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97323-4



NEWS Child porn charges

Del Lanes owner faces allegations of child porn

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TOP STORY

Attorney General V. Governor

Schneiderman is setting stage to challenge Cuomo's appointments

By **JIM FRANCO**
francoj@spotlightnews.com

ALBANY — A legal brief filed by Attorney General Eric Schneiderman in the local case of a teacher accused of raping a student questions the constitutionality of how the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs prosecutes criminal cases.

At issue is whether or not state lawmakers have the authority to give an unelected person or entity the power to bring criminal charges as they did in 2012 with the creation of the Justice Center. The state Constitution, according to the AG, only gives such powers to the elected district attorney in each of the state's 62 counties and the attorney general.

The only way the Justice Center has the authority to prosecute cases, according to the brief written by Senior Assistant Solicitor



Governor Cuomo's special prosecution appointments to non-elected officials is being challenged.

General Andrew Amend, is with the DA's explicit permission and if the DA maintains responsibility for the case.

The Justice Center, in accordance with the state law that created the agency, does not get the DA's permission. Rather, it works "concurrently" and has an equal standing as local law enforcement.

"The Justice Center works in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies and district attorneys to bring charges against individuals accused of abuse or neglect involving criminal conduct," said Justice Center Spokeswoman Dianne Ward. "As part of this collaboration, the local district attorney is informed of every case of abuse and neglect received by the Justice Center in his or her jurisdiction."

Simply informing a DA, though, is not enough, according to the 27-page brief written

by Amend and filed on Thursday, Dec. 22, in the case against former LaSalle School teacher Mariana Viviani.

"The Justice Center Special Prosecutors are currently operating like a private prosecution service without any oversight," said Viviani's attorney, Michael Pollok. "Under their enabling legislation, these unelected prosecutors can charge any person in the state with any sex offense and several other types of crimes. Since the special prosecutor and deputy special prosecutors employed by the Justice Center are merely appointed, they are not accountable to the people, unlike the county prosecutors and attorney general, who must stand for election every four years."

VIVIANI

Amend recommends Judge Thomas Breslin ask Albany County DA David Soares about

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Plans for local eyesore

Plans announced for Tobin's First Prize Center

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ENTERTAINMENT



Who is better than us?

All indications point to the Capital District as having among the best music scenes in the country

Story on Page B1

SPORTS



Tough week

Guilderland girls basketball faced off against two tough foes this week

Story on Page 7



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■ ALBANY COUNTY

Clyne reappointed as BOE commissioner

By JIM FRANCO
francoj@spotlightnews.com

ALBANY — After a good amount of controversy, the county legislature formally appointed Matt Clyne to a four-year term as Board of Elections Commissioner, on Monday, Dec. 20.

“The result speaks for itself,” Majority Leader Frank Commisso said in a statement. “In voting to support Matthew Clyne, the Democratic majority backed an extremely qualified and experienced attorney for elections commissioner. We also listened to the recommendation of the full Albany County Democratic Committee. We respected the committee’s wishes that were made clear in a vote on Sept. 29.”

The legislators opted to take Clyne’s vote in caucus rather than on the floor and his appointment passed 17-11.

The vote ends a months-long, drama-filled battle between two factions of the Albany County Democratic Party.

In September, the same night the committee ousted Chairwoman Carolyn McLaughlin and replaced her with Jack Flynn, a motion was made to table the vote on whether or not to recommend Clyne’s re-appointment.

That motion failed, and the next day Clyne fired Flynn from his \$48,500 post at the board. Before the legislature formally appointed Clyne, however, Flynn tried to re-open the process and asked anyone interested in the position to send him a resume. He hired Councilman Judd Krasher, a vocal critic of Mayor Kathy Sheehan and County Executive Dan McCoy, to replace Flynn

“The result speaks for itself. . . We also listened to the recommendation of the full Albany County Democratic Committee. We respected the committee’s wishes that were made clear in a vote on Sept. 29.”

— Frank Commisso
Majority Leader, Albany Co. Legislature

Clyne took it to court, a judge sided with him and the recommendation went to the legislature. Despite some pressure put on some lawmakers to vote against Clyne, his appointment passed by a comfortable margin.

Those joining Commisso Sr. in voting for Clyne were Legislators: Chair Sean Ward, Gil Ethier, Ralph Signoracci, Wanda Willingham, Norma Chapman, William Clay, Denis Feeney, Sam Fein, David Mayo, Michael Mackey, Bryan Clenahan, Robert Beston, Alison McLean-Lane, Paul Miller, Ralph Signoracci and Richard Touchette.

Those against the reappointment were Legislators: Merton Simpson, Raymond Joyce, Andrew Joyce, Gary Domalewicz, Chris Higgins, Joanne Cunningham, Douglas Bullock, Joseph O’Brien, William Reinhardt, Lynn Lekakis and Charles Dawson Jr.

The battle is widely seen as an attempt by McCoy and Sheehan to get someone more friendly to their side of the fence heading into next year’s mayoral race when Councilman Frank Commisso Jr. is likely to run a primary against the mayor.



New development plans for the former Tobin First Prize Center on Exchange Street in West Albany were announced during a press conference held on Thursday, Dec. 15.

Jim Franco/Spotlight

Former Tobin First Prize Center to be redeveloped

COLONIE — After remaining mostly vacant for more than 35 years, local officials announced redevelopment of a notorious Capital District eyesore – the Tobin First Prize building on Exchange Street.

On Thursday, Dec. 15, Richbell Capital announced a project that will “integrate residential housing with shopping, restaurants, hospitality, entertainment and places to work,” according to the development company, which has offices in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Saratoga Springs.

“The redevelopment will incorporate the principles of new urbanism to develop a sustainable smart growth community.”

The 32-acre property, visible from I-90 near Exit 5, straddles the boundaries of Albany and Colonie, where the bulk of the property lies.

Formerly a meat-packing plant opened in 1924, the facility closed its doors in 1981. The property was eventually purchased from the federal government in 1984 for \$150,000. The ground floor


of the blighted building was home to a few tenants over the subsequent decades. One of those tenants, Exchange Street Associates, eventually assumed ownership of the property on April 1 last year.

The exchange of ownership was meant to facilitate redevelopment of a property that has failed to realize a long string of proposals.

One of the largest obstacles that has thwarted redevelopment of the First Prize Center is that the property is situated in two municipalities. The state legislature, though, passed a law that allows for the municipalities to create an overlay zoning district that covers the entire property. One consolidated planning board is created between the municipalities, and that one planning board oversees the municipal approval process.

Richbell Capital is asking Albany and Colonie to adopt The First Prize Center Redevelopment Overlay Zoning District that will permit the redevelopment.

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■ COPS, COURTS, AND EMERGENCY CALLS

Del Lanes Bowling Alley owner arrested

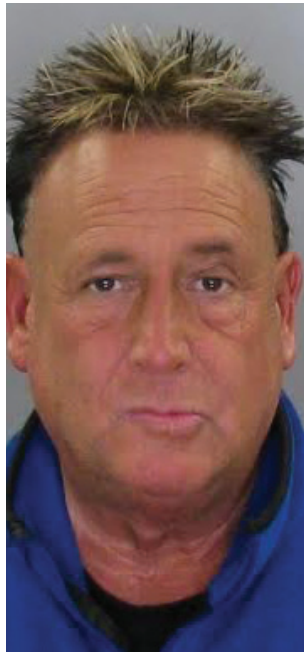
Local businessman charged with felony child porn possession

By **KASSIE PARISI**
parisik@spotlightnews.com

BETHLEHEM — Marvin Sontz, the owner of local bowling alley Del Lanes, who was arrested for possessing and sending child pornography to a minor, knew his victim, according to Bethlehem police.

Sontz, 61, was arrested on Tuesday, Dec. 20 after police received a complaint from a town resident in reference to their juvenile child receiving an image of child pornography through an online social media sharing site, said Commander Adam Hornick at a press conference on Wednesday afternoon. After receiving the complaint, Hornick said, an immediate investigation was launched and police were able to trace the images to Sontz, who was arrested after interviews and the execution of a search warrant.

Right now, said Hornick, there is no evidence suggesting that any criminal activity took place at Del Lanes, and no indication that the subject in the picture sent to the victim was a Bethlehem resident. Even though Hornick said it seems that the images were obtained over the internet, police are still working to identify other possible victims, if there are any.



MARVIN SONTZ

While the images were allegedly sent over a device that Sontz had “sole control over,” Hornick could not say which social media site the information was sent through, whether it was sent from Del Lanes or elsewhere, or exactly how old the victim was, just that he or she was under the age of 17. Though police are confident that Sontz was the alleged perpetrator, Hornick also said that they have no information right now that would suggest Sontz was propositioning his victim to engage in sexual activities.

“At this point, this investigation is still in its infancy. The investigation

was a mere 12 hours old when the arrest was made, but we had adequately reached that level of probable cause based on that investigation to make that arrest and for the safety of the community we feel it’s important to move forward in this case, and discuss this with the public,” Hornick said.

Police have been in close contact with the Bethlehem Central School District since the investigation commenced, as well as Del Lanes. Hornick said that while cases such as these are already concerning, it becomes even more so when they are connected to iconic places in communities in which the clientele is mostly younger, vulnerable people, such as bowling alleys. He noted that while police don’t know at this point whether the incident with Sontz was isolated, or “the tip of an iceberg,” it’s important for the community to have an open dialogue going forward. He urged that worried parents reach out to police and school officials, as well as the bowling alley with concerns they may have. He also cautioned against allowing the actions of one individual to cast a shadow over what has been considered a focal point in the community for over 50 years.

“It’s a place everyone in town has been to for one reason or another, whether

it’s birthday parties or events,” Hornick said of Del Lanes. “We understand that people want to know, and they have questions and everything, but we also have to remember here that there are victims in these cases, and we have to try to preserve their rights, their dignity, and their safety as

“The investigation was a mere 12 hours old when the arrest was made, but we had adequately reached that level of probable cause based on that investigation to make that arrest.”

- Adam Hornick,
Bethlehem Police
Department

well.”

The Bethlehem Central School District sent out an email to parents on Wednesday, Dec. 21 to address the situation. Sontz was formerly a paid boy’s bowling coach at the district.

“Sontz was a paid coach of the Bethlehem Central boys’ bowling team for several years, most recently during the 2014-15 season. Sontz is also owner of Del Lanes bowling center, where the district’s bowling teams, both boys and girls, practice

and compete. The police department also indicated, in its statement, that they have no evidence to date of any criminal activity taking place at the bowling alley,” read the email. “The district is relocating or rescheduling all scheduled practices and games that were set to take place at Del Lanes as the police continue to investigate this criminal matter. The district is working closely with the Bethlehem Police Department and will continue to do so as this case moves forward. No activities will be scheduled at Del Lanes for the foreseeable future. The safety and well-being of our students is the district’s top priority. Any student who may have had contact or correspondence with Mr. Sontz that made the student feel uncomfortable is encouraged to tell a parent, teacher or other trusted adult immediately. Parents with any information related to this matter are encouraged to contact the Police Department at 518-439-9973. This news may come as a shock to some of our students who have had contact with Mr. Sontz in a coaching capacity or in the community. Students who have questions or want to discuss their concerns are encouraged to speak to their school counselor, school nurse, or building administrator.”

Noting the rapidity at which the investigation has commenced, Hornick said the school was scheduled to have a bowling event at Del Lanes on the afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 21, but ended up moving it. Sontz was also a co-owner of East Greenbush Bowling Center, and High Point Bowling Center in High Point, North Carolina.

Del Lanes has banned Sontz from the property.

“Given the charges filed against Mr. Sontz, he has been banned from all operations and physical locations until this matter is resolved. Del Lanes primary concern is the safety and well being of our youth and customers,” bowling alley officials said in a statement.

Sontz was released from Albany county jail in lieu of \$25,000 bail, and is scheduled to go to court on Tuesday, Jan. 17. He was charged with felony counts of disseminating indecent material to minors in the first degree, and possessing a sexual performance by a child, as well as one misdemeanor count of endangering the welfare of a child. If convicted of the felony charges, Sontz could potentially face several years in state prison.



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■ COMMUNITY

2017 Reading Challenge

It's back and it's better! If you're looking for an incentive to read more in the New Year, take the library's 2017 Reading Challenge.

- If you want to read more, tell us your goal for the year

- If you want to read more broadly, take on our categories challenge — read 12 books from 12 categories and broaden your horizons

- Or, go big and do both

Rewards? What's better than talking books with other book lovers? Readers who complete the challenge will be invited to an after-hours party to celebrate. Sign up at the library in January.

Open mic jam session

Calling all local musicians and fans: come to our jam session Thursday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m.,

RCS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

to listen or perform. Make some music in the library's Community Room with fellow performers of all levels. Light refreshments will be served. Bring your friends.

New resources

In 2017, use your library card to learn at new language at Mango, research your family tree at Ancestry.com and read a magazine at Flipster. Find links for these new databases on our website (rcscommunitylibrary.org). They are all for free with your library card.

Fun Fair

The 14th annual Fun Fair for the Very Young is just around the corner. On Tuesday, Jan. 10, at P.B. Coeymans Elementary School, and Thursday,

Jan. 12, at A.W. Becker Elementary School, the library will partner with the RCS School District to host the Fun Fair from 4 to 6 pm. The fair provides activities and information for families registering for pre-K and kindergarten.

Library Lego League

Join our team as we build, test and program a robot using Lego Mindstorms technology to solve a set of animal related missions in the Robot Game. The team will meet weekly for eight sessions on Tuesday evenings from 5 to 6 p.m. The first meeting is on Jan. 10, and the final meeting will be on Feb. 28. For ages 8 to 14 years old. Registration appreciated, call 756-2053.

— Carol Melewski

■ OPINION

Schools need to improve

Noted author Jonathan Kozol recently indicated that he was shocked at Gov. Andrew Cuomo's comment that the "death penalty" should be aimed at failing schools in the state. Kozol stated, "You improve a school by nurturing good teachers and pouring in resources," Mr. Kozol, an expert on the negative effects of poverty on educational results harkens us to remember the words of James Coleman, who in the 1960s wrote that "what a child brings to the school house door:" has the most profound effect on the education of that child.

Additionally, Secretary of Education, John King was quoted as saying that schools and teachers have to stop blaming poverty for failing students. While poverty is not an excuse, IT IS A FACTOR IN THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN. To take it one step further, in general, kids from rich families do better in school than kids from poor families. Okay, now we have that 500 pound gorilla on the table.

It seems like forever that we have been trying to improve the public schools in America, and closer to home, in New York State. It is time to be honest with the people our schools serve, we have failed in our improvement efforts. Presidents, governors, congressmen, senators have all failed in their endeavor to improve public schools. For decades we have heard the cry

that public schools must improve or we will all surely experience national failure. Money has been thrown at schools to no avail. New programs have been developed just to meet with failure. The "learning gap" (whatever that is) keeps growing. Schools are more expensive. More kids are failing. We need more mathematics and science instruction. We need better teachers. We need more foreign language instruction. We need, we need, we need.

The experts cited above and anyone who has ever worked in education would agree that early education is a key to academic success in later years. As a matter of fact, Mr. Kozol stated that some parents in New York City pay as much as \$ 28,000 per year to have their children attend pre-kindergarten. These parents obviously understand the importance of early education. The good news is that a solid Pre K experience does not need to cost anywhere near the same as a year of college. It can be very affordable.

While families are not all at the same level financially, the all have one thing in common. They want the best for their children. We know that part of success in school is what happens in the early years, yet in New York State, early education programs are not mandated and poorly funded if at all. It is an abomination that in 2013 many schools in New York state, including those in the

most affluent districts, do not host pre-kindergarten or full day kindergarten programs. We need to stop pretending not to know what we know. If we fail in the early years, we fail. The fact is that some families can afford to give their children an early educational experience and others cannot.

It is ironic that statewide, millions of dollars are being spent to implement the common core standards and tests that accompany yet another experiment in improving public schools. By the way, that equates to billions nationwide. The truth is that the money would be much better spent by mandating and funding free pre-kindergarten and full-day kindergarten programs in every school in the state.

I agree, we cannot use poverty as an excuse. We can no longer accept the status quo and look the other way when it comes to the learning gaps. However, we can put poor kids on the same level as affluent kids by giving them some of the same early childhood experiences. If we do, some of that school success just might rub off.

Dr. John Metallo is a retired teacher and administrator. Among the positions he has held are the principal of Albany High School and adjunct instructor at the University at Albany and SUNY Plattsburgh. He lives in Slingerlands and can be reached at 577-7530 or Johnmetallos@live.com.

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■ **IN BRIEF**

Hands only CPR/AED class

BETHLEHEM — Top Form Delmar, located at 333 Delaware Ave., is holding a hands only CPR/AED class Tuesday, Jan. 3, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Come learn CPR, as well as the hows and whys of heart attack prevention through healthy choices.

For more information or to register, call Top Form Delmar at 451-9283.

