

BlueStone Press

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‘Dangerous precedent,’ Parete says

Marbletown discusses landmarking, public comment and Memorial Day

Julia Colombo
BSP Reporter

The Marbletown Town Board met on Tuesday, June 4, in the Roundout Munic-

ipal Center. Supervisor Rich Parete was present, joined by council members Daisy Foote, Tim Hunt and Mary Ann Van Ben-schoten, Ken Davenport was absent. The agenda for the evening was rather light on paper but rapidly evolved into a meeting full of dense discussion.

The meeting opened with the usual review of vouchers, discussions of proj-ects happening in the town and public comment on agenda items. The board then passed the resolution to extend the

Rondout Valley Food Pantry’s lease and came around to other business.

After discussing the potential instal-lations of temporary monuments in the Marbletown Park on Tongore Road, Hunt who is the Town Board liaison for the Historic Preservation Commission [HPC] mentioned the HPC’s plans to propose landmarking the former North Marble-town Fire House. This came as a shock to Parete, who had not heard about this until this meeting. Parete was quick to voice his

opinions saying, “The HPC should not be getting involved unless the owner comes forward and asks [for their property to be landmarked].”

Hunt stated that the owner of the prop-erty in question is the town, to which Pa-rete said, “But we haven’t asked.” He went on, “If we don’t ask them, I don’t think it’s appropriate for them to be working on something when the owner hasn’t indicat-

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Ganders are fast and strong
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Flag up between the raindrops on Memorial Day



Rain canceled all the Memorial Day parades, but Rochester managed to fit in a flag raising at the Accord Fire House and a ceremony and flower planting at Veterans' Park. Above, the ceremony organized by Accord Fire Company #1 on May 27, 2024. Photo by Manuela Michailescu

Microbusiness means grow it, process it and sell it locally

Amber Kelly
BSP Reporter

The May 20 Planning Board meeting had a quorum with Chair Max Stratton, Vice Chair Dave Cobb, Board Members Harry Hansen, Amalia Graziani, John Farrar, Brendan Masterson and Secretary Shawn Marks. Jim Economos has resigned since he has moved to Ulster.

Representing William Leibee of Back

Home Farm LLC cannabis microbusiness at 3056 Rte. 209, Nadine Carney said, “We have resubmitted the plan, revised based on some comments. Mostly it had to do with the building footprint and the work-ing operation of the building, bathroom for employees only and the entrance with the ID and restricting access prior to entering.”

There had been discussion about a side door and it is now labeled emergency exit

only. A sign on the front door will indicate one must be 21 years old to enter, and must have ID.

“We have here Vernon Farmer, from OCM [New York State Office of Cannabis Management] to help with any questions the board might have, and just maybe talk about this microbusiness a little bit.”

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Formaldehyde in our food? NYS bill discussed in Rosendale

'It's like the plastic bag. [regulations] Nobody liked the idea at first. It happened. Now it's the norm,' Walsh said

Haliegh Holt
BSP Reporter

The Rosendale Town Board Workshop convened on June 5 at 6 p.m. at the Roundout Municipal Center. Present were Supervisor Jeanne Walsh, Councilmember Joseph Havranek, Councilmember Carrie Wyckoff and Councilmember Ashley Sweeney. Councilmember Timothy Craven was not in attendance at the meeting.

Deborah Welsch, a resident of Tillson and passionate environmental activist, addressed the board on Wednesday evening, informing the council members and attendees about the importance of passing an act on the state level that would reform waste reduction practices locally. The New York State Legislature has been busy amending Senate Bill S4246A, Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, concerning waste reduction processes.

Welsch stated that "Ulster County ... is sending [about] 18 tractor trailers up to Seneca Meadows landfill, a 450-mile journey each way. 40% of all waste in New York State is just packaging. Much of [the waste] is single-use packaging, which is unwrapped and thrown out." She further explained that the Reduction Act attempts to hold producers of the waste responsible for the costs currently covered by taxpayers. Welsch detailed that the bill, in its current drafting stage, would give producers "12 generous years to achieve a 30% reduction in packaging waste." She also added that "Formaldehyde, lead, mercury

and cadmium are currently allowed in plastic packaging that touches our food. [The bill proposes that] those [chemicals] will be taken out."

Walsh asked Welsch if there is any consensus on where the governor stands on this issue. Welsch stated that Gov. Hochul is currently "under extreme pressure from Petro-Chemical."

The bill would affect changes on a local level, including changes in packaging as seen on the shelves in the supermarkets. Havranek expressed his concerns, stating, "most of the time these types of resolutions get adopted, the producers are just going to pass that cost down to the consumer and our prices are gonna end up going up no matter what. The pricing of our food today is just outrageous. This could just add to more of that." The issue of inflation surrounding grocery store pricing has been a hot point of contention for several years now. Havranek added, "Unfortunately, to affect change, maybe that's what needs to happen."

Walsh put things into perspective, stating, "It's like the plastic bag. Nobody liked the idea at first. It happened. Now it's the norm." She emphasized the importance of this change and its direct consequences. She noted that while the earth may heal itself in some ways, "when you put something up against a child, or you put food in their mouth, you know, that's very, very direct."

Welsch concluded on a personal note, saying, "I'm expecting my first grandchild next week. It really worries me what we're doing to the climate."

The Town Board is being asked to draft a letter to Gov. Hochul in support of Senate Bill S4246A. No action is currently being taken and the discussion is ongoing. **BSP**



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Marbletown

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ed...I just think it's awfully dangerous." Hunt rebutted, "I don't want us to have such a scary tone for landmarking. This should be very positive—it's an opportunity for us and landowners." Parete later commented, "I don't see why the HPC would take it upon themselves to recommend landmarking the building when the owner hasn't asked for it to be landmarked. To me, it opens up a dangerous precedent." Hunt furthered the discussion: "So you're saying we should vote first," to which Parete responded, "If three of the five board members want to do it, then we go ask them to do it." Before ending the meeting, Parete opened the floor to Public Comment, which has become a hot topic for Marbletown since the suspension of the practice for the month of May's second meeting. Before any residents spoke, Foote stated, "We're going to ask everyone, as much as

possible, to keep [your comment] to three minutes—that would be very, very helpful to us." In a conversation directly after the meeting Parete informed BlueStone Press of a "level of frustration" among board members. "There's a small group that thinks they can come to Town Board meetings...and basically try to shape the policy...We're all open up to criticism, and we know that, but when it gets to the point when you have board members not wanting to come to meetings, it's not good." Because of this tension, Parete planned to restrict Public Comment at the end of meetings to once a month. "There's no provision in the law to allow for Public Comment," Parete states. "We do it as a courtesy." He and the board believe Public Comment can be productive and beneficial when residents weigh in, especially on agenda items. "We, a lot of times, have a lot of healthy Public Comment at the beginning, where people are talking about what we're going to vote on. And to me, that's really important, because we're about to vote on something for the town. We want

to hear what the residents have to say." Parete believes some residents use this opportunity to "grandstand." "It's usually a Laura Cunningham gripe session, where she complains about everything the town is doing wrong...it's gotten to the point where board members don't want to be there when she gets up at the end." In the conversation with BSP directly after the meeting, Parete expressed concern because he thinks that Councilman Ken Davenport has left meetings early because of this criticism. There is an ongoing discussion between board members about how to handle public comment. Parete said he informed Foote, "I'm not elected to get abused." Parete concluded, "No matter what we do, it's never good enough for some people."

Due to recommendations from Foote and Hunt, Public Comment at the end of both monthly meetings has been restored alongside a new sign-up sheet initiated by Van Benschoten. If a Marbletown resident wishes to speak on agenda items or raise their own question or subject at the end of the meeting, they are encouraged to sign up prior to the start of the meeting but will still be allowed to speak if they do not. When watching the Facebook livestream of the meeting, viewers can notice that the feed ended as the Public Comment session began. Parete stated he believed the computer to be working and chalked the fluke up to technical errors. He then stated it is the Board's intention to have the full meeting, including Public Comment, streamed and uploaded to Facebook for both meetings of each month. During Public Comment, Marbletown resident Nancy Birdsall, who has spent 34 years in law enforcement and 15 years as a fire department volunteer, raised an issue: Why didn't the Roundout Little League march in the Memorial Day Parade?

Due to the discourse on social media, Birdsall and other residents understood that "the Little League float was basically kicked out of the parade for having a flag with a thin blue line and a thin red line." For the past two years, these Thin Blue Line and Thin Red Line flags have been flown alongside the American flag on the Rondout Little League's Memorial Day Parade float. These flags have met intense controversy since the events at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021. Birdsall said "to be called racist and a

sign of white supremacy was extremely upsetting to me." Birdsall states these flags "honor our fallen firefighters and our fallen police officers." Birdsall continued to say "It's not blue lives matter, it's not black lives matter I mean all lives matter." However, both years these flags were flown on Memorial Day, Parete cited receiving phone calls and emails from parents who took issue with their children having to be part of what they perceived as a political statement. The Thin Blue Line flag has come to be known as the Blue Lives Matter flag, a name that came about in direct opposition to the Black Lives Matter movement. Parete informed Birdsall that the Memorial Day Parade is the only parade in Marbletown put on by the town because "the American Legion basically folded," and in order to prevent making these parents and children uncomfortable in this year's parade. Parete discussed at the meeting that he preemptively reached out to Little League President Chris Miller via texts and Parete provided the texts to the BSP that read, "Do you mind speaking to Nick Kozak about only displaying American Flags at the Memorial Day Parade ... we've had complaints the past two years ... With everything going on in the Middle East, I'm trying to keep politics out of the parade. I'm asking everyone to just have American flags. Thank you." Miller responded, stating, "Supporting our first responders is not political, Rich, and entertaining complaints like that are the problem."

Parete responded, "The day is about men and women who died for our country. No one else. If you guys can't comply, there are plenty of other parades to join." Parete went on to explain how the Thin Blue Line flag can be used as a political instrument: "There is a group of people that do feel the Blue Lives Matter flag is used by white supremacy groups. And if you look at the history of the Nazi flag, that had an innocent meaning when it was created. It was not created for the Nazis and Hitler – it was created long before them. They concocted it, took it over, used it. Unfortunately for the people who created that flag who had no malice intended, that's how it's taken." Hunt inquired about the state of the Memorial Day Parade Committee, and Parete said, "They're still functioning. I mean, I'm hard pressed to let some of them make decisions if we decide to continue doing a parade in town because they were the ones supporting these guys, and they were the ones screaming at me ... saying, 'We voted for you. You gotta let him in there.'" The next Marbletown Town Board meeting will take place on June 18 at 6 p.m. The board will hold a public hearing on cannabis law and the cell tower law.

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Alligerville Hamlet Talk, Part 1: the Clove

Ann Belmont
BSP Reporter

The historic Alligerville firehouse has been painstakingly restored. The back of the building was once a one-room schoolhouse, and its original blackboard has been returned to the wall. It was a good place for people to gather and reminisce about Alligerville and the Clove of years ago, an area from the bridge over the Rondout Creek all the way up to the top of the Shawangunk cliffs where there once stood a village called Trapps.

The afternoon "Hamlet Talk" was sponsored by Rochester's Historic Preservation Commission; Alice Cross, long-time member, acted as emcee. She invited people to first share memories about the Clove. Her introductory remarks promised, enticingly, that people would be hearing "personal recollections of Smitty's Ranch, the Wickie-Wackie Club and Chet London's nudist colony."

The word "clove," Cross explained, means "cleft" in Dutch. "It's the same as Vly," she added. "it's the same idea – a cleft between two cliffs. And it usually has a watercourse running through it," in this case the Coxing Kill. There were once many small farms along "Clove Valley Road" – a redundant name, like saying "Valley Valley," as long-time resident Barbara Rubin pointed out. That road winds from the valley itself all the way up the mountain to the Trapps area, ending on Route 44-55, where there once was a real village with a school, church, cemetery and stores. "Remnants survive," Cross said.

Barbara Rubin, in her youth, was a rock climber, encouraged by her husband Bob. "I didn't even like Ferris wheels! But you do amazing things for love. Bob brought



Alice Cross, long-time member, of the Rochester's Historic Preservation acted as emcee at the Hamlet Talk at the Alligerville firehouse.

me up here climbing in 1963." The picturesque setting of steep cliffs overhanging a narrow valley reminded her of "a West Virginia holler." In those days the road was primitive, especially the Gardiner end. "Rochester always did a good job. But once you crossed the line from Rochester into Gardiner ... you could bottom out your car."

She and Bob bought a house in the Clove from Elmer Schoonmaker. "When Elmer showed us our [future] property ... he took a long stick, [she pantomimed him waving it in front of him] and he said, 'Here's the well.' Then he showed us the dirt cellar." Again, he waved his stick around the cellar entrance. "What are you doing, Elmer?" she asked. "oh, just in case

there's copperheads," was his reply. They bought the house anyway. "But I have never seen a copperhead there," she added. "Elmer told us a story – this is amazing! – about the first deer he ever saw ... it probably was the 20s or 30s." There were no deer in the woods before that," due to overhunting. "And here I am, putting fences around flowers!"

Rubin's memories turned to the Wickie Wackie Club, a weekend nightclub that operated in a barn on Clove Road in the 60s and 70s. "It was a place that had standards. If any climbers came in, looking a little rough around the edges, they were told to go home and change ... we found out years ago on a trip to Jamaica that the term Wickie-Wackie comes from that

island." (There is a Wickie Wackie resort in modern-day Jamaica). "Vi [Violet, or Viola] who ran the place was from Jamaica. It was a fun place, lots of music ... I've been in that barn. But I never had the opportunity to Lindy or jitterbug there."

John Hayes, who lives on Rock Hill Road, said, "I was too young to go to the Wickie Wackie, but [he heard] that there was this [lowers voice to a whisper] – this nightclub. It was a little forbidden ... so I didn't get a chance to ever see that. However, Chet London's nudist colony ... he was a real character, a movie actor. He had a small part in "The Group," so on the strength of that, he was our local celebrity in residence. When we were kids, we'd head down Rock Hill on the way to hike up to Mohunk, but you had to come down to the Clove, and that was right on our path. That was a fun experience for us, to traipse through the nudist colony. It was in full swing at that time." "Did you ever see anything interesting about the nudist colony?" Cross inquired. "That's implied," answered Hayes, to much laughter. Rubin added, "They rehearsed 'Hair' there, the famous musical," There was a nude scene in 'Hair'. So they would come bouncing out onto the Clove Road, maybe taking a break from their rehearsal?"

Paul Tobin, who spoke next, brought the hippie scene that flourished in the Clove to life. "I'll talk about Smitty's," he began. "I met my second partner there that I had two kids with, she's passed away now – naked on the rocks." Which rocks, exactly, were drowned out by laughter. "I used to live on Mossy Brook Road, and I used to run from Mossy Brook up to Smitty's with

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What’s going on at Williams Lake

Jeff Slater
BSP Reporter

The Williams Lake project plans to begin building homes by this fall. Brian Cafferty, public outreach coordinator, said, “We are finalizing the design with our local architect, and we hope to begin construction on the first model home this fall or before.”

