

The HIGHLANDS Current



Seventh Graders
at War ~ Page 13

APRIL 28, 2017

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | highlandscurrent.com

Café Confidential

*Foundry owner:
'You can't make this stuff up'*

By Michael Turton

Maybe Jeff Consaga hasn't seen it all, but he must be close. From the woman who carried her dog in her bra to the customer who had him leave a sandwich daily in the middle of Main Street, the owner of The Foundry Café in Cold Spring has tales to tell.

Consaga began working at the café in 1990 when it was known as Karen's Kitchen. In 1996 he took over the business and changed its name. Customers are known to drive long distances to wait patiently for his French toast and weekend pancakes. For regulars, the Foundry Café continues to be a place where everyone knows their names, and where, on certain days, if you know the password, morning coffee can be had before the doors open.

But Consaga, in his 28 years at 55 Main, has also encountered customers whose behavior has ranged from hilarious to outrageous to frightening. I pulled him away from the counter on a rainy Monday afternoon and took notes.

Watch your kids

At one time, a faded sign that read "Unattended children will be sold" hung behind the cash register. "We're not a daycare," Consaga explains.

One afternoon, a couple lunching with their children called Jeff out of the kitchen.

"We don't like that sign," the father said. "Children are a blessing from God, meant to be enjoyed." Consaga agreed, pointing out that he (Continued on Page 8)



Jeff Consaga recreates his one-time ritual for a customer who insisted on having his breakfast placed in the middle of Main Street for pickup. Photo by M. Turton

Warning: No Lifeguards

*Shortage last year closed
Canopus Beach two days a week*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Despite pleas on Facebook and elsewhere, Fahnestock State Park has not found enough lifeguards to staff Canopus Beach for the summer. As a result, Evan Thompson, an assistant state parks manager based in Fahnestock, is looking for a few good men and women (six, to be exact) who can:

- Retrieve a 10-pound brick from the bottom of a pool.
- Swim 200 yards in 4 minutes or less and 50 yards in 40 seconds or less.
- Rescue someone in a simulated drowning.
- Administer cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Canopus Beach, which is located at 1498 Route 301 in Carmel, is open to the public for (Continued on Page 3)

What's Going On Up There?

*Catching up with Beacon's two
county legislators*

By Jeff Simms

John Forman and Jerry Landisi, both members of the Independence Party, represent Beacon (along with parts of Fishkill) in the 25-member Dutchess County Legislature, which meets monthly in Poughkeepsie. Members serve two-year terms. Their responses have been edited for brevity.

What are some issues on your radar?

Forman: We have a campaign finance resolution that limits contributions of companies that are doing business with the county executive and county legislators. It's similar to what has been passed in Orange County. I don't think the implication is that there are any shenanigans going on in Dutchess County, but it does give us another level of accountability.

Landisi: We recently opened the Dutchess County Stabilization Center, which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It helps people with drugs and alcohol addiction and mental illness problems. It diverts people, keeping them from going to the emergency room, or going to jail. They're interviewed and then the staff will



Jerry Landisi



John Forman

determine what type of program is best. It's one of the things we're trying to do to reduce the jail population, because that's the last place we want to see them. So far it's seen at least 200 people.

What do you tell people who ask about county government?

Forman: The people who need us the least probably don't know what county government is all about. However, we have many programs for seniors. We have a large

(Continued on Page 6)



Seen these along Route 9? Wonder what they're for? See Page 9.

Photo by Michael Turton

Cook On: 1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

Confined Confection

By Mary Ann Ebner

For the past two weeks, I've been camping out in my kitchen. To acclimate a four-legged family member, we gated off and puppy-proofed the room. We may come to regret the choice of training grounds, but it seems to make sense for a baby who needs to go outdoors on quick notice.

Denver, like our older dog Cammie, loves tiny pieces of raw carrot. Cammie trained with carrots starting at 8 weeks, and they remain her favorite perk. It's impossible to bring a bunch into the house without her waiting patiently in hopes that one will fall to the floor. When we were training Cammie, we learned from a devoted dog lover to curb her mouthing and nipping with a slather of chilled but-



Golden gooey butter cake



Goopy butter cake's dense crusty base holds a thick and rich filling. Photos by M.A. Ebner

ter. With a bit of the butter on our hands, we encouraged pet kisses and within 48 hours and lots of praise, she stopped nipping and went head-over-heels for unsalted organic butter.

As it turns out, a little butter helps prevent the rest of the household from nipping at each other, too. When a cake appears around our place, we're suddenly on our best behavior. (Just as behavioral experts advise to have a puppy toy ready at

all times, it might be wise to have a slice of cake ready at all times for people.) If there's a stick or two of quality butter on hand, use them to make this dense, cake-based crust that holds a gooey layer of cream cheese, butter and powdered sugar.

You'll be restricted to the kitchen for a short time while preparing the cake, but the rewards are worth the investment. To boost the flavor, add shaved carrots to the filling. In St. Louis, where locals claim to have created the confection, bakeries offer it laced with everything from chocolate chips to key lime.

Goopy Butter Cake

Crust

1 cup sugar
2 cups flour
¼ teaspoon salt
1¼ teaspoons baking powder
1 stick unsalted butter, melted
2 eggs, beaten

Filling

8 ounces cream cheese, softened
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups powdered sugar

Topping

¼ cup powdered sugar

1. Sift dry crust ingredients together. Add beaten eggs and melted butter and stir until thoroughly mixed. Press thick, sticky dough into greased 9 x 12 baking pan.
2. Mix cream cheese with eggs, butter, vanilla and powdered sugar. Beat at medium speed 2 minutes. Pour over unbaked dough.
3. Bake 35 minutes at 350 degrees until puffy and golden. Cool completely and dust with remaining powdered sugar.

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🌿 **Alpine Guided Garden Walk**
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Admission \$10 / Members no charge

🌿 **Mother's Day is a Garden Conservancy Open Day**
Sunday, May 14, 10am - 5pm
Featuring *Tea in the Garden* (tea & cake available for purchase from 12-4pm)

Draw Your Mother for Mother's Day
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The Highlands Current.
All ages welcome.

Deadline: Monday, May 8
Email drawing to: editor@highlandscurrent.com
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Warning: No Lifeguards *(from Page 1)*

swimming between Memorial Day (May 29) and Labor Day (Sept. 4), initially on Saturdays and Sundays, and then daily starting the third week of June. The park's lifeguards double as kayak/paddling boat rescuers and general providers of first aid. They earn \$13.50 to \$16 an hour.

In 2016 a lifeguard shortage forced Thompson to close Canopus Beach two days a week. To keep it open at all, he had to scramble to bring in lifeguards from other state parks.

Academic schedules exacerbate the problem. Thompson said many lifeguards are college students who must return to campus by mid-August, leaving a gap of about three weeks before the season ends. He pointed out, however, that older adults can be lifeguards as long as they meet the requirements, which are being in good physical shape, holding certifications in lifeguarding, CPR and first aid, and



completing tests required by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, including the challenges listed on Page 1.

"It's a great summer job, but there's a lot of responsibility that goes with it because you're keeping people safe," Thompson said. He noted, however, that Canopus

Beach is a "relatively quiet park. It's not a high-stress job. We don't have a lot of serious incidents." While state park lifeguards rescue about 4,000 swimmers annually, Thompson said Canopus lifeguards typically make only one or two "saves" each summer when a swimmer is foundering or temporarily incapacitated.

Instead, much of their work involves basic tasks, including enforcing beach rules, the most unpopular of which may be getting everyone out of the water when a thunderstorm is approaching, Thompson said.

Besides spending the summer outdoors,



Canopus Beach on a busy summer day

State Parks photo

lifeguarding is a good way to learn about how to work with people, he said.

Thompson said he has one lifeguard returning and a candidate training for the

park service tests. A third prospect has yet to begin the process. For information, see parks.ny.gov/employment/lifeguards, or email evan.thompson@parks.ny.gov.

School Board Ballots Set

Only one newcomer among Highlands districts

There are no challengers to incumbent school board members in Beacon and Cold Spring for the May 16 election, suggesting that absent a write-in campaign they will run unopposed.

In Beacon, President Anthony White, Vice President Kenya Gadsden and members Kristan Flynn and Craig Wolf are each running for four open seats on the nine-member board.

The vote tally will determine the length of each winner's term. The three highest vote getters will serve standard three-year terms, while the fourth-place finisher will serve one year. That's because Flynn and Wolf were appointed last year to fill vacated seats, one of which was set to be contested this year and the other in 2018.

In Garrison, incumbent Diana Swinburne and new-



Courtney Watson McCarthy will run unopposed for an open seat on the Garrison School Board.

File photo

comer Courtney Watson McCarthy will appear on the ballot to fill two open seats on the seven-member board. Carol McCullough, appointed last year to complete the term of James Cannon after his death in May, is not running. Swinburne, first elected in 2005, seeks her fifth term. McCarthy is a paper engineer and graphic designer known for her bestselling pop-up books.

In Cold Spring, incumbent Peggy Clements is the only candidate for her seat on the five-member board. She won election to the board in 2015 and 2016, both times finishing third among three candidates and so assigned to fill the remaining year in vacated seats. If elected on May 16, she will serve a full three-year term.



