot of my friends died there,” he said. “I jumped into water up to my neck. I didn’t know if I was going to live or die. I was terrified.”

Etta said in 2013 that since he left the service, he hadn’t thought much about his experiences until relatively recently and that then-Town Board Member Betty Budney “started this whole thing” that led to a plaque being installed in Town Hall commemorating his service. He also was honored in 2009 with the French Liberty Medal for his contribution to freeing France from the Nazis.

According to the U.S. Army, the 1st Infantry Division “was the first to reach England, the first to fight the enemy in North Africa and Sicily, the first on the beaches of Normandy in D-Day and the first to capture a major German City — Aachen.” For the D-Day landings, “in five days, the division drove inland and cleared

A Generation Nearly Gone

More than 16 million Americans served in World War II, and 291,557 died in combat. According to estimates by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, about 326,000 veterans from the war were alive as of Sept. 30, including about 20,000 in New York state. The VA estimates that the last World War II vet in New York state will die by 2040, and the last in the country by 2043. The longest-surviving World War I veteran, Frank Buckles, died in 2011 at age 110.

a beachhead for supplies and troops. Driving eastward across France against fanatical resistance, the soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division spent nearly six months in continuous action with the enemy.”

In 2016, Etta was among a group of local veterans who visited Washington, D.C., to see the war memorials there. He had visited the World War II Memorial twice before but said this trip was no less rewarding. “Before, I walked around the entire monument area,” he said. “Now I’m here in a wheelchair and thankful I can come here again. I just can’t talk enough about it.”

Etta is survived by his five children, Steven Etta, Philip Etta, Joseph Etta (Lorie), Maureen Etta and Joann Ehrenreich (Don), along with eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. His six siblings died before him.

The funeral service and burial will be private because of COVID-19 restrictions. Etta will be laid to rest with military honors alongside his wife at Cold Spring Cemetery.

Michael Turton contributed reporting. Some family information was provided by Clinton Funeral Home.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Garrison hotel

Nice to see the Hill Country House postcard (“Lost Landmarks,” Dec. 4)! The Philipstown historian Mark Forlow thought it might have been at the current location of the Garrison School, but that was the Highland House. The Hill Country House was located northeast of the intersection of Snake Hill Road and Route 9.

Hill Country House opened between 1805 and 1810 to serve the stagecoach trade on the Highland Turnpike toll road, which had been opened as a smoother and less hilly alternative to Old Albany Post Road. The hotel was owned and operated by the Croft family, who also owned an iron mine near Indian Lake.

The railroad opened in 1849 and signaled a boom in resort building along the line. The Crofts enlarged and remodeled the stagecoach inn around 1850, transforming it over 20 years into a 40-room summer resort. In the mid-1860s, the hotel was purchased by an industrialist, Allan

Newman, who owned Mountain Home, a 600-acre estate on Snake Hill Road.

Newman was the main benefactor of the South Highland Methodist Church and a leader in the local temperance movement. His sole reason for purchasing the hotel was to ban the sale of alcohol at the hotel, which was across the street from his church.

When Newman died in 1896, the business was sold to hotelier C.H. Hilton; the postcard is probably from that time. Hilton reapplied for a liquor license and added eight bedrooms and a dining solarium. During prohibition the Hill Country House was raided several times for distilling and selling alcohol.

By 1939, new owners had renamed the hotel as The Garrison Inn and it featured a large orchestra and ballroom dancing. I believe the building was either damaged in a fire or demolished around 1960 and replaced by the corrugated steel garage, although some outbuilding walls and fences remain.

James Kelly, *Newburgh Kelly, who grew up in Garrison, runs an architectural history research service.*

Trash collection

What bothers me is not that Putnam County legislators cut the trash-collection funds for Cold Spring, which is unfortunate, but that they gave raises to the county executive and themselves at a time when we are poised to see increased costs and less revenue due to the pandemic (“County Drops \$7,500 for Trash Collection in Cold Spring,” Dec. 18). It was shortsighted and irresponsible.

Alana Sweeny, via Facebook

The Village of Cold Spring administration is so out of touch with its own responsibility to the taxpayer, I don’t blame county legislators for turning their backs. We will be lucky if the county talks with us anymore. My hope is that [Trustee] Kathleen Foley takes the mayor’s seat the next time around.

Jeff Phillips, via Facebook

’Tis no secret that the inland towns are jealous of Cold Spring and its success and popularity. Perhaps the village should secede from Putnam and go over to

Dutchess, where it would be appreciated.

Thomas de Villiers, via Facebook

The Current quoted Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy as saying, “I don’t think Putnam County likes us too much,” and noted in the story that “Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown, is the panel’s only Democrat.”

Read the undertones here. This is typical trash from liberal writers who are activists, not journalists. The state run by Democrats doubled down and took money usually allotted for hospitals [which is why Putnam does not have the funds].

Jon Davies, via Facebook

My Main Street shop alone brings in at least \$7,500 biannually in sales taxes for the county. I can’t imagine all the combined business tax revenue that Cold Spring earns for Putnam, and it can’t even help with trash? This is after a year of record turnout for the village. Bogus.

Cadah Goulet, via Instagram



American beech

Fagus grandifolia. Sturdy, imposing tree. Typically 50 to 80 feet but up to 120 feet. Smooth, light gray bark. Rounded crown of spreading, horizontal branches. Produces edible beechnuts.



Eastern hemlock

Tsuga canadensis. Evergreen with conical crown of slender, horizontal branches that often droop. Typically 40 to 70 feet but up to 100 feet. Bark was once a source of tannin in the production of leather.



White ash

Fraxinus americana. Dense, conical or rounded crown of foliage. Typically 75 to 120 feet. Deciduous with dense branching pinnate leaves, and early fall color. Wood particularly suited for baseball bats, tennis racquets, hockey sticks, polo mallets, oars and playground equipment.

Source: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (wildflower.org)



A state forester applies insecticide to control a hemlock woolly adelgid infestation at Lake George in the Adirondacks.

DEC

THE FADING FOREST

(Continued from Page 1)

things, too, and where they didn't plant, deciduous species [that shed their leaves each year] like ash came in. They're fast-growing, require high light, and they're part of this ecosystem anyhow.

"That's why we had so much ash around here," he said, "and why this is the area that, for us, has been the most devastated by the emerald ash borer," another invasive pest.

The ash trees of Black Rock were once used by craftspeople to make everything from tool handles to Adirondack-brand baseball bats. But the grove that we're approaching has been cut down, a victim of the borer. In its place, the foresters of Black Rock are working on an experimental project they call Patron's Grove.

The new grove addresses several issues. It will be a place where donors can have a tree planted in memory of a loved one. It will serve as a sort of internal arboretum, showcasing at least one example of all of the native plants and trees that can be found in the forest. And, as best it can, the grove will play defense.

When the dying ash trees were cut down, it created an opening in the canopy, allowing light to reach the ground and whatever is there to flourish. If you're not careful, what emerges from the earth below may be headaches.

A forest under siege

Matthew Brady is a second-generation forest manager at Black Rock. His father,

John, was the forest manager for 35 years, and his brother, Ben, works here as well. As forest manager, Brady was responsible for cutting down the dying ash to make way for Patron's Grove; he sent them to a sawmill. They will probably be the last ash trees milled from Black Rock in his lifetime.

Because foresters at Black Rock want to have a robust ecosystem dominated by native plants, Brady spends a lot of time tracking the encroachment of invasive species such as burning bush, which is encroaching from Route 9W.

"The more I look for burning bush, the more I see it," Brady said. "That's a pretty tedious one to kill." He notes that the mile-a-minute weed is "only in one spot, but it will not die." For Devil's Walking Stick plants, a crew from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Invasives Strike Force helped him rip out more than 600 stems. When they checked this year, they found success: 99 percent hadn't returned.

Less successful have been efforts against knotweed (which Brady and Schuster agree is a lost cause) and stiltgrass, which has been in the forest since the 1990s.

"I remember the first patch of it, up at the upper reservoir," said Schuster. "Somebody suggested we should get rid of it, and I thought, 'Ah, it's just one patch.' Now, by stem, it's probably the most common species in the forest."

Brady, pointing 20 feet overhead, added: "It's even growing out of the crotch of that tree. There's no stopping it."

And then there's Japanese barberry, prized for its resistance to deer, cursed by foresters and naturalists because of its rapid spread, especially when it finds holes in the canopy. At the Minnewaska State Park Preserve in Ulster County, the stands

of ash trees near the Split Rock swimming hole were rapidly taken over by barberry as soon as the ash trees died.

At Black Rock, Brady said if he notices any Japanese barberry while driving the Bobcat on forest roads, he'll turn the excavator around to rip it out. "That gives me some satisfaction," he said.

At Cranberry Lake Preserve in Westchester County, Taro Ietaka, a Cold Spring resident who is a parks supervisor for the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, faces many of the same challenges because of dying ash and beech. He is considering planting oak and maple with the hope that, once the ash and beech have died, the new trees will block barberry, Tree of Heaven and other invasives.

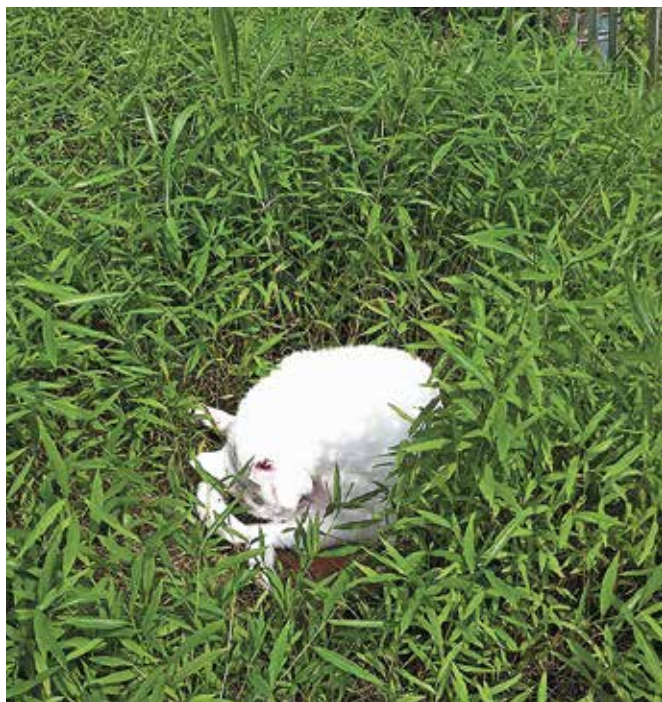
As he explained this, soft pops could be heard ringing through the forest — bottle rockets being shot at the nearby Kensico Reservoir by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to scare away flocks of Canada geese before they befoul the city water supply.