■ COMMUNITY

Doctorow starts series

Chart-topping folksinger and songwriter Caroline Doctorow has a stirring, gorgeous voice that recalls Judy Collins and Sandy Denny, and you'll get to experience the beauty of Caroline's singing when you come to GPL on Sunday, Jan. 8, at 2 p.m., for a free concert.

The daughter of renowned novelist E.L. Doctorow, Caroline has released 11 solo albums; her most recent is "Dreaming in Vinyl," which was No. 2 on the nationwide Folk Radio hit list. She and her trio will perform their signature bluegrass and American roots music. You can read more about the artist at www.carolinedoctorow.com. And, just in case, the snow date is Sunday, Jan. 22, at 2 p.m.

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Never too cold for ice cream

On Friday, Dec. 30, at 1:30 p.m., SUNY Poly Children's Museum of Science and Technology and the Scotia Glenville Children's Museum will share the secrets of making

ice cream, our favorite cold or hot weather treat. For kids in grades 2-5. Please call 456-2400, ext. 4 to register.

Read a book to a buddy

Calling all kids in grades 1 through 4. Come and build your reading skills and confidence by reading to a teen Book Buddy. The 30-minute Book Buddy sessions take place every Tuesday in January. Slots are available at 4, 4:30, 5 and 5:30 p.m. All reading levels welcome. Limit one slot per day per reader. Sign up and read. Call 456-2400, ext. 4 to register.

Another brick in the wall

Teens and tweens are

invited to come to Lego Club on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 6:30 p.m. It's your chance to show off creations you bring from home, or to work on a great project with friends and fellow Lego fans.

Read to furry friends

New readers! Grab your favorite book (or choose one at the library) and read to GPL's friendly dog — or cat — on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 6:30 p.m. Our furry friends are very patient listeners, and look forward to listening to you read to them.

New Year's schedule

GPL will close at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, and be closed all day Sunday, Jan. 1. Happy New Year!

— Mark Curiale

Magic years

We have five very exciting upcoming parenting programs that, as a parent/caregiver of a preschooler, you will find valuable.

The crucial time before a child enters kindergarten is often referred to as the Magic Years (ages 0-4). Research reports that 90 percent of a child's brain development happens before age five. As a parent/caregiver of a young child, these early child-rearing years can be exciting and joyful, but also demanding and overwhelming.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Capital District Child Care Council will be offering a five-part series of one-hour classes that address some of the important issues for parents/caregivers of children in the Magic Years: Handling Stress & Understanding Child



Development (Jan. 8); Setting Routines (Jan. 22); Parenting Styles & Discipline Tools (Feb. 5); Brain Building and the Power of Play (March 4); and Sensory Play (March 18). Feel free to register for all or some of these classes. Limited on-site childcare, in the children's area of the library, will be available for children ages 18 months to 5 years.

To reserve your childcare spot, registration can be done by phone at 765-2791, in person or online at www.voorheesvillelibrary.org.

Holiday hours

In observance of the New Year, the library will close at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, and will re-open at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

— Lynn Kohler

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COMMUNITY

For the love of language

It may be winter, but here at the library, it's Mango season! Bethlehem, along with the rest of the libraries in the Upper Hudson Library System, now offers Mango Languages, a fun and easy-to-use, self-paced language learning program with more than 70 language courses.

It's easy to get started, just head to our website at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org and click on the Mango Languages icon on the home page. You'll be asked to create an account using your email address, and then you'll be ready to say "bonjour" to your new language.

Available courses



include widely spoken languages, like Italian and Chinese, as well as less commonly used languages, such as Biblical Hebrew and Scottish Gaelic. There are also 17 English as a Second Language courses available. There are even some fun mini-courses like Pirate, Medical Spanish and romance courses.

Mango teaches practical vocabulary with pronunciation demonstrated by professional native speakers of the language you wish to learn. You can hear words in any language offered

both at a conversational speed and at a slowed-down, easier-to-understand speed.

So if learning a foreign language is on your list of things to do in the new year, or if it's something you need for business, travel or professional development, Mango Languages is a great way to broaden your vocabulary.

Open sewing

The library has a number of sewing machines that are used for sewing and quilting programs for all ages. We also make these machines available for independent use during our Open Sewing sessions, the next of which takes

place Monday, Jan. 9. Sign up for a two-hour block of time, and bring your own project and supplies. Volunteers may be available to assist you. Open Sewing takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. with more sessions scheduled for Jan. 23 and Feb. 27. Questions? Give us a call at 439-9314.

Holiday hours

The library will close at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, and remain closed until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3. We're always open online at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org.

Storm warning

Please remember that in the event of inclement weather, the library's

telephone system will provide information on a closing or delayed opening. Call ahead.

Upcoming events

All events are free and take place at Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar. For more information, call 439-9314 or visit bethlehempubliclibrary.org.

Friday, Dec. 30

Vacation Cinema: The Secret Life of Pets

A cool cast of critters set out to find one of their own (PG, 87 minutes), 10 a.m. For kids and families.

Let's Create: Stop Motion Shorts

Work in teams to create

fun stop-motion films with Legos and iPads, 2 to 4 p.m. For age 9 and up. Sign up online or call.

Wednesday, Jan. 4

Trivia Night for Adults

Have some fun and show off your knowledge as you sign up alone or as a team to match wits with others in a written-answer format, 7 to 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 5

Thursday Cinema

Watch "Florence Foster Jenkins" (Paramount, PG-13, 110 min.) starring Meryl Streep as a socialite-turned opera performer, 2 p.m.

— Kristen Roberts

Bethlehem Y 2017 Annual Campaign

As the Bethlehem YMCA prepares to begin its 2017 Annual Campaign in January, we are counting on our members and community supporters to join volunteers and Y staff in pledging funds to help less fortunate families and individuals in Bethlehem.

The YMCA believes that everyone deserves a chance to succeed, no matter their background or income. The Y never denies anyone access to our programs and facilities due to an inability to pay. It's only because of your contributions to our Annual Campaign scholarship program that we can make and keep that commitment. And every penny raised stays right here in Bethlehem.

So many people in our community have been very generous over the years by donating to our Annual Campaign and helping us reach our goals, which



topped \$122,000 in 2016. We are striving to raise even more in 2017 to help meet the growing demand in our community.

For low income families and individuals in Bethlehem, your contributions open the door to summer camp, swimming lessons, youth sports, recreation, before and after school care, day care, wellness programs and educational activities such as Youth in Government and Black and Latino Achievers that teach teenagers strong core values such as caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Thanks to funds from our Annual Campaign, the Circle of Champs is able to provide respite and support for families of children

facing serious illnesses.

The Y is dedicated to nurturing the potential of every child and teen, improving the area's health and well-being, and giving back and providing support to our neighbors. Your gifts are investments in helping children become the strong, caring and responsible citizens we want for our community.

In 2016, more than 3,017 families benefitted from membership financial assistance at the Bethlehem YMCA. Of those, 535 children received assistance for school-age childcare, and 370 kids were able to attend YMCA summer camp because of financial assistance raised during our Annual Campaign.

Y summer camp encourages kids to try new things, make new friends, develop confidence and learn new skills. The Annual Campaign funds help kids learn the value of caring

about themselves and others.

In 2016, 803 active older adults were able to address their chronic health challenges by participating in special wellness programs funded by donations to the campaign.

From helping school children gain self-esteem, to welcoming seniors to the Y for fellowship and more, every day we're hard at work sharing programs that make us strong as individuals and as a community.

At this moment, there are thousands of individuals depending on the Bethlehem YMCA, and we are depending on our members and people in the community to support our Annual Campaign. With your support, we're building a strong community one child, one senior and one family at a time.

— Mark Hansen

Social and spiritual health

A health and wellness program titled "Social & Spiritual Health, The Forgotten Side of Health" will be presented at Town Hall on Friday, Jan. 6, at 1 p.m., by Karen Laing, Health Literacy For All, Inc. Learn how our social and spiritual health contribute to an overall healthy lifestyle. Join us for lunch at the Windowbox Cafe, cost on your own. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176, to make your lunch reservation.

Town Hall will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2. There will be no Senior transportation until Jan. 3.

Join us for a matinee movie and dinner out on Tuesday, Jan. 17. We will go to the Spectrum Theater for a movie of your choice, followed by dinner at Mercato's, cost on your own. Call 439-4955, ext.,



1176.

The following support meetings are available:

- Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Group — Dec. 28 at 10:30 a.m.
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) — by appointment.
- Senior Legal Services Program — by appointment.

Call 439-4955, ext. 1176 for more information or appointments.

Donations can be made to Bethlehem Senior Projects online at bethlehemseniorproject.org.

— Wilma DeLuco

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December 28, 2016

Spotlight on Sports

www.spotlightnews.com PAGE 7



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Spotlightnews.com
for more Sports stories!

■ PLAYER OF THE WEEK



BRENDAN CARTWRIGHT

Bethlehem swimmer
Brendan Cartwright is The
Spotlight Player of the
Week for the period ending
Sunday, Dec. 25. Cartwright
posted a winning time of
22.24 seconds in a dual
meet against Albany on Dec.
22 — the second-fastest
time recorded in Section 2
this season.

■ IN BRIEF



Convincing win

Voorheesville jumped
out to a 31-2 lead and
cruised to a 79-34 victory
over Catholic Central
in a Colonial Council
boys basketball game
Thursday, Dec. 22. Sean
Nolan's 19 points paced
the Blackbirds, who
entered the holiday
break with a 7-1 record.

■ GIRLS BASKETBALL



Break time

Guilderland enters holiday period
off losses to Shaker and Colonie

GUILDERLAND — The holiday
break couldn't come at a better time for the
Guilderland girls basketball team.

The Lady Dutch (1-4 league, 1-5 overall)
lost to Suburban Council rivals Shaker 55-21
Tuesday, Dec. 20, and Colonie 56-40 Thursday,
Dec. 22.

Sierra "CeCe" Mayo and Shyla Sanford each
scored 18 points to lead Shaker (6-0, 6-0) past
Guilderland. Olivi Baumann had 11 points for
the Lady Dutch.

Erin Fouracre's 17 points led Colonie (3-3,
4-3) in Thursday's game. Baumann netted 13
points for Guilderland.

— Rob Jonas



▲ Guilderland's
Jessie Fiori (10)
looks for someone
to pass the ball to
during a Suburban
Council game
against Shaker
Tuesday, Dec. 20.

◀ Guilderland's
Nicole Fyvie
(35) avoids the
steal attempt by
Shaker's Shyla
Sanford to take
a shot. For a
complete photo
gallery, visit spot-
lightnews.com/
spotted.

Jim Franco/Spotlight



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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF ALBANY

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.,
Plaintiff,
vs.

Any unknown heirs to the Estate of WALTER TURNER, next of kin, devisees, legatees, distributees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors, trustees, executors, administrators or successors in interest, as well as the respective heirs at law, next of kin, devisees, legatees, distributees, grantees, assignees, lienors, trustees, executors, administrators or successors in interest of the aforesaid classes of persons, if they or any of them be dead, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to the plaintiff; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA O/B/O INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; ALBANY FIREMEN'S FEDERAL CREDIT UNION; PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; and "JOHN DOE" and "MARY DOE," (Said names being fictitious, it being the intention of plaintiff to designate any and all occupants, tenants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises being foreclosed herein.)

Defendants.

Filed: 11/22/2016

Index No.: 901096/2015

SUMMONS AND NOTICE

Mortgaged Premises:
20 Patterson Dr
Glenmont, (Town of Bethlehem) NY 12077

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a Defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is for the foreclosure of:

Mortgage bearing the date of May 10, 2005, executed by Walter Turner (deceased) to Bank of America, N.A. to secure the sum of \$153,559.00, and interest, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Albany County on May 27, 2005 in Book 4975 Page 764.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the Mortgaged Premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

Plaintiff designates Albany County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is the County in which the Mortgaged Premises is situated.

Section: 97.11
Block: 2
Lot: 44

DATED: July 18, 2016
Rochester, New York

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the Mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

LEGAL NOTICE

Sending a payment to your Mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

SCHEDULE A LEGAL DESCRIPTION

ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, with the buildings and improvements thereon, situate in the Town of Bethlehem, County of Albany and State of New York, being known and designated as Lot 20 Patterson Drive on a map entitled "Map of Woodhill, Section No. 2, Property of Vincent Riemma, Town of Bethlehem" filed in the Albany County Clerk's Office on November 2, 1987 as Map No. 6715, Drawer 172. Ad#138173

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS
Index No. 901134/2015
STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF ALBANY
CITIMORTGAGE INC.,
Plaintiff,

-vs-
THE HEIRS AT LARGE OF MATTIE NELSON, deceased, and all persons who are husbands, widows, grantees, mortgagees, lienors, heirs, devisees, distributees, successors in interest of such of them as may be dead, and their husbands and wives, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors of interest of all of whom and whose names and places are unknown to Plaintiff; TIFFANY NELSON AND TITUS L. DAWSON, AS POSSIBLE HEIRS TO THE ESTATE OF MATTIE NELSON DECEASED; ARBOR HILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION; ST. PETERS HEALTHCARE SERVICES; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; "JOHN DOE" AND "JANE DOE" said names being fictitious, it being the intention of Plaintiff to designate any and all occupants of premises being foreclosed herein, Defendants.

Mortgaged Premises: 521 LARK DRIVE, ALBANY, NY 12210

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S): YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days of the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service of the same is complete where service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. Your failure to appear or answer will result in a judgment against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. In the event that a deficiency balance remains from the sale proceeds, a judgment may be entered against you, unless the Defendant obtained a bankruptcy discharge and such other or further relief as may be just and equitable.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME
If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer to the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. That this action is being amended to include TIFFANY NELSON AND TITUS L. DAWSON, AS POSSIBLE HEIRS TO THE ESTATE OF MATTIE NELSON DECEASED.

ALBANY County is designated as the place of trial. The basis of venue is the location of the mortgaged premises. Dated: OCTOBER 20, 2015
Mark K. Broyles, Esq.
FEIN SUCH & CRANE, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Office and P.O. Address
28 East Main Street, Suite 1800
Rochester, New York 14614

LEGAL NOTICE

Telephone No. (585) 232-7400
Section: 65.15
Block: 2
Lot: 22

NATURE AND OBJECT OF ACTION

The object of the above action is to foreclose a mortgage held by the Plaintiff recorded in the County of ALBANY, State of New York as more particularly described in the Complaint herein.

TO THE DEFENDANT, the plaintiff makes no personal claim against you in this action. To the above named defendants: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the HON. DENISE A. HARTMAN, a justice of the Supreme Court of the State of N.Y., dated NOVEMBER 1, 2016 and filed along with the supporting papers in the ALBANY County Clerk's Office. This is an action to foreclose a Mortgage. The premises is described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, situate, lying and being in the City of Albany, County of Albany and State of New York, more particularly known and designated as Lot No. 521 as shown on a map entitled "Subdivision Plat Arbor Heights Town Houses, City of Albany, County of Albany, State of New York" made by Michael P. Wheeler, L.S. dated July 5, 1990, and filed in the Albany County Clerk's Office on November 29, 1990 in Drawer 172 as Map No. 9250, as more particularly shown and as Lot, No. 521 on a map entitled "Map of Survey 521 - 529 Lark Drive, City of Albany, County of Albany, state of New York" made by Michael P. Wheeler, L.S. dated August 19, 1991 and filed in the Albany County Clerk's Office on August 20, 1991 in Drawer 172 as Map No. 9413 and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the southwesterly boundary line of a city street known as Lark Drive at its point of intersect with the division line between Lot No. 519 on the northwest and the herein described Lot No. 521 on the southeast, all as shown on a map entitled "Subdivision Plat Arbor Heights Town Houses", dated July 5, 1990, and prepared by Boswell Engineering and filed in the Albany County Clerk's Office in Drawer No. 172 as Map No. 9250; thence running, from said point of beginning, south 49° 43' 20" East, along the first mentioned southwesterly boundary line of Lark Drive, 51.40 feet to a point in the division line between Lot No. 523 on the southeast and the herein described Lot No. 521 on the northwest, all as shown on a map entitled "521-529 Lark Drive", dated August 19, 1991, prepared Boswell Engineering and filed in the Albany County Clerk's Office in Drawer No. 172 as Map No. 9413; thence south 40° 16' 40" West, along the last mentioned division line, 103.58 feet to a point in the division line between the lands now or formerly of City School District of Albany on the southwest and the herein described Lot No. 521 on the northeast, all as shown on the last mentioned map; thence North 49° 43' 20" West, along the last mentioned division line, 51.40 feet to a point in the division line between Lot No. 519 on the northwest and the herein described Lot No. 521 on the southeast; thence North 40° 16' 40" East, along the last mentioned division line, 103.58 feet to the point of beginning. Premises known as 521 LARK DRIVE, ALBANY, NY 12210 Ad#138868

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF ALBANY
AMENDED SUMMONS
900621/2015

WELLS FARGO BANK, NA,
Plaintiff,

-vs-

ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTEES OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE LATE DAVID WAYNE BELL, IF LIVING, AND IF ANY BE DEAD, ANY AND ALL PERSONS WHO ARE SPOUSES, WIDOWS, GRANTEES, MORTGAGEES, LIENORS, HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTEES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF SUCH OF THEM AS MAY BE DEAD, AND THEIR SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTEES AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, GAIL L. OLDEN, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, MONUMENT STREET FUNDING, LLC, COMMERCIAL CREDIT PLAN INC. OF GEORGETOWN, TERESA ANN SQUIRES A/K/A TERESA ANN BELL, and JOHN DOE, Defendants.

