

BlueStone Press

Published the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month | Vol. 30 Issue 2

January 24, 2025 | \$1.00

Town to return grants and donations after two years

'I personally think the building should be sold,' says Parete

Julia Colombo
BSP Reporter

The Marbletown Town Board met on Jan. 21, 2025 at the Rondout Municipal Center. Town Supervisor Rich Parete was joined by council members Ken Davenport, Daisy Foote and Mary Ann Van Benschoten. Councilman Tim Hunt was absent.

Foote used the Other Business portion of the meeting to open a discussion surrounding the Marbletown Community Center. After listing the "myriad of issues" within the building, including the roof and the insulation, and stating that engineer Scott Davis has given the board a preliminary report, Foote stated, "the bad news is we're probably going to have to return the grant money." This was met with an "Oh my god, you are kidding," from Vivi Hlavsa, to which Foote responded, "Can you just wait a minute?" She continues, saying, "We would've had to return the grant money anyways, and we probably should've never accepted the money in the first place." The grant refers to the Wendy Saul grant of \$79,000 paired with \$15,000 raised by over 300 Marbletown residents and businesses that was presented to the board in October 2023, as previ-



Parete said, "The renovation project is going to take longer than expected and we won't meet the deadline for the grant. I haven't spoken to the organization about returning money yet. As far as the \$15,000 from individuals and businesses goes, we'll speak to the group that donated to see what they want to do." Pictured above are supporters celebrating in April 2024. Photo by John Currie.

ously reported in the BlueStone Press. Foote went on to cite more hidden issues she sees with the MCC: all of the electrical needs to be redone, most of the walls are not insulated, there are several structural issues. All in all, Foote states, "Conservatively, if we want to do this right ... we're looking at upwards of \$500,000 on this building. I'm not saying we should or shouldn't do this, but I think it should be

a larger conversation for the whole town." This new \$500,000 minimum is a vast increase from the \$150,000-\$300,000 the Board had previously expected the repairs to cost.

Davenport spoke on the situation, discussing costs and hiring an architect to

See **MCC**, page 3

Town looks to buy Filare Property

It is the 2nd property that the town is thinking of purchasing using the real estate transfer tax fund. Town funds will be part of the purchase and necessitate a public hearing

Julia Colombo
BSP Reporter

At the Jan. 21, 2025 Marbletown Town Board meeting, the Community Preservation Fund Advisory Board gave a presentation on their recommendation to acquire the Filare Property. The board has previously stated that they are in favor of this acquisition, as they hope to purchase a 15-acre section of the 90.25 acre plot to build affordable housing.

Prior to the presentation, a short public comment was held, during which a young woman spoke before the board. "I would like to advocate for every millennial who can't afford to buy a house ... So many people my age are unable to build or buy a home and many of them are living with their parents in their 20s, in their 30s, and I find this completely unacceptable. So many of my friends who have children cannot afford to live in High Falls, Stone Ridge, Rosendale, Kingston, and it's just getting more and more difficult. I just think it's absolutely necessary."

The presentation was led by Dale Robbins, Chair of the Advisory Board and was joined by Vice Chair Dan Shuster, Secretary Bill Merchant and members Celia Lewis and Adam Liebowitz, as well as Matt Decker from Open Space Institute [OSI].

Robbins's presentation was accompanied by a PowerPoint filled with images of the property to give the Town Board and the citizens a view of what the land looks like in all seasons.

See **Filare**, page 4

TOR PB delays gas station and EV bus charging station reviews

On the EV charging stations Rick Jones said, 'I took them off the agenda because they really have put the cart before the horse'

Ann Belmont
BSP Reporter

The Rochester Planning Board's Jan. 13 meeting lasted 4.5 hours despite the fact that chair Rick Jones had taken two items off the agenda. One was an ongoing application from the Gasland company for a station at the corner of Mettakahonts Road

and Route 209.

Jones explained, "Gasland was told that they could not proceed because gasoline and diesel sales are prohibited in the area they were building - namely, an Aquifer Overlay Protection Zone. They went away. They are back again trying to back-door it by a variety of arguments. The Planning Board's position is that sales of

gasoline or diesel in that zone are prohibited regardless of what they argue. It's like trying to force a square peg into a round hole."

The other item removed from the agenda was an application from the First Student company for EV charging stations for electric school buses. "I took them off the agenda because they really have put the cart before the horse," Jones explained. "They applied for 27 EV stations to service 25 electric buses. The problem is, they are

See **EV Buses**, page 6

BOE listens to parents about guns and phones

PAGE 7



Rondout girls' basketball is on the rise

PAGE 12



Rochester prepares for wildfires

PAGE 5

How to stay busy

What brought you to the area?

As a teen in the mid-1970s, some friends and I had taken a drive to New Paltz which had a very different feel than my hometown in suburban Westchester County and the area immediately impressed me that I'd like to live here someday. The presence of the college combined with the open spaces were particularly enticing. A funny memory is of the telephone poles located in downtown New Paltz with

many poles having flyers on them advertising events in the area. At the time I thought "this place sure has a lot going on," which was very appealing!

Then, as happens, life had other plans, so I didn't actually move to the area until 2010 when I moved to Clintondale and



Q&A

Visit the folks next door

shortly thereafter to New Paltz.

Tell us about your family?

My family started in Yonkers and like many families of the day from that area the plan was to move further north in search of a quieter life. We did that in 1966 landing on the border between Westchester and Putnam Counties. My father continued to teach high school history in Yonkers while my mother worked with developmentally challenged people in Carmel, New York. Along with a sister and brother living in a raised ranch on a 1/4-acre lot, it was a fairly typical suburban family life.



Bob Esposito

Profession: Rosendale Theater social media

Age: 64

Town: New Paltz

Tell us about your work?

I am retired aside from a small salary from the Rosendale Theatre for work on their social media presence. I also have a building maintenance position with the Jewish Congregation of New Paltz. Hmm, maybe I'm not retired?

You are involved in theatre programming, tell us about that?

It's been beyond wonderful volunteering at the Rosendale Theatre as part of the theatre's programming group. When I retired, I knew I'd like to or need to keep

myself busy with things that I would enjoy. Volunteering with the programming group at the theatre now fills a larger amount of time than I anticipated but the variety of projects and the people I work with make it all a fun, creative ride.

I work closely with the "Saturday Creature Features," "Classic Film" and "Spaghetti Western" film series at the theatre, and now with the brand-new talk series "Today I Learned." Being a part of people's enjoyment of these classic films and other events has been an absolute gift and I'm excited every day about the variety of it all.

What do you love about film?

It greatly comes down to the variety of healthy escapism that film affords and the golden moments that become locked into memory along the way. One can experience a slice of 1960s life in "Easy Rider" and retain memories of certain scenes for a lifetime. And then on another night, one can experience a fictional 1950s outer space alien landing in "The Day The Earth Stood Still" and gain an entirely different group of terrific memories. We all carry many film memories with us for decades and we all receive a richness for our own lives because of it.

What other interests do you have?

Animal welfare, vintage film camera photography, collecting vintage amateur photos, astronomy, architecture, flea markets, day trips to off the beaten path places, almost anything to do with the ocean and trying to understand how anyone can eat broccoli. **BSP**

-Complied by BSP Reporter Jeff Slater



Come to our office at 4301 Route 209 in Stone Ridge or visit us at www.bluestonepress.net

BlueStone Press

P.O. Box 149
Stone Ridge, NY 12484

Office location
4301 Route 209 South,
Stone Ridge

845-687-4480
bluestonepress845@gmail.com

Submit letters and news tips at
www.bluestonepress.net

Publisher

Lori Childers

Editor

Gregory Childers

Assistant Publisher

Thomas Childers

Copy Editor

Jennifer Bossert

Office Manager

Amy Scott

Graphic Artist

Jan Melchoir

Reporters

Ann Belmont

Julia Colombo

Anne Pyburn Craig

Amber Kelly

Chelsea Miller

Jeffrey Slater

Matthew Donohue

Calendar of Events Editor

Donna Cohn Viertel

Columnists

Wally Nichols, Susan Krawitz,

Linda Tantillo, Jodi LaMarco,

Kelly Wright and

Laura Shaine Cunningham

BlueStone Briefs

Hear from the candidates at the Marbletown Democratic Committee meeting

The agenda for the next Marbletown Democratic Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at the Marbletown Municipal Center, Room M-15, 1925 Lucas Ave., Cottekill includes Introductions; Hearing from candidates Renee J. Albaugh, Family Court Judge; Taylor Bruck, Ulster County Clerk; Lindsey Grossman, County Legislature; Manna Jo Greene, County Legislature; and Alexandria Wojcik, Ulster County Clerk; plus Chair announcements; Members-only session; Treasurer's report; and New Business. For more information, visit marbletowndemocraticcommittee.org.

Little Ones Learning Center celebrates 25 years and will feature lots of special events

2025 celebrates the 25th year for the program, Little Ones Learning Center. Starting out as the Little Ones Library

under the auspices of Cornell Cooperative Extension in 2000, the program transitioned to the not-for-profit, Friends of Little Ones, Inc. in 2005 and became the Little Ones Learning Center, a free, early literacy program for children 0-6, though children of all ages are welcome. Friends of Little Ones rents space in the Rochester Reformed Church located at 5142 Route 209, Accord.

The goal of the program is to bring the joy of reading to young children, to increase literacy in the home and help youngsters prepare for school.

Approximately 3,000 age-appropriate books and educational kits are available for loan. Three Story Times are held weekly, 10 a.m.-noon Wednesday and Saturday and 3-5 p.m. Wednesday. The two rooms at Little Ones are filled with early learning tools. Following Story Time, fun and relevant activities support the day's theme. After craft time, free time is allowed for creative play, interaction of children and adults and individual reading.

During our 25th year celebration, Little Ones will be having several special events and fundraisers. The first event is a Stone Soup Fundraiser, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, where children will be making "Stone Soup" during regular story time. Homemade chicken with rice, minestrone and cream of mushroom soups will also be sold for \$15 per quart, takeout only. On March 1, Little Ones will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday with a breakfast from 8-11 a.m. Green eggs and ham or ham quiche will be served along with pancakes, juice and coffee. Prices vary by age. And lastly, on Saturday, Nov. 8, this special 25th year will culminate with an open house celebration.

To share a story on an event experienced in one of the 25 years or learn

more about any of Little Ones' events, visit Little Ones Learning Center on Facebook, at littleoneslearningcenter.org or call 845-626-4112.

SUNY Ulster invites prospective students and families to winter and spring info sessions

Info Sessions at SUNY Ulster, 491 Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge are a great way to learn about the many programs offered at the college, financial aid and scholarships, and support services. Participants will also tour the campus and meet faculty and staff. Upcoming events include General Admissions Info Sessions which run from 4-5 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 5, March 12 and April 2; Nursing Info Sessions, 4 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 20 and 25 (virtual); Veterinary Technology Info Sessions, 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 28 and March 11; Police Academy Mandatory Info Session, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 26 at the Kingston Center, 94 Mary's Ave., Kingston with Physical Agility Test, 9:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, at Dietz Stadium, 170N Front St., Kingston; and Campus Tour Tuesdays, on select Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

All info sessions require attendees to sign up at sunnyulster.edu/visit. For more information or questions, email exc@sunnyulster.edu or call 845-687-5022.

Subscriptions are \$53.00 for 1 year (24 issues). You can now subscribe on our website. Additionally, check out the "support tab" on our website for enhanced subscriptions with extra BSP swag!

BlueStone Press is published semi-monthly, 24 times a year by BlueStone Press/Ulster County Press, 4301 Rt. 209, P.O. Box 149, Stone Ridge, NY 12484.

Periodicals Postage rates are paid at Stone Ridge, NY 12484 and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BlueStone Press, P.O. Box 149, Stone Ridge, NY 12484-0149.

BlueStone Press is an independent and nonpartisan community newspaper.



Ev Mann, Wendy Saul, Nancy Plumer and Maria Reidelbach presented the Marbletown Town Board with over \$15,000 in funds raised from individuals and businesses in 2023 to support the repairs and renovation of the Marbletown Community Center

MCC

from page 1

go through the entire building and inspect all of the issues that need addressing, concluding with "It's not really logical."

Van Benschoten added on, saying, "What convinced me is there's no insulation in it."

Foote conceded, "I know this is disappointing everybody, and frankly if we had come to this conclusion before, we're coming to it probably later than we should have and I apologize for that, but we are a small committee in a small town and we do the best we can. But we want to go on record and tell everybody these are the facts and we want to make this place right."

Foote goes on to share about a meeting she attended where she spoke with "a lot of pissed off retired people because they wanted more space for activities. They feel the demographic of this town is older and therefore we need to start doing more for that demographic." She says, "They're getting frustrated by [the Rondout Municipal Center] where they come and do things because they have to compete with other people, so I asked them about the Community Center ... but there's certain things they couldn't even do at the Community Center." She then questioned, "Should we be looking at a larger complex that would service all of these things -and this is eventually. Not saying we wouldn't invest in the community center, but down the road."

"There are more people that use the town park in a weekend than utilize the community center in a month," Davenport added. "So there is a vast portion of the community that are saying something else than what we're hearing ... It doesn't mean both can't happen."

Foote asked for Parete's opinion: "I think if we spend over \$500,000 on the community center, it's going to hurt what we can do with other projects, including buying the 15 acres for \$250,000 ... I say we do the roof, the insulation, and the drainage, and we worry about the rest at another time and spend the \$2-300,000."

However in a followup email on Jan, 23 Parete said, "I personally think the building should be sold. The rest of the board would like to do the necessary repairs. It's an old building that needs work and municipal projects are expensive. We've moved several groups and organizations to the Rondout Municipal Center (RMC) and they seem happy with what this building offers."

Marbletown citizen Vivi Hlavasa commented, "We're gonna spend a lot of money for our trucks and not for our citizens," referring to the previous resolution passed to put money towards the Highway Dept. garage. Parete countered, "The trucks are for our citizens so they can get up and down the roads." Foote added, "I want you to take a tour - the building they live in is

dangerous ... previous boards should be ashamed of themselves that they haven't addressed that garage. When I first toured the garage ... I literally was nauseous and had a blinding headache when I walked. There's so much carbon monoxide, it's not safe for people, and frankly it's insulting to ask the people who work for our town to use that building."

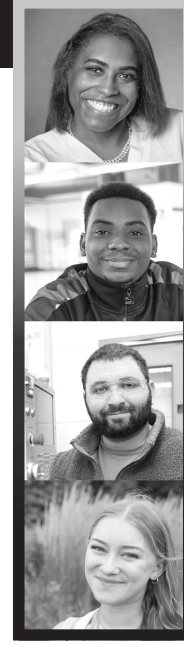
Hlavasa spoke up again: "Rich doesn't seem to recognize there's something really important about the history of that building." Parete responded, "What's important about the history of that building? No, seriously? To me, Bill Merchant, our historic preservation commission chairman said that building has no historic value at all." Hlavasa said, "The history that goes back to when it was first decided that this was going to be a town center." Davenport interjected, "I thought we were having a board meeting," and to respond to other murmurs from the citizens, he said, "No I'm not kidding. It's rude that we're trying to have a conversation, right? and there's public comment after, and it's a great question, but we're trying to have a dialogue here about what we're trying to do. Is that insulting? No, it's insulting when they interrupt us. And we'll answer your question, Vivi. And I think I've made it pretty clear, we're trying to do for youth, we're trying to do for age, we're trying to do for everybody ... but we need to have a realistic view of what this costs ... and you gotta get real answers, not just 'I think.'"

After further discussion between the board members about potential routes, the favored one seeming to be bringing in an architect or second opinion to get more specific quotes on the work needing to be done, the meeting opened to Public Comment, where Hlavasa posed the question, "How are you going to announce this to this community?" Foote's response: "We just did ... It's going to be in the BlueStone, it's going to be in the Shawangunk Journal." Parete speculated, "I think a lot of people are going to be happy that we decided to spend less money." After further comment from Hlavasa, in which she concluded, "I get the sense that there are several members of this board who do not care that this building be saved," Davenport responded: "Tonight is as close as we've gotten to the actual number to actually fix what the problem is ... We want to put bandaids on a massive hemorrhage ... We have to look at what it really is so that the community really knows what it is."

"In the next few months, I want us all to be having these conversations about how we're going to go forward with all these different projects." Foote stated. "We are going to spend money on the community center, we just have to decide how much."

Although Parete expressed his take a few days later in our follow up email saying, "I appreciate community members that feel passionately about the Community Center. We've also heard from a lot of people that don't feel it's a good use of taxpayer money to fix the building. The board has to strike a balance and it's not easy. **BSP**

You have **QUESTIONS.** We have **ANSWERS.**



Join us at an info session. There's no better way to learn about programs, financial aid and scholarships, faculty, student support, and more.

Admissions Info Sessions: 4-5 pm

Wednesday, February 5
Wednesday, March 12
Wednesday, April 2

Discover SUNY Ulster Days: Learn about specific programs & meet faculty.

Nursing Info Sessions
Thursday, February 20
Tuesday, February 25 (Virtual)

Veterinary Technology Info Sessions

Tuesday, January 28
Tuesday, March 11

Police Basic Training Info Session

Saturday, April 26 at KCSU
See eligibility requirements.



REGISTER:
sunnyulster.edu/visit
QUESTIONS:
(845) 687-5022



**Crescent Hill
Painting
& Home Improvement**

Matt Raymond

845.293.5342

**Ollie's
PIZZA**

**OPEN
Thursday
to Sunday**

**4 Bruceville Road,
High Falls NY 12440
845-687-3464
www.ollies.pizza**

**YOUR BEST
CUSTOMERS
ARE JUST
AROUND THE
CORNER**

AND THEY'RE
READING THE
BLUESTONE
PRESS RIGHT
NOW!

High Falls

Call for an advertising consult:
687-4480

Henrieville
Accord
Rosendale
Stone Ridge

Filare

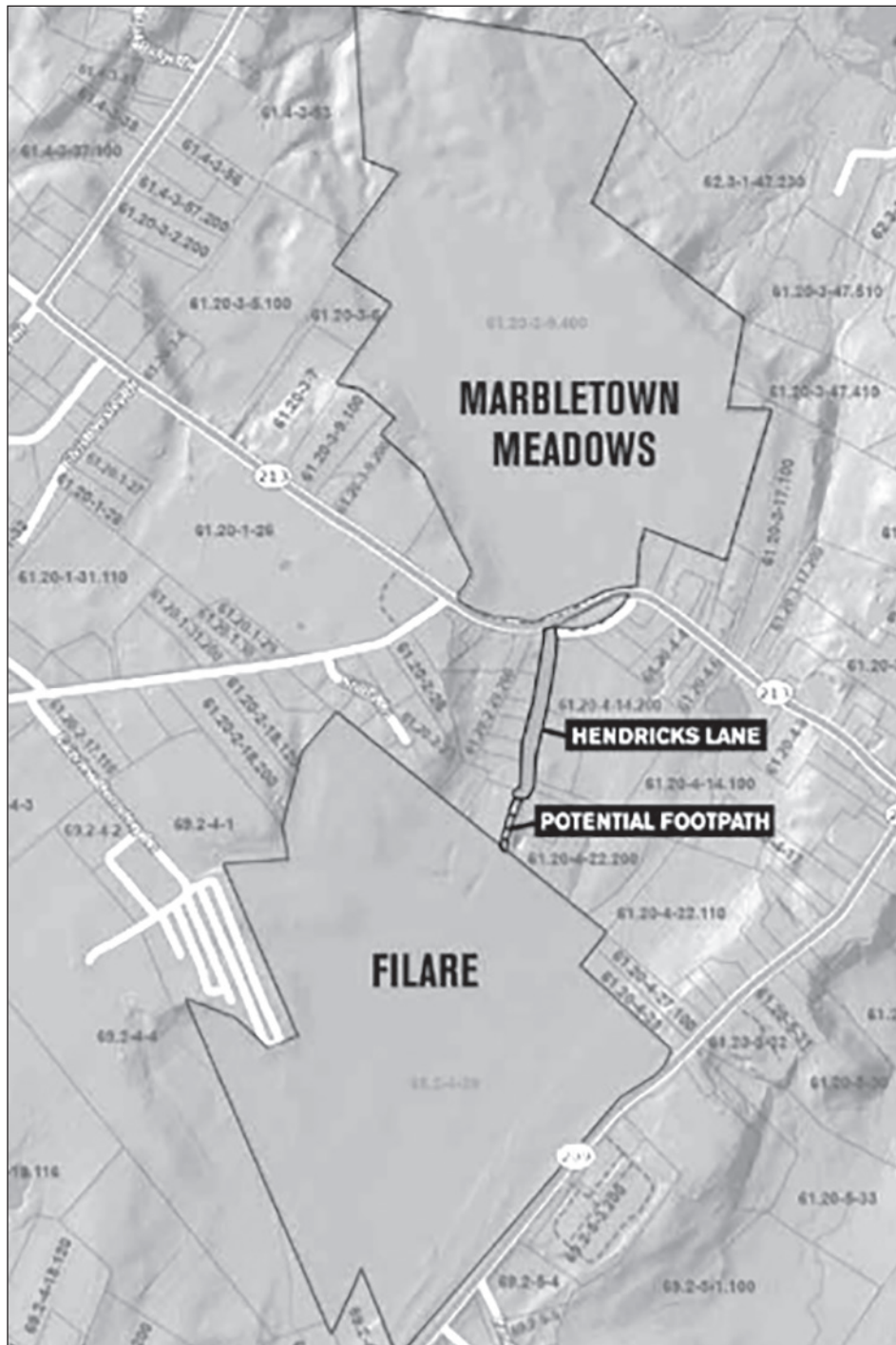
from page 1

Robbins began with an overview and introduction of the Filare Property: it has a large swath of wetlands, there are no water lines that reach the land, and many developers have had their eye on it due to its proximity to services in town. The land is close to the newly established Marbletown Meadows, and its location allows for the Advisory Board to connect the Filare Property to the Meadows, SUNY Ulster and the Rail Trail to create “a more walkable Marbletown.”

