

Police probe accident

Page 3



Expo makes thanks to Plaza

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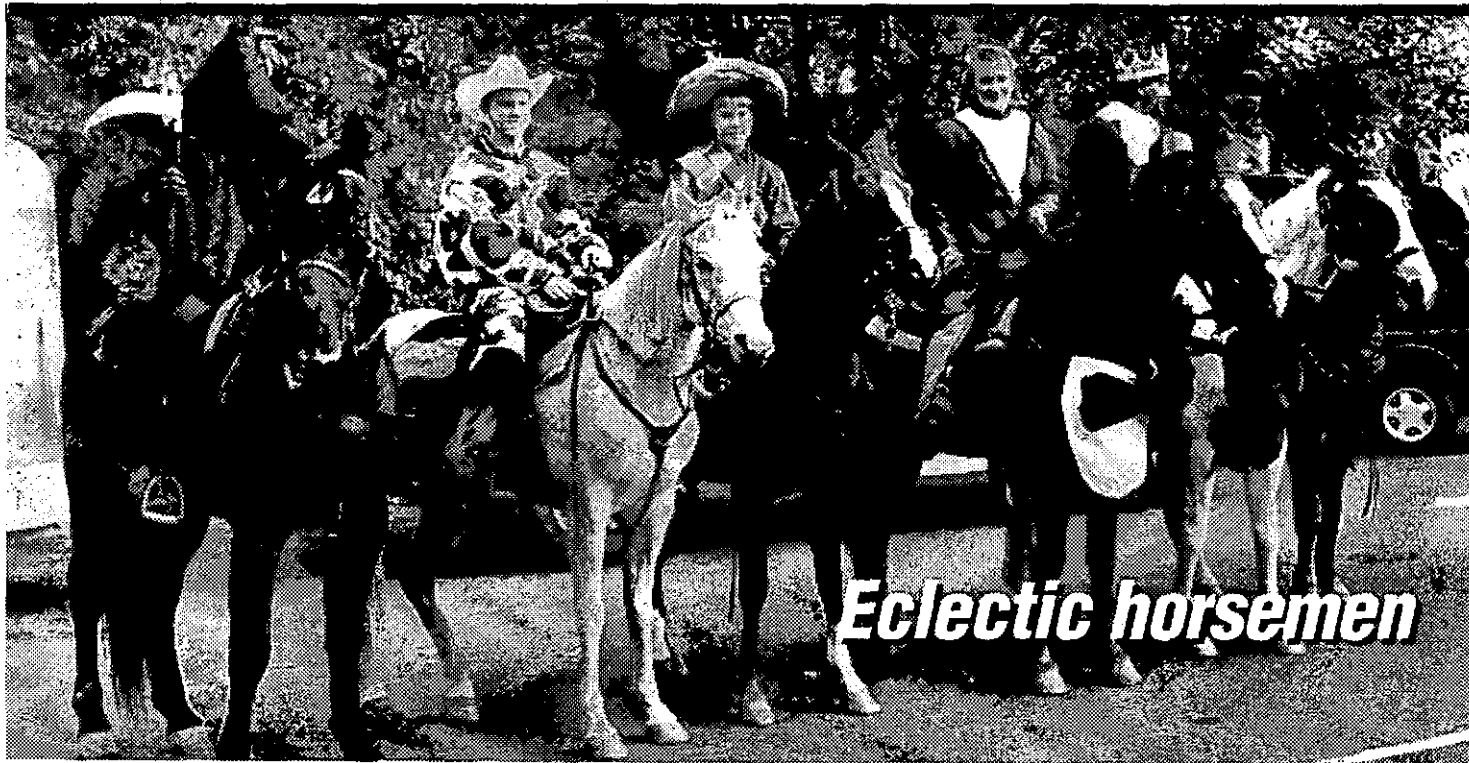
Page 17, 18

The Spotlight

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem & New Scotland

Volume XLIII Number 44 Fifty Cents

November 4, 1998



Eclectic horsemen

Decked out in Halloween gear, horseback riders, from left, Laurie Tylor, Kyle Velvis, Niek Velvis, Terry Bradt, Michael Riley and Scott Neal came to Beff's in Delmar for lunch on the most ghoulish of holidays. Paul Deys

Dom DeCecco to retire from politics

By KATHERINE McCARTHY

This year's voters have just finished casting their ballots, but when the residents of Albany County's 33rd District pull the curtain shut next year, one familiar name will be missing.

After two terms, county Legislator Dominick DeCecco, R-Slingerlands, has decided not to run for re-election.

DeCecco began representing his district, which includes parts of the towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland as well as Slingerlands and the entire village of Voorheesville, in 1991. He currently serves on the public works, health and social services committees and is a past member of the public safety committee. DeCecco is the ranking minority member of the public works committee, and represents the minority on the item-pricing subcommittee.



DeCecco

"The county Legislature's primary function is in the area of social services; for instance, providing food stamps," DeCecco said, "or health, as in administering the Ann Lee Nursing Home; public safety and highways. On the committees I've served on, we've gotten a good grasp on where the money is spent, and we're making progress."

DeCecco is proud of the reduction of welfare fraud in the county, brought about largely by finger-imaging legislation, which he supported in 1995. Project Access, which provided for handicapped parking spots and ticketing violators, was also important to DeCecco.

"That project started with the Kiwanis, when we were ringing bells for the Salvation Army," DeCecco said. "We had a handicapped member going out to ring bells and he couldn't find a place to park because all the spots were taken. I felt

□ DECECCO/page 21

Corps will expedite permit ASAP

By JOSEPH ANDREW PHILLIPS

The Army Corps of Engineers conducted a public meeting last week in response to requests from several citizens to air concerns about the town of Bethlehem's request for a permit to dredge a small section of the Hudson River near the wells that supply water to the town's Schermerhorn Island processing plant.

In addition to town officials and Corps staff, about 30 other individuals attended the meeting at town hall. In the aftermath of the meeting, the Corps official overseeing review of the permit application indicated he expected to proceed with the permit review as expeditiously as possible.

I have to say they dragged their feet for a long time here.

Sheila Fuller

"We are aware of the timeliness (with which) we should give them a decision," said George Nieves, chief of the

Corps, saying: "I have to say they dragged their feet for a long time here... I have been troubled they were going to have this meeting from the start."

The application, submitted last July to

both the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the Corps, requested a one-time permit to dredge approximately 1,000 cubic yards

□ PERMIT/page 22

Clearwater retired engineer severs ties with group

By JOSEPH ANDREW PHILLIPS

One of the three central figures most closely associated with Clearwater for Bethlehem has called it quits, concerned about what he considers the organization's increasingly political drift.

"It is too much politicized now" said William Kelleher. "That's all it is

anymore.... it's no longer Clearwater for Bethlehem."

He made the decision to resign on Oct. 27.

"Clearwater for Bethlehem was supposed to be a nonpolitical body," he said. "I happen to be a registered Republican, still am. We had to go political at one time because the town refused to listen to us, and there was

□ SEVERS/page 22



Kelleher



Burtis

BCMS Peer Helpers offer fellow students helping hand

By DONNA J. BELL

Who can young teens turn to when they need advice or help? Many times they are too embarrassed, uncomfortable or shy to talk to an adult.

But at Bethlehem Central Middle School students can turn to their peers through a group called Peer Helpers. The

organization focuses on students helping fellow students in need.

Yvonne Doberman, a student assistance counselor at the middle school, advises the group. "There are always people who have natural helping skills," Doberman said of the students chosen to be Peer Helpers. The Peer Helpers' job is to listen and offer help to

students who have problems with teachers, friends or family.

The students keep logs of their activities. They contain such entries as: "I made a friend," or "I referred a student to a counselor." Students also document the types of problems they encounter, such as friendship conflicts, stress from

□ HELPERS/page 5

Bethlehem DWI cases adjudicated in Town Court

Almost a dozen cases involving charges of driving while intoxicated (DWI) were adjudicated in Bethlehem Town Court recently.

Two of the cases involved guilty pleas to the original DWI charges.

Joseph Vincent Fitzgerald, 27, of 151 Forts Ferry Road, Latham, was ticketed on Jan. 17, and, following repeated adjournments, was re-arrested after failing to appear for an early August court date. He pleaded guilty to DWI on Aug. 14, and was fined \$500, assessed a \$90 state surcharge, and had his license revoked for six months.

Michelle Ann Galvin, 36, of 725

New Salem Road, Voorheesville, who was arrested on July 7, pleaded guilty to DWI on Aug. 2. She was fined \$500, assessed the \$90 surcharge, and had her license revoked for six months.

Tasmin Crljenkovic, 21, of 12 North Allen St., Albany, charged on June 7, pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of driving while ability impaired (DWAI) and was fined \$300 plus a \$20 court surcharge. Crljenkovic's license was also suspended for 90 days.

Donald C. Hoffmeister, 66, of 102 Catlyn Court, Delmar, was arrested on June 30 on an original DWAI charge, and pleaded guilty to that charge. He was fined \$300

plus the \$20 state surcharge, and had his license was suspended for 90 days.

Diane Susan Segal, 43, of 1738 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands, was arrested July 2; she pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of DWAI, was fined \$300 and a \$20 surcharge, and had her license suspended for 90 days.

Colleen Madeleine Welsh, 22, of 113 Westchester Drive, Delmar, was arrested June 22. She pleaded guilty to a reduced DWAI count, was fined \$300 and a \$20 surcharge, and had her license suspended for 90 days.

Michael Anthony Wygel, 38, of 10 Marion Road, Delmar, had been

charged June 30 and pleaded guilty to a reduced DWAI charge. He was also levied a \$300 fine, a \$20 surcharge, and a 90-day license suspension.

Among cases resolved in August, Stephen Edward Rucinski Jr., 17, of 138 Southern Blvd., Albany, arrested July 29, pleaded guilty on Aug. 5 to a reduced charge of DWAI and was fined \$300, assessed a \$20 surcharge, and had his license suspended for 90 days.

Thomas John Spisak, 22, of 333 Alcove Road, Coeymans Hollow, was arrested July 20; he pleaded guilty on Aug. 11 to a reduced charge of DWAI, was fined \$300, assessed a \$20 surcharge, and had his license suspended for 90 days.

Ruth Alice Giovannette, 39, of 24 Jones Ave., Feura Bush, arrested on July 18, also pleaded guilty on Aug. 11 to the reduced charge of DWAI. She was fined \$300, assessed \$20, and had her license suspended for 90 days.

On Aug. 18, Bonita K. Blaisdell, 33, of 20 Winnie Place, Glenmont, who had been arrested on July 8, pleaded guilty to a reduced DWAI

charge, was fined \$300, assessed a \$20 surcharge, and had her license suspended for 90 days.

In all of these cases, Bethlehem Town Court also required mandatory participation in a drinking-driver remediation program and a victim impact panel, where the convicted driver is confronted with individuals who have lost family members in drunken driving crashes.

Delmar library sets Philippines talk

David Diligent will present "A Photo Journey to the Philippines" on Monday, Nov. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar

Diligent visited the Philippines as a volunteer for Overseas Cooperative Assistance, a group that specializes in community economic development and environmental issues. He will offer a glimpse into the region's geology, native culture and coral reef denizens.

The program is free and open to the public. To register, call 439-9314.

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Plaza Seven	785-4744
Route 9-Latham	786-8816
Route 155 & 20	452-6913
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Tanners West	943-5090

RENSSELAER COUNTY

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Hoosick Falls	686-5352
Troy	274-5420
West Sand Lake	674-3327
Wynantskill	286-2674

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Clifton Park	371-8451
Exit 8/Crescent Road	383-0039
Halfmoon	371-0593
Malta-4 Corners	899-1056
Malta Mall	899-1558
Mechanicville	664-1059
Shoppers' World	383-6850
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Ushers Road	877-8069
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Altamont Avenue West	355-1900
Brandywine	346-4295
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Mayfair	399-9121
Mont Pleasant	346-1267
Niskayuna-Woodlawn	377-2264
Rotterdam	355-8330
Rotterdam Square	377-2393
Sheridan Plaza	377-8517
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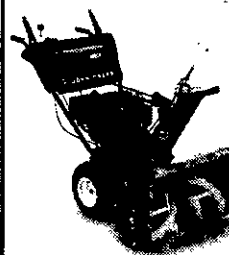
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Police continue probe of Route 32 accident

By Joseph Andrew Phillips

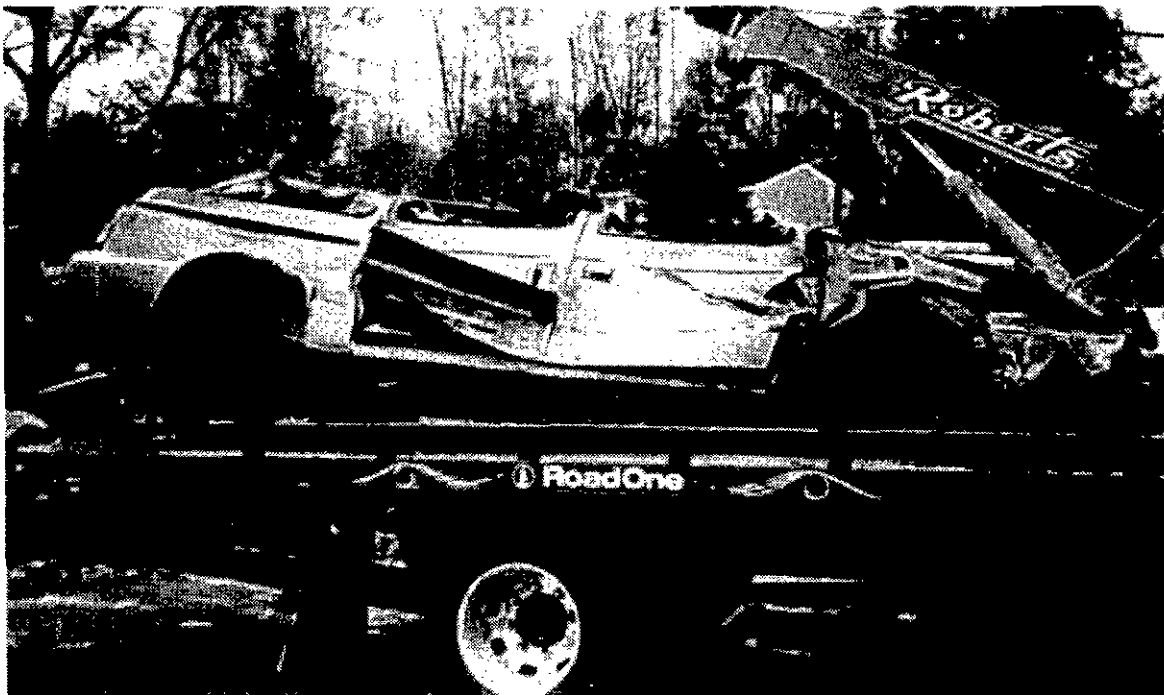
Bethlehem police are continuing to investigate an accident which occurred last Wednesday that police spokesmen have taken to calling "the miracle" — a crash that demolished two vehicles but miraculously, involved no fatalities. "Someone was on the side of both drivers," said Bethlehem Police Officer Jeffrey Vunck.