At some point, seeing all this effort, with explosions, sprays, injections and excavations, with the beetles sucked through tubes and strike forces roaming the woods to rip out aggressive weeds, you start to ask uncomfortable questions, such as, is this all worth it?

Darwin's last laugh

When I spoke to environmental journalist Elizabeth Kolbert, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her book, *The Sixth Extinction*, before she appeared via Zoom on Dec. 6 at a Desmond-Fish Public Library event, I asked which environmental issues she felt weren't getting enough attention. She replied that,

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Fast-growing stiltgrass can quickly take over.



Foresters are creating an experimental grove at Black Rock Forest.

Photos by B. Cronin

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while scientists are well aware, most of the public doesn't realize how much warming because of climate change is already "baked into the system."

"That is why scientists have always said that you have to act before you don't like the climate that you're seeing," she said. "Because you've already baked in a lot of damage because of the time lag in the system."

Even if humanity were able to immediately stop emitting greenhouse gases, we are still going to suffer from increasingly warming temperatures, rising seas and other global upheaval. The effects we are seeing now are only the beginning. In addition, the global system of trade that has facilitated the spread of invasive plants, insects, viruses and pathogens will continue. We continue to alter ecosystems in countless ways that are both known and yet to be realized.

If, as Darwin proposed, nature is a never-ending competition, where only those that can adapt to changing conditions survive, why attempt to restore a fallen world? Why try to save species that cannot adapt fast enough to the global economy and climate change, and let those that can run wild and free? Why even refer to them as "invasives," which implies a nefarious intent by insects and plants that are simply taking advantage of environments they can thrive in? If ash, beech and hemlock trees can't survive in the 21st-century Highlands, why not let them die?

"If we lost every beech tree, it would still be a beautiful forest," says Ietaka at Cranberry Lake. "But we'd lose that diversity."

Schuster, standing where Black Rock's last ash grove used to be, said that to surrender would be to give up on the world, instead of preserving it to our children and grandchildren. "We've lost so much," he said. "We've already lost main species, medicines, organisms that are adapted to this specific environment, the colors in the fall."

Mark Whitmore, the head of the New York State Hemlock Initiative, said, "I'm not going to sit by and watch our native trees suffer as a result of somebody's ignorance."

Brent Boscarino, who coordinates the

Invasive Species Citizen Science Program for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, noted that the reason to fight is that you otherwise will end up with a "monoculture."

"There's a clear link between invasives and decreasing overall biodiversity in an ecosystem," he said. "When fast-spreading, all-encompassing invasives like barberry and stiltgrass take advantage of newly opened canopy, the forest can't support the higher trophic levels that are either using it as habitat or feeding on it, so that limits the number of species that can be living in an area."

"Just like invasives taking over, all it will take is one disease or one big shift or weather event that could wipe it all out. That's why diverse ecosystems are more resilient and able to withstand other changes that could be coming down the road."

Lose the hemlocks, the ash, the beech, and you also lose the species that depend on them. "Generalist" species that can quickly adapt to changing, even horrific conditions (such as rats, raccoons, pigeons and, yes, humans), are thriving at the expense of "specialist" species that depend on a certain plant or insect to survive, Ietaka noted. Established forests also capture and store carbon; anything that damages them will release tons of carbon into the atmosphere, contributing further to global warming.

Invasive plants may have other characteristics that make them dangerous. Barberry is a home for black-legged ticks, which spread Lyme disease. The sap of giant hogweed, another invasive, can cause severe burns. Tree of Heaven is home to the spotted lanternfly, yet another invasive insect that can kill any smooth-barked tree.

"That'd be almost all our trees," said Brady.

There are other, surprising, consequences to the accelerated loss of tree life. Bryan Quinn, the owner of One Nature, an environmental design firm in Beacon, noted that in 2017 and 2018 a hydrologist assured city officials there was enough water to support a burst of new development.

Beacon's main source of water is a reservoir atop Mount Beacon that is surrounded by trees. "What happens if 50 percent of the trees up there are dead?" asked Quinn.

"What does that do to water run-off, water quality, groundwater recharge?"

Perhaps it isn't useful to think of the world as a binary system, either saved or fallen, native or non-native. "I think," said Quinn, "there's a middle path."

The future forest

Quinn said he hopes that the ashes, beeches and hemlocks of the Highlands can be saved. But he's thinking ahead to a world in which they're gone or nearly gone. If the climate of the Highlands in 2050 will be more like Virginia's today, perhaps it's time to consider what grows in Virginia.

Quinn and his staff, after reviewing scientific papers that examined which plants and trees will adapt better to a rapidly changing climate, decided to conduct a test run. A client offered land for them to plant four "test forests" of about 50 trees each.

Each forest represents a Highlands microclimate, he said, including one adapted for Eastern Hemlock. But Quinn didn't plant Eastern Hemlocks because of the threat of hemlock woolly adelgid. Instead, he imagined what the hemlocks of tomorrow will be by referencing research on resilient plants and considering trees similar to Eastern Hemlocks whose growth ranges extend just as far north as the Highlands.

"There is overlap," says Quinn in regard to the forests of Virginia and our local forests. "What can we pull from there to make the forest of the future here, without cutting things down? Let's seed trees that can reproduce and add to the mosaic."

Although the test forests are only a few years old, Quinn said he has had success with Loblolly Pines, Virginia Pines and American Holly, the latter of which Quinn found growing wild on Mount Beacon. These are evergreens that supply many of the ecological benefits of Eastern Hemlocks. It's also likely that insect and fungal pests from warmer U.S. climates will probably spread north, so it may be worth introducing plants that co-evolved with those pests and resist them naturally.

Then there are ghosts of the forest that are ready to return. After being almost gone for more than 75 years, the American Chest-

nut could make a comeback. Scientists at the State University of New York have developed a genetically modified American Chestnut that can withstand the blight that once wiped it from the landscape. Even Schuster, at Black Rock, who takes such a conservative approach to forest management that he decided to forgo insecticide injections into the forest's hemlocks, is giddy at the prospect. He points out an area of the forest where the roots of old chestnuts still send up shoots, although they don't survive to become trees.

Quinn believes that "return of ecological energy" provided by the revival of chestnuts is sorely needed. They are big trees that "grow quickly, create so much food, so much energy, so much life depends on them."

There are other shoots of hope. At Cranberry Lake, Ietaka mentioned the Asian long-horned beetle, which appeared in New York City in the 1990s. The city last year declared that the bug has been eradicated from the five boroughs. If they hadn't, said Ietaka, gesturing around him, "this could have been the Northeast version of the Great Plains."

Walking through Cranberry Lake, Ietaka pointed out the roots of trees along the trails. He's spoken to other park managers who have, in the months since the COVID-19 shutdown began, seen more tree roots than usual because the number of hikers has increased so much that trails are being compacted. "For years I've been advocating for people to get outside and experience nature," he says. "And now I'm like, 'Ahh! Too much!'"

But like the lost ash trees at Black Rock that made way for a new grove, this crisis could be put to good use. More people are turning to the outdoors for recreation and for solace; the hope is that a newly engaged public can be enlisted to save the forests they've grown to appreciate.

That can mean learning to identify hemlocks, ash and beech trees so that they can keep an eye on them, or volunteering to stop the advance of invasive plants. Ietaka says that after watching the climate crisis grow worse over the past 20 years, it never ceases to amaze him how many people show up on their days off to fill garbage bags with weeds.

Should Deputies Work After Virus Exposure?

Putnam legislators question sheriff's response

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Putnam County Sheriff's Department practices for deputies exposed to COVID-19 has become the latest source of friction between Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. and the county Legislature.

Legislators suggested that Langley is ignoring county policy on dealing with the exposure to COVID-19 by employees, although when pressed for a copy of the county policy, the county attorney said there isn't one.

The issue arose during the Dec. 8 meeting of the Legislature's Protective Services Committee, held by audio connection because of pandemic restrictions. Legislator Neal Sullivan, who represents parts of Carmel and Mahopac, asked Langley how many deputies have been quarantined because of exposure to the virus, and how many work hours have been lost. "What's the policy you follow?" he said.

Langley responded that "we require that a member who has had direct exposure get tested immediately." He also told Sullivan that he did not have the number of hours of COVID-related leave taken by deputies.

That response prompted the Legislature's Personnel Committee to call a meeting that convened by audio connection on Dec. 15 at the request of County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner. Langley told Ginny Nacerino, the Patterson legislator who chairs the committee, that he could not attend.

Bumgarner told the Personnel Committee that Langley had set off alarms when he said that deputies were immediately tested. She said Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, the health commissioner, and Kathleen Percacciolo, the county's top public health nurse, said testing immediately after a suspected exposure "is useless, because there's an incubation period" before the virus is detectable.

In emails and a phone call to *The Current* this week, Langley said there had been a miscommunication during the Dec. 8 meeting and that testing of his employees does take place only after a waiting period.

"We quarantine anyone who has had a direct exposure," he said. "After the allotted time frame, between Days 5 and 8, they are tested, depending on when they can get to a testing site. We follow the proper guidelines set forth by both federal and state [agencies] to ensure we are part of the solution, not part of the problem." He also said that during quarantine, the staff members "are at home. We do have a duty to protect the public. By quarantining at home we make sure we are stopping the spread."

Langley said his comment to the Protective Services Committee "was not intended to be interpreted the way it may have come out" and may have been complicated by the sometimes-shaky audio connection that night.

He said he was scheduled to meet with Bumgarner and others on Jan. 13.

At the Dec. 15 Personnel Committee meeting, legislators' concerns extended beyond testing to include the Sheriff's Department policy on COVID-19 leave.