Robbins continued to highlight the property’s natural features: a stream, dense wooded areas, farm roads, walkable trails, meadows. She addressed a list of reasons the property should be conserved: It is underlain by the school aquifer; it is a wildlife habitat; it is accessible from Route 209; it is adjacent to the Historic District. She then addressed a list of reasons the property is fit for community development. Some of the reasons overlap, like its accessibility from Route 209, and she adds that it is a short walk to shopping, the library and town services and is along the proposed water pipeline.

Robbins then offered a conceptual plan for the property. The Advisory Board hopes to keep this space a “wilder experience.” There would be a focus on cleaning up and connecting the trails, mowing the farm roads and potentially building a boardwalk through or around the wetlands.

Robbins then dove into the financial aspect of this potential purchase, citing the Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT). The presentation slide states, “The recent adoption, by the Town, of a [RETT] to support community preservation provides a viable means of funding for the open space acquisition without raising taxes.” She goes on to say, “The fund has become more than we could have imagined. In two years, we are proposing our second acquisition, so it’s pretty exciting.”



90-acre Filare property in Stone Ridge is close to the town owned Marbletown Meadows in Stone Ridge.

Lewis then took over the presentation to report on the health of the fund. The slides she highlighted showed the numbers for

2025, the projected financial plan for 2026 and the projection for the next 5 years. She states that the Advisory Board expects the fund to be close to a million dollars by 2029. The slide referenced by Lewis cites the Fund Start plus revenue for 2025 to be \$1,960,000, and accounts for a \$144,000 loan payment, \$40,000 maintenance reserve, and \$1,000,000 for the Marbletown Meadows Development. Adding the acquisition of the Filare Property would add another \$620,000 to be spent from the Fund.

“Yes, we can proceed with this acquisition,” is Lewis’s main point. “In fact, we believe we can invest in Marbletown Meadows and complete the full acquisition including a little bit of funds for trail development this year.”

Supervisor Rich Parete adds, “The million dollars [allotted] for Marbletown Meadows, we may not do this year, because we might not apply for that grant,

and then we can’t start work. So these numbers might be looking a little healthier depending on where we wanna go.”

To conclude the Advisory Board’s presentation, Shuster spoke: “I think you’ve got all the information before you. The bottom line is, to make it clear, our commission recommends proceeding with the acquisition of the property.”

“The property’s going to be paid for by two different funds,” Parete says, “so does it have to be subdivided before we can pay it, or can we have an agreement, but we’ll hash all that out. And the Planning Board’s gonna be finished by March or April, so it’ll be pretty quick.”

Decker spoke on behalf of OSI: “We just appreciate the Town’s vision and foresight and leadership on this.” Parete thanked Decker, “You’ve held our hand every step of the way, so we appreciate it.”

Before moving on, a town member asked about the idea of the Town building housing. “So, the vote is just about the property?”

Foote answered: “The Town is not going to be building housing. We are simply purchasing 15 acres to allow that to be developed as affordable housing, but we will not be in the business of being builders or landlords or anything like that. We will then work with somebody ... I promise you 100%.”

Parete continued, “We can’t pay for the entire property out of the Preservation Fund because you can’t develop property with the Preservation Fund, that’s state law ... Once [the survey of the 15 acres] goes through the Planning Board, which is a roughly two month process, there will have to be a Public Hearing. So once it gets done there and it becomes a legal separate property, the preservation fund will pay the 75 acres, and then Town funds will pay for the 15 acres. Town funds means we could sell that down the road, it’s not subject to any preservation funds, we can do what we want there.”

Foote adds on, “This is a commitment on part of the Town for housing ... We made the decision to do this so we could have this piece of property and then we will work out how we’ll get housing there, how we’re gonna get water there, which will go to all of 209.”

The Town plans to spend \$250,000 dollars on the 15 acres.

“It’s my focus now, going into my last three years of office, it’s my laser-focus to get this proposal up and running for affordable housing there. If it doesn’t happen by the time I leave, I’m going to continue to work on this. It’s going to happen ... It’s just going to take a little work.”

At Foote’s vision of more projects like this happening in the future, Parete states, “We’ve got two or three properties that have been donated to the town over the last couple of years that we should be identifying for housing ... Maybe we could start doing stuff already.” **BSP**



**Down to Earth
Landscaping**

- **BLUESTONE PATIOS**
- **WALLS & WALKWAYS**
- **KOI PONDS**
- **TREE TRIMMING**
- **FENCE INSTALLATION**
- **DRIVEWAY INSTALLATION & REPAIR**



BluestoneExperts.com

Ben Watson
(845) 389-3028

Fully Insured



Accord

PLAZA FEEDS



4739 Route 209, Accord, NY
845.626.7675

SALE!

24.99



SUBSCRIBE

2 THE BLUESTONE PRESS!

bluestonepress.net



\$53/YEAR

1 YEAR PRINT SUBSCRIPTION
Digital and print now included! Automatically billed yearly until cancellation.

\$68/YEAR

1 YEAR PRINT AND REPORTER FUND CONTRIBUTION
1 year (includes \$10 contribution to our reporter fund). Automatically billed yearly until cancellation.

Gas stations, wildfire readiness discussed at Rochester's Town Board

Ann Belmont
BSP Reporter

Nearing the end of the Rochester Town Board's Jan. 9 business meeting, Town Supervisor Erin Enouen introduced the subject of amending Local Law 6 of 2024, chapter 140 of the zoning code. The amendment amounts to correcting a mistake in the wording of a section of the code about convenience stores which could cause confusion. The law reads that a convenience store may include the sale of gasoline and vehicle repair but also says that gasoline sales are NOT allowed, which, said Enouen, is the actual intent of the law. "It should say 'shall not include the service or repair of vehicles and/or the sale of gasoline.'"

Board member Alexis Arbagh wanted to add language to limit the size of a convenience store as well. "Five thousand square feet is really huge; then you start getting chains competing with local proprietors. So I think there's an argument to be made for limiting the square footage of their retail area."

"We capped it at 4,000 feet. It sounds like you're into making it smaller," said Enouen. "Yes. 4,000 is still massively large," Albaugh said.

Member Charlotte Smiseth, who manages the Rondout Food Pantry, brought up the need for local grocery stores.

"Boutique grocery stores, farmers markets don't count." Grocery stores need a lot of square footage, "walk-in freezers, storage, stockroom, offices, bathrooms ... take up at least 30 if not 40%" of building space, she estimated. Remembering the old grocery store in Kerhonkson, now a health club, she said the owners' family lived on the top floor. "That's a perfect example of the mixed-use building. And that's gone now. It got replaced with Dollar General, which doesn't have nearly as much."

Member Michael Coleman wanted to put in a provision for allowing apartments above the store. "You couldn't do that if it's a one-story building."

Albaugh commented, "I understand that you want to encourage housing. But in practice, it's just one apartment for the [store] manager. That's not serving the housing needs of the community." Referring to chain stores, she said, "They're going to take that square footage and put a giant beer cave in there" rather than fresh food.

Enouen said, "You can be a retail service establishment and be a chain. That's in our code." However, the new code "sets



Members of the Bloomington Fire District at the Peekamoose Road woods fire in Grahamsville putting out a fire that was in the vicinity of the Town of Rochester. Photo courtesy of the Bloomington Fire District

the maximum for new establishments at 4000 square feet." She ran over all the allowed retail uses for future stores in the town of Rochester. Gasoline sales are not a defined use in the recently revised zoning code, effectively limiting gas stations to the ones that already exist. Enouen said later, "The board has expressed the intent not to have any more gas stations in town, given the number we have already and the impact they have on the community." There is also an Aquifer Protection Overlay area named in the code where gasoline sales are prohibited altogether.

Discussion on some minor additional revisions to Local Law 6 were scheduled to continue on Jan. 23.

When the meeting was opened for

public comment, longtime emergency management chief Gerry Fornino rose to speak. "I was sworn in to this position while we had a very serious fire going on at Minnewaska Preserve. It had jumped 44-55, which was a real concern ... In light of what's been happening in L.A. County in California, we've been very lucky, we have a great fire department." However, he urged the board to do more about wildfire readiness. "We could have one of these Fire-Wise specialists come and speak here at the Community Center," to inform people how to be prepared "when - not if - we have one of these serious fire conditions ... it is imperative that we have places for emergency vehicles ... It might even have to be part of our zoning." He described the

dead-end road where he lives which has no turn-around space, similar to many back roads in town. He mentioned the website www.firewise.org. "It'll open your eyes to what you might not be aware of ... something as simple as a house number that's easy to see. It's not easy to turn around on some of these back roads."

Smiseth responded, "I think it's a great idea." That was the general consensus from the rest of the board.

Smiseth presented the Housing Committee report with a short slide show showcasing the TOR Housing Action Plan Housing Development Opportunity Areas Analysis. For the past three months, she related, the Housing Committee, with consultants hired by the county, did an inventory of possible housing development sites. "On Heritage Day, we took out two consultants on a two-hour drive around town ... [covering areas] where we thought development might be able to occur." They selected areas of Samsonville Road, Queens Highway, Lucas Turnpike, Mettcahonts, Whitfield, south of the Rondout, Route 209 and downtown Accord. Already-existing development could be converted into different uses, such as senior housing. "This is the first step into a deeper dive," Smiseth explained.

Another discussion item was the vacancy on the Town Board left by the departure of Emily Dindial, who has moved out of the area. A press release will go out to publicize the search for a new member. "I think we should put it in multiple papers this time," said Smiseth. There is now an announcement on the website announcing the vacancy, with details about qualifying to fill it and instructions on how to apply. The board will call a special meeting to interview candidates.

The board will hear a zoning district change request on Jan. 23 from the owner of a parcel in an R5 district to change to R2. "Anyone can apply," said Enouen. But consideration of them is at the board's discretion. She suggested that all applicants make a presentation before the board to lay out their reasons. "When it comes to zoning, our decision should be rooted in the Comprehensive Plan. Rezoning a parcel for the benefit of an applicant is not OK. That's called spot zoning. It can benefit the person but there needs to be an underlying alignment with our comp plan ... I personally don't think we should consider all of them because we should be mindful of the time it takes ... but maybe we should let all of them come and state their case." **BSP**

GK TREE SERVICES

Est. 2010

From shoots to roots Arboriculture at it's finest

Gavin Kiersted
Certified Arborist

845.901.9579 • gkiersted@yahoo.com

LYONSVILLE SUGARHOUSE

591 County Route 2 • (845)687-2518
All Grades of Maple Syrup & Maple Products

Syrup Available All Year

KEEP AGRICULTURE ALIVE IN ULSTER COUNTY!

Located 3 mi. off 209 on County Rt. 2

Valentines Sale

20% OFF SELECT INVENTORY

VALENTINES GIFTS WITH EACH PURCHASE

ANANDA MIND BODY SPIRIT
10 OLD RT. 213, HIGH FALLS, NY 12440
OPEN SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS
10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

845-399-0271

SEND US A NEWS TIP

www.bluestonepress.net

EV Buses

from page 1

in violation of their site plan from 1989, which says they can only have 20 buses on that site ... So, they need to give us an entirely new site plan with the proposed number of buses they will store and also apply for the EV stations to charge the buses.

"The fire company is very concerned about the whole project. They are worried whether a runaway fire can take place with the buses parked next to each other. The Fire District has indicated they cannot stop a fire like that and would just have to let it burn out. This project is also in the Aquifer Overlay Zone and the impact on water resources could be catastrophic. So, they have to find a larger space, find an alternative space, propose far fewer buses, explain the safety features of the buses to prevent a fire and how they believe a fire could be fought. Even more important: What if one of the busses we allow to be on this space catches fire on the road with 44 children on it? The fire company is volunteer, and they are of the opinion that there could be a mass casualty event. They could not get there in time to evacuate the children."

Jones mused, "Perhaps EV buses are a bridge too far to risk especially when it comes to our children's lives. EV cars, EV trucks, EV bikes - one or two users at risk and they can escape. The differences in terms of risk to kids is clear. The Planning Board will have to consider this risk and safety issue in its review ... Not a slam-dunk by any means."

A representative from Verizon came to the meeting with his company's proposal to put up a 145-foot cell tower near the former Granit Hotel/Hudson Valley Resort. "A company like Verizon has certain prerogatives when it comes to putting up a cell tower," observed Jones, with respect to "when they can expect to get an approval, what kind of waivers they have, etc., at least in New York State ... there's a lot of work to do. We need to look at the needs assessment," that is, "why do we need another cell tower? Everybody wants better reception but nobody wants a cell tower," he added. Verizon's design showed a "monopole" or single pole tower with a box-shaped metal construction on top.

"We need to look at the viewshed, where it can be seen from ... the degree to which the radio frequency might scramble our brains - just kidding! - and a number of other things we have to look at."

Planning Board counsel Dave Gordon stressed that the cell tower application "is subject to site plan approval" just like any other. He noted that Rochester's height



EV buses charging in a facility

limit for cell towers specifies 50 feet over the tree line, or about 90 feet total, so the proposed 145-foot tower would need a variance from the ZBA or waiver from the Planning Board. A balloon test will have to take place at the site of the projected tower. Verizon will send a balloon up 145 feet as a way to measure the impact of a structure that high on views of the Shawangunks. The board may refer to the town's Natural Resource Inventory, which maps out Scenic Byway road status, for guidance.

There are apartments on the property. Gordon told the board, "Radio frequencies, [purported] damage to people's health ... by law, is not an issue we can use in our analysis ... Most towns have a special codes with respect to cell towers, and we do as well. One of the key requirements is that [Verizon] demonstrates that there's a need for the cell tower. They will seek to show that there's a gap in coverage," and that the new tower would remediate it. The board can hire its own engineer to analyze Verizon's data, "and so can the public if they are concerned about this." Gordon suggested that Verizon make a presentation explaining the proposal in detail; that will probably happen at the Feb. 10 meeting. There will ultimately be a public hearing.

Bill Eggers, engineer, represented a client called Capella Woods, owned by Elaine Bell, for a two-lot subdivision of 13.5 acres on Franklin Lane. Jones told Eggers that his client had violated town code. "The applicant broke ground and put in a foundation for at least one of the houses" before getting Planning Board approval, Jones reported. Applying for a

building permit for an application that's before the Planning Board "Is in violation of a number of our town codes ... doing it knowingly is making stuff up on a public document ... we've had people break ground before they come to us, but this is while they're in front of us. The code says that if you're in front of us, you can't do anything to the site except build a road so you can get equipment in for well and septic testing ... I'm not a gullible person. You have to suspend reality to believe that this was an 'Oops.'"

In response to a question from a board member, Jones said that yes, Capella Woods could be fined, but a complaint would have to be initiated by the Rochester code enforcement officer. He asked Eggers to provide a map showing the location of the foundation that's been illegally built, to see if it corresponds to the building sites that were indicated on the applicant's site map. After reviewing that map, Jones might call for more escrow money from the applicant. "We'll talk to you in February," he told Eggers.

CRAM LLC, owned by former Planning Board Chair Marc Grasso, is planning a two-lot subdivision on Teradon Road. The public hearing for this application was closed in December, but final approval hit a roadblock when the RMA, or road maintenance agreement, was found wanting.

"In 2005, this subdivision was approved by the Planning Board and approved by the town board," Grasso said. "To ask for a new RMA for a minor subdivision that was already approved ... doesn't make any sense. We understand that there may be some holes in the RMA ... it isn't as tight as we wanted it to be. But we have a road

manager ... this is probably in the best shape of all the private roads in our town."

The condition of the road wasn't the question, however. Gordon observed, "This is an atypical situation, because they've already got a functioning neighborhood ... [but] the RMA that they're operating under is not a good document. It doesn't say all the things that need to be said." He agreed that everything was going OK now, "but sometimes things go bad," for instance if new owners come in and don't want to pay their share. "Look what's happening on a national level. Our culture of understanding [norms] is changing ... if it does, this is going to be a very hard thing to enforce."

Jones later said that although Grasso's application was approved, there was this condition: "We were specific in saying that they would have to get the town attorney and town board to make a decision on this RMA; we will accept that." However, "we sent the board our attorney's recommendation, which was to replace the old RMA."

There was a public hearing for a two-lot subdivision on 5776 Route 209 owned by Lyle Roebuck. One man spoke, Gregory Krueger of 8 Queens Highway, who owns adjacent property. He claimed that there was an existing easement through the property. "We do not want him using our property for anything except the easement [that already exists]," he said. But Gordon told him that he would have to provide proof of the easement and to explain why it would affect site plan approval. "If it does, we'll take that into account."

A company called Accord Social has an ongoing application for a tavern/restaurant at 4977 Route 209. It is in the aquifer protection zone, meaning somewhat tighter restrictions on water drawdown. Traffic is another possible issue, and they would need a "raised-bed" septic system. There's still a lot of information the board needs, Jones concluded, probably including a hydrological study and traffic study.

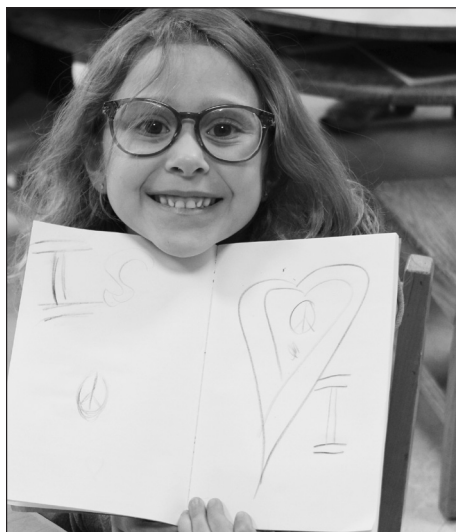
An application to open a florist shop in one corner of a building housing an auto-body shop at 5185 Route 209 will probably have a public hearing in February.

With prompting from the Planning Board, an eight-lot conservation subdivision at 481 Mettacahonts Road will expand its promised conservation area and decrease the size of its homesites. Jones told the rep, Matthew Towne, that the new Rochester zoning code "strongly suggests" that the included conservation easement be made larger. The owner is Metta Lake LLC/Eric Liftin. **BSP**

Marbletown students honor National Book Publisher's Day and Martin Luther King Jr.

In honor of National Book Publisher's Day on Jan. 16, Grade 1 students in Julia Jeon's class at Marbletown Elementary School embraced their inner authors and publishers by creating their own peace books. Inspired by books about Martin Luther King Jr., the students explored his messages of hope and equality to craft heartfelt reflections on peace.

Guided by The Writing Revolution framework, the young writers expressed



On left A Marbletown Elementary School student in Julia Jeon's Grade 1 class is proud of her creation of a peace-themed book. On right students making peace books.



their thoughts through words and vibrant illustrations. The project offered a hands-on opportunity to explore the book publishing process, sparking creativity and fostering a deeper understanding of how books come to life.

