New Beacon School Chief on His Way
A Q&A with the 10th superintendent in as many years

By Jeff Simms

Matthew Landahl, hired in January as superintendent of the Beacon City School District, will assume the job on July 1. He succeeds Ann Marie Quartironi, who has been acting as interim superintendent since the contentious resignation of Barbara Walkley in January 2016. Quartironi will return to her job as the district’s finance chief.

Most recently a deputy superintendent for the Ithaca City School District, Landahl will become the district’s 10th superintendent, including interims, in as many years. He will earn $190,000 annually.

Landahl, whose mother was an elementary school teacher in Chicago, earned a history degree from Grinnell College before teaching fourth and fifth grade in Baltimore as part of Teach for America. He next moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, where he was an elementary school principal while pursuing advanced degrees in education administration at the University of Virginia. Landahl and his family moved to Ithaca in 2013 when he was hired as the district’s chief elementary schools officer. In 2014 he became its chief academic officer.

Following Walkley’s resignation, the Beacon school board hired a search firm, which created focus groups to compile a “leadership profile” of what the district and community were looking for. Landahl beat out nearly 50 other applicants. He spoke with The Current a few days before he was set to move to Beacon. His comments have been edited for brevity.

What have you been up to since January?
I have been to Beacon several times for school visits and to spend time with principals and staff members. I’ve also been there to participate in some of the administrative hires, (Continued on Page 6)

Cell Tower Proposed Off Route 9
Neighbors express concern

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A proposal to construct a 180-foot cell phone tower on a hillside on Route 9 near Route 301 drew concerned neighbors to a Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on June 12 and led the board to schedule a balloon test for June 23 to gauge the visual effect of a tower on the landscape.

The proposal was submitted by Homeland Towers, the firm that brought the case to the ZBA in 2014. The four-hour test is weather-permitting.

Sewer Dispute Leads to Lawsuit
Residents want villages to take over pipe

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The village that largely lacks sewers is being sued because of one. The Village of Nelsonville is fighting a lawsuit brought by six residents who demand that it and Cold Spring take over a sewer line installed under Pearl Street decades ago. Exactly how many decades ago is at issue. So is whether there are one or two lines.

The residents sued Nelsonville and Cold Spring in October in Putnam County Supreme Court, asking a judge to force the villages to own and maintain the line. They also want local agencies to change any references to the pipe from “private” to “public.” The villages have both asked the court to dismiss the case, which Nelsonville calls “frivolous.” Although Cold Spring has a sewer system, including a treatment plant large enough to serve its neighbor, most Nelsonville residents rely on private septic systems. The Pearl Street line is an exception: Six inches wide, it runs down Pearl, turns onto Pine and connects to the Cold Spring sewer system at Parsonage just inside the village line.

Not all Pearl Street residents are parties to the suit. The six who are — Gary and Pamela Gunther, Eileen and William Kearns, and Stephen Van Der Merwe and Carla Goldberg Van Der Merwe — allege that:
• The sewer line runs beneath a street that Nelsonville 
neighbors and others objected, the Town Board took no action. (The voluminous attachments to the ZBA agenda included a January 2015 letter from Vincent Xavier of Homeland Towers to Supervisor Richard Shea: “We will take the lack of response from you as being one of non-interest.”)

Robert Gaudioso, an attorney for the new project, said the tower would primarily be for Verizon but could serve three additional wireless companies, as well as Putnam County emergency services and other first responders.

Based on photos submitted by Homeland Towers, the top of the tower would project above the tree line on the slope above Vineyard Road. That prompted ZBA Member Vincent Cestone to say he’d like to see plan for “visual abatement” and hear whether other technologies besides a tower could eliminate dead spots.

Dee sounded skeptical of the need. “How can you prove to me there’s a lack of coverage?” he asked, noting there is another tower within half a mile.

Gaudioso said planners did not rely on consumer complaints about dead spots but instead use a standard industry calculation to determine the number of towers needed in a given area.

In May, Xavier of Homeland Towers said in a letter to the ZBA that two towers in the vicinity carry Verizon but, because of the terrain, cannot provide wider coverage.

Shea: “We will take the lack of response from you as being one of non-interest.”

Dee: “We’re worried about turtles.”

Homeland Towers was prepared for that objection. A study conducted for the FCC and reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found the tower would have no effect on the threatened bog turtle “as no suitable habitat for this species was found within or near the project area.” At the same time, the study found the tower “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” an endangered Indiana bat and the threatened northern long-eared bat. Fish and Wildlife cautioned that if circumstances warranted, it would reconsider its acceptance.

Roger Gorevic also raised the possibility of the tower interfering with bird migration.

Dee said the ZBA would continue its deliberations at its July 10 meeting.

Sewer Dispute Leads to Lawsuit (from Page 1)

The villages say this is clearly the pipe in question, and that the 1956 agreement “unequivocally states” that the residents owns and maintains.

- Cold Spring receives an unspecified tax benefit from the line.
- Both villages require homeowners to pay for permits to connect to the line.
- The villages both “on occasion” maintain and repair the line, as happened after a sinkhole formed in 2015 when it broke.

The residents argue that the case involves a case of mistaken identity. They assert that a homeowner installed the pipe in the 1930s, and that nearby properties tapped into it.
New Tourism Chief Briefs Legislature

Says report shows economic impact on rise

By Holly Crocco

The Putnam County Visitors’ Bureau plans to publish a visitor’s guide, distribute online commercials and revamp its website in an effort to attract more tourists, Executive Director Bruce Conklin told legislators on June 20 during a meeting of the Economic Development Committee.

He said a consultant’s report compiled for state officials found the economic impact of tourism in the Hudson Valley to have grown steadily between 2012 and 2015 (the most recent data available), including in Putnam County, particularly in the food and beverage, retail and recreation categories.

“This is illustrative of the farm-to-table movement, the trend toward supporting local craftspeople, and the increased popularity of outdoor activities such as kayaking, hiking and cycling,” said Conklin, a Putnam Valley native who was hired in March to succeed Libby Pataki. “These areas will be a point of focus in future advertising.”

The nonprofit visitors’ bureau is funded by $141,996 from the county and $60,000 from the state. Conklin earns $60,000 annually and former interim director Frank Smith earns $50,000. After claiming that the organization is a not a county agency, Smith and Barney Molloy, who chairs the volunteer board of directors, declined to answer questions in March when a legislator asked for details about its finances.

Conklin told legislators that, based on the consultant’s report, the county tourism industry supports more than 1,000 jobs and saves each household an average of $214 in taxes each year because of sales taxes collected from visitors.

Advertisements placed by the bureau have produced a 30-second commercial to stream online and is working on seven 15-second clips to highlight activities in Putnam such as camping, kayaking, historical experiences and dining.

The printed visitors’ guide and the revamped website should be ready by Sept. 1, he said. His presentation is posted at tourputnam.org.

Democrats to Challenge for County Legislature Seats in Beacon

Hope to unseat Independence Party incumbents

By Jeff Simms

Four candidates have announced plans to run for the two seats in the 25-member Dutchess County Legislature that represent Beacon and parts of Fishkill.

County legislators serve two-year terms and every seat is contested at the same time. It meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the County Government building at 22 Market St. in Poughkeepsie.

Candidates have until July 13 to collect signatures to appear on the Sept. 12 primary ballot. Signature requirements vary based on the number of registered voters in each district.

John Forman and Jerry Landisi, incumbents in the 10th and 18th districts, respectively, both say they will run to keep their seats. Each is a member of the Independence Party but has been endorsed by the Beacon Republican Committee.

Forman, who lives in Fishkill, seeks his seventh term. He is the chair of the Legislature’s Environmental Committee and serves on the Family and Human Services Committee, as well as the Dutchess County Jail and Transition Center Advisory Committee.