To the above named Defendants:

You are hereby summoned to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's attorneys within thirty days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief de-

LEGAL NOTICE

manded in the Complaint.
NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the Summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of Honorable David A. Weinstein, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed the 24th of October, 2016, at Albany, New York. Tax I.D. No. 53.6-7-32

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Town of Colonie in the County of Albany and that State of New York constituting one lot of a proposed subdivision to be known as Miller Park and bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pipe standing in the division line between lands of Roessleville Presbyterian Church and lands of James Rooney and wife adjoining on the north distant 247.00 feet easterly measured along said division line from its intersection with the easterly line of the Albany and Schenectady Road, and runs from said point of beginning easterly along said division line 40.0 feet to an iron pipe; THENCE Southerly at right angles to said division line 108.0 feet to an iron pipe standing in the northerly line of a proposed street to be known as Elmhurst Street;

THENCE Westerly parallel with the aforesaid division line and along the northerly line of said proposed street 40.0 feet to an iron pipe standing in the northerly line of said proposed street;

THENCE Northerly and at right angles to the aforesaid division line 108.0 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING. Subject to easements, covenants, and restriction of record.

These premises are also known as 5 North Elmhurst Avenue, Albany, NY 12205 A/K/A Town of Colonie, NY 12205.

Ad#

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company ("LLC"). Name: 17 NORTH STREET, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of the State of NY ("SSNY") on October 24, 2016. Office location, County of Albany. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of such process served to: 17 North Street, Albany, New York 12205. Purpose: any lawful purpose. Ad#135342

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: 22 Aviation Road, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State NY (SSNY) on 12/8/2016. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 27 Front Street, Schenectady NY 12305. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#138876

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). The limited liability company name is 308 Delaware Ave, LLC ; articles of organization were filed with the secretary of state March 9, 2015; LLC's office to be located in Albany County; the secretary of state has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served; the post office to which the secretary of state shall mail a copy of any process against it served upon it is c/o Lance W. Raffe, 308 Delaware Ave, Delmar, NY 12054 ; Purpose: for any lawful purpose. Ad#138878

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of LLC. The limited liability company name is 73 - 79 Winthrop Ave, LLC; articles of organization

ed in Albany County; the secretary of state has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served; the post office to which the secretary of state shall mail a copy of any process against it served upon it is c/o Lance W. Raffe, 308 Delaware Ave, Delmar, NY 12054 ; Purpose: for any lawful purpose. Ad#138878

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC)

The name of the LLC is 431 Property Development LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on December 6, 2016. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is c/o 302 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, New York 12203 Ad#139169

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of LLC. The limited liability company name is 73 - 79 Winthrop Ave, LLC; articles of organization



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December 28, 2016

Spotlight on Opinion

www.spotlightnews.com PAGE 10

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Need to upgrade is not a choice

To think where Latham was in 1970, compared to its appearance today, is staggering.

The majority of the housing developments that branch off of Troy-Schenectady Road, and those that have since sprouted north, were not present. Many of those homes were built in the early '80s or later and have had families continue to move in to raise their children. It's an influx of population growth that North Colonie has endured over the years, with the school district tweaking and adjusting its elementary school assignments accordingly. But, the last major addition to Shaker High School was in 1970, when girls swooned over the guys with Bobby Sherman 8-track tapes playing in their cars.

North Colonie Superintendent Joseph Corr presented an ambitious \$196 million upgrade project that voters promptly responded to in record numbers just prior to the holidays. A knee-jerk reaction would have readers thinking the district was trying to pull a fast one

on voters. The hefty price tag, also, leaves one with ticket shock. And, the timing of the vote has left some to voice their skepticism of the entire project.

The district projects roughly 1,000 additional students to walk through its doors over the next decade, and that surpasses its usual means of adjustment. It now has the opportunity, with the approval of its residents, a plan to include much needed upgrades to several of the district's schools. Not only to address the need for more space, but also address present and future technological needs. And, the district already has state aid available to it, presently 69 percent of the cost, so long as a plan is submitted on time.

But, you voted it down.

Correction — 54 percent of voters turned the plan down. But, instead of the district shelving the idea for another time, it is scrambling to come up with yet another plan in time to take advantage of the generous state aid available to it. That

rate decreases to a little more than half should a plan come in after next June. And, another plan is coming. Which means, the district is looking to do two things, convince roughly 350 voters to change their minds, and to do so in time to have more than two-thirds of the cost covered by the state.

The potential tax increase of \$250 a year is a concern to anyone watching their budgets, and most of us are doing just that. However, if the original plan went through, the increase would not be effective until 2022, at its earliest.

Latham has attracted families to its school district for decades, for its low taxes, excellent schools and superb community services. North Colonie is an investment the community needs to take a look at. Corr will come back with another plan, and hopefully before next June. Everyone is tasked in making sure Shaker Pride is more tangible than those Bobby Sherman 8-tracks.

The majority of the housing developments that branch off of Troy-Schenectady Road, and those that have since sprouted north, were not present. Many of those homes were built in the early '80s or later and have had families continue to move in to raise their children. It's an influx of population growth that North Colonie has endured over the years, with the school district tweaking and adjusting its elementary school assignments accordingly. But, the last major addition to Shaker High School was in 1970, when girls swooned over the guys with Bobby Sherman 8-track tapes playing in their cars.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2006...

10 years ago: Five Rivers grows

BETHLEHEM — In January of 2006, the Town of Bethlehem received a sizeable Christmas gift: 43 new acres of land to be added into the Five Rivers Environmental and Education Center purchased by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The parcel of land, which was located in New

Scotland, brought the total acreage of Five Rivers to about 440. The permanently preserved land provided the public with increased access to open space and natural resources, while also expanding the wildlife conservation area, bird watching areas, and hiking areas.

According to a 2006 *Spotlight News* article, the land, which was owned by

Walt Miller, was reportedly available to Five Rivers as early as 1973, but the DEC only made the decision to buy it from the Open Space Institute in 2006 for \$113,000.

New York State purchased Five Rivers in 1933, and has been steadily adding land to the area ever since.

"It's one of the premier conservation venues,"

Craig Thompson, then director of Five Rivers said in the 2006 article. "It began as an experimental game farm and became an environmental education center."

Five Rivers is so large that different sections of land fall in different municipalities, including New Scotland and Bethlehem. But the nature preserve is much loved by

locals all over Albany, and in the 2006 article, residents of both sides expressed their happiness about having such easy access to the area.

In the article then New Scotland Supervisor Ed Clark called Five Rivers a "gem," and then Bethlehem Supervisor Theresa Egan talked about how she saw her first live bear at the facility.

Now, Five Rivers is

populated by hikers year round, and by skiing and snowboarding enthusiasts in the winter. Patrons can picnic on the grounds as well, and observe all different types of animals.

Right now, Five Rivers is open every day from sunrise to sunset. Visitor Center hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and closed on Sundays and state holidays.

THE
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Folk star comes to Guilderland Library

Folk singer/songwriter Caroline Doctorow and her trio will perform Sunday, Jan. 8, at 2 p.m., at Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Ave. in Guilderland. Doctorow's latest album, "Dreaming in Vinyl" recently climbed to No. 2 on the Folk Radio charts. For more information about this show and other Guilderland Public Library events, see Page 5.

Image courtesy of carolinedoctorow.com

LEGALS

NY 12210. Principal business address of LLC: 279 Woodworth Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701. LLC shall have perpetual existence. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. Ad#136885

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Stuyvesant Landing LLC Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on December 15, 2016. Office location: 14 Corporate Woods Blvd., Suite 100, City of Albany, County of Albany, State of New York. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 14 Corporate Woods Blvd., Suite 100, Albany, NY 12211. For any lawful purpose. Ad#139644

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE, TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, ALBANY COUNTY, NY. Notice is hereby given that the Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing as part of its regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Tuesday, 01/03/2017 at 6:00 p.m., at the Town Offices, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY regarding a Special Use Permit / Site Plan Application, submitted by the applicant, as shown on drawing entitled "Site Plan, T.A.C.S. Autobody, 525

LEGALS

Route 9W, Town of Bethlehem, County of Albany, State of New York, last revised 10/27/2016, by ABD Engineers, LLP, Schenectady. Documentation related to the application can be viewed in the Planning Dept. at Town Hall, M-F, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Notice of Public Hearing will be mailed to property owners within 200' of the subject property. Said notice will also be published in the 12/28/2016 issue of the Spotlight Newspaper. All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Ad#139195

LEGAL NOTICE

TAMBURELLO MANAGEMENT LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 12/16/2016. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 7412 20th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11204. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#139833

LEGAL NOTICE

Tender Care NP in Family Health, PLLC office: filed date 08/12/2016, Albany co. SSNY designated as agent for process and shall mail to: United States Corporation Agents, inc, 7014 13th avenue, suite 202, Brooklyn New York, 11228 Ad#138400

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE THE LAW OFFICE OF TARA N. STEIN, PLLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 12/13/2016. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to c/o Tara N. Stein, Esq., 20 Peach Tree Pl., Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458. Purpose: To practice Law. Ad#139466

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Unit 145, LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/11/2016. Office location: Albany County, NY. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, c/o Robert S. Hite, 20 Corporate Woods Blvd., Albany, NY 12211. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. Ad#136739

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Valz Bookkeeping and Tax Services, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/18/15. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it

LEGALS

may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228, the registered agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose: any lawful activity. Ad#138176

LEGAL NOTICE

VICTORYLINE PROPERTIES, LLC Notice of formation of Victoryline Properties, LLC, a limited liability company (the "LLC"). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (the "SSNY") on 12/1/16. Office location: Albany County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC, upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC, 4 Monroe Avenue, Albany, New York 12203. Purposes: Any lawful purpose. Ad#139939

LEGAL NOTICE

VW HAMPTWORTH, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 10/19/16. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 450 Park Ave., Ste. 2100, NY, NY 10022. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#137019

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From page 1 ...

AG v. Governor

the extent of his office's involvement in the case against Viviani.

According to the brief, Albany County Assistant District Attorney Shannon Sarfoh did "agree" to the Justice Center taking the case, but simply agreeing is not enough.

"The problem with this response is that it does not clearly establish whether the DA's representative understood themselves to be authorizing prosecution by the Special Prosecutor *on behalf of the District Attorney* – as necessary to satisfy the Constitution," according to the brief.

The ambiguity arises because the Justice Center said it would pursue charges as an "independent authority" and it does not clearly state the DA authorized the Justice Center to do so, according to the brief. It also does not say the DA would take responsibility for the case, as required under the state Constitution.

"That requirement cannot not be met unless the DA in fact 'delegated' his authority to the special prosecutor and consented to the special prosecutor's appearance on his behalf," according to the brief. "Consequently, additional record development is necessary to clarify the Albany County District Attorney's position on this prosecution and permit a correct determination of Viviani's Constitutional challenge."

A spokeswoman for Soares, Cecelia Walsh, previously said the Justice Center did notify the DA's office of its desire to

prosecute Viviani, but the office did not give explicit consent because it is not required to under the current state law.

Special prosecutors are often appointed by a judge when the DA is conflicted out of a case, but that scenario is case specific and does not give the special prosecutor unilateral power over a special class of people or a specific body of law.

"Simply put, the Justice Center's authority to prosecute crimes against some of the most vulnerable citizens in our society has been tested and upheld by the court, as recently as this year," said a spokesman for the Justice Center, William Reynolds. "Further, the manner in which the Justice Center exercises its authority is consistent with existing law, because we coordinate prosecutions with local district attorneys."

He said the Justice Center consulted with the Albany County DA in the Viviani case prior to bringing charges, and that DA did consent to the Justice Center's Special Prosecutor bringing charges.

The Criminal Case

The Justice Center charged the 30-year-old Viviani in September for raping a 17-year-old who was at the LaSalle School. There is some question as to whether the accuser was still a student, and he apparently recanted a number of his initial statements while being interviewed by an investigator hired by Viviani's attorney, Michael Pollock.

The LaSalle School — located at 391 Western Ave. and not associated with the better known LaSalle Institute in Troy — is certified by the state Office of Children and Family Services, and serves youths

who have been in trouble with the law. It falls under Justice Center jurisdiction because the 2012 state law allows it to investigate any complaints made at state sanctioned, certified or licensed facility.

Viviani is charged with rape and other crimes, but Pollok claims they are based on evidence and testimony fabricated by the accuser with the purpose of extorting money from her.

The constitutional issue is attached to Viviani's criminal charges, and if those charges are dismissed the constitutional challenges won't be heard by any court until it is brought up as part of another case.

Similarly, it was attached to the case of a Finger Lakes Residential Center employee accused of assaulting a 14-year-old boy.

The attorney for Martesha Davidson failed to object to the constitutional issues at the lower court, so the Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, refused to address the matter on technical grounds. In a strongly worded dissenting opinion, however, Justice Jenny Rivera strongly said the governor and legislature do not have the authority to appoint a special prosecutor to handle a specific class of cases.

Her opinion was cited extensively by Amend and Pollok.

That case is due back in front of Breslin on Jan. 3, 2017. Breslin could either hear arguments and rule himself, agree with Pollok and dismiss the charges, agree with the Justice Center and continue with the case or kick the case up to a higher court.

Schneiderman is taking a like stand

against a plan by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to create a special prosecutor, appointed by the governor, charged with policing the procurement practices of state agencies.

"The Constitution vests prosecutorial authority exclusively in the Attorney General and county district attorneys," Schneiderman wrote in a letter sent to the governor and legislative leaders on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

He also cited Rivera's opinion, which states the appointment of a non-elected special prosecutor would be unconstitutional. "The same concerns would apply to a special prosecutor for procurement," he concluded.

Sen. Neil Breslin, D-Albany, said he is not in favor of having politically appointed special prosecutors.

"If there are special prosecutors, they shouldn't be under the control of the agencies who are appointing them," he said.

Rivera, in her Court of Appeals decision, said a prosecutor should be answerable to the people through an election because of the "awesome power" the state has to bring criminal charges. The mere allegations, she wrote, could devastate a person's life and therefore should be outside of the political realm.

"A person's reputation can be ruined, employment terminated and finances placed in jeopardy, regardless of whether that person is later acquitted or the charges dropped," she wrote. "Under our constitution and case law, the awesome power of unchecked prosecutorial authority requires oversight and cannot be held by an unelected official."

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Page B3

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PICK OF THE WEEK



Caffé Lena

The storied venue in Saratoga Springs opens its doors again to showcase a brand new interior with a performance by The Suitcase Junket on Saturday, Dec. 30.

Page B5

INSIDE



Arts calendar

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ENTERTAINMENT

Who is better than us?

All indications point to the Capital District as having among the best music scenes in the country

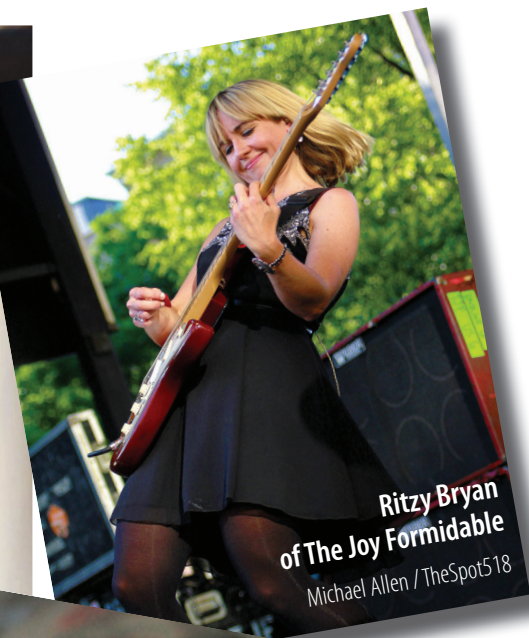
By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

Value Penguin, the New York City-based data resource group, created a stir earlier this year when its research revealed our Capital District as among the best music scenes in the nation.

Employing several different analytical factors — number of radio stations, quality of venues, number of musicians and level of education, to name a few — the Capital District ranked sixth overall, just behind the Live Music Capital of the World (Austin, Tex. — No. 5), and ahead of Rochester, N.Y. (No. 8), San Francisco, Calif. (No. 10), and Boulder, Colo. (No. 19).