The peace books will be shared with classmates and families, showcasing the students' hard work and collaboration. This meaningful celebration of

National Book Publisher's Day highlights the power of storytelling and the importance of young voices in shaping a better future.

Parents continue to speak out about armed guards and cell phone policies to BOE

'Maybe we should step back and think about the kind of environment we want to create. Without the distraction of phones..., said Jeff Davis, a Rondout parent.'

Amber Kelly
BSP Reporter

Seats were filled with parents at the Rondout Valley Board of Education meeting in the district office on Jan. 14. The board decided to move the public comment portion of the meeting to first on the agenda.

Kerri Sheehy, mother of an eighth-grader, teacher and union president of a district said, "The Friday after Rondout Valley decided to hire armed guards for the elementary schools, a student in Oklahoma got access to the school's security resource officer's [SRO] firearm and discharged it."

"A child of color would be less safe at school with armed guards in school," Sheehy said. Sheehy continued, "Federal investigations confirm it. It is heavily documented in the U.S. Dept. of Education research findings. It is also a fact that staff over reliance on SRO affect black students and students with disabilities disproportionately."

"After the response regarding this from Superintendent Spadaro," Sheehy said, "I went back and looked at the minutes in August and I looked at the minutes in September and I didn't see any mention of armed private security. I do see mention of security, and I did [see a] vote to talk about locks, PA systems and lights. Locks and lights are very different from guns. I called the district three times last the fall about an incident related to the new bathroom policy and never got a call back, so I don't feel confident my voice is being heard as a parent, or that it's being responded to."

"I ask that if we continue down this road that we keep the armed guards away from where there are children," Sheehy said. "We don't need armed guards playing or reading to the children. The guards have a job to do and they should be doing that job."

Margaux Sanchez has an eighth-grader in the school district. She thanked the board and superintendent for continuing



Parents showed up to comment to the BOE at the Jan. 14 meeting. Photo by Amber Kelly

to listen to parents about the school plan to hire two SRO and two armed, private security guards. She hoped that the process would be transparent, accountable, effective and responsive to the community.

Sanchez has researched best practices for SRO in schools and said she will share it with the board. She said the Kingston City School District has had more success with their SRO program since implementing a volunteer committee on safety and prevention.

Kathleen Laux has a fourth-grader and a sixth-grader in the district and seconded the motion to implement a committee for the most success in the SRO school program. Her research showed that it is most important to share data with the community on how SRO programs increase safety.

Jeff Davis thanked the board for the opportunity to speak about the cell phone policy. He has two daughters, one in the intermediate school and one in the high school. He compared the phone use at school to students carrying around television sets and watching shows in the hallways, and even in the classrooms.

"Imagine trying to foster a learning community in that environment," Davis said. "It is chaotic, isolating and exhausting. A study that started from 2012 when cell phone use became pervasive, found that separating students from their phone actually reduced anxiety and improved focus in class. A Hartford school study found a 50% drop in office referrals and a 30% decline in suspensions following implementation of pouches."

"Increased phone use correlates to increased depression and loneliness among teens, especially girls," Davis said. "Maybe we should step back and think about the kind of environment we want to create. Without the distraction of phones, students could have real conversations again at lunch and practice real social skills, and even appreciate the valley out the window."

"Schools are one of the few places where we can shape not only what our children know but also who they become by limiting or even banning phones. We are not taking something away, we're giving them something better, a chance to truly grow," Davis said.

Parent, Katie Finnley spoke next, saying, "I wrote quite a bit of information and it seems like it's been pretty much covered. I think that it would be helpful for parents to understand exactly how the security guards are going to work with our kids and how the SRO are going to work with our kids. I found out about this thing called a 'memorandum of understanding.' I called the district to see if they could have something similar about the security guards. I was told by the district that the best way to get information about it was to do a FOIA request to get information."

"It feels frustrating that I have to put in this document to get secret information when I'm simply looking for - how's this going to work? Who's going to talk to my kid when? When is there going to be a gun? What's going to happen with that gun? Will my child see that gun? Will another child think it's

cool to have a hidden gun?"

"I'm not opposed to an SRO program," Finnley said. "I just want it to be clearly defined what the roles are, and what the roles of the new security guard are. So, I really think the best way to help parents understand that is to redefine this memorandum of understanding and make it available. I'd love for it to be a click on the website. You sent out an email stating what the security guards are going to do. I'd also like to know what they are not going to do, also I think a community committee would be a really good idea. Everybody wants security, we just want to know exactly what it's going to look like."

Board committees progress, textbook reviews, new dress code policy comes down from state

Board member Nicole Parete said, "We are going to be having a curriculum meeting this week. It's going to be Thursday at 4:30 p.m. The agenda for that meeting is to review our guidance plan for K-12, and to also look at our master schedule. We are also going to be asked to review textbook adoptions. There are some choices that are going to be presented to the committee that we'll be discussing. We are also going to be getting a math update on how our new math program is going. We are also going to be looking at course proposals and textbook additions. It's a public meeting and we look forward to anyone who wants to come."

Board member Alan Roberts said, "The policy committee met last week and spent a great deal of time reviewing the questions for the questionnaire that went out. We had a pretty robust group of parents who were involved. They listened, and they gave their input. We also have two policies that came up for recommendation."

Board President Chris Schoonmaker said, "That first reading of dress code, is that a brand-new policy?"

"Yes, and that come down from the state. That's not ours," Roberts said.

Board member Dawn Van Kleeck said, "We have a budget meeting next Tuesday Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. Our new assistant superintendent has worked out month by month all of the topics that we'll be covering. I think we are on step two of getting everything ready for the board to see the preliminary budget in March so that we can vote on it to go to vote in May." **BSP**

ECLIPSE

physical therapy and wellness

WE TREAT:

- Low Back Pain
- Orthopedic & Sports Injuries
- Neck Pain
- Post Surgical Management
- Dizziness

- Work/Auto Injuries
- Headache
- Neurological Conditions
- AND MUCH MORE...**

Fitness Memberships Available!

PTEclipse

Call for an Appointment or Follow us on Facebook for Upcoming Wellness Events!!!

(845) 647-4171 • 6325 Route 209, Kerhonkson • EclipsePT.com

REFER A BUSINESS

=To=

ADVERTISE

IN THE **BSP** **RECEIVE A FREE YEAR OF BSP!**

WE BUY VINTAGE CLOTHING!

DENIM!! anything made in USA WORKWEAR & MILITARY!!

- Men's + Women's mid-century
- Any garment that is unique, antique, special, or strange :-)

CLUBHOUSE VINTAGE

416 Main Street, Rosendale, NY | 845.244.0243
clubhousevintageny@gmail.com

Call, text or email for an appointment. We do house calls for large collections.

Experience the new Marbletown Meadows

'We're so lucky to have an open space like this so close to us,' said Kyra Sahasrabudhe of Stone Ridge

Jeff Slater
BSP Reporter

The Town of Marbletown's purchase of the former Osterhoudt farm is quickly becoming a destination. With its unique landscape and easy access, many folks are enjoying walking around the open spaced area and bringing their dogs which are welcomed there.

Jeremiah Brown, the caretaker of all of Marbletown's parks and trail has taken it upon himself to enhance the space.

Brown said, "I started designing the Meadow every week since Memorial Day adding something new each week. As soon as I started the public started coming one by one, they wanted to hide it for themselves. They all knew what I was designing was special and with that comes popularity, which means people. And I am so thankful for the town having the foresight to purchase it."

Brown has made the park accessible to Marbletown Elementary School.

"I've added a trail for Marbletown Elementary School to enter the park, [I'm]



Lucy Slater at Marbletown Meadows. Photo by Jeff Slater

looking forward to those kids being able to utilize the Meadow."

Folks are enjoying the park and its uniqueness.

Barbara Kerner of Accord said, "I've been regularly walking the area's rail trails for many years and love being immersed in the various wooded and hilly landscapes. But the Meadow, when walking the winding paths cut into the long grasses, my spirit feels light and soars fancifully over and around these

few inspiring acres."

"Marbletown Meadow is such a marvelous gift for our community. We have walked there many times and brought friends and family along. The paths are beautiful and unexpected. The new addition of the path in the woods is terrific. We're so lucky to have an open space like this so close to us," said Kyra Sahasrabudhe of Stone Ridge.

Brown continues, "I don't think the Town realizes how popular it's become.

On Christmas Day everyone that had family in town brought them to the meadow. I'm figuring I see at least 200 dogs a week there, I knew it would be popular for dog owners. As for the numbers of people using the Meadow, I am humbled by it. There are people here in January before the sun comes up and until dark rain or shine. The Meadow has become a lot of people's happy place."

And there are plans for the spring.

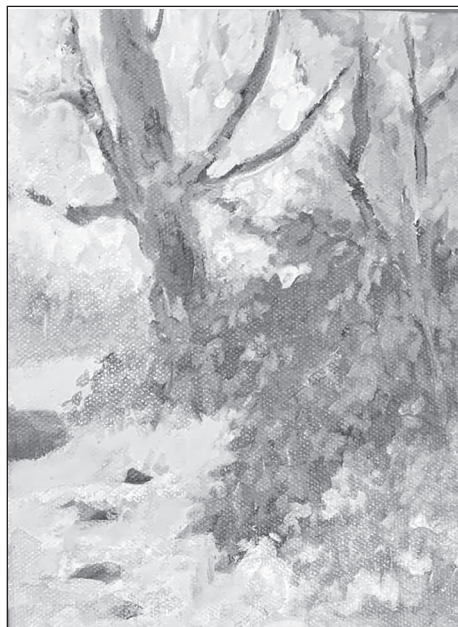
"The coming spring season will be magical there. And I have hopes to be having an opening of the park to the public the first or second week of May, and yes I'm needing the Town Board to jump on board with the event," said Brown.

Marbletown Supervisor Rich Parete said, "I'm, really happy the community is utilizing the property. It's a gem that will be enjoyed for generations. We have exciting plans for the property that will offer more recreation and activities for everyone."

Brown continued, "So as spring starts the numbers using it will grow. There's no hiding it anymore and I couldn't be any prouder of what I've done. I call it 'my meadow' and plan on taking care of it until I retire." **BSP**

Exhibit of drawings and paintings inspired by the Bonni Leu Banyard Pollinator Garden

"In the garden," the new exhibit at the Stone Ridge Library showcases the observational drawings and paintings inspired by the Bonni Leu Banyard Pollinator Garden of the artists who have spent hours observing and documenting the diversity of flora and the pollinators they attract. The show will be on display through Feb. 24, at the library, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge. Featured artists include Lynn Friedman, Judith Zeichner, Mavis Harris, Loretta Murin, Christine Herbes-Sommers, Donna Calcavecchio and Mary Gruszka. For more information, visit



Lynne Friedman's work is part of the "In the garden" exhibit at the Stone Ridge Library

stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

Fruit and vegetable Rx program partners with Ellenville to support nutrition and wellness

Motivated to continue working toward their personal nutrition goals, residents of the Ellenville/Wawarsing area and patients of the Ellenville Regional Hospital's Rural Health Network met for 10 sessions, enrolling in SNAP-Ed New York's Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program through the support of the hospital's nutritionist. For their participation, group members received up to \$120 in vouchers to purchase fresh produce at Peter's Market, a local, family-owned grocery store that has taken initiative in supporting the area following the closure of a major food retailer. While access to affordable, nutritious food continues to pose a challenge to families across the country, limiting availability in communities like Ellenville, community organizations and members proceed to offer innovative approaches to address barriers and increase resources.

Group members built on their knowledge and shared their own experiences

and skills around food and nutrition, exchanging tips and tricks in a supportive space with facilitated conversations and guided learning by SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator Mary Brimmer. Classes highlighted the multifaceted nature of relationships with food, with ties not only to personal health, but the environment, social and spiritual well-being, history, culture and experiences of joy and celebration. Topics explored eating healthy on a budget, obtaining and managing food resources, building culinary skills, reading labels, staying active and more. With shared input, new recipes were featured each lesson, integrating food items of interest along with resources typically provided by local pantries or received at the hospital's own Farmacy program, which distributes food items bimonthly to community members facing food insecurity.

At the conclusion of the series, a "grocery store tour" was held at Peter's Market. During this class, the group put their knowledge to their lived experience, navigating the store and identifying smart strategies to purchase nutritious, budget-friendly meals. FVRx is a growing program and is set to continue with a new cohort beginning in February. To find out more, contact Nutritionist Courtney Jollie at cjollie@erhny.org or at 845-647-6400, ext. 205.

Visit BlueStonePress.net and check out the different ways you can support your hometown newspaper. Be in the know, local-style.

Support Local Journalism...

...and get yourself a killer BlueStone Press hat.



Make sure you tell them that you SAW IT IN THE BLUESTONE!

New Paltz man arrested following fatal hit-and-run accident in Rosendale

'When this intersection was redesigned by the State Department of Transportation years ago, no accommodations were made for pedestrian safety' said Metzger

Matthew Donohue
BSP Reporter

The New York State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation at Kingston announced the arrest of Alex B. Brown, 34, of New Paltz, in connection with a fatal pedestrian hit-and-run accident on Jan. 16, 2025 in Rosendale.

Brown has been charged with leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree for driving with a revoked license.

According to the investigation, the incident occurred at approximately 8:19 p.m. at the intersection of Route 32 and Creek Locks Road in the town of Rosendale. Brenda Fisher, 74, of Kingston, was driving northbound when Victoria Cooper, 37, also of Kingston, entered the roadway on foot. Fisher's vehicle struck Cooper, who was thrown into the southbound lane. Moments later, Cooper was run over by a 2008 Subaru Forester driven by Brown.



Intersection of Route 32 and Creek Locks Road where the accident happened. Photo by Matthew Donohue

Fisher remained at the scene and immediately contacted emergency services. However, Brown fled the scene without rendering aid. Cooper was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Following an investigation by the New York State Police, Brown was arrested on Jan. 17, 2025. He was arraigned in the Ulster County Centralized Arraignment and remanded to the Ulster County Jail with bail set at \$5,000 cash or \$10,000 bond. Brown is scheduled to appear in the Town of Rosendale Court on Feb. 20, 2025, at 5 p.m.

This incident marks the second fatal accident in Ulster County in the last six weeks, following the death of 77-year-old Gary White in late December.

Jetmir Aliaj, an employee at Antonio's Pizzeria in Rosendale, noted that the intersection is known for close-call accidents but nothing as severe as this. "Some locals stopped by and we were talking, and they said they need to add crosswalks in that intersection and more lights," Aliaj said.

In response to the recent tragedies, Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger has emphasized the need for increased

pedestrian safety measures. Metzger plans to propose a bill to implement speed cameras on county roads, but this initiative would require approval from the state Legislature.

Additionally, because the affected roads are state-operated, the Ulster County government must rely on the Department of Transportation (DOT) to address safety concerns. In a recent Spectrum News article, Metzger stated, "It really falls on state DOT to make these changes, and we're hoping that we can work with them to improve the safety of our roads - that's paramount."

Metzger, in addition her role as county executive has been a Rosendale resident for decades and said, "My heart goes out to the family and loved ones of Victoria Cooper, whose life was tragically cut short last Thursday night in a fatal pedestrian incident in Rosendale. As a Rosendale resident, I have long been concerned about this dangerous intersection of two state roads, right at the gateway of the town where there is significant commercial activity and pedestrian traffic.

When this intersection was redesigned by the State Department of Transportation years ago, no accommodations were made for pedestrian safety. I urge NYSDOT to fix this intersection and create a safe pedestrian crossing with lit pedestrian signals to prevent avoidable heart-wrenching tragedies like this in the future."

Authorities urge anyone with information regarding the incident to contact SP Kingston BCI at 845-338-1702. **BSP**

BlueStone Briefs

Demystify going to synagogue in this 'power hour' via Zoom

Ever gone to synagogue and felt like everyone seemed to know what they were doing except for you? They somehow knew when to stand up, when to sit down, what to respond to aloud, when to sing and to what tune? How can it be that a prayer service is so complicated and feel strange even when you're supposed to feel at home?

Relax, learn and feel joy. Join the Kerhonkson Synagogue community and friends for their online "Power Hour," 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 via Zoom.

This week the group will explore several blessings of the weekday Amidah and make them their own! Have a pen and paper handy. This is an invitation to dwell in comfort and prayer. Demys-



Studying for AP Calculus was made a little easier with the comfort of some cookies and cocoa

tify the Siddur/prayerbook and make it yours.

For more information and the Zoom link, contact Rabbi Sally Shore-Wittenberg, spiritual leader of the Kerhonkson Synagogue at kerhonksonsynagogue@gmail.com or kerhonksonrabbi@gmail.com.

Cookies, cocoa and calculus

Nothing makes studying for midterms sweeter than cookies and cocoa! Earlier this month, Rondout Valley High School AP Calculus students organized a math-

themed cookie exchange and hot cocoa party while prepping for their midterm exam. They baked cookies, decorated the room and brought all the festive spirit, while Teacher Elise Cimino provided the cocoa and the midterm review! Their creativity and collaboration made studying a lot more fun! For more Rondout happenings, visit rondout.k12.ny.us.

Barbara Esmark of High Falls recently featured as Artwork Highlight of the Week

Woodstock School of Art at CoWork Kingston featured students of Olivebridge Artist Kate McGloughlin. Recently Barbara Esmark's "Icon" woodcut was the Artwork Highlight of the Week at CoWork Kingston, located at 8 North Front St., Kingston. Visit the exhibition, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday to see all the artwork. For more information, visit woodstockschoolofart.org or call 845-679-2388.



BlueStone Memoriam

Anna May Lawrence (no pic)

ACCORD—Anna May Lawrence (Fritschler), 84, passed away peacefully in Florida. Born in Accord, NY, in 1940 to Margaret and Fred Fritschler, Anna graduated from Rondout Valley Central School in Kerhonkson. She spent much of her life in Accord and Woodstock, NY, before retiring to Nokomis and later Lake Worth, Florida. Anna was the devoted wife of Wayne Gordon Lawrence and a beloved mother to John (Heidi), David (Nancy), Katrina (Dave), Karen (Bill), and Brent. She was cherished by her 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Anna is also survived by her brother Rick and was predeceased by her sisters Lois and Louise. Anna found joy in baking, cooking, and sewing, pursuits that reflected her nurturing spirit. She also embraced adventure, enjoying camping, motorcycle riding, boating, and scuba diving. In her later years, she discovered a love for painting, which brought her great fulfillment. Known for her kindness and selflessness, Anna touched the lives of those around her with her thoughtful nature. Her family draws strength from the love she so generously shared and the lasting impact of her compassion. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date in NY. In lieu of flowers, donations in Anna's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a cause close to her heart. May Anna's memory bring comfort to all who knew and loved her.

Zena Cohen

HIGH FALLS—Zena Cohen passed away peacefully on New Year's Eve, transitioning to Source and the arms of her Beloved. Born and raised in Johannesburg, South



Cohen

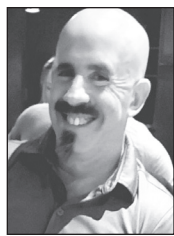
Africa, Zena moved to High Falls, NY, at the age of 76, where she cherished both the community and her home with all her heart. She was preceded in death by her parents, Fruma and Leslie Herring, and her beloved husband, Ronald Cohen, with whom she is now reunited. Zena is survived by her three children: Barbara, Geoffrey, and Trace; her grandchildren: Ezra, Dillon, Samson, Joseph, and Justin; and her great-granddaughters: Zara, Lilah, and Mia. Zena's

life was a journey of self-discovery. Her path to wholeness began with yoga, studying under the guidance of B.K.S. Iyengar in Pune, India. She was also a devoted practitioner of Jin Shin Jyutsu, a lifelong astrologer, and a student of Zen under Joko Beck. As a sanyassin of her beloved teacher OSHO, she credited him as a guiding force in the development of her life's work. Through her career as a teacher and practitioner, Zena pioneered her own body of work, encapsulated in her book *Alignment and the Sacred Core*, which inspired many to awaken to their deepest human potential. Zena's teachings, vibrancy, and beautiful spirit have left an indelible mark on all who knew her. We will miss her deeply, yet we are comforted by her reminder: "We are always connected."

Alfred J. Lazzaro Jr.

