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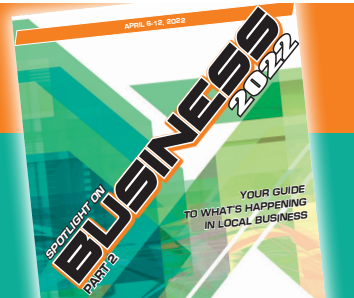
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Vol. 65, #14

April 6 - April 12, 2022

Inside This Issue:

A look at what's happening in Capital District businesses.



TOP STORY

A world we long to see

Bethlehem Central's production of 'Les Misérables' opens this Thursday

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**

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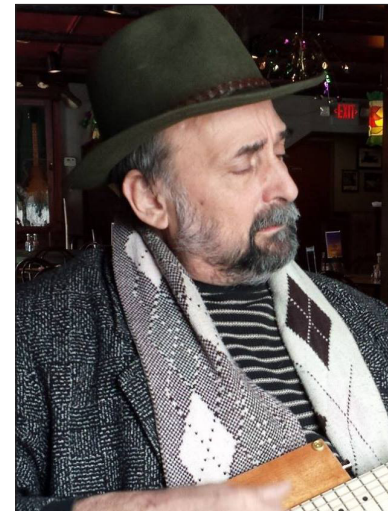
“Part of what makes theater the art form that it is is the live experience. The audience is an essential part of the experience. Nothing can replicate that feeling. It is in the moment, it is present, and then it is over,” said Amy Roos. “It is in those moments that the magic happens.”

The BC Stage 700 director and her students are just days away from Thursday, April 7; the opening night of their production of “Les Misérables School Edition.” There are a couple of noteworthy firsts already appended to that night’s performance. It will be the first show performed unmasked, and with a live pit orchestra, since the COVID-19 outbreak. It will also be the first production staged at Bethlehem Central High School’s \$7.8 million auditorium.

Continues on page 4

Photo by Andrew Kirby

ENTERTAINMENT



Goodbye

Ralph Spillenger, popular restaurateur and musician, has died at age 70.

Story on Page B1

INSIDE



Missing

Police continue week’s long search for missing Delmar woman.

Story on Page 3

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Police arrest man on internet scam

VOORHEESVILLE - State Police opened an investigation in December 2021, after receiving a complaint from a Voorheesville resident regarding fraudulent activity on their bank account.

Charles Patrick, 61, of Syracuse, is accused of participating in an internet scam in which he obtained a check from a third party that was fraudulently drawn on an account belonging to the victim. He then deposited the \$11,000 check into his own account.

Patrick turned himself in at State Police on Thursday, March 17 and was charged with criminal possession of stolen property over \$3,000, a felony.

Patrick was arraigned in New Scotland Town Court and released on his own recognizance, and to return to court on April 28.

Traffic stop leads to felony charge

GLENMONT — The Bethlehem police performed a traffic stop on River Road on Friday, March 18 after a black 4-door sedan slammed on its breaks after seeing the police vehicle.

A check of the registration on the vehicle showed it was suspended due to an insurance lapse and the driver, Jon Dawson, 39, of Troy, had a suspended license with six suspensions.

He also had an active felony bench warrant from State Police stemming from a criminal possession of a controlled substance charge in Albany.

He was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, a misdemeanor, and aggravated unlicensed operation and operating a motor vehicle by an unlicensed driver, both violations.

Dawson was issued tickets, turned over to State Police for the outstanding warrant and is scheduled to return to Bethlehem Town Court on Thursday, April 17.

Man faces speeding, DWI

DELMAR — After Bethlehem police performed a traffic stop on a vehicle for an illegal turn signal and speeding on Delaware Avenue on Thursday, March 23 that led to a DWI for an Albany man.

The officer observed Kyjaun Stanfield, 20, had bloodshot and watery eyes and an odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from his breath.

He was charged with DWI, a misdemeanor, and operating an unregistered motor vehicle on a highway, a violation.

Stanfield was issued a bill of particulars and two traffic tickets and released. He is scheduled back in Bethlehem Town Court on Tuesday, April 5.

POLICE, FIRE and EMERGENCY CALLS

Two face 'SWATing'

Two men arrested for falsely reporting Delmar fire

By JOHN MCINTYRE
mcintyrej@spotlightnews.com

DELMAR — Bethlehem police arrested two men for making emergency calls claiming there was a working structure fire at a Delmar home to harass people living at the residence.

On Sunday, March 20, the Bethlehem Police Department Telecommunications Center received a call to its non-emergency number by a male caller reporting a fully involved and active fire at his residence. The caller then abruptly hung up.

The center dispatched fire departments and police to the residence. Upon arrival, Officer Michael

Whiteley and Slingerlands Fire Department Assistant Chief Jason Tice found no signs of a fire or anyone at the residence. The two contacted a neighbor and secured the cell phone number of the homeowner and contacted him. He said he was out to dinner with his family and only the family dog was in the home.

With permission from the homeowner, Tice entered and searched the home for signs of fire, then canceled the other responding departments.

Bethlehem detectives identified the general location of the original call in the City of Albany by using technology that identifies an IP address of the source call. They used an emergency disclosure request to determine the address of where the call originated.

"It is a long investigative process that requires many

warrants to determine exactly where the call came from," Bethlehem police Cmdr. James Rexford said.

Detectives contacted the resident at the Albany location and identified two persons of interest.

Officers interviewed one of those suspects, Dylan Lafave, of Greenville, at his residence on March 23. According to reports, Lafave denied making the phone call, but stated he was with Ryan Albright, 24, of Altamont, and another person at the Albany address.

After investigating further, police filed an arrest warrant for Lafave and Albright.

Lafave stands charged with falsely reporting a fire, explosion or hazard, a felony, and criminal impersonation by the internet, a misdemeanor.

Albright was charged with conspiracy, a misdemeanor.

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■ COMMUNITY

Police continue search for missing woman

Family of Shaker High teacher offering \$50,000 reward for info

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

The search for a missing Shaker High School English teacher continued on Monday, April 4, in the Berkshire Mountain range near Lee, Massachusetts.

Meanwhile, the family, through a website is offering a \$50,000 reward for any information about Meghan A. Marohn, 42, of Delmar.

She was last seen on Sunday, March 27. Her family reported her missing on Tuesday, March 29. At that time, her Subaru was found near a trailhead off Church Street in Lee.

Anyone with information and are seeking a reward is asked to call 413-327-6255.

According to the Berkshire Eagle newspaper, search and rescue teams suspended their efforts on Sunday, April 3, but planned to resume a day later.

Marohn is an experienced hiker and it was not unusual for her to take hikes solo. Authorities have stated they do not believe a crime was committed in relation to her disappearance.

As of Saturday, April 3, search and rescue teams from Lee, Stockbridge and the Massachusetts State Police had narrowed the search area to a two-square-mile area of the 46-acre Longcope Park.

"We're covering some terrain that is very difficult, very, very thick," Lee Police Chief Craig DeSantis told the Eagle.

"Ms. Marohn is a valued member of the North Colonie School community. This is a difficult and traumatic event, and our thoughts are with her family and friends," said North Colonie Superintendent

"Ms. Marohn is a valued member of the North Colonie School community. This is a difficult and traumatic event, and our thoughts are with her family and friends,"

— Joseph Corr,
North Colonie Superintendent



Meghan A. Marohn

The 42-year-old has been missing since Sunday, March 27. Her Subaru was found near a trailhead off Church Street in Lee, Massachusetts. Police describe her as white, with red hair and green eyes. She stands 5-feet 6-inches tall and weighs 120 pounds. If you have information, call the Bethlehem Police Department at 518-439-9973.

Joseph Corr in a statement issued on the district website. "We know that this information may have a profound impact on students and staff. Counseling and support services are available for all members of the school community. More details will be forthcoming."

He said counselors and other support will Marohn is described as white with red hair and green eyes, she stands about 5-foot 6-inches tall and weighs approximately 120 pounds.

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to contact the Bethlehem Police Department at 518-439-9973 or the Lee Police Department at Lee Police at 413-243-5530.

RCSCBA Mixer at Yanni's April 21

COEYMANS — Yanni's II will host a social mixer including light fare and networking opportunities for small and large business owners, community leaders and those interested in the local business climate on Thursday, April 21, at 5 p.m.

Sponsored by the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Community Business Association, heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5 p.m. followed by some brief introductions and announcements and meet-and-greet times.

The cost for the meeting is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. To register, visit <https://rcscommunitylibrary.libcal.com/event/9070450>.

The May 19 RCSCBA meeting will feature Kevin Catalano of Advance Albany County at Rail to River on Main Street in Ravena at 5 p.m.

The RCSCBA is an all-volunteer organization of business and community leaders and interested individuals. The group is a catalyst for growth and prosperity through economic and community development initiatives that foster a strong business climate.

The monthly meetings feature "What's New?" updates by local businesses and groups, briefs on matters of economic and community importance and include a guest speaker, a spotlight by a specific business and a question and answer period.

The group's Facebook Page is active at <https://www.facebook.com/RCSCBA> and the website is <https://www.rcsba.com>. RCSCBA meets monthly at rotating locations.

To join RCSCBA, go to <https://www.rcsba.com/join> or contact Marlene McTigue at RCSBizAssoc@gmail.com.

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From page 1 ... No one's lost

Winner of over 100 international awards, "Les Misérables" has been seen by more than 8 million people in New York City alone during its record run from March 1987 to May 2003. It is the world's longest-running musical and the third longest-running musical in Broadway history.

The student production has a limited run, from Thursday, April 7 to Sunday, April 10.

Tickets can also be purchased at the door starting one hour before each performance. Tickets are \$12 for general admission; \$10 for students. Some material is intended for mature audiences.

Roos said she has nearly 100 students in the cast, crew and orchestra — an astounding figure that rivals any professional production found at Proctors in Schenectady. But for her and her students, she said, "it is a return to normal for

all of us."

2016 Facilities Improvement Capital Project

A lot has changed at Bethlehem Central High school. Alumni will recognize some of what once was their front foyer. Hints of the 70-year-old auditorium's extensive renovation reveal themselves through a curved, wooden facade that mimics a double bass resting from inside the vestibule. Through its interior doors, patrons are welcomed to a modern playhouse in every sense.

Superintendent Jody Monroe said the district had looked into an "entirely new auditorium, but without state building aid, "that option was deemed cost-prohibitive." Instead, administrators held talks with staff and community leaders on how best to

Bethlehem Central High School's new, \$7.8 million auditorium was completed in 2020, four years after residents approved a facilities improvement capital project involving more than 100 improvement projects totaling \$32 million.

Bethlehem Central School District

renovate. In November 2016, residents approved a \$32 million bond referendum, paying toward more than 100 facility improvement projects throughout the district, including the high school's playroom.

The room maintains the same footprint as it did when the school first opened in 1952 — the first stage production premiered in 1954. New seating is accompanied by modern lighting and asymmetric acoustic fixtures above that resemble the work of

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sculptor Alexander Calder.

The auditorium was closed for nearly two years as construction crews installed a new, wider stage floor that can be extended into the orchestra pit. A fly loft was built out above, creating a vaulted ceiling that allows for storage and easier scene changes. When action calls, the stage is equipped with a retractable addition that extends closer to the audience.

But when construction crews completed the project in October 2020, stages across the country were silenced by COVID-19 mitigation protocols.

Les Misérables in 2022

“When we finished ‘Titanic,’ we knew that we wanted to open the new auditorium with a big show,” Roos said. Stage 700 closed out its Spring 2019 production acknowledging that its next show would be on the road. As the calendar turned to 2020, students prepared to open “Chicago” at The Egg that April. New York’s Broadway shutdown its lights on March 12. It had a cascading effect on the rest of the arts world.

“It was devastating to have to cancel our production and little did we know at the time that it would be another two years before we would perform in front of a live audience again,” Roos said. “For the students who were freshmen when we started ‘Chicago,’ they have never performed a musical in front of a live audience at the school.

“This will be a first.” Victor Hugo’s masterpiece recounts the events surrounding France’s June 1832 Rebellion. It was a rebellion over fighting political factions related to the French Revolution. Roos describes it as a struggle against adversity, one which Hugo witnessed himself. The school edition is a version of the classic musical by Alain Boubil and Claude-Michel Schönberg, which is based on Hugo’s novel.

The social upheaval of the musical resembles the turmoil in current events captured in today’s global headlines. While Washington D.C. continues to investigate those responsible for the January 6 Insurrection last year, world leaders orchestrate

a delicate strategy to aid Ukraine as it defends itself against Russian forces.

The day after Russian armies launched their invasion of Ukraine, Roos said she sat her students down before that night’s rehearsal. They were preparing for Act II which features several battle attacks.

“It feels wrong to be playing at war when there is a real war happening at this very moment,” she said. She warned her actors there would be an increased sensitivity to the battle scenes, and asked them to be “mindful of the privileged position that we are in.

“When the scene ends that this is not currently our real set of circumstances,” she added. “Keep in mind the real men and women who are currently fighting for their lives and their homes and use this experience to honor their experience.”

Hugo’s novel is one of just a few works of literature that covers the June Rebellion, and the events that preceded it. Published thirty years after, the author follows the lives and interactions



Bethlehem Central has nearly 100 students putting together its production of Les Misérables, which opens this Thursday in the high school’s new auditorium.

Andrew Kirby

of several characters over a twenty-year period. In his 1998 biography, Robert Graham noted how Hugo was caught in a literal crossfire that June. The wordsmith was in the Tuileries Gardens writing a play when he heard gunfire erupt. Instead of escaping back to his home, he investigated the sounds. Graham said he was

halfway down an alleyway when barricades closed him in from both ends. He survived a 15-minute volley of gunfire by shielding himself between building columns.

Moor said Hugo was able to capture real stories of people who lived, fought and died.

“The story of the students on the barricade

may have been lost in time if someone did not write their story,” she said. “We honor their memory and the memory of all who fight for injustice by telling their stories from a place of truth and sensitivity.”

Post-COVID

Broadway’s stages reopened last August, just shy of 17 months after

the COVID pandemic shut down the arts and entertainment industry. Headlines since have documented how the world’s players have persevered, sequestered from crowds at home. Moor described the same time as the best of times and the worst of times for her actors. She shared how their first in-person rehearsal felt like “Christmas morning” last year. They were further gifted after mask mandates were lifted; seeing their fellow actors’ full performance, with voices and smiles unbridled.

“The past few years have brought all of us closer together as a theater family and challenged us in ways we never could have anticipated,” Moor said. “But these students continue to amaze me and they have continued to persevere through every obstacle put in front of them.

“I hope that the audience comes to enjoy Les Misérables for the sheer beauty and tragedy of the musical itself but also to celebrate these students who have waited years for this very moment, and to finally hear their applause.”

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BCSD to appoint new Director of Facilities

DELMAR — At its April 6 meeting, the Bethlehem Central Board of Education is expected to appoint Nick Insognia as Director of Facilities and Operations. Insognia has served as Assistant Superintendent for Buildings & Grounds in the district for four and half years. He replaces Gregg Nolte who retired in 2021.

In his new role at BC, Insognia will manage the Operations and Maintenance Department and its 58 employees. The department provides cleaning, routine maintenance, snow removal and groundskeeping across nearly 1,000,000 square feet of building space, including 400 classrooms, and more than 200 acres of land. Insognia will also oversee capital construction projects and will ensure the district is complying with all New York State Education Department (SED) health and safety regulations. The department also handles all deliveries within the district.

