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Vol. 64, #19

May 12 - May 18, 2021

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NEWS

Budget votes

District residents hit the polls to decide school budgets.

Story on Page 4-5



Local honored by Yankees

Vietnam Veteran Joe Bruno honored by beloved team.

Story on Page 3



DEC pulls right to tire fuel

Company's key argument against recent laws is no more.

Story on Page 8



TOP STORY

What can we afford?

Lack of affordable housing has town officials making amends on moratorium

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

DELMAR — The public is now expected to share its thoughts on a proposed amendment to the town's 12-month moratorium tonight, Wednesday, May 12, before Town Board members ultimately vote on it later this month.

The proposed amendment is now back with the board after having received recommendations from the Planning Board last week. Town Board members tasked it to provide its input at its last board meeting on April 28.

The Planning Board hosted public

comments during the first 20 minutes of last week's meeting. The majority of those sharing concerns over the amendment voiced support for affordable housing, but questioned the timing.

"Any changing of the language — or granting of waivers as you have denied at this point — would violate the pure essence and purpose of the moratorium," said resident Patricia Beeler, who asked why there was a rush as the town was two years into drafting an update to its 2005 comprehensive plan. "I ask, where will the updated comp plan suggest where such housing would benefit the affordable housing population? Perhaps best planned where mass transportation exists."

Continues on next page

ENTERTAINMENT



Ambulance chasing

Local band defines heartbeat of music scene screaming to reopen after COVID.

Story on Page B1

SPORTS



BC streaks past 'toga

Bethlehem Central's lacrosse team starts season off on the right foot.

Story on Page 7

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COUPONS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

INDEX

Police, courts and calls	2
Sports	7
Entertainment.....	B1-B16
Classifieds	B13
Opinion	14
Crossword	B6
Service Directory	B10-B11

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■ POLICE, FIRE and EMERGENCY

Niskayuna man sentenced for stealing GE trade secrets

ALBANY — Yang Sui, 43, of Niskayuna, was sentenced Tuesday, April 30, to one year of probation, and to pay a \$5,000 fine, for stealing trade secrets.

The announcement was made by Elizabeth C. Coombe, Acting Attorney for the United States, and Thomas F. Relford, Special Agent in Charge of the Albany Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

As part of his earlier guilty plea, Sui admitted that between about Jan. 1, 2015 and Dec. 21, 2017, he stole multiple electronic files that contained the General Electric Company's trade secrets surrounding the research, development, design and manufacture of its silicon carbide metal-oxide semiconductor field-effect transistors.

MOSFETs are small electronic semiconductors/switches that regulate the flow of electricity through devices; they are used in a variety of products.

Sui further admitted that in about 2017, he was developing a business plan to start his own company whose purpose was to manufacture and sell MOSFETs.

There was no evidence that Sui transferred the MOSFET trade secrets to anyone else.

This case was investigated by the FBI, and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rick Belliss and Trial Attorney Matthew Chang of the Department of Justice's Counterintelligence and Export Control Section, part of the National Security Division.

**From page 1 ...
What can we afford?**

Though Planning Board members had a 45-day window to respond back, the Town Board shared a schedule of events that included tonight's public hearing and a board vote two weeks from today.

The proposed amendment, if passed into law, would reopen the town's review process for a specific affordable housing development in Selkirk. Though the moratorium doesn't stop the Planning Board from reviewing proposals, it does prevent developers from obtaining coveted approval to proceed with building.

NRP Group's site plan and subdivision application was under the Planning Board's review when the Town passed the moratorium last December, halting the developer's plans for a full year. Without the prospect of its plan earning approval, the developer stands to lose tax credit financing that can't be extended beyond December.

NRP Group plans to

build 72 affordable housing units at 939 Route 9W, south of Jericho Drive-In and across the street from Elmwood Cemetery in Selkirk. The project is to provide housing for households earning incomes in the range of \$20,000 to \$56,000. Rents will range from \$500 to \$1,400 per month for apartments that vary between one and three bedrooms.

The need for affordable housing was identified in a report the town commissioned in 2019. In the report, the Capital District Regional Planning Commission stated how the average county resident would find it difficult to purchase or rent property in Bethlehem.

The town has also been identified as a housing opportunity area by New York State Office of Homes and Community Renewal due to its high-performing school districts and as an area experiencing economic growth, which attracted the project to

locate in the town. Of the applications held up by the town's moratorium, only NRP Group's addresses affordable housing.

According to Leslie, it is the first proposal for affordable housing in town since the comprehensive plan was adopted more than 20 years ago.

"The issue of affordable housing is a crisis in America, and it is an urgent issue," said board member Gianna Aiezza. "There is a true lack of affordable throughout the country, and especially — as we know it — in our town.

"We've seen developments in our town geared towards smaller houses, and we've seen that doesn't drive affordability," Aiezza continued.

"Building smaller homes in Bethlehem does not make them affordable. The market drives it. We've built multi-family houses, condos and townhouses, and they are more expensive than our single family houses. The market drives the price."

According to Realtor.com, the median list price of homes in Bethlehem was approximately \$336,000 in April, and the price is going up. The real estate website states year-over-year trends have asking prices going up 11.4 percent.

The price for an average home in Bethlehem is high compared to neighboring communities. Asking prices for the average home in Guilderland, Colonie, and Coeymans are \$294,000, \$260,000 and \$150,000. For all of Albany County, a single-family home is on the market for \$249,000.

"There's no question that I, and many others, support [affordable housing in Bethlehem]. But, to grant a waiver on the one-year moratorium that was supported by the Town Board, would feel like a betrayal to those who have been engaged in this [comprehensive plan update] for the last two years," said resident Agnes Zellin. She added, "[this] undermines the good faith effort of those community members who support smart and sustainable development."

With the developer under threat of losing tax credits and jeopardizing the plan altogether, the town is considering the exception. "Given the time-sensitive nature of the awarded affordable

housing tax credits and the need to address affordable housing in the town, staff recommends an amendment to the moratorium," Leslie previously wrote to the Town Board.

The proposed development would reside within the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk School District, one of three public school districts that serve the town. Of the three high schools within those districts, according to a recent U.S. News and World Report ranking, RCS ranks considerably lower.

In the magazine's scoring system — which includes college preparedness, math and reading performance, and graduation rates — RCS scored 27.34 out of a possible 100. Bethlehem Central and Guilderland scored 94.95 and 80.8, respectively.

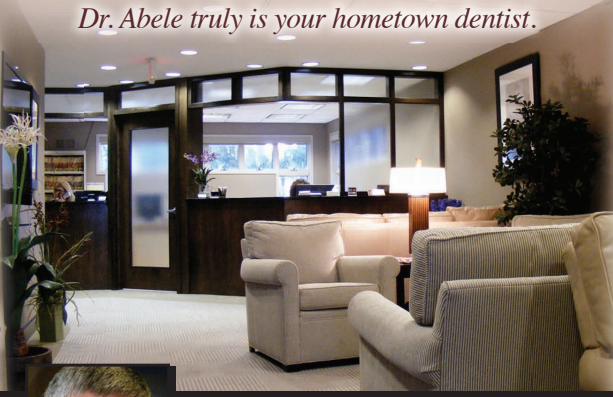

"I think that's an interesting point," said Brian Gyory, Chairman of the Planning Board. "While this project may not be in the Bethlehem Central School District, it is in one of the three school districts that are in town. I think that's just as important as if it was in Bethlehem or Guilderland, so I don't think we can just necessarily say that, just because it's not in Bethlehem [Central School District] it doesn't matter."

Under current zoning laws, the plot of land designated for the project permits multiple housing. Whether that will change with the upcoming comprehensive plan update is impossible to say. Leslie said, "I don't have a crystal ball." Planning Board members emphasized an amendment would not preclude them from conducting a thorough review — issues on transportation, sustainability and design will all be addressed in the site plan review process, said one board member.

"All of those things will be looked at," Aiezza said. "We will take comments on [it]. We will take them into consideration. All of those things will be evaluated."

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COMMUNITY

Local vet hits the big screen

Yankees honor Bethlehem barber for his service

By JOHN MCINTYRE
mcintyrej@spotlightnews.com

DELMAR – Most kids growing up in Albany have a dream of being announced at Yankee Stadium and appearing on the scoreboard in center field.

It took Joe Bruno 73 years, but his wish came true Tuesday, May 4, during the Yankees win over the Houston Astros.

“I have always been a Yankee fan,” Bruno said softly from his barber’s chair in his shop on Delaware Avenue in Delmar. “I used to like the (Brooklyn) Dodgers early on, but they left,” he said with a smile.

Bruno’s path to the scoreboard was not the way most people make it. His path travelled through South Vietnam in 1969 and included a Purple Heart for taking shrapnel from a mortar round in the neck on his journey.

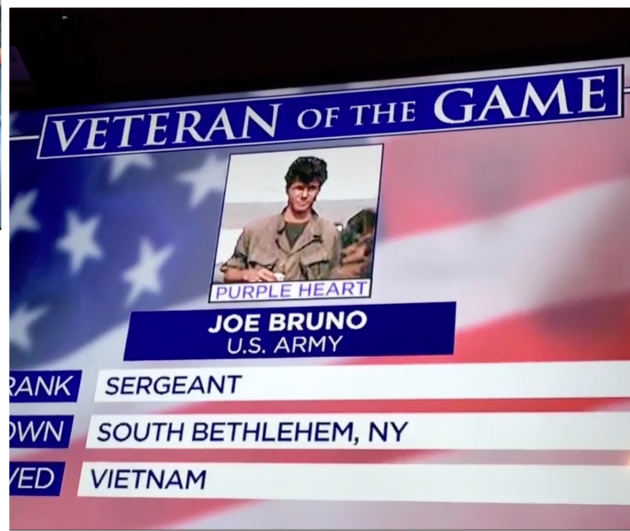
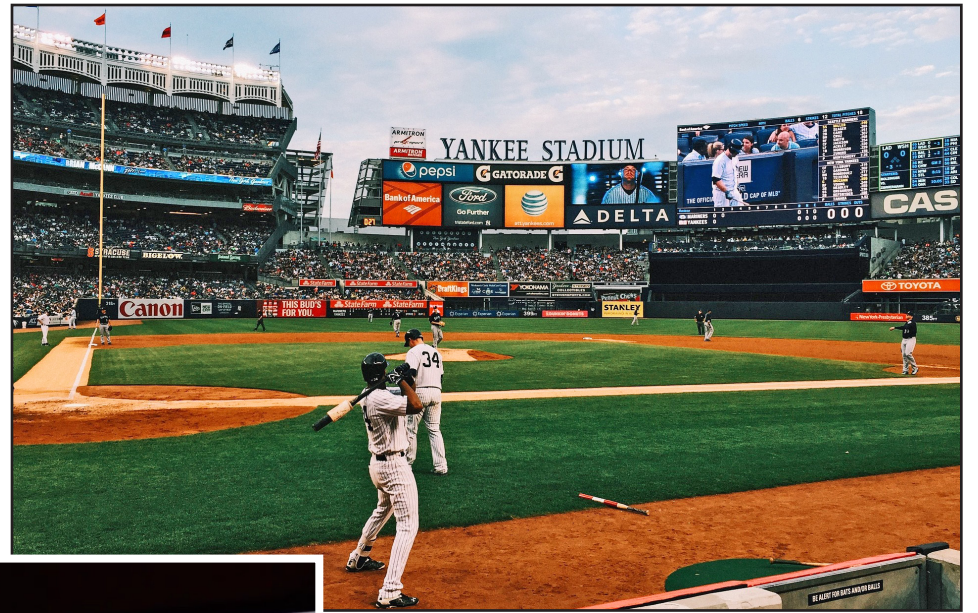
The Yankees have a special moment during each home game where the team



honors a military veteran for their service during the seventh-inning stretch. His VFW Post 3185 nominated him to be honored and his moment came true last week. He is a past commander of the post, but most people in town know him as “Joe the Barber.”

When you walk into his shop and look on the walls, there is no doubt where his allegiance lies.

“I am thrilled to have



Joe Bruno never misses a Yankee game. You can catch the Bronx Bombers playing a day game at the stadium on the television in his Delmar barber shop on Delaware Avenue.

John McIntyre / Spotlight News

this honor and I didn’t expect it,” Bruno said. “I watch every game on TV — and I mean every game.”

Bruno grew up in Albany and was drafted into the Army in 1968. He was deployed to Vietnam in January of 1968 and arrived just after the Tet Offensive.