The 10:32 a.m. crash at the intersection of Murray Avenue and Route 32 involved a Plymouth Voyager minivan driven by Deirdre Jameson, 36, of Delmar, and a cement truck driven by David McGreevy, 25, of Waterford.

Jameson, en route to her place of business, In & Out The Window consignment store at 125 Adams St. in Delmar, was driving north on Murray, and the truck driven by McGreevy was westbound on Route 32, when both vehicles entered the intersection simultaneously.

"Each driver claims to have been operating under a green traffic light, but they ended up in the intersection at the same time," Vunck said. McGreevy "did try to take evasive action to avoid the crash," said Vunck, "but his truck rolled over on top of the minivan."

Both vehicles then rolled down an adjacent embankment where the truck cab broke free of the cement mixer, and the van was "demolished," said Vunck. "For the most part you could not tell



Deirdre Jameson's van was barely recognizable after last Wednesday's accident.

Dev Tobin

what kind of vehicle it was until you turned it over and saw the nameplate."

Delmar and Selkirk fire department rescue squads, along with Bethlehem Police and Albany County Sheriff's Advanced Life Support team, and heavy trucks from Roberts Road One Towing, responded at the accident scene. All were automatically summoned by Delmar Fire Department upon the initial news that a rollover was involved. State Police also assisted at the scene.

"It was a very, very graphic crash," said Vunck. "Everyone

who initially got there believed there was a fatality involved."

McGreevy was trapped inside the truck cab and the van was "basically flattened down to the roof," said Delmar Fire Chief Dave Scoons, among the first to arrive at the scene. "There was probably only 8 inches between floor and cab."

But inside, Jameson had somehow ended up under the dashboard and across the front seat. It took approximately 25 to 30 minutes to remove the victims from their vehicles, Scoons said. Both

were then taken to Albany Medical Center Hospital, where McGreevy was treated for multiple severe lacerations and sprains and Jameson for a broken ankle and ribs and internal injuries. Both had been released by the weekend.

In the aftermath, Scoons applauded the prompt action and good coordination among the various emergency and police units involved. "The operation went exceptionally. Everyone worked well as a team," he said.

A police investigation of the

accident is ongoing, said Vunck. Excessive speed has been ruled out as a factor. "Basically we're looking at it from the point of view that someone was there in the intersection when they shouldn't have been there," he said.

But the investigation, involving members of both detective and traffic safety units of the Bethlehem Police, is "very limited at this point until we get someone who can give us an independent account of what happened," said Sgt. Joseph Sleurs.

A state Department of Transportation crew was working a short distance away on Route 32 and normal midday traffic was in progress. But though several witnesses have stepped forward, "a lot of them were taken with the graphic (nature) of the scene and missed crucial details," Vunck said.

Police are seeking a lone jogger observed on Murray Avenue at the time of the crash, a white male in his 40s or 50s wearing a blue jogging suit. He is thought to have had the clearest view of the traffic light at the moment the accident occurred, Sleurs said, but his identity is as yet unknown.

McGreevy has been ticketed for driving an overloaded vehicle.

Anyone who may have seen the accident, should contact the Bethlehem Police Department at 439-9973.

Appeals board dogged by requests

By Joseph Andrew Phillips

Just when the Bethlehem zoning board of appeals had one pet case on a short leash, in bounded another.

No sooner had the board finally resolved to grant the zoning variance request centering on Gertrude Adair and her passel of Pomeranians than it confronted yet more doggy doings, in the form of a petition from John Cullinan, prompted by the adventures of his dog, Marshall.

At its meeting on Oct. 21, the board finally approved unanimously a resolution granting a use variance to Adair, who resides

in Glenmont with four therapy-trained Pomeranians. The allowable residential limit is two dogs, but the two-page resolution and related finding of fact in essence grants Adair a kennel permit with a host of restrictions, so that she can continue to harbor all four Pomeranians.

"And once we declare it a kennel," said zoning board member Marjorie O'Brien before the vote was taken, "it's a kennel, it's a kennel, it's a kennel forever."

But the zoning board's accommodation seems in little danger of abuse by Adair. Attending the meeting accompanied by the oldest of her pooches, Loni — be-decked in a Halloween devil's costume for the occasion — Adair told the board after the vote was taken, "My family have promised me they'll try to be ideal canine citizens."

Meanwhile, Cullinan, a resident of Brockley Drive in Delmar, has petitioned for a variance regarding a 6-foot fence he erected around his property. His petition was the subject of a public hearing earlier the same evening.

Cullinan said he wanted to be able to leave the dog alone in his back yard when at work. But the standard 4-foot fence wasn't enough to hold the irrepresible

Marshall, who hopped right over.

"This dog doesn't belong in the back yard — he belongs in the NBA," said zoning board member Richard Lewis.

Cullinan told the board that being left on a lead in the yard provoked barks of protest from his canine, and an electric fence proved ineffective. "He seemed to enjoy the shocks," Cullinan told the hearing.

So last July Cullinan erected 460 feet of stockade fence around his property, at a cost of almost \$2,000 — only to learn that it violated zoning regulations restricting solid fences to 4 feet in height. Among his neighbors, he said, "nobody seemed to mind," but town building inspectors insisted he apply for the variance.

Zoning board members suggested he consider a regulation fence with 2 feet of latticework atop it, or a chain-link model, but Cullinan doubted those would deter Marshall. And the cost of replacing the fence, he said, would be prohibitive.

The board adjourned the hearing with a promise to take the petition under consideration. Cullinan's request is scheduled for further discussion at tonight's zoning board meeting.

All's fair



David Gollocha tunes up for First United Methodist Church's Autumn Fair set for Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church at 428 Kenwood Ave. in Delmar. This year, in addition to the standard fare, there will be a sporting section and an expanded area for large items outside.

Index

Editorial Pages	6-11
Sports	17-20
Obituaries	21
Weddings	23
Neighborhood News	
Voorheesville	15
Selkirk/South Bethlehem	16
Family Entertainment	
Automotive	31
At Your Service	28
Calendar of Events	25, 26
Classified	29-31
Crossword	28
Dining Guide	26
Legals	27
Real Estate	30

Thoughts and chores of winter-haunt Halloween

By Katherine McCarthy

They were cyber aliens this year, in long robes made of a fiber not found in nature, and bug-eyed masks that they ditched by the third house in favor of breathing and vision.

COMMENTARY:

*Mom's
the
Word*

"I want to trick or treat for six hours," Cormac had announced on Friday morning, as I packed his costume for the school's Halloween parade.

"Oh, my God," I'd said, "you'll end up in Cleveland." We finally settled on two hours, with Christopher's caveat that the two hours not include the time they spent waiting at doors. Everything's too slow on Halloween, especially when it comes on a Saturday. "Is it time yet?" is the question that starts innocently in the afternoon, and builds to righteous indignation when, being forced to eat a dinner that might line their stomachs against the mountains of candy about to be consumed, the first trick or treat rings the bell.

"Mooooommm!" Christopher cries, clearly betrayed by the woman who had birthed him, feeds him, does his homework with him, and makes sure his teeth are brushed every day, "Every-one else is already out!"

In the ensuing 20 minutes, while they gobble up three more bites of string beans, go to the bathroom, put on costumes — arguing that wearing jackets underneath will make them look stupid, not alien-like — and get out the door, not one other trick or treat arrives, but the tension is palpable. Where do children get that special tone, that high-pitched, elongated note of utter frustration: "Let's goooooo!" that fades only when they are released through the front door and in their frenzy, rush off in two different directions?

We remind them of the stay-together, don't-cross-any-roads-alone rule, and they calm when the first candy hits the bottom of the paper bag they decorated at the town's Halloween Hay Day party.

Chris and I reveled in the beauty of this Halloween night, with leafless maple branches scratching a sky just cloudy enough for a nearly full moon to

dance in and out of. We laughed out loud to watch our boys rush up driveways hollering "trick or treat" with glee, and "thank you" at our prompting, then running off to the next house.

We felt lucky to live in a place where kids can still trick or treat, where the houses are close enough together to form a neighborhood and where, even in two hours, we knew most of the faces that answered doors. How fun, too, to live near the Elsmere firehouse where neighbors gather to chat while the children check out the firemen's haunted house or play on Mr. Bouncety Bounce.

Even with a firehouse stop, our two hours go quickly and prove to be just about enough. Christopher's feet begin to hurt and at one door, both boys sit down while waiting for the loot to be delivered. We start circling toward home and the mommy part of my brain realizes that this candy gathering, not unlike squirrels gathering nuts, is the beginning of our preparations for winter.

Chris had spent the day raking and as he cleared patches of grass I thought about where autumn bulbs could still go. Storm doors wait in the cellar, our traditional Veterans Day job. The chipmunk

that shouldn't live in our garage races frantically from place to place these days and two deer have wandered onto the street, nibbling at bushes in the gloaming hours that come early enough that neighborhood children are still out playing when darkness approaches.

What clothing do we need this winter? Maybe Christopher's parka will fit Cormac this year. Are hats and mittens still in the coat closet, or did they make it into a mothproof storage bin last spring? Catalogues are full of winter boots and Cormac wants to go to the Adirondacks, where he's sure there's already snow. Don't rush it, I think; we'll be trading rake for snow shovel soon enough. Should we get a snow blower this winter?

Inside the house, we wear sweaters as I hope the daytime sunshine will catch the last of the season's warmth and we can leave the furnace off for a while yet. The short, chilly days make me scrutinize the house that we'll soon be spending a lot of time in, and motivate me to clean, a bizarre aberration in my personality.

The dining room ceiling needs painting and the playroom has fingerprints oddly positioned at the

3-to-4-foot height. The dining room rug really needs replacing and the white and grey striped couch, that never was a good idea, looks particularly grimy. It's time to call the chimney guy and the furnace guy, and it wouldn't be bad to wash the woodwork and the curtains.

Time to thin out the stuff in the boys' room as we head for the next season of acquisition, Christmas, and pack up unused toys to donate somewhere if they won't be missed too much.

Time to plan for Thanksgiving and Christmas, to talk with relatives about who wants to host what, so I know how many turkeys and how much roast beef to buy. Time to think about what Equinox needs — how many extra pies can I bake, can we give two turkeys this year, make sure we sign up to deliver meals on Thanksgiving Day.

On Nov. 1, the children circle items they want for Christmas from the Toys R Us catalogue after negotiating how many pieces of Halloween candy they can eat each day. I pour an extra cup of coffee and watch them over the top of the Sunday paper. I'm like a lioness stalking her prey — as soon as they abandon the plastic pumpkins that hold their candy, the Snickers bars will be mine, all mine!

I sigh, and explain to all of us, mostly myself, that Halloween might mark the start of the winter season, but one preparation we don't need is to bulk up on candy to make it through the coming cold days. I even turn up the heat and the first bit of artificial warmth to seep into the house confirms it — it's time to settle in for the long winter nights.



Keith D. Vink
Associate Vice President/Financial Consultant

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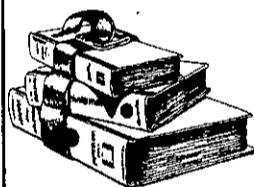
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Junior League decks the hall □ Helpers

By Katherine McCarthy

If you're ready to throw away the pumpkins and cornstalks and move on to the next decorating season, the Junior League's holiday house is the place to go for tips.

This year's house is located at 25 Bradhaven Drive in Slingerland's Brooke Hill Estates off Blessing Road. The Michaels Group turned the development's model home over to the Junior League, which called in a number of designers to create a showcase open to the public for a nominal fee.

"This is the fourth year we've had a holiday house," Junior League president and Delmar resident Jean Brooks said of the fundraiser, which is expected to make \$25,000 this year.

The Junior League of Albany, a group of women volunteers, will use that money for community service projects such as the Food Shuttle, which takes donated food from grocery and specialty stores to shelters, and numerous community grants.

