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The Spotlight

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem & New Scotland

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Top cat in the hat



Albany County Executive Michael Breslin shakes hands with Elsmere Elementary student Matthew Lowry, with teacher Carol Smith looking on. The students visited the Senate chamber in honor of Read Across America week. The National Education Association donated 50 books for Elsmere classrooms as part of the celebration. Elaine McLain

Johnson to step down from Bethlehem board

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

Robert Johnson, one of two incumbents on the Bethlehem town board whose seats are up for re-election in 1999, has decided not to run this fall.

Johnson, a first-term Republican, made the decision for health reasons. He faces the prospect of orthopedic surgery in the near future.

"Right now ... I don't physically think I could do a campaign," he said of the door-to-door rigors of running for public office. "That's the only way I know



Johnson

how to do it — 110 percent."

Johnson only recently decided not to run. "Late in the fall I started wondering a bit about running again," he said. He talked to town Republican Chairman Brian Murphy, Supervisor Sheila Fuller and his Republican board colleagues about the matter — "and that's it," he said.

A former New York Telephone employee, Johnson will remain active in other civic organizations. He is a fire policeman and

□ JOHNSON/page 18

BOU Auction promises star-studded evening

By KATHERINE MCCARTHY

You might be seeing stars at this year's Bethlehem Opportunities Unlimited (BOU) auction, since some of the items to be auctioned off on March 19 include autographed glossies of celebrities like Jennifer Aniston and Matthew McConaughey, along with a signed T-shirt from the Backstreet Boys. This is, of course, in addition to items that have made Bethlehem Opportunities Unlim-

ited's auction a one-of-a-kind annual event for nearly 15 years.

There's always a bucket auction, with tickets drawn for specific items and a silent auction, where people bid on sheets of paper for goods as varied as a

□ BOU/page 18

Conservancy adds 140 green acres to holdings

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

A local private land conservation group has made three new acquisitions that more than double its holdings of protected land in the area. Two of the new acquisitions by the nonprofit Albany County Land Conservancy (ACLC) are near Clarksville in the town of New Scotland, totalling more than 140 acres.

The largest of those includes historic Bennett Hill. The 1200-foot rise, in the foothills of the Helderberg Escarpment, was once a favorite vantage point overlooking Clarksville, in its turn-of-the-century heyday as a destination for summer visitors from Albany.

The smaller site, 1.3

acres acquired from Albany County, contains the only known entrance to Onesquethaw Cave, part of a 5,500-foot underground passage which is the second longest cave system in Albany County and among the dozen longest in

the state.

The two new acquisitions join the nearby 148-acre Winifred Matthews Holt Preserve to give ACLC nearly 300 acres of protected land in New Scotland. With another existing preserve in the town of Knox, and a third recent acquisition on Schoharie Creek in Montgomery County, the conservation group now protects approximately 615 acres in the region.

Mark King, an ACLC board member, said the group is particularly interested in preserving open farmland in rural portions of the county, including areas of Bethlehem and New Scotland.

The ACLC is not affiliated with the nationally-



Historic Bennett Hill is part of the newly acquired land. Elaine McLain

□ ACRES/page 32

BC board puts bus distance plan on ballot

By MAUREEN FREEMAN

At the request of district parents, the Bethlehem school board agreed to put a proposition on its next budget ballot to allow more students to ride buses to the middle and high schools.

Under current rules, high school students who live within a mile and a half of the high school cannot ride the school bus must walk or find their own transportation. The distance limit for middle school students is one mile.

The school board has not yet decided on new distance limits for the ballot proposition. Any changes in the so-called "walking limit" rule must receive voter approval.

The board also authorized

□ BUS/page 32

Police make 2 DWI arrests Court cases adjudicated

Bethlehem police recently arrested two town residents for driving while intoxicated (DWI).

The first arrest was on Saturday, Feb. 27. According to police reports, Officer Brian Hughes, while on patrol at 3:45 p.m., observed a vehicle speeding on Route 144 near McCormack Road. He gave chase and eventually spotted the vehicle eastbound on Delaware Avenue at Adams Place, stopping it near Howard Place.

Officer James Rexford assisted him at the scene.

After administering field sobriety tests, Hughes arrested Shawn Robert James, 21, of 72 Louise St., Delmar. While securing his vehicle, Rexford reportedly found a small quantity of marijuana under the driver's seat.

James was charged with DWI and also unlawful possession of a controlled substance, and ordered to appear in Town Court on March 16.

The following morning, at 3:02 a.m., Rexford arrested Anne Marie Gibson, of 36B Crowley Ave., Selkirk. The officer reported observing Gibson's vehicle as it almost struck a mailbox on Bridge Street in Selkirk, and stopped the vehicle.

A check determined that Gibson's license was recently suspended for failure to pay an earlier fine in Bethlehem Town Court.

After administering field tests, Rexford ticketed Gibson for DWI and for driving with a suspended license. She was also ordered to appear in Town Court on March 16.

By Joseph A. Phillips

Several cases involving individuals charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) in the town of Bethlehem have recently been resolved in Town Court. In each case, the accused pleaded guilty to a lesser count of driving while ability impaired (DWAI).

Two of those DWI cases came before the court on March 2. One of those dated back to the arrest on May 28 of last year of Jesus O'Farrill, 30, of 88 Madison Ave., Albany. O'Farrill pleaded guilty to the reduced DWAI charge and was fined \$300 and assessed an additional \$30 state-mandated surcharge. O'Farrill also had his license suspended for 90 days.

In a more recent case, Jennifer Van Allen, 22, of 43 Eichyush Road, Kinderhook, who was arrested on Jan. 13, also pleaded guilty to the lesser charge. She was fined \$300 and the \$30 surcharge and had her license suspended for 90 days.

Two cases were resolved in Town Court back in December. Mariann Theresa DeConcinis, 36, of 16 Greystone Drive, Voorheesville, arrested on Oct. 17, offered her DWAI plea on Dec. 1, and was fined \$300 and a \$30 surcharge. She also had her license suspended 90 days.

Jeremiah Randell, 21, of 140 Jericho Road, Selkirk, was arrested Dec. 1 and appeared in court on Dec. 15, where he pleaded guilty to DWAI. He was also ordered to pay a \$300 fine and a \$30 surcharge and faced a 90-day suspension of his license.

In all four cases Bethlehem Town Court also mandated participation in a drinking-driver remediation program and a victim impact panel.

Correction

The article, "Begin planning now for triple tax threat on IRAs," in the financial services special section contained an error. The stock market has averaged approximately 12 percent over the last 70 years and if you were to achieve that result in the future a \$700,000 retirement account could be worth \$1.4 million over the next six years.

Doctor to present workplace workshop

Dr. Stephen Price of Delmar will conduct a workshop at Albany Law School on March 13 and 14 designed to assist employees in hostile, abusive or unlawful environments.

Topics of the workshop will include managing stress, understanding personality types, employers' tactics and strategies, and an overview of laws and statutes governing workplace behavior.

For information, call 439-2379

And the winner is



Mike Mullen, left, president of the Bethlehem Hockey Boosters, and Supervisor Sheila Fuller congratulate Tom Roof of Delmar on winning \$10,000 in the club's annual fund-raiser. Elaine McLain

Bethlehem police nab man on shoplifting charges

By Joseph A. Phillips

Bethlehem police have arrested an Albany man and charged him with two counts of petty larceny and one of attempted larceny at clothing stores in Delaware Plaza.

Police arrested Michael T. Holland, 33, of 26 Second Ave., Albany, and charged him in a series of shoplifting incidents at the Priceless Kids and Fashion Bug stores spanning three days. He was subsequently turned over to Albany police detectives on an outstanding disorderly conduct warrant in that city.

According to police reports, on Sunday, Feb. 14, at about 4 p.m., employees of the Fashion Bug reported observing a man, later identified as Holland, allegedly taking clothing from their store. He was seen fleeing in a gray four-door car that had been parked outside.

Ten jackets, valued at approximately \$80, were taken. Police responding to the call were unable to locate the vehicle or the

suspect.

Two days later, at about 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16, Fashion Bug employees saw the same man again in their store and allegedly surprised him in the act of shoplifting. He dropped the clothing and fled.

While investigating that incident, police responded to a call about a larceny in progress at Priceless Kids. A man matching the description of the Fashion Bug shoplifter allegedly took several items and fled on foot after being rebuffed by a motorist in the plaza parking lot in an attempt to get a ride back to Albany.

Holland was spotted shortly afterward by police on the Delaware Avenue bridge over the Normanskill, heading for Albany. He was arrested and several items from Priceless Kids were recovered. Employees of both stores positively identified Holland as the man seen on all three occasions.

Holland is due to appear in Town Court on April 6, following an initial appearance on March 2.

NY City man pleads guilty to Elsmere assault charge

A New York City man, accused of a stabbing at the Grand Union in Glenmont last September, pleaded guilty to an assault charge last month in Bethlehem Town Court.

Edwin Jose Peguero of 561 West 144th St. pleaded guilty on Feb. 17 to a reduced charge of third-degree assault.

The charge stemmed from a Sept. 12 incident, in which Peguero stabbed Grand Union employee Sandy Disla with a pen-

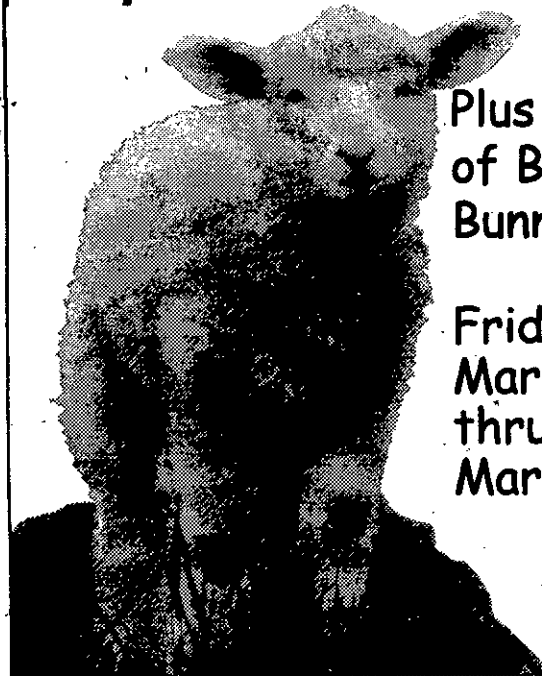
knife, following a reported 3 a.m. fight between the two.

Peguero was working for a Grand Union subcontractor at the time.

Following Peguero's guilty plea, Town Justice Theresa Egan sentenced him to 60 days in Albany County jail and three years probation.

Joseph A. Phillips

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Glenmont teen-ager receives youth award

By Joseph A. Phillips

A Glenmont teen-ager was named last week as the 1998 recipient of an award designed to recognize youngsters for positive community spirit.

Maureen O'Neill, a sophomore at BC's Lab School, will receive the Pride of Bethlehem Youth Award, presented by Bethlehem Networks Project in conjunction with Supervisor Sheila Fuller. O'Neill will be honored by the town board at its March 10 meeting.

The award, launched last year, is presented to a youngster who demonstrates qualities of leadership, reliability, honesty, generosity of spirit and positive attitude, and who shows concern for the well-being of others.

Bethlehem Networks Project seeks to address problems of substance abuse by attacking its underlying causes, and offers the Pride of Bethlehem Youth Award to salute more positive role models among teens.

O'Neill was nominated by Theresa Borchetta, adviser to the RPMs, a youth group supported jointly by the Reformed, Presbyterian and Methodist churches of

Delmar. The group combines social activities and good works including volunteer service for Habitat for Humanity, participation in a Midnight Run program to deliver food and clothing to the homeless in New York City, and local volunteer work.

Borchetta cited O'Neill's participation in those efforts, as well as her work as a tutor for children in Arbor Hill through the Albany United Methodist Society. O'Neill also volunteers at local shelters operated by the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless.

"I always know I can count on Maureen to help out with the service projects. She shows strong leadership abilities," Borchetta said.

"I didn't even know there was an award like this," said O'Neill on learning of the honor. "I'm only a sophomore and there are a lot of other kids doing what I do with the RPM's."

She said the youth group was "just a group of people that really want to be involved. We want to show our churches that we are there to support them and our community. And we do a lot of fun things too."

DOT to announce plans for Route 32 road work

By Joseph A. Phillips

The state Department of Transportation (DOT) is about to announce plans for major roadwork along Route 32 in the town of New Scotland. The proposed \$9 million plan would upgrade a stretch between Route 301 near Meads Corners and Route 308 west of Feura Bush.

An informational open house to outline the plan will take place on Tuesday, March 30, in the auditorium at Clarksville Elementary School, at 58 Verda Lane off Route 443.

Representatives of DOT's Region 1 Design Group and of Barton & Loguidice, engineering consultants on the project, will answer questions from 5 to 7 p.m. and will

make a full presentation of the plan at 7 p.m.

"Basically, we're putting in a consistent 6-foot shoulder down the highway as a breakdown area, and also as provision for bicycles," said Mark White, DOT project manager. "The travel lanes will remain 11 feet wide. It will remain a two-lane highway."

He also said no homeowners will be displaced by widening the shoulders, "though there will be some strip-taking" along the route.

Turning lanes will be added at the southern intersection of Route 32 and Onesquethaw Creek Road, but at its northern intersection with 32 near Feura Bush, that road will be closed off, terminating in a cul-de-sac. A sidewalk on the road's west side will also be added from the point of the present intersection to connect with existing sidewalks in Feura Bush.

Additional turning lanes will also be added at LaGrange and Rowe roads. Drainage along the entire stretch of road will also be improved, and some traffic signals and signage added.

DOT expects design approval this summer. Construction will likely begin in spring of 2001 and be completed by the end of summer 2002. "We don't anticipate any road closure, but there may be temporary one-lane flagman operations during construction," White said.

Snow problem



Lauren Smith and Alysia McLain enjoy a good old-fashioned snow fight after last Saturday's storm.

Elaine McLain

Selkirk Bypass remains on hold

By Joseph A. Phillips

While the state Department of Transportation (DOT) moves ahead with an announcement of new roadwork in Feura Bush, a much bigger nearby project, a controversial bypass around Selkirk, between Route 9W and Route 144, remains on the drawing board.

A public meeting originally scheduled for this month to update Bethlehem residents on the project has been postponed again as the department continues to refine those plans, according to DOT project manager Mark White.

Three different options are being considered for a new state highway that would carry truck traffic away from Maple Avenue, the main thoroughfare through Selkirk. Two were presented before a public meeting at A.W. Becker School last September. They included a southern option, from routes 144 to 9W at a point just south of Pictuay Road, and a middle option, a bit farther north but still south of Beckers Corners.

Residents at that meeting called for a more northerly route, crossing what is predominantly farmland and intersecting Route 9W well north of Selkirk, near the current intersections with Creble and Clapper roads. Such a route would require a relocation of Thruway Exit 22 as well.

DOT had promised another meeting in the early months of the year to discuss these alternatives, but White said a meeting has been postponed as DOT continues to evaluate "the whole feasibility of the northern alignment, and the issue of funding it." White indicated that the cost of the northern alternative might be prohibitive.

I want to be sure the people of Selkirk know the importance of a tandem tractor-trailer access area.

Albert Penk

He said it has also become increasingly apparent to planners that the middle option would be "difficult to progress" as a result of wetlands concerns.

DOT planners now mapping the northern option are seeking to avoid the Hillman Farm, a potentially valuable historic property on Clapper Road. To do so, they are planning a proposed path several hundred feet farther north than originally discussed, White said.

The revised route might require the removal of about six residences along Clapper Road. Even though that remains in the

talking stages at present, the proposal has already raised concerns.

Clapper Road resident Albert Penk, whose home and those of several family members might be in the path of the northern route, addressed the town board on the subject at its Feb. 24 meeting.

Penk expressed concerns that some versions of the proposed new Exit 22 incorporate a tractor-trailer stop at the exit, potentially creating additional tractor-trailer traffic on Route 9W as a result.

"I want to be sure the people of Selkirk know the importance of a tandem tractor-trailer access area," he said, calling for a meeting of affected parties with town officials to air the matter before DOT's next public meeting. Supervisor Sheila Fuller said she would take his concerns under advisement.

Asked about the proposed truck stop area, White said it is "not something critical to the project objectives. What I'm saying is, it's something optional, it's not a definite part of the project."

To address these and other concerns, White said his agency hoped to schedule a meeting without further delay. "We'd like to do it as soon as possible because we'd like the public to have their say," he said. "These projects tend to pit one part of the community against another, and we want to avoid that if possible."

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Stereotypes can be dangerous

By Katherine McCarthy

Please don't ask me how hung over I'll be on March 18, the day after St. Patrick's. Otherwise, I'll have to make an even more pointless wisecrack — I'll be having the usual seven-course Irish meal: a six-pack and a potato.

Stereotypes are weird that way; why is it OK for me to make an inappropriate joke about my people, but you can't? Is it just a first line of defense? A variation on that old sibling thing that I can pick on my sister, but you can't?

More than weird, though, stereotypes are dangerous. A gay man and a black man recently died at the hands of bigots who hate "the other."

Kvetching about the mistreatment of my assimilated ethnic group seems petty in the face of racist/homophobic murder.

But the Irish are everyone's fair target, and few of us give second thought to jokes we make or perceptions we perpetuate. Watch any cop show, and count the number of obviously Irish cops. Firemen? Same thing. The fact of the matter is that we Irish have made New York's finest and bravest finer and braver, but we can do more than protect, defend and rescue.

And drink. Almost any time there's a drunk on any TV show or

COMMENTARY:

*Mom's
the
Word*



movie, and in too many pieces of fiction, he or she will be Irish.

It seems sometimes that the link between the Irish and alcohol overshadows every other accomplishment of this group, and so a day devoted to a Catholic saint has become, in too many places, a spectacle of public drunkenness.

The thing, though, is that stereotypes come from somewhere, and I have yet to be with a group of Irish Americans where "tasty malt beverages" (as we refer to them in our household) are not offered.

I've also been in Italian-American, German-American, Jewish-American, and any other kind of hyphen-American home where the first question asked is what I'd like to drink. Why then does this image of drunken Irishmen persist so tenaciously?

Delmar resident Maura Barrett, who took offense at a painting in the public library of devils cavorting around a shamrock, said the Irish seem to be the

last fair group to receive ethnic taunts.

"I was at Price Chopper the other day, and saw buttons that said 'I Love Green Beer,'" Barrett said. "You wouldn't find rows of cards at CVS and Hallmark for any other ethnic group that are about drunkenness."

Usually, Barrett said, she wouldn't complain, but the picture titled "St. Patrick's: A Universal Celebration" was too much.

"To associate St. Patrick's Day with devils was strange," Barrett said.

Barrett objected to the painting, but doesn't advocate boycotting the greeting card industry.

"Then we get into censorship," Barrett pointed out. "And St. Patrick's Day parties have become a part of our culture now."

Barrett said her objections grew in part from her family's history. "My grandmother and my husband's grandmother came to America from Ireland," Barrett said. "I looked at their two pictures after I saw that painting and thought that they worked their tails off to make it in this country, and they don't deserve that disrespect."

The artist, Carol Schlageter, said she intended humor in her

picture. "The devils aren't scary, especially the one sucking his thumb," she said. "I was thinking of what New York City mayors of various ethnicities have said, that everyone's Irish on St. Patrick's Day."

Schlageter also has an Irish ancestor. "My grandfather, Bertram Rose, came from County Cork," she said. "My other grandparents came from Germany. They all had a good recipe for life: hard work and humor."

When we think what all our ancestors — of every ethnic group — endured to get to this country and become successful, we certainly owe them the utmost respect.

But we also have to be careful not to be so politically correct that we take all the humor and fun out of our lives. Rather than a melting pot, I like Jesse Jackson's depiction of us as a beautiful mosaic. Every ethnic group added its own piece, and we should let humor and good-natured teasing be part of that artwork — but be ever vigilant that things don't turn cruel and hateful.

We will mark St. Patrick's Day in a low-key way at our house. A couple of days beforehand, I'll make Irish soda bread from the recipe Chris' grandmother brought to this country from Aughasca in County Kerry.