“It was a mess when I got there,” he said. “We came in to relieve the Marines after (Tet) and they really took a beating.”

He was stationed at a Duc Pho base camp 50 miles south of Da Nang. He was injured in August 1969 and spent five weeks in the hospital before

returning to duty. He earned his sergeant stripe while in Vietnam.

Upon returning home he worked as a barber in various shops in the area, but hung his own barber pole at 337 Delaware Ave., on July 1, 2000.

“I cut so many [veterans’] hair every week,” Bruno said. “This was an honor for all of us. It is great that the Yankees do this every game.”

Bruno celebrated the night with many of his friends and relatives at the Blanchard-Curry American Legion Post in Delmar.

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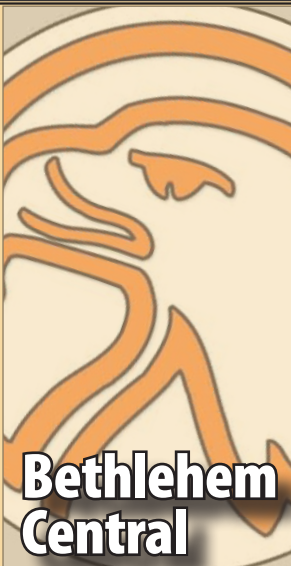
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SCHOOL BUDGET BREAKDOWN



Bethlehem Central

2021-22 Prop. Budget: \$102.037M ▼ 1.40 percent

Estimate Tax Levy Increase: ▼ 0.75 percent

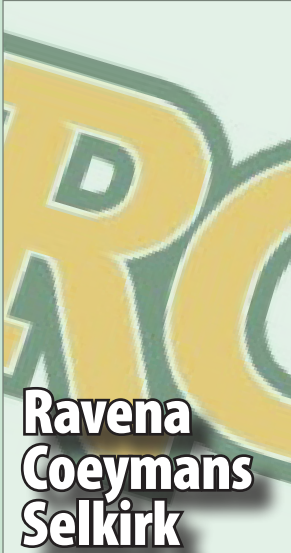
Equalization Tax Rates:

Bethlehem: \$21.53 per \$1K

New Scotland: \$22.00 per \$1K

(3) Propositions:

- \$1.475M Bus Purchase plan to replace at least five of nine buses with electric buses.
- \$200K Electric Bus Infrastructure to purchase electric bus charging stations.
- \$210K GPS equipment for bus fleet.



Ravena Coeymans Selkirk

2021-22 Prop. Budget: \$48.6M ▼ 0.08 percent

Estimated Tax Levy Increase: 0.00 percent

Equalization Tax Rates:

Bethlehem: \$19.44 per \$1K

Coeymans: \$18.47 per \$1K

New Scotland: \$20.29 per \$1K

New Baltimore: \$26.76 per \$1K

(2) Propositions:

- \$458K Bus Purchase plan to purchase four buses.
- Increase max. amount of Capital Reserve Fund from \$5M to \$8M, fund reserve by \$500K transfer from General Fund to Capital Reserve.



Voorheesville Central

2021-22 Prop. Budget: \$26.95M ▲ 3.78 percent


Estimated Tax Levy Increase: ▲ 2.7 percent

Equalization Tax Rate:

An equalization rate was not provided, but an overall increase to the rate was estimated at 1.07 percent was by the district in a presented video.

(2) Propositions:

- \$261K Bus Purchase plan to purchase three new school buses.
- Voter approval to shift \$500K between Capital Fund accounts to fund 2018 Capital Project.



Guilderland Central

2021-22 Prop. Budget: \$104.980M ▲ 1.89 percent

Estimate Tax Levy Increase: ▲ 1.28 percent

Equalization Tax Rate: \$17.32 per \$1K

(1) Proposition:

- \$1.03M Bus, Vehicle and Equipment Proposition.

More Information:

District residents will decide between four candidates to fill three positions on the school board.

■ EDUCATION

Two vie for seat on BCSD board

Katherine Nadeau

Editor's Note: Delmar resident Katherine Nadeau is attempting her first term as a trustee on the Bethlehem Central School District's school board.

She is deputy director of Catskill Mountainkeeper, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that advocates for the Catskills and statewide environmental policies.

She is a nine-year resident of Delmar, where she lives with her husband and children.

Why are you running for a seat on the School Board?

A school district is a community's centerpiece; it's a reflection of our community's values and our commitment to the next generation. I am committed to: providing a strong academic experience for Bethlehem's students; ensuring they have great facilities; equity and justice throughout our district; and creating an environment that fosters compassionate and exemplary teaching, administrative, and support staff. As our community navigates the challenges of the Covid-19 crisis together, I will prioritize student wellness by working collaboratively with parents, the administration, and our teachers to address our district's challenges head-on with an eye toward building our post-Covid-19 future.

What type of experience or skill set will help you fulfill your role on the school board?

I manage campaigns and projects from inception to completion, including staff, budgets, and external communications. I'm driven by a vision for equity, justice, strong communities, clean air and water, and healthy food—all of which are critically important for a thriving school district. I am a collaborator, accustomed to working with individuals, organizations, and constituencies from different backgrounds and viewpoints to address big challenges. I'm an advocate and an organizer, ready and willing to dig in and work a problem until there's a solution, and then iterate until we have a solution that really works.

What do you think are some challenges the school district has been facing?

The challenges posed by Covid-19 are innumerable—establishing remote



Katherine Nadeau

learning and in-person classes, working to ensure our most vulnerable students and families are getting the services and support they need, and navigating everchanging public health guidance is a superhuman job, and one that our families, teachers, school board, and administration have tackled head-on. On top of the day-to-day work of teaching and operating schools in a pandemic, our school board and community must face the challenges of maintaining and upgrading facilities, working for racial equity and justice, and managing a budget despite heightened fiscal uncertainty.

How do you plan to address these challenges?

As a school board member, I'll actively engage in, and seek out, conversations with families, teachers, support staff, and administrators to address the myriad challenges our school district faces. I'll advocate fiercely for policies that support our students and our community, and work to ensure the values of exemplary academics for students of all backgrounds and abilities, top-notch facilities, and racial justice are at the core of the board's decisions.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Being a school board member is an exciting opportunity and a big responsibility, and I hope you will support me. Please vote to elect Katherine Nadeau and vote yes for the budget on May 18.

Willow Baer

Editor's Note: Willow Baer is the lone incumbent in a two-way race for an open chair on the Bethlehem Central School District's school board.

The attorney is a five-year resident of Delmar. She seeks her second, three-year term on the board in this election.

Why are you running for a seat on the School Board?

Wrapping up my first three-year term on the Board of Education, I remain passionate about public education and about its role in the community at large. I have had amazing opportunities over the last three years to effect policy change and to help ensure that Bethlehem continues to excel. The district faces many new and sustained challenges following the COVID-19 pandemic and I believe my leadership and expertise will continue to add value.

What type of experience or skill set will help you fulfill your role on the school board?

As an attorney with 15 years of public service, I have experience in policy development and implementation, advocacy for vulnerable populations, risk mitigation, budget preparation, administrative management, and regulatory compliance. My skills include communication and facilitating consensus, and I am experienced at having to represent the best interests of many types of constituents at one time.

What do you think are some challenges the school district has been facing?

The last fourteen months of life within a pandemic has created unimaginable challenges for our district. Our "return to normal" in the next school year will present a wide breadth of obstacles, including the transition of students back from a virtual learning environment, increased health and safety protocols, enhanced need for academic support, and the need to support our students and our staff in their physical and mental health.

How do you plan to address these challenges?

Hard work will continue throughout the summer to address the ongoing transition back to school-based learning, including how to maintain student and staff safety while creating additional opportunities to return to more

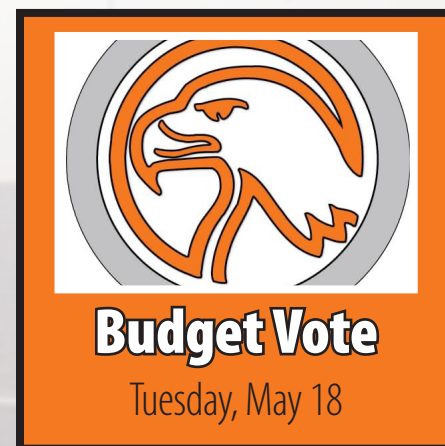


Willow Baer

traditional school events and activities, and how to address the disruption to so many students' academic paths. Not only have I served on the Board and on the District's COVID-19 committee over the last year, but I also served on the State Education Department's school reopening task force and drafted hundreds of pandemic guidance documents for NYS. This District set the standard for school reopening in the fall and I am confident that the 2021-22 school year will be no different.

Anything else you'd like to add?

It has been a true honor to serve my community on the Board of Education for the last three years and I am excited to return for a second term. I hope the community will show its full support of the District and Library budgets, and associated proposals, on May 18th at the High School. I am grateful for your support!



Katherine Nadeau and Willow Baer were each presented the same candidate questionnaire, similar to those provided to their peers in previous elections for the Bethlehem Central School District's school board. Each candidate was asked to limit their answers to within a specific word count, affording both the same amount of space in this week's edition of *The Spotlight*.

— Michael Hallisey,
Managing Editor of *Spotlight Newspapers*

OBITUARIES

Frank DeSorbo

DELMAR- Frank A. "Jig" DeSorbo, passed away suddenly and peacefully on Thursday, May 6, 2021 in his home. Born in Albany on October 9, 1947. He was the son of Joseph and Rose (Garufi) DeSorbo. Frank graduated from Vincentian High School and received his Master Degree in Business Administration from SUNY Albany.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Dawn (Jones) DeSorbo, children Michael (Sharon Fischer) and Stephanie (Michael Paonessa), grandchildren Michael DeSorbo, Michaela, Alex, Nicholas, and Ryan Paonessa, siblings Joseph, John, Rose, and Mary Catherine DeSorbo.

He worked for the Albany City School District and later, became Assistant Superintendent for business at Catskill Central School District for many years. Although Frank was not a military veteran himself he was very supportive of all U.S. military personnel past and present. Frank founded and was President

of the D-Day Revisited Organization and was the past-President of the Capital District Patriot Flight Inc. Frank was also a long time member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials and Capital District Baseball Umpires Association. He wrote monthly articles for the Senior Spotlight magazine.

Frank greatly enjoyed all sports, watching horse races, card games with friends and family, boating and fishing with his grandchildren, and handing out Christmas IOUs. He enjoyed over 20 years of traveling to Aruba with his Wife and Family. His sense of humor will be greatly missed.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with his family on Thursday, May 13, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Daniel Keenan Funeral Home, 490 Delaware Ave. Albany.

Masks, social distancing and occupancy limitations will be followed

Funeral Services will be private.

In lieu of flowers please

make donations to Melodies Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders at Albany Medical Center in honor of Ryan Paonessa.

Jeannette Hall

SHERIDAN, Wyo. - Jeannette B. Hall passed away at Green House Living in Sheridan, WY on April 28, 2021.



Hall

She was the beloved daughter of Mary and Elwood Brown, born in Harrisburg, PA on January 7, 1938. She was a graduate of John Harris High School in Harrisburg and American University where she was a member of Delta Gamma and Cap and Gown.

She was employed in the office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads in Albany, NY. In Albany, she also worked in the offices of Dr. Bedrosian, Dropkin, and

Costello for 22 years.

In Albany she was a member of Albany Panhellenic Association, the Albany Medical College Faculty Wives Club, the Junior League of Albany, the Delmar Progress Club, and the Delmar United Methodist Church.

After her move to Sheridan, WY, she was active at the Sheridan Senior Center and the Sheridan United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her children Dr. Andrew (Jeannie) Hall and Pamela (John) Standish, both of Sheridan WY, grandchildren Emma Hall, Amanda Hall, Andrea (Matt) Knabke, John "Jay" Standish, Elizabeth "Libby" Standish and David Standish, and great-grandchild Fisher Knabke. The funeral service for Jeannette will be private with burial in the family plot in Rolling Green Cemetery in Harrisburg, PA. Memorial donations can be made to Sheridan Senior Center, 211 Smith Street, Sheridan, WY 82801 or First United Methodist Church, 215 West Works Street, Sheridan, WY 82801.

Online condolences may be written at www.kanefuneral.com

Kane Funeral Home has been entrusted with local arrangements.

Kathryn Wright

WESTERLO - Kathryn Elizabeth Wright, 85, of New Salem and Estero, FL, died Monday, May 3, 2021 at home with her family.