"We did an analysis, and were pleased to see that 90 cents out of every dollar that we raise goes to community projects," Brooks said.

More than 18 designers have donated their time and materials to decorate the \$380,000 house. Some of the designers include Steven C. Ostroff Interiors, Andrea Neuhaus of Burlingame Interiors, Olsen's Nursery & Greenhouses, The Flower Company, and Laurie Michaels-Cerrone and Marion Michaels. Raymour & Flanigan donated most of the furniture in the house.

Among the many rooms are a master bedroom and bath decorated in a wedding theme, two rooms decorated as male and female retreats, a room with a Hanukkah theme and a teen-age boy's room — open can of Pringle's included.

Many of the items in the house are available for purchase and



Designers spruce up Slingerlands house for holiday fund-raiser.

there will be special seminars. Among them are "Designer Talk" with the decorators of the holiday house and a cooking demonstration with Bill Benson, executive chef and owner of The Palmer House in Rensselaerville.

There will also be a boutique with items from Indian Ladder Farms, the Silver Parrot and Albany Institute of History and Art's Museum Shop, and a cafe, with food prepared by Cowan & Lobel.

The Holiday House will be open from Nov. 7 to 15, with a preview party scheduled for Friday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. Tickets for the preview party are \$35, and advance reservations are required. Tickets to the Holiday House are \$8 if purchased through Nov. 6, and \$10 after that. Advance tickets are available at Robin's Nest in Slingerlands, all Raymour & Flanigan stores and

Dutch Touch Florist in Clifton Park.

The house is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. It is closed Monday and Tuesday. For information, call 463-3734.

parents over grades and problems with teachers.

The special group of young teens is chosen in a unique way. "In the spring we do a survey asking the students who is a good helper or listener," Doberman said. Those students whose names show up repeatedly on the survey are contacted and asked if they want to volunteer with the group. The students are then provided with training. In October, the group went on a weekend retreat to Silver Bay near Lake George.

"We want to equip those kids with coping skills and to teach them to know who to turn to when the problem is beyond their capability," Doberman said. "If you are someone that people turn to, you have to learn how to set boundaries for yourself too."

Betsy Manning, a seventh-grade Peer Helper, enjoyed her time at Silver Bay. "It was really fun," Manning said. "We learned about a whole bunch of stuff — like how people label people and how parents feel. If you ask to go to a dance and the parents say no, they have reasons." Manning said there were also very serious discussions about teen suicide, drugs and alcoholism.

Another seventh-grader, Andrea Stupp, felt she learned how to identify and solve problems. "I know a lot more now," Stupp said. "There are some problems we

can't deal with and we tell them to go the guidance counselor, or we go to our leaders."

Stupp said that students come to Peer Helpers because they know the helpers have the same kind of problems they do.

Fran Vincent, who teaches health and physical education, was one of the faculty members at the training session. "It went really well," Vincent said. "The highlight of the weekend was going into the woods for a cooperation course." Vincent said the entire group worked together to reach a common goal and when the kids left they felt good about themselves.

"I'm hoping that they get a sense that they are doing something good for other people," said Vincent. "Middle school can be an egocentric age and one way to feel good about themselves is to help and care about other people."

"The object of the training is not to change (the students) to be little therapists," Doberman said. Instead the kids are trained to be better listeners, not to minimize problems, and to respect confidentiality. Doberman emphasized that responsibility comes with trust and added that the students take responsibility very seriously.

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Matters of Opinion

Get on with it

The town of Bethlehem's attempt to dredge a 1,000-foot stretch of the Hudson River bottom near the town's industrial water supply plant is a good example of what happens when a molehill becomes a mountain. The town last March had applied to dredge to help increase the plant's yield.

The problem arose when the Army Corps of Engineers referred to a 10-year dredging plan in its response to the town. That wording gave rise to criticism from Clearwater for Bethlehem members, who blasted the town board on a number of counts.

And on and on it went for months until the Army Corps held a public hearing in late October. That's when the Corps assured those at the meeting that the town, as it has said all along, had asked for a one-time only dredging to try to improve the industrial water supply yield.

At long last, the Hudson River dredging question seems to have been resolved. It's too bad it's dragged on so long given the fact that when winter arrives it will be too late for the town of Bethlehem to dredge.

From the relatively low turnout at the Army Corps of Engineers' public meeting, it seems that the issue might have been much ado about nothing from the start.

It's just too bad the Corps waited so long to schedule the meeting, since the state Department of Environmental Conservation had given its seal of approval on dredging weeks ago, and the whole process could have been over and done with by now.

It really is time to get on with it. We only hope the Corps facilitates the permit process before winter. One-time dredging is just that, nothing more, nothing less.

Dog gone

Another "weighty" town matter was finally resolved when 73-year-old Gertrude Adair got the green light from the Bethlehem zoning board to be able to house her four Pomeranians in her Glenmont home.

It took the board months to figure out what to do with the four registered therapy dogs. Town law dictates only two dogs per residence — sort of like in China where couples are allowed to have only one child, so the board had to figure out a way to let Adair keep her beloved "family."

The board finally agreed to do the right thing, but not without some absurd restrictions, including one that limited the weight of Adair's dogs. Since the board imposed a weight restriction on Adair's canines, what would the board have done had Adair owned mastiffs, or Irish wolfhounds or even golden retrievers? Luckily, Pomeranians weigh about 5 pounds each. Weighty matters indeed.

We know the board is a conscientious group, that works long and hard for little, but when situations like Adair's come up, reports of board meetings read more like odd items sent in to "Dear Abby."

Road to recovery

Deirdre Jameson was given up for lost when police and rescue workers arrived at the scene of an accident on Route 32 last week. Her van was unrecognizable after it was crushed by a cement truck as a result of the crash.

But our neighbor (Deirdre is co-owner of In & Out the Window that shares our building) survived with relatively minor injuries. We hope she recovers quickly.

Veterans Day, a time to remember

By Ed Hurley

The writer is the director of Albany County Veterans Service Bureau

On Nov. 11 of each year, citizens from across the country come together to honor those who have defended our nation in times of conflict. Every one of us owes our freedom to the men and women who have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Reserve Corps.

As a Korean War veteran and director of Albany County Veterans Service Bureau, I consider Veterans Day to be a particularly important holiday for many reasons. Not only does it present us with a wonderful opportunity to show our gratitude to all members of the military, it also provides a perfect chance for us to instill in our youth a sense of respect and pride in our country.

We are fortunate to have a decorated Vietnam veteran, Mike Breslin, now serving as our county executive.

Each month, Mike Breslin and Rep. Mike McNulty, D-Green Island, join members of the Honor-a-Veteran committee to lead the county in paying tribute to a deceased veteran. Veterans from all over the county participate in these ceremonies remembering some of Albany County's greatest heroes.

McNulty presents the veteran's family with a flag that was once flown over the U.S. Capitol. The flag is then raised and flown over the Albany County Office Building throughout the month.

This month we recognized former POW Bill Bailey, a well-respected member of the community who was once named New Scotland's citizen of the year. We invite members of the community to join in these remembrances.

The county's Veterans Service Bureau provides many crucial



Joyce Sorenson, left, the widow of Korean War veteran Kaye Sorenson, accepts a flag from Albany County Executive Michael Breslin and Rep. Michael McNulty at a recent Honor-a-Veteran ceremony.

services, including assisting veterans with filing compensation and pension claims and providing transportation to and from Stratton VA Medical Center.

This year, the bureau has accomplished much for Albany County veterans. Perhaps the most significant of these achievements is the increase in property tax exemptions for veterans. We raised the maximum value of property that veterans can claim as tax exempt.

As part of our effort to ensure the fastest, most accurate services possible, the Veterans Service Bureau has advanced its technological capabilities. This year, we completed installation of the Veterans Information Management System, which has enhanced the bureau's ability to track records and submit claims for processing in a timely manner.

The bureau has also created a Web site linked to the county's home page that provides information about our programs. You can visit our Web site at www.albanycounty.com.

The Veterans Service Bureau is dedicated to providing vital programs and services to all honorably discharged military personnel who live in Albany County. However, at this time of year, the bureau expands its efforts to help children in need by collecting toys for the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program.

Beginning next week collection barrels will be located in the county office building at 112 State St. Residents are invited to contribute throughout the holiday season by placing new, unwrapped toys in the barrels.

The toys will be wrapped by volunteers and given as gifts to children who are in need.

Albany County has maintained a long and proud tradition of serving former members of the armed forces. The bureau is committed to continuing to develop new initiatives and enhance services for former military personnel who live in our community.

For information about Albany County's veterans programs and services, contact the bureau at 447-7710.

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Your Opinion Matters

Water critic decries group's tactics *Thanks to all for support*

Editor, The Spotlight:

The members of Clearwater for Bethlehem have not always been in agreement on how to solve the town's water woes. The splitting of the water supply is an example. In 1994, I objected to the split because if the statute of limitation ran out the district that would be created would increase the liability of the town. I was out voted by a large majority of the members.

In 1994, I knew the well was going to fail, but I did not know when. This split meant that the demand on the well would be reduced and that the poor yield might be kept hidden from the public long enough for the statute of limitations to run out.

Fortunately for the town, the design was so bad that within 14 months the well yield fell below the industrial demand, and a lawsuit eventually ensued, well within the three-year statute of limitation period.

When I was a public health engineer, there was a policy against creating a special water district to serve industry if the new water was inferior in quality to that already being served to town residents. This is because of

the increase in liability to the town and the state. If any member of the six families or the 250 workers now drinking the water were to make a claim, real or imaginary, the judge would probably rule in favor of the plaintiff. Judges get angry when there is a deliberate attempt to save money by unequal public health protection.

If conventional wells, 50 or more feet from the river, are successful it may be possible to have 2 to 3 million gallons of drinking water per day that has better quality than the other sources the town now uses.

Another possible outcome will be to buy water for industrial use from the city of Albany. Another outcome will be to continue to force second class citizens to drink the poor quality water. It will probably take another two years for the lawsuit to be resolved. It is far too early yet to even make a prediction as to the final outcome of the lawsuit.

Clearwater for Bethlehem has already obtained its objective. No politician would commit political suicide by pumping the water from the current system into pipelines serving most of the town. Therefore, why is Clearwater now press-

ing for an immediate guarantee that the majority of the town will never have to drink the water? In my opinion, this view hurts the lawsuit.

Clearwater for Bethlehem should change its name, stop confusing the public, fight other battles that have nothing to do with the lawsuit and let the lawyer reclaim as much money from the lawsuit as possible. After the lawsuit is settled, town residents can express their feelings in the voting booth. That's the way it is done in this country.

William Kelleher
Delmar

Editor, The Spotlight:

The New Scotland Community Food Pantry would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in our recent drawing. We raised \$1,575.

We would like to extend an extra thank you to Tom's Tastee Treat, SuperValu Foods and Indian Ladder Farms for allowing us to sell tickets at their establishments. Their cooperation was a big contribution toward the success of this fund-raiser.

We would also like to thank

those who came to our open house. We are pleased to have new members and look forward to working with them to help the pantry to continue to serve the community.

Finally we would like to thank everyone who donated to our Food Drive last month at SuperValu.

The Food Pantry deeply appreciates the continued support of our generous community.

Trish McCluskey
New Scotland Community
Food Pantry chairwoman

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Matters of Opinion

Ritalin critic responds to issues in Point of View

Editor, The Spotlight:

While I was not invited to write a response to Dr. Doberman's rebuttal to my Point of View column, I feel compelled to respond to what I believe to be both misrepresentations/misunderstandings of what I was attempting to communicate, as well as to incomplete/inaccurate information which was conveyed.

However, before I move on to the content of my response, I would like to acknowledge the service that Doberman has done in framing this debate. More specifically, his response is a prime example of the convoluted reasoning which underlies much of

the current popular and professional thinking on the topic of ADD/ADHD and the consequent use of psycho-tropic medications. Unfortunately, this type of relativistic thinking is one of the primary reasons why any critical consideration of this topic is now dismissed as being either anti-child or radical/ill-informed.

Initially, I would like to address the contention that my position is "stuck in the extreme." More specifically, exactly what information was it which I presented that was extreme? I provided sources of reference for the statements which I made in my initial column (something which Doberman did not provide) and I would ask which

of these sources, *The Physician's Desk Reference*, *Merck Manual of Medical Information*, United Nations International Narcotics Control Board, or *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders - Fourth Edition*, would Doberman consider to be extreme?

I would also note that there are abundant resources which are available which convey a similar extreme position, and which provide material for those who wish to consider this topic in a more informed and thoughtful manner.

Four popular resources which come immediately to mind which attempt to provide a perspective for a re-conceptualization of the ADD phenomenon are the following: *Talking Back to Ritalin: What Doctors Aren't Telling You About Stimulants for Children* (1998) by Dr. Peter Breggin. *Running on Ritalin: A Physician Reflects on Children, Society, and Performance*

in a Pill (1998), by Dr. Lawrence Diller. *No More Ritalin: Treating ADHD Without Drugs* (1996), by Dr. Mary Ann Block, and *The Myth of the ADD Child* (1995) by Thomas Armstrong.

Relative to Doberman's favored definition of ADD as a biological variant, there is no doubt that children demonstrate wide variability in their levels of attentional regulation, motor activity level and behavioral impulsivity.

While space limitations preclude a reasoned consideration of the myriad of factors (both within the child, as well as those which are external) which combine to form these behaviors, I believe that the most salient point is, that while these differences have always existed, as a society, we are now engaged in the endeavor of medicating them.

