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...

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

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...

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 6)
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 butter. 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.

Confined Confection

By Mary Ann Ebner

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.
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 summers outdoors, 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 newcomer Courtney Watson McCarthy will appear on the ballot to fill two open seats on the five-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 vacant seats. If elected on May 16, she will serve a full three-year term.

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
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 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 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.

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The fruit, leaves and thorns of Japanese barberry

Taking it to the Street

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

By Anita Peltonen

“Mothra from Godzilla. To be a fierce warrior in these times is a good thing, and to have fire-breathing power.”
- Dee Finley, Newburgh

“What is worse was how to deal...”
- Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

“Lyme Bomb,” April 7

“Lyme Bomb 2,” April 14

April 14

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

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

Beacon

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 Scoffield 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 treatise at philipstown.com/cvinfoguide.pdf.

Kathie Kourie, Garrison

A correction: You stated that Emily Warren Roebling and her husband Augustus "surervised 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 homosexual at all. It is not a sexualized word. Ms. Pearce has been an element of what makes Haldane great for many years and a dis-service has been done here. I hope the administration reconsiders its decision.

Hannah Bozak, 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, Bea- con A.D. Retires," April 21). I feel such sympathy for Martin Nemeczek because the agreement was clearly that he was being 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, plans, 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.
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.

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 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 Connections

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

John Forman (District 16)
845-596-6956
jforman@dutchessny.gov

Jerry Landisi (District 18)
ptrj@optonline.net
845-222-2999
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 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.

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

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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

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
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 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 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.
Music Without Borders

Israeli guitarist to premiere Palestinian composition

By Brian PJ Cronin

I f 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

What Is That Guy Doing?

Two hurricanes helped shape Route 9 sculptures

By Michael Turton

B y 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 11)
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
stormvilleairportfleamarket.com

11TH ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring
845-265-3000 | 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 | beaconlibrary.org

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 | dia.org

HELEN SAVOIT LIBRARY ADVOCACY AWARD (Benefit)
5 – 8 p.m. St. Roccos Society
26 S. Chestnut St., Beacon
845-631-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

ART AUCTION FOR RANDOLPH SCHOOL
5:30 – 9:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandmusic.org

HALDANE SCHOOL FOUNDATION: A TASTE OF THE VALLEY
6:30 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

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

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 | gafs.org

ONE BIG HOME (Documentary) with Q&A
7:30 p.m. Beacon
291 Main St., Beacon | beaconarts.org

THURSDAY, MAY 4

PHILLIPSTOWN 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

MICHELL STEUART / ANNE TRUITT EXHIBITS OPEN
11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | dia beacon.org

ADA PILAR CRUZ: ABOUT STORIES/STORIES ABOUT (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Bunter Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

DONALD ALTER / VINCENT SALM NICO (Openings)
6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY
66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | gallery66ny.com

ANNUAL EVENING FROG WALK
7:30 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Dr., Cornwall
845-534-5506 | riverwalk.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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highlandscurrent.com/md

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
stormvilleairportfleamarket.com

TAGHKANIC CHORALE: HAYDN AND HANDEL
4 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church
7 S. Highland Ave., Mountview
914-473-6707 | taghkanicchorale.org

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

TUESDAY, MAY 2

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING
5:30 p.m. Beacon Welcome Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-208-7800 | beaconchamberofcommerce.com

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Genevea Ave., Carmel
845-208-7800 | putnamcountryny.com

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

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/PTAreausivr

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Music Without Borders  (from Page 9)

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 Silvane* 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 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."

Issa Boulos  Photo provided

Leilah Dione Ezra  Photo by Youval Hai

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 Dione Ezra

Leilah Dione Ezra

Issa Boulos

Issa Boulos

Brownpapertickets.com/event/2937525.

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

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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 “columna.” He hopes to sell the pieces as an outdoor collection, “keeping them as a family.”

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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 don’t work as a unit, you lose.

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

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!

Smackes, paper, and some ball point pen ink later, both armies were able to get the fires going for lunch very.

Pen ink is flammable?

It’s basically lighter fluid!

The students had prepared 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!

Then it was on to more drills, tent building and “our most important mission today”: musket loading and firing (using caps). What’s for lunch?

Chicken, chicken stew, beef jerky, corn bread, ginger bread and hot chocolate!

While back at the fires, members of both armies tended to an authentic wartime menu:

I was worried about the chicken, but I do go for it over some KFC!

I’m still pining for that gingerbread.

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!
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 calendar 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.

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 63-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 Differences 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. Hardcovers 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.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-county.ny.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 hhnm.org.

Philipstown Blood Drive
Set for May 4 at Loreto

Donate blood at in the parish hall of Our Lady of Loreto on Fair Street from 2 to 5 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...
A Cold Spring Fire Company engine

The office building at the West Point Foundry Preserve

(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

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.