The project began way back in 2007 and it was under environmental review for the next seven years.

Now things seem to be moving in the right direction.

“Most of all the infrastructure has been completed or is about to be completed by summer’s end. Most of the roads have been graded, water and sewer lines laid and the underground electric is being laid as we speak, which will allow for final road grading. The building that will house the water filtration plant has been built and the plant is in the process of being installed as is the water storage tank. The wastewater treatment facility is also underway,” said Cafferty.

“The plan is to build 26 townhouses, 16 cottages, 39 lofts and 58 single-family homes with the single-family model being built this fall and homesites in the spring of 2025 and townhouses in the fall of 2025,” continued Cafferty.

About the work and the use of local folks for the labor. Cafferty said, “The number of construction workers and people working on the project vary but is based on what is being done. Most of all the contractors are local. Currently there are approximately 15 people working on site and that will likely



Williams Lake building and water treatment

double during the summer. Some of the work being done is very specific specialty work, which means we can’t source it locally, but the majority of the work being done on the property is being done by local contractors. All of the buildings currently going up, the water treatment facility, the extension to the sales office and construction office is being done by a local contractor. The architects for the single family and maintenance buildings are local and all of the excavation and road building and retaining wall building and landscaping is all done by local contractors.”

The Water Treatment and Sales Center addition were built by local contractor Kniffen Homes. The electrical contractor is J & J Sass and the mechanical contractor is Ashley mechanical, all are local.

The project initially included a resort. “We anticipate the hotel and spa to begin construction in the next two to three years. We have engaged architects in the planning for the new resort component of the development and are keen to refine the design as we begin to build out the various home products and amenities, such as the beach pavilion, the rail trail café and broader trail network,” said Cafferty.

About the environmental aspect of the project, Jason Meyer project manager, said, “out of the roughly 750 acres we have 520 of them will stay forever lands.”

The bat population was decimated by diseases about 20 years ago and the Williams Lake project brought in researchers to see what could be done about the problem. They also need to avoid loud and disruptive work during hibernation to give the bats that remained a chance to make it.

Cafferty had this to say about the bat situation, “We continue to work in partnership with the NYDEC to monitor and protect the bat population on our property. We in particular are protecting the bat hibernacula on the property and are monitoring the bats while they are in hibernation. We also employ strict tree removal on the property and have a strict cut or clearing policy between the months of April through October. This is to protect any potential bat roosting trees from being disturbed while the bats are out of hibernation.”

Though Town of Rosendale Supervisor Jeanne Walsh did not comment, Jason Meyer said, “We have a great relationship with the Town of Rosendale.”

Jim Sullivan, a local resident, said, “Because we have access through the Williams Lake property on the rail trail, I have watched with great interest the slow but steady progress of the development there. I hope that the project is successful both economically and environmentally as construction of the houses begins.” **BSP**

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Cannabis

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Carney said. “That’s on the plan itself, and then after the meeting it was some question about parking numbers that we had put on. Basically, it was some checklist from the town for this type of establishment.”

The original plan had projected eighteen vehicles at peak hours and after further research twenty vehicles are projected for weekday nights, and twenty-three on Saturday nights. The entrance from 213 is one-way in and one-way out, then a one-way onto 209 north-bound only, based on the multi-use professional building with retail, and fast food and everything else.

Stratton inquired if anyone in the public wished to comment.

One neighbor said that he didn’t know about the minutia, but pointed out that the fine upstanding neighbors who farm marijuana also farm many other things. He applauds the quality products, and additional jobs, but hopes it would not be too much out in the open.

Neighbor Elizabeth Ryan said, “I’ve known those two growers incredibly well for decades, so I want to speak to their character and I also want to speak to the activation of a space that has been sitting idle for a very long time. When I heard that two people that I’ve known as colleagues and exceptional organic growers are (the ones) proposing this, I thought that we are exceptionally lucky. I think we have to hold our growers and hold our young people in this community. As the near neighbor and as somebody who operates a seasonal retail farm within walking distance, I not only am not worried about it, I actually wholeheartedly support them and embrace it, and I urge you to approve it.”

Brian Farmer from the office of cannabis management said, “I came to OCM as the compliance head. That license is held in a very strict manner by compliance. There is a detailed step-by-step process whereby the licensee has to go through all of this work, and have an on-site inspection. Any things that are out of compliance have to be corrected through the corrective action plan. So, there is a paper trail throughout that process on top of what you guys are doing. I just want to say we’ve been trying to help throughout this process. The microbusiness process is meant for; grow it locally, sell it locally, process it locally to do what agriculture does.”

The board asked, “have you gotten final permissions? The last time we spoke it was



Planning Board Vice Chair Dave Cobb, Chair Max Stratton, Board Members Harry Hansen, Amalia Graziani, John Farrar, Brendan Masterson discuss cannabis micro business zoning.

in process,” Farrar said. Farmer said everything is in and they are waiting for another department to review it, whom are incredibly understaffed.

Farrar said, “I drove by that location before last meeting and spoke to some people who have lived here longer than I, and they said it was originally designed to be a post office with one way only going north. I didn’t know that. It would be really easy to take a left onto 209, so I think that the radius was designed wrong from the get go to really focus going north, but that’s not your call. I’m only concerned, I know that we went through all that with those folks at the clinic.”

“I know that a pet peeve of mine is always people passing on the shoulder right there at that light, and that’s notorious and I’m afraid that the only way to get in there is from 213 going left going in. I don’t know but I think that driveway is a death wish,” Farrar said. “I don’t know if the State is going to have to reevaluate that. This has been going on since ’88. I think we need to be aware of this coming down the pike.”

The public hearing was closed. DOT looked at the Mill Sands Road property and recommended culverts under the main road, under the driveway, as well as connecting with drainage from them.

Stratton said, “Well, I’m certainly satisfied with the changes to the site plan. There aren’t going to be any changes to the exterior of the building. On the uphill side of it, the town actually came in and cleaned up ditches. We got an email since then from the Highway Super to clean up some of the trees up there. It is what is filling up those ditches along there, I’m not sure to what extent. Lou had said that what was on the plot wasn’t clear. He said a continuous culvert is what is needed.”

“This drainage issue is the crux of this

application,” Stratton said. “I do understand the continuous culvert. There are still sheets of water crossing that road; I drive it every day.”

Eggers said any ground water off the property is going right straight across the road.

Stratton said that it will be up to the contractor to try and direct the rainwater overflow through a continuous culvert.

The Sands minor subdivision resolution was approved.

“Alright we are on to Meadowlark,” Stratton said.

The farm owner, Elizabeth Ryan said, “This is two separate SUPs one is for the concert and one is for camping. This is essentially a reboot of last year, which was an incredibly wonderful event. We were very compliant. We found it very, very hard to meet and exceed expectations of lower noise levels, ample parking and lots of security. We had everything except the people. It rained three days and you know, we took a hit. Last year was a rough year in general I think for the whole Hudson Valley. We have done the traffic study as requested, the engineering study as requested and had a couple preliminary meetings with you guys. It is more or less the same event that it was last year. The engineering has demonstrated that there is a lot of capacity at the farm. We don’t want the pie in the sky.”

“Let’s start by talking about the concert,” Stratton said.

“We have done the engineered site plan to make sure we are addressing any issues. We are expanding the educational component this year,” Ryan said.

There will be two tent areas, but they will not be run at the same time. Vehicles will be individually ticketed.

Stratton proposed that this be referred to the Ulster County Planning Board.

The public hearing was set for June 24. “There was a limited amount of camping last year and there were no issues,” Ryan said. “Some of the staff and volunteers will not have to leave the site, which gives them the ability to work long hours, quite frankly. It helps to manage the staff for the event. This community has very little housing availability in September, and very little affordable housing. It also allows families to stay who are coming with kids. We are begging people to come again from last year because of the logistics of having to drive, especially on Saturday night, and then come back. The campsite was moved away from the pond and closer to the road. Last year we had a ton of gravel brought in to stabilize it.”

Ryan asked about what code covers camping.

The Planning Board Secretary Shawn Marks said, “The code officer did agree that it is incidental to the primary use, which is the agriculture commercial event, and the code officer agreed that camping is part of that event and would fall under agricultural, commercial and special use program. It fit into the category of the festival itself.”

The Planning Board was also asked to look at the zoning of dispensaries and agreed it would fall under B1 and B2 under special use. That precludes farms from having cannabis retail, but the OCM is encouraging it.

“Is there a distinction from a regular dispensary such as what might be on (Rte.) 32 and this micro business which is the farmer who can only sell his own stuff. The one on 32 can sell anybody’s,” Hansen said. “This law might be more directed to dispensaries and not the micro business. I think if we are supporting agriculture, we need to make some sort of acknowledgment that the micro business might be on location.”

“That’s a fair distinction,” Marks said. “It sounds to me that we might want to take some of this language and work it into his resolution,” Stratton said. “Prior to this application, I wouldn’t even have considered the micro business aspect of it,” Hansen said. **ESP**

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Alligerville

from page 5

my dogs and hang out there for the day. And if I wanted to, I'd bring my drums up there. There were two parts to Smitty's, the lower and the higher falls. You could walk between there, and nobody wore any clothes ... and also I was at Joe Runner's for a while. We had a bus we parked up there ... It was an interesting time. Smitty was a guy from New York City, African-American guy who was a martial artist. He had a lot of other things going on. But he had a bar up there, and in the bar he used to have a bluegrass band called the Arm Brothers. You could flat-dance up there. Later Danny Arm became kind of famous and went to Texas."

"People lived up there for the entire summer. There was a little bit of illegal marijuana selling up there," he related (an understatement, perhaps). "There was a sense of freedom there. You did have to worry about the state troopers once in a while coming down through the woods, but most of the time we were able to get away ... we had a treehouse up there that people lived in, a teepee, and my first wife had built a dome structure, [shaped like] an igloo. They lived in that over the winter-time, they had a parachute over it ... They had trailers up there, all kinds of people lived there. You had to pay a dollar [a day?] to park there, I think that's how Smitty made his money." He estimated that this

paradise lasted "from the late sixties all the way up to the 80s."

Jonathan Nedbor, longtime Alligerville resident, said "It was a resort before the hippies were there. In the [early] 60s black travelers were able to come there. It may have even been in the Green Book." Tobin added, "It was a dude ranch, too." "There were still horses there in the early 80s," agreed Nedbor.

Tobin remembered something else. "One time we were sitting on the rocks and these models came down to take pictures. I don't actually know what magazine I'm in, but I'm in a magazine. "Yes, I was nude," he answered somebody's question. Laughter again. "Sitting next to these beautiful models."

"Is this entertainment, or what?!" Cross remarked drily.

From the racy recent past, talk moved to more ancient history. "My husband Bob Larsen worked for the Mohonk Preserve for 40 years," related Rubin. He became a trail designer, including the High Peterskill Trail. Larsen, who lived to be 94, became interested in the cultural history of the Clove. "He was the co-author of a book about the Trapps community. That book is still available, called 'The Unforgiving Land.' It was pretty tough to make a living in the Trapps, but they did. They picked huckleberries, they picked walnuts, they made barrel hoops, they cut stone. Elmer Schoonmaker's father Chris was a stone-cutter."

Hank Alicandri introduced himself. "I've

worked on the ridge for 38 years; I worked in land stewardship. I currently run the Sam's Point area of Minnewaska State Park. The first time I came to the Clove was the mid to late 70s. I was escaping from Brooklyn, coming up here and rock-climbing ... we came down to the Clove after climbing because we had heard there was a bar down there. I remember the Arm Brothers were playing, we had a couple of beers, and people were really dancing. My brother and I went outside to get some air." The band started to play extremely loud, which caused the dancing to increase in enthusiasm. "We actually saw the building going up and down ... it wasn't that well constructed."

When he began to repair the very old house he owns on Clove Road, Alicandri became intrigued by what he found. "My tenants moved out so I've been diligently trying to restore the place ... it was a mess. I started taking apart the original part of the house, which was still pretty solid. I was working on it ... and I'm like, Okay, where are the posts? Where's the balloon framing in the kitchen? And I come to realize that it's one of these vertical plank houses, a house that doesn't really have a framing structure. They used hemlock siding, big, crazy pieces ... it's the siding of the house, and it's also the structure of the house ... trying to find more of these vertical plank houses is something very rare."

According to an entry in Wikipedia, "A plank house is unique as a type of American vernacular architecture. It consists of

vertical planks, or rough-cut thick boards, which were nailed together to form walls, raised in place, and connected at the corners with simple lap joints. There are no corner posts or studs. Planks and hand-hewn beams provided the basic structure or skeleton of the house. Due to the hamlet's isolation, a cultural lag existed there, with the Trapps people continuing to build log and plank houses through the 1800s."

People made money from "tan barking," Alicandri said, an industry that provided material for the plank houses as a side product. "Basically they take the hemlock trees, get the bark off them and get tannin out of the bark. So they had this junk laying around, 25-foot-long pieces of two-inch-thick hemlock that were 25 inches wide. What do you do with that? You give it to poor people and they build houses out of it." He guessed that the original part of his house was built around 1820. "Like I said, it's the only part of the house that's still solid. The rest of the house – the stuff they built in the 1940s – I had to completely redo. You can come and see it anytime. It's a red house, right in the middle of the Clove. If my pickup truck is there, I'm there. Stop by." **BSP**

Alligerville Hamlet Talk, Part Two: Alligerville will appear in the next issue of the BSP.

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Accord Fire District
repairs

By resolution dated 28th day of March 2024, the Accord Fire District has approved a resolution subject to permissive referendum to withdraw up to \$159,000 from its Repair Reserve Fund to be put towards repairs to the property and grounds of the Fire District, including repairing or replacing heating, ventilation and air conditioning (“HVAC”) units, repairing or repaving blacktop surfaces, and conducting miscellaneous general upkeep and repairs to the existing Fire District building. Petitions for a referendum must be submitted to the secretary of the Accord Fire District no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.

Community comes
together for
Planting Day on
the Conservancy
Creekwalk

The long-awaited Planting Day at the Conservancy Creekwalk held last month had an eager and energetic band of 20 volunteers, including one of the Future Farmers of America students at Rondout Valley High School. After many meetings beginning in September 2023 with the Cornell Extension Master Gardeners and the Conservancy Garden Committee, a wonderful design for three Native Pollinator planting areas was in place for the event.

Planting Day was a major step for the Conservancy Creekwalk, a project started by the Conservancy in 2014 to bring this natural pathway to the community of High Falls and visitors. The first five years were spent discussing the land, and how it could be transferred to the Town of Marbletown, which finally occurred in 2019.



As part of an English Language Arts lesson in "Taking care of the Earth," Marbletown Elementary School students paint a shell for hermit crabs in Japan



Planting Day on the Conservancy Creekwalk volunteers, left to right, Barb Londa, Barbara Troan, Courtney Churchill, Juliet Stokes, Sheila Jansen, Patricia Dorbandt, Rebecca Folkerth, Chris Schoonmaker, Rob King, Barbara Campbell and Addisyn Spano. Volunteers not pictured include Gerry Greco, Katie Naplatarski, Sarah Draney and Nancy Purdum

Since then, Conservancy and Riverkeeper volunteers have collected trash and have worked to identify this as a conservation area.

