Dems in Firehouse Forum

by Kevin Foley

The five Democratic congressional primary candidates running to de-
cide the party’s nominee to chal-
lege Republican Rep. Nan Hayworth for the newly drawn 18th district seat in November, will visit Philipstown Mon-
day, June 11 two weeks before the vote on June 26.

The event, sponsored by the Philipstown Democratic Committee, will be held at the North Highland’s fire-
house on Fishkill Road, which is just down from the intersection with Route 9.

All five candidates, Mat-
thew Alexander, Richard 
Becker, Duane Jackson, 
Sean Patrick Maloney and 
Tom Wilson are expected to 
attend.

Philipstown is more or 
less at the geographic center 
of the broad new district, 
which includes all of Put-
nam and Orange Counties and swaths of Dutchess and Westchester.

Not all of the candidates live within the district boundaries, which were only drawn by court order this year after the state legis-
lature failed to create judicially accept-
able new districts from the 2010 census in a timely manner.

Federal law requires only that candi-
dates for Congress live within the state they seek to represent. It would be un-
usual and politically unwise, however, for a winning candidate not to establish 
residency in a district upon winning the office.

Although the forum is intended to highlight the congressional race, other office holders and candidates are slated to address the audience as well. They include long-serving Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, Terry Gibson, Democratic candidate for State Senate and Steve Ros-
sario, Democratic candidate for County Legislature.

The congressional race has drawn some added attention in state and na-
tional political circles as the redrawn lines appear to have added more Demo-
cratic leaning areas than former Rep. John Hall had when he lost to Hayworth in 2010.

Although Democrats are enthu-
siastic about the possibilities of unseat-
ing the freshman incumbent, the general consensus at this point is that the race will be highly competitive.

An informal poll of local Democratic activists revealed no clear favorite. Malo-
ney (who has said he recently purchased a home in Philipstown) is perceived by some as the (Continued on page 3)
The timber rattlesnake blends with its surroundings

by Michael Turton

If there is one creature that could benefit from hiring a good public relations firm it has to be the snake. Pretty much any species of snake. Most are harmless and in fact do a lot of good, including keeping insect and rodent populations in check, yet they have suffered from an image problem for as long as man — and woman — have been around.

Think Garden of Eden. It was a snake that got Adam and Eve in trouble. Myths have not endeared them to humans either. At one time people believed that a snake could put its tail in its mouth and roll down a hill — or turn itself into a “hoop” and chase you! Other popular and equally untrue myths: a snake can hypnotize you; they’re slimy; all snakes have fangs; they have stingers in their tails; snakes are immortal. Even some of our expressions have not done snakes any favors. Being called a “snake in the grass” is generally not taken as a compliment. And while a horse may gallop, and a fish may swim, and a monkey may climb — a snake slithers.

Philipstown is home to two poisonous snakes - the timber rattler and the northern copperhead. Just as solid information has dispelled the crazy myths surrounding snakes over time, knowledge can also ease a great deal of the fear that surrounds snakes — even the poisonous ones.

The Timber Rattlesnake

Philipstown resident Ed McGowan, director of trailside museums and zoo at Bear Mountain State Park, has known timber rattlers in a way that few people have — and he likes them. “I spent six years following timber rattlers using telemetry. They’re amazing creatures, much more complex than people realize,” he said. “They are long lived and know the landscape. They’ll travel miles and then return to the exact same spot - they have excellent spatial memory.” McGowan studied the reproductive ecology of timber rattlesnakes at SUNY Binghamton.

The timber rattlesnake, considered endangered in New York State, measures up to four and a half feet in length making it the largest poisonous snake in the state. It is a large, stocky snake whose coloring makes it difficult to spot in the wild. It has two common color patterns: black or dark brown bands that run across a lighter background such as yellow, brown or gray; or a dark background with dark bands — sometimes making it appear to be all black.

Its skin is rough and scaly in appearance. A timber rattle’s head is broad and triangular in shape head with small scales on the crown and a few large scales on the side. And of course it has a rattle. A new segment of the rattle is added each time it sheds it skin.

So what’s not to like? Why are people so uptight about snakes, and the timber rattler in particular?

“There’s just a basic lack of knowledge. People will see even a harmless milk or garter snake and have this revulsion — or to escape.”

Timber rattlesnakes like deciduous forests in rugged terrain. In the summer, pregnant females can be found in open, warm, rocky ledges while males and other females seek the cooler, thicker woods. McGowan describes the Hudson Highlands as a “stronghold” for the timber rattlesnake at the northern edge of its range. “Chances of just stepping on one are miniscule. But if you sit down on open, sunny rocks for lunch …”

All kidding aside, a timber rattler bite can be fatal if left untreated. However, according to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, “There have been no records of human bites.”

(Continued on next page)
Timber rattlers are endangered in New York State. Their head is unmarked and copper-colored but are not as large as a timber rattle. They can be quite active on a warm summer day, more nocturnal than timber rattlers and their range limit here in the Hudson Valley infrastructure. "Everything is hidden components and breakdowns; pipe valves, hydrants, manholes, pump stations, catch basins, and other accoutrements; analyze ongoing needs; add more material as projects ensue; and otherwise keep an electronic handle on current data and aerial photographs over old maps to help find old pipes and hidden components and breakdowns; compile records of repairs and lists of old water system specifications and map along modern data, he showed how "you've got all this information" together, including "the original layout, most of which is still in Water and Sewer Superintendent Gregory Phillips confirmed that 80 percent of the pipes date from 1904. Likewise, the electronic system can store information, including locations, of traffic signs and other street equipment and service various purposes. Labate added that if the village embeds the system on its official website, the public can access it, too, and peg problems that may not yet have come to the attention of village crews. Moreover, the system can extend to other areas as well, as Labate demonstrated. Taking an Environmental Protection Agency diagram of the "phme of pollution still underlying part of the old Marathon battery plant grounds, he superimposed it atop an aerial photograph of the Marathon site, showing how the plume lays out toward homes on Constitution Drive. (He cautioned the news media against taking pictures of the new image, due to the proprietary nature of the aerial photo involved.) Even more can be accomplished, Labate told the board, if the village obtains the more sophisticated elements of the package beyond those provided free as a public service. However, the add-ons can get expensive, he said. Nonetheless, he emphasized, even the free elements can provide significant assistance. The board members and Phillips agreed. "I know it's going to be very beneficial for Greg" and the water and sewer staff, Campbell said. "And sidewalks," Mayor Seth Gallagher chimed in, noting the potential for keeping track of sidewalk and street improvements. Phillips observed that Putnam County has the full, paid-for GIS package and that if the village could team up with its own, it might be able to access the higher level of service. So far, Labate has given the village $3,300 worth of service without being paid, according to Village Clerk Mary Saari. Going forward, he proposes a fee schedule for his help, with charges ranging from $30 or $25 an hour for various tasks to $100 for a survey of fire hydrants, providing identification numbers, conditions of flow, and pressure data, test results, and similar details. "What I'm proposing is to take the database and finish it in different segments or tasks," he told the mayor and trustees. They took no immediate action on his offer. Assistant Building Inspector Appointment After the GIS presentation, Campbell, Gallagher and Trustee Chuck Hustis all voted to appoint Building Inspector Bill Bujarski to the posts of assistant building inspector and fire inspector as well. The positions, previously undertaken by one person as a combined job, had been left vacant after the resignation of Bujarski's second-in-command and he had been assuming those assignments as well as his own. To ensure that necessary duties get carried out when Bujarski is on vacation henceforth, the mayor proposed a form of consolidation of services with the Town of Philipstown by bringing in the Philipstown inspector. "We can work that out with the town," he said. Hudson House Lease The board also unanimously approved a new three-year lease of a parking lot behind the Cold Spring Boat Club for use by Hudson House, formally known as the Hudson River Inn. The terms require the inn to pay $4,374.81 in rent for the first year, with a 3 percent increase annually after that. The lease also "allows us, in an emergency situation, to do what we need to do," the mayor said, mentioning as an example shutting down the parking during a clean-up of hazardous subterranean coal tar at the Boat Club. When that clean-up might get under way is uncertain. Initially, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation tentatively scheduled preliminary work for late summer 2011. Then budget constraints and other contingencies apparently got in the way, Campbell said, and "now they're looking to the fall again." Which fall and year remained unclear and he promised to contact DEC to check the project's status. In other business, the board: • Contingent upon the approval of the building inspector, granted a request from Anne Lin to place a table and two hanging racks from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 112 Main St., outside the Ming Moon Kitchen carry-out and store. • Waived the $250 charge for use of the bandstand at the Hudson River for a family wedding involving residents. "If you're a local family and getting married in the village, I'd say you shouldn't have to pay the fee," the mayor said. His two colleagues concurred. No Executive Session An attempt by the mayor to call a closed or executive session to discuss a personnel matter failed when Hustis voiced opposition. Such votes need a majority of the entire, five-man board, not a simple majority of those present. Hudson Hills Cafe Local Fresh Casual Now Serving Wine and Beer 129-131 Main Street Cold Spring, NY 10516 845-265-9471 hudsonhills@gmail.com

