

The HIGHLANDS Current



Formerly known as *The Paper*
See Page 4

FRIDAY, APRIL 1 2016

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The Highlands from Cold Spring north to Beacon

Photo by Rick Gedney

Lawmakers Target Rx Opioid Supplies, Treatment Options

New angles on addiction

By Anita Peltonen

Opioid painkiller abuse has brought scores of untimely deaths to the Hudson Valley. Amped-up vigilance and new overdose treatments are saving lives. But fear remains. The “war on drugs” has cost \$1 trillion and is decades old, and drug abuse seems only to shapeshift, never downshift.

Dutchess and Putnam counties have been designated High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs) by the federal government. And now the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued new alerts on superpotent painkiller Fentanyl. (See sidebar on Page 3.)

The potential good news for our region? New York lawmakers have launched new, laser-targeted attacks on supply lines. They carve out protections for severe pain patients. They address access to treatment whether overdose has occurred or not.

And they begin with the prescription pad

and follow through to the justice system.

Root causes

The Paper (now *The Highlands Current*) has covered local heroin use in a four-part series. Opioid pill abuse usually comes first, and is more common than shooting heroin, so it is the focus of this series.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) on Feb. 23 introduced a bill, the Preventing Overprescribing for Pain Act, that addresses all pain prescribers.

The CDC on March 15 announced new guidelines on the needs of chronic pain patients, those suffering “longer than three months, or past the time of normal tissue healing.”

Gillibrand seeks better guidelines on prescriptions to acute pain patients who’ve had, say, dental surgery or a minor injury. For them, she notes, there’s no reason to receive months’ worth of pills when a few might do.

Justice and treatment

Since many addicts’ supplies start “free” when stolen from pain patients, normal

price curbs on use don’t apply. Cheap oversupply creates demand in populations like kids, who usually wouldn’t have access or money to buy and abuse opioids.

Prevent first use

As Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-18th) told Dutchess, Putnam, Orange and Westchester constituents during a March 18 telephone Town Hall, “We must address the demand end and the supply end.”

Maloney has worked on numerous bills targeting drug abuse. He’s sponsoring HR4654 (introduced March 1), the Keeping Communities Safe through Treatment Act, to launch pilot programs to bring “low-level drug offenders” to treatment; those involved with “serious violent felon[ies]” would not be included.

HR4654 would “allow police to use discretion regarding treatment” versus booking. Fear of jail keeps some users from admitting their problem. Even those who

(Continued on Page 3)

Where Your Recycling Goes

Our reporter follows the discards to their new life

By Michael Turton

It’s Thursday evening. Time to put recyclables at the road. Magically, those bottles, cans, detergent containers and cardboard boxes disappear by mid-morning. Yet few people understand the cost of that “magic” or the tax dollars that could be saved if recycling was closer to being universal.

Curbside recyclables from Cold Spring and Beacon end up at ReCommunity Recycling, a 56,000-square-foot facility east of Beacon. Its 36 plants across the country process and bale the refuse to sell to manufacturers as raw material for a variety of products.

Money well *not* spent

ReCommunity’s Beacon operation employs as many as 70 people and accepts 350 to 450 tons of material a day, mainly from the mid-Hudson Valley but also from as far away as Boston.

About 30 percent of the material comes from municipalities, with the balance from private carriers such as Royal Carting. For cities, towns and villages, recycling is money well not spent because it is far less expensive than disposing of garbage.

In 2015-16 the Village of Cold Spring, with a population of about 2,000, budgeted \$91,000 to get rid of 700 tons of garbage. The City of Beacon, with a population of 15,541, allotted \$746,359.

In contrast, municipalities and private carriers pay nothing to deposit recyclables at ReCommunity. So each ton of recyclables saves the cost of disposing of a ton of garbage.

“Beacon brings (Continued on Page 4)



A bale of aluminum cans

Photo by M. Turton

Small, Good Things

The Heart of the Matter

By Joe Dizney

Spring certainly came early this year. The hellebores have been blooming since February; early spring bulbs I planted a couple of years ago to give me a progressive show — crocus, *muscaria*, *scilla*, *chionodoxa*, iris *reticulata*, daffodils — all exploded at once, followed immediately by erratically sudden forsythia. Even the lilacs are budding up ahead of schedule and April showers will soon bring a storm of spring flowers.

I'm aching to jump the gun in the kitchen, too, but the markets have yet to cooperate, and the chill wind manically whipping outside right now demands something warmer — something that walks the line between winter and spring, like a roast chicken with Mediterranean accent.

Running with that thought, I was reminded of an old Molly O'Neill recipe in which the breast of the chicken were stuffed with an artichoke puree before roasting and the cavity was stuffed with more artichokes and lemons.

The artichoke is a perennial vegetable in the thistle family, actually a giant flower bud that left to its own devices will burst into a large violet bloom on a par with the sunflower (to which it is related). The Romans referred to it as *carduus* (similar to cardoon, to which it is also re-

lated), and it is one of the oldest cultivated foods known to humans.

The artichoke was considered an aphrodisiac and thus the province of men alone until the 14-year-old Catherine de'Medici shocked the populace with a voracious appetite for them and introduced them to France from her native Tuscany. The French in turn introduced them to Louisiana, where they are still grown. But their home is California, where they were spread by the Spanish, and they are now a year-round crop with production spikes in the spring and fall. (Marilyn Monroe was the first official California Artichoke Queen, circa 1949.)

The artichoke "hearts" we buy, canned or frozen, are actually immature buds, sold fresh as "baby" artichokes. (The advantage here being that they may be eaten whole, the choke or fuzzy, thistly interior being undeveloped and much less troublesome than that fuzzy mass in larger globes.)

For this recipe, I made the artichoke puree from canned artichoke bottoms (the true hearts of larger artichokes, available at Foodtown or Adams Fair Acre Farms) for a smoother texture, abetted by just a couple cloves of garlic, olive oil, salt and pepper. I've added fennel, shallots and rosemary to Ms. O'Neill's suggested stuffing as well as roasting the chicken on a bed of those same vegetables. For the last



Roast chicken with artichoke, tomato and fennel

Photo by J. Dizney

20 minutes or so of roasting, this bird is topped with a rough, tomato-y *diavolo*

sauce with just a pinch of cayenne and saffron, from those spring crocuses, for an extra Mediterranean sunniness.

Roast Chicken with Artichoke, Tomato and Fennel

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 13¾-ounce can artichoke bottoms, rinsed and well drained | ½ teaspoon salt, plus more to taste |
| 2 cloves garlic, peeled | Freshly ground pepper to taste |
| 3 tablespoon olive oil | 1 3½ pound roasting chicken |
| 6 large shallots, peeled and sliced into ¼ inch wedges (root end intact) | ½ lemon, quartered |
| 3 medium fennel bulbs, trimmed and sliced into ¼ inch wedges (core intact) | 3 sprigs fresh rosemary |
| 9 oz. package frozen artichoke hearts, thawed and well drained | 1 14½-ounce can peeled tomatoes, well drained and coarsely chopped |
| | A pinch of saffron threads, soaked in ¼ cup hot water |
| | A pinch of cayenne pepper |

1. Preheat oven to 450°F. Puree the artichoke bottoms in a food processor with garlic, 2 teaspoons of the olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon of the salt and pepper until smooth.
2. Toss the fennel, shallots and artichoke hearts with 2 tablespoons of olive oil and layer all but one cup of the mixture in a small (8-by-10 inch) roasting pan.
3. Carefully loosen the skin over chicken breasts, forming 2 pockets. Stuff the pockets with artichoke-garlic puree. Rub the skin with teaspoon of olive oil; season with salt and pepper. Fill cavity with quartered lemon, rosemary and reserved artichoke heart, shallot and fennel mixture, and truss with kitchen twine. Place the chicken on top of vegetable mixture and roast for 35 minutes in the bottom two-thirds of preheated oven. Check once or twice while roasting to ensure the chicken is not browning too fast.
4. While the chicken roasts, warm the tomatoes, cayenne and saffron in a small saucepan, smashing the tomatoes with the back of a spoon to roughly puree. After the chicken has roasted the indicated 35 minutes, spoon tomato mixture over the chicken and continue roasting, basting every 10 minutes or so until juices run clear when chicken is pricked in the thickest part of the thigh (at 25-35 minutes longer). Remove from oven and let stand for 10 minutes before carving. Serve each portion with a little of the artichoke puree and some of the roasted vegetables.

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Lawmakers Target Rx Opioid Supplies, Treatment Options *(from Page 1)*

face it can get hung up. Most Maloney Town Hall questions were from parents whose kids didn't know where to turn when they wanted to use, or, when they were using, couldn't find viable treatment options.

A single mother of three kids aged 17 to 21 believes "law enforcement should be encouraged to impose treatment over jail time, even and maybe especially for repeat offenders. Society isn't better off by locking up people with non-violent mental illness or addictions."

Jail doesn't give weaning-off treatment, just relief of withdrawal symptoms like diarrhea, notes Cold Spring family nurse practitioner Terry Alexander. Alexander has supervised addicts in some of New York's toughest jails and now works once a week at a lockup in Westchester. She adds that usually "the addicts are incarcerated because they're copping [stealing] drugs."

Complex patterns

Doctors overprescribe opioids to pain sufferers for a host of reasons. Maloney cited a well-noted one March 18: "Sometimes there is a profit motive there that we've got to address."

The effort to take on drug company/prescriber relations is ongoing. Typically cheaper, non-opioid drugs are being developed for severe pain patients [addressed later in series]. All will take time. Meanwhile, addiction problems remain.