He will be challenged by Frits Zernike, a Beacon resident who has been endorsed by the Beacon Democratic Committee. Zernike served on the Transit Oriented Development committee under mayors Steve Gold and Randy Casale. He ran the St. Clair Ice Cream Co. for 10 years and holds a degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law. He has also been endorsed by the Working Family Party.

In the 18th district, Landisi, who lives in Beacon, is serving his first term. He previously served on the Beacon City Council from 2010 to 2011. Landisi is on the Legislature’s Public Works and Capital Projects Committee, the Family and Human Services Committee, and is the liaison to the Criminal Justice Council, Hudson Valley Regional Council and Elder Abuse Council. He also was endorsed by the Beacon Republican Committee.

Nick Page, a Beacon resident endorsed by the Beacon Democrats, will challenge Landisi. Page rehabs homes and is pursuing a law degree at Pace University.
Sheriff settles

It seems like years since the defamation lawsuit by former Putnam County District Attorney Adam Levy against Sheriff Don Smith has been reported or referred to (“Putnam Sheriff Settles Defamation Case,” June 16). I was impressed with the clear and concise account by Liz Armstrong. These two sad tales of misfortunate plotting would be a big draw on stage or screen. Whoever said that nothing exciting ever happens in Putnam County?

William Harris, Cold Spring

So the chief law enforcement officer of Putnam County admits he made false and defamatory statements about a political opponent. And, to avoid a jury verdict, he left us taxpayers on the hook for $125,000, roughly equivalent to the annual tourist budget for Putnam County. Worst of all, he helped put an innocent man behind bars for 12 months to advance his political agenda. Why hasn’t he resigned?

Shouldn’t we at least demand that?

David Gelber, Garrison

Smith appears to be the kind of sheriff you see in movies where the rich people are happy and the townspeople are afraid. His press releases about his drug-war arrests are laughable.

Bob McCabe, Carmel

More on Breakneck

While there are more visitors to your charming village and the amazing cliffs of Breakneck, they are well behaved (“Breakneck Keeps Booming,” June 9). I’ve never heard loud music or arguing, or seen fighting, drug use or anything untoward.

Parking is mostly along Route 9D, single-file, away from traffic lanes, in areas that abut trees and forest and not in residential or commercial areas.

Wildlife on the white-blazed trail, e.g., birds, salamanders, insects (if you can call them wildlife) are not affected. Most hikers go up the steep, stony trail and hang around one of the lookouts.

As for litter, there is very little trash, and what small amounts there may be are policed by trail stewards. Hikers cannot help but drop things occasionally. It happens to me, too, and I’m very careful. I’ve climbed this ridge more times than I can count. Before the stewards, I would do some litter cleanup detail myself, but since they’ve been active, it isn’t necessary.

Lastly, all that traffic results in many, many hungry and thirsty and curious hikers who will later in the day go to shops and restaurants in Cold Spring and Beacon and help keep the towns thriving. Hikers contribute vast sums to the local economy during the hiking season and ask very little in return.

It would have been a shame if Parks had to start turning away people who want some honest exercise in nature because it was too crowded. Harriman Park is also getting extremely crowded. The actual trail traffic is okay, it’s the parking that’s not.

These trails never were meant for hundreds of people at once. It’s not Yosemite, after all.

So far, parking along the shoulder of 9D, as long as your vehicle is off the road, seems safe enough. There is a long section of road south of the tunnel to accommodate cars. I haven’t had any issues in multiple visits, nor seen any. However, I don’t appreciate cars driving recklessly fast where there are people. Unfortunately, I must be in the minority because, if I’m doing the speed limit on 9D, I’ll have a car tailgating me, for sure. Even had a guy honk at me the other day because I slowed passing through a school zone.

Ronald Aponte, Bloomfield, New Jersey

It would appear that it’s about time for all concerned men and women in Philipstown and Fishkill to launch a petition (Continued on next page)
drive to the state police, county sheriffs and state and local elected officials to come together and control this problem. Numbers speak louder than the occasion-
al letter to the editor or comments on a
W e welcome letters to the editor, which can be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.com or mailed to 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. As with online comments, we ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. All letters are subject to editing for length, accuracy and clarity. The writer’s full name, email and phone number must be included, although only the writer’s name and village or city are published. We do not print anonymous letters or those written under pseudonyms.

Pushing for climate solutions

I walked the dog up Sugarloaf last week and it was totally infested — so many caterpillars munching away that I could hear an ambient crackling sound of them chewing as I walked (“It’s Gypsy Moth Season,” June 9). And the trail was littered with chewed bits of leaves.

Rebecca Reese, East Fishkill

Moth invasion

I met with Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (“Maloney on Opioid Crisis, Environment, Healthcare — and Trump,” June 9), he said that “despite all the partisan heat and noise” on Capitol Hill, “there’s a deep desire among many of us to work together on solutions.”

I can say for a fact that this is happening in terms of climate change. On June 13, some 1,000 people from more than 400 chapters of Citizens’ Climate Lobby met with their representatives in Washington, D.C., to talk about climate solutions. That includes reducing emissions of carbon di-

Knob Creek project wraps up.

An estimated 3,000 gallons of the anti-

Spero’s Bridge Snarl Ends This Month

Bridge Snarl Ends This Month

Structural Steel and Bridge Painters of

New York, to hear the following appeal:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, July 10, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, to hear the following appeal:

Martin McGee, 200 Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring, New York.

Tax Map # 27-1-29 and 27-1-30. This application is a Planning Board referral to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The applicant seeks to subdivide the subject property, with a lot line change. With the proposed lot line change, one of the existing lots, which currently lacks the minimum road frontage of 500 feet, will have its road frontage further reduced to 157.43 feet. The property is in the RR Zoning District. The applicant seeks an area variance to allow for the subdivision and lot line change, with a resulting deficiency in the minimum road frontage requirement.

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 Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated 6/19/17 • Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

Position Available

The Town of Philipstown has full-time position available for a Secretary to the Conservation Board, Zoning Board and Planning Board. Any persons interested should submit their resumes to:

Richard Shea, Supervisor
Town of Philipstown
238 Main St., P.O. Box 155, Cold Spring, NY 10516
New Beacon School Chief on His Way (from Page 1)

and to buy a house. I feel like my car could do the drive on its own.

What's your impression of the district now that you've spent time here?

It hasn't changed all that much, and I mean that in a good way. I see people with a lot of heart and passion for children. I see people who care about the district and the jobs they do. After I was hired, I spent a day and a half in the schools and classrooms, and I saw a lot of great things happening.

Your boss in Ithaca, Luvelle Brown, in 2017 was named New York Superintendent of the Year. What have you learned working with him?

One of the big things I learned is to focus on getting to know the kids and the staff members, whether they're teachers or support staff. And just as important, getting to know community members. Over the summer and into the fall I'm going to have community conversations to hear what people love about the district and what they want to see improved. That's objective No. 1 — to get to know people and hear their stories.

What can an outside hire offer a district like Beacon, which has seen its share of challenges over the last few years?

A lot can be said for a fresh perspective. I've worked in multiple states and a lot of my career has been going into places that were struggling. You weren't involved with the history and you bring fresh ideas. But you need time to figure everything out. I'd love to be a part of changing the recent history in Beacon, and I'd love to be in the district for a long time.

When you come into a district with some history, do you want to know every single thing that's happened, or is it more helpful not to know?

Whether you want to know, you end up finding out most of it. People like to share their stories and I don’t discourage them from sharing with me. It's helpful to know some, but I'm not coming in to do a deep investigation on the past. From the interactions I've had, it seems like most people, if not all, are excited to move forward.

What is your impression of the work being done inside classrooms?

I base a lot of my opinions on working side-by-side with people, so I prefer to withhold judgment about where we need to go until I can see that. So far, I see people who care a lot about kids — and that’s not just teachers, but all the people who work in the district. But to base a plan on test scores or graduation rates isn’t appropriate. You need to see a lot more than what I’ve seen so far to chart a course.

