Tires Dumped into Indian Brook

State investigating incidents in Garrison

By Michael Turton

As many as 100 tires were dumped this month in and near Indian Brook in Garrison, prompting an investigation by state and local officials.

About two weeks ago, dozens of truck, tractor, all-terrain vehicle and automobile tires were found in and along the brook from above the waterfall to about a quarter-mile upstream, near the hairpin turn on Indian Brook Road.

Philipstown resident David Marzollo said he noticed on Friday, Aug. 17, that a few tires had been tossed below Indian Brook Road as he prepared to go for a run.

“I thought pulling them up to the road would be my exercise for the day,” he recalled. “I care about that place. My friends and I have been going to Indian Brook all our lives.”

Marzollo, who is the son of Claudio Marzollo, a longtime member of the Philipstown Recreation Commission, and the late children’s book author Jean Marzollo, got more of a workout than he expected.

“I thought there were maybe a dozen tires” he said, but he ended up lugging 52 to the road. He left about a dozen tires in the brook because they had become embedded in the mud and were difficult to remove.

While he was placing the tires on the side of the road, a passerby, Paula Andros Provet, photographed him and his vehicle. “She thought I was the one dumping the tires!” he said with a laugh.

After realizing Marzollo was in cleanup mode, Provet thanked him for being “a savior of our beautiful environment” and shared her photos with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and The Current. The land trust posted the images on Facebook, recognizing Marzollo as a “conservation hero.”

Evan Thompson, the manager of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks, said another 12 tires were removed the next day (Aug. 18) from Indian Brook on state-owned land just above the waterfall.

George Lansbury, who lives on Avery Road, said he also removed a number of tires from the brook.

(Continued on Page 3)

A Recycling Problem

Collapse of global markets reaches Highlands

By Jeff Simms

We throw it away, and the Chinese buy it.

Or they did. For years, China was the world’s top purchaser of recycled materials, and the U.S. supplied 40 percent of its raw cardboard, paper and plastic. The material was remade into everything from shipping boxes to construction pipes.

That changed last year, when Chinese leaders announced plans to tackle the country’s historic pollution by recycling more material from its own waste. The rules seemingly changed overnight, said Steve Hastings, the director of municipal development for Republic Services, the company that hauls trash and recycling away from Beacon.

While Vietnam, Thailand and other countries continue to buy U.S. recyclables, the ripple effect of the disappearing Chinese market has reached the Highlands and nearly every other local market in the country, Hastings told the Beacon City Council at its Monday (Aug. 27) meeting.

The culprit is contamination — food scraps, grease and hazardous materials that seep into the recycling stream. While China would accept recycled materials with a 3 or 4 percent contamination rate, the country now

(Continued on Page 7)
Five Questions: Charlotte Guernsey
By Alison Rooney

Charlotte Guernsey owns Lambs Hill Bridal Boutique and Gate House Reality in Beacon.

What prompted you to open a bridal boutique?
I was handling condo sales at 1 East Main St. and decided to buy a couple myself. I own a wedding venue called Lambs Hill, and I envisioned creating a hub at 1 East Main with photographers and all the other services. After the dress person backed out, I decided to give it a try. I wanted to design something pretty and intimate, bringing in my fine arts background and my love of all things equestrian. I wanted it to look expensive but with Hudson Valley pricing — rustic farm mixed with mirrors and chandeliers.

Is there a lot of squabbling between mothers and daughters?
That’s what you see on reality TV because they need drama. More often mom wants what the bride wants. We have a range of styles and a large inventory of plus sizes for the bridesmaids because we want everyone to feel good about themselves and what they’re wearing. We also host parties where the bridal party can try out hair and makeup ideas and accessories and, of course, eat and drink.

What do brides ask for?
It’s usually simple, bold and modern, very Meghan Markle [the American who married Prince Harry in May]. Some say “absolutely no strapless” and wind up with one. Many say they want “sexy, but not inappropriate.” For that, we can add a bolero for the ceremony, then she can take it off. We had a bride who put a skirt over a jumpsuit. We've had bridesmaids wear jumpsuits at the rehearsal dinner. We've had couples both wanting a dress.

What advice do you have for people trying to open businesses?
If you go in with realistic expectations, it can work. If customers feel they’re getting value at fair prices, they’ll be loyal. I bought my first building in Beacon in 1999, and that helped. Twenty years ago I saw what this city could do, so I bought something, lived here, and put my own money into it. That’s not possible for many people, particularly nowadays.

Has Beacon reached its potential?
It has come up a lot over the past five years, but there’s still a lot on the drawing board. There are and will be more people, and more development, which helps to give us a thriving Main Street. There will be a correction to all the rising prices. There are a lot of fundamental things going for Beacon: we’re not dependent on one business and we have a quaint Main Street nestled between the river and the mountains. It’s a great place to be and a great place to invest in.

Charlotte Guernsey
Photo by Casey Morris

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Tires Dumped into Indian Brook (from Page 1)

which flows near his property. Those tires and the 52 collected by Marzollo were stacked near his driveway, waiting for disposal.

Lansbury said he has seen occasional littering along Indian Brook Road, “but never anything like this; this is astronomical!” He estimated that at least 100 tires have been dumped along the road and last week posted “No Dumping” signs on two trees at the hairpin turn that warn of video surveillance.

Lansbury said he was heartened by the number of residents who offered to help with the cleanup. He also hopes that efforts by the town and state, along with media coverage, will discourage further illegal dumping. “If people see something, they should say something,” he said.

A woman who lives in the area who did not want to be named may have happened upon a culprit while driving along Indian Brook Road with a friend at about 10 p.m. on Aug. 22, five days after Marzollo’s efforts. She said she became suspicious of a truck stopped near the hairpin turn.

“There was a shirtless man standing at the back of a red pickup truck; it had a cap on the back,” she recalled. “He seemed startled when we stopped and immediately got in his truck and drove away fast.”

She and her friend spotted a tire at the side of the road. When the site was checked in the morning, it was apparent that more tires had been rolled down the embankment. The incident was reported to the Putnam County Sheriff. (Anyone with information about illegal dumping also can alert the state Department of Environmental Conservation at 844-332-3267.)

Carl Friisenda, the Philipstown highway superintendent, said he met with town and state officials at Indian Brook on Tuesday (Aug. 28), and counted at least 20 tires still in the water. He said the sheriff and DEC are cooperating on the investigation.

