



Friday, June 5, is First
Friday in Cold Spring
See pages 7, 10 & 12

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Above, the annual Memorial Day Parade in Cold Spring featured marchers in many different uniforms – from military veterans, police, local fire companies and ambulance corps to Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, and Little League baseball players.

Photo by Michael Turton

Top left, Veteran Joe Etta; top right, the O'Hara children; bottom, right, Hunter Luzze at the Memorial Day Parade

Photos by Maggie Benmour

Pataki Declares for President

Local resident faces a crowded field

By Kevin E. Foley



George Pataki announces candidacy Photo by Susan Craig

Former three-term Governor of New York and long-time Garrison resident George Elmer Pataki declared his candidacy for the Republican nomination for president of the United States Thursday (May 28) in Exeter, New Hampshire.

Standing in the Exeter town hall before a crowd estimated at 350, Pataki, 69, declared that he was running to protect the freedoms others had fought to create. “It is to preserve and protect that freedom for us that I stand here today. It is to preserve and protect that freedom for future generations that I rise,” he said.

Pataki, who left the governor’s office in December 2007, has already visited New Hampshire as much or more than any other Republican candidate and chose Exeter because the town lays claim to the founding of the Republican Party by Amos Tuck in 1845 as part of an anti-slavery movement. Exeter is in the southeast part of the state near the seacoast and the Massachusetts state line. It is home to

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DA Levy Wins Key Republican Support

Faces Bob Tendency in Sept. primary

By Kevin E. Foley

Putnam County District Attorney Adam Levy received a significant boost to his reelection chances when the county Republican organization endorsed him as the official party candidate for the upcoming 2015 election. The endorsement came at a party convention on May 20 in Mahopac, where Levy received 107 delegate votes to 58 for challenger Bob Tendency, a criminal defense lawyer and the current Putnam Valley supervisor.

The endorsement by the party organization does not eliminate the need to compete in the Republican primary election on Sept. 10. But it does signal that nearly two out of three party activists, the people who traditionally get the vote out for a primary, are committed to having Levy, the two-term incumbent, represent them on the November ballot.

The county Conservative Party had already endorsed Levy, without opposition, a few weeks prior to the Republican gathering.

With the Democratic Party unable to find a candidate for November, the September Republican primary will likely be the deciding vote for district attorney this year.

“Adam Levy is no-nonsense prosecutor with over 23 years of courtroom experience who can’t be bought, intimidated or dissuaded from honoring his oath to office and to the people of Putnam County. His leadership, courage and tenacity have made Putnam the safest county in the state of New York to live, work and raise a family,” said Robert Johnson Jr., Patterson Republican chairman, in nominating Levy at the convention.

Interestingly, Johnson’s own Patterson Republican town committee endorsed Tendency.

In accepting the county committee’s endorsement, Levy said: “It has been an honor serving Putnam County as district attorney, and this tremen-

(Continued on page 3)



Adam Levy

Photo courtesy of the Levy campaign

An Early Start for Tick Season

Nymph black-legged ticks prevalent until July

By Brian PJ Cronin

For many people, summer doesn’t begin until the parades and barbecues of Memorial Day roll around. But for black-legged ticks, also known as deer ticks, summer started weeks ago.

“I think many people don’t understand the degree to which tick-borne illnesses are seasonal,” said Dr. Richard Ostfeld, a senior scientist with the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook. He’ll be giving a free public talk on the ecology of Lyme disease – one of the many diseases that black-legged ticks can carry along with anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Powassan virus – on Friday, May 29, at 7 p.m. at the institute’s headquarters at 2801 Sharon Turnpike in Millbrook.

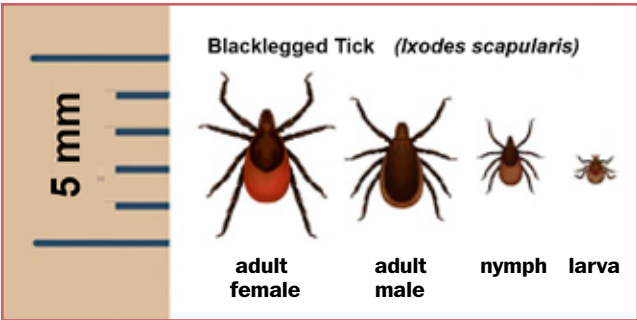
Tick season traditionally begins in the middle of May, although Ostfeld warns that because of a steadily warming cli-

mate, ticks are emerging earlier and earlier. It’s this current stage – the nymph stage – that is the most dangerous. That’s when the ticks are only about 1/8-inch big, making them difficult to detect. In early July the nymphs go dormant and don’t come out to feed again until late autumn, when they reach their adult stage.

By then the ticks are much larger, making them easier to spot. People tend to be outside a lot less in late fall than they are in the summer, and they often have long pants on, which will deter ticks from reaching their skin. And only about 10 percent of nymphal ticks make it to the adult stage, so their numbers are fewer.

That means that right now is prime feeding time

(Continued on page 14)



Black-legged tick stages

Image courtesy of Center for Disease Control, via Wikimedia Commons

Cook On: 1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

Please Pass the Pork Butt

By Mary Ann Ebner

Firing up the grill for graduation season and summer suppers takes me back to my youth and brings on a yearning for grilled pork. Dinners when I was growing up along the Mississippi River centered on preparing food influenced by early European settlers, but the most memorable meals in warm weather were often anchored with St. Louis barbecued pork steaks.

My family rarely ate high off the hog, as the top choice was typically priciest. But in place of fine ham and luscious loin, we splurged on pork steaks — not year-round — but for summer grilling. If there was a sure thing for a meal around our family picnic table, this was it. And it was nearly impossible to keep the grilling a secret. Neighbors and passers-by on the sidewalk would slow down to wave when they sniffed that blend of fiery sweet sauce and sizzling pork drippings in the air.

Now as my own family has moved across the country, we’ve explored many regional foods. There’s always room in the repertoire to add new discoveries, but we also rotate deeply rooted recipes from the past. Not too many years ago, it seemed appropriate to prepare St. Louis-style pork steaks for my son’s kindergarten graduation. After all, his godmother, Jenny, and her daughter, Sam, traveled to New York from St. Louis to visit for a few days. Until then, I’d never purchased pork steaks in my adult life. Once out of college, I moved out west, and as a newly minted young adult, I sampled a world of food choices. Now that I’ve matured into adulthood (wrinkles and all), childhood memories of a pony-tailed girl devouring an enormous pork steak, licking sauce from her fingers without fear of reprimand, come clearly back to me.

For our festive meal, I made a special order at the meat counter and brought a choice cut home to my husband, Greg, for grilling. He grew up in Michigan, and until preparing them himself, he didn’t think much of pork steaks. Hand him his favorite Coney (a hot dog with natural

skin casing, onions and brown chili) and he’s back home again. But he agreed to slow-grill the pork steaks, even brushing them precisely with tomato puree.

I told Greg that every backyard chef in my memory added beer to the sauce. He had a few bottles of his favorite on hand, which appeared to work fine — one bottle for the recipe, two bottles for the chef, according to legend. Greg slowly grilled the meat and then placed it in a pan of sauce to simmer.

When we sat down at the patio table to enjoy the graduation feast and Greg presented the platter of pork steaks, Jenny smiled with delight.

“Fabulous!” she exclaimed with genuine appreciation. “You made pork butt.”

Well, our young sons, who had been preconditioned by their preschool head mistress to use “bottom” in place of “butt” at all times, jumped in their surprise. If a godmother could say “pork butt,” why couldn’t they give it a shout? “Pork butt! Pork butt! Pork butt!” They shook up the conversation, and we tried to camouflage our own laughing. At that shining moment, “bottom” took a back seat and “butt” emerged from backyard barbecue chatter to the kindergarten playground.

I could just imagine the look on the headmistress’s face at the chanting. “You are role models for your children,” she always reminded parents. “We’d like to leave the four-letter words out of our environment.”

The pork steaks, though commonly regarded as pork butt, are cut from the upper shoulder blade, nowhere near the ... bottom. But young boys are hardly fooled when it comes to table etiquette. “Would you care for barbecued pork shoulder?” or “Please pass the pork butt.” It tastes



Barbecued pork steaks

Photo by M.A. Ebner

the same but sounds entirely different.

Grilling rights in the family were turned over to me a while back, and sunny skies recently inspired a pork butt dinner. Cold Spring’s Marbled Meat Shop was the only stop needed to pick up a few pounds of pork. Shop owner Lisa Hall confirmed over the phone that she had pork shoulder in the meat case. I made my way there directly and found Hall and her husband, shop co-owner Chris Pascarella, taking care of customers buying everything from pickles to pastured beef cuts. Pascarella presented

a selection of pork shoulder before slicing my choice into ¼-inch thick steaks.

“This is pork shoulder from a Berkshire pork whole hog,” Pascarella said. “It’s actually a cut from the Boston butt.”

The local purveyors sent me away with pork ready to prepare and confirmed the origin of the meat: Autumn’s Harvest in Romulus, New York.

For every kind of meal from reunions to graduations, from peppers to pineapple, the season calls for grilling. There’s a menu in the making for my eighth grader’s June graduation, and in keeping with tradition, we’ll mark the occasion with another backyard barbecue. Bottoms up!

Barbecued Pork Steaks

Serves 8

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 4 to 5 pounds pork shoulder sliced into ¼- to ½-inch-thick steaks | 4 cloves garlic, diced |
| Kosher salt and pepper for seasoning steaks and sauce | 2 tablespoons bacon grease (substitute canola oil) |
| 2 medium yellow onions, chopped | 4 cups tomato-based barbecue puree |
| | 12 ounces bottled beer |
| | 2 tablespoons sugar |

1. Rinse pork steaks with cold, lightly salted water. Pat dry. Generously salt and pepper steaks on both sides. Set aside.
2. To prepare sauce, cook chopped onions and diced garlic over high heat in bacon grease until browned. Add tomato puree, beer, sugar and salt and pepper to taste. Stir thoroughly and keep warm on lowest heat.
3. Slowly grill steaks on low to medium heat, browning on both sides until fully cooked. Brush steaks with sauce and grill an additional 2 minutes.
4. Place grilled steaks in pan of sauce and simmer 2 hours until tender.



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Pataki Declares for President *(from page 1)*



Libby Pataki speaking in Exeter

Photos by Susan Craig

the Phillips Exeter Academy, a famed private high school.