Nancy Taylor introduced the Conservancy to the Cornell Extension Master

Gardeners Program. The Master Gardeners approved the application for assistance, and Courtney Marie Churchill head of the program, quickly assembled a top team of Master Gardeners Barbara Londa, Barb Troan and Barbara Campbell. These expert gardeners provided encouragement, guidance, layouts and a wide array of Native Pollinator plants for adding to the wildlife conservation goal of the Conservancy Creekwalk.

The Town of Marbletown, under Supervisor Rich Parete, provided two park benches and most of the Pollinator Plants. Thanks goes out to them for their support of this project.

The Marbletown Highway Department Team, led by Lou Cardinale provided all transportation for two truckloads of compost (8 tons) purchased by the Conservancy, was delivered to the Creekwalk in time for Planting Day.

At the last moment, there was a change in availability of soil, and Benny Calcagno of Benny’s Pizzeria miraculously arranged for 9 cubic yards of rich planting soil to be available for purchase by the Conservancy, and to be picked up the next day, again, by the Highway Department and delivered to exact locations on the Creekwalk.

There are so many others, including businesses who donated foods and other

BlueStone Press, June 7, 2024, **Page 9**

refreshments, who helped to make Planting Day a success, and the Conservancy is planning to honor them in a special way at the Grand Opening of the Conservancy Creekwalk to be held later this month.

For more information, visit highfalls-conservancy.org or call Carole at 917-705-8711.

Marbletown
Kindergarten
students help
hermit crabs
in Japan

In a heartwarming initiative, Kindergarten classes at Marbletown Elementary School have embarked on a special project. Inspired by the efforts of wildlife photographer Shawn Miller, who noticed hermit crabs inhabiting pieces of trash along the beaches of Okinawa, Japan, the students are painting shells to support Miller’s efforts to provide the creatures with new homes.

As Miller captured the serene beauty of Okinawa’s beaches, he saw that hermit crabs mistaking litter for suitable abodes. These industrious creatures were seen squeezing into discarded soda bottles, dish detergent caps, and other debris. He now paints shells, places them on the beaches and captures videos of the crabs moving into their new shelters.

MES Kindergarten teacher Alice Guillon was intrigued by Miller’s project and reached out to the artist to get involved. Having her students participate in this initiative came in alignment with one of their English Language Arts lessons, which focuses on the theme of “Taking care of the Earth.” The Kindergarten students enthusiastically took up their paint brushes to transform ordinary shells into vibrant works of art.

“To say the kids were excited would be an understatement,” said Guillon. “They enjoyed the various readings we have incorporated into this project, and awe-striking videos of Shawn Miller’s work. We have even adopted some hermit crabs class pets!”

For more information, visit <http://mes.rondout.k12.ny.us> or call 845-687-0284.

Co-op Kitchen
Cookout

June 8, from noon to 3, the High Falls Food Co-op invites you to the first co-op kitchen cookout of the 2024 summer season. Right in the parking lot. On the menu: Shredded BBQ Chicken Sandwich or Grilled Pineapple Tofu with Cilantro Lime Slaw. Cold drinks, and ice cream snacks also available for purchase. Get your grocery shopping done, hang with some friendly community, peruse the gorgeous seedlings from Clove Valley Farm and enjoy a fresh delicious lunch! Additionally, there will be an information cannabis pop-up with local High Falls cannabis farmer Will Leabee.

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A black and white line drawing showing a group of people, including children and adults, working together to plant strawberries in a field. They are using tools like shovels and buckets. The drawing is simple and sketchy. At the bottom, the text "STRAWBERRIES at DAVENPORT'S Stone Ridge" is written in a stylized, handwritten font.

BlueStone Memoriam


Donald Gunn Ross III

OLIVEBRIDGE—Donald Gunn Ross III died peacefully in his sleep on May 18, 2024. He was born November 26, 1944 in Port Chester, New York, to parents Donald

Gunn Ross II and Andre Moul Ross. He’s survived by his sisters, Carol Shank of Stone Ridge, New York, Julie Ross of Willow Spring, North Carolina, brother Richard Ross of Hurley, New York and nieces Amanda Shank and Olivia Shank. Don loved nature and the simple things in life, living happily with few material possessions. At the age of 11 he canoed and camped the Fulton Chain of Lakes in the Adirondacks, which began a lifelong habit of canoe trips in the Saranac Lake region further north. In the 60s he was active in Civil Rights, marching at Selma and elsewhere, and he enjoyed playing folk music on his 12-string guitar. Though he didn’t go to college directly after high school, he graduated college midlife, with an associate’s degree from UCCC and a bachelor’s in Journalism from SUNY New Paltz. Having spent his younger years in Port Chester and Katonah, New York, his family moved to High Falls, New York in 1964, where he was thrilled to explore the Shawangunk Mountains. The “Gunks” played a huge part in his life, offering beautiful scenery and numerous trails to ride on his mountain bike. He was often at Minnewaska or Mohonk, participating in bicycle races or riding with friends. In the late 80s he edited and published a small newspaper called “Ridgerider” that celebrated “riding the ridge” and informed bike enthusiasts of past and future events. Later in life, he developed a love of Plein Air Painting, and returned to the mountains to paint the landscapes he’d once biked, capturing them in dozens of oil and watercolor paintings. Another love was that of the sea and clipper ships. Many years of travel and research led him to write The Era of the Clipper Ships: The Legend of Donald McKay, a definitive work on the subject. He’d been inspired by family questions about McKay, thought to be a relative, a fact Don confirmed. For many years, Don was actively involved with the Vivekananda Retreat Ridgely in Stone Ridge, meditating, assisting with events and growing an organic garden. Skilled with his hands, he had several craft businesses, and produced pipes made of walnut, ceramic fish and eyeglass pins. He also farmed and harvested catnip, selling it under the label “Meowi Zowie” for the delight of many an Ulster County cat. Don was often spotted in town with a cup of coffee and the NY Times which he read daily. He was outgoing, greeting friends and acquaintances with his customary “quack, quack,” eager to chat. Don Ross was one of a kind and will be greatly missed. Comments and memories of Don, can be posted at Joseph V. Leahy Funeral Home, Inc., Kingston, New York

Ronnie Posner

TILLSON—In memory of Ronnie (Weincrot) Posner, age 83, of Tillson, New York, who passed away peacefully on Monday May 20, 2024 at her home. Born on July 22, 1941, Ronnie lived a full and vibrant life, deeply dedicated to her family, work and friends. Ronnie handled and was responsible for all the organizational and managerial work as General Manager of MJPosner Construction Co., where she served with distinction from the early years of the company’s



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Sharing a long life of community and family

Philomena Link

STONE RIDGE—Philomena Brown Link of Stone Ridge, New York, born September 19, 1922, entered into eternal glory on May 16, 2024, just four months before her 102nd birthday. Her extraordinary life was remarkable and inspiring to all who knew her. Philomena was the first child born to her immigrant parents, Nicholas and Christina de Dominicis Brown. Her father came to Atwood in 1908 and opened Brown’s Hotel on Route 213,

which later became a residential home. Five of the seven children were born in the Brown’s Hotel house. Years later the Brown’s family business relocated on Atwood Road nearby, in the historic Hill Top Tavern. This present landmark was the family home for nearly 100 years and it’s where Philomena and all of her siblings grew up. Her heart never left the love of her home roots. She became the glue to the family adventure and helped “Pop” earn the title of “the oldest innkeeper in the state of New York” as featured on WABC Channel 7 on December 15, 1978. The ability for Philomena to share a lifetime of personal and community history, with clarity and motivation, was a blessing, indeed. Philomena began her education in the one-room school house. Her four younger sisters, Anna, Delia, Edith and Marguerite, and two brothers, Frank and Nicholas followed, until the school closed in 1944. Her education continued at Kingston High School, graduating in 1940, where she was an outstanding student and a terrific basketball player. The Moran School of Business followed high school. Employment opportunities led her to New York City. In 1951 she accepted an executive secretary position with the US Dispatch Agency, serving all official government shipments of personal and household goods of federal employees throughout the world. This position led to an appointment by Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller as an assistant supervisor in the office of Inter-American Affairs, a position that she held until returning

existence until 2020. Her leadership and commitment greatly contributed to the company’s success and left a legacy. She is survived by her beloved husband of 63 years, Martin Posner; her son, Andrew Posner; her daughter, Heidi Lynn Posner; her brother, Steve Weincrot; and her cherished granddaughter, Dakota Posner. Ronnie was preceded in death by her sister, Linda Weincrot; her uncle, Stanley Machenberg and her parents, Frances and Harold Weincrot. A funeral service was held at the George Moylan Funeral Home Inc. 2053 Route 32, Rosendale, on Saturday May 25, 2024, at 11 a.m. Visitation was held at the funeral home beginning at 10 a.m. prior to the service. Burial followed at New Paltz Rural Cemetery – Ulster County Veterans Section in New Paltz. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Humane Society International – <http://www.Donate.hsi.org> Ronnie will be remembered for her warmth, kindness, dedication and the love she shared with all who knew her. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and all who had the pleasure of knowing her. May her memory be a blessing.

to Stone Ridge, New York. On June 3, 1951, she married Charles Link, her husband for 63 years until his passing. Philomena became a mother when her son Glenn Link was born. Throughout her life as a wife and a mother, she continued to be actively involved in the management of all Tavern and family obligations. Philomena started the longest part of her career in Kingston, New York in 1958 as office manager for the Oscar B. London Clothing Stores. She retired 27 years later from London’s when all four stores closed. After leaving her career at London’s Clothing Stores, Philomena worked several more years at Sanger Cabinet in Port Ewen. Philomena Link is recognized as an active community supporter. She was a founding member of the Saint Peter’s School Association in Rosendale and was Treasurer for eight years. She was a 4-H leader for 25 years, seeing generations of children growing up. She was also active in the Marbletown Senior Citizens and was secretary for several years. Her peaceful departure leaves her son Glenn Link and granddaughter Morgan Link, her sisters, Marguerite Lockwood (Granville), Edith Mallaney (Tom) and brother Nicholas Brown Jr. (Alice) and two and three generations of nieces and nephews. She is pre-deceased by her husband, Charles Link, her brother Frank Brown and sisters Anna Isusi (Charles) and Delia Brown and sister-in-law, Alice Brown Jr. A special note of gratitude is recognized for nieces Michele Hirsch (Ted) and Andrea Lockwood-Mayors (Jim) who have lovingly cared and comforted their Aunt Phil in the later years of her extended life. A mass of Christian burial was held on May 20 2024 at Saint Peter’s Church in Rosendale, New York. Burial followed in Fairview Cemetery, Stone Ridge, New York. George J Moylan Funeral Home, 20053 Route 32, Rosendale, assisted the family with arrangements. Memorial contributions, which are sincerely appreciated, may be made to either: the Marbletown, First Aid Unit, P.O. Box 323, High Falls, NY 12440 or to the Hudson Valley Hospice, 400 Erin Court, Kingston, NY 12401.

Burton M. Angrist, M.D.

HIGH FALLS—Burton M. Angrist, M.D. died on Friday, May 17, at Ten Broeck Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing in Kingston, New York. A resident of High Falls, he was born in Queens, New York, on July 15, 1936. A graduate of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, he was a member of the NYU Medical Center Department of Psychiatry for nearly 50 years, all of that time based at Bellevue Hospital or the New York VA, both NYU Medical Center affiliates. His research focused primarily on the origin and treatment of psychoses. A devoted outdoor enthusiast and rock climber, he was drawn early to the Shawangunk Mountains in New York State’s Hudson Valley. Long a weekender, he became a full-time Gunks resident following his retirement. Suggestions for donations in his memory include Mohonk Preserve, Friends of the Shawangunks and humanitarian and natural history organizations. He is survived by his wife Anka Angrist and daughter Laurel Angrist.

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The Flying Goose Tavern takes flight

Kerhonkson's community-driven hospitality open 7 days a week

Chelsea Miller
BSP Reporter

Kerhonkson, long cherished for its resplendent natural beauty, is experiencing quite the renaissance. Main Street, which in recent memory has been serving up ghost town vibes, is positively popping. New to the scene is The Flying Goose Tavern, a friendly bar co-owned by Lisa Binassarie, her brother Roger Jaghoo and property owner Lita Dwight, who all bring diverse backgrounds to the joint venture. Binassarie, who has a long history in the film industry with a keen eye for aesthetics and culture, her brother Jaghoo, a seasoned bartender and musician and Lita Dwight, a lawyer and landlord, have created a space that serves as a place where neighbors can – whether full-time upstaters or weekenders – meet and make new friends.

Binassarie and Jaghoo's origin story begins in Brooklyn and Queens, where they grew up. Binassarie moved upstate full time with her wife Martha Prakelt, who owns Marty's Fitness Studio, during the pandemic. Jaghoo joined them in 2021 after the birth of his child, becoming the lead bartender at Inness. A motorcycle accident in August 2022 left Roger out of work for about a year, during which time the siblings began to consider a longstanding day dream – opening a bar together. Jaghoo had initially met Dwight at Inness, and they reconnected in 2023. Dwight, who has owned a property in Kerhonkson since 2010, was holding out for just the right thing, and they collectively agreed that the location seemed like the perfect place for their new venture. As it is with most things in life – in the right partnership there is a secret sauce. "We all collaborated wonderfully, staying in our lanes to make the space exactly what we wanted," says Binassarie. The team's diverse backgrounds have created a welcoming, inclusive environment. The only requirement is to be nice," Binassarie laughs.

The Flying Goose Tavern officially opened its doors in February of this year. The seasonal timing allowed the partners to work out any operational kinks and gauge the community's response. The idea was to create an affordable, welcoming spot for locals, weekenders and visitors alike. "We wanted a place that felt like it had been here forever, where people could gather, feel part of something," says Binassarie.

The interior of the Flying Goose Tavern was designed by Blackthorn Interiors, with Binassarie's friends Shawn Brydges and Juliet Freehan lending their expertise. They aimed to create a space that looked like it simply belonged, fitting seamlessly into the local landscape. The tavern features dark green beadboard, white oak banquets and a whimsical 360-degree mural around the top of the walls. The design blends elements of an old-time tavern with touches of the English countryside.

Drinks are of the classic varietal with options spanning



Founders of Flying Goose Tavern (from left to right): Roger Jaghoo, Lita Dwight and Lisa Binassarie

from a \$4 beer to a fancier cocktail (depending on the bartender). Flying Goose spotlights pop-up food vendors, including Eat Church, a South East Asian vendor, hailed by our very own BlueStone Press Wally Nichols. Other pop-ups include a long standing Taco Tuesday helmed by a local Guatemalan family, and (most recently) a complementary pizza night. The criteria for popups are simple, says Binassarie, "There has to be a vegetarian option, and really we just want people who are passionate about their food. I want to give people a space to share the food they love to cook, so if you want to do a pop up or are a popup – give us a call."