State law requires tire sellers to accept the same size and quantity of used tires for recycling when new tires are purchased or installed. But some retailers, as a community service, will accept any tires. Mavis Tire, for example, which has shops in Philipstown and Beacon, will recycle up to four passenger car tires per person, per year, even if not purchased from Mavis, for $1 each.

The Transfer Station in Beacon at 90 Dennings Ave. accepts waste tires from city residents, and Royal Carting customers can drop tires at its transfer station at 409 Route 82 in Hopewell Junction. The Philipstown Recycling Center on Lane Gate Road does not take tires, nor does the Village of Cold Spring curbside program.

Waste tires are reduced by recycling plants to “crumb rubber” that can be repurposed as playground mats and construction products. (The steel belts are removed with magnets.) Used tires also can be retreaded, which requires 7 gallons of oil compared to 22 to manufacture a new tire.

As many as 20 million tires are discarded each year in New York State, according to the DEC. A $2.50 fee was added in 2003 to nearly every new tire sold in the state to fund the cleanup of tire dumps.
Crosswalk roulette

One of the most effective ways of reducing pedestrian deaths, according to traffic studies, is to place what are known as “penguins” — freestanding cones with pedestrian right of way signs — in the middle of the crosswalk (“Playing Crosswalk Roulette,” Aug. 24).

When the village of Cold Spring tried this a few years ago, for some reason the cones were placed 20 feet in front of the crosswalk at Foodtown, so people kept running over them.

Without the penguins, marked crosswalks give pedestrians false confidence drivers will stop. When I pointed this out at village board meetings years ago, people seemed to think it was comical, which I found puzzling. Perhaps the cute name distracts from the serious issue of keeping children, seniors and adults — human beings who happen to be walking — safe.

Michael Armstrong, Cold Spring

Future of St. Mary’s

The departure of Father Shane Scott-Hamblen from St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Cold Spring is a huge loss to the village (“Father Shane to Leave St. Mary’s,” Aug. 17). The village will be greatly diminished without his presence.

Art Lopatin, Cold Spring

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Art Lopatin, Cold Spring

Correction

In the Aug. 24 issue, we stated that Beacon had received a federal grant for $980,728 to construct a sidewalk along the southeasterly side of Blackburn Avenue from Herbert Street to Fishkill Avenue. That would be an expensive side-walk. The actual amount was $760,728. The total of all municipal projects awarded grants, including in Fishkill and Poughkeepsie, was $980,728.

Why is this crosswalk famous?

A “penguin” at a crosswalk

Garden design

I am a beginner at Northeast gardening and just embarking on this process (“Designing a New Garden,” Aug. 17). It’s like five-dimensional chess! I look forward to Pamela Doan’s next Roots and Shoots column.

Mary Fetherolf, via Facebook

Thank you

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**Elks Honor Officer**

**Recognized for drug enforcement**

Mark Thomas, a member of the Beacon Elks Lodge No. 1493, was named the recipient of the Enrique “Kiki” Camarena Award from the state Elks Association at its annual convention in Rochester.

The award was established to honor Capuchin Ministries to Talk Science, Faith Labor Day retreat for teens

Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries in Garrison will host a retreat for teenagers and young adults over the Labor Day weekend focused on “reason and religion.”

A number of speakers, including a professor of theology, a molecular biologist and Brother Guy Consolmagno, director of the Vatican Observatory (via Skype) will speak about science and religion’s common desire to seek truth.

The Capuchin Ministries invites teenagers ages 14 and older to attend. “The goal is to illustrate to teens and adults how science and faith both seek the truth by asking different questions,” said Father Erik Lenhart.

The experience will also introduce teens to top scientific minds who were Catholic, including astronomer Georges Lemaître, who formulated the modern Big Bang theory, and Sister Mary Kenneth Keller, the first women in the U.S. to receive a Ph.D. in computer science. See coyfm.org to register.

**Police to Crack Down on DWI Over Weekend**

**Program runs through Sept. 3**

The sheriff’s departments in Putnam and Dutchess counties, along with the New York State Police, will increase patrols and set up sobriety checkpoints as part of a statewide initiative to arrest impaired drivers that continues through Sept. 3.

**Governor Signs Notification Law**

**Police must inform schools of sex offenses**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has signed into law a bill that requires law enforcement agencies to notify school districts if an employee hired before 2001 has been arrested or convicted of a sex offense.

The bill, which closed a loophole in the law, was introduced in the state Assembly by Sandy Galef, who represents Philipstown, and in the state Senate by Sue Serino, who represents the Highlands. It followed an incident in Ossining in May 2017, when the school district discovered through an anonymous letter that one of its long-time custodians had been found guilty in Dutchess County of raping a child.

State law did not require authorities to notify districts of the arrest or conviction of any employee hired before 2001. The custodian had continued working for the district for nearly a year after his arrest while out on bail.

**Tourism Revenue Grows in Highlands**

**New study of economic benefits**

Tourism Economics, which each year releases a report on the economic impact of tourism in New York State, found slow and steady growth in the amount of money spent by visitors in the Hudson Valley, including Dutchess and Putnam counties.

The firm reported that tourism spending in Dutchess County increased 6 percent in 2017 over the previous year, to $602 million. It is the eighth year that spending has increased, for a 25 percent rise since 2013.

Visitors to Dutchess contributed $43 million in local taxes, an increase of 5 percent, the report said. Without tourism dollars, it calculated the average household would pay about $711 more in annual taxes. The industry also employs more than 11,000 people in Dutchess, up 7 percent.

In Putnam, tourists spent $63 million, up 1 percent, and generated $4.6 million in local taxes, an increase of 2 percent. The industry employs 1,400 people and saves each resident about $237 in annual taxes.

The Hudson Valley accounts for the highest percentage of tourist spending outside of New York City, at 21 percent, followed by the Finger Lakes. Tourism spending in the Hudson Valley rose 3.6 percent, to $3.7 billion overall.

**Lyme Cases Rise Up in Dutchess and Putnam**

The number of Lyme disease cases reported in Dutchess County in 2017 rose by 50 percent compared to the year before. In Putnam, the number of reported cases rose only slightly.