Amelia Gallay, 22, is a college student whose family lives in Cold Spring. She grew up in the lower Hudson Valley and



Painkillers and psychiatric drugs fill a pain patient's drawer

Photo by A. Peltonen

Maine. A high school friend snorted "her mother's OxyContin and Percocet," eventually buying from dealers when her mother's supply ran dry. "Though she used other drugs before opioids, she didn't engage in as seriously dangerous behaviors as she did after she started snorting Oxy."

Just one pill

Alcohol adds another hazard. Mixing opioids and alcohol sparks dangerous multiplier effects (each substance acts on the other's potency) that many young and adult opioid users know nothing about — until they see it up close.

Kathryn Bangser, 18, a college student in Schenectady, described another student who'd undergone painful knee surgeries, and had extra oxycodone "just in case." One day, the student took one to alleviate a migraine. Later, she had two drinks, and was "falling down the stairs ... Luckily, we were there, so we put her to bed."

Adds Bangser: "It was definitely a scary moment. I fear that people my age might

misuse opioids accidentally like my friend ... she just didn't know how it would affect her body when it was mixed with alcohol."

The non-abusers

Pain-patient advocates fear a return to the time when opioids were too scarce. Those with severe surgical, nerve or cancer pain were long denied medication due to lack of dispensaries and incomplete un-

derstanding of addiction.

Our brains and opioids are biologically complementary when pain is present; that's how the medicine creates a pathway to relief. Recreational use and opioids aren't, and create addiction.

Jailhouse withdrawals are what get dramatized on TV. But pain patients, when the time comes to reduce dependence, not only suffer pain blowback, but can have horrific, drawn-out withdrawal experiences, depending on the quality of their medical supervision and the quantity of and length of time on painkillers.

Often-ignored populations of pain patients in our area who continue to need access to pain alleviation include veterans, transport-accident victims and heavy construction laborers like those working on the new Tappan Zee Bridge span.

Ultimately, ongoing community education is key — because lowered supply can't erase all ills.

Opioid Abuse Resources

Emergencies

Many of the phone contacts listed here are extremely busy. If faced with an overdose, call 911. In other instances, the family doctor or nurse can help.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention names some of the most common opioids as oxycodone (OxyContin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), morphine and methadone.

Overdose antidotes

A decade ago, on April 1, 2006, it became legal for non-medical New Yorkers to administer naloxone to counteract opioid overdoses, but availability was limited. As of early 2016, New York announced that nearly 500 CVS pharmacies in the state will start dispensing the OD-reversal agent naloxone (Narcan) without a prescription.

The nearest 24-hour CVS is located at 1827 E. Main Street in Peekskill. Call 914-737-3728. The sole location dispensing Narcan in Putnam County is the CVS at 1905 Route 6 in Carmel (845-225-2363). For Beacon, the closest is the CVS at 986 Main St., in Fishkill (914-896-2032). See health.ny.gov/overdose for a complete list.

To find treatment providers, visit oasas.ny.gov/treatment or call the state's Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services hotline at 877-846-7369.

Local resources

The Putnam County chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies (NCADD) maintains a resource list at putnamncadd.org. The Council on Addiction Prevention & Education of Dutchess County can be reached at capedc.org or by calling 845-765-8301.

Philipstown Communities That Care has a Facebook page at facebook.com/PhilipstownCTC and holds regular meetings.

MidHudson Regional Hospital of Westchester Medical Center in Poughkeepsie (formerly St. Francis Hospital) offers a medical detoxification and inpatient and outpatient rehab programs called Turning Point. Call 845-483-5511.

Narcotics Anonymous (na.org). For Dutchess County meetings, call 845-431-9011. For Putnam County, call 888-399-5519. Nar-Anon.org is available for the families and friends of addicts; support groups meet in Yorktown Heights, Brewster and Poughkeepsie.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We Changed Our Name

*But not our commitment to
community journalism*

By Kevin E. Foley

Going forward we will be known by a different name. But we will work to make the read just as sweet.

The Highlands Current comes from a shared geography, the river we live on and the connection between Philipstown and Beacon.

Founded on the idea that a community benefits greatly when the news is gathered and disseminated in a fair-minded, interesting way, today we expand our definition of "community." We do so because to survive in a changing journalistic era, we are an enterprise in need of more readers who care about and support our existence.

Gordon Stewart started *Philipstown.info* on July 4, 2010, on his own dime to present the news "without fear or favor." He decided in 2012 that a weekly print newspaper, a physical embodiment of a community's actions, aspirations and faults, was needed. That Philipstown already had a weekly newspaper was not an impediment to his thinking — it was a stimulus to his spending.

He named our weekly *The Paper* to disrupt the conversation in the town. The tactic was awkward right up until this week, but he did achieve the disruption he sought.

Gordon lived to see his newspaper win more than a dozen professional awards and more importantly a great deal of public acceptance. Sixteen months after his death we expand on his vision in a way we hope he would have approved. He might have groused at the name change, but he would have embraced the strategic rationale with a smile.

Tale of two towns

Philipstown and Beacon are different in many ways, but they are similar in just as many. From the outset we covered arts-re-

lated places and events in Beacon because we believed Philipstown readers had an interest.

Now we seek to cover the civic life of both communities to build readership out of a commonality of interests, initiatives, problems and solutions.

We are two river towns (albeit in different counties) working under the same tax-cap budget constraints, trying to encourage and manage new development, wrestling with planning and zoning options, looking to increase tourism while trying to handle existing tourism, seeking to protect and maintain access to the natural world, and trying to get the best education for our own and everyone's children.

Both towns rightly celebrate and cherish their volunteer first responders.

Artists from Beacon show work in Garrison and Cold Spring galleries. Philipstown film lovers and makers travel up Route 9D for Beacon festivals, and vice versa. It is the same for hikers, poets, theatre lovers, athletes and people in search of a good time.

Visitors ride the trolley between Beacon and Cold Spring.

Philipstown and Beacon officials are among the task force working to make the Fjord Trail a reality to connect the two places.

Recently Randy Casale, Beacon's mayor, said he learned, through this newspaper, that Cold Spring was also considering parking meters as a potential solution to increasing revenue and better parking control. We hope someday to cover the meeting where officials from both places get together to discuss the issue.

Calling all readers

Today, more than ever, readers play an integral role in the creation of the news. Readers tell us what's going on, what is important, what they've seen and heard and what they think. *Highlandscurrent.com* will be a curated venue for readers

to express what matters within a civil context. We will strive to be open to all respectful Beacon and Philipstown voices.

The print paper will also carry letters to the editor and online comments we find especially relevant. Crafted opinion pieces on local topics are always welcome. Editors or reporters might offer informed, by-lined opinion. But *The Highlands Current*, as with its predecessor, won't offer editorials as an organization. We see our role as giving readers things to think about, not telling them what to think from some Olympian perspective.

Sometimes we will be slower than the digital rush of rumor, conjecture and heated opinion. Our job is not to always be first. Our job is to sort out, verify, and then report.

Moving forward

Gordon believed the long-term sustainability of our operation would require a formal non-profit structure, a board of directors prepared to donate and raise money, foundation support and the linchpin of demonstrable public support. Well, here we are, a 501c3 *Current* work in progress, standing on the ground of real encouragement from several quarters and the work of many people prepared to contribute beyond financial reward because the work matters.

These words wouldn't be printed if our board of directors had not stepped up with money, business savvy, legal assistance and a dedication to editorial independence for the professional staff. Those of us listed on the masthead are indebted to their extraordinary civic mindedness. The board is also intent on expanding its numbers with like-minded individuals from Beacon. Our website has information on the board and its mission as publisher of *The Highlands Current*.

Please spread the word if you value what we do. And take the time to tell us what you think as we go forward.

To the many people who have already said yes with their financial support — thank you.

Where Your Recycling Goes *(from Page 1)*

us about 900 tons of recyclables a year; Cold Spring 250 tons and Philipstown 50 tons," said John Formisano of ReCommunity. Philipstown's total is substantially less, he said, because it includes only materials taken to the transfer station on Lane Gate Road and not roadside pickup handled by Royal Carting.

Formisano said recycling is often less efficient in urban communities such as Newburgh, which has 30,000 residents. "There are more apartments there," he said, "and sometimes that means one bin for three or four units. Bins get filled and recyclable material just goes into the trash."

Loads from cities such as Poughkeepsie, Middletown and Newburgh are also more often contaminated with unacceptable materials. "Ridgefield, Connecticut, on the other hand, is perfectly clean," Formisano said. "There's not an ounce of recyclables in their trash, not a piece of

cardboard or junk mail."

Where it ends up

The best recyclables from ReCommunity's perspective are plastic bottles and containers, paper (including newspaper), cardboard and aluminum cans — materials that can be sold in bulk at a profit.

Plastics go mainly to the southern U.S. to companies such as Alcoa to become soda or water bottles, Formisano said. "Laundry detergent bottles go back to that use or into carpeting. And that vest you're wearing probably has some PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic in it," he said.

Not that long ago, most cardboard went to China, where it was made into everything from pizza boxes to greeting cards. "Five years ago China was a big buyer of all [our] exports," Formisano said. "But now they have their own middle class," which produces its own.

"The market goes up and down but for the most part the recycling industry has been flat for quite some time now," added plant manager Dave Kahn. "Since 2012 there's been a steady decline. It's a struggle, but it's a very strong company and it's going to get better — the market's going to turn around."

The plant costs about \$42 a ton to operate, while output sells for roughly \$50 a ton, Formisano said. "There's not a lot of room there," he said. "We're actually charging some people to tip [unload material] here now. But in the last two months we have seen the price [of the output] increase a little bit."

Styrofoam and electronics are among the materials the plant does not accept. Glass is especially problematic because ReCommunity loses money on it.