Insognia said he is looking forward to continuing the success O & M has had in supporting the district's mission and its core values of academics, character, community and wellness.

"At O & M, we are dedicated to providing a safe, secure, clean and healthy learning environment for the thousands of students and staff we serve on a daily basis," said Insognia. "Our commitment extends to the greater community which is so strongly invested in the long-term success of our students."

Looking ahead, Insognia says the greatest challenge will be ensuring the capital project approved by voters in October 2021 is completed with minimal disruption to the educational program. Careful planning, he said, will be required to address the uncertainty of supply chain issues and necessary SED approvals in order to keep the construction projects on schedule.

When Insognia arrived at BC, he already had more than a decade of leadership in facilities management. He served as Director of Facilities for the Schenectady City School District for nine years and prior to that, served as Director of Facilities at The Sage Colleges for three years.

"Nick Insognia came to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience and we are excited that he will continue to be part of our team in this new role," said Superintendent Jody Monroe.

EDUCATION

Music In Our Schools

Ravena Coeymans Selkirk showcased its music program in month-long celebration

RAVENA — The Ravena Coeymans Selkirk Music Department hosted several musical performances on campus to recognize Music In Our Schools Month last month.

Each year, the RCS Central School District and Music Department celebrate Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM) during the month of March. The month is used to celebrate and bring awareness to the educational importance of youth music programs. It also stands as a reminder that all students should have access to music education within their schools. There are many educational benefits to providing music programs to our students. Beyond the educational benefits, music programs in schools provide opportunities for students to come together socially and express themselves creatively.

"March has been a busy



Ravena Coeymans Selkirk School District

month for the RCS Music Department," said K-12 Art and Music Curriculum Content Specialist and High School Choral Director Michelle McLoughlin. "From the musical to the concerts, these events have all been reminders of the important role music plays within our schools. The skills learned through music opportunities positively contribute to all aspects of the whole student, including improved academics, coordination, memory, teamwork, and social skills."

Performances included one for grades 6 through 12 choral students, one for grade 6 through

12 instrumental students, and one for 5th-grade choral and instrumental students. Additionally, the High School Harmonics and Jazz Ensemble visited the Empire State Plaza to perform as a part of NYSSMA's celebration of MIOSM.

The High School Drama Club returned to the stage for the first time in two years to perform the hit Disney musical Newsies. All of the performances from this month have been spectacular and really highlighted how much our students and community benefit from music programs and opportunities.

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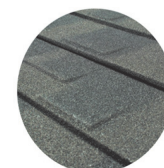
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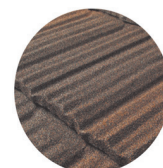


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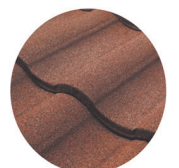
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STATE

Hochul announces booster eligibility

State vaccination sites have second booster shots for those eligible

ALBANY — Gov. Kathy Hochul announced eligibility for second COVID-19 vaccine booster doses. Booster doses are free and widely available statewide, including at all state-run mass vaccination sites. Eligible New Yorkers may receive an mRNA vaccine—either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine—for their second booster shot.

“Second boosters are now available to eligible New Yorkers statewide, including at all of the State’s mass vaccination sites,” Hochul said. “Getting vaccinated and staying up-to-date with all recommended doses is the most effective way to prevent severe illness and hospitalization, and move



“Our best weapon against this virus is the vaccine, so if you haven’t, get your vaccination and make sure to get boosted for additional protection when you’re eligible.”

— Gov. Kathy Hochul

Gov. Kathy Hochul received her second COVID-19 booster shot at the State Capitol on Monday, April 4. She urged New Yorkers to do the same once they are eligible.

Mike Groll / Office of Gov. Kathy Hochul

safely forward through this pandemic.”

The State’s Department of Health released new clinical guidance on the administration of second booster doses for all providers enrolled in the New York State vaccination program.

The guidance follows the Federal Drug Administration’s approval of Emergency Use Authorization for a second booster and the updated recommendation from the Center for Disease Control

and Prevention to allow adults 50 years and older to receive a second booster of an mRNA vaccine at least four months after their first booster.

Additionally, adults ages 18 - 49 years who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for their primary vaccine and initial booster dose now may receive a second booster four months after their first booster dose. Also eligible for the second booster are New Yorkers 12 years and older who are moderately to severely

immunocompromised.

“Our best weapon against this virus is the vaccine, so if you haven’t, get your vaccination and make sure to get boosted for additional protection when you’re eligible.” Hochul said. “If you have any symptoms or feel unwell, get tested. If you are positive for COVID-19, talk to your physician about treatment and limit your exposure to others. Let’s all continue to do our part to move forward safely through this pandemic.”

Gov launches ad campaign to coax second booster for children

ALBANY — Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the launch of new media ads to boost vaccination rates among children in New York State.

The media rollout launched on Monday, April 4. It’s just the latest component of the New York State Department of Health’s #VaxForKids initiative, furthering the administration’s commitment to making the health and well-being of children and families a top priority.

“The COVID-19 vaccine is doctor-approved, and it is the single best tool to keep our children and families from getting seriously ill or hospitalized,” Hochul said. “This new media campaign will help ensure parents are hearing directly from pediatricians and trusted health care providers, so they know just how critical it is to get their children vaccinated.”

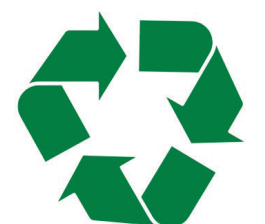
The new campaign features local pediatricians from throughout the state urging parents and guardians to get eligible children fully vaccinated and to ensure they stay up to date on all recommended doses.

“This new media campaign further supports our #VaxForKids campaign by helping parents and guardians learn more about the importance of getting our kids vaccinated from their most trusted source, pediatricians,” said New York State Commissioner of Health Dr. Mary T. Bassett.

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April 14, Maundy Thursday: 7pm Service lead by Confirmation Class

April 15, Good Friday: 12-3pm Sanctuary open for self-paced Stations of the Cross

April 17, Easter Sunday: 9:30am Celebration of the Resurrection and New Life

April 24, Baptism Sunday: 9:30am Continue the Easter Celebration with Baptisms!

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Jeffrey Kuhn named partner at Harris Beach

ALBANY — Harris Beach PLLC elected Jeffrey Kuhn as a partner with its Energy Industry Team, which represents clients in the energy sector on regulatory and business matters.

The law firm cited Kuhn's experience as an energy and environmental attorney. In a statement, the firm stated how the attorney brings extensive experience advising major clients on their most important and technologically sophisticated projects, including large project development involving energy and the environment. He represents energy, utility, waste management and other highly regulated companies on permitting, planning, state and federal government relations, regulatory compliance and analysis, governmental initiatives, commercial negotiations, land use, and litigation associated with all facets of operating such companies.

Kuhn's experience also includes large projects internationally, such as hydraulic fracturing permitting and unconventional gas development in Europe.

"Jeff brings substantial skills and experience to Harris Beach. We are thrilled that he has chosen

our statewide platform, and the opportunities it provides, for the next stage of his career," said Partner Bill Flynn, leader of the Energy Industry Team. "Our team is at the forefront of a rapidly changing industry, with our partners and associates providing project development, regulatory compliance, land use, financing and other types of counsel on some of the largest and most significant transmission, generation and storage projects underway in New York. Jeff fits right in."

In addition to his energy and environmental practice, Kuhn has managed attorney teams in diverse commercial litigations in state and federal trial and appellate courts, including extensive experience in banking litigation.

Kuhn represents the 35th Legislative District, covering Delmar and Glenmont, in the Albany County Legislature. He is also a former councilman and deputy supervisor for the Town of Bethlehem. He lives in Bethlehem with his wife, Kristen, and their children, Amelia, Logan, Theodore and Hazel.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Rockefeller College Ranked Among Top-25 in Six Graduate Specialties

ALBANY — University at Albany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy has once again been recognized as the highest-ranked public affairs college in the Northeast region among public universities in the 2023 U.S. News & World Report Best Public Affairs Schools rankings.

Overall, Rockefeller College ranks 23rd in the nation, as well in the top-25 nationally for six public affairs concentrations and specialties:

- 5th in Information and Technology Management
- 9th in Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- 14th in Nonprofit Management
- 16th in Public Management and Leadership
- 20th in Public Finance and Budgeting
- 22nd in Local Government Management

"We are proud to once again be recognized as a top-25 public affairs program and to receive the national recognition of our peers for the work of our faculty, staff, students and alumni," said Interim Dean Julie Novkov. "As a public university, Rockefeller College offers affordable tuition, a nearly 100 percent career placement rate, and six

nationally ranked specialty areas. Students starting or accelerating a career in public affairs receive an unmatched combination of excellence and value."

The Best Public Affairs Schools rankings are based solely on surveys of deans, directors and department chairs representing 270 master's programs in public affairs and administration. Rockefeller College has been recognized continually as one of the nation's premier schools of public affairs since the inception of the U.S. News rankings 27 years ago.

Rockefeller College offers undergraduate- and graduate-level study in public administration, public policy, political science, international affairs and criminal justice. The Centers and Institutes that are part of the college conduct state-of-the-art research and policy analysis, improve the knowledge and skills of employees in public and nonprofit agencies through professional development, and work with government at all levels in the United States and abroad to strengthen democracy and promote effective governing.

Established in 1947 as the Albany Graduate Program in Public Administration, Rockefeller became affiliated with SUNY in 1962 and a part of the University at Albany in 1966. The College is celebrating its 75th anniversary with a series of events all year, including a gala on Sept. 30.

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UAlbany Research, NYS Mesonet receive \$2M

ALBANY — Two of the University at Albany's signature research areas are receiving nearly \$2 million from the recently passed federal budget.

U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko announced last week that The RNA Institute at UAlbany will receive \$1 million for its Next Generation RNA Technology Package, equipment that will help scientists at the Institute identify and track genetic changes in RNA diseases like COVID-19 and myotonic dystrophy.

Tonko's announcement came two days after U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer announced \$900,000 in funding for an atmospheric profiler testbed that will rely on real-time data collected from New York State Mesonet sites operated by UAlbany.

"Federal investments in scientific research are critical to protecting our communities," said University at Albany President Havidán Rodríguez. "These grants will help UAlbany researchers track and develop treatments for debilitating illnesses and improve forecasting and early warning for potentially life-threatening storms."

"In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and with increasingly frequent extreme weather associated with climate change, this work has never been more vital. We're grateful to Sen. Schumer and Rep. Tonko for their leadership, steadfast commitment to higher education and for recognizing and advocating for the importance of this research to all New Yorkers."

Since its launch in the fall of 2020, UAlbany's COVID-19 Surveillance Testing program has analyzed nearly 250,000 saliva samples for the virus. It is overseen by Andy Berglund, director of The RNA Institute, and managed by Tammy Reid, the Institute's research and development manager, and John Cleary, an Institute collaborative staff scientist.

Funds from the Next Generation RNA Technology Package will be used to purchase new equipment to support The RNA Institute's work with SUNY Upstate Medical College to sequence and analyze COVID-19 variant samples collected from SUNY campuses. Data from these samples will help to better understand the virus and develop response strategies for future variants or other viruses.

The funding will also help to purchase new equipment for other research initiatives at The RNA Institute, including its ongoing myotonic dystrophy (DM) research. Institute researchers are using sequencing technologies, microscopy and mass spectrometry to better understand the toxic RNA molecules that cause DM and develop therapeutic strategies.

"We thank Congressman Tonko and his staff for working tirelessly to secure this funding for The RNA Institute," said Berglund. "While this money is an investment in the next generation of equipment, it will also help us to create new discoveries that may help with future pandemics and other health problems and, at the same time, develop the next generation of skilled workers that will help drive the economy of the Capital Region and New York State."

The RNA Institute grant was among

four projects totaling nearly \$6.2 million highlighted Wednesday by Tonko at an event inside ETEC. Included was funding for a floating solar array on the city of Cohoes municipal reservoir, a project for which Richard Perez of UAlbany's Atmospheric Sciences Research Center served as an early advisor.

The atmospheric profiler testbed, titled the Empire State VERTEX (Vertical Sensing Evaluation Regional Testbed Experiment) program, will use Doppler LiDAR instrumentation at each of the NYS Mesonet's 17 profiler sites located across the state to explore and better understand the boundary layers of the atmosphere.

Up until now, researchers at the National Weather Service have relied on weather balloons to measure these atmospheric layers twice a day at three locations across the state. The VERTEX program will take new measurements every five minutes, improving forecasting and early warning of severe weather events.

"This first-in-the-nation VERTEX network will act as a national testbed, with the new federal grant facilitating evaluation and integration of this technology into real-world applications, such as aviation, renewable energy and emergency management," said Jerry Brotzge, program manager of the NYS Mesonet. "VERTEX profiling technology has the potential to significantly reduce aircraft delays, make wind energy more efficient, aid air pollution forecasts, and improve severe storm and winter weather warnings and predictions."

The VERTEX project was among \$22 million in Capital Region projects announced last week by Schumer at the Blake Annex in downtown Albany.

Albany Med reaccredited as stroke center

ALBANY — Albany Medical Center has once again earned Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers from The Joint Commission.

To earn this certification, hospitals must demonstrate compliance with stroke-related standards expected of primary stroke centers, and meet additional requirements, including volume of complex stroke and cerebrovascular patients, quality of care and outcome, advanced imaging capabilities, 24/7 availability of specialized treatments, and providing staff with the unique education and experience to care for complex stroke patients. Albany Med underwent a rigorous onsite review when Joint Commission experts evaluated its compliance with stroke-related standards and requirements.

"Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification recognizes health care organizations committed to fostering continuous quality improvement in patient safety and quality of care," said Mark Pelletier, RN, MS, chief operating officer, Accreditation and Certification Operations, and chief nursing executive, The Joint Commission.

For more information, visit The Joint Commission website at jointcommission.org/.

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■ BUSINESS FEATURE

GE treats diabetes with ultrasound

GE Research-led team is now conducting human feasibility trials with diabetic subjects

NISKAYUNA — Are we moving closer to the day when diabetes is no longer monitored and managed with blood sugar tests, insulin injections and drug treatments?

A GE Research-led team, which includes The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, UCLA Samueli School of Engineering, Yale School of Medicine, and Albany Medical College, has demonstrated the ability to prevent or reverse the onset of diabetes in studies of three different preclinical model systems. The team reported their findings in the latest issue of Nature Biomedical Engineering.

The reported findings represent a significant milestone in the field of bioelectronic medicine, which is exploring new ways to treat chronic

diseases such as diabetes using electronic devices to modulate the body's nervous system. For the past 6 years, GE Research has been a pioneer in ultrasound-based bioelectronic medicine, developing a novel, non-invasive stimulation technique that uses ultrasound to stimulate specific neural pathways within organs that are associated with disease. The diabetes studies reported in the Nature Biomedical Engineering article were supported in part by the Biological Technologies Office (BTO) of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Christopher Puleo, a senior biomedical engineer at GE Research who co-led the diabetes studies and a corresponding author of the Nature Biomedical Engineering article, is excited about the progress that the team has made to demonstrate this potential new treatment for diabetes, stating, "We have shown that ultrasound can be used to prevent or reverse diabetes in these preclinical

studies. We're now in the midst of human feasibility trials with a group of Type-2 diabetic subjects, which begins our work toward clinical translation."