The flexible menu and rotating selection of drinks reflect the owners' desire to cater to a wide range of tastes. "We don't have a fixed drinks menu. Things change all the time on draft. We focus on a seasonal mixed drinks list, beers that change on tap, and wines that change with the season. We're very accommodating," explains Binassarie. Classic cocktails like martinis are always available, but the tavern also offers experimental seasonal cocktails, catering to different preferences. The community's reaction to the Flying Goose Tavern has been overwhelmingly positive. "People really wanted to see this strip developed in a way that was inclusive and both locals and expats were thirsty for more services," says Binassarie.

The Flying Goose Tavern is open seven days a week ensuring that it caters to the local community by being avail-

able not just on weekends but throughout the week. "The idea was to have a real community center where people can come by and have a beer or seltzer and run into their neighbors and gather to feel a part of something," explains Binassarie.

The name Flying Goose Tavern is a nod to the local heritage, inspired by the Lenape word for Kerhonkson, which means "flying goose." Looking ahead, the Flying Goose Tavern aims to continue fostering a sense of community while welcoming visitors. Whether it's a great hike, a walk on the rail trail or just a casual drink, the tavern enhances the local experience. "We live in a special place, and we're so excited to be here in this area with Minnewaska and Mohonk," says Binassarie. "We want people to feel the specialness of the area and know that the Flying Goose represents that."

Open year-round, the goal is that there's always a place for locals and visitors to gather. "We're here for you. We always have a place to go. We see our friends and make new friends, and that's what it's about," says Binassarie. "Dogs will be welcome in the back once our outdoor area is open, we really just want you to grab your family and come down at five or six and grab some drinks and food and meet new friends. This area is so special. We want people to feel that specialness and also feel like The Flying Goose represents that feeling." **BSP**

The Flying Goose Tavern is located at 323 Main St. in Kerhonkson and is open seven days a week; Monday-Thursday 3-9 p.m., Friday-Saturday 3-10 p.m. and Sunday noon-6 p.m. To learn more and stay up to date, follow The Flying Goose on Instagram @flyinggoosetavern.

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Mission – To strengthen our community and economy by supporting local agriculture.

Visit RondoutValleyGrowers.org to learn about agriculture in the Rondout Valley

- **Food & Farm Finder:** lists our members, keyword searches, and Google Maps
- **Farm News:** what's happening and where
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Rondout girls' track team continues its dominance with 6th straight championship

Boys team improves and finishes 2nd place

Jeff Slater
BSP Reporter

The Rondout Varsity track teams had another banner year. The girls' team took second place in the MHAL's and won their sixth consecutive Section 9 Class C title since 2016. The boys also did well, taking third in the MHAL's and finishing second in the Section 9 championship.

The track teams are led by coach Jake Maloney, who coaches short sprints, hurdles and throwers, Coach Anne Gullickson does distance, Lynne Drake does high jump and Michael Oberly is a new coach who works with long sprinters. They all coach both boys and girls together within their groups.

"The senior girls dominated and the youth on the team looks to have a bright future," said Maloney of the season.

Some of the highlights of the year were.

The girls 4X 400 relay team (Madison Shanley eighth-grader, Clara Samko, Olivia Waruch, Jacqueline Kennedy) winning both the MHAL and Section 9 championship and breaking the RVHS record and qualifying for the State Championships being held Cicero North Syracuse on June 7 (today) and June 8.

In addition to the relay championship junior Clara Samko won the 800-meter dash at the sectionals and eighth-grader Madison Shanley won the 400 at the sectionals.

The 4X 100 team (Shawna Whitaker eighth-grader, Grace Kiskiel, Olivia Waruch and Jacqueline Kennedy) won both championships.

Victoria De Graw broke her own school record in the discus and qualified for the State Championship in the discus and



Rondout Valley's record breaking 4 X 400 girls relay team. Pictured from left to right: Clara Samko, Jacqueline Kennedy, Madison Shanley and Olivia Waruch

finished first in both the shot put and the discus at the Section 9 championships.

DeGraw said, "This final season at Rondout has been filled with ups and downs, wins and losses and so much growth. As an athlete you always want to be better or stronger or more powerful, and it can be hard to feel like what you're doing is enough. I am so blessed to be able to represent my team this year at the State Championships in the discus throw and showcase the hard work myself and the coaches have put in over the last four years."

Maloney said, "Olivia Waruch had an excellent season in the girls 400 hurdles and brought leadership and speed to both relay teams. Jacqueline Kennedy repeated as MHAL and Section 9 champ in the 100meters and won the MHAL long jump and added speed to both relay teams. The girls young distance squad continued to break personal records and

score lots of points at championships. Led by ninth-grader Hannah Chapin (second in the 1500meter and the 3000meter at sectionals), tenth-grader Gypsy Wish, eighth-grader Lola Sherwood who also ran the 3000, 1500 and 4X 800 and Greata Sutherland Roth who took first in the steeplechase at sectionals was a relay team member."

Two eighth-grader hurdlers qualified for the Middle School Nationals, Shawna Miller and Audrey Dennin Whitaker placed third at sectionals and was a relay team member.

"We have a fantastic group of newcomers on both the boys' and girls' sides. I'm looking forward to the nest few years working with this talented group," continued Maloney.

The boys were led by Thomas Clark who dominated both the 110 High hurdles and the 400 hurdles at the MHAL's and Sectionals and will be competing at States

in the 110 hurdles. Luke Kotsides broke the school record in the pole vault and was MHAL champion and will be going to the states.

"I was able to break the indoor record but that was only part of my goal. I really wanted the outdoor record and at the MHAL championship meet, I was able to break the school record and qualify for the State Championships with a jump of 12' 9". As soon as I cleared the bar, I was ecstatic. This season was everything I could have ever hoped for," said Kotsides.

Other noteworthy performances by the boys where Jackson Paley was the Section 9 pole vault champion. Senior newcomer Sumner King Barra took second at the shot put at the section 9 championships, along with Gabe Schoonmaker who was section 9 long jump champion. Owen Shafer-Sermini was Section 9 champion in the 3200 meter and broke the school record in 1600 as a sophomore. Boys 4X 800 relay (Jacob Kraft, Owen Shafer-Sermini, Jake Kotsides and Thomas Clark took second, and the boys 4X 400 team of Jacob Kraft, Thomas Clark, John Sweeney and Gabe Schoonmaker took second.

Rondout also hosted the 19th Annual Gander Invitational track meet with 24 teams competing as well as the MHAL's and Section 9 Class A and C championships.

"I am extremely happy for our senior group this year who after many years of hard work have truly dominated and reached so many of their personal goals," concluded Maloney.

Congratulations to the girls' and boys' track teams and their coaches on a record breaking season and good luck to the athletes going to the States!

Go Ganders. **BSP**

Ladies Day at the range

Come join the fun and try a .22 rifle, 20-guage shotgun and archery, at Ladies Day at the range, 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 15, at the Marbletown Sportsmen's Club, 95 Scarawan Road, Stone Ridge. \$10 fee includes continental breakfast, use of firearms, ammuniton, bow and arrows.

For more information, visit marbletownsportsmensclub.org, call 845-687-7202 or email marbletownsportsmensclub@gmail.com.

Local women's hockey team raises \$14K for Alzheimer's Association

The Saugerties Nightmares Women's Hockey Team, known to include gals from High Falls to Hastings-on-Hudson, of all ages recently hosted its Third Annual May Melt Women's Ice Hockey Tournament, at its home rink, Kiwanis Ice Arena in Saugerties. The event featured 12 teams from

New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey with players ranging in age from 21-70. Over 120 women participated in the tournament with spectators, fans, coaches and officials also in attendance.

The May Melt raised \$14,000 with all donations going to the local Hudson Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, as part of their "The Longest Day" campaign, a movement dedicated to Alzheimer's research, support and care sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

The 12 women's ice hockey team, players ranging in age from 21 to 70, will be competing in three divisions, Recreational, Recreational Plus and C/D.



The Albany Devils and Saugerties Nightmares teams at Third Annual May Melt Women's Ice Hockey Tournament

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Problems with trucks on Route 209 in Stone Ridge

To the Editor: I was just driving north on 209, going 30 miles an hour. After MyTown Market I noted a large truck following too close behind me. I was turning right at the Black-Dot, across from the Stone Ridge Library, signaling well in advance. As I approached my right hand turn, a pedestrian crossed the road I was about to exit onto. I slowed down and stopped just short of my right hand turn. The light still being green, the trucker passed me on the left going into the other lane of 209, right under the light at Cooper Street where workers were working, as traffic approached. I remained calm and handled the situation.

I called Case Trucking, the only name I saw on the truck. I found a Case Trucking on the internet and called them, but didn't leave a message.

This was so outrageous; I realized that something must be done immediately to correct the situation. I would pass a law in Ulster County saying any truck larger than a certain size tailing a car within X number of feet will receive a fine of \$500 or more. Make it \$1,000. Make it \$2,000. Put cameras at the three stop lights in Stone Ridge, recording every truck passing though.

These are simple solutions to a problem that I now realize must have an ironclad solution. I suggest that Marbletown and Ulster County officials pursue this plan with the state. If they can come up with a better plan, good. I handled a dangerous situation adequately, but this must stop.

Alan Silverman
Stone Ridge

Memorial Day parade flags

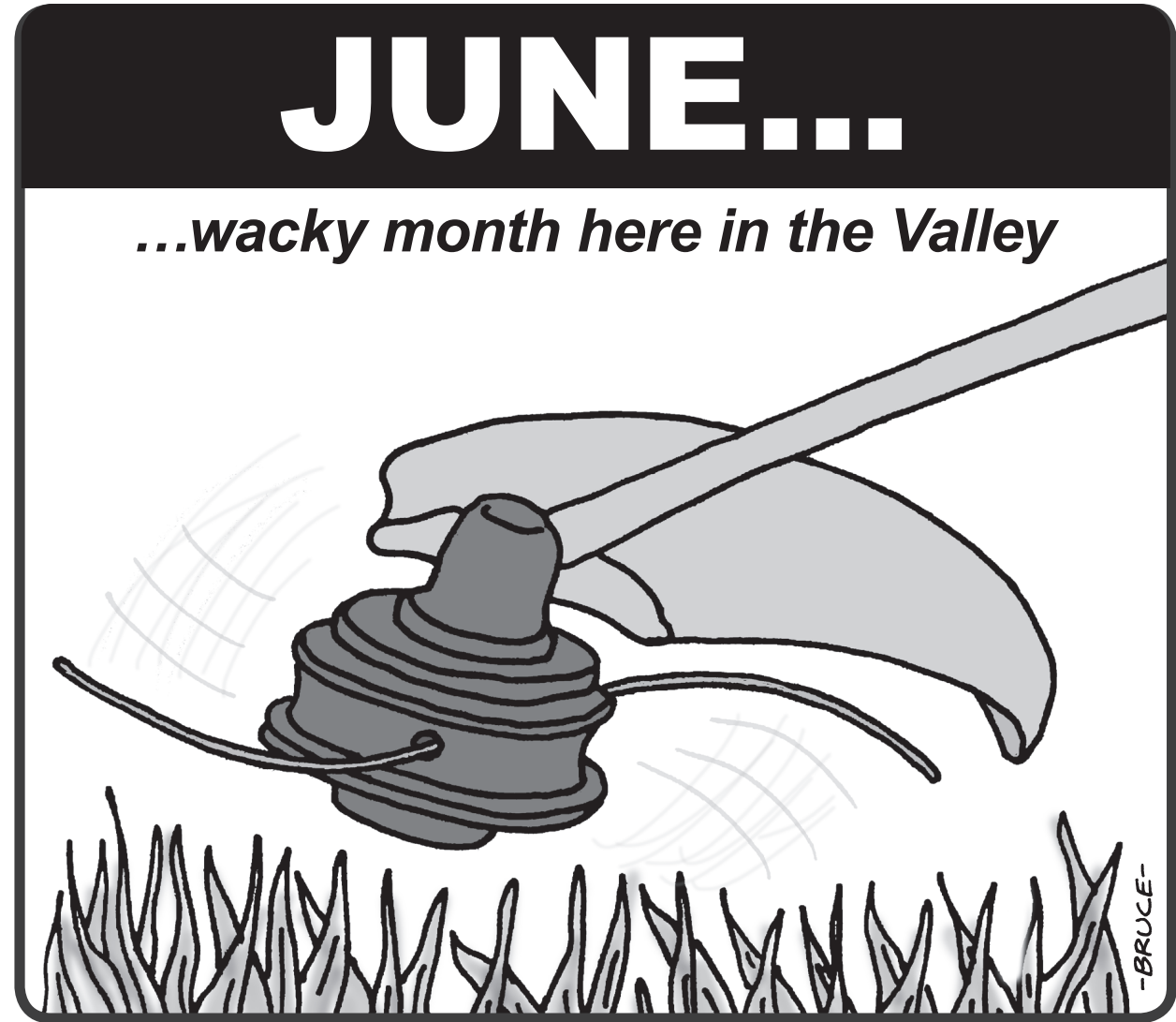
To the Editor: Concern and outrage has been expressed (on social media) because Marbletown would not allow American flags with a blue and or red stripe to be carried by Rondout Little League players. This may be a moment for all of us to take a step back from the divisions that so plague our communities and country. Although it's not enforced very often, federal law prohibits the altering of United States flags. Asking town officials for permission to carry an altered flag puts them in a difficult position because of the federal regulations and also because the flags in question mean different things to different people. For the baseball players they apparently mean respect for police officers and firefighters who have died in the line of duty. The blue line flag was introduced after the murder of George Floyd by a, now convicted, police officer. The blue line reminds some of the Vietnam mantra: My country right or wrong. It seems to downplay the wrongs perpetrated on people of color. The parade was cancelled because of weather but it would have been perfectly permissible to wave the blue and red line flags from the sidewalks while American flags were carried by the parade marchers. Memorial Day was established after the Civil War to honor those who died while in military service. They fought and died for our one flag. There are other days and opportunities to honor the brave men and women who have died in the line of duty as police and firefighters. They also deserve our thanks. Perhaps the best way to honor our beloved dead is to practice patience and kindness to each other.

Janet Vincent
Cottkill

My Local Dump

To the Editor: I'm writing to express my thoughts on the Marbletown Transfer Station, also known as my local dump. Regular trips to the dump are typically mundane, but the Marbletown dump has always stood out. With Jeff's friendly greeting at the check-in booth and a nice area for exchanging free items, it's more than just a place to dispose of trash. One of the main highlights, until recently, was Alex Kahana.

Even on the most challenging days, Alex's broad smile and infectious enthusiasm could lift anyone's spirits. His presence transformed a routine dump visit into a more pleasant experience. You leave the dump feeling lighter



– and not just from getting rid of your trash. Alex even exhibited a series of photos at the Marbletown Library titled "Dogs Who Love a Great Dump." His vibrant personality and contributions made him a wonderful ambassador for the community.