"We're not set up to handle glass," Kahn said. "It would *(Continued on page 7)*

Haldane Begins Search for New Principal

District has received more than 50 applications

By Michael Turton

The process of selecting a successor to Haldane High School Principal Brian Alm is underway. Alm, who has held the position for nine years, will leave at the end of the school year to become director of secondary teaching and learning for the Ossining School District.

To kick off the search, Haldane Central School District Superintendent Diana Bowers has met with faculty and student focus groups and will meet with a parent group on April 4. The district has received more than 50 applications, she said, and should have three or four finalists by mid-April to be interviewed by the search committee and meet with the board of education.

Students and teachers weigh in

The high school students who met with Superintendent Bowers listed no fewer than 32 traits they would like to see in a new principal, from strict anti-drug policies to support for the visual arts to embracing the importance of educational experiences beyond the school walls. Their most common wish, they said, was to be recognized as individuals with different needs, interests and potential paths.

Teachers also had quite a bit to say. Prior experience working as a high school teacher, especially in a small district, was high on their list, along with transparency, strong communications skills, a collaborative approach and the ability to manage all the school's needs strategically.

Sounding much like their students, they expressed hope that the new principal will get to know and understand all staff and their strengths while fostering their continued growth as educators. They also indicated a desire for a leader who would be a student advocate, but who will also be a sound disciplinarian.

Different hats

The need for the new principal to be able to work in a small district is clearly a priority. "The needs and expectations are different," Bowers said. "We all wear many hats



Jennifer Daly

Photo by M. Turton



Peter Sanders

Photo provided



Dave McCarthy

Photo by M. Turton

that would be separate positions in larger districts. It doesn't discount candidates from larger districts, but they need to be willing to take on the additional responsibilities."

She also stressed that Alm's replacement will need to "understand the shift in pedagogical practices that we are making [as] delineated in our Strategic Plan — including the development of 21st-century skills."

School Board President Jennifer Daly supports Bowers' emphasis on the strategic plan. "Haldane has been on a clear educational path the past two years," she said, including project-based learning and technology initiatives. "We need someone who is forward-thinking, creative, and passionate about the evolution of education."

Daly emphasized the need for the principal to work beyond the high school, taking into account the entire student body, faculty and staff in making decisions, as well as the residents of Cold Spring. "Haldane is the center of our community in many ways and our principal needs to embrace that and be able to bring the larger community together," she said.

Many paths to success

Maeve Eng-Wong heads the joint Haldane-Garrison PTAs' Learning Differences Committee. "Great principals value inclusive learning environments and both the academic and personal development of each child," she wrote in an email. The new principal needs to be "someone whose leadership clearly indicates that both emotional and academic intelligence are held with equal regard at our school [and]

someone who does not value one pathway to success over another, but who sees the potential for success in every student."

Peter Sanders, a filmmaker who is a trustee on the board of the Haldane School Foundation, said: "Schools are as good as their teachers and teachers can only excel when the principal is at once an inspired leader, the good listener, a superb educator and a person capable of meeting the challenges of the digital age in the classroom."

Fellow trustee Craig Roffman added: "Haldane's new principal should support the high school's forward-looking agenda, including high academic achievement and college readiness, as well as a continued commitment to Haldane's welcoming spirit and community, the visual and performing arts and athletics." He added that

he believes the new principal must "have a realistic outlook on standardized testing, is supportive of our teachers and is prepared to resist linking scores to teacher evaluations."

Long-term ties

Dave McCarthy, the general manager of Tightrope Interactive in Cold Spring, doesn't have children attending Haldane High School yet, but he hopes the new principal will make a commitment to the school.

"A former school board member recently told me

that Haldane is usually a stepping stone to something bigger or a last stop in a career," he said. "Whoever we select, I hope we can count on them staying for a nice stretch. This type of loss is tough," and "not something we want to go through every three to four years." McCarthy praised Alm for expanding computer programming literacy at Haldane. "I really appreciated that forward thinking and hope that the next principal will also have a grasp on the tools our children will need to compete for the best jobs 10 or 15 years from now."

Sandy McKelvey, executive director of the Hudson Valley Farm To School Program and a former member of Haldane's

(Continued on Page 15)

PART-TIME CLERICAL POSITION AVAILABLE

The Village of Cold Spring is seeking part-time clerical help to prepare minutes and maintain records for the Code Update Committee, Historic District Review Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. Position involves evening work for 5-7 hours per week.

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Parents Want Involvement in Beacon Superintendent Search

School board still considering search firm

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Board of Education was expected on Monday (March 28) to give board attorney Michael Lambert approval to issue a request for proposals (RFP) to find a search firm to identify candidates for the district's superintendent position. Instead, it heard from a number of parents who feared the board was moving forward without involving the community.

Board members had agreed at their March 14 meeting to review four sample RFPs — two from New York, one from New Jersey and one from Massachusetts — and their feedback was expected to help Lambert craft a request to begin the Beacon search. It wasn't stated Monday night when the RFP will be issued.

Interim superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi confirmed at the meeting that she does not plan to apply for the full-time position but intends to return to her job as deputy superintendent (she is also a certified public accountant) once a new superintendent is hired. She has been performing both jobs since being named interim chief in January.

The Beacon Teachers' Association recently endorsed Quartironi, asking the board to keep her on through the 2016-17

school year.

"I love my old job," Quartironi said Monday. "I love being the business official. I do want to return [to that position] and be able to support the new superintendent when that person is hired."

During public comments, several parents questioned what they characterized as a rush to issue an RFP, as well as other components of the search.

"What is called for now is true stakeholder involvement and a shared comprehensive vision for our district," said Rebecca Correllus, who spoke on behalf of the Advocates for Beacon Schools (ABS). "The stakeholders are here and we are ready to cultivate that vision."

Correllus read from a petition circulated by ABS and signed, she said, by 216 people, that urges the school board to create a "culture of transparency and cooperation" by establishing a committee of community stakeholders, teachers and administrators that, along with the Board of Education, would be "empowered" to conduct the search. She also questioned Lambert's role in the process, given allegations leveled against him by parents in recent months.

"Why is one individual, who is associated with the controversies of the former superintendent, and whose contract is also up for renewal, along with three seats on the board, being given the job of drafting this RFP?" she asked.

The board typically renews (and modi-



Rombout Middle School in Beacon

Photo by Anita Peltonen

fies, if needed) its contract with legal counsel after board elections, which will be held May 17.

Instead, said Correllus, she asked the board to follow the lead of the Spackenkill School District in Poughkeepsie, which has posted a timeline and mission statement dedicated to its superintendent search online (spackenkillschools.org/superintendentsearch).

Later in the evening, board members assured the audience that public input will be part of the search.

"We certainly want the community to be involved," said board member Tracy

Everett. "We want the entire community to be able to participate." The district will have more information about a timeline and methodology once a search firm has been hired, she added.

As for Spackenkill, said board Vice President Bill Zopf, "certainly, the kind of things that are happening [there] — those are the kind of things we're looking for."

The district hopes to make a hire "as soon as reasonably possible," Zopf added, noting, however, that, "we're not in an absolute rush. We want to make sure we pick the proper person."

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Where Your Recycling Goes *(from Page 4)*

cost millions to upgrade, plus we don't have the space." It costs the company \$30 a ton to crush the glass; it sends about 50 tons a day to mills equipped to process it.

Aluminum cans are more to their liking — and the market appears to be going that way as more microbreweries switch from glass to cans. "It saves them money and holds their brand better," Kahn said. "They can do much more graphically on cans than on bottles." ReCommunity ships about 40 to 60 tons of aluminum a

month, all from beer and soda cans.

A few surprises

When material arrives at the plant, material that can't be recycled first must be separated. That job falls to 26 workers who are assisted by the facility's 78 conveyors. The plant can process 25 tons of material per hour.

Kahn and Formisano said employees come across their fair share of surprises — from a deer carcass and a dead boa constrictor to cinder blocks, scrap metal, toys and bowling balls. And cash. Formisano thinks money sometimes gets "recycled" when family members fail to check closely while cleaning out the house of a dead relative. "Sometimes it's \$20 or even \$100 left between the pages of a book," he said. One trash bag contained \$5,000.

There are dangers. Hypodermic needles are sometimes found inside tin cans. The protective gloves worn by line workers cost as much as \$40 a pair — one of the many costs of recycling that Kahn said the public never imagines. Odd and abrasive objects that make it onto conveyors also increase the cost of maintaining equipment that is already expensive to operate. "We just bought a new loader that cost \$270,000," Kahn said. "It takes a lot of recyclables to pay that off."



Plant Manager Dave Kahn amid towers of baled plastic containers

Photos by M. Turton



Bales are loaded into a truck to be delivered to manufacturing customers.

Snow by the ton

Even snow eats into profits. "We're paying for weight that's not there," Formisano said. Snow is sometimes measured in tons in a given load. "We have to monitor that carefully and deduct it from the load weight."

When paper and cardboard arrives wet, "we get nailed by the paper mills," Formisano said. Inspectors come to the plant several times a week and probe baled materials to assess moisture. "We're not allowed anything over 12 percent moisture. We're downgraded if we do," and downgrading means less revenue.

Generally, however, Kahn said they are happy with the material that arrives at the plant. "We get a pretty clean mix here," he said. "We're strict on incoming material; we scrutinize it and we educate our customers." Eight or nine percent of what is delivered to the plant is trash and not suitable for recycling. Badly contaminated loads are documented and fines can be levied against the hauler or municipality.

Kahn's advice to recyclers is simple.

"Keep your stream of recyclables clean and dry — and stay away from glass."

Part of the culture

Sarah Womer is the founder of Zero to Go, a waste management company based in Beacon that focuses on composting and recycling. Her enterprise provides "zero waste" event services throughout the Hudson Valley.