Wright

Born in Albany on September 26, 1935, she was the daughter of the late Phillip R. and Phyllis E. (Gore) Wood, Sr. Kay had traveled extensively during her lifetime. She had been a life member of the New Salem Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary and a founding and life member of Bussin' Buddies FMCA Chapter. She and her husband were lap sponsors at the Indy 500. She was former president of Bonita Springs Ladies Elks and librarian at Corkscrew Woodlands, Estero, FL. She was a wonderful

mother, grandmother, great grandmother and aunt.

In addition to her parents, Kay was predeceased by her husband, Donald W. Wright; daughter, Kathryn Wright-Ortiz; brothers, Phillip R. Wood, Jr. and Wayne P. Wood; and nephew, Christopher Wood.

She is survived by her children, Donna Greenwood (Mike), Laura Wright-Smith (Charles), Cindi Madej (David), sisters-in-law, Yvonne and Mary Ann Wood; granddaughter, Maria Daniels-Madison (Mike); step grandchildren, Zach Smith, Damon Ortiz and Alyssa Greenwood-Leroux; and great granddaughters, Kylie and Kamryn Daniels. She was also the aunt of Robert and Gerald Wright, Diane Pemberton, Brian, Mark, Autumn, Daniel and Devon Wood.

A celebration of Kay's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Community Hospice, 47 Liberty St., Catskill, NY 12414.


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■ SCHOLASTIC SPORTS

Eagles streak over 'toga

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

DELMAR — The Bethlehem boys scored four fourth quarter goals to beat Saratoga 11-8 in the lacrosse season opener.

Saratoga led 3-2 after one, but The Eagles came back with five goals in the second to take a 7-6 lead into the half. Saratoga came back with two goals in the third to lead by one heading into the fourth when Bethlehem poured it on and scored four unanswered.

Tyler Ricards had four goals and an assist to lead the Eagles while Ben Cardinal had two goals and an assist. Jack Carrol, Nat Hussar, Jack Lucey, Dane Jones and Greg Sanchez each had a goal for Bethlehem.

Huck Patton had three goals and two assists and Thomas Bobear had two goals for Saratoga.

In goal for Bethlehem Tyler Novak had 15 saves while his two counterparts, Owen Leary



and Ian Whitcomb, had six and three saves, respectively.

Bethlehem will host Burnt Hills Ballston Lake on Thursday and was supposed to host Shaker on Saturday but that game is postponed.

Will host CBA on Wednesday, May 12, host Averill Park on Thursday, May 13 and travel to Columbia on Saturday, May 15.



Bethlehem Central's lacros team put the game away with four goals in the final quarter to beat Saratoga 11-8.

Jim Franco / Spotlight Newspapers



A puncher's chance

BALLSTON SPA — The Guilderland softball team scored nine runs against the home team Scotties on Friday, May 7, but still came up well short, losing the Suburban Council matchup 22-9. The game lasted six innings before it was called because of the mercy rule. Guilderland (1-1, 1-1) fell behind 8-3 after three innings but came within two after back to back home runs by Kendall Rafferty and Irene Dill. Rafferty went 2 for 3 for Guilderland while Livia Wiltsie went 5 for 5, Ana Pilkey went 3 for 5 and Ana Gold went 2 for 3 with a home run for Ballston Spa.

Guilderland will play at Niskayuna this afternoon and host Albany on Wednesday, May 12.

Jim Franco / Spotlight Newspapers

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THURSDAY MAY 20TH 4PM-6PM

1/2 Chicken, Potato, Roll, Cole Slaw, Cookies & Beverage

\$15 • DRIVE THROUGH PICKUP ONLY

RSVP: Eventbrite.com

Giffy's Chicken BBQ

CDC guidelines will be in effect.

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LET'S TALK TODAY.



Jane Bonavita, Agent
210 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, NY 12054
Bus: 518-439-6222
jane.bonavita.btyd@statefarm.com



Elaine VanDeCarr, Agent
848 Kenwood Avenue
Slingerlands, NY 12159
Bus: 518-439-1292
elaine.vandecarr.cklr@statefarm.com



Erik LaChance, Agent
5 Elm Avenue, #1
Delmar, NY 12054
Bus: 518-621-1044
erik@lachanceagency.com

BUSINESS

State to Lafarge: No tire-derived fuel

State DEC pulls cement plant's right to burn tire-derived fuel

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

ALBANY — The state Department of Environmental Conservation removed Lafarge Holcim's authorization to burn tire-derived fuel at its Ravena cement plant. DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos announced the decision on Wednesday, May 5, adding that the state came to the decision because the facility lacks the ability to do so.

"The Lafarge facility currently lacks the infrastructure to burn TDF, and has not, nor has it ever, completed the steps necessary to burn tires pursuant to this permit," Seggos shared through an emailed statement last Wednesday.

The Switzerland-based company was targeted in two separate pieces of local legislation in recent years. Albany County passed a Clean Air bill last September. The verbiage closely resembled that of



Lafarge Holcim officials had previously held its state permit over the Coeymans Town Board when it attempted to prevent the plant from burning tire-derived fuel.

another law previously passed by the Town of Coeymans.

While local lawmakers

pushed for stronger legislation over surrounding air quality, Lafarge Holcim argued that not only was

TDF clean and safe, it was a permitted use authorized by the state under its Title V air permit.

After a dynamic change in town leadership, Coeymans modified its law last November to shift responsibility of policing air quality regulations back to the state and federal government. Lafarge Holcim had previously warned it would sue the town for preventing it from using TDF to power its \$500 million kiln.

"This illegal law will be overturned," Lafarge wrote to Coeymans. "We intend to vigorously defend our permits and our rights by any legal means necessary. Guide yourselves accordingly."

The merit of that threat became more evident when the company successfully fought to overturn a similar law in Baltimore, Maryland earlier last year. However, last week's move by the DEC modifies Lafarge Holcim's Title V air permit, removing authorization to burn TDF.

Albany County pursued its own legislation following a shift of political power in Coeymans led

by Republican George D. McHugh McHugh and his Coeymans Comeback Team. Then-Supervisor Philip Crandall, a Democrat, feared such a switch would lead to a repeal of the town law.

The town board swung Republican after McHugh and his two running mates, Zachary Collins and Brandon LeFevre, earned seats in last November's election. The shift to Republican leadership was reflected on the county level, too, when former Coeymans Town Board member George Langdon beat Democrat incumbent Richard Touchette.

"[The] DEC uses every tool at our disposal to ensure all of New York's communities are protected," Seggos said. "That is our goal and what drives everything we do and why we rigorously review every permit application and require compliance with stringent standards using the latest and best available science to ensure public health and the environment are protected."

Two weeks ago, it was announced that Lafarge Holcim negotiated a \$850,000 settlement

agreement with federal and state officials surrounding alleged water quality violations that allowed leachate to reportedly flow into surrounding waterways.

The agreement, which was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York, requires Holcim to implement measures to prevent future violations and pay a \$850,000 civil penalty, half of which will go to New York state. A portion of this payment will be used to fund a project designed to reduce the flow of pollution into the Hudson River.

Per the nature of the settlement the Switzerland-based cement company is absolved from guilt or liability from the allegations against it. The consent decree, however, is subject to a 30-day public comment period and must be finalized by court approval.

To view a copy of the consent decree and for information on how to submit a comment, visit www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html.

BCHS junior earns Adobe professional certifications

ALBANY — Nikolas Freihofer may only be a junior at Bethlehem High School, but he has already created a nice resume thanks to his studies in the Capital Region BOCES Career and Technical School Digital Media Design program.

Freihofer recently earned the Adobe Certified Professional certification, having completed both the Adobe Graphic Design & Illustration using Adobe Illustrator and the Visual Design using Adobe Photoshop certifications.

"The professional designation underscores that these are professional certifications and that those who earn them have shown they understand the programs at a professional level," said teacher Barb Gorbaty.

Freihofer is the first to earn the Adobe Certified Professional Designation, which previously known as Adobe Certified Specialist.

"It's pretty cool to have a professional designation while still in high school," Freihofer said.

Earning an Adobe certification signifies a level of expertise and professionalism that employers seek.

"Adobe certification signifies an expertise that colleges often award credits for and is used on resumes to get jobs," Gorbaty said. To earn the Adobe certification a person must demonstrate professional-level skills and expertise

She added that "this year is certainly a challenge because we upgraded our edition of Adobe. Nick is the first person to take the exam and pass it."

Students in the two-year Digital Media Design program learn professional skills in industry standard software while

developing a working knowledge of design theory and practice. They also engage in the same project planning and execution processes that are consistent with industry practice and demonstrated their technical abilities through the Adobe Certified Expert program.

Adobe certifications are some of the dozens of certifications Capital Region BOCES students can earn in their various programs. The certifications give them an advantage in the workforce and allow them to advance up the career stepladder quicker than peers who do not attend BOCES.

Fuierer named to Rochester Business Journal and The Daily Record Power Lists

ALBANY — Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti announced partner Alana M. Fuierer was named to the



Alana M. Fuierer

Rochester Business Journal and The Daily Record "Power Lists for Law."

Fuierer was selected by the editorial staff of the RBJ and The Daily Record as one of Rochester's power players in the legal industry for the RBJ's Power 30 Law List for Rochester, New York and The Daily Record's Power 50 Law List for Western New York.

Fuierer, who launched the HRFM Rochester office more than 15 years ago and currently leads the office, was profiled by the RBJ and The Daily Record for her contributions to the legal needs of Rochester's companies and residents during this challenging year, while proficiently dealing with the disruptions the COVID-19 pandemic has caused.

Fuierer, an experienced litigator in all forms of intellectual property, counsels and represents clients in intellectual property transactions, including licensing, and advises companies on ways to leverage their intellectual property portfolios.

Fuierer's practice also includes online monitoring and enforcement of trademarks and copyrights, as well as Design Law.

Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti, P.C. has offices in both Rochester and Albany.

LEGALS

trict Policy 2120.2. AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to a policy adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Sections 2035 and 2008 of the Education Law, any referendum or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said vote and election, must be filed with the Board of Education at the Bethlehem Central School on or before April 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., prevailing time; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be directed to the Clerk of the School District; must be signed by at least One Hundred Twenty Five (125) of the qualified voters of the District; and must state the name and residence of each signer, except for any referendum or propositions pursuant to Section 1804 of the Education Law, which must be signed by at least Six Hundred Fifty Four (654) of the qualified voters of the District. However, the School Board will not entertain or place before the voters any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of moneys which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition or any proposition which must be included in this notice of the annual meeting and was not received at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting.
Date: April 1, 2021
Brittany L. Barrett
Delmar, New York
District Clerk, Bethlehem Central School District
D-264604

**Voorheesville Central School District
Notice of public hearing, budget vote, and election**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a public hearing of the qualified voters of Voorheesville Central School District, County of Albany, State of New York will be held on May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., prevailing time, accessible virtually by the public via WebEx, subject to change dependent on Department of Health guidelines for the presentation of a budget for the school year 2021-2022. The budget will be available for review from May 4 to May 17, 2021 at the District Office.
AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the Annual District Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 in the Voorheesville Middle School Foyer. The polls will open at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time and voting will proceed until 9:00 p.m. by machine voting on the following:
To elect two (2) members of the Board of Education for a four (4) year term, commencing July 1, 2021 and terminating June 30, 2025, to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the terms of C. James Coffin, and Robert J. Samson.
To vote on the Annual School Budget of the Voorheesville Central School District for the fiscal year 2021-2022 and to authorize the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimate of expenditures, and to authorize the levy of taxes on the taxable property of the District for this purpose.
To vote on the following propositions to be submitted:
PROPOSITION #1:
PURCHASE OF BUSES: Shall the Board of Education of the Voorheesville Central School District be authorized to (1) acquire school buses, including incidental expenses, at a maximum estimated cost of \$261,000, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefor, to be levied and collected in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid received, and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, to issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$261,000, and to levy a tax to pay the interest on such obligations when due.
PROPOSITION #2:
CAPITAL PROJECT RESERVE: Shall the Board of Education of the Voorheesville Central School District be authorized to increase the ultimate amount of the District's 2012 Building Project Reserve Fund, which was approved by the voters on May 15, 2012, by \$500,000, thereby raising the ultimate amount of that Fund to \$2,500,000, and to additionally fund the 2012 Building Project Reserve Fund by transferring an amount not to exceed \$500,000 from the District's 2017 Building Project Reserve Fund, which was approved by the voters on May 16, 2017, to the 2012 Building Project Reserve Fund?
AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the District's proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any taxpayer in the district during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays, at the following schoolhouses in which school is maintained during the hours designated:
Schoolhouses / Hours
Voorheesville Elementary School
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Voorheesville Middle School
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Clayton A. Bouton High School
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
A report of tax exemptions, showing how much of the total assessed value on the final