In this process, we reify a defi-

cit or disorder as residing within the child, thereby justifying the use of powerful medications to address these intrinsic deficits.

With regard to the processes by which these disorders are identified, I would take note of Doberman's somewhat dismissive explanation that the diagnostic criteria are "continuously changing." The importance of this point is that the diagnostic criteria contained in the *Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders - Fourth Edition (DSM-IV)*, are the sole means by which a formal diagnosis of ADD can be made.

Yet, these diagnostic criteria are arrived at through a process which is certainly less than scientific and objective. The interested reader is referred to the book *They Say You're Crazy* by Dr. Paula Kaplan which discusses the construction of the DSM.

If our society is going to continue to use a medical model to conceptualize ADD and its treatment with psycho-stimulants, and to make comparisons of this process to such disorders as diabetes and high blood pressure (as Doberman did), ought we not have the same expectations of diagnostic objectivity and response specificity?

Unfortunately, as I stated in my earlier opinion piece, the only way to make a diagnosis of ADD is by observing and judging behavior. Contrary to what Doberman stated, there have never been any neurological or structural differences demonstrated between ADD and non-ADD individuals. Given this fact, no medical imag-

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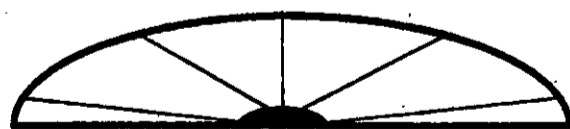
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Your Opinion Matters

ing process, regardless of its invasiveness or sophistication, can be utilized to make a diagnosis of ADD.

Relative to my characterization of ADD/ADHD and its treatment as an epidemic, I searched in *Webster's New World Dictionary* in order to ensure that I had not mispoken.

Fortunately, I found the following definition of epidemic: "The rapid, widespread occurrence of a fad, fashion, etc." Given that ADD is now the childhood psychiatric disorder which is the most frequently diagnosed, and that since 1990, the number of children taking Ritalin has grown 2 and a half times (to a point where over 1.3 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 take it regularly), I believe that the characterization of the situation as an epidemic is accurate.

Relative to this increasing frequency of diagnosis, it is most interesting that, while other diseases/disorders of childhood are being much less frequently diagnosed due to improved prenatal care and early intervention, the diagnosis of ADD and its subsequent treatment with

psycho-stimulants has increased so dramatically.

This rapid increase is even more confusing given that the United States rate of Ritalin usage is five times higher than that of any other country. Why? Do the rates of other childhood disorders vary so widely dependent upon culture?

Again, so that I can less easily be portrayed as being a fringe reactionary with regard to this issue, it should be noted that Dr. Peter S. Jensen, chief of the Child and Adolescent Disorders Research Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health, has stated the following: "I fear that ADHD is suffering from the disease of the month syndrome."

With regard to the use of the medical model in describing the use of Ritalin, I would like to pose some further questions. If the relatively high rate of positive responders to Ritalin (approximately 70 percent) is taken as support for a biological basis for a disorder, then how does one account for the 30 percent of children who do not demonstrate positive response.

Using Doberman's analogy, do

30 percent of diabetics not respond favorably to insulin? Also, how does one account for the fact that the effects of psycho-stimulants are not specific to ADD/ADHD diagnosed children? How can we continue to use such language as "psycho-stimulants provide symptom relief," when there is no response specificity?

In summary, the effects of Ritalin are temporal and circumscribed. Children who take Ritalin do not demonstrate improved long-term learning outcomes (i.e., pills are not skills), and they must continue to take these drugs in order to demonstrate continued behavioral control.

Unfortunately, as I attempted to address in my earlier opinion piece, the negative side effects

(insomnia, weight loss, irritability, nausea, dizziness, headaches, facial tics) are numerous, and there is no significant improvement in higher order cognitive processes, social skills, or long-term adjustment.

Given this information, perhaps we ought to be less engaged in what Dr. Peter Kramer, author of *Listening to Prozac*, calls "cosmetic pharmacology," and more involved in helping children construct the skills which will allow them to be more independent and competent individuals.

Glenn Yelich
school psychologist

Parents say thank you

Editor, The Spotlight:

Bethlehem Central Lab School thanks all those who contributed to our successful garages sale.

We give special thanks to Chris and Jim McCarroll of The Village Butcher, Windflower, Stewart's, BC and the school custodians.

We appreciate all the hard work of our committees, the parents and students of the Lab School.

Lastly, thank you to our community for its support.

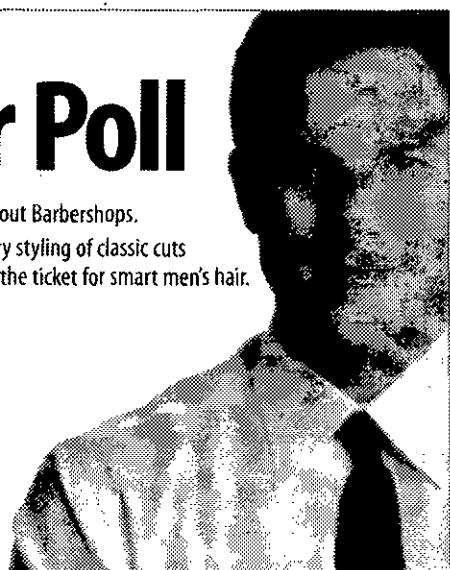
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Matters of Opinion

Volunteers deserve pat on back

Editor, The Spotlight:

Five Rivers Ltd. is a nonprofit citizens group which supports state Department of Environmental Conservation programs at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar. Five Rivers Ltd. is supported by a strong membership, donations and fund-raisers, such as the annual birdseed sale.

But this letter of appreciation is not about Five Rivers or Five Rivers Ltd. It is about the more than 50 people who helped lift and

load 60,000 pounds (that's one and one-half trailer loads) of birdseed and who fed the volunteers on Oct. 24 and 24.

Among the volunteers were dedicated Five Rivers Ltd. board members, group members, Girl Scouts, BCHS Participation in Government students and St. Thomas School students, all working toward the goal of a successful fund-raiser. This dedicated mix of volunteers provides the living, working definition of community

service and teamwork. We all had fun and accomplished our goal. Five Rivers Ltd. is proud and thankful that the volunteers felt our cause was important enough to give up a beautiful fall day to lift and load bags of birdseed into your cars and trucks.

While each volunteer will receive out personal thanks, they also deserve public recognition for their contribution. Also, if you are a friend, parent, teacher or a leader of any of these volunteers, you are entitled to a bit of special pride in that person or group.

Thanks to those of you who bought birdseed. We hope to see you all next year at the birdseed sale and throughout the year at Five Rivers Environmental Center enjoying the environment and educational programs.

John Smolinsky
Five Rivers Ltd.
birdseed sale chairman

Lions say thank you for fund-raiser support

Editor, The Spotlight:

The Bethlehem Lions Club would like to express its appreciation to all those who participated in our Journey for Sight in September. Thanks to those who sponsored the walkers, the walkers themselves, members of the business community and all the others who made the day a success. All proceeds from the event will go to funding the various

sight projects that we support.

As usual, we extend an invitation to anyone who wants to learn more about our club, with the possibility of joining the largest service club in the world that emphasizes sight preservation, hearing conservation and other community projects.

Patrick Stellato
Bethlehem Lions Club
president

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Your Opinion Matters

Church to present gospel concert

Parent understands frustration with district

Editor, The Spotlight:

I am writing in response to Pat Kane's letter. I have never met Ms. Kane, but could feel and identify with her frustration as she tried to have her daughter placed in advanced math.

Luckily, my daughter's math teacher was different, and gave her the opportunity even though she was also "borderline." She has done very well, and is now in pre-calculus in the 10th-grade. This will give her the opportunity to take two AP math courses before completing high school.

In another subject area, she was not as lucky. Despite meeting with both the guidance counselor and the subject supervisor, she was not placed in the advanced course she requested. The next school year, her teacher in this subject area asked why she was not in the other course. When she related the story, the response was "Bad decision. They should have let you take that class." But we already knew that.

Throughout my daughter's education, I've been involved in various ways with Bethlehem schools. I spent two years as a parent representative on the Middle School SIT team, and got to see firsthand the tremendous commitment and energy that so many teachers put into our children's education. Much of the time they spend is far beyond any-

thing required; they truly have a passion for their work.

I've also seen it up close and personal, as my mother was a teacher for more than 30 years. But with all due respect, the idea that a teacher knows better than I do what course is best for my daughter is hard to take.

If my daughter had a serious medical condition, and went to her doctor, we would be presented with all the facts, and given treatment options along with the doctor's opinion. Maybe we would even get a second opinion. But in the end, we would be the ones to make the final decision. If our treatment choice did not agree with our doctor's, it would not be out of disrespect for him or her; it would mean only that we knew what was right for us.

If I have the responsibility for making life and death medical decisions, why am I not competent to make an educational decision when presented with the facts? Teachers deserve respect, but parents deserve respect too. We still know our children and their abilities better than anyone.

Cathy Schaefer's response struck me as condescending and sarcastic. Why was that necessary? It seems as though Pat Kane had done all she could through the usual channels. What else was she supposed to do? And what is wrong with expressing your opin-

ions in a public forum? Perhaps that is exactly what we need. Maybe the school board could place the issue of student course selection and placement on its agenda at an upcoming meeting, and parents and teachers could comment. There are certainly many questions that could be asked, such as ...

Why in a school system where the motto is 'striving for excellence' do we discourage eager young students from taking course work that will challenge them? Are we giving our children the message that the worst possible thing they can do is try something and not succeed? Are we teaching them that it's better to

take an easy safe course and get a good grade than to risk taking a harder course and fail? Can we put our money where our mouth is when we talk about higher standards? Do we actually care about more than standardized test scores? Does the individual child matter? Is this what we really think education is all about? We would all be more knowledgeable if we knew the answer to those questions.

Mariann Warner
Glenmont

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 16 Elsmere Ave. in Delmar will host a concert of country and gospel music by Marty Wendell and his Tour Band on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m.

Folk singer and guitarist Wendell is a winner of the Northeast Country Music Association's Pioneer Award, and has appeared extensively throughout the Northeast, on radio and on television.

The concert is free, though a free-will offering will be taken. For information, call 439-3265.

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Every Mon.	Menands Diner, Menands	2:30 pm
Every Tues.	Smith's, Cohoes	12:00 pm
Every Tues.	Tool's Restaurant, Delmar	2:30 pm
Every Wed.	Golden Corral, Colonie	12:00 pm
Every Thurs.*	Voorheesville Diner, Voorheesville	10:00 am
Every Thurs.*	Ponderosa, Western Ave., Albany	12:00 pm
Every Fri.**	Denny's, Central Ave., Albany	10:30 am
Every Fri.**	Starbuck's, Latham	2:30 pm

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BCHS alum to perform in Glove Theatre play

BCHS graduate Jay Rosenbloom will be featured in a performance of "Reiss Pieces" on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 8 p.m. at Gloversville's Glove Theatre.

He is the son of Carland Carole Rosenbloom of Delmar.

"Reiss Pieces," a series of one-act comedies, will be presented by adobe theatre company of New York City, an acclaimed off-Broadway company founded in 1991.

The performance will benefit Fulton County's Community Development Fund, which is paying

for the restoration of the Glove Theatre.

Rosenbloom majored in theater at Northwestern University and apprenticed at Actor's Theatre of Louisville before moving to New York City in 1991, where he has appeared on television's *Guiding Light*, in several independent films, and with numerous theater groups.

Tickets cost \$10 and will be sold at the door.

They can also be obtained in advance by calling 725-9817.

Speaker to discuss Irish gypsies

Author and teacher Sharon Gmelch will present the ninth annual Wenzl lecture on Sunday, Nov. 15, at 2 p.m. Gmelch will discuss Ireland's indigenous gypsies, known as the travelling people, and illustrate her presentation with slides.



Travelling people wandered the Irish countryside for centuries, first on foot then in horse-drawn carts and wagons, doing odd jobs and carrying news. After World War II, they migrated to the cities, living on welfare in roadside trailers and government camps, collecting scrap metal and trading household goods. They have been, and remain, Ireland's social pariahs.

Gmelch tells their story in *Nan: The Life of an Irish Travelling Woman*, the biography of a traveller Gmelch met when she was a graduate anthropology student in the early 1970s. That encounter grew into a friendship that lasted until Nan's death in 1983.

Gmelch has a doctorate from the University of California and is a professor of anthropology at



Sharon Gmelch

Union College. Her research into gender, ethnicity and culture has taken her to Ireland, Alaska and Barbados.

She won the Irish Publishers Association's 1975 Book of the Year award for *Tinkers and Travellers*. Her most recent work is *Gender on Campus: Issues for College Women*, published this year.

The Friends of the Library will host a reception following the lec-

ture, which is free and open to the public. Call 439-9314 to register.

Library displays this month include the semiannual Bethlehem Art Association Show, a bulletin board tribute to National Adoption Awareness Month, and an introduction to the Adamsville Ancients Fife & Drum Corps. Josh Levy displays his collection in the youth services case.

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We feel that the few minutes it takes for you to update your health history are extremely important. It is in your best interest to fully cooperate and notify your dentist of any change in your medical history, no matter how small it may seem.

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Exotic ports of call on view

This month, many exotic ports of call are represented in a unique display of travel treasures amassed by library staff. Our travellers have visited an amazing sampling of the world, including Mo-



rocco, Hong Kong, Korea, China and most of the European nations.

Joyce Laiosa's family had a particularly interesting experience as guests of NBC TV at the Seoul Olympics in 1988. The beauty of the United States has also been thoroughly explored. You will find intriguing and informative items in the display case. Don't miss it.