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Women in Hudson Valley History Lecture and Book Signing with Vernon Benjamin

Saturday, May 13 at 5pm

Join PHM for a presentation on *Women in Hudson Valley History* by local author Vernon Benjamin on Saturday, May 13 at 5pm. From a 16-year-old heroine of the American Revolution to a woman who started the feminist revolution in the 1960s, women of the Hudson River Valley have often been at the forefront of New York and national history. Come meet Vernon Benjamin to learn more, and don't forget to have him sign a copy of his book, *The History of the Hudson River Valley: From the Civil War to Modern Times*.



Please note that seating is limited. To guarantee your seat, please register through our lecture Eventbrite at www.putnamhistorymuseum.org. Admission is \$5 for the general public and is free for members. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel at 845-265-4010.

The Putnam History Museum is located at 63 Chestnut Street in Cold Spring.
www.putnamhistorymuseum.org

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What about the mice?

Thank you for all of the information about the spread of Lyme and its connection to ticks and white-footed mice ("Lyme Bomb," April 7; "Lyme Bomb 2," April 14).

What was not addressed was how to deal with this proliferation of the mice and other small rodents. Humans have contributed to these excessive numbers, as we have with deer. In the last couple hundred years we have eliminated all of their predators and created the perfect edge habitat for them, first with farms that became suburbs filled with shrubs and plants that, to deer, are like salad bars.

According to an expert who spoke at the deer symposium organized in March by the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, the deer population has jumped from 10 to 12 animals per square mile in pre-colonial times to the current 50 to 100 per square mile in areas around metropolitan New

York. This jump in the number of deer, coupled with the introduction of invasive plant species such as barberry, is destroying the understory in our woods.

For many years, before it became illegal in New York to purchase Japanese barberry, it was the "go-to" plant that many people planted in their yards and gardens because it looked nice and deer left it alone. Unfortunately, the thorny shrub also provides wonderful cover for mice from coyotes and hawks. Look out your car window and a great percentage of green plant material visible in the first days of warm weather is barberry. Studies have shown that a barberry-infested forest has 120 ticks per acre versus 10 ticks per acre without it.

To eliminate the devastation that we have created, our job is to dig up and replace barberry with native shrubs on our properties, or at least cut it back (along with other invasive plants) before it goes to seed in the fall. Be safe along roadsides



The fruit, leaves and thorns of Japanese barberry
Audubon photo

and get permission from owners, but do the same wherever you see barberry. Then the predators can do their job to reduce the white-footed mice population.

Annie Patton, *Garrison*

Sanctuary town

There is one issue we can all agree upon regarding immigration and that is that nothing much has been done to deal with it, as difficult as it may be ("Philipstown Forbids Aiding Immigration Arrests," April 14). We all know ignoring something does not make it go away. It just makes it worse. Open minds and hearts by our elected officials is what's needed and I, for one, want to start to see some results. We are talking about human beings here, so Washington, commit to solving this now. No excuses.

Michael Leonard, *Philipstown*
Leonard is a member of Philipstown Town Board. His was among the three votes to approve the board's "equal protection" resolution.

The difficulty here is the broad definition of "criminal" that can be used for deportation. Criminal can be applied to anyone who has not gone through all of the legal channels
(Continued on next page)



Taking it to the Street By Anita Peltonen

If you could choose any dramatic role, what would it be?



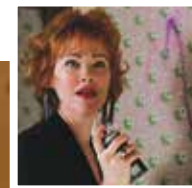
"Mothra from *Godzilla*. To be a fierce warrior in these times is a good thing, and to have fire-breathing power."

~ Dee Finley, Newburgh



"Roy Batty from *Bladerunner*. He embodies both the villain and the ideal human."

~ Daniel Melville, Beacon



"Delia Deetz in *Beetlejuice*. She's one of my personal heroes, because of the way she went about making a life for herself as an artist."

~ Abigail Taylor, Beacon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

toward immigration. There are millions of people in this category living in this country for many years who have not committed any other violation. Should they all be deported?

Richard Steinberg, *Cold Spring*

The Putnam County Sheriff's Department won't pay any attention to this useless resolution, and the board has probably cost the town all kinds of money from the federal government. Vote them out!

Christopher Vathke, *Cold Spring*

Editor's note: On April 25, a federal judge temporarily blocked an executive order by President Donald Trump that ordered the Department of Homeland Security and Justice Department to prevent cities who do not cooperate with federal immigration enforcement from receiving federal funds. The White House called the ruling an "egregious overreach."

Taking the oath

What is wrong with each of the photos of Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy and Trustees Fran Murphy and Marie Early as they took the oath? ("Around Town," April 7). Answer: They all have the wrong hand on the Bible. They should be raising their right hand instead of their left. And these people keep getting re-elected Amazing.

Andrew Dade, *Cold Spring*

Editor's note: There is no correct or incorrect hand when being sworn in. It's typically the right but can also be the left.

Haldane Hall of Fame

As a taxpayer and parent of three Haldane High School graduates I would like to express my extreme dismay regarding the district's proposed Hall of Fame policy ("Hall of Fame on Hold," April 14). I find this idea disrespectful and cavalier.

One cannot just remove the history of a fabulous and wonderful school that was filled to the brim with administrative excellence, teachers who gave of themselves beyond words and support staff who made all the difference!

My daughter, Kristen Faust, earned a spot on the Haldane gym wall. She is deceased and it would truly break my heart to think the honor awarded to her would no longer be acknowledged.

I hope the Board of Education will reconsider this policy change.

Kathy Faust, *Cold Spring*

Street names

Apparently Whitehill Place is named after the builder of the homes on that street ("Philipstown: What's in a (Street) Name?," April 14). It's a shame that when the village replaced the dilapidated street

sign last year, it replaced it with one that reads "White Hill Place."

Barton Chew, *Cold Spring*

In a fascinating history of Continental Village, Carlton Scofield traces the creation of Queen Anne's Highway, which in 1723 became the King's Highway and then, in 1786, the New York-Albany Post Road when the state legislature gave approval for a weekly four-horse stagecoach line. You can find this treasure at philipstown.com/cvinfo guide.pdf.

Kathie Kourie, *Garrison*

A correction: You stated that Emily Warren Roebling and her husband Augustus "supervised the building of the Brooklyn Bridge." In June 1869, while standing on the dock at Fulton Landing, the bridge's engineer and designer, John Augustus Roebling, was crushed by an incoming ferry and his toes had to be amputated. He refused further treatment, contracted tetanus and died about a month later. His son, Washington Augustus Roebling, was listed as assistant engineer. It was he who was married to Emily Warren.

Washington contracted caisson disease, i.e., "the bends," while helping fight a fire in one of the sunken pneumatic structures he designed. Moving forward, it was Emily Warren Roebling who was the day-to-day supervisor and project manager to the bridge's completion, making her, to some historians, the most powerful woman in America at that time.

Barry Wells, *Beacon*

Last call

So many great nights at Guinan's Pub ("Days Gone By," April 21). Sad to see it go ... again.

Vinny Cimino, *Cold Spring*

Teacher transfer

I had Ms. Anna Pearce the first year she taught at Haldane, which I cannot believe was almost 18 years ago ("Teacher Reassigned at Haldane," April 21). Not only was she an excellent teacher, but students were able to relate to Ms. Pearce and, because of that, open up to her. She did an excellent job of being available to her students, while always maintaining appropriate boundaries, which I am sure is a difficult line to balance on when dealing with middle- and high-school students who notoriously push boundaries.

The administration should consider the experience of the hundreds, even thousands, of students she has taught in her 18 years at Haldane, and the rest of the students in middle school this year. These students that have been developing a relationship with Ms. Pearce since September and will now have a different teacher

dropped on them in the last three months of school. The administration should also consider the students that her successor, David Dougherty, will now be leaving in the fifth grade a few months before the end of the year.

It is difficult to understand why the education of all of these other students has taken a backseat to a seeming overreaction. To reiterate, a "bromance" is a male friendship. It does not imply homosexuality at all. It is not a sexualized word. Ms. Pearce has been an element of what makes Haldane great for many years and a disservice has been done here. I hope the administration reconsiders its decision.

Hannah Bozsik, *Poughkeepsie*

Maybe the kids should start getting demoted when they say inappropriate things to teachers and each other. Sorry, you're held back a year!