LEGALS

assessment roll or rolls used in that budgetary process is exempt from taxation, shall be annexed to the budget document.
The election and budget vote shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open shall be from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 p.m. to cast their ballots.
AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the Clerk of the District not later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on April 19, 2021. Each petition must be directed to the Clerk of the District, must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the district and include each signer's address, must state the name and residence of the candidate and must describe the specific vacancy for which the candidate is nominated including at least the length of the term of office and the name of the last incumbent. A copy of such petition may be obtained at the Office of the Clerk of the District during regular school hours.
AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that a public hearing of the qualified voters of Voorheesville Central School District, County of Albany, State of New York, will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. virtually for the presentation of the Public Library budget for the year 2021-2022.
AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that, as part of and contemporaneous with the Annual District Meeting, a vote will be held for the Voorheesville Public Library on the following:
To elect one member of the Library Board of Trustees for a term of five years ending on June 30, 2026 to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Bryan Richmond.
AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots may be received by the District Clerk not earlier than the thirtieth (30th) day nor later than the seventh (7th) day before the election. Requests should be addressed to: Clerk, Board of Education Voorheesville Central School District P.O. Box 498 Voorheesville, NY 12186
If the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter, the District Clerk must receive the completed application the day before the election, May 17, 2021. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.
AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable during school

LEGALS

business hours from the District Clerk; completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election, May 11, 2021, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, May 17, 2021, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.
The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting by "permanently disabled" voters of the District and any questions regarding these rights should be directed to the Clerk of the Board. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the office of the District Clerk from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. prevailing time except weekends, up to the day set for the election, and on the day of the election, May 18, 2021. Any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.
The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for [military] voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for "military ballots" in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter's military ballot in accord with the military voter's preferred method of transmission, or if no preferred method is identified by mail, not later than 25 days before the vote. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter's military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the vote.
AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with §2035 and §2008 of the Education Law, any referendum or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said vote and election, must be filed with the Board of Education on or before April 19, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., prevailing time; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be directed to the District Clerk; must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) of the qualified voters of

LEGALS

the School District; and must state the name and residence of each signer. However, the School Board will not entertain or place before the voters any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters, or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of moneys which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition.
AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law §2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a redacted tax return or any identification containing the person's physical address. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.
Date: March 22, 2021
Jessica Tabakian
District Clerk
D-264727

LEGALS

5000 Ocean Front Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-267354

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
CASA FAMILIA, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with the SSNY on 03/25/21. Originally filed with Secretary of State of Delaware on 03/22/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Allegretti & Associates LLC, 305 Broadway, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10007. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-265690

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
CELMER ARCHITECTURE PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/19/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, P.O. Box 471930, Brooklyn, NY 11247. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Architecture.
D-265287

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
CF CONSULTING TWENTY EIGHT LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/30/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Daniels Norelli Cecere & Tavel, P.C., 272 Duffy Avenue, Hicksville, NY 11801. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-265364

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
CF CONSULTING TWENTY NINE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/30/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 395 South End Avenue, 3F, New York, NY 10280. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-265156

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
C 3 Vision LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/26/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Michael Kimmel, 166-02 17th Avenue, Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-265450

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
CARNEGIE HILL HOLDINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/28/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC,

LEGALS

shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 9 Taylor Lane, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-266313

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
CHIP BAYSIDE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/29/21. Latest date to dissolve: 04/28/2121. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1906 42nd Street, Astoria, NY 11105. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-267404

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
CHIP TRIBECA LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/29/21. Latest date to dissolve: 04/28/2121. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1906 42nd Street, Astoria, NY 11105. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-267405

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
CHIP UES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/29/21. Latest date to dissolve: 04/28/2121. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1906 42nd Street, Astoria, NY 11105. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-267406

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
CHIP UWS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/29/21. Latest date to dissolve: 04/28/2121. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1906 42nd Street, Astoria, NY 11105. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-267408

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
COMPOS MENTIS CONSULTING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/30/21. Latest date to dissolve: 12/31/2121. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 128 Marine Avenue, #6M, Brooklyn, NY 11209. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-267495

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
CYPHER HODL LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/03/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Samuel Eber P.C., 20

LEGALS

Pine Street, Suite 1005, New York, NY 10005. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-267610

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
DUANE PLACE, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/26/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 2910 Lafayette Avenue, Newport Beach, CA 92663. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-267043

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
EAST 62ND PORTFOLIO LLC. App. for Auth. filed with the SSNY on 03/30/21. Originally filed with Secretary of State of Delaware on 03/24/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Daniels Norelli Cecere & Tavel, P.C., 272 Duffy Avenue, Hicksville, NY 11801. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-265395

NOTICE OF PLLC FORMATION
ELI ROSENBLATT THERAPY LCSW PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/28/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, c/o Law Offices of Thomas C. York, P.C., 399 Union Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Licensed Clinical Social Work.
D-267382

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
EVANDER LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/10/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Kimberly and Jason Spacak, 285 Central Park West, Apartment 10E, New York, NY 10024. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-265938

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
EVIE REAL ESTATE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/06/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 389 Henry Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-267904

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
FARIS NYC, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/12/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the

LEGALS

CF CONSULTING TWENTY SEVEN LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/30/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Daniels Norelli Cecere & Tavel, P.C., 272 Duffy Avenue, Hicksville, NY 11801. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
D-265366

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
CFMA MADISON LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/13/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Samuel Eber P.C., 20



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REPORTERS: Jim Franco @francospotlight
EDITORS: Michael Hallisey@mh_Spotlight

May 12 - 18, 2021

Spotlight on Opinion

www.spotlightnews.com PAGE 14

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POINT OF VIEW



The Spotlight welcomes letters of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing and are limited to 500 words.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number. The Spotlight reserves the right to limit the number of letters published from a single author.

Submissions can be emailed to news@spotlightnews.com. The deadline for all letters is noon Friday prior to publication.

The Spotlight also welcomes longer opinion pieces for the Point of View section.

For information on submitting a Point of View, email news@spotlightnews.com or call (518) 439-4949.

Our full letter policy can be viewed online at www.spotlightnews.com.

BC committed to health, safety

The task of teaching local children has fallen upon both teachers and parents since the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic launched comprehensive mitigation protocols throughout the land. Those protocols have been based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control in Washington, D.C., followed by instructions from the state Department of Health. This week, Bethlehem Central Superintendent Jody Monroe shares a message with district residents on how the next school year should appear.

By **JODY MONROE**
news@spotlightnews.com

Our goal this year has been to have as many students K-12 receive in-person instruction as possible, as safely as possible. With few exceptions, we have been able to deliver in-person instruction almost all year to students who have chosen in-person learning. With Governor Cuomo's announcement that some COVID mitigation protocols for the general public are being relaxed and with optimism building

for a return to "normal," I wanted to provide you with the most up-to-date information about COVID health and safety protocols in our schools.

Our 2020-21 instructional plan will continue to include:

- Six-foot distancing in all classrooms K-12;
- Daily in-person instruction for all K-6 students;
- Students who are remote-only, at all grades, will still be able to continue in remote learning;

- Hybrid learning for students in grades 7-12 will remain in place (Skills students, Intensive Skills students and BEEP students attend daily).

Throughout the pandemic, our schools have been operating under the guidance of public health officials at the federal, state and local levels. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continues to advise that schools providing in-person instruction should prioritize two prevention strategies:

- Universal and correct use of masks should be required.
- Physical distancing should be maximized to the greatest extent possible.

The district will continue to prioritize these two prevention strategies until at least the end of the 2020-21 school year.

In March, the CDC issued updated guidance for schools allowing for three feet of distancing in classrooms rather than six feet in certain circumstances. The New York State Department of Health followed with updated guidance for K-12 schools. The New York State guidance is a detailed document that includes all COVID health and safety protocols for schools providing in-person instruction. In following this guidance, there is no opportunity to safely move to three-foot distancing at this time.

Doing so in an area where there is a "substantial" risk of community spread" (including here in the Capital Region) calls for cohorting of students, which is not possible in grades 7 through 12. In addition, the updated K-12 guidance still requires six-foot distancing between all adults (and adults and students), six-foot distancing in all common areas, and six-foot distancing when eating or drinking or at any other time a mask cannot be worn.

While we are anxious to have all of our students return to school every day, we monitor updated guidance along with all COVID data on a daily basis. We also monitor daily COVID cases in the district. We continue to see positive cases and have learned of six cases in just the last week, all at the high school level. While far from our high of 24 recorded cases last winter, it is still a significant number when looking at the district's weekly caseload.

Please be assured that our commitment to the health and safety of both students and staff remains our top priority. We will continue to keep families apprised of any formal changes that may be made to our instructional program. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at jmonroe@bethlehemschools.org.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Senator's numbers are wrong

Dear Editor,

The assertion by Senator Jim Tedisco ("Empire State fast becoming the Empty State") that New York State experienced population loss during the past 10 years is factually wrong: the US Census Bureau noted that the population of New York State has increased by 4.2 percent (823,000 residents) since 2010.

Calling New York State, which has 20 million residents, "the Empty State" is grotesque. How can the Spotlight publish letters that are spreading gross misinformation to its readers?

We are not talking about opinions here, but verified facts. You should have gently mentioned to Senator Tedisco that his numbers were wrong. This is a perfect example of a situation where facts are manipulated to justify a political position: Senator Tedisco needs the population of New York State to go down in order to prove his point that the state is not well run.

— Jean-Francois Briere
Delmar

Editor's note: The opinions of those expressed by our readers and those who submit statements for our Opinion Page are not necessarily shared by our editorial staff. Senator Jim Tedisco's party has continuously raised issue with New York state's taxes compared with neighboring states with lower populations and less financial burdens. Focusing on the headline of his statement draws away from the other points of his argument.

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LIBRARIES

Study, work, read and eat

As the weather warms, we've installed additional outdoor seating on library grounds for those interested in working or studying outside while taking advantage of our super-fast WiFi and a nice spring day. Many of our tables also have umbrellas to provide some protection from the elements.

Desks and study rooms inside the library are currently unavailable, but all are welcome to use our outdoor spaces, which are beautifully maintained by the Delmar Progress Club and our very own maintenance crew.

Looking for a change of scenery? Find a safe, socially distant spot on library grounds to picnic, study or just linger for a bit.

Evening and weekend hours expanded
Big news! We've



expanded our in-person hours. Our doors are now open until 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and we've added walk-in hours on Sunday.

The library building is now open for business:

10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday

10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday

12:30-5 p.m. Sunday

Curbside hours remain:

10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday

1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Expand your digital literacy

There is still time to sign up for the remaining digital

literacy classes hosted by the Upper Hudson Library System on GoToMeeting. These classes are available at no cost to library cardholders in the system, including Bethlehem. Now you can brush up on some of those skills that look great on a resume. Classes include Introduction to Microsoft Excel; Introduction to Windows 10; and Polling, Quizzing, Signups and more with Google Forms.

For details or to sign up, visit bit.ly/UHLSdigitalliteracy.

Friends book sale coming up

The Friends of Bethlehem Public Library's Pop-Up Book Sale is scheduled to take place on the library plaza Saturday, May 15, from 1-4 p.m. For sale are books gently used and discarded from the library collection, making

space for the continued addition of new materials. Pricing is cash-only by suggested donation. The book sale is weather-permitting, and a rain date of May 22 has been scheduled.

Budget and election news

Bethlehem Central School District residents will vote on the library budget and an open seat on the board of trustees Tuesday, May 18, from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. at Bethlehem Central High School.

Bethlehem Public Library has a proposed budget of \$4.45 million for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The levy portion of the budget comes in at about \$4.2 million, a zero percent increase over last year and within the state-mandated spending cap.

— Kristen Roberts

Financial workshop for women

Join Marisa Rothstein, JD, CFP®, AEP®, financial advisor

on Thursday, May 27, at noon for this unique zoom presentation. Women face unique financial challenges and goals. Join us as we explore some of these unique considerations and share strategies for potentially prioritizing your own goals and optimizing your resources to reduce stress and protect yourself and your family. Bring your questions. Please register.