ACCORD—Alfred J. Lazzaro Jr., 56, of Accord, passed away at his home with his loved ones on Monday Dec. 30, 2024. He was born in Quantico, Virginia Nov. 18, 1968, a son of the late Alfred Lazzaro Sr. and Linda North Lazzaro, of Phoenicia. He was a graduate of Rondout Valley High School and grew up in Stone Ridge. Alfred worked 16 years at The Revenue Markets, where they manufacture and integrate toll collection systems, from all the equipment, custom software, and installation. Known as 'Fred' around the shop he worked in the treadle shop manufacturing one of the company's bread and butter products, the treadle, which counts axle crossings in the toll plaza lanes along the countries interstate highways. During his time at the Revenue Markets he became the right hand man to owner Bob Rosenkrans, where they

would go on to do major renovations at the Hasbrouck House in Stone Ridge. They also revitalized, improved, and expanded the Stone Ridge Orchard. He built new housing for the workers, new apple processing plants, and helped plant new trees, revitalize old trees, and plant new raspberry bushes. During that time Alfred also became a savant at collecting coins and paper money. For the last 6 years he has worked for Upstate Precision Builders where he built homes and was an equipment operator. He was also a major contributor to improving the farm and grounds at Hidden Valley Lake, where he was most happy would be cutting the grass and enjoying the view of the land. Alfred also loved metal detecting and spent many of days



Lazzaro

throughout the farms and old properties up and down the Rondout Valley. The job that Alfred took the most pride in was being a great father. He has 4 children, son Justin Lazzaro, 25, (wife Ryleigh) of Florida, son Hayden Lazzaro, 17, daughter Morgan Lazzaro, 12, and son Chase Lazzaro, 8. Also survived by a brother Mike, a sister Cheri and two nieces Cassandra and Cecilia. Memorial visitation was 4 PM to 6 PM on Tuesday Jan. 14 at the George J. Moylan Funeral Home Inc., 2053 Route 32, Rosendale. At 6 PM there was a Time of Remembrance and Sharing. A Celebration of his Life continued at American Legion Post 1219, 794 Springtown Road in Tillson following the funeral home service.

Janice Maureen Hotaling

ROSENDALE—Janice Maureen (Freer) Hotaling, 91, of Rosendale, NY, passed away peacefully on Friday: Jan. 10, 2025 at Health Alliance Hospital, Kingston, NY. She was



Hotaling

born August 29, 1933 in Port Ewen, NY. The daughter of the late Samuel and Loretta (Gilbert) Freer. She moved to Binnewater, NY in 1939 and remained a lifelong resident of the Town of Rosendale until her passing. She married her loving husband William T. Hotaling, who passed in 2016, in 1952, in Kingston, NY. She graduated Kingston High School in 1951 and worked at Williams Lake Hotel in Rosendale, NY, New York Telephone Company in Kingston, NY,

Ulster County Community College in Stone Ridge, NY and Fann's Department Store in Rosendale, NY. She was a lifelong member of the Binnewater Union Free Chapel, where she was a former Treasurer and board member. She was a former member of the Binnewater Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and a member of the Rosendale Senior Citizen's Club. In her youth, she was a member of the Kingston High School Ski Club and the Lowlands Riding Club. Janice loved being outdoors, regardless of the season, and had many interests, but her passion was her horses. She was an award winning equestrian. She loved riding her horses and she performed in any shows and rodeos she could find. She enjoyed skiing, roller skating, swimming, gardening, cooking and sewing and was a self-taught guitarist, who played at resorts and halls throughout the Hudson Valley, as part of a square dance band called the Ridge Runners. Janice is survived by her three daughters and their husbands, Darlene and Joseph Sulko of Halfmoon, NY, Judith and Rudolph LaBounty of Saugerties, NY, and Lori and William Graham of Rosendale, NY, with whom she resided until her passing. She is additionally survived by six grandchildren, Cherie Sulko, Rudolph LaBounty, Christopher LaBounty, Loren LaBounty, Seth LaBounty and Corey Brainard. She has 13 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and is also survived by her brother in law, Howard Hotaling of Ormond Beach, FL. In addition to her parents and husband, she is predeceased by her sister June Drolet. Arrangements are entrusted to the George J. Moylan Funeral Home Inc., 2053 NY Rt. 32, Rosendale, NY, 12472. Friends and family visited the funeral home on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The funeral service was held at the funeral home immediately following, at 1 p.m. Burial will then proceed to the Rosendale Plains Cemetery,

Tillson, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to the Binnewater Union Free Chapel, c/o Tracy Oakes, Treasurer, 226 Maverick Rd., Woodstock, NY, 12498, or Hudson Valley Hospice, 153 Sawkill Rd, Kingston, NY, 12401.

Theron R. Cole

KERHONKSON—Theron R. Cole, 66, of Kerhonkson, NY, passed away on Jan. 11, 2025. Born to Leroy and Catherine Cole, he was predeceased by his wife, Laura;



Cole

daughter, Stacey; infant brother; and parents-in-law, Don and Rita Exner. Theron is survived by his son, Arthur Cole and his wife, Kimberly, of Stone Ridge, NY; his daughter, Stephanie Cole of Accord, NY; his ex-wife, Linda Cole of Accord, NY; his sisters, Bea Haugen Depuy and partner, Gaylord Michael Busch of Kerhonkson, NY and Nellie Berg of Sherburne, NY; his cherished grandchildren, Kristen, Kaitlyn, Theron,

and an eagerly anticipated granddaughter, Kendall; as well as many beloved nieces, nephews, brothers-in-law, and sisters-in-law. Theron dedicated his career to the local community, working as a mechanic and truck driver for various establishments, including Arthur F. Mulligan Bus Company, Town of Wawarsing and many other local businesses. He was deeply involved in a youth sports, coaching teams as his children grew up. An avid outdoorsman, he cherished hunting, fishing, being a member of the Ulster Heights Rod and Gun Club and attending the annual King of the Ice event in Sullivan County, NY. His passion for music was evident through his talent with a stand-up base and guitar, performing with local bluegrass bands in the early 1990s. Theron especially looked forward to Olive Day each year in which he had performed his music in past years, a highlight of his musical endeavors. He also had a profound appreciation for American muscle cars and enjoyed attending many of the local area car shows and the Ellenville Fourth of July Parade. Known for his friendly demeanor and ability to bring smiles to those around him, Theron will be deeply missed by all who had a pleasure of knowing him. Visiting hours were held on Sunday, Jan. 19 from 1-3 p.m. with a funeral service beginning at 2:30 p.m. at Humiston Funeral Home, Kerhonkson, NY.

Lorraine Marie De Felicis

ROSENDALE—Lorraine Marie De Felicis, 92, of Rosendale, passed away peacefully on Wednesday Jan. 8, 2025 surrounded by her loved ones at HealthAlliance Hospital



Felicis

in Kingston. She was born in Kingston July 23, 1932 a daughter of the late John and Alice Malia Feasel. She was a doting wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Lorraine was a wonderful mother who was always there when we needed her the most, offering support, wisdom and love in abundance not only to her family but to anyone in her presence. A devout Catholic her entire life, she graduated

from St. Ursula's Academy in Kingston. Lorraine made many pilgrimages to the Vatican as well as the Medjugorje. Her husband Gerard De Felicis, her sister Doris Smith and a daughter Agnes Sanchez, all died previously. She is survived by two sons, Jerry De Felicis and his wife Patty, of Myrtle Beach, SC, and Bob De Felicis of High Falls, a daughter Cindy De Felicis of Saugerties. Also survived by many grandchildren, many great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on 10:30 AM Saturday Jan. 25 at St. Peter's Church in Rosendale. Interment in St. Peter's Cemetery, Rosendale, will take place privately at a later date. Memorial contributions are requested to Father Flanagan's Boys Home (boystown.org) or to St. Joseph's Indian School. give.stjo.org/Donate

George J. Moylan Funeral Home Inc., Rosendale, is assisting her family.

Where will you Rest in Peace?

KRUMVILLE CEMETERY

Beautiful, serene, country setting
in Town of Olive

Plot prices: \$850.00 ea. or
2 adjacent plots for \$1,550.00
(includes 4 cornerstones)

Contact Linda @ 845-657-6467
or Judy @ 845-514-6890



*George J. Moylan
Funeral Home Inc.*

Traditional Funeral Services
Cremations
Pre-Arrangements

3663 Route 209
Stone Ridge, NY 12484
(845) 687-7970

2053 Route 32
Rosendale, NY 12472
(845) 658-3139

**Humiston
Funeral Home, Inc.**

Geoffrey and Heather Hazzard

(845) 626-3331 • humistonfuneralhome.com
30 42nd Street • Kerhonkson

The Big Cheese, same store, new hands

Amber Kelly
BSP Reporter

As of January 2025, Trevor Carey is the new owner of The Big Cheese in Rosendale. When asked what he loved the most about it, Carey said, "On a general level we have regulars feeling at home and welcome, and they come back three, four, five times in the week. I love that this can be that thing for somebody. Like on their way to work, they stop to get a cup of coffee. Or, I have a guy and he works at night and he come in here for breakfast, I mean, for him it's his dinner. He does that maybe four times a week. So, I really like to see people have their spot.

"Food-wise, what we have works," Carey said. "After Covid, many people from the city started coming, and I knew what they are looking for and I am trying to provide it, but I want to keep the balance with what locals want. I want new customers and also keep our regular customers. I want this to still be the store that everybody knows and comes to. This is the same store, new hands. The menu changes are going to be very small, because the store has been what it is for thirty years and it has been a success and I'm not looking to make any major changes to it.

"Yuval and Lisa Sterer are still a presence in the store," Carey said. "Yuval is transitioning out of his responsibilities nice and slowly. After taking care of it for so long, it would be crazy for me to say, 'no, get out of here,' and not take advantage of their guidance and support. Yuval is still procuring the cheese and a handful of the other Middle Eastern kind of items for us. He is definitely still making hummus, his bone broth and a couple of other things that he is known for. He will continue providing hummus to the Co-Op (High Falls), Davenport (Marbletown) and some other places on his own," Carey said. "And Lisa is still going to be taking care of the clothing and doing all of that. That is her thing and she is going to continue.

"Overall my staff are really wonderful, hard-working and dedicated to the store. Three of them are do-or-die, they work so hard," Carey said. "Between them being mind-readers and just knowing exactly what to do, I am really grateful for them. A lot of my staff are locals and I think that really helps. Six out of nine staff members live on Main Street. I think that helps them feel invested and want to work harder for it. I want to give back by making it a good place to work.

"When I hire someone, there is a lot to learn, and I tell them that they're not going to know if it is a right fit, honestly, until three months in. But sometimes you can even tell in those first two weeks that a kitchen isn't for you, whether cooking the food, or taking the orders, something about the kitchen isn't for you. It's like, no shame in that at all. Not everybody is cut out for it. I can't go work on an oil rig, I'm not cut out for it, it's just how I was made," Carey said.

When asked what he'd like to see for the store, Carey said, "For the store? I don't think I'd live long enough to see it, but I'd like to get it set up so that it would hit one hundred years. We're at 30 years now, and if I run it for 30



Trevor Carey is the proud new owner of The Big Cheese, Rosendale's long standing and popular restaurant, deli, convenience store and clothing shop. Photo by Amber Kelly

years, then I'll be 60 years old. So, if I can find someone at that point to run it for 30 years, that would be my dream.

"Then my dream for my lifetime, is to run this place so well, that I could open up a second store. It doesn't have to be Big Cheese two, it could be something else altogether. I have no idea what. I don't know, but in my life if I could do a second store, great.

"For me, I'm happiest on a busy day in July when it is as hot as it can be, and it's a hundred degrees by the stove and I'm just making food for people. That busyness and that rush is great; I love that," Carey said.

As far as what we can look forward to, Carey said, "We're starting to do open mic once a month, on the third Tuesday of every month. I'm going to move out the tables by the window, I have a stand and I have a mic. I hope, cross my fingers, that we can do more, like one event every week. Like on this particular day, this thing is happening, and the second week it's going to be, this other thing.

That way if you want to do something just once a month, you can.

"During the summer on Sunday, during the farmers market, I want to have grilled food out back in our seating area. I'm hoping the smell will waft over to the market and invite people over, like, something smells good!

"We're still going to be the Big Cheese. You can still come and get your coffee in the morning. You can get your egg sandwich, and come and get your dinner at night. This is in new hands, but same store. I still want everyone to feel at home and welcome." **BSP**



...OPEN THE DOOR TO BETTER DAYS...

- House Cleaning
- Rental Cleaning & Management
- Concierge Service

WELCOME HOME CLEANERS
Serving Fine Estates & Households since 2000
4629 US HWY 209 | Accord, NY 12404
845.626.2402 **NOW HIRING**
Consult with us: www.welcomehomecleaners.com



GARDENS: Winter Garden Structure

MARK RIPEPI 845-687-0642 www.bleufarm.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & BUILD - ALL ASPECTS

STONE RIDGE HEALING ARTS



3457 Main Street. Stone Ridge, NY 12484

Professional health and wellness services in a beautiful and tranquil setting.

Osteopathic Manipulation
Physical Therapy • Acupuncture
Bodywork • Massage Therapy
Neurofeedback • Yoga
Somatic Movement Education

www.stoneridgehealingarts.com

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
Experienced – Certified

I can help your child speak clearly

I also work with:

- Autism
- Articulation Disorders
- Apraxia
- Learning Differences
- Attention Deficit
- Genetic Disorders
- Tongue Ties
- Vocabulary Issues
- Swallowing Disorders
- Oral-Motor Dysfunction

Call: **Joanna Nadoolman, M.A., C.C.C., SLP.**
(845)453-5549 jo@nadoolman.com

RondoutValleyPetCare.com



**DOG BOARDING
HOME WATCHING
SERVICE**

**PET SITTING
FOR ALL OF YOUR PETS**

Dawn Deevy
845.706.8447



On left, the Girls Basketball team playing their game. On right the Varsity Team (left to right): Peyton Kastanis, Brooke Mulkowsky, Ella Morse, Natalee Kiersted (peeking through), Jalyssa Garcia, Liz Hannigan, Jessa Clark, Coach Chando, Adrienne Bush, Brooke Secore, Madison Pfaff

Rondout girls' basketball, A young team on the rise

Jeff Slater
BSP Reporter

The Rondout girls' varsity team is only 4-5 so far this season but they are growing each day.

Sherry Cafiero head coach said, "We are a young varsity team, so there is a lot of work to do. Our team has 4 freshmen, 2 sophomores and 4 juniors. The girls work hard every day, working to develop their skills and team play. They bring a lot of energy to the court each day and are a fun team to coach."

Cafiero is assisted by Rod Chando, former Red Hook coach who brings 40 years of experience to the team and is a big asset.

"We are working on skills, offensive patterns, defensive alignments and how to read defenses and break them down. They are learning things like reading a defense and where the weaknesses are in different teams we face, how to balance the court, knowing where each other is on the court,

court awareness and playing together as a team," continued Cafiero.

Assistant Coach Rod Chando said, "It's a young team with no seniors. We play really well in spots with more court time and experience were are hopeful that will become more consistent and competitive."

The team is led by Jalyssa Garcia, a ninth-grader.

Cafiero said, "Jalyssa Garcia point guard is a leader on the floor in many ways. Some games in her point total while other times she is the leading rebounder. The one thing Jalyssa brings to the court every single day is her passion and love for the game. She plays with intensity and grit. Ella Morse is a ninth-grade guard. Ella is one of our top defensive players, I would call her a defensive specialist. Many times, Ella has shut down the opponent's leading scorer and she takes pride in doing so. She is tough and becoming an offensive threat as well as a defensive master. Liz Hannigan is an 11th-grade guard and small forward. Liz is also one of our strong de-

fensive players and comes up with lots of steals and deflections. She has good court awareness and can get hot on any given night. All the girls have their strengths and weaknesses."

The players share Cafiero's enthusiasm.

"Overall, I think our team dynamic this year is great. Our strengths as a team are that we all have different skills and work together as a team, we are all close and comfortable with each other. I think we're playing well this year, though we all have a lot of work to work on separately, but together we work well. I am glad I'm able to be on a team with people I'm so close to, which makes me more confident as a player and a person overall," said Liz Hannigan.

Ella Morse, "Although we're a younger team, we always push each other to play our best, especially in close games we're keeping up the intensity to take the lead. Even when we're losing, we keep working and playing hard."

"I would say that our team works hard,

and we have great teamwork. As a team we need to work on rebounding, transition from defense to offense and starting games with great energy. We do our best in defense and communication. We get along well and there's really no drama," said Jalyssa Garcia.

Coach Cafiero said, "They are eager to learn, and they work hard. They bring good energy and have a strong desire to do well. They are resilient. They have faced some tough teams with more to come. They are young. As long as they stick together and continue to play in the off season they will continue to grow and hopefully develop into a team that can compete with stronger program."

Their next home game is Monday against Red Hook. Come out to see these eager ballers and the skills they are developing under their coaching staff. Go Ganders. **BSP**

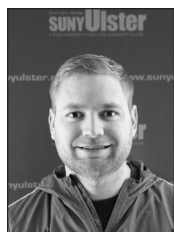
SUNY Ulster names Alumnus Randy Delanoy as Head Baseball Coach

Baseball to Resume Spring 2026
SUNY Ulster is pleased to announce hiring Randy Delanoy as Head Baseball Coach. Delanoy brings nine years of coaching experience and many accomplishments as a coach and player to the position.

Starting his coaching career at SUNY Ulster in 2016, Delanoy helped secure the title of Region 15 Champions in 2019, 2021, and 2022. He moved on to organize and manage 12 travel baseball teams as Owner and Head Coach of Hudson Valley

Select Baseball where he ran the baseball facility, provided hitting lessons and clinics and helped his athletes develop relationships with prospective colleges.

Delanoy graduated from SUNY Ulster in 2013 with an associate's degree in individual studies and transferred to St. Bonaventure University where he received his bachelor's degree in sports



Nameline

management. At SUNY Ulster, Delanoy played second and third base and was Team Captain in 2012 and 2013. He was also the Team Captain at St. Bonaventure in 2015.

One of Delanoy's first responsibilities will be to build a strong team for the fall 2025 exhibition season and spring 2026 season. Ryan Snair, Athletics Director at Ulster says, "It is unfortunate but Ulster has decided to cancel baseball for the upcoming spring 2025 season. We just didn't have enough pitching to get through

the rigors of a season without threatening injury to the pitchers we did have. We are confident that Coach Delanoy will lead our program back to prominence for the upcoming fall exhibition season and ultimately our spring of 2026 season."

"We are excited to have SUNY Ulster alumnus and former student-athlete Randy Delanoy return to SUNY Ulster as Head Baseball Coach as we continue our momentum supporting our student-athletes," stated President Alison Buckley, Ed.D.

What's your opinion? Write your letter to the editor.

EMAIL: BLUESTONEPRESS845@GMAIL.COM • SNAILMAIL: BLUESTONE PRESS, PO BOX 149, STONE RIDGE

BlueStone Service Directory



CABINET DESIGNERS EST 1987
THE KITCHEN + BATH DESIGN FIRM

We improve our clients' lives by improving their living spaces.

KITCHENS • BATHS • CLOSETS • TILE • SHOWROOM
747 RT 28 Kingston, NY 12401 • 845-331-2200
www.CabinetDesigners.com

stylo furniture & design

stylo-fd.com • 845.541.8139



EXCELLENCE GUARANTEED

BOB GAYDOS AUTO BODY
24 Hour Towing

50 YEARS OF SERVICE

(845) 626-0909 | 6212 Route 209, Kerhonkson

A&G CUSTOM MADE FURNITURE CORP.
Est. 1986

KITCHENS & VANITIES
WALL UNITS & CLOSETS
CUSTOM FURNITURE
CASEWORK & MORE

4747 RTE 209
ACCORD, NY 12404
845-626-0063
WWW.AGCUSTOMMADE.COM



ARTISTIC RENOVATIONS

CHAIR CANING

FURNITURE REPAIR & SALES
ANTIQUES & PAINTED MURALS
AND MORE

HURLEY NEW YORK
CALL ROB
845-750-2298

FREE ESTIMATES



PAPA BEAR TREE CARE

Tree Care & Removal, Lawn Maintenance

- Tree Pruning
- Danger Tree Removal
- Land Clearing
- Lawn Development
- Top Soil, Stone, Mulch
- Stump Grinding

Free Estimates & Fully Insured
(845) 702-9641

ATWOOD GRAVEL WORKS

DRIVEWAYS / LANDSCAPE
GRAVEL TOPSOIL DELIVERIES
UNDERGROUND UTILITY LOCATING SERVICE

Resurfacing, Potholes, Grading, Drainage, Culvert Installation, Landscaping, Gravel, Stone, Topsoil, Underground Utility Locating Service, Electric, Water

FULLY INSURED
OUR METHODS SAVE YOU \$\$\$

(845) 399-8914 atwoodgravelworks.com

Poison Ivy Patrol

Specialty Landscaping
RECLAIM YOUR YARD

Invasive Plant Removal - Forestry Management
Woodland Restoration - Tree Care


www.poison-ivy-patrol.com
845.687.9528 | Fully licensed and Insured



VIVI UPHOLSTERY

Slip covers, cushions, furniture, home, boats, trucks, cars, old antique repair and much more!
40+ years experience.