When the report was released in June, it gave local fans added incentive to puff out their chests with pride. But, when looking at the report, it appears the analytics favor communities with smaller populations. Nashville, Tenn. (No. 1, population 1.8 million) and Seattle, Wash. (No. 3, population 652,000) are named among the top five, and not surprisingly. Each city's contribution to the music world has been substantial. The Pacific Northwest's grunge movement of the '90s defined a generation. But, Honolulu and Madison, Wis.? No one would be found guilty

Continues on page B18



Ritzy Bryan of The Joy Formidable
Michael Allen / TheSpot518



Alex Levin of The So So Glos
Michael Hallisey / TheSpot518

COME ON

This fan would say the Capital District has the best music scene, bar none.

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▶ quote of the week

"The performance space is still an intimate listening space, but now it's an open square instead of L-shaped. The stage is a little bit higher and bigger, and we've installed a new sound system and lighting."

— Sarah Craig, Director, Caffé Lena

HISTORY

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton casts the first electoral college vote for New York.

David_1046 / Instagram



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■ NEW YEAR'S EVE

Where to ring in the new year

Can't make it to Times Square to start 2017? No worries! There are plenty of options for New Year's revelers right here in the Capital District! Here are some of our suggestions:

Albany

Hamilton Street Jazz Duo
6:30 to 10 p.m. • Yono's, 25 Chapel St.
436-7747 • www.yonos.com

Hamel on Trial
(Acoustic, punk, spoken word)
7 p.m. • The Low Beat, 335 Central Ave.
432-6572 or www.thelowbeat.com

Werthner and Frederick
(Acoustic duo) • 7 to 9 p.m.
Emack & Bolio's • 366 Delaware Ave.
512-5100 • www.ealbany.com

First Night of Funny
(Clean & Clever version)
Steve Caouette, Kelly McFarland, Joe Bronzi and Jaye McBride
7:30 p.m., Hart Theatre
\$35 (through Dec. 30) • \$40 (Dec. 31)
The Egg • Empire State Plaza
473-1845 • www.theegg.org

Twiddle
(multi-genre jam band) w/s/g
Aqueous (groove rock) and
Soule Monde (avant funk) • 7:30 p.m.
\$39 (advance), \$44 (Dec. 31)
The Palace Theatre • 19 Clinton Ave.,
465-4663 • www.palacealbany.org

First Night of Funny
(Uncensored version)
Steve Caouette, Kelly McFarland, Joe Bronzi and Jaye McBride
8 p.m. • Swyer Theatre
\$35 (through Dec. 30) • \$40 (Dec. 31)
The Egg • Empire State Plaza
473-1845 • www.theegg.org

Knot Dead
(Grateful Dead tribute)
New Year's Eve Post-Twiddle Party,
8 p.m. to 3 a.m. • \$12 - \$15
Parish Public House • 388 Broadway
465-0444 • www.parishpublichouse.com

Pretty Much the Best Comedy Show
Joe List, Chris Lambert & Greg Stone
\$30 (through Dec. 30) • \$35 (Dec. 31)
9 p.m. • TheREP • 111 North Pearl St.
346-6204 • capitalrep.org

Art D'echo Trio
(jazz standards) 9 p.m.
The Ginger Man • 234 Western Ave.
427-5963 • www.albanygingerman.com

Bethlehem

First Night Bethlehem
A family-friendly, fun event featuring live music, children's entertainment and much more. Acts include the **Mendelssohn Club, Skip Parsons Dixieland, Raisinhead, Andy the Music Man, Playin' with Fire and the Delmar Community Orchestra.** Begins with fireworks at the Four Corners (intersection of Delaware and Kenwood Avenues), at 6:30 p.m., followed by events at nearby venues from 7 to 10 p.m. Buttons available at Eventbrite.com and at the Four Corners Marketplace. Adults, \$10 in advance and \$15 at the event; children ages 12 to 18, \$5 in advance or at the event. Children younger than 12, free. Proceeds to benefit less fortunate neighbors. • www.townofbethlehem.org/782/First-Night-Bethlehem.

Colonie

New Year's Groovin'
Recreating the legends and music of classic rock • 7:30 p.m. • \$299 (includes 2 tickets to the show, 2 New Year's Eve party dinners, overnight accommodations for two and buffet breakfast for two adults); reservations must be pre-paid; no refunds after Dec. 28
Albany Marriott • 189 Wolf Rd.
458-8444 • www.marriott.com/reservation/rateListMenu.mi

Loudonville

Rio New Year's Eve Celebration
Celebrate New Year's at 10 p.m. our time, which is midnight in Rio! Enjoy a night of food, drink, live music and comedy presented by "Brain Tonic for the Humorously Curious."
7 to 10 p.m. • \$25 per person
Eden Cafe • 269 Osborne Rd. No. 3
312-2537 • www.eventbrite.com/myevent?eid=30340250506

Saratoga Springs

First Night Saratoga Springs 2017: A Night of Magic
6 p.m. to midnight
Buttons are \$20, provides access to all First Night venues and performers, along with free CDTA bus service downtown.

Various venues throughout historic downtown Saratoga Springs.
584-4132 • www.saratoga-arts.org/firstnight

Michael Panza and The Charles Cornell Trio (Jazz)
7:30 to 10:30 p.m. • Panza's Restaurant
510 State Route 9P (on Saratoga Lake)
584-6882 or www.panzasrestaurant.com

Saratoga Sings a New Year's Celebration
A festive concert to celebrate looking forward and new beginnings, featuring soprano **Jemeesa Yarborough**, mezzo soprano **Edith Grossman**, and pianist **Laurie Rogers**. • 8 and 9 p.m.
Presented in conjunction with First Night and Saratoga Arts.
Free, registration recommended.
St. Peter's Church • 241 Broadway
584-6018 or www.operasaratoga.org

Let's Be Leonard
(rock & roll, jazz) with **Angels on the Fourth** (90s alt.), **Candy Ambulance** (grungy punk rock), **Tambourelli & Her SuperTrips** (dance).
Doors at 7 p.m., show begins at 8 p.m.
\$10 • Putnam Den • 63a Putnam St.
584-8066 or putnamden.com

Ubuntu (Americana)
9 p.m. • Gaffney's • 16 Caroline St.
587-7359 • www.gaffneysrestaurant.com

Schenectady

New Year's Eve Celebration at Proctors Theatre
Stand-up comedy showcase featuring **Joe List, Chris Lamberth, and Greg Stone** followed by a tribute to the horn bands of the '60s and '70s with **The Joey Thomas Big Band.** Enjoy dancing, light fare, cash bar and champagne at midnight. Doors at 7:30, performance at 8 p.m. \$60 (general admission, first come, first serve seating)
GE Theatre at Proctors • 432 State St.
346-6204 • www.proctors.org

Troy

New Year's Eve Party with Soul Provider
(Horn-based R&B)
8:30 p.m. • \$20, includes music, dancing, buffet and champagne toast
Rustic Barn Pub • 150 Speigletown Rd.
Advance tickets at <http://www.brown-papertickets.com/event/2716586>
235-5858 • www.rusticbarnpub.com

The Henchman
(Classic rock) • 9:30 p.m.
Dinosaur Bar-Que • 377 River St.
308-0400 • www.dinosaurbarbque.com/live-music-troy

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■ LITERATURE

Bruno book aims to open shut doors

By **JIM FRANCO**
francoj@spotlightnews.com

ALBANY — “Keep Swinging” is not just the name of his new autobiography, it’s exactly what Joe Bruno has done his entire life and is still doing.

“Fortunately we were able to overcome a lot of adversity in my early life and a lot of difficulties and failures and able to accomplish a lot of things not many have done,” he said. “It’s a book about perseverance and of inspiration and to remind people to never stop swinging.”

Bruno was born in 1929, the year the Great Depression gripped the nation. His father was a coal miner and his mother suffered from a prolonged illness until she died after a botched gallbladder surgery. The family was so poor, they didn’t have hot water in their Glens Falls flat.

To help support the family, Bruno went to work. He delivered newspapers, baked goods, set bowling pins and answered phones for a cab company.

From those modest beginnings, Bruno went into the service—he served in Korea and became a Golden Gloves boxer—worked his way through Skidmore College, started a successful telecommunications company, got into politics and, in 1994, became majority leader of the state Senate. It was the first time anyone from the Capital District had led either chamber of the state Legislature since Ozzie Heck was speaker of the Assembly from 1937 until his death in 1959.

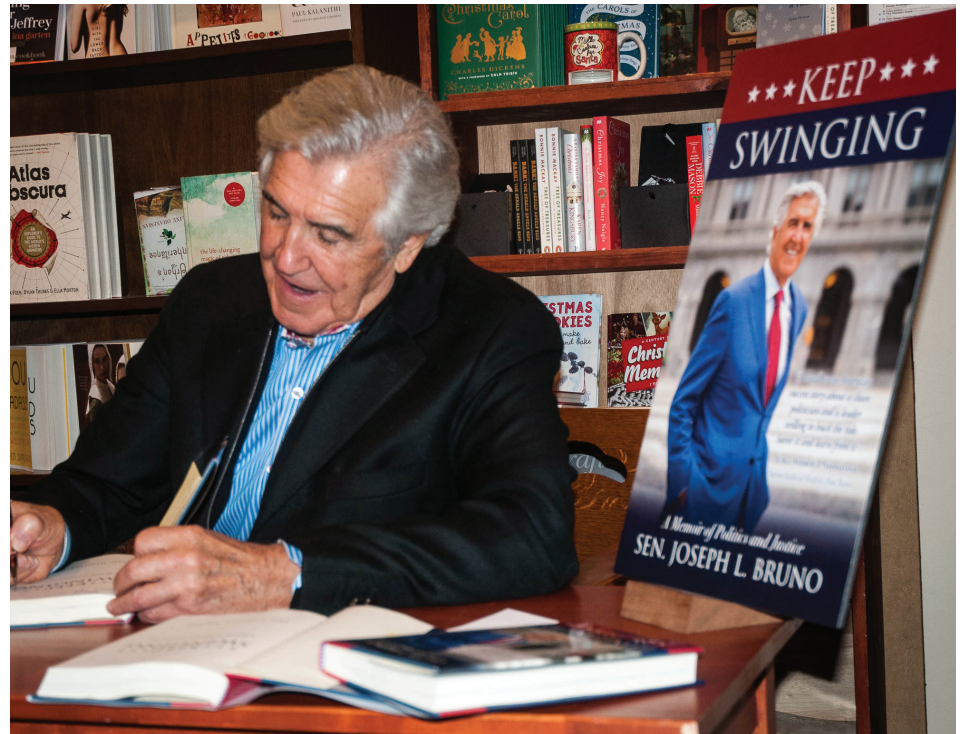
At the beginning of his tenure, Bruno teamed up with Gov. George Pataki, a fellow Republican and Sheldon Silver, speaker of the Assembly, was the odd man out of the

infamous three men in a room. As the relationships evolved, though, Bruno and Silver, representing a separate and distinct branch of government, found themselves aligning against Pataki.

Bruno said if people read his book, they will get a glimpse into what transpired behind the closed door of the room where three men cut deals and decided how to spend billions of tax dollars. A practice often criticized because it seemingly left out the other 200-plus legislators elected to at least participate in the process.

“I was one of the three men in a room,” Bruno said during a recent interview, “and what went on wasn’t always as it seemed.”

Throughout his tenure as one of the most powerful men in the state, he did bring home the proverbial bacon, particularly to Rensselaer County, which he still calls home.



Retired state Senator Joe Bruno at a book signing at the Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza.

Jim Franco/Spotlight

He was a driving force behind expansion of the train station in Rensselaer, the airport in Colonie and the UAlbany Health and Science Campus in East Greenbush. In addition, he provided funding for a host of nonprofit and civic organizations, volunteer fire departments and little leagues and countless other organizations throughout the Capital District.

After Pataki, Eliot Spitzer was elected governor in a landslide and one of the self proclaimed steam roller’s early targets was the most powerful Republican in the state – Bruno. While the animosity was intense, and included Spitzer siccing the State Police on Bruno, the threat

was short-lived as Spitzer was chased out of office after 14 months amidst a prostitution scandal.

Shortly after, however, word leaked that the FBI was investigating Bruno for potential corruption. In 2008, he stepped down as majority leader and left the Senate. A year later, he was indicted on eight charges revolving around the ambiguous theft of honest services statute. After he was convicted on two counts, the Supreme Court bounced the statute, his conviction was overturned and the feds opted to bring new charges.

A jury of his peers found him not guilty, and Bruno has made a point of holding the federal government

accountable for what he has called nothing more than a witch hunt.

“I wanted to document what the federal government did to me and the way they did it,” Bruno said of his book. “Was it a smart thing for them to be doing when there are terrorists running all over and serial rapists running all over and here they are pursuing me for nine years and spending some \$30 million.

“But I beat them and it’s because I never stop swinging. That’s what this amounts to ... life I mean ... never give up and never stop swinging.”

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PICK OF THE WEEK

Returning home

Caffé Lena re-opens with The Suitcase Junket Friday

By **ROB JONAS**
jonasr@spotlightnews.com

SARATOGA SPRINGS — A folk music landmark is re-opening after several months of remodeling.

Caffé Lena on Phila Street is hosting its first concert in six months when The Suitcase Junket — a.k.a. singer-songwriter Matt Lorenz — performs Friday, Dec. 30, at 8 p.m.

Caffé Lena director Sarah Craig said she wanted Lorenz to be the first performer in the renovated space because of his do-it-yourself ethic, which includes building his own instruments.

“What I love about it is the hand craft. He’s making these instruments and creating contemporary music,” said Craig.

Since the last time it hosted a show, the 56-year-old caffè on the second floor of 47 Phila St. has been stripped to its bones and reconstructed to make the structure stronger, as well as increase the size of the venue to seat approximately 100 people.

“The performance space is still an intimate listening space, but now it’s an open square instead of L-shaped,” said Craig. “The stage is a little bit higher and bigger, and we’ve installed a new sound system and lighting.”

One of the improvements will be felt, rather than seen. The floors were redone to make them



Saratoga Springs' folk landmark Caffé Lena is open following months of extensive remodeling to the interior.

Spotlight file photo

level and stronger.

“The building has been reconstructed from its bones to its skin,” said Craig. “You feel that it’s rock solid now.”

While the caffè was closed for repairs, the music rolled on. Craig found several venues around Saratoga Springs to host concerts, including a summer series at The Grove — a senior residence on Lake Avenue.

“Within The Grove is a chapel where we held performances,” said Craig. “The building’s owner ...

let us use the space for free, and he also let us use an apartment in the building to store our furniture.”

Craig is appreciative of the support she received from the community when it came to finding alternate venues for her shows, as well as the patience and willingness of the musicians whom she booked to perform in a space other than the caffè — long considered to be one of the prime folk music venues in the U.S.

“Across the board, people were receptive and accepting,” said Craig.



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100863_4

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Harry and Snowman

Proctors Theatre — Tuesday, Dec. 27 — Friday, Dec. 30.

SCHENECTADY — Proctors will screen “Harry and Snowman” from Tuesday, Dec. 27 to Friday, Dec. 30, at 432 State Street in Schenectady.

The story follows immigrant Harry DeLeyer and the plow horse he purchased in the '50s for \$80 from the back of a truck headed for a slaughterhouse. Snowman is groomed by DeLeyer to become a champion jumper, and though neither man nor horse have the “proper” breeding, Harry and Snowman set their sites on Madison Square Garden's Tony 1958 National Horse Show. The film is not rated and is 84 minutes. Tickets are \$5. For more information or to buy tickets visit www.proctors.org or call (518) 346-6204.

Pretty Much the Best Comedy Show

The Capital Repertory Theatre — Saturday, Dec. 31

ALBANY — The CapRep will host “Pretty Much the Best Comedy Show on Saturday, Dec. 31 at 9 p.m. at 111 North Pearl Street in Albany. The New Year's Eve Comedy show will feature Joe List, Chris Lamberth and Greg Stone. The show is 18+. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. For more information or to buy tickets visit [capital rep.org](http://capitalrep.org) or call (518) 445-7469.

RECENTLY ANNOUNCED

State Champs

Upstate Concert Hall — Saturday, May 13

CLIFTON PARK — State Champs, the five-piece pop punk band out of Albany recently announced a scheduled appearance at the Upstate Concert Hall for Saturday, May 13.

The show brings the band back home, albeit temporarily, as they Europe and the United States in support of its latest release, “Against the Current.”

State Champs launches its four-month tour from the RCA Club in Lisbon Portugal on Sunday, Feb. 19.

Tickets and information can be obtained at statechamsny.com/tour.

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Join us for
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Sat. Dec. 31st
Ring in the New Year With Us...
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RESTAURANT & BAR



100750_4

Night & Day

Night: The Weight Band performs 'Rock of Ages' at The Egg

ALBANY — The Egg Performing Arts Center welcomes The Weight Band and The King Harvest Horns for a special performance of The Band's historic 1971 "Rock of Ages" concert on Friday, Dec. 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hart Theatre. The event concludes The Egg's New York Living Legacy Project ongoing series on The Band.

The Weight Band and The King Harvest Horns will recapture The Band's momentous live concert and arguably rock's greatest live album of all time, featuring songs including "The Weight," "Up On Cripple Creek" and "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down" among others.