Leprechauns leave footprints all over our neighborhood and color our milk green on the night before the big day. On the day itself, I'll buy my boys green carnations, a tradition my father started. I'll cook lamb for Chris, a dish I hate but he considers quintessentially Irish. We'll listen to Tommy Makem and the Clancy Brothers, Mary Black, The Saw Doctors, Capercaille and all our other Irish music.

This year, we will make special note of the hopefulness on the island we all came from — the chance for peace.

I hope we will gather family and friends and do the thing the Irish do best — enjoy each other's company. Life is a tale to be told, and in our celebrating, we will laugh, sing and tell our stories. Maybe we'll even create some more to tell those who come after us.

BC, PTA plan info meetings

Bethlehem Central School District and the PTA presidents of Bethlehem have planned a series of informational meetings to discuss the new state learning standards and Regents for All requirements with parents.

Meetings are planned Monday, March 15, and Tuesdays, March 23 and 30, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Bethlehem Central Middle School auditorium at 332 Kenwood Ave., Delmar.

Each evening will begin with informational presentations by BC staff members, and at least an hour will be reserved for questions from parents for a panel of subject supervisors and building administrators.

The first meeting will provide an overview of the Regents for All initiative and new state assessments and what they mean for BC students.

On March 23, the focus will be on math, science and technology standards. The final meeting will concentrate on English, language arts, social studies and second languages.

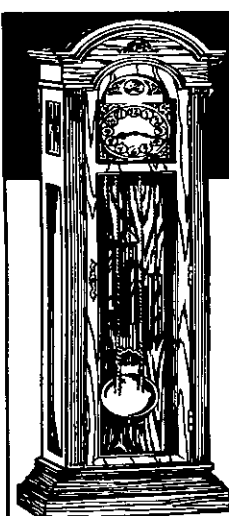
All three meetings will be taped by Bethlehem TV-31 and broadcast at 2 p.m. the Thursday after each presentation.

For information, contact John McGuire, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, at 439-3102.

BCUEA to participate in bowl-a-thon

Bethlehem Central United Employees Association, representing non-instructional staff of the Bethlehem Central School District, will participate in the Big Brothers-Big Sisters "Bowl For Kids Sake" set for March 20.

Participants seek pledges for the fund-raising event. For information, contact BCUEA president Kathleen Gill at 439-5081.



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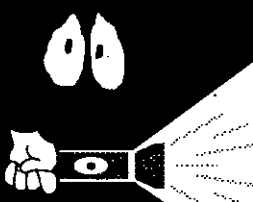
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Burns to assume Democratic county chairman's post

Local leader succeeds Weiss

For New Scotland party, opportunity knocks

By Joseph A. Phillips

New Scotland's Democratic leader is set to become chairman of the Albany County party organization, pending confirmation of the appointment of the current county chairman to a post on the state Public Service Commission.

With the nomination by Gov. George Pataki last week of former judge and county Democratic Chairman Leonard Weiss for the public service job, Michael Burns of Voorheesville stands next in line, as vice-chair, to assume the county post. State Senate action on the nomination is expected within the coming weeks, and Burns' elevation would be automatic upon Weiss' resignation.

"He did a great, great job," said Burns last week of his predecessor. "I admire Judge Weiss for his ability and his integrity." But he pronounced himself ready to fill Weiss' shoes. "I'm a hard worker and a good listener. I've worked hard all my life," he said. "Nothing has come easy."

County Democratic leaders agreed in January to support the re-election of their incumbents for countywide office, particularly County Executive Mike Breslin — a pledge of support Burns hailed as "a sincere truce".

But Burns' ascension comes on the eve of a crucial campaign by county Democrats to hold onto their three-vote majority in the county legislature. The legislature elected in November will preside over district reapportionment for the coming decade, and party leaders on both sides of the aisle have targeted the suburbs, including Bethlehem and New Scotland, in the coming campaign. "I think we have a tremendous opportunity to make inroads here," Burns said.

Assemblyman Jack McEneny, who represents Albany and New Scotland, said Burns would bring particularly useful qualifications to a party post long dominated by Albany city politicians. "He is widely recognized as a party man who is first and foremost loyal to the party," McEneny said. "But he is also recognized as a suburbanite, with urban roots in his youth, certainly, but suburban."

Burns, business manager of Local 12 of the International Association of Bridge Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers, also carries a working-class union label. "His strength will be that he has a strong sense of what it means to be a Democrat," McEneny said. "And the diplomatic skills and savvy of someone in a major labor union are skills that will serve him well as party chairman."

Burns also cited his union background as a key to his new leadership role. "I'm a bridge builder all my life, as far as my trade goes," he said. "I hope I can continue to build bridges as party leader, to make these relationships last." Of his reputation as a reluctant public figure, particularly press accounts that characterized him as "petrified of the press," Burns said, "I got a chuckle out of that."

"I think we're going to see a smooth transition," said Burns' Bethlehem counterpart, Matthew Clyne. "He's been an inside player for some time."

County Republican leaders are cautious in assessing Burns. "Judge Weiss was someone I knew going way back on the bench," said GOP county Chairman Fred Field. "But I don't know Mike Burns. I don't know that I've ever met him."

But I'll say this, he's got to be respected within the party organization if he's its vice chairman. I'm looking forward to an interesting election season."

By Joseph A. Phillips

As New Scotland party leader Michael Burns moves on to lead Albany County's Democrats, the 1999 election could be pivotal for the town party organization Burns will likely leave behind.

Burns confirmed last week that, if he assumes the county post as expected, he will probably step down as town leader. That would leave New Scotland vice chairman Michael Mackey, to lead a party organization seeking to retake a majority it briefly held on the town board under Burns' leadership.

Two seats on the town board currently held by Republicans are up for election this year. "We have an excellent opportunity to take

back the majority on the board," Mackey said.

The rise of the town Democrats, he said, began under Burns' predecessor, Tom Dolin, and "Mike built on it. He has a very good leadership style. He's a consensus builder. He's done a really good job as leader of the Democratic party in New Scotland. I really hate to see Mike leave that position... I'd be looking forward to trying to continue to do as well as he has."

Credit for recent successes, Burns said, "belongs to the candidates we've been running. Credit goes to the people who work hard to achieve success."

Supervisor Herb Reilly, a

Democrat elected to his post as an independent in 1995 following a leadership dispute with Burns, said: "I'll just leave it at this: I assume he'll do the same job for the county party that he did for the town party. I hate to say whether he did a good job or a bad job for the town. But I look forward to new leadership." Reilly faces re-election this year as well.

"I know Mike and Herb haven't always seen eye-to-eye on everything," said Mackey. "But I think it has been blown out of proportion a little bit. Over the past few years, they've proven they can work together. I think pretty much (the dispute is) ancient history now."

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Matters of Opinion

Safety first

Since the recession of the '80s, the Bethlehem Central school board has held the line on annual budget increases unlike other local districts that continued to infuriate taxpayers with pie-in-the-sky, double-digit packages.

This year, however, the BC board must decide on revising the bus policy for students who live less than a mile and one-half from the high school and less than a mile from the middle school. This will most likely mean more buses, drivers and, of course, higher taxes depending on the number of students riding school buses if a revised distance policy is adopted.

This really boils down to an issue of safety, which should be addressed in spite of the additional cost. Parents whose children must now walk or be driven to school have made a strong case for changing the distance limit, and we commend the board for its willingness to take on this issue, in spite of the possibility of some criticism from disgruntled taxpayers.

Going, going ...

One of the annual "must do" events in Bethlehem will be on Friday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at the high school. The BOU Auction is a great night out, providing an opportunity for kids and parents in the community to get to know each other better and bid on the tantalizing items and services up for grabs.

Some of the coveted plums are the Principal for the Day offerings at Bethlehem schools and the summer getaways for families.

For more immediate gratification, auction patrons can sample some of Bethlehem's best homemade desserts.

But the sweetest part of the auction is what the entire community gets from the proceeds. Bethlehem Opportunities Unlimited, as a result of its only annual fund-raiser — the auction — promotes and sponsors programs for kids to reinforce a positive life style, without the need for alcohol.

No one denies that alcohol is still a temptation for adolescents, but BOU has had an impact on lessening the number of once flagrant, and frequent keg parties. BOU has helped parents present a united front in the stand against house parties where alcohol flows freely.

Show BOU your support and gratitude by attending the auction Friday night.

Rush to judgment is troublesome

By Donna J. Bell

The writer is in charge of special sections for The Spotlight.

Whatever happened to the old adage, three strikes and you're out? It seems that almost every day I hear another story of someone who makes a first-time mistake being "brought to justice."

The first case in point — recently a first-year teacher at the high school resigned after giving his students sample questions for a test that were very close to the actual questions posed in the exam. District officials' response to the incident was that they "didn't question the integrity" of the teacher.

If that was truly the case, why did they accept his resignation? If the teacher meant no harm but just made an honest mistake, why did they not explain that to the students and their parents and then work with the teacher to prevent the same error from happening in the future?

As for the future of this novice teacher, what district would consider hiring a teacher who left his job in the middle of the school year? What types of misconduct will it think he committed when his record shows an abrupt resignation?

I can only surmise that the teacher was allowed to resign so the district wouldn't have to face the wrath of a few indignant parents who might have called the administration to task for not sufficiently punishing him.

Then there is the case of the grandfather who left his grand-



Point of view

daughter in a running car while he went to deliver a holiday meal. Foolish? Certainly. Criminal? That is a trickier question.

We know he didn't intend to endanger his granddaughter. We even saw, thanks to the evening news, how much this man suffered knowing that, by his actions, the little girl could have been killed.

In hindsight, I'm sure he now thinks that it would have been a better and safer alternative to carry the sleeping child out into the cold night air, even if he was also carrying a platter of food, and even if it was only for a few minutes. I sincerely doubt that this man will ever leave his granddaughter alone in a car for any reason.

What then is the point of prosecuting him? The common response is that it's to show others that they shouldn't leave children alone in cars. As if going to jail or paying a fine is a better deterrent than the thought that the child you love dearly would be driven away by a criminal who might possible hurt, torture or kill him or her.

Why is our society so bent on punishing every minor misdeed? There's no wiggle room left for people to blunder. There are no second chances. In an instant, you could lose a career.

Our politically correct Big Brother mentality says that every person must be careful to only perform socially-approved actions and to only use language that is considered correct and proper. It's getting so bad that you can now be fired if people simply misconstrue your words or actions.

Third scenario — the District of Columbia official who told his staff at a budget meeting they would have to be "niggardly" with money because there wasn't enough to go around. As you probably know by now, the word means

stingy or miserly and has no association with another infamous "N" word.

Although he was later rehired, he too, was first allowed to resign. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed and a public outcry of people saying "enough already" forced his boss to take him back.

However, there were still people being interviewed on the street who felt he should have been forced to leave.

"He should have been more sensitive," said one woman, who knew the meaning of the word. "He should have known that people would misunderstand."

That reasoning is just plain scary. Of course, there are cases where there should be no second chances — anyone who purposely and maliciously hurts or robs another person, abuses a child, or endangers others by engaging in behavior they know will put others in jeopardy, should be punished swiftly.

For other minor infractions, forgiveness needs to be brought back into our vocabulary. Before we call for the rod, imagine if one of the above men was your father, son, brother or husband.

If he made a serious, but pardonable, offense, would you want him to be paraded before society and punished to the full extent of the law? Would you have him make a public apology and hang his head in shame? Would you call for him to be fired from his job?

I would guess not. However, if we continue down the path on which we seem to be heading, it would be much faster and cost-efficient not to spend our tax dollars giving these folks their day in court or sending them to jail — let's just bring back public stocks.

That way the self-righteous amongst us can gather to revel in another's misery while gloating that they have never made such a mistake or had the misfortune to be caught.

Hesses say thank you

Editor, The Spotlight:

We were both unavailable when *The Spotlight* called us for comment last week. We would like to thank our loyal customers. Bruce and I enjoyed running Ocean Deck, and we will both miss it very much.

This was a very hard decision that we both had to make, but financially it was the only option we had. It became very hard to compete in today's market. And unfortunately in the end, we lost our love for running the business. We both knew then, it was time to

stop.

We respect the business owners in town and sincerely wish them the best.

We are enjoying spending time with our children, Joshua and Devon. We now have more time to be a family. Having each other is what we depend on and is now what's most important to us.

Thanks again to all and best wishes to all the businesses in town.

Dana and Bruce Hess
Selkirk

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Your Opinion Matters

RCS student working to become 'People' rep

Editor, The Spotlight:

This letter is to introduce myself and my goal of traveling as a People to People student ambassador to Australia and New Zealand.

My name is Aubrey Spaulding and I am in the class of 2002 at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School. I have been accepted in People to People 22-day exchange program, where I will meet with teen-agers and government officials and go for home visits with host families.

People to People was started in 1956 by the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Since then, it has become an independent program along with programs such as Sister Cities, Project Hope and Penpals.

Student ambassadors are carefully interviewed before they are accepted, and are expected to share their overseas experience with schools and civic clubs when they return to the U.S. We can also earn high school and college credits because of the many educational activities in the program.

Personally, I would like to be-

come a student ambassador because I think it would be interesting to meet different people who live in a completely different world from us. I also think it would be an asset to experience their culture firsthand.

The tuition for the program is \$5,000, including meals, transportation and educational activities. I have a small part-time job at a local bowling alley to help me raise money. I have to raise the rest of the money so that I can participate in the program this summer.

I plan to ask local businesses for contributions, and I plan to send my contributors a copy of my diary from New Zealand and Australia. I am willing to make a presentation to any business that makes a contribution.

My program tuition is due April 1. Contributors can send a donation to me at PO Box 71, Feura Bush 12067 or call me at 439-6698.

Your help will go a long way toward making my dream possible.

Aubrey Spaulding
Feura Bush

SS surplus is a myth

Editor, The Spotlight:

I read with great interest an editorial *The Spotlight* of Jan. 27.

Under the headline of Surplus shenanigans, the writer called the readers' attention to several facts. Social Security revenues now exceed spending for Social Security by about \$200 billion. Using this money from the trust fund, a \$132 billion deficit is magically turned into a surplus.

Now Bill Clinton wants to put 62 percent of this increase into Social Security. Big deal! He should put 100 percent into Social Security, since this is where it came from in the first place.

Many people believe the trust fund should not be added into the general revenue. Politicians have been using this surplus since the '70s to mask the size of the budget deficit.

I had to read in a weekly newspaper what should have been on the front page of every newspaper in the country every day — there was no surplus, there is no surplus, and as long as the politicians are able to buy our votes with our own money, there will be no surplus.

Frederick J. Schubert
Selkirk

Preservationist happy about land gift

Editor, The Spotlight:

We loved the front page article on the land donation of Five Rivers Limited. As members of the Albany County Land Conservancy (ALCLC), a locally-based land trust, we are delighted about the additional acreage for Five Rivers and the coverage provided by *The Spotlight*.

ALCLC is a nonprofit land trust that accepts voluntary donations of land and conservation easements from landowners in the Capital District. We protect open space, working farms and conservation easements on parcels for which localities may not be interested in assuming stewardship responsibility.

Families initiate donations to ALCLC for reasons similar to Carol Foresman's donation to Five Rivers — because they treasure memories associated with the land and because it is a way to set aside a permanent memorial for deceased family members. The 148-acre Holt Preserve on Copeland Hill was donated by Dr. Holt in memory of his wife Winifred. The Winn family donated 135 acres on the edge of the Helderberg Escarpment in memory of their father and SUNY professor Hudson Winn, who loved to walk and bird-watch on the land.

There can also be significant tax consequences associated with charitable gifts of land and in December the ALCLC received two more major donations of land. A 140-acre parcel on Bennett Hill in the town of New Scotland was donated by Dr. Belinsky of Chatham because he wanted to dedicate a cherished landscape to someone's memory. Along with the nearby Holt Preserve, it contains numerous habitats from open fields to unique wetlands and has much historical value.

Both Bennett Hill and the Holt Preserve are part of the Helderbergs and offer rich views of the escarpment and the Albany skyline.

In Montgomery County, a spectacular 200-acre parcel with a waterfall and access to Schoharie Creek was donated to ALCLC in

loving memory by the Tepper and Citrin families who also thoughtfully pledged to bequeath money for its stewardship.

When spring finally arrives, more people will venture outdoors for long walks to enjoy the rebirth and beauty of nature. The land preserves owned by the ALCLC are wonderful places to visit in addition to the ever-popular Five Rivers. Many residents, however, are unaware of the ALCLC preserves so they do not take advantage of new outdoor experiences that are both accessible and extraordinary. For me, they are places where my dog is permitted to accompany me on long walks through the woods.

For information, please contact the ALCLC at 436-6346.

Carole Nemore
Delmar

Registrar says thank-you

Editor, The Spotlight:

On behalf of Slingerlands Co-operative Nursery School, I would like to thank all the area merchants who allowed us to post fliers about our recent open house. We appreciate the community support for our nonprofit program.

With strong family involvement and only 12 students in each of our classes, we are proud of the individual attention our children receive.

All the businesses, schools, churches, libraries and newspapers from Albany, Voorheesville, Guilderland and Bethlehem who support our school deserve a big thanks for being valuable community assets. For information about the school, call 439-0386.

Susan DeAngelis
Slingerlands Nursery School
registrar

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Matters of Opinion

Audubon Society says thank you for support

Editor, The Spotlight:

The Audubon Society of New York State would like to thank several businesses for supporting the New York Loon Conservation Project this year. ASNY hosted an educational fund-raiser at Crossgates Mall in February, which was made possible by support from several businesses and organizations.

The loon project partners were primary supporters and include Northern Reflections (The Venator Group), the Albany Chapter of the Adirondack Club, New Art Printing in Albany, Elk Lake Lodge in Hudson and the Sagamore Resort in Bolton Landing.

In addition, wildlife photographer Weedy Hagge donated loon postcards and note cards to the cause. Bullet Weights, manufacturer of angling gear, also generously donated packets of non-lead fishing tackle for educational pro-

grams of the loon project.

The project's sponsors include Adirondack Paddle-N-Poles in Schenectady, Crossgates Mall and People's Pottery.

Ideal Office Center in Schenectady, Ragged Mountain, Tough Traveler, Travel 2000 and World of Science were supporters of the project.

Member of the loon project work to protect loons and their habitats and to educate New Yorkers about issues of environmental quality that affect loons, other wildlife and humans.

To learn more about the project or about non-lead alternatives for anglers, call the Audubon Society, located on Rarick Road in Selkirk, at 767-9051 ext. 20.

Cindy Bradley
Audubon Society
manager

Editor, The Spotlight:

Try to cross the street on Delaware or Kenwood avenues at certain busy times of the day. I dare you. You will be confronting what sometimes feels like an endless stream of oblivious drivers.

Despite an increase in the issuance of speeding tickets and more awareness by people in town about observing the speed limits, there are still uninformed citizens who are simply passing through or preoccupied drivers who use intuition rather than the more accurate numbers on the speedometers to determine their rate of speed.

And with thoughts of meetings to attend, children to drop off or pick up, phone calls to make and eye-makeup to put on, it's difficult to observe all the activity viewed through the picture window of your car. After all, how many things are we able to do at once? While behind the wheel of a heavy hunk of metal fed by gasoline I would venture to guess the first priority should be directing it safely through traffic, children playing, animals darting across the street and other every day activities on or near our roadways.

These automobile issues directly relate to pedestrian issues. The goal of Bethlehem Citizens for Pedestrian Safety has always been and continues to be the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. Our methods for achieving this goal have developed more than any of the member ever envisioned. The group is now a direct link with town government. We have members serving as representatives on the town's Traffic Safety Committee, and we also have collaboration with recently formed Town Pedestrian Safety Committee.