"Waste is a complicated issue, and we face many obstacles," she said. "A lack of education starts in our schools when there aren't robust recycling programs in cafeterias and classrooms. Every gas station, laundromat, and eatery should have recycle bins."

Womer said that in three years, Zero to Go has kept more than 50 tons of waste from some 40 events from going into landfills through composting and recycling. "We need recycling to be part of our culture," she said.

Visit www.philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.




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Second Saturday Going Strong

Beacon's monthly celebration in its 14th year

By Brian PJ Cronin

When the City of Beacon first began its monthly event known as Second Saturdays in 2002, it was a small-town affair. Dia:Beacon hadn't yet opened at the waterfront, and Beacon's arts scene consisted mostly of a few galleries and shops clustered near the west end of Main Street. Visitors could hit all the stops in less time than it would take to have dinner afterwards — usually in some place other than Beacon.

Times have changed.

"It is now impossible for one person to see everything on Second Saturday," said Dan Rigney, president of BeaconArts, the arts advocacy group that founded the event 14 years ago.

Today, Beacon's cultural renaissance has expanded from the former Nabisco factory at the waterfront that houses Dia and a few West End galleries, to include the mile-plus length of Main and even Beacon High School. And it's not just galleries. Bars, restaurants, distilleries and shops have gotten in on the act.

"You can stop into the real estate offices, or the Beacon Bagel, or Beacon Falls

Cafe, or my store, and everyone's got art work on the walls," said Brenda Murnane, owner of Beacon Bath & Bubble. "It's like every place is a gallery. If the lights are on, you go in."

Rigney added: "Beacon is now attracting a wide variety of audiences. And that is thrilling to me, because it means Beacon has matured. There's so much going on in terms of music, performance, places to gather, and it isn't just special events anymore. It's the whole experience of Main Street on Second Saturday."

"It's like a big night out, but without having to actually go anywhere."

"It's like a big night out," added Murnane. "But without having to actually go anywhere."

That's a marked difference from the humble Second Satur-

days of years ago. Once Dia opened, the city began attracting more cultural tourists from all over the world. The problem was figuring out how to get them to stick around.

"I remember going to a lot of meetings," said Mei Ying So, co-owner of Artisan Wine Shop, with a laugh.

Artisan is one of a handful of Beacon businesses celebrating their 10th anniversary, a group that includes Beacon Bath & Bubble, Mountain Tops Outfitters, Beacon Pilates, Homespun Foods and Max's on Main. Ying So recalled the times when she and her fellow business owners would



Mike Usifer at the boards of Beacon Soundworks, which will celebrate its grand opening on April 9.

Photo by B. Cronin

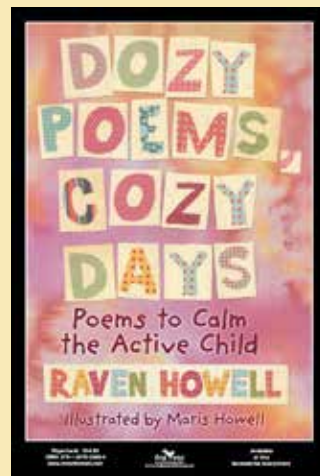
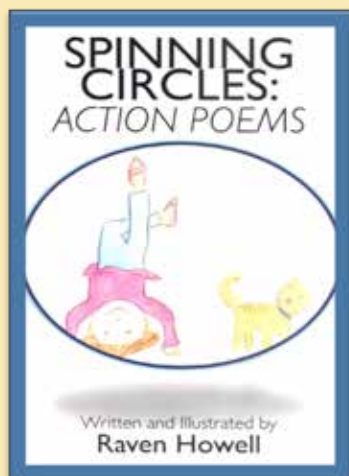
meet with BeaconArts (then known as BACA) and ask how they could all attract more people to Beacon, and how they could get people visiting Dia to head up the hill. "Those conversations aren't happening anymore," she said. "Now everyone's on board."

Artisan Wine hosts tastings every Saturday, and over the past decade she's noticed not only an increase in the number of people coming by, but the length of time they stay.

"We have so many more restaurants and, thanks to Airbnb, we have so many more places to stay," she said. "That's allowed people to stay over for the weekend. We might see them again on Sunday. They're not just here for an opening and they're going to go home that night." That translates into more sales, as revelers who are in town for the day are less likely to make purchases.

According to Katy Behney, who co-owns Mountain Tops (Continued on Page 19)

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The Calendar



The Towne Crier

Photo by Mickey Deneher

The Towne Crier's Call

Landmark club marks third year in Beacon

by Alison Rooney

Now that it's the acknowledged centerpiece of the "in-between" area of Beacon's Main Street, it's easy to forget that the Towne Crier Café is still a recent transplant, relocating to what was the former Department of Motor Vehicles office less than three years ago.

The hub of Beacon's ever-growing music scene, the Towne Crier continues to

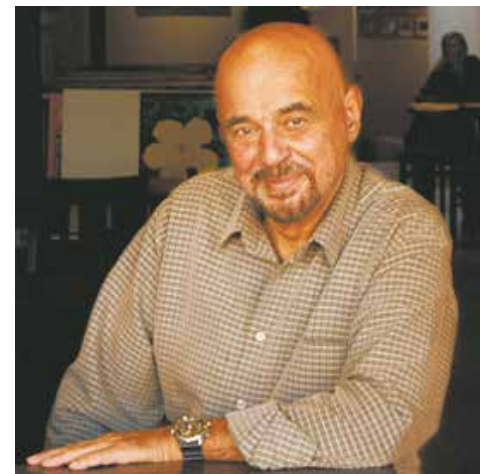
present its trademark mix of blues/folk/jazz/alt artists to an audience comprised of everyone from Brooklyn transplants in their 20s and 30s to their elders and their elders' elders: those who have been coming to the club for well-nigh four decades, from its earliest days operating out of a former stagecoach stop in Beekman through its long tenure in Pawling.

The Towne Crier opened its doors three years after the Woodstock Festival. Phil Ciganer, who has run it since the beginning, was operating what he has described as a "little boutique/alternative

lifestyle store in Brooklyn" and decided to host jam sessions. Wanting to move the establishment, and himself, Ciganer bought a camper and hit the road, spending a couple of years searching for a receptive spot, and eventually finding it in 1972 in Beekman after helping a friend transport a piece of sculpture there.

The Crier thrived in Beekman for 16 years before moving to a sprawling site in Pawling, where it stayed for 24 more. When Ciganer received notice that his lease would not be renewed when it ended in 2012, Ciganer mulling over whether to close or to begin its next life elsewhere.

"I decided to announce [around New Year's Eve of (Continued on Page 11)]



Phil Ciganer, owner of the Towne Crier

Photo provided

Flying with *Peter Pan*

Fantasy will lift off at Beacon High

by Alison Rooney

What is *Peter Pan* without the flying?

That was the challenge facing Anthony Scarrone, director of Beacon High School's spring musical version of the Sir James Barrie classic. The students already had limited rehearsal time and Scarrone, student assistant director Henry Wyand, the actors, crew and creative contributors, along with parent volunteers, had an even tighter than usual deadline because of all that had to be done prior to "the flying."

Flying By Foy, the consultants handling the rigging and training, arrived on Easter Sunday, five days prior to opening night, and the apparatus was in place by Monday, with students assisting and learning about rigging, as they have acquired knowledge about all

aspects of theater-making during this process. Alumni and adult volunteers will be "flying" the student actors. Each flying student needs one dedicated assistant, with the exception of Peter (Rhiannon Parsaca), who needs two, as the character moves horizontally and vertically. The flying director spent three days setting up rigging, measuring harnesses and providing safety instructions.

Parsaca, after her initial forays into the air, said it was "a lot like floating. I felt weightless and it was a fantastic feeling! I wasn't scared because I have complete trust in our flying team, and seeing the entire auditorium from so high up was pretty cool. Being a relatively short person, it's a lot of fun to be that high up."

On a visit during what was ostensibly a vacation week, the backstage of the theater was humming with set building (under the supervision of Randy Caruso), prop-making and the construction of a dramatically high tree, which, it is promised, will play a pivotal role. Paintings on canvas, done in a (Continued on Page 12)



Alexander Ullian as Captain Hook and Rhiannon Parsaca as Peter Pan

Photo provided

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

Abstract into Figurative Abstract (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY | 66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Group Show: Geometry/Gesture (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Haldane’s Got Talent (Benefit)
6 p.m. Dinner | 7 p.m. Show
Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-265-9254 | haldaneschoolfoundation.org

Family Bingo Night
6:30 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
Presented by North Highlands Ladies Auxiliary

Depot Docs: Actress (2014)
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Calling All Poets
8 p.m. Center for Creative Education
464 Main St., Beacon
914-474-7758 | callingallpoets.net

Lil’ Kim
8 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org
Rescheduled from March 11.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Introduction to Babysitting (ages 10+)
10 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Free Guided History Tour
11 a.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-473-4440 x238 | scenichudson.org

Haldane vs. Peekskill (Lacrosse)
11 a.m. Haldane School
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Melissa McGill Book Signing
Noon – 2 p.m. Boscobel Gift Shop | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring | 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Spring Open House
Noon – 4 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens | 81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring | 845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

Trout Weekend
Noon – 4 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Open House
12:30 – 3:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St., Cold Spring
845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit philipstown.info.