The Weight Band, which performs the music of The Band around the country, is based out of nearby Woodstock. It consists of Jim Weider and Randy Ciarlante, both former members of The Band; Brian Mitchell of the Levon Helm Band; Marty Grebb, who wrote and recorded



The Weight Band

Photo from the band's Facebook page

with The Band and its members Rick Danko and Richard Manuel; and Albert Rogers, who played with both Levon Helm and Garth Hudson.

The King Harvest Horns, led by Clark Gayton, perform impressive original horn parts arranged by the late Allen Toussaint.

Limited tickets for the concert are still available for

purchase and cost \$34 each.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.theegg.org or call the box office at 473-1845 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays.

The Egg Performing Arts Center is located at the Empire State Plaza in downtown Albany. For driving directions and parking information, visit www.theegg.org/directions.

Day: New Year's Extravaganza at William K. Sanford Town Library

LOUDONVILLE — Celebrate the start of 2017 a couple of days early and get ready for New Year's Eve! Attend the New Year's Extravaganza at Colonie's William K. Sanford Town Library on Thursday, Dec. 29, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Stedman Room. Participants will make time capsules, glitzy get-ups and noise makers, along with playing some group games. Enjoy some punch and finger foods, too!

This event is recommended for children ages 7 and older. Admission is free, however, registration is required. For more information or to register, call 456-9274 or visit www.colonielibrary.org and click on the calendar and registration button.

The William K. Sanford Town Library is located at 629 Albany Shaker Rd. in Loudonville. Entrance is located off of Maxwell Road.



The William K. Sanford Town Library in Colonie

Kassie Parisi/Spotlight News

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December 30, 2016 | 9 pm
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SATURDAY
December 31, 2016 | 7 pm
THE HENCHMAN

FRIDAY
January 6, 2017 | 9 pm
THE WHEEL
"GRATEFUL DEAD" TRIBUTE

SATURDAY
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CLUBS

9 Maple Avenue
9 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs.
www.9mapleave.com
Fri: **Steve Lambert Quartet** | 9 p.m.

Albany Rail Yard
1118 Central Ave., Albany. 489-2990
Every Thur: **DJ Scott Grant** | 9 p.m.

Arthur's Market
35 N. Ferry St., Schenectady. 382-1938
Wed: **Jim Connelly** | 7 p.m.
Thur: **Edith's Amazing Jam** | 6 p.m.
Fri: **Kitchen Jazz** | 7 p.m.

Caffé Lena
47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs. 225-0882
Fri: **The Suitcase Junket** | 8 p.m.
Mon: **Open Mic** | 7 p.m.

Carney's Tavern
17 Main St., Ballston Lake. 280-7959
Every Thur: **Matty Finn** | 6 p.m.
Fri: **John Eisenhart** | 7:30
Sat: **Harmonic Duo** | 8 p.m.

Castle Street Café
10 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass.
413-528-5244
Thur: **Pete & Steve Adams** | 8 p.m.
Fri: **Colbys Band w/ Bev Roehlehr** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Rob Putnam/ Rob Kelly Quartet** | 8:30 & 9:30 p.m.

Centre Street Pub
308 Union St., Schenectady. 393-2337
Thur: **Mike Thomas** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Buffalo Brass Machine** | 9 p.m.
Sat: **Ill Funk** | 9 p.m.

City Beer Hall
42 Howard St., Albany. 449-2337
Every Sat: **90s Dance Party** | 11 p.m.

Club Helsinki
405 Columbia St., Hudson. 828-4800 or
helsinki@hudson.com
Thur: **Hayes Carl, Allison Moorer** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Simi Stone, Pearl Aday, Scott Ian, Lisa Greene** | 9 p.m.

Dolce Vita
1727 State St., Schenectady. 357-3324
Every Fri & Sat: **MUSIC AND DANCING WITH RANDY LOREN** | 5 p.m.

Eden Café
269 Osborne Road, Loudonville. 977-3771
Fri: **The Danjoes** | 7:30 p.m.
Sat: **Rio New Year's Eve Celebration** | 7 p.m.

Emack & Bolio's
366 Delaware Ave., Albany. 512-5100
Fri: **Cass & Emma** | 7 p.m.
Sat: **Werthner & Frederick** | 7 p.m.
Every Tue: **Open Mic** | 7 p.m.

Fuze Box
12 Central Ave., Albany. 703-8937
Fri: **The Kings of Nothing**,

ARTS CALENDAR



Dynamic duo

Singer-songwriters Allison Moorer, left, and Hayes Carl perform Thursday, Dec. 28, at 8 p.m., at Club Helsinki, 405 Columbia St. in Hudson. For more information, call 828-4800 or visit helsinki@hudson.com.

Submitted photo

Eastern Electric, The Rescott Renegade, Nick Lesson | 7 p.m.
Sat: **NYE Throwback Edition w/ DJ JC** | 9 p.m. (free before 10)

Gaffney's
16 Caroline St., Saratoga Springs. 587-7359
Thur: **Jess Marcotte** | 9 p.m.
Fri: **Rich Clements Band** | 9 p.m.
Sat: **Ubuntu** | 9 p.m.
Tue: **Open Mic w/ Rick Bolton** | 8 p.m.

Ginger Man
234 Western Ave., Albany. 427-5963
Fri: **Nat Phipps** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Art d'Echo Trio** | 9 p.m.

Grappa '72
818 Central Ave., Albany. 482-7200
Wed & Thur: **Hamilton Street Jazz Company** | 6:30 p.m.
Fri: **Paul Borrello** | 6:30 p.m.

The Half Moon
48 S. Front St., Hudson. thehalfmoon@hudson.com
Sat: **Bobby Previte's Half Moon All Stars** | 10 p.m.

The Happy Cappuccino
1 Crossgates Mall Road, Albany. 313-7423
Every Fri: **Jecco** | noon

The Hollow Bar + Kitchen
79 N. Pearl St., Albany. 426-8550
Thur: **Teddy Midnight, Lord Electro, Let's Be Leonard** | 9 p.m.
Fri: **Start Making Sense** | 9:30 p.m.
Sat: **Mirk, Stellar Young** | 9:30 p.m.

Hudson River Music Hall
10 Maple St., Hudson Falls. 832-3484
Every Wed: **Open Mic** | 7 p.m.

J.J. Rafferty's
847 New Loudon Road, Latham. 783-6800
Every Fri & Sat: **DJ Billy** | 9 p.m.

Lanie's Café
471 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, 438-5005
Every Tue: **Dan Sherwin** | 6 p.m.

The Low Beat
335 Central Ave., Albany. 432-6572
Every Wed: **The Deadbeats** | 10 p.m.
Thur: **Black Mountain Symphony, The Ameros, School of Rock House Band** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Fine Grain Grassroots Rebels,**

The Stash | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Hamell on Trial** | 7 p.m.
Hot Cousin, Victory Soul Orchestra, Matt McWatters, Rob Boss | 9 p.m.

Lucky Strike Social
1 Crossgates Mall Road, Albany. 556-3350
Sat: **DJs Tony Martinez & Logantheo** | 8 p.m.

McGeary's
4 Clinton Square, Albany. 463-1455
Every Wed: **Best Damn Open Mic Ever with MotherJudge** | 7:30 p.m.
Every Sun: **Blues Jam** | 7:30 p.m.

Moon & River Café
115 S. Ferry St., Schenectady. 377-5100
Wed: **Saucy Pots** | 7 p.m.
Thur: **Francis Wilkin** | 7 p.m.

Mouzon House
1 York St., Saratoga Springs. 226-0014
Thur: **Hot Club of Saratoga Trio** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Allen Halstead & 'Azzaam Hameed** | 7 p.m.
Sat: **Joe Gitto & Dan Wancyk** |

6:30 p.m.
Newberry Music Hall
388 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. (877) 565-3849
Every Fri: **DJ Frankie Ramos** (Latin Night) | 9 p.m.

Oh Bar
304 Lark St., Albany. 463-9004
Thur: **Karaoke** | 10 p.m.

One Caroline Street
1 Caroline St., Saratoga Springs. 587-2026
Wed: **The Masters of Nostalgia** | 8:30 p.m.

Thur: **Cloud Lifter** | 8 p.m.
Fri: **George Muscatello, Shiri Zorn, Bobby Kendall & Eric Hamell** | 9 p.m.

O'Slattery's Irish Pub
318 Delaware Ave., Delmar. 439-5634
Wed: **Dan Sherwin** | 6:30 p.m.
Sat: **Travis Rockenstire** | 4 p.m.
Tue: **DJ Trivia** | 7 p.m.

Parish Public House
388 Broadway, Albany. 365-0444
Sat: **Knot Dead** | 8 p.m.

Panza's
510 NY Rte. 9P (on Saratoga Lake), Saratoga Springs. 584-6882
Fri: **'Azzaam Hameed** | 6:30 p.m.
Sat: **Michael Panza & Charles Cornell Trio** | 7:30 p.m.

The Parting Glass
40 Lake Ave., Saratoga Springs. 583-1916
Fri: **Big Medicine** | 9 p.m.
Sat: **Forthlin Road** | 9 p.m.

Pauly's Hotel
337 Central Ave., Albany. paulyshotel.com
Every Mon: **Blue Monday Blues Jam** | 8 p.m.

Prime at Saratoga National
458 Union Ave., Saratoga Springs. 583-4653
Every Sun: **Joe Sorrentino Trio** (jazz brunch) | 10:30 a.m.

Provence
Stuyvesant Plaza, 1475 Western Ave., Albany. 689-7777
Fri: **Patricia Dalton & John Esposito** | 7 p.m.

Putnam Den
63a Putnam St., Saratoga Springs. 584-8066
Fri: **theNEWDEAL, Leila** | 9:30 p.m.
Sat: **Let's Be Leonard, Angels on the Fourth, Candy Ambulance, Paradox Saints, Tambourelli & Her Supertrips** | 8 p.m.

Roux
10-01 Vista Blvd., Slingerlands. 487-4358
Sat: **The Pat Viglucci Trio** | 6 p.m.

Rustic Barn Pub
150 Speigletown Road, Troy. 235-5858
Every Thur: **Open Mic** | 8 p.m.
Fri: **The Lane Brothers** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Soul Provider** | 8:30 p.m.

Savoy Taproom
301 Lark St., Albany. 599-5140
Wed: **Thump Gospel** | 9 p.m.
Sat: **Selector David Normal** | 10 p.m.

Speakeasy 518
42 Howard St., Albany. 449-2332
Wed: **Wayne Hawkins** | 8 p.m.
Thur: **Bryan Brundige Duo** | 9 p.m.
Fri: **Jonathan Greene Trio** | 9 p.m.
Mon: **Joe Finn** | 8 p.m.

Stockade Inn
1 North Church St., Schenectady. 346-3400
Sat: **Peg Deaney & Earl Davis** | 7 p.m.

Troy Kitchen
77 Congress St., Troy. 268-0068
Every Fri: **DJ Lounge** | 11 p.m.

Upstate Concert Hall
1208 New York 146, Clifton Park. 371-0012 or upstateconcerthall.com
Thur: **The Machine** | 7 p.m.

Continues on B8

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Hours of 1920s Styled Burlesque
And A LIVE MERMAID!

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VIP Seating Includes Passed Hors d'oeuvres, Shrimp Cocktail, Choice Of Red, White Or Bubbly At Your Table

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crimsonandgold.bpt.me

Reservations
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bingbambooroomburlesque.com/nye

ARTS CALENDAR



Live long and prosper

Temple Israel Rabbi David Eligberg will talk about "Religion in Star Trek from 22nd to 24th Century" Thursday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m., at Congregation Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Ave. in Schenectady.

Submitted photo

The Van Dyck

237 Union St., Schenectady. 348-7999
Tue: **Keith Pray's Big Soul Ensemble** | 8 p.m.

Waterworks Pub

76 Central Ave., Albany. 465-9079
Thur: **DJ Shawn Gillie** | 11 p.m.
Fri: **Karaoke** | 10 p.m.
Sat: **DJ David Barna** | 10 p.m.
Mon: **Karaoke** | 10 p.m.

Wellington's

Renaissance Albany Hotel, 144 State St., Albany. 992-2432
Sat: **Chris Dollard** | 5 p.m.

Yono's

25 Chapel St., Albany. 436-7747
Fri & Sat: **Hamilton Street Jazz Duo** | 6:30 p.m.

MUSIC

The Weight Band with The King Harvest Horns

Tribute band celebrates The Band's historic, 1971 concert "Rock of Ages." Dec. 30, 7:30 p.m., The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Tickets: \$34. Information: 473-1845 or www.theegg.org.

Berkshire Bach Society presents Bach at New Year's

Annual performances led by director/harpsichordist Kenneth Cooper, who is in his final season with the ensemble. Dec. 31, 6 p.m., Mahaiwe Perform-

ing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. Tickets: \$41-\$86. Information: (413) 528-0100 or mahaiwe.org. Also Jan. 1, 3 p.m., Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, 30 Second St., Troy. Tickets: \$28-\$78. Information: 273-0038 or troymusicall.org.

Twiddle

See the Vermont-based quartet that fuses rock, jazz, bluegrass, reggae and funk. Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Tickets: advance \$39, day of show \$44. Information: palacealbany.com.

Albany Symphony Orchestra

Pianist Ilya Rashkovskiy joins the orchestra for Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. The orchestra will also perform works by Barber and Corigliano. Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$19-\$60. Information: palacealbany.com.

The Eighth Step presents

Sally Rogers & Claudia Schmidt

Two folk singer-songwriters perform together. Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m., GE Theatre at Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: advance \$26, day of show \$28, Gold Circle \$40. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

Friends of Chamber Music

presents The Aulos Ensemble

Famed early music ensemble performs works by Purcell, Handel and Telemann.

Jan. 8, 3 p.m., Kiggins Hall, Emma Willard School, 285 Pawling Ave., Troy. Tickets: adults \$25, students \$15. Information: 833-1874 or www.friendsofchambermusic.org.

Lee Harvey Osmond

Canadian singer-songwriter who has supplied songs to Billy Ray Cyrus, Colin James and Mavis Staples performs in this installment of the American Roots Series. Jan. 13, 8 p.m., The Linda: WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$15. Information: 465-5233 or thelinda.org.

Jack Empie and Friends

Capital District band performing original, inspirational music. Jan. 14, 8 p.m., The Linda: WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$10. Information: 465-5233 or thelinda.org.

THEATER

Out of Order

A comedy about a date that goes horribly wrong. Presented by Curtain Call Theatre, 210 Old Loudon Road, Latham, through Dec. 31. Shows: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 3 p.m. Sunday; special 3 p.m. matinee Dec. 31. Tickets: \$24. Information: 877-7529 or www.curtaincalltheatre.com.

Timeline

A series of three original short plays

"Best Little Coffeehouse this Side of Paradise!"

Dinner Served starting at 4:30 PM

"BEST EVENTS" AT EDEN CAFE

Fri., Dec. 30th • 7:30pm-9:30pm

LIVE MUSIC: The Danjoes (Eclectic Cover Band)

Sat., Dec. 31st • 7pm-10pm

Eden's "RIO" New Year's Eve Celebration!

Featuring Comedy & Live Music • Dinner starts at 4:30
Reservations: Go to EventBrite.com & search: Eden's RIO or call the cafe

269 Osborne Road | Loudonville | 977-3771 | www.edenasc.com



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66						67					68			
69						70					71			

ACROSS

- Hindu princesses
- Unload, as stock
- Supergarb
- Avoid
- "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.
- Clickable image
- Front of the plane
- Put one's foot down?
- "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.
- "For shame!"
- Nay-_____
- Illicit cigarette
- Provides an upper interior surface to a room
- Cabernet, e.g.
- To create a ring
- #1 spot
- Dalai _____
- A flat sheet of microfilm
- Defamation
- Small bag
- Beverage made with fruit juices
- Airy
- Some male dolls
- Odd shaped fish with elongated snout
- Crystal meth, in slang
- Admiral's command
- Home decorator Stewart
- Round lot's 100
- Toni Morrison's "____ Baby"
- Howard of "Happy Days"
- Checker, perhaps
- Not willing to endure
- ____ vera
- Dirty coat
- Enjoy
- Short for generations
- Certain surgeon's "patient"
- About 1.3 cubic yards

DOWN

- Allude
- Dress style
- Care for
- Driver's lic. and others
- Couch
- Preserve, in a way
- Victorian, for one
- Sue Grafton's "____ for Lawless"
- Famous TV collie
- Fancy person from the big city
- "God's Little ____"
- "D"
- Aims
- Turn
- High up
- 'American' side
- Video maker, for short
- Clear, as a disk
- Advil target
- Accordingly
- Congers
- Dangerous biters
- Hint
- Fictional resource of magic
- Appeared
- Wild Asian dog
- Sloth, e.g.
- Favorite
- To fight back
- Fondle
- A crossbeam
- Accept
- Cavern, in poetry
- Alone
- Fit
- Impulse transmitter
- ____ bag
- "____ any drop to drink": Coleridge
- "For shame!"
- Backstabber

Answers on Pg. B26

ARTS CALENDAR

penned by local writers, with the action taking place on New Year's Eve in 1899, 1949 and 1999. Presented by Creative License and the University Club Foundation, Dec. 30, 6 p.m., University Club of Albany, 141 Washington Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$60, includes dinner and a champagne toast. Reservations must be made by Dec. 28. Information: 463-1151 or email ellen@universityclubalbany.com.