Also, see artists Lorraine Miskinis and Arlene Pafunda in our galleries.

School district residents are reminded that we are seeking a candidate for the library board of trustees. A person is needed to finish the current year of Fred Volkwein's term and to run for election in June. If you are age 18 or older and a resident, contact library director Gail Sacco at 765-2791.

The Library Club for grades



Olympic gold medalist in wrestling Jeff Blatnick meets with Voorheesville's own Joyce Laiosa at the 1988 games in Seoul, Korea.

four through six meets on Thursday, Nov. 12, for a program on film animation. Sign up and a permission slip are necessary, so call ahead.

Friday the 13th is the date for a Brown Bag book discussion for fourth- through sixth-graders. Bring your lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Now that most of us are back on our regular fall schedules,

caregivers should remember to check out the library's Take Out Storytime bags. The bags contain everything needed to present a real library story hour with craft and film at home. Youth services librarian Laiosa recently presented this unique program at the New York State Library Association conference in Rochester.

Barbara Vink

Hamlet then and now

Theater Without A Net, Bethlehem Central High School's Shakespearean acting troupe, will present "Hamlet" Nov. 12 through 22 in the laboratory theater.

The troupe will put on two versions of the show: one classical, the other contemporary.

The classical production will be presented Nov. 12, 20 and 21 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 14 and 15 at 1 p.m.

It features Leah Hennessey as Hamlet, Alissa Johnson as Ophelia, Sloan Grenz as Claudius, Laren Conti as Gertrude, Christy Balluff as Horatio, Owen Smith as Polonius, Robin Amiri as Laertes,

and Helena Kopchik as the Ghost.

The contemporary version will take place on Nov. 13, 14 and 19 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 21 and 22 at 1 p.m.

It stars Brian Lobel as Hamlet, Jacqueline Donnaruma as Ophelia, Adam Guzik as Polonius, and Rebecca Minor as Gertrude.

The parallel productions are directed by James Yeara, with Melissa Rifkin as student director.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students. They will be available at the door before each performance. The public is invited to attend.

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Who's Who honors local teachers

Twenty-nine local teachers have recently been selected for listing in *Who's Who Among American Teachers*.

The honorees were among 130,000 teachers named nationwide to the 1998 listing, selected by former students who are themselves listed in either *Who's Who Among American High School Students* or *The National Dean's List*. Both volumes are published by Educational Communications, which also publishes the teachers' listing.

The students were asked to nominate educators who made a difference in their lives by helping shape their values, inspire inter-

est in a particular subject, or challenge them to strive for excellence.

In the Bethlehem Central School District, 11 honorees who teach at the high school were named. First-time honorees included Judith Berlow, Christine Corson, Bernadene Fisk, Louis Gilboord, David Lewis and Louise Schwarz. Marta Meacham, Cathy Quackenbush, Roger Quackenbush, David Symula and James Yeara are all previous honorees returned to this year's list.

Teachers at the middle school honored this year included Jesse Braverman, Maryanne Malecki and Carol Van Duzer. Catherine Fredette from Elsmere Elemen-

tary and Maureen Wiltse from Slingerlands Elementary were also honored, as were recent retirees Janet Cornell and Sharon Houser.

Three Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Senior High School teachers were selected, including repeat nominee Josephine Prozik and first-timers James Guldenstern and Karen Sack.

At Voorheesville's Clayton A. Bouton Junior-Senior High School, honored teachers included previous recipient Christopher Mastro and new awardees Philip Davis, Mark Diefendorf, Joan Herman, Charles Reader, Vasiliki Volkwein and Arthur Willis.

Sheila Lobel of Voorheesville Elementary School was also named to the list.

Kiwanis Bell of Life campaign under way

Kiwanis Clubs in Northeastern New York will conduct "Bell of Life" fund drive throughout the month.

Bells will be sold at local businesses and banks. After Thanksgiving, bells will be sold at Crossgates and Clifton Country malls.

Last year more than \$20,000 was donated to Albany Medical Center, and this year Kiwanis hopes match that amount. Proceeds will go to the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Unit of the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center. The goal is to raise \$500,000 over the next five years for education, research, intensive care unit modernization and staff.

The Bell of Life program was initiated by Dom DeCecco and the Delmar Kiwanis Club, with the help of Richard Sturm, past

distinguished lieutenant-governor of the Capital Division.

During the next few weeks, Kiwanis representatives will ask local businesses to sell Kiwanis bells for \$1. Purchasers are encouraged to write their names, or the names of loved ones, on the bell and stores will display them on walls or banners.

"The important difference between this fund drive and others is that the money will stay in this area to help local people," said Dom DeCecco, a coordinator of the project. "Almost all other national drives benefit only a miniscule percentage of people in our area. We want all patrons to know that every penny above the cost of printing the bells and posters goes directly to the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center at the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center," he added.

The greatest killer of children is severe injury, otherwise known as pediatric trauma. More than 15,000 children die each year from trauma and another 100,000 children are involved in non-fatal disabling accidents. Kiwanis hopes the drive will help purchase specialized equipment and diagnostic tools to help the pediatric trauma staff reduce the number of fatalities and give children a chance for a normal, productive life.

For information, contact DeCecco at 439-2437 or Sturm at 459-2503.

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Come to the Voorheesville Cabaret

Voorheesville Friends of Music will sponsor its annual Cabaret on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. at the high school.

There will be performances by students and community groups and food will be available.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for senior citizens and students.

Church to serve turkey dinner

New Scotland Presbyterian Church on Route 85 will hold its annual turkey supper on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

The family-style feast includes roast turkey, buttered squash and corn, mashed potatoes and gravy and all the trimmings — followed by homemade pie.

Special sale booths will also offer fancy goods and baked goods.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. For information, call the church at 439-6454.

Historical group sets talk on Erie Canal

Bill Massoth will present the second in a two-part talk on the Erie Canal at a meeting of the New Scotland Historical Association on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 8 p.m. at Wyman Osterhout Community Center on the Old Road in New Salem.

Everyone in the community is invited to attend. For information, call Marion Parmenter at 765-4652.

Thacher Park offers Indian Ladder trail tour

John Boyd Thacher State Park in New Scotland will sponsor a tour of the Indian Ladder Trail on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 1 p.m.

Participants will learn about the world-reknoned Helderberg Escarpment, and the caves, underground streams and waterfalls in this fossil-rich rock formation.

Wear sturdy shoes on this one-

NEWS NOTES

Voorheesville

Elizabeth Conniff-Dineen
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hour walk. To register, call 872-1237.

Fire department plans Harvest Dance

Voorheesville Volunteer Fire Department will host its annual Harvest Dance on Saturday, Nov. 7, at the firehouse on Altamont Road.

Disc jockey Pam Pardee will entertain. For tickets call, 765-4048.

Garden club hosts Orchid Lady

"The Orchid Lady," Jennifer Palermo, will talk about how to care for and raise orchids and diseases to watch for at the monthly meeting of the Helderview Garden Club on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. at Voorheesville Public Library on School Road.

Everyone is welcome to attend; please bring an item for the local food pantry.

PARP sundaes at elementary school

Children who completed the Parents as Reading Partners program will have ice cream sundaes courtesy of the PTA on Friday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. at the elementary school cafeteria.

Schools to close for Veterans Day

Schools will be closed for Veterans Day on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Students at the elementary school be dismissed at 11:50 a.m. on Fridays, Nov. 6, 13 and 20, for teacher conferences.

There will be roller-skating from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. in the gymnasium on conference days.

PTA to sponsor parenting program

The PTA will present a parenting program with Holly Debes, a professor of early childhood education at Maria College, on Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the large group instruction room at the high school.

Blood pressure clinic Tuesday

New Scotland Kiwanis Club will hold its monthly blood pressure clinic on Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville on Route 85A.

School board to meet Monday

The school board will meet on Monday, Nov. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the large group instruction room at the high school.

Singers needed

Singers from area churches are invited to join together for the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving service on Sunday, Nov. 22.

Rehearsals will be held on Thursdays, Nov. 5, 12 and 19, at 8 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville on Maple Avenue.

For information, call Ken George at 765-4442.

Legion planning Thanksgiving dinner

American Legion Post 1493 on Voorheesville Avenue is planning to serve a free community Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, Nov. 22.

Volunteers and financial contributions are needed. To help out, call Charles Renker at 765-4359.

Save SuperValu receipts for school computers

SuperValu is participating in the Apples for the Students program through March 1.

Everyone in the community is asked to save store receipts and turn them in at the elementary school.

Voorheesville schools can receive computers and other supplies through the program.

County honors veteran of month

Albany County Executive Mike Breslin and the Honor-a-Veteran Committee recently paid tribute to the memory of the late William Bailey of Feura Bush as Albany County Veteran of the Month.

Bailey joined the Army in 1944 and served in World War II and the Army reserves. He was a prisoner of war in Germany during World War II and spent more than 40 years in service to his country.

Breslin presented a proclamation to Bailey's widow Helen, and Michael McNulty presented a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol to members of the Bailey family. The flag will fly over the County Office Building throughout November.

Bailey, a member of Voorheesville's American Legion Post 1493, was honored in 1982 as New Scotland Citizen of the Year.

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RCS students earn Girl Scout Silver Award

Aubrey Spaulding, 13, and Amy Billets and Jennifer Yurek, both 14, have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award, the second highest award in Girl Scouting.



Yurek

The award is earned by Cadette Girl Scouts who complete three Interest Project Patches, the From Dreams to Reality Patch, Cadette Girl Scout Leadership Award, Cadette Girl Scout Challenge and Girl Scout Silver Award project.

Spaulding and Billets held a pet food drive at Grand Union Supermarkets in Ravena and Glenmont and delivered it to three

humane societies for their Silver Award project.

Yurek worked with another member of her Troop to organize a book collection for the Ravena Community Library and held three story and craft hours at the library.

The Scouts attend Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Senior High School.

Spaulding is the daughter of Fred and Patricia Spaulding of Feura Bush. Billets is the daughter of Joyce Billets and Yurek is the daughter of John and Mary Ellen Yurek, all of Ravena.



Spaulding

Coats for Kids at Ravena site

Albany County Opportunity will distribute free coats on Monday, Nov. 9, from noon to 2:30 p.m. at Choices in Faith Plaza on Route 9W in Ravena as part of the WRGB Coats for Kids project.

Individuals and families should bring verification of residence and number of people in household.

After-school program seeks board members

There are vacancies on the After School Activities Program's board of directors.

The nonprofit corporation is dedicated to providing quality school-age child-care to families in the Ravena-Coeymans Selkirk-Central School District.

Members of the RCS community are encouraged to seek nomination to the board. For information, call 767-3459.

Country concert slated

RCS Senior High school will host the Green County Music Festival concert on Friday, Nov. 6, at 7:30 p.m.

RCS Sports Association to meet tonight

RCS Sports Association will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m. at the high school.

Community members are invited to attend.

Elementary schools slate PTO meetings

A. W. Becker and Pieter B. Coeymans elementary schools will both hold parent-teacher organization meetings on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m.

Historical association to present speaker

Stefan Bielinski will discuss The People of Colonial Albany at a meeting of the Bethlehem Historical Association on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 8 p.m. at the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse in Selkirk.

Bielinski is a community historian and director of the Colonial Albany Social Project at the New

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Boehm's Apple Barn open for season

Boehm's Apple Barn, on Route 143 west of Ravena, is open and has pumpkins, apples, fresh-pressed cider and cider donuts.

Barn shop plans holiday craft fair

The Barn at the Back 40's ninth annual holiday craft fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be hand-crafted, slates, wreaths, candles, door crowns, dried flower arrangements and other handcrafted items for sale.

The barn is on Route 396, a half mile west of the intersection of Route 144.

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Sports

Blackbirds get their kicks against Greenwich

By Len Tarricone

After a season-opening 45-0 victory over Bishop Gibbons in which the Blackbirds failed on six of seven extra point attempts, Clayton A. Bouton High School head coach **Joe Sapienza** stressed that "at some point those misses are going to hurt."

He vowed to make place kicking a priority on the practice field, and the extra work may have gotten the Blackbirds into the Section II, Class C title game, as **Aaron Benedict's** three extra points were the difference in a 21-19 victory over Greenwich Oct. 31.

Granted, there were many important factors behind the Blackbirds' victory. A critical stop by the middle of the line on Greenwich tailback **Aaron Kuzmich** on a two-point conversion attempt that would have tied the game with 3:50 to go was colossal. **Pat St. Denis'** two first-down pickups on the Blackbirds' ensuing series which ate the clock and iced the game were huge. Quarterback **Andy Corcione's** pressure passing and the slick rushing of **St. Denis, Tim Beadnell** and fullback **Tom Gregory** were integral.

But the simple fact of this game was that each team scored three times, and that the Blackbirds tacked on all their extra points and the Witches did not. As a result, Vooheersville will meet Mechanicville Nov. 6 at Colonie Central High School.

Greenwich had used second-half drives of 12 and 16 plays to put two Kuzmich touchdowns on the board and battle back from a 21-7 halftime deficit.

After Kuzmich's one-yard dive had brought Greenwich within two points, his conversion attempt was designed to go right up the gut, but the Blackbirds' converged around tackles **Mike Cavanaugh** and **Eric Papandrea** and stopped

him less than a yard short.

"They moved it on us in the second half, and kept the ball away from our offense, but we knew our defense would come up big if they had to," said Sapienza. "They have all year."