Other than education, what are you passionate about?

My family. I have a 5-year-old son. We love hiking and exploring. I grew up outside of Chicago and am still passionate about Chicago sports.

What album or movie would you bring to a deserted island that has a CD/DVD player?

I'll cheat a little and name both. First, U2's The Joshua Tree, because that was the first concert I went to as a teenager, and Abbey Road by The Beatles because I was a classic rock DJ in college. For a movie, it would be a triple-pack: Star Wars, The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi.

What are your priorities for the Beacon district?

This could be said for any district in the country, but improving communication within the district and between stakeholders and the district. Also, increasing the use of technology and improving the teaching and learning experience. If you’re not constantly working toward improving, you’re going in the opposite direction.

As a student, I remember having butterflies the night before a new school year began. Do superintendents get butterflies?

This school year will be my 25th as an educator, and I’ve had butterflies before the start of every one. It’s nervous excitement, and I can’t wait to feel that in Beacon.

Haldane Has Its Principals

District announces elementary, middle school hires

Superintendent Diana Bowers announced on June 21 that the Haldane Central School District has hired principals for the elementary and middle schools.

MaryAnn Seelke will be the middle school principal, effective July 1. She comes from the Hyde Park Central School District, where she was an assistant principal at Haviland Middle School. Prior to that, she was a health teacher for the district for 12 years. She is pursuing a doctorate at Long Island University.

Seelke succeeds Julia Sniffen, who will become the high school principal on July 1. Sniffen has been serving as interim principal there following the abrupt departure on March 31 of Peter Carucci after nine months on the job.

The new elementary school principal is David Wallick, who was most recently head of the Bicycle Path School for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students in the Middle Country Central School District on Long Island. Prior to that, he was assistant principal at Wampus Elementary in the Byram Hills district and taught at the elementary level in the Briarcliff Manor, Katonah-Lewisboro and Ardsley districts, all in Westchester County.

Wallick succeeds Brent Harrington, who will leave Haldane on June 30 to become principal at Pocantico Hills Central elementary and middle school in Sleepy Hollow. Harrington has been with the district since 2011.
Nicholas Leiss, executive chef at the Beacon Hotel, tops off eggplant parmigiana while volunteering at the Beacon Community Kitchen.

Nicholas Leiss works two gigs in Beacon that are a block apart and, at first glance, couldn’t be more different.

Five days a week, Leiss is the executive chef at the Beacon Hotel, serving up morel mushrooms, foraged greens, ribeye steaks with a Middle Eastern carrot puree and, for adventurous diners, parts of the pig most of us can’t envision on a plate (ears, heart).

But today Leiss is ladling piles of old-school Sunday gravy on a tray of eggplant parmigiana at the Tabernacle of Christ Church at 483 Main St. He’s paid considerably less ($0) than at the Beacon Hotel at 434 Main, and the diners pay considerably less ($0) than at the Beacon Hotel Church at 483 Main St. He’s paid considerably less, as well (also $0). That’s because he’s paid though a bad breakup and was looking for something constructive to do. He figured it would be a one-time gig. But in the weeks that followed he couldn’t stop thinking about how much he had enjoyed the work, so he signed up to cook once a week.

“This is a good way to spend a few hours out of your day once a week to change someone’s life, why wouldn’t you?”

Leiss plans his soup-kitchen menu a month in advance with Candi Rivera, the head of the program, so little goes to waste. However, Leiss must be prepared to throw out his plan at a moment’s notice if a food donation comes through the door. “If I walk in prepared to make ham steaks, and Candi says that we need to make tuna melts, that’s what we’re making,” he says.

Leiss maintains the same flexibility at the hotel. “I try to source everything within 60 miles,” he says. “It’s hard, especially now when the weather has been so cool that the growing season had a late start. But I want to support my farmers, my friends and my neighbors who are growing things — people who I know are passionate about what they’re doing.”

Even when the menu gets exotic, it’s typically a reflection of a desire to be thrifty and use every part of the animal. He fondly recalls eating pig heart, stuffed with rice, growing up in rural Pennsylvania. “If I get a whole animal, I need to use that whole animal” he says. “It gave

(Continued on Page 12)

Danielle Pece and Kathy Curto display a copy of the 2017 This I Believe book. Student Cassie Kubik designed the cover.

Finding Your Center

Haldane students shape essays on a core belief

By Alison Rooney

Seventh grade is the perfect time, says Kathy Curto, to figure out your foundation. And that’s why, eight years ago, she launched “This I Believe” at Haldane Middle School.

The program is modeled after the popular National Public Radio program that began in the 1950s with Edward R. Murrow of CBS. At Haldane, the students, under the direction of Curto and English teacher Danielle Pece, spend three weeks shaping and then sharing an essay about a core belief.

Curto, who teaches creative writing at Montclair State University, said she had given the assignment to her freshmen and realized how appropriate it would be for students in middle school, who, at ages 12 and 13, are “thinking about things they value and why they value these things.”

Pece joined the Haldane staff four years ago and immediately took to the program. After explaining the assignment, Pece asks her students to answer a series of questions designed to help them select a belief to focus on. Then Curto visits each class, playing audio files of essays read by their authors on NPR and discussing writing strategies. (Full disclosure: I assist Curto with this part of the program.)

The students write and rewrite over the next few weeks. “Their first reaction to [being assigned] personal writing is sometimes ‘no,’ ” says Pece, “but when Kathy comes in she does such a stellar job explaining it, and their reactions change to ‘yes.’ Going into eighth grade, they now have the maturity to be introspective.”

The resulting short essays (and occasional poems) are compiled into a printed book, with a copy for each student. Publication parties (one of each class) are held each June with the students sitting

(Continued on Page 16)
**FRIDAY, JUNE 23**

**International Film Series: Rudo y Cursi**  
(Mexico)  
7 p.m. Howland Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-1134  |  beaconlibrary.org

**H.V. Renegades vs. Staten Island**  
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls  
845-838-0094  |  hvrenegades.com

**HVSF: Pride and Prejudice (Preview)**  
6:15 p.m. Prologue | 7:30 p.m. Performance  
845-831-1134  |  beaconlibrary.org

**SUNDAY, JUNE 25**

**Family Fishing Day**  
8:30 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
100 Muser Dr., Cornwall  
845-534-5506 x204  |  hhnm.org

**MONDAY, JUNE 26**

**Beacon Pool Opens for Season**  
Noon – 7 p.m.  
24 Wołcott Ave., Beacon  
beaconlibrary.org

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**Seafood Soirée on Constitution Island**  
4 – 9 p.m. Bus from Cold Spring  
4 & 5 p.m. Boat from Garrison  
845-265-2501  |  constitutionisland.org

**Reservations required.**

**Sunset Tour**  
5 p.m. Manhasset  
584 Route 20, Garrison  
845-424-3812  |  visitmanhasset.org

**Get On Up, Get On Down Dance**  
7 p.m. Eko Lodge  
900 Wołcott Ave., Beacon  
845-765-0667

**Gypsy Jazz Concert**  
7 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St., Cold Spring  
845-265-5537  |  chapelrestoration.org

**NY. Bears vs. Queens Vikings (Football)**  
7:30 p.m. Delano-Hitch Stadium  
401 Washington St., Newburgh  
facebook.com/NYBEARS2017

**Steel Band: Music of the Caribbean**  
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point  
845-938-4159  |  westpointband.com

**Mostly Other People Do the Killing (Jazz)**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-3012  |  howlandculturalcenter.org

**MONDAY, JUNE 26**

**Calendared Highlights**

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

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845-534-5506 x204  |  hhnm.org

**Beacon Wellness Commons**  
1 – 4 p.m. Beahive Beacon  
313 Main St., Beacon  
beaconwellnesscooperative.wordpress.com

**Listen. Open. Flow (Yoga & Music)**  
3 – 5 p.m. Living Yoga  
3182 Route 9, Cold Spring  
info@livingyogastudios.com

**Pints and Prayers**  
4 – 6 p.m. Dogwood  
47 E. Main St., Beacon  
facebook.com/FPBQN

**Bringing Broadway to Beacon**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier Café  
379 Main St., Beacon  
845-855-1300  |  beaconperformingartscenter.com

**HVSF: Twelfth Night**  
7:30 p.m. Beacon  
See details under Friday.

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**MONDAY, JUNE 26**

**Beacon Pool Opens for Season**  
Noon – 7 p.m.  
24 Wołcott Ave., Beacon  
beaconlibrary.org
Students Design Manitoga Sculpture

Aspiring architects compete with Wright-inspired designs

By Alison Rooney

Over the years, Manitoga has invited a number of artists to contemplate the landscape of the former home of industrial designer Russel Wright. This year it asked students pursuing their master's degrees in architecture at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design to weigh in.