Denise Bartolotti, *Hopewell Junction*

Beacon A.D. retires

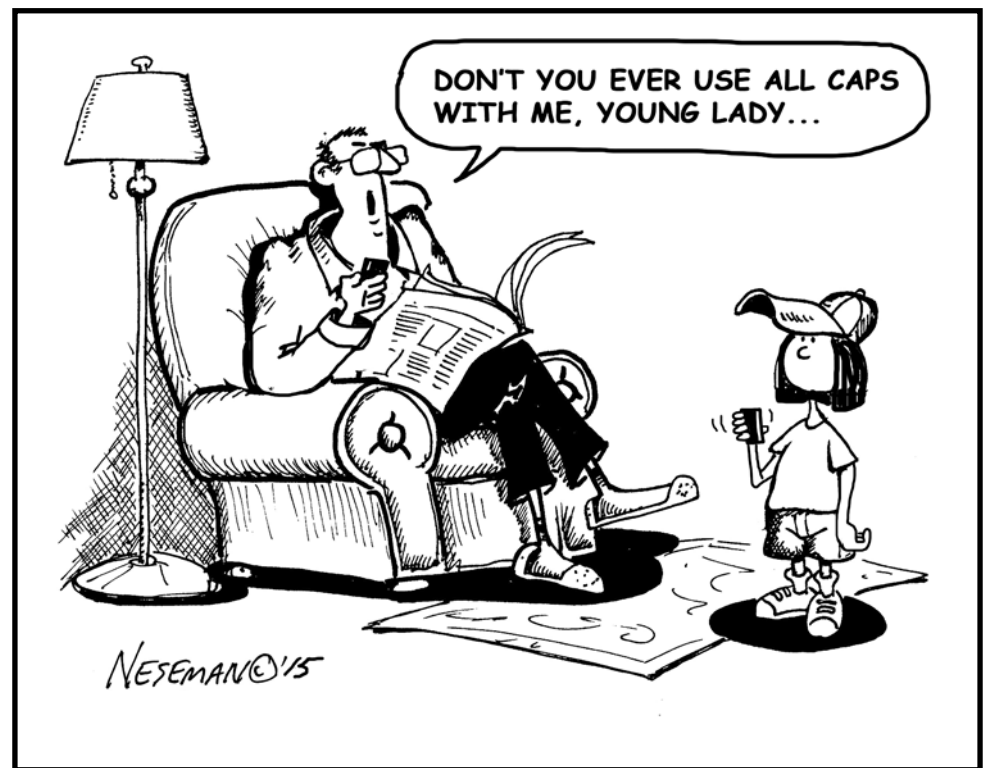
I read article after article like this in many local publications, and I can stay silent no longer ("Facing Dismissal, Beacon A.D. Retires," April 21). I feel such sympathy for Martin Nemecek because the agreement was clearly that he was be-

ing allowed to retire as athletic director at Beacon High School. People are not "allowed to retire" if they have made egregious errors or done something that reveals them to be completely incompetent or corrupt.

I myself fell victim to a situation in which I needed to hand in my resignation because of someone else's carelessness, but I was at the top of that particular food chain and needed to take responsibility for my employee's error. How unfortunate that this publication chose to release information suggesting otherwise and let the public, who seem to eat up Beacon City School District drama, read between the lines about something that they truly know nothing about.

From the perspective of a longtime local media consumer, there seems to be a theme of disorganization and general shoddiness in terms of accountability at the Beacon City School District that can be found within every level of faculty and staff. Errors can be made within any one of these levels and someone must be a scapegoat every time. I wish this gentleman the best in his retirement and hope that this article doesn't cause him more trouble than he is likely already burdened with.

Annie Archuleta



PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on

Monday May 15, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York,
to hear the following appeal:

Grasso (Index Industrial Design) 1602 Route 9, Garrison, NY Tax Map # 71.20-1-17. The Applicant seeks to construct a building addition on the subject property which will bring the impervious surface coverage of the property to 69%. Town Code §175-11(B) - Dimensional Table, for the HC Zoning District provides for maximum surface impervious coverage of 60% (including all buildings, parking, driveways and any other paved surfaces). The property is in the HC Zoning District.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be reviewed in the Office of the Building Department at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated 04/25/17

Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals.

TEMPORARY FULL-TIME HELP WANTED

The Village of Cold Spring is seeking a temporary full-time laborer for the Highway Department. Responsibilities include lawn mowing and maintenance, street cleaning, garbage and recycling, etc. This position is for 40 hours/week. For a detailed job description and qualifications contact the Village of Cold Spring at (845)265-3611.

Send resume and letter of interest by May 5, 2017 to:
Mayor Dave Merandy, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

What's Going On Up There? *(from Page 1)*

building on Main Street in Beacon that's county-owned with the Department of Motor Vehicles that everybody uses. We have a drug task force that Beacon is part of. That means we send a Beacon police officer up to work with a task force made up of police officers from the city and town of Poughkeepsie and the sheriff's office.

You can't name a city that doesn't have a drug issue. Putnam County doesn't have cities, but there are drugs there, too. You have to tackle these issues head-on and limit them. When somebody owns a corner, then they own a street and then they own a neighborhood, and we can't have that. Beacon has come too far to go back to the old days.

John, you're the chair of the Legislature's environmental committee. What's happening there?

Forman: I'm watching the agreement to close Indian Point. I know they provide power to a certain percentage of New York City and Westchester County. A similar thing happened in Long Island — closing a

nuclear power plant — and a lot of people are affected. In addition to the jobs, which are important, who is going to pick up the slack to provide the power? Once the plant is closed there won't be as much money coming into those jurisdictions as well. There are a lot of ancillary things that will happen.

What else do you hope to address this year?

Landisi: We're in partnership with Dutchess Community College on the Dutchess Airport, which has been renamed the Dutchess County International Airport. There's a training center going up for aviation mechanics as we try to revive the airport to what it was many years ago. The center will cost more than \$8 million, with the college and the county kicking in half each.

"You can't name a city that doesn't have a drug issue. ... When somebody owns a corner, then they own a street and then they own a neighborhood, and we can't have that. Beacon has come too far to go back to the old days."

In addition, in early 2016 the Legislature voted to fund the Dutchess County Justice & Transition Center. The jail we have in Beacon is not big enough, so we've been forced to send inmates to other facilities at a cost of \$8 million to \$10 million per year. By putting in a new facility, we'll save \$5.3 million per year. Some people think it's too much money but I think it'll come in less than what we appropriated. The jail that we have right now is not safe for the officers or the inmates.

Forman: Dutchess is the only county in the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District that opens its polls at noon on primary election days. The boroughs, Long Island, Westchester, Putnam, Orange and Rockland counties all open at 6 a.m. We

Beacon Connections

You can determine which legislator represents you by entering your address at geoaccess.co.dutchess.ny.us/addressinfofinder.

John Forman (District 16)

jforman@dutchessny.gov
845-596-5956

Jerry Landisi (District 18)

pttjl@optonline.net
845-222-2999

have a request on the agenda for May that will ask the state legislature to open our polls at 6 a.m. There are a lot of commuters in Dutchess County and the seniors as well, who line up at 7 a.m., thinking they can cast their vote. We need a senator and an assemblyman to carry that resolution and I'm working on that as we speak.

Beacon Roundup

Hearing Set on Edgewater Development

Plus, Memorial Park now top choice for new fire station

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon Planning Board will hold a public hearing during its May meeting

as part of its environmental review of the proposed Edgewater development, a 307-unit apartment complex planned for a 12-acre site near the Metro-North train station.

Public hearings are not usually held this early in the review process, but Planning Board Chairman Jay Sheers suggested at the April 11 meeting that it would be bet-

ter for the applicant, Scenic Beacon Developments, to get public feedback sooner than later.

"I'm thinking this is going to generate a lot of input, and before this applicant puts even more work into this project we ought to hear from the public," Sheers said.

The developer's plans call for seven buildings with a total of 307 apartments ranging in size from studios to three bedrooms. A one-acre-plus park would be created in the center of the development.

Scenic Beacon has asked the Planning Board for variances to city restrictions on units allowed per building, stories allowed per building and space between buildings.

In addition to the public hearing, the board is reviewing traffic studies, architectural plans and whether the project meets waterfront environmental standards.

Several board members on April 11 expressed reservations with the proposal. Patrick Lambert called the plans "way too big, way too much," saying "to push that envelope is going to be a recipe that probably will not have a positive outcome."

"It looks like a New York City project to me," added Gary Barrack.

Although the Beacon City Council has not approved a site for a centralized fire station, fire department officials are focused on a 2.4-acre parcel at Memorial Park after council members seemed to agree it was the leading candidate.

A relocation committee in March presented its three top sites — expansion of the 106-year-old Mase Hook and Ladder station at 425 Main St., the dog-run area at Memorial Park, or a portion of the Elks Lodge property on Route 9D — based on ease of acquisition and expected response times. On April 24, the committee recommended the Mase station, but cost estimates — \$2.3 million to build (not including acquisition or demolition costs) at Mase versus just under \$1 million at Memorial Park — seemed to sway the mayor and council.

The Mase option "could never be affordable as far as I'm concerned," said Mayor Randy Casale.

Fire Chief Gary Van Voorhis said later in the week that the relocation committee would be at the City Council workshop on Monday, May 8, to discuss the Memorial Park site.



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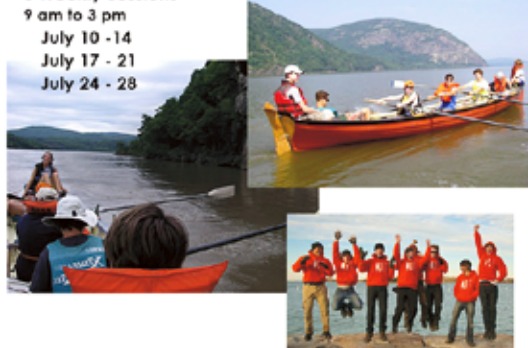


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A Day With the Bard

WillFest makes a scene

By Alison Rooney

Mother Nature wasn't kind for the celebration of William Shakespeare Day on April 22. Known locally as WillFest and organized by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, the annual event marks the anniversary of the bard's death on April 23, 1616. The weather was a typically Shakespearian mix of light showers and cloudiness, none of which deterred the participants at Cold Spring's waterfront.