Free estimates. Stone Ridge.
Call Veronica: 845-687-9026, cell 845-399-1708



Doug Nostrand
Home Improvement
Quality Craftsmanship

Hardwood Floor Sanding, Refinishing & Installations,
Windows & Doors, Plumbing & Heating,
Kitchen & Bath Renovations

845-417-1129 Always prompt service

Imagine your ad in the
HEART
of the BlueStone Press
Reasonable Rates. Repeat Discounts.

bluestonepress845@gmail.com

KAATERSKILL PAINTING

Specializing in
Interior/Exterior Painting & Staining
Of Log Cabin, Cedar &
All Wood Homes & Buildings
Fully Insured & Licensed • References Available
845-217-5096 (leave voice message)
Matthew

READ THE

BlueStone Press

THIS WINTER!

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT WWW.BLUESTONEPRESS.NET OR CALL: (845)-687-4480



Letters policy

Please send letters to the editor to the BlueStone Press by submitting to our website at bluestonepress.net or email at bluestonepress845@gmail.com or send to P.O. Box 149, Stone Ridge, NY 12484. Include your name, hometown and phone number. Letters should be fewer than 500 words and may be edited for clarity, brevity and taste.

Marbletown Community Center will have to be saved without me

To the Editor: This is my last letter as the Town Crier. Some years ago, I happened to be at a meeting of the Marbletown Town Board when the subject of the Community Center came up. They considered selling it; Daisy Foote called it a “black hole” of expense.

Amazed, I wrote a letter to the BlueStone Press reviewing the Center’s history with the town. At a community meeting regarding the projected Emmanuel Mall, folks realized they wanted a place in Stone Ridge where teens and their elders could gather. Like magic, the Vets turned over the Center for \$1, and the community got busy, volunteering time and money to fix it up. The teens designed tiles for the bathroom; others dug up and planted bulbs in the front. It was a beautiful project for the town. Although Rich Parete says the Center has no history, this is its history ... along with its value to Stone Ridge.

Like others, I have enjoyed concerts, readings, a lecture on coyotes, a party for a much-loved couple moving west, and the 90th birthday of a dear friend (which inspired me to do likewise). And the bi-monthly meetings of the Marbletown Seniors, which regularly present excellent lectures. And the Game Night. And the daily programs for this and that, etc.

When members of the community realized the Town Board was thinking of selling the center, they presented the board with petitions, raised money, and got a grant. And I attended every board meeting. After a long delay, last fall, all of the programs were told to move, so the work could start. As of last night, the board hadn’t even gotten any estimates.

But Daisy Foote and Mary Ann Van Benschoten did go over and checked out the kitchen. Last night, they gave their report, another version of the “black hole.”

If the members of Stone Ridge want to save this Center, they’ll have to do it without me. It makes me weep.

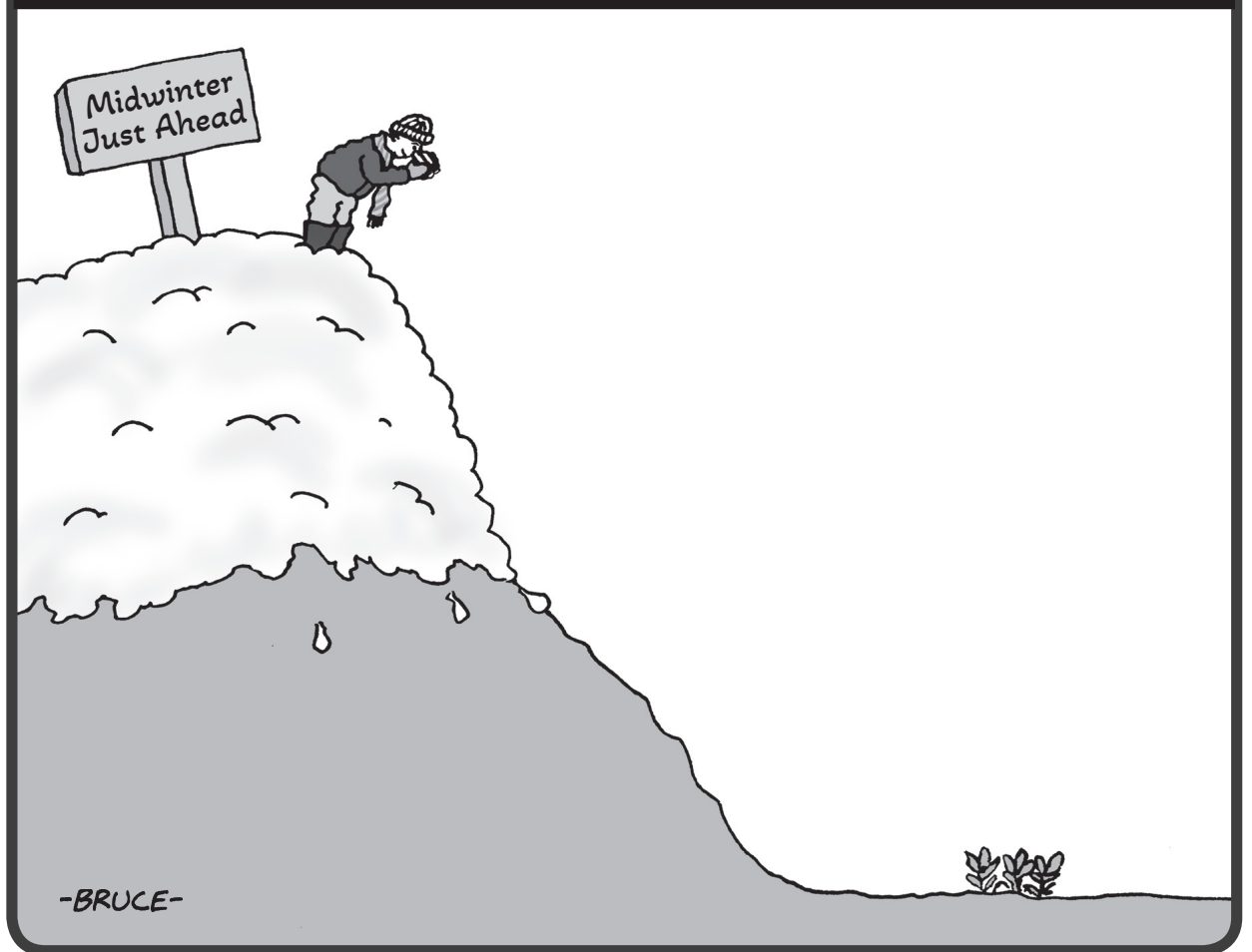
ViVi Hlavska
Lomontville

RVSD decision to hire armed guards

To the Editor: The RVSD stated that their decision to place armed guards in the schools wasn’t a big enough issue to get community feedback, but how much time did they spend discussing it at their meetings? How much research did they do to inform their decisions? Did they look at what other schools have tried, and exhaust all possible solutions?

What is the goal here? Do they expect to stop a mass shooting, or limit casualties? What size rifle will the guards carry? How many guards will there be? Where will they be stationed? Will all students go through metal detectors? What if there’s a shooter in the parking lot while buses are unloading? With all the school shootings over the last several years, there are plenty of statistics that the BOE must have looked at. I spent 10 minutes on Google and found out that more school kids are killed by single firearm discharge in parking lots than mass shootings. How can you stop that?

It’s all downhill from here...



Can you believe we’re talking about this right now? Why don’t we talk about what it is in our culture that is causing this violence in our children. There are two obvious common denominators here. These kids had access to a gun, and had an emotionally disturbing homelife. Seems to me, an armed guard will do nothing to prevent an incident from happening and might mitigate deaths if it does happen. It’s a quick fix that will make some parents feel that their kids might be a little bit safer. But what’s the emotional impact on children who go through metal detectors and pass an armed guard every day, or participate in active shooter drills for 12 years?

There’s obviously more to it than this, but rather than adding more guns and fear, offer quality mental health care starting in kindergarten. The teachers know how to spot troubled kids, get them help. This is not easy, and it may not stop anything right now, but hopefully we could see results with the next generation. You’re doing the same thing people have been doing since the beginning of time, fighting aggression with more aggression and it’s not working.

Jack Simpson
High Falls

The need for a Food Co-op

To the Editor: The Board of Directors of the High Falls Food Co-op support the efforts of the Kingston Food Co-op. They are a great community asset. While it isn’t always easy and it may take time, a food co-op is an important tool for healthy community engagement and growth.

For proof: we are small (2,400 square feet), in a very rural outpost of 151 square miles and 7,115 households (111.4 people per square mile); yet we have attracted 848 equity members, or the rough equivalent to a 12% impact on our service area. More than a grocery store, we are a vital thread in our local economy. Unlike corporate grocery giants, we are owned and run by the goals of our members. Two years ago, we began a policy that returns any profits we make to these members. We thus keep profits completely local, and directly benefit our members.

In 2024, our Co-op spent nearly one third of its product

purchases on local and regional producers. Studies show that every dollar spent at a local food coop impacts the local economy and community by more than 160% to every dollar. With our buy-local policies we expand this metric to 240% to every dollar.

Instead of corporate profits over community needs or people, we give consumers product options, a voice in what’s stocked on the shelves, and engagement in our evolution. Conversely, the recent closure of Ellenville’s ShopRite due to “poor sales performance” was made by a large corporate entity outside of its service area. It negatively impacted, and created hardships, on the community. At a Food Co-op, local membership would drive such decisions. Our members vote for our directors and give input on our performance. Thus, they have a real say in whether we stay open or close.

Our member-owner model allows us to adapt and be a reliable partner in times of crisis; like during the pandemic our Co-op staff pivoted quickly to a food pickup system and insured the families in our service area continued access to healthy and safe groceries.

Today we are bursting at the seams, and we need to expand. Maybe it’s because: our store is accessible to all; or membership growth was spurred by our affordable equity memberships; or our fund that assists lower-income households; or the high number of our staff that are equity members; or the ever-changing new product development in high swing through every square inch of our space. Like the Kingston Co-op, we also search for the answers for floor space, parking and meeting spaces.

As we seek angels to assist us with answers for a much-needed expansion we are energized. This energy makes us hopeful for the Kingston Food Co-op. It fills a real need in the community. We thus stand in solidarity with and strongly support the on-going efforts of the Kingston Food Co-op.

The High Falls Food Co-op Board of Directors
Zack Brown, David Del Principe, Jerrie Gullick,
Jan Melchior, Ginny Redgate, Michael Siegal,
Karim Tabaa and Amie Worley
High Falls

Flotsamerica Plastica: The 8th continent (and 9th Wonder of the World!)

We all know the dirty truth of petroleum-based plastic. It ends up in the ocean and messes up marine life, and takes close to forever to break down. The Great Pacific



Dear Wally

Wally Nichols

Garbage Patch (GPGP) gets the most attention these days and is about 1.6 million sq kilometers of undulating plastic bottle accumulation mixed and bashing up against other assorted flotsam. It's the size of Texas (or France).

We also have been hamstrung by the fatalistic, defeatist quip that "they aren't making more beachfront property."

Nonsense! We humans have a unique, innovative opportunity to kill a few birds with a giant plastic stone.

Hear me out.

With all the discarded plastic that we don't want bobbing out

there in the ocean and gunking up beaches, boat propellers and whatnot, what if we take all the plastic bottles, discarded polyester disco pants, outgrown Tickle Me Elmo dolls, scrapped car dashboards, broken vibrators, TV remotes that no longer work (or never did in the first place), single-use razors and coffee mugs, fouled tooth brushes, chipped cell phone cases, cracked Big Wheels, split fake lime green Adirondack chairs and UV wrecked Fischer Price swing sets, and melt them into one huge floating continent (the 8th!)?

How? We could tow all this crap toward the nearest active volcano and just get the free congealing melt!

We could call the new man-made continent Flotsamerica or Plastica.

3/4 of the earth is covered in water, so we have (for

now) plenty of space for it to drift.

It would be so large that millions of new beachfront homes could be built on it (and the homes could be built out of plastic!). Once we have a continent, we could drill baby drill and get more oil!

Plastica would be environmentally friendly because no one would need to use gas lawn mowers or weedwhackers because there would be no grass.

And the coolest thing is it would keep getting bigger! (In 2019, the world population produced 460 million metric tons – an amount double that of 2000 (ucn.org). Americans alone account for 80 million metric tons!)

Every time another barge of discarded, un-homed plastic arrives at the Plastica shipping port, the mountain range in the middle of the continent would just get taller. And before we know it, it would power past Mount Everest in height and fascination and snow. It would eventually allow the good people of Plastica to field both summer AND winter Olympic teams (like bobsledding and snowboarding, both using equipment made of ... you guessed it!).

When Plastica gets too big and breaks in half under its own weight, we can rename the parts either North Plastica and South Plastica, or Flotsamerica and New Flotsamerica.

If a small piece breaks off the plastic pangaia, because plastic stuff usually breaks, we could name that island Flotsamica. And we could make it exotic like the Seychelles.

Standing toe-to-beach sandal with The Great Wall of China, Christ the Redeemer in Brazil, Chichen Itza in Mexico, Plastica would itself be the 9th Wonder of the World.

And as an homage to the esteemed company it would keep, it would have life-size plastic replicas of all the other wonders. All superglued to each other. No longer would

you have to just get a plastic Taj Mahal from the New Delhi airport gift shop. You could actually see the real fake thing.

Another benefit of Plastica the continent, is that it would be an even moving global ambassador of peace drifting from one people to another people, gathering their plastic debris as the ocean currents allow while supporting unity. Like a Carnival Cruise ship, there would be plenty of room for anyone wanted to "cruise" for a while.

And not to get too ahead of myself, but thinking ahead and being realistic, someday it will be so massive and bloated that it just gets wedged between North America and Europe. Then we would have a plastic bridge, if you will, between those two continents. How nice would that be? We could drive to France. Or stop and fish along the way.

People worry about global warming. Its deleterious effects (like violent hurricanes and massive super tanker breaking waves) become moot once Plastica gets large enough and attenuates the hostile Pacific and Atlantic waves. And as sea levels rise, so will positively buoyant Plastica. So there will be no flooding on THIS continent.

With The Canary Islands poised to break apart and create a 200' high tsunami that travels 700 mph and wipes out the entire eastern seaboard of North and South America, Plastica might be the only realistic solution.

So, use this as a good excuse to buy more plastic! We can't afford to wait.

And Plastica will always be clean because there is always a little detergent left over in the "empty" jugs that will be used to build it! **BSP**

Got a question for our advice columnist or just your own great idea? Email him at cwn4@aol.com.

BlueStone Kudos

258 Students Named to SUNY Oneonta's Fall 2024 Provost's List

Two hundred fifty-eight SUNY Oneonta students earned Provost's List honors for the fall 2024 semester. To qualify for the Provost's List, a student must earn a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more. Joseph Ciardi of Accord, New York Colette Papin of Stone Ridge, New York SUNY Oneonta is a public, four-year university in Central New York, enrolling about 5,500 students in a wide variety of bachelor's degree programs and more than a dozen graduate certificate and degree programs.

Nazareth University Dean's List Fall 2024

Nazareth University has named the students to the fall 2024 Dean's List. A student's grade point average must be at least 3.5 or above, and they must complete 12 credit hours of graded work that semester in order to be included on the dean's list at Nazareth. Reilly Michaud of Tillson, New York Sophia Van Pelt of Rosendale, Nork

Olivia Bonelli Named to SUNY Oneonta's Fall 2024 Dean's List

Olivia Bonelli, of Kerhonkson, New York, was one of 1,277 SUNY Oneonta students who earned Dean's List honors for the fall 2024 semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more. Bonelli is studying psychology at SUNY Oneonta.

Olivia Yonnetti Named to SNHU President's List

Olivia Yonnetti of Kerhonkson has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Fall 2024 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring and summer.

Local students named to University at Buffalo's Fall 2024 Dean's List

The University at Buffalo has named 4,330 students to the fall 2024 dean's list: Jack Radliff of Stone Ridge, New York Giana Bradley of Esopus, New York UB is New York State's flagship university and the largest and most comprehensive institution in the State University of New York system.

"I am honored to recognize the students on the undergraduate dean's list who excel both in their studies and beyond," Ann Bisantz, dean of undergraduate education, says. "Together, we celebrate their remarkable achievements and the spirit of excellence within our university community."



**Complete Auto Body Repair
Foreign & Domestic**



845-687-7868
1032 Berme Rd, High Falls, NY

Wag Inn Boarding

4628 Route 209, Accord, NY

NEW Play & Train Camps!

Register now for
Summer Sleepaway & Day Training Camps

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO

Private Rooms, Group Play, Fenced Play Areas, Pickup & Drop off in NYC

845 - 687 - 7110
www.WagInnBoarding.com

HIGH FALLS FOOD CO-OP




**Organic + Local Produce
Fresh Prepared Foods
Baked Goods | Soups
Supplements, Natural Body
& Cleaning Products
Bulk Foods | Bulk Soaps
Packaged Natural Foods**

—CLASSES COMING SOON—
Saturday, February 8, 1-3pm
Navigating the World of
Mushroom Supplements
Saturday, February 22, 3-5pm
Lion's Mane Feasts:
A Savory Vegan Cooking
& Dining Experience

1398 NY-213, High Falls
845.687.7262

YOUR COMMUNITY-OWNED
NATURAL FOODS COOPERATIVE
—highfallsfoodcoop.com—



MLK day of service luncheon, a day to honor our communities' volunteers

Jeff Slater
BSP Reporter

Over 185 people attended the MLK day event held at the Rosendale Rec Center on Saturday Jan. 18.

They were honored with sit down meals and stopped by for to-go meals and a thank you. Volunteers helping for the day itself included musicians "Love is Love" and students from Bard College.

"The MLK Day Celebration of Service honors the incredible number of volunteers who have committed their time and energy each year to help non-profit organizations and the people they serve throughout Ulster County. It celebrates the broad circle and us together as a community and demonstrates the value of their volunteer spirit that is expressed across all generations," said Beth Albright of Stone Ridge, UlsterCorps director and co-founder.

Many local organizations had volunteers recognized. Rondout Valley's Lions Club, Mohonk Preserve, Rosendale Food Pantry, Rochester Food Pantry and Friends of the Rosendale Library were all recognized as well as other groups throughout the county.

County Executive Jen Metzger spoke as well as Ulster Corps Sugely Melenciano, Ulster County Human Rights Commissioner Joe McDonald, Tamika Dunkley from Seasoned Gives and Evelyn Clarke of FAMILY of Woodstock.

Local community members all enjoyed the event.

Cliff Rockmuller, a retired Rondout Valley teacher who assisted with registration and sign in, said, "A beautiful thing about this event is that it is made up of caring people that give back to the community. That is kind of special. You could feel the good vibes throughout the day."

Bill Brooks of Rosendale who represented the Lion's Club and is Rosendale's Town Historian said, "This is a great event to go to because you meet a lot of other volunteers that you know but you didn't know who they volunteered for. In the community. It is a great social event where you get to hang out with a lot of folks doing good work.



MLK day of service held at the Rosendale Recreation Center on Saturday Jan. 18

"I have been involved in UlsterCorps and am so amazed at the growth that has taken place, as evidenced by the huge turnout at the MLK event live in High Falls and have proudly volunteered in several capacities through the years currently focusing on the UIDN (Ulster Immigrant Defense Network). It was an enormously diverse crowd with excellent speakers, great music and delicious food that was generously donated."