In his speech, Pataki referenced Republicans Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, seldom invoked nowadays, but also Ronald Reagan, who is arguably the ideological founder of the contemporary Republican Party.

The New Hampshire presidential primary, always the first in the presidential season after the Iowa caucuses, will be February 2016.

Pataki is the 10th candidate to formally declare with perhaps an equal number of candidates still actively considering joining the race. The prospect of such a large field of candidates makes it a particularly daunting challenge for all but the best financed candidates.

In his speech and earlier in the day in a posted YouTube video, Pataki made reference to the events of Sept. 11, 2001, while he was governor, a centerpiece of his message of national unity for economic and social progress as well as a determination to confront the continuing threat of terrorism. The video ends with Pataki looking across at the gleaming, recently opened Freedom Tower, which replaced the fallen World Trade Center twin towers.

In his speech Pataki said: “While I saw the horror of Sept. 11 firsthand, in the days, weeks, and months that followed, I also saw the strength of America on display. For those months, we were not Republicans or Democrats, black or white, young or old. We were Americans. We had been attacked and we were going to stand together to show the world that we were unbowed, unafraid, and would come back stronger than ever. I completely reject the idea that we can only unite in adversity ... we’re so much better than that. I know we have true greatness within us because I have seen it countless times.

“I know that working together, with the support of a government dedicated to restoring freedom rather than restraining it, we will once again astonish the world with what we accomplish.”

Hard line on foreign policy

Pataki urged a buildup of American military forces and a commitment to use them where necessary to fight terrorism. Although he implied as much, he did stop just short of specifically committing to sending troops into the Middle East to fight the surging ISIS forces.

“We will make sure the No. 1 sponsor of state terror in the world, Iran, never has a nuclear weapon. We will provide whatever aid necessary to those already fighting ISIS on the ground to stop their barbarism and inhumanity. And yes, if necessary, American force will be used to actually defeat and destroy ISIS, so they can pose no threat to us here,” he said.

Protecting allies such as Israel and the Baltic states are a priority for Pataki. “Our allies must trust us. Our enemies must fear us. And they will,” he said.

American dream

At the outset of his speech, Pataki noted the presence of local supporters from Peekskill, where he once served as mayor. He said that many present had helped him get elected governor and re-elected two more times. Supporters of Pataki

have noted on social media that he was not considered a serious candidate when he first ran against incumbent Gov. Mario Cuomo, pulling out an upset victory.

Pataki also emphasized that he was the son of immigrants to the United States who spoke no English. On immigration, he said he favored making sure the borders were secure and that people entered the country legally. He did not address the status of the several million immigrants already living in the country.

The governor said he grew up working hard on a small Peekskill-area farm with his brothers and cousins.

“Peekskill’s wealth was not in its money but in its people; black and white, Christian and Jew, both rural and urban at the same time. We weren’t wealthy, we weren’t well connected, we weren’t well known. And yet every one of us growing up in that small town believed in the American dream, believed in hard work, and believed in ourselves,” said Pataki.

In his speech, he said that a program of lowered taxes and reduced regulation could help revive the same aspirations to the American dream for a new generation of citizens.

He said if elected he would seek the repeal of “oppressive laws” such as Obama Care and Common Core. He did not elaborate on the nature of the oppression or what policies he would pursue in the areas of health care or education.

Taking aim at Congress, Pataki said he would advocate a total ban on former representatives lobbying Congress for any purpose. Currently, dozens of the most successful lobbyists are former members of the House and Senate.

Pataki also said he would pursue a rewrite of the federal tax code. “I’d throw out an incomprehensible tax code written by lawyers at the direction of lobbyists in the interests of the powerful and replace it with simpler, lower rates that are fair to us all,” he declared.

Although he spent time criticizing the size and expense of the federal government, he did not directly invoke President Obama’s name and only made a slight pejorative reference to Hillary Clinton.

Family

Pataki was joined by his wife of 41 years, Libby, former First Lady of New York, who is more visible on the local scene here, serving currently as the Putnam County director of tourism. The governor also introduced his four children: Emily, Teddy, Allison and Owen. Emily recently worked in the legal department of Bloomberg LLP and is currently a stay-at-home mother. Teddy served as a Marine officer in Iraq, works for the Knights of Columbus and is a father. Allison is a historical-fiction novelist and the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Traitor’s Wife* and *The Accidental Empress*. Their youngest son, Owen, is an Army officer who recently returned from Afghanistan and will attend grad school for film.



Supporters and media at Pataki event

DA Levy Wins Key Republican Support *(from page 1)*

dous vote of confidence the party has placed in me, our efforts and record in the DA’s office is gratifying and humbling. I pledge to honor this trust by continuing to fight and protect our communities, neighborhoods and citizens.”

In his campaign statement touting the convention victory, Levy and other supporters emphasized Putnam County’s low crime rate, which they assert has continued to drop during Levy’s tenure, as the key reason to support Levy’s re-election.

Not mentioned in the statement and yet to be explored are the specific initiatives the prosecutor’s office has taken that might have contributed to the lowering of the crime rate in various cate-

gories over recent years. *The Paper* will seek an interview with the district attorney for that purpose in the weeks ahead.

Gun rights a big theme

Levy’s campaign statement did feature supportive comments from the chairman and vice chair of the Putnam County chapter of Shooters Committee for Political Education (SCOPE), a statewide advocacy group for gun owners’ rights and opposition to Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s NY SAFE Act. The SAFE Act is a state law passed by the legislature in 2013. Among other things, the law requires gun owner registration, limits access to certain weapons and restricts amounts of ammunition that can be purchased.

“As district attorney, Adam protected law-abiding gun owners when the media threatened their privacy and safety, and came to our defense again when he refused to enforce an unconstitutional provision of the so-called New York SAFE Act, which arbitrarily limited how many rounds a magazine can carry,” said Nicholas S. Castellano, chair of SCOPE.

The prominence of this support in Levy’s statement underscores the impor-

tance of the gun-ownership-rights issue within the Putnam Republican Party.

DA vs. Sheriff

Levy’s tenure has had a full measure of controversy. Over the last few years, the chief law enforcement officer and the county’s top cop, Sherriff Donald B. Smith, have waged a vitriolic battle, including dueling personal lawsuits, accusing each other of lying about and conspiring against the work of the other.

Levy filed his personal lawsuit against Smith in August 2013 just as Smith was competing with challenger Kevin McConville in the Republican primary for sheriff. Members of Levy’s family were major contributors to McConville’s campaign.

At the center of the controversy was the arrest and prosecution in 2013 of Alexandru Hossu, a friend, personal trainer and frequent houseguest of Levy’s for the rape of a minor-aged girl in 2010. At the time, Smith accused Levy of inappropriately interfering in the case, which was referred to the Westchester County district attorney. Levy accused Smith of unfairly manipulating facts to cast the DA in a bad light.

Levy’s participation in and funding of Hossu’s defense certainly raised eyebrows and ethical questions. Former state Sen. Greg Ball and some other officials called on Cuomo to investigate Levy.

Hossu eventually received a trial verdict of not guilty on all charges in April 2014. The governor’s office never investigated Levy, and despite grumbling in the media from sources within the Westchester DA’s office, no formal complaint against Levy ever emerged from any governmental office.

Smith filed his lawsuit against Levy that same month. As far as could be determined, both lawsuits are still pending.

Tendy in primary

Although Levy understandably took comfort from his decisive victory at the Republican convention, Tendy claimed at least an impressive margin of support with about a third of the committee members giving him in their vote. Tendy’s candidacy, which he announced last year, centers on questioning Levy’s conduct in office. Tendy served for four years as an assistant district attorney under legendary former Manhattan DA Robert Morgenthau.

Tendy told *The Paper* he was “pleasantly surprised” by the committee vote. He said that his conversations with many people not involved in party politics showed widespread unhappiness with Levy.

Whether that assertion proves true will be determined in September. *The Paper* will also pursue amplification of Tendy’s views in the weeks to come.

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Governments Move to Enhance Safety of Crude-Oil and Passenger Trains

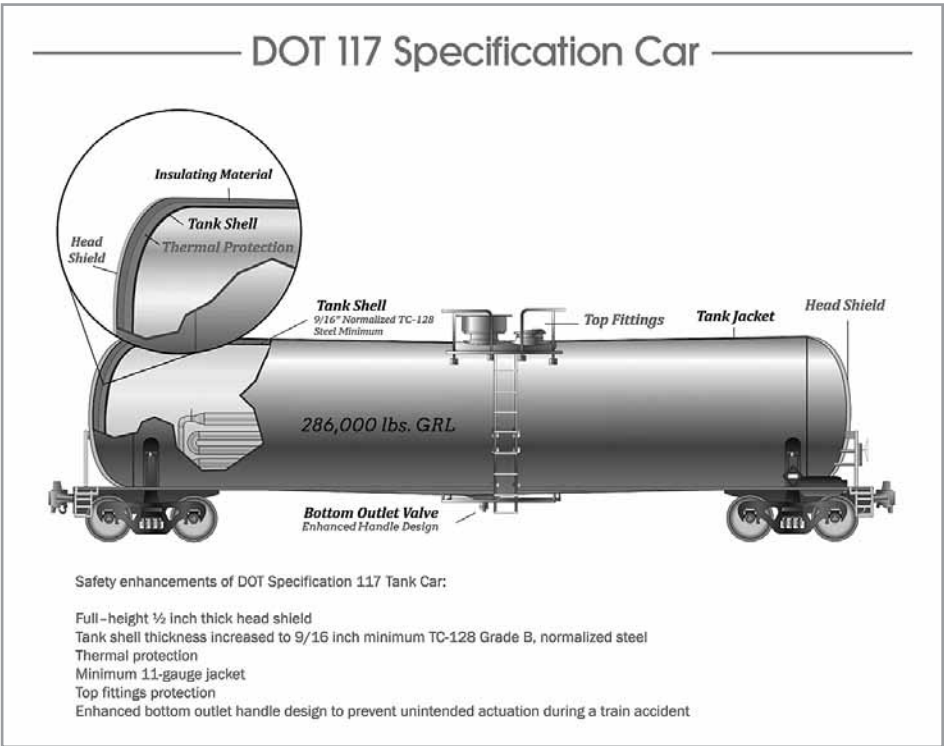
Oil lobby claims rules excessive, environmentalists find them too lax

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Moves to enhance the safety of crude-oil transportation and passenger railroads and to control oil processing advanced recently at both state and national levels, but one key initiative — stricter federal standards for so-called “bomb trains” — drew immediate attack both from industry insiders who termed the rules excessive and environmentalists who labeled them insufficient.