It's especially disheartening that Alex no longer works at the transfer station due to a dispute with the Town of Marbletown. While I won't delve into the specifics of the conflict, which have already been covered in this paper, I want to emphasize that Marbletown is too small a community to let such disagreements linger. I urge Supervisor Parete and the Town Board to use their experience and resolve this conflict. Our town would greatly benefit from Alex's return.

Please, bring back Alex!

Maria Reidelbach
High Falls

Katherine F. Albert

To the Editor: How wonderful it was to celebrate on Saturday, May 18, long-time resident Katherine F. Albert of Stone Ridge, with her family, mostly from Rochester, and surrounding areas, and her local friends many of which came from the Marbletown Seniors Club which meets twice a month at the Marbletown Community Center in the heart of Marbletown on Main Street (Rt. 209). What a spread of food her nephew Scott and wife laid out, but even more essential were the numerous photo albums and copious notes Kathy kept over so many years. There were notes about group camping trips and notes like mosquitoes less like the color blue, etc. It was truly like traveling down memory lane for anyone before the internet, probably over 35 or so. She was a well-known fifth grade teacher from Ellenville for decades, a graduate of SUNY New Paltz in 1972, an inveterate performer with the Coach House Players and Hudson Valley Gilbert & Sullivan Players among others and our lovely neighbor for over 30 years.

It was so nice to enjoy this time with friends and relatives of Kathy who passed away on January 30, 2024 in a human relatable place like the former Episcopal Church and later American Legion Hall of Marbletown on Main Street which is now the Marbletown Community Center, because without these touchstones of community what is a town at all? I understand there may be funds to save its

sale. Kudos! What a wonderful memorial! Many compliments to such special family efforts!!

John Wood
Marbletown

Why I'm supporting Sarahana Shrestha in the June 25 primary election

To the Editor: Regular readers of the BlueStone Press will likely recognize my name from my volunteering with the Marbletown ECC and as an energy coach for New Yorkers for Clean Power. If you do, you probably realize that I'm deeply dedicated to getting us off fossil fuels. If you've been paying attention to our state assembly member, Sarahana Shrestha, you'll know that she is just as dedicated to saving our planet as I am. I knew that when I voted for her last time, but since then she has far surpassed my expectations. I literally can't think of a single political office holder in New York who is stronger on the environment than Sarahana. Her leadership on the Build Public Renewables Act particularly caught my attention.

She's doing other good stuff, too, but she would have my vote anyway.

Tom Konrad
Marbletown

Hackers Open Golf tournament

To the Editor: The Rondout Valley Lions Club would like to thank the players and sponsors of the 2024 Hackers Open Golf tournament that was held at Stone Dock Golf course. Your support enables the Rondout Valley Lions Club to continue its mission in our local community with activities such as financial support to the local food pantries and needy families, scholarships for graduating seniors at RVCS and Ellenville Central and emergency relief to flood, fire and earthquake victims. As well as other non-cash programs such as the KidSight screenings, recycling plastic to park benches and eyeglasses reuse.

Daniel D. Gagnon
Golf Committee



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BlueStone Neighbors

Pack your instrument and a dish to share

Celebrating the life, music and legacy of Eric Goldberg with a community Memorial Jazz Jam, rain or shine at Lydia's Café on June 9

Chelsea Miller
BSP Reporter

Eric Goldberg's Memorial Jazz Jam at Lydia's Café is a tribute to a man deeply connected to music, family and his community. The event, featuring an open jazz jam and potluck, aims to celebrate Eric's life and legacy.

Eric first met his wife, Goldie Goldberg, in New Paltz in the early 1970s. "We were married for 45 years," she said. "I came up to hang out with rock climbers. I met him in New Paltz, and we were crashing at someone's house. We went out to breakfast the following day and that was that."

Eric's musical career spanned several iconic hotels of the Borscht Belt past, including Kutchers, The Granite (where Goldberg also DJ'd in the Mystic Lounge) and The Neville. He worked as a band musician in many resort hotels. "He had a great sense of humor, loved his family and took care of his kids," Goldie shared. "He really helped me bring up the kids; there were days where he'd work nights and I'd work days." The couple also ran a DJ business in the 1980s called One Thousand Dances. Eric's love for music was evident in his daily life, with a music collection of roughly 80,000 records. "He listened to hours of music every day," says Goldie. "He loved music from the time he was a little kid. He used to say that he rocked in the crib."

Eric was also a skilled arranger, crafting pieces for the Hudson Valley Philharmonic and various Catskill acts. His daughter, Shira Goldberg, says of his extensive background, "He was born in the Bronx in 1947 and after learning the basics on piano, he took up the bassoon in



Eric Goldberg and his daughter, Shira Goldberg, performing at a bar mitzvah in the 1990s.

school. He went to Mannes School of Music for composition and later protested for civil rights and against the Vietnam War. He traveled across the country in his 20s and even hitchhiked from NYC to California." Eric found his way to the area via his old college friend Winograd who invited Eric up to New Paltz for a weekend of fun. What ensued for both friends was musical career in the Catskills that included playing at hotels like the Fallview, Kutcher's, Brown's and the Homowack. Shira emphasized her father's influence on her musical development. "He was always using his ear and helped me to develop mine. He was not only a playing musician but also a prolific record collector. He really showed what it was to actually listen to music."

Shira's favorite piece that her father composed is "Kaddish for Mingus," though she also cherished the silly

songs he made up along the way. "His musical legacy is not only the work he left behind but also a continued curiosity for music and openness to learn new music," says Shira.

David Winograd, a the very same close friend and fellow musician who first lured Eric to the area, first met Eric at NYU in 1968. He recalled bringing Eric up to New Paltz from NYC to expand both their musical and social worlds. "Eric was a wonderful bassoonist and practiced hard when he was young. His absolute love of music was evident in the time he spent listening to many genres," Winograd said. He also shared a humorous lyric from a pop tune Eric wrote in the 1970s: "Let's go to McDonald's ... dressed semi-formal ... and we can celebrate ... the fact that we're normal!"

Arlene Gould, a long-time friend and colleague, met Eric in the early 1980s while the they both worked at The Times Herold Record (she as the Public Relations Director and Eric as the Classical music critic). She described Eric as having an encyclopedic knowledge of music, with a record collection to match. "He was adventuresome and willing to listen to almost anything new to him," she said. One of her fondest memories was when Eric gave her a thumb drive full of silly children's songs, including a Groucho Marx record she loved as a child. "One of my best gifts ever," she said.

The Eric Goldberg Memorial Jazz Jam is scheduled for Sunday, June 9, from 4-8 p.m. at Lydia's Café and in the spirit of the collaboration that was a cornerstone to Eric's life, all are invited. The event is BYOI (Bring Your Own Instrument) and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs/blankets and a dish to share. In the event of rain, the event will be held inside. Mark Usvolk, co-proprietor Lydia's Café, described Eric as a frequent supporter of the café's Saturday night music events. "Eric's knowledge and appreciation for jazz and classical music was as expansive as his generosity of spirit," Usvolk said. "His woodwind quintet performed at Lydia's, with Eric playing bassoon and arranging. It is our honor to host this event to remember and pay homage to this gifted and loving man."

*The Eric Goldberg Memorial Jazz Jam will be held rain or shine on Sunday, June 9, from 4-8 p.m. at Lydia's Café, which is located at 7 Old US 209 in Stone Ridge. For more information, call the restaurant at 845-687-6373. **BSP***



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Ch cha cha change

Dear Wally: Have you ever noticed how it is said, “people never change” and its (sic) also said “people change”? Well, which is it?
-KG

Dear KG: Ten minutes ago, I had a clarifying, sagacious, binary answer for you so that you could get on with your life using some indelible roadmap of immutable human behavioral predictability. But, of course, 5 minutes after that, I changed my mind about it. So, there’s your answer, I suppose. People change (and maybe that’s because sometimes things and often circumstances, and always time change).



Dear Wally
Wally Nichols

Well, that was easy ...
Let’s just acknowledge that those generalizing declarations are mostly wisps of entropic steam escaping from the relief valves of pressurized hope or desperation when balancing someone else’s behavior against one’s own expectations. But, ya know, got to be careful because steam can burn almost twice as dangerously as boiling water.
You might see behavior consistently acceptable over time that never changes (Awwww, my lug of a husband brought me flowers this and every Valentine’s Day. How sweet!). And you may see rote, automated, uncreative behavior that is nothing if not consistent (Awwww, my

husband brought me flowers this and every Valentine’s Day. It’s like I’m on autopay ...). People never change, but that can also be ok. Or it cannot be ok ...
Conversely, that same husband may have an existential crisis and decide that he needs to stop bringing flowers after years of statically doing it. Or he could start bringing flowers after 25 years of being flower free, something you could have never predicted. People change, but that can also be ok. Or it cannot be ok ...

The answer you seek is conditional, alas.
You know I’m never short of a hackneyed, puke-worthy cliché, so here is today’s platitude: change is the only constant.
Here is another truth. Some people change and some people ARE changed. Things can come along (in fact, things WILL come along including death itself) and we humans will be impacted. This is, essentially, the human condition. Some of us will remain painfully or blissfully in situ. Some will slew towards change like Buicks on black ice.

If you have the intellectual capacity to consider the capacity for change, and possibly therapeutic kid gloves upon your shoulder, and the motivation to take action, there is hope for positive change. You may pick up an idea or suggestion, examine it, set it back down and walk away or you may use it for change. You need some basic computational brain power for that, but almost everyone has it in their noggin somewhere.
Negative change will always be the regrettable green Jello option at the overcrowded buffet table of life. People attend addiction programs, for example, because they seek change from behaviors that are damaging to themselves and others. Addiction specialist now say the

sobriety success rate of AA is 8-12% (up from a bleaker and generally accepted 3-5% rate) (A NYT article states the success rate is closer to 75%). So, through this intense and often painful lens of humanity, change does happen. And through the cold lens of statistics, change also does not happen.

People gain perspective as they age and ail and try to do things that mean more to them (including staying alive). To quote the little known philosopher, but great guitar player (John Mayer) “Turn 68, you’ll renegotiate ...”
Certainly, we might make different choices, hopefully better choices, if we were involved with someone whose behavior we could predict many years out. But that’s the nimble gimbal gamble with ourselves and others. For that predictability, you’ll need to be in a relationship with a Chevy with studded snow tires.

I think that seemingly contradictory truisms can simultaneously co-exist and also influence one another. People with the awareness and desire can change things they want to change, and they can also not change the things that serve them well. Just as some people can’t.

Sigh.
Have I mumbo-Jumbo’d you enough yet, KG? Good!
Me: People change under THERE
You: Under WHERE?
Me: (hee hee) I got you to say underwear!*You: What, are you, like, 15?
Me: I was. But ... I changed.

-Wally
**an example of something that changes (hopefully)! BSP*

BlueStone Kudos



Rondout Valley High School Band Director and Music Department Liaison Randolph Loder directs the Rondout Valley High School Concert Band at a concert held in December

Rondout’s Music Education Program receives national recognition

For the sixth year in a row, the Rondout Valley Central School District (RVCS D) has been honored with a “Best Communities for Music Education” designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. This is the seventh time that Rondout has been awarded this distinction. The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to school districts across the United States that demonstrate special achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. It highlights student involvement, rigor of instruction, professionalism of the music faculty and overall community engagement. To qualify, RVCS D answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities and support for the music programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by the Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.
“I would like to thank the community for its continued support, which is invaluable to our efforts to offer an out-

standing music program to our students,” said Rondout Valley High School Band Director and Music Department Liaison Randolph Loder. “Music education has a lifelong impact on students, and a successful arts program can truly change lives.” For more information, visit rondout.k12.ny.us or call 945-687-2400.

Kaitlyn Marie Cardis awarded The Donald L. Schoonmaker scholarship

The Donald L. Schoonmaker Scholarship Fund (DLSSF) offers scholarships in memory of Donald L. Schoonmaker, known by many locals as the owner of Valley Gardens, Inc. in Accord. The DLSSF scholarships are renewable (to age 26) with grade averages of B or better. This year’s scholarship for a \$1,000 was awarded to Kaitlyn Marie Cardis, daughter of Stacy and Ronald Cardis, Jr. She graduates this month from Kingston High School and plans to attend SUNY Ulster in the fall.

Cardis impressed the DLSSF committee with her strong work ethic, having worked 25-30 hours a week while still attending high school. “It’s my goal to support myself through college, as I am responsible and dedicated to my education,” said Cardis. “Having this scholarship would drastically reduce my tuition for the year and make college much more affordable to me.” Cardis motivation to be self-supportive would have impressed Donald L. Schoonmaker, himself, as he had to leave college to take over his family’s business, when his father, Gross B. Schoonmaker, became unable to work. Schoonmaker was committed throughout his life to self-learning and reading about so many topics (agriculture, history, politics, geography, cartography and science) and always wished he could have finished college. For this reason, the DLSSF was founded in his memory.

“Since I was about three years old, I have always loved growing and caring for my own plants,” said Cardis in her scholarship application. “My parents made me my own garden in the backyard where I was responsible for tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, various flowers and several varieties of lettuce.” Cardis also explained how she had created an “orphanage” for plants, as she brings dying plants home from the supermarket where she works and nurses them back to health. “I believe they deserve a second chance to live!” Clearly she has caught Don Schoonmaker’s love of watching and aiding plants



Cardis

grow and thrive. Additionally, she worked for two years at Adams Fairacre Farms in Kingston. She has experience volunteering at Sunrays Stables, teaching riding to children and helping with chores. She had a paid position with Steady Reign Stables which gave her experience with horses, chickens, goats and alpacas.

Cardis is also an accomplished, professional musician. She has taught flute to middle school children and professionally she “covered flute, piccolo, alto saxophone and clarinet parts” for nine shows of the musical “Hello Dolly” at the Woodstock Playhouse. She hopes to work there again when they have openings.

When asked who she admires, living or dead, and she said she was inspired by Marie Curie because, amidst traditional roles expected of women in the late 18th century, she managed to execute “groundbreaking research on radium and polonium, and was the first person, man or woman to ever win two Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry.” Curie was also “the first woman in France to earn a doctorate and the first-ever female Professor of General Physics in the Faculty of Sciences.”

In closing her application, Cardis offered her favorite Curie quote, “Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.” “This is just as relevant now as it was over one-hundred years ago,” said Cardis. “Science is an ever-changing field, and Marie Curie paved the way as both a role model and inspiration for future female scientists.”

Cardis hopes to pursue a career in conservation biology with a focus on endangered species and the preservation of them, from lab or field she does not know, but knows she wants to make a difference and leave the world a better place for all.

Preorder for St. Peter’s Church Chicken Barbecue

St. Peter’s Church at 1017 Keator Ave., Rosendale is planning a long overdue chicken barbecue open to all on Sunday, June 30, starting at 4 p.m. until sold out. For \$15 for preorders and \$18 walk-ins, receive a quarter of a chicken, potato, vegetable, side, bread and butter, beverage and cookie to go. If eating inside, a salad bar, lots of desserts, fellowship and much more will be added to the event while celebrating St. Peter’s Day! Preorder by calling the Rectory at 845-658-3117 and let them know how many to reserve.