Met Opera Live in HD: Verdi's Nabucco

The legendary Placido Domingo stars in this production, which is broadcast live to cinemas. Jan. 7, 1 p.m., Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. Tickets: adults \$25, students \$18. Information: 413-528-0100 or www.mahaiwe.org.

Something Rotten

The story of two brothers who set out to write the world's first musical. Jan. 10-15, Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Shows: Tuesday through Thursday 7:30 p.m., Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 2 and 8 p.m., and Sunday 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20-\$95. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

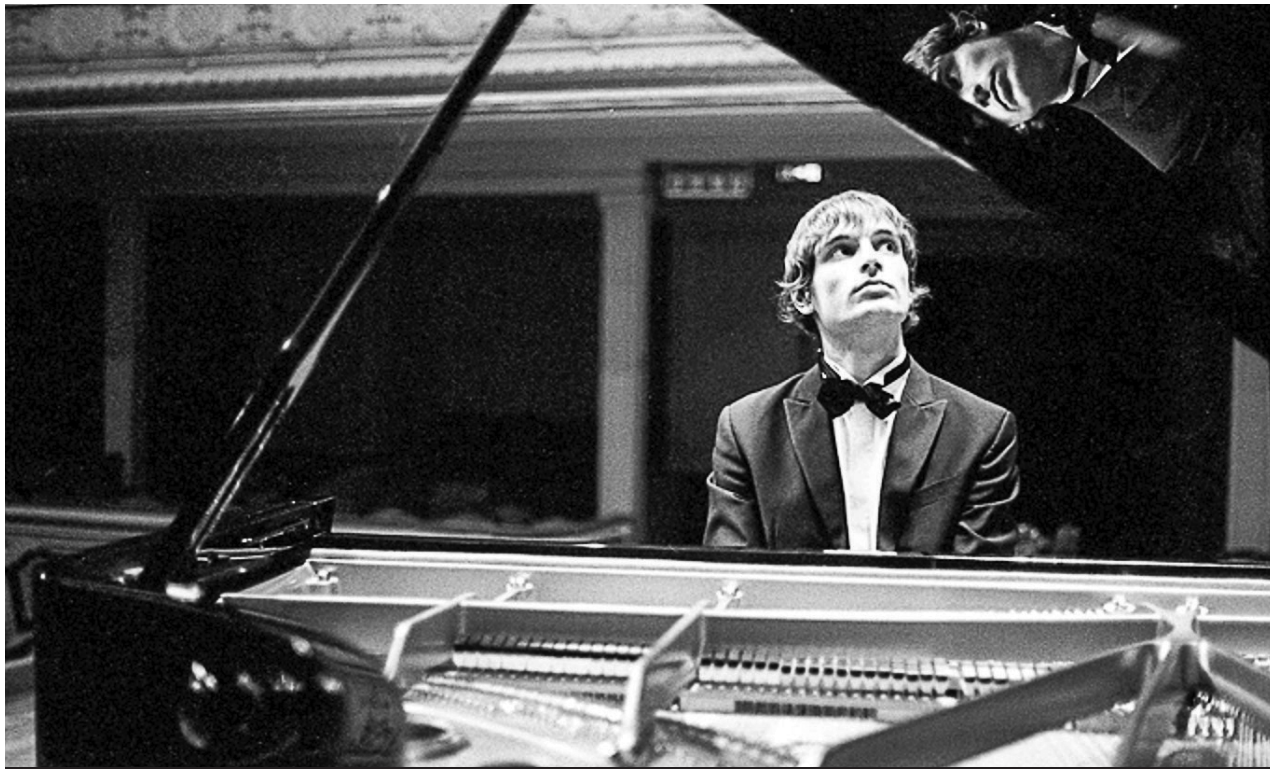
COMEDY

The Funny Bone

Rob Maher, Dec. 29, 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 30, 10 p.m. **"The Last Laugh,"** Dec. 30, 7:30 p.m. **Andrew Schutlz**, Dec. 31, 7 and 10 p.m. Crossgates Mall, 1 Crossgates Mall Road, Guilderland. Information: 313-7484 or Albany.funnybone.com.

The Comedy Works

Jaye McBride, Dec. 28, 7 p.m. **Comedy fundraiser to benefit**



Rashkovskiy to play Tchaikovsky

Russian pianist Ilya Rashkovskiy will perform Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto along with the Albany Symphony Orchestra at the Palace Theatre on Saturday, Jan. 7, beginning at 7:30 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 465-4663 or visit www.palacealbany.org.

Submitted photo

Shelters of Saratoga, Dec. 29, 7 p.m. **Steve Caouette**, Dec. 30, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. **New Year's Eve show**, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. **Chris Kattan**, Jan. 4, 7 and 9 p.m. 388 Broadway, Saratoga

Springs. Information: 275-6897 or thecomedyworks.com.

First Night of Funny

Annual New Year's Eve stand-up show gives people two options to enjoy

— "Clean & Clever" and "Uncensored." Dec. 31, The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Tickets: advance \$35 through Dec. 30 or \$40 day of show. Information: 473-1845 or www.theegg.org.

Pretty Much the Best Comedy Show at the REP

Laugh to a fresh mix of the best up-and-coming comedians on New Year's Eve. Dec. 31, 9 p.m., Capital Repertory,

111 North Pearl St., Albany. Tickets: advance \$30, day of show \$35. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

FAMILY

Perler Bead Crafts

Come make something awesome out of perler beads. Dec. 28, noon, Castleton Public Library, 85 South Main St., Castleton-On-Hudson. Information: 732-0879 or www.castletonpubliclibrary.org.

Lego Chain Reactions

Stop by the library to learn how to create simple machines with our new Lego set. Dec. 29, 2 p.m., Castleton Public Library, 85 South Main St., Castleton-On-Hudson. Information: 732-0879 or www.castletonpubliclibrary.org.

Home Made Theater Children and Teen Acting Classes

Five-week courses for young, aspiring actors. Classes are held on consecutive Saturdays beginning Jan. 28. Spa Little Theater, Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs. Information: 587-4427 or homemadetheater.org.

FILM

It Came From Schenectady presents Flash Gordon

The campy, sci-fi movie complete with a music score by Queen. Jan. 11, 7 p.m., GE Theatre at Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: adults \$9, students with ID \$6. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

Continues on B10

New Years GROOVIN' Eve

at the **MARRIOTT**

Saturday, December 31, 2016 • 7:30 pm

**Dinner • Dancing • Live Music with Groovin' • Cash Bar
Champagne Toast & Live DJ with Thomas Entertainment
Dinner & Show OR VIP Packages Available**









GROOVIN' A 60s-70s Musical Journey
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Waterworks Pub



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DJ SHAWN GILLIE
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ARTS CALENDAR



New exhibit opening

Artist in Residence Ed O'Connell will have a solo exhibit at the University Club, 141 Washington Ave. in Albany, opening Jan. 6 and running through April 28. The artist reception will be held Jan. 6 at 6 p.m.

Submitted photo

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NOTES ON BLINDNESS JANUARY 3 & 4



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JANUARY 20

MAY THE FARCE BE WITH YOU!
- Broadway World

ONE-MAN STAR WARS TRILOGY JANUARY 28



LITERARY

Caffé Lena Open Poetry Night
Featuring a reading by Kathleen McCoy and an open mic. Jan. 4, 7 p.m., Caffé Lena, 47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs. Admission: \$5. Information: 583-0022 or www.caffelena.org.

Melissa O'Brien
Pastor and memoirist discusses "The Accidental Pastor," a collection of essays and photographs chronicling her life. Jan. 7, 7 p.m., Northshire Bookstore, 424 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information: 682-4200 or www.northshire.com.

EDUCATION

Old Songs Contra Dance Tunes
Build your skills and dance tune repertoire. Dec. 28, 7:30 p.m., Old Songs Community Arts Center, 37 South Main St., Voorheesville. Information: 765-2815 or oldsongs.org.

First Day Hike
Saunter through Saratoga Spa State Park and sip from several of its natural mineral springs on this one-hour tour. Jan. 1, Saratoga Spa State Park. Information: 584-2000, ext. 116.

Religion in Star Trek from 22nd to 24th Century
Rabbi David Eligberg of Temple Israel will discuss how religion plays a part in the science fiction TV and film series, as well as how Judaism may look in the future. Jan. 5, 7 p.m., Congregation Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Ave., Schenectady. Free. Information: 374-8173.

Mapping David Vaughn's New York
Craig Williams discusses the story of Vaughn's life, from his expertise in drafting maps to his reflections of life on the Erie Canal. Jan. 7, 2 p.m., Mabee Farm, 1100 Main St., Rotterdam Junction. Admission: general public \$5,

Schenectady County Historical Society members free. Information: 887-5073 or www.schenectadyhistorical.org.

Monologue and Scene Study for Adults
A five-week course taught by actor/director Jonathan Hefter for adults ages 18 and older. Classes are held on consecutive Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. beginning Jan. 11 at Spa Little Theater, Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs. Information: 587-4427 or www.homemadetheater.org.

Gallery Talk
Every Saturday at 1 p.m. from November through May, take a guided walk through the galleries with a member of the Clark's education team. Join fellow art lovers for a personalized look at highlights from the permanent collection, learn about the history of the museum, and gain new insight into some Clark favorites. The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. Information: www.clarkart.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

Kwanzaa celebrations
The Kwanzaa Coalition organizes celebrations throughout the Capital District during the holiday. Dec. 28, 5 p.m., Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church, 1068 Park Ave., Schenectady; Dec. 29, 6 p.m., African American Cultural Center, Albany South Campus, 20 Warren St., Albany; Dec. 30, 6 p.m., The Barn, 56 Second St., Albany; Dec. 31, 2 p.m., Albany Community Charter School, 65 Krank St., Albany; and Jan. 1, 3 p.m., Levels Banquet Hall, 69 North Pearl St., Albany. Information: 312-6129.

Siena College men's basketball
See the Saints host the University of Vermont, Dec. 29, 7 p.m., Times Union Center, 51 South Pearl St., Albany. Tickets: adults \$10-\$30, children 12 and under \$8 in sections priced at \$23 and below. Information: www.timesunioncenter-albany.com.

Albany Devils

American Hockey League team, hosting the Toronto Marlies Dec. 30, 7 p.m., the Bridgeport Sound Tigers Jan. 1, 3 p.m., and the St. John's IceCaps Jan. 4, 7 p.m. Times Union Center, 51 South Pearl St., Albany. Tickets: adults \$22-\$35, children/seniors \$18-\$31. Information: thealbanydevils.com.

The Beer Diviner New Year's Eve Party
Pre-New Year's Eve party featuring craft beer, cider and spirits, plus performances by four area DJs and an art exhibition. Dec. 30, 4 p.m., Troy Taproom, 461 Broadway, Troy. Free; must be 21 or older to attend. Information: www.thebeerdiviner.com.

First Night Bethlehem
Featuring fireworks, live music, children's entertainment and more. Dec. 31, 6:30 to 10 p.m., Four Corners, intersection of Delaware and Kenwood avenues, Delmar. Admission: adults \$10 in advance, \$15 at the event; children 12-18 \$5; children under 12 free. Information: www.townofbethlehem.org.

First Night Saratoga
Annual New Year's Eve celebration featuring a 5-kilometer race at Skidmore College; music, comedy and activities throughout downtown Saratoga Springs; plus fireworks at midnight in Congress Park. Dec. 31, 6 p.m. to midnight. Admission: \$20. Information: www.saratoga-arts.org.

Proctors New Year's Eve Celebration
Featuring stand-up comedy from Joe List, Chris Lamberth and Greg Stone; plus The Joey Thomas Big Band, dancing, refreshments and a champagne toast at midnight. Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: \$60. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

The Restaurant at the Pointe New Year's Eve
Four-course meal and champagne, Dec.

ARTS CALENDAR

31, 4 p.m. The Restaurant at the Pointe, 3 Carondelet Drive, Shaker Pointe at Carondelet, Latham. Cost: \$40. Information: 864-4292.

Together Tuesday

Tuesday nights in Eden Café are set-aside for groups to have a time of team building. Become part of a movement. Our groups have found that they often can get more accomplished out of the office than in. Eden provides a safe non-alcoholic environment where trust can be fostered. Tuesdays, 4:30 to 9 p.m., 269 Osborne Road, Loudonville. Information: 977-3771.

Veteran Meet-Up

Join us for free coffee every Tuesday. All veterans welcome. 6 to 8 p.m., Saratoga Coffee Traders, 447 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information: 884-4999 or www.VeteransPeerConnection.org.

Social Night Potluck at CoG

Every Tuesday night, we gather with food and conversation. This event is free and open to the public. No registration is needed. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tech Valley Center of Gravity, 30 3rd St., Troy. Information: 279-7863 or www.tvcocg.net.

Geeks Who Drink

A quiz show with eight rounds of eight questions each, including a music round, an audio round and a picture round. Free to play, with prizes for the top two teams and bonus prizes throughout the game. Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Olde English Pub, 683 Broadway, Albany.

Weekly ceramics

Two-hour Thursday class taught by Chris Singer, 1 to 3 p.m., Schenectady Jewish Community Center, 2565 Balltown

Road, Niskayuna. Cost: members \$8, guests \$12; all materials are included. Information: 377-8803 or www.schenectadyjcc.org.

EXHIBITS

Albany Institute of History and Art

"Rock & Roll Icons: Photographs by Patrick Harbron," through Feb. 12; "The Art of Seating: 200 Years of American Design," through Dec. 31; "Spotlight: Alexander Hamilton," through Dec. 31; "I Spy with My Little Eye: Joan Steiner's Look-Alikes," through Jan. 31; plus "Nineteenth-Century American Sculpture: Erastus Dow Palmer and His Protégés, Launt Thompson, Charles Calverley, and Richard Park," "A Gather of Glass: Selections from the Museum's Collection," "Ancient Egypt" and more. 125 Washington Ave., Albany. Information: 463-4478 or www.albanyinstitute.org.

Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center

"Karner Station," a special exhibit focusing on where the Karner Blue butterfly was first documented near the Karner Train Station, through Dec. 31; plus "Pine Bush Perspectives" photo exhibit. 195 New Karner Road, Colonie. Information: 456-0655 or albanypinebush.org.

AMP Galleries

"New Paintings," an exhibit featuring the works of abstract painter Seth Benzel. 454 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information: 898-6976.

Art de Cure

"Inspired by Nature," a benefit for the American Diabetes Association, through Dec. 30. Albany Medical Center, The Endocrine Group at 1365 Washington Ave. #300, Albany.

The Clark Institute

"Japanese Impressions: Color Woodblock Prints from the Rodbell Family Collection," through April 2; "Photography and Discovery," through Feb. 5; "Thomas Schutte: Crystal," through Oct. 9, 2017. 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. Information: www.clarkart.edu.

Clement Art Gallery

"Annual Winter Small Works Show," through Jan. 23. 201 Broadway, Troy. Information: 272-6811 or clementart.com.

Esther Massry Gallery

"Hitting Bumps on the School Bus," an exhibition of paintings by Danny Ginsburg, through Feb. 26. The College of Saint Rose, Massry Center for the Arts, 1002 Madison Ave., Albany. Information: 485-3902 or www.strose.edu/gallery.

The Hyde Collection

"Artists of the Mohawk-Hudson Region" and "Transforming The Hyde: The Feibes & Schmitt Gift," a selection of works from the collection of Werner Feibes and the late James Schmitt, through Dec. 31. 161 Warren St., Glens Falls. Information: 792-1761 or hydecollection.org.

The Laffer Gallery

"Upstate Artists," the gallery's annual juried group show as chosen by Tony Iadicicco, through Jan. 8. 96 Broad St., Schuylerville. Information: 695-3181 or www.thelaffergallery.com.

miSci

"Tinkering: Bring Out Your Inner Engineer," a hands-on exhibit from the San Francisco Exploratorium, through May 17. Nott Terrace Heights, Schenectady. Information: 382-7890 or www.miSci.org.

National Museum of Dance

"50 Years at SPAC," celebrating the golden anniversary of the venerable performance venue; "The Dancing Athlete," an exhibit that explores the connection between dance and sports; "Gen," a life-sized sculpture of former New York City Ballet principal dancer Gen Horiuchi; plus "A Tribute to Dancers in Film," "Making Art Dance" and "2015 Hall of Fame Inductees Mark Morris and Rudolf Nureyev." 99 South Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information: 584-2225 or www.dancemuseum.org.

New York State Museum

"The People's Art: Selectios from the Empire State Plaza Art Collection," on display through Sept. 3, 2017; plus "Hudson Valley Ruins," "Art for the People" Decorated Stoneware from the Weitsman Collection, "Beneath the City: An Archeological Perspective of Albany" and more. Empire State Plaza, 222 Madison Ave., Albany. Information: 474-5877 or www.nysm.nysed.gov.