At this point, the Blackbirds' offense was on the spot to hold onto the ball with almost four minutes still to play. They started from their own 25-yard line with 3:42 left and ran **St. Denis** twice for 12 yards and a first down.

After Gregory was stopped for no gain, Sapienza called for a rollout pass, and Corcione delivered it to **Beadnell** for a four-yard gain which kept the clock moving. **St. Denis** picked up five more on the next play to set up a fourth-and-one from the Blackbirds' 46.

Here, at the most critical of times, they went to their bread and butter — a play off the right side of the offensive line, behind



Voorheesville's Pat St. Denis runs left while fullback Tom Gregory (34) occupies a pair of Greenwich defenders.

three-year starters **Papandrea** and **Matt Dunbar**. **St. Denis** found a gaping hole and crashed through en route to a 16-yard gain and the final nail in the Witches' coffin.

Sapienza called the contest a "gut-check game," and there was

no lack of fortitude on his sideline. Corcione, the first-year quarterback, displayed significant composure under fire. Late in the third quarter, the Blackbirds found themselves inside their own one-yard line, but Corcione

found **Beadnell** for a 16-yard gain and valuable breathing room.

"I told Andy after the Cohoes game that if we had another situation where he had to make a play to win the game, I would put it in his hand," said Sapienza. "That play was as big as any in the game."

Corcione also threw for what turned out to be the winning score after **Papandrea** had forced a fumble with a big hit on Greenwich's **Ben Clayton** near the end of the first half.

The Blackbirds took over on the Witches' 28-yard line, and Corcione soon found **Benedict** down the right sideline for a 26-yard touchdown to provide the halftime margin.

"We didn't want to let up; we couldn't be satisfied and had to come out with the same intensity," said **St. Denis**. "They came out a little more fired up, but we were able to hold them off."

Bethlehem Tomboys Girls Softball League 1999 REGISTRATION

The Bethlehem Girls Softball League will hold registration for girls 6 to 18 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Saturday, November 14 at the Bethlehem Town Hall

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Balanced offensive attack carries Indians to finals

By Len Tarricone

The first time, they employed the one-man wrecking crew. For the rematch, the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk football team brought the full demolition unit, and when they had finished their work the Broadalbin-Perth Patriots had been decimated 47-0 in a Section II, Class B semifinal game Oct. 30 in Ravena.

The two teams had met in the season's first week, and the Indians ran star tailback Gary Jones over, through and around the Patriots to the tune of 251 yards and three touchdowns on 35 carries as Ravena rolled to a 27-0 victory in what head coach Gary

VanDerzee called, "pretty much a one-dimensional offensive performance."

The Indians have spent the time since then fine-tuning their entire attack, particularly in the four games that Jones sat out with a knee injury, and have been terrorizing opposing defenses in a multitude of ways.

They turned the balanced offensive package loose against Broadalbin-Perth, putting five different players in the end zone. Quarterback Minard Carkner, who made a nervous debut against the Patriots in that first game, has blossomed into a confident thrower who came into the game

as the Section II leader in touchdown passes, threw two in this game.

One went to wideout Tony Tucker, who also scored on a 25-yard end-around. Tucker started the game tied for the Section lead in touchdown receptions.

Running back Keith Albano scored his 11th touchdown of the season on a 31-yard run in the third quarter and recorded a safety when he blocked a punt that rolled out of the end zone.

Junior receiver Larry Alberts hauled in a scoring pass from Carkner, and even 6-foot, 2-inch, 260-pound guard Keith Reinisch got into the scoring column with a smash-mouth run from eight yards out. Reinisch ran the ball a little bit as a freshman on the junior varsity team, and VanDerzee said the play was "a fun thing" to get his senior star lineman a touchdown.

Oh, and Jones also contributed. He only carried eight times for 77 yards, but two of them went for touchdowns of 36 and 13 yards. Despite missing almost half of the season, he is in the top 10 in the

area with 14 touchdowns.

With him as the centerpiece of a multi-faceted offense, Ravena will be a tough matchup for anyone in the playoffs, particularly with the defense playing with such dominance as it has in recent weeks.

The Indians allowed the Patriots only 32 yards on the ground and 42 total for the game. They have now shut out three of their past four opponents and only allowed a single touchdown in the other game, to Fonda-Fultonville. In that span, they have outscored their foes 178-7.

"That's not a bad run, is it?" asked VanDerzee when informed of the statistic. "We've got a good group of players who are keeping their focus and doing a nice job, and are playing well."

The 9-0 Indians next opponent will be 8-1 Fonda-Fultonville, which downed Glens Falls 18-0 in the other semifinal. The game will be played at Colonie High School Nov. 6.

In the earlier meeting between these two Oct. 17, in what was Jones' first game back from injury, the Indians broke open a scoreless tie in the second half with a 34-point scoring barrage to

win 34-7.

That day, the Indian defense limited the Braves to off-tackle runs and underneath passes and protected against the long gainer. The Ravena offense, meanwhile, clicked on four scoring plays of 34 yards or more, including touchdown runs of 74 and 50 yards by Jones.

Game time is 1:30 p.m.

Blackbirds upset Taconic Hills

Caryn Adams' goal at 29:14 of the second half led the sixth-seeded Clayton A. Bouton girls soccer team to a 4-2 win over third-seeded Taconic Hills Oct. 30 in the Section II, Class CC quarterfinals.

Adams' first goal gave the Blackbirds a 1-0 after the first half, but tallies by Amanda Jo Yorok and Jennifer Frederick gave Taconic Hills a 2-1 lead.

Whitney Reed's goal tied the score and Katelyn Burger provided an insurance goal.

The Blackbirds played second-seeded Mechanicville in the semifinals Nov. 3.

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Blackbirds end frustrating year

By Len Tarricone

A look at the record book shows quite a similarity between the 6-12 Clayton A Bouton boys soccer team of 1997 and the 5-13-1 team of this year that concluded its season Oct. 30 with a 4-1 loss to Chatham in a Section II, Class C preliminary game. But the ledger is where the similarity ends. The play on the field told a whole different story.

"Last year we started 2-7, and we weren't really competitive until that ninth game," said second-year head coach Mike Guerette. "This year we also started 2-7, but we were in every one of our 17 games except for one, the Schalmont game, and they were ranked in the top five in the state."

The litany of heartbreak of this season in the tough Colonial Council — a league that includes one Class A school, five Class B schools, three Class C schools and one Class D school — included losses in eight of 11 one-goal games, two double-overtime losses to Class A Averill Park, a 1-0 loss to Class B power Albany Academy, two one-goal losses to 14-4 Mechanicville and a painful loss to Cohoes with five seconds left in double overtime.

"We had our share of hard luck this year; one goal here or a goal there, and things would have been different for us, especially our

position with regard to Sectionals," Guerette said.

As it was, the Blackbirds' strength of schedule and narrowness of defeats was a factor in helping them to qualify for Sectionals, but having to struggle the past few years is unusual for this program, which had become accustomed to making strong post-season runs, particularly in the early-to-mid 1990s.

Under coach Bob Crandall, the Blackbirds captured the state Class C title in 1990, made the Sectional final the following year and reached the semifinals of the state tournament the year after that. As the junior varsity coach, Guerette doubled as the assistant of those clubs. He hopes to return to those glory days, and is receiving positive signs from below.

"We are rebuilding here, and we're on the right track; (JV coach Joerg Siemann) is doing a fine job with his kids, and the modified team is 12-0-1, so the future looks good. I think we'll make some noise next year," he said.

Guerette also noted that he will have a freshman, four sophomores and five juniors from this team coming back to meld with the up-and-coming talent next year. As for the season just concluded, Guerette had nine seniors back from the 1997 team, and they provided the nucleus.

The co-captains were Kevin Ruane, who his coach called "everything you would want of a captain, a perfect leader," and defenders Nick Gaudio and Ryan Conley. Talented freshman forward Pat Miller's play made Guerette happy that he'll be around for three more years.

Other front-line players included Brad Berger, Joe Guastella, and midfielders Hiroaki Taguchi, a senior; junior Bob Siemann and sophomores Chris DiBlasi and Adam Holcomb.

Contributors on defense included sophomore sweeper Dave Dutkiewicz and sophomore marking back Brian Siemann. The Blackbirds will search for a new keeper next year to replace senior Matt Melewski.

"I am proud of the effort these kids have put forth this season, given their frustration with the unpleasant results we have had in many of our games," said Guerette. "This season has provided a great life lesson for us. No matter how hard you work, and these kids worked really hard on and off the field, you don't always get what you want."

Guerette is hopeful his returnees will bring this mindset to pre-season next year. If their luck changes just a little, it could be a bright year.

Eagles make playoffs

The Bethlehem Pop Warner Senior Midget Eagles qualified for the postseason with a 14-6 overtime win over the Belmont Raiders Oct. 31.

Tah-Quan Jackson tied the game in the fourth quarter with a touchdown run, and Nate Panucci scored the game-winner in overtime. The Raiders' last chance to catch up was stopped by Jorge Luis Reyes' interception. Darnell Douglas, Ryan Livingston and Terence Stanfield contributed offensively, while John Flagg, Jeremy Irving, Shane Cassidy and Jerry Saliba were strong on defense.

In Pee Wee action, the Bethlehem Falcons ended their season with a 20-13 win over the Troy Patriots Oct. 31. The Falcons' offense was too much for Troy to handle, as Ryan Murphy, Adam Storm and Scott Heighton opened up running lanes for Matt McKenna, who ran for two touchdowns, with Ryan Elder adding a third. Matt Carroll, Rylan Conway and Shawn Bukowski turned in strong defensive performances, while Geoff Wilcox played well on both sides of the ball, contributing several tackles and kicking an extra point.

Bethlehem's Junior Pee Wee Condors fell 16-0 to the Saratoga Pintos Nov. 1. Eric McLeer's two long kick returns gave the Condors great field position, but they could not convert it into any points. Bethlehem ends its season Nov. 8 in Ballston Spa.



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Bethlehem ends tough season with win over Patriots

By Len Tarricone

A challenging season ended on a positive note for the Bethlehem Central High School Eagles Oct. 30, when they defeated Schenectady High School 36-22 in a Class AA crossover game at Linton High School.

The Eagles had a 22-8 advantage and the ball to start the second half, then watched their lead evaporate. First, Schenectady converted a Bethlehem fumble into a quick score, and then the Patriots recovered the ensuing onside kick and marched right in for another score to tie the game at 22.

"It was a real positive sign for us, at that stage, to rally and get

back in," said Eagles head coach **John Sodergren**. "We went to a two-tight end offense, lined up and methodically ran the ball and ate up the clock."

With seniors **Pat Hughes** and **Dan Heenan** providing the bulk of the offense, Bethlehem scored two touchdowns and held off the Patriots to earn their third victory of the year against six losses.

The Bethlehem running game came on strong at the end of the season, albeit against Big 10 non-playoff qualifiers Albany High and Schenectady, and may serve to instill confidence among a young offensive line that could carry over into next season, when Sodergren

is looking for it to be a strength.

"It looks like next year we may be in the opposite situation we had this year in that our upperclassmen will be on the line and our inexperience will be at the skill positions," said Sodergren.

According to Sodergren, juniors **Dan Santola** and **Tim Cronin** were pleasant surprises on the interior this season, and their development, along with that of **Dennis Lenhardt** and some of the other juniors, will be important to next year's fortunes.

Losing Hughes, Heenan, **Vinnie Livreri**, **James Cooney**, and **Pat Hoogkamp** will create holes on both sides of the ball,

especially offensively. Fullback/tight end **Eamon McNiff** will be the only returning backfield starter, although quarterback **Bob Hazen** did see game action this year, particularly in the two cross-overs.

"We will be young on the perimeter next year, but there are some good athletes in the program. The main thing is keeping our group together and focused in the off-season, and to get the job done in the weight room," he said.

As for the year passed, the team played competitively, but could not make the plays as it had last year when the Eagles won five straight after dropping their first two. This season, they won the opening two and lost the next five.

"With the exception of Shenendehowa and Burnt Hills,

most of our games were up for grabs late this year," said Sodergren. "The one that got away was Niskayuna (a 30-27 overtime loss in which Bethlehem blew a late lead); if we had pulled that one out, it might have given us an emotional lift."

Sodergren was hampered by having to play Hughes, his main running threat, out of position at quarterback.

"It was a frustrating year for him, but Hughes had a very good season," said Sodergren, who also cited Heenan for a "workmanlike" performance.

He will miss the leadership of his two co-captains, but Sodergren has gotten used to rebuilding and retooling after 17 seasons. Each new season has its own challenges, and number 18 should not be any different.

BCHS girls swim past Troy

Bethlehem Central High School's **Elyse McDonough** swam to a pool-record time of 1:00.96 in the 100-yard backstroke and also took the 100-yard freestyle to lead the Eagles' girls swim team past Troy High School 56-46 Oct. 28.

Beth Malinowski won the 200- and 500-yard freestyles, while

Teresa Rosetti finished first in the 100-yard butterfly. **Malinowski** and **Rosetti** also teamed with **Kim Link** and **Katie Richardson** to win the 400-yard freestyle relay in a time of 4:01.91.

McDonough and **Link** joined **Megan McBride** and **Becky Corson** to win the 200-yard medley relay in a time of 2:00.18.



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DeCecco

(From Page 1)

that was unconscionable."

DeCecco also supported the opening of Lawson Lake to the public. "That was the biggest fiasco," he said, "that only one group had the rights to use that facility. It's been open to the public for a year now."