Village Board Considers GIS View of Water Pipes and Infrastructure

By Liz Schertlich Armstrong

Past and present merged into future possibilities Tuesday night (May 29) when the Cold Spring Village Board got an overview of a high-tech system that combines new data with 1904 maps to pinpoint water problems, consolidate records, and potentially save money and hours in dealing with village infrastructure demands. The board, again missing two members (this time, Trustees Ralph Falloon and Matt Francesco) watched an on-screen presentation by James Labate, an expert in digital mapping and spatial analysis, who volunteered his skills to Putnam County after Hurricane Irene last fall. He then got hooked up with Cold Spring and began exploring the ins and outs of the village's aging water and sewer systems, creating a multi-faceted database "on anything to do with the water system" by applying a GIS (geographic information system) package from a California firm. Free to local governments - up to a point - the system allows water and other municipal departments to juxtapose current data and aerial photographs over old maps to help find old pipes and hidden components and breakdowns; compile records of repairs and lists of problems; and provide significant assistance. The original layout, most of which is still in place, Labate said. "You combine" the various parts “and have an overview of the entire system through this.” Pulling up a slide of the 1904 water system specifications and map along modern data, he showed how “you’ve got all this information” together, including “the original layout, most of which is still in place.” Labate’s presentation highlighted two areas: a tale of two snakes. “Bragging rights.” They often hibernate in a communal den, returning to it every year. They are a live-bearing snake and produce two to 10 young. They are an enigmatic species, inebriated young men.” They like forested rocky slopes. They are thick bodied but are not as large as a timber rattle, averaging about 30 inches in length. Their head is unmarked and copper-colored while their body is reddish-brown, coppery, with chestnut brown bands that are closer together in the midsection. “Less is known about the northern copperhead — it isn’t studied as much,” McGowan said. “I think it might simply be because rattles are larger and considered more exotic.” Copperheads are described as ‘social snakes’. They often hibernate in a composted den, returning to it every year. They can be found close to each other near dens and drinking sources or while sunning, courting, mating, or eating. They are a live-bearing snake and produce two to 10 young. Adults eat mainly mice but also feed on small birds, lizards, small snakes, amphibians, and insects — especially cica-das. Numerous sites indicate that copperheads rarely cause death but medical attention should definitely be sought. Their bite can cause pain, inflammation, skin infections, increased pulse rate or throbbing of heart, swelling of the bitten body part and severe nausea and vomiting. collector, inebriated young men and changing attitudes "You're very unlikely to see either a timber rattler or copperhead under ordinary circumstances," McGowan said. “The most likely group to run into problems are young, inebriated males.” There are people who collect timber rattlers and copperheads — illegally. "There is (still) a black market for snakes — as there is for anything illegal," McGowan said. "Why do people want a poisonous snake? ‘Bragging rights.’"
June 10 Bicentennial Celebration another opportunity to appreciate Village's unique qualities

Christine Simek

Philipstown historian Donald MacDonald is one of a handful of local residents who spent much of the winter organizing Putnam County’s Bicentennial Celebration that is set to take place in the village on Saturday June 9th. MacDonald, along with Lyon Duffy, Marie Early, Kendall Helbock, Jonathan Kruk and Jan Ruvence, have planned a day long commemoration that will include an authentic stage coach on display, live choral and band performances, storytelling, a film screening at Butterfield Library, walking tours, and a re-enactment relating to the War of 1812.

MacDonald’s passion for the history of Cold Spring is as captivating as it is lyrical. “There’s something here that isn’t anywhere else,” he said wistfully, describing what he calls the distinctive “feeling of this place” he gets just by walking down Main Street to run errands. It’s that feeling, he says, that sets Cold Spring apart from other Hudson River Valley towns. He continues, “It’s the simplicity…the silence…and the history.”

To be sure, Philipstown is steeped in a rich and varied history. From the West Point Foundry to Garrison’s Landing and the Hudson Highlands, the people and places of Putnam County played significant roles in both the American Revolution and the Civil War, as well as long providing a place for rest and recreation (as well a supply of clean water) to the residents of New York City.

But it’s not solely historical significance that creates a community as special as ours. MacDonald points to the unparalleled physical beauty that Putnam County, specifically Cold Spring and Garrison, possess. Unobstructed views of the West Point campus, the imposing silhouette of Storm King at dusk and our relatively undeveloped waterfront contribute to ‘moments of being’ that seem other-world—a sensation certainly shared by anyone who has walked the river’s edge at Dockside after a thunderstorm or waited in fragile silence on the Metro North platform for a pre-dawn train. It is this essence that makes Philipstown a destination many folks choose to visit again and again, some of whom eventually decide to stay for good.

The upcoming Bicentennial marks an important moment in our region’s unfolding into the distinctive place that it is. For various reasons, including treacherous, unmaintained roads and a prohibitive travel distance to the county seat in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County officially broke off from Dutchess County on June 12, 1812 and created an independent existence as New York’s 48th county. Following its independence, changes to the region came strong and swift. By 1835, the Philipstown Turnpike Company was organized and, several years later, the West Point Foundry was established on a bank of the Hudson River in Cold Spring.

MacDonald considers this rich history a kind of artifact that can and should be kept alive. He believes that evidenced archives and historic sites must be palpably experienced, not just observed, in order for their narrative to be fully investigated and understood. He encourages people, when they are driven to learn about some element of history, to try to unearth the feelings that visiting historic places incite. Standing at the site of the West Point Foundry, for example, can enliven one’s sense of self and, in turn, bind one more tightly to the sense of place that is Philipstown.