The latest developments include:

- Issuance by the U.S. Department of Transportation May 1 of the new set of rules covering rail transportation of crude oil and similar fuels, including phasing-out of railroad cars deemed too flimsy to carry highly flammable materials, setting of train speed limits, and use of better brakes on trains with extremely combustible cargo.
- Announcement by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on May 21 that it intends to rescind a November 2013 determination that an oil firm’s creation of a new facility for heated tar-sand crude oil in Albany posed no environmental threats.
- Introduction of a proposed law by Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) to make the federal oil train regulations tighter by demanding faster mothballing of less-durable rail tankers; applying train speed limits in rural and small-town areas, not merely in select cities; and enactment of a federal standard on oil volatility.
- Passage in Washington by the House of Representatives of legislation, now under Senate committee review, to help pay for equipping commuter rail lines with a system called Positive Train Control, seen by the National Transportation Safety Board as an important accident-prevention mechanism; and successful efforts in early May by the legislation’s House sponsor, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Cold Spring Democrat, to obtain nearly \$1 billion to assist with installation of PTC by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, parent of the Metro-North commuter railroad that suffered fatal derailments in December 2013 and this past February.



The U.S. Department of Transportation calls for replacing vulnerable DOT 111 crude-oil railroad cars with a sturdier version, the 117. Drawing from the Transportation Department

transporting flammable liquids safer,” U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx declared.

Oil trains roll down the western side of the Hudson River, opposite Philipstown and past West Point, raising local fears of a derailment inferno, and environmental groups active in the valley and beyond find the DOT rules lacking.

For instance, Riverkeeper said in a several-page analysis, “the new tank-car standards do not apply to every oil tank car” but merely to long “High-Hazard Flammable Trains,” comprised of 220 continuous oil or ethanol cars or 35 such cars interspersed throughout the train’s length. However, Riverkeeper states, “34 tank cars can carry approximately 1 million gallons of oil, meaning that the worst cars will still be on the rails, hauling explosive oil, and not bound by any of this rule’s safety provisions.” In short, it asserted, DOT’s set of regulations “has huge loopholes.” The issue involves the present tankers, known as DOT 111 cars, and somewhat newer CPC-1232 cars, which also were involved in derailments that this year caused major conflagrations in rural areas. The DOT wants to replace the 111 with a beefier DOT 117 model.

Riverkeeper said that while the new cars will have thicker walls, retrofitted tankers “will be allowed to stay in use” with a thinner shell, leaving them more likely to be pierced or torn open in an accident.

Riverkeeper observed that Canada, which presented its own set of heightened rules the same day as the American regulations, applies upgraded car-safety rules “to every single tank car,” and the NTSB “recommended that the new U.S. standards apply to every single tank car carrying hazardous flammable liquids” as well.

Citing these and other reasons, on May 15 in the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in New York City, Riverkeeper brought a legal challenge to the DOT regulations. Similarly, in San Francisco, the Sierra Club and other organizations filed a comparable federal appeals court suit. “These seriously flawed standards all but guarantee that there will be more explosive derailments, leaving people and the environment at grave risk,” Riverkeeper President Paul Gallay said. “The DOT completely fails to recognize that we’re in the middle of a crisis. We don’t need bureaucratic half measures that are years away from implementation. We need common-sense protections today.”

The American Petroleum Institute, a Washington-based trade organization for the oil industry, disagreed profoundly. API, too, filed a lawsuit, seeking a longer period of time in which to retrofit existing tank cars and objecting to the DOT stipulations regarding enhanced brakes, among other points. It described various demands under the new rule as “in excess” and beyond DOT purview. In a statement before the lawsuit was submitted, API President and CEO Jack Gerard referred to “the 99.997 percent safety record of freight rail” and said API members “support upgrades to the tank-car fleet and want them completed as quickly as realistically possible” but believe the DOT schedule “will lead to shortages.”

Like the environmentalists, Schumer called for taking action swiftly. “Allowing these outdated oil cars to continue rolling through our communities for another eight years is a reckless gamble that we can’t afford to make,” he said May 4, announcing his draft bill. Earlier this year, he introduced a related measure that would exact fees for use of DOT 111 cars for fuel; the fees would go into a fund to cover costs of handling oil-train disasters. Both pieces of legislation were pending before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee as of May 26.

Federal regulations

Capping almost two years of preparation and temporary measures, the U.S. DOT revealed its “final rule” on carrying of flammable liquids, such as crude oil and ethanol, by railroads. The “rule” — actually a 345-page document with numerous regulations and provisions — specifies in part that tank cars built after Oct. 1 of this year and transporting the most dangerous fuel must have walls 9/16-inch thick and contain other safety features; that older cars be retrofitted to make them safer; that the weaker cars be removed from service over the next two to 10 years; that certain cars (not all) have higher-quality brakes than those currently used; and that the most volatile trains reduce their speed to 40 miles per hour in metropolises considered “high-threat urban areas” from an anti-terrorism perspective (in this state, only New York City and Buffalo qualify).

“Safety has been our top priority at every step in the process for finalizing this rule, which is a significant improvement over the current regulations and requirements and will make

Ann McGrath Gallagher Runs for Town Clerk

Will likely challenge incumbent Merando

By Kevin E. Foley

As *The Paper* went to press Philipstown Democrats announced that Ann McGrath Gallagher will be their candidate for the office of Philipstown town clerk in the November 2015 general election.

A life-long resident of the town, Gallagher has been secretary to the Philipstown Planning Board for the past 18 years, while raising three children Noah, Ian and Aidan with her husband, Ethan Gallagher.

According to the Democrats’ statement, Gallagher received an associate’s degree from Dutchess Community College and over the past 30+ years has held administrative positions at the Bank of Tokyo, Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co. Partners, and public and parochial schools in Westchester and Putnam Counties. In addition, she is described as a committed parent volunteer at Haldane School over the course of several years with all her children graduating from the Haldane district.

The daughter of former Philipstown Town Clerk Donald McGrath, Gallagher “is intimately aware of the work involved in being the town clerk, and is looking forward to serving the people of Philipstown in that capacity,” said the statement.

Town Board Member Nancy Montgomery said of Gallagher’s candidacy: “I am thrilled that Ann McGrath Gallagher is running for town clerk. I’ve personally witnessed her hard work and dedication to our Town for so many years, and I am so happy that such a faithful citizen is putting her best foot forward to help make our town a better place for all of us.”

Gallagher ran and lost a campaign against now incumbent Tina Merando 12 years ago. Merando has not announced her intentions for the 2015 election.

Proposals for Garrison’s School Forest Would Secure Future Without Development

Hudson Highlands Land Trust presents options to board

By Pamela Doan

Living in the Hudson Highlands creates unique opportunities for education that incorporates the natural resources in our scenic landscape. From the Hudson River and its marshes to the low, forested mountains, there are opportunities to engage children with nature, and the school forest at the Garrison Union Free School is one of the best examples of this in practice.

Encompassing 185 acres, the Garrison School Forest was gifted from the Osborn, Gunther and Sloan families for environmental education in 1956. It is not to be developed. In 2030, the deed stipulates that GUFs could possibly use it for other purposes if that use is approved by a county court as being in the “public interest.” It is open to the public as well who are welcome to hike there.

At the May 20 GUFs Board of Education meeting, Andrew Chmar, executive director of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, presented the board with a proposal to preserve the land from development in perpetuity. Chmar outlined two possibilities that would increase the size of the school forest, create better access and also involve financial compensation for the district.

The owner of the Garrison Golf Club, Christopher Davis, who is also a chairman of the HHLT Board of Directors, has offered to donate 70 acres to the district to increase the size of the property and give it space to create a parking area for buses and cars on Snake Hill Road, making it easier to transport students to the forest. Currently, buses have to offload students in the road, and there isn’t a parking area.

The land donation is contingent upon the district either allowing the HHLT to purchase a conservation easement on the land or selling the land to the State of

New York; both options would prevent development on it. Chmar said: “Ownership would remain with the district. All we’re suggesting is to keep these deeds after 2030 and make them permanent through another action.”

If the state acquires the land, which abuts state parkland, it would expand the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve. The school forest includes wetlands, meadow, forest and Revolutionary War fortifications of historical value. Chmar was confident that the state would enter into a partnership agreement with the district, similar to the way that the Audubon Society oversees Constitution Marsh in partnership with the state. The agreement could let the district continue using it as a “children’s laboratory” while securing it for future generations.

A conservation easement, the other alternative, is also designed to preserve property from future development. The landowner, in this case GUFs, would still be able to use, access and control the land, even sell it, but it would always have the contingency about development.

In this scenario, HHLT would purchase the conservation easement from GUFs, and the two organizations would become partners. Chmar said that the district would benefit from their legal resources, volunteer network and land-management expertise. He said, “We would have a



A map shows the area where the Garrison School Forest connects to state parkland and where a donated parcel would make it more accessible. Photo courtesy of HHLT

stake in it and could assist in cases like the current legal situation the district is in now.” GUFs has filed a lawsuit against a landowner whose property borders the school forest for restricting access to the students and the public.

In either scenario, the district would be paid for the land. The state would pay full market value, which Chmar estimated at \$800,000 to \$850,000 based on an appraisal. The HHLT would pay for the land’s development rights for the conservation easement, which are worth approximately \$375,000 based on the appraisal. The district would still be able to sell the land after 2030 with an easement and could even sell it to the state at that time.



Viafore’s body was found May 23 just south of Bannerman’s Island. File photo by M. Turton

Body in Hudson Confirmed as Viafore Graswald indictment made public

By Michael Turton

At a press conference in Goshen on Tuesday, May 26, Orange County District Attorney David Hoovler confirmed that a body removed from the Hudson River three days earlier was that of Vincent Viafore. The 46-year-old Poughkeepsie resident went missing on April 19 after what was initially thought to be a kayaking accident. But on April 29, Viafore’s fiancée, Angelika Graswald, was arrested and charged with his murder.

Hoovler also made public for the first time details of the indictment handed down against Graswald earlier this month. It includes two charges: second-degree murder “under theory of intentional murder,” which carries a minimum sentence of 15 years to life and a maximum penalty of 25 years to life, and manslaughter in the second degree, which carries a maximum penalty of five to 15 years in prison.

The indictment alleges that Graswald murdered Viafore while the two were kayaking in the Hudson River in the Cornwall–Bannerman’s Island area.