There were 581 cases of Lyme reported in Dutchess last year, or about 510 per 100,000 residents, compared to 386 in 2016. Putnam had 346 reported cases, or about 287 per 100,000 residents, compared to 344 the year before.

In a study reported in May, about half of adult deer ticks collected statewide carried the bacteria that causes Lyme, along with 27 percent of the nymphs, which account for most infections because they are smaller and harder to see.

The highest concentration of ticks in the state was found in the Hudson Valley; more than eight in 10 ticks in Orange County were infected. Ticks in Putnam County were not counted or tested, but in Dutchess 32 percent of the adult ticks collected carried the bacteria that causes Lyme.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

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Thomas, a retired city police officer, was named on Aug. 7 as director of security for the Beacon City School District. He had been senior security monitor at Glenham Elementary.

The Camarena award is given to police officers who go above and beyond to protect the community from illicit drugs.

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only takes materials that have 0.5 percent contamination or less — a specification that can’t be achieved “unless you reduce the contamination in the inbound stream,” Hastings said.

China also banned the import of mixed paper (i.e., junk mail), which had accounted for 20 percent of its inbound stream.

As demand has plummeted, expenses have skyrocketed, Hastings said. A year ago, Beacon could sell a ton of recycled paper for $15, which added up to $16,000 in revenue in 2017. Today, City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero said, the city is paying $65 to dispose of that same ton.

In Cold Spring, the village used to receive revenue for providing recyclables to ReCommunity, a firm in Beacon, said Deputy Mayor Marie Early, but as China stopped purchasing recyclables, the village had to start paying for the service. While the initial cost of recycling was about half that of trash disposal, Early said, the village now pays nearly $67 per ton for recyclables compared to $81.50 for a ton of garbage. Those figures do not include wages, fuel or vehicle maintenance, she noted.

Nelsonville is in the midst of a three-year contract with Royal Carting for recycling and trash collection, while Philipstown residents must contract privately with services such as Royal or Lombardo Carting but can take recyclables to the town landfill on Saturdays.

In June, the Beacon City Council approved a budget amendment to allow the city to pay for recycling disposal through the end of the year. It will begin wrestling with the 2019 budget next month, and it’s likely to include similar costs.

“We all agree we want to recycle,” Ruggiero said, “but we’re going to have to do an educational program (for residents) because there’s so much contamination. It’s not going to be a quick fix.”

The recycling industry may “have to go back to the basics,” Hastings told the council on Monday. Across the country, single-stream recycling, which allows residents to place paper, plastic, glass and cans into one bin for curbside pickup, may need to be replaced by the old method of sorting recyclables into separate containers.

The new rule is “when in doubt, throw it out,” Hastings said. “For a long time, it was the opposite.”

But going back to the basics could introduce its own set of problems, such as the increased carbon footprint of expanding pickup services.

Sarah Womer, the founder of Zero to Go, a Beacon-based company that provides zero-waste event services and a compost pickup program for Beacon, says that if composting becomes as common as recycling, the contamination rate of recycled materials would likely fall.

“Forty percent of what we throw away is compostable,” Womer said. “If municipalities in the Hudson Valley would get on board with organic materials programs and make them accessible and understandable so that people would use them, it would definitely make a difference.”

She points to Kingston, which secured a $63,000 state grant last year to develop a waste management program that includes composting. The city’s municipally operated compost facility is expected to bring in more than $100,000 this year.

The market for compost, Womer added, wouldn’t be dependent on finding foreign buyers. “Every farm in the Hudson Valley buys yards and yards of compost every year, sometimes twice,” she said.

City Council member Amber Grant said on Monday that Beacon needs a “full-court press on teaching people how to recycle, but we also have to give them the tools to do it.” Grant cited the two-in-one trash and recycling cans on Main Street, which often overflow over weekends, as “set up to fail.”

Those cans will likely be replaced, Ruggiero said. But an educational campaign will still be necessary. “Every resident has got to want to help,” he said.
HERE’S THE SCOOP — More than 190 children and 30 teens and adults participated in the Desmond-Fish Library’s summer reading program, which concluded on Aug. 21 with an ice cream party at the Garrison library. During the weekly program children earned dimes for acts of kindness, which they could donate to the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society or the Philipstown Food Pantry. Each nonprofit sent a representative to the party to accept the donations and tell the children what the dimes would be used for.

Photos by Ross Corsair

PRESENT

CINEMA IN PIAZZA

Friday, September 7, 7:30pm

• Troublemakers – The Story of Land Art, James Crump, United States, 2015

Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9, Cold Spring
Tickets available on magazzino.eventbrite.com
No tickets available at the door. All proceeds will be donated to RxArt.
www.rxart.net
The Calendar

Classical Cold Spring

Violinist with local ties to perform

By Alison Rooney

Allison Edberg Nyquist lives in Indiana, but the violinist has strong ties to Philipstown, where her parents and sister live. She plays with The Vivaldi Project, a trio that specializes in early string music and will be performing at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8, to mark the release of its most recent album. The program will include works from the second half of the 18th century by Sammartini, Johann Christian Bach, Campioni, Haydn and Bresла.

Nyquist, who is concert-master of the Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra, is a daughter of Patricia and Gareth Guest of Nelsonville and a sister of Maia Guest of Cold Spring. Her studies began at the University of Michigan and Florida State, before she found “work, and life and love in the Midwest. I now live in rural Indiana — a mere 13.5-hour drive from Cold Spring.” Nevertheless, the village has become a favorite destination for the trio, which also includes violinist Elizabeth Field and cellist Stephanie Vial.

“We spent time there to prepare a concert we played in Manhattan two seasons ago,” Nyquist explains. “We sight-read through a huge stack of trios in Maia and [husband] John Plummer’s dining room to choose what we would record on the CD we are celebrating on Sept. 8. Cold Spring played an integral part in its conception!”

The CD is Discovering the Classical String Trio, Vol. 2 along with the first volume, released in 2016, it reflects research the musicians have done in libraries around Wise Fool Puppet Intervention, which created public spectacles using 14-foot puppets. Another influence was Vermont’s Bread and Puppet Theater, which mixes social activism with street theater, often at parades.

Despite this background, Farkas says he isn’t steering the drum corp in any particular direction. “I’m not leading it,” he says. “I’m facilitating it by teaching simple rhythms and marching patterns, then handing it off to the women. They can be part of a parade or a cause — it’s open-ended. This is more about thinking something to the community.