“When I visit the Foundry,” MacDonald explains, “I stand there, in the middle of that land that’s now full of trees, and I close my eyes and immediately I picture what it must have been like to have these hundreds of buildings where I am standing. Imagine that!” he exclaims. “The noise must have been deafening! I try to visualize, as close as I can, what this was like, what the people were like all that time ago. It’s that feeling that gets into the mind and really turns me on.”

Donald MacDonald’s passion for history is this kind of experience—this attempt to taste antiquity—may eventually connect us to what we are and from where we came.

MacDonald, too, is comfortable with the inevitable reshaping that comes with remaining in the same place for several decades and bearing witness to the inevitable transformations that come with the passage of time. Over the years he has observed changes in our community too numerable to list and, as a result, MacDonald has learned to hold a certain equanimity when it comes to hot-button matters that send other residents to the mat. MacDonald doesn’t hold an unforgiving stance on issues like Dunkin’ Donuts or riverside lighting or even the mayor’s salary hike, but he does “believe we need to preserve what we’ve got here.”

Valuing our history and maintaining the sanctity of the past while moving, ever forward, towards the yet-uncharted future is the ambition of any historical observation. For MacDonald, however, the hope is simpler. He says he’d like people to walk away from this Bicentennial celebration with a sense of pride about living in Putnam County. “I feel priviledged to have lived here. I have a love for this place and I don’t like to keep it to myself. I like to share it.”
Summer Months Bring Acute Needs to Food Pantry

‘Slips into the back of people’s minds’ outside of holiday season

By Pete Smith

The unofficial start of summer was marked over the Memorial Day weekend by signs of gastronomic abundance. There were burgers, dogs, and salads, often in multiple helpings. There was young corn on the cob, watermelon, and, if the reports were accurate, the season’s first s’mores even made an appearance. This slice of Americana was in startling contrast to something else taking place on Saturday morning: no less than 10 people queuing up at the doors of the First Presbyterian Church for groceries offered by the Philipstown Food Bank — 10 minutes before the official 9 a.m. opening.

The conversation in the line outside those doors touched on the lack of available jobs in the area. “He hired a guy from Guatemala who got a work visa, so he’s legal. But that’s where that job went.” Conversation paused briefly as someone, a friend and fellow beneficiary of the other food pantry clients, maneuvered to move up in line in order to get in and out quickly, since this client’s work shift begins at 9 a.m.

When the doors opened, food pantry clients were greeted by a volunteer standing at a church lectern who checked them in from a list of about 50 names, a number which, according to food pantry coordinator Andrea Bach, is “...way up.” She added, “When I first got involved, about 13 years ago, we had 10 to 12 families signed up, and we had maybe 10 people actually show up every week. Now we have 50 signed up and we see between 20 and 30 every week.” Bach stressed that the current client list represents not only the clients themselves but households that include multiple food pantry beneficiaries.

In terms of relative political strength, Maloney has displayed strong money-raising capability, the broadest govern-

ment experience and important campaign alliances. He has already dropped three mass mailings within the district, including Philipstown. (If his opponents have done mailings they have not appeared locally.)

Maloney’s brochures highlight his service in the Clinton White House and also mention he was a key aide to Governors Spitzer and Paterson. A Manhattan attorney, who once ran statewide for attorney general, he has garnered several endorsements from unions whose organizing capability can be critical in low voter turnout elections. The Putnam County Democrats have also endorsed him.

The Orange County Democrats have gotten behind Richard Becker, a councilman in Cortlandt, who campaigned for a long time in the former 19th district before the redistricting. Becker, like Maloney and the others, emphasizes his differences with Hayworth over healthcare, women’s rights and other issues rather than his differences with his fellow Democrats. He has occasionally sniped at Maloney for raising a lot of his money outside the district and for not being originally from the Hudson Valley.

Alexander’s campaign has made phone calls into Philipstown. He has stressed his ability to get things, such as infrastructure projects, done in a cooperative fashion. He also underscores the importance of aiding people in need of employment and other forms of assistance.

Duane Jackson of Buchanan has tried to leverage his celebrity as a vendor who alerted police to what turned out to be a bomb in the Times Square area in 2008. He has joined his fellow campaigners in sharply criticizing Hayworth’s Tea Party affiliation while burnishing his relationships with law enforcement and the military.

Tom Wilson, mayor of Tuxedo Park in Orange County, suffered a political setback when his home county democratic committee endorsed Becker from Westchester. The last press release on his website is dated April and an email inquiry as to his campaign status went unanswered.

The trips to the food bank are done by volunteers who don’t seem to mind the wear and (Continued on page 6)
The Hawk’s-Eye View From Walkway Over the Hudson

Guinness Book of Records challenge on June 9
by Mary Anne Myers

Manhattan may tout its High Line, but the Hudson Valley boasts its own unique version of a breathtaking middle state between water and sky: the Walkway over the Hudson State Historic Park. Reconstructed from a Highland-to-Poughkeepsie railway bridge built in 1889 and unused since a fire in 1974, the Walkway opened to the public in 2009 thanks to an initiative by Scenic Hudson.

The “pedestrian park,” also the longest footbridge in the world, offers a straight, smooth concrete path that is 1.28 miles long and 212 feet above the Hudson River. Open from 7 a.m. until dusk every day, the Walkway affords amazing views north and south for walkers, joggers, bikers, skaters, strollers, and wheelchair users. Ample width and sturdy fencing combine with solid concrete panels underfoot to make the experience delightful even for an acrophobe. Pets are welcome, as long as they are on a leash no longer than six feet, but no skateboards or motorized vehicles other than scooters for the disabled are allowed.

On Saturday, June 9, the Walkway hopes to break a rather unusual record. Anyone over the age of seven is invited to join in a fundraising event — the “World’s Longest Line of People Performing the Hokey Pokey!” There are 3,000 spots available and registration is made through their website (see details at the end of this article.)

Participants can choose to come to either the East or West entrance of the Walkway (you must check-in on event day at the side you check when you register!). Check-in is from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. All participants are encouraged to wear comfortable, weather appropriate clothing and footwear. Please do not bring pets to this event.

Once you’ve entered the Park, Walkway’s volunteers will direct you to your place in line. It is important that everyone stay in line until they receive the signal to start dancing. (They strongly suggest eating and using rest rooms prior to venturing on the bridge.) Guinness World Records will send a judge to the event to confirm that we have enough people doing the Hokey Pokey for five full minutes to set a new world record.

For non-special event visits, admission from either side (67 Parker Avenue, Poughkeepsie or 87 Haviland Road, Highland) is free and fully accessible, though parking fees may apply. The Poughkeepsie entrance is a four-block walk from the Metro-North station. Vendors selling cold drinks and snacks are set up at both entrances, where you will also find a considerable number of well-maintained port-o-sans.

Summer Months Bring Acute Needs to Food Pantry

(from page 5)

Picking up day-old bread from two grocery store donors and delivering it, not just to the food pantry, but to the Walker Hoving Home and St. Christopher’s Inn as well, depending on the day of the week. “I find it absurd that in America, food products which are perfectly edible are hauled off to landfills and dumped when they could be shared with some organization that’s being helpful,” said Paul Lansdale, who has been a bread run volunteer for over 10 years. “When I arrive at St. Christopher’s Inn, I tell them that this is the delivery of the loaves and fishes...without the fish.”