Three actors (James Hesse, Clare Parme and Wolf CR) from HVSF's spring touring company performed excerpts from *Romeo and Juliet*, which they and their colleagues are presenting to students in the region in school visits.

Eighth graders from the Garrison School previewed *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet*, which goes onstage at the school at 7 p.m. on April 28.

Next came six West Point cadets, all winners of what is known as "Academy Idol." Shakespeare fills a great deal of the first-year English curriculum at the U.S. Military Academy, explained Sean McNall, HVSF's director of education, and each first-year cadet must learn and perform a monologue. They performed selections from *The Tempest*, *Othello*, *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth*. "He gets in his own head," one cadet said, setting the scene. "This is the first instance of, 'Wow, Macbeth is really losing it.'"

Meanwhile, the HVSF opened its Main Street office for arts and crafts and Story Screen Beacon showed *Shakespeare*



Romeo (James Hesse) and Juliet (Clare Parme) are given a talking to by Nurse (Wolf CR).

Photos by A. Rooney



Actors Fallon Barry and a classmate, a/k/a Juliet and Romeo in *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet*, perform as part of WillFest's waterfront line-up on April 22.



As Romeo (James Hesse) and Juliet (Clare Parme) kiss on the Cold Spring waterfront, the reactions of a mother and her son and daughter say it all.

Photo by Gabe Palacio

in Love at the old VFW Hall after leading the audience through a trivia quiz with book and DVD prizes. Sample question: "William Shakespeare left most of his possessions to his daughter, but he left one single object to his wife. What was it?" The answer: His "second best bed." (No one got it.)

HVSF set up a costume photo booth at St. Mary's Parish Hall during the weekly farmers' market, then gave workshops on theater games; stage combat; and

"Shakespeare Showdown," a *Jeopardy*-like game hosted by The Middle Company, a new Hudson Valley theater collective. Team Mercutio won after Team Lysander faltered on whether the line "How many nights does it take to count the stars?" was from the bard or a boy band. (Answer: New Direction.) Finally, the day concluded at the Old VFW Hall with a screening by the Cold Spring Film Society of Orson Welles' 1965 version of the Falstaff plays, *Chimes at Midnight*.

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Café Confidential *(from Page 1)*

has two daughters. Nevertheless, the mother sat on the hallway floor with her older child and a large stroller, blocking customers from reaching the coffee bar and restroom. "It was a protest, a sit-in," Consaga says.

The situation became heated after the man stuck his finger in Consaga's face, then picked up one of his children and held her between the two of them.

"Go ahead and hit me, tough guy," the man sneered. Instead, Consaga called the police. As the family left, the father promised to return with his attorney, but the departure caused the other patrons to burst into applause.

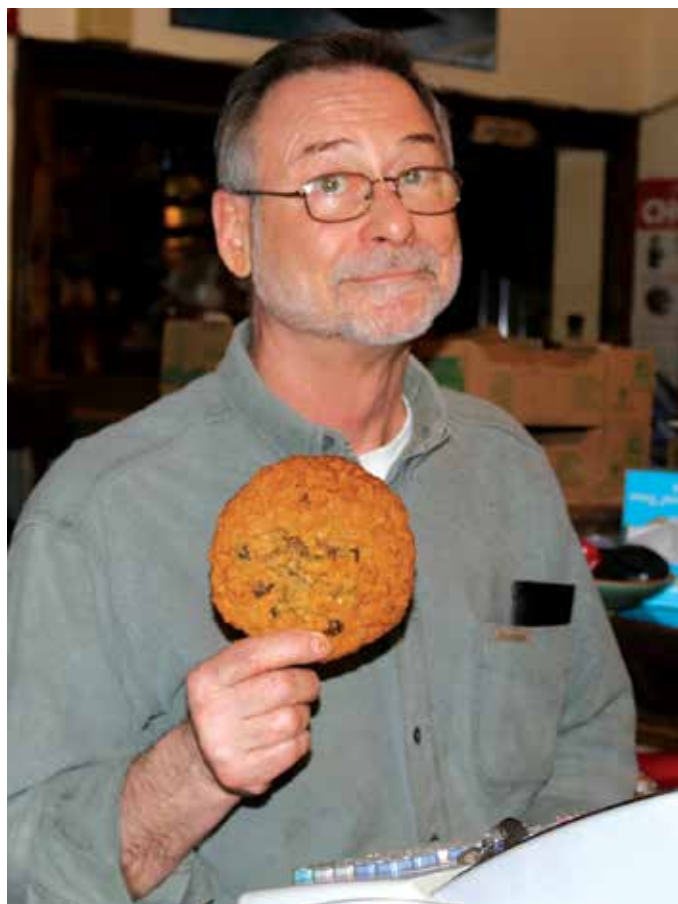
The sign was later destroyed by water damage and replaced with one that reads: "Unattended children will be given espresso and a kitten."

"We take what we need..."

One morning a group of hikers ordered 20 sandwiches to go. All was well until a woman in the group challenged Consaga about his cookies. "Why do you make them so big?," she said. "You're contributing to obesity and diabetes."

Taken aback, Consaga suggested they were made to share. But the discussion became an argument, and when the woman returned from the restroom Consaga watched her take handfuls of straws and plastic cutlery from the counter, items already included in each lunch bag. He also noticed rolls of toilet paper and paper towels in her backpack.

Furious, Consaga confronted her. "Who do you think you are?" he asked. The



One customer was critical of the size of Consaga's cookies, which she said contributed to diabetes and obesity. He suggested she share it.

Photo by M. Turton

woman replied: "We're hikers. We take what we need."

Consaga went outside to speak with the other hikers. "I'm sorry, but your friend blew it," he told them, and canceled the order.

Street food

After a Garrison regular became impatient waiting in line for his breakfast order, Consaga says he began calling in advance. That worked fine, until the customer had a better idea.

"I'm really running late," he told Consaga on the phone one morning. "Can you make my bacon-egg-and-cheese and my coffee with a little milk and two sugars and put it out on the yellow line on Main Street in a bag? I'll pay you at the end of the week."

Consaga isn't sure why he agreed, but he did. Minutes later, the customer drove down Main Street, slowed his car to a crawl, opened the door and scooped up his still-hot breakfast.

This became a bizarre ritual until the first time the breakfast was run over by another car and the customer demanded a replacement. With that, and the promise of weekly payment that turned into months and hundreds of dollars, the Foundry's flirtation with a drive-through lane came to a halt.

Vegetarian pushback

A party of four ordered vegetarian chili but almost immediately protested it contained beef. "Back then I used texturized vegetable protein," Consaga recalls, because the soy product picks up the chili flavors, has the texture of meat and is delicious.

"I swear there's no beef," he told the four. "Why would I lie to you?" He showed them a box of his TVP.

"There's beef in this chili!" they insisted.

"I swear to God there isn't - it's soy!" Consaga said.

"You're lying; it's really good, but it's beef!"

With that the group got up and left without paying. Consaga suggested it might be prudent for them not to return.

Man missing

Consaga once discovered an elderly customer had gone missing at the same time a line began to grow at the restroom. After banging loudly on the locked door for several minutes, he ripped it open.

There was the man, sound asleep on the toilet. He had been napping for almost an hour.

Foreign transaction

A woman who traveled extensively on business was known to insist upon paying her bills in foreign currency. Once, after a trip to Russia, she plopped a stack of rubles on the counter.

"All you have to do is take it to the bank and exchange it," she said.

"That might work at an airport or in Manhattan," Consaga replied, "but certainly not here in Cold Spring."

She persisted, saying she had no use for the rubles in the States.

"I have no use for them, either," he said. "And I never left!"

Consaga also pointed out that while the pile of bills looked impressive, it was not nearly enough to cover her check. (Each ruble was worth about a penny.) The woman returned later to pay her bill with U.S. dollars but left the tip in rubles.

Thieves

One couple, impressed with the antique brass fixtures, asked to purchase them for their home. Consaga politely declined. A week later, he says, the woman, who Consaga refers to as "the long, cool woman in a black dress," returned and stole the brass knob from the restroom door.

Other pilfered items have included numerous CDs; a set of 24 Cordon Bleu porcelain cream pitchers; a complete set of flower vases, including the flowers; honey-bear honey dispensers; outdoor chairs; brownie trays and salt and pepper shakers. Not to mention the toilet paper and paper towels.

"It's not locals or regulars," Consaga says. "It's day-trippers and people passing through."

Animal kingdom

The cafe has seen its share of unusual, non-human visitors.

"There was a 6-foot boa constrictor, a baby chimp, squirrel monkeys, guinea pigs and several varieties of birds," Consaga says. "Oh, and a tiny dog a woman had stuffed inside her bra."

"You really can't make this stuff up," he says.

Have a café tale? Post at highlandscurrent.com.

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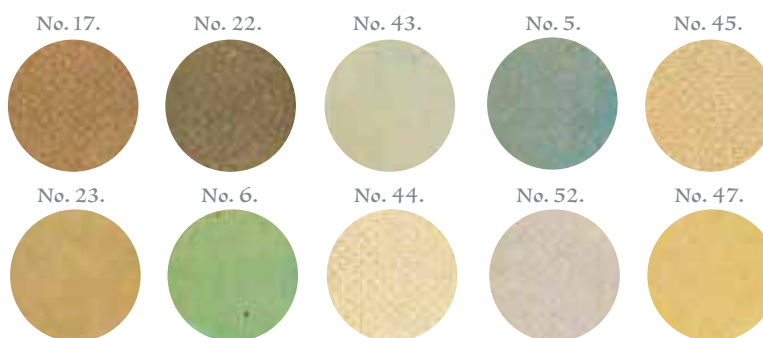
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The Calendar

Music Without Borders

Israeli guitarist to premiere Palestinian composition

By Brian PJ Cronin

If you need evidence that music is the universal language, consider Maoz Ezra and Issa Boulos.