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Make Your Bees Thrive
1 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

Sea Lions Talk
1 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
Presented by Putnam Highlands Audubon Society

The Met Live in HD: Puccini’s Madama Butterfly
1 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Crude Oil Transport in the Hudson Valley (Forum)
2 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison
Sponsored by the Philipstown Garden Club

Introductory Workshop for HVSF Our Town
3 p.m. Paramount Theater
1008 Brown St., Peekskill | 845-809-5750 x20
eknapp@hvshakespeare.org

Jennie Chien: Update on the Spirit Houses
4 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Garrison Children’s Education Fund Spring Thaw
7 p.m. Highlands Country Club
955 Route 9D, Garrison | gcef.net

Lou Reed: Rock and Roll Heart (Documentary)
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | brownpapertickets.com

6th Annual Ariane One-Act Festival
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Coffee House
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Live from Nashville
8 p.m. Eisenhower Hall Theatre | 655 Ruger Road, West Point | 845-938-4159 | ikehall.com

Bert Rechtschaffer Jazz Trio
9 p.m. Chill Wine Bar | 173 Main St, Beacon
845-765-0885 | facebook.com/chillwinebar

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

Beacon Flea Market
8 a.m. – 3 p.m. 6 Henry St., Beacon
845-202-0094 | beaconflea.blogspot.com.

Chinese School (First Session)
9 a.m. Chuang-Yen Monastery (Library)
2020 Route 301, Kent | 845-225-1819 | baus.org

Pigskin Princess Flag Football (ages 6-8) (First Session)
Noon. Geering Park, Fishkill
845-803-1749 | pigskinprincessproject.com

Trout Weekend
Noon – 4 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
See details under Saturday.

Narcan Training (Opiad Overdose Prevention)
2:30 p.m. St. Christopher’s Inn
1350 Route 9, Garrison | 845-335-1035 | atonementfriars.org | *Registration required.*

6th Annual Ariane One-Act Festival
4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Saturday.

Piano Festival: Charlie Albright
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon | 845-765-3012 | howlandmusic.org

MONDAY, APRIL 4

Story Time in Spanish
9:45 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Philipstown Community Center (First Sessions)
10 a.m. & 11 a.m. Baby & Me (ages 3 mos. to 3)
12:15 p.m. Rhythm & Music (ages 3-5)
4 p.m. Lego Club (grades K-4)
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Career Assistance Session
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | 845-249-4642
dutchessonestop.org | *Appointment required.*

Haldane Sports
4:30 p.m. Haldane vs. Hamilton (Baseball)
4:30 p.m. Haldane vs. Rye Neck (Softball)
5 p.m. Haldane vs. Rye Neck (Lacrosse)
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

Leaf and Yard Debris Curbside for Wed. Pickup (Cold Spring)

Philipstown Community Center (First Sessions)
3:30 & 4:15 p.m. Pre-Ballet (ages 3-5)
5 p.m. Beginning Ballet (grades 2-3)
6 p.m. Ballet for Adults | See details under Monday.

Introductory Workshop for HVSF Our Town
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-809-5750 x20 | eknapp@hvshakespeare.org

Putnam County Legislature
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave., Carmel
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

Haldane School Board
7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Board of Trustees
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

Storm King Opens for Season
10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. 1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

Dutchess Tourism Lunch & Learn
Noon. Hyatt House, Route 9, Fishkill
845-463-5447 | dutchesstourism.com

Garrison School Board
7:30 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Philipstown Community Center (First Sessions)
12:30 & 1:30 p.m. Young Gymnasts (ages 3-5)
3:30 p.m. Pre-Ballet (ages 3-5)
4:15 & 5 p.m. Beginning Ballet (grades K-1)
6 p.m. Ballet for Adults | 7 p.m. Learn to Quilt
See details under Monday.

Introduction to Kayaking (Talk)
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Hudson River Dayline Film (1949)
7 p.m. Drink More Good | 383 Main St., Beacon
914-391-4563 | beaconhistorical.org

Town Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. Town Hall
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3329 | philipstown.com

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Lego Club (grades K-4) (First Session)
4 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Tuesday.

Family Movie Night: WALL-E
5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Kids’ Night Out (ages 5+)
6:30 – 9:30 p.m. All Sport
17 Old Main St., Fishkill
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com

The Beacon Players: Peter Pan
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 x3420 | beaconplayers.com

David Sedaris
8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Mike DelGuidice & Big Shot Celebrating Music of Billy Joel
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

ONGOING

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Religious Services | philipstown.info/services

Support Groups | philipstown.info/sg

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2016

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with highlandscurrent.com. Each day beginning April 1, tune in to hear one of your community members read their favorite poem.

The Towne Crier's Call *(from Page 9)*

2011] that I'd be closing in three months, with no future plans," he recalled. "Then I found it was front-page news. It opened up the floodgates for suggestions, emotions — hundreds of emails — and invitations all over the Hudson Valley and Connecticut. I shopped [locations] but wasn't feeling it.

"My only experience with Beacon was through my relationship with Pete Seeger. When I'd visit Pete I'd drive down Main Street and I was cautious. So when Beacon was suggested, I wasn't sure it was right. I spent the next six or seven months following certain leads, and thought I might change course completely when in July 2012 I got a call from a friend who is a commercial realtor, who was acting as a scout, keeping an eye out for me. She said 'Phil, I'm here in Beacon,' and I said, 'Beacon's not for me.' That was based on my recollections of 15, 20 years ago. She got indignant and told me to 'come over right now.'

"I walked in [to the former DMV space], saw two warehouses which were totally empty and started envisioning the possibilities. I walked out, took a 10- to 15-minute walk up Main, and could feel the transitioning, and thought 'It would be nice to get in now.' But it was a bigger project than I had anticipated. I began spending a lot of time here, figuring out how to lay it out, sketching with pencil and paper. The TC template combination is food, environment, music. I thought I'd

take it one step further and develop the restaurant as well."

The doors opened in September after an extensive reconfiguring of the large space — incorporating modular walls which adapt to the size of the crowd, providing both intimacy when suitable but also accommodating sold-out events.

From the start, Ciganer has been surprised by the support he's been shown by the Beacon community. The audiences are a mix of longstanding patrons who have followed the club from location to location and, according to Ciganer, "a lot of transplants in this town who may not always get what goes on here — they're young and think that Pete Seeger is Bob Seger's father! But at the same time, every night I hear 'I've never been here before, and this is great.' People stroll up and down Main and see us and come in, so we have them as well as the destination people."

The musicians who play the Towne Crier include teenagers — one of whom, Sawyer Fredericks, "made his way onto *The Voice* and won it," and another, Hailey Knox, "who signed a major deal six months ago and is getting a big industry push," Ciganer says, adding that both began at Open Mic nights. They join past performers who became widely known such as Shaun Colvin, Suzanne Vega and Leon Redbone.

As for the demographic, Ciganer notes that "the act onstage dictates the attendance and the age group, but it's not unusual to see two, three generations



Spyro Gyra

Photo by Mickey Deneher

sitting at the same table, all having a good time." When booking acts, Ciganer looks for the "name value and if they're appropriate for the format for what we do here. For instance, my definition of folk is very broad and includes jazz and different forms of rock, bluegrass, zydeco and world music."

After a technical struggle over a full liquor license, the Towne Crier is now a full-service restaurant and bar. The restaurant side of things is important to Ciganer, who stresses that "to clarify our identity — we take the food just as seriously as the music here. We serve creative food, most locally sourced and have a renowned, in-house pastry chef, formerly of Le Cirque."

Citing the Irish music sessions run every couple of weeks and the Sunday brunches as particularly popular times, Ciganer feels that TC has become a

Beacon focal point, and he's looking forward to the completion of two new hotel projects under construction as he sees tourism increasing. "My overall feeling is Beacon is moving in the right direction, but still has a couple of years before it arrives," he says.

As for the key to survival: "We possess the oldest ongoing venue in the country with the same operator. The key is to adjust to the times," Ciganer states, adding, "I'm here every night, and I don't present any people whom I wouldn't myself pay to go see."

The Towne Crier is located at 379 Main St. The restaurant hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 4 p.m.; Friday from noon and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. For more information and a schedule of upcoming concerts, call 845-855-1300 or visit townecrier.com.



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WED & THU 7:15

Batman v. Superman
Dawn of Justice (PG13)
FRI 2:00 5:15 8:30, SAT 11:45 3:00
6:15 9:30, SUN 1:00 4:15 7:30
MON 7:00, TUE 12:30 3:45 7:00
WED & THU 7:00

My Big Fat Greek
Wedding 2 (PG13)
FRI 2:30 5:00 7:30, SAT 12:00 2:30
5:00 7:30, SUN 1:30 4:00 6:30
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Flying with *Peter Pan* (from Page 9)

Victorian nursery style by Lori Christie, were draped in a pile, ready to be hung on a set designed with openings artfully placed on beds for some surprise action in and around.

In an amphitheater-like classroom, student and choreographer Emily Kidd was running a rehearsal of a dance number in which she also appears as Tiger Lily. The students running the costume department had taken over a part of the library, where racks of their creations (student-designed and fabricated, including dyeing and stenciling) showed exactly whom they were meant for, character-wise. Those for the Lost Boys, in particular, looked not only theatrical but runway-ready.

The Beacon Players, which presents two shows a year at the high school under Scarrone's direction, aims to bring the students into every aspect of "putting on a play." From marketing (Sierra Caban and Michael Bonnanno in charge) to technical and creative components, the students lead the way. (In fact, Scarrone says, many wind up pursuing technical theater in college.) For instance, the marketing included setting up and promoting an Easter egg hunt with free tickets inserted into a few of the 600 eggs. The team also helped coordinate an afternoon event at Howland Library at which cast members previewed a scene and sang songs from the production and assisted with craft-making.

The prop crew was in charge of tracking down the hundreds of props. Stacked on tables near the stage, there were so many it resembled a large yard sale.

All told, says Scarrone, "On any given night you come in here and it's like Andy Hardy putting on a show."