"Commemorating the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on this day is a beautiful UlsterCorps tradition. The fact that the holiday coincided with the president's inauguration made it even more poignant. Unlike the newly elected president, the work of UlsterCorps and the significance of MLK Day are about bringing people together, caring about one another and celebrating our exceptional community. When you looked around the room all you saw was kind, caring devoted community members who con-

tribute in so many meaningful ways. We feel so fortunate to live in a community are forever grateful for the essential contribution of UlsterCorps," said Ilene Cutler.

Marge Bonner said, "While I have attended these celebrations in the past, this was the first year I stayed for the festivities, and I was so glad I did. This year Cornell Cooperative Extension supported the MLK event, so I joined two tables of fellow master gardeners. Sitting nearby were other fellow volunteers from Mohonk Preserve, Rochester Food Pantry and the AARP Tax Program, all part of my volunteer cohort. The room was full of music, conversation, good food and most of all love, which is so needed as we move forward. It was also my birthday, so I had a special celebration. Thanks so much to UlsterCorps for not only pulling this together, but for being such a force in our community. It would make MLK proud." **BSP**

An extraordinary journey through time

Contemplation and meditation have always been central to religious life, through time and around the world. Few took it more seriously than the medieval Anchorites,



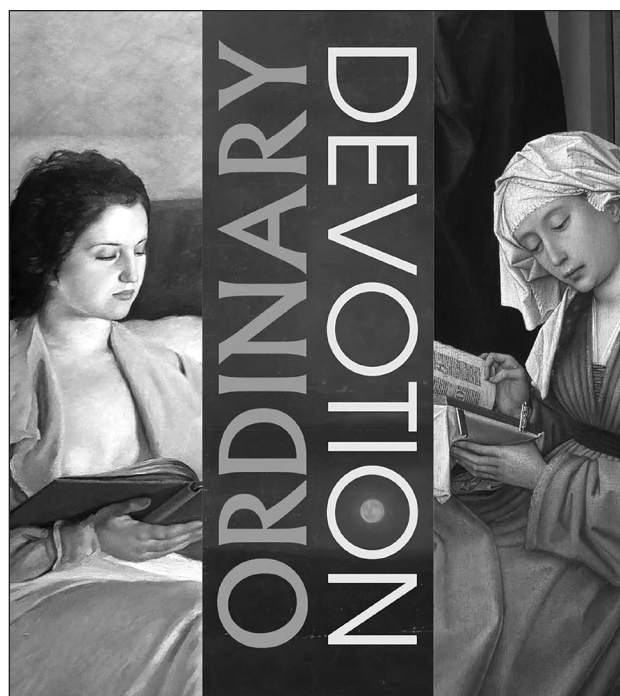
Book Review

Anne
Pyburn Craig

religious recluses who voluntarily committed themselves to lifelong confinement in a small cell attached to the side of a church with nothing but a couple of tiny windows for human contact. It was never a widely popular choice – there were perhaps 200 Anchorites at the peak of the phenomenon, which began in the 11th century and continued into the 15th – but was consistently chosen by more women than men. Women didn't have a lot of choices.

One of the two strong female protagonists in "Ordinary Devotion" had no choices at all: 12-year-old Elinor, sent by her father to serve as handmaiden to the local anchoress, Lady Adela, in her bricked-up chamber. Elinor, who's recently watched her mother die in childbirth, is a bright young person who considers this a terrifying and awful idea but has no choice; her father tells her that it was her mother's wish that she be free to live a contemplative life of the mind, and they're too broke to afford a nunnery, so in she goes.

Our other protagonist is 21st-century adjunct professor Liz Pace, a medieval studies scholar whose work has been mainly focused on the concept of purgatory, but finds herself increasingly fascinated by the anchoress life as she



wrestles with the vagaries of an academic road less traveled and the crushing disappointment of a miscarriage. To get to where she needs to be, she needs to slough off insecurities and free herself to follow her own path without fretting over others' opinions; as the story begins, she feels herself falling into a curious abyss of dissatisfaction.

Back in the 1370s, Elinor is mourning her freedom and freezing half to death in a dark stone chamber; Lady Adela, she discovers, is kind and wise and serves, through her

tiny window, as confidante and counselor to the women of the village. She also discovers she will be learning to read, which few people and even fewer women get the opportunity to do. With deep breathing and repeated prayers, she keeps the dread at bay, develops a crush on the young monk who brings her meals, and does her best to be of service and avoid completely freaking out.

In 1370, women's lives were nearly devoid of choice; in 2017, at an upstate New York college that sort-of-but-not-quite looks like a SUNY campus, Liz has lots of options – but only if she finds herself and grabs the reins. She too, in utterly different circumstances, is doing her best to be of service and avoid utterly freaking out.

This is the first novel from Stone Ridge native Kristen Holt-Browning, a poet and editor with a fine ear for the nuances of women's lives. Why did anyone choose the life of an anchoress? Is there any hope for those living the life of an adjunct professor in a somewhat obscure field? Will Elinor be freed, and what will she do then? Will Liz uncover the elusive connection between purgatory and anchoresses and become the scholar she was born to be? Holt-Browning smoothly segues back and forth between the two lives, building a subtle suspense and instilling a deep fondness even for her minor characters: kindly monks, Liz's husband – while keeping the interior lives of the women front and center.

"Ordinary Devotion" sneaks up on your heart and brain with deftly drawn spiritual drama, becoming next to impossible to put down; while you're reading the adventures of Liz, you're wanting to know how Elinor's doing, and vice versa. Kudos to Holt-Browning for a resonant and thought-provoking debut. **BSP**

Permaculture enthusiasts come out of the woodwork for a winter talk

Claudia Joseph's talk on David Holmgren's '12 Principles of Permaculture' at the Rosendale Community Center

Erica P. Schumacher
Special for BSP

"Permaculture is the art of the possible." ~ Graham Bell

Jan. 14 was a cold and blustery night with a full "wolf moon" casting abstract shapes through the clouds onto the sky. Still, some local permaculture enthusiasts braved the elements, and headed out to hear Claudia Joseph's talk on David Holmgren's "12 Principles of Permaculture" at the Rosendale Community Center.

Permaculture combines elements of design, ecology, sustainability, community-building and conservation. Joseph is an experienced Permaculture practitioner and a loving teacher. She leads the Rondout Valley Permaculture Meetup group and is founder and director of the New York Permaculture Exchange.

Joseph said permaculture has modern roots in the counterculture era, and arose originally from Native American and indigenous communities. "Everybody expresses permaculture principles in a different way," Joseph said. She credits David Holmgren, an influential permaculture co-founder, with creating models people can work with to foster greater resilience and adaptation to earth's dynamic changes. Design principles are applied as a flexible, adaptive system.

One primary principle of Permaculture philosophy is to "simply observe what is out there," Joseph said. "Humans are part of the natural system, not apart from nature." She suggests selecting a power spot in your landscape or neighborhood to observe temperatures, wildlife, thoughts, plants and patterns. "It's good to go daily, and just observe what is around you ... we're not really taught to sit still, and to just look at things."

This can work using a simple notebook, where seasonal observations are jotted down for reflection, and returned to. Journals may contain garden maps, ideas, illustrations and potential plans.

Permaculture design anchors itself in resource conservation and honoring nature's patterns. Another principle, "Catch and Store Energy," is a practical model that optimizes heating, cooling and storing the energy the Earth efficiently provides.

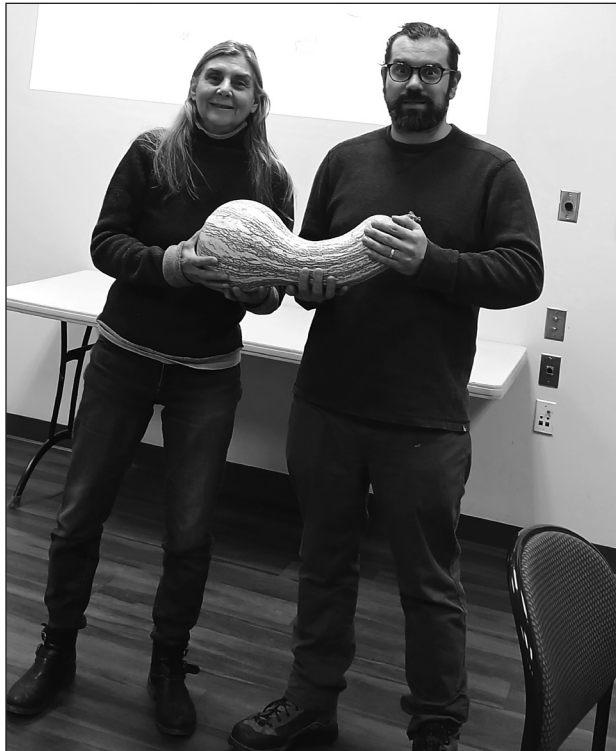
"We're looking at different ways to heat and store energy," Joseph said. Examples include building straw bale houses, which are resilient nature-based insulators. Others make use of solar heat from south facing windows, water tanks as thermal sinks, or natural showers. A hose on a roof might be heated by the sun, and used later for washing or bathing.

Composting has many net benefits: it creates heat, adds nutrients back into the soil and it feeds worms, wildlife and microorganisms. Diverse soil health is related to human wellbeing, the "microbiome," and high functioning soil.

Another principle, "Obtaining Yields," reminds practitioners to appreciate what has been built over time with the land, using gentle harvesting. "Yield comes in many forms and we want to explore all of the uses of the elements in a system," she said. "Don't let your hard work go to waste, and make use of what has been grown."

Joseph showed a slide of Rose and Elderberry blossoms in water and alcohol being gently infused by sunlight; various herbs can be used for infusions to boost us in the winter. "Multiple yields can come from a single source," Joseph said. "Sunflowers (provide food) and clean the soil of toxins ... and herbal infusions are good for your skin."

"Apply Self-Regulation and Obtain Feedback," is another Holmgren principle. This includes action and response, acknowledging nature's feedback and observing landscape results. Feedback also implies listening to others who have different knowledge and experiences. Joseph teaches using a non-hierarchical model, learning from others in addition to her own extensive training,



Claudia Joseph and Christopher Villafuerte. Photo by Erica P. Schumacher

teachings and practices.

She reminded the group that nature is a feedback loop that can soften harsh living conditions, or instruct us to interact with greater empathy and awareness.

A good question to ask is, "Was my design good? Is it working?" Implied is the practice of continuing to observe and adjust permaculture design results. This process increases awareness and landscape performance.

Another key tenet is using and valuing renewable resources. Joseph presented slides of plants, wildlife and garden designs that illustrate permaculture methods in urban, suburban and rural settings. She discussed the important shift back to more natural building materials. Examples include using bamboo, wool, existing wood, fiber and Hempcrete, instead of concrete to reduce pollution.

Our Constitution was written on Hemp, Joseph said, and it was an environmentally friendly mainstay in the nautical industry prior to chemical manufacturing. "We're getting better at understanding renewable resources ... Put materials to their highest use, and use them wisely, in other words, don't make toothpicks out of a Redwood."

Permaculture reimagines landscapes by keeping organic materials such as leaves, onsite. Woodpile areas can provide shelter for animals, sculpt the land, protect birds and restock soil with healthy microorganisms. Using Hugelkultur (a three-dimensional planting bed), gardeners can also create wind and privacy barriers that double as fertile garden areas for butterflies and bees. These areas also absorb water.

Joseph and other practitioners encourage placing vegetable remainders, leaves and other organic matter into the landscape in a compost system - these actions go a long way to keep natural materials where they belong - in nature, and out of landfills. Hauling organic waste is expensive since it is heavy, and keeping it onsite can be a great benefit.

People can take a much more conscious approach to general consumption, Joseph added. "Barter and trade, use the gift economy to circulate existing materials instead of buying them."

She encourages neighbors to share resources, tools and knowledge, instead of buying everything new. Some are creating "repair cafes," where clothing and existing goods can be restored (thus saving resources from unnecessary manufacture and transportation). "Consume thoughtfully - reconsider whether you really need to buy something."

"Produce no waste," is another ambitious Holmgren tenet. Joseph asked, "How do we cut our waste streams? This is the key question of our era."

In addition to composting, design and organic planting, lifestyle changes are one of the easiest steps we can make. "Simple ways to start would include reusing and repurposing existing things before recycling," Joseph said. Yogurt containers can be reused for paint, instead of

buying new items. Food containers can be repurposed for home organizing, tool storage, kitchen goods, etc. Joseph uses vines and other plants as string and cordage, like the Native Americans did.

Joseph's other tips include carpooling, finding work-arounds for short term needs, savoring herbs from a kitchen garden for cooking instead of driving to the grocery store, and creating sustainable "closed loop systems" that add to greater economy, health and ecology.

Land stewards, homeowners and community gardeners can also plant Milkweed to sustain Monarch butterflies. Gardens create other patterns and models to feed people, birds and animals. By practicing a more sacred approach to landscape appreciation and respect, we can maintain a spirit of honor and sacred reciprocity with the earth.

January's Rondout Valley Permaculture talk drew people in from Kingston, Rosendale and Woodstock for different reasons. Permaculture appeals to those buying land to grow organic food, some want to become more connected with the land, their food and how it is grown, some homestead; others listened intently to find ways to use permaculture to keep water off driveways and away from the home. People came to socialize, learn, support and to remind themselves of spring's potential.

Permaculture design follows nature's patterns. "We want to design from patterns to details," Joseph said. Permaculture uses circles, beautiful spirals and different scatter patterns to create devoted areas for kitchen herbs, greenhouses, animals and wildlife.

Permaculture fans also make use of "Swales" which are sculpted areas for water capture on a hill that feed tree roots, plants and soil. Swales also reduce unwanted water in a home or dwelling. "Beds are not just decorative; they are capturing water," Joseph said.

"Follow the existing shape of the land," Joseph said. "There are ways to sculpt a landscape."

Permaculture patterns and gardens add layers of pollinating potential, attract bees and beneficial wildlife, protect animals and people and are also extraordinarily beautiful.

According to Joseph, Holmgren's other principles include "Integrating rather than segregating." In this practice, gardeners plant many different types of flora in different layers. "Planting tall trees, short trees, root vegetables, fungi and ground cover," illustrate this tenet. "There are all these layers that fill every niche in nature," Joseph said. "Within these patterns, we want to integrate elements, we are not monocropping."

Permaculture invites us to work with the land holistically, using different 'tools in our toolbox,' to see what emerges over time. "Plant small and slow," is another principle. People can start with a small garden area, observe results and build more layers throughout the seasons. This patience encourages land-healing, stewardship, experimenting with patterns and humility.

Joseph explained her permaculture projects in different contexts, and used slides to demonstrate examples of Holmgren's principles. By valuing nature's diversity, we strengthen local and global environmental resilience.

Joseph created a pond in her landscape using recycled materials she already had. That action yielded a return of wildlife, and she showed a photo of a charming toad as an example of this resourcefulness and feedback. She also mentioned the importance of using the edges of fields and landscapes as meeting points for fertility, growth and life - valuing the large and the small as an interconnected web of emergent potential and continuity.

To summarize her talk, and emphasize Holmgren's synergistic model of design, ecology and community-building, Joseph smiled and said, "Plants work well in community, like we do."

Rondout Valley Permaculture meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. For more information or to join, check out www.meetup.com/en-AU/rondoutvalleypermaculture/

*For more information on David Holmgren's work, books and philosophy, check out <https://holmgren.com.au/permaculture> **BSP***

CLASSIFIED ADS START AT \$15

A righter right of way

The son of the landowner next door had a small airplane, and he used a field on his father's farm as an airstrip. That's the story I heard to explain why the power lines near my house cut right through the middle of adjacent properties instead of lining the roadway like most do. What that meant for my land in tangible terms was utility poles stuck in the center of a hayfield and the woods behind it divided neatly in half. And a long chunk of property unusable in many ways.



Susan Krawitz

Utility lines are absolutely essential for common good. But few would dispute that for many reasons they are best buried or erected alongside roads. I've long nurtured a pie-in-the-sky wish that somehow our easement could be moved there. And late last fall, a pinch-me-I'm-dreaming letter from Central Hudson arrived proposing exactly that.

Power lines didn't start climbing up this hilly, rural road until the 1940s. The Nagle family owned my house and land then. The husband played violin in cruise ship orchestras, and the wife was a housekeeper for a homeowner nearby. They had a big vegetable garden, kept a cow and some sheep and were probably delighted about the prospect of being able to swap smoky kerosene lamps for low-drama electric ones, even though it meant ceding away a strip of hay and grazing property that ran right through their

farm.

A power line right of way means that though you pay tax on the land, in several ways it is kind of no longer yours. You can't erect a fence near it, as the contract sent with the letter stated, or plant trees, or grow anything but low-growing flowers and shrubs. The power company used to allow wild grapevines to grow in our easement, and I picked their fruit and made it into jelly. But in recent years it's been clearcut, and because of a startling lack of regrowth, I suspect herbicides. So move the powerlines? Oh yessss. Please.

The woman in charge of the pole-moving project proved competent and kind-mannered. She met with us to answer questions and tangibly show the intended new line of go. She said she believed the change meant our old easement would be nullified, with poles removed, and full use of that bald, unusable strip returned. Her plan also entailed moving half the poles on our property to a neighbor's land across the street. It would make things more fair regarding easement intrusions, she said. More fair? Hallelujah! Because we'd just suffered a particularly heartless trim.

Forestry crews have always asked before cutting trees near the lines. But this fall, someone just drove some kind of saw machine through our woods and sheared branches and trees well beyond the easement edge. The carnage included a young sugar maple I'd been eyeing for maple syrup tapping. I guess no one told this crew about the new plan.

Thirty feet. That's the size of easement asked for, and

permission to cut trees beyond it as well. I tried to envision that impact on the land across the street, which is bordered by a monolithic stone wall, and many venerable oaks. A neighbor told me an identical wall once lined our side of the road as well, but it had been destroyed to use as roadbed long ago, when the road was first paved and improved. An aerial photo from 1959 shows our side of the road mostly open, with patchy tree clumps. It was scruffy, disturbed land even then. But the forest across the road that's such a gorgeous addition to our neighborhood had miraculously managed to survive modern intrusions.

As that pilot found out in the '40s, it is weirdly easy to get a slight re-route for a line of poles. Apparently, all you have to do is ask. And so the easement will remain on our property after all, but moved to the road edge, where, as I keep reminding myself, there will only be half the amount of tree murder needed. It's just the right thing to do.

I actually got to see the airplane that caused that power line shift. The pilot son married the daughter of a Kripplush farmer and moved lock stock and airplane to her farm. When my daughter was small, her nursery school class took a field trip there to meet her chickens and sheep. The woman was quite elderly and her husband long gone, but she'd sentimentally kept his plane in a shed. It was a small vintage model, with decades of dust covering bright yellow paint. It will likely never fly again. But if by some miracle someone revives it and steers it to its old home, it is never again going to have a place to land.

BSP

The matrix

Ah, January 2025. We did it. We made it to another year. Who would have thought? Honestly, there was a time when I wondered if the world imploded and we were all just living in some kind of purgatory. With all of life's craziness, people's messiness, the weather's insanity, and those weird Mandela effects that seem to come out of nowhere, it's hard not to think we've slipped into some alternate dimension. But here we are, somehow keeping it together, or at least pretending to.

Right now, life feels like it's spinning at warp speed and a snail's pace at the same time. The weather is in its own little world, purgatory or otherwise. One minute, it's 60 degrees and sunny; the next, it's snowing, cold and frigid. It just can't seem to make up its mind and is a bit chaotic. Reaffirming my idea that we live in a world where nothing quite fits together. I really think there are serious glitches in the matrix, and I don't have a prescription for blue pills.

But, you know what? Despite all the madness, I have hope for a fantastic year ahead of us. You can bring yourself back to the world you know by doing something familiar. Or, ride the wave and visit some of the new businesses or join some of the fun activities popping up around town. From distilleries, to cafes, to Zumba, these new ventures are giving us something fun to hold onto. Maybe, just maybe, we can find a little solid ground amidst all the weirdness. It might be messy, but it's our mess - and that's something to take pride in.

So, maybe we're not in purgatory. Maybe this is just the pause button - an opportunity to rebuild and reassess what really matters. There are new places to visit, new faces to meet and new opportunities to find joy in a world



Photo by Kelly Wright

that seems to be constantly changing.