While the need for food pantry assistance is up, the most critical form of support, monetary donations, happens to be down. “Donations are usually great over the holidays, but it slips into the back of people’s minds during the summer months,” said Bach, voicing a concern that was evident in conversations with other volunteers. Food and monetary donations can be made directly to the First Presbyterian Church at 10 Academy St., Cold Spring.

There’s also an ongoing need for volunteers. Food pantry hours of operation are 9 to 10 a.m. every Saturday. To inquire about assistance for yourself, to donate, or to volunteer, contact the Presbyterian Church at 845-265-3202 or email philipstownfoodpantry@verizon.net. Look for the food pantry table at St. Mary’s annual tag sale on June 9.
The Calendar

(Left to right) Maia Guest, Donald Kimmel, and Jenn Lee as a lady, a fop, and a maid in The Way of the World

(Continued on page 10)

Land Trust’s Family Fest

Each year the Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) invites residents and visitors to join them for a rollicking, old-fashioned community barbecue celebrating the beauty of the Highlands. This year’s Family Festival returns to the Claudio Marzollo Community Center of Philipstown, on June 9.

Festivities start at 4 p.m. with live music — performed by Philipstown’s own Tiki Daddy & Friends — and outdoor activities. Barbeque dinner will be served at 5 p.m.

Cold Spring resident Dani Locastro says, “The Family Festival and Campout Under the Stars is old-fashioned family fun. It is so nice to see parents and children of all ages coming together to enjoy good food, a day of fun — hopefully in the sun — and a night of laughter.”

HHLT is putting a new twist on the festival’s annual wildlife presentation and is hosting Atka, the Wolf Conservation Center’s Arctic grey wolf. The center’s program includes an awe-inspiring, up-close encounter with this important but misunderstood predator.

Family Festival guests will learn about the history of wolves in the United States, the importance of wolves in a healthy ecosystem and efforts to save these magnificent creatures for future generations.

“We look forward to the Family Festival and Sleep Over Under the Stars every year. The kids have a blast hanging with their friends and playing soccer and frisbee, and this year they can’t wait to meet Atka!” says Craig Roffman, a Cold Spring resident.

The Festival raffle includes great prizes donated by the Army Athletic Association, Bailey Cosmetic & Family Dentistry, Hudson Valley Outfitters, Jean Marzollo, New Directions Dog Training and Supplies, Vikasa Yoga & Pilates Studio, and more.

After the day guests leave, the fun continues for families “Sleeping Over Under the Stars.” The community campout on the premises includes an evening sing-along, morning breakfast (featuring fresh eggs from Horsemen Trail Farm) and a few fun surprises.

“Last summer we bought a huge family-size tent specifically to use at this year’s Land Trust Festival,” explains Garrison resident Charlotte Snow Rowe. “We have gone every year and loved watching the kids run around and enjoy the good food. Now there will be room for all of us to stay over.”

Once again, the Land Trust will donate all event proceeds to the

(Continued on page 10)

The Way of the World Extended

The World’s End Theatre production of Congreve’s Way Of The World has announced a two-week extension of its run at the Depot Theatre. Additional performances of the Restoration romp have been added on Fridays and Saturdays June 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 8 p.m., Sunday June 3 at 4 p.m., followed by a talkback.

On June 10, a special gala picnic on Garrison’s Landing with the cast and director John Christian Plummer will begin at 4:30 p.m. followed by a 6:30 p.m. performance with champagne at the conclusion.

Tickets may be ordered at brownpapertickets.com/event/237573 or by phoning 845-424-3900.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

June 12 - September 2

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW:
Online at hvshakespeare.org and Box Office 845/265-9575

2012 SEASON
Love’s Labour’s Lost
Romeo and Juliet

The 39 Steps
Adapted by Patrick Barlow
From the novel by John Buchan
From the movie of Alfred Hitchcock
**Friday, June 1**

**Kids & Community**

Mystery Reader Bedtime Stories
6:30 – 7:30 P.M. BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Agos 3 and up. Registration is requested.

**Theater & Film**

Auditions for Depot Theatre’s Baggar’s Opera
6 – 9 P.M.
69 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org
Email csysy@earthlink.net for specific audition time.

Haldane Middle School Play Curse of the Cobra Kiss
7 P.M.
Haldane School
15 Craigslist Drive, Cold Spring
(845) 265-9254 | haldaneschool.org
Tickets $10/adult; $5/students and seniors

New American Century: A Reading of a New Play by Peter Ullian
7 P.M.
The Beacon Theatre
445 Main St., Beacon
(845) 774-5973 | thebeacontheatre.org
Admission: $5

**Music**

Conjunto Sazon With Tony Velez
7:30 P.M.
BeanRunker CAFE
204 S. Division St., Peekskill
(914) 797-1701 | beanrunermalta.com
Admission: $10

The Blue Dogs With Rhonda Denet
9:30 P.M.
12 GRAPES
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
(914) 737-6624 | 12grapes.com
Entertainment fee: $5 for all

Christine
8 – 10 P.M.
PEEKSKILL COFFEE HOUSE
101 S. Division St., Peekskill
(914) 729-1287 | peekskillcoffee.com

Live Music
8:30 P.M.
SILVER SPoon
124 M. Cold St., Spring
(845) 265-2525 | silverspooncooldspring.com

Meetings & Lectures

2012 Rimy Monlam: Tibetan Buddhist Peace Prayer Gathering
Fri 7:15 P.M. – Mon 3:30 P.M.
14 Mary’s Way Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 424-3400 | garrisonartcenter.org
Registration: $105 – $360

**Saturday, June 2**

**Kids & Community**

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
(845) 831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org
Tickets: $65/person. Please RSVP.

RiverFest
11 A.M. – 6 P.M.
Downing Park
99 Shore Road, Cornwall-on-Hudson
riverfest.com

**Art & Design**

Garrison Art Center Scholarship Fund Benefit & Summer Sculpture Show Reception
6 – 8 P.M.
Boscobel Rose Garden
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 424-3900 | garrisonartcenter.org
$50/person (50/adult; Member), Please RSVP.

**A Bag of Hammers**

5 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.
PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
1056 Brown St., Peekskill
(914) 739-2333 | paramountcenter.org
Tickets: $7 Members; $8 Students/Students (Weekend only Mon-Thurs); $9 General Public

**Estates Auction Benefit**

1 P.M. ST. MARY’S PARISH HALL
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-5393 | stmaryscoldspringdiocesan.org

**Pizza Night & Ice Cream Social**

4 – 8 P.M.
NORTH HIGHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
504 FASHALL, Cold Spring
(845) 265-9595 | nhfd1.org

**Chapel of Our Lady Restoration Annual Lawn Party**

5 – 7 P.M.
THE COUNCIL HOMES
10 Coleman Rd., Garrison
(845) 265-5537 | chapelextravaganza.com
Tickets: $65/person. Please RSVP.

**Health, Fitness & Outdoors**

Canoe Trips
10 A.M. – NOON CONSTITUTION MARSH
127 Warren Landing Road, Garrison
(845) 265-5065 Ext. 15 | constitutionmarsh.org
Reservations required.