“Something’s coming, something’s coming!” he recalls. “We’re so used to having music right in front of us or in our ears, but when you sense that it’s out there, coming your way, it gives that special excitement.”

That ‘something’ was the drum corp, and on Saturday, Sept. 30, at the Spirit of Beacon Day parade, Farkas hopes to create the same anticipation among spectators along the route with what he is calling the Women’s Rough and Ready Drum Corp.

The band, organized through Beacon Music Factory, will practice four times before its debut, he said. The first class is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 6.

“Whether two turn up, or 50 — which would be great — we’ll start by learning basic rhythms, footwork, and call and response,” he says. “If it’s a diversified talent pool, a lot more info can be brought to the table. I’m excited to see how it turns out, what it grows into.”

Farkas is a founding member of The Wiyos, which blends early swing jazz, rural folk, old-time blues and Appalachian music and in 2009 toured as the opening act for a summer ballpark tour featuring Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson and John Mellencamp. More recently, Farkas formed Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band.

Earlier, he worked in European circuses and found inspiration in artist/activist collectives such as New Mexico’s Wise Fool Puppet Intervention, which created public spectacles using 14-foot puppets. Another influence was Vermont’s Bread and Puppet Theater, which mixes social activism with street theater, often at parades.

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“I’m looking forward to asking each person, ‘What inspired you to show up?’ ”

The classes will work differently than others Farkas leads. “We’ll be (Continued on Page 11)

The Beacon Beat

Women’s drum corp forming for parade

By Alison Rooney

When I was a kid I remember the elementary school band, and the route it always took,” recalls Michael Farkas, a percussionist who lives in Beacon. “I wasn’t a part of it, but for me the most exciting thing was that you could hear it from far away.

“It was, ‘Something’s coming, something’s coming!’ We’re so used to having music right in front of us or in our ears, but when you sense that it’s out there, coming your way, it gives that special excitement.”

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FRIDAY, AUG. 31
Plush Hearts: Full-Figured Fashion Show
6 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
howlandculturalcenter.org

Overdose Awareness Day
7 p.m. Cold Spring Waterfront
philipstownwmc.org

HVSF: Rip Van Winkle
6:15 p.m. Friday Night Prologue
7:30 p.m. Performance
Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-809-5750 | hvshakespeare.org

6:15 p.m. Cold Spring Waterfront
8 p.m. Quinn’s
330 Main St., Beacon
facebook.com/clubdrawbeacon

SATURDAY, SEPT. 1
Desmond-Fish Library closed

Poetry Workshop
1 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-631-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

The Farm Show 2018 (Opening)
2 – 6 p.m. Saunders Farm
853 Old Albany Post Road, Garrison
845-528-1797 | collaborateonconcepts.org

Together, We Celebrate (Opening)
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Friday.

Constitution Marsh Canoe Trip
4 p.m. Audubon Center
127 Warren Landing, Garrison
845-265-2601 | constitutionmarsh.audubon.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen
6:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Saturday.

Doansburg Chamber Ensemble
7 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

Friday Night Prologue
7:45 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Remote Work: Find It, Keep It and Home
2 p.m. Towne Crier
330 Main St., Beacon
facebook.com/clubdrawbeacon

TUESDAY, SEPT. 4
Girls’ Tennis vs. Carmel
4:15 p.m. Beacon High School
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

West Point Concert Band Labor Day Celebration
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point
westpointband.com

Chris Isaac
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
paramounthudsonvalley.com

SUNDAY, SEPT. 2
Native American Archaeological Tour
10 a.m. Fort Montgomery
690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery
845-446-2134 | nysspark.org/historic-sites

Wildflower Walk for Kids
10 a.m. Audubon Center
See details under Saturday.

Story Time
Noon, One Nature
321 Main St., Beacon
onenuclearllc.com/events

Calendar Highlights
Submit to calendar@highlandscurrent.org
For complete listings, see highlandscurrent.org

Beacon Musicthon
2 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | towncrier.com

HVSF: Rip Van Winkle
4 p.m. University Settlement
724 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
845-809-5750 | hvshakespeare.org

K.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen
5:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Saturday.

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

Girls’ Tennis vs. Carmel
4:15 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
beaconon12.org

Volleyball vs. Croton
6 p.m. Haldane High School
23 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring
haldaneschool.org

Remote Work: Find It, Keep It and Home Offices
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

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

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

Haldane School Board
7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
23 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring
haldaneschool.org

Putnam County Shared Services Plan
7 p.m. Philipstown Town Hall
238 Main St., Cold Spring
putnamcountyny.com

Cold Spring Board of Trustees
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Club/Dance
8 p.m. Quinn’s
330 Main St., Beacon
facebook.com/clubdrawbeacon

THURSDAY, SEPT. 6
Philipstown Senior Club
11 a.m. Chestnut Ridge
62 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-809-5924

Haldane Sports
4:15 p.m. Girls’ Tennis vs. Briarcliff
4:30 p.m. Boys’ Soccer vs. YMA
See details under Thursday.

Yarn Salon
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-424-3900 | garrisonartcenter.org

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

FRIDAY, SEPT. 7
Rhyme Time by the Hudson
9:30 a.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
boscobel.org

Yorktown Grange Fair
4 – 11 p.m. Grange Fairgrounds
99 Moserman Road, Yorktown Heights
yorktowngrangefair.org

Boys’ Soccer vs. John Jay Cross River
4:30 p.m. Beacon High School
See details under Friday.

Girls’ Soccer vs. Irvington
4:30 p.m. Haldane High School
See details under Tuesday.