Voorheesville Family Bicycling Challenge

May is National Bike Month, so get out on your bicycle! Post a picture of your ride to the Voorheesville Family Bicycling Day's Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter pages with the hashtag #voorheesvillebikes. Your first submission will win your family a prize bag at the Library, while supplies last. For every 100 posts, the VFBD will donate one bicycle to the Library's "Library of Things". The VFBD is sponsored by the Village of Voorheesville, the Voorheesville Community & School Foundation, and the Voorheesville Public Library.

May Book Discussion Dates

Books & Beyond – Wednesday, May 19, at 11a.m.: "Daisy Jones & The Six," by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Talk and Taste Cookbook Club – Thursday, May 27, at 6:30 p.m.: "Any Cookbook," by Vegan Author Nava Atlas.

Middle School Book Club (grades 6-8) – Wednesday, May 26, at 4 p.m.: "Roll With It," by Jamie Sumner.

Please register online each month to receive the private meeting link for any of these virtual book discussions. Limited copies of the book are available for \$5, compliments of the Friends of the Library. Library copies will also be available for checkout and downloadable ebook and audiobook versions are on Overdrive.

To register for virtual program

To register for a virtual program, please access our event calendar at www.voorpl.org, or call 518-765-2791. Curbside appointments are available. Please call Monday through Friday, 11a.m. to 4 p.m. (518) 765-2791 to schedule your curbside pickup.

— Lynn Kohler

GPL Construction Update

The library's building project is on budget, and more than halfway done. According to the latest estimate, construction may be completed by the end of August 2021, a full 11 months ahead of schedule. More details, including monthly progress reports, may be found at: <https://bit.ly/GPLbuildingproject>.

2021 Vote

Guilderland Public Library's annual budget and board candidate vote is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., at all Guilderland Central School District elementary schools.

GPL's 2021-22 Proposed Budget may be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/GPL2122ProposedBudget>. The total budget of \$4,097,100 reflects a slight increase of 1.48 percent in the tax levy and an additional budgeted amount of \$16,922. Six candidates are seeking to fill four vacancies on



the library's Board of Trustees. They will appear on the ballot in this order: Vanessa Threatte, Michael Hawrylchak, Antonio Rivera, Herb Hennings, Philip Metzger, Jr., Norina Melita.

Complete information is posted in the library's May newsletter, which may be obtained via email by subscribing to <https://bit.ly/GPLENews>; emailing pio@guilderlandlibrary.org; calling 518-456-2400, ext. 112; or clicking on "GPL News" at www.guilderlandlibrary.org the "May 2021" link. Printed copies of the newsletter are available in the Normanskill Room during curbside hours (enter via the side entrance).

Book Donations

We cannot accept book donations at this time. Discover Books, our

previous provider, removed the blue bins from our side parking. We will resume book donations as soon as we can secure another vendor. In the interim, the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library accept donated books Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on the loading dock at the Central Library. Better World Books bins collect donations at Bethlehem Public Library and Albany Public Library's Delaware and Pine Hills branches. Colonie Town Library accepts one box of donations on Thursdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. only. Please call these locations in advance to confirm.

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We're providing protective 4 x 6 plastic sleeves to protect your

vaccine card, by request. Please sign up on the Events tab of our website, indicating in the notes field whether you would like one or two sleeves, or call 518-456-2400, ext. 3, then pick up your card protector(s) during our curbside hours throughout May.

Tech and Résumé Help

Optimize your usage of an Apple Watch, iPhone, MacBook, or Apple TV; or get customized assistance with our website's Learning Express tool to craft your résumé.

Register for a one-on-one appointment Mondays at 6:30 p.m. or Thursdays at 10 a.m. throughout May on the Events tab of our website.

Curbside Kits

Our next Grab & Go Storytime Kit for preschoolers will be available for curbside pickup starting Mon. May 17.

— Luanne Nicholson

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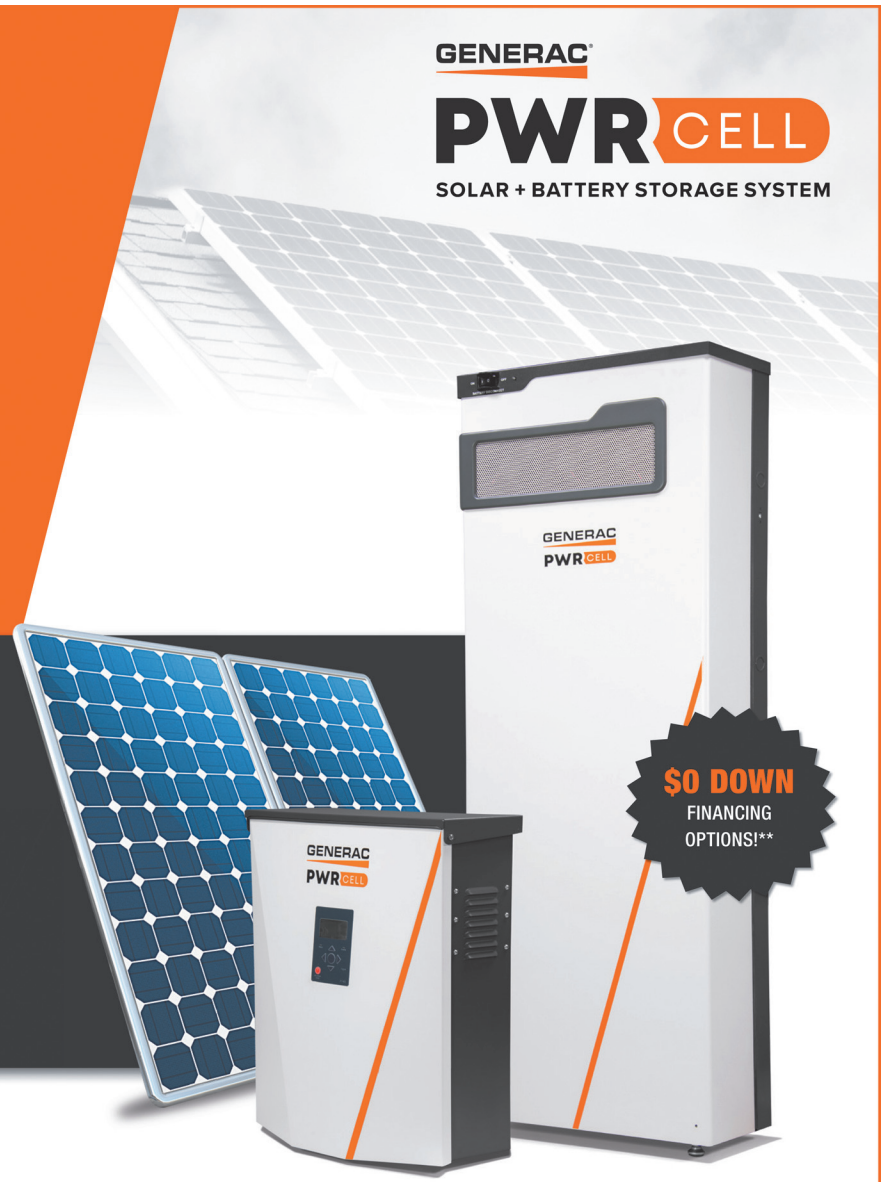
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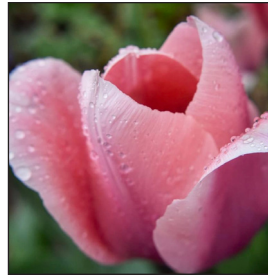
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Full of love and air

Troy balloon twister brings out the best in people.

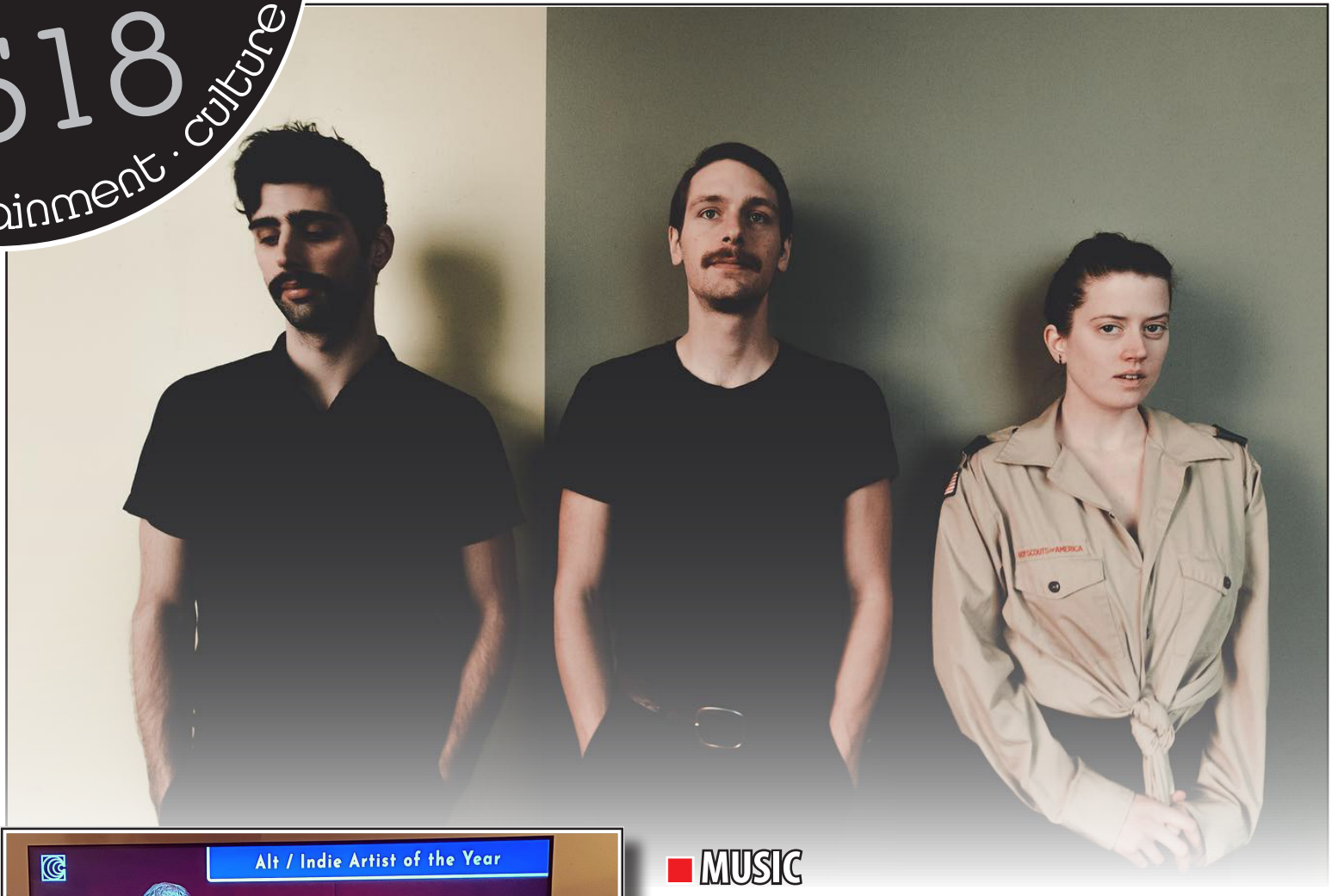
Page B4



Under the bridge

Project is underway to refresh Hoosick Street mural

Page B12



MUSIC



Candy Ambulance

Ambulance chashing

Candy Ambulance, Eddies' Alt / Indie Artist of the Year, drives the beat to a music scene screaming to reopen after COVID

Nippertown interview on page B6



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Celebrate DAD!

