

**COOPERSTOWN
AND AROUND**



The Freeman's Journal
Professor Paul Lord
at the Biological Field
on presents a
of the Euro-
Frog Bit, the lat-
invasive species
ter Otsego Lake.
more on lake is-
see editorial, A4

Don't Increase
Timeline's Size,
Foes Say

COOPERSTOWN

sustainable Otsego has
passed a resolution
opposing the proposed
revision of NYSEG's

PARTNERS LAUNCH 'GRASSROOTS BASEBALL'

**Jeff Idelson's New Mission:
Bring Kids Back To Pastime**

By LIBBY CUDMORE

COOPERSTOWN

Once upon a time,
retired Baseball Hall
of Fame president
Jeff Idelson was a center
fielder for the Newton Cen-



Idelson



Fruth

tral Little League.
And though he retired
from baseball at age 12, he
never forgot the importance
of the field.
Since stepping down as
Hall of Fame president, Idelson
co-founded Grassroots
Baseball, a program aimed
Please See IDELSON, A9

*10th Mountain Division Band
Will Perform At Free Concert*

ONEONTA

Gene Schmidt,
the father
of Neahwa
Park's Vietnam
Veterans Memo-
rial, believes you
shouldn't just honor
our nation's defenders on
Memorial Day and Veterans
Day.
"We can't honor our



veterans enough,"
he said. "We owe
so much of what we
have to what they did
for us."
So now, Schmidt
has arranged for the
Army's 10th Moun-
tain Division Jazz
Band to play a free concert
at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug.
17, at SUNY Oneonta's
Please See FREE, A9

PRIDE IDEA REVISITED

**Mayor: Let
Committee
Study What
Flags To Fly**

If LGBTQ's Rainbow,
Why Not POW-MIA?

By JIM KEVLIN

COOPERSTOWN

As suggestions expand
to hanging banners
beyond the Pride Flag

**Razing Makes Way
For Animal Shelter**



**SQSPCA
Executive
Director
Stacie
Haynes
and Rick
Bliss, Lane
Construc-
tion's
Coopers-
town
manager,
confer**

For Jeff Idelson, Life After Hall Focus On Growing 'Grassroots'

PASTIME/From A1

at getting 21st Century youngsters into the game with talks, equipment and a chance to play with Hall of Famers.

"The overarching goal of Grassroots Baseball is to give back by providing inspiration, instruction and equipment to help ensure more children have the opportunity to learn, play and enjoy the game," he said in a press release from San Francisco.

He partnered with Hall of Fame photographer Jean Fruth to create the

program, which launched in May.

Fruth has been a photographer for nearly two decades and shooting baseball for the past 15 years. She covered the San Francisco Giants and Oakland A's, before turning her attention to the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum, where she helped to build the museum's profile and photo archive.

Her photograph book, "Grassroots Baseball: Where Legends Begin," is the first in the series, and this summer, she

will shoot for a second, titled "Grassroots Baseball: Route 66."

"I've learned that the game is more than just a sport – it is dreams and aspirations for so many youngsters wherever I go," said Fruth.

"The culture of baseball is so much bigger than just what happens on the field. I look forward to continuing the journey of documenting the amateur game, inspiring the next generation of young ball players and telling the stories of Grassroots Baseball with my images."

Since May, Grassroots Baseball has been out on a "Route 66" touch, where Hall of Famers and retired Major League stars will meet with children to instruct and inspire them.

This week, Idelson and Fruth are joined by Hall of Famer Goose Gossage at Isotopes Park with the Boys & Girls Club of Albuquerque, N.M. The kids will get a new Rawlings glove and baseball and play catch with Gossage.

Other participating Hall of Fame and Route 66 legends

include Johnny Bench, George Brett and Jim Thome.

Previously, they had been in Peoria and Chicago, Ill, St. Louis and Springfield, Mo., Oklahoma City and Amarillo, Texas. Idelson has been chronicling the journey on the Grassroots website, grassrootsbaseball.com.

"Baseball is about celebrating kids around the globe who play and enjoy the game," Idelson. "Whether they're playing in a park, on a sandlot, in the streets, or in a minor league ballpark."