Speaking of changing, let's talk about the lies we tell ourselves every January. Or am I the only one who does that? I will tell myself that on Jan. 1, I'm going to suddenly get it all together. I'm going to work out 3-4 times a week, eat kale and stop drinking so much coffee. Because this time, I am really going to make this "new year, new me" crap happen. To be fair, for the first two days, I was on fire! I boxed every other day, did some cardio and walked my 10,000 steps daily. I remembered I hated kale, so I bought

broccoli instead. I threw the candy and chips away but immediately reconsidered the coffee. Everyone needs one bad thing, and if a nice latte is mine, so be it. Anyway, I was doing great! Then, on the second Friday, otherwise known as "Quitters Day," I skipped boxing because I worked late. Plus, it was dark and cold, and I only wanted to rot on the couch. Now, why is it easier, and, let's be honest, more enjoyable to rot on the couch while watching reality shows over getting my butt to the gym? Why can't I be one of those people that enjoys working out? You know those people. Everyone knows those people. What's wrong with those people? What do they have that I don't? I think it's in the DNA and clearly my DNA likes to rot. I don't feel great after working out. I feel like I'm dying, and everything hurts.

It must be the weather, not me. See? Another lie. I bundle up to brave the cold, convinced I am going to conquer January like a true warrior. Five minutes later, it's a big "Nope." I am back inside, wrapped in blankets, binge-watching Housewives of Beverly Hills and wondering why anyone thought making resolutions in the winter was a good idea. I'm going to start my "new year, new me" crap in the spring. Another lie? Most likely because in the spring, I'll be too happy to change. So, it's my opinion that no one should be doing anything in January. We were meant to eat carbs, hunker down, rot on couches and gain weight. THAT is in our DNA! Why aren't we doing that instead?

But, we are here. In a new year, that may have started weird and look different, but we've got plenty of time to either get used to it, change or simply stop complaining. So, whatever, make those resolutions. But please leave some room for the couch, blankets and an occasional Netflix binge. After all, it's all about balance, right? And if that balance tilts toward carbs and blankets for the next few weeks, we'll just deal with it in February. Or spring. Or ... you know, in 2026.

Happy New Year! Let's continue pretending we have it all together - at least for now. **BSP**



Lifting community spirits

There is never a reason to not have more coffee shops. Beyond the obvious culinary benefits, coffee shops and cafes support small town community and creativity. Think of all the novels, love songs, manifestos and poetry birthed and energized and extruded in the coffeehouse space ...



Put a fork in it
Wally Nichols

Since November, Rosendale has had one such excellent addition to the family. Lift Cafe is intimate yet uncluttered. It's small but somehow spaciouly generous. Bright with natural light, its design lines are clean and trenchant.

The works of local artists adorn the walls and counters (currently a local ceramicist has phenomenal espresso cups on display and for sale).

The space lends itself well to smaller events and such things are in the works for the near future.

It's hard not to imagine how cool an acoustic music performance would be to a crowd of coffee clutchers and Kerouacs.

The coffee menu will work for anyone who likes the high end, flavorful variations; espresso (\$2.50/\$3.50), macchiato, americano, latte, mocha, cold brew, drip and of course tea. And two drill down specialties can also be



Lift Cafe

Location: 424 Main Street, Rosendale
Contact: 845-658-2026 liftcaferosendale.com
Style: coffee shop

found here - Vietnamese Latte and the Affogato (\$7).

The lucite pasty case contains a wide variety of coffee supplement perfection. All baked in house and with veg-an options, the list includes cookies, croissants, muffins, spinach and cheese rolls. For sure the eye immediately

gravitates to the show stealer and display case major domo, the cherry chocolate magic bars which are a complex layering of culinary heaven.

Everything here vibes so healthy as well as so delicious. Bagels with spread (\$4) are also available.

A slightly deeper dive into the food situation reveals pressed sandwiches (on kaiser rolls or toasted), egg and cheese/bacon sandwiches (\$5), focaccia grilled cheese (\$5) and chicken cutlet (\$10 with your choice of pesto mozzarella, chipotle, cheddar and parm).

If coffee isn't your thing, and protein shakes are, Lift has chocolate and vanilla smoothies, with assorted fruit and powdered supplements.

Juices (\$10/ \$12) and fruit smoothies (\$10) are a big part of the cafe. Healthy ingredient options include celery, spinach, kale, beet, dates, turmeric, yogurt, berries, lime, ginger, carrots, lemon, berries and apples.

Swing in from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (closed Wednesday) for coffee and/ or after a workout in this family owned and run establishment and check out Rosendale's latest coffee, healthy snack, juice, smoothie, grilled sandwich connection.

And check the website for future events like Saturday Feb. 15 when the pottery works and objects d'art of Bob Barry will be on display. Dessert and coffee service will be open with complimentary wine. From 5-7 p.m. **BSP**

Marshmallow and the house guest

Weekend visitors are cause for celebration. The raccoons, ever eager for novelty, hotly anticipate all overnight guests the moment the news breaks. Being that I lived a life in New York City in my 20s, weekend guests are not a terribly unusual event and over the years I've learned how to best assimilate guests into the house and set the visit up for success.



Raising Raccoons
Chelsea Miller

Yes, there is an art to crafting a perfectly upstate getaway when managing a three ring circus. I've found it best to include the raccoons in the planning process. The agenda can get quite jam packed mid process and despite all the heated negotiations we usually land on the same structure: Welcome dinner on Friday.

Taste of the town on Saturday (think stroll down main street in Rosendale or a joy ride past all the houses George Washington supposedly couch surfed). Ramble on a rail trail or preserve on Sunday.

Recently, my dearest old roommate, Tara, a hale and hearty soul who is a vet tech in a veterinary ER in Brooklyn. As it turns out, the skills gained working in an animal ER are directly applicable to my household. She arrived via trailways bus into Rosendale. Now, waiting in the car with the raccoons is always a feat. On this occasion they all managed to all squeeze into the front seat singing

"Only You" but replacing the "you" with "poo." The moment Tara was spotted they exploded their heads out the window and serenaded her - and everyone else departing from the bus. She gamely reminded them that she dealt with quite a lot of poo at work and after a brief shuffle she was in the car and officially ours for two whole days.

It was ultimately decided that the welcome dinner would be ribs because Middle had made an effective argument that it would be fun to feel like cavemen. Once seated at the table, Baby had a moment of inspiration: it was the perfect time to play one of his most favorite games, "Marshmallow."

The setup is simple: Baby becomes Marshmallow, a poor little abandoned puppy with trust issues. He leaves the table and tucks himself behind the ottoman. After a dramatic 30 seconds of silence, I hear the high pitched yip which is my cue to "discover" Marshmallow and then we must teach him to trust humans and become our pet.

The addition of a new audience member was quite invigorating for Baby and he fully committed to sad little whines and violent trembling every time I would try and coax him to the table to eat. Initially I was able to maintain my sweet cooing and coaxing, as is expected for in the game. However, once the food started to go from hot to warm to decidedly chilled, I must admit an edge crept into my voice. "Come. Here. Now. Marshmallow. It's time to eat. Marshmallow!"

This only spurred Marshmallow to become increasingly committed to life on the streets. Finally, Tara held out a rib and shook it near the ground. "Treat, Marshmallow!

Treat!", she called. Marshmallow bounded over demurely biting the rib out of her hand. "Who's such a good boy?", she ruffled his hair and scratched behind his ears. Once Marshmallow was set up with his own dog dish on the floor, we had a delightful dinner and by dessert Marshmallow was fully trained up on all basic commands.

On Saturday, our typical taste of town segment of the visit was swapped out for a family birthday party for Baby's seventh birthday. Sunday, we headed out to what we refer to as the "snake bridge trail," as to which raccoon and why this was now the official name remains fuzzy. For clarity purposes, it's the Mohonk Preserve trail on Clove Road and if you haven't been, it's pure magic. The terrain is made for curious little bodies: there are plenty of fallen trees to climb and old rock walls to scramble on. Snow flurries swirled around as the raccoons peppered Tara with questions. Did the city have anything like this? Did she treat snails? How had she never been to the High Falls Pet Show?! Marshmallow returned half way through our walk bounding just a little too far ahead. Tara called out "heel, Marshmallow, HEEL!!" and he came to a skidding stop and sniffed a log until we caught up.

The most bittersweet moment of any weekend visit is the goodbye at the bus. After a hearty send off from the raccoons, I drove Tara to the bus station and while we waited we hurriedly jammed in any essential updates that were lost in the shuffle. Sometimes I miss my city days. Most days there's nowhere else I'd rather be than right here. But when weekend guests arrive, it's the best of both worlds. **BSP**

WE MISSED YOU THIS ISSUE.

Your letter to the editor is one of our readers' favorite sections!

Email: bluestonepress845@gmail.com

Snailmail: BlueStone Press, PO Box 149, Stone Ridge

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.

Canasta group Canasta is a form of rummy that uses two full card decks. Players or partnerships try to meld groups of two or three cards of the same rank and score bonuses for 7-card melds. The first player to hit 5,000 points or partnership to hit 8,500 points wins! Beginners are welcome to the new canasta group that meets, 10 a.m.-noon Fridays, in the activity room, at the Stone Ridge Library, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge. Registration is limited. For more information, email sarah@stoneridgelibrary.org.

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.

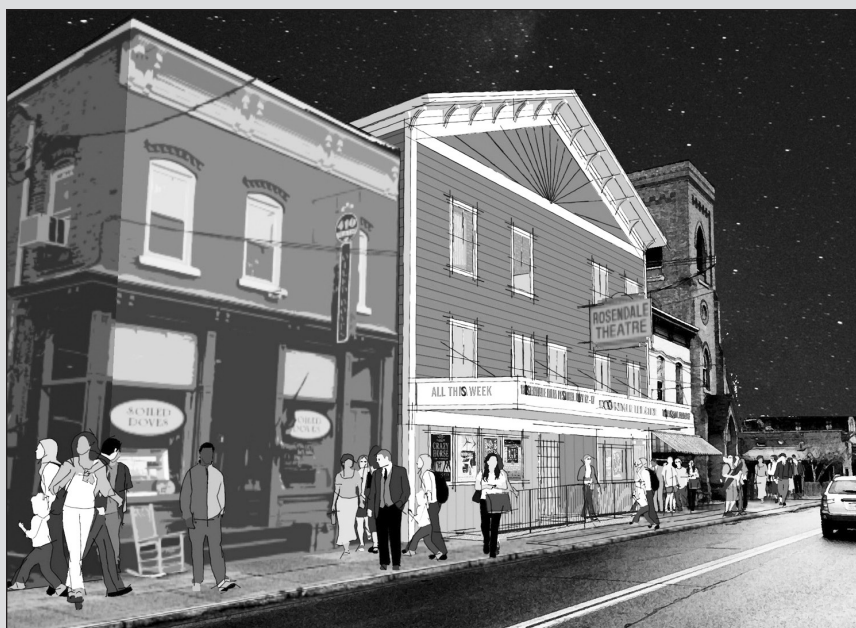
Events at the Kiva, at MaMA The Kiva is located behind Marbletown Multi-Arts, MaMA, at 3588 Main St., Stone Ridge. Ongoing weekly programs include, Meditation, a movement and conversation group led by Wes Ostertag, 7 p.m. Tuesdays; Tai Chi-Yang style long form with Martha Cheo, 10-11 a.m. Wednesdays; Qigong with Bobbi Esmark, 10-11 a.m. and 5Rhythms, led by Michael Griffith, Certified 5RTA, 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays; Tai Chi-left-right balanced form with Martha Cheo, 10-11 a.m. Fridays, Martha Cheo, 845-372-4158 or mcheo@hvc.rr.com; Kiva Dance with Jayne Mielo and Lori Lynn Meader, 11 a.m.-noon Saturdays; and Sunday Gathering via Zoom, 10:30 a.m. and Community Sabar (Senegalese drums), 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sundays. For more information on these and all events, visit cometomama.org or call 845-853-5154.

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 and Fridays and on the second Friday of each month (Feb. 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 story times 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.

Knitting group in Stone Ridge The Stone Ridge Library Knitters meet, 10 a.m.-noon every Saturday morning, in the activity room of the library, at 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge. All ages and experience levels can join in, and drop-in knitters are also welcome. Bring in supplies and work on a project but know that one of the best things about the group is that whatever obstacle or confusion one might encounter, comments and advice needed will be given. The group is sociable and lively. Donations of yarn to the Library get made up into items for sale at the Library Fair and during the winter holidays for the benefit of the library. Some also knit things for local hospitals or for the U.S. troops. For more information, visit stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

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.



Be a part of all the action, as a member of the Rosendale Theatre Collective; come to the open house to find out more. Image by Alfandre Architecture

Open house and volunteer appreciation day at the Rosendale Theatre

The Rosendale Theatre Collective welcomes the community, 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 to an open house where they will acknowledge their volunteers and introduce everyone to a host of options of all the ways to participate in this vibrant community-based institution.

There will be cupcakes and cookies, finger foods, punch and eggnog

purchased from local vendors; guitar virtuoso Henry Ferland performing; a slide show of RTC people and events; and a film about the Rosendale Theatre. Come and schmooze with the community, have a good time and learn about becoming a member. Admission is free. For more information, visit rosendaletheatre.org or call 845-658-8989.

on the last Saturday of the month, (Jan. 25). 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.

SongClub with Choral Director Debbie Lan performs monthly at MISU 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, Jan. 25, SongClub with Choral Director Debbie Lan will perform. Admission to SongClub is sliding scale of \$10-\$20. 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! Visit misucatskills.org for more on MISU. For song selections and further information, visit facebook.com/songclubwithdebbielan.

Celebrate the fall with a frolic at MaMA The Frolic is a deejayed, barefoot, substance-free ecstatic dance event run by the community formerly hosted at the Well. The Frolic Community has been moving in ecstatic communion for 31 years. Join in and feel the transformative power of music, dance, joy and connection! The Frolic is a volunteer run organization. Upcoming frolics are held, 8-11 p.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month (Jan. 25 and Feb. 22), at the Marbletown Multi-Arts Center/Whole Sky Yoga, 3588 Main St., Stone Ridge. Cost is \$15, but no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. For more information, visit freestylefrolic.org.

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.

Weekly Drum Church Sunday with Fre Atlas at the Muse Drum Church is 11 a.m.-noon, Sundays, at the Muse, 1 Madeline Lane, Rosendale. Beginners are welcome to become familiar with playing as a group. Doors open at 10:45 a.m. Bring percussion instruments and drums. Some drums will be provided. For more information, visit themuserosendale.org.

Winter plant ID and foraging workshop Join outdoor educator and ecologist Del Orloske and Krista Speroni of True Foods HV for a guided hike to learn about identifying trees and plants in winter, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Ashokan Center, 477 Beaverkill Road, Olivebridge. Wear layers and prepare to be outdoors. For more information and registration, visit ashokancenter.org or call 845-657-8333, ext. 3.

Town of Rochester Recreation Department Adult Paint Class Call the Recreation Department at 845-626-2115 to sign up for this free adult paint class, 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at the Harold Lipton Community Center, 15 Tobacco Road, Accord. All supplies included and space is limited.

Stone Ridge Library presents Spanish conversations with Francisco and Varcia ¿Habras español? To brush up on Spanish conversation skills and meet other language lovers in a friendly and stress-free environment with facilitators Francisco Rivera and Varcia Venetanos, join the class, 1-2 p.m. every fourth Monday of the month via Zoom, with the next session, Jan. 27. All levels are welcome. ¡Hasta entonces! Rivera was born and raised in Spanish Harlem in NYC and Venetanos is also a native New Yorker. Both are longtime residents of Marbletown. Contact programs manager Sarah Robertson at programs@stoneridgelibrary.org to join the group. For more

information, visit stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

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 are Jan. 27 for Group 1 and for Group 2, Feb. 3. For more information and to join the group, email carra22@aol.com.

General interest and organizational meeting for learning conversational French If interested in learning conversational French in a group setting, come by for the general interest and organizational meeting, 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at the Rosendale Library, 264 Main St., Rosendale. For more information, visit rosendalelibrary.org or call 845-658-9013.

Thomas Huebl's Art of Transparent Communication Based on the teachings of Thomas Hübl, PhD, a renowned teacher, author and international facilitator with more than two decades of study and practice on healing collective trauma, whose lifelong work integrates the core insights of the great wisdom traditions and mysticism with the discoveries of science. This practice group space, presented by Holistic Health Community of Stone Ridge, with facilitators Colette Ruoff and Miranda Cristales is held 7-8:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month via Zoom with the next session on Jan. 27. Arrive a few minutes early. Though there is no charge for services, sacred reciprocity by making a donation, offering volunteer service or by doing an act of loving kindness toward someone in need is encouraged. Visit holistichealthcommunity.org or call 845-867-7008.

Keep it Movin' Tuesdays in Accord Standing or seated, these classes led by Rita Harkins, offered at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tuesdays, at the Harold Lipton Community Center, 15 Tobacco Road, Accord consist of low-impact movements along with strength and flexibility training. Both classes are an hour long and free of charge. Walk-ins welcome. For more information, call the Town of Rochester Recreation Department at 845-626-2115.

Seniors Serving in Place (SSIP) at Wesley's Way Café in Stone Ridge SSIP meets weekly, 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Wesley's Way Café, 7 Old Route 209, Stone Ridge. Two different groups, both fun, meet to exchange ideas, memories and support for people wanting to stay in their own homes and remain active in the community. For more information, call ViVi at 845-331-0155.

Mahjong, Tuesdays at Stone Ridge Library The Stone Ridge Library hosts ongoing weekly mahjong at 10 a.m. Tuesdays, in the activity room of the library, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge. New members are welcome. No registration required. Players must have basic knowledge to play. Beginner lessons will be offered occasionally. Everyone is welcome to watch. For more information, call 845-687-7023 or visit stoneridgelibrary.org.

Stone Ridge Library children's winter programs are 'for the birds' Kids will learn all about birds, as each week, they'll explore different types of local feathered friends and have fun making bird-themed crafts. Story hours for kindergarten-first grade, will be held, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, through Feb. 4 and for second-third graders, same time on Thursdays, through Feb. 5, at Stone Ridge Library, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge. For more information and required registration, visit stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

Gentle Yoga with Rachel Hunderfund, C-IAYT The Town of Rosendale Recreation Commission has gentle yoga classes led by Certified Yoga Therapist Rachel Hunderfund, 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, at the Rosendale Recreation Center, 1055 Route 32, Rosendale. Classes are

See **More events**, page 29

Events continued from page 28

open to all levels and free to Rosendale residents, with a \$2 fee for nonresidents. For more information, call the Recreation Office at 845-658-8198.

After work yoga Wednesday with Laura Yoga class with Laura will be held 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 29, at the Rondout Municipal Center Gymnasium, 1915 Lucas Avenue, Cottekill. Be sure to bring a yoga mat, any blocks or straps needed and a cozy sweatshirt or blanket for shavasana. For more information and registration, visit stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

Clio's Muse history book group discusses, '1177 B.C., the year civilization collapsed' "1177 B.C., the year civilization collapsed" by Eric H. Cline is the topic of Stone Ridge Library's Clio's Muse history book group, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, via Zoom. For more information, visit stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

Preschool story hour with Jess and Lindsey Come join the fun with books, songs and craft making, 10 a.m. Thursdays, Jan. 30; Feb. 13 and 27; and March 13 and 27, at Stone Ridge Library, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge. For more information and registration, visit stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

Tech help Thursdays Need help with the computer, iPad, Kindle, or smartphone? Sign up for a 20-minute session, 10-noon Thursdays with the newest staff member, Skylar to get tech help, at the Stone Ridge Library, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge. Sign up at the circulation desk. For more information, visit stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-587-7023.

Chair yoga These free classes with Instructor Eileen Urbanic, 10 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. Thursdays at the Harold Lipton Community Center, 15 Tobacco Road, Accord are sponsored by the Town of Rochester Senior Group and offer gentle movements to help improve flexibility and strength. Walk-ins welcome! For more information, call 845-626-2115.

Walk and talk with the Library Join Stone Ridge Library Programs Manager Sarah Robertson with friends and neighbors in the community, as they take weekly walks along local trails. Each Thursday, noon-1 p.m., the group will walk on the O&W and Walkkill 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. For more information and walk locations, visit stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

Parent playgroup This community building, supportive, playgroup for parents and little ones, ages 0-12 months meets, 12:30-1:30 p.m. each Thursday, in the children's room, at the Stone Ridge Library, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge. For more information, call 845-687-7023 or visit stoneridgelibrary.org.

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.