Ezra, an Israeli-born classical guitarist and founder of Brooklyn's EzraGuitar school, was researching international composers online when he stumbled upon a profile of Boulos, a Palestinian-born composer who splits his time between Ramallah and Chicago.

Ezra was struck in particular by Boulos' compositions for the oud, a Persian stringed instrument similar to a lute. He emailed Boulos and asked if he could adapt some of them for the guitar. That conversation led to a visit to Chicago and the two expats spending days talking about politics and their homelands.

"We didn't have any disagreements, because we're normal people," said Ezra, who moved to Beacon with his family last year and opened a branch of EzraGuitar at 256 Fishkill Ave. Although Israel and the Palestinians are often in



conflict, he said "the two of us can connect here in America and there's no problem."

Ezra premiered his adaptations of Boulos' work at Carnegie Hall. Now Boulos has written a piece specifically for Ezra and his wife, Leilah Dione Ezra, an opera singer who grew up in Monroe, which the couple will premiere at the Howland Cultural Center at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 7.

Tickets for the performance, entitled Serenades of the Soul, are \$15 and can be purchased at the door or at *(Continued on Page 11)*



Left, Issa Boulos (photo provided); above, Maoz Ezra

(Photo by Lori Adams)



Blocks are painted to preserve the wood.

Photos by M. Turton

What Is That Guy Doing?

Two hurricanes helped shape Route 9 sculptures

By Michael Turton

By now you certainly have noticed, while driving past the Garrison Tree yard on Route 9, the blue, black and white angular blocks of wood stacked in columns. And you certainly have wondered what they are.

They are sculptures, the work of Swiss-born artist Heinrich Spillmann, who during the week is project director for the Brooklyn Public Library. But for more than a year, when the weather cooperates on the weekend, he has been heading north to work on his art.

"I've done little stone sculptures all my life, but this is new," he explains.

Spillmann, 63, was an art student in Switzerland before coming to New York in 1978 to attend the Cooper Union. Except for seven years in Germany in the 1990s, he has lived in the U.S. since. "I've spent most of my working life in design and architecture," he says. He also has some background in structural engineering, which is coming in handy on his



Spillmann uses a solar-powered kiln to dry wood for his sculptures.

Philipstown project.

He was inspired to create the columns after Hurricanes Irene and Sandy felled a number of large trees in Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery, providing the artist with "great volumes" of wood. Initially he worked in a friend's yard on

East Mountain Road.

Spillmann has the trees trimmed into logs as large as 45 inches in diameter. The blocks he cuts from them can weigh thousands of pounds.

"That one is probably close to 4,000 pounds," he says, *(Continued on Page 12)*

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Arbor Day

Adventures of a Rational Naturalist (Talk)
6:30 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

International Film Series: Coming Home (China)
7 p.m. Howland Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Dramatic Escape (Documentary) with Q&A
7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Antiques Show & Flea Market
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Stormville Airport
428 Route 216, Stormville
stormvilleairportfleamarket.com

11th Annual Native Plant Sale
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

Estate Planning: Protect Your Parents and Yourself
10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Saturday Morning Makers: Relief Printing
11 a.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Friday.

7th Annual Newburgh Volunteer Fair
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Washington’s Headquarters
84 Liberty St., Newburgh
845-562-1195 | nysparks.com

Citizen’s Soapbox
1 – 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
facebook.com/peopleforbeacon

Paper Clips (Documentary)
1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details above.
To mark Holocaust Remembrance Day

Robert Ryman Book Launch
2:30 p.m. Dia Beacon
3 Beekman St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

Helen Savoit Library Advocacy Award (Benefit)
5 – 8 p.m. St. Rocco Society
26 S. Chestnut St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Art Auction for Randolph School
5:30 – 9:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | randolphschool.org

Haldane School Foundation: A Taste of the Valley
6:30 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
haldaneschoolfoundation.org

Community Indigo Event Launch
7 p.m. More Good
383 Main St., Beacon | commongroundfarm.org

Foreigner
8 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.
Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

Antiques Show & Flea Market
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Stormville Airport
See details under Saturday.

The Big Fat Activity Book for Pregnant People (Signing)
11 a.m. Binnacle Books
321 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6191 | binnaclebooks.com

Alexander String Quartet
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandmusic.org

Taghkanic Chorale: Haydn and Handel
4 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church
7 S. Highland Ave., Ossining
914-737-6707 | taghkanicchorale.org

Annie (Musical)
5 p.m. Eisenhower Hall Theatre
655 Ruger Road, West Point
845-938-4159 | ikehall.com

MONDAY, MAY 1

Women’s Suffrage in New York (Talk)
6:30 p.m. MSMC Desmond Campus
6 Albany Post Road, Newburgh
845-565-2076 | msmc.edu/desmond

Beacon City Council
7 p.m. City Hall (Courtroom)
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

Self-Compassion vs. Self-Esteem (Talk)
7:30 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
15 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring
facebook.com/PTALearnDiff

TUESDAY, MAY 2

Chamber of Commerce Meeting
5:30 p.m. Beacon Welcome Center
South Ave. and Main St., Beacon
beaconchamberofcommerce.com

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

Adult Life Skills
1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Saturday.

Farmer Training: Holistic Management
6 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

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

One Big Home (Documentary) with Q&A
7:30 p.m. Beahive
291 Main St., Beacon | beaconfilmsociety.org

THURSDAY, MAY 4

Philipstown Seniors Club
10:30 a.m. Chestnut Ridge
62 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | 845-809-5924

Community Blood Drive
2 – 8 p.m. Our Lady of Loretto (Parish Hall)
24 Fair St., Cold Spring
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Secretariat (Film)
5:30 p.m. Howland Library
See details under Friday.

Town Board
7:30 p.m. Town Hall
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Fly or Die (Music)
8 p.m. St. Andrew’s Church
15 South Ave., Beacon
facebook.com/elysiumfurnaceworks

FRIDAY, MAY 5

Michelle Stuart / Anne Truitt Exhibits Open
11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

Ada Pilar Cruz: About Stories/Stories About (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Donald Alter / Vincent Salem Nicolai (Openings)
6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY
66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Annual Evening Frog Walk
7:30 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Dr., Cornwall
845-534-5506 x204 | hhnrm.org

Brian Badger: Holistic Conservation (Talk)
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | cheetah.org

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Russell St. George - Free

Sat., 4/29 8:30 p.m.
Cash Is King
“Songs of Johnny Cash
& The Highwaymen”

Sun., 4/30 7:30 p.m.
Tommy Castro & Mike Zito

Thurs., 5/4 7:30 p.m.
All About the Drum
featuring Reggie Harris

Fri., 5/5 7:00 p.m.
Marc von Em - Free

Fri., 5/5 8:30 p.m.
Cheryl Wheeler
Lucy Kaplansky

Sat., 5/6 8:30 p.m.
Stanley Jordan
Muriel Anderson

Sun., 5/7 11:30 a.m.
East Coast Jazz - Free

Sun., 5/7 7:30 p.m.
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Music Without Borders (from Page 9)

brownpapertickets.com/event/2937525. The concert will also feature pianist Laetitia Ruccolo and works by Ottorino Respighi, Bela Bartok, Joaquin Rodrigo and Daniel Akiva.



Issa Boulos

Photo provided

Boulos' piece, entitled "Marrat Bina (Away from Home)," confronts the idea of what happens as an immigrant over the years slowly begins to forget his or her homeland. Its final lyrics are: "One day it all ended / With silence and distance / Until we stopped recognizing who we are."

Ezra says he connected with the piece the first time he heard it. "I'm Israeli, he's Palestinian, and we're both away from home," he said. "We're still from the Middle East. We're missing the same things."

Leilah Ezra will sing the piece in Arabic, which she's never done before. But she says as an opera singer she understands there's a difference between being verbally and musically fluent in a language.

"With every language you have different sounds that bring forth a different kind of expression," she says. "The language should never be a barrier."

Added her husband: "There's not enough representation of Palestinian culture here in America. Why not sing in Arabic?"

Like Boulos' piece, other selections evoke bittersweet feelings of nostalgia for home, from the Italian countryside shadowed in twilight at the end of Respighi's *Deita Silvana* to the royal Spanish gardens of Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*.

The globetrotting fits the Ezras well: Maoz left Israel when he was 24 to study guitar in Paris, where he met Leilah, then an opera student. They moved to Brooklyn to open the guitar school, which has about 300 students. Some of the 13-year-olds have been studying with Moaz Ezra since they were four.

"It's not about paying the bills," he says. "I've been playing for more than 30 years, and the more I progress, the more



Leilah Dione Ezra

Photo by Youval Hai

I need to pass that progress on, because otherwise what's the point?"

Ezra says that during the concert he will pay tribute to his new home by playing a guitar built in Beacon by John Vergara, the luthier at Lord of the Strings.