DeCecco, along with fellow county Legislator Peter Crummey, R-Loudonville, pushed a bill to submit an ISTEA Enhancement proposal to the federal government to create a hiking and biking path from Albany to the Helderbergs. The fate of that road remains undetermined.

One piece of legislation DeCecco pushed that failed was his proposal to get 1 percent of the county sales tax to go to local school districts. "Only the educators in the Legislature voted for that," DeCecco said.

DeCecco's first run for political office was in 1976, when he ran for the county Legislature as a Democrat. Shortly after that unsuccessful bid, DeCecco became a Republican.

"The Democratic Party in Albany County was run too much by (the late) Mayor (Erastus) Corning," DeCecco said. "They controlled the party in Bethlehem, and were in disagreement and couldn't put anything into action."

Then-town Supervisor Tom Corrigan asked DeCecco to serve on the conservation committee. "It was unusual for a Republican to ask a Democrat to do anything," DeCecco said, "and I found I was more in touch with the Republicans. I feel they've done a good job with the town." DeCecco subsequently served on Bethlehem's zoning board of appeals and planning board before deciding to run again for political office.

DeCecco wanted to be close to the people he represented and not be involved in massive fundraising efforts. "I had been asked to run for the state Assembly," he said, "but I was uncomfortable with that."

To that end, DeCecco covers all his own costs. "I do take money from the town Republican Committee for posters," he said, "but I've paid for anything else, like my newsletter. If you take money from people, you're beholden to them. You can see in my record that I've voted for Democrats when I think they're right, and Republicans when they're right."

In spite of his voting record, DeCecco felt that the county Legislature achieved more when Republican Michael Hoblock was county executive. "We had a real chance to affect legislation, working Republican with Republican," he said. "I like Mike Breslin, but we seem to be back to the good old days of Democratic politics. The county is in disarray; they're consuming their young."

County Executive Michael Breslin said that although they

didn't always agree, he found DeCecco to be "top drawer in every respect. I've known Dom for a long time," Breslin said. "I campaigned with him when he was a Democrat. Dom always considered every issue and did what he thought was best."

County Legislator Robin Reed, R-Selkirk, said DeCecco served as her mentor when she first ran for office. "Dom puts out a great newsletter," Reed said, "and is a great campaigner. His push to ensure ticketing of people who use handicapped parking spots was a serious issue that needed enforcement. Dom's been a great mentor and a great role model."

Serving in the county Legislature has only been a small part of DeCecco's life. Three years ago, he completed his 36th year in the Bethlehem schools, where he had taught high school social studies and retired as the district's social studies supervisor.

DeCecco also worked with the state Education Department, grading and writing Regents exams, and serving as a consultant. Among his many awards, the New York State Teachers Association named DeCecco outstanding social studies supervisor in 1987.

School Superintendent Les Loomis said that DeCecco was an outstanding supervisor, and one of the most respected social studies leaders in the state. "He was an exceptional teacher, and part of the heart of the Bethlehem Central School District," Loomis said.

DeCecco will also retire from his position as an adjunct professor of education and educational theory and practice at the University of Albany this year, but his commitment to youth can be most clearly seen through Bethlehem's Youth Court, which he initiated in 1995 with Det. James Corbett of the Bethlehem Police Department. DeCecco plans to continue working with Youth Court as he focuses on community service in his retirement.

DeCecco is a member of the Delmar Kiwanis Club, and created the Bell of Life campaign to raise money (about \$17,000 last year) during the holiday season for Albany Medicals Center's Pediatric Trauma Unit. "Dom is retired, but works more than I do," former Delmar Kiwanis president Susan Matterson, said. "Dom gets the Capital Division of Kiwanis to do the Bell of Life, and we're trying to get other clubs in other divisions to participate."

DeCecco will continue to do volunteer work for the Albany County Land Conservancy and Mendelssohn Club, and has taken up painting again. He also plans to spend more time in Florida with his wife Pat.

"It's been a lot of work, and I'd like to cut back," DeCecco said. "Pat and I were wondering if we were really retired."

Frances Klett

Frances Klett, 77, of Delmar died Thursday, Oct. 29, at her home.

Born in San Francisco, she was a longtime resident of the Capital District.

She and her husband operated Klett's Appliances. More recently, she was secretary and treasurer of Driftwood Arts & Crafts.

Mrs. Klett was a communicant of the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar.

Survivors include her husband, Hank Klett; two sons, Nick Klett of Raleigh, N.C., and Mark Klett of Phoenix, Ariz.; a daughter, Linda Primomo of Glenmont; three sisters, Helen Marchese of Reno, Nev., Ruth Goodman of Los Palos, Calif., and Ann VanDerHeideu of Morro Bay, Calif.; and six grandchildren.

Services were from the Meyers Funeral Home in Delmar.

Contributions may be made to Community Hospice of Albany County, 315 S. Manning Blvd., Albany 12208 or the American Cancer Society, 1450 Western Ave., Albany 12203.

Sidney Snyder

Sidney Snyder, 98, of Autumn Drive in North Bethlehem died Wednesday, Oct. 28, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born in Lodz, Russia, he was a longtime resident of the Capital District.

Mr. Snyder was a partner in the King & Queen Dry Cleaners in Albany. He then owned and operated Harmanus Antiques & Art Gallery in Albany until he retired.

He was a member of Temple Israel in Albany. He was also a member of the Albany Hebrew Tailors Association and Washington Masonic Lodge.

Survivors include his wife, Rose Weiner Snyder; two sons, Marvin Snyder of Niskayuna and Harvey Snyder of New York City; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Services were from the Levine Memorial Chapel in Albany.

Burial was in Hebrew Tailors Cemetery in Guilderland.

Contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, Capital District Chapter, 50 Colvin Ave., Albany 12206, the American Heart Association, 440 New Karner Road, Colonie 12205 or Temple Israel, 600 New Scotland Ave., Albany 12208.

Robert Morton

Robert Edward Morton Jr., 45, of Queensbury and formerly of Delmar, died Monday, Oct. 26, at Glens Falls Hospital.

Born in Albany, he was raised in Delmar. He attended Bethlehem Central High School, Adirondack Community College

and Northeastern University.

He had worked for Albany Engineering Systems of Queensbury, Ledfoot Express and as a manager of M&M Convenience Store of Lake George.

Survivors include his parents, Robert and Eleanor Morton of Delmar; a sister, Kathryn M. Ivory of Martha's Vineyard, Mass.; and two brothers, Thomas J. Morton of Delmar and James J. Morton of Ashland, Mass.

Services were from the Stafford Funeral Home in Lake George.

Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery in Lake George.

Contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church, 428 Kenwood Ave., Delmar 12054 or Baybridge Rescue Squad, Ridge Road, Queensbury 12804.

Chester C. Ewell

Chester C. Ewell, 67, of Selkirk died Saturday, Oct. 24, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born in Albany, he was a graduate of Philip Schuyler High School. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War.

Mr. Ewell retired in 1985 as night superintendent at the Watervliet Arsenal.

He was husband of the late Jeanette Fletcher Ewell.

Survivors include a son, Lawrence W. Ewell of Albany; a brother, Robert L. Ewell of Selkirk; a sister, Ruth H. Young of Delmar; and a grandson.

Services were from Walls Temple AME Zion Church in Albany.

Burial was in Graceland Cemetery in Albany.

Arrangements were by the Garland Brothers Funeral Home in Albany.

Contributions may be made to the Building Fund of Walls Temple AME Zion Church, 27 Delaware St., Albany.

Alice P. Abele

Alice Powell Abele, 97, of Selkirk died Sunday, Oct. 25, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

She was the widow of Charles John Abele.

Mrs. Abele was a clerk at the Post Office in Castleton-on-Hudson for 15 years before she retired.

Services were from the Meyers Funeral Home in Delmar.

Burial was in Bethlehem Cemetery.

Henrietta Bolan

Henrietta McLaughlin Bolan, 87, formerly of Delmar, died Oct. 29.

She was the widow of Thomas Bolan.

Mrs. Bolan was employed by the state Department of Health as a stenographer and secretary, retiring in 1974.

Survivors include three cousins, Paul H. Phelps III of Philadelphia, and J. William Prichard and Paige W. Phelps, both of Albany.

Services were from the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Hoosick Falls.

Arrangements were by the Myers Funeral Home in Delmar.

Glenford H. Craft

Glenford H. Craft, 75, of Selkirk, died Oct. 30, at St. Peter's Hospital.

Born in Margaretville, he was a longtime resident of Selkirk. He was an Air Force veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

Mr. Craft was employed for 36 years as a supervisor at BASF in Rensselaer, retiring in 1976. He was a member of the Bethlehem Elks Lodge and a former member of the Delmar VFW Post.

Survivors include his wife, Delia Pemrick Craft; two daughters, Jeannie Aurelia of Troy and Rita Goff of East Durham, two sons, Mike Craft of West Sand Lake and John J. Craft of Auburndale, Mass.; a sister, Juanita Leffler of Albany; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by a son, David J. Craft.

Services were from the Babcock Funeral Home in Ravena.

Burial was in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Ravena.

Death Notices

The Spotlight will print paid Death Notices for relatives and friends who do not or have not lived in the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland. The charge for a paid death notice is \$25.

We will continue to print Obituaries of residents and former residents of the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland at no charge.

In Memoriam, and Cards of Thanks will also be printed for \$25.

Permit

(From Page 1)

of the river. The sediment would be disposed of upland from the dredging site and near the aquifer that supplies town wells.

But in announcing the 30-day public comment period regarding the permit request, the Army Corps had amended the permit request to add the phrase "with 10 years' maintenance." That wording provoked criticism from the group Clearwater for Bethlehem that the town was seeking a long-term permit, despite repeated assurances to the contrary by town officials, including both Supervisor Fuller and Bruce Secor, commissioner of public works.

A leaflet distributed by Clearwater before the meeting asked: "Why do we need a 10-year permit to dredge if the purpose is a one-time-only action? Or is the town seeking a dredging permit to keep the well available for future drinking water?" Several members of Clearwater also spoke at the meeting.

But Secor reiterated previous statements that the water provided through the plant was dedicated to industrial use, and that the town

had no intention of using it for residential customers, apart from those half-dozen or so who requested service from the new system. And he added that "We never intended to do this (dredge) more than once... The town board has only approved a one-time occurrence of this."

Nieves said, "The Corps is apologizing for any confusion. The town asked for a one-time-only permit." He again took responsibility on behalf of the Corps for the 10-year maintenance provision.

Clearwater founder Linda Burtis said, "This is wonderful. I appreciate that you're doing that. I hope we will not be back here next year." But she continued to insist that the town must "figure out a way to assure the community that we will never drink that water."

That concern was echoed by Clearwater member Carole Nemore, who said, "The public will remain concerned about the potential for long-term dredging as long as there is a potential that we might drink this water." But Nemore also said that "residents have a vested interest in seeing the town prevail in its lawsuits and in delivering water to the indus-

trial customers, even if that means dredging. So there is common ground here."

After the meeting, Nieves said, "It was a good meeting ... all the people who had raised concerns (during the public comment period) had an opportunity to ask their questions of the applicant." He said the information gathered at the meeting and during the comment period would be taken into account in rendering a decision on the permit, and that town officials would respond directly to each of those who had written with public comments.

Burtis said the meeting was "a very clear victory for the community" and that the town had made "an 11th hour retreat" from its position on the permit request. "Bruce Secor wanted that green light for long-term dredging, (the Corps) offered him something he didn't realize he could have, and he jumped at it," she said.

But Fuller said, "This was always a one-time permit, this was always just for testing, this has been in the public record all along." She added that "the Corps assumed there were several hundred, several thousand people distressed over this application, when in fact it was four."

Severs

(From Page 1)

only one way to get a resolution of this and that was to endorse candidates who would listen."

But the time for that is past now, he said. "They have no reason to exist any longer, period," he said of Clearwater.

The politicization charge drew no specific comment from Clearwater founder Linda Burtis. "I won't even go down that road," she said.

"I could care less what Bill is telling you in public," Burtis said. "Not one word out of his mouth is a threat to Clearwater for Bethlehem. It doesn't mean a thing to Joe Average driving up and down Delaware Avenue that he was ever part of Clearwater for Bethlehem." In any case, she said, "He never really joined Clearwater."

Burtis has in the past, however, identified Kelleher as the "Clearwater for Bethlehem engineer." For four years Burtis, Kelleher and Sherwood Davies have been spokespersons for the community-based group. And Burtis did credit Kelleher with being among the first "to begin to ask technical engineering questions" about the town's public water supply. "I am a tennis pro," she said. "I don't know anything about that stuff." She said that she came to rely on his expertise and that of Davies in framing the public debate.

"It's always been Sherwood, Linda, and myself," Kelleher said, "and now I'm out completely."

"Bill has resigned many, many, many times from Clearwater," Burtis said.

To focus on his resignation, according to Burtis, "misses the main point, which is, people in this community don't want to drink Hudson River water."

Burtis has made that an issue

repeatedly in public in the past four years. Clearwater for Bethlehem has been the chief critic of the town of Bethlehem's water plant at Schermerhorn Island.

His resignation, Kelleher said, was prompted in part by the Army Corps of Engineers meeting, which he considered "totally unnecessary." He said he informed Burtis of his intention to resign before the meeting took place.

He maintained that Clearwater's leadership knew why the town was seeking the dredging permit: the fact that it was a one-time-only effort, designed solely to gather engineering data.

"I tried to tell them we had to approach this very carefully, that we shouldn't second guess (the town attorneys)," he said. "I told her I didn't want anything to do with signing a petition asking the Corps of Engineers to hold a public meeting."

