



The Putnam County

TIMES

FREE

PUTNAM COUNTY'S LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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Five Miles to Empty, featuring Jackie Brody on drums and vocals, Dave Brody on rhythm and lead guitar, Fred Diaz on bass and Jon Higley on lead guitar, is from Hopewell Junction and made the trip to Brewster recently for the monthly jam session hosted by the Hudson Valley Blues Society.

Hudson Valley Blues Society Brings Jam Sessions to Brewster

By Holly Crocco

Opening the door and stepping into the entryway at Studio Around the Corner in Brewster, I could hear — and feel — the drum rhythm and bassline.

It was my first time attending one of the monthly jam sessions hosted by the Hudson Valley Blues Society at the studio, and I wasn't sure what to expect. Inside, I found a small group of musicians sitting around on couches and folding chairs, tapping their feet along to music being played by four guys — whom I would later learn was the house band.

Taking a seat, I had no idea I was about to be treated to a night of lively entertainment by a handful of talented folks whose playing was, well, music to my ears.

"We're trying to preserve this type of music in the Hudson Valley," Peter Simon, public relations coordinator for HVBS, spoke loudly into my ear while the sound of The Allman Brothers filled the air. He said the organization is looking to recruit a younger audience to these gatherings, to grow an appreciation for the blues.

Seeing as this was my first rodeo, Simon explained a few things to me.

The house band was the Traveling Riverside Blues Band. Its members set up the drum set, amps and other equipment, and then kicks off the night of performances. Then, anyone who would

like to can sign up to join in for a few songs, on their instrument of choice.

Surely, these folks couldn't just hop on stage unrehearsed and make music with a bunch of strangers, right?

I told you, I was new to this scene...

Jack Bernice, a songwriter and 2012 New York Blues Hall of Fame inductee, jumped on stage with house band members Vince Leggiere on bass, Johnny Youngblood on guitar and keyboard, and Chris Kaiser on drums for a rendition of "I Just Want to Make Love To You" (the Rolling Stones version), while Brewster's Pat Moriarty, aka "Pat the Cat," brought the house down on the

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Jack Bernice sings "I Just Want to Make Love to You" and "Rock Me Baby," accompanied by Rich Saries on the drums and members of the house band.



Pat Moriarty, aka "Pat the Cat," a Brewster standout on the harmonica, performs with Johnny Youngblood. Photos by Holly Crocco.

GREG ELLNER
 FOR
 COUNTY LEGISLATOR
 DISTRICT-5

Carmel Eyes 6.67% Tax Rate Decrease

Hiked Assessments Will Affect Tax Bills

By Holly Crocco

Carmel Town Supervisor Michael Cazzari presented his first tentative budget to the Town Board during its Oct. 5 meeting, saying he will continue to work to keep taxes in check.

"Although it has been a challenging year for all of us, I devoted much time and effort in the preparation of this budget to keep the costs to the taxpayers at a minimum," he said. "Since the onset of COVID, as with the residents, business owners and taxpayers, the town continues to absorb the rising costs of insurance, utilities, material supplies and equipment, as well as having to deal with the frustration of their

availability."

According to Town Comptroller Mary Ann Maxwell, the proposed budget seeks to collect \$24.7 million in taxes — coming in about \$7,000 below what is allowed under the state-mandated cap on the property tax levy increase. Therefore, the budget reflects a 4.42 percent townwide tax rate, which is a 6.67 percent decrease from the current year.

However, since assessed property values went up, that does not necessarily mean property owners will see a decrease on their tax bills.

Under the proposed tax rate, a homeowner with a property

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Proposed Monastery in Patterson Seeks Road Name Change

By Holly Crocco

The Patterson Planning Board has before it a proposal to operate a Buddhist monastery on Nosh Kola Lane, with a request to change the name of the road.

Karma Triyana Dharmachakra, Inc., is seeking to erect "a proper place of worship for those individuals who believe in the teachings of Buddha." KTD operates a monastery in Delhi, N.Y., and in June 2021 purchased four properties on Nosh Kola Lane in Patterson to extend its operations in the Hudson Valley. The total 114-acre site includes three tax parcels with two houses and one log home, and vacant land.