"We have lived in many places, but we've never lived in a place where people cared so much about the place they lived," he says. "The amount of innovation here is incredible, and it's contagious. When everyone cares about this place so much, you want to be part of it."



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What is That Guy Doing? *(from Page 9)*

pointing to a particularly massive piece. Using a chainsaw, he transforms the rough cuts into shapes, then uses a grinder for detail and to smooth the surface. Spillmann works alone, using a hoist.

Before cutting the wood, Spillmann works with models on his dining-room table. "I document the model with photos and blow them up to scale," he says. "You can't just wing it — one wrong cut can be very bad."

The logs, which include a variety of hardwoods, are difficult to work with, he says, but "softer woods rot and erode more quickly. The elm was pretty good."

Still, even the hardest of woods break

down when exposed to the elements, so he applies paint.

"The issue is preserving the wood," he says. "I had a huge trunk that was left as natural wood collapse within four years."

Spillmann says his colors are not an artistic statement. "There was nothing conscious about the colors," he says. "But I realized after the fact that they are kind

of architectural colors — architectural blue and white generally used for houses." The black, he said, is from burning the wood. "I'm more about three dimensions than color. I'm a sculptor, not a painter."

His project has no name, although Spillmann alternately refers to his work in conversation as "totems" or "columns." He hopes to sell the pieces as an outdoor collection, "keeping them as a family."

Curious drivers often stop. "I recently talked to a guy who couldn't understand why I wasn't cutting the wood in the shape of diamonds," Spillmann says. "He sketched out all 32 basic shapes of diamond cutting on a slab and gave me this whole lecture." Spillmann wasn't irritated. "It's great having people stop by."

He admits to occasional moments of doubt. "Often when you're physically tired, you just don't know anymore," he says. "You sit in the car, everything hurts, and you ask yourself, 'What the hell am I doing?' But then the next time you come up here it's like, 'OK, this is what it is. It's really cool.'"

Even after he returns to Brooklyn, the project is never set aside. "I think about it pretty much every day," he says.



Spillmann's wife, Evelyn Sherwood, stands amid a sculpture titled *Mikado*.



Burning creates a blackened surface on some of the sculptures. *Photos by M. Turton*

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Fate of the Furious (PG13)
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SAT 11:20 2:40 6:00 9:20
SUN 12:40 4:00 7:20, MON 7:20
TUE 12:40 4:00 7:20, WED 7:20

The Circle (PG13)
FRI 2:20 5:20 8:40
SAT 12:00 3:00 6:20 9:40
SUN 1:20 4:20 7:40
MON 7:40, TUE 1:20 4:20 7:40
WED & THU 7:40

Gifted (PG13)
FRI 2:00 4:40 8:00, SAT 11:40 2:20
5:40 9:00, SUN 1:00 3:40 7:00
MON 7:00, TUE 1:00 3:40 7:00
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Guardians of the Galaxy
(PG13) THU 7:00

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FOR SEVENTH GRADERS IN GARRISON, IT'S WAR! REVOLUTIONARY WAR!

BY SUMMER PIERRE

ON A RAINY, FOGGY MORNING, I CAUGHT UP WITH CHRIS CALIENDO'S SEVENTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS ON THEIR ANNUAL REVOLUTIONARY WAR LIVING HISTORY DAY.

WITH GCEF FUNDING AND GUIDANCE FROM THE LIVING HISTORY EDUCATION FOUNDATION, THE STUDENTS DRESS UP IN UNIFORM, BUILD CAMP, AND COMPETE IN DRILLS.

IT'S A GREAT WAY TO DO TEAM BUILDING AND BUILD LEADERSHIP QUALITIES! IN THE WAR IF YOU DIDN'T WORK AS A UNIT, YOU LOST!

SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER "SERGEANT" CALIENDO

THERE TO GIVE SOME INSTRUCTION WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE LHEF AND LONG TIME EDUCATOR JOE RYAN:

I'M HERE TO ADD SOME AUTHENTICITY!

I'M VERY JAUNTY!

THAT'S A VERY JAUNTY HAT!

HA HA

THERE'S A LOT TO COVER AND GET DONE AND THE TWO LEADERS OF THE ARMIES HAVE A BIG RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THEIR TEAMS ARE ON TASK.

ATTENTION!

YESSIR!

YOU MEAN, "MA'AM!"

BLUE COAT "COLONEL" CHARLOTTE

YOU WANT IT TO GO PERFECTLY, BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO SOUND BOSSY!

SEVENTH GRADE RED COAT "COLONEL" APRIL

THE FIRST (VERY REAL) CHALLENGE: BUILD A FIRE FROM SCRATCH!

OKAY, YOU'RE DOWN A MATCH. WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

SCIENCE TEACHER KEVIN KEEGAN

MY DAD IS REALLY GOOD AT LIGHTING A FIRE-- IF I HAD MY PHONE I'D JUST TEXT HIM!

5 MATCHES, PAPER, AND SOME BALL POINT PEN INK LATER, BOTH ARMIES WERE ABLE TO GET THE FIRES GOING FOR LUNCH PREP.

PEN INK IS FLAMMABLE?

IT'S BASICALLY LIGHTER FLUID!

THEN IT WAS ON TO MORE DRILLS, TENT BUILDING AND "OUR MOST IMPORTANT MISSION TODAY": MUSKET LOADING AND FIRING. (USING CARS)

MEAN WHILE, BACK AT THE FIRES, MEMBERS OF BOTH ARMIES TENDED TO AN AUTHENTIC WARTIME MENU:

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

CHICKEN, CHICKEN STEW, BEEF JERKEY, CORN-BREAD, GINGER-BREAD AND HOT CHOCOLATE!

THE STUDENTS HAD PREPPED A BUNCH OF THE FOOD THE DAY BEFORE, WITH THE HELP OF MARY FOPPIANO, FORMER SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER, NOW ON STAFF AT THE LHEF.

SOME OF THEM HAD NEVER PEELED A POTATO BEFORE!

DID THEY USE PEELERS OR KNIVES?

THIS IS REV WAR!*

*TRANSLATION: KNIVES, BECAUSE WE ARE NOT KIDDING AROUND!

AFTER A FULL MORNING OF CAMP SET UP AND TRAINING, THE TROOPS WERE READY FOR A HOT MEAL.

THIS IS SOME FINE STEW!

THERE WERE STILL CHALLENGES TO COME-- INCLUDING A BATTLE!-- BUT FOR NOW I THINK EVERYONE COULD AGREE, BRITISH OR PATRIOT-- THEY MADE SOME GOOD GRUB!

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE CHICKEN, BUT I'D GO FOR IT OVER SOME KFC!

I'M STILL PINING FOR THAT GINGERBREAD.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Hope for Youth Walk

Set for May 13 at Graymoor

The Hope for Youth Foundation will hold a 5K race and 3K walk on Saturday, May 13, to raise money for children who are mentally, physically or emotionally disadvantaged. It also will benefit a memorial scholarship in the name of Bill Sherry, a former teacher at Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School and race timer. The race and walk will begin at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in Garrison, with registration at 8 a.m., the race at 9 a.m. and the walk shortly after. Registration is \$20. See hfyf.org. Graymoor is located at 135 Route 9. Hope for Youth is best known for the annual long-range weather forecast calendars created by its founder, Jim Witt.

'I'm Nobody! Who Are You?'

Scholar to discuss Dickinson poems

Mary Newell will lead a discussion on the poems of Emily Dickinson at the Desmond-Fish Library at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 6. Newell, a college professor who has taught, presented and written about Dickinson, will lead participants through a few poems to see what has created their continuing resonance. If there is interest, the group can continue to meet. Copies of Dickinson's work are available at the library.



Emily Dickinson about 1847 Amherst College



Left, an untitled abstract painting by Donald Alter, 86, and at right, *Zen*, by Vincent Salem Nicolai, age 6, both on display at Gallery 66 NY starting May 5



Images provided

First Friday Exhibits

Opening receptions on May 5

On First Friday (May 5) in Cold Spring, Gallery 66 NY will open two solo shows with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Donald Alter, 86, has been creating abstract work for decades. Vincent Salem Nicolai, a 6-year-old watercolorist, is starting out. The gallery is located at 66 Main St.

At Buster Levi Gallery, 121 Main St., there will be a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. to unveil an exhibit of clay sculptures by Ada Pilar Cruz that she completed after a residency in India to study the Hindu religion and mythology. See busterlevigallery.com.

All three shows run through May 28.

Building Resiliency in Students

Educator will speak at Haldane on May 1

Laurence Magro, a psychotherapist, educator and mindfulness practitioner, will lead a discussion for parents and educators at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 1, at Haldane on self-compassion vs. self-esteem. The free talk is sponsored by the Haldane-Garrison PTA Learning Differ-

ences Committee. Magro will cover how to help students build resiliency, emotional regulation, and meaningful relationships. See facebook.com/PTALearningDiff.

Butterfield to Hold Used Book Sale

Donations accepted until May 12

Butterfield Library is collecting books until May 12 for a book sale on May 19 to 21. Drop off gently used books, CDs, DVDs, comics and audiobooks during library hours. A preview sale will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 19 for Friends of the Butterfield Library members and anyone wishing to join the group for \$20 annually. Wine, coffee and snacks are included. The public sale and a bake sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 20 and noon to 3 p.m. on May 21. Hardcover will be \$2, paperbacks and CDs, \$1, and DVDs and audiobooks, \$2.