Boater phoned in sighting

Orange County Sheriff Carl DuBois said that a boater called police Saturday, May 23, around 10 a.m. to report seeing a body in the Hudson River just south of Bannerman’s Island. At the time, Orange County sheriff’s deputies were patrolling

the river not far from there in connection with graduation ceremonies being held at the U.S. Military Academy. They secured the body until New York State Police arrived on the scene.

Viafore’s body was taken to the Orange County morgue where an autopsy was performed. No details of its findings were made public at the press conference.

New York State Police Capt. Brendan Casey said that the investigation is continuing and commented that the discovery of Viafore’s body “presents different challenges for us,” although he did not elaborate.

‘Failed to render assistance’

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* reported that the district attorney alleges that Graswald removed a plug from Viafore’s kayak, causing it to fill with water, and quoted a statement from that office that she “moved the paddle away from him as he was struggling to stay afloat with water temperatures in the 40-degree range, and failed to render him assistance including timely calls for help.”

The report also indicated that Graswald made voluntary statements to investigators, including a comment that “it felt good knowing (Viafore) was going to die,” and that she had felt trapped in the relationship. It also stated that Graswald stood to benefit from Viafore’s \$250,000 life insurance policy.

Graswald remains in the Orange County Jail on a \$3 million cash bail or \$9 million bond. Westchester attorney Richard Portale is representing her.



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For Goodness Bake Raises Awareness in the Sweetest of Ways

Pop-up sale benefits Beacon's Green Teens Program

By Alison Rooney

If a recipe includes equal parts sweetness and helpfulness, resulting in something wholly positive, it must be deemed successful. These ingredients are mixed together at For Goodness Bake (FGB), a once-a-year bake sale featuring edibles donated by some of the best bakers around, all in aid of a worthy local cause, this year's being Beacon's Green Teen Community Gardening Program. Spearheaded by Beaconites Kristen Cronin and Tara Tornello, this year's edition will serve up its offerings on Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Catalyst Gallery, 137 Main St., in Beacon.

As FGB's Facebook page described the not-so-typical event: "Some of the Hudson Valley's most celebrated amateur and professional bakers and confectioners are donating their time and talents to this bake sale. A wide array of sweet and savory baked treats, confections, and vegan, gluten-free, and sugar-free items will be available."

Raising both funds and awareness for each year's designated cause is part and parcel of this pop-up, pop-over event, now in its third incarnation. It began in 2013, as a response to the diagnosis of a rare liver condition in a mutual friend's 6-month-old son, for which he had a successful transplant. "We were drumming up possible ideas, something to draw the community in and bring awareness to the disease and to the Children's Organ Transplant Association, an organization connected with it," Tornello recalled. What occurred, then called simply "Bake Sale for Baby Felix," raised \$1,500 for the



Kristen Cronin, left, and Tara Tornello, at the For Goodness Bake sale held May 2014 in Beacon

File photos by Kate Vikstrom

group and engaged over 50 local bakers, businesses and volunteers in the effort.

As the bake sale was successful, there seemed no good reason not to remount it a year later, and in May 2014, newly dubbed For Goodness Bake, it gained the support of over 100 bakers and other volunteers and doubled the funds raised to over \$3,000, this time donated to Kids R Kids, a Beacon-based, volunteer-run program that works to reduce childhood hunger by providing nourishing, healthy lunches to children in need throughout the summer months, when school-based free-and-reduced-lunch programs are closed.

The connection between local nutrition-based organizations and FGB is entirely intentional, as it is of great concern to the organizers. "Kristen and I share a common concern about food

urban youth to be effective community change-agents by immersing them in the local food system." Teens work in a vegetable garden and then sell the fruits of their labor via a mobile market, offering affordable fresh food to parts of the community that do not readily have access to healthy, locally grown produce, especially senior centers, public housing and health centers. Each year, a photography exhibit displays their experiences.

As in earlier years, FGB has been wholeheartedly supported by the Beacon community, and non-baked-goods assistance has come in the form of brand new laser-cut signage from Fabhaus; tablecloths from the Roundhouse; handmade fabric bunting banners from Blackbird Attic Boutique; window floral arrangements from Diana Mae Flowers; window display/design from Margaux Lange; and supplies, design services, fliers, decor and more from Home-spun Foods, Beth Poague, Liz Birch, P&P

Printing (in New Windsor) and the UPS Store (in Fish-kill), just to name a few.

As for the edible donations: Most offer "interesting flavors, many with fresh fruit and spices," according to Tornello. A small sampling includes pistachio brown butter doughnuts from the Darling Kitchen (Tornello's own baking business); assorted gluten-free goodies from Ella's Bellas; bacon bourbon chocolate-chip cookies from Barb's Butchery; sun-dried tomato and goat cheese turnovers from

Stacie Merrill; vegan and gluten-free Rice Krispies Treats from Kara Dean-As-sael; brownies from Judith File; banana bread mini loaves from Clarice Allee; and breads from Beacon Bread, with plenty more to come.

The bake sale is cash only, and every bit of that cash will go directly to Green Teen. If you would like to donate your baked goods — from madeleines to macarons, basically any sweet, handmade (no mixes, please) edibles for the fundraiser are still welcomed. As the organizers explained (having run out the first year, not realizing the capacity of the Beacon sweet tooth): "Once the last doughnut, cookie, or muffin has been sold, FGB closes up shop, hands over 100 percent of the proceeds to the beneficiary, and vanishes. Like superheroes, but with aprons instead of tights."

To coordinate your donation, email FGB at info@forgoodnessbake.org or call 845-243-3855. For more information, visit their website, forgoodnessbake.org, and the Facebook page. For more information about the Green Teens, visit greenteen.org.



A display of sweets at 2014's For Goodness Bake sale

insecurity, farming and just food issues in our community," Tornello explained. "We got together to brainstorm a recipient for this year, and really, it was a no-brainer, choosing Green Teens ... Green Teens has increased its work engaging teens and offering food to those who are food insecure. They're at a critical point, gaining momentum."

In fact, the bake sale is directly across from one of the Green Teens' gardens (located on the grassy hill adjacent to the Tito Santana Taqueria restaurant), and there will be a few teens helping out at the gallery as well as conducting garden tours and leading hands-on gardening activities for younger children. Helanna Bratman, Green Teens' program coordinator, will also be at the sale for the majority of the day, talking to customers about the program. An exhibit of photographs of the work the Green Teens are doing will be on display at Catalyst Gallery during the sale.

According to the Green Teen website, the Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County program "empowers

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PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE

Cabaret in the Country: *Sondheim Unplugged*
Saturday, May 30, 8 p.m.

Youth Players: *Sherlock Holmes'*
Baker Street Irregulars
June 5, 7 p.m., June 6, 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.,
June 7, 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Depot Docs: *The Hand that Feeds*
with Rachel Lears and R. Blotnick
June 12, 7:30 p.m.

Music Tracks: *Maia Sharp*
June 13, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com or call 800.838.3006
www.philipstowndepottheatre.org • 845.424.3900
Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)

The Calendar



Credenza by Ptacek Homes

Photo by Robert Rodriguez Jr.

Ptacek Home

Craftsmanship in design and construction

By Alison Rooney

Tom Ptacek feels some people have an aptitude for “making stuff.” “We’re born that way, and there’s a type of intelligence we have in which things like thinking three-dimensionally come much more easily; you envision it and you bring it out — it becomes what you thought it would be.”

Ptacek, a master homebuilder who has a sideline business in furniture and homeware design, doesn’t always follow “the standards,” and that is intentional. “We come up with solutions for building problems; we make little inventions every day, solving and understanding the

materials — particularly wood — the give of it, the contraction.” Bringing craftsmanship into contemporary design is a hallmark of both Ptacek’s general contracting business, which he has operated for over 25 years, and his much newer venture into furniture and home accessories design. Ptacek, who grew up in the Milwaukee suburbs, one of nine children, calls himself “self-taught, but ‘society-taught.” He explained: “My grandfather was a builder, but he was too old for me to observe. As a child I made stuff constantly: a lot of crafts, paintings, drawings ... I fixed bicycle frames, built a kayak — an endless series of projects. I remember making a large Pabst can

out of papier-mâché, which won best in show when I was in seventh grade. With that size family, if you wanted to do something, you had to figure out a way to pay for it.”

Although Ptacek studied wildlife ecology at the University of Wisconsin, he continued with art classes and, after graduating, went to art school simply to explore, not to earn another degree. Coming east to attend the Rhode Island School of Design one summer, he began working as a carpenter to support himself. Taking to it, he then headed north to the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, where, for the first time, he

(Continued on page 11)



Ptacek Homes’ ‘rusted table’

Photo by Tom Ptacek



Members of the New Amsterdam Singers surround Music Director Clara Longstreth (in long dress).

Photo by Richard Termine

New Amsterdam Singers Bring Program of Contemporary Music to the Chapel

Garrison’s Clara Longstreth is music director

By Alison Rooney

One of New York City’s pre-eminent avocational choruses, the New Amsterdam Singers (NAS) is nearing its 50th birthday. And for all of those years, Clara Longstreth, a part-time Garrison resident, has been guiding in some capacity and serving as

music director since 1968. The chorus, by nature of its size — 70 strong in the main group, 26 in the chamber chorus, specializes in double chorus repertoire, sometimes using echoing effects, as well as a cappella material, and has a reputation for performing music written by contemporary composers in addition to much by Bach and Brahms. NAS will return to the Chapel Restoration this Sunday, May 30, at 4 p.m. for a free concert. This marks their third appearance there, and the first in six years.

The Chapel Restoration program will consist of the works of several contemporary composers, including musical settings by Paul Hindemith and Morten Lauridsen of poems by Rainer Maria Rilke, James Agee and Robert Graves; choruses from the opera *Tess* by Matthew Harris with text by Thomas Hardy (“lovely and tuneful,” Longstreth says); and a new work by Ben Moore, *Dear Theo*, based on letters of Vincent van Gogh. Moore, also a painter, “revered van Gogh,” according to Longstreth, “and read the book of letters he wrote to his brother, Theo. Very moved, he has pulled together pieces of the letters and based this piece on selected passages. It has beautiful melodies and juicy harmonies.”