**Art & Design**

15th Annual Peekskill Open Studios
NOON – 5 P.M.
PEEKSKILL GALLERIES, MUSEUMS & STUDIOS
For map & tours, go to gazebo at corner of North Division & Park Streets.
(914) 436-6914 | facebook.com/ PeekskillArtAliance

“The Paintings of Aleksandr Trachtchin”

Opening Reception
3 – 5 P.M.
MOWLOW CENTER FOR THE ARTS
477 Main St., Beacon
(845) 831-4986 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Theater & Film**

Dance Beacon Ballet Arts Studio Vivaldi’s Suites of the Seasons
1 P.M. & 5:30 P.M.
BARDAVON OPERA HOUSE
15 Market St., Poughkeepsie
(845) 831-4576 | dancebeacon.com
Tickets: $25/adult; $12/child 12 and under

**For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info. Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info. See you around town!**

If you see something, SAY something!
Haldane Middle School Play Curse of the Cobra Kla Photo © Joseph Squillante, 2012

Haldane Middle School Play Curse of the Cobra Kla
See details under Friday.

The Way of the World play
See details under Friday.

Half Moon Theatre 10 Minute Play Festival
See details under Friday.

Music
West Point Steel Band & HNS Bounty
5 – 6 P.M. NEWBURGH LANDINGS
Front Street, Newburgh
(845) 938-2617 | westpointband.com

Ted Daniels, IBMC & the King Oliver Project
7:30 P.M. BEANRUNNER CAFE
201 S. Division St., Beacon
(914) 737-1701 | beanrunnercafe.com
Admission: $10

Chris Rub's Gospel Reggae Coffeehouse
8 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
(845) 831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org
Admission: $8

Blues Buddha
8 – 10 P.M. PEESKILL COFFEE HOUSE
103 S. Division St., Peekskill
(914) 739-1287 | peekskillcoffee.com

Meetings & Lectures
Putnam County Sheriff's Department
Voluntary Boat Inspections
10 A.M. – NOON COLD SPRING BOAT CLUB
5 Now St., Cold Spring
(845) 225-4300 Ext. 2006 | coldspringboatclub.com
No appointment necessary.

Bicentennial Lecture Series “American the Beautiful: Women and the Flag”
5 P.M. PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-4010 | info@antipodean.com
Admission: $5 general public (members free)
Space is limited. Please call to register.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

Kids & Community
Beacon Flea Market
8 A.M. – 3 P.M. HENRY STREET PARKING LOT
6 Henry St., Beacon
(845) 202-0094 | beaconflea.blogspot.com

Bicentennial Lecture Series “American the Beautiful: Women and the Flag”
5 P.M. PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-4010 | info@antipodean.com
Admission: $5 general public (members free)
Space is limited. Please call to register.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

Kids & Community
Beacon Flea Market
8 A.M. – 3 P.M. HENRY STREET PARKING LOT
6 Henry St., Beacon
(845) 202-0094 | beaconflea.blogspot.com

Phone © Joseph Squillante, 2012

Big Truck Day
11 A.M. – 2 P.M.
BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Admission: Donation

Not Your Mama’s Sunday School
Sustainable Living Workshops
11 A.M. – 2 P.M.
SCHOOL OF JELLYFISH
183 Main St., Beacon
(845) 440-8017 | schoolofjellyfish.com
Fax: 565, Ages 9-16

Annual Russell Wright Award Benefit & Auction
NOON – 4 P.M. MARY’S MEADOW AT MANHATTA
584 Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 424-3812 | russelwrightcenter.org
Tickets: $250/person

Estate Auction Beneft
See details under Saturday.

Family Program With Poet & Painter
Douglas Florian
1 P.M. STORM KING ART CENTER
1 Museum Rd., New Windsor
(845) 534-3115 | stormking.org

Art & Design
15th Annual Peekskill Open Studios
NOON – 5 P.M. PEESKILL GALLERIES, MUSEUMS & STUDIOS
For maps & tours, go to gazebo at corner of North Division & Park Streets.
(914) 438-6084 | facebook.com/PeekskillArtsAlliance

Theater & Film
The Way of the World play
4 – 6:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
(845) 424-3000 | philipstowndepottheatre.com
Order at brownpapertickets.com.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

Kids & Community
Kids Craft Hour
4 – 5 P.M. DESMOND-FISHER LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
(845) 424-3020 | desmondfisherlibrary.org

The Paper June 1, 2012 9
www.philipstown.info PHILIPSTOWN.info
September 2011

Monday, June 4

Health, Fitness & Outdoors
Yoga With a View
6 – 7:15 P.M. BOSCOBEL
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 265-3668 | bosco bel.org
Admission: $17

Music
LoHud Comedy Open Mike & Jazz Open Jam Session
6 P.M. TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
408 Parnamont Ave., Plamboro
(845) 359-1089 | turningpointmusiccafe.com
Cost: $5

Meetings & Lectures
Cold Spring Zoning Board of Appeals Workshop
7 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

Kids & Community
Kids Craft Hour
4 – 5 P.M. DESMOND-FISHER LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
(845) 424-3020 | desmondfisherlibrary.org

(Continued on page 10)
The Calendar (from page 9)

Meetings & Lectures
Haldane Board of Education Meeting
7 P.M., HALDANE SCHOOL
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
(845) 265-0254 | haldaneschool.org

Cold Spring Planning Board
7:30 P.M., VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Cold Spring Board of Trustees Workshop
7:30 P.M., VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Theater & Film
Broadway Comes to Beacon Benefit
NODIN HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
(845) 901-6820 | howlandculturalcenter.org
Tickets: $15

The Sacred Run: The Lotus & The Feather Film
7 P.M., BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Meetings & Lectures
Philipstown Town Board Workshop
7:30 P.M., TOWN HALL
238 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-5200 | philipstown.com

Land Trust’s Family Fest (from page 7)

Garrison Children’s Education Fund and the Haldane School Foundation in support of environmental programs. The festival is being sponsored by Butterfield Realty, LLC. Admission to the Family Festival is $15 for individuals ($20 the day of), or $30 per family ($40 the day of), and includes barbeque dinner. Overnight campers must register in advance and space is limited. The $55 per family camp-out cost includes festival admission, barbeque and breakfast.

In accordance with its mission to preserve natural resources, HHLT is not issuing tickets for this event. Make your reservation by contacting the Land Trust office at 845-424-3358 or info@hhlt.org. Walk-ins can register for the festival on the day of the event at the entry to the Community Center but campers must pre-register.

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the natural resources, rural character, and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands. It sponsors programs like the Family Festival and the Take-A-Hike! series to give people the opportunity to experience the beauty, history and ecology of the Hudson Highlands. More information is available at hhlt.org.

![A raptor demonstration at the 2011 festival](Photo courtesy of Hudson Highlands Trust)
Local Dancers Perform in *Suites of the Seasons* at Bardavon

**Dance Beacon/Ballet Arts Studio production includes Philipstown girls**

O n Saturday, June 2, the Dance Beacon/Ballet Arts Studio, together with The Dutchess Dance Company, will present *Vivaldi’s Suites of the Seasons* at the Bardavon Opera House in Poughkeepsie. The show will feature eight dancers from Garrison and Cold Spring, as well as many other dancers from Beacon and beyond. *Vivaldi’s Suites of the Seasons* will showcase the talents of Dance Beacon/Ballet Arts Studio students, aged 3 through 18, in choreography to *The Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi, as well as other baroque composers. The energetic and eclectic program will highlight the classical and conservatory-level training offered at the studio and will include a selection of modern, African, and jazz pieces. The program will also include the studio’s pre-professional dance company, The Dutchess Dance Company, in premieres of modern and contemporary ballet pieces by artistic director Alex Bloomstein and studio ballet mistress Denise Looney. Additionally, the concert will premiere a classical ballet piece created exclusively for the company by resident choreographer Todd Hall.