Bumgarner said its personnel aren't using sick time for COVID-19 and that the list of deputies and corrections officers who have taken leave because of suspected exposure "is extensive. I'm not clear why so many people are going on leave when it's not for mandated quarantine" ordered by the Health Department, she said.

Percacciolo said that following exposure, a county employee must quarantine for 14 days but that because Sheriff's Department personnel are considered essential workers "they should be coming to work wearing their masks, social distancing, taking their temperatures twice a day" and going between their homes and their jobs without stopping en route.

"That's the quarantine," she said. "We can't continue services without the essen-



Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.

File photo by Ross Corsair

tial employees." However, she added, "if they become symptomatic, they have to go home. They cannot work if symptomatic."

Bumgarner mentioned a case in the Bureau of Emergency Services in which an employee who tested positive worked two shifts, exposing six colleagues.

"We obviously can't send six dispatchers home and figure out what to do without them," she said. "So, they're required to come to work as long as they stay asymptomatic."

One dispatcher protested, Bumgarner continued, "and we basically said: 'You don't have a choice. You are required to come back to work. If you don't, we'll take whatever remedies we have available to us.'"

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and serves on the Personnel Committee, questioned that approach. "Wouldn't it be in the best interests of our county departments, and world as a whole," for an employee who had been exposed "to not go out" to work? She noted that a Bureau of Emergency Services employee died of COVID-19 complications.

Nacerino, though, argued that, "as a county, we all march to the same rules."

Both Bumgarner and Nacerino invoked higher authorities, such as the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).

The act requires employers to provide two weeks (80 hours) of paid sick leave to employees in quarantine for COVID-19 or experiencing symptoms and awaiting a diagnosis. It allows pay to be reduced by a third if the employee takes leave to care for someone in quarantine or for a child whose school has closed. It also says that employers must give parents up to 10 additional weeks.

FFCRA allows local governments to exclude emergency responders.

"It's federal and state laws that govern how we deal with our employees," who must "be paid according to the law," Bumgarner said. "If taking time off, they can't be overpaid." If the Sheriff's Department was paying employees a full salary for COVID leave, "it's just not appropriate. It's not correct."

(The federal law, however, does not appear to force an employer to cut salaries by a third for COVID-19 leave; it instead instructs employers to pay *at least* that much. Nor does it appear to limit paid COVID-related time off to a maximum of 80 hours.)

Costs were on the minds of legislators

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

4,289 (+314)

New Cases in Philipstown: **30**

Tests administered:

102,378 (+4,771)

Percent positive:

4.2 (+0.1)

Number of deaths:

66 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

10,772 (+972)

Active Cases in Beacon: **62**

Tests administered:

345,744 (+15,392)

Percent positive:

3.1 (+0.1)

Number of deaths:

218 (+8)

Source: New York State Department of Health, as of Dec. 22, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending Dec. 17.

Dec. 15. Nacerino expressed disappointment at Langley's absence for the discussion of "this very egregious" matter. "Not only does it impact the health and welfare of employees," she said, "it has a potential fiscal impact as well."

Sullivan remarked that "it's a possible waste of taxpayers' money, because we're not following the proper policies and procedures."

Nacerino also blamed Langley. "The culpability lies with the administration" of the Sheriff's Department, she said. "And if there is a correction that needs to be corrected, we need to correct it swiftly."

Bumgarner charged that the Sheriff's Department "granted leave to people when they weren't entitled to it."

Montgomery, who is the only Democrat on the nine-person Legislature, objected. "It feels like we're just out to get these deputies and the Sheriff's Department," she said. "We have a lot of exposure [in Putnam] to COVID-19" and the deputies "are putting their lives on the line." She asked Bumgarner to provide the documents that detail the county's COVID-19 leave policy.

"There is no documentation," Bumgarner replied. "We deal with every single exposure by one of our employees on a case-by-case basis."



VACCINE ARRIVES IN PUTNAM — On Dec. 23, psychiatry resident Dr. Jesus Del Val was the first staff member at Putnam Hospital Center to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

Photo provided

Families in Isolation Grow Closer

Some say slower life has brought meaning

By Leonard Sparks

So much has been lost to COVID-19: the lives of family and friends; businesses and jobs; houses and apartments; graduation ceremonies; sports seasons. But some families in the Highlands say they have discovered that the months-long pandemic shutdown has slowed a mile-per-minute pre-COVID pace.

Although millions of people have lost jobs, those who are fortunate enough to continue working are often doing so at home. Families are eating meals together, playing together and having conversations not on a phone. Ilene Green, a psychologist who lives in Beacon, said “it does make one wonder about the ways in which we structure our lives.”

‘A big silver lining’

Lindsay and Paddy Caulfield, who live in Beacon and are expecting their first child, met on a business trip to Ireland seven years ago.

Both are employed in the alcoholic beverage industry. Before the shutdown, they each commuted to separate cities — Lindsay to White Plains and Paddy to Manhattan — and also traveled a lot for work. Usually they were at home together two or three nights a week and on weekends.

“We kind of used to half-laugh — more out of nervousness — that we were like ships in the night,” Paddy said.

COVID-19 grounded the couple and gave them something they said had been in short supply: Time together. That meant time to drink coffee and watch the news together in the morning before hitting their computers for work, and time to eat together in the evenings. Time to hike and get to know their neighbors. Time to get the dog they always wanted but were afraid to own because they were home so infrequently.

The shutdown forced them “to reevaluate what’s important to us,” Lindsay said. They also found they had time to do something their pre-COVID schedules made challenging: Start a family.

Shortly after they bought a Goldendoodle, and about two months into the shutdown that began in March, Lindsay and Paddy learned they will soon be parents. Before the pandemic, they had been trying for about 18 months during a time when they were flying around the country and Lindsay said she was “super-stressed out with work.”

“We’re thrilled,” Lindsay said. “There’s a big silver lining that we didn’t expect at the beginning of all of this.”

Lindsay, who is due in January, is not alone. She belongs to a weekly walking club whose members meet at Long Dock Park or Hiddenbrooke. All are Beacon women expecting their first children. “There’s going to be a COVID baby boom,” she said.



Ilene Green with her sons, Liam and Raphael



Paddy and Lindsay Caulfield are expecting their first child in January.

A family gets to ‘breathe’

At 8:30 a.m. every morning, Elspeth, Halcyon and Thomasina Darhansoff power up their Chromebooks and, from a bedroom and office at their Garrison home, go to school.

On the screen before Elspeth, 11, and twins Halcyon and Thomasina, 7, are teachers working for iTutor, an online service the Garrison school district purchased for the 2020-21 school year for students whose parents opted to keep them home because of concerns about COVID-19.

Some students struggle with virtual-learning programs, and some parents struggle with having their children at home all day. But Louise Darhansoff said her three daughters have flourished with the one-on-one instruction, and that having everyone home has strengthened bonds.

Memories are being fashioned, she said, out of the mundane: meals together, group “mini-adventures”; volunteering as a family; and talking. The girls play



Clockwise, from left: Louise, Elspeth, Halcyon and Thomasina Darhansoff



Christopher Troy with his daughter, Autumn
Photos provided

together more and have “learned to fix things between themselves a lot better,” said Louise, who scaled back her activities knowing her daughters would be home.

While the girls miss their friends at school, the newfound time together is a gift, Louise said. “We have finally been able to breathe,” she said. “I realize how precious the time is and to actually enjoy them.”

‘We were grooving’

Green, the psychologist, recalled a pearl of wisdom she once received from a patient: that “quality time” is less important in parenting than “quantity time” — the “kind

of banal, day-to-day” interactions lost when children grow up and move out, she said, such as a hot, homemade breakfast, board games and a game of catch between her two sons, who are 16 and 21.

Before the pandemic, Green said her teenager would be lucky if “I’d throw a granola bar at him” in the morning before they headed to catch the 7 a.m. train — he would get off in Tarrytown for classes at the Hackley School and his mother would continue to Manhattan. With the shutdown, however, “our lives changed in a day,” Green said.

After Hackley switched to virtual instruction in the spring and her older son began working fewer hours, Green shifted to working from home. She found she could take a break when her younger son had a break and they’d have lunch. In the mornings, granola bars were replaced by a hot breakfast.

“There was more face time and the family configuration looked more like how it looked when they were younger,” she said. “In my own little private Idaho, we were grooving in a lot of ways.”

Green said she played board games with her sons for the first time since they were 5 years old and watched them play catch with a baseball for the first time in years. She began gardening two years ago after friends “double-dared” her, she said. This summer she added a rock garden and flower garden.

“I can’t even say that it’s beautiful,” Green said. “But I will say that it brought me joy.”

A father and daughter

Since March, when pandemic restrictions emptied Manhattan office buildings, Beacon resident Christopher Troy has only had to go into the city a handful of times.

On those days, said his wife, Kristin, the couple’s 2-year-old daughter, Autumn, “would stand by the door and look for him.”

It is a sign of how memorable the last nine months have been for a father and his daughter. Both Kristen and Christopher say the elimination of his daily, 12-hour sojourn to Manhattan and back has given him an opportunity to become closer to his daughter, to be home for her first steps and first words, and to watch her learn.

“My wife maybe would have recorded it or taken a photo or something, but seeing it in person is very meaningful to me,” Christopher said.

The couple moved to Beacon in December because they thought it would be a good place to raise Autumn, who turned 2 in October. They said they feel fortunate with their timing because they had a couple of months to make friends and get to know Beacon before the shutdown began.

Before the pandemic, Christopher, a graphic designer, would leave at 7:30 a.m. for work and return around 7:40 p.m. He would spend an hour with Autumn before her bedtime, Kristen said.

“I know 2020 is weird and crazy,” she said, but it’s also been “one of the best years of my life because we’ve had him home with us.”

Police Chief *(from Page 1)*

After Junjulas' departure, the council authorized spending \$24,000 to hire Public Sector Search & Consulting, a firm that specializes in finding candidates for police leadership positions.

Along with the search committee, which also included a half-dozen community members plus other city officials, Public Sector drafted a survey to help determine what residents wanted to see in their next chief. From there, the firm sought applicants from associations of law-enforcement leaders, as well as from groups of Black, Hispanic and female police officers.

