Mountain Lion Sightings Generate Uproar

Residents, outdoor experts share views

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Recent reports of a mountain lion in the area follow recurrent claims in the last several years of one or more of the large, sleek tan cats hanging out in the Hudson Highlands, typically in state parks or other rugged, wooded areas.

Outdoor life professionals differ on the likelihood. While some cite no credible evidence of mountain lions, others are far less skeptical and one asserts that they’re definitely here.

Besides “mountain lion,” the cats go by various names: cougar, puma, panther, catamount, and more.

Interest in them burgeoned when Sheila Rauch posted on the Philipstown Locals page of Facebook Aug. 9 that her husband “just saw a mountain lion outside his studio in the woods,” off Lane Gate Road, about a mile from Route 301. She said it "walked across a field, over his driveway and into the woods," was “trotting cat-like,” and was the size of a Labrador dog, with a "tawny color [and] long, long tail.

"This is just where we walk the dog on a leash at night," thus the incident was with the dog on a leash at night; thus the incident was night; thus the incident was "extremely scary," she wrote.

Irene Rothfarb Karlen commented on Philipstown Local's Facebook: "I nodded the same day that "my husband saw something this afternoon matching that description. It was darting across Fishkill Road, near the North Highlands Fire Department."

"...when I called DEC, to report the sighting, I was told that I must have been mistaken; there were no mountain lions in our area."

Bull Hill encounter

Another resident, who declined to be identified by name, has a home and business in the Village of Cold Spring. She told The Paper about her experience with a cougar near the village in 2006.

"It was late spring ... perhaps some time in May or June," during a hike with the family dog, she said. She saw and the dog came "from Nelsonville going over Bull Hill, down toward Little Stony Point. I believe I was south of the old quarry area" and recall "standing on a rock, looking down the hill, when I noticed a golden-brown animal bounding up towards me. Perhaps it was [a] few hundred feet from where I was. It disappeared behind the bushes." She called her the mid-point of our distance; then [it] disappeared again. I stopped and waited a little more. I didn't know what else to do but continue down the trail. I picked up a stick and made lots of loud noise as I headed down. I kept looking around to make sure we were not being followed. Luckily, we were spared."

She added that "when I called DEC, to report the sighting, I was told that I must have been mistaken; there were no mountain lions in our area." The DEC position

The DEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation – maintains that no evidence exists of a sustained native mountain lion population in New York State. Nonetheless, it acknowledges that the odd animal, escaping from a private owner or arriving from beyond the state, could show up here or elsewhere. (A mountain lion from South... (Continued on page 3)

Yankee Clipper Diner: Serving It up in Beacon Since 1946

"We're homey; we want people to feel like they aren't just a customer."

By Alison Rooney

Unlike the faux-retro diners which sprout in suburbia, attempting to look like long-entrenched bastions of Americana, Beacon's Yankee Clipper (YC) is the real deal. The eatery on the corner of Teller and Main opened in 1946 looking not all that dissimilar to its appearance today. Its door had a bit more Deco than breezy, confident post-war 40s, nonetheless the visual appeal of the multi-windowed, modest chrome and red exterior which belies a spacious interior, is intact.

Named after the Boeing B-314 "flying boat" planes developed for trans-Atlantic travel, the initial Clipper service was devoted to mail flights and the first passenger service on that route was inaugurated at Pan American Airlines in 1939. The YC's owners, Tonia and Petros Petosas, considered changing the name when they took over the diner in 2003, but decided against it (they have since been joined in co-ownership by Tonia's sister Katina and her husband Nikos Pertesis). At that time the YC's owners, Tonia and Petros Petosas, considered changing the name when they took over the diner in 2003, but decided against it (they have since been joined in co-ownership by Tonia's sister Katina and her husband Nikos Pertesis). At that time the YC had been vacant and derelict, following a decline. (Continued on page 3)
Left-Right Leftovers
By Celia Barbour

Other people’s leftovers are not like my leftovers. The leftovers that wind up in my refrigerator make sense to me. I know their backstories; I know why they’re there. Typically, they have earned their leftover status due to either a miscalculation — the quantity of food I prepared was out of sync with the hunger and/or quantity of diners — or a shrewd, exterior calculation: I wanted leftovers, so I purposefully made way too much food. (Though ever since my boys turned into teenagers, such schemes have grown increasingly unreliable — “way too much food” often turns out to actually be way less than enough.) Even the forgotten or neglected stuff — the pasta sauce I was less than enough.) Even the forgotten or increasingly unreliable — “way too much food” — I purposefully made way too much ulterior calculation: I wanted leftovers, I wanted to create, in other words, soon-to-be yesterday’s leftovers palatable is to cook them into a meal. I made a savory bread pudding to go with some grilled chicken. Because the best way I know to make someone else’s leftovers palatable is to cook them up into something totally different — to create, in other words, soon-to-be leftovers of your very own.

Leftovers

Savory Bread Pudding

The basic proportions of this dish can be applied to just about any combination of (leftover) vegetables, cheese, and bread(s).

1 loaf bread, cut or torn into 1½- to 2-inch pieces (about 12 cups total)
½ stick butter (or 2 tablespoons butter and 2 tablespoons olive oil)
1 large onion, chopped, or a combination chopped leeks, onions, and shallots to total 1 cup
2 stalks celery, chopped
2 cups fresh corn kernels
1 large pepper to taste, plus paprika
2 cups grated cheddar and Monterey Jack cheese
1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
2 cups heavy cream
10 large eggs
2 cups whole milk
Salt and pepper

2. Spread the bread pieces on a baking sheet and toast in oven about 20 minutes, rotating the pan halfway through, until crisp and dry.
3. Meanwhile, heat butter (or butter and oil) in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion and celery and sauté until soft and barely golden, 8-10 minutes. Add thyme and sauté, stirring, three minutes. Remove from heat.
4. In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, and cream. Add salt and pepper to taste, plus paprika. Mix in sautéed vegetables.
5. Working in layers, add half the bread pieces to the buttered dish. Sprinkle with a third of the cheese.
6. Repeat with the rest of the bread, a third of the cheese, and the remaining vegetables, some stale bread, and a whole lot of heavy cream.
7. Top with the remaining cheese and bake until puffy and golden, about 10 p.m., with haloes of headlights still blotting my eyesight, I found myself going through the contents of two refrigerators with my husband’s second cousin once removed. Leftover chicken tenders: no way. Three kinds of cake and eight quarts of ice cream: Heck yeah. Grilled pork with peaches, ziti with sauce, white bean salad: why not? The containers of green salad: Ew, no, like, what were you even thinking putting dressed salad in the fridge?

Yesterday, the boys had cake for breakfast, and we all sat down to someone else’s leftovers for supper. They were fine. We didn’t die. Today, I set myself to the task of turning the remaining vegetables, some stale bread, and a whole lot of heavy cream into a meal. I made a savory bread pudding to go with some grilled chicken. Because the best way I know to make someone else’s leftovers palatable is to cook them up into something totally different — to create, in other words, soon-to-be leftovers of your very own.

Savory bread pudding

Photos by C. Barbour

Left-Right Leftovers

Mouths to Feed

By Celia Barbour

August 22, 2014 The Paper

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Mountain Lion Sightings Generate Uproar (from page 1)

Dakota came through New York and got all the way to Connecticut before being killed by a car in 2011.