The students expressed great enthusiasm for making *Peter Pan* their spring musical. Initially, *Mary Poppins* was chosen, but Scarrone says he detected a less-than-ecstatic response. "Realistically, I do choose shows with specific talent in mind." He reconsidered and offered

ideas. Peter Pan was the favorite. (Scarrone later discovered that, handily, it ties in with the New York State third-grade Common Core curriculum — just weeks from now students all over the state will be comparing the Classic Starts edition of *Peter Pan* and excerpts from the script of the 1910 play.)

Scarrone says most of the students were more familiar with the 1950s televised version, with Mary Martin as Peter — than later iterations, such as *Finding Neverland*. In this version, some of the language relating to Native Americans has been altered, for instance, changing "redskin" to "warrior."

Freshman Alexander Ullian will bring his swagger as Captain Hook, and last year's lead in *Pippin*, Leah Siegel, has been transformed into demure but feisty Wendy. The role of Peter will be played, in longstanding tradition, by a girl, junior Rhiannon Parsaca. In casting her, Scarrone said he was looking for "a combination of youth, joy, melancholy and just a touch of sadness, plus physical endurance."

For Parsaca, the role is meaningful. "I have loved Peter Pan since I was very little," she says. "I was even Peter Pan for Halloween when I was three! I used to stay up at night and wait for him to knock at my window and take me away to Neverland with him."

"It's pretty cool to see that fantasy of going to Neverland come true every time I walk into the theater. To embody this role and to see children's faces light up when I wave or smile at them brings me so much joy and excitement, it's a dream come true. This story is so timeless and hits the heart of everyone, no matter what age because it makes you feel young and you get to escape reality and go someplace full of adventure with no responsibilities. Someplace where you can always have fun."

Scarrone, who has led Beacon High's theater program for four years after



Leah Anne Siegel as Wendy Darling and Emily Kidd as Tiger Lily

Photo provided

spending more than 20 at John Jay High School, says his goal is "to bring more kids into this incredible activity. Our organization is not only for the kids who want to pursue professional theater, it's for everyone — no one is turned away. It's a place to make new friends or be the football player who also dances. It's for the kid who maybe doesn't fit into other groups and the kids that want to be the ushers as well as the stars."

Peter Pan will be presented at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 8, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, April 9 and 10, at the high school's Seeger Theater, 101 Matteawan Road. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors and can be reserved through beaconplayers.com. If any remain, they will be sold at the door.

A free post-performance meet-and-greet for Beacon City School District third-graders will be held immediately after the Saturday, April 9, performance. Advance registration is required by emailing the name of the child and his or her teacher to tinkdust16@gmail.com.



Students practiced a dance number in a classroom while the rest of the school was on vacation.

Photo by A. Rooney

Gathering of Rabbits



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Roots and Shoots

What's a Good Plant?

*The ones pollinators love,
but deer hate*

Michael Hagen is the curator of the rock garden and native plant garden at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx and before that was director of Stonecrop Garden in Philipstown. He spent some time reviewing his top native plants for me. This list covers plants that like sunny areas. In an upcoming column, I'll cover his recommendations for shady areas.

Of the list below, Hagen said: "I'll stick with plants that I grow and know and recommend. What I tried to do was come up with 10 plants that would fit together in your garden. They are resistant to deer and really outstanding, garden-worthy plants that have good flowers, great foliage, and are reliably perennial and relatively problem-free."

Asclepias incarnata
Swamp milkweed

Asclepias tuberosa
Butterfly weed

Milkweeds are a great addition to any garden. There are other milkweeds but they are a little harder to get hold of and a little bit fussier about how they grow; these two are the easiest and are both outstanding plants. They're very long blooming, attract native pollinators, have

attractive seed pods after blooming and really combine well with other native plants and garden plants. If you don't like pink and prefer orange flowers try the butterfly weed. It likes drier conditions.

Amsonia tabernaemontana
Eastern bluestar

Our native Amsonia can be kind of a large plant but there is a short variety called Short Stack that is exactly the same but only about two feet tall. It blooms at a useful time at the end of May when the spring bulbs are finished and summer flowering plants aren't ready. If you're not committed to plants that are native to New York, there are some American natives from the prairie states like Amsonia hubrichtii or Arkansas bluestar that have feathery foliage. It's very long-lived, tough growing, has nice flowers and good fall color.

Aquilegia canadensis
Columbine

This plant can be quite ephemeral, but it's just gorgeous and has a relatively long season of bloom. If you don't deadhead it, it will establish itself where it's happy. You can take the seed heads off and shake them where you want it to grow. It's a trouble-free plant with a lot of bang for



A pollinating butterfly visiting a Joe-pye weed

Photo by P. Doan

the buck and it quietly disappears in the heat of the summer.

Baptisia australis
Blue wild indigo

The big blue one that we have is a native. There are two cultivars, Carolina Moonlight is a creamy yellow and Purple Smoke is dusky purple. The only caveat is that Baptisias have a deep taproot so once you've planted them, they're hard to move around. They flower relatively early but

then have these black, bladder-like seed-pods that rattle and are attractive. If you don't like that, you can shear them back and get nice foliage in the summer.

Eutrochium maculatum or dubium
Spotted Joe-pye weed and Coastal plain Joe-pye weed

They're classic native plants for this area and you can take your pick of the cultivars in whatever size you want. Gate-

(Continued on next page)

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What's a Good Plant? (from previous page)

way is about five feet tall; Baby Joe is about two feet tall. They can easily reach 10 feet tall. If you want the straight species, cut it back when it's about two feet tall to keep it smaller. It will grow in regular garden soil or wet areas. If you don't want them to seed around, deadhead them. They're nice strong plants for the border and great for pollinators.

Pycnanthemum muticum or *tenuifolium*
Mountain mints

Any of the *Pycnanthemums* are spectacular. They are supposedly a little aggressive in regular garden beds but given how attractive they are, I don't care. They are a very good addition to meadow combina-

tions and cover a lot of ground well. Pollinators love their flowers, too.

Solidago rugosa
Wrinkleleaf goldenrod

Goldenrods get a bad rap from *Solidago canadensis*, which is quite weedy. Whatever size you want or conditions you have, there is a goldenrod out there. It's hard to imagine a native plant garden without them. They get an unfair rap that they are responsible for hay fever but it's ragweed, which blooms at the same time and is the same color that causes hay fever. They don't have any windborne pollen whatsoever.

Aster oblongifolius
Asters

These can be somewhat tricky. If you were going to pick one, the best one would probably be Raydon's Favorite or October Skies — both are a wonderful sky-blue color and relatively short for asters at about three feet. They produce mounding billows of blue that combine with late-season grasses and *Solidagos*; they're just good performers in the garden.

Zizia aurea
Golden Alexanders

This is an outstanding plant that will take sun or partial shade. With yellow flowers, it will bloom at the same time as

the Amsonia, which is a nice combination of the yellow and blue together. It's also a larval host for the Black Swallowtail. It seeds around a little bit but it's not aggressive. Should be more widely grown, I think.

Panicum virgatum
Switchgrass

Here's a bonus grass recommendation. You can pick from many cultivars, depending on what size you want. There are husky ones which can be a replacement for Chinese feather grass or you can get open vase-like ones that combine well in the border and have a much more open shape. A little bit goes a long way.

Haldane Begins Search for New Principal (from Page 5)

Strategic Planning Committee, echoed McCarthy's real-world emphasis, especially the wealth of human resources available locally. "We have theater professionals, college professors, NASA scientists, musicians, writers, chefs, teachers, farmers, computer and technology professionals, small business owners" who live in the school district, she noted. "I would like to see the next principal use these resources to the fullest and involve the community as much as possible."

Three key ingredients

Julisa Tomizawa, president of the Haldane PTA, expressed hope that whoever

is chosen will be an experienced administrator "who will help Haldane continue to earn the recognition of our nation's top colleges and universities." She commented that the PTA is looking forward to the selection process.

"On the one hand, we regret having to say goodbye to Brian," she said. "He's a friend and a caring principal. But on the other, it's an exciting time to find someone who can build on the district's commitment to crafting modern classrooms, building teachers' capacity to meet the needs of all learning in this more contemporary learning environment."

The extensive list of strengths being sought in a single candidate is optimistic, to put it mildly. Shannon Keegan, who heads the Haldane School Foundation, boiled the recipe down to three ingredients that would certainly satisfy the vast majority in the Haldane family: "The perfect candidate will combine the expertise needed to achieve the highest academic standards, the energy to keep pace with the innovations occurring at Haldane, and the personality to build strong relationships with students, teachers and parents in this tight-knit community."

Share Your News With Our Readers

Share news and announcements with the readers of *The Highlands Current*. To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to arts@highlandscurrent.com.