Got Hazardous Waste?

County to collect in Kent on May 6

Putnam County will collect household hazardous waste for disposal from 9



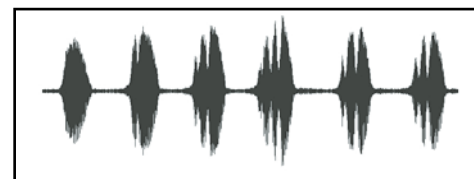
A sculpture by Ada Pilar Cruz *Image provided*

a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 6 at the Canopus Beach Parking Lot on Route 301 in Kent. Materials that can be dropped include cleaners, solvents, oil-based paints, insecticides, herbicides and antifreeze. (Residential waste only.) See putnam-countyny.com/green-putnam/waste-disposal-options. To register, email putnamhealth@putnamcountyny.gov or call 845-808-1390, ext. 43150.

Is that You, Kermit?

Learn how to identify frogs by sound

Learn to identify frogs by their vocalizations at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 5, then put your skills to the test during a twilight walk in the wetlands. Bring a flashlight and wear appropriate shoes. The program is designed for adults and children older than 5. Register at hhnrm.org.



A digitized oscillogram of a natural bullfrog call, from a 2004 research paper

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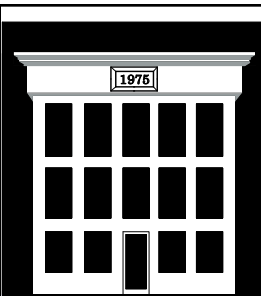


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Philipstown Blood Drive

Set for May 4 at Loretto

Donate blood at in the parish hall of Our Lady of Loretto on Fair Street from 2 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 4. Walk-ins are welcome or make an appointment at nybloodcenter.org. Call 800-933-2566 for information.

Foundry Tours Start May 6

Go inside 1865 office building

See the inside of the 1865 West Point Foundry office building during a free 90-minute Scenic Hudson tour of the preserve that (Continued on next page)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



The office building at the West Point Foundry Preserve

Scenic Hudson photo

(From previous page) begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 6. Meet in the parking lot at 68 Kemble Ave. Tours also will be held on July 1, Sept. 2 and Nov. 4. See scenichudson.org.

Fire Companies Open Doors

Annual call for much-needed volunteers

Volunteer fire departments in Cold Spring and Garrison will host open houses on Sunday, April 30, as part of Recruit NY, a statewide initiative to bolster membership in community-based fire companies. More than 450 fire departments across the state are taking part in the event.

In Cold Spring, the Main Street firehouse will be open from noon to 4 p.m. "We'll have all of our apparatus and firefighting equipment on display along with the history of our fire company and information about becoming a member," said Chief Steve Smith.

The Garrison Volunteer Fire Company will hold its open house from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the firehouse at 1616 Route 9. The Continental Village firehouse at 12 Spy Pond Road will have an open house from noon to 5 p.m.

In Beacon, the firehouse at 425 Main St. will be open to visitors from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 29.

Chief Smith said a misconception about volunteering for a fire company is

that there is an age limit. "Our youngest volunteer is 16 and our oldest is 80," he said, adding that a 50-year-old man asked about becoming an associate member but thought he would be too old. But, Smith said, not every member is a firefighter and that other roles such as assisting with traffic during calls also must be filled.

Beacon

Holistic Conservation Talk

Cheetah fund expert to speak May 5

Brian Badger, the director of conservation and outreach for the Cheetah Conservation Fund, will speak at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 5. His approach to sustainable conservation considers the role of communities, economics and education. See cheetah.org. Tickets are \$10.



Brian Badger of the Cheetah Conservation Fund will speak in Beacon.

Civil Liberties Forum

Talk centered on NYCLU priorities

A forum to discuss the work and priorities of the New York Civil Liberties Union will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, at St. Andrew's Church at 17 South Ave. in Beacon. Topics include fighting hate, promoting police accountability and transparency, quality public defense

Blue Notes



The Haldane High School Blue Notes, under the direction of Martha Mechalakos, are projected on the scoreboard as they performed the National Anthem before the New York Mets game at Citi Field on April 22. For a video of the performance, see highlandscurrent.com Photo by Anne Vitiello

and how to get involved. The free event is sponsored by the women's resource center In My Mother's House and the Lower Hudson Valley chapter of the NYCLU.

Models Needed

Fashion show for cancer awareness

The Lorraine Tyne Boutique and Sparkle My Head Scarves are looking for models to appear in a fashion show as part of a cancer-awareness event. An open call will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at 161 Main St. in Beacon. No experience is necessary. All sizes and ages are welcome, and cancer survivors in all stages of treatment are especially welcome. Call 845-418-5587.

Clearwater to Premiere Documentary

Fundraising dinner set for May 11

Clearwater will hold a fundraiser on May 11 that includes the world premiere of a documentary about the boat, *The Hope on the Hudson*. The event begins at 6 p.m. at the Towne Crier Café in

Beacon. The \$75 ticket includes a buffet dinner. Speakers include John Cronin and Zephyr Teachout. See townecrier.com.

School Food Director to Receive Award

Introduced fresh foods to cafeteria

Karen Pagano, who has been the food services director for the Beacon City School District since 2012, has been selected to receive the Public Health Partnership Award given annually by the Dutchess County Department of Health for her work in improving the school meals program.

Her initiatives have included bringing fresh produce into the cafeteria through partnerships with local farmers, a "grab-and-go" program to encourage students to eat a healthy breakfast, a "snack-and-go" option for elementary students, a "top-your-own" salad bar with lettuce from Common Ground Farm and homemade soups that contain more vegetables and less sodium.

Pagano will be presented with the award at the May 8 meeting of the Dutchess County Legislature in Poughkeepsie.



A Cold Spring Fire Company engine

Photo by Michael Turton

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Ici on Parle Français*

New to the Highlands, French designer offers language lessons

by Alison Rooney

Is your French a bit rusty? Has *Je parle un peu* drifted toward *Je ne parle pas*? Jacqueline Coumans is ready to save the day.

An interior designer and native French speaker who divides her time between Manhattan and her new home in Kent, Coumans is launching a series of salon language classes in Garrison on April 28, and each Friday evening afterward. Drop-ins are welcome.

The classes take place at Munder-Skiles, the high-end garden furniture design firm on Route 9D. For 25 years, Coumans owned Le Décor Français at 72nd and Lexington, which specialized in, *bien sûr*, decoration in the French tradition. Her designs, which often mixed fabric and antiques with surprising elements, have long been a staple of interior design magazines.

Though busy running the business and raising her sons (one of whom, Hadrien, lives in Cold Spring, and runs a design business with his wife, Pamela, and his mother), Coumans always fondly recalled her first jobs teaching French. A few years ago, she decided she wanted to share her love of the language and the culture.

"I sent out 50 letters to 50 clients, describing what I had in mind," she says. "Ten signed up, seven stayed and three are still there. I saw what they liked the most, which is conversation. So, if they are all near the same level, we be-

gin with talking and move on to reading. For example, in my city class we are reading a wonderful writer, Romain Gary. I find the two fields [interior design and teaching] complementary — it's all French, anyway!"

Coumans hasn't lived in France for quite some time. Her husband's business took them first to Brazil, then in 1983 to New York. Lured to the Highlands by her grandchildren (all boys — her other son lives in Boston), she arrived two summers ago and lives deep in the woods, returning to her Upper East Side apartment each week, still with a hand in the business.

Although, her classes are most definitely serious, she tells students that "the acquisition of a French sensibility is equally important" as learning vocabulary. Her students memorize the fables of LaFontaine, verses that are familiar to French schoolchildren, and classes may include recipes and comic sketches.

It was Coumans' friend John Danzer, one of Munzer-Stiles' principals, who suggested she hold the weekly class after hours at its Route 9D showroom. They typically last about 90 minutes, although wine and cheese are served so there may be no telling. Coumans plans on guest speakers, perhaps a writer or chef. There is only one hard, fast rule: no politics. "Forget it," she says. "We have too much literature to read."

The classes are \$50 per session. See sofrenchnyc.com.

*French is spoken here. But you knew that.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

"The acquisition of a French sensibility is equally important" as learning vocabulary.



Jacqueline Coumans

Photo by A. Rooney



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Obituary

Richard Browne (1943-2017)

Garrison Golf Club superintendent for 30 years

Richard (Richie) Walter Browne, 73, died April 2, 2017, at his home in Sausalito, California. Browne was the golf superintendent at the Garrison Golf Course for 30 years until his retirement in 2005.

Born May 24, 1943, he was the son of Capt. Walter R. and Katherine Browne. He grew up at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, attended the Manlius Military School and graduated from Highland Falls High School.

An accomplished golfer, he earned a degree in golf agronomy from the University of Massachusetts and became a well-respected pro. An all-around sportsman, he also played hockey and football, hunted and fished and had a love for horse racing. In addition, he loved cooking, entertaining and dancing, enjoyed his Guinness with a shot of Green Spot and suffered through many years as a Jets fan.

Incredibly proud of his Irish heritage, he treated everyone like family and was affectionately known as "Pops." He had a generous heart, a contagious laugh and when he smiled his face lit up the room. Richard had a zest and love for life that shall remain unparalleled. He was a man who led from his heart and was a gentle giant in every sense of the word, bringing laughter, kindness and love to all he knew.