The result is an installation referred to as “the pavilion,” overlooking the quarry pool; it will be on view during tours through mid-November.

The artwork is the result of a two-year partnership between Manitoga and the university initiated by Associate Professor Andrew Saunders. He calls the resulting sculpture a “built dialogue.”

The students were introduced during the fall semester of their first year to Wright and his designs and philosophy relating to man-made trails, architecture, furniture and homewares, Saunders says. During the spring, a competition to create the pavilion was opened to all students in the three-year program.

The winning concepts were developed by students in a structure-and-technology seminar. They determined the form, material, structure, size and budget. These works were juried and given awards, with the winning design displayed on campus.

In the fall semester of the second year, parts of two concepts, *Hereafter* and *Devouring* *the Dark*, were incorporated into a single piece, taking into account the site and desire for a minimal footprint. This part of the project was led by lecturer Mohamad Al Khayer. During the process, more than 150 students visited Manitoga and participated in studio projects inspired by Wright’s design principles.

The final sculpture was created with molded foam connected by metal rods. After the pavilion’s display on campus, eight students and Professor Al Khayer took it apart and transported it to reassemble in Garrison.

Allison Cross, Manitoga’s executive director, has been impressed. “Wright material innovation, good design and harmony with nature,” she says. “The striking creativity shown by the student work is an inspiring tribute.”

Manitoga Tours

Reservations are essential for the tours, which depart at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. from Friday to Monday through Nov. 13. In addition, 3:30 p.m. tours led by architect Tom Krizmanic are scheduled for June 24, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16 and Oct. 21. Admission is $20 (seniors and students, $15; children, $10). See visitmanitoga.org. The site is located at 584 Route 9D in Garrison.
College Graduates

Assumption College (Worcester, Massachusetts)
Madeline Vitale, Garrison

Eastern Connecticut State
Paulina Satsuk, Beacon (Communication)

Ithaca College
James Moss, Cold Spring (Mathematics-Economics)
Anna Shorto, Cold Spring (Television-Radio, Cum Laude)

Marist College (Poughkeepsie)
Bradley Lamitie, Garrison (Computer Science)
Madeline Dondero, Beacon (Social Work)
Paul Grech, Beacon (Business Administration)
Vincent Tamagna, Cold Spring (MPA)

Mount Saint Mary College (Newburgh)
Ashleigh Arena, Beacon (English)
Angelo Biondo, Beacon (MBA)
Chelsea Dexter, Beacon (Interdisciplinary Studies)
Rebecca Forman, Beacon (Master’s in Childhood & Special Education)
Brittany Hunt, Beacon (Business)
Patrick Junjulas, Cold Spring (Criminology)
Stephanie Molina, Beacon (MBA)
Emily Murnane, Beacon (English)
Anthony Musacchio, Beacon (Business)
Meribeth Sargun, Beacon (Nursing)
Sitora Scherer, Cold Spring (Nursing)
Kyle Sewing, Beacon (Business)
Kaitlyn Sudol, Garrison
(Master’s in Literacy Education)
Kiana Sullivan, Beacon (Mathematics)
Meagan Thid, Beacon (Nursing)
Stephanie Triolo, Beacon (MBA)
Janet Vasquez, Beacon (Human Services)
Laura Wetherbee, Beacon (Public Relations)

SUNY Potsdam
Joanna Battersby, Beacon (Theater)

University of Scranton
Amanda Ragusa, Garrison (History)

University at Albany
Brandon Cordero, Beacon (Criminal Justice, Cum Laude)
Hannah Ricciotti, Beacon (Information Science)

University of Vermont
Milo-Ben Civita, Garrison (Environmental Studies)
Nicole Pidalà, Garrison (Natural Resources, Cum Laude)

United States Military Academy (West Point)
Kieran McEvoy, Garrison (Chemical Engineering)

Wesleyan University (Middletown, Connecticut)
Lianna Culp, Garrison (English and Government)

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Massachusetts)
Zachary Ericson, Beacon (Mechanical Engineering, high distinction)

At right, seven students graduated on June 14 from the St. Philip’s Nursery School in Garrison and will enter kindergarten in the fall. Top row: Grayson Wik, Nate Speiser, Gio Mercurio, Oden Durette. First row: Emmie Choi, Mason Rosenberg, Perla Flores. Photo provided

Above, Emily Murnane of Beacon received her English degree at Mount Saint Mary College on May 20. Murnane was president of the school’s Essence of Poetry club.

Photo by Lee Ferris

Haldane High School
Saturday, June 17

Lauren Agudo
Amelia Allison
Josephine Altucher
William Bohl
Morrigan Brady
Adar Broshi
Dylan Byrne
Aidan Campbell
Sophia Carnabuci
Kyle Chason
Alexandra Cinquanta
Collin Downey
Ryan Duffy
Mary-Margaret Dwyer
John Eng-Wong
Amanda Erickson
John Farrell
Teresa Figueiras
Blaine Fitzgerald
Anthony Franzoni
Sean Gannon
Mattias Gariepy
Rebecca Gore
Brian Haines
Brendan Hamel
Michael Harmančin
Will Heintzman
Morgan Hotaling
Joshua Katia Jesek
Michaela Khadabux
Isabelle Laifer
Jocelyn Lane
Hannah Langer
Alessandra LaRocco
Erin Ledwith
Madison Lee
Harper Levy
Marissa Lisikatos
Liam Macnamara
Justin Maldonado
Ruby McEwen
Timothy McGovern
Derek McMasters
Andrew Mikalsen

Hannah Monteleone
Kyra Moskowski
Apyr Norton
Elizabeth Osborn
Catherine Parr
Samantha Phillips
Christopher Pidalà
Andrew Platt
Dara Ricketts
Jeremy Roffman
Jaan Rothenberg
Marco Scanga
Corina Schmidt
Evan Schweikhart
Asami Shiga
Cole Sussmeier
Cassandra Traina
Hali Traina
Edward Trimble
Brooke Vahos
Seth Warren
Simon White
Ronan Wood-Gallagher

1. Salutatorian
2. Valedictorian

Photos by Anita Peltonen

Joshua Katia Jesek: bell rung, Haldane diploma received. Right, Hudson Lovell accepted the diploma of his friend, senior Adar Broshi, who is battling cancer.
Beacon High School Names Top Students