The Dutchess Dance Company (DDC) is designed to generate professional-level training and performance opportunities for talented, young dancers ages 12 and up. DDC performs at community events and venues throughout the region, including recent appearances at DanceFest in New Paltz and a benefit concert for the Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. The local dancers performing are Lucy Austin, Megan Brief, Anna Brief, Lianna Culp, Isabelle Davis, Kaelin Martin, Honor O’Malley, and Parker Parella. Dance Beacon/Ballet Arts Studio is a conservatory-level dance school. For more than 40 years, Dance Beacon and Ballet Arts Studio have offered students ages 3 through adult classes in all levels of ballet, modern, African, and jazz dance, taught by experienced instructors who have all worked as professional dancers.

*Vivaldi’s Suites of the Seasons* will take place on Saturday, June 2 at two showtimes: 1 and 5:30 p.m. Tickets, on sale now, are $15 for adults and $12 for groups of 10 or more, and children 12 and under. To purchase tickets, visit the Bardavon Box Office, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie, or phone them at 845-473-2072, purchase online or by telephone at ticketmaster.com, or by calling the studio at 845-831-1870.

Music Under The Stars

**concert on June 17**

O n Sunday, June 17 at 7:30 p.m., the West Point Concert Band under the direction of Lt. Col. Jim Keene and the Hellcats will present a musical celebration of the Army’s birthday at West Point’s scenic Trophy Point Amphitheater. The concert will also feature the West Point Streamer Ceremony. If the weather does not permit an outdoor performance, the concert will be held in Eisenhower Hall Theatre. As the oldest continually occupied military post in America, West Point serves as the perfect location to celebrate the 237th birthday of the United States Military’s oldest branch of service. The concert is free and open to all.

Following the American Overture for Band by J.W. Jenkins, the Concert Band will perform *Army Strong*. They will close out their portion of the concert with American Salute, a work by famous composer Morton Gould. It is based on the familiar tune *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*. The Hellcats will then take the stage to perform alongside the Concert Band, as well as present a drum and bugle segment. The concert will then close with the Streamer Ceremony, during which the Concert Band will play as battle streamers are attached to the Army flag.

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

Musical Celebration of Army’s Birthday at West Point

**Violin, Viola and Beginning Piano**

**for all ages and all levels**

*Discover the fun*  
*Develop your creativity*  
*Realize your artistic potential!*

**Whole Brain/Whole Body approach**

*Rachel Evans ~ Garrison and Beacon locations 845.234.9391*

*Juilliard graduate*  
*40 years teaching experience*  
*performs regularly with many chamber groups and orchestras*

**Sheila Jordan and Cameron Brown in Chapel Concert**

**Master jazz vocalist and renowned bassist perform on June 17**

W inner of the 2012 National Ensembles for the Arts Jazz Master Award, vocalist Sheila Jordan will dazzle the audience when she joins her highly acclaimed performance partner, Cameron Brown, on bass, in a Sunday afternoon concert on June 17 in the Chapel at West Point. The concert will feature music of Charlie Parker, the Great American Songbook, and original compositions. Sheila Jordan began in a trio, singing versions of solos by famous Charlie Parker, her first great influence. She worked extensively in jazz church liturgy and in clubs in the 60s, her popularity and recordings spread in the 70s and 80s and have culminated in her recognition as a living legend. The *New York Times* says, “Her ballad performances are simply beyond the emotional and expressive capabilities of most other vocalists.” Jordan has worked with acclaimed bassist Cameron Brown for the past 15 years, creating magic wherever they appear.

*Widely recognized as one of the finest bassists on the current jazz scene,* writes one jazz reviewer. Cameron Brown has worked with such jazz luminaries as Don Cherry, George Russell, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Chet Baker, and Betty Carter. Brown is a founder of the famous Don Pullen/George Adams Quartet, and performs nationally with his own group, The Hear and Now. He has appeared on more than 125 recordings. The Chapel is at 45 Market St., Cold Spring, and free parking is available on weekends at the adjacent Metro-North Station. This concert is made possible, in part, by New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the State Legislature and public funds from Putnam County. These grants are monitored by Putnam Arts Council. Attendance at the concert is free but contributions from the public are welcome.
Little League A Learning Experience

Local teams serve both girls and boys

By Christine Simek

P hilipstown Little League has been in the business of teaching local kids about baseball and sportsmanship for over half of a century. This year, approximately 230 girls and boys from Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Garrison are part of the program. The League is comprised of two softball leagues and three baseball leagues for a total of 18 teams who will, collectively, play over 100 games before summer begins.

Opening day took place on April 14 and the season will culminate at the end of June after a playoff series dictates a champion for each division, but winning the League Championship is not the primary goal of the organization. The League's mission upholds the belief that “the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary and the molding of our future citizen is of prime importance.”

President of the Philipstown Little League, Eddie Tock, is committed to championing the virtues of character, courage, loyalty and physical well being and he consciously encourages teamwork among the players, rather than focusing on competition. “It's about learning, not about winning,” he states emphatically. “And pushing this attitude with the kids really makes a difference.”

Tock likes to see camaraderie emerge among the players — especially when good friends have been assigned to different teams, a situation that has the potential to create a tricky dynamic for adolescents who are trying to figure out their social world.

“What you see is the kids playing hard against one another at 9 a.m. and then gathering in the stands afterwards to hang out together and watch the next game.” This camaraderie is the true ‘spirit’ of Little League that Tock wants to keep at the heart of the organization.

Adequate availability and the continual maintenance of playing fields are issues that create challenges for many local sports teams, and the Little League is not impervious to these difficulties. League games take place primarily at the Haldane fields on 9D and at the North Highlands site on Fishkill Road. Scheduling a hundred or so games on four ball fields is a logistical trial in itself, and the lack of space becomes an even bigger issue when you factor in the need for make-up games and practices. “We're short-handed when it comes to fields,” Tock says. And while he is very pleased with the cooperative relationship the League has with Haldane School and Philipstown Recreation Center, eventually the need for a new Little League field is going to have to be addressed. Tock has been in contact with Senator Greg Ball about possible grant opportunities for funding and he is working with the Rec Center to secure field space.

Parent involvement is an integral part of the program and the League relies heavily on dozens of volunteers who present themselves as the teams’ coaches, assistants, score keepers and field crew members. Other parents support the program by spending long hours on weekday afternoons and Saturday mornings cheering from the stands and grizzly hills that line the ballfields around Philipstown.

Tock says that they are always in need of more help, specifically for folks willing to be board members, so if you are interested in helping out an organization which not only teaches kids the rules of our national pastime, but makes it its business to help mold the next generation of Philipstown citizens, you can visit philipstownlittleleague.com and find a way to help.