Opalka Gallery

"Gravity & Light: Caroline Ramersdorfer, Sculptures 1985-2016," through March 5. Sage College of Albany campus, 140 New Scotland Ave., Albany. Information: 292-8607 or opalka.sage.edu.

Saratoga Automobile Museum

"Rolling Bones," an exhibit featuring hot rods built by Ken Schmidt and

Keith Cornell's Rolling Bones Hot Rod Shop in Greenfield Center. 110 Avenue of the Pines, Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs. Information: saratogaautomuseum.org.

Saratoga Clay Arts Center

"Winter Wares, Quiet Forms," featuring the recent work of Josh Smith. 167 Hayes Road, Schuylerville. Information: saratogaclayarts.org.

Schenectady Jewish Community Center

"Fragments of Society," featuring sculpture, mixed media and found objects by Paul Bouchard and R. Jane Bouchard, through Dec. 31. 2565 Balltown Road, Niskayuna. Information: 377-8803.

Tang Teaching Museum

"Sixfold Symmetry: Parrem in Art and Science," an exhibition of contemporary and historical art, artifacts and material culture, featuring collaborations with faculty members from multiple departments, through March 12; "Elevator Music 31: Political Echo Chamber," plus "Liz Collins — Energy Field," a long-running installation created as a lounge and social space for visitors and students. Skidmore College, North Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information: tang.skidmore.edu.

University Club

Presenting a solo exhibition by Artist in Residence Ed O'Connell, Jan. 6 through April 28, 141 Washington Ave., Albany. Artist reception: Jan. 6, 6 p.m. Information: 463-1151 or www.universityclubalbany.com.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Center for Disability Services Telethon

Seeking choral groups, soloists, specialty acts and dance troupes for the upcoming telethon, to be broadcast on Jan. 29 at the Radisson Hotel Albany on Wolf Road. Auditions take place Jan. 8, noon, Holiday Inn Express, 400 Old Loudon Road, Latham. Performers may audition only one piece, with a 3-minute limit. Information: 944-2120 or www.cfdny.org.

Lake George Arts Project

Accepting exhibition proposals for its Courthouse Gallery, through Jan. 31. Send 10-12 images, a résumé and artist info. Information: www.lakegeorgearts.org.

120° Intercollegiate Regional

A showcase for students attending college within 120 miles of Saratoga Springs, Glens Falls or Troy for their artwork. The juried exhibit is a partnership between Saratoga Arts, LARAC and the Arts Center of the Capital Region and will be displayed from March 4 through April 21 at the Saratoga Arts Center, 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. There is no entry fee, and all entries must be submitted by Jan. 25. Information: 584-4132 or www.saratoga-arts.org.

Thursday Musical Club

All women's chorus seeks new members. Rehearsals are Wednesdays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, 603 State St., Schenectady. Information: email mlekd@verizon.net.

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Fri 8-6
Sat 8-5



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<p>WELL TRIMMED WHOLE FRESH HAMS \$2⁶⁹ LB.</p>	<p>FRESH AMERICAN LEG OF LAMB \$6⁵⁹ LB.</p>	<p>PEELED & DEVEINED JUMBO SHRIMP COOKED OR RAW \$12⁹⁹ LB.</p>	<p>FRENCHED RACKS or CROWN ROAST LAMB \$13⁷⁹ LB.</p>		
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<p>5-8 LB. AVG. WT. WHOLE BEEF (PEELED) TENDERLOINS \$16⁹⁹ LB.</p>		<p>OUR OWN COOKED ROAST BEEF \$6⁹⁹ LB.</p>		<p>PARTY PLATTERS OR SHRIMP PLATTERS \$11⁹⁹ PT.</p>	

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IN BRIEF

Hamilton Street Jazz Company at Grappa '72

ALBANY — The Hamilton Street Jazz Company will perform on Thursday, Dec. 29, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Grappa '72 at 818 Central Ave. in Albany.

For more information call (518) 482-7200 or visit www.grappa72.com.

SUDOKU

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Answers on Pg. B26



Walk in the park

ALBANY — One of our readers (and sales representatives) submitted proof positive that *The Spotlight* was represented at The Capital Holiday Lights in the Park. Yet, again, the light show was a success. If you haven't visited Washington Park to see the spectacle, the light show continues until Monday, Jan. 2.

Photo by Bill Decker / Facebook

HOROSCOPES

December 2016 — Week 5



CAPRICORN
December 22–January 19

Lies abound at home. Take everything you hear with a grain of salt, Capricorn. A proposal has merits, but it may not be for you. A party rocks!



ARIES
March 21–April 19

The hunt for a vintage piece begins. Look high and low, Aries. It could be tucked away in the place you least expect. A friend drops by bearing gifts.



CANCER
June 22–July 22

It's the thought that counts, Cancer. You do not have to spend a bundle to make that special someone smile. Resolutions are made.



LIBRA
September 23–October 22

Have you been naughty or nice, Libra? You're about to find out. It's high time you returned a favor from long ago. Small sacrifices may be required.



AQUARIUS
January 20–February 18

Feeling technologically challenged, Aquarius? You could learn a thing or two from a pal. A big chore is finally finished with the help of a friend.



TAURUS
April 20–May 20

'Tis the season, Taurus. Be warm and gracious, even with those who rub you the wrong way. A houseguest makes quick work of a troublesome task.



LEO
July 23–August 22

Hear ye, hear ye, Leo. Someone near and dear to your heart has been vying for your attention. They are in dire need. Do what you can to help!



SCORPIO
October 23–November 21

The love of friends and family makes you smile all week long. A film inspires introspection and leads you down a new path. Tread with care, Scorpio.



PISCES
February 19–March 20

Major shopping takes place this week, and you bring home a lot of good buys, Pisces. A tale of woe inspires you to make some changes in your life.



GEMINI
May 21–June 21

No one likes to feel left out, Gemini. Remind your family of that and make sure there is a group vibe at the next gathering. A bill is paid in full.



VIRGO
August 23–September 22

This week brings merriment at home and at work. There are loads of parties to attend and gifts to exchange. Enjoy it all, Virgo, and don't forget those in need.



SAGITTARIUS
November 22–December 21

Sweet Sagittarius. You really know how to make people feel welcome, and this week, you will be rewarded for your hospitality time and time again.



Food & Vino

Bavarian Veal with Asparagus

By **MICKEY SPELVIN**
news@spotlightnews.com

CULINARY ARTS

With the closing of the holiday season, I wanted to find a recipe from Germany.

The inspiration undoubtedly comes from the countless stories, songs and images of Santa Claus over the past several weeks. And, when placed out of context, erecting a freshly cut pine tree in the middle of your living room, seems a bit odd. But, that's what some of us do in December. And, that's okay. Both traditions have their roots in Germany.

So the choice this week is a Bavarian Veal with Asparagus dish that should serve you and five other guests.

With the wine I've chosen to pair with this dish, I tried to keep with the German theme and wound up with a "local" choice.

Enjoy!

Ingredients — Serves Six
2 lb Veal; cubed

- 2 tb Vegetable oil
- 1 Onion; large, chopped
- 1 c Carrots; chopped
- 1 tb Parsley; chopped
- 1/4 c Lemon juice; fresh
- 2 c Beef broth
- 3 tb Unbleached flour
- 1/2 ts Salt
- Pepper; fresh ground, to taste
- 20 oz Frozen asparagus; * or
- 2 lb Asparagus; fresh **
- * Frozen Asparagus should be tips and pieces. (2 boxes (10 oz. each))
- ** Fresh Asparagus should be cleaned and cut into one-inch pieces.

Preparation

In a Dutch oven brown the veal in hot oil. Add onion and carrots. Cook until onion is transparent. Stir in parsley. Mix lemon juice, broth, flour and seasonings until well-blended. Pour over meat. Cover and bake in preheated 325° F oven for 1 1/2 hours or until meat is tender. Add more broth if needed. Cook

asparagus until tender-crisp. Stir into veal and serve immediately.

Pairing


Wolffer Estate Grandioso Rose 2015 — Wolffer Estate — Long Island, N.Y.

If you want to envelope yourself in a Bavarian experience, if you can find a nice German rosé then you should go with that. Looking around, we found this "local" wine from Long Island.

Light shiny copper in color. Beautiful floral aromas fill the glass, with fresh vibrant fruit. Crisp, ripe apples, peach, and hints of mint. The mouth-feel is elegant, with notes of soft creamy lees and wonderful ripe fruit. It's balanced by a lovely acidity, hints of soft tannins and a whiff of mature oak followed by great minerality. The finish is long and graceful making this a classy and sophisticated rosé that is very versatile with food and will have some age ability.

— Winery Notes






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Clean eating

Onion Latkes

By **STACEY MORRIS**

news@spotlightnews.com

CULINARY ARTS

It may not be the healthiest way to eat but with the cold weather upon us and Hanukkah nearly here, the truth is, it's frying season. May as well embrace it in a way that's clean and won't leave you groaning. For starters, make sure the oil you use is as pure as possible. Forget, I repeat **FORGET** the mysterious and man-made canola oil and please use one that exists organically in nature. The key, however, is it must be an oil suited for frying with a high smoking point. This is when you definitely want to shelve the extra virgin olive oil in lieu of grapeseed oil, light olive oil, or avocado oil. All are great for frying at higher temperatures. Remember, smoking oil = carcinogens. Yuck!

Now on to the matter of what to fry. I'm not one to tamper with centuries-honored tradition, unless the circumference of my waistline is at stake. And in the case of potato latkes, it is. No one makes them better than Chef Bill, and this Hanukkah, I'll definitely be indulging, but probably only once...on a day I get a nice, long workout on the books.

Other than that, I'll be making my signature vegetable-based latkes. Those who have read "Clean Comfort" are already familiar with my Eggplant Latkes. And this year, I'm unveiling a new

version: succulent and gloriously low-glycemic Onion Latkes! They are so delicious, and a little more fragrant than potato latkes. And you don't have to limit them. But I do recommending blotting them.

Whatever holiday you're celebrating this month, I hope it's filled with people you love and delicious food.

Ingredients

- 5 large Vidalia onions
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup gluten-free bread crumbs (plain)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- Grapeseed oil for frying

Instructions

Coarsely grate onions on a cheese grater, or coarsely chop in a food processor (don't over-blend into mush). Blot or wring grated onions on heavy-duty paper towels to extract excess moisture. Place eggs in food processor or a blender and whip well before adding to a large mixing bowl. Add onions and the remaining ingredients (except oil) and mix thoroughly.

In a large skillet, heat oil (1/4-inch deep) on medium-high heat for about a minute. Using your hands, scoop onion batter and form

into a ball about the size of 1 1/2 golf balls. Gently place ball into hot oil, then take a flat spatula and press down, forming a pancake about 4-5 inches in diameter. Saute on one side until golden brown, about three minutes. Gently flip over with spatula and sauté another 3 minutes. If pan is large enough, cook two to three at a time. Serve immediately, or place on a baking sheet in warm oven until ready to serve.

Stacey Morris is a Loudonville-based cookbook author, health coach, and yoga instructor. Following a struggle with weight since childhood, she has been maintaining a 180-pound weight loss for nearly eight years. Her website is www.staceymorris.com.



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HEALTH & FITNESS

Choosing a gym

Joining a gym can feel like a huge commitment, but it doesn't have to be

By **CRAIG W. ARMSTRONG**
news@spotlightnews.com

Like they say, it's all fun and games until your pants don't fit. Are you losing the battle of the bulge and decided it's time to fight back? Typically the place that people pick as their battleground is the gym. Choosing a place to wage war against those extra pounds is an important decision. There are some basic things to consider when choosing a gym.

There are countless excuses for not going to the gym. One of the best is that it is too far away. This can be squashed by picking a gym located near your home and/or work. Everyone has a hectic life and having your gym close will only be a benefit. So, choose a gym that is close and mark that excuse off of your list.

Excuses are exercise killers, so along with location, consider the gym's hours. Not everyone has time to workout in the morning and some people don't have time at night. Make sure that your gym is open during the hours that fit with

your schedule. Aside from having time to workout, the time you workout can also be important. Some people like to workout in the morning, some prefer the evening or later. This is a personal choice between you and your body. Whatever you two decide, make sure your gym can accommodate it.

Next, consider what the gym offers and what will keep you motivated. Do you prefer free weights, machines? Do you like attending classes? Make sure that your gym offers whatever it is that you enjoy. If you are into classes, make sure they work with your hours. If you enjoy using machines, make sure the staff is knowledgeable about them, in case you have questions. Speaking of staff, find out if trainers are available and how much their time costs. Find out if you can get an introduction to the machines at no cost.

Make sure the place is clean. Aside from health issues, cleanliness says a lot about how seriously they take their business.

Membership costs are always a concern. How much is it and what does your



WORK
As in "homework." Learn about fees and other fine print items before signing up to a new gym.

membership include? Is there an initiation fee? Are you locked into a year? How much notice is needed to cancel? Are upgrades to your membership available? What is their policy on guests? Is there a reward for referrals?

See if there is a trial visit or visits available. This is important because this is how you learn about other members. The gym should be a place where you get fit, not compete. Some gyms are all about appearances. These are the places filled with meat-heads and

pretty girls who would rather text than workout. These places are fine, if that is what you are looking for, but if that is not your style, find a gym with average people. Find a gym with people who are there to get fit, not win a beauty contest. Aside from making you feel self-conscious, these people are less likely to share your struggle. Regular people, like you, can form friendships and even act as support or encouragement.

Joining a gym can feel like a huge commitment, but it doesn't have to. Find somewhere you are comfortable. Find somewhere that will help you eliminate excuses and find somewhere you fit in. Don't over think it. Go to the gym, get some exercise and pat yourself on the back for doing it.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Fear of loose skin

Some who succeed in losing a lot of weight contend with "loose skin," stopping others from even trying

By **STACEY MORRIS**
news@spotlightnews.com

Women are still trapped under a hyper-critical microscope. Our year-long election slug fest has taught us that, internet trolls demonstrate it daily, and the mail I get from readers sorrowfully reminds me that there is still work to be done. It's an inside-job, ladies. Surgery, weight loss, and botox won't set you free. Only a loud and unapologetic declaration that you're okay with yourself will shove the microscope out of society's intrusive hand. Yes, even if you're not flawless, you're calling the game over. You've always been OK and now the world knows it. That became my mantra at 300 pounds and it's my mantra today. In part because the No. 1 concern I get from clients and readers of my books is from women fearing their happiness will be impaired by

loose skin after a weight loss.

So, what do you do if you've dropped a lot of weight and have some loose skin? Off the top of my head, this comes to mind: **GET OUT THERE AND LIVE YOUR FREAKIN' LIFE!** I mean, come on, life is a gift to begin with. And if you have a new lease on it because of releasing a substantial amount of weight, do

NO FEAR
—
Stacey Morris lost more than 100 pounds, and is thankful for her active lifestyle.
Submitted photos

you really think your primary focus will be on any residual imperfections? For me it wasn't even a distant concern. When you walk through life at 300 pounds + for 20 years, being free of that physical and emotional burden tends to elevate one into a state of joy and gratitude. Trust me.

I do understand the concern of loose skin. No one wants it...actively seeks it out. But to be a slave to fearing or loathing it is buying into our society's manic focus on looking flawless. It has become a toxic fetish. All you have to do is Google 'plastic



"I do understand the concern of loose skin. No one wants it. . . actively seeks it out. But to be a slave to fearing or loathing it is buying into our society's manic focus on looking flawless. It has become a toxic fetish."

— Stacey Morris



surgery disasters' to see how easily the quest for 'looking good enough' can spiral out of control. OK, love handles are "lipped." I guess I look better...but what can I work on next? Ah! a brow lift...followed by cheek implants and lip injections. Yeah, that's the ticket! Then I'll be happy.

Please let me save you the thousands of dollars you may be poised to spend (or borrow). If you're not in possession of some baseline satisfaction with who you are...including how you look, surgery won't magically wave that malady away. Surgery does nothing to quiet or console the inner critic. That's your job.

Interesting point: All the loose-skin concerns I get from readers are from women at the start of their journey. They'd actually love to get rid of the weight, but are wondering if loose skin is too high a price to pay. Really? If that's going to stop your roll before you even start, it's likely you're not ready. I'm not judging. Change can be unnerving; to you and those around you. I've lived it; I know. Just consider being honest about what might really be holding you back. Never has anyone who has dropped 100 pounds or more groused to me they don't like their skin. Why? They're simply too elated with their new life, which includes lots of freedom and energy. It's far more exhilarating than a perfection that doesn't exist. Trust me.

Stacey Morris is a Loudonville-based DDPYOGA instructor, health coach, and cookbook author. Her website is www.staceymorris.com.

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IN BRIEF

Matty Finn at Carney's Tavern

BALLSTON LAKE — Matty Finn will perform on Thursday, Dec. 29, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Carvey's Tavern at 17 Main Street in Ballston Lake.