“…we don’t have mountain lions in New York state; they’ve been extirpated since the mid-1800s,” DEC spokesperson Wendey Rosenbach told The Paper Aug. 12. “We have not seen any evidence, such as paw prints, droppings, fur, or other conclusive signs, and we have no evidence ofreproducing animals, such as a mountain lion pair or family. Likewise, we have no indication of a lone animal or two wandering through the Hudson Highlands after originating elsewhere, she said.

At the Taconic Outdoor Education Center, part of the New York state parks system, Paul Kuznia said Aug. 10 that no one has ever reported a mountain lion in Fahnstock State Park or nearby state parks, nor has the education center staff seen any evidence of mountain lions. Moreover, bobcats might be mistaken for mountain lions, he said. “You can be easily fooled. In general, he said, it’s easy to mistake the D&C assessment on the presence, or non-presence, of cougars locally.

‘They are here’

Shane Hobel’s perceptions differ. An expert tracker and outdoorsman, Hobel runs the Beacon-based Mountain Lion Survival School. “I have been tracking a pair of mountain lions in the Hudson Valley since 1999,” he told The Paper, Aug. 19. “They are here. They do exist. I’ve been seeing the same mountain lion — a male — for years around Mount Taurus. Hobel believes this mountain lion was last summer, up on Mount Taurus,” or Bull Hill, behind Cold Spring and Nelsonville. Two of his students spotted the same cougar on Mount Taurus this summer, he added.

So far, he said, “I’ve seen two distinct mountain lions” here. And he wonders about more. However, he noted, “it’s extremely rare” to see one. “They really are an extremely elusive animal. For the most part, they want to stay away.” Hobel referred to mountain lions as ‘fantastic’ creatures who, among other things, help control an over-abundance of deer population. “We should be incredibly grateful they’re here,” he said. Hobel is also reluctant to pinpoint their locations. “If we prove these animals exist, every red-neck, gun-toting idiot out there” will want to shoot one, he said.

Tim Corless, a local resident, told The Paper on Monday (Aug. 18) that on an icy day two years ago he fished in the vicinity of Cold Spring’s Upper Reservoir and Foundry Brook, off Lake Surprise Road in North Highlands. A day or so later, a fisherman friend at the same spot discovered cougar paw prints and the clear im- print of an animal in the snow, as if the cat had been “doing a roll … making a perfect snow angel,” Corless said. Efforts to reason with a friend were unsuccessful.

The DEC has never released cougars, despite what you may hear to the contrary. It declares on its website, also cautioning that numerous Internet pictures of mountain lions purported to have been photographed in New York actually were taken in states like Minnesota and Wyoming.

Peter Salamohn, a naturalist with the National Audubon Society, spends part of his year in Philipstown. From his summer home in Maine, on Aug. 13 he said the issue of “Cougars in New York” is a political conversation, as it is “Wolves.” Why? Primarily because if the state DEC were to confirm their presence, they would then have to ‘protect them’ and put into existence all kinds of rules and land-use regulations, which they are loathe to do. Many conservationists and naturalists have other perspectives on rare predators than the state or federal view.” At the same time, Salamohn pointed out that “there are a lot of nuts out there who couldn’t tell a cougar from a large cat house” and “this topic swirled in mystery and ghosts and reports from crackpots as well as sharp-eyed locals.”

Conservation groups with significant roles in Philipshtown said they had seen no evidence of mountain lions.

“No one has mentioned anything to me, and probably would have,” had anyone said something, said Katrina Shin-dlecker, of Friends of Fahnstock and Hudson Highlands State Parks, Aug. 13.

Eric Lind, director of the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, also said, “I’ve seen no one or any evi-dence of one” in the marsh or elsewhere. Representatives of Scenic Hudson and the Hudson Highlands Land Trust made similar comments.

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

Butterfield Services Debated (from page 1)

County money, two legislators suggested taking it, to new Butterfield office buildings (if finished) or the American Legion building for news updates and latest information.

August 22, 2014 3

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About the Author

Paul Kuznia of the Taconic Outdoor Education Center, Fahnstock State Park

This photo by Mary Ann Eisler

A county Butterfield lineup

Philipstown resident Vincent “Vinny” Tamagno, the county’s deputy planning commissioner, launched the proceedings today, he said.

“…I think that” when it comes to Butterfield, he added. “The last time I saw a town’s senior citizens lunch program now operating in leased space at the American Legion building; senior citizen exercise and computer classes, lectures, legal counseling, and other programs. fron page 1)

Tamagno pointed out that western Put-nam County (Philipstown, Putnam Valley, and part of Kent), covers one-third of the county and with about 21,900 people con-tains 20 percent of Putnam’s population. “The residents of western Putnam have a hardship in receiving county services due to geographic limitations,” he said. Moreover, he maintained, the county loses money as citizens go to Beacon and Peekskill, in adjacent Dutchess and Westchester counties, where DMV and other offices are closer in geography, and in Carmel, the county seat. From the DMV and county clerk offices alone, the county could take in $500,000 in revenue through Butterfield branches, according to Tamagno. “We’ve actually regressed; 20 years ago we had more county ser-vices in western Putnam than we have today,” he said.

Over all, a leased Butterfield facility “is literally going to throw off more revenue than what the cost is,” Tamagno said. “There’s no new employees,” because some of those currently based exclusively in the eastern end of the county would rotate into the Butterfield offices.

Legislative doubts

Such assertions raised doubts on the part of legislators, among them, District 4 Legislator Ginny Naccarino, a Physical Services Committee member, who called for a “cost analysis. When we say no additional jobs will be created as a result of this major change, I look at it with a little skepticism.”

“I think that” when it comes to But-terfield “on its own, the Village of Cold Spring has to make that decision,” said District 8 Legislator Dini Lobiue. “I don’t think the county (Continued on page 5)
After years of meetings, delays and at times heated debate, the redevelopment of the Butterfield Hospital site is about to move one important step closer to becoming a reality.

In a report to the Cold Spring Village Board at its Tuesday (Aug. 19) meeting, Planning Board Chairman Barney Molloy announced that the initial site plan for the project will be presented at the Planning Board’s Sept. 3 meeting. In the interim, Chuck Gillarski, a consultant working with the Planning Board on the Butterfield project, will conduct a detailed review of the plan. “It seems straightforward,” Molloy said in describing the plan, which he had received just the day before. He estimated that the Planning Board’s review will take three to four months and that the board will likely meet bi-weekly in order to move the process along. He also indicated that developer Paul Guirraro is “fairly confident” that by year-end he will be able to move on to the next two stages — demolition of the existing buildings and being granted a building permit. The existing demolition permit expires at year-end.

Vandalism continues to be a problem at Butterfield. “I think,” Molloy said, that the situation has become so bad that “kids are now bringing furniture [from inside the hospital] outside,” adding that “the door is wide open.” Building Inspector Bill Bujarski, who said that black mold is also a significant problem inside the abandoned hospital, supports financing the property, a possibility that has been raised in the past. Regarding fencing he said, “I fully agree...[w]e need something about safety at the site. There was a consensus that Guirraro should apply for a variance, allowing him to erect a temporary, 6-foot-high fence. “He is fully in the awareness of the situation,” Molloy said.

Appointments made to Zoning Update Committee

The committee that will rewrite Cold Spring’s outdated zoning code is starting to take shape. At their July 24 meeting trustees had agreed that the new group would be comprised of seven members and indicated a preference to include one representative from each of the village’s standing committees. At Tuesday’s meeting they voted to fill five seats on the new committee — but only after some rather pointed debate.