All good things

After 35 years in business, my father recently closed his store. It was a heck of a run. Now in his 70s, it’s strange to think that he opened shop when he was 39, just a little younger than I am now. That’s nearly all of my lifetime, and almost half of his.

I have no recollection of living with my dad. He and my mother split up just as I was reaching that peculiar age of awareness when memories begin to stick. After he moved to Philadelphia, I saw him two or three times a year on school breaks. Perhaps because our visits were few and far between, my memories of my dad are sharp, bright and uncluttered. The backdrop for some of those mental recordings are in places like The Liberty Bell Center and Independence Hall. The rest are at the store.

Having stepped away from his role as a full-time parent, my dad instead poured his energy into nurturing and growing his new creation. He hired an artist to paint the interior of his first shop on fourth street like the night sky, with cases and walls of green faux marble. Its next location was bigger and even bolder than the first. But its third and final version on Philly’s famed



The dragon guarding the stock room at Jodi’s father’s store. Mural by Brian Garber. Photo by Jodi LaMarco

South Street was its finest incarnation: three themed rooms arranged end-to-end like train cars. Its tin ceilings were painted like a partly cloudy sky, the exception being the middle room, where patrons shifted from day to night. All three were muraled to imitate the ruins of some long forgotten structure, complete with real tree branches to make the space look overgrown.

There was a mural of an explorer in a hot air balloon, and a 6-foot-tall gateway with a view of a cliff-top castle. The tunnel-like stairway leading down to the basement stockroom had no door. A peek down the steps revealed a guardian dragon surrounded by the bones of customers who ignored the “No Entry” sign. All of this dramatic detail framed an extensive collection of gems, minerals,

fossils and jewelry for sale. My father also sold an eclectic array of home decorations, such as figurines of Egyptian gods and goddesses and reproductions of cathedral gargoyles.

The store was as much a museum and work of art as it was a gift shop. Although I loved our jaunts through South Philly, I often enjoyed just sitting in the store. I hadn’t then been to Disneyland, but would often question if it could possibly be better than my dad’s shop. “Probably not,” I thought. My obvious bias aside, I’m confident I was right.

I adore my father, but he can sometimes be difficult. We have different outlooks on life, and very different opinions of the world and the people in it. But the shop was all sunshine. It’s as though it were a manifestation of the best, most creative part of himself: the piece that still looks at the world with a childlike fascination in spite of all the times it has let him down.

Much of my aesthetic taste was influenced by my time at the store. It is where my love of crystals and fossils began. It is also where I developed an affection for all things whimsical. I’m glad my father is finally closing. He’s been at this for decades and deserves a rest. And yet, I’m deeply saddened by the loss of a place that informed so much of who I am. It is inextricably intertwined with my childhood, with the small part of my upbringing that my dad had a hand in, and even with our relationship. My father put all of himself into that store. To lose it is to lose a bit of him, too. I wonder who we will be without it. **ESP**

Factory Reset Mode

Venus in Gemini squares Saturn in Pisces on June 8. Love-work conflicts abound. Mars enters Taurus on June 9, squares Pluto in Aquarius on June 11. Mercury in Gemini squares Saturn on June 12, conjunct the sun on June 14. Tension, schism, electric charge. Venus and Mercury enter Cancer on June 17, followed by the Sun on June 20, the solstice. Full moon in fierce Capricorn on June 21. Saturn goes retrograde on June 29 putting commitments on review.



yours. Return to the world. Speak your truth softly, and let the universe do the rest.

TAURUS April 20-May 20
While simplicity can help us do hard things, there is just no getting around the complexities of your situation. Old patterns not only refuse to serve you here, but predictive programming is nothing but salt to this ever-widening wound. If the outcome was a more healed version of who you already are, what would you do? Manipulation may have been a fail-save for you many times, but the stars see all and motives matter more than usual. You’re an alchemist, Taurus, but you can’t change the Laws of Nature. Work with, rather than against.

GEMINI May 21-June 20:
All eyes on you, king. Beneficence is upon you as something comes completely full circle, meeting its fateful end. Relish the victory, the revelry and the soft-launch into this next era of your life. Now is the time to go full clean-slate, beginner’s mind, fool’s errand, blind faith. Trust that you can take risks without much to lose. It’s a great time to travel, soaking up the grace as it continues to flow your way. Over-explaining isn’t necessary because there’s not much more to say. The cycle speaks for itself. Charms abound, luck may look a lot like a trick. Let it.

CANCER June 21-July 22
Feelings aren’t facts, true. They are guideposts. Points

on a map of your soul as it traverses through time and circumstance. The universe asks you to dig. Follow your emotions down to their root. True acceptance is veiled gratitude. There is wisdom in the reality of your situation. Pain is a door to prosperity. Reconnect with your intuition and practice self-trust. Addressing your vulnerability head on will lead to a deeper connection with yourself. Do some internal house cleaning before making any brash decisions. As within, so without.

LEO July 23-August 22
Carl Jung says it well: “Until you make the unconscious conscious, it will direct your life and you will call it fate.” It’s time for you to settle the score with your shadow. You’ve lost faith in the plan because you refuse to see the role you’ve been playing in the impossible parts of your life. You can run, you can hide, but the good news is that you don’t have to. Rigorous honesty, Leo. Get pen to paper. A list of fears could serve you well right now. Burn them under the full moon. Take a lone walk through the woods. Let out a good howl while you’re at it.

VIRGO August 23-September 22
You’ve been playing it safe and small. Your handiwork is pristine and your reliability is stronger than ever. Risks, however, are part of our nature. We were built to endure them. Your hard work has paid off, it always does, but something in the air is urging you to try things a different way. Failure is nothing but an opportunity to try again. Pool your resources, get out of ego and go big. Completely let go of judgment. The devil is indeed in the details making now an excellent time to zoom out. The only true way to know what the future holds is to live it.

LIBRA September 23-October 22
Many ancient cultures deemed sacrifices to be the instrumental keystone of progress and protection. When things are not as they should be, it’s often the result of clinging. To a thing, a place, a thought, a way of life, a moment in time. A great transition is afoot and fighting it will only lead to extreme frustration. Tension is born out of lack of alignment. You’re being asked to make an adjustment and might get hurt in the process, but trust that it’s for your greatest good. After all, we make our own misery, the universe didn’t do it.

SCORPIO October 23-November 21
You’re in a position to make profound changes, sweet Scorpio. Radical self-love is the theme of your June. Absolutely nothing can stand in the way between you and the hardest parts of your heart right now. The mood is tender, humid, roomy. Everything has the chance to soften. Let go of this impulse to defend and escape. Lay the weapon all the way down. This gnawing sense that you don’t de-

serve growth has ruled your life for far too long. You want to love you and the deepest parts of your timeless soul already knows how. Retire to the rose garden. Let your hair down. Swoon yourself.

SAGITTARIUS November 22-December 21
Your great expansion has arrived. Workshop your dreams, fantasies and visions. No idea is a bad one. You’ve been struggling with compare-and-despair, and the source of this lies at not allowing yourself to play with how far your ambition can take you. Life is long and there is an abundance of time to explore your many talents and interests. Visuals could be helpful right now, so get out your scissors and a stack of old magazines. If it makes your heart sing, toss it into the opportunity pile. The window is open. Jump!

CAPRICORN December 22-January 19
Warmth and light. Compassion out of the woodwork. The things you focus on right now are magnified. People feel safe and encouraged in your presence. You’ve been shown you can trust your intuition and now you can relax. If you feel especially nurturing, lean into this. Your words and actions go a long way in the lives of others right now. Be cautious in your advice-giving and remember that even a broken clock is right two times a day. Let life be a little less serious, and when a full moon lights up the sky in your sign on the eve of the summer solstice, bask in it.

AQUARIUS January 20-February 18
Your hands have been bound behind your back, and you’ve feared that your big secret will be exposed. That it was you who tied the knot. That it is only you who can declare your freedom. If intentions pave the road to destiny, yours have been a bit murky. Martyrdom is not helpful. Other people’s happiness is not more important than your own. Deep, lasting changes are yours for the taking now that you’ve made room for real blessings to come online. Put yourself first without shame. Don’t attempt to control the outcome. Be present. Be here now.

PISCES February 19-March 20
You’re a master at holding two opposing thoughts at the same time. You exude safety, yet crave danger. You seek hope, yet play with doom. You dream with eyes open. Pisces, it is time for you to make some choices. Lean on your support system these next few weeks. The right decision usually doesn’t involve secrets and lies. Do the thing that enables you to be totally honest, especially with yourself. Remember, one way or another, way deep down, we are always getting what we want. Cease fighting anything or anyone and trust that you are being moved in the direction you’re meant to go. **ESP**

Woodthrush, spirit of the evening

I try to be evenhanded in my affections, but I do have a favorite bird. Living in the woods means that I mostly keep track of them by sound, only catching glimpses now and then. Some live closer to human habitations than others; catbirds, robins will nest in thick shrubs around the yard. Hummingbirds will come to the sugar-water feeder. I dare not put out my seed feeder past March,



bears will get it, so I rarely see the chickadees, goldfinches, titmice and others who gather round in the wintertime; but I occasionally hear them in the woods, along with other familiar voices: the throaty call of a red-tailed hawk soaring overhead, the sarcastic cawing of crows, the slow "chew chew chew" of a cardinal, the Carolina wren's perky "Jupiter Jupiter Jupiter" (at least it sounds like that to me), the phoebe's scratchy "FEE BEE," the knife-sharp screech of the blue jay.

So, my favorite? The wood thrush. His song (I believe it's always the male) consists of three long, liquid-clear, fluting notes followed, if you listen closely, by a rattly little chuckle. You hear it in the early morning, you hear it especially in the evening, echoing hauntingly in the stillness as darkness gathers. There's a questioning quality to it, as if the bird were searching for an answer. That song has an irresistible mystery for me, probably in part because I've never actually seen a wood thrush. They're the opposite of flashy, just plain brown with a light, black-spotted breast; and they seem to keep to the woods. They could be phantom bird-spirits. Maybe people used to think so, sometime.

When I first hear a woodthrush in spring, always by



Wood thrush in the Audubon field guide.

June, I feel something in my world click into place. This year that moment came around the end of April, early, I thought. Then one day in May I realized that their call was missing. Weeks went by with no woodthrush, something I never remember happening before where I live. So I consulted veteran birder Steve Chorvas, who coordinates the Ashokan/Mohonk Christmas Bird Count annually. Chorvas had this to say: "Late April through early May is the typical time period when wood thrushes arrive at this latitude and are migrating through. By the middle of May, the migration is waning and most should be on their breeding territory. Your description of events strongly suggests that your wood thrushes arrived in your area at their typical time, but continued on to other destinations. Your habitat may be less-than-ideal for breeding, attracting a breeding pair some years, but not every year. When the population is doing well, younger males often must choose secondary breeding sites ... at other times, there is more available prime habitat than there are

males seeking a breeding territory, so secondary habitat is ignored." Hmmm – could it be that my woods are mere "secondary habitat"?

"Wood thrush is also a species that exhibits tendencies of site fidelity," Chorvas continued, "returning to the same nesting area where they successfully bred the previous year. You might have a breeding pair for many years, until the cycle is broken when both adults perish during migration or on their wintering grounds, and the site fidelity factor is gone ... you may also have competition from surrounding habitat that is somewhat more desirable, so 'your' wood thrushes may be singing and setting up breeding territory nearby, but out of earshot of your location."

Huh. I decided to see if that were true, so one evening around six I drove a mile and a half to the VernooyKill trailhead, stopping and listening a few times on the way. Nope, nothing. I parked at the trailhead and walked a ways up the path toward the falls. I did hear a veery, another elusive creature, which has a call that reminds me of a downward spiral. I heard a towhee reminding me to "Drink your TEEHEEHEE!" But woodthrushes? My straining ear caught none.

I felt sad. Maybe they are not doing well? "We don't know all of the reasons any given bird does what it does, or all of the variables that come into play with something like choosing a breeding site," Chorvas said wisely. But I drove home a bit dejected. My world had a missing piece.

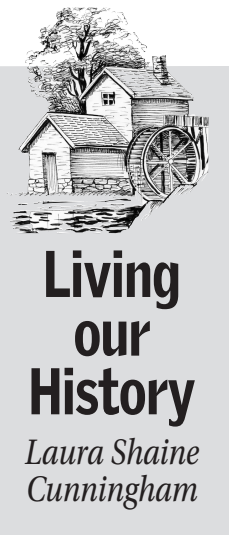
But ... a half hour later, what did I hear coming from the wooded hill in back of the house? My beloved friend. As if to comfort me, a wood thrush called into the dusk, solitary, like a prayer.

I'll let Henry David Thoreau, another wood thrush fan, say it for me: "Whenever a man hears it he is young, and Nature is in her spring; wherever he hears it, it is a new world and a free country, and the gates of heaven are not shut against him." **BSP**

Ruins, with love and sorrow

I have long enjoyed a romance with ruins. As a child, I would always commandeer the window seat in cars and buses (most often buses, as there was no family car until I grew up and bought one). I would peer out, hoping to see some abandoned mansion, even an ordinary neglected "haunted house." The empty-socketed windows beckoned; a sagging door, off its hinges invited me inside to explore.

I hoped to find treasure and I did – a first edition of a classic book, only slightly waterlogged. When I lived in a Victorian estate area, there were "white elephant" chateaux that lined the lakefront, and it was possible to enter by swimming under the boathouse. I loved that.



For me, the sign "NO TRESPASSING" has often been an invitation. It might as well have read "WELCOME."

I never broke in, but I sure could slither over warped window frames, squeeze through partially barricaded doors and even on one memorable occasion, descend into a long-forgotten mausoleum. Enormous black flies inched their way along the cracks of several marble sarcophagus.

I do connect my attraction to ruins with my love of history, for often one is the gateway to the other. A few years ago, I explored ancient ruins in Uzbekistan, but more often

I have remained local, where the ruins are fairly recent and far more poignant if not absolutely alarming. There is on my road, a crumbling mansion where a famous musician lived out his failing days; too weak to attend to things, both he and his home became ... ruins. On a local mountain, there stand remains of an old hotel; the day I visited, a deer walked out the main entrance. And around the corner from my home, on Main Street, there are the remains of a one-room stone schoolhouse, Schoolhouse # 5 with a four-story green-paper covered construction rising from its stone foundation. This ruin is very alarming, as we try to save its older sister Schoolhouse #3 on North Marbletown Road.

Recently, I revisited an abandoned farmhouse nearby, where long ago, as a teenaged and very untalented actress, I was cast to play the survivor of a nuclear blast. The film was set in what was then the future – 2000 A.D. but it is now the past. It was a ruin then, and the cast of this



The old barn at the Van Aken farm in Stone Ridge

indie apocalyptic horror (in all ways) film actually inhabited the ruined farmhouse; our accommodations being as awful as the movie. We slept, or tried to, on stained bare mattresses on the abraded wide board floors. Strategically-placed pots caught most of the drizzles but long ago, heavy rains had caused the roof to partially cave in ... The movie, when I signed on, was titled "Sisters 2000 A.D."; it was ultimately released as "The Degenerates." Don't ask. The director, who was a ruin himself, with a human bite mark on his cheek, has become posthumously trendy.