 Oktoberfest
5 – 10 p.m. Germania Festival Grounds
51 Old DeGarmo Road, Poughkeepsie
germaniapok.com

Ice Cream Social and Magic Show
6 – 9 p.m. United Methodist Church
216 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Summer J. Hart: further evidence of invasion (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Create Community
11 Peakskill Road, Nelsonville
summerjhart.com

Aery Theatre 20/20 Play Festival
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Cinema in Piazza: The Story of Land Art
8 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9, Philipstown
magazineart.org

Miracle on South Division Street
8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls
845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

Hudson Beach Glass
Get your cocktails on at Hudson Beach
162 Main St, Beacon, NY 12508 (845) 440-0068
Open daily 10AM - 6PM, Sunday 11AM - 6PM
www.hudsonbeachglass.com

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Learn Handbuilding Techniques: Slab, Coil and Pinch

Saturdays 10am to Noon
Sept 8 - Oct 27
8 sessions for $275.
Includes Clay, Tools & Firing Fees
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info@whiteforestpottery.com
or Call (914) 483-6230

POTTYER CLASSES

The Beacon Beat (from Page 9)

learning rhythmic patterns without necessarily using drum sticks,” he says. “We’ll work with vocal patterns, rhythmic patterns, then apply them to instruments. I work with kids in this way a lot. Once the patterns are ingrained into muscle memory, then we bring in the sticks and drums.

“You don’t need instruments to start if you internalize those patterns. We can have horns join in — they’re always good in a marching band because they’re loud and easily carried. Walking is a big component, too. We’ll be using our feet to march and stomp. We won’t be sitting in a circle. It’s about getting out and moving, in a street environment.”

The idea of creating street bands came about when Farkas and BMF founder Stephen Clair were discussing possible classes. “Things like the #MeToo movement, and how women’s voices were being heard collectively more than ever, came into our discussion,” Farkas recalls. “I thought it would be great to impart my skill sets and let the women run with it.”

The cost of the four sessions is $125, and each participant will be given a drum to use for the duration. “Everyone will be encouraged to trick out their drum in whatever way they like,” according to the class notes. See beaconmusicfactory.com.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

The Vivaldi Project’s two albums

Classical (from Page 9)

the world on music of the period written for the string trio.

Nyquist plays a French violin made around 1820 that was given to her father by his sister. “Her husband, Hough Guest, played it and named it Peter Pan because he said that although he would grow old and die, the violin would always be young,” she says. “Unfortunately, he died of tuberculosis in his 30s, but the violin has stayed active and well-loved.”

The Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market St. in Cold Spring, adjacent to the Metro-North station, where parking is free on weekends. The program is free but a $20 donation is suggested.

Michael Farkas

Photo by Brian Geltner

The Batalá New York percussion group

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

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Moving Toward Better Health

Therapist sees nonverbal cues as clues

By Alison Rooney

Dance and movement as communication is at the core of the many strands of Suzi Tortora’s work.

Tortora, who has been teaching classes, conducting workshops and working with children and adults for three decades, works, separately, in therapeutic and expressive modes.

The former intersects with the latter for the clients Tortora sees in psychotherapy sessions, which include the analysis of non-verbal cues as a way of understanding what is triggering them.

“For the body is a map of all of our experiences. Becoming attentive to the qualities of nonverbal cues provides a window into a person’s experience, expression and development of their sense of self.”

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Working from Dancing Dialogue, her Cold Spring studio on lower Main Street, Tortora offers movement classes designed for infants, toddlers and elementary school children. Focusing on playful movement, with both stimulating and soothing activities, Tortora “guides parents into trust-building with their baby, which then assists the baby into trusting the world around them.”

Classes for older children link dancing with drawing, writing and creating stories.

When Tortora moved to Garrison in 1986, she was in the process of obtaining her doctorate, specializing in infant mental health. “I was then ‘cutting edge,’ as people were still debating whether babies had ‘minds,’” she recalls. She was also working with an osteopath in the city, who realized there were “medically unexplained symptoms for which he knew the physiology, but not the psychology.”

Tortora believes “a lot of chronic pain, for example, is a manifestation of adverse childhood conditions. There is a high correlation between severe childhood events and chronic health conditions. I grew my professional practice in that way, focusing particularly on the infant/parent bond.”

After she finished her doctorate, in 2002, Tortora moved into the Skybaby building, where she started offering dance classes.

“I like having the balance in working with neurotypical children [who are not on the autism spectrum] and having a separate, therapeutic practice,” she says. Her classes took root after Tortora, with a young child of her own, became involved with a Mothers on Mondays group that worked on getting the Tots Park built in Cold Spring, among other projects.

There she met Polly Townsend, and at the urging of friends, the duo opened a preschool, which they ran for a year out of Townsend’s Garrison home.

“At the end of the year, Polly needed to use the space in her home for other purposes, so it ended,” Tortora recalls. “I realized I was more interested in running the dance piece than operating a preschool, and that was the impetus for beginning the dance classes.”

Word of mouth filled the classes, and they continue to this day (see suzitortora.com). Some of her first dancers are now in their 30s.

In addition to running her studio and her practice, Tortora travels widely to lecture and has developed an online training program that is used by those working with refugees. She also is a spokesperson for Drea’s Dream, a dance-therapy program created by the Andrea Rizzo Foundation in the pediatrics department at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

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Cut along the dotted lines and mount on cardboard to make your very own trading cards. Communicating August 19th this baseball camp!

STATS: 25 HV Renegades and 125 disabled kids (with several family members) came to "The Dutch" to play ball.

Baseball thrills & 4 everyone

Jason McGowan

It's a blast.

Every Renegade Gets to Be Coach for a Day

Kyle-changing-his-name-to-Homer

Faults on Disability, Dream & Do Day: 0

Every Bunt Is a Homerun!

Run of the Crowd: 104.

Champion of the Foam Bat

Bean Ball: 0

Great Catch: 152.

Not Pitching the Knuckleball

Go, Mary Alice, Go!

Teamwork

Wesley Sports a Smile

It's all about opening up a child's mind to what they can do.

Disability, Dream & Do was founded by Dave Clark, only professional pitcher to play on crutches.

HV Renegades President Steve Gliner and Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro co-hosted this grand event.

Disclaimer: This panel is not gun.
Out There

Saving Blue Hole
How a Catskills swimming spot could protect Breakneck

By Brian PJ Cronin

Five years ago, the Blue Hole swimming hole near Peekamoose Mountain in the Catskills was a beloved, locals-only destination at the end of a narrow herd path.

Then the travel journalists found it. Suddenly this tiny, tranquil location was lauded in Men’s Journal and Travel + Leisure. It was featured on a Travel Channel show, “Top Secret Swimming Holes,” making it not a secret. Instagram didn’t help.

Visitors poured in by the thousands. The herd path became a trampled highway. Cars parked on the shoulders for miles along winding Peekamoose Road. Bags of trash were left behind on the trail, in the woods, and in the water, which feeds the Rondout Reservoir, a source of New York City drinking water.