Appointed to the Zoning Update Committee were Barney Molloy, chair of the Planning Board; Marie Early, chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals; Carolyn Bachan, member of the Historic District Review Board and Michael Armstrong who chaired the Special Board that drafted the 2013 Comprehensive Plan, the document which lays the foundation for the zoning update. Donald MacDonald, past chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, was also named to the committee.

Prior to making the appointments the Village Board voted 3-2 in favor of not interviewing applicants from the standing committees. Trustee Stephanie Hawkins and Deputy Mayor Bruce Campbell argued in favor of interviewing all the candidates before making the appointments, with Hawkins asserting that it came down to “creating a committee of all the applicants fairly.” The argument against interviewing was led by Trustee Bowman, noting the candidates’ experience and the fact that they had been nominated by the standing committees. The two remaining seats will be filled from a pool of five residents who have expressed interest in serving on the Zoning Update Committee.

Policing the village

In his monthly written report, Officer-in-Charge George Kane commended Cold Spring Police Officers Greg Walz, Gary Marino and Ed Boulanger for their work in quickly putting an end to the recent outbreak of graffiti and for arresting three suspects. During a review of Village Accountant Ellen Mageean’s work in quickly putting an end to the recent outbreak of graffiti and for arresting three suspects. During a review of Village Accountant Ellen Mageean’s report in the Cold Spring Cemetery.

Margaret Rose Tellor Mills

Margaret Rose Tellor Mills, a longtime resident of Cold Spring, died peace- fully in her home at 48 Morris Ave., Cold Spring, on Saturday (Aug. 16), after a battle with cancer. Mrs. Mills, as she was affectionately known, was an active partner with her husband and spiritual steward of village community of Cold Spring. They arrived in Cold Spring in the summer of 1961, one day after a ter- rible fire burned and destroyed the church building of Saint Mary’s. She was an active partner with her husband and the entire community in rebuilding Saint Mary’s after the great fire and with igniting the many activities of the church.

She was active in the Women of Saint Mary’s, the Altar Guild, the Cold Spring Historical Society, the Garden Club, innumerable church fundraisers and dinners. There was never a person who was not in need in the community, for whom meals or help was not readily forthcoming from the CSPD rectory. Pastoral counseling was not limited to Father John but was actively supported and augmented by Mrs. Mills. Even into her later years, when her home on Morris Avenue was an open door for intellectual and spiritual nourishment. Her Sunday night gatherings, Bastille Day French celebrations and every seasonal holiday in between were renowned for her generous spirit of inclusion and warmth.

She believed in the power of prayer and was an active member of the written word of the faithful. The imperative to maintain contact with cards and letters. She never failed to give thanks for any human kindness extended her, with handwritten acknowledg- ments. Countless charities had her “number” but the solicitations were never seen as a bother but rather as an opportunity to help. She was always a true daughter of the Mid- west in heart and in practice forever cheer- ing anything that struck of the Wisconsin badger “red and white” or even more im- portantly, her beloved Green Bay Packers. The family extends its thanks to all of her dear and supportive friends in Cold Spring without whom she and Father John would have been unable to remain in their own home throughout their lives. She will be missed by all who knew her.

It had been her wish that contributions be made in her memory to the American Cancer Society.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, Aug. 22, 2014, at Our Lady of Loretto Church, Cold Spring. Interment followed in the Cold Spring Cemetery.
Yankee Clipper Diner: Serving It Up in Beacon Since 1946

District 6 Legislator Roger Gross predicted. He said that Cold Spring residents seeking services can get to Carmel, the county seat.

"Maybe we should keep sales tax revenue over there" in Philipstown as well, Town Board Member Nancy Montgomery responded to Gross and LoBue. "What you're saying is you don't want to have the funding," said LoBue. "This whole thing has been clung up because we've been waiting for approvals for But- terfield. I want to expand services to se- niors. I'm not convinced it has to be done at Butterfield."

From the audience, Cold Spring Vil- lage Board Member Stephen Hawkins said she "would hate to see the senior center initiative further mired in this discussion about one particular property [Butterfield]. I wish that we could get this whole thing unhinged from something that is an encumbrance."

Tonia and Katina grew up in Buchan- an, and then moved to Mahopac, their family going back to their grandparents. Their years of experience running diners, Petsases relocated to Oneonta, where they married sisters, as they were only passing acquaintances back home),

"The question is whether we can provide $800,000 toward a But- terfield center, a $250,000 in a state grant, and $50,000 from the seniors. We can share the space" for Philipstown. "The question is whether we can do it," she said. "We can share the space" for multi-use purposes. She said opposi- tion to a county center at Butterfield "is nothing."

"Work with us," he proposed. "I'd like to ask you to meet with us. We're all for this project, but we'd like to be involved in it. I feel — sitting on the Town Board — we have the funding," said LoBue. "This old county center is making an appearance. Sometimes the seniors. I'm not convinced it has to be done at Butterfield."

If the numbers work, we should con- sider the senior citizen center from Butterfield. "I would like that momen- tum to carry over," he said. "We have to have a space dedicated only to seniors. We can share the space" for Philipstown. "We can always in the future take that by condemnation, for a public purpose," said LoBue. "I feel — sitting on the Town Board — we have the funding," said LoBue. "This old county center is making an appearance. Sometimes the seniors. I'm not convinced it has to be done at Butterfield."

District 9 Legislator Kevin Wright said that if a building suitable for county needs were constructed at But- terfield, "you could always in the future take that by condemnation, for a public purpose." Both Tamagna and District 5 Legisla- tor Carl Albano, who chairs the Physical Services Committee and the full legisla-
ture, said that county ownership sacrific- es the tax income generated by a private- ly owned building in which the county owns offices. "If we own it, it comes off the tax rolls," Albano said. He described Butterfield as "almost shovel-ready" and thus available relatively soon, as opposed to having the county build its own place, which could take years. Butterfield "happens to be new construction. It's good for the county," he said. "And I do love the idea of multiple use. If the numbers work, we should con- sider it. The math is really where it all comes down, not revenue and versus gains.

Calls for cooperation

Some legislators also argued that the Odell administration failed to inform them of its plans, while making over- looks.

LoBue said that some county officials "have been before the Village Board and they're telling people we're going for- ward with this, without coming to us [the legislature]."

"That's not accurate," Albano an- swered. "Gross, too, said we have never been consulted.

"I feel — sitting on the Town Board — we have the funding," said LoBue. "This old county center is making an appearance. Sometimes the seniors. I'm not convinced it has to be done at Butterfield."

"I would like that momen- tum to carry over," he said. "We have to have a space dedicated only to seniors. We can share the space" for Philipstown. "The question is whether we can do it," she said. "We can share the space" for multi-use purposes. She said opposi- tion to a county center at Butterfield "is nothing."
Day Trip
James Baird State Park
Trails, golf and more
By Michael Turton

You are not alone if you have driven past James Baird State Park, located just 25 miles north of Cold Spring on the Taconic State Parkway, and said to yourself, “I should check this park out sometime,” but have never quite gotten around to it. It’s worth the short drive and for more reasons than simply satisfying your curiosity. The variety of pursuits the park can accommodate must be unique among state parks. Where else that the park can accommodate must be

The park is a throwback to a simpler time. Almost 600 acres in area, its gently undulating terrain features more than six miles of wooded trails to explore. Numerous spacious, tranquil picnic areas are set on the forest’s edge. Outdoor recreation facilities enable visitors to play basketball, softball, tennis or volleyball. Two large picnic pavilions make the park worth considering for family reunions and other gatherings. Both can accommodate up to 300 people.