A few examples of our joint accomplishments include: more visible pedestrian crossing markings throughout town; strategic

placement of signs reminding pedestrians to walk on the left side facing oncoming traffic and more police enforcement of the town's speed limit laws. Since many of our concerns have focused on children, our local schools have been partners in our educational efforts. Presentations have been made to all area PTAs on pedestrian safety messages for children and the importance of adults acting as pedestrian role models. More than 2,000 letters to parents on pedestrian safety practices along with Walk-Left, Ride-Right magnets were distributed to each elementary school student in the Bethlehem School District.

In addition, we were involved

with the Middle School Leadership Club in distributing flashers along with safety information to their peers. Finally, one of our efforts which actively involves the entire community is our sponsorship of the annual Community Walk for Safety Day.

This year, our walk for safety will be held April 11 at 1 p.m. If you have concerns about pedestrian safety, or if you wish to find out more about our group, come to town hall for our Community Walk. If you have any questions about BCPS please feel free to contact me at 439-2016 or Fran Stevens 439-7232.

Lynn Finley
Delmar

Stand up for rural America

Editor, The Spotlight:

The New York Stands Up for Rural America campaign is under way.

The campaign was launched to celebrate the progress that we've made in our rural communities as well as to recognize that we still have a lot of work to do to make our rural areas stable, strong and livable. We need the help of the state and federal governments as well as banks, foundations and other investors.

New York state's nonprofit community development organizations have proven that, with some resources, they can tackle the most pressing problems.

These groups build housing that is affordable to wage earners working in counties, including Albany County, repair homes for the elderly, assist small businesses with loans and provide technical assistance to local governments and rural townships.

Still, too many of our rural communities face poor housing conditions and lack of access to services available to urban and suburban communities, such as adequate transportation and high unemployment due to lack of or distance from available jobs.

To address these issues, New York Stands Up for Rural America

seeks to build partnerships between lenders, communities, private foundations and governments. So we are calling on state Sen. Neil Breslin, D-Delmar, and state assemblymen John Faso, R-Kinderhook, John McEneny, D-Albany and Ronald Canastrari, D-Cohoes.

A key part of the national campaign is the Rural Community Development Initiative, which would provide \$10 million for the Department of Agriculture to invest in building the capacity of nonprofit rural developers.

Local nonprofit groups are the largest developers of affordable housing and essential facilities in economically distressed communities. If the federal government is serious about improving the quality of life in distressed rural communities, it needs to make this investment. So, we are calling on Sen. Charles Schumer, Rep.'s Rick Lazio, Maurice Hinchey, James Walsh and Michael McNulty to Stand Up for Rural America on the national day on April 14 to support a \$10 million appropriation for the initiative.

Philip C. Lohre
Albany County Rural
Housing Alliance
housing counselor

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Speaker to focus on stories buildings tell

John Mesick will discuss "What Our Buildings say About Who We Were, Who We Are" as part of the Centennial Lecture Series on Tuesday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the public library on School Road.

Mesick is one of the nation's leading architectural preservationists, responsible for restoring parts of Monticello. He will present a slide show and talk about how our ancestors reveal who they were through the buildings they created for work and play.

The presentation is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served courtesy of Friends of the Library. For information and to sign up, call 765-22791.

St. Matthew's to host St. Pat's Day dance

St. Matthew's Men's Association will host a St. Patrick's Dance on Saturday, March 13, from 8 p.m. to midnight in the parish center on Mountainview Road.

Tickets are \$10 each or \$15 per couple. For reservations, call Bob Stapf at 765-2451.

St. Matthew's youth council will hold a Henn Workshops pottery and basket show on Monday, March 15, at 7 p.m. in the parish center.

The company features hand-crafted spongeware pottery, baskets, candles and wood pieces.

Winter concerts set at high school

The high school winter concert is set for Wednesday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the school on Route 85A.

The middle level concert is on Wednesday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m., at the high school.

PTA to meet at elementary school

The PTA's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the elementary school.

Dollars for Scholars seeks volunteers

The Voorheesville chapter of Dollars for Scholars meets tonight, March 10, at 7 p.m. in room 107 at the high school.

The group, which raises money

NEWS NOTES

Voorheesville

Elizabeth
Conniff-Dineen
765-2813



for the school district's college-bound students, is looking for new members.

For information or to help out, call Tim Kelley at 765-3314, ext. 205.

Fifth- and sixth-graders to enjoy activity night

A fifth- and sixth-grade activity night is planned for Friday, March 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the elementary school.

There will be games, music, food and fun for all.

Tickets will be sold at school. For information, call 765-2382.

Kiwanis to treat soccer coaches to meal

Members of the New Scotland Kiwanis Club will dish up a dinner for coaches in the fall soccer program on Thursday, March 11, at 7 p.m. at New Scotland Presbyterian Church on Route 85 in Slingerlands.

Roller-skating set March 18

Roller-skating will be held at the elementary school on Thursday, March 18, from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m.

Tickets will be sold at school.

Parents are reminded to pick up children in the cafeteria.

No school March 19

Schools in the district will not be in session on Friday, March 19, for a Superintendent's Conference Day.

Fire department to serve fish fry

New Salem Fire Department is sponsoring its annual Lenten Fish Fry on Fridays from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the firehouse on Route 85A in New Salem. Eat-in or takeout meals will be available, and senior citizens get a discount.

Town board to meet

The New Scotland town board meets tonight, March 10, at 7 p.m. at town hall on Route 85 in Slingerlands.

Seniors win leadership award

High school seniors Erin Wiater and Eric Papandrea were recently awarded the outstanding secondary leadership award from the New York State Association for Physical Education, Health, Recreation and Dance.

The students were nominated for their leadership and participation in physical education classes.

School has openings for next year

Voorheesville Community Nursery School has openings in its morning and afternoon program for next year.

Children who will be 4 by Dec. 1 are eligible. For information, call Christine Whiteley at 765-4019.

Library book group to discuss mystery

Bethlehem Public Library's Book Discussion Group will continue its mystery series by discussing *Whip Hand* by Dick Francis on Tuesday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Book discussions take place the third Tuesday of each month in the library lounge at 451 Delaware Ave. in Delmar.

Copies of the current title are available at the reference desk. New members are welcome. For information, call 439-9314.

School board petitions available

Nominating petitions are now available for seats on the Bethlehem school board. Elections will be held in the spring.

Seats currently held by board Chairwoman Happy Scherer and members James Schwab and Pamela Williams will be up for election. The new three-year terms commence July 1.

Petitions are available at the district clerk's office at 90 Adams Place in Delmar.

Each submitted petition must contain a minimum of 62 valid signatures of registered voters and must be filed with the district clerk by 4:30 p.m. on April 16. The district budget vote is on May 18.

Progress Club slates talk on steamboats

James Wilson Tinney will present a slide program on the history of Hudson River steamboats to the evening group of the Delmar Progress Club today, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Public Library.

The program is free and open to the public. To register, call 439-9440.



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Growing pains prompt reconfiguration review

On March 1, a 27-member committee representing the Bethlehem community met with library board members, library management staff and architects from the Boston firm J. Stewart Roberts

Second Milers, students and retirees, scholars and business people, meeting room users, artists and Internet browsers.

Board President Susan Birkhead cited the library's history, dating back to 1913 when it was housed in one room and staffed by volunteers, to its tenure in what is now school district offices, to the last 27 years in its present location. Birkhead called on all present to see themselves and this undertaking as part of a historical continuum with implications for the next quarter century.

Architects Stew Roberts and Eric Johnson, who specialize in library design, presented three plans for space reconfiguration,

ranging from modest to "mostest." The modest plan rearranged space without additions. The "mostest" plan included 2500 square feet of additional space.

All three plans include badly needed new carpet, furniture, lighting, noise control, electrical outlets and accommodations that meet current Americans with Disabilities Act standards. The plans are preliminary sketches, designed to flex the imagination and determine needs and preferences, so price tags are premature at this time.

The community advisory committee's unanimous response can be summed up as follows: If we are envisioning the future, planning for another quarter century, why not stretch a little further? Why not shoot for the moon first, and then modify the mission to workable proportions?

As one committee member pointed out, 2500 square feet of new space is a physical expansion of only one-tenth. Furthermore, he continued, the expense of the project, divided by the 27 years the current building has served the community, takes on a different light. His sentiments were echoed around the room in one form or another.

The architects were instructed to go back to the drawing board.

They will present revised plans for the committee's consideration in a few weeks.

All residents of the Bethlehem Central School District have by now received the special edition of the library newsletter, which presents the history and rationale for the project. Additional copies are available at various library service desks. Folks are welcome to voice their opinion via the library suggestion box, mail, and e-mail (bpl@uhls.lib.ny.us). Subsequent special editions will be published periodically to keep the community current on our progress.

Bethlehem Public Library is here for the long haul. We want to be wise stewards of a valuable and viable community investment. Our new Web address is <http://www.uhls.org/bethlehem>.

Morning book group to meet at town hall

The Books in the Morning series, hosted by Helen Adler, will discuss *Tender is the Night* by F. Scott Fitzgerald on Friday, March 12, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bethlehem town hall on Delaware Avenue.

The series is sponsored by Bethlehem Humanities Institute for Lifelong Learning. For information, call 439-9661.

Teachers to offer parent workshops

A trio of Bethlehem teachers will offer a pair of communication lab workshops to help parents communicate more effectively with their children, and to explore communications skills youngsters need in school.

The first program is tonight, March 10, from 7 to 9 p.m., and the second on Tuesday, March 23, at Bethlehem Central Middle School's media center on Kenwood Avenue.

To register, contact Mary Capobianco at 439-7460.

Art association sets March meeting

The monthly meeting of the Bethlehem Art Association, normally the third Thursday of the month, will take place instead on Thursday, March 11, at 6:45 p.m. at Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

Members can bring works to the meeting to be critiqued by Karen Rosasco, a member of Oakroom Artists and the Central New York Watercolor Society. She judged the November members' show.

A maximum of two works per person will be accepted.

Check It Out Bethlehem Public Library

Associates to review preliminary plans for much-needed reconfiguration of library space.

The committee was comprised of citizens of all ages and occupations, who use the library for various purposes and in varying degrees — story hour mothers and

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B'day bash festivities on tap at 2 March 14

The celebration of VPL's 10th anniversary at 51 School Road will begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 14.

We hope the community will join in the festivities as it did in January of 1989 when those yellow school buses were rolling



between South Main Street and School Road laden with books and volunteers as the library "made the move" to its new location.

For those of us who were at home in the comfortable old building on South Main Street, the modern facility was quite a contrast. Accustomed to a cozy, crowded atmosphere, we suddenly seemed awash in light and spaciousness.

It didn't take long however to fill up those waiting shelves, not only with books, but with the materials and technology that are demanded by 21st century society.

The expanded VPL sports an impressive video and compact disc collection, magazines, newspapers, and hundreds of books on tape and in large print.

We are online with the Internet, computers for public use and information access. Our checkout and interlibrary loan system is computerized and our staff has grown to include five full-time positions and numerous part-timers and pages.

We are open longer hours, including Sunday afternoons. We have a wonderful, active Friends group. Programs for all ages have been attracting increasing numbers of people.

We have art galleries and display areas. We have become a center of education and activity for the community.

VPL continues to change and grow. If you are a library user and lover or if you are one of those who have not yet visited the "new" building, please come on March 14 and check us out.

Everyone is invited to enjoy the chamber music of Mozart, Beethoven and Dvorak performed by the Empire State Youth String Quartet.

Also on tap for the day is recognition of a special person in recent library history (who shall remain nameless at this writing to preserve the surprise.)

We are preparing for the installation of an outdoor sign which should be there to greet you on the 14th. As always we'll have great refreshments and some of the library board and staff members to meet you.

Upcoming on March 16 at 7:30 p.m. is the next centennial historical lecture with architectural preservationist John Mesick speaking on "What Our Buildings Say About Who We Were, Who We Are."

Barbara Vink

Chamber names employee of month

The Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce has named Jeff Harbinger, the "Fish Man" at McCarroll's The Village Butcher in Delmar, as its March Employee of the Month.

Honorees are employees of any business that is a chamber member in good standing. To nominate someone for the award, call Kelly Armer at the chamber at 439-0512.

Mysteries of the East



Members of a Chinese dance troupe performed recently at Bethlehem Public Library. Members of the troupe, from left, Lina Song, Sha, Xiaoping Xu, and Xin Hua Lee delighted Lena Bilik and Gloria Singleton.

Elaine McLain



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Village Stage returns this weekend

By Joseph A. Phillips

With two months of rehearsal and technical work behind it, Delmar's Village Stage theatrical troupe is about to end a two year production drought when "Carnival" — a musical about life and love on the road with a European travelling circus, takes to the stage at Academy of the Holy Names this weekend.

A special preview for seniors at 8 p.m. this evening is followed by performances Thursday through Saturday, March 11, 12 and 13, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 14, at 2 p.m. All performances are set for the Arts Center at the campus on New Scotland Road in Albany. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, and can be reserved by calling 439-7503.

"We're on our way," said Tom Watthews, the group's treasurer and director of the production. "Everybody's healthy and ready to go." The cast of 26 has been in rehearsals at the Bethlehem town hall auditorium until just two weeks ago, when the production moved into the performance venue at Holy Names for final

dress rehearsals.

Village Stage has used the facility before, and securing its use last November paved the way for the comeback production. "It's been fine," Watthews said. "They've been very accommodating. It's a good facility for this show. It fits very well on the stage."

Jump-starting a theater company after a two-year hiatus has proven difficult, Watthews said. "In the two years of silence we lost key production staff people," he said. "Some people have gone on to other organizations or filled their lives with other things besides Village Stage."

Nevertheless, several familiar faces from the group's decade-long former life remain key members of the production team, including choreographer Dick Feldman, musical director Muriel Nevens and costumer Joyce Laiosa. The cast also includes Village Stage vets Frank Leavitt, Bill Baetz and Steve Suriano in principal roles.

But the production staff and cast include many newcomers. Altamont resident Helen Runion

portrays Lili, the small-town waif who hooks up with the ragtag French circus troupe operated by Herr Schlegel (Suriano). She falls for the slick magician Marco the Magnificent (Baetz) but commiserates with the carnival's puppeteers, Paul (another Altamont, Mark Jones) and Jacquot (Leavitt), with whom she develops a growing affection.

Supporting the core players are an ensemble cast of gypsies, jugglers, roustabouts, clowns and other circus performers.

"There are people I haven't worked with before, a lot of them," Watthews said. "Some of the new people live in the community, and that's really nice to have. Some of them we hope will stay with Village Stage and do more with us."

Ticket sales so far have been modest. Awareness of the group's renaissance, Watthews said, "is not as much as I would want it to be. Still, it's just getting started. I think the word may be getting out."

Future plans for the group remain to be set, but the Village Stage board, headed by president Julia Fillippone, has discussed two productions a year, depending upon availability of a performance location. The group will also participate in Feestiljk on May 1, possibly with a short musical revue.

"We're back on the boards again," Watthews said. "The problems we've discovered with this show, we'll work out. But Village Stage is back to stay."



Dr. Thomas H. Abele, D.M.D.

VIEWS ON DENTAL HEALTH



Dr. Geoffrey B. Edmunds, D.D.S.

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Bethlehem students make big splash at mind Odyssey

Teams from the Bethlehem Central School District acquitted themselves well in the regional Odyssey of the Mind (OM) competition held on Feb. 28 at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Senior High School.

Seven of the 16 Bethlehem teams placed in the competition, and three of those teams won a first-place showing in their divisions, earning a trip to the statewide competition on March 20 in Binghamton.

OM is a creative problem-solving competition in which teams compete to solve a pre-assigned problem and then perform an eight-minute play dramatizing their solution. There is also a spontaneous competition in which the team must come up with solutions to a problem which they are given on the spot.

In Problem No. 1, entitled "Over the Mountain," The Bethlehem Middle School team won first place, and the Hamagrael Elementary team third in Division II. The Hamagrael competitors were also the recipients of a spe-

cial Outstanding OM-er Award, given to teams for their exceptional OM skills. During their drama, which involved a vehicle going over a mountain, their vehicle went off course, but the team completed their solution by spontaneously improvising a Monopoly game.

Problem No. 2, "EnvirOMental Challenge," won a first-place citation in Division I for the team from Slingerlands Elementary. And in Problem No. 3, "O My Faire Shakespeare," first place in Division I went to the team from Glenmont Elementary.

Hamagrael scored a Division I third-place finish on Problem No. 4, "RatiOMetric Structure," and second on Problem No. 5, "CustOMer Service." In the last competition Slingerlands Elementary placed third.

Stephen Smith, a Slingerlands team member, was honored with the Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award for his exceptionally creative responses during the team's Spontaneous competition.

Host families needed for exchange students

Host families are needed for 30 foreign exchange students who will be coming to the Capital District for the 1999-2000 school year under the auspices of the American Field Service (AFS) exchange program.

Students from all over the world will attend local high school and participate in family, school and community life.

Families who apply early this spring have the best opportunity to review applications from students with special interests which

match theirs, such as athletics or music.

AFS provides local family orientations and volunteer support, as well as social and educational events for students, host families and host siblings.

For information about hosting, or about intercultural opportunities for U.S. high school students to study abroad, contact Happy Scherer at 439-0016, Cathie Currin at 581-9199, or call 1-800-AFS-INFO.

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Middle school PTSO slates conflict resolution workshop

The middle school PTSO will sponsor a conflict resolution workshop at its next meeting, Wednesday, March 17, at 7 p.m.

All members of the middle school community are invited to attend.

Historical group to hear talk on blacksmithing

James Moran, past president of the Northeast New York Blacksmithing Association, will discuss 19th century blacksmithing on Thursday, March 18, at 2 p.m. at the Bethlehem Historical Association on River Road in Selkirk.

Library book group to meet Thursday

The library's book group will meet on Thursday, March 18, at 7 p.m. to discuss *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* by Sherman Alexie.

The book later became the screenplay for *Smoke Signals*. Copies are available at the library for those who preregister. For information, call the library at 756-2053.

Lenten discussion

First Reformed Church of Bethlehem will host a soup and sandwich supper on Wednesday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m.

The church is at 30 Church Road, just off Route 9W in Selkirk.

NEWS NOTES

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Participants are asked to bring a sandwich; a beverage and soup will be served. Those who are coming only to hear the speaker (but not for supper) should arrive prior to 7 p.m. For information, call Donna Lasher at 767-9917.

Instrumental concert set at high school

Head over to the senior high school on Thursday, March 11, at 7 p.m. for the school's annual Music in Our Schools Month instrumental concert by students in grades 5 to 12.

Soccer club to meet at middle school

RCS Youth Soccer Club will

hold its next meeting on Monday, March 15, at 7 p.m. at the middle school. Community members are welcome to attend.

Odyssey of the Mind team moves on to finals

Kudos to the high school's Odyssey of the Mind team.

The team won in regional competition at the high school and will advance to the state finals in

Binghamton on March 20.

The competition consists of a spontaneous component and a long-term component. The long-term tasks included building a balsa wood structure to hold weights in a crushing test. The RCS team's structure held more than 270 pounds.

Participants in the long-term competition were Harold Bab-

cock-Ellis, Matthew Clary, Nathan Orsi, Brandon Roth and Dan Capron.

Denis Cheney, Caleb Kunmunch, Nate Orsi, Harold Babcock-Ellis and Brandon Roth combined for the spontaneous competition.

Thanks to coach Richard Orsi, teacher Claudia Verga and the faculty and staff at the high school.

Continuing ed offers wedding prep class

The continuing education program of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District will offer a course this spring entitled "Planning Your Wedding," on Monday and Tuesday, March 22 and 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. at RCS Middle School.

The course, taught by wedding photographer Neal Relyea, costs \$60 and covers setting a budget;

choosing type of wedding, location and setting; and selecting everything from the hall to the music. A textbook will provide

brides-to-be with a step-by-step guide to the process. For information, contact Marty Case at 756-5299, ext. 336.

Clown troupe to appear at church

The Colonie-based Joyful Joeys Christian clown troupe will present its widely-travelled "Rainbows In The Night" worship ser-

vice on Sunday, March 14, at 11 a.m. at South Bethlehem United Methodist Church, 65 Willowbrook Ave.

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Physically Speaking



by Nick
Valenze, P.T.