Beacon High School Saturday, June 24

Sarah Abdo
Tyler Acuti
Justin Alston
Joseph Antonio
Tionne Arroy
Kristina Ban
Olivia Banks
Julia Barnett
Diana Barriga
Emily Bautista
Tamina Benekin
Dennis Benitez III
Alexander Benson
Brittany Bethea
Alexander Benson
Bradley Camacho Delgado
Sierra Caban
Jorge Campos
Elena Camilo
Keyshawn Cook
Remy Coris
Cassidy Coulter
Amanda Creighton
Giovanni Curtis-Dudley
Izidhar Dasbah
Andre’ Daniels
Andre Davis II
Kyle Davis
Gabrielle DeMaria
Sydney Dexter
Analise Diaz
Markcus Diaz
Marye Diaz
Sydney DiGregorio
Sadie DiRubbio
Amara Douglas
Jalen Echandy
Dean Eckert
Scott Eckler
Claire Emmett
Raiven Encarnacion
Esi Esoco
Branden Evans
Zuleika Feliz
Joseph Ferrone
Matthew Foster
Elyse Fox
Deirdre Frank
Amanda Fultz
Francis Fusco
Brandon Gacer
Asa Garner
Leah Garrett
Amanda George
Markee Glover
Alexa Guskus
David Gonzalez
Liam Green-Arnone
Janaya Hall
Jordan Haran
Andrea Hart
Myles Harvey
Oji Haynes
Keveg Henderson
Lauren Hernandez
Symone Hinson
Allison Hocker
Harold Hulse
Ema Jacetti
Simone Jefferson Jr.
Kris Kemp
Khalil Jordan
Bradley Karch
Richard Kish
Kajal Kohli
Sierra Kolody
Dione’ Komisar
Adam Lagomarsini
Travis Lagomarsini
Alexander Laird
Sean Landers
Eric Landisi
Mariah Leonard
Dominique Lewis
Ella Lewis
Savannah Lombarde
Elana Lotro
Gabrielle Lucas
Mark Luces II
Andrew Lukan
Carley Lyons
Ashley Mangru
Yarenis Marin
Dillon Maupin
Matthew Santoses
Cheyenne McNeil
Elijah McRae
Lauren Mesorana
Deanna Meyer
Destiny Minto
Benjamin Morgan
Michael Morrison
Brittany Moschetto
Marie Murnane
Kevin Murphy
Jessica Musacchio
Gianna Notaro
Neo Nuxmalo
Nicholas Oakley
Daivon Omari
Peter Ostrow
Helely Pagan Quiles
Jared Palm
Jarek Panko
Rhiannon Parsac
Michael Patchen
Meera Patel
Jean Pena
Kaysea Pinczes
Justin Pimley
Destiny Plummer
Aurora Purdy
Gabriella Puri
Ishrael Ramon
Jamiliyah Reed
Keyshawn Reid-Espinal
Mia Reid-Espinal
Bianca Resendiz
Christopher Richards Jr.
Liam Romine
Eboni Rowe
Erin Rowe
Michael Rutkoske Jr.
Eric Samaya
Destiny Sanchez
Jeremiah Santiago
Matthew Santos
Kathryn Scheppa
Lauren Schetter
Emma Schiffer
Lauren Schneider
Rebecca Senior
Cacie Scully
Stefan Seward
John Sgobissa
Savannah Shields
Cameron Shorey
Madeline Simmonds
Brandon Simon
Tahmia Sims
Shazek Smith
Alayza Soto
Samuel Soto
Joseph St. George
Halley Sylvester
Eljiah Szantyr
Yvette Tirado
Vince Trinajstic
Cynthia Tseng
Cassandra Ulrich
Christopher Van Buren
Adrian Vasquez
Jose Vasquez
Imani Washington
Everton Watson
Alandra Williams
Forever Williams
Joshua Yeaple
Justin Young
1. Valedictorian
2. Valedictorian, Career and Technical Institute (BOCES)
3. Salutatorian

List current as of June 14.

Beacon High School valedictorian Kalina Brinas and salutatorian Ella Lewis

Beacon High School Names Top Students

Beacon High School will hold its annual graduation ceremonies at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 24, at Dutchess Stadium in Wappingers Falls.

Kalina Brinas, Valedictorian
Kalina Brinas will attend UCLA, where she will study the social sciences. Her artwork has been shown in several local galleries and she was recently recognized by the state Scholastic Art & Writing Awards with three gold and four silver keys.

Through high school, Brinas was a member of the youth ballet at the Hudson River Performing Arts Center in Fishkill and took part in its annual fall ballet production. In May, she played the Fairy Godmother in Cinderella, The Ballet. Brinas, who also excelled at mathematics, volunteered with the New York City Marathon and Project Linus and is a vegan activist.

Ella Lewis, Salutatorian
Ella Lewis will attend the University at Buffalo to study mechanical engineering.

As a member of the Beacon Players, she was the stage manager for the club during her junior and senior years, managing five shows, including Peter Pan and The Who’s Tommy. She also participated in band for four years as a flutist. Lewis also took ballet and modern dance classes for 10 years with Ballet Arts Studio and performed with the Duchess Dance Company during her sophomore year.

Sydney DiGregorio, Valedictorian (CTI)
DiGregorio studied culinary arts/restaurant management at the Career and Technical Institute at Dutchess BOCES, where she was a member of the National Technical Honor Society.

O’Neill High School

Thursday, June 22

The list below is of Garrison residents who were among the graduates of James I. O’Neill High School in Highlands Falls. The class salutatorian is Edmund Northup IV, who will study neuroscience at Dartmouth College. His sister, Anna Northup, who will major in physics at Duke University, and Alexandra Vourliotis, who will attend Boston University, were among the school's top graduates.

Jacob Hard
Emma Scali
Sarah Kelly
Sashal Sharriff
Isaiah Toth
Alexandra Vourliotis
Colin Waldron
Paul Walker

Garrison School

Thursday, June 22

Amy Albertson
Fallon Barry
Kayanna Bernard
Robert Bohr
Joshua DeHerrera-Ortiz
Emerson Delmonte
Saja DiGiovanni
Avia DuBois
Alex Ferdico
Autumn Hartman
Rachel Ivacic
Sasha Levy

Oakwood Friends

(Poughkeepsie)

Friday, June 9

Flanagan graduated on June 9 from Oakwood Friends, with her grandmother, Molly Lynn Watt, a member of the Class of 1956, in attendance. She plans to study politics and philosophy at the University of Sheffield.

Photo by Lacey Fredericks
its whole life to sustain you, so you need to sustain yourself with the whole animal."

For those who aren't ready to embrace offal, Leiss offers another option at the Beacon Hotel: Family friendly fare in the early part of the week at a fixed price. Like Tuesday Night Ramen at the Roundhouse and Monday fried chicken at Kitchen Sink, Leiss on Monday nights serves three courses of rustic food such as chicken cacciatore and polenta for $25. He says it gives his staff a chance to relax and not worry about the full menu and his customers a chance to relax after a hectic weekend.

“It used to be that growing up, you’d all go over to your grandmother’s house for a big Sunday dinner and you’d just sit there and converse and enjoy each other’s company,” he said. “That’s what I’d like to do here. Come in, relax, eat some pasta and spend time with your family.”

A Full Plate (from Page 7)

“That’s what I’d like to do here. Come in, relax, eat some pasta and spend time with your family.”

Putnam History Museum’s Annual Lawn Party
Saturday, July 8, 5 - 7pm

Join PHM for cool drinks and canapes amidst river views at the home of the Pugh family in Cold Spring. Enjoy the company of friends, neighbors, and museum staff. Guests will also enjoy an intimate sneak-peek of staged scenes from the play The General from America by Richard Nelson, which will be presented on stage at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival August 8 – September 3. Best of all, ticket sales support the Putnam History Museum!

Tickets: $70 early-bird through July 3; $80 after July 3 and at the door. Purchase online at putnamhistorymuseum.org or mail a check to the museum. Call (845) 265-4010 for more information.

Lawn Party Committee: Christine Foertsch, Committee Chair, Jeremy Crandall, Mindy Krazmien, Frank E. Lucente, and Preston L. Pittman.

“The General from America”

Phil’s List
Free online local classifieds devoted to jobs, housing, tag sales, services, and more.