One contributor to Trip Advisor described the park this way: “This is our family’s favorite place to go with the kids—a beautiful spot that is both not busy, yet beautiful with nature around you. Living the kids with their bikes, kite, Frisbee or whatever you like. This place [has] it all from grounds to trails, to barbecues and picnics, tables, as well as swings and slides. Did I mention it is a beautiful place—?…”

The Eagle’s Nest pub has a cozy atmosphere — and a varied menu.

A golfer’s delight
An 18-hole golf course that is mainly flat to gently rolling is the park’s dominant feature. Its designer was the renowned Robert Trent Jones who also designed more than 500 courses in the U.S. and in 40 countries around the globe. His designs reflect his philosophy that golf should be a “no risk, no reward” sport, challenging golfers to “go for it.” Two of the par-5 holes at James Baird are considered by many to be among the best in the Hudson Valley. The course also has a driving range and pro shop. A new irrigation system has delighted the course regulars, keeping the fairways green even through August.

A cozy pub
Also unlike many state parks, James Baird features a pleasant restaurant and pub that offers catering and facilities suitable for weddings, graduations or corporate outings. The Eagle’s Nest restaurant and pub overlooks the golf course and has a warm feel thanks to the beautifully rich wooden floors and walls. The menu is as diverse as the park itself offering everything from salads, burgers and other sandwiches to mussels, prime rib and chicken Francaise. The pub has a full bar menu. The indoor facility can accommodate up to 300 people and in spring, summer and fall the tented patio can host another 150 guests for special events.

Historic roots
Even history buffs have reason to visit the park. A small display between the golf course pro shop and the Eagle’s Nest illustrates the park’s history. The park is named for James Baird (1873—1953) who moved to nearby LaGrange in 1932 where he farmed 200 acres of land. Baird studied engineering at the University of Michigan and was the Wolverines’ quarterback from 1893 to 1895. He also played on the baseball team. After graduating, Baird established his own construction company, which went on to build some of America’s most famous structures including the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He also built New York City’s Flatiron Building, the nation’s first steel skyscraper. In 1939 he deeded 590 acres of land to New York State, resulting in the creation of the park that now bears his name. Work began on the golf course in 1940 and it opened in 1948. Baird was a man with an eye to the future. During construction of the park, in a 1944 letter to the head of the Taconic State Park Commission, he wrote: “After all, the important thing is how the entire park will look … 100 years from now.”

Directions, pets and more information
James Baird State Park can be entered directly from the Taconic State Parkway, 11 miles north of I-84. The park is also open in winter. Household pets are allowed but must be kept on a leash. Pets are not allowed in buildings, picnic areas or on the golf course. Visitors should note that the Nature Center mentioned on the park website is no longer open.


Trails lead visitors through the wooded landscape.

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Leah Nikolaya/Siegel J 4:00pm
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Plummer Play Explores Fears of Each Other

Terrorism’s implications on display in staged reading

By Kevin E. Foley

Coming off a season of mostly traditional (and doubtless much appreciated) summer fare — two different productions of Fiddler on the Roof! — The Depot Theatre in Garrison plans to begin the autumn season with a bracing, contemporary, adult comedy/drama, A Ship to Cross the Sea of Suffering, by successful television writer and Cold Spring resident John Plummer. The play, written in 2011, is a deep dive into the murky regions of terrorism, the meaning of art, the definition of an artist, the pain and solace of personal relationships, loyalty to country, friends and lovers as well as the complexity of language and how it helps and hurts our capacity to confront and make sense of all these and other matters.

And yes, Plummer assures us, funny.

An experienced theater hand, Plummer is also directing the reading. While the combined schedules of the company didn’t allow for sufficient rehearsal time for mounting a complete show, “the cast is so phenomenal it will be better than a lot of full productions,” Plummer said.

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And then, poetry lovers, there’s Walt Whitman, whose work becomes a sort of fifth character in the play. Did you know Osama bin Laden read Whitman? Apparently he didn’t care for the 19th-century Brooklyn boy’s sensuality and democratic spirit but perhaps his reasons were dishonest.

Wrestling with terrorism

Osama bin Laden is not a character either but he is a presence in the play’s swirl of current-event-driven angst and redemption. The play spends time with FBI agents and their troubling, at times desperate interrogation techniques; a terror suspect who seems to relish the idea of suspect as performance artist; and a woman well known to the agents who loves not wisely but ultimately perhaps quite well.

In a telephone interview from Los Angeles, Plummer, 47, underscored that despite the play’s harsh language and dark themes, it was actually “an uplifting show about terrorism. It’s very

Top left: Maia Guest, Jason O’Connell. Photo provided by Leslie Hassler; Greg Miller (Photo by Jordan Matter), Vaishnavi Sharma (Photo provided)
The Calendar

Looking for things to do in and around Philipstown? Grab The Calendar and go. For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info. Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info. See you around town!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

Kids & Community
Dutchess County Fair
10 a.m. - 10 p.m. County Fairgrounds
6600 Spring Brook Ave., Rhinebeck
845-876-4000 | dutchessfair.com

Annual Used Book and Media Sale
2 - 5 p.m. DiamondFish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | usedbookmedia.org

Vince O’Reilly: Antoinette / Count No Man Happy (Singing)
9 - 10 p.m. Antipodean Books
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Sports
Army vs. Fairfield (Women’s Soccer)
7 p.m. Clinton Field, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Theater & Film
MYSF2: Dog in a Manger
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
6550 Spring Brook Ave., Rhinebeck
845-695-4800 | phillipstowndepottheatre.org

Annual Used Book and Media Sale
5 - 8 p.m. Antipodean Books
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Brenda Williams and The All-Star Band
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-737-0029 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Meetings & Lectures
Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche: Dzogchen Retreat (Open)
3 p.m. Garrison Institute | 14 Mary’s Way, Garrison
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

Tentative
Round Up Texas BBQ
6 - 9 p.m. Round Up Texas BBQ
2280 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-628-1641 | rounduptxbbq.com

Fridays & Saturdays
Music
Le Vent du Nord
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Talking Machine
9:30 p.m. Max’s on Main | 246 Main St., Beacon
845-836-6207 | maxsonmain.com

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Desmond-Fish Library closes at 1 p.m.

Kids & Community
Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Open
Boscobel, 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
coldspringmarket.org

Kapay Tours
9 a.m. Destination Waterfall
11 a.m. Sandy Beach (Yoga Tour)
Hudson River Expeditions
14 Market St., Cold Spring
845-809-5935 | hudsonriverexpeditions.com

Public Canoe Trip
9 a.m. Audubon Center
127 Warrington Lane, Garrison
845-265-2601 x15 | constitutionmarsh.org

Annual Used Book and Media Sale (50 percent off)
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Hudson Highlands Land Trust
14 Market St., Cold Spring
845-809-5935 | hudsonriverexpeditions.com

Brain Injury Support Group
11 a.m. Destination Waterfall
127 Warrington Lane, Garrison
845-265-2601 x15 | constitutionmarsh.org

Health & Fitness
Yoga at Storm King
10:15 a.m. 1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-938-2115 | stormking.org

End-of-Summer White Party
5 - 11 p.m. University Settlement Camp Theatre
724 Walton Ave., Beacon
beaconphil.org/events/end-of-summer-white-party

Clearwater Public Sail
6 p.m. Beacon waterfront
845-265-9000 x1077 | clearwater.org

Wolves of North America with Atka
6 p.m., Hudson Lodge
2880 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-265-5773 | intlnaturemuseum.org

Theater & Film
CSFS Summer Film Series: Vertigo (1958)
7:45 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring
coldspringfilm.org

The List
8 p.m., Boscobel | See details under Friday.