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SPRING CLASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:45 - 9:15 AM MEDITATION Branis Buslovich	8:45 - 9:15 AM MEDITATION Branis Buslovich	7:30 - 8:30 AM PILATES SEMI-PRIVATE* Kristin Hatleberg	8:45 - 9:45 AM EXPRESS FLOW Claire Koepke	8:00 - 9:15 AM KUNDALINI Alison Jolicoeur	9:00 AM - 10:15 AM GYROKINESIS Jen Daly
9:30 - 10:45 AM VINYASA Tara Gilman	8:45 - 9:45 AM PILATES SEMI-PRIVATE* Bettina Utz	8:45 - 9:15 AM MEDITATION Branis Buslovich & Michelle Clifton	9:30 - 10:30 AM PILATES SEMI-PRIVATE* Melia Marzollo	9:30 - 10:45 AM VINYASA Julian Paik	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM PILATES SEMI-PRIVATE* Martina Enschede
9:30 - 10:30 AM PILATES SEMI-PRIVATE* Melia Marzollo	9:30 - 10:45 AM ALIGNMENT FLOW ALL LEVEL Julian Paik	8:30 - 9:30 AM PILATES TOWER Kristin Hatleberg	10:00 - 10:30 AM FOOT FITNESS Rick Panson	9:30 - 10:30 AM PILATES TOWER Melia Marzollo	10:30 AM - 11:45 AM VINYASA Vanessa Alfano
10:30 - 11:30 AM PILATES SEMI-PRIVATE* Melia Marzollo	9:45 - 10:45 AM PILATES TOWER Bettina Utz	9:30 - 10:30 AM PILATES MAT Clare Donovan	10:30 - 11:30 AM YBR- YAMUNA BODY ROLLING Rick Panson	10:30 - 11:30 AM PILATES TOWER Melia Marzollo	10:30 AM - 11:30 PM PILATES PRIVATE Martina Enschede
12:00 - 1:00 PM YOGALATES Melia Marzollo	11:00 - 12:00 PM PRENATAL YOGA Claire Koepke	9:30 - 10:30 AM PILATES SEMI-PRIVATE* Melia Marzollo	10:30 - 11:30 AM PILATES SEMI-PRIVATE* Melia Marzollo	6:00 - 8:30 PM FOCUS FRIDAY WORKSHOPS *MONTHLY Lisa Bennett Matkin	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM PILATES PRIVATE Martina Enschede
7:00 - 8:30 PM YOGA FOR MEDITATION Josh Geller	12:00 - 1:15 PM MOMMY & ME YOGA Claire Koepke	10:30 - 11:30 AM PILATES PRIVATE Melia Marzollo	11:30 - 12:30 PM PILATES PRIVATE Melia Marzollo		
	3:00 - 5:00 PM KID'S YOGA & CREATIVE PLAY Melia Marzollo (4/12-5/17)	11:30 - 12:30 PM PILATES SEMI-PRIVATE* Melia Marzollo	6:45 - 8:00 PM YIN YOGA Kathy Toris		
	7:15 - 8:15 PM PILATES TOWER Kristin & Melia	7:00 - 8:15 PM GENTLE, BEGINNER YOGA Claire Koepke			
					SUNDAY 10:30am - NOON ALIGNMENT FLOW ALL LEVEL Julian Paik 12:30 - 1:30 PM DHARMA SUNDAY SCHOOL *FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH Maeve Eng-Wong



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Storm King Mountain

Photo by Mike Adamovic

Can You Handle Storm King Mountain?

Museum to lead "rigorous" hike

A guide from the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will lead a rigorous, four-hour hike on Storm King Mountain at noon on Sunday, April 10. The hike is geared to adults and children ages 12 and older. Prepaid registration is required; the fee is \$7, or \$5 for museum members. To register, visit hnm.org or call 845-534-5506 ext. 204.

Hikers will meet at the trailhead off Route 218; directions will be sent closer to the event. Wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers for the unpredictable early spring weather and bring water and a snack.

Summer Horse Riding for Kids and Adults

Equestrian camps begin June 27

The Therapeutic Equestrian Center is accepting registrations for its Inclusive Summer Riding Program for children ages 4 to 12, and teenagers and young adults. Each four-day session costs \$400 and is limited to eight participants. Each camp (the first begins June 27) is open to a different age group; visit myfeettakewings.org for specifics.

"Both able-bodied and challenged riders are encouraged to enroll," said TEC President John MacEnroe. "This is an exceptional opportunity for children and young adults to develop special friendships while improving horsemanship

skill, and we offer unparalleled mountain views from our premier facility and, hopefully, great summer weather."

The equestrian center is also launching a summer riding program for adults. For details, call 845-265-3409.

One-Act Festival Opens at Depot Theatre

Event now in its sixth year

The Philipstown Depot Theatre will host the sixth annual Aery Theatre Company Ariane One-Act Festival at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, and 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 3. The festival will showcase four original one-act plays and two monologues by local playwrights, including:

- *Inner Strength* (written and directed by Richard E. Knipe and starring Joseph Niola)
- *Driving The Bulgie* (written and directed by Knipe and starring Mel Hancock)
- *Contacts* (written and directed by Knipe and starring Nancy Swann and Brendan Ryan)
- *Scrimmage* (written by Phoebe Farber, directed by Gama Valle and starring Liz Samuel and Phil Cruise)
- *Bless Me Father* (written by Patrick J. Lennon, directed by Christopher Lukas and starring Lukas and Christian Flynn)
- *Tell Me A Story* (written and directed by Albi Gorn, starring Joseph Niola, Madeline Sledge and Jeff Calhoun)

The festival is named for Ariane Orenstein, an Aery Theatre member who died of cancer in 2011 at age 51. Tickets are \$18 (\$15 for seniors) and available at philipstowndepottheatre.org. For more information, call 845-424-3900.

Registration Open for Rowing Camp

Three one-week programs stress safety, fun

Building Bridges Building Boats has opened registration for its summer day program, Rowing on the River, for students entering grades six and up. Now in its 15th year, the camp consists of three weekly sessions beginning June 27. Students will learn how to row a boat safely on the Hudson River while traveling with

instructors to local destinations. Part of each day is devoted to activities such as river studies, beachcombing and exploration. The emphasis is on fun and safety.

The program operates from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Session 1 runs from June 27 to July 1, session 2 from July 5 to 8 and session 3 from July 18 to 22. From July 11 to 14, Building Bridges Building Boats will hold its annual river trip for students who have had at least one week of river experience.

The workshop serves as training for other Building Bridges Building Boats events throughout the year, including races, trips and festivals. For more information visit buildingboats.org or email director@buildingboats.org.

Seminar on How to Prevent Animal Abuse

SPCA will hold seminar

The Putnam County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) will hold its second Animal Cruelty Watch Seminar at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 9 in Carmel. The seminar will explain how to identify animal cruelty, how to report it and the laws that protect animals in New York.

The free seminar will be held at the Palatin Training Center, 39 Seminary Hill Road. Among the planned speakers are Chief Ken Ross of the Putnam County SPCA, Putnam County Sheriff Donald Smith, Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendy and retired NYPD Capt. Andrew DeStefano. To reserve a seat, email info@spcaputnam.org or call 845-520-6915.

Although its officers have law-enforcement power, the Putnam County SPCA is a non-profit corporation that is funded entirely by donations.

Garrison Art Center Opens Summer Registration

Camps available for tots and students K-12

The Garrison Art Center has opened registration for its three-week Summer Arts on the Hudson program, now in its 28th year, for children entering kindergarten through eighth grade. Children will paint, draw, sculpt, make books and create pottery (Continued on next page)



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Participants in the Rowing on the River program

Photo provided

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



A group of tots gather inspiration.

Photo provided

(From previous page) during the camp, which runs on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. from June 27 to July 15. (Half days are also available.) The camp ends with a one-hour exhibit of campers' artwork; the 2016 theme is Animals Around the World.

The cost is \$250 per week or \$745 for all three weeks. There is a discounted rate for siblings. A deposit is required.

The center also offers a Summer ART-tots for children ages 2 to 4 that runs at the same time for either half or full days. Children two years old or in diapers must be accompanied by an adult. The rate is \$250 per week (\$175 half day) or \$650 for full days for three weeks.

Later in the summer, from July 18 to August 5, the center will host its Summer Art Institute for students entering grades 9 to 12, followed by a two-day exhibit. The cost is \$1,095 (\$1,045 before May 2) for three weeks.

To register, visit garrisonartcenter.org or call 845-424-3960.

Free Trees for Arbor Day

In anticipation of Arbor Day on Friday, April 29, the Arbor Day Foundation is offering 10 shade trees for a \$10 contribution. By joining the Foundation in April, new members will receive a 6-to-12-inch red oak, sugar maple, weeping willow, baldcypress, thornless honeylocust, pin oak, river birch, tuliptree, silver maple and red maple tree as part of the organization's Trees for America campaign.

"These trees provide shade in the summer and vibrant colors throughout the fall," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. The trees, which are shipped in April or May with planting instructions, are guaranteed to grow or will be replaced free. To become a Foundation member, visit arborday.org/april or send \$10 to Ten Free Shade Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by April 30.

Cold Spring Sets Curbside Leaf Pickup

Scheduled for April 6, 13, 20, 27

The Village of Cold Spring Highway Department will pick up plastic or paper bags containing leaves and yard debris at the curbside on Wednesdays in April (6, 13, 20 and 27).

Items should be placed at the curbside after 4 p.m. on the evening prior to pickup. All branches should be tied in four-foot bundles. Garbage should not be mixed with yard debris.

Beacon

Teen Organists to Play in Beacon

Xu brothers to perform on April 9

Reilly and Bruce Xu, 13-year-old twins and students of Jimrae Lenser and Craig Williams, the organist and choirmaster at the Cadet Chapel at West Point, will perform an organ recital at St. Andrew's Church in Beacon at 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. The program, on a two-manual Johannus electronic Opus 20 organ, will feature works by Bach, Nevin, Boëllman, Guilmant, Sousa and Widor.

Bruce, who won third prize at the UNCSCA National High School Organ Competition, is the organist at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chester. Reilly, who won first prize at the Brooklyn American Guild of Organists Organ Scholarship Competition, is the organist at Sloatsburg United Methodist Church in Sloatsburg.

St. Andrew's is located at 15 South Avenue. The event is co-sponsored by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. A reception will follow the recital at the carriage house.

Museum to Host Robert Irwin Symposium

Event marks opening of new installation

In conjunction with the installation of Robert Irwin's *Excursus: Homage to the Square*3, Dia:Beacon will host a symposium on Saturday, April 9, that brings together voices from a range of disciplines to consider Irwin's work over the past six decades, focusing on how it shapes space and perception.