How to Contribute
The Beacon Community Kitchen, located at 483 Main St., serves free lunches from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Monday to Thursday. To volunteer, visit signup.com/gu/7eRFCD or email Candi Rivera at incareof.beacon@gmail.com. Donations may be sent to P.O. Box 368, Glenham, NY 12527 (payable to Incareof “Beacon Community Kitchen” on the subject line).

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The School Birds Are Chirping!
By Lola Rosenberg

A spring concert at Garrison School was held and practiced by fourth- and fifth-grade students on May 16. Led by the new music teacher, Ulysses Torres, for the 2017 school year forward, the students had been practicing and practicing and practicing.

During the time before the band concert, people could get some refreshments that were being sold. "The spring concert is like a celebration because it shows how hard the students have been working," said Ulysses Torres, the music teacher.

As mentioned before, the students had practiced and practiced for the spring concert, especially the trumpets, for they had a whole solo to do. They also had been going to extra lessons for practicing band.

These spring concerts have been going on for many years. Soon, the school has done these concerts while it still stands. There are also winter concerts, but only in winter. Many people come for entertainment, others for surprise by how good they are. These concerts will keep going for many years to come.

Duck, Dive and Dodge!
By Hunter Erickson

On Tuesday, May 2, from 12:30 to 12:50 p.m., grades 3 to 8 competed against teachers in a dodgeball game. It was when grades 3 to 5 had recess and 6 to 8 came out of class to watch the dodgeball game. When it was over, people went back to class. The students vs. teachers dodgeball game has been going on for two years.

The kids won 3 games to 1. Everybody that played in the game, both students and teachers, played well. There were 12 students and 13 teachers who participated in the game.

The June 10 Art Show
By Chase Nugent

On April 27, Chase interviewed Mr. Young about the art show. "This is my 12th time doing the art show," Mr. Young says. He will be selling the artwork for anywhere between $150 and $800.

The art show will be at the Catalyst Gallery in Beacon. Some of the items at the show will include robots that can probably move and there will also be landscapes. Chase asked Mr. Young, "Is the art show going to be around the world?" Mr. Young said, "No," which is what Chase thought. Chase says, "See you there!"

The Blackout
By Jordan Hankel

On March 27, at Garrison School, there was a blackout. The power went out because lightning struck an electrical wire which caused a fire. Then the students of Garrison got off the bus. After the fire was over, the power was still off.

One of the students, Joey Carlos, said, "The entire school played duck, duck goose." They played for a while until the power came back on. According to Joey, "It was a two-hour delay and then after the power went back on, it was a regular day."

A Garrison at Garrison
By Jillian August

How many Garrisons are there in Garrison? In Garrison, a teacher named Sarah Garrison is filling in for Debbie Earle while she is out recovering from shoulder surgery.

Miss Garrison ended up being a teacher in Garrison because she came from Hawaii and wanted a teaching job. Then, she interviewed and became a teacher here in Garrison.

Jillian August, fourth-grade student, asked Merrick Williams, "Does Miss Garrison do anything differently than Mrs. Earle?" Merrick said, "Yes, she does. My most favorite thing that she does differently is her handshakes" like the Hawaii sign. This is a hand signal that means, "I'm ready" in Miss Garrison language.

Book Madness!
By Michael Murray

The fourth- and fifth-grade of the Garrison Union Free School District did a fun competition. The competition was the same thing as March Madness in the NCAA. They did the exact same thing, except it wasn't for basketball teams, it was for books. It was called Book Madness.

If you don't know how it works, here it is. There are four rounds: Sweet Sixteen, Elite Eight, Final Four and the Championship game. Kids vote on Google Classroom for each matchup for the books and there are two books and the one with the most votes advances to the next round. The book Pax took down How to Steal a Dog in the championship.

(Continued on Page 16)
Women’s Voting Rights
Professor will discuss suffrage cartoons
Susan Goodier, author of No Votes for Women: The New York State Anti-Suffrage Movement and co-author of the forthcoming Women Will Vote: Winning Suffrage in New York State, will speak at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 29, at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on the suffrage and anti-suffrage movements as seen through political cartoons.

Grants for Artists
$3,000 for supplies, instruction
Five Hudson Valley artists will each receive $3,000 for supplies, equipment or career development as part of the Under-Recognized Artist Awards Program. Apply at artsmidhudson.org by June 30. Applicants must be 25 years or older, have enough visual art for a one-person show, and have had at least three gallery shows.

Yoga with Live Music
Session and concert on June 25
Both DeWitt will lead participants through a 45-minute Gentle Flow yoga session at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 25, at Living Yoga Studios, followed by live music from Open Book and Tony Jefferson. The cost is $45 at the door. The studio is located at 3182 Route 9, north of Cold Spring.

Junior Golf Camp
For ages 6 to 16 at The Garrison
The Garrison has opened registration for its annual Junior Golf Camp run by golf pro Joe Spivak for children and teenagers ages 6 to 16. There are two four-day sessions, one beginning July 10 and the other Aug. 7. The cost is $350 per session. See thegarrison.com/camps-outings.

Afternoon Jazz
Lucky 5 band to perform in P.V.
The Lucky 5 Jazz Band will perform at the Tompkins Corner Cultural Center in Putnam Valley on Saturday, July 1, at 3 p.m. The five-piece band performs swing and gypsy jazz from the 1930s to 1950s. Tickets are $15 at brownpapertickets.com or at the door. Call 845-528-7280 for reservations.

Calling All Poets
Open mic scheduled for June 29
Calling All Poets will hold an open mic and audience dialogue at the Towne Crier Café in Beacon at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 29. It will be hosted by Mike Jurekovic, Beacon poet laureate Tony Pena and Jozi Longo of Slambovian Circus of Dreams. See callingallpoets.net.

Summer Reading
Howland kicks off program for children
The Howland Public Library will launch its summer reading program on Thursday, July 6, for children ages 4 to 12. Readers can track books in logs available at the library and collect prizes. Among the programs will be a weekly story-and-craft hour for children ages 4 to 6 on Fridays, a STEM drop-in for elementary students on Tuesdays and a teen podcast workshop that begins July 12. Call 845-831-1134, ext. 103.

Registration Open for Theater Day
Annual Beacon event set for Sept. 16
On Saturday, Sept. 16, students from high schools in Dutchess and Westchester counties are invited to attend a free day of performance and technical workshops, including breakfast and lunch, sponsored by Beacon High School, Mamaroneck High School, Arts Mid-Hudson, BeaconArts and the Beacon Performing Arts Center.

FIFTY YEARS AGO — On June 21, 1967, John and Elsie Benton (shown in an undated photo) opened the Walter Hoving Home in Garrison with 12 residents and four staff members. The ministry, which serves women who have been addicted to drugs or alcohol and/or involved with prostitution, has since opened residential facilities in Pasadena, California, and Las Vegas. It is named for Walter Hoving, the former longtime chairman of Tiffany & Co., who was an early supporter.

Photo provided
Clearwater Festival Returns

Clearwater’s Great Hudson River Revival, the longstanding annual music and environmental festival that went on hiatus in 2016 as the organization focused on the $850,000 restoration of its namesake sloop, returned to Croton Point Park on June 17 and 18. The event, which was founded by Pete Seeger in the late 1960s as a fundraiser for the nonprofit, involves 1,000 volunteers. The headliners this year included Lake Street Dive, a reunion of Cry Cry Cry (Lucy Kaplansky, Richard Shindell and Dar Williams), Nick Lowe, Los Lobos, Arlo Guthrie, Joan Osborne, Josh Ritter, Tommy Emmanuel and Alejandro Escovedo.

The sloop Clearwater on the right

The day of the festival was overcast with occasional heavy rain.

A couple who attended the festival, with the Clearwater in the background

A line of volunteers pass period trunks and barrels filled with letters addressed to Congress. The “cargo of concerns” was headed to Washington, D.C., aboard the Clearwater, but the sloop was forced to turn back due to bad weather on the Atlantic coast.