"The use of ultrasound could be a game-changer in how bioelectronic medicines are used and applied to disease, such as Type- 2 diabetes, in the future," Puleo added. "Non-pharmaceutical and device-based methods to augment or replace the current drug-treatments may add a new therapeutic choice for physicians and patients in the future."

From the onset of these diabetes studies, this has been a truly collaborative team effort among all the partners to achieve the extraordinary progress made to date. From the first GE studies showing initial results using ultrasound-prototype devices with diabetic models; the work then expanded through a DARPA-funded program. This was followed by additional work at partner sites investigating: The specific

ion channels associated with the ultrasound effect within in vitro cultures (UCLA Samueli School of Engineering; Di Carlo Lab); the direct effects of ultrasound stimulation on nerve activity using recording electrodes (Albany Medical College; Shin Lab); testing the ultrasound treatment effect in a second and third models (Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research (FIMR); Chavan and S. Zanos Labs); and the magnitude of the effect on blood glucose using quantitative glucose clamp methods (Yale School of Medicine; Herzog Lab, and FIMR; S. Zanos Lab).

Sangeeta Chavan, PhD (professor in the Institute of Bioelectronic Medicine at the Feinstein Institutes and one of the senior authors on the paper) said, "There are no long-lasting clinical treatments in tackling diabetes. This exciting research is a major step forward to harness a novel approach of using ultrasound stimulation and bioelectronic medicine to alleviate and potentially reverse a disease that affects

millions worldwide."

Stavros Zanos, MD, PhD (associate professor in the Institute of Bioelectronic Medicine at the Feinstein Institutes and one of the senior authors on the paper) said "In addition to demonstrating a potential therapy for diabetes, this paper begins to mechanistically bridge short-term and long-term physiological and metabolic effects of neuromodulation, a missing link in how we understand, optimize and deploy clinically neuromodulation therapies."

Damian S. Shin, Ph.D., interim chair and associate professor in the Department of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics at Albany Medical College, said, "The findings from this collaborative effort are really exciting. If substantiated, our work could lead to an innovative, non-invasive way to treat Type-2 diabetes. We're proud to have helped lay the foundation for future clinical studies."

Victoria Cotero (the lead author of the study from GE) noted that the findings reported in Nature Biomedical Engineering showed that GE's non-invasive stimulation technique using ultrasound was effective in both genetic and diet-induced models of Type- 2 diabetes. In both cases, the treatment was able to improve both glucose tolerance and insulin resistance.

Jeffrey Ashe (the senior electrical engineer on the project) said, "One of the factors the GE Research-led team is still determining is the frequency of treatments that is needed to maintain the reversal of diabetes under different stimulation parameters." In these studies, the team found that regular short treatments (i.e., 3 minutes every day) resulted in long-term maintenance of normal blood glucose levels.

Following the reported preclinical studies, GE Research and its collaborators have been engaged in additional preclinical and initial clinical studies.

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LIBRARIES

Library storytimes

Indoors, in our Community Room! Storytime meets on Thursdays at 10 am and combines music, movement, and stories to encourage play and early literacy.

Romp and Read will help get the wiggles out on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10 am with identical, interactive themes, stories, and action songs with props.

Registration is required for all storytimes.

Take and Make Tuesday

Hippity hop down to the Library this week to pick up a fun springtime bunny and chick magnet craft. Pick up begins at 9 am on Tuesday, April 12.

RCS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Monday Matinee

Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" will be featured in our Monday Matinee on Monday, April 11, at 2 pm. The film presents a new look at the classic musical.

Turn Your Spoil Into Soil

Composting with Amy will show you how to supercharge your garden, save money and help the planet - all in your backyard. Register to reserve your spot for Saturday, April 23, at 11 am.

— Carol Melewski

April Book Talk

We'll be discussing these books in April:

Books &

Beyond - "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson, 11a.m., April 13, virtual;

Fiction Book Discussion - "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson, 7p.m., April 6, virtual;

Be The Change Book Club - "SLAY" by Brittney Morris, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 19, community room;

Reading Together - "Rainbow Weaver" by Tejedora Del Arcoiris, 6:30 p.m., Monday, April 18, community room;

Middle School Book Club: "One Last Shot", by John David Anderson, 3 p.m., Friday, April 29, community room;

Voorheesville Public Library

Please register online each month for any of these book discussions. Limited copies of some titles are available for \$5, compliments of the Friends of the Library.

Earth Day Family Celebration

Come visit the Thacher Nature Center with Miss Lisa as we learn about our local environment at 10 a.m., Friday, April 22. Students in grades k-5, w/family, will create earth-themed crafts, explore nature, and have fun while visiting with friends and family.

— Lynn Kohler

Russia and Ukraine

What led to the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine?

What are the ramifications for these nations, and the entire world? We'll take a deeper dive to explore some key considerations with this Zoom roundtable discussion on Monday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. led by Kristin Bidoshi, Union College professor of Russian & Eastern European studies. After establishing historical context, we'll explore the current geopolitical landscape and discuss current events on a humanitarian real-world level. Two Union College students, one from Ukraine and one from Russia, will also participate, followed by a Q & A session. Sign up for this timely event on the Events tab of guilderlandlibrary.org.

In-Person Programs Resume

We're beginning to reintroduce in-person programming at GPL, while continuing with virtual program options. Among the in-person choices in April:

Storytimes - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in our new Children's Library, with limited availability. This fun-filled session, intended for infants through age 5 with an adult caregiver, features books, rhymes, music, and more. Please register only one person, noting how many from your group will attend in the Notes field. Since space is limited, please register for only one storytime per week, on the Events tab of guilderlandlibrary.org. If anyone in your group is not feeling well, please stay home and come back another time.

Genealogy with Lisa Dougherty

Professional assistance researching your family tree will be available at the library



on Wednesday, April 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. To schedule your customized appointment, please contact Lisa directly at: lisagene@nycap.rr.com. For general information, visit her website: <http://www.upstatenygenealogy.com>.

Virtual and In-Person Computer Coaching

We've added a second day and time for our popular 1:1 computer coaching sessions to meet demand. In addition to Monday night virtual sessions at 6:30 p.m., Coach Robin will meet with you in-person at the library Fridays at 11 a.m. to cover tips and tricks on your Apple device, or walk you through the Learning Express tool on our website to craft a winning résumé. Reserve your customized session on the Events tab of our website.

Night Owls Online

How do we hold on to hope? That's the central question posed by Dr. Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams in their recent bestseller, "The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times." Pick up a copy from us, then register on the Events tab of our website for the link to the virtual discussion on Monday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Roadmap to Retirement

IRA planning mistakes are all too common and can put an investor's retirement plans in jeopardy. This virtual seminar on Tuesday, April 12, at 6 p.m. can help you avoid these common mistakes to make the most of

your IRA (Investment Retirement Account) savings. We'll focus on problem areas, including beneficiary designations, spousal inheritance options and IRA, Roth IRA and RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) issues. Register on our website for this informative Zoom session presented by Reid Prinzo, CFA, Bryant Asset Management in Slingerlands.

Seeking Board Candidates

Looking to weigh in on library decisions? We're looking for you! The Guilderland Public Library Board of Trustees currently has four open seats for 2022: two five-year terms; and two one-year terms. Eligible candidates must be U.S. citizens, Guilderland Central School District residents, and at least 18 years of age. Completed paperwork is due by Mon. April 18 for the GPL board candidate and budget vote on Tuesday, May 17. For more information, please request an information packet at our circulation desk, or go to: <https://bit.ly/GPL2022BoardCandidates>.

General Information

Overdue fines have been eliminated at GPL; patrons will be billed for the replacement cost of lost items. Curbside pick up is available with 24-hours notice by calling 518-456-2400 ext. 2. Public computers for adults and children are available, and study rooms are partially open. Masks are recommended, but not required. Contact us at 518-456-2400 or ask.library@guilderlandlibrary.org.

— Luanne Nicholson

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LIBRARIES

Warm up to cold cases

Attention all true crime buffs! Join us April 13 for a unique virtual talk with Dr. Christina Lane, the program director for the Cold Case Analysis Center at the College of Saint Rose.

The only center of its kind in New York State and one of six nationally, the Cold Case Analysis Center (CCAC) allows selected students from the criminal justice, behavior and law, forensic science, and forensic psychology degree programs to work on true cold cases, addressing a mounting problem in the criminal justice system.

The program's interns are currently working on unsolved homicides and missing persons cases. These cases stretch back decades — the focus is to spread awareness and keep these stories alive. Student participants also see the human side of the cold case



problem by working with local nonprofit agencies on fundraisers related to the problem.

The Cold Case Analysis Center, in partnership with WGY and iHeartRadio, has been featured in investigative podcast Upstate Unsolved, going beyond the headlines of Upstate NY's unsolved crimes.

Most recently, the CCAC has taken on the missing case of Jalieck Rainwalker. On November 2, 2007, Jalieck at age 12, went missing from his residence in Greenwich, New York. In 2012, the case was elevated from "missing child" to "probable child homicide."

Cold Case Analysis with Dr. Christina Lane takes place over Zoom

Wednesday, April 13, at 7 p.m. Registration is required. Visit bethlehem.librarycalendar.com to sign up.

Paths for paws

Author and hiking enthusiast Alan Via returns to the library Wednesday, April 27, for an in-person discussion of his book "Doghiker: Great Hikes with Dogs." A book sale and signing will kick things off at 6:30 p.m. with the regular program beginning at 7 p.m. A chance for questions will follow, along with additional time for book signing.

Much more than a guidebook showing readers great places to hike with their canine companions in upstate New York, "Doghiker" is a dog owner's operating manual and tool kit. A lifelong dog owner, Via makes a strong case for responsible ownership and offers guidance on selecting

a canine hiking companion, training, safety, appropriate gear, canine first aid, and keeping your dog fit and healthy.

Covering the Adirondacks through the Catskills, and areas in between, his guidebook includes 77 beautiful hikes that are great for dogs. Each hike has a custom topographic map showing parking areas, trails, viewpoints, water sources, and other points of interest. Included is all the information readers need to easily evaluate which hikes are most suitable for them and their canine companions as they get outside and explore the great outdoors.

Via is a Slingerlands resident, winter 46er and has also written the hiking guide "The Catskill 67: A Hiker's Guide to the Catskill 100 Highest Peaks Under 3,000 Feet." He has hiked extensively

throughout the United States and Canada.

Space is limited. Visit bethlehem.librarycalendar.com to sign up.

Recycling event for residents

The Bethlehem Central School District Green Team, Delmar Farmers Market and Grassroot Givers have teamed up to host a Spring Recycle Fest Saturday, April 9, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Elm Avenue Park in Bethlehem.

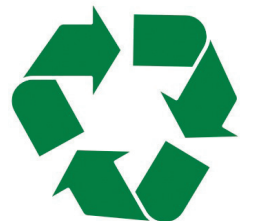
Stop by for secure document shredding, and recycling of books, textiles, bicycles and more. Visit www.townofbethlehem.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=1030 for more information.

Test at home

Got the sniffles? It's allergy season, and some of those symptoms can mimic those of a COVID-19 infection.

A simple, at-home test can give you some peace of mind. Pick up a free COVID-19 test kit at the library while supplies last. The kits are being made available through Albany County and the Town of Bethlehem, NY Emergency Management Office. Stop by the library and ask for one at the Information Desk or request one for curbside pickup. For more information, give us a call at (518) 439-9314 or email info@bethpl.org.

— Kristen Roberts



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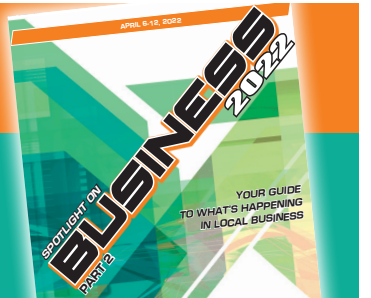
A three- alarm chili

It was a chili cook-off at South Colonie High School.

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Inside This Issue:

A look at what's happening in Capital District businesses.



April 6 - April 12, 2022 • Your Entertainment Resource • **FREE!**

LOCAL MUSIC

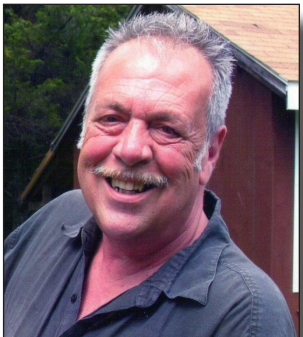
INSIDE



Live at Tulip Fest

Albany announces its musical acts for Tulip Fest in May.

Page B3



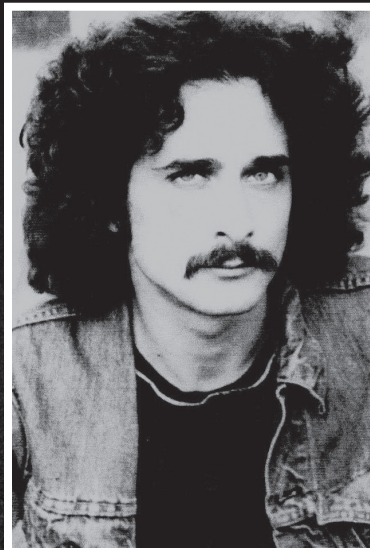
Bob Mason

Popular morning radio show host died Sunday at 73.

Page B6



Goodbye to the Music Man



Ralph Spillenger, popular restaurateur and musician, has died at age 70

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**

halliseym@spotlightnews.com

MECHANICVILLE — Ralph Michael Spillenger, a longtime fixture in the local music scene as both a musician and club owner, died on Tuesday, March 29, following surgery to repair an aortic aneurysm. He was 70.

Continues on page B6



Celebrate Mom on Mother's Day

PAGES

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FROM THE PODIUM

The best view in the house. A look at the conductor's podium at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall.

Photo by Michael Hollisey / The Spot 518

quote of the week

"The region is overflowing with talent from Troy to Schenectady, up to Saratoga, and of course, in the heart of Albany. Music has been our salvation over the past two years of so many unknowns. It was our local venues and radio stations that helped keep us sane and connected. For that, we are so thankful."




— Jim Gilbert, Co-owner and publisher of Nippertown.com



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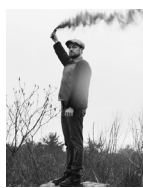
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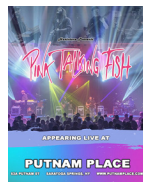
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RECENTLY ANNOUNCED

Live at Tulip Fest

Music lineup announced for 74th Annual Albany Tulip Festival

ALBANY — Washington Park will host the 74th Annual Albany Tulip Festival presented by Citizens Bank on Saturday, May 7 and Sunday, May 8.

The Tulip Festival is Albany's signature spring event featuring annual traditions rooted in the City's rich Dutch heritage. Since Mayor Erastus Corning II read the first Tulip Festival Proclamation on May 14, 1949, the Mother's Day weekend celebration has grown into one of the Northeast's biggest and most beloved yearly events.

Featuring area vendors, businesses, community organizations and original local artists on every stage, the Tulip Festival continues to honor Albany's four centuries of history while looking ahead to its future. As always, this event is free and open to the public.