Thirty candidates — all men, 23 of them white — applied for the job. Based on the search committee's criteria, Public Sector whittled the pool down to seven. The committee completed interviews this month and suggested two finalists to Kyriacou. When one finalist withdrew from the search for personal reasons, the committee met again and recommended the other finalist — Frost — to the mayor.

"The way he conducted himself and made himself available to everyone, and to all different groups, during the time he was acting chief made this an easy call," Nelson said on Monday.

If confirmed, Frost will take over on a permanent basis a department significantly impacted — as many have been nationwide — by criticism of law enforcement since the killing of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis in May.

Within an eight-day span in June, the Beacon City Council met with police officials to discuss the department's use of force and other policies; Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered municipal law enforcement agencies to draft reform plans by April 1; and Junjulas and Capt. Gary Fredericks, the Beacon department's second-in-command, announced their retirements.

Throughout the summer, protestors called for the city to "defund the police" — even gathering in October outside Kyriacou's home while the mayor conducted a videoconferenced council meeting discussing an early draft of the city's 2021 budget that appeared to increase police spending.

For more than a decade, through 2016, the Beacon Police Department operated under the oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice following a number of lawsuits against the city. The agency issued nearly a dozen pages of recommendations regarding the use of force, weapons, canines and procedures for processing complaints.

On Tuesday, Frost, 58, said he believes he has the skills to mend fences with residents who are reluctant to trust the police. "We have to reach out," he said. "The whole thing [nationwide] has been about building trust between the police and the community. When something bad happens a thousand miles away, it affects every police officer in your department."

Frost said he hopes to implement an initiative to increase "face time" between officers and city residents.

"We have officers on Main Street more

often now, but we need to get police into other neighborhoods more often on foot," he said. "It's not good if the only time you see police are when there's something bad going on."

Frost was born in Beacon and hired by the city as a 21-year-old patrol officer in 1983. He became a detective in the late 1980s and in 1992 was promoted to sergeant. In 2003, he was named a lieutenant.

A member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Frost took leave from police work to serve in Operation Desert Storm and after the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

He said he did not expect Junjulas' departure this year and, even after leading the department on an interim basis, was initially reluctant to apply for the job.

"It's a big step," Frost said. "It's a promise I have to make to the community, to the PBA [the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the police union] and to the political leadership in Beacon. On a personal end, it's a commitment your whole family makes. It's not a decision you want to make in haste."

The Rev. John Perez, pastor of the Faith Temple Church of God in Christ and a member of the search committee, said Monday that the months-long search proved the right candidate had been in Beacon all along.

"We all learned a lot about police work," Perez said, "and the process worked. We didn't just pick a name out of a hat. We painstakingly went through all the data and asked the hard questions, and it paid off. We got the candidate, and we had him right in our backyard."

Shakespeare Fest Announces 2021 Shows

Plans 'alternative formats' if in-person not allowed

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival on Dec. 17 announced its 2021 lineup, which will include *The Tempest* and a modern play about the legacy of slavery in America.

Should in-person performances be allowed by next summer, the festival plans to present *The Tempest* and James Ijames' *The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington* under the tent at Boscobel in Garrison, where HVSF has performed for 34 years. (The 2020 season was canceled.) It expects 2021 to be its last at Boscobel, given the company's plans in 2022 to move to a new site on what is now part of the Garrison Golf Club.

If in-person shows are not allowed because of continuing pandemic restrictions, the company will figure out a way to produce them in alternative formats, said Davis McCallum, the HVSF artistic director, in a statement.

The company will also produce a radio-play adaptation of *Macbeth* that will be shared with schools.



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The HIGHLANDS
Current

The Calendar



Extras wait in the foreground for their turn to walk through one of the Main Street scenes in Cold Spring during the filming of *The Affair* in 2015.



More than 75 crew members began arriving in Cold Spring at 5 a.m. in 2015 for a day of shooting *The Affair*.
File photos by Michael Turton

Putnam Seeks Starring Roles

County initiative hopes to lure productions

By Leonard Sparks

You could not write a better scene. Laurent Rejto, the executive director of the Hudson Valley Film Commission, said on Dec. 11 that, right after ending a phone call with me to discuss Putnam County's new effort to lure film productions, he was contacted by a friend

needing a location for a CBS television series.

The producers were looking for a "bucolic-looking farmhouse in Putnam County," Rejto said, similar to the farmhouse from the 1967 movie *In Cold Blood*.

It's the kind of call Putnam officials and Rejto hope will become more frequent because of Film Putnam, an initiative to bring productions here, along with their spending and hiring.

The Putnam County Economic Development Corp. and the county Department of

Tourism and the Putnam Industrial Development Agency have each contributed \$4,000 to contract with the HVFC to market the county, said Kathleen Abels, president of PCEDC.

In addition to developing a portfolio of locations and building a database of actors and production professionals, Putnam is searching for a building suitable to house a 7,000-square-foot production facility for interior scenes and editing.

Dutchess County, which has provided locations for films such as the 2018 thriller *A Quiet Place* and the HBO miniseries *The Undoing* and *I Know This Much Is True*, is established with the industry, Rejto noted,

(Continued on Page 16)

Scenes in Putnam

- *A Letter to Three Wives* 1949
COLD SPRING
- *Hello, Dolly!* 1969 | PHILIPSTOWN
- *Malcolm X* 1992 | PUTNAM VALLEY
- *Smoke* 1995 | GARRISON
- *Our Idiot Brother* 2011 | COLD SPRING
- *The Affair* | 2015, Showtime
COLD SPRING
- *What Breaks the Ice* (2020)
COLD SPRING

Newburgh Assesses Its Arts

Study examines how they impact city

By Alison Rooney

Newburgh, buoyed by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and other funding, on Dec. 5 presented the initial results of an analysis of the city's arts and culture resources.

The report, known as the Newburgh Arts and Cultural Study, was informed by a "citywide conversation" using virtual focus groups, site visits, surveys and interviews, said Naomi Hersson-Ringkog, who managed the project with Naomi Miller.

The effort was spearheaded by the Newburgh Arts & Cultural Commission, an advisory board that looked at "who is participating in or creating cultural experiences, how they impact the city and what supports are needed to promote equity, increase access and participation, nurture development and build capacity."



A rooftop view of the Newburgh Illuminated festival

Photo by Brian Wolfe

The Dec. 5 virtual event, dubbed The Summit, included an online presentation and discussion interspersed with live performances, including Mayor Torrance Harvey's reading of his poem, "My Culture."

Lord Cultural Resources, a consulting firm, provided the framework for the study and analyzed the results. Its treatment went well beyond traditional notions of the

arts to include libraries, parks, gardens and schools, and it placed its findings in the context of the local economy, education, diversity and identity.

"We looked at how arts and culture could have the greatest impact across the city," said Joy Bailey-Bryant of Lord Cultural. "As a city, you are not on the precipice; you have already
(Continued on Page 16)



Naomi Hersson-Ringkog and Naomi Miller
Photos by Harineta Rigatos



Hudson Valley Seed changed its name to Land to Learn.

Photo by Meghan Spiro



The Philipstown Depot Theatre held performances outside on its plaza.

Photo by Ross Corsair

ANIMALS

Animal Rescue Foundation
54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508
arfbeacon.org

Dutchess County SPCA
636 Violet Ave., Hyde Park, NY 12538
dcspca.org

Friends of Beacon Dog Park
beacondogpark.org

Guiding Eyes for the Blind
611 Granite Springs Road
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
guidingeyes.org

Mid Hudson Animal Aid (Cat Sanctuary)
54 Simmons Lane
Beacon, NY 12508
midhudsonanimalaid.org

Putnam County SPCA
P.O. Box 850, Brewster, NY 10509
spcaputnam.org

Putnam Humane Society
P.O. Box 297, Carmel, NY 10512
puthumane.org

Putnam Service Dogs
P.O. Box 573, Brewster, NY 10509
putnamservicedogs.org

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Beacon Arts Community Association
P.O. Box 727, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconarts.org

Chapel Restoration
P.O. Box 43, Cold Spring, NY 10516
chapelrestoration.org

Cold Spring Film Society
192 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
coldspringfilm.org

Collaborative Concepts
collaborativeconcepts.org

Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St., Beacon, NY 12508
diaart.org

Last-Minute Giving Guide

While charitable donations will help keep critically important community resources in operation year-round, you have until Dec. 31 to contribute to your favorite nonprofits and receive a deduction on your 2020 taxes.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act eliminated the limit this year on charitable contributions that can be deducted on Schedule A, which is usually a percentage of adjusted gross income. In addition, taxpayers who don't itemize will be able to deduct up to \$300 in donations.

By one estimate, 30 percent of donations in the U.S. are made in December, and 10 percent in the last 48 hours of the year. The deadline for 2020 is 5 p.m. on Thursday if you are mailing a check and midnight if you use a credit card.



For a clickable guide to these organizations, see highlandscurrent.org/giving-guide.