Civil Liberties Forum

Talk centered on NYCLU priorities

A forum 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 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 Tyné 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.

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.

Models Needed for May 11 fundraiser

Kirsten Mechanik and Rob Heverin were models for the Clearwater 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.

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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.

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.

“The acquisition of a French sensibilité 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.

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“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 begin 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.

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*French is spoken here. But you knew that.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

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 (hospicesbythbay.org) or the Sausalito Fire Department (smdf.org).
Summer Programming at Philipstown Recreation Center
Registration opens May 8th for Residents and May 15th for Non-Residents
Download our summer course guide at philipstownrecreation.com.
Call 845-424-4618 or 845-424-4662 to register
R = Resident / NR = Non-Resident

YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMS
Middle School Teen Night (Grades 6-8)
May 13
$5

SPORTS AND MOVEMENT
Basketball Skills & Drills
Ongoing, Monday Nights, 6:15pm
$1R / $3 NR

SUMMER CAMP
Summer Fun Day Camp (Grades K-teen)
8 one-week sessions
June 26-August 18

Summer Fun Preschool Camp (Grades 3-5)
8 one-week sessions
June 26-August 18

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

Sports Camps
Basketball, Soccer, Baseball

Theatre Camp
Guys and Dolls – grades 4-7
On the Town – Grades 8-12
Stories for the Stage – Grades 1-3

Jr. Fire Academy
Grades 4-8
July 24-28

CERAMICS
Adults
Starts July 20
$180 R / $195 NR

Afterschool (Grades K-3)
Starts July 18 or 19
$120 R / $135 NR

Afterschool (Grades 4-6)
Starts July 20
$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
$55 R / $70 NR

Yoga with Kathy Barnes
Starts June 12
$75 R / $90 NR

Zumba
Starts June 1
$75 R / $90 NR

SPORTS (18+)
Men’s Basketball
Mondays 7:30-9:30
$3 R / $5 NR

Volleyball
Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 Sundays 6-8
$3 R / $5 NR

Pick-up Co-Ed Soccer
Wednesday, 6:00-Dusk
$30 for the year R/$40 NR

For more information on all camps, please see philipstownrecreation.com/camp
Highlands Current Athlete of the Week
Jummie Akinwunmi, Beacon High School

Akinwunmi dominated at the Red Raider Relays at North Rockland High School in Thiells 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, jumpers from other teams will overhear little bits of our discussions and look at us kind of funny.”

Jummie Akinwunmi

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

Advertise your business here starting at $18. Contact ads@highlandscurrent.com.

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1760 South Route 9 • Garrison NY 10524
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johnastrab@coldspringnypt.com
coldspringnypt.com

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market

COLD SPRING FARMERS’ MARKET

Saturday & the Parish Hall, St. Mary-in-the-Highlands
Indoor market 8am - 10:30am
Outdoor market 10am - 1pm

COLD SPRING FARMERS’ MARKET

Dr. K Imported Cars Service & Repair

Ursula Schneider

“Quality Care”

15 Tioranda Ave., Beacon, NY • 845.838.0717

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121 Main Street • Cold Spring • New York
April 7 to April 30, 2017
www.busterlevigallery.com

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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.

Varsity Scoreboard

**Boys’ Lacrosse**
- O’Neill 12, Haldane 7
- Keio Academy 11, Haldane 6

**Girls’ Lacrosse**
- Hendrick Hudson 17, Beacon 2
- Irvington 19, Beacon 8
- Sleepy Hollow 11, Beacon 6

**Baseball**
- Pleasantville 9, Haldane 6
  - Brian Haines: 4 doubles
  - Pawling 10, Haldane 7
  - Haldane 6, Pawling 0
  - Anthony Sinchi: 6 innings (5K, 3 hits)
- Beacon 2, Somers 1
- Beacon 7, Eastchester 3
- Lenny Torres (3-0): 4 innings (8K, 0 hits); Alex Callaway: 3-run homer

**Softball**
- Westlake 16, Haldane 1:

**Tennis**
- Beacon 4, Lourdes 3
  - Swept doubles. Key win when Kellen Sela made difficult get on overhead smash with Lourdes having match point. Jack Steehey/Ethan Hull rallied in second set down 3 - 1 to win 5 straight.
- Beacon 5, Lakeland 2
  - Swept doubles. In singles, James Cordero dropped first set but rallied to win second tiebreaker. Beacon now 3 - 3.

**Track**
- Mountie Madness, Suffern
- Beacon top finishers
- 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)
- Boys’ high jump
  - 9. Vincent Compagnone (52.60)
- Girls’ high jump
  - 2. Jummie Akinwunmi (5-0)
- Girls’ pole vault
  - 2. Anna Manente (8-0)

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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.

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.
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 [indoors] 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 midfield 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.”