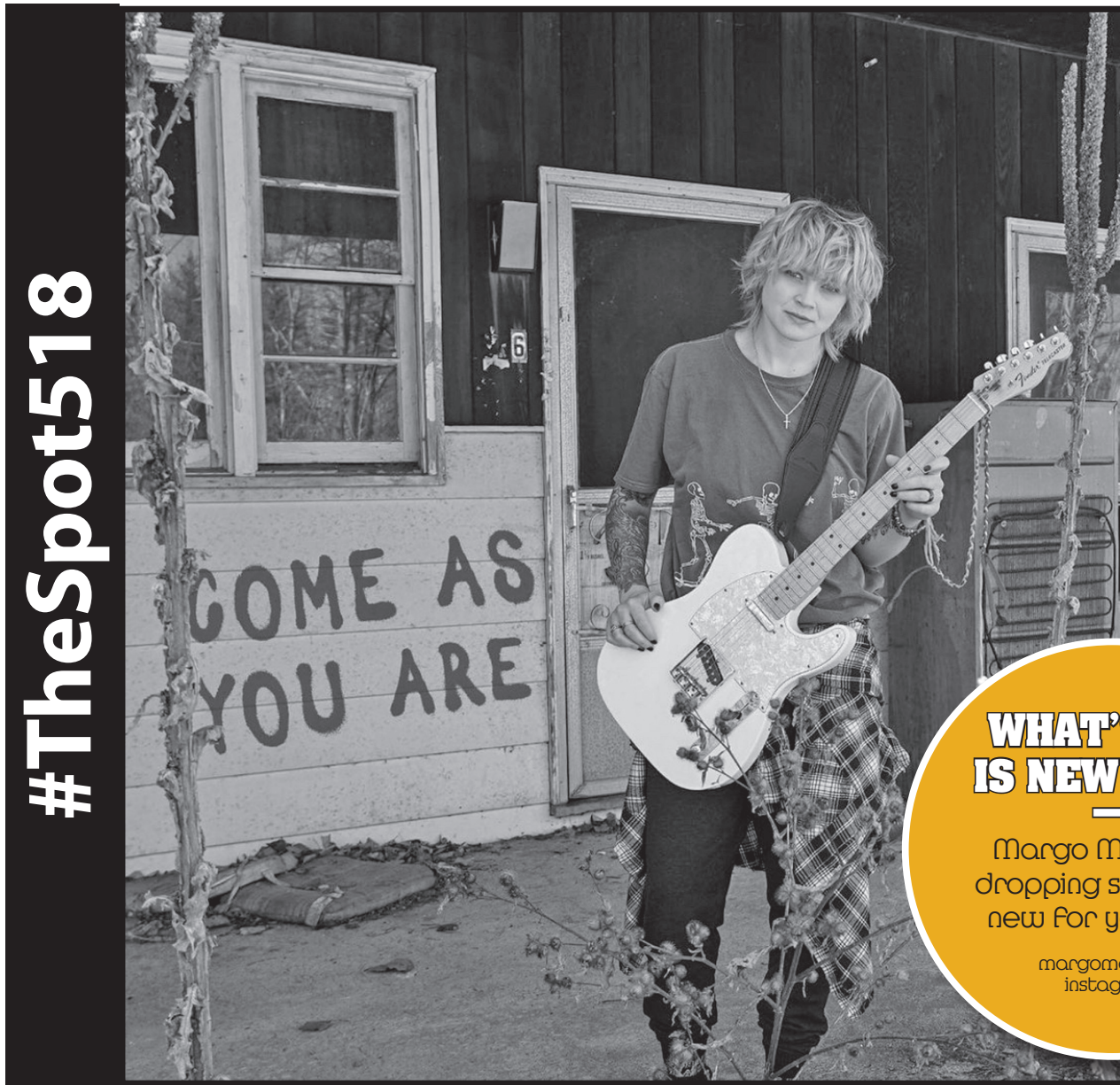
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June 9 & 16

AD DEADLINES: **June 2 & 9**

#TheSpot518



▶ quote of the week

"When people meet me, they're often asking me if I went to clown school,"

— Balloon Gal Jenny

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Margo Macero is dropping something new for your ears.




margomacero / instagram



contents

Recently Announced	B3
Arts	B4-B5
Sudoku Puzzle	B4
Interview	B6-9
Crossword Puzzle	B6
Service Directory	B10-B11
Theatre	B11
Community	B12
Food & Vino	B14
Classifieds	B13

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RECENTLY ANNOUNCED

Coming back with a bit of laughter

Adirondack Theatre Festival announces 2021 season

By **KAITLIN LEMBO**
lembok@spotlightnews.com

GLENS FALLS — After a slow 2020 season, Martha Banta is determined to bring Adirondack Theatre Festival back to its full glory.

The Glens Falls organization, which is also responsible for the Adirondack Film Festival each October, announced its 2021 season last Wednesday. Banta, the interim producing artistic director, is directing two of the shows — “Slow Food” and “Traffic and Weather.” Sandwiched between the two productions is “Minding Miss Mae Mae,” directed by Tyrone Henderson, and “Cinderella Goes Disco,” directed by Marty McGuire.

“I think what we’re looking forward to is having people physically there, watching us again,” Banta said. “Theatre is social as much as performative. We thrive on responses from the audience.”

The shows scheduled for this summer are only able to fill up to 33-percent capacity, which would bring in around 90 guests. Banta and the team looked into bringing productions outdoors to have a bigger audience — she went as



One of this year’s productions, “Traffic and Weather,” is in honor of Fountains of Wayne founder Adam Schlesinger. Schlesinger died in April 2020 — one of the first casualties in the country of the coronavirus pandemic. “Traffic and Weather” is a story through song, with some visual effects, that encapsulates Schlesinger’s extensive career.

Provided photo

far as reserving space in City Park for the summer — before hearing indoor venues could begin to re-open. Despite the outdoor space of City Park, the staff felt they wouldn’t be able to really fit more than 100 people socially distanced, and for that small of an increase, the group felt indoors was a better fit for the schedule.

“Everything in this journey has been like putting together all of

these puzzle pieces,” Banta said, “but it’s been a happy challenge because it means we are making steps toward bringing people back into our shows.”

The program this summer revolves around memories, light hearted banter and comedy. “Slow Food,” Banta’s first show of her run, centers around a famished couple dealing with an absurd waiter while out to dinner. By the end of the meal, not only is the couple questioning the menu, but the waiter has them questioning personal things, including their marriage. ATF’s website states the production is a “tender, uproarious comedy that delves deeply into what we hunger for.” She came across the show while looking for productions that would require a small cast and bring some light levity to a year filled with so much heartbreak.

“When I first found ‘Slow Food,’ I was cracking up reading the script, but I was really eager to hear it from an actor’s point of

view,” Banta said. “I called up a few of my actor friends and we read it over Zoom; my face was in so much pain from laughing so hard. I knew it was perfect.”

Her second production, “Traffic and Weather,” deals with some of the COVID-19 heartbreak she confronted. The play is a tribute and celebration of life to Adam Schlesinger, who died in April 2020 from coronavirus. Schlesinger, a jack of all trades in the music world, was a founding member of Fountains of Wayne, the band behind the hit “Stacy’s Mom.” Schlesinger also contributed his talents in songwriting and instrumental projects through his career; *Rolling Stone* lovingly dubbed his accomplishments as “one of the most unique and busiest careers in pop.”

Banta and Schlesinger had been working on “Traffic and Weather,” a play centered around Schlesinger’s career, for some time. After he died, Banta channeled the loss

of her friend into finishing the project and getting it on stage.

“While ‘Traffic and Weather’ predominantly utilizes songs as stories, there will be some visual effects to bring it more to the theatre,” Banta said. “Andy was a songwriter that could write under any situation — he wrote for theaters, commercials, even the Tonys — and this is my way of finishing the project we worked so hard on.”

ATF’s other two summer productions, “Minding Miss Mae Mae” and “Cinderella Goes Disco,” also bring some flavor to the hotter months. “Minding Miss Mae Mae” centers around a home health aide who is forced to reckon with her client’s son’s homecoming, which is difficult because the son is ravaged from crystal meth. The women band together to detox the man; while the home health aide believes in tough love, his mother believes in the power of religion. “Cinderella Goes Disco” is for the youngins

— after Cinderella receives an invitation to go to the prince’s disco dance, she requires fairy tales from her fairy godmother to elevate her from her under-confident self.

“Each of these productions is able to shift gears if we are somehow unable to perform as planned,” Banta concluded, “and that flexibility will help us hurdle any obstacles that might come our way.”



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ARTS

Full of love and air

Balloon Gal Jenny brings color, creativity to the streets of the 518

By **KAITLIN LEMBO**
 lembok@spotlightnews.com

TROY — Think of the most intricate balloon animal or figure you ever saw as a child.

A dog? A hat? Maybe a heart with an arrow through it?

Let's twist it a little bit. Have you seen a three-toned monkey? A tractor? A unicorn?

Balloon Gal Jenny is the queen of balloons that are not so bland. The balloon twister is revered for her advanced designs, often taking on challenges from kids and adults alike to see what she can come up with.

Jenny is an artist, first and foremost. A California

native and University at Albany, SUNY graduate who majored in sculpting, she's dabbled in several mediums across the sphere. The distinction between 2D and 3D threw her for a loop in college and she decided sculpture, in its ability to use multitudes of mediums and objects to create, made the most sense.

"When people meet me, they're often asking me if I went to clown school," Jenny said. "Once I explain that I'm an artist, people get it. I've had friends who tell me the reason my work stands out so much is because you can see the theory that seeps into each design."

Getting laid off is how sculpture turned to rubber and latex. As Jenny was dealing with a bout of unemployment, she answered a Craigslist ad for a company that hired people to balloon twist in

restaurants. The position didn't pay beyond the tips you earned and you had to buy your own equipment, but hires were trained and it gave Jenny the opportunity to converse with people.

"The hardest thing for me was learning how to twist and talk at the same time," she said, "because some people are unable to do it and when you're twisting and the chatter is gone, it can be awkward for everyone involved at a table. You want to relate to the kids. Not only does it make the kids happy, but happy kids means happy parents. The parents are the ones that you need to impress because ultimately, any tip you get is coming from them."

Now twisting for six years, Jenny has owned her business for four of them. Because she's now made enough of a career to support herself through



Jenny currently has displays in several Troy businesses, including Muddaddy Flats. The bright displays not only attract people into the establishments but bring a smile to the faces of customers and residents who have no doubt felt the collateral damage 2020 wrecked on all of us.

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Answers on Pg. B13

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twisting, her time is spent honing her craft and, quite literally, watching people's hands. She's also working on a side project — Mermaid Jazzy — in which she dresses like a mermaid and makes appearances at libraries, birthday parties or any gathering. The connections she has from her balloon twisting trade allow her to start the new leg of her business with her tailfin up.

Jenny's work isn't just for the kids (or the kids at heart). She's made displays for several Troy businesses, including Muddaddy Flats. She did an interview with Tamani Wooley from Spectrum News last year, where she showed off some of her party designs. Bachelorette parties? Done. Birthday parties? Of course. Graduations? Balloons are great there, too!

Jenny's displays can go far beyond one or two monochromatic balloons. Colors from every conceivable spectrum of the rainbow pair with wire and adhesives to make designs taller than Yao Ming; she made a balloon wall for people to take pictures in front of at a Black Lives Matter rally last year.

"I love when I'm twisting and having this great conversation with kids and seeing the parents join in on the fun. My best interactions come from the families of kids whose parents don't talk for them."

— Balloon Gal Jenny



"For me, it's the conversation that really makes the experience," Jenny said. "I love when I'm twisting and having this great conversation with kids and seeing the parents join in on the fun. My best interactions come from the families of kids whose parents don't talk for them. The kids and I relate to one another and, in special cases, are able to find methods of communication that work, whether they have disabilities or something else that might

impede on verbal speech."

She also finds her belt — colorful, textured, rife with possibilities — is a great tool to start a conversation. While many twistors carry their materials in a train case or trolley, Jenny said she feels it takes away from the overall experience that is balloon twisting. People want to see colors. They want to have the choice in how their creation comes out, whether it be for a small figure or a large display.

Choice is in the

root of the Balloon Gal Jenny mission. Having worked with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities before, Jenny understands the nuances of choice and how it contributes to someone's feeling of independence and autonomy at any age or ability. That being said, because balloons are toxic if not handled properly, her station always hosts a sign clarifying she will not twist for children under 3 years old — no exceptions.

Balloon Gal Jenny is a California native who currently operates out of Troy. The master balloon sculptor is known for her elaborate, colorful balloon displays and celebration pieces. She's twisted for every event imaginable, including bachelorette parties and activist marches.

Amy Modesti

"When kids find out they get to pick the colors, their faces completely light up because in many cases, kids are forced to abide by choices that are made for them," Jenny said. "Giving them that choice, and when the parents say they have free reign to choose and aren't enforcing rules on them, allows them to explore their creativity and make something that is totally theirs. It's 100 percent their own creation."

As Jenny's world begins to broaden and COVID-19 gathering rules loosen, she's looking forward to the future of her business and the relationships to come.