A BIG PAYOFF

Some women know of the big health benefits of weight training but are unsure if they have the patience to stick with the muscle-strengthening regimen. Well, the results may come sooner than they expect. According to researchers at Pennsylvania State and Ohio Universities, important changes occur in women's muscles during the initial sessions. When eight previously sedentary women and 12 men were enlisted to pump iron twice a week, tissue and blood samples from the lifters revealed that the women's muscles were busy priming themselves by producing strength-building proteins after only two weeks. It took men four weeks to display the same changes. In the first six weeks, both men and women experienced a rise in blood levels of testosterone.

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Town board to review CMI housing proposal

By Joseph A. Phillips

The moment of truth has arrived for the proposal by CMI Healthcare Associates to build an assistive-living facility on an undeveloped parcel in the heart of Delmar.

A town planning board recommendation in favor of site-plan approval for the controversial project has been forwarded to the town board, and the matter will be on the board's agenda at its meeting tonight, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. at town hall.

The planning board voted 4-1 in February to recommend approval, but the recommendation was held up pending review of several lingering issues, particularly drainage, by town engineering and planning departments.

But last week, according to Town Planner Jeff Lipnicky, "CMI resubmitted the drainage studies required. The town engineers have looked at it and found it satisfactory. We have put together a draft approval document. What happens now is up to the town board."

Supervisor Sheila Fuller sched-

uled the matter for discussion at tonight's meeting. "I would assume the board would vote Wednesday night on it," she said. "This is the end of it."

The board voted last July to approve a zoning change that would permit the residentially-zoned property on Delaware Avenue to be used for commercial development, and site approval is the final hurdle in the process.

Fuller did not anticipate much discussion of particulars at the meeting, partly because of a pending complaint filed in state Supreme Court by a group of neighbors. "The public hearings have already been held," she said, "and they, as well as us, on advice of counsel, will probably not go much into that."

Attorney Donald Zee, representing the neighbor group, has previously said he is awaiting the outcome of the board's vote on the site plan before taking further action in that suit.

The CMI vote is likely to take up the bulk of the board's attention this evening.

Board to shore up prospect sidewalks

By Joseph A. Phillips

After months of debate and a public hearing, the Voorheesville board of trustees decided recently that a partial response to the Prospect Street dilemma was better than no response at all.

Seeking to improve traffic safety on the street, at one end of which is the Voorheesville Public Library, the board voted unanimously to ask the village public works department to shore up pedestrian pathways on the shoulders at critical points, and to improve signage along the road, warning motorists of the potential hazards the hilly, curvy road presents.

In doing so, they stopped short of installing sidewalks along the road. They also abandoned for the time being a proposal to turn the road into a one-way street with a 13-foot traffic lane and a 6-foot lane along one shoulder for pedestrian, bicycle and stroller traffic en route to the library.

That proposition had been the subject of a public hearing Feb. 9 that drew more than 20 residents, many of whom opposed the move.

"A lot of sentiments have been expressed about, 'let's study this, let's not jump into this,'" Trustee Harvey Huth said of the one-way proposal. "Let's not." The trustees agreed, however, to keep the one-way issue under review.

Mayor Ed Clark also said he has asked the Albany County Sheriff's Department, the sole law enforcement agency serving the village, to step up enforcement of the 30 mph speed limit on the road.

"We're declaring war on Prospect Street," said Trustee Dick Berger to general agreement. "It is going to be a speed trap from

now on."

Capt. Craig Apple of the Sheriff's Department's Voorheesville substation confirmed that, at the village's request, he had already ordered increased patrolling of the road by his department.

"We have definitely increased arrests there in (recent) weeks," he said. "It's like shooting fish in a barrel. A lot of local drivers are extremely persistent in speeding in that area. It is a dangerous little stretch of roadway."

The narrow two-lane road's curves and dips at two critical locations make it difficult for drivers to see oncoming traffic or pedestrians on the shoulder of the road. One of those spots is a steep hill near the library; the other, a dip in the road in front of 30 Prospect St., a former residence now owned by the village.

The village's desire to sell the property to a residential buyer last fall, pending the outcome of the safety questions, had prompted the discussion over Prospect Street. At the Feb. 23 meeting, Clark said a decision on whether or not to proceed with the sale would be "held in abeyance at least one more meeting to discuss the matter with the prospective homeowner."

Other residents of the street have demanded action to correct the safety problems along the road while the building is still in village hands. But some have reservations about the alternatives the village board has explored. Judy DeAngelis, one Prospect Street resident, summed up the view of several neighbors at the Feb. 9 hearing. "I don't want sidewalks," she said. "I don't want one-way either. Level the road."

Clark said regrading the road, or even installing a regulation sidewalk, would be prohibitively expensive for the village.

"People say this is a safety issue and cost shouldn't matter," Clark said. "Cost always matters

when you're spending the public's money." A legal sidewalk, village officials estimate, would cost more than a quarter of a million dollars. It would also require the village to exercise eminent domain to take strips of front lawn on several properties along Prospect Street where homes are extremely close to the road, a move many of the property owners oppose.

Michael Jarus, another Prospect Street property owner and one of the most vocal on the issue, cautiously welcomed the board's action. "I'm glad they did something," he said. "But I still plan to pursue this and not let the issue die."

He recently expressed concern about whether safe streets are a high enough priority for the village board.

"I don't think village officials see it as appropriate to spend money to fix the roads in the village," he said. "There's four or five or six places that need improvement in the village. I would be happy to see one of them a year addressed. But I don't see any of them being improved."

"The village wants the safety issue to go away," he said, "and a one-way might be an inexpensive way to dispose of the safety issue. One-way, two-way, I don't have a strong feeling about it. I want the road to be safe."

Church plans trip to flower show

South Bethlehem United Methodist Church has scheduled a trip to the New England Spring Flower Show on Saturday, March 20.

The trip will travel to Boston for a full day at the flower show. Afterward, they will have dinner at Rom's Restaurant in Sturbridge, Mass., with a choice of baked fillet of haddock, fresh half roasted chicken or veal cacciatore.

For information, call the church at 767-2281.

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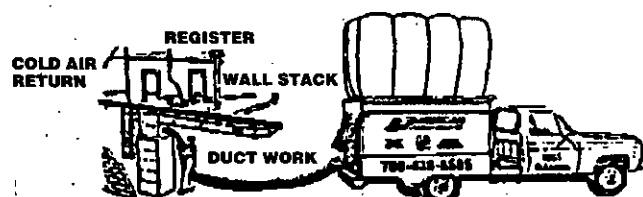
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Sports

Ladybirds fly to fifth consecutive Sectional crown

By Len Tarricone

Never mind that "in like a lion, out like a lamb" stuff; the Clayton A. Bouton Central High School girls basketball team has perfected its own rites of March — "Go into the postseason prepared and conditioned, and come out with a Section II trophy to bring back to Voorheesville."

The motto has been fail-safe for all five of coach **Jack Adams'** seasons on the bench, with the latest Class CC title coming courtesy of a 40-28 win over Tamarac High School March 6 at Hudson Valley Community College's McDonough Complex.

Though the road may not have been as smooth as in the past, when his teams probably had more talent and the league arguably was not as strong, the result was the same.

"That is a great bunch of kids. They had to hang tough this year, and they did. These kids want to keep the tradition going; they work hard for this, through the summer, into the fall, and all throughout the season," Adams said.

Against Tamarac, the hallmarks of Adams' philosophy — intense defensive pressure, an aggressive fast break and efficient ball movement — separated the Ladybirds from the Bengals.

The Ladybirds led by two after the first quarter, by four at the half and by eight after three quarters, but the difference in play was more pronounced than that. Tamarac had to struggle for every shot, especially in the first half. Meanwhile the Ladybirds rarely came away without a quality shot, though their aim was not always true.

"We got a lot of good looks, though we didn't can a lot of them, and we had many break opportu-

nities that we didn't take advantage of," said Adams.

But his team got enough baskets to stay comfortably ahead after sophomore **Katelyn Berger**, who had 10 points, hit a three-pointer to up the lead to 25-19 lead midway through the third quarter. The Ladybirds then zipped off a 10-3 spurt, featuring two follows and a short jumper from freshman center **Andrea Birch**, to open up a 35-22 margin midway through the fourth quarter.

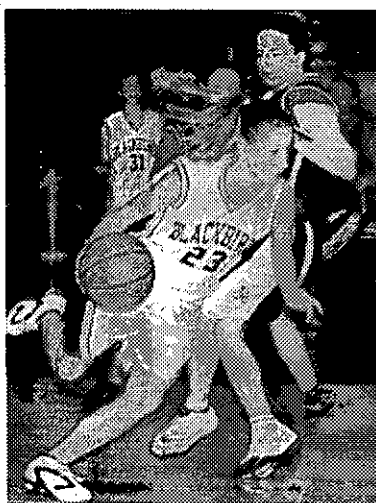
The Bengals did not possess the size or the quickness to topple the Ladybirds, who advanced to the Class CC-C title game March 9 against Cambridge.

"We held them to what, 28 points?" asked Adams. "It takes an entire team to play good defense, which we did, and we also rebounded well tonight."

The Ladybirds out-rebounded the Bengals 40-29, as Birch pulled down 10, seven of them offensive, to go with her 11 points. Senior **Jessica Lindner**, the tournament's Most Valuable Player, grabbed seven, as did senior guard **Juli Baron**.

Lindner was joined on the all-tournament squad by senior guard **Caryn Adams**, and her work in a semifinal win March 3 over Mechanicville High School weighed heavily in her selection as MVP. The Ladybirds had been cruising along with a 22-11 lead late in the first half, primarily behind the scoring of seniors **Jan Rissacher** and **Jessica Stewart**, who combined for 15 of the points.

But the Red Raiders, who played the Ladybirds tough in two close losses earlier this year, tore off a 12-0 run that culminated with sophomore guard **Melissa Marra** being fouled by **Brittany Burnham** and completing the three-point play with 3:35 to go in

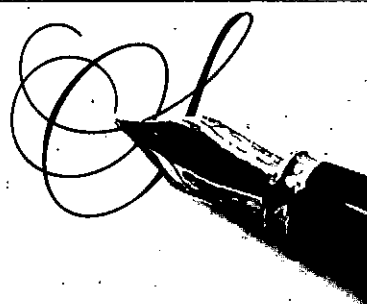


Katelyn Berger drives around a Mechanicville defender. Len Tarricone

the third. Down 23-22, and having so much trouble with Mechanicville's zone defense that they committed six turnovers in first nine possessions of the quarter, the Ladybirds needed a spark and Lindner provided it.

First, she shook free at the top of the lane for a jumper to get her team on the second-half scoreboard and back in front with 2:25 left in the third.

Then, after Berger banked a three-pointer off the glass to up the lead to 27-23, Lindner came up with a steal and fed Adams for another hoop, and then made another steal to stymie the Red Raiders on their final possession of the quarter.



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The score was 29-23 entering the fourth quarter, and when Birch scored after Lindner's miss and Adams hit from the left side after yet another Lindner swipe, the Ladybirds were back up by eight and rolling along to yet another Sectional final.

"Moving Jessica out to the wing and putting Birch in the middle of their zone to get some post reversal passing was important for us when we got down," Adams said. "We didn't panic, and then we stepped up on defense and didn't give them many good shots. The kids did a wonderful job; at the right times we did the right things."

With five starting seniors, a talented reserve in Berger, and the 6-foot, 2-inch freshman Birch to come in and provide inside strength, someone is usually doing the right thing. If anyone doubted that this program could maintain its level of excellence with the departure of four-year starter **Jane Meade** and fellow starters **Regan Burns** and **Jan Riede**, those doubts have been put to rest.

"This is a different team, but root.

there hasn't been any letup," said Caryn Adams, who, along with Lindner, is a returning starter. "The five of us (she and fellow seniors Rissacher, Stewart, Baron and Lindner) have been playing together since third grade, and with the new players, everyone fits in really well."

The girls' coach back in third grade, in CYO ball, was Caryn's father, Jack. To bring these players along from that point to multiple-time defending Sectional champions is particularly meaningful for him.

"It's gratifying to me to see everyone contributing, and to not have to rely on one person," he said. "You never know who's going to be the hottest performer, and on any given night it could be someone new."

Whether this team can match last year's amazing run to the state championship is yet to be determined, but this group of seniors has already created its own history, and, with Birch, Berger, Burnham and others back next season, the seeds for Sectional title number six have already taken

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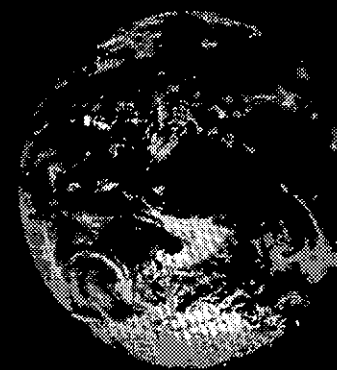
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Cheetahs win tournament

The Bethlehem Cheetahs 8-and-under soccer team held the opposition scoreless en route to winning the recent President's Week Tournament at Charbonneau's Recreation Center in Clifton Park.

In round-robin play, the Cheetahs defeated Chatam 2-0, downed Saratoga by a 4-0 score and won a 1-0 nail-biter over Clifton Park. The elimination round saw Bethlehem post a 2-0 win over Saratoga and another 2-0 win against Chatham.

Goalies Alex Sobiecki, Alex Cooper and Max Kornstein kept the nets clear for the Cheetahs, with the help of forward/fullback Thomas Matthews and center fullback Danny Krzykowski.

Taylor Teal, Ari Rodriguez, Zack McMahon, Danny Maddock and Molly Howland provided the goals, and Katy Barone, James Naughton and Gil Strizich were contributors as well.

Patty Matrianni is the head coach, and Lance Howland, John Sobiecki and Tom Barone are the assistant coaches. Bill Maddock is the team's manager.

Dolphins turn out in force at RPI

The Delmar Dolphins swim club had more than 30 swimmers compete in the annual Developmental Championship Meet at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute last weekend.

In the 8-and-under category, **Kristen Gloeckler** took second in the 25-yard breaststroke, 50-yard breaststroke and 100-yard freestyle. She also finished third on the 50-yard butterfly and 100-yard individual medley, fourth in the 25-yard butterfly, fifth in the 25-yard backstroke and sixth in the 50-yard freestyle. **Katie O'Donnell** came in second in the 25-yard freestyle and 50-yard freestyle, fourth in the 25-yard butterfly and 50-yard breaststroke and sixth in the 25-yard breaststroke. **Alexandra Scialdone** came in seventh in the 25-yard breaststroke.

Alyssa Sullivan took third in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle, second in the 50-yard breaststroke, fifth in the 25-yard butterfly and sixth in the 50-yard butterfly and the 100-yard IM. **Kiersten Swete** came in fourth in the 50-yard freestyle, eighth in the 25-yard backstroke, fifth in the 25-yard freestyle and seventh in the 50-yard breaststroke. **Nate Foley** took eighth in the 50-yard backstroke. **Jimmy Kivlin** won in the 50-yard breaststroke with a time of 51.14 seconds and the 25-yard breaststroke with a time of 23.56 seconds, and also finished fourth in the 25-yard freestyle, fifth in the 25-yard butterfly, 50-yard backstroke and 25-yard butterfly, sixth in the 50-yard freestyle and

seventh in the 25-yard backstroke.

The 100-yard freestyle relay team of O'Donnell, Sullivan, Gloeckler, and Swete took first place with a time of 1:11.50, and **Stephanie Clement, Eleanor Grady, Mariah Kennedy and Melissa Taub** all turned in personal-best times.

In the 10-and-under category, **Larry Gloeckler** won the 50-yard backstroke with a time of 37.84 seconds, came in second in the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard IM, third in the 100-yard breaststroke and 200-yard freestyle and fourth in the 50-yard butterfly and 100-yard freestyle.

Tyler Dudas came in third in the 100-yard IM, fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke, sixth in the 200-yard IM and seventh in the 50-yard butterfly and the 50-yard backstroke. **Justin Murphy** came in second in the 100-yard IM, fifth in the 200-yard IM, fourth in the 50-yard breaststroke, sixth in the 50-yard backstroke and eighth in the 100-yard breaststroke. **Martha Grady** won in the 50-yard butterfly with a time of 35.39 seconds, and finished second in the 100-yard freestyle, 50-yard breaststroke and 100-yard IM. She also finished fourth in the 50-yard freestyle.

The medley relay team of Larry Gloeckler, Kennedy, Dudas and Murphy took first place, and the same team took second in the freestyle relay.

The freestyle relay team of **Lisa Frangella, Kyla Walsh, Martha Grady and Laurel Heighton** took

fourth, while the team of Eleanor Grady, **Molly Moriarity, Clement and Lane** took seventh.

The medley relay team of **Hadar Koren-Roth, Moriarity, Sydney Lane and Barbara Pohl** finished seventh, and the relay team of Frangella, Martha Grady, **Kyla Walsh** and Heighton took third.

Frangella, Heighton, Lane, Koren-Roth, Moriarity, Walsh, Pohl, **Lauren Grady, Paul Caifero, Sean Kennedy, Ann Delucco and Anna Kaufman** all turned in personal-best times.

In the 13- to 14-year-old category, **James Traylor** won the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 59.20 seconds and the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 25.11 seconds. He also finished second in the 200-yard IM, the 100-yard backstroke and the 200-yard freestyle. **Caleb Bonnell** took fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke, and **Hannah Gold** swam several personal-best times.

Shaffer tops local entrants at state swim meet

Bethlehem Central High School swimmer **Chris Shaffer** took second place in the 100-yard butterfly to top local performers in the state swimming championships March 6 at the Goodwill Games Pool in Long Island.

Shaffer also finished fifth in the 200 individual medley, and his BCHS teammate **Ilya Furman** finished 10th in the 100 breaststroke.

Brian Washburn of Guilderville took fifth in the 100 backstroke, ninth in the 50 freestyle, and finished sixth in the 200 medley relay team along with his brother **Robert Washburn, Ben Growick and David Tagliaferro**.

Swim club sets tryouts

The Delmar Dolphins swim club will have new member tryouts Saturday, March 27. Tryouts are open to students residing in the town of Bethlehem only.

For information or to schedule a tryout, call 439-9206 or 475-7534.

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BBC playoff schedule nearing completion

With the NBA playoffs of the Bethlehem Basketball Club winding down, the Knicks and the Sonics have emerged as finalists and will play for the title March 14 at Bethlehem Central Middle School.

The Knicks advanced to the final by beating the Spurs 47-28, behind 21 combined points from Nate Panucci and Sean McManus, while the Sonics also got 21 from the duo of Sue Kelly and Andrew Dolan to get past the Bulls 36-34.

Also in the NBA, Orlando rode Mike Glannon's 17 points to turn back Houston 47-36, and Boston edged the Lakers 42-41, as Sarah Homer tossed in 15.

Meanwhile, the ACC bracket is also down to its final pair, and the championship will go to either Duke or Wake Forest March 14. The Blue Devils, behind 10 points from Peter Halligan, gained their spot in the final by crushing the Terps 41-12, and Wake used 29 from the combo of Russell Ellers and Samantha Weyant to dismantle the Seminoles 50-29 in the other semi. Also, the Heels shook off the Yellowjackets 49-43 behind Craig Oskam's 12 points, and the Cavaliers used 8 points from Brendan Pratt in crushing the Tigers 59-10.

Meanwhile, the Big East held a full slate of six games: Providence (Chris Morill-18 points) nipped the Irish 30-29; Nova (Chris Olsen-11) handled Miami 45-23; Seton Hall (Paul Parker-12) trimmed Syracuse 33-31; St. John's (Joe Conroy-12) bested West Virginia 35-25; Georgetown (Cameron Brown-26) squeaked past B.C. 42-40 and UConn (John Burke-8) dispatched Pitt 32-20.

St. Thomas hosts Pallante tourney

St. Thomas School in Delmar recently hosted the 3rd Annual Kathleen Pallante Biddy Basketball Tournament for fifth- and sixth-grade CYO teams from St. Matthew's in Voorheesville, Holy Cross, Blessed Sacrament, St. James in Albany and St. Thomas.