Like Breakneck Ridge in the Highlands, Blue Hole was in danger of being loved to death.

An overabundance of outdoor tourists has long been an issue in the West, where hikers are accustomed to checking if certain trails, mountains or rock climbing areas require day permits. But that is nearly unheard of in New York State, and once pristine natural attractions are paying the price.

“If we allow all these people to come and don’t provide any education or guidelines on how to use it responsibly, then we’re going to see it get trashed,” says Andy Mossey of the Catskill Center, who formerly worked for the nonprofit Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, which had identified Blue Hole as being in critical danger of irreparable damage and traveled to the area last year to help the state develop new guidelines.

This summer, the state Department of Environmental Conservation put those guidelines in place in an attempt to save Blue Hole. A dumpster and two portable toilets were installed at the parking lot. Visitors are required to obtain a free permit online before visiting on summer weekends or holidays. Mossey and another steward, Selina Guendel, are on duty every weekend, holiday, and most weekdays.

When permits are required, the two approach visitors before they even get out of their cars so they don’t have time to unload and head down to Blue Hole only to be told they must leave. Other visitors are handed garbage bags. Each is shown photos of Blue Hole when it overflowed with trash and guests.

“Anyone who sees that, understands,” says Guendel.

For visitors who arrive on weekends and holidays without a permit, Mossey and Guendel provide directions to nearby swimming holes at Minnewaska State Park and the Mongaup Pond Campground. But the most important tool at their disposal is their infectious attitude. They say they are genuinely happy to see everyone.

“We’re not like, ‘Ugh, another person,’” says Mossey. “Instead we say, ‘Wow! You drove three or four hours to get here! Welcome to the Catskills! But we need you to help us take care of it.’ ”

With the summer winding down, it’s clear the policies are working. When I visited Mossey and Guendel early Monday morning they were cleaning up after a busy weekend. Instead of hauling out a dumpster’s worth of garbage, they had filled two kitchen-sized bags with “microtrash” such as juice-box straw wrappers that fell out of pockets.

The site was immaculate, and with just the three of us standing there, Blue Hole again resembled the untouched, tranquil paradise that made locals fall in love with it for hundreds — and possibly thousands — of years.

The same groups that came together to work out a plan for Blue Hole are talking about how its success can be replicated. The Leave No Trace Center has identified Breakneck Ridge as a priority and will travel to the Highlands in October for a week of workshops and discussions.

As we walked back from Blue Hole, Mossey noted how the path was already recovering, with less erosion. “You can expect to see, over the next year or two, some vegetation growing back, to help lock some of the soil in,” he explains.
Behind the Scenes at

The Thing, the 1982 thriller starring Kurt Russell, runs for an hour and 49 minutes — less time than it took the Cold Spring Film Society to set up its 27-foot screen and prepare for a free screening on Aug. 18 at Dockside Park.

Peter Maloney, a Garrison resident who appeared in the film, offered an introduction, remembering the shoot as the best job he ever had. He was on set for six months, he said, “despite the fact [spoiler alert] I am horribly killed near the beginning.”

Every other weekend over the summer, volunteers from the society and high school interns assembled the screen and set up the popcorn booth. Donations keep the films coming.

The 2018 season concludes at Dockside on Saturday, Sept. 1, with The Sound of Music, which will begin at about 7:30 p.m. Bring your own chairs or blankets.

Photos by Ross Corsair

Hanging the sign at the popcorn booth

Peter Maloney of Garrison recalls his role in the 1982 film.

After a downpour earlier in the day, the projector was positioned inside a tent.

Screen brackets

The screen must be secured to keep it from blowing into the river.

Unwrapping the 27-foot screen
See the Valley

Historic ramble runs through September

The Hudson Valley River Ramble runs through the month of September with opportunities to hike and learn about local history. In Putnam County, events include garden tours, trail cleanup at Breakneck Ridge, and tours of the Mandeville House in Garrison. In Dutchess County, explore Innisfree Garden, tour the Van Wyck Homestead or learn about pollinators at Stony Kill Farm. See hudsonrivervalleymuseum.org.

Art from the Forest

New exhibit to open at Buster Levi

The Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring will open an exhibit of sculpture by Jane Schneider on Friday, Sept. 7, with a reception from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The Garrison artist uses wood that falls from trees near her home to make freestanding and wall sculptures. The exhibit continues through Sept. 30. See busterlevigallery.com.

Grange in Yorktown

Begins Friday, Sept. 7

If you missed the Dutchess and Putnam county fairs, you'll have another chance for fun at the Yorktown Grange Fair, which runs from Friday, Sept. 7, to Sunday, Sept. 9, in Yorktown Heights. The fair will have music, livestock and craft contests, food stands, rides and a tractor parade. See yorktowngrangefair.org.

Paper Art

Installation in Nelsonville

Summer J. Hart’s cut-paper installation, further evidence of invasion, will be on display at Create Community on Peekskill Road in Nelsonville from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 7. Hart uses Tyvek as her material to symbolize the resilience of forests.

Climate Action Day

Event set in Poughkeepsie

The Hudson Valley Rise for Climate will mark Climate Action Day on Saturday, Sept. 8, at 46 Raymond Ave. in Poughkeepsie from noon to 4 p.m. Environmental organizations will share information and ways to contact legislators about the pursuit of a fossil-fuel free world, and there will also be crafts for children and live music. See actionnetwork.org/events/hudson-valley-rise-for-climate.

Cornish Estate Tour

Hike scheduled for Sept. 8

The Putnam Valley Historical Society will lead a hike on Saturday, Sept. 8, to Northgate and the Old Cornish Estate, where Thom Johnson will share the history of the house, gardens and structures. Meet at the Little Stony Point parking lot at 9 a.m. and dress for hiking over rough terrain. Tickets are $10. To reserve a spot, see pv10579.com.

The Story of Land Art

Magazzino to screen documentary

Magazzino Italian Art on Route 9 in Philipstown will screen the documentary Troublemakers: The Story of Land Art at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 7. (It was rescheduled from July.) The 2015 film includes interviews with Robert Smithson, Walter De Maria and Michael Heizer. See magazzino.art.