Many of NAS’ selections are chosen from the numerous submissions Longstreth receives and reviews. She favors doing New York premieres (of which Moore’s is one) or complete premieres. In this program there will also be a spiritual by Dominick (To page 11)



Tom Ptacek

Photo by A. Rooney

COLD SPRING ARTS FIRST FRIDAYS

June 5 Is First Friday in Cold Spring

Gallery openings, shopping, dining specials

First Friday is ready for summer on Cold Spring’s Main Street, with special events at participating merchants, gallery openings and music performances. Discount coupons to the restaurants are available at participating merchants.

The June 5 First Friday includes specials at the following shops, galleries and restaurants:

Old Souls will have a photo exhibition of James Carroll’s recent research-based fly-fishing trip to Cuba in the back courtyard. The General Store will host Puzzle Under the Stars in the Barn, free for everyone and snacks will be provided. Swing invites children (To page 11)

The Calendar

For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info.
Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

Kids & Community

Relay for Life of Fishkill

6 - 9 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-216-1139 | relayforlife.org/fishkillny

Desmond-Fish Library Associates Dinner

7 p.m. The Roundhouse at Beacon Falls
2 E. Main St., Beacon
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org/dinner

Film & Theater

International Film Night: *What's in a Name?* (France, 2012)

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

Music

Tripe

7 p.m. The Pantry
3091 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-265-2840 | thepantrycs.com

Stained Grass Window (Bluegrass)

7:30 p.m. Christ Episcopal Church
20 Carroll St., Poughkeepsie | hvbluegrass.org

Josh Ritter

8 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
13 Main St., Tarrytown
914-631-3390, ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org

Steve Chizmadia and the Accidental Gypsies

8 p.m. BeanRunner Café
201 S. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-1701 | beanrunnercafe.com

C.J. Chenier & the Red Hot Louisiana Band

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

Electric Beef

9 p.m. Whistling Willie's
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Marco Cappelli's Italian Surf Academy

9 p.m. Quinn's
330 Main St., Beacon
845-831-8065 | quinnnsbeacon.com

The Dave Merrill Experiment

9:30 p.m. Max's on Main
246 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

The High East

9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Little Games

10 p.m. The Hudson Room
23 S. Division St., Peekskill
914-788-3663 | hudsonroom.com

SATURDAY, MAY 30

Kids & Community

Annual Yard Sale

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Van Wyck Museum
504 Route 9, Fishkill
845-896-9560 | fishkillhistoricalsociety.org

Kayak Tours

8 a.m. Destination Waterfall
10:30 a.m. Bannerman Castle
Noon. Nature Tour
Hudson River Expeditions
14 Market St., Cold Spring
845-809-5935 | hudsonriverexpeditions.com

Cold Spring Farmers' Market

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison | csfarmmarket.org

Outrun Autism 5K Run/Walk

9 a.m. Haldane School
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
runsignup.com/Race/NY/ColdSpring/OutrunAutism

Garrison School Forest Hike

10 a.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison
917-685-2020 | terrafloratrish@gmail.com

History Walk With Karen Gell

10 a.m. Beacon Institute
199 Main St., Beacon
845-838-1600 | bire.org

Millbrook Literary Festival

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Millbrook Free Library
3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook
845-677-5857 | millbrookbookfestival.org

Revolutionary Era Blacksmithing

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site
690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery
845-446-2134 | nysparks.com

Pollination Palooza

10:30 a.m. Bear Mountain State Park
55 Hessian Drive, Bear Mountain
845-786-2731 | nysparks.com/parks/13

Cruise Tour of Bannerman Island

11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Beacon dock
800-979-3370 | zerve.com/bannerman

African Drum Experience (ages 8+)

1:30 p.m. Beacon Recreation Center
23 W. Center St., Beacon
845-765-8440 | cityofbeacon.org

Purple Heart Monument Dedication

3 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park
301 Gipsy Trail Road, Carmel
845-808-1620 | putnamcountynyny.gov

Health & Fitness

Move, Draw, Dance: Shoulders and Arms

10 a.m. Center for Creative Education
464 Main St., Beacon
845-264-9565 | ItsAllAboutMovement.com

Art & Design

Sanctuary Tour With Stephen Talasnik

1:30 p.m. Maniotoga
584 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3812 | visitmaniotoga.org

Robert Irwin and Director Jessica Morgan

2 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

Garrison Art Center Reception

5 - 7 p.m. Jackie Shatz: *Figurine*
Susan Knight and Suzan Shutan: *Watered Down*
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Moonlit Walking Tour

9 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

Film & Theater

Simple Gifts: A Treasury of American Music

2 & 6:30 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-831-1870 | balletartsstudio.com

Craig Lucas's Reckless

8 p.m. Lake Carmel Arts Center
640 Route 52, Kent Lakes
845 228-2685 | artsonthelake.org

Emotional Creature

8 p.m. Embark
925 South St., Peekskill
917-671-7772 | facebook.com/embarkpeekskill

Music

East Coast Jazz Trio

7 p.m. The Pantry
See details under Friday.

Taconic Opera: *Daniel*, by Dan Montez

7:30 p.m. Ossining United Methodist Church
1 Emwilton Place, Ossining
855-886-7372 | taconicopera.org

Cabaret in the Country: Sondheim Unplugged

8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Live Jazz

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

Southside Johnny and the Ashbury Jukes

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Antoinette Montague (Jazz)

8 p.m. BeanRunner Café
See details under Friday.

Live Music

8 p.m. The Depot Restaurant
1 Depot Square, Cold Spring
845-265-5000 | coldspringdepot.com

Stanley Jordan

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
See details under Friday.

Daddy Long Legs / Ben Collier

9 p.m. Quinn's
See details under Friday.

Last-Minute Soulmates

9 p.m. Whistling Willie's
See details under Friday.

Beki Brindle and the Hotheads

9:30 p.m. Max's on Main
See details under Friday.

Jonny Rosch and Friends

10 p.m. The Hudson Room
See details under Friday.

The Jukes

11:30 p.m. 12 Grapes
See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures

All-Day Writing Workshop With Susan Wallach

9:45 a.m. Botsford Briar
High Street, Beacon
Email susanwallach1@verizon.net

SUNDAY, MAY 31

Desmond-Fish Library closed on Sundays through summer

Dia:Beacon closed today

Kids & Community

Beacon Flea Market

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

Kayak Tours

9 a.m. Destination Waterfall
Noon. One Way to Peekskill
Hudson River Expeditions
See details under Saturday.

Voluntary Vessel Inspections

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cold Spring Boat Club
5 New St., Cold Spring
1 - 4 p.m. Oscawana Lake Marina
96 Dunderberg Road, Putnam Valley
845-225-4300, ext. 266 | putnamsheriff.com

Family Fest

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-463-5447 | dutchesstourism.com

Beacon Farmers Market

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9325 | beaconfarmersmarket.org

Spring Benefit

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

Cruise Tour of Bannerman Island

11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Beacon dock
800-979-3370 | zerve.com/bannerman



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Beacon Sloop Club

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Sunday, June 14 (rain or shine), Noon - 5 p.m.
Pete & Toshi Seeger Park, 1 Flynn Drive, Beacon, N.Y.
Free Admission

Fresh-made Strawberry shortcake, smoothies, chocolate strawberries & more. Live music stages. Environmental displays, free trout-tasting. Many free kids' activities.

Info: (845) 463-4660 or (845) 831-6962
www.beaconsloopclub.org



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Fareground Community Pop-up Cafe
Noon - 3 p.m. Community Resource Center
23 W. Center St., Beacon
facebook.com/fareground

Improving Community-Police Relations
12:30 - 3 p.m. Memorial Building/Bingo Hall
413 Main St., Beacon
bit.ly/BeaconSpeaksOut

Children and Families: Discover di Suvero
1 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

Owls Presentation
2 p.m. Hubbard Lodge
2880 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-225-7207 | nysparks.com

Art & Design

Brandon Ballengee: Breathing Space for the Hudson
3 - 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Film & Theater

World Circus (Documentary, 2013)
2 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Emotional Creature
3 p.m. Embark | See details under Saturday.

Music

Taconic Opera: Daniel, by Dan Montez
3 p.m. Presbyterian Church
39 N. Broadway, White Plains
855-886-7372 | taconicopera.org

New Amsterdam Singers
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St., Cold Spring
845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

Susan Fisher Wright
4 - 6 p.m. BeanRunner Café
See details under Friday.

Ottmar Leibert & Luna Negra
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
See details under Friday.

Rising Lion
9 p.m. Quinn's
See details under Friday.

MONDAY, JUNE 1

Kids & Community

Babies and Books Early Literacy Program
11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Chef Stef: Quiche and Tart Lunch (Class)
11:30 a.m. & 7:15 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | chefstefny.com

Summer Basketball Try-outs
6 p.m. Ages 13-15 | 7:30 p.m. Ages 16-18
Beacon High School
Education Drive, Beacon | cityofbeacon.org

Health & Fitness

Yoga With a View
6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Art & Design

Robert Irwin: Excursus: Homage to the Square³ (Opens)
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

Music

Joe Fiedler Organ Trio (Jazz)
8 p.m. Quinn's
See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures

Book Club: In the Time of the Butterflies
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

Kids & Community

Howland Public Library
10 a.m. Knitting Club
10:30 a.m. Baby & Me (ages 0-2)
4 p.m. Crazy 8s Math Club (grades 3-4)
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Desmond-Fish Library
Noon. Highland Knitters
4 p.m. Kids' Craft Hour
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Clay/Ceramics (grades K-3) (First Session)
3:45 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Knife Skills Education (Class)
7 p.m. The Beacon Pantry
382 Main St, Beacon | chefstefny.com

Art & Design

Adult Clay/Ceramics (First Session)
6 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Film & Theater

ROH Ballet: La Fille Mal Gardée
2 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center
364 Manville Road, Pleasantville
914-747-5555 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Meetings & Lectures

Arts Booster Club
3:15 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

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

Digital Salon
7 p.m. Beahive Beacon
291 Main St., Beacon
845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com

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

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

Ham Radio Club
7 p.m. East Fishkill Library
348 Route 376, Hopewell Junction
914-582-3744 | qsysociety.org

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Howland Library closes at noon

Kids & Community

Annual Seniors' Picnic
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park
201 Gipsy Trail Road, Carmel
845-808-1700 | putnamcountyny.com/OSR

Desmond-Fish Library
10:15 a.m. Music & Motion for Toddlers
1:30 p.m. Preschool Story Hour
3:30 p.m. Lego Builders Club
See details under Tuesday.

Toddler Tales (ages 2-3)
10:30 a.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Tuesday.