YOGA Fest will kick off both each day's events with a session from the Main Stage from 9 to 10 a.m.

The anticipated Tulip Queen Coronation Ceremony will return to the Washington Park Lakehouse Stage.

The Mendelssohn Club will perform at 11:30 a.m., followed by the Tulip Queen Procession at the Tulip Beds by the Moses Statue at 11:45 a.m. 2021

74th Annual Albany Tulip Festival Music Lineup

Saturday, May 7

MAIN STAGE

1:30 p.m. — Bad Mothers
3:00 p.m. — TBA
4:30 p.m. — Parquet Courts

LOCAL 518 STAGE

1:00 p.m. — Hanzolo
2:15 p.m. — Canella
3:30 p.m. — B. Chaps and Freedom Stratton
4:45 p.m. — E.R.I.E

Sunday, May 8

MAIN STAGE

1:30 p.m. — Taina Asili
3:00 p.m. — DJ TGIF: The Hyp3st Dj Period!
4:45 p.m. — Powerhouse Funk Band

LOCAL 518 STAGE

1:00 p.m. — Kyla Silk
2:15 p.m. — Side - B
3:30 p.m. — Kieran Rhodes
4:45 p.m. — Playin' with Fire

*The Main Stage is Washington Park Parade Grounds.
The Local 518 Stage is The Park Lakehouse.*

Tulip Queen Ashanti Bishop, Mayor Kathy Sheehan and the Dutch Settlers Society will lead the 2022 Tulip Queen finalists to the Lakehouse Stage where a new queen

will be crowned.

For more information, call 518-434-2032, visit www.albanyevents.org or follow @AlbanyNYevents on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram. #TulipFest2022



Hanzolo, captured while playing at Lark Hall last May, is one of the bands announced to perform at this year's Tulip Festival.

Michael Hallisey / The Spot 518

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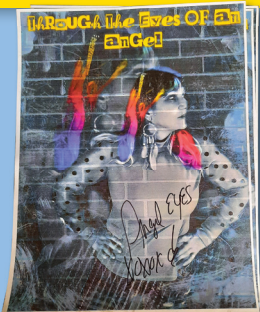
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Joey Molland's Badfinger

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MUSIC

Side-B claims March 'Music' Madness

After a month of voting, local music fans choose winner of March 'Music' Madness

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

ALBANY — Side-B earned the most votes in the final round of Nippertown's second March "Music" Madness tournament over the weekend. The Albany band garnered more votes from local fans than the contest's runner-up, Pony in the Pancake.

By winning the top position, Side-B has earned a three-day session at White Lake Music and Bridge Road Entertainment in Albany. The package includes recording time, editing and mixing, with all studio instruments, equipment, engineer and pre-session consulting provided.

Side-B has also earned \$500 and the opportunity

to play this summer on the Main Stage at NipperFest, on Saturday, July 23 at Music Haven in Schenectady.

Pony in the Pancake finishes the friendly competition with \$300 in hand and has earned a spot to play the Summer on Central Concert Series at The Linda - WAMC's Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Aug. 27.

"Honestly, any one of the 64 bands that started this year's tournament had a great chance to win it all," said Jim Gilbert, co-owner and publisher of Nippertown. "The region is overflowing with talent from Troy to Schenectady, up to Saratoga, and of course, in the heart of Albany."



Sponsors included a dozen returning from last year: White Lake Music, Denis Entertainment Group, Putnam Place, The Dona Frank Team, Nanola, The Hollow, Guthrie/Bell Productions, Caffé Lena, Troy Music Hall, The Linda, High Peaks Event Production, and WEXT Radio, as well as four new sponsors, Cohoes Music Hall, Rare Form Brewing, Empire Live, Lark Hall, and 102.7 WEQX. Prizes will be \$500 for the Winner, \$300 for the Runner-up, \$200 for 3rd and 4th place Semi-finalists, and \$100 for 5th through 8th place.

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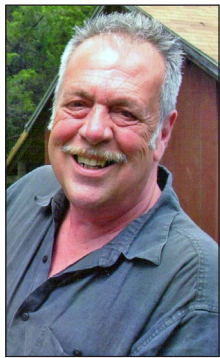
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IN MEMORIAM

Bob Mason dead at 73

ALBANY — Former radio personality Bob Mason, who gained popularity as part of WPYX's Mason and Sheehan morning show, died Sunday, April 3 at the age of 73.

The Catskill native, born Roy Moon, started a career on the local radio waves in the 1970s. He was



MASON

program director of WFLY-92.3 FM in 1978 when the radio station switched to the Top 40 format it continues to run today. Three years later, he jumped up the dial to WPYX-106.5 FM where he would later be paired with Bill Sheehan in a morning radio program that would remain popular with local audiences throughout the 80s.

“At the time, the market was dominated by WGY and WFLY FM,” Ted Utz recalled on Facebook. “Bob walked into my office waving a white flag. He joined our team... three months later, PYX-106 was the number one station in town.”

— Michael Hallisey



Ralph Spillenger, captured here in one of his ubiquitous hats, was remembered as a loyal advocate for the local music scene. Facebook

COMING UP

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ALTON BROWN: LIVE BEYOND THE EATS

Proctors • April 8

Alton Brown is hitting the road with a new culinary variety show. Audiences can expect more comedy, more music, more highly unusual cooking demos, and more potentially dangerous sciencey stuff. Prepare for an evening unlike any other and if Brown calls for volunteers... think twice.



THE TRUE

theREP • April 1 - 24

Albany, buckle up for Sharr White's political drama about the blunt, profane, decades-long defender of Albany's Democratic Party machine Dorothea "Polly" Noonan. Politics is personal for Noonan, especially now that her hero, "mayor for life" Erastus Coming II, is battling for party control while at the same time fighting the fiercest primary challenge of his life.



PEPPA PIG'S ADVENTURE

Proctors • April 12

Come join Peppa on an exciting camping trip in the woods with George and her school friends, including Pedro Pony, Suzy Sheep and Gerald Giraffe.



BRAD MEHLDAU

UPH • April 15

Grammy Award winning jazz pianist Brad Mehldau has recorded and performed extensively since the early 1990s.



JOURNEYMAN, A TRIBUTE TO ERIC CLAPTON

UPH • April 22, 7:30 p.m.

Fronted by Shaun Hague, JOURNEYMAN has become the #1 tribute to Clapton in a very short amount of time.



GOSPEL JUBILEE

Proctors • April 23, 6:00 p.m.

Gospel Jubilee returns to the MainStage at Proctors with a special musical tribute in dedication to the Capital Region's beloved, the late Regina "Gina" Parsons and Antonia "Toni" Brown.



PROCTORS

4/8 • Beyond The Eats Alton Brown Live!

4/9 • David Jacobs-Strain & Bob Beach

4/12 • Peppa Pig's Adventure

4/15 & 16 • Shen Yun

4/20 • GNA's Secret Star Jam

4/23 • Gospel Jubilee

theREP

4/1 - 4/24 • The True

UPH

4/15 • Brad Mehldau

4/22 • Journeyman, A Tribute to Eric Clapton



From page B1 ... Music Man

Spillenger was admitted on Tuesday morning to Albany Medical Center to finish a two-part procedure initiated last October. According to a message shared by his son, Shane, his father suffered through two heart attacks during what was a 12-hour procedure.

News of his passing spread quickly online among those who knew him — which was basically everyone in the local music scene.

Spillenger was as much a part of the local music scene as one person could be. Aside from his exploits as a musician, he was involved with the business aspect of it. He was involved in the partnership that purchased the Jillian's nightclub on Albany's North Pearl Street in 2007. He would later open The Bayou Cafe on the corner of North Pearl and Columbia where The Hollow is now.

“If you love our music scene and our venue, it's because this man built it from the ground up. He paved the way in more ways than one,” wrote Dora Philip, co-owner of The Hollow and a former employee of Spillenger. “I remember when he first told us of his plans for a second Bayou Cafe in downtown Albany. [His first in Glenville, where both she and her husband, Mike worked.] ... Little did

we know Ralph was going to build the place that we would take over nearly 20 years later. When I say The Hollow was built by love, it's because it was. Ralph's love came first.”

Spillenger's love for music sent him to California, to where he moved shortly after graduating from Albany High School in 1970. While there, he latched on to several bands. He developed a reputation for playing slide guitar. He returned to Albany in the 80s, starting his band, The Students, before meeting his wife, Sharleen, with whom he had two children, Shane and Lilyanne.

Shane, a local music promoter and owner of Nanola in Malta, called him “my best friend.”

“I know he is watching over me and my family,” said Shane. “I know he's up above, leading in his final jam session. He was my biggest supporter.”

Shane continued to describe his father as a supporter of the local scene. Others shared the same sentiment, adding his proclivity for sharing a biting scene of humor.

“He took chances on bands, he took chances in general,” said WEQX radio personality Jeff Morad, who over the years befriended Shane. Morad added that

you could visit an open mic anywhere and chances were, Ralph would be on stage. “I'm sure he's building a kickass soundstage in heaven right now.”

His love for the local scene was evident to the end. A few days before going to the hospital, he mused over a picture he found of The Bayou Cafe in Albany. He didn't know who took the picture. It captured the restaurant as a painting with Bayou standing out prominently above.

“I have no idea who shot this and made it look like a painting,” he wrote, as he shared it online. “That's the building manager standing on the corner.”

In his obituary, Spillenger was described as a man who loved being a father, and overjoyed once he later became a grandfather to Jack and Eleanor. He was endlessly proud and supportive of his children.

“Ralph loved his family and will be missed immensely by all.”

Ralph is survived by his wife, Sharleen; his children, Shane Spillenger and Lilyanne Phillips; his grandchildren, Jack Spillenger and Eleanor Phillips; and his sister Karen Gaul.

Calling hours were on Sunday, April 3, at Townley and Wheeler Funeral Home in Ballston Lake. A funeral service followed, led by Rabbi Amiel Monson.

MUSIC

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Thurs: **Grand Slam** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Wayne Horvitz & Sara Schoenbeck duo** | 7 p.m.
Sat: **Guerilla Toss / Booker Stardrum** | 10 p.m.

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Wed: **Poetry Open Mic** | 7 p.m.
Thurs: **Rusticator** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Danielle Miraglia With Erin Harpe's Country Blues Duo** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **John Craigie** | 8 p.m.
Sun: **Melissa Ferrick** | 7 p.m.

Carson's Woodside Tavern
57 NY-9P, Malta
518-584-9791
Thurs: **Mitch Frasier** | 6 p.m.
Fri: **Jake Juron** | 6 p.m.
Sat: **Stef Solo** | 6 p.m.
Sun: **Jay Yager & Keri Alonzo** | 4 p.m.

Centre Street Pub
308 Union St., Schenectady
518-393-2337

Cohoes Music Hall
58 Remsen St., Cohoes
518-434-0776
Sat: **The Sixties Show** | 8 p.m.

The Comedy Works
388 Broadway, Saratoga Springs
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Fri: **Maureen Langan** | 8 p.m.

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Eden Cafe
269 Osborne Road #3, Albany
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Thurs: **The Tony Loves Trixie Show auditions and Dress Rehearsal** | 6:30 p.m.
Fri: **Emotions on Canvas** | 6 p.m.
Sat: **Open Stage** | 7:30 p.m.

HOT SPOTS EVENTS CALENDAR



Dude of Life

For several decades, The Dude's been writing songs in an ongoing collaboration with Phish and first teamed up with Phish's frontman Trey Anastasio while the two were in high school. It plays at Lark Hall on Friday.

Eventbrite

The Egg
Empire State Plaza., Albany
518-473-1845
Fri: **Bela Fleck** | 7:30 p.m.
Sat: **David Sedaris** | 8 p.m.
Sun: **Zakir Hussain** | 3 p.m.

Emack & Bolio's
366 Delaware Ave., Albany
518-512-5100
Empire Live/Underground
93 North Pearl St., Albany
866-468-3399
Fri: **You Need To Calm Down** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Badflower** | 7:30 p.m.

Empire State Plaza
Empire State Plaza., Albany
518-474-2418
Thurs: **Dr. King Career Fair** | 11 a.m.

Fort Orange Brewing
450 North Pearl St, Albany
518-992-3103
Thurs: **Trivia** | 6:30 p.m.

Frog Alley Brewing Co.
108 State Street Schenectady
518-631-4800
Sat: **Big Eyed Phish** | 8:30 p.m.

Fuze Box
12 Central Avenue Albany
518-992-6434
Sat: **Play-Mates** | 8 p.m.

Funny Bone
1 Crossgates Mall Rd #K-206, Albany
518-313-7484.
Thurs: **Steve Hofstetter** | 7:30 p.m.
Fri: **Greg Morton** | 7:30 p.m.
Sat: **Essential Laughs** | 1 p.m.

Gaffney's
16 Caroline St., Saratoga Springs
518-587-7359

Grappa '72
818 Central Ave., Albany
518-482-7200
Thurs: **The Hamilton Street Jazz Trio** | 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Fri: **Earl Davis with Peg & Bill Delaney** | 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The Hangar on the Hudson
675 River St., Troy
518-272-9740
Fri: **NEQ** | 8 p.m.
Sun: **Gringo Starr And His All-Star Band** | 7 p.m.

The Hollow Bar + Kitchen
79 North Pearl St., Albany
518-426-8550
Sat: **The Sharks w/ Johnny Rabb & The Jailhouse Rockers** | 7 p.m.

Lark Hall
351 Hudson Ave, Albany
518-599-5804
Wed: **Zach Nugent** | 8 p.m.
Fri: **Dude of Life Band w/s/g Hilltop** | 8 p.m.

The Linda
339 Central Ave, Albany
518-465-5233
Fri: **Stick Men** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **The Furious Bongos play Zappa** | 8 p.m.

McGeary's Irish Pub
4 Clinton Square, Albany
518-463-1455
Tues: **Trivia Night** | 7 p.m.
Nashville Of Saratoga
39 Phila Street, Saratoga Springs
518-909-6274
Thurs: **Karaoke** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Jordan Stoner** | 9 p.m.
Sat: **Raquel and Wild Flowers** | 9 p.m.

Nanola
2639 Rt 9, Malta
518-587-1300

The Night Owl
17 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs
518-319-2300
Thurs: **Cookout** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Fireside Fridays** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Supper Club Saturdays** | 6 p.m.

Olde English Pub
683 Broadway, Albany.
518-434-6533

The Palace Theatre
19 Clinton Ave., Albany
518-465-4663
Thurs: **Gov't Mule [postponed]** | 8 p.m.

Playhouse Stage Co.
Madison Ave at New Scotland Ave
Albany (518) 434-2035

Panza's
129 So. Broadway, Saratoga Springs
518-584-6882
Sun: **Sinatra Sunday With Michael**

Panza & Brian Halliday Trio | 5 p.m.

Parish Public House
388 Broadway, Albany
518-465-0444
Fri: **Groovebeats** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **RootsCollider** | 8 p.m.

The Parting Glass
40-42 Lake Ave., Saratoga Springs
518-583-1916

Paulys Hotel
337 Central Ave., Albany
518-426-0828
Fri: **John Valby** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Father Figure** | 8 p.m.
Sun: **Electric Sky Church Talent Review** | 5 p.m.