StoryWalk Opens

Trail tied to Teeny, Tiny, Tody

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will open its fall StoryWalk trail at the Outdoor Discovery Center in Cornwall on Saturday, Sept. 8. Children are invited to read Teeny, Tiny, Tody by Jill Esbaum and walk the meadow trail to find clues about its animals. The trail is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and there will be guided walks at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. See hhnmw.org.

Beacon

Farm-Fresh Dinner

Chefs to descend on Bannerman

Six chefs will prepare a multiple-course meal on Bannerman Island on Saturday, Sept. 8, with a boat leaving the Beacon dock at 3 p.m. and again at 4:35 p.m. Noah Sheetz, Talisha Solages, Michael Lapi, Lex Taylor, Rebecca Joyner and Chris Locke plan to use only locally sourced ingredients. Tickets are $135 at bannermancastle.org.

Classical Concert

Trio to perform at St. Andrew’s

The September Trio will perform at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Beacon at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8. The group — Yalin Chi on piano, Sam Ross on clarinet and soprano Sara Heaton — will perform selections by Handel, Strauss, Debussy, Schubert, Verdi, Sondheim, Bassi and Vilalobos. The concert is free but donations are welcome.

Top Art Gem

Beacon recognized by site

The auction and gallery site Invaluable named Beacon as the “top art gem” in the Northeast in a post dated Aug. 13. “Art is front and center in Beacon; both at Dia:Beacon and in the artsy cafes and shops that have since opened in town,” it wrote. The other two East Coast cities recognized were Abingdon, Virginia, and Burlington, Vermont. See invaluable.com/blog/hidden-gem-art-hubs.
**Common Ground has produce van**

Common Ground Farm will take its organic produce on the road in and around Beacon with a newly acquired solar- and vegetable oil-powered van. The farm plans pop-up markets on Wednesday, Sept. 5, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

at the Community Health Center and from 1 to 2 p.m. at Forestal Heights, as well as on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 3 to 8 p.m. at the Sun and Earth Festival at Stony Kill Farm.

**Hispanic-American Art**

Howland to open exhibit

The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon will mark Hispanic-American Heritage Month with *Together We Celebrate*, an exhibit featuring work by 19 artists from Spanish-speaking nations who make their homes in the Hudson Valley. A reception is scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 1, and the exhibit continues through Sept. 30.

**Get Lit Hosts Story Contest**

Entries due Sept. 30

Get Lit Beacon, a monthly gathering of writers at the Oak Vino Wine Bar, has launched a contest called "A Beacon Story." Entries can be fiction or creative nonfiction but must be 1,000 words or fewer. Submissions are due by Sept. 30, and the fee is $5 per entry.

Winners will be announced on Oct. 14; first prize is a gift card from Split Rock Books in Cold Spring and publication in *The Highlands Current*. Second prize will be a gift card from Binnacle Books in Beacon and publication on the Get Lit Beacon blog. To enter, visit getlitbeacon.com. The next Get Lit Beacon gathering takes place at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 9.

**Jazz at Quinn’s**

Bobby Previte to perform

Jazz drummer Bobby Previte will perform at Quinn’s in Beacon at 8 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 9, with his band, The Visitors (Michael Gamble on guitar, Michael Kammers on tenor sax and keyboards, Kurt Kothimer on bass and Fabian Rucker on alto sax and synthesizer). A $30 donation for the band is requested.

**Organics on the Road**

**Four Winds Farm’s Organic Heirloom Tomatoes at the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market**

Saturdays, 8:30 to 1:30

Come see the tastiest, biggest, nicest collection of heirloom tomatoes in the Hudson Valley! Over 40 varieties.

We also deliver Heirloom Tomatoes to Foodtown and Vera’s on Tuesday mornings.
Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (August 1868)

The Cold Spring Recorder editorialized: “The Courier says that the Carmel jail is being repaired. We hope that the management will be fixed also.”

Patrick Powers, overseer of A. Healy’s farm in Nelsonville, fell overboard from an excursion boat and drowned. He was walking across the plank from the steamer onto a barge where his eldest daughter was running concessions, but the board was not secured. He leaves six orphaned children.

Two men brought a trained bear around town, with a “sasser” circulating in the crowd to collect coins.

John Dillon of Kemble Avenue and a laborer named Malone fought on the Cold Spring dock, with Dillon biting Malone on the arm and chest and chewing up one of his ears. Dillon became upset when Malone ordered a drink at a bar without properly “treating the crowd.”

125 Years Ago (August 1893)

The C.D. Henry Comedy Co. visited the village, as did Hull & Schlein’s European Novelty Co., which performed Uncle Tom’s Cabin under a tent erected in Kemble’s field, and a ventriloquist selling Chinese Corn Salve.

The Board of Education completed its census of school-age children, counting 403, of which an average of 283 attended.

James Ruddiman was fined twice for selling beer and whisky on Sunday.

The Recorder noted that passersby could complain to the justice of the peace about any dog that growled or barked and request that the animal be destroyed.

A Newburgh man presented a check at a Cold Spring bank that was cashed for 1,000 silver dollars (weighing 60 pounds) and 50 $20 gold pieces.

Owney Hayden won a swimming race from the Garrison Dock to West Point in 14 minutes and 30 seconds.

Zoe Gatton, a “long-distance female pedestrian,” began a walk from New York to San Francisco. Two years ago she stopped in Cold Spring while walking with her dog from San Francisco to New York.

100 Years Ago (August 1918)

Duncan Phyfe of Cold Spring, serving in France, was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for gallantry. He noted in a letter from the front that he had “seen some terrible things,” such as a shell that hit a wagon ahead of him on a curve and “blew a wagon and horses and seven men to pieces.”

With Mooney on the mound, the Cold Spring baseball team defeated the Main Streets of Beacon, 11-1, and the Rainbows of Newburgh, 5-2.

The Recorder noted that the incinerators placed on the streets were to dispose of waste paper and not old clothes.

75 Years Ago (August 1943)

The annual Haldane Central School Playground Doll Show was held.

In 1968, the Cold Spring Lions scheduled Willis Reed (19) as a lunch speaker.

Abram Avery and Edna Borton in 1968, when they visited Garrison

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Marion Jenkins, the Philipstown superintendent of highways, was nominated by local Democrats to oppose Supervisor Gilbert Forman in the November election. The state Democrats, meanwhile, selected Lt. Gen. William Haskell of Garrison as their nominee for lieutenant governor.