Outdoor Equipment Day at Taconic Center

O n Sunday, June 3, a host of outdoor equipment will be demonstrated and made available for testing. Included with be recreation and touring models of kayaks, mountain bikes (helmets will be on hand), trail running gear, and stand up paddle boards.

Camping gear, including back packs and sleeping bags will be on display. Staff from Eastern Mountain Sports, which is sponsoring the event, will be on hand to answer questions.

The event is free, lasts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and food and beverages will be available. No pets are allowed. The Taconic Outdoor Education Center is located at 75 Mountain Laurel Lane, off Dennystone Road.

Tired of Ridiculous Utility Bills?

Which Money-Saving Energy Solution Is Right For You?

Golf Game On In Philipstown

The Garrison Golf Club offers junior golf camp

By Mary Ann Ehser

I f you don’t have a tee time booked today, there’s always tomorrow, weather permitting. And as the golf season rolls on into June, local golfers of all ages are swinging clubs in Philipstown.

Barbara Holt of Cortlandt Manor recently headed back to the course after taking a hiatus from playing golf. “It’s been a few years since I’ve played regularly,” Holt said, as she prepared to play a round at Highlands Country Club, “and I’m getting back to the game.”

Golfers will be enjoying local courses during peak summer months, hitting some straight shots and working on their short game. Joe Spivak, head golf professional at The Garrison Golf Club, said golf should be fun for all ages. But when kids are introduced to the game, the element of fun should be emphasized. Spivak will orchestrate a summer Junior Camp for children ages 6 to 16, and while the camp is designed to introduce the children to golf and to improve all areas of the game, he keeps learning lively for his youngest students.

“They don’t have the attention span to sit for long lectures,” Spivak said. “We hand them the kids clubs, and it’s very interactive. Sometimes, you may even see the kids tossing golf balls down the range. We let them have fun, which is what kids should be doing.”

Spivak will oversee two sessions of 2012 Junior Camp, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 16-19 and August 6-9. Camp rates run $325 for one week and $600 for two weeks. For registration information, call 845-424-4747.
Baseball IQ, Pitching and Hitting

Like many great teams, the bond players share makes them better than their skills and their statistics. “We have a very committed team” said coach Tom Virgadamo. “They consider our team their second family.”

Asked about his team’s strengths Virgadamo said, “Pitching and our baseball IQ…our guys are beginning to know the game more than the average player. And we have a deep pitching rotation.” Deep indeed. Six different pitchers picked up at least one win this season. Pitchers of record include Ryan Koval 4-1, Dan Kin

naird 4-2, John Rotando 3-0, Jay Mar-

chese 2-0, Ryan Shubert 1-0, and John Maldonado 1-0. The Haldane nine has excelled at the plate as well. The Blue Devils surpassed their goal of hitting .300 as a team. Be-

cause they improved steadily during Virgadamo’s four years as head coach. “During my first year I kept every-thing basic. Each year we added new plays and now we are implement-

ing parts of the game that college teams work on,” he said. One player who epit-

omizes that steady improvement is Ste-

phen Zalys who went from being a bench player in freshman year to a role player sophomore year to batting cleanup as a junior while hitting .398 with 22 runs batted in. Likewise, senior Dima Spinelli went from only eight at bats as a fresh-

man to starting every game as a senior, “and playing a tremendous right field while batting .288.”

Virgadamo is the kind of coach par-

ents hope their sons get to play under. “Growing up I always said that I would be in a real predicament,” said Dan Kinnaird said that makes what has been accomplished even sweeter. He’ll remember this season for “going above and beyond everyone’s expectations…we proved people wrong.”

Ryan Koval pitches and plays center field and exudes a kind of confidence that is not boastful but comes from the trust he and his teammates share. “All the

Boat Club Aids Visitors Grounded by Cupcake Island

Like many others over the years, the team has improved steadily during Virgadamo’s four years as head coach. “During my first year I kept everything basic. Each year we added new plays and now we are implementing parts of the game that college teams work on,” he said. One player who epitomizes that steady improvement is Stephen Zalys who went from being a bench player in freshman year to a role player sophomore year to batting cleanup as a junior while hitting .398 with 22 runs batted in. Likewise, senior Dima Spinelli went from only eight at bats as a freshman to starting every game as a senior, “and playing a tremendous right field while batting .288.”

Virgadamo is the kind of coach parents hope their sons get to play under. “Growing up I always said that I would be in a real predicament,” said Dan Kinnaird said that makes what has been accomplished even sweeter. He’ll remember this season for “going above and beyond everyone’s expectations…we proved people wrong.”

Ryan Koval pitches and plays center field and exudes a kind of confidence that is not boastful but comes from the trust he and his teammates share. “All the
Learning Art of Survival in Garrison

Special school teaches fundamental outdoor skills

By Michael Turton

We’ve all wondered about it for at least a few minutes. How would we handle being thrust into a real-life situation as portrayed in such movies as “Castaway” or “The Road” or “Alive.” Would we survive? 21st-century life does little to prepare us for such a possibility and yet serious things happen and not just in the movies. September 11th. The Tsunami. Hurricane Katrina. The blizzard of 1993. How would we cope without supermarkets, bottled water, electricity, barbecue grills and a secure roof over our heads? Not to mention our iPhone. And what if it was for an extended period of time?

Scout Mountain Survival School teaches people how to survive in wilderness or urban settings - using little more than their senses, basic implements, fundamental knowledge and vital skills that date back centuries. The school, headed up by Shane Hobel, teaches these skills in two settings - New York City’s Central Park - and in Garrison, NY.

On Sat. May 19 a group of about 18 people gathered in a privately owned woodland in Garrison to experience Wilderness Survival 1 - the foundation upon which Scout Mountain builds a series of progressively more detailed programs. The course was only eight hours long but it exposed participants to the fundamentals of survival: building shelter, finding water and food, building a fire, tracking, awareness and movement.

Wilderness Survival 1 that a debris shelter should only be tall enough to allow a person to sit up - in order to conserve body heat - no one doubts his word. He’s tracked a black panther.

It’s all about awareness

After the shelter discussion Hobel surprises participants by telling them they are being watched - and have been all morning. “Can you sense it?” he asks. Several say they can. He asks the group to point to where they think the announced observers are. Several people get it right. From off of the forest floor, two volunteers stand up, covered in camouflage and leaves. One was within spitting distance of the group. “It’s all about awareness” he said.

Later he even surprises his two volunteer observers when a third “scout” is discovered by one of the participants.

His back pack and survival kit carry an array of everyday but very useful items. He is not averse to using modern devices, but he points out the Bic lighter he carries will eventually die - whereas knowledge, vital skills and simple implements will not. He routinely carries several garbage bags for gathering water and keeping wood dry; a signal mirror; a good quality knife capable of carving wood, empty Poland Spring water bottles which when empty roll up like a toothpaste roll for easy storage - and always several cloth bandanas.

The bandanas are used along with a simple wooden tripod to create a water filtration system. The bandanas are suspended on the tripod, hanging one atop the other. The top bandana is filled with grasses, the middle with sand or clay and the third with charcoal - obtained from a fire. Water is poured into the top bandana and goes through the three make-shift filters.

Survival means different things to different people

The May 19 participants came from around the region - from Long Island to Rosendale. Debbie, who lives near Newburgh, signed on initially because a friend told her she’d meet great people. “But I also don’t want to be quite so dependent on society. It’s crumbling a bit I think. I want to know about more nature,” she said.