Upon semi-retiring to Sausalito, Richard decided to become a cab driver and in four years, never missed a call. He became a friend and confidant and well too often the guardian for the unencumbered. He and his wife Miriam became members of the Sausalito Yacht Club in 2006 and served on its entertainment committee.

Besides his wife, Miriam Browne, Richard is survived by his son Richard Browne (Deb); his son Gregory Browne (Claire) of Beacon; his ex-wife and mother of his sons, Phoebe Browne; his stepdaughter Zamira Solari (Paul); his grandchildren Alexis Browne, Owen Browne, Ava Solari and Sevi Solari; his brother Lansing Browne (Eleanor) and his sister Lonnie Browne Martens (Rick).

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice by the Bay (hospicebythebay.org) or the Sausalito Fire Department (smfd.org).



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R = Resident / NR = Non-Resident



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Middle School Teen Night (Grades 6-8)
May 13
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8 one-week sessions
June 26-August 18

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8 one-week sessions
June 26-August 18

Teen Travel (Grades 7 and Up)
8 one-week sessions
June 26-August 18

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Basketball, Soccer, Baseball

Theatre Camp
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On the Town – Grades 8-12
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\$120 R / \$135 NR



SENIORS

Chair Yoga
Continental Village Clubhouse
Starts May 17
Philipstown Community Center
Starts May 26
Chestnut Ridge Community Room
Starts June 23

Zumba Gold
Chestnut Ridge
Starts May 16
Continental Village
Starts May 18

Bus to Walmart & Shoprite
Dates: May 9, 24, June 7, 21

Spring Luncheon
May 10

Trip to Westchester Broadway
May 18
\$55 R / \$70 NR

Trip to Essex Steam Train & Lunch
June 5
\$50 R / \$65 NR

Trip NYC Sightseeing Cruise
July 14
\$47R / \$62 NR

Trip to Monticello Casino
August 22
\$1 R / \$16 NR

ADULTS – EDUCATION

Boater Safety Class
June 11
\$40 R / \$55 NR

Self Care Acupressure
May 24
\$25 R / \$40 NR

ADULTS – EXERCISE

Basic Pilates/Buff Bones
Starts May 26
\$45 R / \$60 NR

Core Cardio
Starts July 11
\$55 R / \$70 NR

Intermediate Pilates
Starts May 15
\$45 R / \$60 NR

Power Hour for Women
Starts May 22 & May 17

Yamuna Body Rolling
Starts May 8
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Yoga with Kathy Barnes
Starts June 12
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Zumba
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Sports

Highlands Current Athlete of the Week

Jummie Akinwunmi, Beacon High School

Akinwunmi dominated at the Red Raider Relays at North Rockland High School in Theils on April 12 and 13. In a meet attended by more than 50 teams, she placed in the top 10 in six events and won the high jump at 5 feet, 1.75 inches.

She continued her high-level performances with three wins at the Section 1 Duals against Lourdes on April 18. And on April 24 at a tri-meet with Hendrick Hudson and Peekskill she cleared 5 feet, 4 inches in the outdoor high jump, a personal best and one of the highest in the state this year. (She hit the 5-4 mark on an indoor jump on Feb. 24.)

"Jummie is an amazing person for a coach to get to work with," said Coach Jim Henry. "She is the top-ranked student in the junior class and one of the most gifted high jumpers in New York."

"When we converse at meets during competition, we discuss launch angles, forces and center of gravity as easily as if we were in physics class," he said. "Often,



Jummie Akinwunmi

jumpers from other teams will overhear little bits of our discussions and look at us kind of funny."

Coaches and Parents

We welcome your contributions of scores, highlights and photos. Email sports@highlandscurrent.com

Philipstown Soccer Club (Week 3)

Boys

Pumas 6, U8 Storm 1
Rockland United 2, U13 Arsenal 0
Rondout 2, U16 Chargers 1
Monticello 4, Parrott's Old Boys 2

Girls

West Point 9, U12 Phoenix 4
Beekman 2, U13 Raptors 1
Warwick 3, Fire 0

For game summaries, see highlandscurrent.com.



Devin Bethards, Anna Menante and Frankie Fusco of the Beacon High School track team share a laugh at the Bulldogs' Section 1 Dual against Lourdes on April 18. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.com

Photo by Ross Corsair

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Sports

Batter Up!



The occasional rain shower did nothing to dampen spirits at Opening Day on April 22 for the Philipstown Little League. A total of 116 players in kindergarten to sixth grade will compete. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.com. Photo by Michael Turton

Haldane Baseball



Brian Haines of the Haldane varsity baseball team looks for the call after one of his four doubles against Pleasantville on April 24.



Varsity Scoreboard

Boys' Lacrosse O'Neill 12, Haldane 7 Keio Academy 11, Haldane 6	<i>to win second tiebreaker. Beacon now 3 - 3.</i>
Girls' Lacrosse Hendrick Hudson 17, Beacon 2 Irvington 19, Beacon 8 Sleepy Hollow 11, Beacon 6	
Baseball Pleasantville 9, Haldane 6 <i>Brian Haines: 4 doubles</i> Pawling 10, Haldane 7 Haldane 6, Pawling 0 <i>Anthony Sinchi: 6 innings (5K, 3 hits)</i> Beacon 2, Somers 1 Beacon 7, Eastchester 3 <i>Lenny Torres (3-0): 4 innings (8K, 0 hits); Alex Callaway: 3-run homer</i>	
Softball Westlake 16, Haldane 1:	
Tennis Beacon 4, Lourdes 3 <i>Swept doubles. Key win when Kellen Sela made difficult get on overhead smash with Lourdes having match point. Jack Sheehy/Ethan Hull rallied in second set down 3 - 1 to win 5 straight.</i>	
Beacon 5, Lakeland 2 <i>Swept doubles. In singles, James Cordero dropped first set but rallied</i>	
	Track Mountie Madness, Suffern <i>Beacon top finishers</i> Boys' 400-meter hurdles 9. Ethan Burgos (1:03.02) Boys' 200-meter dash 6. Alex Laird (23.12) Boys' triple jump 6. Richard Kish (39-04.25) Boys' 2,000-meter steeplechase 12. Bud Rutkoske (7:29.30) Boys' 400-meter dash 8. Kaleb Istvan (52.52) 9. Vincent Compagnone (52.60) Girls' high jump 2. Jummie Akinwunmi (5-0) Girls' pole vault 2. Anna Manente (8-0) <i>Haldane top finishers</i> Boys' 800-meter run 8. Jonas Petkus (2:03.17) Boys' 1,600-meter run 11. Adam Silhavy (4:34.54) 12. Nicholas Farrell (4:34.96) Girls' discus throw 17. Teresa Figueiras (70-03) Girls' shot put 11. Abbey Stowell (28-8)



Catcher Aidan Siegel is shown in the dugout during the game. The Blue Devils were down 6-1 but came back to tie the game in the sixth inning before falling 9-6. For more photos from the game, see highlandscurrent.com.



Photos by Ross Corsair

Coach Tom Virgadamo reacts with a laugh during Haldane's home game against Pleasantville on April 24.

Sports

Beacon Girls' Lacrosse Looks for First Win

New middle school team should lift program

By Leigh Alan Klein

The girls' lacrosse team at Beacon High School is a work in progress. It won three matches last year and is looking for its first win this season after an 0-10 start, with five games remaining.

"This year is proving to be a big transition year," said Coach Brian Lange, who is a sixth-grade teacher at Rombout Middle School. Beacon does not field a junior varsity team but added a modified program in the middle school two seasons ago, and those players are now reaching high school. Lange's squad this season includes eight seniors, two juniors, three sophomores and 11 freshmen.

"Our main goal for the season is to simply be competitive at the varsity level," he said. "We are still a relatively young team."

Preparations for the season were delayed by the weather, Lange said, because the team could only practice indoors. "It had been difficult to prepare for a game that utilizes so much space when confined inside a gym," he said. "There was a lot of focus on fundamentals and stick skills."

The team's toughest loss so far was

against FDR High School, located near Hyde Park, on April 17. Lange said he saw a spark in his team in the second half. After falling behind 8-5, the Bulldogs made a run to tie it up, but the visiting Eagles scored with 43 seconds left for a 13-12 win. The Bulldogs travel to FDR on Monday, May 1, for a rematch.

Key players

Jessica Musacchio (senior) — The starting center midfielder, she earned All-League honors last season and will play for Mount St. Mary College. "Jessica adds depth throughout the entire field," Lange said. She leads the team with 20 goals and six assists.

Mia Reid-Espinal (senior) — The starting keeper "only began playing last year during the winter [indoor] season," Lange said. "She never stops working, and continues to be a leader on and off the field."

Eliana Lotero (senior) — "Eliana displays good control through mid-field and strong stick skills," Lange said. She had three goals and an assist against FDR.

Lauren Mesorana (senior) — The Bulldogs' best defender.

Victoria Banks (sophomore) — "Tori's speed and agility set her apart on the attacking end," said Lange. "Her strong soccer experience translates well to the lacrosse field."



Mia Reid-Espinal

Photos by Dawn Sela



Jessica Musacchio



Lauren Mesorana



Eliana Lotero