Proctors
432 State Street., Schenectady
518-346-6204
Fri: **Alton Brown Live** | 7:30 p.m.
Sat: **David Jacobs** | 7:30 p.m.

Putnam Place
63a Putnam St., Saratoga Springs
518-584-8066
Fri: **Aqueous w/ Baked Shrimp** | 9 p.m.
Sat: **Ryan Montbleau Band w/ Root Shock** | 9 p.m.

Rare Form Brewing Company
90 Congress Street Troy
(518) 326-4303

Ravenswood Grill & Tavern
1021 NY 146, Clifton Park.
518-371-8771

Tue: **Trivia Night** | 6:30 p.m.

The Ruck
104 3rd St., Troy
(518) 273-1872
Wed: **Trivia** | 7-9 p.m.

Rustic Barn Pub
150 Speigletown Rd., Troy
518-235-5858
Fri: **Dirty Grass Players** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Matt Mirable Band** | 8 p.m.
Sun: **Second Sunday Bluegrass Jam** | 5:30 p.m.

The Saratoga Winery
462 Route 29, Saratoga Springs
518-584-9463

Saratoga National
458 Union Avenue Saratoga Springs
518.583.4653

Saratoga City Tavern
19-21 Caroline St., Saratoga Springs
518-581-3230
Thurs: **Karaoke** | 9 p.m.
Mon: **Bingo** | 8 p.m.
Tues: **Trivia** | 8 p.m.

Sand Lake Center for the Arts
2880 NY 43 Averill Park
518-674-2007

SPAC
Avenue of the Pines, Saratoga Springs
518-584-9330

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall
30 Second St., Troy
518-273-0038
Thurs: **Resistance Revival Chorus** | 7:30 p.m.

Vapor
342 Jefferson St, Saratoga Springs
(518) 584-2110
Fri: **Funk Evolution** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Big Sky Country** | 8 p.m.

Van Slyck's
Rivers Casino & Resort
1 Rush St., Schenectady
518-579-8800
Fri: **Grand Central Station** | 9 p.m.
Sat: **That 80's Band** | 9 p.m.

Waterworks Pub
76 Central Ave., Albany
518-465-9079
Fri: **Friday Night Dancing & Karaoke** | 10 p.m.-4 a.m.
Sat: **Saturday Night Dancing & Drag** | 10 p.m.-4 a.m.

Wicked
1602 Route 9, Clifton Park
518-467-8900

Wishing Well Restaurant
745 Saratoga Rd., Wilton
518-584-7640
Fri: **Rob Aronstein Trio** | 8 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Albany Institute of History and Art
The Four Elements of Leigh Li-Yun Wen-
The four elements of western cosmology, earth, air, fire, water—are the subjects of artist Leigh Li-Yun Wen's work. Whether paintings, prints, or ceramics, Wen's art expresses her personal and cultural histories. Having grown up on the island of Taiwan, she possesses a deep affinity



Issue Date:
May 4
Ad Deadline:
April 27




• STYLISH DESIGNS • INNOVATIVE IDEAS • HOME IMPROVEMENTS

for the elemental power of water and the forces of nature. Exhibit is going until June 29th.

The Hudson River School: Landscape Paintings from the Albany Institute- The Albany Institute holds a large and important collection of nineteenth-century American landscape paintings, works often associated with the term "Hudson River School. This exhibit is currently ongoing.

Nineteenth Century American Sculpture:Erastus Dow Palmer and His Protégés Launt Thompson, Charles Calverley, and Richard Park- Designed to showcase the museum's nationally known collection of mid- to late-nineteenth-century sculpture, This exhibit is currently ongoing.

Ancient Egypt- Egyptologist and Guest Curator Dr. Peter Lacovara has incorporated the research and scientific discoveries revealed in the GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies exhibition into a new exhibition about Ancient Egypt. This exhibit is currently ongoing.

Traders & Culture: Colonial Albany and the Formation of American Identity- This exhibition looks at those diverse peoples who shaped colonial Albany and the objects that reflect their interests, values, commercial, and social interactions. This exhibit is currently ongoing. The Albany Institute of History and Art, 125 Washington Ave. Albany, 518.463.4478.

Albany International Airport

ECHO-Ginne Gardiner & Amy Talluto Recent Painting and Collage A pattern of reflections distinguishes the work of these two artists, who make paintings that are cycled into collages, which are then reinterpreted as new paintings. Amy Talluto and Ginne Gardiner both describe the earliest phases of their creative process as cloaked in associations with landscape, weather and seasons. Beginning November 20th 2021 to April 25th, 2022 Location: 3rd Floor, Main Terminal, 737 Albany



Carrying on a legacy

John Craigie is renowned for his eloquent Americana style, engaging live shows and off-the-cuff clever observations. He takes the Caffé Lena stage on Saturday, April 9.

Eventbrite

Shaker Rd, Albany, NY. 518-242-2241 or www.albanyairport.com/arts

Arts Center of the Capital Region

The Troy. Gallery hours: Daily, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. 265 River St., Troy. Free admission. 518-273-0552 or artscenteronline.org

The Clark Art Institute

As They Saw It - Images have long been an accompaniment to war, whether to document fast-paced events in the heat

of battle, to sway public opinion through propagand, or to convey deep emotions like grief and fear. As They Saw It presents four centuries of war imagery from Europe and the United States, with an emphasis on the period 1820-1920. The artists featured in this exhibition were not simply bystanders. Many of them served as soldiers or had been expressly commissioned as war artists. To a great extent, artists' nationality and backgrounds influenced the version of events they chose, or felt compelled, to present. Even those who worked far from the front lines were engaged in one side or

the other of a battle of images with representations of war playing a substantial role in how the parties to a conflict were perceived and how military and civilian experiences were interpreted, both in the moment and long afterward. From a modern perspective, photography may seem like the most powerful tool for documenting war because of its assumed truth-value. Yet we know this is far from guaranteed. Nonphotographic media like drawings and prints may sometimes convey greater intensity of feeling. Even in the era of photography, there was still a demand for handmade, "interpre-



HOT DATE

BÉLA FLECK

Béla Fleck brings his banjo back to Saratoga Springs to play Caffé Lena on Friday, April 8, starting at 7:30 p.m. p.m.

March 5th through May 30th. Museum hours: Daily, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Admission: Adults, \$20; children 18 and younger, free. 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. 413-458-2303 or www.clarkart.edu

Clement Art Gallery

Ken Wilson - 'New Paintings' March 22nd - April 22nd The gallery is currently accepting entries for an exhibition called "Beyond Wonderland-Fairy Tales: Old & New". Works are open to new made up tales or interpretation of previous literary characters and ideas. No Submission Fee. All works must be for sale. The gallery is 50/50 commission rate. Artists may submit up to three pieces in the following media: painting, drawing, sculpture, digital, photography, printmaking, collage, video. Open to artists 18 and over world-wide. Accepted artists are responsible for shipping and delivery/pickup to and from the gallery. All works will be insured by the gallery during the exhibition. Deadline is April 29 for entries. Please email entries in the following manner to jongernon@gmail.com. Accepted artists will be notified by email no later than May 7, 2022. All results are final. **Ongoing:** Local Antique Print & Map room Exhibit hours: Tue. thru Sat, 12noon - 5 PM. 201 Broadway Troy, NY clementart.com 518 272 6811

The Jan Rutland Memorial Artists' Space

Gallery hours Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Second Floor, National Bottle Museum, 76 Milton Ave., Ballston Spa. 518-885-7589 or nationalbottlemuseum.org

Mabee Farm Historic Site Art Exhibit Opening: "Painting Forward: Past to Present" w/ Tina Johnston

Join us for the exhibition opening of "Painted Forward: Past to Present" at the Mabee Farm Historic Site! Artist Tina Johnston will discuss the nature of her artwork and the catalyst for this body

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Runs PCs
 - An entertaining, eccentric person
 - Small, faint constellation
 - Indigo bush
 - Not excessive
 - African antelope
 - A way to fly a glider
 - Tough softly
 - In the course of
 - Early Mesoamerican people
 - A way to drop down
 - Mistake!
 - Housing developments
 - Baseball stat
 - No (Scottish)
 - Type of cuisine
 - British Army infantrymen (abbr.)
 - Marry
 - Buffer solution
 - Legendary rock band
 - Recording industry show
 - A way to consume
 - Lake in Botswana
 - Political action committee
 - Field force unit (abbr.)
 - Very eager
 - Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
 - Nocturnal insect
 - Challenged to perform
 - Thus far
 - Famed NYC arena
 - Commercials

- CLUES DOWN**
- Small, purple-black fruit
 - Baltimore ballplayer
 - Highly seasoned sausage
 - Split pulses
 - Northwestern Mexico town
 - Edible fruit
 - Upper-class southern young woman
 - Sums up
 - The most worthless part
 - Dash
 - Sufferings
 - Clearinghouse (abbr.)
 - Indian title of respect
 - Poems meant to be sung
 - Actor Cooper
 - Luke's mentor ___-Wan
 - Clumsy person
 - Figures
 - Polish Baltic coast peninsula
 - Old cloth
 - Explosive
 - Automobiles
 - 007's creator
 - The Volunteer State
 - Old Irish alphabet
 - Japanese city
 - Portrayed emotion
 - Observers
 - Mimicked
 - Polite reference to a woman
 - Male parent
 - Peter Griffin's daughter

Answers on Pg. B13

of work. Light refreshments provided. "Painted Forward" presents paintings from the 1860s to 1920s repurposed in silk and reimagined with the figures holding digital devices. The luminosity and soft texture of silk, along with the gentle lines and melting colors provides visual serenity and adds new meaning to these historic images. Local artist Tina Johnston is mesmerized by the radiance of silk; the capricious movement of liquid dyes is infectious. Johnston lives and paints in the Capital District of NY and is a member of the Schenectady Art Society. \$10 or FREE for members. Exhibit is April 16th



HOT DATE

LONG LIVE ROCK!

Enjoy a rocking good time as *The Sharks* reunite to wish *Greg Bell* a happy 30 years. They are joined by *Johnny Rabb & The Jailhouse Rockers* on Saturday, April 9, starting at 7 p.m.

Get In The Scene, Face Mixer, Fool a Computer Vision System, Make Your Bones Dance, and more. Museum hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (observatory open until 8 p.m. on Thursday); Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 15 Nott Terrace Heights, Schenectady. Admission: Adults (13+), \$12; seniors (65+), \$10; children (3-12) \$8.

Additional \$6/person for planetarium show. 518-382-7890 or www.miSci.org

New York State Museum Unveiled: Wedding Wear in 19th-century New York

In choosing their wedding clothes, brides and grooms are influenced by fashion, economics, technology, religion, geography, celebrity, personal taste, and their role in society. This was as much the case in 19th-century New York as it is today. Wedding clothing holds memories, and pieces—dresses, shoes, suits, and head wear—are often preserved and passed to subsequent generations. A couple's choices reveal historical information about both the individuals who wore them and those who made them. Some garments find their way to museum collections. This exhibition will unveil stories of select New Yorkers. Exhibit is on going until October 2nd 2022.

Museum hours: Tuesday-Sun, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 222 Madison Ave., Albany. Free admission; suggested donation of \$5/person or \$10/family. 518-474-5877 or www.nysm.nysed.gov

Opalka Gallery

Judith Braun: My Pleasure

Opalka Gallery is pleased to present Judith Braun: My Pleasure, a solo exhibition of new work, on view February 22 through April 23, 2022. Fifteen new paintings and ten painted sculptures will be included along with two site-specific murals and one large wall installation from 1993. Gallery Hours Tuesday through Saturday 12pm to 5pm open late Thursday 12pm to 8pm. Monday by appointment. Gallery is located at Russell Sage College 140 New Scotland Ave. Albany, NY 12208

Saratoga Arts

320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Free admission. Gallery hours: weekdays,



Out of this world funny man

Greg Morton has entertained audiences worldwide for over 35 years, opening for Celine Dion, Harry Connick Jr. Luther Vandross and more. He to perform at the Funny Bone on Friday and Saturday, April 8 and April 9.

Funny Bone

SUDOKU

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Answers on Pg. B13

What's happening this week?

Check out our **HOT SPOTS** Calendar at:
thespot518.com/hotspots

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New Paintings

March 22 - April 22

The Clement Art Gallery

201 Broadway, Troy, NY
 518.272.6811 | www.clementart.com
 Instagram: @clementartroy

Visit Our Gallery Tuesday-Saturday 12-5pm

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 518-584-4132 or saratoga-arts.org

Schenectady County Historical Society

Ongoing: "Mapping Schenectady." Some of SCHS' most prominent and interesting maps are now on permanent display in the Map Gallery. Also, **"Beyond the Pines: Early Schenectady,"** an exhibit focused entirely on early Schenectady: its founding, its people, and what life was like for the city's earliest residents. Plus permanent exhibits. Museum hours: weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Library and Museum, 32 Washington Ave., Schenectady. Admission: \$5. 518-374-0263 or schenectady-historical.org

Dan Sekellic Visual Arts Gallery

Gallery hours: Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sand Lake Center for the Arts, 2880 NY Rte. 43, Averill Park. Free admission. 518-674-2007 or slca-ctp.org

Tang Teaching Museum

On Their Own Terms- On Their Own Terms is an exhibition curated by students in the Scribner Seminar "Outsiders? Folk and Self-Taught Artists in the United States" which presents works by a selection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century artists from the United States who have been variously categorized as "self-taught," "outsider," "folk," or "visionary," among other labels. Objects range in form and medium and include textiles, sculptures, relief carvings, paintings, and drawings. The exhibition aims to present the visual art and lives of these artists while also interrogating the ways that curators, dealers, and scholars have exhibited, acquired, and sometimes overlooked this important work. Although

a diverse group of artists, most of them began to create work late in life, received no formal training, and share a decisive commitment to what and why they wanted to create. Exhibit starts December 4th, 2021 - April 10th, 2022.

Lauren Kelley Location Scouting- Conceived and designed for conversation, dialogue, study, and contemplation, Location Scouting is the fourth exhibition in a series that invites an artist to re-imagine what a community space in the museum can be. Artist and curator Lauren Kelley reshapes the Tang Teaching Museum's mezzanine by combining meditations on travel with snapshots of everyday life in her drawings, sculpture, and stop-motion animation videos. Using plasticine, toys, and souvenirs, Kelley's videos conjure worlds that are malleable and unfixed, inhabited by robust protagonists whose quirks stem from efforts to correct the asymmetrical relationships they encounter. Accentuating the off-kilter, Location Scouting speaks to the shifts and rifts inherent in navigating today's post-pandemic landscape. Skidmore College, 815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Museum hours: Tuesday - Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; Thursday until 9 p.m. Free admission; suggested donations of \$5/adult; \$3/child 13+; seniors, \$2. 518-580-8080 or tang.skidmore.edu

Union College Galleries

Addenda- Custodians of archives wield great power and responsibility in considering who might be left out, disempowered or silenced in the creation of a specific narrative by those who use their records. Addenda centers interpretation and augmentation of past and present through the archive in an effort to construct a



HOT DATE

TRIVIA NIGHT!