But Burtis said before the meeting that she felt the town wanted approval for long-term dredging.

Kelleher said that stance was wrong. "Quite frankly, I think it was a deliberate attempt by, I hate to say it, Clearwater for Bethlehem, to make something out of nothing," he said. "And for purely political purposes, by the way."

The "final straw" that brought about his resignation, he said, was Clearwater's demand for a "public law" guaranteeing that the Schermerhorn plant will never be used as a source of residential drinking water.

Clearwater circulated a three-page document at the Corps meeting once again calling into question the town's intentions regarding use of the water. That statement said in part, "We need a public law to permanently separate the water supply for industrial use only."

Youth Network

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On Saturday, May 1, the Bethlehem community will once again celebrate Feestelijk Bethlehem.

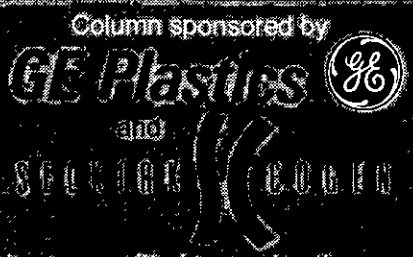
This townwide event offers families and friends the opportunity to experience art, music and drama right in their own hometown.

No travel plans, no gas, no hassle, just sit back and enjoy wonderful artistic events at the library, town hall, middle school, local churches, Masonic Temple and other sites in town.

Perhaps the best of Feestelijk has been in the planning. Committee members report that meeting and working with familiar faces and with new people is both satisfying and great fun.

New volunteers are invited to join the group working to create and organize Feestelijk 1999.

We urge you to attend the general meeting on Monday, Nov. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Temple at 421 Kenwood Ave. in Delmar. We'll be looking for you!



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Vicar of Dibley Saturday, 9:30 p.m.
Masterpiece Theatre: The Unknown Soldier Sunday, 9 p.m.
Legendary Lighthouses Monday, 8 p.m.
Frank Lloyd Wright: part one Tuesday, 9 p.m.

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Jennifer Martin and Ueyn Block

Martin, Block engaged

Jennifer Marie Martin, daughter of John and Nancy Martin of Delmar, and Ueyn Lent Block, son of Paul Block of Delmar and Amy Lent of Albany, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School. She is a student at Russell

Sage College.

The future groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and New Mexico Institute of Technology. He is studying for a doctorate in applied physics at Stanford University.

The couple plans an Aug. 7 wedding.

Delmar man to receive award

Steve Edic of Delmar has been selected to receive the National Leadership Award presented by the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Edic was selected for his service as co-chairman of the

committee's Business Advisory Council, which was instrumental in shaping the Republican's balanced budget plan.

Edic is the owner of Delmar Wine & Liquor.

BCHS graduate earns honor

BCHS graduate Sarah Cook was elected to Epsilon Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Hamilton College.

Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest

and most prestigious honor society in the country.

Cook is a senior majoring in biology. She is the daughter of David and Kathi Cook of Delmar.

Births

Albany Medical Center

Boy, Shane Patrick Ferris, to Rita and William Ferris of Glenmont, Aug. 2.

Boy, Jacob David Kosoc, to Kara and Brent Kosoc of Delmar, Aug. 4.

Girl, Lucy Grace Keers, to Grace and William Keers of Delmar, Aug. 5.

Girl, Chiara Lynn Deangelis, to Danielle and Christopher Deangelis of Glenmont, Aug. 7.

Boy, Riley Gael Newcomb, to Jessica Ward and John Newcomb of Slingerlands, Aug. 9.

Girl, Madison Mackensie Brown, to Mary Partridge-Brown and Patrick Brown of Feura Bush, Aug. 12.

Boy, Devon Ray Hess, to Dana and Bruce Hess of Feura Bush, Aug. 16.

Boy, Zachary William Miller, to Maureen and John Miller of Delmar, Aug. 22.

Boy, Nicholas James Persico, to Kimberly and Michael Persico of Selkirk, Aug. 27.

Boy, Aaron Michael Salisbury, to Barbara and Michael Salisbury of Voorheesville, Aug. 27.

Girl, Lexy Marie Despart, to Lisa Schultz and Edward Despart of Glenmont, Aug. 28.

St. Peter's Hospital

Girl, Julia Grace Arcenas Cronin, to Allis Arcenas and Michael Cronin of Guilderland and formerly of Delmar, Sept. 17.

Dean's List

Siena College — Catherine Barker, Karen Gisotti and Christopher Van Woert, all of Delmar; Michelle Kaufman of Glenmont; Jennifer Paine of Slingerlands; and Holli Roberts and Adrean Vinson, both of Voorheesville.

Brothers perform in piano recital

Brothers Norris, Aaron and Joshua Levy of Delmar recently performed in a piano recital by students of Joseph Fennimore at Niskayuna Public Library.



Susan and Robert Aquino

Donovan, Aquino marry

Susan Kate Donovan, daughter of Joseph and Marianne Donovan of Delmar, and Robert David Aquino, son of David and Terri Aquino of Buffalo, were married June 13.

The Rev. James Walsh performed the ceremony at the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar. A reception followed at Colonie Country Club in Voorheesville.

The maid of honor was Ellen Donovan, sister of the bride. The bridesmaids were Kathleen Donovan, sister of the bride, Jen Aquino, sister of the groom, and Ruth Templeton, Kathy Eckhart

and Beth McCue.

The best man was Brian Lanning. The ushers were James Bean, Oliver Sommer, Eric Nonacs and Dean Land.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Le Moyne College. She works on special projects in the office of the president of Lesley College in Boston.

The groom is a graduate of Boston College. He works as an analyst at Lotus Computer in Boston.

After a wedding trip to Canada, the couple lives in Boston.

Mail weddings, engagements

The Spotlight would like to publish your engagement, wedding or anniversary announcement and photo. There is no charge for this community service.

Black and white photos are preferred, but color photos are acceptable. Polaroid photos cannot be printed.

For information and submission forms, call 439-4949. Mail announcements to PO Box 100, Delmar 12054.

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Community

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Delmar Methodist church to host Autumn Fair

First United Methodist Church in Delmar will hold its annual Autumn Fair on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 428 Kenwood Ave.

Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. and there will be crafts, plants, toys, books, clothing, linens, baked goods and collectibles for sale.

There will also be a silent auction.

SPOTLIGHT ON **Family ENTERTAINMENT**
 CALENDARS ♦ ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

By Joseph Andrew Phillips

Area snow-sports enthusiasts can get a sneak preview of fun to come this weekend at the annual Great New York State Snow and Travel Expo '98.

From snowboarding to mountain biking, it'll all be on hand at Empire State Plaza in Albany for three days starting Friday, Nov. 6. The show offers cold-weather adventurers a chance to check out the latest gear and an array of winter destinations offered by more than 35 winter resorts throughout the Northeast. You can even try some popular Olympic winter events.

One such demonstration will be airborne throughout the weekend as Max-Air Productions presents its high-flying freestyle skiing demonstration. Max-Air, the western-based promoter, offers a 20-minute production of aerial ski and snowboard acrobatics. Recent Winter Olympics have confirmed the popularity of this demanding event, and spokesman Craig Peterson said, "A lot of the same tricks you see at the Olympics" will be on display throughout the weekend at the Plaza Convention Center.

Just how does such an airborne outdoor sport fit indoors? Trampolines.

"In fact, it's more difficult to execute these jumps on a trampoline than on hills because you can't get the same height," Peterson said. "Rule No. 1 on a trampoline is, never bounce any higher than you're prepared to fall. But you learn the same flips and twists at 20 feet on a trampoline that you're gonna do 50 feet in the air in competition."

He noted that most Olympic-caliber aerialists use trampolines as part of their training regimen to hone their moves before taking them to the slopes.

At any one time, 25 different athletes are performing on behalf of Max-Air. The show on view this weekend in Albany will feature "two of the very best performers we have," Peterson said. David Fontaine, a Canadian National freestyle team member and recent North American and Pan-Pacific champion will square off with former U.S. World Cup veteran Brian Lake "to see who is the king of the trampoline," Peterson said.

This weekend's appearance is the second Max-Air has made in Albany.

Also among the visuals to be seen at the Snow Expo is the latest feature-length film of ski documentary Warren Miller, *Snowriders II*, which will be shown throughout the weekend in Meeting Room 5, sponsored by Klein's All-Sports.

More earth-bound winter enthusiasts can check out more than 150 booths featuring winter sports apparel and equipment. There will be a used-equipment mart on hand, with the proceeds to benefit the Single Ski Club of Albany. You can also participate in the Capital District Ski Council's auction all three days on the main exhibition floor.

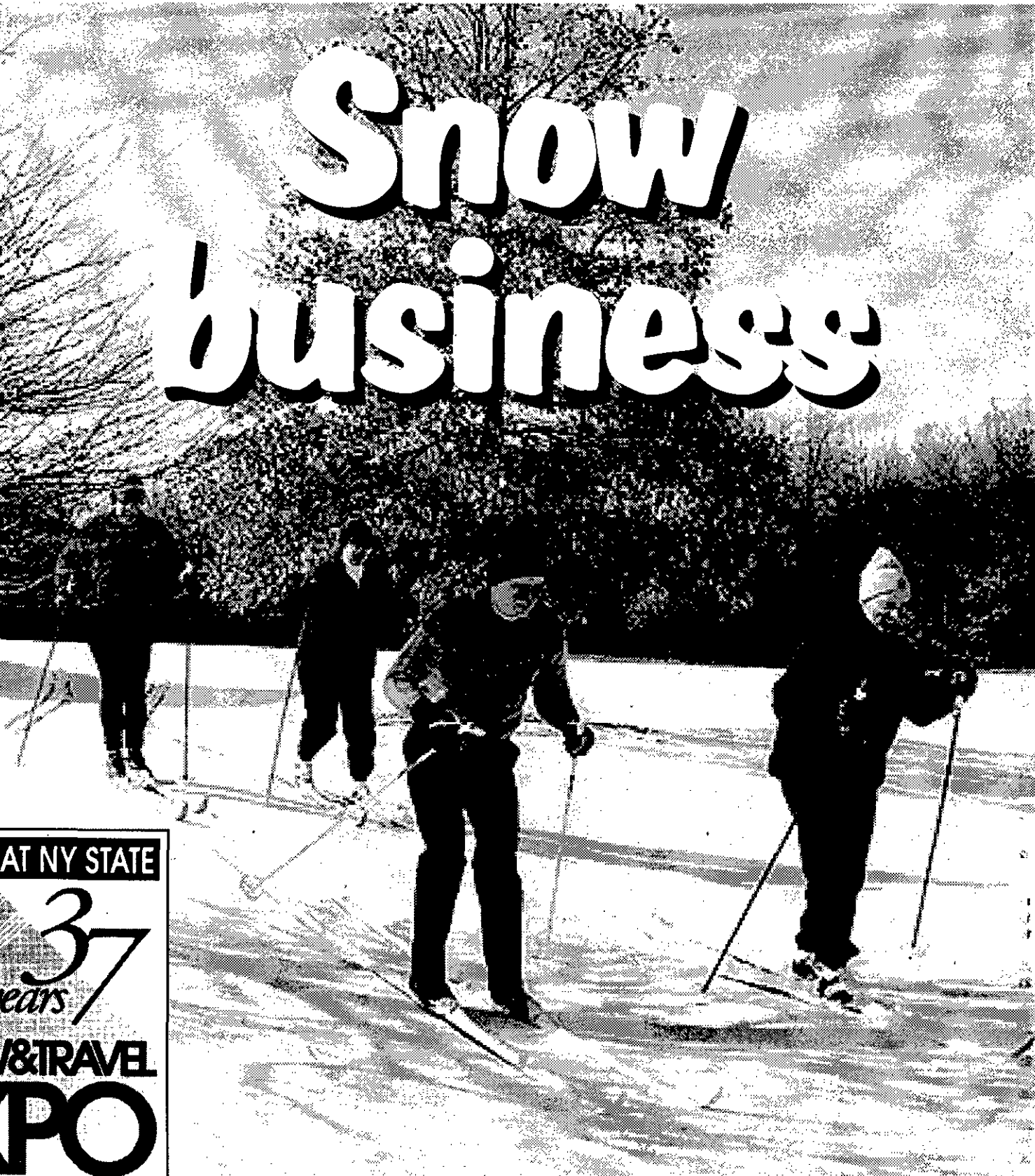
Kids will have a chance to get a feel for the winter sports of luge and bobsledding thanks to the Conjunction Odyssey

Program run by Lake Placid's Olympic Regional Development Authority. And they could win a chance to try out the real thing this February.

Odyssey runs clinics at numerous events around the state, with wheeled luge and bobsled gear that will be sliding around on the main Convention Center stage. Kids can learn how to steer and slide, and girls will be able to enter a special drawing for five slots in the Girl's Odyssey Kickoff, an all-expenses-paid

trip to Lake Placid this February to train on the Olympic luge and bobs tracks at Mt. Van Hoevenberg.

The show hours will be Friday, Nov. 6, from 4 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$6, for adults and \$5 for seniors and children ages 8 to 12. Children 7 and under accompanied by an adult will be admitted free.



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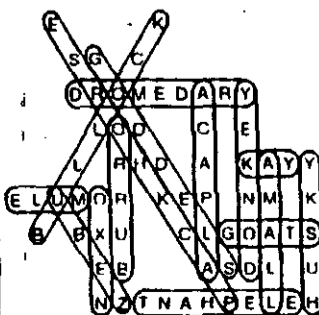
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