Nostalgia drove me back to find this old farmhouse and it is still there, and having been so deteriorated long ago, it could hardly rot further. But when I stepped across the soft floorboards with their ominous give and touched the wall of what had been my bedroom, I thought for a moment, it was intact but gasped when I realized only the wallpaper was left standing. The architectural equivalent of a snakeskin.

The ruin that fascinates me now is the listing house and half-barn of what had been a very beautiful and fecund farm in Stone Ridge. The Van Aken place. A few years ago, the solid old stone house burned, only two years after its last and most well-loved owner/occupant died at age 100. That occupant was the famous "Elsa" Mary Elsa Wilber, who had been born and lived well for a century in the house. For decades I had visited Elsa, enjoying her hearty laughs and generous nature: She was always baking and preserving, and in winter, young lambs frolicked at her feet. Elsa walked after them, rags under her shoes to mop up the lamb pee as they squirted. This was more charming than it sounds, and one didn't want to consider the fate of the sweet lambs as Easter neared ... Today, Elsa's relatives recall classic Christmas dinners, served on

her groaning board kitchen table, beside a roaring wood stove (which may in fact have been a factor in the final conflagration.) I adored Elsa, her lambs, cherry pies, her flavorful plum and peach jams. What is preserved now are these memories but today, I gaze at her ruined home, and the half-barn beside it with sorrow and pray somehow, someone will restore it. Ruins may be romantic, but we don't want any more. **BSP**

Laura Shaine Cunningham is the author of the memoirs "Sleeping Arrangements" and "A Place in the Country."

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Editor's note: Due to space limitations, not all the submitted calendar items get printed. We get hundreds of entries each issue, especially in the busiest event seasons. We encourage BSP readers and event hosts to use our free calendar listing service on the BSP website at www.bluestonepress.net. Print advertising is also available as a sure way of promoting your events and supporting this community newspaper.

'All that breathes,' Movies with Spirit screening in Stone Ridge Nadeem Shehzad looks at a kite bird that he and his brother, Mohammad Saud, care for in their makeshift basement bird hospital. Their inspiring story is captured in the immersive documentary, "All that Breathes," to be screened at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 15 at Vivekananda Retreat, 101 Leggett Road, Stone Ridge, as part of the Movies with Spirit community film series. The screening will be followed by a facilitated discussion. Refreshments will be served. Attendees over age 12 are asked to contribute \$10 a person.

The monthly Movies with Spirit series, organized by Gerry Harrington of Kingston, seeks to stimulate people's sense of joy and wonder, inspire love and compassion, evoke a deepened understanding of people's integral connection with others and with life itself and support individual cultures, faith paths and beliefs while simultaneously transcending them. The films are screened in diverse places of worship and reverence at 7 p.m., generally on the third Saturday of every month. Movies with Spirit has no religious affiliation and is supported by Stewart's Shops and endorsed by the Kingston Interfaith Council, Dutchess County Interfaith Council and Mid-Hudson Islamic Association. For more information, call Harrington at 845-389-9021, email gerryharrington@mindspring.com or visit tinyurl.com/MoviesWithSpiritFacebookPage.

Building a hardy grapes backyard vineyard with Winemaker J. Stephen Casscles This introductory class, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, June 8 at Hortus Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, 76 Mill Road, Stone Ridge will instruct students on how to establish and maintain a backyard vineyard. Topics covered include identifying suitable land or modifying the backyard to grow grapes, how to plant and lay out a backyard vineyard, selecting suitable grape varieties, trellising and training options, how to prune vines and how to maintain a vineyard to produce a bountiful crop of fruit for wine, juice or fresh consumption. Cost of the class is \$25/pp or \$40/couple. For more information and registration, visit hortusgardens.org.

LISTINGS

Marbletown Seniors meetings and trips

Open to all those over 55, whether living in Marbletown or not, the Seniors hold their meetings at the Marbletown Community Center, 3564 Main St., across from Key Bank in Stone Ridge, at noon (a lunch meeting) on the first Friday, June 7 (bring a dish to share or drop \$3 in the basket on the food table), and at 1 p.m. (for dessert) on the third Friday, June 21 (bring a dessert to share or drop

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A black and white photograph of the cast of the play 'The Little Prince'. Five people are posed together: a woman in a wide-brimmed hat on the left, a man in a pilot's cap in the center, a young boy in a white shirt in front of him, a young girl behind the boy, and a woman on the right. They are all smiling at the camera.

The cast of "The Little Prince," Andy Teirstein, Finn DeWitt, Cleo Gebert, Gina Kraut and Lydia Pidlusky

Live Theatre, 'The Little Prince'

Based on the beloved book, this play tells the story of a world-weary and disenchanted Aviator whose sputtering plane strands him in the Sahara Desert. A mysterious, regal "little man" appears and asks him, "Please, sir, draw me a sheep." During their two weeks together in the desert, the Little Prince tells the Aviator about his adventures through the galaxy, how he met the Lamplighter, the Businessman and the Geographer and about his strained relationship with a very special flower on his own tiny planet. The Little Prince talks to everyone he meets, a garden of roses, the Snake and a Fox who wishes to be tamed. From each he gains a unique insight which he shares with the Aviator. "It is only with the heart that one can see

rightly." What is essential is invisible to the eye. At length, both the "little man" and the Aviator must go home, each with a new understanding of how to laugh, cry and love again.

Directed by Ann Citron and choreographed by Livia Vanaver, the cast includes Andy Teirstein, Finn DeWitt, Lydia Pidlusky, Gina Kraut and Cleo Gebert. The live theatre will be presented, 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 6-9; 2 p.m. Saturday, June 8; and noon Sunday, June 9, at the Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main St., Rosendale. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$18 members, and \$12 for kids, age 12 and under. For more information, call 845-658-8989, visit rosendaletheatre.org or email ann@rosendaletheatre.org.

\$1 in the basket on the dessert table), each month. For more information, call Donna Lamerson at 845-750-8616. All Marbletown Seniors trips leave from and return to Marbletown Reformed Church, 3750 Route 209, Stone Ridge, across from the Stone Ridge Post Office. For more information and reservations on their next expedition, call Sharon Letus at 845-687-9162.

SUNY Ulster Financial Aid workshops; get hands-on help filing the new FAFSA To help students and parents file their 2024-2025 FAFSA, SUNY Ulster is offering virtual financial aid workshops to be held via Zoom. During the workshops, a SUNY Ulster Financial Aid Counselor will walk participants through the entire process. Virtual Workshops via Zoom will be held, 2-3 p.m. Fridays, June 7 and July 12. For the workshop, students and parents will need their 2022 tax returns and create an FSA ID at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch> before attending. Registration is required at sunyulster.edu/visit. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office at 845-687-5058 or email financialaid@sunyulster.edu.

Open Mic and SongClub with Choral Director Debbie Lan perform monthly The Muse, Hive for the Arts, at 1 Madeline Lane, Rosendale presents its Open Mic series beginning 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, June 7 with sign up at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$10. Open to singers, musicians, poets, comedians, magicians, singer-songwriters and performance artists. Each person gets ten minutes; singers get two songs. Open Mic is ongoing on the first Friday of each month. The Muse will host SongClub with Debbie Lan, 5-6:30 p.m. each second Sunday, June 9 and in Ellenville, at MISU (Music Institute of Sullivan and Ulster County), 40 Market St., 5-6:30 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month, June 29. Admission to SongClub is \$10. SongClub is a drop-in

singing event that builds community through singing original arrangements of familiar songs in a safe and welcoming environment. All voices and levels are welcome; no experience is necessary. The audience is the choir! For more on MISU, visit misucatskills.org. For song selections and further information, visit facebook.com/songclubwithdebbielan.

American Red Cross blood drive tomorrow at the Marbletown Community Center Do something amazing this spring - give blood! Make a blood donation, 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 8, at the Marbletown Community Center, 3564 Main St., Stone Ridge. To make an appointment and for more information, visit redcross.org.

Open house, workshops and community dinners at the Redwing Blackbird Theater Join the community at the Redwing Blackbird Theater, 413 Main St., Rosendale for open puppet workshops ending with Miso Soup, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Fridays and the second Friday of each month (June 14), be part of the community potluck dinner and movie 6-8 p.m., and their regular open house, 4-6 p.m. Saturdays. The museum is open for tours and short puppet shows. The group is always looking for people to join for shows, parades and marches. For more information, visit redwingblackbirdtheater.com or call 510-316-0105.

Little Ones Learning Center happenings A free early literacy program, Little Ones Learning Center is located at Rochester Reformed Church, 5142 Route 209, Accord. Story Times are 10 a.m.-noon and 3-5 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m.-noon on Saturdays. The program, which includes stories, crafts, socialization and free time to explore many early learning activities is geared toward children 0-6, but all are welcome. Parents/caregivers are required to stay with children. For more information, call

845-750-4112 or email LOLC12404@gmail.com.

Events at the Kiva, at MaMA The Kiva is located behind Marbletown Multi-Arts, MaMA, at 3588 Main St., Stone Ridge.

Ongoing weekly programs include Vanaver Caravan dance classes for ages 4-9 on Tuesdays; Meditation, a movement and conversation group led by Wes Ostertag, 7 p.m. Tuesdays; Music Together, 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays and 3:30 p.m. Fridays; Taiji & Qigong with Bobbi Esmark, 10-11 a.m. QiGong, \$20/class, Seed of Taiji, 11:15-11:45 a.m., \$10/class, both on Thursdays, and Qigong, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Saturdays, \$20/class; 5Rhythms, led by Michael Griffith, Certified MRTA, 6:30 p.m. Thursdays; Kiva Dance with Jayne Mielo and Lori Lynn Meader, 11 a.m. Saturdays; and Sunday Gathering via Zoom, 10:30 a.m. Sundays. For more information, visit cometomama.org or call 845-853-5154.

Pokémon Club Trade, play and learn in the Pokémon Club, 11 a.m. alternating Saturdays, June 8 and 22, at the Rosendale Library, 264 Main. St., Rosendale. For more information and registration, visit rosendalelibrary.org or call 845-658-9013.

Roaming the Ridge, pastel paintings by High Falls artist Marlene Wiedenbaum PSA-MP Pastel paintings by Marlene Wiedenbaum PSA_MP of High Falls are on display at Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center Gallery, 3197 Route 44/55 Gardiner through Sunday, June 9. A portion of the proceeds from sales will benefit Mohonk Preserve. For more information, visit mohonkpreserve.org/artshow/.

Sunday sitting meditation at Sky Lake Open to all with meditation instruction available, Sunday sitting is held, 10 a.m.-noon each Sunday, at Sky Lake Meditation Center, 22 Hillcrest Lane, Rosendale. The program includes alternating periods of sitting and walking meditation, outdoors and indoors. Come for the whole time or any part of the session. For more information, visit skylake.shambhala.org or call 845-658-8556.

Enjoy the season's bounty at the Rosendale Farmers Market The Rosendale Farmers Market returns for its 16th season in Willow Kiln Park, behind the Rosendale Theatre, at 408 Main St. Come shop the harvest of locally grown and handmade goods. The Farmers Market is held weekly 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays and runs from Memorial Day weekend through October (*except Rosedale Street Fest weekend), presenting live local musicians weekly, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The Market accepts SNAP transactions. There is no charge for admission and plenty of free parking. For more information, email rfmnyteam@gmail.com or visit the Rosendale Farmers Market on Facebook or at rosendalefarmersmarket-ny.com.

'Origins, the artwork of Edward M. O'Hara' The Wired Gallery kicks off its 12th exhibition year with "Origins, the artwork of Edward M. O'Hara," at the gallery, 11 Mohonk Road, High Falls. This solo exhibition will run through Sunday, June 9, showcasing O'Hara's mesmerizing paintings and drawings that explore the essence of eternity through abstraction and meticulous layering. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit thewiredgallery.com or call 682-564-5613.

Garden Conservancy Open Days program This program annually celebrates the country's most exciting, creative and innovative private gardens. Open Days is made up of a nationwide community of gardeners and garden enthusiasts teaching and inspiring each other and the public. From expert to novice, there is no better way to improve as a gardener than by experiencing a diverse range of gardens, and gardening traditions, firsthand. See the program locally, 11 a.m. Sunday, June 9, at Hortus Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, 76 Mill Road, Stone Ridge. For more information, visit the calendar at hortusgardens.org.

Second Sunday Supper The Roundout Valley United Methodist Church will host its Second Sunday Supper at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 9, at the church, 25 Schoonmaker Lane, off Route 209, Stone Ridge. All are invited to meet and greet other members of the community, dine together and enjoy one another's company. Second Sunday Suppers are free and held on the second Sunday of every

See **More events**, page 21

Events continued from page 20

month (except July and August). Sunday worship at RVUMC is in person at 10 a.m. or online anytime at rvumc.org. For more information, call 845-687-9061. Need prayer? Call Pastor Caroline at 845-687-9090.

Conversational French Every second and fourth Monday of each month, June 10 and 24, from 4-5 p.m., enjoy conversational French, at the Rosendale Library, 264 Main St., Rosendale. For more information and registration, visit rosendalelibrary.org or call 845-658-9013.

Preschool art, story time and music time at the Rosendale Library Mondays at 2 p.m. is preschool art; Wednesdays at 10 a.m. is story time, and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. is music time; all at the Rosendale Library, 264 Main St., Rosendale. For more information, visit rosendalelibrary.org or call 845-658-9013.

Writers' group with Cathy Arra Two separate writers' groups meet 4-6:30 p.m. on alternate Mondays at the Stone Ridge Library in the activity room, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge, with a maximum of 10 participants in each group. The program is designed for those who are actively writing and publishing work and who want to participate in a structured, critical feedback process. Cathy Arra, a poet, writer and former teacher of English and writing in the Rondout Valley School District, facilitates the groups. The next meetings for are June 17 for Group 1 and for Group 2 on June 10 and 24. For more information and to join the group, email carra22@aol.com.

Weekly work-parties and more at Clove Valley Community Farm of High Falls Join community organizer Aileah Kvasay and friends, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays for the open work-party and community lunch and 4-7 p.m. each Thursday for open-farm work party, food sharing and co-creative fun, plus community dinner afterwards, at Clove Valley Community Farm (park to the left of the barn), at 81 Clove Valley Road, High Falls. Whether working the gardens, shopping at the farm stand, preparing for the farm-to-table dinner, or enjoying the beauty of nature, be a part of the magic. Work-trade for farm fresh produce. For more information, visit clovevalleycommunity-farm.org.

Federated Church of Kerhonkson Thrift Shop The thrift shop at the church, 35-42nd St., Kerhonkson, is open every Tuesday, 9 a.m.-noon. The shop is also open for its bag sale, held 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on the last Saturday of the month, (June 29). Donations are accepted and appreciated. All sales and donations support the church. For more information, call Susan Pomerantz at 845-626-5028, visit chuchofkerhonkson.org or call the church at 845-626-8160.