Head to Troy on Tuesday night, where The Ruck hosts a competitive night of trivia. Start earning your reputation on Tuesday, April 11, starting at 7 p.m.

fuller future. The three contemporary artists featured in this exhibition, Gina Adams, Merritt Johnson and Sonya Kelliher-Combs, draw on history, cultural traditions, and archives, along with a strong belief in seeking alternative narratives to create artworks that exist dually, as both physical constructions and as a record of unconsidered perspectives and often unrecognized pasts. Exhibit is on going until

June 12th.

University Art Museum

Ronny Quevedo: Offside- Inspired by his mother's and father's respective careers—a seamstress and a professional soccer player—multi-media artist Ronny Quevedo will occupy the arched walls of the museum in a newly commissioned work with diagrammatic vinyl lines that recall both dress patterns and gymnasium floors. Throughout this exhibition, which will include artwork from 2012 to the present, Quevedo's own family's emigration from Ecuador to New York serves as a catalyst for work reflecting on socio-political issues of migration, Indigenous experiences, and sacred spaces. Gallery begins January 25 - April 2, 2022. University Art Museum is located at 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany.

COMEDY

Steve Hofstetter

Hofstetter's national TV debut came on ESPN's Quite Frankly, where Stephen A. Smith yelled at him for three minutes. Hofstetter has also appeared on CBS' "Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson", Showtime's "White Boyz in the Hood", VH1's "Countdown", Sundance's "On the Road in America", and ABC's "Barbara Walter's Special", where he thankfully did not cry. He is the host and executive producer of "Laughs" on Fox networks, where he only cries occasionally. The show will be April 7th at 7:30 p.m. only at the Funny Bone 1 Crossgates Mall Rd #K-206, Albany.

Greg Morton

At age 16, Greg Morton got his first job at a local department store, as a P.A. announcer. That same voice that grabbed

the attention of shoppers, recently wowed the judges on the season 14 premier, of America's Got Talent. Howie Mandel said, "I can't believe there isn't a banner with your name on it in Vegas!" After 35 years of entertaining audiences worldwide - opening for Celine Dion, Harry Connick Jr. and Luther Vandross at Radio City Music Hall - appearing on Just for Laughs, Comedy Central's Premium Blend, Comic's Unleashed, and his own Dry Bar Comedy special, entitled, "I Started Out as a Baby" - He received a standing ovation, and four yeses for his Star Wars routine. The force is definitely with this man..The show will be April 8th at 7:30 p.m. only at the Funny Bone 1 Crossgates Mall Rd #K-206, Albany.

Essential Laughs: Comedy Brunch Benefit For Equinox

Travis Stealy; Professional comedian and show producer Travis Stealey will knock your socks off with every performance and could also actually knock you out since he just happens to be a professional MMA fighter as well. Travis performs and produces incredible shows all over the capital district, neighboring states and even Hawaii! His dark, twisted sense of humor will have you cringely laughing through his entire set. Opener: Jennifer McMullen; Winner of the Capital Region's Best of the Best Comedy Contest Jennifer McMullen takes you on a wild ride through her life with hilarious tales of lovers, family, co-workers and motherhood. She will have you laughing from start to finish and quoting her silly catch-phrases by the end of the night! She has performed all over the Capital Region including the FunnyBone, the Comedy Works and the EGG as well as several hotspots in NYC, CT, RI and MA! Jennifer is an HR professional by day, comedian

by night and mother 24/7. Her stories are relatable, honest and of course funny! Guest: Drew Smith; Born and raised in Albany New York. He played football for Guilderland high school, SUNY Albany, and for the Buffalo Bills. Now currently the head coach at Green Island, Metabolic Fitness and also a Times Union Best Personal Trainer award winner. This will be his first time ever coming to the stage. Feature: Mike McLaughlin; Mike McLaughlin is a comedian who came up in the Albany comedy scene. He's performed at the Boston Comedy Festival, Limestone Comedy fest, and NYC festival. Living in NYC for the last few years he's done multiple shows at the Stand, Standup NY, and NY comedy club. Headliner Tony Rogers; aka Tony Rogers is a Tall dude at six-foot, seven, and you know he can carry your blues right out the door. TR's been doing that nearly all his life. Between his coming up years in the projects of L.A. and Newark, his quick wit and lightening delivery diffused many an uncomfortable situation back in the day, not to mention he got game. The man played D1 basketball. They all still talk about Big Tony Rogers at St. Francis of Brooklyn. These days folk are talking about him at comedy clubs all across the Northeast. He's one of the funniest guys to come out of the Albany, New York area in at least a generation. His views from the top are truly innovative, refreshing and humorous . . . and you can catch the tenderhearted side of Tony Rogers on Amazon.com in his book, She: The Inspiration She Was Looking For. One way or another, Big TR's got just the right mix of words to make your day, to lighten you troubles, and keep you laughing. The show will be April 10th at 1 p.m. only at the Funny Bone 1 Crossgates Mall Rd #K-206, Albany.

HOROSCOPES

April 2022 Week 1

ARIES - MAR 21/APR 20

Enhanced feelings of determination motivate you this week, Aries. You will be able to wrap up projects that you've thus far been unable to finish. You will be able to handle anything.

TAURUS - APR 21/MAY 21

The end of the tunnel isn't as far away as it may seem right now, Taurus. Take one step at a time and you will find out that the culmination of something challenging is near.

GEMINI - MAY 22/JUN 21

Think about making some plans for a getaway or a short vacation this week, Gemini. You likely can use the break and change of scenery. Use this as an opportunity to rest and refocus.

CANCER - JUN 22/JUL 22

Cancer, try not to be too judgemental of others, especially as it pertains to a project at work. Be open-minded to other ideas and value another's perspective.

LEO - JUL 23/AUG 23

Leo, friends will come to you seeking advice or simply looking for a patient person to lend an ear. Give them all the time they need to share their thoughts.

VIRGO - AUG 24/SEPT 22

Getting through the week shouldn't be too much of a problem for you, Libra. A second wind of energy may come your way and you will have the determination to get the job done.

LIBRA - SEPT 23/OCT 23

When a project presents itself you don't want to pass on it, Libra. Do your due diligence. Now is not the time for shortcuts or to rush through anything.

SCORPIO - OCT 24/NOV 22

There's a good chance you will feel positive and upbeat for most of the week, Scorpio. Make the most of this good mood and catch up with friends and loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS - NOV 23/DEC 21

Sagittarius, don't underestimate your ability to be resourceful when a problem lands in your lap. You will find the answers to get through it.

CAPRICORN - DEC 22/JAN 20

Try not to let one obstacle get you down, Capricorn. You will have plenty of other opportunities to redeem yourself and find success in the task at hand.

AQUARIUS - JAN 21/FEB 18

Aquarius, it can be easy to fall into a rut, but by daring to be different you may gain a new perspective on things you never imagined. Try a new style and embrace the change.

PISCES - FEB 19/MAR 20

Resist feeling self-conscious about some of your choices, Pisces. If you believe in yourself, others will start to flock to your side.

MISCELLANEOUS

Jerusalem Reformed Church
Soup, Sandwich, and Desert Take-out. Saturday, October 9th from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. Donations welcome. Please note, masks are required to enter the building. 1433 Indian Fields Rd, Feura Bush.

Troy Farmers Market
More than 80 food growers, bakers, chefs and artisans gather to offer the Capital District's freshest and finest! Live music, great food, family activities and learning opportunities. Every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Troy. Free admission. 518-708-4216 or www.troymarket.org.

Schenectady GreenMarket
Vendors, shoppers, musicians and friends gather at this festive marketplace featuring more than 60 vendors who produce everything they sell. Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free admission. 518-986-0318 or schenectadygreenmarket.org/

Veterans Meet-Up
All veterans welcome to free coffee Tuesdays, from 6 to 8 p.m. Saratoga Coffee Traders, 447 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. 518-884-4999 or www.VeteransPeerConnection.org

Social Night/Open House tours
Get a feel for this amazing creative community. Free. Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tech Valley Center of Gravity, 30 3rd St., Troy. 518-279-7863 or www.tvco.net

MUSIC

Eric Walentowicz Quartet
Eric Walentowicz – (Saxophonist/Composer) has thirty five years of perform-

ing experience as a musician. He is a very in-demand saxophone soloist having performed with over thirty groups annually at over seventy venues a year for the past ten years. Eric has worked as a musician in New York City, Detroit, Miami, Dallas, the Caribbean and the Capital District of NYS. He has backed such artists as Laurel Masse (Manhattan Transfer) at The Egg in Albany, Johnny Mathis at the Palace Theatre in Albany, over five hundred weddings and fundraisers for the New York Players Entertainment Group, The Dallas Jazz Orchestra, The One O'clock Jazz Lab Band at North Texas, The Platters and Jackie Mason at the Fontainebleau in Miami FL, Rick DellaRatta's Jazz For Peace, the Schenectady Symphony, the Miami Symphony Orchestra (Rhapsody and Blue) and several Miami-based Latin bands specializing in Salsa, Merengue, and Cumbia styles. As a staff musician for Norwegian Cruise lines he backed Bobby Rydell, Fabian, Eddie Fisher, George Merritt and Ray Anthony. You can catch this show April 8th at 8 p.m. only at 9 Maple Ave # 1, Saratoga Springs.

Matt Niedbalski Quartet
Matt Niedbalski is a drummer known for bringing musicality and energy to the bandstand. Born and raised in New York's Capital District, Matt was exposed to music at a very early age. While in high school he took private drum lessons with drummer/author Ted Mackenzie and participated in the Empire State Youth Orchestra as well as the Skidmore Jazz Institute. In 2016 Matt graduated from William Paterson's Jazz Studies Program. Since graduating Matt has remained active in both the Albany jazz scene and New York City. He has been featured on numerous recordings including "People and Places" by the Sam

Javitch Quartet featuring Rich Perry, "What We Learn From the Trees" by the Giroux Brothers and "Tales" by Charles Cornell. Matt actively performs with Nate and Tyler Giroux, the Dylan Perillo Orchestra, Keith Pray and Charles Cornell. In addition to his performance schedule, Matt teaches privately and has taught drum classes for younger musicians. You can catch this show April 9th at 8 p.m. only at 9 Maple Ave # 1, Saratoga Springs.

Glenn Jones / Mark Trecka
Glenn Jones (Thrill Jockey) is an American guitarist, often recognized for his work with the band Cul de Sac. His deep knowledge of American Primitive music and his abilities on the fretboard have made Jones a pillar in his community. Mark Trecka is a Chicago-born Hudson Valley resident, an artist and performer whose recent releases include "Implication," a work of prepared piano and cassette loops which was recognized by Bandcamp as among the Best New Experimental Music. You can catch them April 6th at 8 p.m. only at The Avalon Lounge 29 Church St. Catskill.

Wayne Horvitz & Sara Schoenbeck duo
Sara Schoenbeck and Wayne Horvitz first met as musicians at the "Time Flies" festival (Vancouver B.C.) in 2000. In 2004 Horvitz formed the Gravitas Quartet with Schoenbeck, Ron Miles (Trumpet) and Peggy Lee (Cello). This quartet recorded two CDs, and performed throughout Europe and North America. In 2015 Horvitz fused his ensemble "Sweeter Than The Day" with the Gravitas Quartet to create a septet performing compositions based on the poem of Richard Hugo. "Some Places Are Forever Afternoon" resulted in a CD, touring throughout the US, and an episode of NPR's "Jazz Night In America",

hosted by Christian McBride. In addition, Schoenbeck and Horvitz have performed in numerous improvised collectives, special projects, and the occasional duo concert. In 2018, the duo Schoenbeck/Horvitz was created, with subsequent concerts in NY, Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, Ann Arbor, Sacramento, Northampton, Buffalo, Edmonton Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Chicago and Detroit. Their first CD will be released on the Songline label in May 2020 followed by touring in the U.S. and Europe. Schoenbeck has collaborated with, among others, Anthony Braxton, Butch Morris, Mark Dresser, Pamela Z, and Roscoe Mitchell, and maintains her commitment to micro-tonal music and contemporary music. Recent performances include works by both Boulez, and Xenakis, and as a featured improvising soloist with the Mivos Quartet performing Horvitz' These Hills of Glory (String Quartet and Improviser). Horvitz, an integral member of the NY Downtown Scene in the 80s, is known for his long-standing collaborations with John Zorn, Butch Morris, Bill Frisell, Robin Holcomb et al., as well as a prolific composer for orchestra, string quartet, mixed chamber instrumentations, and electronics. Recent works include commissions for the Seattle Symphony, The North Corner Chamber Orchestra, and an installation for the Seattle Art Museum. You can catch them April 8th at 7 p.m. only at The Avalon Lounge 29 Church St. Catskill.

Rusticator
An Americana band with an acoustic spirit, their sound has grown over the years, incorporating influences from a wide variety of styles into a musical language that is distinctly their own. Their original songs draw from a wide range of life experience, delivered through

music that is both polished and heart-felt. Come join us April 7th at 7 p.m. only at Caffè Lena 47 Phila Street, Saratoga Springs.

Danielle Miraglia with Erin Harpe's Country Blues Duo
Erin Harpe's Country Blues Duo (or "CBD") has been called "today's country blues at its very best" by Living Blues Magazine, who crowned Erin "one of the finest fingerpicking acoustic blues singers in the land"! Quickly becoming considered one of the premier finger-style blues guitarists today – male or female – Erin has earned a reputation as a captivating performer and passionate purveyor of the vintage country blues and roots music she was brought up on. The duo features Erin on acoustic guitars, vocals, kazoo & foot percussion, and her husband Jim Countryman on ukulele bass and backing vocals. Danielle Miraglia comes armed with a strong steady thumb on an old Gibson and an infectious stomp-box rhythm with tunes ranging from heart-felt to socially conscious that will move both your heart and hips. Her latest "Bright Shining Stars" debuted at #15 on the Billboard Blues Charts. Cascade Blues Association calls it "... tough as rawhide, but smooth as blended whiskey." Released Oct 2020 with Vizztone Label Group, it's a solo acoustic folk/blues record that highlights the one-woman-band live sound she's honed over the years, featuring guest appearances by talented friends Laurence Scudder, Peter Parcek and Richard "Rosy" Rosenblatt. Come join us April 8th at 8 p.m. only at Caffè Lena 47 Phila Street, Saratoga Springs.

John Craigie with The Lowest Pair
Renowned for his eloquent Americana

style, engaging live shows, and off-the-cuff clever observations, John Craigie carries on the legacy of classic singer-songwriters, while blazing a trail of his own. Recently, that trail twisted and turned into new territory for the Portland, OR performer who The Stranger appropriately dubbed, "the lovechild of John Prine and Mitch Hedberg." His music speaks loud to both audiences and fellow artists. Todd Snider notably hand-delivered a gift on-stage, and Chuck Norris has sent fan mail. Opening the show will be The Lowest Pair. Fans already know the chemistry between Palmer's Midwestern charm, those long winters spent listening to a steady diet of Townes Van Zandt and John Hartford, and Kendl's poetic and playful way with words. Kendl's voice finds the link between Nanci Griffith and Gillian Welch, and her barefoot-in-the-cool-river-water mystique, combined with Palmer's worn paperback ease, always makes for a captivating sound. Catch the show April 9th at 8 p.m. only at Caffè Lena 47 Phila Street, Saratoga Springs.