The tournament is held in honor of first-grade teacher Kathleen Pallante, who died four years ago after serving as a teacher at the school for 20 years.

Her husband, Gerard Pallante, presented the plaque to the winning team.

St. Thomas' boys team finished third and fifth-grader Craig Orner was named to the all-tournament team.

St. Thomas' girls team captured the championship, and sixth-grader Bethany Barrowman was named to the all-tournament team. Sixth-grader Cecelia Corrigan was named Most Valuable Player for the champions.

Eagles victorious in hockey tournament

The Bethlehem Eagles Pee Wee hockey team, coached by John Regal, John McNiven and Bruce Bourke, recently won the Capital River Rat Invitational hockey tournament by defeating Clifton Park when David Buckley scored the only goal in a shoot-out and Connor O'Shea stopped all five Clifton Park attempts.

Other team members include Nathaniel Drake, Patrick Riegel, Jordan Murry, Mike Morris, Matt Narode, Shane Gray, Steve Kerwin, Mackenzie Reigel, Andrew Stanton, Giles Chase, Diven McNiven, Jeff Kattrein, Taylor Bourke, Will Hobach and Zack Blau.

Leading the cheers



Thomas Feller of Delmar, shown here with partner Melissa DiPerri, spent his first year as a member of the Towson University cheerleading squad. Feller, a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and sophomore art major at Towson University, cheered at the Tigers' home basketball and football games.

Delmar Dash slated for April 11

The Hudson Mohawk Road Runners Club will hold the 11th annual Delmar Dash, a five-mile road race Sunday, April 11. The race will begin at 9 a.m. from the corner of Delaware and Elsmere avenues, and will wind through the village.

The Dash is open to runners of all ages and abilities, with an entry fee of \$12 for HMRRC members

and \$14 for nonmembers. Long-sleeve T-shirts will be given to the first 350 registrants, and awards will be presented to the top three male and female finishers, as well as to male and female age group winners.

Registration will open at 8 a.m. at the Elsmere School at 247 Delaware Ave. For information, call 435-4500.

BCHS to offer high school hoops clinic

The town of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Department will offer a basketball clinic for high school students at Bethlehem Central High School beginning March 17. It will be led by the boys and girls varsity coaches.

There are also openings in several spring programs scheduled to begin the week of March 22, including Body Blast aerobics and Hydro Slumber water aerobics.

For information or to register, call 439-4131.

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Johnson

(From Page 1)

department treasurer for the Elsmere Fire Department, on the Feestelijk executive committee and treasurer of Community United Methodist Church in Slingerlands.

"People kid me that I don't know how to say no to these things," he said. "I don't intend to be a lame duck. I'm going to continue to serve."

Murphy confirmed that he and Johnson had discussed the prospect of stepping down "in the last month or so." The candidate committee is in its organizational stages, he said, though a decision is due "in a matter of weeks."

He declined to identify any potential candidates. "I've had conversations with one or two, but I don't want to squelch anybody who's interested from stepping forward," Murphy said. "We're going to have an open process."

Johnson's fellow Republican board incumbent Doris Davis is also due for re-election this fall, as are Fuller, Highway Superintendent Gregg Sagendorph, Town Clerk Kathleen Newkirk and Re-

ceiver of Taxes Nancy Mendick. "They haven't said what they're gonna do," Murphy said of his party's other incumbents.

The sole Democratic incumbent is Town Justice Kenneth Munnely, who has challenged whether he must seek re-election this fall.

"I had an absolute ball (on the board.) The people you meet and the things that happen when you're in a campaign are just wonderful. I've had a great time. I still look at the town board as, as much community service as politics. I think it's a real honor to be elected to serve," said Johnson.

"Bob is a model for how you start out to be a board member," Murphy said, noting Johnson's diligent attendance at meetings while a candidate and his regular contact with town officials. "Town government is a big business, and runs with a lot of departments," he said. "It requires a lot of time to understand it, to be a real participant on the board and make a contribution. Bob has done that."

Johnson said he was proud of having kept campaign promises

to help bring a supermarket to the Slingerlands area, and to ensure that water from the new Clapper Road town water plant would stay separated from the town's drinking water supply.

But he said that "I would be naive if I didn't say that's our biggest unfinished business as a board. We'd all like to see the water issue come to closure. But I kind of doubt we will see the end of the water issue in my tenure."

He offered words of praise for his board colleagues. "Everyone on the board works for what they think is in the best interests of the town," he said. "We go about it different ways, but everyone has good intentions."

He also gave the town's department heads, particularly Sagendorph and Comptroller Judy Kehoe, high marks. "I think every one of the department heads has been really marvelous," he said. "This town is really well-run."

"This has hurt a lot," said Johnson of his decision to step down. "I love the job. Working with Sheila and the board is an absolutely magnificent experience."

BOU

(From Page 1)

basket of Beanie Babies from Robin's Nest to party entertainment.

The live auction is the event that people wait for, though, hosted for 12 years now by Slingerlands Principal Dave Murphy and Clarksville Principal Joe Schaefer. It's the one time of year when people in town can "buy" titles such as Supervisor for a Day or Principal for a Day.

"We've really watched it grow into a community event," Schaefer said. "It's a social evening people really look forward to."

Schaefer and Murphy have established a routine over the years, even though they only receive the list of auction items as they walk in the door. "We engage people by using their first names," Schaefer said. "That helps to make it special. I also take over the mike when Dave's trying to pronounce any kind of ethnic food, something he has trouble doing."

"We used to do the auction standing flat on the floor," Murphy said. "One year I brought in something to stand on that we'd built for a school play. It was about 2-feet high, and I turned around and smashed right into it. I fell on the floor, and Joe took the mike and said, 'That's a good start.'"

The chance to be Principal for a Day with Murphy and Schaefer are always two of the auction's most popular items. "We always get more than the superintendent of schools," Murphy boasted.

Town Supervisor Sheila Fuller also offers "Supervisor for a Day" at the auction, an item frequently purchased by teens.

"I usually give people the choice of two half-days or one whole day," Fuller said, "and hopefully it's an exciting day. It gives me an insight into things that I take for

granted. One day a woman called and complained that Grand Union was out of paper bags. The Supervisor for a Day asked why I dealt with calls like that. Sometimes people think the supervisor can solve everything, and while I can't replace the bags at the store, I can call and ask about them. I'm a public servant, and I'm here to help."

Fuller called the BOU auction a good community event, and is especially gratified by youth involvement in it.

For BOU Director Phyllis Hillinger, the auction offers things money can't buy. "There's a great sense of fellowship," she said. "You see people you know, and because it has children's activities, whole families can go. There are great desserts and great things to buy, like the multi-course dinners the BOU board cooks and delivers, weekends away, SAT review courses and a day with the county executive."

BOU began 15 years ago. "We do mostly funding," said BOU member Debbie Kopp. "We accept grant applications for things that give kids alternative activities to drinking and help promote self-esteem."

Although traditionally associated with middle and high school programs, BOU also funded Clarksville Elementary School's "Show of Love" and Elsmere Elementary's Buddy Program, which pairs students with staff members. They've also funded Communication Lab workshops for parents, and a "Slim Goodbody" presentation at the Early Learning Center.

This year's auction is scheduled for March 19 at Bethlehem Central High School on Delaware Avenue. Bucket and silent auctions will kick off the event at 7 p.m.

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Banish the winter blues at the BOU Auction

Are you suffering from the winter doldrums? Do you require a big dose of spring? There's a remedy for this problem.

Run, don't walk, to the BOU Auction on Friday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at Bethlehem Central High School. Simply by entering the high school gymnasium and taking in the colorful decorations and lovely centerpieces, you will find many of the joys of spring

Bask in the glow of the warm community spirit. Enjoy each breath of fresh air as you share smiling, sunshiny faces. Come early and stay late. Invite the neighbors. Enjoy fabulous desserts. Experience the joy of giving. Feel the warm inner glow you'll get from helping this very worthy cause. Bid on extraordinary items. Help the youth of our community.

It's easy. It's fun. It will make the birds sing for you. You'll feel better. The BOU Auction will chase those winter doldrums right out the door! Mark your calendar right now — BOU Auction, Friday, March 19, 7 p.m. at BCHS. There, don't you feel better already?



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Jennifer and Daniel Byrnes

McDermott, Byrnes marry

Jennifer Colleen McDermott, daughter of William and Patricia McDermott of Glenmont, and Daniel Michael Byrnes, son of Richard and Joan Byrnes of Guilderland, were married Aug. 1.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. James Walsh at the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar. A reception followed at Franklin Plaza in Troy.

The maid of honor was Erin McDermott, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Kathleen McDermott and Megan McDermott, both sisters of the bride, Nora Bell, Jennifer Schaefer and Jennifer Meyette. The junior bridesmaids were Sarina and Catriona Fiero, both nieces of the

groom.

The best man was Robert Giombetti. Ushers were Timothy McDermott and Sean McDermott, both brothers of the bride, and William Muller.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Nazareth College. She has a master's from The College of Saint Rose and is a special education teacher in the Niskayuna School District.

The groom is a graduate of Guilderland High School and the University of Colorado. He is president of Fort Orange Capital Management Corp. in Albany.

After a wedding trip to Hawaii, the couple lives in Albany.

Births

Out of town

Girl, Sarah Nicole Richter, to Elizabeth and Craig Richter of Huntington Bay, Suffolk County, Feb. 20. Paternal grandparents are David and Elaine Richter of Delmar.

Dean's List

Bryant & Stratton Business Institute — Jody Zabel of Delmar, Staci Catellier of Feura Bush and Catherine Kaufman of Glenmont.

The College of Saint Rose — Dawn Appleby, Lisa LaFountain, April Pisciotta and Barbara Riedel, all of Delmar; Katie Seaburg and Kenneth VanDyke Jr., both of Feura Bush; Emily Bourguignon, Celia Doherty and Christian Grieco, all of Glenmont; and Suzanne Hartmann, Christine Helinski and Kelly Tracy, all of Voorheesville.

Dean College — Katie O'Brien of Glenmont.

Georgetown University — Alexander Ruthman and Morgan Ruthman, both of Slingerlands.

Georgia Tech — Trafton Drew of Delmar.

Providence College — Kimberly Ira and Mark Svare, both of Delmar; and Nathaniel Sajdak and Meghann Combes, both of Selkirk.

Sage Junior College of Albany — Kristin Hook of Glenmont.

Syracuse University — Andrea Myers of Selkirk and Carrie Bolduc, Jill Foster and Moira Hughes, all of Delmar.

University of Rochester — Leigh Alexander of Delmar.

Wake Forest University — Timothy Kavanagh of Delmar.



Jeffrey Roberts and Kristen Jahnke

Jahnke, Roberts to wed

Kristen Jahnke, daughter of Jeffrey and Karen Jahnke of Juneau, Alaska, and Daniel Roberts, son of Donald and Emily Roberts of Delmar, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Montana. She is a junior editor at the *Daily Inter*

Lake in Kalispell, Mont.

The future groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and the University at Albany. He is a reporter at the *Whitefish Pilot* in Whitefish, Mont.

The couple plans a July wedding.

Pickett, Shear engaged

Deana Pickett, daughter of Dana and Diane Pickett of Greenville, and Joseph Shear, son of James Shear of Burnt Hills and Susan Shear of Colonie, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Senior High School.

She is a legal secretary for Maxwell & Van Ryn in Delmar.

The future groom is a graduate of Clayton A. Bouton High School in Voorheesville.

He owns Northeastern Masonry & Chimney in Feura Bush.

The couple plans a June 5 wedding.

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.

Class of '98

University at Albany — Kevin Rice (bachelor's in psychology, summa cum laude).

University of Delaware — William Kernick III of Delmar (doctor of philosophy.)

Recycle this newspaper

Community



Lab School hosts Brooks Bar-B-Cue

Bethlehem Central Lab School Program Scholarship Fund will benefit from a Brooks Bar-B-Cue on Saturday, March 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the high school cafeteria. Dinner will include a half chicken (or a quarter chicken for children), baked potato, coleslaw, roll and butter, dessert and beverage. Takeout or eat-in service will be available.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6.50 for children, with ala carte chicken, \$5. They can be obtained from any Lab School student or by calling 439-3850. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

Here's to a Wonderful Wedding!



INVITATIONS

Paper Mill Delaware Plaza. 439-8123
Personalized invitations & announcements for weddings, showers, bar mitzvah, new baby, graduation.

JEWELRY

Harold Finkle, "Your Jeweler" 1585 Central Ave., Colonie. 456-6800. Diamonds - Handcrafted Wedding Rings & Attendant's Gifts.

LIMOUSINE

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Some rest.

Obituaries

Curt Unverhau

Curt Unverhau, 78, of Voorheesville died Friday, March 5, at his daughter's home in Voorheesville.

Born in Germany, he was a resident of West Berne before moving to Voorheesville.

Mr. Unverhau owned and operated a dairy farm and worked for the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District as a bus driver.

He was a communicant of St. Bernadette's Church in Berne. He was an avid fisherman.

Survivors include his wife, Frances Hesner Unverhau; three daughters, Helen Herchenroder of Voorheesville and Carolyn Sand and Janice Miller, both of Ravena; two brothers, Fred Unverhau of Florida and Walter G. Unverhau of Colonie; and two grandchildren.

Services will be today, at 10 a.m. from St. Bernadette's Church.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Berne.

Arrangements were by the Fredendall Funeral Home in Altamont.

Contributions may be made to Community Hospice of Albany County, 315 S. Manning Blvd., Albany 12208.

Charles H. Klein

Charles H. Klein, 88, died Sat-

urday, March 6, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born and educated in Albany, he was a salesman for the former Don Allen Car Dealership, Marsh Hallman Chevrolet and DeNooyer Chevrolet.

Mr. Klein was an Army veteran of World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Helen Uttenhove Klein; and a sister, Anna Kuhl of Delmar.

Services are scheduled today at 8:45 a.m. from the Daniel Keenan Funeral Home, 490 Delaware Ave., Albany and the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle at 9:30 a.m.

Burial will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Colonie.

Nancy A. Johnson

Nancy A. Johnson, 73, of Delmar died Sunday, March 7, at her daughter's home in Gardiner, Maine.

Born in Amsterdam, she was a graduate of Amsterdam High School and Amsterdam School of Commerce.

She was a homemaker and a volunteer for the Helderberg Respite.

She was the widow of Joseph P. Salton.

Survivors include her husband,

Peter B. Johnson of Gardiner, Maine and formerly of Delmar; two daughters, Diane Davala of Gardiner, Maine, and Kathleen Anagnostis of Bernardsville, N.J.; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Services were from St. Joseph's Church in Gardiner.

Burial was in St. Casimir's Cemetery in Amsterdam.

Arrangements were by the Staples Funeral Home.

Contributions may be made to St. Joseph's Church, 1 Lincoln Ave., Gardiner, Maine 04345, the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, 35 Adams Place, Delmar 12054 or St. Casimir's Church, 260 E. Main St., Amsterdam 12010.

Donald E. Cass

Donald E. Cass, 74, of Delaware Avenue in Clarksville died Friday, March 5, at Our Lady of Mercy Life Center in Gunderland.

Born in Cobleskill, he was a longtime resident of Clarksville.

He was a Marine Corps veteran of World War II.

Mr. Cass was a member of the operating Engineers Local 106 until he retired in 1990.

He was a member of the Marine Corps League, the Nathaniel A. Blanchard American Legion Post in Delmar and Clarksville Community Church.

He was husband of the late Thelma Conrad Cass.

Survivors include a daughter, Deborah J. Bauer of Lakeland, Fla.; two sons, William J. Cass of Voorheesville and Donald E. Cass Jr. of Clarksville; two sisters, Tryllis Filkins of Schenectady and Karen Hammes of Clarksville; and four grandchildren.

Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. today at Clarksville Community Church.

Spring burial will be in Onesquethaw Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Reilly & Son Funeral Home in Voorheesville.

Contributions may be made to Clarksville Community Church, Delaware Turnpike, Clarksville 12041.

Eleanor Pett Bogart

Eleanor Pett Bogart, 85, of Delmar died Saturday, March 6, at Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Delmar.

She was a graduate of Albany High School.

She was a secretary for the Pentagon in Washington. She returned to the Capital District in the 1960s and was a clerk for the state Department of Taxation & Finance.

She was a former member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Dutch Settlers Society and the New York State Federation of Women's Republican Clubs. She was a member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

Services were from St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

Burial was in St. Matthew Lutheran Cemetery in Glenmont.

Arrangements were by the Norman E. Dascher Funeral Home in Albany.

Contributions may be made to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 75 Whitehall Road, Albany 12209.

John J. Bastolla

John J. Bastolla, 55, of Selkirk died Saturday, March 6, at St. Peter's Hospital.

Mr. Bastolla was a Postal Service worker for 16 years.

He was an Air Force veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Jean Martin Bastolla; a son John Bastolla III of Ballston Spa; three daughters, Jennifer Robarge of Mechanicville, Julie Doten of Saratoga Springs and Nicole Jordan of South Carolina; his father, John Bastolla of Queens; a sister, Jean Freitag of Farmingdale, Nassau County; and a grandchild.

Services were from St. Patrick's Church in Ravena.

Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Glenmont.

Arrangements were by the Applebee 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 Albany County

Unit, 1450 Western Ave., Albany 12203.

Leo Appleby

Leo Appleby, 87, of Coeymans Hollow died Thursday, March 4, at his home.

Born in Clarksville, he was a self-employed farmer for many years.

Mr. Appleby was a former state deputy of the New York State Grange and a former member of the Clarksville Grange. He was also a former member of the board of education of the former Union Free School District and a member of Onesquethaw Reformed Church.

He was the husband of the late Esther Sutton Appleby.

Survivors include three daughters, Lorraine Felter of Coeymans Hollow, Lois Acquino of Rosedale, Ind., and Donna Sullivan of Cheektowaga, Erie County; three sisters, Elena Ross of Capitola, Calif., Rita Stott of East Greenbush and Pauline Zupan of Selkirk; 16 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Spring burial will be in Onesquethaw Cemetery.

Services were from the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar.

Contributions may be made to the Onesquethaw Reformed Church Endowment Fund or Camp Fowler Scholarship, 11 Groesbeck Road, Feura Bush 12067.

James Grasska

James Grasska, 61, of Delmar died Tuesday, March 2, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born on Long Island, Mr. Grasska was involved in a clerical work program for the Center for the Disabled in Albany.

Survivors include a brother, John Grasska of California.

Services were from the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar.

Arrangements were by the Tebbutt Funeral Home in Albany.

Spring burial will be in St. Francis de Sales Cemetery in Elka Park.

Ralph S. Pearse

Ralph S. Pearse, 82, of Hickory Drive in North Bethlehem died Monday, March 1, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born in Colonie, he was a former resident of Arlington, Va., and Middlebury, Vt.

He was a graduate of Union College in Schenectady.

Mr. Pearse was a civil engineer for the federal government Geo Survey Air Force and the CIA before he retired.

He was a member of Delmar Presbyterian Church.

Services were private.

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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.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Family ENTERTAINMENT

CALENDARS

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

Winter may have dealt us one more glancing blow last weekend, but it's on its last legs, for sure. One of the most certain signs of that is the Capital District Garden and Flower Show, the area's surest harbinger that spring is around the corner.

The 12th annual benefit for Wildwood Programs/Learning Disabilities Association — which provides programs and services in a 13-county area for people with neurological disorders — has become more than just a fundraiser, it's become a destination. The American Bus Association, an industry group representing motorcoach tour and charter operators, designated the show as one of its Top 100 Events in North America for the year.

The show, set for Hudson Valley Community College's Physical Education Complex this weekend, brings together landscape designers, floral arrangers, garden clubs and other related vendors to show off their spring best. It's a star, a technicolor feast for the eyes.

So what better way to take note of that than to give the event some Hollywood glamour?

"Garden Classics" is this year's theme. "Our exhibitors are picking up on the theme, as well as participants in our floral design competition," says Brenda Ladd, coordinator of this year's show. Inspired by the much-talked-about release this year of the American Film Institute's list of the 100 Greatest Films of All Time, each of the 15 landscape exhibitors has selected a classic film and set out to evoke it in their lush designs.