Rosendale Seniors meetings and trip to Niagara Falls The Town of Rosendale Seniors meetings are held at the Rosendale Recreation Center, 1055 Route 32, Rosendale, twice a month, excluding November and December, at 1 p.m. every second Wednesday, (June 12, the ice cream social) and the following Wednesday, (June 19) will be an executive board meeting at 10:30 a.m. followed by a business meeting with guests Ed Sheehan, running for Senate and Heart and Soul Rosendale, building stronger community action and interaction throughout Ulster County, at 1 p.m. The Seniors will sponsor a trip to Niagara Falls on Monday, Sept. 2 to Friday, Sept. 6. Senior trips are open to all ages. For more information, call Chickie Sterritt at 845-658-9020.

Rondout Valley Lions Club New members, men and women of all ages, are encouraged to join the Rondout Valley Lions Club, serving the towns of Marletown, Rochester, Rosendale and Wawarsing. The Lions meet at 5 p.m. on the second Wednesday (June 12), at Soyuzivka Heritage Center, 216 Foordmore Road, Kerhonkson and at noon on the fourth Wednesday of every month (June 26), in the conference room of the Rondout Municipal Center, 1925 Lucas Turnpike, Cottekill. For more information on being included in the club's next meeting, contact Bill Brooks, president, at wbrooks1110@gmail.com or Dan Gagnon, treasurer, at daniel@gagnoncpa.com.

See **More events**, page 22



Yeaple Cabin, linocut by printmaker and family historian Beverly Bennett

'In the Shadow of Mohonk, a collection of Yeaple Family art and heirlooms,' at UCHS

The Ulster County Historical Society (UCHS), 2682 Route 209 in Marletown opens its season on Saturday, June 8 with an opening reception at 2 p.m. of a new exhibition of artwork, artifacts, memorabilia, photographs, wood block prints and encaustics by printmaker and family historian Beverly Bennett. "In the Shadow of Mohonk, a collection of the Yeaple Family art and heirlooms" tells the story of the long history of the Yeaple family in Ulster County, of which Bennett is an eighth-generation member. Just prior to the outbreak of the American Revolution, Philip Hendricks Yapple left Germany for Pennsylvania before settling in Marletown, Ulster County. His son, John Adam Yapple, built a log cabin on a forested plot of land on the Shawangunk Ridge. The structure still stands in the Mohonk Preserve, and is, perhaps, the oldest log cabin in New York State.

In addition to Bennett's exhibition, UCHS will also feature "Gifts to the Society," a display of some of the more unique,

curious and puzzling objects in the society's collection including delicately carved scrimshaw, J.F. Marriot's mysterious surgeon's trunk, and intricately decorated magic lantern slides. This show will offer visitors an encounter with never-before displayed artifacts and the opportunity to participate in solving some of the mysteries that surround them. Also available for viewing will be the reconstructed 18th century manor house kitchen and the antique tool room.

Established in 1859, Ulster County Historical Society is the oldest historical society in New York State. Throughout the history of UCHS, the society's primary responsibility has been to act as a curator and collector of significant Ulster County artifacts, documents, oral histories and cultural items. The UCHS is open, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 8-Oct. 27. Admission is \$15; \$10 for seniors and students; and free to UCHS members. For more information, visit ulstercountyhs.org or call 845-377-1040.



Spillway Band will be the musical guest at the Bloomington Fire Department Food Truck Fiesta playing an electric mix of rock, country, oldies, blues and originals

Bloomington Fire Department Food Truck Fiesta with music by the Spillway Band

The Food Truck Fiesta, 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, at the Bloomington Fire Department, 14 Taylor St., Bloomington will feature music by the Spillway Band,

car cruise-in, 50/50 raffle, plus beer and wine available. For more information, visit the Bloomington Fire Department on Facebook or call 845-338-2794.

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'Beans' screening with live drum performance and after film discussion

This Canadian film explores the 1990 Oka Crisis through the eyes of a preteen Mohawk girl nicknamed Beans. Directed by Mohawk-Canadian filmmaker Tracey Deer, "Beans" will be shown, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 12 at the Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main St., Rosendale and feature a pre-film drumming and song by the Cloud Breakers and Red Feather Singers of the Association of Native Americans of the Mid-Hudson Valley (ANA). A post-film discussion will be led by noted indigenous scholar Evan Pritchard. Tickets are \$10/\$6 members. For more information, visit rosendaletheatre.org or call 845-658-8989.



Amelia Biewald in her studio in High Falls

Bewildering art by Biewald at Wired Gallery of High Falls

Wired Gallery opens its next exhibition, Renaissance Recipes, the art of Amelia Biewald with an artist reception, 5-7 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at the gallery, 11 Mohonk Road, High Falls. Biewald, also based in High Falls, presents provocative paintings and installations that blend playfulness with seduction, showcasing her meticulous craft. Her works delve into Renaissance eating culture, offering a tantalizing glimpse into historical feasts. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit thewiredgallery.com or call 682-564-5613.

June 9 deadline for entries for Fallforart.org Juried Art Show

The Call for Entry for local artists for the Fallforart.org Juried Art Show, Sale and Community fundraiser sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Ulster County will be online through Sunday, June 9. Local artists may submit landscapes of art representing ceramics, fiber, glass, jewelry, mixed-media, painting, photography, pottery. Benefiting artists, the Federation and Human Service organizations, Fallforart.org will celebrate its 28th year online in this show, 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9-5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15. Artists receive 70% of sales and the Federation, 30%.

For more information and entry registration, visit fallforart.org or email info@fallforart.org.

Events continued from page 21

The Stone Ridge Library Saunterers
Join Stone Ridge Library Programs Manager Sarah Robertson with friends and neighbors in the community, as they take weekly walks along local trails. Each second and fourth Thursday, noon-1 p.m., the group will walk on the O&W and Wallkill Valley Rail Trails. This social group is a talking and walking group with the motto, “We are only as fast as our slowest walker.” Meet new people and get in some steps while conversing. No pets please. All walks are weather permitting with no registration necessary; just show up. The group meets next on Thursdays, June 13 and 27. As with any exercise program, check with the doctor first before starting. For more information, visit stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

Rosendale Recreation Commission’s Zumba classes with Dr. Shellie Fraddin
The Town of Rosendale Recreation Commission has Zumba classes led by Dr. Shellie Fraddin, 1-2 p.m. Thursdays, at the Rosendale Recreation Center, 1055 Route 32, Rosendale. Fraddin is a health coach and dance teacher, known throughout the area for her innovative “Zumba Gold” classes. At 84, she continues to inspire older adults to age with joy, passion and purpose. Classes are free to Rosendale residents, with a \$2 fee for nonresidents. For more information, call the Recreation Office at 845-658-8198.

Local Quilters Guild meeting
The Wiltwyck Quilters Guild comes together to share their work, learn a new skill and meet new friends. The next meeting of the Guild will be held, 10-11 a.m. Saturday, June 15, at Grace Community Church 160 Seremma Ct., Lake Katrine. Members are always wanted and welcome. For more information, visit wiltwyckquilters.org and/or contact Guild Secretary Mary Tyler of Rosendale at marycodytyler@yahoo.com.

Tree identification class on Father’s Day in Stone Ridge
Join instructor Levi O’ Brien in exploring the world of tree identification, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Father’s Day, June 16, at Hortus Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, 76 Mill Road, Stone Ridge. Learn the skills for identifying both native and non-native tree species and the topics of wood, horticulture, ecology, propagation, physiology, history and much more. For registration, cost and more information, visit hortusgardens.org.

All-ages Chess Hour at the Rosendale Library
Every first and third Monday, (June 17 and July 1), 4-5 p.m., enjoy playing chess, all ages, all levels, at the Rosendale Library, 264 Main St., Rosendale. For more information, call 845-658-9013 or visit rosendalelibrary.org.

French conversation with Claudine Brenner
A native French speaker, born in Paris and raised in Europe, Claudine Brenner chose Stone Ridge as her place to retire following a 30-year government career abroad. Culture, medicine, travels and anything/everything culinary are favorite subjects that she would love to share and exchange with others, speaking in French. The program she is offering is held, 1-2 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, with the next conversation hour on Tuesday, June 18, in the activity room, at the Stone Ridge Library, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge. For more information, visit stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

Death Café group discussion via Zoom, free & open to all
Circle of Friends for the Dying’s Death Café is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counselling session; it is free and open to everyone. Death Cafés are held on day 18 of each month, with the next discussion, 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, via Zoom, hosted by Jo Scari, discussing different types of losses, death, relationship, empty nest, environmental, retirement, job loss, move, illness, loss of function or identity. For more information, visit cfdhv.org.

Editor’s note: Is there something we missed? It is on bluestonepress.net as part of our online calendar.



Sariayah Idan, jazz and folk trained, hip-hop educated and influenced by both Latinx/Caribbean sounds and her Jewish roots, will perform, 5:30 p.m. Sunday, June 9, at the Rail Trail Café

Art & music in the woods with Sarivah and more, at the Rail Trail Café

There is a natural backdrop and canopy of trees, a small sound system, a few lights and open ears and hearts at the Rail Trail Café, 310 River Road Extension, Rosendale. Upcoming performances and events include Sariayah Idan, jazz and folk trained, hip-hop educated, and influenced by both Latinx/Caribbean sounds and her Jewish roots, 5:30 p.m. Sunday, June 9; Madeleine Grace, 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 14; Gisela Stromeyer, Different performers presenting their unique interpretation of a poem from her book, “Just like that,” poems paintings and practices, at 5

p.m. and Levanta with Ev Mann, Thomas Workman, Gabriel Dresdale and Timothy Hill, at 6:45 p.m. Saturday, June 15; Spirit Brothers with Ned Leavitt, Steve Gorn, Joseph Jastrab and Avinash, at 11:30 a.m. and singer, multi-instrumentalist Kate Prascher, at 1:30 p.m.; and Stone Mountain Farm Sound Collective, 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 21. A basket is passed at all events, and \$10 or pay-what-you-can is suggested. For more information, visit railtrailcaferosendale.com or call 845-389-7714.



An afternoon jazz jam, potluck dinner will be held, 4-8 p.m. Sunday, June 9, to pay tribute and remember a good friend, Eric Goldberg, who died in December of last year

Jazz Soup sessions plus the Eric Goldberg Memorial Jam at Lydia’s Café

Lydia’s Café’s Jazz Soup, tasty jazz and soups featuring seafood gumbo, 7-10 p.m. Saturdays plus a special memorial jam for Eric Goldberg, at the café, 7 Old US Route 209, Stone Ridge. An afternoon jazz jam, potluck dinner will be held, 4-8 p.m. Sunday, June 9 to pay tribute and remember a good friend, Eric Goldberg, who died in December of last year. Bring an instrument, lawn chairs, blankets, etc. Backline provided. The Jazz Soup sessions include, the Magnatone Brothers featuring Joel Harrison on guitar; Mark Dziuba, guitar; Jay Anderson, bass and Jeff Siegel, on drums, June 15; the John Menegon Quartet “Sound Embrace,” with Menegon, bass and compositions; Jeff

Lederer, saxophone; Dave Lopato, piano; and Harvey Sorgen, drums, June 22; and the Matt Finck Trio with Finck on guitar, Adam Cote, bass and Bram Kincheloe, drums, June 29. There will be two soups (one of which is their signature seafood gumbo), a build-your-own salad, homemade desserts and an occasional surprise, all on a self-serve basis. The patio will be open for quiet conversation and the music will be indoors. The musical format is mainly jazz, with an occasional Latin, R&B or dance band thrown in to keep everyone confused. No reservations, no cover. There is a suggested donation of \$20. For more information, visit lydias-café.com or call 845-687-6373.

Kripplebush-Lyonsville Fire Company Sub Nites

Enjoy great sub sandwiches at the Kripplebush-Lyonsville Fire Company, at the intersection of County Route 2 at 519 Pine Bush Road in Stone Ridge, just 1 mile north of Route 209. Ham, turkey, roast beef or mixed meat, mixed veggie, chicken parm, meatball, tuna and of course Philly cheese subs are made to order on a 12-inch roll with choice of toppings and served with a bag of chips and a drink (assorted cans of soda, iced tea or bottled water). Take a sub home or eat one in the dining room at the firehouse. Sub Nites are held 4-7 p.m. (with call-ins at 3:30 p.m.) on the second Friday of each month, March-November (this month on June 14), for a suggested donation of \$10. For more information or to place an order, call 845-687-9801.



Drawn to color schemes and thick brush strokes, Cottekill artist, Lily Bednarz has created works dense with textures and filled to the very corners

‘Paper & Paint,’ an exhibit by Cottekill artist Lily Bednarz

“This show grew from a pile of paper two years in the making,” said Cottekill artist Lily Bednarz of her “Paper & Paint” exhibition, on display through Friday, June 28, at the Stone Ridge Library, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge. Drawn to color schemes and thick brush strokes, Bednarz has created works dense with textures and filled to the very corners. The subject of each piece was decided before the collage was made and pieced together with the end result in mind.

Always creating art for as long as she can remember, Bednarz is currently pursuing a fine arts degree in the early college program, at SUNY Ulster. For more information, call 845-687-7023 or visit stoneridgelibrary.org.

Meet and greet with new superintendent, Dr. Paul Spadaro at Stone House Tavern

Rondout Valley Education Foundation will host a meet and greet with the new superintendent of schools, Dr. Paul Spadaro, 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, at Stone House Tavern, 4802 Route 209, Accord with Happy Hour and silent auction, 4-5 p.m.; meet and greet with Spadaro at 5:15 p.m.; 50/50 and raffle; and live music with the Rondout Valley High School Jazz Band. For more information, visit rvefoundation.org.

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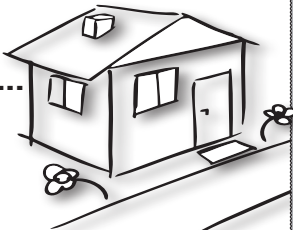
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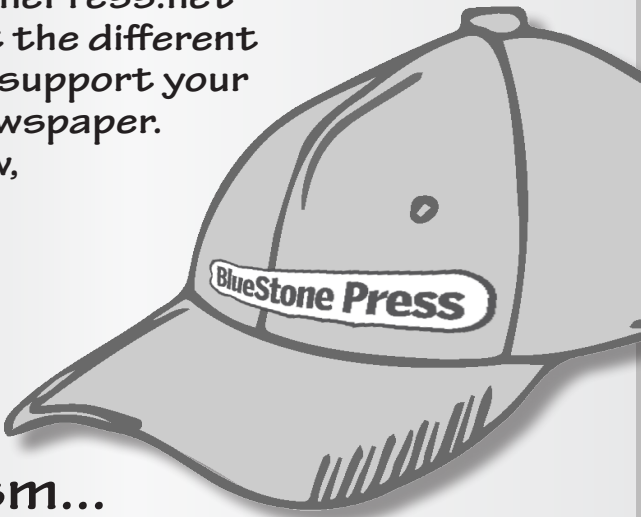
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