David Ross, Karen Brooks and Patrick Stanfield Jones of the Breakneck Ridge Revue aboard the Mystic Whaler

A cloth backdrop of the Clearwater on one of the eight stages
Finding Your Center (from Page 7)

in a circle, fortified by snacks, and those who are willing read their essays aloud.

The atmosphere is supportive, and some students change their minds about sharing their work. “It’s a great opportunity for those kids who are ready to get it out there,” Pece says. Every year students tell her they have nothing to write about. “Most students have had no ‘big’ thing happen to them, but they learn it’s the details which can crack the ordinary open,” she says. “It’s not necessarily about the momentous moments. It’s also about finding out how they connect and relate to other students.”

At each reading circle, there are tears and hugs over stories of loss and moments when it’s evident that someone’s honesty has opened their peers’ and teachers’ eyes, inviting a new way of perceiving a person.

“When you ask someone to sit and hear a story read out loud, it’s different” than what we often encounter in the digital age, Curto says. “When you hand someone an actual book containing their words, it means something.”

A number of students allowed The Current to share their essays, which can be found at highlandscurrent.com, along with videos of students reading their works.

The students eagerly looked through the pages of the This I Believe book to find their contribution.

This I Believe
My Nonno Is With Me
By Sophia Scanga

I have a very tight family. The heart and soul of my family has always been my Nonno and Nonna. We all live on the same road and see each other just about every day. My Nonno passed away on March 5, 2015.

Before Nonno passed, every moment he spent with his grandchildren was a time when he would share with us his love for birds and German Shepherds. He had a chicken coop and a very big bird house where he raised many different breeds of birds, and we still take care of them even though Nonno is no longer with us. He had such a close connection with animals, that’s why he had so many. Nonno would call me a chicken because I was so afraid to go into the coop. I know it sounds crazy but I’m still building up the courage to go close to the birds and chickens.

It was really hard for my family when my Nonno passed away. My dad had a hard time with the reality that his dad was no longer here with him, so we decided to go on a family vacation to Florida. My dad loves it there.

One day we were walking out of the hotel getting ready to go to the beach and sitting on a ledge high up on the roof of the building there were two beautiful bald eagles. Bald eagles are not birds you would see every day. We couldn’t help but believe this was a sign. I believe this is true because as we turned the corner and made our way to the valet station at the front of the hotel sitting there was a German Shepherd. Just then we heard the owner speak to his dog, he said, “Look Hugo!” The dog’s name was Hugo and my Nonno’s name was Hugo. My mom and dad immediately started crying. I hugged my dad and he said, “Always remember Nonno is with you.”

Every time I see a bird or a German Shepherd, I know he is there. Every time I eat a bagel, I think back to when he used to give us bagels every Sunday.

Every time I see a bird or a German Shepherd, I know he is with me and it’s him saying, “Hello, Bella.”

The Cougar Current (from Page 13)

Food Vote 2017
By James D’Abruzzo

The fifth-grade students at GUFS voted for their favorite hot lunch. Then one of them was asked what his thoughts of the results were.

Chicken tenders got the most votes and nachos and pizza were tied in second place. Fifth-grade student Mac Lake was interviewed. The first question was “Are you surprised by the results?”

Mac said “No, I thought chicken tenders would win.” Next, he was asked if he could add another food item to the menu, what it would be. He replied with “empanadas.”

Teryaki chicken and baked ziti only got one vote.

Next there was a food survey for desserts. Everybody voted ICEEs, only ICEEs, nothing else!

The last question to Mac was, “Are you surprised everyone voted for ICEEs?” He said, “Nope, not at all.”

The Five-Story Building in Midtown
By Joey Carlos

A SC Remodeling and Carpentry Inc., a local company serving Putnam Valley, is going to work on one of the biggest buildings they have ever done. It is in Midtown, New York. Frederico Carlos said, “It will take about 10 months.”

Also ASC Remodeling and Carpentry work together. In addition, it is historical. They will be adding an elevator and a piece of turf. The building is five stories high and on the fifth floor there are master bedrooms. Two of Joey Carlos’ uncles are carpenters and he also said he worked with Acacia, the owner of ASC Carpentry, Inc. ASC stands for Acacio Silver Carlos.

For more of The Cougar Current see highlandscurrent.com

Join The Highlands Current Summer Photofest

The Highlands Current is collecting high-resolution, color pictures from local photographers of summer scenes and themes. We prefer photos taken this year. The best of these (in our opinion) will be featured in The Highlands Current. Limit: three photos weekly per person. Please title photo file with your name and photo location (for example: JohnDoe-ColdSpringDock.jpg).

Send photos by July 8 to photofest@highlandscurrent.com.
**Small, Good Things:**

**Strawberry Fields Forever**  
By Joe Dizney

As surprising as it may seem, strawberries are late-bloomers to the early summer larder and marketplace.

Widely celebrated and represented in early culinary, medical and popular histories, the fruit commonly identified as a strawberry (botanically, it’s not a berry) was traditionally the wild woodland strawberry (*fruitses des bois*), a delicacy as flavorful as it was rare. Impossible to cultivate and difficult to transport without turning to mush, they created a demand proportional to their scarcity, especially in France and England.

Concerted efforts to crossbreed New World plants with Old World varieties were to no avail until a brainy French researcher intuited that two American species were more likely compatible. This led to the modern garden strawberry of the 19th century.

Later “improvements” led to supermarket reds, but the 21st century appears to have us returning to a celebration of flavor. Based on a quart I bought from Liberty Orchards at the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market, it looks to be a good season.

Not much is required from the cook to enjoy strawberries. A sprinkle of sugar and a dollop of cream is far more than enough and is surely the reason that “strawberry”ries. A sprinkle of sugar and a dollop of cream is far more than enough and is surely the reason that “strawberry”

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**Quick Pickled Strawberries**

Makes 1 quart

- ⅛ cup water
- ¼ cup pure cane sugar
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- ¼ vanilla bean pod, split
- 2 star anise pods
- 10 black peppercorns, bruised

Prepare a 1-quad canning/pickling jar and lid for use. Fill it loosely with the prepared strawberries. In a small saucepan over medium heat, bring the vinegar and spices, bring to a quick boil. Continue to boil, stirring constantly, until thickened (about three minutes). Strain to remove the spices and return to the saucepan, adding the dry ingredients, then stirring briefly and poured over the cleaned fruit produced exceptional results overnight.

The berries maintain a firmer texture than a typical sugar-macerated preparation. The taste is sweet-sour-bright with a rich smoothness from the vanilla and exotic preparation. The taste is sweet-sour-bright with a rich smoothness from the vanilla and exotic preparation. The taste is sweet-sour-bright with a rich smoothness from the vanilla and exotic preparation. The taste is sweet-sour-bright with a rich smoothness from the vanilla and exotic preparation. The taste is sweet-sour-bright with a rich smoothness from the vanilla and exotic preparation. The taste is sweet-sour-bright with a rich smoothness from the vanilla and exotic preparation. The taste is sweet-sour-bright with a rich smoothness from the vanilla and exotic preparation.

These pickles have affinities for both savory and sweet: add them to salads (arugula, shaved fennel and pecorino; and be sure to use some of the pickling juice for your vinaigrette) or make a fruit salsa (with onions, oranges and mint) for grilled pork, chicken, shrimp or scallops. Or serve them with goat cheese and crackers. You could even make a crafty cocktail (with gin, soda and lime juice) or non-alcoholic shrub.

By all means, serve them over ice cream, yogurt, shortcake or panna cotta, maybe with a drizzle of good aged balsamic vinegar, a sprinkle of fresh mint or a splash of the pureed jam. Try this on Buttermilk-Sorghum Panna Cotta for a surprising Southern twist (see highlandscurrent.com for the recipe).