"What is so unique [about *Excursus*] is that there is no beginning, middle, or end," said curator Yasmil Raymond. "Audiences can enter the work from a variety of entry points."

Excursus originally opened at Dia's former space in New York in April 1998 with the title *Prologue: x183*. It consisted of 18 interconnected rooms set apart by transparent scrims. The second, retitled version was acquired by Dia in 2000. It will be on display through May 2017 at the Beacon museum, where Irwin "site-conditioned" the work, meaning, he says, "the sculptural response draws all its cues (reasons for

being) from its surroundings."

Admission to the symposium, which will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., is \$15 (\$13 for students and seniors; \$8 for Dia members). The fee includes museum admission. Dia:Beacon is located at 3 Beekman St., For more information, visit diaart.org/irwin.

Historical Society to Screen Rare Films

Also opens display at Howland library

On Thursday, April 7, at Drink More Good, the Beacon Historical Society will screen rare films of the Hudson River Day Line and the Hudson River shot in 1949. The event begins at 7 p.m., and ad-

mission is \$5 to benefit the society. Drink More Good is located at 383 Main St. For more information, call 914-391-4563 or visit beaconhistorical.org.

The historical society has also assembled a collection of documents, photographs and vintage artifacts on the history of the Howland Public Library since its founding by Gen. Joseph Howland in 1872, on display near the main desk through April. The library is located at 313 Main. (The BHS exhibit, *East End of Main*, at Beacon Bath and Bubble at 458 Main, ends April 2.) The society has plans for a June collaboration with the Newburgh Historical Society for an exhibit on the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry.

Flea Market Returns April 3

Open Sundays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Beacon Flea Market will open for the season on Sunday, April 3, and continue every fair-weather Sunday through November from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 50 sellers typically are present selling antiques, and vintage and handmade items. Vendor discounts are available for non-profit organizations and Beacon residents.

The market is held in the parking lot at 6 Henry Street, just behind the Main Street post office. For more information, call 845-202-0094 or visit beaconflea.blogspot.com.



Ephemera in the Beacon Historical Society display at the Howland Public Library

Photo provided

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Sports

Rayvon Grey is Leaps Ahead

Beacon long jumper sets sights on 1964 record

By Jeff Simms

The New York high school outdoor long-jump record of 25 feet and 3½ inches, set in 1964, is owned by Bob Beamon, who a 16-year-old from Jamaica High School in Queens. Four years later, Beamon set a world record with a jump of 29 feet, 2½ inches — decimating the previous mark by nearly 2 feet — en route to winning a gold medal in the Summer Olympics in Mexico City.

Not a bad resume. But Beamon's high school mark, which Beacon High School track coach Jim Henry calls the "oldest and most venerated" track record in New York, may not last much longer.

Beacon's Rayvon Grey, a 6-foot-2 senior, looks to cap off his once-in-a-generation high school career by adding Beamon's record to a list of accomplishments that includes a national championship for the indoor long jump — the longest by a high school athlete in 27 years.

While Grey's U.S.-best indoor jump of 26 feet, ¼ inch is nine inches farther than Beamon's outdoor record, the outdoor leap may be more challenging because of the wind and other unpredictable elements. Not that there's anything easy about jumping 26 feet indoors.

Grey, 18, says he almost quit track as a freshman because he doubted his ability. Luckily, Henry recalls, he was talked out of that quickly. "At first I didn't like it at



Grey making a jump at a February meet

Photo courtesy ny.milesplit.com

Grey won the 300 meters at a meet in February at the Armory in New York.

Photo courtesy Armory Track

all," Grey said. "Who wants to run all the time? I thought it was boring."

Perhaps grudgingly, he stuck with track and it paid off. Coach Henry says he first saw greatness in Grey during his sophomore year, when Grey recorded a 22-foot, 11½ long jump — second best in the state that year.

"That was a bit of a surprise, and also a breakthrough," Henry says. "He was exceeding expectations at that point."

Last winter, in addition to his national championship, Grey placed first in New York with a 49-foot, 6½ inch triple jump (in which the athlete performs a hop and skip before the jump) and was selected as the state indoor male athlete of the year by fans voting at MileSplit NY, a site devoted to scholastic track and field.

Beacon High has had 10 track and field individual state champions since 1983, but Grey is the school's lone national champion. He's blown past U.S. Olympic legend Carl Lewis's best high-school jump by six inches. This fall, he'll head south to Louisiana State University, one of the top two jumping schools in the country, on a full athletic scholarship.

"He was, at that moment, the national champion, and he just went about his business. He wasn't high-fiving anyone, he was just continuing on with his day ... He's always looking for what the team has to do to win."



Rayvon Grey with Beacon track coach Jim Henry

Photo by J. Simms

But as you talk to people about Rayvon Grey, it's quickly evident that his character is as impressive as his ability to leap city blocks in a single bound.

Beacon City Board of Education President Melissa Thompson tells a story about watching Grey during the meet when he made his championship jump. He was checking in for the 300-meter dash when the public address announcer called out the record-setting jump.

"He was, at that moment, the national champion," Thompson said, "and he just went about his business. He wasn't high-fiving anyone, he was just continuing on with his day. And then he went on to win his heat of the 300."

"He's always looking for what the team has to do to win."

Grey's teammates are enthusiastic in their praise for him as well. Terrel Davis, a senior who has received scholarship offers

from SUNY-Buffalo and the University of Hartford, says the two feed off and learn from each other.

"It's been really cool to be able to observe him," Davis said. "We push each other all the time, and it's helped us both."

Says Coach Henry: "Rayvon has the single-best attitude you can ask for in an athlete. After each performance, he wants to know two things: 'How was that?' and 'What can I improve for the next time?' He wanted to know this when he was brand new to jumping and he still wants to know this as the best jumper in the country."

Henry says he anticipates the Penn Relays in Philadelphia in late April will be Grey's first chance to best Beamon's enduring high school record. For a record-breaking leap to count, Henry says, it must be made at a meet that features a wind gauge and the tailwind must be two meters per second or less.

While that's a tall order even for someone with Grey's credentials, when asked about it, he grins, looks down for a moment, his tone full of confidence yet free of conceit, and says quietly: "I've got it in me."

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Second Saturday Going Strong *(from Page 8)*

and Bank Square Coffeehouse with her husband Buddy, gallery hoppers don't want to have to carry their purchases up and down Main. Then again, once the weather warms up, the Behneys usually can't afford to keep Mountain Tops open late anyway: They're too busy across the street at Bank Square, whose expansive and illuminated patio serves as the unofficial gateway to Main Street. "There are not too many other places where you can sit outside on Main Street with your beer," she said.

And Main Street is, as always, the place to be.

"It was very important for us to be on Main Street, to be part of the community," said Mike Usifer, who's holding the official grand opening of his new recording studio Beacon Soundworks (beaconsoundworks.com) at 395 Main this month from noon to 7 p.m. on Second Saturday.

Like the Behneys, Usifer was born and raised in Beacon. Bringing music to Main Street has been part of his family's history for generations. During World War II, his great-great uncle Joe Usifer ran a marching band that led a parade of the men of Beacon who were shipping off to war. When

the troops returned, Usifer's band was there to greet them at the Hudson and march them back up Main.

By the time Beacon Soundworks has its official opening, Usifer will have recorded an alternative rock trio from Newburgh, a thrash metal band from New Jersey, and rappers who come to the studio via the Metro-North train from New York City. "Our rates are a lot cheaper than what they'd pay for studio time in the city," he said.

Like other Beacon businesses, Usifer is hanging work by local artists for Second Saturday, but he's also putting out locally made instruments for visitors to pick up, play and purchase. He'll also be hosting free concerts all afternoon by local acts.

"We want to help out other artists who don't have their own gallery, can't find a place to show their stuff, or maybe, like the instruments, they're not really the kind of work that shows in galleries," he said. "Beacon is a special place, and it's all the people here in town, working hard at this, that keeps it vibrant."

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

"We want to help out other artists who don't have their own gallery, can't find a place to show their stuff... Beacon is a special place, and it's all the people here in town, working hard at this, that keeps it vibrant."

Beacon Second Saturday Events

April 9

Robert Irwin Symposium

11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dia:Beacon 3 Beekman St., Beacon 845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

Beacon Soundworks Grand Opening

Noon – 7 p.m. 395 Main St. 845-831-9000 | beaconsoundworks.com

Calling All Poets Anthology Launch

2 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St., Beacon 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

The Beacon Players: Peter Pan

2 p.m. Beacon High School 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon 845-838-6900 x3420
beaconplayers.com

Rupert Boyd (Guitar) & Laura Metcalf (Cello)

4 p.m. Beahive Beacon 291 Main St., Beacon
howlandmusic.org

Reilly and Bruce Xu (Organ Recital)

St. Andrew's Church 15 South Avenue, Beacon
845-831-1369 | standrewsbeaconny.org

Warren Hurley: Ulster County Landscapes (Opening)

5 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St., Beacon 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

AM DeBricant: Power Move (Opening) Eva Drizhal: Between (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery 506 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

August Ventimiglia: Drawings (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. Matteawan Gallery 436 Main St., Beacon 845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Carin Jean White (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. The Catalyst Gallery 137 Main St., Beacon 845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

Group Show: Hit Squad (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery 163 Main St., Beacon
212-255-2505 | shop.cluttermagazine.com

Garland Jeffreys Band

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café 379 Main St., Beacon 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Howland Wolves Band

9 p.m. Chill Wine Bar 173 Main St, Beacon 845-765-0885 | facebook.com/chillwinebar

St. George and Friends Jam

9 p.m. Joe's Irish Pub 455 Main St., Beacon
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Hudson Beach Glass on Main Street in Beacon

Photo by Michele Gedney

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