Bela Fleck
Over the last four decades, Béla Fleck has made a point of boldly going where no banjo player has gone before, a musical journey that has earned him 15 Grammys in nine different fields, including country, pop, jazz, instrumental, classical and world Music. But his roots are in bluegrass, and that's where he returns, accompanied by some of the day's hottest players – Stuart Duncan (fiddle), Sierra Hull (mandolin), Justin Moses (Dobro), Bryan Sutton (guitar) and Mark Schatz (bass). Catch the show April 8th at 7:30 p.m. only at The Egg, PO Box 2065, Albany.

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FOOD and VINO

Chocolate bark gets a nutty upgrade

Peanut and chocolate has always been a tasty combination. The saltiness of peanuts pairs well with the sweetness of chocolate, which is why many desserts feature this combination of flavors.

Cakes and cookies may be prime outlets for pairing peanuts and chocolate, but so can homemade candies, like chocolate bark. “Caramelized Peanut Milk Chocolate Bark” from “Chocolate Obsession” (Stewart, Tabori & Chang) by Michael Recchiuti and Fran Gage mixes peanut butter right into the chocolate to give it an extra dose of nutty flavor.

Caramelized Peanut Milk Chocolate Bark

INGREDIENTS: About 24 pieces

- 1 1/2 cups blanched whole peanuts
- 1/2 cup granulated cane sugar
- 2 teaspoons unsalted butter with 82 percent butterfat

- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup (10 ounces by weight) tempered 41 percent milk chocolate
- 1/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons smooth peanut butter, at room temperature

INSTRUCTIONS

Roast and caramelize the nuts:
Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line the bottom of a sheet pan with parchment paper. Spread the peanuts on the prepared pan in a single layer. Roast the nuts until they are a medium brown, about 15 minutes.

While the nuts are roasting, put a piece of parchment paper or a nonstick baking liner on a work surface. Measure the sugar and butter and put both of them next to the stove.

As soon as the nuts are roasted, place a medium, heavy-bottomed pot over medium-high heat. Use an unlined copper pot if you have one. When the pot is hot — test it by flicking a drop of water into the pan; it should sizzle and dance across the bottom — immediately add the hot nuts and the sugar. Cook, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, until the sugar liquefies and coats the nuts. If they start to smoke, reduce the heat. When only a few specks of sugar remain unmelted, remove

from the heat. Sprinkle the salt over the nuts and add the butter. Stir until the nuts glisten and start to separate from one another.

Scrape the nuts onto the parchment paper or baking liner and spread them apart. Let the nuts cool completely, and then break up the larger pieces. The pieces don't have to be uniform.

Store the nuts in a zippered plastic bag at room temperature if you are not making the bark immediately.

Make the bark:

Line the bottom of an 8-by-12-inch sheet pan with parchment paper. Stir the tempered chocolate and peanut butter together in a medium bowl.

Pour the chocolate into the prepared pan. Spread it evenly with a small offset spatula. Tap the pan on a work surface to even the top.

Sprinkle the caramelized nuts over the chocolate. Tap the pan again to settle the nuts into the chocolate. When the chocolate loses its sheen and starts to set, after about 15 minutes, cut the bark with a sharp knife into 2-inch squares or other fanciful shapes of your choice. Leave the bark at room temperature until it is completely set, about 1 hour, and then separate the pieces.

Store in a cool, dry place, not in the refrigerator.

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Sudoku Answers

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

Super Crossword Answers

D	O	S					D	A	G								
A	R	A					D	A	L	E	A						
M	I	L	D				E	L	A	N	D						
S	O	A	R			D	A	B		M	I	D					
O	L	M	E	C		S	A	G		O	O	P	S				
N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R	H	O	O	D	S					
					R	B	I		N	A	E						
					T	H	A	I		R	I	F	S				
					W	E	D		T	A	E						
					R	O	L	L	I	N	G	S	T	O	N	E	S
A	M	A	S		E	A	T			N	G	A	M	I			
P	A	C		D	Y	N				A	G	O	G				
E	D	E	M	A						M	O	T	H				
D	A	R	E	D								Y	E	T			
M	S	G										A	D	S			

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COOK-OFF FOR A CAUSE

Colonie High School's iCARE held its seventh annual Chili Cook-off on Saturday April 2. The event raised nearly \$1,800 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Photos by
Jim Franco /
The Spot 518



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APRIL 6-12, 2022

SPOTLIGHT ON
BLVD
PART 2
NEWS
2022

**YOUR GUIDE
TO WHAT'S HAPPENING
IN LOCAL BUSINESS**



Bagels [and more] return to Latham

The Works Café brings something familiar to Newton Plaza

LATHAM — The Works Café has opened at the former Brueggers Bagels location in Newton Plaza, Latham. Brueggers closed last year after 30 years in town, leaving the region without traditional fresh bagels.

This will be the 33-year-old company's first café in New York and its ninth in the Northeast. Hours are from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

A favorite at The Works cafés, of course, is bagels—traditional, New York-style, boiled and baked. The Works makes them with unbleached and unbromated flour and other

all-natural ingredients. But what's a bagel without cream cheese? The hormone-free cream cheese at The Works comes from McGarry Dairy in Enosburg Falls, VT;



flavored cream cheeses are blended in-house daily with fresh fruits and vegetables.

Additional menu offerings include artisan sandwiches, breakfast burritos, real fruit smoothies, paninis, organic quinoa bowls, chef-inspired salads, gourmet mac'n'cheese, hearth-baked breads, and baked-in-house

pastries. Anything on the menu can be ordered online, and picked up without leaving your car.

The Works first launched in Manchester, VT in 1988. Richard French, founder and CEO says he has “a passion for fresh, healthy, thoughtfully-sourced foods,” that he wanted to bring to the Albany area.

The chicken, ham, bacon and turkey in The Works' sandwiches and salads is raised without antibiotics or hormones and fed a vegetarian diet. All their meats come from certified humane farms; and the bacon, ham and sausage are naturally-cured with no nitrates or nitrites.



The Works Café staff is ready to serve you a bagel, drink and more from their new Newton Plaza location. Submitted photo

The café chain has a commitment to sourcing fresh, healthy ingredients as close to home as possible. Organic wheat flour from Farmer Ground Flour in Trumansburg, NY; eggs from Nelly's Free Range

in Monroe, NH; organic yogurt from Stonyfield Farm in Londonderry, NH; smoked salmon from True North Salmon, Ltd. in Blacks Harbour, New Brunswick; and local greens, vegetables and

berries when available.

According to French, The Works' dedication to sustainability and the environment does not end with the food—the Latham location recycles and composts most of its waste stream. The new build-out relied heavily on repurposed, up-cycled, and “green” furnishings—many made by local craftspeople—and Energy Star-rated kitchen equipment. The Works' interior space includes bamboo floors, reclaimed wood booths, re-purposed tractor seat chairs and LED light fixtures.

“We're so pleased to open a Works Café in Latham,” said French. “It's such an exciting, vibrant, growing community. It deserves to get its bagels back, and a whole lot more.”



ALL-NATURAL roast turkey, naturally-cured caramelized bacon, avocado, hot-house tomato, baby kale on hand-formed, hearth-baked sourdough bread. Organic flour from Farmer Ground, Trumansburg, New York. **Hungry yet?**

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Building out dreams at GNH Showroom

Connect with Alex Vincent and make the dream happen

LATHAM — Alex Vincent, Inside Sales at the GNH Showroom, knows the importance of a project done well.

Helping clients build out their dream homes relies on a lot more than just excellent designs and reliable products. There are also many logistical and finer details to take care of, and that's where Alex shines! We recently had the chance to sit down and talk with her about her experiences in the industry at GNH, her recent project involving Marvin Windows, and any home improvement advice she had to share.

Early on, Alex knew she had a passion for the home improvement industry and had spent years developing her skills in the field. Working with

her father for his construction company, she "...gained a deep insight into everything that goes into designing, building, and remodeling quality homes." In early 2020, Alex started to forge her own path, and quickly found her place on the GNH team. Expounding on this, she told us "Working in construction before working at GNH was crucial...I felt more prepared."

After a brief settling-in period, Alex had to get down to business quickly. Thankfully, she had landed at the best spot to help her along in her journey, as her teammates were all too happy to help her grow. "My co-workers at GNH have been a huge help during these times, they truly went above and beyond to help me learn any of the ins and outs of the industry that I hadn't discovered yet."

Now Alex stands ready to tackle any project put in front of her! Her most recent project for a client, which started as just

a window replacement using Marvin Windows, blossomed into a full house exterior remodel. "The client had already ordered Marvin Windows before planning their entire house...but eventually replaced their siding, lumber, insulation, and mouldings as well", she explained. In her involvement on the project, she worked closely with the client's architect, while also collaborating with the client on design specifications and other project details.

As for homeowners looking to remodel their homes, she had a few key pieces of advice. She explained: "Be ready to be patient and have a good idea of what you want out of your remodel...it can take some time to get certain products in stock, but if you have a plan in place, it will all work out!"

A glimpse of what your new kitchen could look like.

Submitted photo



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Looking good after 65 years of biz

Marcella's Appliance Center has spent the years selling quality, building friendships

By CHEYENNE WALLACE
wallacec@spotlightnews.com

CLIFTON PARK

— The four-generation business, Marcella's Appliance Center, are celebrating 65 years and looking forward to the next ten years and beyond.

Marcella's was started in Schenectady by John L. Marcella. Today, John D. Marcella runs the company and still stops into the Schenectady store daily at 90-years-old. Marcella's is an appliance store where customers can buy a new dishwasher, washing

"[John D.] really treated the customers like friends and family and we try to continue that," Whether it's a \$700 dishwasher or a \$50,000 kitchen he always cared about every sale and every customer."

— John R. Marcella ,
VP & Store Manager

machine, or completely remodel their kitchen. Regardless of what a customer needs, Marcella's

is trying to keep the ways of John D.

"[John D.] really treated the customers like friends and family and we try to continue that," VP & Store Manager, John R. Marcella said. "Whether it's a \$700 dishwasher or a \$50,000 kitchen he always cared about every sale and every customer."

In 2016, Marcella's expanded to Clifton Park, a no-brainer, John R. said, to accommodate the growth in Clifton Park and Saratoga County. The business has 25,000 square feet in Schenectady and has recently expanded their showroom in Clifton Park. A major motivation for the expansion was to show more sets of kitchens to better show possibilities of remodels. Marcella's is also building a new

fulfillment hub to expand into more distribution and warehousing.

Like many businesses within the last two years, Marcella's faced a lot of challenges. However, there were some positives to come from the pandemic. Since many people were confined to their homes, many started to take on home improvement projects that had been pushed aside previously.

"That lifestyle is going to continue even after we come out of all of this. People have come accustomed to spending more time at home," John R. Marcella said.

In 65 years, one major moment stands out for John R. During the 2008 recession, Marcella's was in the middle of finalizing

the showroom at 560 Broadway in Schenectady. Most people wouldn't have continued that process during such a hard financial time. However, John D. decided to move on with that location otherwise Marcella's would have outgrown the original location.

For Marcella's the recession taught the business a lot and prepared them for the coronavirus pandemic. The business knows not to take anything for granted and has found that treating people right will get you through anything. John D. has also proved to be another saving grace for Marcella's.

"He's been through all of the major life things [the depression, World War II, Korea and more], he's absolutely conditioned

to get through anything," John R. said.

In the past few years Marcella's has captured a lot of local awards ranging from The Daily Gazette to The Saratogian to Capital Region Living. The company believes that these awards are a testament to how customers feel and appreciate the full-service Marcella's offers. The top-tier treatment doesn't stop after the sale but continues with the servicing of the appliance and the installation.

Over the next ten years, Marcella's hopes to continue to experience success. The expansions across the business show that hope. The bottom line for the company being every customer is treated as a friend or family member.



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Star Roofing for value and service

Passing quality and insight onto satisfied customers for 25 years

By CHEYENNE WALLACE
wallacec@spotlightnews.com

COLONIE — After 25 years in business, Star Roofing is looking forward to growing and still believes that treating customers like the only customer is important.

Star Roofing is a family owned and operated full service roofing contractor located in Colonie. The main points of business for Star are residential, commercial and industrial roofs in a 75-mile circle of Albany. Their speciality is re-roofing existing buildings, but they do selective repairs if it makes sense to do so.

“We repair roofs that

are repairable,” Peter Wall, part owner, said. “Our resources are spent on re-roofing rather than chasing leaks.”

The industry has faced

a lot of setbacks due to the pandemic and continues to see setbacks because of other worldly issues. Star Roofing has seen issues ranging from supply chain issues, to fuel costs, the overall cost of oil as most roofing products

are petroleum based, and the cost of trucking. One thing has stayed the same for Star Roofing: giving the most value to their customers while still

remaining affordable.

Star Roofing has already been told by their suppliers and distributors that for the month of April alone, there will be an eight to ten percent increase in the cost of materials. Wall

ensures that the business is trying to purchase the right materials at the right price. The business wants their customers to get great value from their roofs and Star Roofing is trying to find similar high-quality materials at prices

that allow projects to be affordable.

“We’ve faced challenges we’ve never had to face before,” Wall said. “We’re trying to purchase right and select the right products. We want to give

the customer the best value without going to inferior products.”

Roofing has changed considerably over the last couple decades. Before, a roof would be the top third or fourth expense to incur when restoring a house, now it’s number one. The increase is due to the cost of materials increasing by 300 percent since 2005. This high value cost only pushes Star Roofing to have the best service in the market through re-roofing and further servicing the roof after sale.

Wall is also looking forward to the younger generation soon to take over Star Roofing. Placido Fidele recently retired and sold his share of the business to his son, Michael Fidele. Michael is

now a full partner of Star Business after working there for about 20 years.

“We’re passing the business on generationally and internally,” Wall said.

Star Roofing is ready for the future and to continue growing at a steady rate. With more and more customers being more selective about their roofer, Star Roofing believes that the service after the sale sets them apart. Their main goal is to treat every customer in the way that anyone wants to be treated; like they’re the only customer.

“We like to think that we’re the best in the market of servicing people after the sale,” Wall said.

Value, service and respect make all the difference.

Star Roofing is ready for the future and to continue growing at a steady rate. With more and more customers being more selective about their roofer, Star Roofing believes that the service after the sale sets them apart. Their main goal is to treat every customer in the way that anyone wants to be treated; like they’re the only customer.





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170 Years in banking

National Bank of Coxsackie invests in its neighbors

COXSACKIE — The Spotlight recently sat down with Jody Shaw, assistant vice president and business development officer at National Bank Of Coxsackie, to ask her what's important about being a part of a community.

Question: When a company grows it either presents itself as one of the big fish in the pond, or it holds on to the small town appeal. Why has it been so important for NBC to keep to its grassroots approach?

Jody Shaw: National Bank of Coxsackie is celebrating 170 years of community business, and today we offer a full line of services for both individual and business customers. We have lending services that include everything from Residential Construction Loans to Commercial Lending. Our customers are confident that we are building a one-on-one relationship with them and the entire NBC team is local and working together to help them achieve their goals.

Question: Today's housing market is at a boom and favorable interest rates play a factor in that. What kind of conversations are you having with first-time buyers?

Jody Shaw: It is important for first-time buyers to know their budget and understand how their purchase fits into their long-term goals. At National Bank of Coxsackie, we hold and service our mortgages. It is nice that they can come to us for anything, even after we close. I fully explain the process of purchasing a home and I am available to talk and meet with them when it fits their schedule, and that includes nights and weekends. This makes their experience enjoyable and they will have peace of mind.