Downing Film Center
19 Front St., Newburgh, NY 12550
downingfilmcenter.com

Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
Garrison, NY 10524
garrisonartcenter.org

Howland Chamber Music Circle
P.O. Box 224, Chelsea, NY 12512
howlandmusic.org



The Howland Chamber Music Circle and the Howland Cultural Center organized "Strings in the Park" this past summer.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
howlandculturalcenter.org

Hudson Valley MOCA
1701 Main St., Peekskill, NY 10566
hudsonvalleymoca.org

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
143 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
hvshakespeare.org

Manitoga / Russel Wright Design Center
P.O. Box 249, Garrison, NY 10524
visitmanitoga.org

Philipstown Depot Theatre
P.O. Box 221, Garrison, NY 10524
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Sunset Readings
33 Parrott St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
sunsetreadings.org

REHABILITATION SERVICES

CoveCare Center
1808 Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512
covecarecenter.org

Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub
P.O. Box 317, Cold Spring, NY 10516
philipstownhub.org



Julianne O'Reilly, Danielle Pack McCarthy and Mandy Brindle of the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub

Photo provided

Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center
935 South Lake Blvd.
Mahopac, NY 10541
pnwwrc.org

Support Connection
40 Triangle Center, Suite 100
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
supportconnection.org

Topfield Center
115 Stonecrop Lane
Cold Spring, NY 10516
topfieldequestriancenter.com

CHILDREN & TEENS

Beacon Performing Arts Center
327B Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
beaconperformingartscenter.com

Beacon Soccer Club
P.O. Box 802, Beacon, NY 12508

Boy Scouts of America
Hudson Valley Council
6 Jeanne Drive, Newburgh, NY 12550
hudsonvalleyscouting.org
Memo: Pack 3001

Boy Scouts of America
Westchester-Putnam Council
41 Saw Mill River Road
Hawthorne, NY 10532
wpcbsa.org | Memo: Pack 137

Denniston International
256 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
dennistoninternational.org

Friends of Philipstown Recreation
P.O. Box 155, Cold Spring, NY 10516
www.friendsofphilipstownrecreation.org

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson
2 Great Oak Lane
Pleasantville, NY 10570
girlscoutshh.org

Land to Learn
(formerly Hudson Valley Seed)
380 Main St., Suite 200
Beacon, NY 12508
landtolearn.org

Philipstown Little League
P.O. Box 347, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Philipstown Soccer Club
P.O. Box 231, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Putnam County Children's Committee
P.O. Box 187, Carmel, NY 10512
pccchildren.org

Saint Basil Academy
79 Saint Basil Road
Garrison, NY 10524
stbasil.goarch.org

SHRED Foundation
94 Prospect St., Beacon, NY 12508
shredfoundation.org

Surprise Lake Camp (Philipstown)
520 Eighth Ave., 4th Floor
New York, NY 10018
surpriselake.org

EDUCATION

Beacon Arts & Education Foundation
P.O. Box 727, Beacon, NY 12508
Checks: BeaconArts. Memo: BAEF

Beacon High School PTSO
101 Matteawan Road
Beacon, NY 12508

Garrison Children's Education Fund
P.O. Box 262, Garrison, NY 10524
gcef.net

Garrison Institute
P.O. Box 532, Garrison, NY 10524
garrisoninstitute.org

Garrison School PTA
1100 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524
gufspta.org

Glenham Elementary PTO
20 Chase Drive, Fishkill, NY 12524

Haldane Arts Alliance
15 Craigsides Drive
Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldanearts.org

Haldane Blue Devil Booster Club
15 Craigsides Drive
Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldaneschool.org/athletics/hall-of-fame-booster-club

Haldane PTA
15 Craigsides Drive
Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldanepta.org

Haldane School Foundation
P.O. Box 364, Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldaneschoolfoundation.org

JV Forrestal Elementary PTO
125 Liberty St., Beacon, NY 12508
jvptso.com

Rombout Middle School PTO
84 Matteawan Road
Beacon, NY 12508
romboutpto.org

Sargent Elementary PTO
29 Education Drive
Beacon, NY 12508
sargentpto.org

South Avenue Elementary PTA
60 South Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
southavenuepta.com

COMMUNITY

Beacon Community Advancement Corp.
1 Forrestal Heights, Beacon, NY 12508

Beacon Community Lions Club
P.O. Box 83, Beacon, NY 12508

Cold Spring Farmers' Market
P.O. Box 325, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Cold Spring Lions Club
P.O. Box 308, Cold Spring, NY 10516
coldspringlions.org/welcome

Community Cares
692 Route 6, Mahopac, NY 10541
communitycares.org

Community Foundation of Dutchess County
80 Washington St., Suite 201
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
communityfoundationshv.org

Community Foundation of Putnam County
80 Washington St., Suite 201
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
communityfoundationshv.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County
2715 Route 44, Suite 1
Millbrook, NY 12545
ccedutchess.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County
1 Geneva Road, Brewster, NY 10509
putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh
125 Washington St.
Newburgh, NY 12550
habitatnewburgh.org

Highlands Current Inc.
142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
highlandscurrent.org/join

I Am Beacon
P.O. Box 265, Beacon, NY 12508

Mutual Aid Beacon
23 N. Brett St., Beacon, NY 12508
beaconmutualaid.com

River Pool at Beacon
P.O. Box 173, Beacon, NY 12508
riverpool.org

Spirit of Beacon Day
P.O. Box 821, Beacon, NY 12508
spiritofbeacon.org

United Way of Dutchess-Orange Region
75 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
uwdor.org

United Way of Westchester and Putnam
336 Central Park Ave.
White Plains, NY 10606 | uwwp.org

HUNGER

Beacon Community Kitchen
c/o Multi-Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 1285, Beacon, NY 12508
Check: Multi-Services. Memo: BCK



Nicholas Leiss tops off eggplant parmigiana while volunteering at the Beacon Community Kitchen. *Photo by Brian PJ Cronin*

Fareground Community Kitchen
P.O. Box 615, Beacon, NY 12508
fareground.org

Philipstown Food Pantry
10 Academy St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
presbychurchcoldspring.org/food/pantry.html

St. Andrew & St. Luke Food Pantry
15 South Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
beacon-episcopal.org/food-pantry

FIRST RESPONDERS

Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps
P.O. Box 54, Beacon, NY 12508

Cold Spring Fire Co. No. 1
154 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

Continental Village Fire Department
12 Spy Pond Road, Garrison, NY 10524

Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps
P.O. Box 121, Garrison, NY 10524

Garrison Volunteer Fire Co.
1616 Route 9, Garrison, NY 10524

North Highlands Engine Co. No. 1
504 Fishkill Road
Cold Spring, NY 10516

Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps
14 Cedar St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

HISTORICAL

Bannerman Castle Trust
P.O. Box 843, Glenham, NY 12527
bannermancastle.org

Beacon Historical Society
P.O. Box 89, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconhistorical.org

Boscobel Restoration
1601 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524
boscobel.org

Constitution Island Association
P.O. Box 126, Cold Spring, NY 10516
constitutionisland.org

Dutchess County Historical Society
P.O. Box 88, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602
dchsn.org

Garrison's Landing Association
P.O. Box 205, Garrison, NY 10524
garrisonslanding.org

Madam Brett Homestead
50 Van Nydeck Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
melzingahnsdar.org

Mount Gulian Society
145 Sterling St., Beacon, NY 12508

Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St.
Cold Spring, NY 10516
putnamhistorymuseum.com

LIBRARIES

Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring, NY 10516
butterfieldlibrary.org

Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524
desmondfishlibrary.org

Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
beaconlibrary.org

NATURAL RESOURCES

Beacon Sloop Club
P.O. Box 527, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconsloop.org

Common Ground Farm
P.O. Box 148, Beacon, NY 12508
commongroundfarm.org

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center
P.O. Box 174, Cold Spring, NY 10516
constitutionmarsh.audubon.org

Ecological Citizen's Project
69 South Mountain Pass
Garrison, NY 10524
ecologicalcitizens.org

Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks
P.O. Box 194, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming
P.O. Box 157, Cold Spring, NY 10516
glynwood.org

Hudson Highlands Land Trust
P.O. Box 226, Garrison, NY 10524
hhlt.org

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
724 Wolcott Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
clearwater.org

Little Stony Point Citizens Association
P.O. Box 319, Cold Spring, NY 10516
littlestonypoint.org

Natural Heritage Trust
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207
parks.ny.gov/natural-heritage-trust

Putnam Highlands Audubon Society
P.O. Box 292, Cold Spring, NY 10516
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Riverkeeper
20 Secor Road, Ossining, NY 10562
riverkeeper.org

Scenic Hudson
One Civic Center Plaza, Suite 200
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
scenichudson.org

Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane
Cold Spring, NY 10516
stonecrop.org

VETERANS

American Legion Post 203
413 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508

American Legion Post 275
275 Cedar St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 96, Beacon, NY 12508

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 666
413 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2362
P.O. Box 283, Cold Spring, NY 10516

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

MUSIC

THURS 31
Boom Kat

BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The acoustic duo will perform with the Judith Tulloch Band.

THURS 31
A Tribute to the Rolling Stones

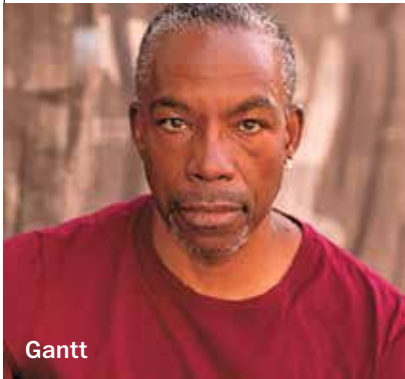
POUGHKEEPSIE
8 p.m. Bardavon
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
Lucinda Williams will wind up her online performance series benefiting music venues with her favorite covers of the Rolling Stones. Register to view the livestream performance. *Cost: \$20*

STAGE & SCREEN

FRI 1
Rhapsody in Black

POUGHKEEPSIE
Bardavon | bardavon.org
LeLand Gantt will perform a one-person show exploring his

experiences with racism. It will be available to watch streaming live until Feb. 28. *Free*



Gantt

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 26
Explore Masterpieces at the Met

GARRISON
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/2KvoQsu
Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe, an art and museum educator, will lead an online tour of the collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

SUN 27
Painting with Regina

GARRISON
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/3rOfYvH
Pick up a kit with materials at the library to join this virtual workshop and create a birch painting.

MON 28
Flash Writing

COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Register to join the Zoom event with *Highlands Current* reporter Mike Turton and learn how to tell a complete story in 75 words.

COMMUNITY

Helping Hands Kindness

BEACON
Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org
The library is collecting personal products for local food pantries. Drop off new and unopened soap, sanitizer, toothpaste, lotion, deodorant, baby wipes and feminine hygiene products. Through WED 30.

SAT 26
Silent Night Twilight Stroll

GARRISON
3 - 7 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org
Enjoy dusk and sunset on the

grounds. Reservations required. Also SAT 2. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 senior, \$6 ages 5-18, free for healthcare workers, members and children under age 5)*

FRI 1
First Day Hike

COLD SPRING
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D
facebook.com/littlestonypoint
Stop by the volunteer center for hot cocoa and snacks and choose either a short, naturalist-led 1-mile hike or an historian-led 3-mile hike on the Cornish Estate Trail. Register online.