"I just miss the whole experience that comes with these interactions," she concluded. "I used to have so much fun when all the kids and I would huddle up and just create with balloons. While I can still create at different outdoor events, the twisting isn't as fulfilling without the people that come with it."

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INTERVIEW

With the local music scene ready to reclaim itself as the heartbeat that paces our nightlife, there's one band celebrated recently at the Thomas Edison Music Awards that has us all

Ambulance chasing

By **LUCAS GARRETT**
nippertown.com

Editor's Note: Lucas Garrett is a local singer-songwriter and is also a contributor to Nippertown. Here is an interview he recently did with the local band Candy Ambulance, who earlier this month earned a 2020 Thomas Edison Music Award as Alt / Indie Artist of the Year.

Lucas Garrett: Hey, there, everyone. Thanks for taking the time to sit down today! I wanted to first check-in and see how you've all been

doing during such an unprecedented time.

Jon Cantiello: I've been, ya know, aside from not playing out live – or really doing much work as a musician – I've been busy just working a job up here in Lake George. And, that keeps me pretty sane. And, I've definitely been playing a lot more drums just by myself. So, it's been good and bad. I'm seeing the positives more than the negatives, recently, since I've been practicing more drums. But, not playing out or giving attention to music; it's been weird. It's

Caitlin Barker often has local audiences seeing red. The ginger lead singer of Candy Ambulance provides the words to each of the band's electrifying shows.

Michael Hallisey / The Spot 518



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Prevents harm to young
- 5. "Losing My Religion" rockers
- 8. Partner to pan
- 11. Cavalry unit
- 13. Peyton's little brother
- 14. Mexican dish
- 15. Disseminates info to the public
- 16. Set an animal on
- 17. Canadian flyers
- 18. Elongated mouths of anthropods
- 20. I (German)
- 21. Opposite of west
- 22. Glows
- 25. Measures how quickly a car moves
- 30. One who has gained wealth
- 31. Patti Hearst's captors
- 32. Extensive landed property
- 33. Male aristocrat
- 38. For each
- 41. More fidgety
- 43. Very happy
- 45. A place to store info
- 47. Helps to heal
- 49. 12th month (abbr.)
- 50. Broad, shallow craters
- 55. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 56. Frost
- 57. Ethiopian town
- 59. Curved shapes
- 60. Company that rings receipts
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Sheep native to Sweden
- 63. Cars need it
- 64. Partner to relaxation

- 3. Formal close (music)
- 4. Transmits high voltage
- 5. A way to occupy a certain area
- 6. Draws out
- 7. His Airness
- 8. Nocturnal rodents
- 9. South American plants
- 10. Homestead
- 12. Bland or semiliquid food
- 14. Forest resident
- 19. The body needs it
- 23. Atomic mass unit (abbr.)
- 24. Spell
- 25. Relaxing place
- 26. Political fundraising tool
- 27. Make a mistake
- 28. Partner to Adam
- 29. Tyrant
- 34. Unit of electrical resistance
- 35. A history of one's life
- 36. Actor DiCaprio
- 37. Sea eagle
- 39. Avoiding being caught
- 40. ___ de Mornay, actress
- 41. Belonging to a thing
- 42. Not us
- 44. Motorcars
- 45. Capital of Bangladesh
- 46. Ancient Greek sophist
- 47. Practice boxing
- 48. ___ Grant, actor
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. S. Sudan river
- 53. A bumpkin
- 54. One point south of southwest
- 58. Small island (British)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Scientist's high-resolution tool (abbr.)
- 2. Type of school

Answers on Pg. B13

definitely been weird.

Caitlin Barker: Yeah, same. I've been doing a lot of, like, lessons and learning theory. So, that's pretty cool to have the time to be able to do. Starting to get a little bit bored. But, if you're bored, you're boring, right?

Jesse Bolduc: Right. (laughs). I mean, kind of the same stuff. Focusing a lot on engineering and mixing. Like I was talking to Jon about; trying to branch out into some different styles. I'm doing some jazz bass, which is fun. It's a 180 from what I'm used to, but it's been really cool to push my brain a little bit. Aside from that it's been a big part for me with all this COVID stuff and lockdowns and everything; trying to stay active, because it's very easy for me to just like sit inside for days on end. So, staying active and working on my mental health is always a plus. I don't know we can probably scratch the last 15 seconds of what I just said. Let's just stick with



Candy Ambulance's sound has evolved since starting out playing shows at (then) Putnam Den in Saratoga Springs five years ago. The trio has moved on from a punk influence to a grunge alternative.

Michael Hallisey / The Spot 518

me playing bass and stuff. Those weren't very coherent thoughts.

CB: No, that, it makes sense, though. It is hard to keep your mental health in check. Especially with being able to be on my phone all f*cking day every day has been a huge bitch, honestly. And, I feel like I've been consciously trying to not go on really any

social media, but then that stresses me out 'cause then I look on my phone and then I'm behind on emails for the band and I'm behind on people asking us to do stuff like this. So, that kind of stresses me out. It's just kind of a weird... you gotta find the balance.

Continues on B8

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From page 6 ... Ambulance chasing

JB: Right. Same, yeah. Having constant access to my phone and computers and then TV. It's like when one screen closes another screen opens.

CB: Yeah.

What new project or projects have you been working on?

JC: Well, us as a group; the latest thing we've done is record with Nick and Ellen, and that was back in September, October? I forgot when. But, that was the most recent thing we've done as a band, creatively, and we're just getting the masters back now, which we sent a couple to you. So, we're kind of in the next step of you know: who do we send this to, what do we do about PR, what would be the proper way to release this? Especially during lockdown when we can't tour and can't play shows. That's us as a group; what we've been up to, but other than that, just a lot of solo practice of our own instruments.

JB: It was a really cool process like Jon said. We worked with Nick Kinsey and Ellen Kempner and that was great. That was really exciting for us. They both brought so much to the table musically and creatively. So, yeah, we have something that we're really excited and so we'll see

what happens with that. Jon and I worked with our buds from our first band over the spring and summer and we put out a little four song demo called, Tauroctony. So, that was fun. That was cool. That was about it for projects.

I had a chance to listen to some new material of yours. Can you elaborate on how these new songs of yours came to light?

CB: Yes, they were kind of written half on the tour before this past one; the one where we went out to the Midwest to do the Mile of Music Festival. I wrote a lot in the backseat which was kind of cool. I haven't ever been able to do that before. Some of them are about tour. Then, the rest of them were written when we got home from tour. Then, we were kind of in an almost little depressed phase where we weren't sure what we wanted to do going forward with the band. Some of them are a little bit sadder. Once you get off tour it's kind of depressing. I think that's where half of them came from, and half of them are exciting tour stories.

There are always going to be pros and cons to every music scene, but perhaps one benefit that I really enjoy from this



area is how everyone in the arts scene around here has a chance to see growth and development amongst the various bands and artists. I've definitely sensed a maturity in your songwriting process. How do you feel these songs compare to your previous records?

JC: I'm enjoying the music more and more. With every new song we make, I think we're getting like you said; more mature. More relatable, and more interesting; the stuff that we're playing, instrument-wise. I just think there's a lot more going on than in the past.

JB: Yeah, I agree. Definitely the style that we're taking or that we've moved on to in the most recent album feels a lot more – like you said, Lucas – mature. I feel we're shedding the “party animal” persona that our music kind of had. I mean, I know I always enjoyed playing whatever we played. But, this feels a little more – for me – sure of itself. And, it feels more well-rounded. It's been fun.

While no one really has a tenable answer as to how musicians and other folks involved in the overall arts' industry will proceed going forward, do you have any tentative plans in the horizon for how to proceed? How do you plan to promote your new work, should a tour be out of the

HOROSCOPES

May 2021 Week 2

ARIES – MAR 21/APR 20

It could be that you are very aware of things going on around you this week, Aries. Unfortunately, many of them will be out of your control. Still, keep an open mind.

TAURUS – APR 21/MAY 21

Relax and settle down for a few days, Taurus. Take some time to enjoy the people around you and try to travel to some new locales along the way. A little vacation can be helpful.

GEMINI – MAY 22/JUN 21

Don't be surprised if some relatively minor details cause a setback in the days ahead, Gemini. Some heightened focus might be in order. Try to zone in.

CANCER – JUN 22/JUL 22

Cancer, if you need to confront someone this week, do so tactfully. Remember the adage about catching more flies with honey. You'll find that tactic is handy.

LEO – JUL 23/AUG 23

Leo, this week could become a tad challenging as strong astrological energies are affecting people's emotions. Maintain your composure at all costs.

VIRGO – AUG 24/SEPT 22

Your organizational skills are about to increase productivity ten-fold this week, Virgo. Don't be afraid to take big chances and even grab the helm on a large project.

LIBRA – SEPT 23/OCT 23

Libra, write down new goals, as it seems your emotions have changed over the past several days. This way you can channel your ambitions accordingly.

SCORPIO – OCT 24/NOV 22

Scorpio, this week you dare to go against the grain and make your voice heard. Embrace your self-confidence and don't hesitate to take on a leadership role.

SAGITTARIUS – NOV 23/DEC 21

Your presence will be remarkable this week, Sagittarius. You radiate confidence and energy for all to see, and the people around you could be counting on you for leadership.

CAPRICORN – DEC 22/JAN 20

It's not possible to transform the people you know with a magic wand or a twinkle of your nose, Capricorn. Let others be who they are and appreciate their individuality.

AQUARIUS – JAN 21/FEB 18

Aquarius, if you are feeling a bit neglected and unloved this week, ask your partner for some support. He or she will take the cue and the spark will reignite.

PISCES – FEB 19/MAR 20

Some conflicts within the family have you serving as peacemaker, Pisces. Negotiate with others to resolve their differences.

question?

CB: We're definitely just going to be shopping it for a while. I don't think it's to anything to where we're in any hurry to get it released. And, again, I just feel in this state of, "this is a waiting game." I have no idea what to look forward to. Kind of like where I'm at; sending out emails. Then, who knows? Maybe it's tour time. Maybe we can tour. Again, obviously we want to. For me, I'm not really sure, I guess, how to approach.

JB: Yeah, we're just kind of taking it day-by-day. We don't really have any plans aside from, you know, trying to get this record out, and then maybe do some live streams here or there. But, we don't really have any plans. We don't have any expectations for what the future will bring.

I know I've definitely had to find ways to occupy my mind during the pandemic outside of the realm of music, have you folks discovered any hobbies that you'd like to share with our viewers?

JB: I feel like I've had to give up on hobbies. I can't really go rock-climbing, which I'd normally be doing. Me? No, I haven't found any new hobbies. I've been drinking more wine (laughs). Kind of a hobby. How about you, Jon?

JC: Well, I'm fortunate to say that I still have full-time work, but, it's not really a hobby. But, I'm still learning things at my job. I'm a gardener, but right now [I'm] learning a lot about dry wall and boring



Lead singer Caitlin Barker recently told Nippertown.com that she purposely went by "Cait" to mimic the sound and feel of the spoken name of Kurt Cobain, the late lead singer of Nirvana.

Michael Hallisey / The Spot 518

things like that.

JB: That's a fun hobby.

JC: Yeah, just taking care of a rich person's house.

Gotta love it, right?

JC: Yeah, I do like my job a lot. It's fun and I do learn a lot. But, other than working, I've been cooking more; which I don't think I've ever been that good

at. But, I've been making more food for myself and Angie. And, watching more movies.

JB: Nice.

CB: Yeah, Jon, don't sell yourself short. I think dry wall is cool.

[laughs]

Yeah, drywall is cool!

CB: I've been doing a lot of cooking; trying to hone up on skills with that. I've always been a decent cook, but I like learning more refined techniques. That's been pretty fun. Then, I'm getting really into Scrabble lately. I think I've probably read, like, twenty books this year, which is awesome.

What's your favorite one that you read?

CB: Well, I blasted through the Stephen King Dark Tower Series. That was a whole journey. I honestly like, dreamt it. What is that saying? Live, sleep, eat, and dream, all that sh*t. For like eight months I was so into it.

JC: I just finished this book. Matthew McConaughey's book.

JB: Really? Was it good? **Alright, alright, alright.**

JC: Alright, alright, alright. I heard an interview with him promoting the book and I thought, "man, he sounds like such a nice guy. He sounds like he lived a pretty cool life." And, he did! He lived a really f*cking crazy life, and he seems to be pretty smart and has kind of a vision for himself and for just being a human and everything. I enjoyed that book. It's a little preachy and a little, like, you know, an old boomer kind of telling you how to live nicely. But, there are parts that really resonated with me. I was like, "man, this guy seems to have a vision on how to live life." Good things come your way if you have the right attitude. I really enjoyed that book.