The Capital District African Violet Society, for instance, selected *Out of Africa* as its celluloid inspiration. And who better than the Pauline Muth Bonsai Nursery of West Charlton to tackle *Teahouse of the August Moon*?

One can easily picture a bountiful crop of hydrangeas and other tropical flora in Telaflora's *South Pacific*-themed display. Landscape Arts of Malta has taken on *The Wizard of Oz*; think acres of poppies.

But just how does *Raiders of the Lost Ark* translate into a garden display? If you have a jones for cascading water in a deep-forest rock garden, Water Garden of Latham's landscaping display should provide plenty of thrills. FTD of Broadalbin will have a playful good time putting a floral spin on *Winnie The Pooh*. And R & K Nursery of Clifton Park has stepped up to the challenge by picking *Purple Rain* as their princely attraction.

"What you're going to see is purple flowers in all shades and sizes," says Ladd.

From *The Jungle Book* to *Babes in Toyland* to *Dr. Zhivago*, the displays will certainly have cinematic flair. But they're not exactly something you can reproduce in your backyard.



It's not just flowers as the landscape artists at the Capital District Garden and Flower Show work their magic in stone and water as well. Here, a vision from last year's show.

A Breath of Spring

Annual Garden & Flower Show goes Hollywood

"Our landscapers are really able to have a lot of fun and be creative," says Ladd. "But the landscapers are not doing normal landscape designs that a customer might want to imitate. Still, it certainly does show their ability to do great work." And each exhibitor will have staff on hand to help home-hobbyists talk about creating a garden fit for a home movie.

The floral-design competition, involving both professionals and dedicated amateurs like garden clubs, will likewise echo the silver-screen theme, taking visitors on a floral tour of Marilyn Monroe's dressing room or for an elegant dinner with the stars in petals and blooms.

Throughout the weekend, there will be hourly lectures, planned and coordinated by Cooperative Extension and loaded with question-and-answer time, offering tips on everything from culinary herb gardening to backyard birds to how to tend your day lilies.

More than 140 exhibitors will have tools and plants, displays on backyard furniture, garden ornaments and resources for the home landscaper. If you can't get enough in one visit, the show is offering for the first time a special weekend pass price.

There'll be plenty of entertainment: string quartets and strolling musicians, a play-land for the kids, and a gala garden party on Saturday from 7 to 11 p.m. with the

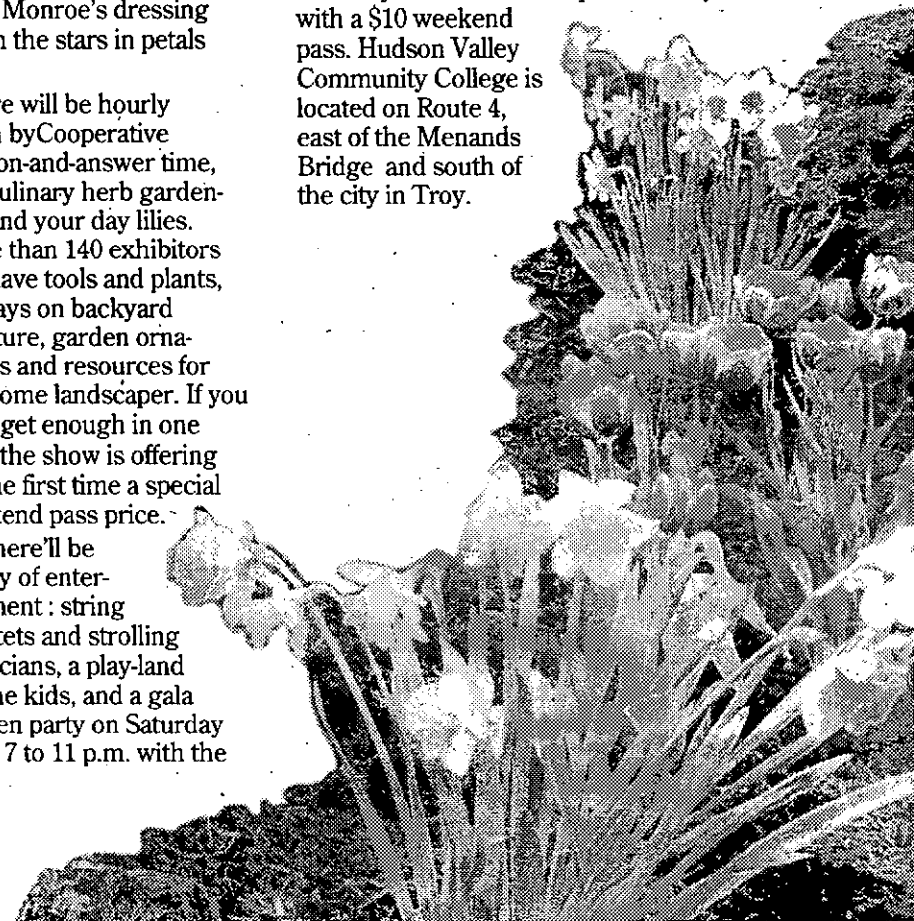
Teresa Broadwell quartet, "Thrivin' On a Riff," providing entertainment for a black-tie crowd.

More than 16,000 visitors are expected for the four-day affair, but with more than 60,000 square feet of display space at the HVCC complex, it won't seem like a crowd. And to negotiate the parking lots, clang, clang, clang will go the Albany trolley on Saturday and Sunday.

It's lights, camera, action this weekend, from 4-9 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$7 with a \$10 weekend pass. Hudson Valley Community College is located on Route 4, east of the Menands Bridge and south of the city in Troy.



Winter shut-ins can stroll through the garden displays at the HVCC Phys Ed complex for a preview of more temperate seasons to come.



ARTS and ENTERTAINMENT

THEATER

THE MALE INTELLECT: AN OXYMORON

one-man comedy, Capital Rep., 111 N. Pearl St. Albany, through March 21, \$10-\$35. Information, 445-7469.

PYGMALION

Shaw play that inspired "My Fair Lady," New York State Theatre Institute, Schacht Performing Arts Center, Russell Sage College, Troy, March 11 to 27, \$17, \$14 seniors, \$8 children under 13. Information, 274-3256.

MACK AND MABEL

musical about silent movies, Schenectady Light Opera Co., 826 State St., March 11 to 14, \$16, \$8 for children under 14. Information, 377-5101.

THE POPE AND THE WITCH

satire by Dario Fo, Albany Civic Theatre, 235 Second Ave., March 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 8 p.m., March 14 and 21 at 3 p.m., March 13 and 20 at 4 p.m., \$12. Information, 462-1297.

ALICE IN IRELAND

by Alice Sheehan, Siena College theater group, Foy Campus Center Theater, Route 9, Loudonville, March 11, 12 and 13, 8 p.m., \$10, \$8 for seniors and students. Information, 783-2527.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Steamer No. 10 Theatre production, 500 Western Ave., Albany, March 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 and 28 at 2 p.m., April 19 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., \$10, \$8 for children and seniors. Information, 438-5503.

MOLLY SWEENEY

by Brian Friel, presented by D&M Productions, Steamer No. 10 Theatre, 500 Western Ave., Albany, March 19, 20, 26 and 27, 8 p.m., \$10. Information, 438-5503.

BEEHIVE

1960s girl-group musical, Proctor's Theatre, State Street, Schenectady, March 13, 8 p.m., \$29.50-\$34.50. Information, 346-6204.

CHICAGO

award-winning musical, Proctor's Theatre, State Street, Schenectady, March 17 and 19 at 8 p.m., March 18 and 20 at 2 and 8 p.m., March 21 at 2 and 7 p.m., \$42.50-\$49.50. Information, 346-6204.

MUSIC

HEATHER MACRAE

performing "Songs of My Father," The Egg at Empire State Plaza, Albany, March 12, 8 p.m., \$18, \$16 for seniors and children under 13. Information, 473-1845.

BORROMEO STRING QUARTET

all-Beethoven program, Memorial Chapel of Union College, Schenectady, March 12, 8 p.m., \$15, \$7 students. Information, 372-3651.

ALBANY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

performing American orchestral music by Gillis, Ince, Harbison and Copland, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, State and Second streets, March 13, 8 p.m., \$14-\$33. Information, 273-0038.

MICHAEL JERLING

songwriter, folk singer, Steamer No. 10 Theatre, 500 Western Ave., Albany, March 13, 8 p.m., \$10, \$8 for children and seniors. Information, 438-5503.

SCHENECTADY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

featuring violinist Michael Emery performing the Violin Concerto of William Walton, also overture to Wagner's "Tannhauser" and Brahms' Symphony No. 4, Proctor's Theatre, State Street, Schenectady, March 14, 3 p.m., \$15, \$7 for college and high school students, younger children free when accompanied by adult. Information, 346-6204.

JURY'S IRISH CABARET

song, dance and comedy, Palace Theatre, Clinton Avenue and North Pearl Street, March 17, 8 p.m., \$29.50. Information, 465-4663.

DANCE

THE RENAISSANCE BALLET

Russian dance troupe of teenage girls, Albany Academy for Girls, Academy Road, Albany, March 13, 7 p.m., sponsored by David's Tabernacle Christian Arts Ministry, \$15. Information, 459-3152.

FAMILY FUN

CIRQUE INGENIEUX

unique circus entertainment, Proctor's Theatre, State Street, Schenectady, March 12, 7 p.m., \$26.50-\$29.50. Information, 346-6204.

ALL ABOUT KIDS SHOW

wide variety of children's entertainment, Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany, March 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., March 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$6, \$3 for children 2 to 16 years old. Information, 462-9433.

YO PETER! YO WOLFI

with Albany Symphony Orchestra players, Palace Theatre, Clinton Avenue and North Pearl Street, March 18, 10 a.m., \$2. Information, 465-4755.

VISUAL ARTS

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

Pop Art: Selections from the Museum of Modern Art, through May 2; stoneware and antique furniture exhibits; plus permanent collections, Empire State Plaza, Madison Avenue. Information, 474-5877.

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY AND ART

200 Years of Collecting, through May 30, Shining Objects from Our Past, silver from the Institute Collection, through May 30, The Iconography of George Washington, through May 30, 125 Washington Ave. Information, 463-4478.

SCHENECTADY MUSEUM

Recent Acquisitions, through March 15, Designer Crafts Council Members Show, through May 2, plus permanent exhibits, Nott Terrace Heights. Information, 449-4756.

ALBANY CENTER GALLERIES

Sculptors Choose Sculptors, through April 16, 23 Monroe St. Information, 462-4775.

ETCHINGS ON BIBLICAL THEMES

by Joan Bohlrig, Visions Gallery, 40 N. Main St., Albany, through May 3, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. Information, 453-6600.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

AUDITION

for Bootstrap Players productions this summer of "The Tempest" and "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," March 20 and 21 at Zuzu's Wonderful Life, 301 Hamilton St., Albany. Information, 463-7079.

DELMAR COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

openings in the string, horn and percussion sections. Information, 439-1603.

COLONIE TOWN BAND

openings for percussion, tuba and bassoon players, rehearsals on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at town hall, Route 9, Newtonville. Information, 356-4331.

COLONIE CENTENNIAL BRASS CHOIR

openings for trumpet players, rehearsals on first Wednesday and third Tuesday of the month, at 7:15 p.m., town hall, Route 9, Newtonville. Information, 384-1924.

AUDITION

for Capitol Hill Choral Society for the 1997-98 season. All voice parts. Information, 465-3328 or 374-4399.

MONDAY MUSICAL CLUB WOMEN'S CHORUS

invitation for new members to join in singing classical and popular songs, Third Reformed Church, 20 Ten Eyck Ave., Albany, Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Information, 477-4454.

CAPITAL COMMUNITY VOICES

singers needed, rehearsals at Columbia High School, 7 to 9 p.m., Tuesdays. Information, 477-8308.

Area FREEBIES

Thursday, March 11

■ Poet/novelist Leslie Scalapino reads from her work, Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center, University at Albany, 8 p.m. Information, 442-5620.

Friday, March 12

■ Discussion of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "Tender Is the Night," Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 10:15 a.m. Information, 439-9661.

■ "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man," film by Joseph Strick, Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., Albany, 7:30 p.m. Information, 442-5620.

■ Sitar player Veena Chandra, Borders Books & Music, 59 Wolf Road, Colonie, 8 p.m. Information, 482-5800.

Saturday, March 13

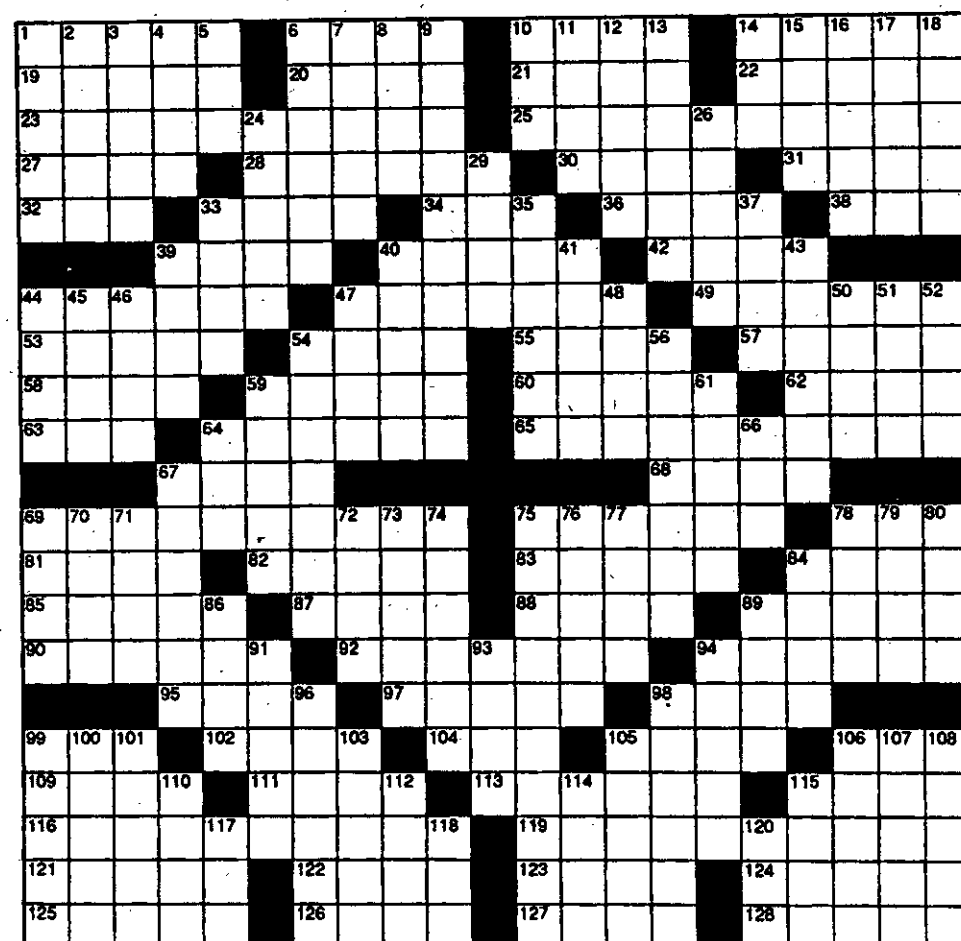
■ Amy Collins, contemporary and traditional Celtic music, Borders Books & Music, 59 Wolf Road, Colonie, 8 p.m. Information, 482-5800.

Sunday, March 14

■ Monday Musical Club concert, with Janet Stasio, Judith Swota, Karen Ranung, Mary Moran, Joann Rautenberg, Michael Clement, Gordon Hibberd and Andrew Pollock, Siena College Chapel, Route 9, Loudonville, 2 p.m. Information, 436-4979.

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| ACROSS | couturier | Moreno | 125 Outbuilding | (1976 movie) | model |
| 1 Author of "The Divine Comedy" | 44 Money, in Mexico | 88 Gal. Fri.? | 127 Dweeb's pal | 37 District of London | 77 Reddish-brown color |
| 6 Indecent talk | 47 Organized | 89 Elmore Leonard novel | 128 Cara of "Fame" | 39 Classic cars | 78 Peter, Paul and Mary, e.g. |
| 10 Playwright Connelly | 49 He wrote "Berlin Diary" | 90 Glossy fabric | DOWN | 40 Packing case | 79 River Islands |
| 14 Gruel of maize meal | 53 Word before suit or shop | 92 Young hare | 1 Yield with courtesy | 41 Eagle's home | 80 Bewilder |
| 19 Part of T.S.E. | 54 Sketch | 94 Peace of mind | 2 Bird's "thumb" | 43 Competitors | 84 Held's home |
| 20 "To — His Dulcinea" | 55 Epochal | 95 Plod | 3 Willy follower | 44 Frank Herbert novel | 86 Pound heavily |
| 21 Inland sea of Asia | 57 — Culp Hobby | 97 Splinter groups | 4 Weight of India | 45 Privy to | 89 Hackman of Hollywood |
| 22 Jeopardy | 58 Dozes off | 98 Calli-grapher's supply | 5 Catchall abbr. | 46 Nest of pheasants | 91 "— Rae" |
| 23 Novel by Danielle Steel | 59 Lariat | 99 Fri. follower | 6 Mexican blanket | 47 Evangelist Roberts | 93 Habitat plant form |
| 25 Shirley MacLaine opus | 60 Made public | 102 In good condition | 7 Twin crystal | 48 Mend socks | 94 Lease again |
| 27 Logan or Fitzgerald | 62 Nipa palm | 104 Adage | 8 Cal. campus | 50 Plexus | 96 San Francisco team |
| 28 Spanish seaport | 63 Chemical suffix | 105 Enamored | 9 Book by Studs Terkel | 51 French state | 98 James Michener novel |
| 30 High tableland | 64 Of greater height | 106 Arles | 10 Chinese leader | 52 Engrossed | 99 Hindu guitar |
| 31 Gray wolf | 65 He wrote "On Wings of Eagles" | 109 Caesar's fatal date | 11 Jack-in-the-pulpit, for one | 54 Distribute the mail | 100 Worship |
| 32 Actor/dancer Bolger | 67 Desert in Asia | 111 Bar or house follower | 12 Appraises | 56 Radical or liberal | 101 Arizona city |
| 33 It might be red | 68 "On Your —" (musical) | 113 Easy to manage | 13 Sign in shop window | 59 Fanatical in opinions | 103 Hebrew prophet |
| 34 Goddess of harvests | 69 She created Heidi | 115 Soccer great | 14 Psych. org. | 61 "Lorna —" | 105 Detroit player |
| 36 Weights of India | 70 Rachel Carson's "Silent —" | 116 Belonging to the author of "Red Storm Rising" | 15 Swiss archer | 64 High, craggy hill | 106 French security |
| 38 Women's org. | 71 Little boy | 119 Book by John Naisbitt | 16 Celestial hunter | 66 Stage of a journey | 107 Priscilla's husband |
| 39 John O'Hara's "A — to Live" | 72 Actor Ray | 121 Hungarian national hero | 17 West Indies dance | 67 Folklore creatures | 108 Middle, in law |
| 40 Spain's — del Sol | 73 The — and Daniel Webster | 122 Source of the Blue Nile | 18 It's before grease or room | 69 Pokes | 110 Atlantic fish |
| 42 Noted | 74 House or field follower | 123 "East of —" | 24 Adult insect stage | 70 Spicy stew | 112 Unit of force |
| | 75 Diva's forte | 124 Made of cereal grass | 26 One of the nostrils | 71 Access to a mine | 114 Yield |
| | 76 Zeppelin's cousin | 125 Donna and Robert | 29 Church part | 72 Wicked | 115 Pome fruit |
| | | | 33 Mountain lake | 73 Religious ceremonies | 117 Brit. nobleman |
| | | | 35 "Silver —" | 74 Drudges | 118 "The Ballad of the — Cafe" |
| | | | | 75 Judy Blume novel | 120 French king |
| | | | | 76 Works as a | |



The Spotlight CALENDAR

MARCH

10

BETHLEHEM

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
Parks and Recreation Office,
Elm Avenue Park, 2 to 4:30 p.m.
Information, 439-0503.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Bethlehem Preschool, 397 Route
9W, Glenmont, 4-6 p.m.
Information 463-8091.