Nuts for Cooking (Class)
5 p.m. Dempsey House
1992 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-734-3780 | hvhc.org/events

African Drum Experience (ages 8+)
6 p.m. University Settlement Camp
724 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
845-765-8440 | cityofbeacon.org

Clearwater Public Sail
6 p.m. Cold Spring waterfront
845-265-8080 | clearwater.org

Beacon Summer Basketball Tryouts
6 p.m. Ages 6-9 | 7 p.m. Ages 10-12
See details under Monday.

Health & Fitness

CPR for Lifeguards
6 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
17 Old Main St., Fishkill
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com

Film & Theater

The Meditative Life Documentary Series (Opens)
7:30 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center
364 Manville Road, Pleasantville
914-747-5555 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Meetings & Lectures

AARP Driver Safety Program
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Putnam Hospital Center
670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel
845-808-1700 | health-quest.org

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

(To page 10)

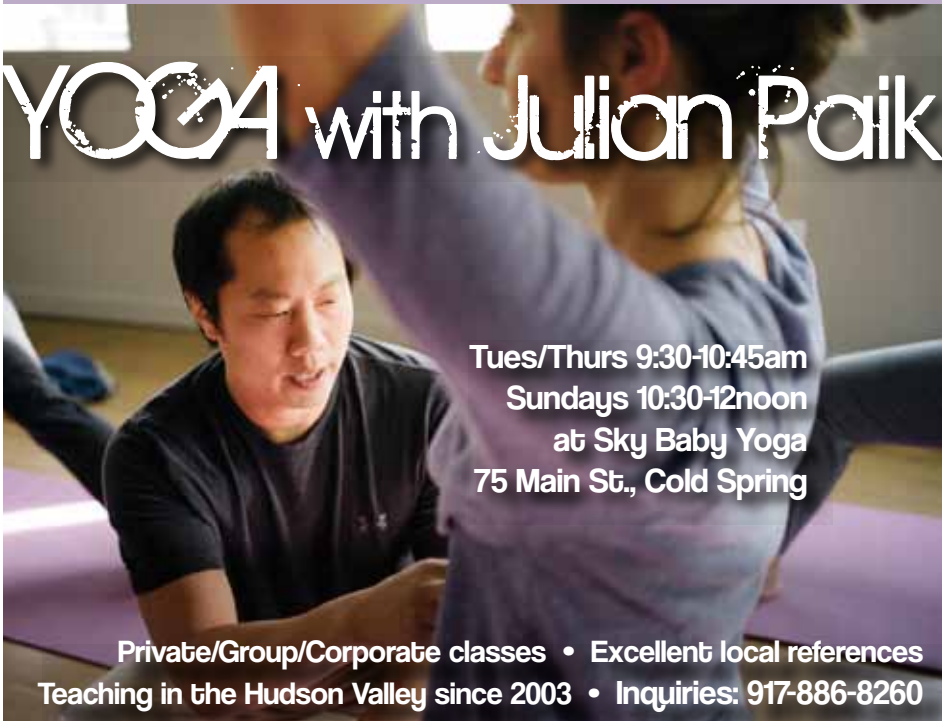


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New Amsterdam Singers Bring Contemporary Music to the Chapel *(from page 7)*

Argento and a selection of material from Broadway musicals, including songs by Stephen Sondheim and Cy Coleman.

Longstreth, who attended Radcliffe in the days “when women in the chorus were required to put on lipstick,” didn’t major in music there, and in fact taught before returning to Harvard in her late 30s to obtain a second bachelor’s degree, this time in music. She followed that up with two years at Juilliard, obtaining a post-graduate diploma. “At Harvard,” she recalled, “my heart was going more and more towards music. I didn’t think of myself as a professional for a while, though.” Coming from a family of amateur musicians, she describes her childhood as one with “much singing of rounds in the car, and always Christmas caroling.”

Longstreth began at NAS as assistant conductor and felt for a period of time that “the chorus was improving faster than I was improving.” Still, she caught up and for decades now has steered the musical ship. She auditions the singers, many of whom remain for decades, though there are always yearly openings for all vocal parts. They rehearse weekly — homework required — taking months to put each of several yearly programs together. Longstreth also, critically, chooses the repertoire.

The singers, the majority non-professionals, come from all over the tri-state metropolitan area and range in age from early 20s to over 80 — Longstreth noted that “altos and basses can keep going longer.” In addition, Longstreth has guest-conducted around the metropolitan area at Avery Fisher Hall and Symphony Space, for the New York Chorale Society, the Riverside Choir (for a performance with the Limon Dance Company), the Juilliard Chorus and Orchestra and the Mannes College Orchestra.

By and large, NAS performs three different programs a year, beginning with a holiday series in December, continuing with two concerts in March and concluding the season in May; this concert will be a prelude to that one. All take place at different churches in Manhattan, chosen both for acoustics and their physical capacity to hold such a large number of singers.

NAS has premiered many works and performed with the New York Philharmonic under Leonard Bernstein, at Alice Tully Hall as a guest of Clarion Concerts, with the American-Russian Youth Orchestra under Leon Botstein at Tanglewood and Carnegie Hall, and has appeared with Anonymous Four and the Concordia Orchestra in Richard Einhorn's *Voices of Light* at Avery Fisher Hall, under Marin Alsop. The chorus also regularly tours internationally and has performed at the Irakleion Festival in Greece; the Granada Festival in Spain; the International Choral Festival at Miedzyzdroje, Poland; the Festival of the Algarve in Portugal; Les Chorégies d'Orange in France; and the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales and in concert in Europe and Latin America. They will be returning to Greece in July.

Free parking is available at the Cold Spring Metro-North parking lot, located just across from the Chapel. For more information, visit chapelrestoration.org and nasingers.org.

Ptacek Home *(from page 7)*

met — and learned from — local woodsmen and craftsmen.

Moving to a pre-hipster Williamsburg, Brooklyn, “I immediately had to pay a city rent,” he related, “so I started making stuff like cabinetry right away, with my older brother. We answered ‘We can do that’ to basically any request, whether we knew how to or not! At that point we were just doing strictly what people wanted; I didn’t have ‘a style’ back then. It was usually driven by an architect, the owner or a designer — I just suggested materials ... We did theater sets, apartment renovations, anything.”

Ptacek said he has some regrets over not ever having worked under a master craftsman. “I learned a lot through the school of hard knocks, and I probably could have fast-tracked if I had gone about it a different way. But I used to be too cocky to be an apprentice; now I’m more humble and I would be receptive to it.”

Currently, Ptacek enjoys keeping up with the pace of new technology. "Although I work for clients in many different styles, I'm never a believer in 'old world is the only way,'" he said. "It's not my goal. I like working with the newest finishes, with different ways of cutting wood, and there's nothing wrong with being up to speed on the latest techniques."

Ptacek's contracting and design work, based in Garrison, has taken him all over the New York metropolitan region, from Westchester to the Catskills, where a recent large-scale project, completely in the contemporary vein, just wrapped after a year and a half. Ptacek has also worked locally — he was the general contractor on the Manitou School, extensively renovating the old National Register of Historic Places-listed Plumbush Inn, built in 1867.

A natural forager for materials to reuse, refurbish and create with, Ptacek Homes has its own tree-milling and molding equipment. With each project, Ptacek directs the job, working with his crew. He described his role as “soup to nuts, which includes the finishes and the interiors but also things like putting in boilers, HVAC, glassware, and I add the craftsmanship that goes along with the project — why not be a builder and direct all that? I like being the lead guy who sees the whole project come together. It’s satisfying; there’s immediate gratification in the form of oohs and ahs. It’s interesting, in interviews and polls of ‘happy careers,’ there’s a lot of contentment in my business.”

Ptacek is cognizant of the responsibility of passing along his expertise to the next generation. "With the guys I work with, I automatically teach them, plus I usually have summer interns, too. I stress that none of us, including me, should shy away from the heavy lifting part of things. We all do it, and then all get to do something interesting as well," he explained.

Ptacek Home's expansion into furniture was driven by the stalled economy of not too long ago. "The phone wasn't ringing much in 2008, '09, and I thought, 'Why not make something you like and see how it goes?'" he said. "It's a recent passion, my own expression and outlet."

The furniture line consists of large and small pieces, including bedroom sets, credenzas, desks, benches, stand-alone cabinets (including a nifty wine-storage unit with pullout drawers for each bottle), countertops, built-ins and both individual and multipart planters.

Ptacek came to this on his own. “I wasn’t steeped in the history of furniture — I was more into architecture. I started out as a naïf in furniture making, then began looking at it a lot and feeling drawn to contemporary furniture, and I would say my style is inspired by international modernism and mid-century modernism. I don’t feel as if certain styles are the only styles that can be done. I respect those who do any particular style well, not which style it is.”

Recently an exhibitor at the Architectural Digest Home Design Show and the International Contemporary Furniture Fair, Ptacek Home is gearing up to focus on marketing the furniture line more in the near future.

Ptacek Homes' designs, in the form of handmade display tables and planters, will be part of the Made in Philpstown event taking place over Labor Day weekend; he will likely be teaching a workshop in conjunction with it as well.


For more information and images of the interior and furniture designs, visit ptacekhome.com or the Facebook page, or phone 845-424-6112.

June 5 Is First Friday in Cold Spring *(from page 7)*

to come in and create a piece of art to be displayed in the store. The Gift Hut is offering 10 percent off Melissa and Doug products from 6 to 8 p.m., June 5 only.

Gallery 66 NY will open its *Color Compass* exhibit (see story p. 12). Buster Levi Gallery opens with the colorful works of Ann Provan and Ursula Schneider. Open Concept Gallery features local artist Patti Villanova and her silk scarves.

Coupons will be available at participating merchants for discounts at Cathryn's Tuscan Grill, Le Bouchon, Riverview Restaurant and Silver Spoon.



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Kurt Rhoads in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, 2014 Photo: William Marsh



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NY Alert

For the latest updates on weather-related or other emergencies, sign up at **www.nyalert.gov**.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bach Concert Closes the Gordon Stewart Series

June 14 performance benefits St. Mary's Church

The third and final concert in a series of chamber music concerts to benefit the Episcopal Church of St. Mary-in-the-Highlands will be presented on June 14 at 4 p.m. The program features music for solo stringed instruments and trio selections by Johann Sebastian Bach performed by Krista Bennion Feeney, violin, Rachel Evans, viola, and bassist John Feeney.

This program includes Bach's Partita in D Minor for solo violin, which includes his beloved *Chaconne*, the exuberant G Major cello suite rarely heard in concert on viola, as well as trios for violin, viola and bass.