JB: Would you call yourself a McConaughead now?

JC: I am a McConaughead.

JB: Nice.

Lastly, I want to give you the floor to discuss anything that you feel we may not have touched upon today.

JB: We just did our vinyls. So, that was a really cool experience; recording directly to vinyl. We've never done that before.

JC: Yeah.

JB: We had to play 30 songs in a row, so that was wild.

That sounds intense.

CB: That was intense. That was a lot.

JB: We went down to Brooklyn to a studio there. Banged it out, straight to vinyl.

JC: Other than doing the vinyls, which was... it was hard work; we drove down there, stayed with a friend. Got up the next morning, showed up right on time and, you know, it went very smoothly. I think we all came out of it saying it was easier than we thought it would be; doing it 30 times. As soon as we were done, we got some food - that was the day of the big blizzard - then got back in the car and drove through the snow, which wasn't that bad. Back to Troy. Then we felt tired. It was like, oh, man, that was intense. People are starting to get them in the mail now. I've only heard really good things, so I'm proud of it and happy that we had the opportunity to do something as cool as that.

JB: Yeah, it was kind of fun, too, because you're playing these songs thirty times and you don't have time to say, "let's start that one over. Oh, I didn't like that one, let's do it again." You know? We just had to live with the mistakes. It kind of breathed some fun, creative energy to it.

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By **KAITLIN LEMBO**
lembok@spotlightnews.com

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artistic and
general director

at Pitney Meadows Community Farm. The second, which is in partnership with Saratoga Performing Arts Center at its amphitheater, is “Man of La Mancha” and will boast showings on July 8, 9 and 10 at 8 p.m. The last, performed at the Columbia Pavilion at Saratoga Spa State Park, is “Don Quixote at Camacho’s Wedding,” which will host 12 performances from July 14 to July 18 at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Opera Saratoga artistic and general director Larry Edelson said adapting these performances to outdoor venues requires some extra finessing due to the different acoustics present.

“We hired a sound engineer and designer for these performances to help us provide the best experience possible,”

Edelson said. “We have amplification that we use for these classically trained singers and we will definitely be using it for the SPAC shows.”

Edelson said the use of amplification techniques (and how each show is adapted to the acoustics of its surroundings) is determined during test runs of the show. Despite the challenges going outdoor presents for the genre, Edelson said he’s excited to be able to perform to a larger audience in a safe, socially distanced way.

“The enormous size of the SPAC amphitheater will allow us to welcome socially distanced audiences as well as to stage ‘Man of La Mancha’ with all necessary safety protocols in place, incorporating vivid projection design to enhance the production;

while the more intimate spaces in Spa State Park and at Pitney Meadows Community Farm will allow for safe gathering of smaller audiences in covered, open-air venues that allow us to draw upon the natural beauty and intimacy of these unique spaces,” Edelson said in a press release.

Edelson and his team look forward to the future of Opera Saratoga. As restrictions loosen and more people are vaccinated, the reality of the group returning to its home in Spa Little Theater becomes more viable. He added it’s not sustainable for the program to continue drawing 25 percent capacity, as ticket sales only provide 25 percent of the production’s revenue during non-COVID times.

“This pandemic has

really forced us to look at everything we do,” Edelson said.

He added the support of the community that keeps Opera Saratoga prosperous and alive has been the most heartfelt thing about the past 14 months. As Opera Saratoga is the same age as Caffe Lena and older than SPAC, the reputation of the performers can be felt for miles beyond the Capital District’s borders.

“Opera Saratoga wants to continue to provide entertainment and uplifting experiences for its guests and add to Saratoga’s amazing cultural landscape,” Edelson concluded, “and to feel the optimism from the community during this has kept us optimistic about the future.”

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■ COMMUNITY

They're going out to paint the town

Hoosick Street mural soon to get a facelift

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

TROY — Three regional artists were selected as the three finalists to be considered in the creation of a mural display under the Hoosick Street underpass.

Simona Bortis-Schultz, Fernando Orellana and Jade Warrick were each selected by an independent advisory panel made up of regional arts professionals, business and community members for the Uniting Line mural project under Hoosick Street.

Uniting Line partners will work with the artists over the next month to present projects for local and regional community members to review and provide feedback. Local and regional community

feedback will inform the decision that will become the final project.

The goal of the Uniting Line public art project is to transform and reactivate the area beneath the Hoosick Street Bridge between Troy's Downtown and North Central neighborhood. The project is part of a collaborative effort between the City of Troy, Arts Center of the Capital Region, TAP Inc., and Collar Works. Troy is one of 16 cities nationwide selected for grant funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies' Asphalt Art Initiative.

The Uniting Line will transform a 500 foot stretch of road under the Hoosick Street Bridge — an urban void that acts as a massive divider between downtown Troy and North Central Troy — into a space that draws people together, uniting what a highway divided. Through



creative placemaking, the project will unify the area graphically, revitalize and beautify the area, encourage more pedestrian activity, and serve as a backdrop to activities that take place at the adjacent basketball courts and other open spaces.

The Uniting Line team distributed promotional

door hangers beginning the week of April 26 and presenting the project at various locations throughout Troy with Uniting Line Public Feedback Sessions over the next two weeks. Locations include CEO, Salvation Army, Oakwood Community Center, Unity House, Capital Roots,

TRIP and more! We would love to share this exciting project and hear from you! For a schedule of events and locations, please visit us at www.artscenteronline.org/publicart/uniting-line.

Earlier this year, The Arts Center of the Capital Region created a call for submissions based on community surveys, and

released a call for proposals from Regional Artists for The Uniting Line Underpass Mural project to transform the underpass area of the Hoosick Street Bridge (Rt.7) in Troy, focusing on the cement pillars between the areas of River Street and 6th Avenue. Regional Artists were defined as artists who live within the core Capital Region counties of Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Washington and Warren counties.

Project leadership includes Barbara Nelson, Executive Director, TAP, Inc.; Troy Deputy Mayor Monica Kurzejeski; Elizabeth Dubben, Executive Director, Collar Works; Elizabeth Reiss, CEO, Arts Center of the Capital Region; and Belinda Colón, Curator, Arts Center of the Capital Region.

Illustration by Uniting Line

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Vegetable serving sizes typically range from 1/2 cup to 1 cup. The Mayo Clinic and other health organizations recommend three to four servings of vegetables per day. One way to ensure that vegetables are a primary part of your diet is to incorporate vegetable-rich dishes, such as ratatouille, into your weekly menu. Ratatouille is a vegetable casserole, and there are many different recipes for this beloved, flavorful dish. Julia Child's incarnation is a standard. Enjoy it, courtesy of "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" (Knoph) by Simone Beck, Louisette Bertholle and Julia Child.

Ratatouille

INGREDIENTS: Serves 8

- 1 pound eggplant
- 1 pound zucchini
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 6 to 7 tablespoons olive oil, more if necessary
- 1/2 pound (about 1 1/2 cups thinly sliced yellow onions
- 1 pound firm red tomatoes, or 1 1/2 cups pulp
- 2 sliced green bell peppers (about 1 cup)
- 2 cloves mashed garlic
- Salt and pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

Peel the eggplant and cut into lengthwise slices 3/8-inch thick, about 3 inches long, and 1 inch wide.

Scrub the zucchini, slice off the two ends, and cut the zucchini into slices about

the same size as the eggplant slices.

Place the vegetables in a bowl and toss with salt. Let stand for 30 minutes. Drain. Dry each slice in a towel.

One layer at a time, saute the eggplant, and then the zucchini, in hot olive oil for about a minute on each side to brown very lightly. Remove to a side dish.

In the same skillet, cook the onions and peppers slowly in olive oil for about 10 minutes, or until tender but not browned. Stir in the garlic and season to taste.

Slice the tomato pulp into 3/8-inch strips. Lay them over the onions and peppers. Season with salt and pepper.

Cover the skillet and cook over low heat for 5 minutes, or until tomatoes have begun to render their juice.

Uncover, baste the tomatoes with the juices, raise heat and boil off several minutes, until juice has almost entirely evaporated.

Place one-third of the tomato mixture in the bottom of the casserole and sprinkle over it 1 tablespoon of parsley.

Arrange half of the eggplant and zucchini on top, then half the remaining tomatoes and parsley.


Put in the rest of the eggplant and zucchini, and finish with the remaining tomatoes and parsley.

Cover the casserole and simmer over low heat for 10 minutes.

Uncover, tip casserole and baste with the rendered juices. Correct seasoning, if necessary.

Raise heat slightly and cook uncovered for about 15 minutes more, basting several times, until juices have evaporated leaving a spoonful or two of flavored olive oil. Be careful of your heat; do not let the vegetables scorch in the bottom of the casserole.

Set aside uncovered. Reheat slowly at serving time or serve cold.



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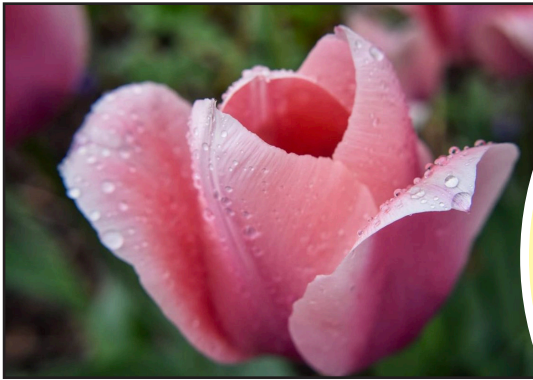


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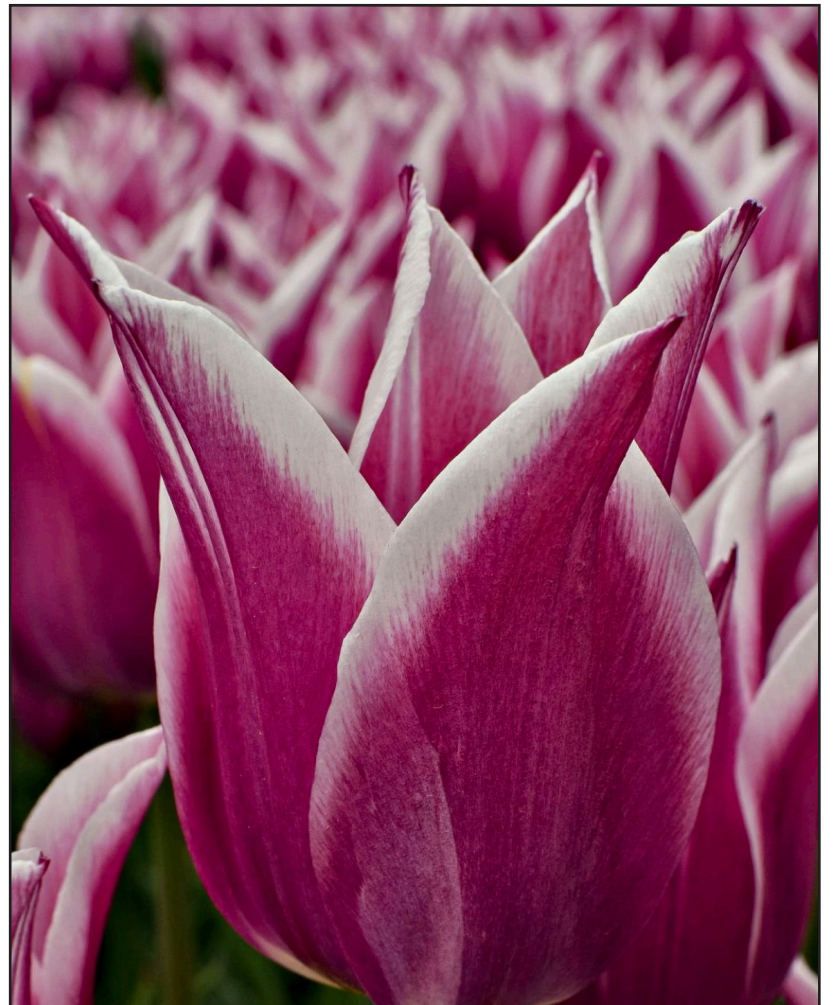
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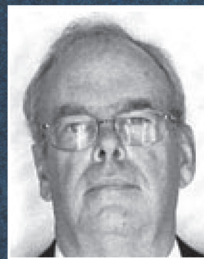
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