

# Business

## No reason to be blue — Bistro is back

By **JONATHAN MENT**  
Freeman staff

**WOODSTOCK** — Some of Mary Anne and Richard Erickson's customers were upset, even angry, when the couple closed the Blue Mountain Bistro.

But the business reopened this past spring as the Blue Mountain Bistro Catering Co., a change the Ericksons made for personal reasons.

"We knew that we had to create something that gave us more personal time," Mrs. Erickson said. "Our son is 13 and we've had a restaurant for 12 years. He's going to be out of the house soon, and we want to be more a part of his life."



Freeman photo by Bill Madden

Mary Anne and Richard Erickson have reinvented the Blue Mountain Bistro in Woodstock as a catering business.

### WEEK AHEAD

A look at reports and issues that could sway the markets in the coming week.

#### MONDAY

##### T-BILLS

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Treasury Dept. holds weekly Treasury bill auction.

#### WEDNESDAY

##### GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Commerce Department reports on gross domestic product, first quarter, final.

#### THURSDAY

##### PERSONAL INCOME

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Commerce Department reports on personal income and spending for May.

##### UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Labor Department reports on weekly jobless claims.

##### MORTGAGE RATES

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Freddie Mac, the mortgage company, reports on mortgage rates.

#### FRIDAY

##### CONSTRUCTION SPENDING

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Commerce Department reports on construction spending for May.

The couple bought a house in the region in 1985 and became weekenders from downstate. But "one day, we just got tired of driving back and forth," Erickson said.

Blue Mountain Bistro began in 1993 as a café at the Woodstock Golf Club. Three years later, it moved to the outskirts of town and its current location.

The quirky structure at the corner of Glasco Turnpike and state Route 212, a barn that was moved from Poughkeepsie in the 1970s, now serves as the Ericksons' catering hall. The barn previously housed a T-shirt manufacturer, then it sat vacant for several years until the Ericksons moved in.

Beginning in 1996, the Blue Mountain Bistro was open there seven days a week, then six, and eventually five, said Erickson, who serves as chef. With each change, more time for the couple and their son was the goal.

This newest change, to a catering hall and site for special events like Thursday night cooking classes and the recent "Breakthrough Café," will leave the couple with more office work and fewer late nights.

And patrons may find themselves enjoying the fare there again from time to time.

"We have been a French Mediterranean restaurant since we opened," Erickson said. "It hasn't been difficult. That's what I love."

Of the business' Indian cooking classes, and the English menu now planned

for a murder mystery night, Erickson said he thinks the endeavors will be fun.

And all of it will adhere to his taste for "authentic, traditional foods with a foundation in a real place."

While events currently are scheduled only through the end of August, Mrs. Erickson said the Blue Mountain Bistro Catering Co. will operate year-round.

"We hope to get more events in ... cookbook authors on tour," she said.

And if the Ericksons serve guests three days a week, that will be a lot, the couple said.

Their employees, numbering around a dozen, are adapting on to the new routine, Mrs. Erickson said. "Most were disappointed (at first). A few have found other jobs or part-time jobs," she said. But the rest are "becoming converts to the new lifestyle."

The building also needed to be converted.

Two smaller dining rooms, separated by a wait station, have been opened up, and supporting steel beams have been installed in such a way that a newcomer might not realize anything was done.

The bar and lounge area, once separate from the dining rooms, now is an airy adjacent space.

"A lot of people said we'd never make it if we moved out of town," Mrs. Erickson said.

*For more about upcoming special events and menus, visit [www.bluemountainbistro.com](http://www.bluemountainbistro.com) on the Web.*