Krista Bennion Feeney is concertmaster and John Feeney is principal double bass of the Orchestra of St. Luke's in New York City. Evans studied baroque violin and viola in Germany in 1995-96 and has played with many of the leading baroque ensembles in the U.S. and Europe.

General admission tickets, \$20, are available at brownpapertickets.com. Student tickets are \$5, and children under 18 are welcome free of charge. Supporter tickets at \$100 and sponsor tickets at \$250 include preferred seating and acknowledgement in the program and can be purchased by mailing a check to St. Mary's, 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

For more information, call 845-265-2539 or visit stmaryscoldspring.org.

Military Families Get Free Boscobel Admission

Program runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day

Active-duty military and their families can enjoy free admission at Boscobel House and Gardens, plus more than 2,000 other museums nationwide, from Memorial Day until Labor Day through the Blue Star Museums program.

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and more than 2,000 museums across the U.S. For a complete list of participating museums, visit arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Blue Star Families is a national, non-profit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military families. In addition to morale and empowerment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life and works to make military life more sus-

tainable through a variety of programs and partnerships.

To receive free admission at Boscobel, military families must present a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active duty military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard) and National Guard and Reserve members.

Boscobel is a historic house museum and cultural venue located on Route 9D in Garrison just one mile south of Cold Spring. From April through October, hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (first tour at 10 a.m.; last at 4 p.m.). Boscobel is open every day except Tuesdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more information, visit boscobel.org or call 845-265-3638.

Youth Players Assist Sherlock Holmes at Depot

Burgeoning local actors in The Baker Street Irregulars

The Depot Theatre Youth Players will be entertaining the young and old under the big top in their presentation of *The Baker Street Irregulars* this June.

First appearing in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's original Sherlock Holmes story *A Study in Scarlet*, the Baker Street Irregulars are a group of street children (played by Anna Rowe, Sofia Wallis, Sam Bates, Daniel Phillips, Lorelei McCarthy, Grace Vogel and Gael Frezza), led by Wiggins (Adam Cabo), who assist Holmes from time to time.

This time around, they may be the only hope of the Scotland Yard's Lestrade and his men (Owen Edelson, Maya Gelber, Charlie Keegan). Upon investigating a mysterious murder at Wainwright's Circus, Sherlock Holmes mysteriously falls gravely ill and is unable to perform his usual duties. The Irregulars show up and get the low-down from the apprentice acrobats (Sophie Sabin, April Ransom, Fiona Shanahan, Kate Meisner), fortune tellers (Joia McKelvey and Hannah Benson), clowns (Gabriel Berger, Jude Columb,



Youth players rehearse Baker Street Irregulars

Senan Scott-Hamblen), animal trainers (Aurora McKee, Alex Danilov, Kieran Warger, Lola Ritell) and other entertainers (Mason Sharpley, Chloe Rowe, Kat Buslovich, Maia Keller, and Raunaq Kapoor), as well as the circus owner (Sebastian Scott-Hamblen) and his daughters (Josephine Russell and May Columb). With their snooping and clever detective work, the Baker Street Irregulars solve the crime and discover the mystery behind Sherlock's sudden illness.

These talented young actors are led by directors Fay Gerbes Pacht and Thomas Kelley. Performances are Friday, June 5, at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 6, at 4 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, June 7, at 1 and 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at brownpapertickets.com. Tickets are limited, so reserve while seats are still available. For information, call 845-424-3900.

Jesus Christ Superstar Auditions at Depot

Appointments on June 13-14 for fall performances

Auditions for Philipstown Depot Theatre's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* will be held on Saturday, June 13, at 10 a.m. to noon and on Sunday, June 14, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Philipstown Depot Theatre, 10 Garrison's Landing in Garrison.

The show will run Fridays through Sundays from Oct. 23 to Nov. 15. To schedule an audition, email Director Linda Speziale at lindspez@aol.com.

The parts up for audition are Jesus Christ, tenor; Judas Iscariot, tenor; Mary Magdalene, mezzo-soprano; Pontius Pilate, baritenor; Caia-phas, bass; Annas, countertenor; Peter, baritone; Simon Zealotes, tenor; King Herod, tenor; and female backup singers as the "Soul Girls," disciples, priests, lepers and merchants.

For a detailed list of parts, visit philipstowndepottheatre.org.

Color Compass Opens at Gallery 66 NY June 5

Features works by Rebecca Darlington and Jane Marcy

Color Compass, a gallery show by Rebecca Darlington and Jane Marcy, will open with an artists' reception on First Friday, June 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Gallery 66 NY, at 66 Main St. The show will be on view from June 5 to 28. The gallery is open every Thursday through Sunday, noon until 6 p.m.

Hudson Valley artist Darlington's practice dissects notions of belonging, culture, identity, decoration and production by distilling these elements to their essence. Her ecological-topography work echoes human relations and presents simple linked figures in elegant arrangements. Her paintings, installations and sculptures all examine the multiple connections that form a landscape in people's lives.



Love Is a Story by Rebecca Darlington

Photo courtesy of Gallery 66 NY

Marcy's visual compass points to the spirit of land and water and to the underlying mystery of nature. Her images are empty of human presence and yet inspire longing for communion. The textural and soft painterly quality of her photographs evoke a place in between reality and dreams. Many of her images were photographed here in the Hudson Valley.

Gallery C will feature Dawn Weygant in *Going Places*. Weygant is an artist attending the Kansas City Art Institute and currently interning with Darlington. This work is an exploratory combination of her painting and drawing skills. *Going Places* refers directly to the journey of the artist's life and the new opportunities that humans all must face.

Bob Madden's *In the Natural World* exhibits in the Sculpture Garden. Madden's work has been previously exhibited indoors. In larger two-dimensional pieces inspired by nature from granite and marble, his new works have been created specifically for outdoors.

For more information, call 845-809-5838 or visit gallery66ny.com.

Army Birthday Concert by West Point Band

June 13 performance includes streamers, cake

The West Point Band will kick off its Music Under the Stars concert series with a performance in honor of the 240th Army birthday on Saturday, June 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Trophy Point Amphitheater at West Point. This concert is free and open to the public.

The band's commander, Lt. Col. Andrew Esch, will take the podium and lead the band in a program celebrating the Army's birthday. In keeping with tradition, the concert will feature a streamer ceremony commemorating the campaigns fought by soldiers throughout the nation's history, and will close with a cake cutting.

For concert information, cancellations and updates, call 845-938-2617 or visit westpointband.com. West Point Band news can also be found by following it on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

June 7 Is Big Truck Day at Butterfield Library

Kids climb on trucks and enjoy activities from 11 to 2

The Butterfield Library will host the 10th Annual Big Truck Day on Sunday, June 7, (Continued on next page)

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An Early Start for Tick Season *(from page 1)*

for nymph ticks, and although this season is not predicted to be as particularly bad as previous seasons, it's not because of the brutally cold winter the Hudson Valley just endured.

"There is no strong correlation between winter cold and tick population," said Ostfeld, in response to the oft-repeated mantra that harsh winters keep tick populations in check.

"Ticks are exquisitely well adapted to dealing with whatever Mother Nature throws at them. They don't seem to care if it's super cold in the winter or super hot in the summer." Ostfeld also noted that some studies seem to suggest that heavy snow cover might actually be good for tick populations, as it insulates and protects them.

Instead, the best indicator of how robust the seasonal deer tick population is going to be depends on the population of another animal, and it's not the one you think it is.

"A lot of folks assume that the amount of tick-borne illnesses is related to how many deer there are, but that's not supported by most studies," he said. "The name 'deer tick' is an obsolete name; the correct name is 'black-legged tick.' 'Deer tick' is easier to say, so that's what most people still call it, but that perpetuates the notion that deer are the most important player in this." Instead, the data that Ostfeld and his colleagues have been collecting for over 20 years suggests that it's the size of the white-footed mice population the summer before that indicates how robust the tick population will be the following year. White-footed mice are one of the primary reservoirs for the spirochete that causes Lyme disease. Last year, the population of white-footed mice in the Hudson Valley was rather low.

But that doesn't mean people should get complacent. Dutchess and Putnam counties are still hot spots for tick-borne illnesses. Public health officials warn that

there is no such thing as a low-risk year and that the numbers of reported cases of tick-borne illnesses in the area are not an accurate reflection on their prevalence throughout the Hudson Valley.

Rachel Gresse, a senior public health nurse for the Putnam County Department of Health, noted that almost all reported cases of tick-borne illnesses come in as a result of a positive lab test. But the lab test for Lyme disease is only about 50 to 60 percent accurate, and many Lyme disease patients are never tested at all.

"If you go to a health care provider and they diagnose you with erythema migrans," said Gresse, referring to the clinical name of the familiar "bull's-eye rash" that accompanies many cases of Lyme disease, "then that is a confirmed case. But I don't hear about it because I don't get a lab report. They won't test the patient; they'll just treat them." Over the past few years, she's been reaching out to health care providers in the area and asking them to report how many bull's-eye rashes they've been diagnosing without running lab tests.


And in some cases, the weather itself may affect how many cases of tick-borne illness occur.

"When we have one of those summers in which it rains every weekend, then people aren't going outside as much, so they're not getting bit," noted Andrew Rotans,

a senior public health advisor with the Dutchess County Department of Health.

So until the nymphal ticks become dormant in early July, residents of the Mid-Hudson Valley should continue to take precautionary measures. Ostfeld urged anyone going outdoors to pay particular attention to their shoes and socks. "The place where ticks are laying low, waiting for you to walk by, is either on the ground or on very low-lying vegetation, no more than a couple of inches above the ground," he said. "A lot of people think that ticks can fly or jump or hop or fall out of trees, but none of that is true. So if people focus their repellent on their shoes and socks, they'll help themselves out a lot." Ostfeld recommends using insect repellents with DEET or picaridin, the latter of which is applied to clothes instead of skin. He also noted that oil of lemon eucalyptus has shown to be effective to a somewhat lesser degree.

And as Kristine Boyle, a public health educator for the Putnam County Department of Health, warned, routine tick checks should be done even by those who aren't going outside. Ticks can easily hitch a ride inside on pets or a child's backpack and find their way to you. "Check in uncommon places," she said. "On your head, behind your knees, behind your ears. They might sound like weird places, but ticks don't care. They'll lodge anywhere."