The novelist and radio personality Rex Stout, a resident of Brewster, expressed his support for the Putnam County War Fund Drive. “Many who can afford to, and should, give 10 or 50 times the $2 minimum, are doling it out with eye-droppers,” he complained.

50 Years Ago (August 1968)

The Philipstown Area Jaycees announced they would take on the Fishkill Jaycees in a Donkey Softball Game at Haldane Field.

The Hand-to-Mouth Players performed Spoon River Anthology, based on the book by Edgar Lee Masters, on the plaza outside its Garrison’s Landing theater using sets and facades from the filming of Hello, Dolly!

The Cold Spring Lions announced that Willis Reed of the New York Knicks would be the speaker at their September luncheon. He became acquainted with the village after Haldane students Robert Headly and John Zuvic attended a basketball clinic he held at the New York Military Academy in Cornwall.

Abram Avery, 87, who owns the Avery Piano Factory in Rhode Island, and Edna Haight Hulse Burton, 80, of Newark, the last surviving students who attended the Nelson’s Mills Schoolhouse in Garrison, met for lunch at the Bird & Bottle Inn.

25 Years Ago (August 1993)

With the water supply critically low, Cold Spring Mayor Anthony Phillips banned outside use of water. He also met with New York City officials to inquire about tapping into the aqueduct.

Aileen Knapp of Cold Spring won the Grand Champion Ribbon at the Putnam 4-H Fair for her blueberry muffins. She was also part of a group that won a recycling award for creating a pillow and quilt with horse-shoe ribbons.

An intoxicated Poughkeepsie driver who struck a sign and mailbox near the Maple Lawn Farm Market on Route 9 in Garrison before fleeing the scene was discovered by Deputy Robert Ferris eating lunch across the road at Papa John’s.

The Putnam County AIDS Task Force reported that the county had 71 cases, including seven each in Garrison and Cold Spring.

Cold Spring firefighters rescued a hiker from a small ledge on Breakneck Mountain. She was stuck for 45 minutes before a passerby on Route 9D noticed her.

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7 Little Words

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

Clues
1. Skincare brand (6)
2. LA Rams quarterback Jared (4)
3. Strong and rough (10)
4. A giraffe’s is six feet long (6)
5. Young “Wonder” star Jacob (8)
6. Common sauerkraut partner (9)
7. Hot and humid (5)

Solutions

CLI TR ROB QUE TIO
FF AY GY EM RST
BL TWU THR US GO
US MUG NI BRA OAT

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Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.
Football Preview: Beacon Bulldogs

New coaching staff and system for 2018

By Skip Pearlman

This will be a season of change for the Beacon High School football team, with a new coaching staff and system for the 2018 campaign. The Bulldogs have struggled during the last few seasons and finished at 2-7 last fall. They open the season today (Aug. 31) at Pelham.

Jim Phelan takes over as head coach, succeeding Tony Truscello, who retired after coaching the Bulldogs in 2016 and 2017 (he also coached the team from 2002 to 2005). Phelan spent the last three seasons at Our Lady of Lourdes in Poughkeepsie as an assistant to one of Section 1’s most respected veterans, Brian Walsh.

Phelan and his staff have installed new offensive and defensive schemes, and to ensure depth on the varsity will not field a junior varsity squad. Phelan, a 1998 Lourdes grad, said the transition will take time but has been going well.

“We have limitless potential at this point,” Phelan said earlier this week. “The guys are just getting comfortable with these schemes, and they’re picking it up quickly.”

“Honestly, I’m glad to get to the season,” he added. “I’ve spent from January to July dealing with fundraisers, getting new equipment. We changed our jerseys, our helmets, everything. The kids picked the designs.”

The Bulldogs have experience returning on both sides of the ball.

“We return a number of juniors and seniors who have varsity experience,” Phelan said. “Right now, our strength is our leadership.”

Phelan will rely on four key returning players — All-League senior Trey Dinio (guard/defensive end), senior Willy Rivera Jr. (defensive tackle/running back), junior Santino Negron (linebacker/running back) and senior Jacob Scofield (guard/defensive tackle) — each of whom is a team captain.

“Our captains will be our leaders on offense and defense,” Phelan said. “That helps us to bring the younger guys along. They bring us leadership, they encourage one another.”

Senior quarterback Joe Decandia also returns and will most likely be the starter. “Joe is very good, he’s under control, he can run, he can throw,” says Phelan. “He knows the new system, and is an athletic kid with experience. He knows what we’re looking for, and can read defenses.” Freshman Jason Komisar is the projected backup and could be a defensive starter in the secondary.

Negron, Rivera and senior Manny Garner hope to give the Bulldogs a potent ground attack, and junior Quazir Hayes and Dakota Salter are receivers.

Phelan said the team’s defense is a work in progress. “It’s something that we developed at Lourdes over time, with a lot of mixed coverages,” he said.

The injury bug has already hit the Bulldogs, who will be without junior Angel Feliz, who had been expected to start at linebacker and running back. He tore his ACL in the team’s first scrimmage. “It’s heartbreaking,” Phelan said. “He hadn’t missed a workout since January. He was a guy we were counting on.”

Nevertheless, Phelan said his team is ready for its opener. Beacon will play in Class A, League E this season with Pelham, Pearl River, Poughkeepsie and Peekskill. It has non-league games scheduled against Mount Vernon and Yonkers.

“I always tell the guys — if we don’t come into the season with the mindset that we’re going to compete in every game and compete for a league title, you’re giving up from the start,” Phelan said. “You want to win the league, you want to get into the playoffs, you want to start to compete for section titles.”

Cornerbacks Dakota Salter and Quazir Hayes

Senior quarterback Joe Decandia

Bulldogs captains Jacob Scofield, Trey Dinio, Santino Negron and Willie Rivera Jr.

Bulldogs Football 2018

Aug. 31 @ Pelham (7 p.m.)
Sept. 7 @ Poughkeepsie (6 p.m.)
Sept. 15 vs. Peekskill (1:30 p.m.)
Sept. 22 vs. Mount Vernon (1 p.m.)
Sept. 29 @ Yonkers (1:30 p.m.)
Oct. 5 vs. Pearl River (6:30 p.m.)