**COMMUNICATION WORK-
SHOP**

Skills for parents to communi-
cate effectively with their
children; Bethlehem Middle
School Library Media Center,
Kenwood Ave., Delmar, 7 to 9
p.m.

**ACADEMY OF THE HOLY
NAMES**

Open house for grades 9-12,
Upper School, 1065-1075 New
Scotland Road, Albany, 7 p.m.,
info 438-7895.

SOLID ROCK CHURCH
evening prayer and Bible study,
7 p.m., 1 Kenwood Ave.
Information, 439-4314.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lenten Communion service,
7:30 p.m. 85 Elm Ave., Delmar.
Information, 439-4328.

TOWN BOARD
town hall, 445 Delaware Ave.,
7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

TALK & SLIDE PROGRAM
History of the Hudson River
steamboats with James Wilson
Tinney, sponsored by Delmar
Progress Club, Bethlehem Public
Library, 451 Delaware Ave.,
Delmar, 7:30 p.m. Information,
439-9314 or 439-9440.

BETHLEHEM TOASTMASTERS

The Clubhouse, Adams Station
Apts., 1 Juniper Drive, Delmar,
7:30 p.m. Information, 439-0871.

BINGO

Blanchard American Legion
Post, 16 Poplar Drive, 7:30 p.m.
Information, 439-9819.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 58

Elsmere Elementary School, 247
Delaware Ave., 7:30 to 9 p.m.

RED MEN

St. Stephen's Church, Elsmere,
7:30 p.m. Information, 439-3265.

**DELMAR FIRE DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS**

firehouse, Adams Place, 7:30
p.m. Information, 439-3851.

TESTIMONY MEETING

First Church of Christ, Scientist,
555 Delaware Ave., 8 p.m.
Information, 439-2512.

NEW SCOTLAND

**MOUNTAINVIEW EVANGELICAL
FREE CHURCH**

evening service, Bible study and
prayer, Route 155, 7:30 p.m.
Information, 765-3390.

FAITH TEMPLE

Bible study, New Salem, 7:30
p.m. Information, 765-2870.

**NEW SCOTLAND SENIOR
CITIZENS**

Wyman Osterhout Community
Center, New Salem, call for
time. Information, 765-2109.

AA MEETING

First Methodist Church of
Voorheesville, 68 Maple St., 8
p.m. Information, 489-6779.

AL-ANON MEETING

First United Methodist Church of
Voorheesville, 68 Maple St., 8
p.m. Information, 489-6779.

THURSDAY
MARCH

11

BETHLEHEM

**BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

women's Bible study, 9:30 to
11:15 a.m. in a local home,
children's program and nursery
provided for morning session,
201 Elm Ave. Information, 439-
3135.

RECOVERY, INC.

self-help for chronic nervous
symptoms, First United Methodist
Church, 428 Kenwood Ave., 10
a.m. Information, 439-9976.

BETHLEHEM SENIOR CITIZENS

town hall, 445 Delaware Ave.,
12:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Parks and Recreation Office,
Elm Avenue Park, 2 to 4:30 p.m.
Information, 439-0503.

HOMEWORK HELP CENTER

Bethlehem Public Library, 451
Delaware Ave., 6 to 8 p.m. p.m.
Information, 439-0503.

CHP DELMAR HEALTH CENTER

open house, 250 Delaware
Ave., 6 and 8 p.m. Information,
783-1864.

BETHLEHEM ART ASSOCIATION

Bethlehem Public Library, 451
Delaware Ave., 6:45 p.m. p.m.
Information, 439-7387.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Church of St. Thomas the
Apostle, 35 Adams Place, 7 p.m.
Information, 439-7387.

**DELMAR FIRE DEPARTMENT
LADIES AUXILIARY**

firehouse, Adams Place, 7:30
p.m.

Spotlight on Dining



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St. Patrick's Day Special
Split Pea Soup
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Serving: 11:30 AM - 10:00 PM
Mon 3/15 - Wed 3/17
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\$6.95

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French Fries & Cole Slaw Served 12-9 p.m.

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DAY



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readers
of the three
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For only
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your ad in this space
would reach over
20,000 readers
of
The Spotlight
(*4 Week Minimum)

LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISING FOR SUNMARK FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC.

Articles or Organization for a New York LLC, to wit, Communications to Go, LLC, whose office is located in Albany County, were filed with the New York State Department of State on December 29, 1998, the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against it served upon him or her is: Communications to Go, LLC, c/o Jeffrey Aussicker, 28 Spice Mill Boulevard, Clifton Park, New York 12065. The purpose of this LLC is to engage in any lawful activity to which the LLC may be organized under the LLC of New York State.

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY

OF VATICAN ENTERTAINMENT LLC

Under Section 802 of the Limited Liability Company Law

FIRST: The name of the limited liability company is Vatican Entertainment LLC.

SECOND: The jurisdiction of organization of the limited liability company is the State of Delaware. The date of its organization is February 2, 1999.

THIRD: The county within this state in which the office of the limited liability company is to be located is Albany.

FOURTH: The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address within this state to which the secretary of state shall mail a copy of any process served against him or her is 3 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, New York 12110.

FIFTH: The address of the limited liability company required to be maintained in the State of Delaware is 9 East Lookerman Street, Dover, Delaware.

SIXTH: The limited liability company is in existence in the State of Delaware.

SEVENTH: The Articles of Organization of the limited liability company have been filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware who has an address of 401 Federal Street, Suite 4, Dover, Delaware 19901.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this certificate has been subscribed this 11th day of February, 1999, by the undersigned who affirms that the statements made herein are true under the penalties of perjury.

Richard A. Langer, Attorney-in-Fact
March 10, 1999

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY

OF MICROWARE DISTRIBUTING LLC

Under Section 802 of the Limited Liability Company Law

FIRST: The name of the limited liability company is Microware Distributing LLC.

SECOND: The jurisdiction of organization of the limited liability company is the State of Delaware. The date of its organization is February 2, 1999.

THIRD: The county within this state in which the office of the limited liability company is to be located is Albany.

FOURTH: The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address within this state to which the secretary of state shall mail a copy of any process served against him or her is 3 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, New York

LEGAL NOTICE

12110.

FIFTH: The address of the limited liability company required to be maintained in the State of Delaware is 9 Lookerman Street, Dover, Delaware.

SEVENTH: The articles of organization of the limited liability company have been filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware who has an address of 401 Federal Street, Suite 4, Dover, Delaware 19901.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this certificate has been subscribed this 11th day of February, 1999, by the undersigned who affirms that the statements made herein are true under the penalties of perjury.

Richard A. Langer, Attorney-in-Fact
March 10, 1999

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY

OF VISIONPLAY LLC

Under Section 802 of the Limited Liability Company Law

FIRST: The name of the limited liability company is VisionPlay LLC.

SECOND: The jurisdiction of organization of the limited liability company is the State of Delaware. The date of its organization is February 2, 1999.

THIRD: The county within this state in which the office of the limited liability company is to be located is Albany.

FOURTH: The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address within this state to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process served against him or her is 3 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, New York 12110.

FIFTH: The address of the limited liability company required to be maintained in the State of Delaware is 9 Lookerman Street, Dover, Delaware.

SIXTH: The limited liability company is in existence in the State of Delaware.

SEVENTH: The articles of organization of the limited liability company have been filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware who has an address of 401 Federal Street, Suite 4, Dover, Delaware 19901.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this certificate has been subscribed this 11th day of February, 1999, by the undersigned who affirms that the statements made herein are true under the penalties of perjury.

Richard A. Langer, Attorney-in-Fact
March 10, 1999

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF THE MELLER FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP UNDER SECTION 121-902 OF THE REVISED LIMITED PARTNERSHIP ACT

1. The name of the foreign limited partnership is The Meller Family Limited Partnership.

2. The fictitious name the Partnership will use in New York State is The K.R. Meller Family.

3. The Partnership was formed on December 8, 1998 under the laws of the State of Delaware.

4. The office of the Partnership will be located in the County of Albany, New York.

5. The Secretary of State is designated as its agent upon whom process against the Partnership may be served. The post office address within the state to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against it served upon the Secretary of State is: The K.R.

LEGAL NOTICE

Mellen Family Limited Partnership, c/o Kathryn R. Mellen, 37 Buckingham Drive, Albany, New York 12208.

6. The address of the principal office of the Partnership is 37 Buckingham Drive, Albany, New York 12208.

7. The name and business address of all general partners is Albany KRM CORP., 37 Buckingham Drive, Albany, New York 12208.

8. The Partnership is in existence in Delaware at the time of filing of this certificate of existence.

9. The name and address of the authorized officer in Delaware where a copy of its certificate of limited partnership is filed is Secretary of State, Townsend Building, P.O. Box 898, Dover, Delaware 19903.

The undersigned general partner has executed this application for authority on February 4, 1999 and affirms under penalties of perjury the truth of all the foregoing statements contained herein.

ALBANY KRM CORP.
By: s/ Susan L. Mellen, Secretary General Partner
March 10, 1999

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF ROSETTI HOLDING COMPANIES LLC

Under Section 203 of the Limited Liability Company Law

FIRST: The name of the limited liability company is: ROSETTI HOLDING COMPANIES LLC

SECOND: The county within the state in which the office of the limited liability company is to be located is Albany.

THIRD: The latest date on which the limited liability company is to dissolve is December 31, 2049.

FOURTH: The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address within or without this state to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the limited liability company served upon him or her is:

427 New Karner Road

LEGAL NOTICE

Albany, New York 12205

FIFTH: The effective date of the Articles of Organization shall be the date of filing with the Secretary of State.

SIXTH: The limited liability company is to be managed by one manager.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this certificate has been subscribed to this 17th day of February, 1999, by the undersigned who affirms that the statements made herein are true under penalties of perjury.

s/E.J. Vandergrift, Attorney in Fact
March 10, 1999

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF HFF CLOSING COMPANY LLC

Under Section 203 of the Limited Liability Company Law

FIRST: The name of the limited liability company is HFF Closing Company LLC.

SECOND: The county within the state in which the office of the limited liability company is to be located is Albany.

THIRD: the latest date on which the limited liability company is to dissolve is December 31, 2049.

FOURTH: The secretary of state is designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address within or without this state to which the secretary of state shall mail a copy of any process against the limited liability company served upon him or her is: 105 Old Niskayuna Road

Loudonville, New York 12211

FIFTH: The effective date of the Articles of Organization shall be the date of filing with the Secretary of State.

SIXTH: The limited liability company is to be managed by 1 or more members.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this certificate has been subscribed to 25th day of January, 1999, by the undersigned who affirms that the statements made herein are true under the penalties of perjury.

s/E.J. Vandergrift, Attorney in Fact
March 10, 1999

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF NINE DRAGONS CITY ASSOCIATES, LLC

LEGAL NOTICE

Under Section 203 of the Limited Liability Company Law

FIRST: The name of the Limited Liability Company is: NINE DRAGONS CITY ASSOCIATES, LLC

SECOND: The County within this State in which the principal office of the Limited Liability Company is to be located is Albany County.

THIRD: The limited Liability Company shall continue until the occurrence of an event set forth in the Operating Agreement which causes the termination of the Limited Liability Company.

FOURTH: The Limited Liability Company hereby designates the Secretary of State of New York as agent of the Limited Liability Company upon whom process against the Limited Liability Company may be served. The post office address of the limited liability company, to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Limited Liability Company served upon the Secretary of State, is: 120 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210.

FIFTH: The limited liability company is to be managed by one or more of its managers.

SIXTH: The business purposes of this limited liability company are to engage in any lawful activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the Limited Liability Company Law; provided, however, that the limited liability company is not formed to engage in any act or activity requiring the consent or approval of any state official, department, board, agency or other body without first obtaining the consent of such body.

SEVENTH: None of the Members of the Limited Liability Company are liable for payment of any debt, obligation or other liability of the Limited Liability Company.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this certificate has been subscribed this 7th day of January, 1999, by the undersigned who affirms that the statements made here are true under the penalties of perjury.

s/ Raymond Xu

Sole Organizer

LEGAL NOTICE

March 10, 1999

STATE OF NEW YORK

JSS:

COUNTY OF ALBANY

On this 7th day of January, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety Nine, before me the undersigned, a Notary public in and for said state, personally appeared RAYMOND XU Personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument, the individual, or the person on behalf of which the individual acted, executed the instrument.

s/ Patrick J. LaPorta
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 4962675

Qualified in Schenectady County

Commission expires Feb., 26, 2000.

March 10, 1999

**To Place
Your
Legal
Notice.
Jaimie.
Call
439-4940**

MAGIC MAZE

WORDS
ENDING IN
"EON"

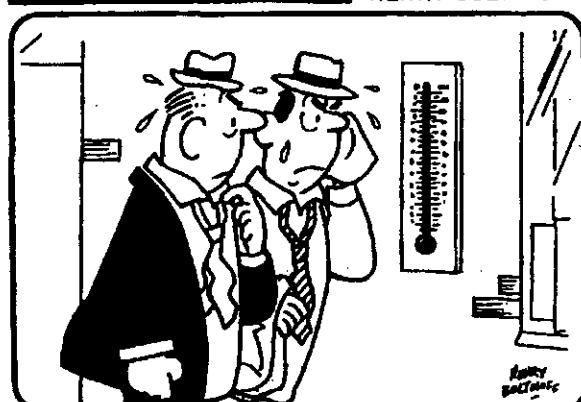
Z Q N K H D A X U R P M J G D
A X V S Q N K P I F D A X V T
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R M K I E H N E L L G G G N P
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E W C V T R P N Q A O U U I P
O U N L K A I H U G H B L T W
N O E G N U D F D L C C B A S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions-forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

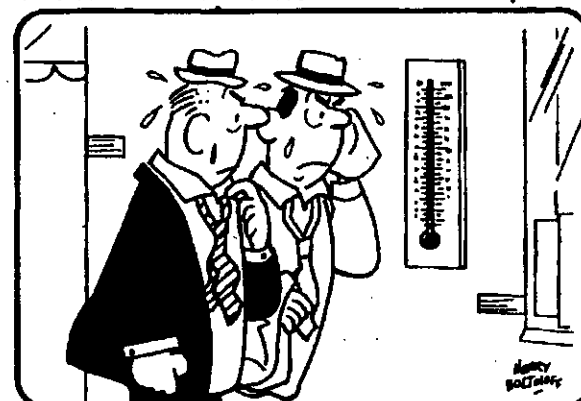
Bludgeon	Galleon	Nucleon	Sturgeon
Burgeon	Luncheon	Pantheon	Surgeon
Chameleon	Napoleon	Peon	Widgeon
Dungeon	Neon		

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Differences: 1. Droplet is added. 2. Tie are swapped. 3. Step is missing. 4. Buttons are added. 5. Temperature is higher. 6. Awning is different.

LEGAL NOTICE

CERTIFICATE OF LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

OF NW PARTNERS, L.P.
UNDER SECTION 121-201 OF THE REVISED LIMITED PARTNERSHIP ACT

1. The name of the limited partnership is "NW PARTNERS, L.P."

2. The county in which the office of the limited partnership is located is Albany County, New York.

3. The Secretary of State is hereby designated as agent of the limited partnership upon whom process against it may be served, and the office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the limited partnership served upon him is 582 New Loudon Road, Latham, New York 12110.

4. The names and business addresses of the general partners are:

Schuyler Development Co., LLC
c/o Schuyler Companies
582 New Loudon Road
Latham, New York 12110

5. The latest date upon which the limited partnership is to dissolve is January 1, 2098.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this Certificate of Limited Partnership on the 20th day of January, 1999, and verify and affirm under penal-

LEGAL NOTICE

ties of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct as of the date hereof.

CATSKILL PARTNERS, L.P.
BY: SCHUYLER DEVELOPMENT CO., LLC

By: s/ Kenneth B. Segel, Member

F981221000135

March 10, 1999

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF A DOMESTIC REGISTERED LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

of: Troidle & Delehanty, L.L.P.

under Section 121-1500 (a) of the New York State Partnership Law It is certified that:

1. The name of the registered limited liability partnership is: Troidle & Delehanty, L.L.P.

2. The address of the principal office of the partnership without limited partners is:

Troidle & Delehanty, L.L.P.
1484 Western Avenue
Albany, New York 12203

3. The partnership without limited partners practices the profession of Dentistry, each partner of which is a professional authorized by law and the New York State Education Department to render professional dental services within New York State. The partnership without limited partners is eligible to register as a registered limited liability partnership pursuant to Section 121-

LEGAL NOTICE

1500 (a) of the Revised Limited Partnership Act.

4. The Department of State is hereby designated as agent of the Partnership upon whom process against said Partnership may be served. The post office address within or without the State of New York to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Partnership served upon the Secretary of State is:

Troidle & Delehanty, L.L.P.

1484 Western Avenue

Albany, New York 12203

5. The Partnership without limited partners is filing this registration for status as a registered limited liability partnership.

6. The registration of the partnership without limited partners is to be effective at the time of filing.

7. All partners of the Partnership are to be liable in their capacity as partners for all or specified debts, obligations or liabilities of the registered limited liability partnership as authorized pursuant to Section 26(d) of the New York Partnership Law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this Limited Liability Partnership Registration of Troidle & Delehanty, L.L.P. this 10th day of December 1998.

s/ Paul E. Troidle, D.D.S.

Partner

s/ Janice M. Delehanty, D.D.S.

Partner

March 10, 1999

LEGAL NOTICE
KEVIN CLEARY
GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS, LLC

1. The name of the limited liability company is KEVIN CLEARY GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LLC.

2. The Articles of Organization creating the limited liability company were filed in the Office of the New York Secretary of State on December 4, 1998 and became effective on said date.

3. The principal office of the limited liability company is in Albany County.

4. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served and the post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail any copy of process against it is Kevin Cleary Government Relations, LLC, 39 North Pearl Street, 4th Floor, Albany, New York 12207.

5. The limited liability company is formed for the purpose of engaging in the business of government relations, and any business purposes permitted by law.

Dated: February 25, 1999

March 10, 1999

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FILING

The limited liability co., Woodstock '99, LLC ("LLC"), was formed for any lawful business purpose. LLC's articles of organization filed with sec. of state ("SOS") on 12/17/98. LLC's office located in Albany County. SOS designated as agent for services of process. SOS shall mail copy of process against LLC served on it to Whiteman Osterman & Hanna, 1 Commerce Plaza, Albany, NY 12260, att.: Philip H. Gitten, Esq.

March 10, 1999

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MPG CONSTRUCTION, LLC (PURSUANT TO SECTION 203 OF THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Articles of organization of MPG CONSTRUCTION, LLC (the "Company") were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of New York on February 18, 1999.