Music
Steve Wols
6 - 9 p.m. Round Up Texas BBQ
2280 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-809-5557 | rounduptxbbq.com

Wolves of North America with Atka
6 p.m., Hudson Lodge
2880 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-265-5773 | intlnaturemuseum.org

The Theater
CSFS Summer Film Series: Wyst (1958)
7:45 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring
coldspringfilm.org

The List
8 p.m., Boscobel | See details under Friday.

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The Theater
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7:45 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring
coldspringfilm.org

The List
8 p.m., Boscobel | See details under Friday.
BIRDS OF A FEATHER

845-831-1134  |  hvmodernquiltguild.com
313 Main St., Beacon
9:30 a.m. Destination Waterfall
9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes  |  See details under Friday.

36x338
845-424-3960  |  garrisonartcenter.org
6 - 8 p.m. Garrison Art Center
Group Show: Salon des RefUSE

845-265-4866  |  artantiquegallery.com
40 Main St., Cold Spring
2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Ellen Hayden Gallery

1 p.m. Howland Public Library

845-424-4618  |  philipstownsoccer.org
Soccer Referee Training Course

SPORTS

Soccer Referee Training Course
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. for location.
845-424-4618  |  philipstownsoccer.org

ART & DESIGN

Member Morning
9 - 11 a.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115  |  stormking.org

Hudson Valley Modern Quilting Guild
1 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
37 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134  |  hymvdquiltguild.com

Group Show: Birds of a Feather (Opening)
2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Elizabeth Hayman Gallery
40 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-4868  |  artformny.wordpress.com

Group Show: Salon des RefUSE (Opening)
6 - 9 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960  |  garrisonartcenter.org

Kids & Community

Beacon Flea Market
8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Henry Street Lot, Beacon
845-202-0004  |  beaconfleamarket.org

Kayak Tours
9:30 a.m. Destination Waterfall
10 a.m. Bananaoman Castle
Hudson River Expeditions
See details under Saturday.

Dutchess County Fair
10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Fairgrounds
See details under Friday.

Kayak Tour
10 a.m. Denning’s Point, Beacon
845-831-1997  |  mountaintopsonline.com

Military Recruitment Day
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Boscobel
1901 Route 90, Garrison
845-265-3638  |  boscobel.org

Beacon Farmers’ Market
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9025  |  beaconfarmersmarket.org

Bannerman Island Tour
12:30 p.m. Beacon Dock
800-979-3370  |  bannermancastle.org

Annual Used Book and Media Sale (Free per box)
1 - 5 p.m. Storm King Art Center
See details under Friday.

Children & Families: Monarchs, Milkweed, & Migration
1 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115  |  stormking.org

Music

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

Howland Cultural Center
3 p.m. Kazzale Jaxon Quartet
7:30 p.m. Surji Tomonoka / Erika Lindsay Quartet
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988  |  howlandculturalcenter.org

Live Music
5 - 8 p.m. Round Up Texas BBQ
See details under Friday.

Traditional Irish Session
6 - 9 p.m. Silver Spoon Café
124 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2525  |  silverspoonco.com

Sunset Concert Series: Chris Cubeta & The Liars Club
6:30 p.m. Riverfront Bandstand, Cold Spring
845-265-2525  |  silverspoonco.com

Saratoga Dutchmen / Metropolitan Klezmer
5 - 8 p.m. Round Up Texas BBQ
See details under Friday.

Yoga with a View
6 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 90, Garrison
845-265-3638  |  boscobel.org

Basketball at Philipstown Rec Center
6:30 p.m. Youth Basketball Skills (grades 3-8)
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618  |  philipstownreccreation.com

Theater & Film

Free Admission
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Eleanor Roosevelt Site (Val-Kill)
Route 9G, Hyde Park
845-938-2526  |  goarmysports.com

Hudson Valley Renegades vs. Aberdeen
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Monday.

The Liar with Q-and-A
7 p.m. Boscobel  |  See details under Friday.

Michael Keropian: Seeing History Through Art
7 p.m. Kent Town Hall
25 Sybil’s Crossing, Kent Lakes
RSVP: henrichistoricalassociation@gmail.com

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

Kids & Community

Craft Hour (grades 2+)
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3000  |  desmondfishlibrary.org

Health & Fitness

Lymphedema Support Group
12:30 p.m. Lindenbaum Cancer Center
1978 Cronond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-929-8400  |  hnhc.org/events

Weight Loss Surgery Seminar
6 p.m. Hudson Valley Hospital
1940 Cronond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-738-3966  |  hnhc.org/events

Breast Cancer Support Group
7 p.m. Support Connection
20 Triangles Center, Suite 100, Yorktown Heights
914-962-6402  |  supportconnection.org

Women’s Pick-Up Basketball
7 - 9 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
See details under Monday.

Sports

H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Monday.

Theater & Film

The Two Gentlemen of Verona
7 p.m., Boscobel  |  See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures

Board of Trustees Workshop
7:30 p.m. Village Hall  |  85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-205-3011  |  coldspringny.gov

Philipstown Recreation Commission
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
107 Glens Falls Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618  |  philipstownreccreation.com

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

Kids & Community

Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill
10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring
845-424-4618  |  philipstownreccreation.com

Desmond-Fish Library
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-265-3040  |  butterfieldlibrary.org

Kayak Group Paddle
6 p.m. Long Dock, Beacon
845-831-1997  |  mountaintopsonline.com

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

Michael Keropian: Seeing History Through Art
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Michael Keropian: Seeing History Through Art
7 p.m. Kent Town Hall
25 Sybil’s Crossing, Kent Lakes
RSVP: henrichistoricalassociation@gmail.com
The Calendar (from page 9)

Support Groups
For a full list of area support groups, visit: philipstown.info/support

Health & Fitness
Breastfeeding Support Group
11 a.m. Hudson Valley Hospital
1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-734-3257 | hvhc.org/events

Red Cross Blood Drive
1 - 5 p.m. Church of the Nazarene
953 Main St., Fishkill
800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org

Marge’s Knitting Circle for Women with Cancer
6:30 p.m. Support Connection
See details under Tuesday.

Sports
H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Monday.

Art & Design
Bus Trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art
9 a.m. Henry Street lot behind Yankie Clipper Diner, Beacon | 845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org | Reservations required.

Theater & Film
Othello
7 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures
New Moon Ritual
6:45 p.m. Notions-n-Potions | 175 Main St., Beacon | 845-765-2410 | notions-n-potions.com

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

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

Town Board Public Hearing (C.V. Rescue Truck)
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Town Hall | 238 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

Kids & Community
PechaKucha Night
6 p.m. Socialize | 7 p.m. Presentations
8:30 p.m. Socialize
The Garrison | 2015 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-3044 | pechakuchagarrison.com

Summer Reading Movie Night:
Ernest Green Story
6 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Health & Fitness
Stand-Up Paddleboard Yoga
10 a.m. Hudson River Expeditions
14 Market St., Cold Spring | 845-809-9395 | hudsonriverexpeditions.com

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
See details under Monday.

Sports
H.V. Renegades vs. Connecticut
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Monday.

Friday, August 29

Health & Fitness
Navigating Healthcare Options
10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | 800-453-4666 | misn-ny.org | Appointment required.