Spread the pickled strawberry jam on toast or use it as a filling for crepes, tarts or cookies. Mix it with a soft cheese (cream cheese, farmer cheese or mascarpone) to make a spread for bread or crackers. Mix it with an equal amount of butter for spreading on biscuits. You can even blend this strawberry butter with confectioners’ sugar and a pinch of salt to make a frosting for cakes or pastries.

The pickles aren’t for “putting up,” i.e., long-term storage, but the jam will prolong your enjoyment at least into the long winter months.

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**Pruning is an art**

If you are looking for a “natural finish” and do not want to see your ornamentals cut back severely to dead wood, choose artful pruning. Artful pruning allows your ornamentals to keep looking good.

Artful Pruning gracefully brings your ornamentals back to a more appropriate smaller size.

For an artful, natural finish, call Gregory, the artful pruner, with over 10 years as a career gardener specializing in natural and restorative gardening.

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**Pickled Strawberry Jam**

Adapted from Christina Tosi; makes about 3 cups

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon powdered pectin
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups strawberries, halved, quartered if large

1. In a bowl, whisk the sugar, pectin and salt to combine. (If seedless jam is desired, purée the berries in a blender and strain through a fine-meshed sieve.)
2. In a medium saucepan, combine the vinegar and spices, bring to a quick boil over medium heat and immediately remove from heat. Strain to remove the spices and return to the saucepan, adding the dry ingredients, then stirring until blended.
3. Add the strawberries (or purée) and stir until the mix is liquefied and comes to a boil. Continue to boil, stirring constantly, until thickened (about three minutes).
4. Pour the jam into a heat-proof bowl and let cool completely. Store covered in the refrigerator. It can also be frozen for up to six months.

**Quick Pickled Strawberries served atop a Buttermilk-Sorghum Panna Cotta**

Photo by J. Dizney

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**The Highlands Current**

JUNE 23, 2017 17
Obituary

Peter Knapp (1949-2017)
Former co-owner of Pete's Hometown Grocery

Peter B. Knapp, 67, formerly of Nelsonville and Cold Spring, died suddenly on June 14, 2017, at his home in Fishkill.

He was born in Cold Spring on Aug. 22, 1949, the son of Douglas G. and Jane (Garrison) Knapp, and attended local schools. He was a longtime member of the Nelsonville Fire Department and during the 1970s served as a police officer for the Village of Nelsonville.

On July 8, 1973, he married Mary Jo Budney at Our Lady of Loreto in Cold Spring. In 1987 they opened Pete’s Hometown Grocery in Nelsonville, which they owned and operated until 2014. For the last few years, Pete had been working as a greeter at Sam’s Club in Fishkill.

He is survived by his daughter, Aileen Croft (Roger), of Clarksville, Tennessee, and his brother, Thomas Knapp (Deirdre), of Cold Spring. His wife Mary Jo died in 2014.

A graveside service was held June 19 at Cold Spring Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Cold Spring United Methodist Church, 216 Main St., Cold Spring 10516.
Haldane Softball, Italian Style

Four former Blue Devils to play in European championship

By Leigh Alan Klein

The biennial Women’s Softball European Championship, which will be held June 25 to July 1 in Bollate, Italy, will feature 23 teams — and four Haldane grads.

The Lisikatos and Monteleone sisters will be representing the nations of their forefathers and mothers. For Chelsea (Class of 2011) and Samantha (Class of 2014) Lisikatos, that’s Greece, and for Allie (Class of 2015) and Hannah (Class of 2017) Monteleone, it’s Ireland.

The women have been training together with Nick Lisikatos, Haldane’s coach (and Chelsea and Samantha’s father), before their departure. The Lisikatos left Cold Spring for Italy on June 17 and the Monteleones on June 22.

The Greek and Irish teams play each other at 9:30 a.m. (3:30 a.m. EST) on Monday, June 26. Starting June 29, the championship rounds will be livestreamed at flosoftball.com.

Last year, when the Lisikatos sisters were playing for the Greek national team in the World Championships in Surrey, British Columbia, Nick Lisikatos told an Irish coach about the Monteleones; Allie had played for him and Hannah was entering her senior season. Video clips of the women hitting and fielding sealed the deal.

This is the first season that dual citizens have been allowed to play for the Irish team, which has five Americans. The Monteleones’ maternal grandparents were natives of Donegal, the sisters say they have counted 89 cousins in Ireland. They will meet their teammates in Italy, practice for two days and scrimmage against England before the tournament begins.

Allie Monteleone played soccer, basketball and softball for Haldane and is a guard for the Pace University basketball team; Hannah also was a standout in all three sports and will play soccer for Pace in the fall.

The Lisikatos sisters, along with Alexis Bazos of Pound Ridge, an outfielder who plays for Notre Dame, are among 13 Americans on the 16-member Greek team.

Chelsea Lisikatos, 23, plays first and third base and pitches, and Samantha, 21, is a utility player but mostly plays right field. Their dual citizenship originates with their great-grandparents, who were from the town of Leonidio, in the Peloponnese.

For Chelsea, the journey began when she made a 10- and-under softball team in Cold Spring as a pitcher. She later played six years on the varsity squad at Haldane, then four seasons as a scholar-athlete player for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, starting all 51 games for the 49ers at third base as a senior.

In one game, she hit a home run off a pitcher who also played for the Greeks, which caught the national team’s attention. A week after the season ended, she was offered a chance to play at the 2015 European championships.

The next year, the team invited Samantha, then a sophomore at SUNY Oneonta, to join the team. The sisters played in 2016 at the World Championships in British Columbia, where the Greek squad finished 19th of 31 teams. Chelsea batted .348 with three RBI. Sam batted .261 with six hits and two stolen bases.

“My grandmother always pushed us to find our culture,” Chelsea says of her decision to play for the Greek team, which had folded after the 2004 Olympics but was revived in 2015. “For my dad, seeing us represent the jersey, the flag of his blood, is such an honor. My grandmother cries seeing us in the uniforms. For them, we are representing villages and people. They took down the town flag (in Leonidio) to give it to us.”

The championships last year in Canada were a great experience, the sisters say. “I am sitting there with girls from Israel,” said Chelsea, “dancing with Team India and giving extra gear to Team Uganda. Sam got her hair braided by Team Kenya.”

“Those moments all started with a little bit of softball,” Chelsea adds. “Connecting with these women and holding clinics (for local girls, which they will do again in Italy) gave us the opportunity to share our culture and unite us as strong female athletes, and grow this beloved sport.”

Funding is an issue for both teams, especially in cash-strapped Greece. The Lisikatos sisters raised $2,250 online to help pay for their flights, hotels and equipment, while the Irish national team has done its own fundraising.

The goal for both squads is to be among the six teams worldwide to compete at the 2020 games, which will feature softball for the first time since 2008.

Mets Defeat Marlins for Minor League Title

The last-place Mets upset the Marlins, 6-3, on June 17 to win the Philpitztown Little League Minors title.

Ty Villella threw a no-hitter against the first place A’s in the playoffs to put the Mets in the championship game, where Jessica Tudor picked up where Villella left off, striking out the side in the first inning.

Rhys Williams gave the Mets an early lead in the bottom of the first with a walk, two steals and heads-up base running.

The Mets played smart defense to keep the Mets in check. With a runner on third in the second inning, catcher Zack Fox blocked the plate to tag out a runner at home. Later, in the fourth, Marlins pitcher Daniel Campanile bolted from the mound to the third-base line to tag out a runner leaning toward a steal.

The Mets opened up a 6-1 lead in the third with a barrage of hits and walks from Tudor, Connor Keegan, Catherine Leiter, Zack Michalek, Ryder Griffin, Christian Hyttmer, Merrick Williams, Jayden Gunther and James Frommer.

The Marlins threatened late, cutting the lead to 6-3, but Leiter took the mound for the Mets and struck out the last four batters to end the game and trigger a wild celebration around manager Rodney Tudor.
Opening June 28, 2017
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