Caitlin from Rosendale echoed that sentiment. “I have a basic love for the outdoors but I feel timid. I want to gain confidence,” she said.

Erick from New York City had his girlfriend to thank. “She signed me up for my birthday - because she knows I’m very interested in learning about fundamental skills.”

Hobel sees people sign up for a variety of reasons. “I see weekend warriors and people who want to learn more about themselves. And I see people who are genuinely concerned about things like terrorism and want to be able to take care of their family and friends.” He recoils at being called a “doomsdayer.” To him it is about having the skills to handle any number of situations. “Stuff happens,” he said.

Additional advanced courses in survival, fire, tracking, camouflage, movement and edible plants are also available.
Fingers Point at Many Shady Suspects at Curse of the Cobra’s Kiss

(from page 16)

Samantha Phillips: (Sylvia) “I’m the stalker girlfriend. I’m mean, but I have a soft side for Chloe. I used to be with Peter, but he broke up with me and I’m heartbroken. Now I hate him and everyone else.”

Kyra Moskowitz: (Alexandra Periwinkle) “I’m Professor Tower’s secretary and I have a big crush on him. I’m nice for the most part. I think I’y’s guilty of murder because I don’t like her. I have great hi-eroglyphics.”

Tanya Needham: (Rose) She’s a Hollywood actress who likes to be pretty. She’s sassy in a way and wants to get attention. She’s nice; she’s not dumb. Her sister’s Violet.

Abigail Duncan: (Tarantella) She’s kind of this crazy, weird psychic lady who’s the personal adviser for Ivy Towers. She says she can read the future with her tarot cards and some of it’s true, but not everything. She’s weird and always so out-there and dramatic about every-thing. She has a sick husband and child and chickens, so she needs money.

Louis Weber: (Hercules Pork-chop) He’s a flamboyant boy’s man who doesn’t know how to do it. He doesn’t have much skill as a detective. He’s more kooky than brainsmart. He’s very street smart.

Tess Foster: (Jessica Maple) She’s very motherly and childish at the same time and very into her work, modest but in a way also proud. She’s very determined and she’s very clever.

Josie Altucher: (Sylvia) She’s Peter’s ex and she’s almost a stalker. She’s definitely not over Peter and she’s not a happy character; she’s angry and serious; she’s very touchy.

Sarah Anderson: (Cordelia) She’s one of the maid sisters and she’s very hormonal -- angry, crying or screaming but she can compose herself at times.

Hannah Langer: (Juliette) She’s a maid. She’s I’y’s friend, and she’s very upset when Ivy leaves. She’s kind and doesn’t hate anyone. She’s very motherly and child-like. She’s kind and doesn’t hate anyone. Jocelyn Lane: (Chloe) She’s not the smartest person. She’s very clingy because she feels like if she doesn’t hold on to her boyfriend, Peter, he’ll leave her. She and Sylvia hate each other. She’s very protective.

Theodore Henderson: (Inspector) “I am an Egyptian police agent assigned to investigate Professor Tower’s case. I’m pretty dumb, I have a tendency to interrupt Jessica and Hercules’ affair at crucial moments. I’m bad at my job.”

Corbett Francis: (Mummy) “I’m wrapped in bandages. I was discovered by Max. I steal Ivy and I walk really slow-ly. I walk into the desert.”

Nicolas Sterling: (Lloyd Crane) “I am a news reporter who has a secret marriage that is on bad terms at the moment. She wants to get out and do her job al-though people are restricting her from it. She’s determined. She isn’t known very well by the other characters.”

Alison Rooney contributed to this article.
Fingers Point at Many Shady Suspects at Curse of the Cobra’s Kiss

Haldane Middle School to be performed this Friday and Saturday

By Lucy Austin

T

his Friday and Saturday, June 1 and 2, Haldane drama presents its annual middle-school play. In an echo of last year, so many students auditioned that two casts were assembled and each cast will perform for one night. It will be performed at 7 o'clock each evening, and tickets, which cost $10 for adults and $5 for students and seniors, will be available at the door.

Director Martha Mechalakos is urging everyone to “come see Curse of the Cobra’s Kiss, a silly, over-the-top spoof of Agatha Christie murder mysteries. These enthusiastic middle-schoolers are doing a terrific job. It promises to be a very entertaining evening for all ages.”

How could it not be with a cast of characters as vividly described as those actors cornered at a recent rehearsal do right here?

In the words of assorted sleuths and matinee idols and even a pushy reporter:

Becky Gore: (Jessica Maples) Jessica Maples is a grandmotherly murder-mystery solver and writer, who randomly goes into her own imagination yet can still somehow solve murders. Rawr.

Allisen Casey: (Ivy Towers) She’s the selfish high-class wife of Mr. Towers who secretly wants him for his money.

Corydon Zouzias: (Professor Tommy Towers) “I’m rich. I discover King Rotftenlux’s tomb, I’m married to a really young lady and it’s kind of creepy and I hate my wife. I have a lot of friends.”

Anna Birn: (Violet) An actress who thinks that she’s the best and everyone’s under her. She’s not stupid but she’s always trying to get something from everyone. All the bad stuff happens to her but that’s OK because she’s mean.

Jeremy Roffman: (Lyle Stark) He’s a girly matinee idol. He cheats on his wife with three other girls. He’s funny and he acts heroic but he’s really cowardly and flamboyant. He’s really fun to play.

Phelan Maguire: (Max) “I’m a rich Texan movie producer. I gamble and steal things to pay off the debts I have. I only really care about money. I’m unfaithful to my employees.”

Tohey Kane-Seitz: (Chef Lulu Fondue) “I hate everybody except Professor Tommy Towers because he employs me. I have a lot of pride. I always hit myself with my knife because it’s too big for me, but who needs limbs anyway?”

Morrigan Brady: (Violet) A rich snob who thinks she can get everything ‘cause she’s a drama queen.

Anna Birn: (Portia) She’s a maid and she had a cat but it died and she’s depressed. Her dad was an actor.

Cassie Traina: (Juliette) An orphan maid who was taken in by Professor Towers. She’s Ivy’s maid; she’s very optimistic; and she really wants to make something out of herself. She takes every opportunity to be in movies.

Hall Traina: (Portia) She’s a maid, one of the three sisters whose cat was killed and she’s hysterically sad over it.

She feels that she has the potential to be in movies.

Catherine Parr: (Alexandra Periwinkle) She’s the secretary and she likes Professor Towers. She carries her clipboard everywhere. She’s frumpy, plain, and in her 30s. She has devoted her life to success.

Mary-Margaret Dwyer: (Nellie Fry) “I’m a reporter for the New York Bugle and I want to get the story on Professor Tower’s murder. I’m very pushy and I’ll do anything to get the story. I’m overall nice and young.”

Blaine Fitzgerald: (Lyle Stark) He’s a matinee idol who’s very full of himself. He has a secret marriage. He’s not who he seems in his movies. He’s scared. He’s thought to be a hero, but he’s actually shy.

Caroline Casparian: (Ivy Towers) Ivy is very snobby. She wants everything for herself. If she can’t have it, no one can. She would kill someone to get what she wants. She’s so melodramatic. Everything about her is times 10.

(Continued on page 15)