Art & Design
Visit philipstown.info/galleries

Religious Services
Visit philipstown.info/services

Meetings & Lectures
Alcoholics Anonymous
Visit philipstown.info/aa
Support Groups
Visit philipstown.info/support

The Gift Hut
Featuring eco-friendly, made in the U.S. unique gifts, wooden toys, games, and puzzles for the whole family

VISIT. VIEW. VOTE WOMS BEACON NY AUGUST 9 - SEPTEMBER 13 2014 PRESENTED BY Rhinebeck Bank
A Ship to Cross the Sea of Suffering

Role of art, dangers of language and power of love

The characters in A Ship to Cross the Sea of Suffering come at each other with burning needs and desires for understanding and connection. They resort first to insistent questions with no tolerance for what they perceive as dishonesty or evasion. The male FBI agents frustrated by their hunt for terror suspects and the deviousness of the one they have in the chair find themselves stripped down to impulses they can’t fault as a mode of understanding. The two women in contrast use language to mask and deceive as well as uncover truths.

A professional writer for over 20 years, Plummer’s current preoccupation is with his admitted first love, television, which these days has an expanded broadcast universe. At the moment he is finishing writing all the episodes of season three of Granite Flats a program on BYUtv (Brigham Young University) available on satellite channels and on BYUtv.com that features among the actors his wife, the aforementioned Maia Guest, and their 15-year-old son Charlie. Christopher Lloyd, of Taxi and Back to the Future fame, is the guest actor last year and is returning this year.

A co-writer in season one, head writer in two, Plummer is now the sole writer as a result of both his success and the necessity for productions to be leaner in an expanding and very competitive Internet-driven universe. HBO’s True Detective and Fargo on FX are recent examples of the single writer show, according to Plummer. Set in 1962, Granite Flats is small town America wrestling with the threats of a Cold War world and the anxieties of relationships.

In an interview with The Paper in April 2013 he said the show was looking for truth, mystery, investigation. “A Ship to Cross the Sea of Suffering” will run for four performances, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on both Saturdays, Sept. 6 and Sept. 13. A premium wine and cheese event including meeting the writer and actors will be held at 7 p.m. on Sept. 6.

Central Hudson Shares Steps to Prepare and Stay Informed During Severe Weather

Central Hudson reminds customers to take steps to be prepared for severe weather and offers ways in which the community can stay informed during emergencies.

“Have a plan in place so that you know what to do in an emergency,” said James P. LaRitto, president of Central Hudson. “This may include checking on vulnerable neighbors or family members, and having adequate emergency supplies on hand such as non-perishable and ready-to-eat foods, bottled water, prescription medications and cash,” he said. “Be sure flashlights are working, have a supply of spare batteries, and keep a battery-operated radio on hand to stay informed of storm and restoration updates and the locations of community resources.”

Other ways to prepare include:

• Paying close attention to weather advisories and storm warnings.
• Having a telephone that does not require an electric outlet to operate.
• Charging cell phones, or having a car cell phone charger.
• Refueling vehicles and ensuring that they are in a good working condition.

Stay Informed During Severe Weather

If power is interrupted, customers should turn off or unplug appliances to reduce the risk of damage when power is restored and leave on a light or two to know when power is restored.

If a storm should strike and power is interrupted, LaRitto advised customers to keep safety in mind. “For example, avoid the use of candles for illumination, and use generators outdoors only and follow the manufacturer’s instructions,” he said.

Also, never use outdoor gas or charcoal grills indoors, as they pose a fire hazard and over time can give off deadly carbon monoxide gas. He emphasized that these items should be used only with proper ventilation. Similarly, operate cars and motor vehicles outdoors, and never in a closed garage.

Other things to keep safe include:

• Keeping away from downed power lines, and lines which may be tangled and hidden in fallen trees.

Assume all downed lines are live, and stay at least 30 feet away.

• Avoiding travel; but if necessary, exercise extreme caution, as downed trees and lines, together with the potential for flash flooding, may create hazardous driving conditions.

• Being aware that localized flooding may potentially undermine underground utilities, including natural gas lines, and report any gas odors; and calling 911 to report public emergencies, such as dangerous tree conditions.

To report outages and get updates:

• Call the PowerLine at 845-452-2700 or 1-800-527-7214, and use the automated system.
• Download Central Hudson’s mobile app at CentralHudson.com/mobApp.
• Sign up for text messaging at CentralHudson.com/alerts.

Visit the StormCentral section at CentralHudson.com.
Members of Cub Scout Pack 137 complete a community service project at Little Stony Point.

Cub Scouts Clean Up at Little Stony Point

Eighteen Cub Scouts from Pack 137, Philipstown, spent the morning of Sunday, Aug. 17, performing a cleanup of Little Stony Point beach. These Scouts, ranging in age from kindergarten (Lions) to fifth grade (Webelos), were joined in their hard work by parents, siblings and members of Boy Scout Troop 437, Philipstown. Members of the Little Stony Point Citizens Association board and New York State Parks were also on hand to oversee the project and lend a hand.

Volunteers helped remove over 10 contractor-size trash bags of debris, litter, bottles and cans from the riverside portion of the Hudson Highlands State Park. The project reinforced scouting’s “leave no trace” outdoor principles and the concept of performing a “good turn” for the community.

The cleanup was scheduled as part of the pack’s summer program and coordinated through the Little Stony Point Citizens Association, which also serves as the charter organization for Pack 137.

Families of boys entering kindergarten through fourth grade who are interested in joining Cub Scouts this fall, should send their contact information to cubmaster@cubsoutcpack137.org.

Fort Montgomery Historic Site Hosts Sept. 4 Lecture

The Fort Montgomery State Historic Site will present a lecture, 60 Men at Yorktown: The Light Infantry Company of the 22nd Regiment of Foot, at 7 p.m., on Thursday, Sept. 4.

During the American Revolution, the British light infantry was at the forefront of every major campaign from the first shots at Lexington through the surrender at Yorktown. Composed of elite soldiers from each British regiment, the light infantry marched fast and fought hard in sparse, arduous conditions. Researcher Don N. Hagstot will look at the light infantry company of one British regiment and discuss some of the individual men who served in it, from their background before joining the Army through their fate after leaving it.

Seating is by reservation only and limited to the first 50. Reserve by calling 845-446-2104. Leave your name, phone number and number of people in your party.

The lecture series is sponsored by the Fort Montgomery Battle Site Association.

Pruning is an art

If you are looking for a “natural finish” and do not want to see your ornamentals cut back severely or have those artistic pruning. Artful Pruning allows your ornamentals to both keep good looking. Artful Pruning gracefully brings your ornamentals back to a more appropriate smaller size.

For an artful, natural finish, call the artful pruner.

Call Gregory, with over 10 years as a career gardener specializing in natural and restorative gardening.

845.446.7465

Health Department Goes to Bat Against Bats

To doubt about it: it is bat season everywhere including Putnam County.

Bats populations normally rise in the warmer months and this year has been no different. So far this summer 61 bats have been brought in for testing to the Putnam County Department of Health. That is up about 35 specimens from last year at this time, and a sign that the capture-the-bat message is getting out. Unfortunately the health department still hears about bats being captured and then set free outside, leaving residents undergoing treatment that probably could have been avoided, if the bat had been available for testing.

“With increasing concerns for weight management, and health, the ultimate purpose of the two-week event is for residents to enjoy a wonderful dining experience, and at the same time, have an opportunity to learn about healthy eating. For a list of participating restaurants and more information visit putnamcounty.com/eat-smart-restaurants.

Big Band Swings Boscobel

Visit Boscobel on Sunday, Sept. 7, for its 14th Annual Big Band Concert and Sunset Picnic.