Finn brings genres like Classic Rock, Country, Blues and even Celtic, as well as songs from Elvis, The Beatles, The Grateful Dead, Garth Brooks, Green Day, Jason Mraz and even an original or two.

For more information visit www.carneystavernny.com or call (518) 280-7959.

Open Mic at Caffé Lena

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Caffé Lena is holding an open mic on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m. across the street at Creative Sparks at 42 Phila Street.

The event is for all styles of music and spoken word performance, including poetry, comedy, and storytelling, but original songs on acoustic instruments are the most common.

Performer registration is from 7 to 7:25 p.m. No advance registration by phone is permitted. Admission is \$3. For more information call (518) 583-0022 or email sarah@caffelena.org.

Open Mic at Rustic Barn Pub

TROY — The Rustic Barn Pub is

holding an open mic on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 8 p.m. at 150 Speigletown Rd. in Troy.

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For more information call (518) 235-5858 or www.rusticbarnpub.com.

Hot Club of Saratoga at Mouzon House

SARATOGA SPRINGS — The Hot Club of Saratoga will perform at Mouzon House on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 8:45 p.m. at 1 York Street in Saratoga Springs.

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For more information visit mouzonhouse.net or call (518) 226-0014.

WMHT Victoria at Albany Institute

ALBANY — WMHT presents free preview screenings of the first hour of the new Masterpiece series, Victoria on Thursday, Dec. 29 at 5:15 and 6:30 p.m. at the Albany Institute of History and Art at 125 Washington Ave. in Albany.

The event is free. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information call (518) 463-4478.



First Night in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM — Bethlehem is having a First Night Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 31 starting at 6:30 p.m.

This family friendly event will begin with fireworks at the Four Corners, followed by music, art and celebratory activities from 7 to 10 p.m. at nearby locations.

First Night Buttons are available online at Eventbrite.com and at the Four

Corners Marketplace. Buttons are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the event for adults, \$5 for kids 12 to 18 and free for kids under 12.

If you'd like to volunteer, contact Joan Gavrilik at 605-6580 or info@friendsofbethlehemparks.org. For more information visit www.townofbethlehem.org.

Photo by Ali Hibbs / TheSpot518

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From page 1B ...

Who is better than us?

of naming Honolulu (No. 2, 375,000) among the top music scenes in the county, let alone Madison (No. 4, 243,000).

Naturally, when factoring in the number of musicians, radio stations, singers, recording studios, music stores, and bars per 1,000 residents, communities with smaller populations would rank higher than larger metropolises. New York City (8.4 million) and Los Angeles (3.9 million), the nation's two largest media centers, ranked 26th and 27th respectively in the report. Albany, Schenectady and Troy have an aggregate population of 809,000.

Nevertheless, when you're dealing with a city that boasts 8.4 million people, there's a larger likelihood of dealing with people who don't give a flip about music. So, maybe the numbers don't lie, after all.

Our friends at NYSmusic.com conduct a series of Best Of articles each year, highlighting the pennical achievements of artists from in and around New York state. The web magazine employs a network of over 60 freelance writers and photographers across the state and neighboring regions, covering shows and interviewing artists. And, again, the Capital District was in the conversation for best music scene with Buffalo,

Rochester and New York City.

"The NYS Music staff represents every region of the state, and while they see the most music in their hometowns, they are not afraid to travel a bit to see quality music," wrote Jim Rizzo. "When asked about the best music town in the state, there was a wide variety of responses. One would expect New York City, being, by far, the largest city in the state, to come out on top. However, that was not the case. The two cities with the most votes from the staff were Buffalo and Syracuse. Our readers, on the other hand, did choose New York City, which tied with Albany."

New York City had received the most votes in NYSmusic.com's poll last year. Despite Syracuse (No. 56, population 145,000) and Buffalo (No. 43, 1.1 million) earning top honors for local music scenes with NYSmusic staffers, the Capital District appears to have earned more respect from voters in 2016. Rizzo listed off several reasons why that would be.

"The area is home to many musical happenings throughout the year," wrote Rizzo, which includes Alive at Five in Albany, Rockin' on the River in Troy and the Summer Concert Series in Freedom Park in Scotia. There are also the one-day or weekend events such as Larkfest, Tulip Fest, Pearlpalooza and Albany's Move Festival. "[And,] the national and regional performances at various venues around the city."

The Capital District has long since been a thoroughfare for traffic destined for Boston, New York City, Buffalo or Montreal. It has been since the Erie Canal and continues to be with our network of highways. So, whether acts are stopping

SUMMER FUN

Stellar Young at Troy's Rockin' on the River this year.

Michael Hallisey / TheSpot518

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by as they pass through, or legitimately choose the Capital District as a destination, local concert-goers see their fair share of quality music. Rizzo suggests that some of the larger acts may be lured by the superior acoustics at The Egg or the Picotte Recital Hall at the Massry Center for the Arts in Albany, or maybe that of The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall in the Collar City. There is also the larger seating capacity of the Times Union Center or the historical draw of the Albany Palace Theatre.

The Palace Theatre's largest contribution to the local music scene

would be that it plays host to the Grammy Award-winning Albany Symphony Orchestra. Its recognition by the Recording Academy places it ahead of its peers in the aforementioned cities. And, its musical director, David Alan Miller, continuously draws internationally renowned musicians to play in the Capital City and in Troy.

However much weight you want to place on Value Penguin's report, here's something to think about. The report identified the Capital District as only the Tri-City area of Schenectady, Albany and Troy, omitting a substantial arts community in Saratoga County (population 223,000) that includes Skidmore College, the village of Saratoga Springs, and several more great venues highlighted by none other than the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

It is negligible to omit Saratoga's contribution to our local music scene, and if it were to play a factor in yet another study, perhaps the outcome would be more plausible. Regardless, we're just not going to accept Madison's music scene as being any better than ours.

The Felice Brothers at Rockin' on the River this summer.

Photo by Michael Hallisey / TheSpot518



Mike Gordon, of Phish, plays to a sold-out crowd at The Egg in Albany.

Photo by Michael Allen / TheSpot518



The shoebox auditorium in the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall has long been respected for its superior acoustics.

Photo by Michael Hallisey / TheSpot518






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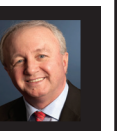


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■ MUSIC REVIEW

Chicago Farmer's "Midwest Side Stories"

By JASON JONES
nysmusic.com

Chicago Farmer recently released his seventh studio album, "Midwest Side Stories," which debuted Sept. 30 on his Chicago Farmer record label. It's the follow-up to 2013's "Backenforth, IL." Chicago Farmer is the *nom de plume* of Illinois-based folk artist Cody Diekhoff, who has spent the last decade barnstorming bars and theatres across his native Midwest, traveling far and wide, through dim towns and bright cities alike, to perform for a growing legion of appreciative fans. Diekhoff was born in tiny Delevan, Ill., spent significant time in Chicago, and currently calls Bloomington, Ill. home. It's these localities, which are largely defined by the sordid power dynamics surrounding them, that make up the backdrop for his blue-collar ballads.

Distilled to its essence, "Midwest Side Stories" is a concept album, one centered around the working class struggles of the people of Tazewell County, Ill. The concept, while in league with Sufjan Stevens' Illinois, is less sprawling, more localized and reads sort of like Sherwood Anderson's short-story collection "Winesburg, Ohio." However, its themes are more aligned with those of another famous Illinoisian, the poet and folk singer, Carl Sandburg.

The opening track, "Umbrella," a seemingly autobiographical take on the life of a folksinger with a rainy day plight and a ticket to ride, acts as an overture, setting the stage for the struggles that Chicago Farmer will routinely call into the limelight over the course of the album. The track takes its name from a simile built



Submitted photo

into the first verse, which provides an inside look at the inspiration behind the songs, while also detailing the apparent relationship between the folksinger and his subject. The first-person narrator sings:

*I went searching for some kind of meaning
Like words looking for a page
Came up empty and full of worry
That nothing could cover the pain
And these songs and stories
Began unfolding like an umbrella in the rain.

I want to write you a sad, sad song
That I hope will make you smile
And we could pass it along
We're only here for a little while.*

The track also sets in motion the album's most resonant message: that storytelling is important, and that it's equally important how one goes about it. Here, Chicago Farmer delivers a well-constructed acoustic guitar tune that's tinged with electric honky-tonk guitar fills, and hinges on his shaky and crisp, rich as honey vocal performance, complete with emotional

tension, brief yodeling, and a crafted message. And while there's some slick lines in "Umbrella," such as "we've been trying to find our way through the darkness of our minds," we also see the traces of Chicago Farmer's major weakness as a songwriter, that there's a disturbing lack of particularity, personality, and local detail in these folk tales, while there's an abundance of flat lines and forced rhymes that advance the story by length alone.

One song in and I'm totally going for Chicago Farmer's voice, as it's reminiscent of Ryan Adams during the Cardinals era, while the song itself sounds more like something from Kentuckian Stoll Vaughan's catalogue, but I'm definitely not sold on the lyrics.

NYSmusic.com is a web magazine focused on all aspects of music in and around the state of New York. You can often find content from NYSmusic.com within the pages of TheSpot518. For more, visit NYSmusic.com.

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MUSIC REVIEW

Childish Gambino's 'Awaken, My Love!'

By **DAVE OSTROFF**

nysmusic.com

It's a cultivation of everything interesting about music. There's no other way to describe it because there are so many influences, some that the majority of his followers probably don't know exist. But if it were to be described in a genre, it'd be something along the lines of this tongue twister: Psychedelic funk, rock and R&B with hints of new-age rap and electronic undertones. Unfortunately, he hasn't created something revolutionary, he's recreated the sound of the most beloved musicians of all time, and missed the mark on a track or two, but nonetheless has brought back one of the great forgotten sounds of music.

It's nothing like his older works which were heavily influenced by modern rap. But it makes for the perfect platform on which to build a fun, but very familiar sound. This is not to say his prior albums were simple, but they lacked instrumental color and were driven lyrically. Before the song-by-song analysis begins, some background knowledge is needed to understand how talented Donald Glover really is.

He is not a stranger to the arts: He had two full albums and a few single releases prior to this one, he appears as Troy Barnes on "Community" as well as a starring role

in "Atlanta," a series which he created. He will also soon star as a young Lando Calrissian in an upcoming Star Wars movie. Point is, the guy knows what he's doing and he does it pretty well. But of course, such a drastic change in his falsetto will result in a few quirks, because as stated before, this album is nothing close to what he released in 2013-14.

Almost every track has the funky hooks of the classic '70s funk bands but with the unpredictable musical direction of Zappa and even the ones that lack a little bit of complexity can still have some value to them.

The first track is a bit misleading, especially if a listener reads this review first. It's called "Me and Your Mama" and it can be interpreted as a transition into this genre. It starts with a simple, spacey trap modern rap beat, similar to his former albums, that suddenly drops into a completely different genre. It's dramatic enough that it may sound like the next song on a shuffled Spotify playlist. The second part of the song is synonymous to that of Pink Floyd, with a slow, swaying groove, a female chorus ringing out in the background and some wailing guitar, that all fades out into something like Funkadelic's "Maggot Brain" with echoing drums, and droning keys in the back. It's an intense and perfect introduction to this

album.

"Have Some Love" and "Boogieman" have strong funk influences, with some tricky drumming, catchy breakdowns and that angelic chorus, all garnished with the perfect amount of spaciness. As stated before though, the sound is eerily similar to the funk Gods of the '70s. This is not to say that he's not a creative person, he just hasn't created anything revolutionary here, but his mind is in the right place.

"Zombies" is one of the tracks that may have "missed the mark." It's just weird. There isn't a lot of musical complexity to it making the lyrics stand out more. But they're not about anything deep or inspirational. It's about zombies. "All I see is zombies, feeding all around us, all they eat are people... We're eating you for profit... there is no safe place to hide." He's most likely not talking about The Walking Dead type of creature, but the lack of lyrical eloquence kind of ruins this song. That and it sound like he has a stuffy nose when he's singing. But they can't all be winners, as the saying goes.

"Riot" comes next and brings back the technical funk heard at the beginning of the album, but isn't necessarily a rioting song. It is still fantastic and fun to listen to though. "Redbone" was one of the singles released before the full album and was the most listened to track on the album

according to Spotify. This is a fairly unique one, a little low on energy but it is also a love song, and pretty good one at that. It builds up nicely and has very colorful instrumentation making this a key track.

As if there weren't enough hard left turns, "California" pops up next and again gives the impression that the listener hit the shuffle button by accident. It's a pretty adorable track that sounds like Jason Mraz, Sublime and Glover had a kid.... A really weird kid. It's a tight sound with a strange association of instruments, including what sounds like glass bottles being blown into. It's a key track not because everyone will love it, but it just further shows how Glover is taking a totally new direction with his music.

Glover has got the nail into the board, but he isn't striking it on the head just yet. At least he's on the right board though. This must have been a fun project for him, and it's very obvious that he's not through with rap, but he's moving onto more complex projects. Unfortunately, his old audience may not follow him, but he will undoubtedly gain some more attention with this collection.

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Sudoku Answers

5	2	9	8	7	1	6	3	4
3	6	8	4	2	9	1	7	5
4	7	1	5	3	6	9	8	2
7	5	4	9	1	3	2	6	8
9	3	2	6	8	4	5	1	7
1	8	6	7	5	2	4	9	3
2	1	5	3	6	8	7	4	9
6	9	3	2	4	7	8	5	1
8	4	7	1	9	5	3	2	6

Super Crossword Answers

1	R	A	N	I	S	6	S	E	L	L	10	C	A	P	E
14	E	L	U	D	E	15	A	R	I	A	16	I	C	O	N
17	F	I	R	S	T	18	C	L	A	S	19	T	R	O	D
20	E	N	S	21	T	22	S	A	23	Y	E	R	S		
24	R	E	E	F	E	25	R	26	C	E	I	L	S		
28	R	E	D	29	A	R	E	O	L	30	A	T	E		
33	A	C	34	M	E	36	L	A	M	37	F	I	C	H	E
39	S	L	A	N	D	40	E	R	41	S	A	T	C	H	E
43	P	U	N	C	H	44	O	45	P	E	N	46	K	E	N
47	S	E	A	H	O	48	R	49	S	E	50	I	C	E	
51	F	L	E	E	T	52	M	A	R	53	T	H	A		
56	S	H	A	R	E	S	59	T	A	R	60	R	O	N	
61	T	A	X	I	62	I	N	T	O	L	E	R	A	N	T
66	A	L	O	E	67	S	O	O	T	68	S	A	V	O	R
69	G	E	N	S	70	T	R	E	E	71	S	T	E	R	E

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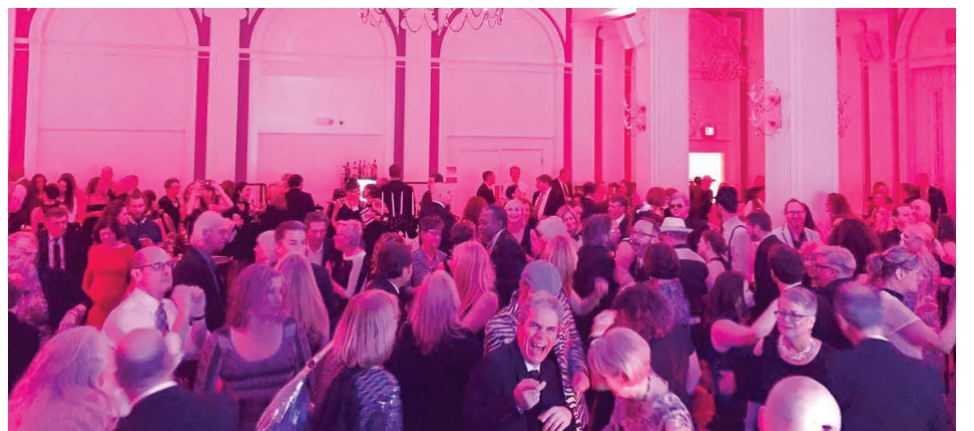
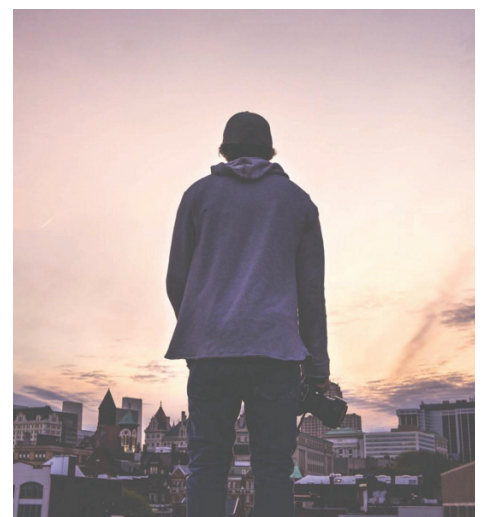
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Spotlight NEWS

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MELISSA WARREN-TURMEL, Albany \$150 in gift cards

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