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Roots and Shoots:

Poison Ivy

By Pamela Doan

It seems like most of my conversations lately involve either ticks or poison ivy. They both seem to be prolific this spring. They have a lot in common, too. Both are unwanted, can cause major lingering health problems and can be difficult to manage in the home landscape.

Personally, I've had both Lyme disease and a maddening rash from poison ivy in the past few years, and yes, it is horrible and makes you want to stay indoors or cover up in a hazmat suit while gardening. Since neither choice is viable, here are some tips for managing poison ivy.

Beware of easy fixes. In our rush to find a solution that's simple and effective, dousing the lawn with pesticides and herbicides might seem like the best choice, but there's more to consider.

During my master gardener training, I learned two things about poison ivy that made me both awestruck by it and afraid for the future. First, in tests conducted by Cornell University researchers, poison ivy was one of the plants that loved an atmosphere with higher carbon levels. That means as carbon continues to build up around our planet, poison ivy is going to thrive. It can grow bigger and faster and spread aggressively. Very bad news!

The second thing that terrified me was discovering that the thick, furry vines I noticed twining around tree trunks was poison ivy. The vine can reach the top of a tree, and any contact with it, even in winter, can cause the rash. Even if the vine is dead, the oil that causes irritation, urushiol, is still active for years.

Managing poison ivy in the yard begins with be-

ing able to identify it. I learned a rhyme as a child that has stuck with me, and we probably all know it: "Leaves of three, let it be." Young plants like wild raspberry in the spring can look similar. Poison ivy also likes to grow around other vines like the native Virginia creeper and can hide effectively among other weeds, too.

Poison ivy has a woody stem, and the leaves can look glossy. The leaves are smooth-edged and can be green in summer and reddish purple in the spring and fall. It never has thorns. The vine looks fuzzy. In our area, poison ivy can be a shrub, vine or ground cover.

Be vigilant about locating poison ivy in the spring when it first begins growing. Taking care of a 2-inch plant is a lot easier than trying to wrangle a vine off a fence or tree. Hand-pulling it at this stage is a good option. Take care to pull it out by the root; if you don't get it all, it will come right back. Cutting it back won't kill it, and then you'll be faced with the challenge of getting the oil off lawnmower blades or a weed whacker. Whatever touches the plant can have urushiol on it, and anything it comes in contact with can be affected.

Wipe down tools that touch the plant — a shovel, trowel, blades — with water and alcohol, being careful not to touch it with exposed skin. I read a tip in a magazine to wear plastic bags over thick rubber gloves. The bags that newspapers are delivered in when it's raining work well for this. The gloves protect your skin in case the bag tears, and the bag can be thrown directly in the trash afterward.

For large patches of poison ivy that are more challenging to manage, you could consider hiring a professional to take care of it for a fee. Some companies will dig it out and dispose of it and others will use herbicides. Roundup is the commercial name of glyphosate, a chemical made by Monsanto that is highly controversial and



Poison ivy isn't always a vine. It can grow as ground cover or a shrub, too.

Photo by P. Doan

widely used. It can be purchased at most landscape centers and is a systemic, nondiscriminating herbicide.

Sprayed on the leaves of any plant or tree, Roundup will kill. If you are trying to hit the poison ivy and accidentally spray the lilac bush, both will die, so it has consequences. Applied according to the directions, however, it can be used safely on a small scale in the yard. Applied incorrectly and used heavily, it can run off into waterways and soak into soil, and the World Health Organization has raised concerns about its carcinogenic properties for humans. Be very cautious about using it and consider it a last resort for controlling any unwanted plants, not just poison ivy.

The Northern Water Snake



A Northern water snake ("Nerodia sipedon") basks in the sun on a rock below the Indian Brook waterfall on a recent quiet weekday. Nonpoisonous, Northern water snakes range from 20 to 53 inches (nearly 4.5 feet) in length. Dwelling in marshes, ponds, streams and rivers, they feed on minnows and little fish, frogs, young turtles, crustaceans, salamanders and – at times – small mammals. Although prone to flee if possible, they can strike repeatedly if bothered and cornered, with a bite that can produce intense bleeding.

Photo by Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong



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Sports

Haldane Track and Field Highlights

Blue Devils medal in Class C Championships at Vahalla

By Peter Farrell

The Lady Blue Devils finished third overall with 60 points, the highest girls’ team score finish at Class C. The boys finished tied for seventh with 30 points. Coach AJ McConville commented, “Great performances across the board as we prepare to send 21 athletes between individual events and relays to state qualifiers on May 28–29 at White Plains High School.”

Class C Championships Highlights			
Athletes	Event	Time	Comments
Abbey Stowell Adele Westerhuis Michaela Khadabux Marina Martin	4x100	53.38	Haldane record Third place
Kaitlyn Philips	3000	11:10.62	Haldane record Third place
Ruby McEwen	1500	5:04.27	Haldane record Fifth place
Kate Dwyer Taylor Farrell Ashley Haines Maura Kane-Seitz	4x800	10:47.18	Second place
Adele Westerhuis	Discus	78-1	Second place
Abbey Stowell	Shot put	27-9	Third place
Nick Farrell	1600m	4:34.8	Third place
Jonathan Clemente	800	2:05.19	Third place
Trevor Van Brunt Jonathan Clemente John Swartzwelder Corbett Francis	4x400	3:41.54	Third place



Haldane athletes Nolan Shea, front, and John Swartzwelder, rear, race in the 800-meter event in the Class C Championships at Valhalla May 22.

Photo by P. Farrell



Above, Hunter Erickson delivers a pitch for the Mets. (Photo by Lee Erickson) Left, the Philipstown Highlanders third- and fourth-grade Lacrosse team defends against Carmel in a 9-4 loss. (Photo by Kim Giachinta)



2015 Memorial Day Parade

Gathers Locals for March up Main

Community honors heroes

By Clayton Smith

On Monday, May 25, Cold Spring was flooded with excitement and patriotism as residents came together to make the annual Memorial Day Parade through the village all the way to the cemetery on Peekskill Road.

At 9 a.m. anxious children and adults waited at the bottom of Main Street for the start of the procession to honor fallen soldiers as well as local veterans. Among organizations that participated were the Cold Spring Fire Company, North Highlands Fire Department, Garrison Volunteer Fire Company and Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

The Haldane High School Band left retiring teacher and member of the National Guard 42nd Infantry Division Band Debbie Contini with a nice last memory of conducting the parade. The band kept the morning lively with a spirited rendition of “Eye of the Tiger.” Attendees were also given a sizeable dose of bagpipes thanks to the Hudson Highlands Pipe Band.

At the corner of Main and Chestnut

Street, Rev. Shane Scott-Hamblen of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church read a religious passage and handed the microphone to Philipstown Reform Synagogue’s Alan Steiner, who said a prayer for the deceased.

The parade then took a left down Fish-kill Avenue and proceeded toward the Mountain Avenue Cemetery. Here Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) members demonstrated a three-volley salute, firing three blank shots in honor of those who passed during wartime. The next stop was Nelsonville’s Church on the Hill, where Rev. Tim Greco read a Bible passage for the crowd before they continued on to the Vietnam memorial at the corner of Pearl and Main Streets. At this site, Eddie Cleary, organizer at Chapel on the Hill, read a prayer for those who lost their lives fighting overseas.

Finally, the community made it to the cemetery on Peekskill Road, the main stage of the festivities. The school band welcomed everyone with “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Rev. Anthony Rourke of Our Lady of Loretto Church introduced the guest speaker — Col. Maritza S. Ryan. Ryan has a rich history of serving the country, impressively being

Philipstown Little League Minors Highlights

By Dave McCarthy

Mets top Yankees 13-11

In a thrilling night game, it turned out that only darkness could end the scoring between the Mets and the Yankees. The Yankees got big hits from Jeremy Hall and Ryan Van Tassel and jumped out to an early lead. However, early walks and a couple of huge hits from Dylan Horan helped the Mets storm back and take a big lead. Hunter Erickson pitched well, and the Mets held onto that lead until the fifth inning when the Yankees rallied. Down four runs with the bases loaded, Van Tassel hit a shot to center field that would’ve scored three had it not rolled under the fence. The Mets were able to escape the inning up by two, and darkness halted the game before either team could get a shot at the final inning. A rematch in the last game of the season for these 2 teams should be one to watch!

Yankees 8, Giants 3

A pitching duel between Trajan McCarthy and Julian Ambrose, who both threw three scoreless innings, turned into a big win for the Yankees when the Giants took Ambrose out in the fourth inning. Hits by Jeremy Hall and Ryan Van Tassel combined with a number of walks, set the stage for Jesse Tippet’s bases-clearing single to blow the game wide open. Roy Smith had two big hits for the Giants in the loss and pitched a strong inning, but in the end the Yankees held them off with some strong pitching by Hall to close the game. With only three games left in the regular season, it’s shaping up to be anyone’s title to win this postseason.



Memorial Day, 2015

Photo by Maggie Benmour

among the first women to graduate from West Point in 1982 and to serve as an academic department head. She currently heads the Department of Law at USMA and has earned the title chief of military justice. She also received the Women’s Achievement Award from the American Bar Association.

During her speech, she pushed listeners to recall the achievements of heroes, or those who have given their lives for something bigger than themselves, and marvel at their skill and courage. She stressed that we should ask ourselves, “How would *they* want us to remember them on this and every Memorial Day?” Listeners were urged to think of the friends and families of the deceased — in some cases their “battle buddies” — and consider how difficult it must be to return without a friend or comrade. She declared that we should be thankful and joyous that great citizens like those we are mourning ever existed, offering a refreshing view of the usually melancholy holiday.

Edward Engelbride then read the hon-

or roll and everyone listened to the annual reading of the World War I poem “In Flanders Fields,” written by John McCrae.

Rev. Francis Geer of St. Philip’s Church in Garrison took the podium to give a story about his great aunt fainting during President Abraham Lincoln’s reading of the Gettysburg Address. Lincoln took notice of her and shook her hand, asking if she was all right. At the end of the story Geer urged others to come shake his hand, humorously saying, “Come shake the hand that shook the hand that shook the hand of Lincoln!” The Hudson Highlands Pipe Band closed the ceremony with “Amazing Grace.”

Haldane High School junior Jerome Famularo, who plays the piccolo in the band and helps Contini with conducting, found the Cold Spring Memorial Day Parade to be unique from most others. “I think our parade is different because of the bagpipes. You don’t see that in a lot of other towns.” Famularo was most happy to witness all the spirit that the town displayed on Monday.