Visitors are invited to bring blankets, chairs, and a picnic to enjoy an evening of swing music and dancing. Returning this year will be swing dance demonstrations performed by instructors and students of the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Wappingers Falls. Bring your dancing shoes.

One of the most popular jazz orchestras in the area, The Big Band Sound, recreates the swinging jazz music of the big band era, performing compositions that span a century of music, including classics made famous by Duke Ellington, Count Basie and more.

Free admission to children 10 and younger accompanied by a paid adult. Admission for adults: $16. Friends of Boscobel members receive a 10 percent discount. Purchase tickets at Boscobel.org or at the door.

Big Band attendees can purchase a combination ticket for the admission tour and concert: $27 per adult. Children 10 and under tour free with adult on concert day. Purchase combo tickets in advance by phone: 845-265-3638.

Gates open at 5 p.m. on Sept. 7, and the concert kicks off at 6 p.m. (Rain date Sept. 14.) Tickets are non-refundable unless Boscobel cancels. For available purchase on site (while supplies last). Visit Boscobel.org or call 845-265-3638.

HHLT Hike Featured in HHLT Hike Schedule in Putnam County

Putnam County Department of Health recently awarded Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) a $10,000 grant for planning and implementing a series of free, family-friendly hikes, which highlights Putnam County’s natural and cultural heritage. As part of the Ramble, HHLT welcomes people to experience Spooky—Not Scary—Local Legends as part of the 15th Annual Hudson River Valley Ramble. This year, the Ramble features more than 200 events hosted by more than 150 organizations from the Capital Region to New York City. For a complete listing, visit hudsonrivervalleyramble.com.

Eat Smart Restaurant Week Scheduled in Putnam County

Putnam County Department of Health and the Putnam County Department of Health will work with restaurant chefs to perfect the entrees of their own dishes. The event kicks off at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5. Visit marina-galleryfineart.com.

WANT TO JOIN THE FUN?

Visit Boscobel.org or call 845-265-3638.
Community Briefs

The collaborative art group decomposer to Perform many songs one center During Collaborative Concepts Farm Project

The collaborative art group decomposer, made up by Matt Frieburghaus, Thomas Huber, and Laura Kaufman, will explore the interaction between sight and sound in space as part of the Col- laborative Concepts Performance Art On The Farm. Many songs one center is decom- poser's second performance and will take place in the cow pasture at Saunders Farm, Garrison, on Aug. 30. While there is no start time to the performance, it will end at 4 p.m. There are rain dates of Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 2014. The perfor- mance art program, Here, There, There, There, and Everywhere, along with dozens of sculptures, is part of the Collaborative Concepts “Farm Project 2014.”

For many songs one center, decom- poser asked local artists and musicians to participate in creating a “song” by following a set of instructions. Meet- ing on the day of the performance only, 30 players will impro- vise with traditional, homemade instru- ments, and found objects. Players will begin playing inde- pendently, spreading throughout the farm. Eventually they will join together in a circle at the top of a hill at the farm. At this moment, the perfor- mance will draw into a unified sound.

Along the way, players will find intercon- nected moments with each other and the landscape.

The audience is invited to walk among the players to hear the multiple new- ters of song. How it will go is a sur- prise for all.

Performance Art On The Farm was cu- rated by Marcy Freedman, who will per- form her piece Do You Remember Win- ter? (2 to 6 p.m.),

decomposer to Perform many songs one center During Collaborative Concepts Farm Project

During Collaborative Concepts Farm Project

For more information, call Lyna Pritchett at 845-297-9243. Learn more at jasonvieaux.com, escher- quartet.com.

Registration Open for CGF Fall Programs for Kids

Common Ground Farm announces fall programs for kids. Preschool on the Farm will be offered from 10 to 11 a.m. on Fridays. First ses- sion: Sept. 19.

Children ages 2 to 4 are in- vited to join in one-hour work- shops designed just for them. Each class features a different farm or nature topic, experien- tial investigation and learning, movement, stories, and arts and crafts. Cost is $80 prepaid for 12 sessions (2014 members $72). $45 prepaid for six ses- sions (2014 members $40); $10/ drop-in session.

Pioneer Living will be offered Tuesday or Sunday, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. First session: Sun- day, Sept. 21 or Tuesday, Sept. 23. Cost is $60 for six weeks (2014 members $75 for series). In this monthly program held at the farm, children learn about and experience life as it was in late 1800s frontier America: how children and parents provided food, shelter and entertainment for them- selves, long before the days of TV, refrigerators, cars and su- permarkets. Snacks provided. Visit commongroundfarm.org.

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Critical Success for Global Warming Series

Garrison producer wins Emmy
By Pamela Doan

For Garrison resident David Gelber, the co-creator and an executive producer of Years of Living Dangerously, winning an Emmy Award for Outstanding Documentary Series had special significance even though he’s no stranger to the spotlight; this is the ninth time he’s won an Emmy. When the series debuted on Showtime this past April with a nine-episode run, it was the fulfillment of four years of work that he put into creating the series with his business partner, Joel Bach, after they both left jobs at 60 Minutes to pursue it.

Years of Living Dangerously, or the YEARS Project, explores the impact of climate change on communities around the world, using celebrity correspondents to do the reporting. Harrison Ford, Don Cheadle, Olivia Munn, Matt Damon, and Jessica Alba, among others, were drawn by their commitment to the issue to be involved, and Hollywood heavyweights James Cameron was an executive producer. Gelber and Bach’s strategy for the series was for the celebrities to act as journalists and they interviewed people who are affected by environmental crises caused by global warming. “I was amazed at what good ‘journalists’ our actor correspondents turned out to be,” Gelber said. “They all performed with the skill and intelligence of 60 Minutes correspondents.”

The Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards, announced on Aug. 16, recognize technical accomplishments in television programs (the Primetime Emmy Awards will air on Monday, Aug. 25). Gelber’s series Years of Living Dangerously was nominated in two categories, for both Outstanding Writing for Nonfiction Programming, which Cosmos: A SpaceTime Odyssey won, and for Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series, which Years won. Gelber said he expected the popular Cosmos series, which had 12 nominations and is hosted by astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, to win both categories; the competition was formidable.

When Years was announced as the winner, Gelber stepped in to give the acceptance speech on behalf of the team and said, “I talked about climate change being far and away the biggest issue of our time, which was a little out of sync with the festive mood.” Years of Living Dangerously was also named as “the EMA Outstanding Achievement for Environmental Content Award” in the 2014 Environmental Media Awards earlier this month.

Although the recognition for the YEARS Project is Gelber’s ninth Emmy award, it’s his first nomination and award in the prime time category. His previous eight Emmy honors were for news and documentary. For 25 years, Gelber was a producer on 60 Minutes and has been honored with every major journalism award throughout the course of his career.

Telling the climate story

Still, the Emmy for Years of Living Dangerously has special significance due to his personal connection with the subject matter.

“I think we’ve figured out a way to tell the climate story in a way that interests viewers, even if they don’t think much about global warming and what causes it,” Gelber said. “The response from critics couldn’t have been better.” In an interview with The Paper last April, Gelber talked about climate change as the issue he was going to devote the rest of his life working on. As a father, he felt it his mission to do this for his daughters.

The series has so been well received that Showtime is re-airing it again starting the second week of September and the entire series will be on DVD beginning Sept. 7. Gelber and his co-creator and partner on the series, Joel Bach, are hoping for a chance to run a second season in 2016.