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 28
Babies and Books

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/BabiesAndBooks
This weekly workshop is part of a literacy program for babies and toddlers up to 24 months. Register online.

MON 28
Virtual Storytime

1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary
Children's Librarian Lucille Merry and other members of the staff will read books aloud.

TUES 29
Kid's Craft

GARRISON
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/DFPLKidsCraft
Join Mrs. Merry on Zoom; kits will be available for pickup curbside. Register online.

SAT 2
The Great Kids Dessert Bake Off

GARRISON
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/DFPLkidscook
Watch the video submissions via Crowdfunder of cakes, pies and other desserts, along with the awards ceremony hosted by Justice McCray and Karen Thompson. Register online to join.



SAT 2
Christmas Bird Count

PUTNAM COUNTY
audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count
Help with the 66th annual county-wide bird count to measure populations and support conservation. To register, email Charlie Roberto at chasrob26@gmail.com.

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Is it a Cookie? Or a Granola Bar?*



Beatrice Copeland selling stovies and, at left, Capt. Masson, from the label *Photos provided*

Family recipe becomes stovie venture

By Alison Rooney

Jamie Copeland knew something was up when the recipients of his annual

holiday corporate gifts didn't offer their usual enthusiastic thanks.

For years, he had asked a bakery to create batches of "stovies" from an old family recipe. But that year, he decided to try scented candles.

"One client told me, 'My mouth was watering in expectation, then I opened up the box and it was just a candle,'" said Copeland, who owns Hudson Design in Garrison.

These days, you don't have to be a Hudson Design client to get your own stovies. They are sold at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market,



The Copeland sisters, from left: Eugenia, Beatrice, Marion and Margaret

the Cold Spring General Store, Solstad House in Beacon and at oatstovies.com.

The recipe is, naturally, a family secret, but the ingredients include oats, molasses, walnuts, sunflower seeds, coconut, chocolate, raisins, canola oil, eggs and brown sugar. In the interest of accuracy, I tried one — well, three — and can attest that they are complex and delicious.

As the family story goes, the edibles originated with rickets and scurvy.

In 1804, Thomas Masson, a young Scottish sea captain — and Copeland ancestor — invented a snack to ward off disease on long passages. Cooked on the galley stove like pancakes, the oat stovies quickly became a favorite among seafaring Scots.

So, what is a stovie? Is it a granola bar, or is it a cookie? "It's even better," says Copeland. His daughter, Beatrice, adds: "It's more versatile than either; it can satisfy all sorts of cravings. It's a great snack for hikers but also tastes good with a cup of

coffee. And, it's good for you."

Traditionally, a stovie is a Scottish hodgepodge of leftovers, usually with a base of potato and onion mixed with beef drippings. Of course, the recipes have evolved and expanded. "This recipe had been in my mother's side of the family," Jamie says. "Leftovers from last night's dinner, thrown together in a pot on the stove — a savory dinner. In our adaptation, instead of potatoes and meat, the stovie is sweet."

According to Carolyn Copeland, Jamie's wife and mother to Beatrice and her three sisters, it was daughter Eugenia who started the entrepreneurial ball rolling. "As a kid she sold them at the train station and at the golf course," she said.

Carolyn, who is a musical theater producer, was dealing with that industry's pandemic-induced standstill and turned her energy to, as her husband says, "baking, going in and putting the recipe together, getting it back at the right temperature."

Beatrice, a film producer who lives in Manhattan, came home when the shutdown began, "and this became a great project to work on." She developed a logo with the help of a friend who is a designer and a "rebranding" of the stovie began.

The rest of the family has contributed, as well. The eldest daughter, Margaret, who has two young children, lives in Virginia and runs a candle company, set up the internet sales. Marion, a physician and captain in the U.S. Army, promised to introduce stovies to the military.

Eugenia, an opera singer, will be taking the reins shortly from her parents, who have been baking stovies in the kitchen at Homestyle Bakery one day each week. "She'll be heading up new sales opportunities," her mother says.

"It's a blessing to provide something people like," Jamie says. "You give them a bag and they admit they ate half before sharing. One of the things Carolyn and I like to communicate to our children is your gifts are meant for other people. We love the fact that people love the cookie. So, we're going to keep making them."

Carolyn adds: "It has been something fun to focus on during these scary days."

* or Both? or Neither?

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The HIGHLANDS
Current**STUDENT
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PROGRAM****DEADLINE
DEC. 31****The Current is looking for a few
good high school journalists.**

The Highlands Current is initiating its Student Journalists Program to provide an opportunity for students who attend high school in Philipstown and Beacon to be mentored by professional journalists while they serve as correspondents for our nonprofit newspaper and website.

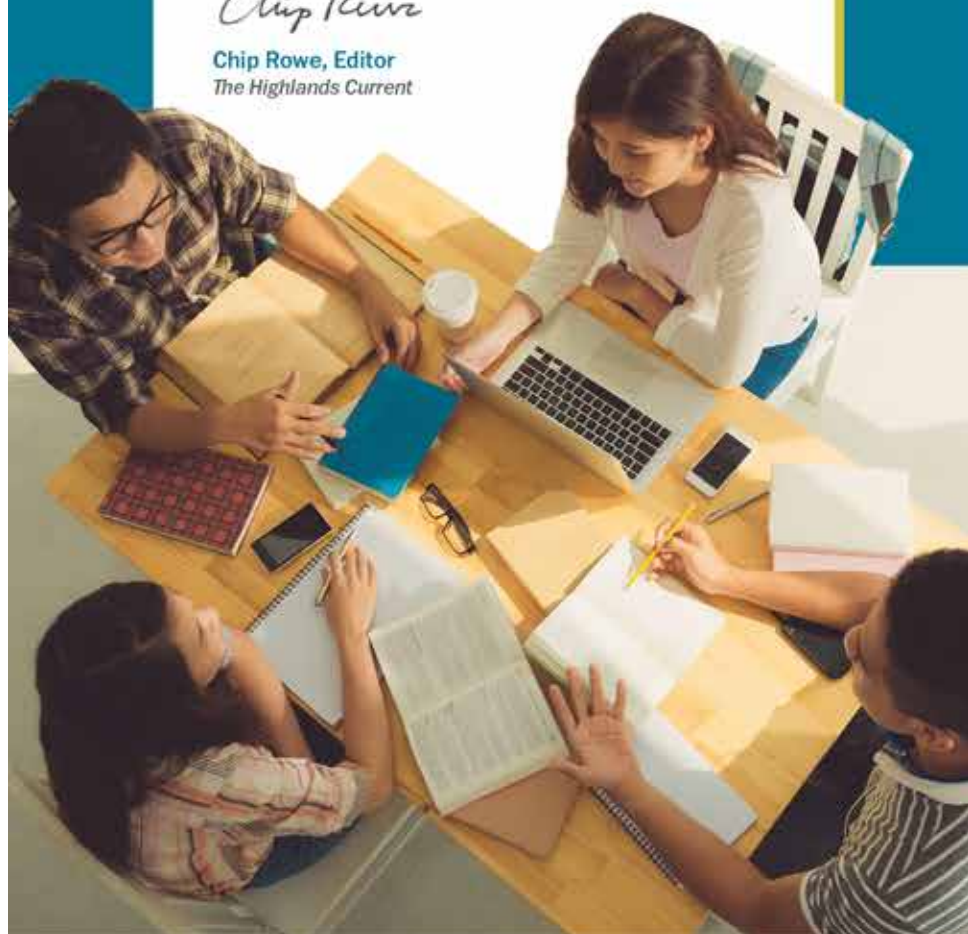
The reporting of correspondents selected for the program will appear at highlandscurrent.org and select stories will be printed. The staff, when editing stories by our student correspondents, will provide detailed feedback and suggestions to improve and refine their reporting.

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

[highlandscurrent.org/
student-journalists-program](http://highlandscurrent.org/student-journalists-program)

Chip Rowe

Chip Rowe, Editor
The Highlands Current



A celebration at the 2017 Newburgh Illuminated Festival

Photo by Brian Wolfe

Newburgh (from Page 11)

arrived. Your location is beautiful and you have proximity to one of the largest and most populous arts and cultural capitals of the world. The diversity makes it a distinct place.

“Creativity distinguishes the city,” she added. “There’s a lot of ‘I’m a Newburgher’ pride. There’s been an increase in artists, creative businesses and the film industry.”

A survey that drew 400 responses showed that Newburgh residents are “big on music, visual arts, culinary and distillery arts, and history,” said another Lord Cultural consultant, Tiffany Lyons. “Many Newburghers are artists. The most-involved activity is visual arts, with interests also in gardening, design and craft.”

Eve-Laure Moros Ortega, also with Lord Cultural, addressed the challenges facing Newburgh, which include “a lack of trust in leadership; fears of gentrification and displacement exacerbated by the pandemic; trying to ensure that benefits don’t displace long-term residents. Silence is a problem, as is weak funding and the challenges of poverty. This is something that has to be considered, yet there are many ways in which art can be available for free.”

The summit participants, when surveyed to rank their priorities, focused on infra-

structure and perceived red tape; centralized communication; additional funding; improved government support and policies; and efforts to engage people.

Moros Ortega said one strategy to expand the arts in Newburgh would be to deepen relationships with regional partners such as Storm King and Dia:Beacon. The report also suggested putting Newburgh artists into existing institutions; expanding after-school programs; developing the Newburgh brand; “activating” empty lots; leveraging creative businesses; and provide funding for youth to attend cultural events.

Hersson-Ringskog, an urban planner, said that when the project began two years ago, “there was no centralized information of what Newburgh has, in terms of arts and culture. It will have many legacies, including an asset inventory, which is an ongoing directory of artists and creatives, and a calendar of events.”

She stressed that the project is meant to extend beyond Newburgh. “It takes a macro view, in terms of fostering more collaborations and partnerships — looking at neighbors to forge a stronger regional landscape. We catalogued and learned how people interact with the arts, why they’re important and what is needed from them to thrive. The study is the first look.”