The organization is seeking a special use permit to operate a full monastery, which includes further promulgation of the Buddhist faith through spiritual guidance, meditations, conferences, education, training and the hosting of retreats and events.

Since the plan is a "re-occupancy as opposed to a new construction... the prior occupancy and its site plan approval and the development of the property since the 1990s have all been reviewed by the town," according to the statement of use.

KTD intends to offer short-term group retreat programs

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Simon says "Get out and VOTE and make it COUNT"

Carey for Kent Town Board

Election Day: Nov 8

CareyForKent.com
simon@careyforkent.com

Hook, Line & Sinker!

Lake Carmel Fishing Derby Winners Announced



Joe Lopez took first place in the annual Lake Carmel Bass Fishing Derby, which took place Sept. 24. Second place went to the team of Patrick Sullivan and Tom Palermo. Provided photos.



Event Chairman and Lake Carmel Park District Advisory Board member Bobby Ulich prepares the trophies before the big event.

Brewster Students Get a Collision Course in Energy

Frank Lamorte's fourth-graders recently learned about potential energy, kinetic energy and absorption of energy – and had fun doing so.

Students were spread out around the classroom – at desks, on the floor – in groups of three and four. Working together on diagrams and pictures, they were in various stages of planning. Vex kits open, students chattered about which Lego-like bricks, connectors and wheels could best be used and for what purpose.

It was a vision of classroom engagement.

Ethan Sanchez said he was excited about the unit. "It is the best one we've done yet," he said. "I like it because I like learning about energy. Our plan is to save the egg."

Lamorte explained that the Project Lead the Way unit on collision teaches students about potential and kinetic energy, the transfer of energy, speed and friction.

"Students will use their understanding of those areas to design a restraint system that protects the egg passenger throughout a collision," he said. "The program emphasizes science content and teaches the engineering process, which includes cooperative group work, hands-on activities, projects and problems that build upon each other and relate to the real world."

Students Cameron, Hope and Leonardo had a clear plan for their project.

"We are working together and taking turns," explained Hope. "I put the blue pegs in; Leonardo puts in the next pieces, then Cameron."

After they built the vehicle,



Brewster fourth-graders use Vex kits as part of a Project Lead the Way unit on energy.

Lamorte introduced a box with surprise materials to create a restraint for the egg. The students all had ideas on what materials might be inside — cotton balls, paper, rubber balls, ribbon, foam and bubble wrap...

"First, we build the vehicle, then we get the material box that might save the egg – rubber bands, packing peanuts, I'm hoping for cushioning and rubber bands – then

we build the walls to keep the egg safe, similar to car air bags," said Ian Reynos.

It is clear that Lamorte's students were engaged.

"I can't wait for the egg part," said Addison Cleary. "I'm going to name my egg. I don't know what yet – I'm going to have to see my egg first. I think we get to draw a face. I am going to draw a face on my egg, then give it a name."

Hudson Valley Blues Society Brings Jam Sessions to Brewster

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harmonica.

Hopewell Junction band Five Miles to Empty performed as a fine-tuned machine, while other drummers, guitar players and singers took turns joining the house band.

I could say that blues music is "before my time," but I suppose that wouldn't make sense, since the genre technically originated in the late-1800s in the Deep South, making it before every-

body's time. But, catching onto the repetitive chord progressions and feeling the rhythm vibrate through my limbs, I was quickly becoming a fan.

By the end of the night, I was a foot-tapping, cat-calling, grooving audience member who will definitely be back for more.

The Hudson Valley Blues Society hosts these jam sessions at the Studio Around the Corner, 67 Main St., Brewster, on the fourth Wednesday of each month, from 7 to 10 p.m. Its next session is scheduled Oct. 26. Both musicians and fans are invited to play or simply enjoy.

Admission is \$10 at the door, which supports ongoing programming by the all-volunteer organization that was founded in 2018. For more information,

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