Question: National Bank of Coxsackie's Glenmont branch has impressed me as being a town crier, using its sign to praise the successes of Bethlehem Central and the surrounding community. What is your role within the community outside of just being a business that works here?

Jody Shaw: National Bank of Coxsackie is proud to be a part of this community and we pride ourselves on working with the community. Our team at the branch volunteers and collects food for the Bethlehem Food Bank, we sponsor a local Little League Team, we have a Community Board, and we are committed to helping local economics by supporting small and family-owned businesses.



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The house speaks to you

Local realtor says when it comes to the right house: 'When you know, you know!'

SLINGERLANDS — I have always been fascinated with houses since I was a child, and always noticed more things about them than most children my age.

To this day I remember every detail of my girlhood home including the pull-down ironing board tucked into the kitchen wall - the floral print cover, the scratches, the creaking sound it made as my mother pulled it down to iron my clothes. *Insert Miranda Lambert's song "The House That Built Me."* This is where it all began.

In my twenties my mother passed away after a very brief and courageous battle with cancer. A year later, my siblings and I sold our childhood home.

My fascination with houses grew. In the coming years I got married, bought a house and started my family. All the while I was thinking about real estate and that someday I'd like to be realtor.

I convinced myself I couldn't do it, and had every excuse in the book. My penchant for real estate was growing by the day, but another road block presented itself.

This road block was not a made-up excuse like the others though. My sister was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer which almost crushed me. My energy and focus were where they needed to be for the next five years until she passed away in

early 2013.

I became licensed later that year and have never looked back. If I can start a new career at age 48, so can you! My business has grown exponentially, and I finished 2021 able to help more families than any other year.

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A silver lining for iSmile Studios

Customers are welcomed family at iSmile Studios

By **CHEYENNE WALLACE**
wallacec@spotlightnews.com

COLONIE — Local business, iSmile Studios, started with the idea to make taking photos more convenient and affordable to now 14 years later looking to grow even more.

iSmile started in 2008 as a photography studio in Colonie Center. The business started with a photography program they still run today, iGrow. iGrow is similar to a subscription service for a child's first year of life where every month parents bring their children in for photos documenting every stage of their life. At the end of the year the program culminates with

a cake smash and parents receive a collage of all the photos throughout the year.

"It's oversaid, but it's so true— you can't get those moments back," Stephanie McCauley said.

The studio also does family portraits, pets, headshots and anything in between. A few years in, McCauley reached out to her former high school about the possibility of doing school photos. From that first yes, a fun side project for McCauley turned into iSmile Studios disrupting the school photography sector in the Capital district. The studio now works with pre-schools to entire school

districts.

During the height of the coronavirus pandemic the studio hurt in some aspects, but thrived in others. The studio was able to secure schools for



school photos that they otherwise wouldn't have had access to. Most of the time schools or districts are contracted with bigger studios, but those studios can't transition outdoors in cases like the pandemic leaving the door open for iSmile Studios.

"It gave us some school districts that

we would have never gotten," McCauley said. "It helped us pivot and think differently, and that's always a good thing."

iSmile Studios is getting ready for one of its busiest times of the year: Easter. McCauley jokes that it's like a mini Christmas for the studio, just far less stressful. The studio creates an Easter Bunny session where kids interact with the iSmile Easter Bunny and also include a family portrait without the bunny.

Looking to the future, iSmile is looking forward to expanding their studio to a new location. Through the pandemic, iSmile found their silver lining in natural light photography. That silver lining has pushed the studio to find

iSmile started in 2008 as a photography studio in Colonie Center. The business started with a photography program they still run today, iGrow. iGrow is similar to a subscription service for a child's first year of life where every month parents bring their children in for photos documenting every stage of their life.

a new location with an outdoor space rather than having customers specially book a session in an outdoor space for a natural light session.

The studio has been featured in national and international trade shows and conventions as speakers and teachers in the photography industry. iSmile Studios is also a locally owned, family owned, and woman owned business. The studio also takes being a local business to a new level.

"We also buy all our paper, ink and supplies locally. We're a big believer of giving back locally," McCauley said.

For iSmile Studios, the pandemic may have caused some setbacks, but in other ways allowed the studio to progress. It's not about just making money for the business, customers are family to the studio. That sentiment is to continue as the studio continues to grow.

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Heroes on display

Effort pushes to honor local war veterans

By CHEYENNE WALLACE
wallacec@spotlightnews.com

DELMAR — In a few months, the streets of Delmar are going to see some new faces.

The Delmar Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3185 is putting on a Bethlehem Military Tribute Banner program to honor veterans and active-duty service members.

From Memorial Day to Veterans Day, 24 by 48 inch banners will hang from utility poles on Delaware and Kenwood avenues honoring local heroes. The program is being put on by the VFW and coordinated by Art Thornton.

“Bethlehem has always been supportive of veterans and we have a big veteran population here,” he said. “We thought it was a good idea for the town.”

Joe Bruno, commander of the VFW and barber on Delaware Avenue, had tried to start the program a year ago, but it never took off. Other towns, like Athens, have been successful with banner programs. Thornton made contact with the Athens program in hopes that Bethlehem’s will reach the same success.

After traveling through other towns and seeing local vets on display, Bruno couldn’t understand why Bethlehem didn’t have a similar program. So, six months ago, he tried again and succeeded.

One of the major goals of the program is to honor all veterans and active service members. The honor ranges from veterans, to reserve members and National Guard members. All who are often the quiet residents of Bethlehem.

To be a member of VFW, a veteran of the armed services must have fought in a foreign conflict. The post membership requirement could limit

some veterans, so they opened the banner program to all veterans.

“Any veteran that served in any honorable capacity can be honored,” Thornton said.

Banner Buying

The banners will hang on National Grid utility poles from Memorial Day to Veterans Day in 2022 and 2023. Thornton estimates that the deadline for sponsorship of a banner will be the last week of April in order to allow for banner creation and the VFW hanging the banners



on the poles the weekend before May 30.

If a family or sponsor misses the deadline for the season, there will be a chance for them to pay for a banner for the next season. According to Thornton, after the two years, the families who bought a banner will be given the retired banner. If they still wish to continue to honor their family member or veteran they can re-up with a new banner. People can also donate a banner to a local veteran who may not have the means to afford one or a family to honor them.

“I already got a sponsor for me and I only asked one person,” Bruno, a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient from his service in Vietnam, said.

The American Legion post is also supporting the VFW in any way they can, Commander Lyle Maddock said. Maddock is the commander of the Blanchard-Currey American Legion Post in Delmar which recently changed its legion name to honor WWII Medal of Honor recipient Francis Currey. Currey is a well-known veteran in Delmar and the American Legion is buying a banner in his honor.

The Process

The VFW is working with National Grid to iron out the final plans for the banners. Although the town of Bethlehem has taken on a role of a cheerleader role, Town Supervisor David VanLuven is excited for the program.

The VFW initially went to the town to run the program, but VanLuven advised that the town couldn’t do that because of freedom of speech laws. The town can regulate the shape and size of banners, but cannot regulate messages.

However, VanLuven put Thornton in touch with National Grid, which has no requirement. Even on the sidelines, the town believes that the banner program will make the streets and community better.

“The community is made up of people who have served in many different ways,” VanLuven said. “I think that recognizing and celebrating our veterans and [active service members], reminds us and our community of one of the many ways people are making sacrifices to support the quality of life we have here.”

Honoring Heroes

The banners cost \$275.00 and can be purchased through check payable to VFW Post 3185. Honorees are shown on both sides of the banner with a small write up of the honorees’ service. Veterans, active-duty service members, reserve members and National Guard members can be honored through the program.

Other information can be found at militarytributebanners.org, or by contacting Art Thornton at athornton@ymail.com.

“A lot of people don’t know how many veterans are in Delmar,” Bruno said. “They served their country, it’s the least we could do.”

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SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS 2022

Robust changes afoot at Adams Station

Spinney Group aims to update aesthetics, slash energy costs

By MICHAEL HALLISEY
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

DELMAR — Adams Station Apartments, the community that launched The Spinney Group more than 30 years ago, is undergoing a robust capital improvement project the property management group says will update aesthetics and punch a hole in residents' energy bills.

Designed to make residents feel at home in a special place, apartments at Adams Station feature extra touches such as breakfast nooks, window seats, vaulted ceilings, private patios and balconies. The property management group is now focusing on a comprehensive multi-

"Our slogan is, 'A world apart, minutes away,' and people really feel that way. You're surrounded by trees here but, all of a sudden, you're right in the heart of Delmar. We want it to be a place that people would want to live."

— Jason Raynor,
Spinney Group COO

year plan to update units as they turnover between residents. Renovations include kitchen upgrades with new cabinets and stainless-steel Energy Star appliances, new flooring, new bathroom vanities, new doors, and new fixtures throughout the units.

"It's a complete transformation of the interior of the units," said Spinney Group COO Jason Raynor, adding that it goes beyond commonplace

upkeep. "In a prior turnover, we would paint, replace carpeting. Most of them, the cabinets were in good shape. In 30 years, aesthetics have changed and we are giving the community a fresh look"

Raynor said upgrades include updating each building's exterior to make each unit more energy efficient. "Construction methodologies have greatly changed since the late 80s," he said. "As part

of our Adams Station CARES Initiative, we are removing the siding off all buildings, rewiring them, installing new siding, new Pella windows, decks, and exterior doors. We are greatly improving the building envelope, which will be a direct saving to residents when they see their National Grid bills."

The initiative, which stands for "Community Action for Renewability and Environmental Stability," will go beyond the property's encouraged best practices by converting the entire property to all-electric HVAC systems through National Grid's Clean Heat program, utilizing programmable thermostats, converting lighting to LED bulbs and promoting the use of the property's 22 EV charging

ports.

The Clubhouse, which was extensively remodeled in 2019, remains the epicenter of neighborhood activity that allows for organizations such as the Girl Scouts and Toastmasters to congregate.

During the pandemic, residents also took advantage of outdoor amenities, including the complex's two tennis courts. Raynor said management plans to install lighting above the courts to promote more playtime.

More than 30 years later, Raynor said the Adams Station continues to boast an exceptional occupancy rate. The apartments offer a pet-friendly environment and cater to families with school-aged children, too.

The complex resides

within the acclaimed Bethlehem Central School District. Eagle Elementary is a five-minute bike ride from home, as is the district's high school. The middle school, for grades six through eight, is just ten minutes away on two wheels.

"Our slogan is, 'A world apart, minutes away,' and people really feel that way. You're surrounded by trees here but, all of a sudden, you're right in the heart of Delmar," Raynor said, mentioning the walking trails recently installed on the property. "We want it to be a place that people would want to live."

To learn more about Adams Station Apartments and to inquire about vacancies, visit adamstation.com or call 518-439-8857.

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SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS 2022

State fines tardy auto insurers \$4.2M

Dept of Finance takes action against insurance industry's failure to timely report vehicle info to DMV

ALBANY — Superintendent of Financial Services Adrienne A. Harris announced Zurich American Insurance Company and Progressive Direct Insurance Company have each entered into separate Consent Orders with the Department of Financial Services resolving investigations into the companies' failure to timely report certain insured vehicle information to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Under those Consent Orders, Zurich has agreed

to pay a fine of \$2.2 million, and Progressive has agreed to pay a fine of \$2 million, a total of \$4.2 million to New York State.

This is the first such action that DFS has taken in an industry-wide investigation of untimely reporting to the DMV. New York's Insurance Law requires insurers to report newly insured vehicles within seven days of their effective date and any terminations and suspensions of insurance within thirty days to DMV's Insurance Information & Enforcement System (IIES) database. DFS continues to actively investigate potential violations, working closely with the DMV to bring the entire New York insurance industry into compliance with New York State

insurance law. "This reporting requirement is critical to protect New Yorkers on the road, as the requirement helps ensure drivers can

"This reporting requirement is critical to protect New Yorkers on the road, as the requirement helps ensure drivers can rely on the availability of insurance coverage to address potential injuries and car repairs in the unfortunate event of an accident,"

rely on the availability of insurance coverage to address potential injuries and car repairs in the unfortunate event of an accident," said Superintendent Harris. "DFS expects insurers to comply with this important regulation to uphold the integrity and accuracy of auto insurance information

to the state to protect consumers." "These consent orders are an important means of protecting consumers, and the DMV is grateful to the

Department of Financial Services for taking action," said DMV Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder. "Late or invalid insurance filings have a negative impact on New Yorkers, the DMV, and the insurance industry, so we work closely with insurance companies to make sure customers' insurance information is

filed with us in a timely manner. When insurance companies fail to comply, they put all New Yorkers at risk." These laws and

— Adrienne A. Harris, Superintendent of Financial Services

regulations protect New Yorkers by ensuring that insurance information is available in the event of collisions and other auto-related inquiries. After DMV noticed industry-wide IIES reporting problems, DFS opened an investigation into untimely reporting of insurance information to DMV.

Under the Consent Orders, in addition to monetary penalties, Zurich and Progressive must each provide remediation plans detailing corrective actions that are subject to DMV's approval. DFS acknowledges the cooperation of Zurich and Progressive, which were the first insurers to reach settlements with DFS in its ongoing, industry-wide investigation.

DFS continues to actively investigate other violations of IIES within the insurance industry and is in communication with DMV and other insurance companies in that market to bring the entire New York industry into compliance with New York law.

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HIRE POWER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Join the Spotlight News team in delivering our local news

Come be a part of informing Capital district communities

By John A. McIntyre, Jr.

It is the mission of Spotlight News to be a vibrant, trustworthy and indispensable source of local news as well as advertising vehicle or business throughout the unique communities we serve. We adhere to a philosophy that community newspapers, print, radio, television and online products for our readers, clients, employees.

Spotlight News was started in 1955 in Schenectady County (The Spotlight) and in the decades that followed the paper has blossomed into the most prominent source for local news in the greater Capital District.

Spotlight News now produces three local, weekly editions in Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Saratoga counties, with a combined circulation of more than 25,000. Our newspapers are a mixture of paid

subscription weeklies, free publications and total market publications. Spotlight News also publishes a monthly niche publication Capital District Family News that is distributed in Columbia and Warren counties in addition to the Capital District.

Feedback from our readers and advertisers, either positive or critical, makes our newspapers and publications stronger. I'd like to invite our readers and advertisers to contact me at (518) 439-4949 ext. 420, by email at mcintyrej@spotlightnews.com, or in person at 341 Delaware Avenue (PO Box 100 for snail mail), Delmar NY 12054. I'd be more than happy to make your acquaintance.

Think you've got the write stuff?

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We at Coldwell Banker Prime Properties are so incredibly grateful to have the opportunity, the ability, and the privilege to give back to our communities. Over the years, 1.5 million dollars has been donated to local charities throughout New York State.

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Firms on the lookout for ways to manage employees' time more efficiently may want to reconsider their approach to meetings. A recent study on meetings commissioned by Verizon Conferencing found that an overwhelming majority of professionals who are considered heavy meeting-goers admitted to an array of behaviors that suggest meetings aren't as productive as employers may believe. Ninety-six percent of respondents admitted to having missed meetings in the past, while 91 percent acknowledged daydreaming during meetings. In addition, 73 percent of respondents did other work during a meeting, while 39 percent acknowledged falling asleep.



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