Putnam Film (from Page 11)

but some producers also have crossed into Putnam to shoot because of its proximity. For that reason, “it seems silly to not include Putnam County” in the commission’s promotion efforts.

For Putnam officials, the county’s strengths are many and varied: settings ranging from farmhouses to main streets; the Hudson River, lakes and mountains; and historic and iconic buildings.

Among other locations, it will pitch producers on the Boscobel House and Gardens and the Castle Rock residence in Garrison, The Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring, Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown, the Brewster train station, the historic Putnam County Courthouse in Carmel and Tilly Foster Farm in Brewster.

Last year, film productions spent about \$46 million in the Mid-Hudson region on 42,000 hotel rooms, catered meals and other expenses, and hired 4,000 actors and extras and more than 500 crew members, according to the HVFC.

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See [highlandscurrent.org/
classifieds](http://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).**

Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (December 1870)

Residents living near the railroad station were awakened at 3 a.m. on a Monday by a cry of "Murder!" Instead, it was Michael O'Brien, known as "Micky Free," calling out as he was accosted by Lewis Harting, owner of the Cold Spring House, over his unpaid tavern bill. The next day, Justice Davenport issued a warrant against Harting *et al* for assault, while Harting countersued for the damage he said O'Brien caused to his stock and fixtures.

The Main Street pumps supplied from Fountain Head were dry for a few days as there was only 10 inches of water in the cistern.

S.B. Truesdell (the Philipstown clerk), Charles Ferris (the school commissioner and town justice), W.K. Lawson and Robert Carmichael traveled to Washington, D.C., to hunt along the Potomac. Upon their return, "one of the number gave a most distressing report of the poverty of both the land and the people in the districts which they visited," according to the *Cold Spring Recorder*.

After eight years, the Reading Room Association voted to disband its library for lack of use and return its property to founders R.P. Parrott and D. Moffatt.

During a fight at the West Point Foundry, Thomas Nolan stabbed William Hamilton in the forearm with a steel nut-picker.

One of two boys found guilty of stealing candy from the freight house on the dock received a suspended sentence and the other was fined \$2 and jailed for four days.

A dispute broke out in School District 6 when it was alleged that Trustee Cornelius Haight issued a tax list to pay for the new schoolhouse that did not include his own property. The superintendent ordered Haight to personally refund every other taxpayer what they had overpaid.

Capt. Wise of the John P. Wild privately negotiated a settlement after his crew was accused of loading a barrel of beer on the vessel without payment.

A scammer who came to town telling a tale of financial distress sold a worthless watch to David Robinson for \$15 and another to Charles Bullock for \$12.

Wilmont Strong, who kept a shoe store in the basement of the Spellman building opposite the Cold Spring House, turned down the wicking of his lamp on a Sunday night and went to church. Soon after, the people upstairs smelled smoke and discovered the lamp had set fire to a settee.

Capt. Joshua Cronk, while making a trip to Yonkers with a load of bricks, had to anchor near the Palisades because of high winds. When he pulled up anchor, another anchor of the same size and value of his own came up with it.

125 Years Ago (December 1895)

St. Mary's Episcopal Church hosted a Christmas Revele with Cinderella and her fairy godmother in a Yellow Pumpkin Coach, Red Riding Hood, Rob Roy, a Puritan maiden, a hospital nurse, a wedding party and the Duchess of Marlborough

[formerly Consuelo Vanderbilt].

Gen. Daniel Butterfield presented the Cold Spring Village Improvement Association with a tablet inscribed: "General George Washington, in frequent visits to the American troops encamped nearby during the War of the Revolution, drank at this spring and gave it its name, Cold Spring" and with the seal of the Sons of the Revolution. The association said it would place the tablet on a boulder monument near the spring at the railroad station.

Hay was running \$15 to \$17 per ton, making riding horses an expensive luxury for the winter.

There was a dispute over the will of Jack Mandigo, of Highland Falls, because of a report he had secretly wed his housekeeper, Miss Finney. She said that although he called her "Mrs. Mandigo" in person and on travel documents, they were not married. He died while the couple was on a trip to her native England; his body was returned to the U.S. and interred at Cold Spring Cemetery.

In a football game played on the Osborn estate, a team from West Point defeated Garrison, 6-0, on a touchdown (four points) and extra-point kick (two points).

The last of the bodies of 13 men killed in a Nov. 29 collapse at the 400-foot-deep Tilly Foster Iron Mine near Brewster following a heavy rain was recovered. The dead included seven Italian workers whose names were not reported.

Cold Spring's only dentist, Dr. C.R. Gilson, moved to New York City.

The Village Board, after hearing a report that a large number of Haldane students were smoking cigarettes, vowed to more strictly enforce a law that banned anyone who was or appeared to be under age 16 from smoking in public.

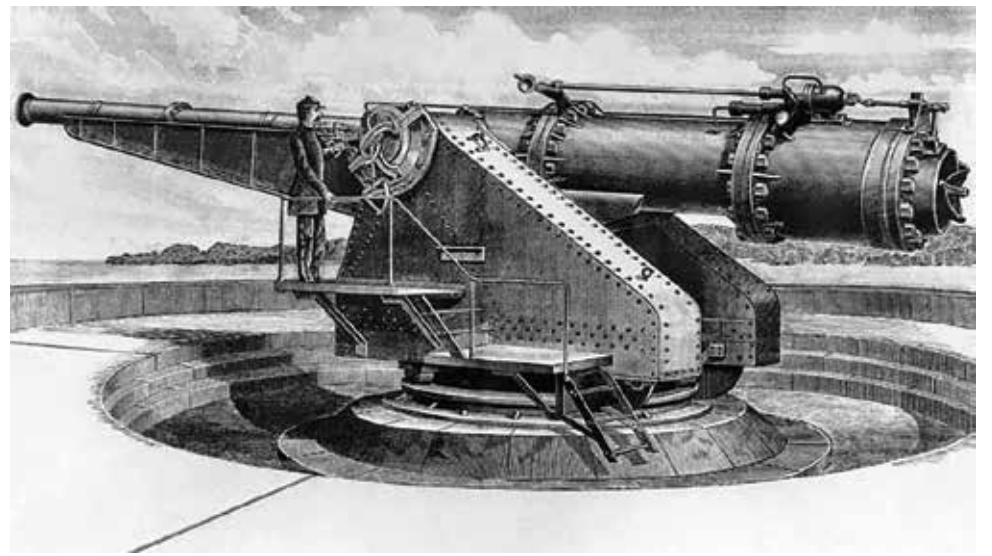
E.H. Timm, president of the Board of Education, donated 20 copies of *The Army Sketch Book: An Artist's Story of the War*, by Edwin Forbes, to the Haldane Union School library. LeGrande Wilson, president of the Cold Spring branch of the Sunday League of America, also donated a copy of *Sabbath for Man: A Study of the Origin, Obligation, History, Advantages and Present State of the Sabbath Observance*, by the Rev. and Mrs. Wilbur Crafts.

After a day of testimony, a jury took 20 minutes to acquit Constable James Mosher of cruelty to animals for shooting Isaac, a dog owned by Warren Merritt. The Village Board a month earlier had issued a muzzle order and authorized Mosher to kill any dogs roaming the street. Although Isaac was playing in his own yard, Mosher said he had seen the dog on the loose earlier and in the company of a dog found to be rabid.

The Hudson River Railroad added a stop at Garrison for its "owl train," allowing residents to attend theater parties in New York City.

The Putnam County Board of Supervisors discussed asking a clergyman to open each of its sessions with a prayer. (*The Recorder* headlined the brief notice: "Do Their Consciences Trouble Them?")

The school in Philipstown District No.



A drawing of one of the pneumatic dynamite guns made in Cold Spring and installed in 1895 to protect the San Francisco harbor

5 closed for six weeks due to lack of funds.

Village residents gathered at the foot of Chestnut Street to watch the sky illuminated with the burning of the cattails on the marsh. [Because cattails spread quickly in wetlands, they were destroyed during the winter when it was easier to maintain a controlled burn.]

James McCaffrey appeared before the Village Board to complain that the fence constructed on Kemble Avenue by his neighbor, Mary O'Donnell, blocked his view of Main Street. He asked that the board order her to lower it by at least a foot.

The Nelsonville board complained to the Cold Spring board about the condition of the streets after the installation of new

water mains.

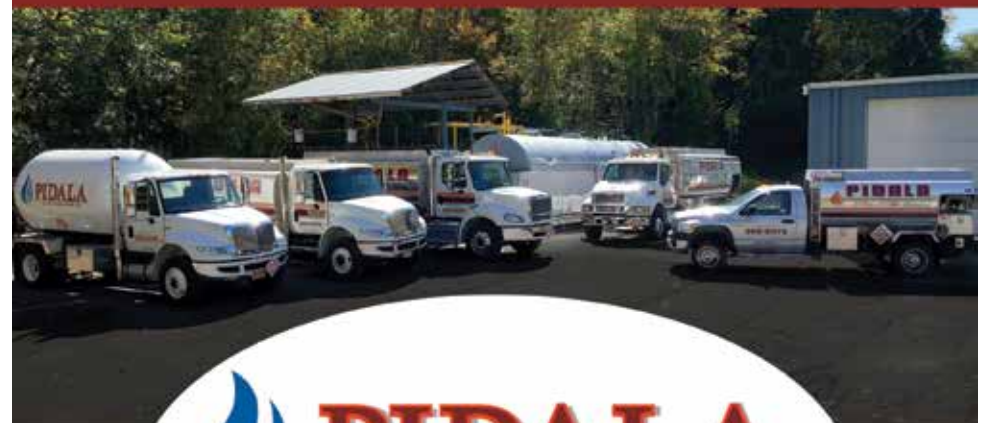
The Rev. J.W.A. Dodge, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, gave a sermon entitled "If I Become a Christian, Will My Pleasures Be Curtailed?"

Three pneumatic dynamite guns built at the West Point Foundry were tested and accepted by the U.S. Army to defend the San Francisco harbor.