For Gelber, the timing is critical because it would air during the next presidential race. Climate change wasn’t an issue in the 2012 presidential race and he would like to influence that in the next race. That a documentary series on global warming was recognized with television’s highest honor signals that the debate is shifting and Years is helping to tell the story.

The YEARS Project got so many requests for material from... (To next page)
Success for Global Warming Series  (From previous page)

schools that they teamed up with the National Wildlife Federation to create curriculum based on the series for middle school, high school and college students that will be available this fall. Gelber said that he hasn’t been in contact with either the Garrison or Haldane School Districts that he hasn’t been in contact with either.

The first guest appeared in the compost pile. Popping up out of the rich leaves dropping from a black-striped thick stem. Since I get volunteer tomatoes sprouting from seed in the compost pile, my husband’s first guess turned out to be the correct one. He assumed it was something that had been composted, not something that drifted in, and he didn’t recognize it as one of the usual fruits or vegetables we eat like peppers or carrots.

Avocado, he guessed.

Avocados grow from trees in warm climates, tropical or sub-tropical. Most kids are familiar with sticking toothpicks in a pit and suspending it in water to get it to sprout, but that’s usually as far as it goes. Keeping the sprout going and turning it into a tree that will bear fruit eventually doesn’t often happen in our climate. I had to turn to the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources website for information about them. They don’t show up, of course, in any of my resources based on Northeast growing.

Since the avocado isn’t hardy to our climate, I’m going to transplant it to a pot soon and bring it in for the winter. Why look a gift tree in the mouth? If it doesn’t work, I can compost it again, but if it lives, then in 5-13 years (not kidding) I’ll have avocados growing on the patio. Once again, understanding what it takes to grow a favorite food brings new appreciation for it. Patience is necessary.

The original avocado would have been a Hass, but the tree is cross-pollinated and is a hybrid of the original parent and whatever else, not a true Hass. That’s the case with all volunteer plants.

My next discovery turned out to be a for as I expected. In a patch of yard that I cleared, but didn’t get around to filling in this summer, a 3-foot-high, bushy plant has taken over. At first glance, it has nice pretty flowers. Flowers are good, right? Not in this case. A little investigating confirmed it is Japanese knotweed, a huge problem because it’s aggressive, fast growing, invasive and hard to eradicate. Good times ahead.

Japanese knotweed was intentionally planted as an ornamental plant that turned out to be problematic, as so many of these imported plants become. Outside of their native habitat without their natural checks and balances, many introduced plants go beyond our landscape boundaries.

To get rid of this unwelcome newcomer, I’ll need to resort to using an herbicide, glyphosate, the main ingredient in Roundup. Japanese knotweed spreads through rhizomes and simply cutting it back would trigger new growth. The most effective method is to cut it back to 3 to 4 inches above the ground and then apply Roundup, which at least is a selective herbicide and will affect only the vegetation that it is directly sprayed on.

As long as I follow the label’s instructions and take care not to spill it or spray it on surrounding plants, it can be used safely.

Last but not least, I found jewelweed growing in the same area as the Japanese knotweed. The speckled orange trumpet-shaped flowers on dense foliage attract bees and this one is just passing its bloom time. It’s an herb that has been used for many conditions and it is considered a cure for poison ivy. As a native plant, it isn’t a problem. I could treat it like a weed and pull it or I could leave it and let the bees and hummingbirds enjoy it. I quite like the flowers and can’t see any reason to mind it.

Welcome to the garden, jewelweed.

An avocado tree found growing from a pit left in the compost pile.

Jewelweed Photos by P. Doan
**Better with Age**

By Kathie Scanlon

Baby boomer seniors are redefining retirement, keeping physically active to improve their quality of life and overall health. Amber Stickle, director of the Philipstown Recreation Department, responded to a request from the Philipstown Town Board to develop free exercise classes for residents 62 and better. Registration is currently open with classes beginning the week of Sept. 8 for an eight-week series.

On Mondays, Fit For Life instructor Danielle Pack McCarthy offers a gentle cardio workout with light weights. On Wednesdays and Fridays, Kathie Scanlon (full disclosure: that’s me) offers Chair Yoga classes for improved range of motion and balance as well as stress reduction. Kelly House gets the group moving on the dance floor with Zumba Gold® on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“It is a real pleasure to offer the seniors a fun way to exercise,” House said. “I love it when they say they feel stronger and more flexible.”

In 2013, the first year of the program, approximately 60 participants joined all or some of the three classes offered. Councilwoman Nancy Montgomery and Stickle are presently seeking funding from Putnam County for additional classes.

**Fit for Life Class for Seniors**

By Alison Rooney

It may be well past Easter, but with many bunnies being born throughout summer, Hudson Highlands Nature Museum (HHNM) wildlife educator Carl Heitmuller wants to get the word out: “If you cared, leave them there.”

What he means by this is if you happen upon a “nest” of rabbits during daytime, seemingly unattended by their mom, resist the impulse to scoop them up and put them there unless you know for sure the mother is dead. Even if you don’t see her for hours, during daylight, don’t see her for hours, during daylight, probably nothing is wrong, in fact if the mom stays, hawks and other predators probably nothing is wrong, in fact if the mom stays, hawks and other predators are not around there’s probably nothing wrong, in fact if the mom stays, hawks and other predators are not around there’s probably nothing wrong.

“People find rabbits,” Heitmuller said. “They are often friendly.”

Heitmuller took care to mention that these rabbits are not rodents, but instead are lagomorphs, strictly herbivorous animals which never consume meat, possessing two extra incisors, four back feet, capable of covering 10 feet in a single stride, and reddish brown or grey coloring perfect for camouflage, all along with, of course, the white, cotton-ball-esque tail. Cottontails grow to about 14 to 18 inches long and up to 4 pounds and the females are larger than males. According to Heitmuller, they move in small hops and jumps, but can achieve much greater speeds when frightened, often moving in a zigzag pattern to confuse a pursuing predator. They also can swim well, though rarely favor moving through the water.

**Herbaceous bunnies**

Heitmuller touched on the appearance and characteristics he had described. Then it was scenario invoking some of the characteristics he had described. Then it was scenario invoking some of the characteristics he had described. Then it was scenario invoking some of the characteristics he had described. Then it was scenario invoking some of the characteristics he had described. Then it was scenario invoking some of the characteristics he had described.

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Stickle is pleased with the receptivity of the instructors to their students’ needs: “They are able to tailor the classes to participants who have mobility issues that prevent them from doing a particular exercise.”

Seniors have reported they are happy to have a venue where they may exercise and socialize with their peers. Classes are held in the Continental Village Clubhouse and the Chestnut Ridge Community Room. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Further information can be found at philipstown-recreation.com or 845-424-4618.

**A Look at Cottontail Rabbits**

By Alison Rooney

It may be well past Easter, but with many bunnies being born throughout summer, Hudson Highlands Nature Museum (HHNM) wildlife educator Carl Heitmuller illustrates his talk with a live rabbit, this one a Netherland Dwarf. Heitmuller began the well-attended talk by noting some general characteristics: big eyes, located at the size of their head, a “great nose for smelling,” large back feet, capable of covering 10 feet in a single stride, and reddish brown or grey coloring perfect for camouflage, all along with, of course, the white, cotton-ball-esque tail. Cottontails grow to about 14 to 18 inches long and up to 4 pounds and the females are larger than males. According to Heitmuller, they move in small hops and jumps, but can achieve much greater speeds when frightened, often moving in a zigzag pattern to confuse a pursuing predator. They also can swim well, though rarely favor moving through the water.

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