Rosendale Recreation Commission's popular Qigong with Jesse Towey classes Classes taught by practitioner Jesse Towey are held 4:30-5:30 p.m. every Thursday, at the Rosendale Recreation Center, 1055 Route 32, Rosendale. People of all ages and abilities are welcome to partake in this gentle rhythmic practice known to reduce stress, build stamina and increase vitality. There is a fee of \$2 per class for Rosendale residents and \$5 for nonresidents. For further information, call the Recreation Office at 845-658-8198.

Rosendale Library reading challenge Join the community for a reading ad-

See **More events**, page 30



So much to see, do and enjoy for the whole family at the Winter Hoot (2024 photo by Zach Williams) including, the community dinner; community singalong; family square dance; Indie folk singer songwriter Billy Keane and the Walking Dream; Square Dance with Catskills Old Time String band; Ice sculpture by Thomas Brown; Yoga with Sara Tarapani; and much more!

12th Annual Winter Hoot family music and dance fest at the Ashokan Center

The Winter Hoot is a down-home, down-to-earth music gathering where everyone is welcome and there's joy to spare. Located at the Ashokan Center, 477 Beaverkill Road, Olivebridge, the event begins with a Friday, Jan. 31 dinner, concert and jam; continues with music, fun activities and dancing all day and

night on Saturday, Feb. 1; and ends with yoga and a farewell singalong on Sunday, Feb. 2. Don't miss the blacksmithing, mini concerts in the pewter shop, kids zone activities, local food and libations. For tickets plus all the info and action, visit <http://hootlove.org>.

Intro to sculpture class

Join this 4-session introductory sculpture workshop with Gülnar Babayeva of Rosendale's Caspian Müse Studio, 2-4:30 p.m. Saturdays, Feb. 1-22, at L'Impatiencie, 45 Pine Grove Avenue, Suite 105, Kingston. Starting with the facial features of a human head, by utilizing mirrors, digital 3D models, anatomy references and

images to guide, students will learn how to sculpt human body parts through observation. Participants will be introduced to the tools and foundational techniques to start their sculpting journey. To learn more and to register, contact gulnar@caspiannuse.com or DM @caspiannuse on Instagram.

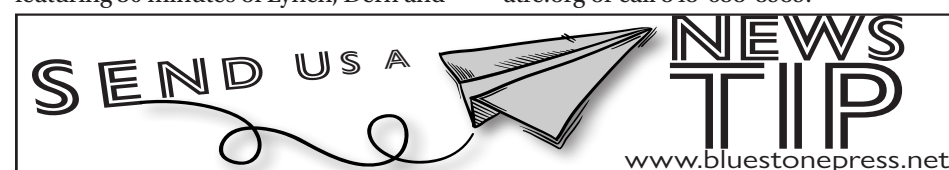


Laura Dern and Nicholas Cage in "Wild at Heart" (1990)

'Wild at Heart,' part of WTF Wednesdays

Adapted from the novel by Barry Gifford, "Wild at Heart" stars Nicolas Cage and Laura Dern as Sailor and Lula, a pair of young lovers on the run from Lula's mother Marietta (Dern's real-life mother Diane Ladd). Come early for the preshow, featuring 30 minutes of Lynch, Dern and

Cage-filled clips, at 7 p.m. followed by the screening, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main St., Rosendale. Admission is \$10/\$6 members. For more information, visit rosendaletheatre.org or call 845-658-8989.



5 chances to see 'Wicked,' at the Rosendale Theatre

"Wicked," the untold story of the witches of Oz, stars Emmy, Grammy and Tony winning powerhouse Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba, a young woman, misunderstood because of her unusual green skin, who has yet to discover her true power, and Grammy-winning, multi-platinum recording artist Ariana Grande as Glinda, a popular young woman, gilded by privilege and ambition, who has yet to discover her true heart. The two meet as students at Shiz University in the fantastical Land of Oz and forge an unlikely but profound friendship. Following an encounter with The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads, and their lives take very different paths. "Wicked" will be shown, 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31; 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1; 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2; and 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main St., Rosendale. Tickets are \$10/\$6 members. For more information, visit rosendaletheatre.org or call 845-658-8989.



Sculptor and designer Gülnar Babayeva of Caspian Müse Studio in Rosendale with her sculpture, *EOST OF EIVING* (Cost of Living) during the opening reception of the "State of Being" Exhibition at ASK, Art Society of Kingston

Caspian Müse Studio of Rosendale's closing reception of 'State of Being' exhibit at ASK

The closing reception of "State of Being," the second invitational sculpture exhibition curated by sculptor and designer Gülnar Babayeva of Caspian Müse Studio in Rosendale will be held, 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, at the downtown arts center, Arts Society of Kingston, ASK, 97 Broadway, Kingston. The exhibit features sculptural works of art by Hudson Valley sculptors and artists, whose art practices involve the third dimension. Local sculptors include Isaac Abrams, Gülnar Babayeva, Elissa Bromberg, Jackie Fischer, Karen Jaimes, Sophi Kravitz, Alex Kveton, Benedicte & Jerome Leclere, Iain Machell, Erika Kari McCarthy, Shirley Parker-Benjamin, Francisco Rivera, Yvonne Rojas-Cowan, Aleksandra Scepanovic and Stefan Tur. Gallery hours are noon-5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday or by appointment. For more information, visit Caspian Müse Studio on Facebook.



ADVERTISE TODAY!
Local Business to Local Readers

Contact BSP at 845-687-4480

Events continued from page 21

venture in this 12-month reading journey to explore new genres with the first meeting, 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, at the Rosendale Library, 264 Main St., Rosendale. For more information and sign-ups, visit rosendalelibrary.org or call 845-658-9013.

Ellenville Regional Hospital Auxiliary 'Soup'er Bowl Sale; deadline to order is Jan. 31 Enjoy soup from Sammy Brown's Walkaway Café including potato bacon corn chowder, spicy Mexican corn chowder, vegetarian and gluten free tomato soup, kielbasa and cabbage soup, chicken noodle, pasta fagioli, vegan split pea and vegan vegetable chili. Place an order by Friday, Jan. 31 in the Ellenville Regional Hospital Gift Shop, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday via call or text to Haze Gal (ERH Auxiliary) at 516-356-7687 or email hgal12420@gmail.com. A confirmation will be sent via text when order is received. Pick up orders, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, in the ERH lobby, 10 Healthy Way, Ellenville. Questions? Call ERH 845-647-6400.

Rosendale Library Slow Jam Group with Diane Newlander at the Recreation Center Free and open to the public, the slow jam group meets at the Rosendale Recreation Center, 1055 Route 32, Rosendale, 3:30-5 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month, (Feb. 2). The group plays Old Time, folk songs, Bluegrass, Western and other homespun type music on string instruments at a slower pace so that everyone will have a chance to learn the songs. No audience, no pressure; just lots of fun with friendly local musicians. Bring a chair without arms if wanted and a music stand if available. An optional book of the songs played is available for \$5 at the Rosendale Library. For more information, contact the jam leader, Diane Newlander at dnewlander@hvc.rr.com or the Town of Rosendale Recreation office at 845-658-8198.

Scenic winter hike through the meadows at Minnewaska Join Laura Conner, environmental educator, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, for a scenic three-mile walk along the edge of Lake Minnewaska, from east to west, and then up into the rarely travelled meadows and old orchard. If the Park Preserve is grooming for cross-country skiing, this hike location will be changed. Meet at the Lake Minnewaska Visitor Center, 5281 Route 44/55, Kerhonkson. Preregistration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.

Poetry with Rosemary Dean Join the community via Zoom, 1:30-3 p.m. on the first and third Thursday (Feb. 6 and 20) of each month. This program is presented by the Stone Ridge Library. To join the group, contact Rosemary Dean at rmdeen@gmail.com.

Game nights at the Marbletown Community Center Just show up and bring a favorite game, dessert and/or snacks to share and something to drink for game nights at the Marbletown Community Center, 7-9:30 p.m. on the first Thursday (Feb. 6) and third Wednesday of each month (Feb. 19), at 3564 Main St., Stone Ridge. This event is co-sponsored by the Love Marbletown Community Center Committee and the Holistic Health Community. For more information, email parks@marbletown.net or call 845-687-7500, ext. 170.

Marbletown Seniors meetings 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, Feb. 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, Feb. 21 (bring a dessert to share or drop \$1 in the basket on the dessert table), each month. For more information, call Donna Lamerson, at 845-750-8616.

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



Snowshoe hikes at Minnewaska are something the whole family can enjoy

Snowshoe hikes at Minnewaska

Join Nick Martin, park educator, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 for the Winter Missy Glen hike along the Mossy Glen Footpath, Blueberry Run Footpath, and Upper Awosting Carriage Road. Meet in the Lower Parking Area. And 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, join Laura Conner, environmental educator, for an approximately 2.5-mile long snowshoe walk along the charming Awosting Falls Carriage Road. Meet at the Peter's Kill Area.

A limited number of snowshoes are

available for participants to borrow from the Education Department; when these run out, snowshoes may be rented for \$5 per person. Plan to arrive by 9:30 a.m. if borrowing snowshoes. If there is insufficient snow cover, these programs will be offered as a hike, and participants are strongly encouraged to bring microspikes or other ice traction devices. Pre-registration is required by calling the Lake Minnewaska Visitor Center at 845-255-0752.



In lecture 5 of the Artblazing Tours Northern Soul lecture series with High Falls' Sevan Melikyan, explore the life in color and turmoil of Vincent van Gogh. Pictured here, Van Gogh's "Bedroom at Arles," 1889

Artblazing Tours Northern Soul lecture series with High Falls' Sevan Melikyan

Join lecturer Sevan Melikyan for a five-part Zoom lecture series exploring the artistic heritage of Belgium and the Netherlands with Early Netherlandish Art, Flemish Baroque Art, and Dutch Golden Age Art, and the journey of Vincent van

Gogh, 2 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 27-March 10, at \$15 per lecture or \$60 for the series (save \$15). For more information and registration, visit artblazing.com, email artblazingtours@gmail.com or call 682-564-5613.

Virtual Holistic Healthcare Week online Zoom video and telephone sessions

Holistic Health Community of Stone Ridge will offer its Virtual Holistic Healthcare Week, Monday-Friday, Jan. 27-31 via Zoom. All sessions must be booked online. Patients should make an appointment for one session only so the maximum number of people may benefit. To make an appointment, visit <http://hhcny.simplybook.me>. Once the appointment is made, all information will be sent to the practitioner, and then they will contact each patient. The Holistic Health

Community Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable corporation. Though there is no charge for services, sacred reciprocity is encouraged by making a donation, by offering volunteer service or by doing an act of loving kindness toward someone in need. To donate and for more information about the Holistic Health Community, its practitioners and the modalities offered, visit holistichealthcommunity.org or call 845-867-7008.

Sign up for the Marbletown Seniors trip to Sights and Sounds of Lancaster, Pa.

The seniors next trip will be three days and two nights, April 14-16 to Sights and Sounds of Lancaster, Pa. featuring Sight and Sound's "Noah." Cost is \$544 per person double occupancy or \$733 single occupancy and includes two nights lodging; two breakfasts; two dinners including a smorgasbord dinner and meal at an Amish home; a Tour of Amish Countryside, including stops at an Amish Craft Farm and Bake shop; Kitchen Kettle Village Li'l Country Store and Miniature Horse Farm; plus the Amish Experience film presentation of "Jacobs Choice." Also included is souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes, gratuities and Motorcoach transportation.

All seniors trips leave from and return to Marbletown Reformed Church, 3750 Route 209, Stone Ridge, across from Stone Ridge Post Office. To sign up, call Sharon Letus at 845-687-9162.

Spaghetti Western Series presents, 'Blindman' (1971)

"Blindman" (1971), a spaghetti western stars Tony Anthony as a blind gunslinger seeking the return of 50 kidnapped women from an enormous gang of outlaws. Characterized by its gritty tone and dark humor, the film's cinematography also captures the rugged landscapes typical of spaghetti westerns. Though not as widely recognized as some other films in the genre, "Blindman" has gained a huge cult following for its originality. Come see it with full theatre sound on the big screen, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, at the Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main St., Rosendale. Admission is \$10/\$6 members. Visit rosendaletheatre.org or call 845-658-8989.

1926 silent film, 'Flesh and the Devil' with live piano accompaniment by Marta Waterman

Flesh and the Devil (1926) is one of the very best examples of the palpable romantic eroticism that can often be found in silent films. A huge hit in its own day, it is still remarkably sexy and entertaining, aided by stars John Gilbert and Greta Garbo who met and fell madly, recklessly, head over heels in love. This is apparent in every love scene, particularly the famous garden scene where a simple cigarette and match becomes an erotic light show. Catch all the action of this silent film with live piano accompaniment by Marta Waterman, 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, at the Rosendale Theatre. Admission is \$6. Visit rosendaletheatre.org or call 845-658-8989.



ADVERTISE TODAY!
Local Business to Local Readers

Contact BSP at 845-687-4480

BlueStone Classifieds

SERVICES OFFERED

Bell Excavation and Stonework

Experienced in all phases of excavation and installment of bluestone for patios, walks, and walls. Beautify your home with the experience and care of Charlie Bell. All work insured and guaranteed. **845-626-3542 or 845-389-3000**

Dependable Rides For Seniors

Retired social worker and overall mensch will transport you safely and respectfully to all daily errands and appointments ~and wait with you~ Affordable Rates **Ira @914.466-9505**

People's Place in Kingston

On the last Wednesday of each month, we serve a specialty dinner in our Community Café. The next one is "Latin Food Wednesday" 1/29/25, 5:00pm – 6:30pm at 777 Broadway, Kingston, NY 12401. Dine in or take out. All are welcome. First Come, First Serve.

to place an ad:

rates	Rates are \$15 for 15 days with \$.25 for each additional word after 30 words and \$30 for 30 days with \$.25 for each additional word after 30 words.
online	Please place your classified ad any time at bluestonepress.net
phone	Call the office Monday-Thursday 10-3 (845-687-4480)
email	Send your e-mail to bluestonepress845@gmail.com

HELP WANTED

Experienced Team Leader? Mohonk Preserve Needs You!
 Director of Development: Fundraiser w/7 yrs. non-profit exp. responsible for leading a fundraising and membership team that raises over \$3 million annually. Excellent supervisory and computer skills req. CRM database exp. preferred. Salary \$110-\$115k/yr BOE; full benefits. Email resume and a one-page cover letter tying your experience to specifics in the job responsibilities and 3 professional references (include phone and email) to employment@mohonkpreserve.org with the subject line "Director of Development application". Position open until filled.

YOUR

YARD SALE | FUNDRAISER | EVENT | SERVICE
 >>> **GUARANTEED VISIBILITY** <<<
IN THE BLUESTONE CLASSIFIEDS

Visit **bluestonepress.net** to place your own ad or call **845-687-4480** to place it over the phone.

Uncle Pete gets the *BlueStone Press* delivered right to his house.



YOU CAN TOO
bluestonepress845@gmail.com



GIVE the gift of Community Journalism ALL YEAR LONG
bluestonepress845@gmail.com

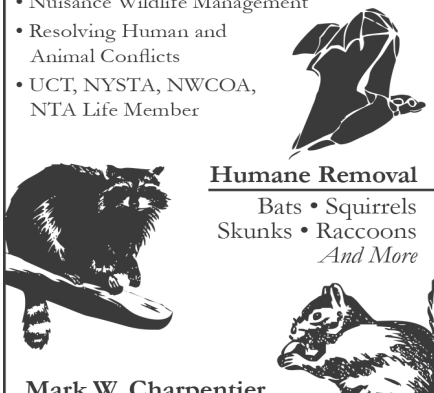
JOIN THE BSP TEAM!



Help us read the stars!
The Bluestone Press is looking for a horoscope columnist. Email us at bluestonepress845@gmail.com with a letter of interest.

CATSKILL ADC

- Nuisance Wildlife Management
- Resolving Human and Animal Conflicts
- UCT, NYSTA, NWCOA, NTA Life Member



Humane Removal
 Bats • Squirrels
 Skunks • Raccoons
 And More

Mark W. Charpentier

YOUR LOCAL NEWS IS LIVE

845-687-4480



JOIN OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
Home Services
Nutshell Realty

Trust, Integrity, Stability, & Longevity



CREATE LEARN INSPIRE SUCCEED PLAY CONNECT SUPPORT

bluestonepress845@gmail.com

Worth IT!

BSP classified ads!!!!

Place them on the NEW website bluestonepress.net OR call BSP at 845-687-4480

BlueStone Service Directory



IMPORTED CAR SPECIALISTS
PETER BARTOLETTI
487 COTTEKILL RD. STONE RIDGE, NY 12484
PHONE 845-687-0588
info@4intune.com



212 FAIR STREET
 Kingston, NY 12401
 P: (845) 331-3600
 F: (845) 334-9465
 www.gagnoncpa.com

James Lyman Reynolds
 architect

845.687.9161
 4303 US Route 209 | Stone Ridge, New York 12484
jameslymanreynolds.com



Landscape Contracting
 Fencing
 Land Clearing/Grading
 Tree Clearing/Chipping
 Tree/Shrub Installation
 Driveway Install/Repair
 Skid Steer/Excavator work
 And More

Anthony Hilmi
 845-853-9113 • Accord, NY
 anthony@curbappeallandscapingny.com

Custom Showers • Ceramic & Stone Tile
 Stone Veneers • Full Bath Build-Outs • Insured



Matthew Flamhaft 845-687-9735
 www.visitvortex.com/Matthew_Flamhaft

Call **THE MAD HATTER CHIMNEY SWEEP CO. INC.**

Flynn O'Connor
 845-687-4745

SPRING CLEANING SPECIAL
 APRIL/MAY/JUNE

- Wood, Coal, Gas & Oil Flues Expertly Cleaned
- Caps, Dampers Installed
- Masonry Repairs & Water Sealing
- Pre-Fab Chimney Specialist
- Stainless Steel Relining Specialist

MEMBER NATIONAL CHIMNEY SWEEP GUILD

Wayne W. St. Hill, DDS, MAGD
 STONE RIDGE DENTISTRY



Stone Ridge Dentistry
 3642 Main Street
 Stone Ridge, NY 12484
 (845) 687-0600



Pro Painting LLC

ALL PHASES OF INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING
 Pressure Washing Free Estimates
Call Ryan: 845-901-6645
 YOUR LOCAL COUNTRY STORE SINCE 1952

Medenbach, Eggers & Carr

CIVIL ENGINEERING AND
 LAND SURVEYING PC

4305 US Highway 209 • Stone Ridge, NY 12484
 PHONE (845) 687-0047 • FAX (845) 687-4783
 info@mecels.com • www.mecels.com

4th Generation Awning Company

COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL INDUSTRIAL



PREMIUM AWNING DESIGN, INSTALLATION AND SERVICES
 Over 100+ Years' Experience | Licensed and Insured | Manufacturer Warranties



September Sale: Retractable Awning
 With Free \$250 Value Wind Sensor

518.235.4474 | 853 Hoosick Rd Troy, NY 12180 | 4thgenerationawningco.com



MARKET TETTA'S PIZZERIA

OPEN DAILY 845.657.2338 TETTASMARTET.COM



HIGH FALLS, NY
 845-687-9182
SHEELEYROOFING.COM

All Types of Roofing
 Fully Insured




RICE PLUMBING & HEATING
 845-626-5088

Emergency Well Pump Service
 Plumbing Repairs & Installation
 Water Filtration Systems
 Radiant Heat Flooring
 Oil & Gas Heating Systems-Installation & Service
 Septic & Drain Field Installation/Sump Pump Installation

Licensed Master Plumber #136 • Fully Insured
 riceplumbingandheating@gmail.com • riceplumbingandheating.com

HAVE YOU VISITED
BSP
 ONLINE YET?
BlueStonePress.net

Stone Ridge Insurance
 Serving All of Your Insurance Needs



Donald J. Giamei, Agent
 donaldgiamei@hotmail.com

Michele Aversano, Licensed Associate
 michelesri@outlook.com

PO Box 341, 3669 Main Street, Stone Ridge
 Phone 845-687-2828 | Fax 845-687-2829
 stoneridgeinsurance.net | Like us on 




CREATIVE CONSTRUCTION
 Creating thoughtful, livable spaces.

NICK PROVENZANO | 845.389.6437 | NPCREATIVECONSTRUCTION.COM 

ALL MOTOR CARS LTD

Sales & Service
 845.658.8015

PRE OWNED SUBARUS

www.allmotorcarsltd.net