H. Vito, an Italian employed at the water works, was arrested after being accused by Henry Copelan, a peddler in Newburgh, of stealing a silver watch. When Copelan did not appear in court, Vito was released. He promptly swore out a complaint accusing Copelan of selling goods on Sunday. Officer

(Continued on Page 18)

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Looking Back *(from Page 17)*

McCaffrey went to Newburgh to retrieve Copelan, who paid a \$5 fine.

Dr. J.M. Griffin, a former resident of Cold Spring, gave a lecture on hypnosis to physicians at a Practitioner's Club meeting held at Grace Hospital in Detroit in which he had a female volunteer taste bitter quinine but smack her lips and inhale ammonia after he told her it was perfume.

Electa Wright, an inmate of the county poorhouse for 59 years, died at age 84.

The members of the Garrison Athletic Club were "now engaged in playing the highly fashionable game of 'hockey,' which is a near relation to the exhilarating game of golf," *The Recorder* noted. [This is likely a reference to ice polo, which was played with a ball rather than a puck.]

The Recorder offered a list of items for women to give men for Christmas: A cane, a scarf pin, sleeve links, an umbrella, an easy chair, a good picture, some new books, a handsome muffler, a dozen pure linen handkerchiefs or a box of very good cigars ("get some judge to select them").

The Hudson River Railroad depot, fences and engine house were painted salmon.

The editor of *The Recorder* noted that he received *The Congressional Record* each day and that anyone was invited to stop by and get "a full account of what was done and said in Congress."

While slipping out of the Christmas service at the North Highlands church because her son was fretting, Mrs. Fred Cargill opened the coal-vault door by mistake and they both fell about 15 feet down a flight of stairs. Neither mother nor son were seriously injured, although her head dented a piece of stove pipe nearly in half.

While walking along the platform at the railroad station, John Cummings, 50, the longtime Main Street watchman, suddenly fell on the tracks, apparently the victim of a stroke. He was pulled to safety before the train arrived but died the next morning.



A photo taken in 1970 by Larry Mulvehill of Cold Spring that appeared in LIFE Magazine

100 Years Ago (December 1920)

A court approved the final accounting, after eight years, by executor Albert Hanger of the estate of Julia Butterfield, allowing a \$500,000 bequest to be released to the International Y.M.C.A. At her death, Mrs. Butterfield was estimated to be worth \$4.7 million [about \$61 million today].

The oldest resident of Amityville was celebrated: Isaac Valentine, 92. He grew up in Brooklyn but at age 14 was sent to Cold Spring to apprentice for six years in the carpenter's trade with his uncle, Israel Valentine.

75 Years Ago (December 1945)

A state Supreme Court justice in White Plains granted Kenneth Doxey, a farmhand who lived on High Street in Cold Spring, an annulment of his marriage after Doxey claimed he hadn't realized his wife was "colored." Doxey and his wife wed on Nov. 15, 1937, a week after they met on the street

in the village. He said friends told him she was not white but she said she was Portuguese. Doxey told the judge he left her in 1938 after he being introduced to his African American father-in-law.

Helen Swinburne of Manitou gave a presentation to the Garrison 4-H Club on how to raise Angora rabbits, which each produce about 16 ounces of fur annually.

The Haldane varsity basketball team defeated a team of alumni (including Mike Scoba, Joe Etta, Billy Whitehill, Bill Markovich, Elmer Price, Tony Merando and Sal Nastasi), 32-25. Earlier, the junior varsity defeated the Beacon Wolves.

The newly formed Philipstown Choral Society presented Handel's *Messiah* at the Haldane school.

50 Years Ago (December 1970)

The Philipstown Council offered its endorsement of a plan by the Haldane Central School to "stem the menace of drug addiction"

among students by working with churches and groups such as the PTA and Jaycees.

Marilyn Silverman began work as the Philipstown supervisor of recreation. "If skiing, skating, painting, dancing, a teen center, sleighing, volleyball and archery 'turn you on,' look forward to these activities in the near future," she said.

Alexander Collard, who had worked at the Cold Spring Cemetery for 37 years, most recently as its superintendent, died at age 58 and was buried at the cemetery.

Jimmy "Duffy" Ricevuto of Parsonage Street defeated Bill Villette of North Highlands, 7 games to 4, to win the Cold Spring and North Highlands 8 Ball Championship.

The Center Mobil Service Station in Cold Spring, owned by Skinny Manglass, received \$20,000 in upgrades that included new pumps, blacktopping and paint.

Jack LaDue, owner and editor of *The Putnam County News & Recorder*, pulled the winning ticket in a raffle held by the Help-a-Cat League of Philipstown.

Larry Mulvehill of Cold Spring won third prize among professionals and \$1,000 in LIFE Magazine's annual photography contest. Mulvehill had waded into the Hudson to photograph his daughter and niece and spotted a fish killed by pollution. LIFE called it a "picture that makes you think twice."

Services were held at the Eaton Funeral Home, 9 Morris Ave., in Cold Spring for Theodore Lund, 80, who was struck and killed by a car on Christmas Eve on Albany Post Road in North Highlands. Lund, a native of Sweden, was a retired employee of the Matteawan State Hospital in Beacon.

25 Years Ago (December 1995)

Workers completed the renovation of the Haldane Elementary School library, which was paid for by two years of fundraising in the community and donations from businesses such as C&E Paint, Pidala Electric, Pidala Oil and Hudson Design. Parent volunteers removed the thousands of books before the work began.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

- 1. Doctrine
- 4. Commotions
- 8. Mid-May honorees
- 12. Cattle call
- 13. "Arrivederci"
- 14. "So be it"
- 15. Wordplay specialists
- 17. Hindu royal
- 18. Locate
- 19. Piece of cheesecake?
- 20. Subsequently
- 22. Reedy
- 24. Concoct
- 25. Good news for bargain hunters
- 29. Bard's "always"
- 30. Unrefined
- 31. Id counterpart
- 32. Ruins
- 34. Touch
- 35. Cincinnati team
- 36. Gets up
- 37. — Valley (California ski resort)
- 40. Family member
- 41. Cather's *One of —*
- 42. Expensive seafood
- 46. Platter

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18						19				
20	21					22	23					
24					25					26	27	28
29				30						31		
32			33						34			
			35					36				
37	38	39					40					
41					42	43					44	45
46					47					48		
49					50					51		

- 47. Between jobs
- 48. Carnival city
- 49. Remain
- 50. Ball-bearing items
- 51. Agent
- 6. Scull tool
- 7. "Mayday!"
- 8. Leatherneck
- 9. Mideast nation
- 10. Options list
- 11. Use scissors
- 16. Gush forth
- 19. Snapshots
- 20. Sleeping, perhaps
- 21. Release
- 22. Cafeteria stack
- 23. Greet the villain
- 25. Motivate
- 26. "— Dictionary"
- 27. Chills and fever
- 28. Deteriorates
- 30. Staff
- 33. In poor taste
- 34. "— She Sweet?"
- 36. Strategic tricks
- 37. Turfs
- 38. Resign
- 39. — Major
- 40. Competent
- 42. Illuminated
- 43. Rhyming tribute
- 44. Tear
- 45. Tofu base

DOWN

- 1. Mischievous tyke
- 2. Old French coin
- 3. 2001 movie, —, *Inc.*
- 4. Thespian
- 5. Regimen

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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

- 1 high-flying companies (8)
- 2 one with input (11)
- 3 avoid specifics (10)
- 4 Wisconsin's state bird (5)
- 5 adding a little spice (9)
- 6 walks around (7)
- 7 daringly innovative (4)

SOLUTIONS

AIR	ROB	BUT	ES	GE
TRI	SON	GY	IN	LES
SEA	CIRC	ALI	OR	CON
NER	ED	LIN	ING	ZE

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for Dec. 18 Puzzles

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

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

1. PHONES, 2. GUMBY, 3. REPORTEDLY, 4. SPIELBERG, 5. UNFRIENDLY, 6. WELLS, 7. FIRM

The HIGHLANDS Current

20 DECEMBER 25, 2020

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Photo by Alex Wilcox Cheek

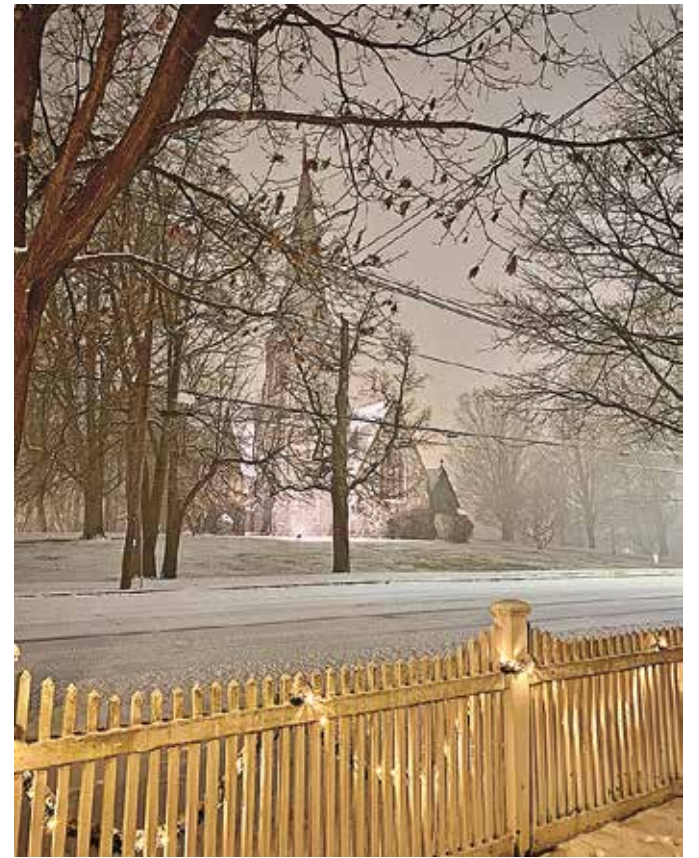


Photo by Natalia Brzostowska



Photo by Hannah Salit

Winter PHOTOFEST

Last week we asked readers to submit their photos of the Dec. 16 snow storm. Here are a few selections; for more, see highlandscurrent.org. Thanks to everyone who shared.



Photo by Jennifer Hanna



Photo by Alex Wilcox Cheek



Photo by Alex Wilcox Cheek