The Company is being formed to (1) engage in the real estate business as principal, agent, broker, and in any lawful capacity, and generally to take, lease, purchase, or otherwise acquire, and to own, use, hold, sell, convey, exchange, lease, mortgage, work, clear, improve, develop, divide, and otherwise handle, manage, operate, deal in, and dispose of real estate, real property, lands, multiple-dwelling structures, houses, buildings and other works and any interest or right therein; to take, lease, purchase, or otherwise acquire, and to own, use, hold, sell, convey, exchange, hire, lease, pledge, mortgage, and otherwise handle, and deal in and dispose of, as principal, agent, broker, and in any lawful capacity, such personal property, chattels, real, rights, easements, privileges, choses in action, notes, bonds, mortgages and securities as may lawfully be acquired, held, or disposed of; and to acquire, purchase, sell assign, transfer, dispose of, and generally deal in and with, as principal, agent, broker, and in any lawful capacity, mortgages and other interests in real, personal, and mixed properties; to carry on a general construction, contracting, building, and realty management business as principal, agent, representative, contractors, subcontractor, and in any other lawful capacity;

(2) To carry on a general mercantile, industrial, investing, and trading business in all its branches; to devise, invent, manufacture, fabricate, assemble, install, service, maintain, alter, buy, sell import, license as licensor or licensee, lease or lessor or lessee, distribute, job, enter into, negotiate, execute, acquire, and assign contracts in respect of, acquire, receive, grant, and assign contracts in respect of, acquire, receive, grant, and assign licensing arrangements, options, franchises, and other rights in respect of, and generally deal in and with

, at wholesale and retail, as principal, and as sales, business, special, or general agent, representative, broker, factor, merchant, distributor, jobber, advisor, and in any other lawful capacity, goods, wares, merchandise, commodities, and unimproved, improved, finished, processed, and other real, personal, and mixed property of any and all kinds, together with the components, resultants, and by-products thereof; to acquire by purchase or otherwise own, hold, lease, mortgage, sell, or otherwise dispose of, erect, construct, make alter, enlarge, improve, and to aid or subscribe toward the construction, acquisition, or improvement of any factories, shops, storehouses, buildings, and commercial and retail establishments of every character including all equipment, fixtures, machinery, implements and supplies necessary, or incidental to, or connected with any of the purposes of business of the corporation; and generally to perform any and all acts connected therewith or arising therefrom or incidental thereto, and all acts proper or necessary for the purpose of the business;

(3) To apply for, register, obtain, purchase, lease, take licenses in respect of or otherwise acquire, and to hold, own, use, operate, develop, enjoy, turn to account, grant licenses and immunities in respect of, manufacture under, and to introduce, sell, assign, mortgage, pledge or otherwise dispose of and in any manner deal with and contract with reference to:

(a) inventions, devices, formulae, processes, and any improvements and modifications thereof;

(b) letters patent, patent rights, patent processors, copyrights, designs, and similar rights, trade-marks, trade symbols, and other indications of origin and ownership granted by or recognized under the laws of the United States of America or of any state or subdivision thereof, or of any foreign country or subdivision thereof, and all rights connected therewith or appertaining thereunto;

franchises, licenses, grants, and concessions.

(4) To conduct any activities necessary or incidental to such purpose and any other lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the LLC Law, to engage in any other lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the LLC Law.

The office of the Company is to be located in the County of Albany, State of New York. The Secretary of State has been designated as the agent of the Company upon whom process against the Company may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company served upon such Secretary of State is 50 State Street, Albany, New York 12207.

March 10, 1999

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

The skill of the LLC is CATSKILL ASSOCIATES, L.L.C. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on February 10, 1999. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 582 New Loudon Road, Latham, New York 12110.

March 10, 1999

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE MCLAUGHLIN LIMITED

LEGAL NOTICE

PARTNERSHIP UNDER SECTION 121-201 OF THE REVISED LIMITED PARTNERSHIP ACT

Notice is hereby given that the persons named below have formed a limited partnership for the transaction of business in the State of New York by filing a Certificate of Limited Partnership of which the substance is as follows:

1. The name of the limited partnership is The McLaughlin Limited Partnership (the "Limited partnership").

2. The office of the Limited partnership is to be located in Albany County.

3. The Certificate of limited Partnership of the McLaughlin Limited Partnership was filed on the 4th day of February, 1999.

4. The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the Limited partnership upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process served on him against the Limited Partnership is 389 State Street, Albany, New York 12210.

5. The name and the street address of the general partner is:

Name

William F. McLaughlin

Address

389 State Street

Albany, New York 12210

6. The latest date upon which the Limited Partnership is to dissolve is December 31, 2049 unless sooner terminated at a prior time in accordance with the Limited partnership Agreement.

7. The Certificate referred to above has been sworn to by the general partner.

March 10, 1999

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SOMMER FOUR, LLC

Under Section 203 of the Limited Liability Company Law

Sommer Four, LLC has been formed as a domestic limited liability company and states the following:

1. The name of the limited liability company is Sommer Four, LLC.

2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Limited Liability Company with the Secretary of State is February 10, 1999.


3. The county within the State of New York in which the office of the limited liability company is to be located is Albany County.

4. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process served against it is c/o Donald Sommer, 2056 Central Avenue, Albany, New York 12205.

5. The purpose of the business of the limited liability company is to provide engineering services and to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under applicable law.

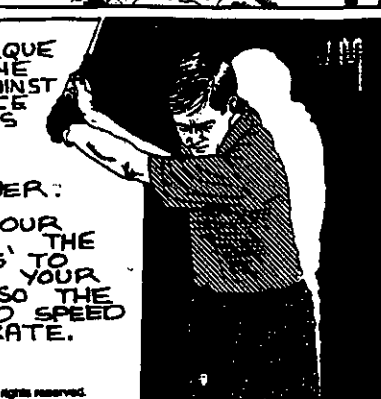
March 10, 1999

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT MOVING YOUR HEAD AROUND DURING THE SWING WILL COST YOU ACCURACY.

DO YOU ALSO REALIZE THAT IT CAN COST YOU DISTANCE?

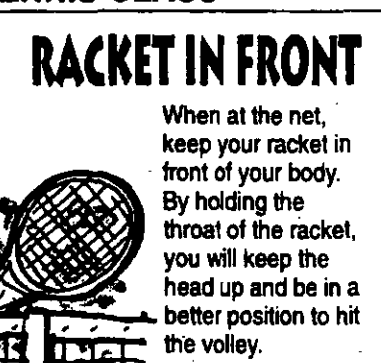


GENERATING TORQUE BY COILING THE SHOULDERS AGAINST THE RESISTANCE OF THE LEGS AND HIPS IS THE MAJOR SOURCE OF GOLFING POWER.

THE MORE YOUR HEAD MOVES, THE TOUGHER IT IS TO FULLY "WIND YOUR SPRING" SO THE LESS CLUBHEAD SPEED YOU GENERATE.


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STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS



RACKET IN FRONT

When at the net, keep your racket in front of your body. By holding the throat of the racket, you will keep the head up and be in a better position to hit the volley.



Too many players let the racket drop down to their knees. This makes them slow to get their racket in the proper position and may cause them to be late hitting the volley.

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Jaimie at
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The Spotlight CALENDAR

ELSMERE FIRE COMPANY AUXILIARY

firehouse, Poplar Drive, 7:30 p.m.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
children's choir, 6:30 p.m., senior
choir, 7:30 p.m., 85 Elm Ave.
Information, 439-4328.

CLASS IN JEWISH MYSTICISM
Delmar Chabad Center, 109
Elsmere Ave., 8 p.m. Informa-
tion, 439-8280.

**BETHLEHEM MEMORIAL VFW
POST 3185**
404 Delaware Ave., 8 p.m.
Information, 439-9836.

AA MEETINGS
Slingerlands Community
Church, 1499 New Scotland
Road, noon, and Delmar
Reformed Church, 386 Dela-
ware Ave., 8:30 p.m. Informa-
tion, 489-6779.

**FRIDAY
MARCH 12**

BETHLEHEM

"LIBRARY BABIES"

Program for children 15-21 mo.,
parents and caregivers;
Bethlehem Public Library, 451
Delaware Ave., Delmar, 10 a.m.
Information 439-9314.

BOOKS IN THE MORNING
Discussing "Tender Is The Night",
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,
Bethlehem Town Hall, Delaware
Ave., Delmar. Information 439-
9661.

AA MEETING
First Reformed Church of
Bethlehem, Route 9W, 7:30 p.m.
Information, 489-6779.

CHABAD CENTER
Friday services, discussion and
kiddush at sunset, 109 Elsmere
Ave. Information, 439-8280.

OPEN GYM BASKETBALL

Bethlehem Central High School
Lower Gym, sponsored by the
Bethlehem Parks & Recreation
Department, 8-11 p.m., \$1.
Information, 439-4131.

NEW SCOTLAND

FRIDAY FISH FRY

Eat-in or take-out, New Salem
Volunteer Fire Dept., New Salem
Road (85A), New Salem, 4:30 - 7
p.m. Information 765-2231.

YOUTH GROUP

United Pentecostal Church,
Route 85, New Salem, 7 p.m.
Information, 765-4410.

**SATURDAY
MARCH 13**

BETHLEHEM

ACADEMY OF THE HOLY NAMES

Entrance Exam for grades 2-12,
main campus, 1065-1075 New
Scotland Road, Albany, 8:30
a.m., entrance fee \$10, info 438-
7895.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COALI- TION

Planning safe activities for high
school students, survival course
for high school juniors and
seniors, establishing a preschool
parent committee; Bethlehem
Central Middle School,
Kenwood Ave., Delmar, 9 a.m.
Information 439-7740.

IRISH STORYTELLERS

"A Gift of Blarney: Irish Stories
and Music," Bairbre McCarthy
with fiddler Frank Orsini,
Bethlehem Public Library, 451
Delaware Ave., Delmar, 10:30
a.m. Information, 439-9314.

MAPLE SUGARING OPEN HOUSE

Five Rivers Environmental
Education Center, Game Farm
Road, Delmar, 2-4 p.m.
Information 475-0291.

BROOKS CHICKEN BAR-B-CUE

Sponsored by Bethlehem
Central Lab School to benefit
scholarship fund, Bethlehem
Central High School Cafeteria,
700 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 4-7
p.m. Full dinners \$8 adult, \$6.50
children; \$5 chicken only.
Tickets, 439-3850.

AL-ANON MEETING

The Crossroads, 4 Normanskill
Blvd., 5:30 p.m. Information, 489-
6779.

AA MEETING

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85
Elm Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information,
489-6779.

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER-DANCE
Bethlehem Elks Lodge, 1016
River Road, Selkirk, 8 p.m.-
midnight.

**SUNDAY
MARCH 14**

BETHLEHEM

CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Masses — Saturday at 5 p.m.
and Sunday at 7:30, 9, 10:30
a.m. and noon, 35 Adams
Place. Information, 439-4951.

Spotlight CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Information



OFFICE HOURS • DEADLINE

8:30AM-5PM Monday-Friday
Deadline: Friday at noon



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(518) 439-0609 Fax



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Delmar, NY 12054 Delmar



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IN SCHENECTADY COUNTY

Niskayuna Journal • Scotia-Glenville Journal • Rotterdam Journal

Classified Rates

- **Private Party Classifieds** - Line Ads - Six paper combo \$10 for 10 words 30 cents for each additional word.
- **Merchandise for Sale** - 4 lines • 4 weeks • \$4 (one item per ad. Must be priced under \$1000. Price must be stated in ad. Private party ads only. No vehicles, garage, lawn or antique sales. Price is for a 16 word ad. Add \$1 for each additional line.)
- **Commercial Classifieds** - Line Ads - Six paper combo - \$13.50 for 10 words 30 cents for each additional word. Multiple insertion discounts available. Please call for information.
- **Display Classifieds** - Several combination rates are available - please call for information.
- **Business Directory** - Several combination rates are available - please call for information.

Ads will appear in all six newspapers, as well as on the internet for the number of weeks requested.

Order Form

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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

1 word per blank, please.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Number of Weeks _____

MasterCard or Visa # _____

Expiration Date: _____ Signature _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE! JOIN! SAVE! Wholesale savings benefits package. Guaranteed lowest prices. Over 250,000 popular name brand items. Home delivered. Protected with double the price difference money-back guarantee. Advertise this number, receive commissions. 1 (800) 811-2141. Code #78463

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1996 DISCOVERY MOTORCOACH, diesel pusher, Freight liner platform, neutral interior, no pets/smoke. Fully equipped, pristine coach with only 20K professionally serviced miles. Balance of 6 year 60 k comprehensive service warranty transferable. Acquisition is \$89,000. For more details or to inspect call (518) 861-5986, ask for Joseph.

NATIONAL USED BUS SALE. March 18-20. Motorhomes, campers, seated coaches / more!! Priced to sell in 3 days. Register/ win free car. ABC Bus Companies, Greater Philadelphia, 800/222-2873.

ADOPTION

A HAPPILY MARRIED COUPLE will provide a loving home, a lifetime of happiness and secure future for your newborn. Expenses paid. Please call Diane/Jerry at 1-800-331-8170.

ADOPT: Devoted couple dreams of cherishing, nurturing and educating a very lucky baby with love and warmth. Let's help each other. Call us, ANYTIME 1-800-249-7746.

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CHARGE IT! Increase sales up to 60% by accepting credit cards. Guaranteed approval, easy terms, all business accepted. Free information, call 24 hours. 1-877-723-6796, ext. 52084.

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LOCAL CANDY ROUTE. 30 Vending machines. Earn apx. \$800 /day. All for \$9,995. Call 1-800-998-VEND.

EARN up to \$5000+ /monthly. "50 /World's Best Home-Based Businesses" \$35.00 (800) 211-0046 /800-682-9918 preferredsolutions@computer-connection.net.

BUSINESS SERVICES

RECYCLE TONER CARTRIDGES and Save! Cartridges from \$45.00, including pickup and delivery. Guaranteed. Discounted toner for copiers available. We buy empties. 800-676-0749, www.nationaltoner.com.

CHILD CARE NEEDED

CARING, LOVING PERSON needed to care for my 2 sons in my Glenmont home, full-time. 475-0329, evenings.

LOOKING FOR loving, reliable childcare provider for 2 year old & infant in our Niskayuna home. Full-time, Monday - Friday, excellent references and prior experience a must. Call 372-3799.

CHILDCARE SERVICES

EXPERIENCED MOM willing to watch one child full-time, in my home. Niskayuna area. 374-9206.

PARENTS LOVE THIS DAY CARE! The warmth of home care! Eastern Parkway Day Care Center has openings for children 8 weeks to 3 years. Parents love this safe, supervised love for their infants, caring staff, developmental approach, high adult/ child ratio, small class size, and cozy, clean environment. Call parents, 370-0570 or the Center, 374-6411.

CLEANING SERVICES

CLEANING- residential/ small business. Free estimates. References. Call Rose 439-0350.

J'S CLEANING: Experienced, personalized service, fully insured, bonded. Full estimates. 872-9269.

AFFORDABLE QUALITY CLEANING, satisfaction guaranteed, dependable, hardworking, conscientious, experienced. 439-2796.

RESIDENTIAL CLEANING: Free estimates. Call Beth, 869-4340.

Phone in Your
Classified Ad
with
Mastercard or
Visa
439-4940



CLEANING SERVICES

SQUEAKY CLEANING SERVICE: 7 years of quality service. Residential and offices. Call Tally, 427-2846.

SWEEP IT CLEAN with "Clean Sweep". Fully insured, bonded. References. Call Dawn, 433-0417.

CRAFT FAIR

SPRING CRAFT FAIR: March 20th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 2689 New Scotland Road, Voorheesville. Clothes for American Girl dolls, candy, home decor & much more. Wood items.

EDUCATION

EARN ACCREDITED COLLEGE DEGREE QUICKLY. Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate, by correspondence based upon life experiences, knowledge already attained, prior education and short study course. For free information catalog phone: Cambridge State University (800)964-8316 (24 hrs).

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HOMEOWNERS NEED CASH? Consolidate debt and lower payments. Credit problems? Self-employed, even bankruptcies. Fast approvals, no application fee's personal service. Good people have hard times too. Optimal Funding Inc., licensed mortgage banker, NYS Banking Department. 383-6168, ask for Jim Parvis.

CASH FOR YOUR REAL ESTATE NOTE. If you receive mortgage payments, call us for best price. Residential and land. Nationwide buyer. First Capital Mortgage. 1-800-289-4687.

OVER YOUR HEAD IN DEBT??? Do you need more breathing room??? Debt consolidation, no qualifying!!! *Free consultation (800)556-1548. www.anewhorizon.org Licensed, Bonded, Non-profit /National Co.

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REFINANCE & SAVE \$100s EACH MONTH! Consolidate debt, improve your home or get needed cash. Custom programs for every need: Good & problem credit, no income verification, self-employed & bankruptcy. 24 hour pre-approvals, quick closings, competitive rates. We bend over backwards to approve your loan. Colony Mortgage 1-888-

767-8043, ext. 312. NY Lic:LMB 04804.

GET OUT OF DEBT NOW! Debt consolidation from 3K-10K in 24 hrs. No credit check! Restore your credit today! Call now 1-800-401-3906. Military OK!

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A nonprofit agency providing home repair, housekeeping, 24-hour emergency assistance and more for \$8.00 per hr.

346-5249

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More than home maintenance...
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FULL TIME

Cohoes Savings Bank is seeking highly motivated individuals to fill the role of Customer Sales Specialist. You will help increase customer loyalty by making our customers feel important! Need to enjoy helping people. Prior customer service experience in a financial or retail environment, excellent math aptitude and some college experience preferred.

Base salary, super benefits package including incentive awards, profit sharing, and opportunities for career growth.

Interested? send your cover letter and resume to:
Cohoes Savings Bank, 60 Remsen Street, Cohoes, NY 12047 ATTN: HR
or Fax to: 233-6550 EOE M/F/V/D



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We provide:

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St. Catherine's Center For Children

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MIXED HARDWOODS: Full cords, \$125; face cords, \$55. Jim Haslam, 439-9702.

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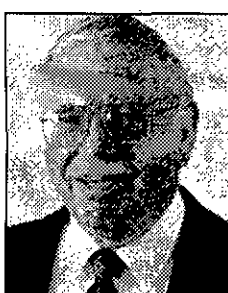
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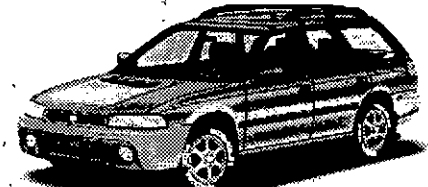
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Bus

(From Page 1)

creation of a functional skill instruction (FSI) class at the high school beginning next year, saving the district \$11,200.

This year the district paid tuition for four students to take the class through BOCES. It teaches daily living skills and vocational preparation to students with developmental disabilities.

An additional three middle school students are expected to need the class when they start high school next year.

The board anticipates that tuition increases for other programs that Bethlehem buys from BOCES will add another \$5,795 to the 1999-2000 school budget, the board anticipates.

In budget discussions focusing on athletics, the board considered a proposal to fund a freshman girls field hockey team and a boys lacrosse team at the high school. The projected start ups cost is \$5,023 for field hockey and \$7,957 for lacrosse. Annual costs would be \$2,700 for field hockey and \$3,257 for lacrosse.

Bethlehem Elks plan St. Pat's dance

Bethlehem Elks Lodge at 1016 River Road in Selkirk will host a St. Patrick's Dinner Dance featuring the Crooked Creek Band on Saturday, March 13, from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Petitions available for library board seat

Nominating petitions are available for a seat on the Bethlehem Public Library board of trustees.

The term up for election is for five years, beginning July 1 of this year. Petitions must contain at least 62 signatures of voters residing in Central School District No. 6 of the towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland, and must be filed by April 16, which is 32 days before the annual district budget vote, with the district clerk at 90 Adams Place in Delmar.

Petitions are available in the office of the library director at 451 Delaware Ave.

Babies program slated at library

The monthly Library Babies program for children aged 15- to 21-months and their parents or caregivers will meet Friday, March 12, at 10 a.m. at Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

The hour-long session provides an early social opportunity for youngster. To register, call 439-9314.

Tales of Erin set

Irish storyteller Bairbre McCarthy will team up with fiddler Frank Orsini to present "A Gift of Blarney: Irish Stories and Music" at Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar, on Saturday, March 13, at 10:30 a.m.

The family program will also feature Irish stepdancing. To register, call 439-9314.

Acres

(From Page 1)

prominent Nature Conservancy, which owns another protected parcel in New Scotland, the Hannacroix Preserve.

"We are a completely separate entity," said ACLC executive director Doug Melnick, a New Scotland resident. "We work with them on occasion. We are also a non-profit but we have a slightly different focus. While they focus in on unique parcels and critical habitats for endangered species, we try to save farmland, scenic vistas, and provide general open-space protection."

In addition to acquisitions, the group is also negotiating conservation easements with other landowners in Albany County, under which landowners would donate development rights to the organization while continuing to hold the property for current uses.

Such easements would keep parcels deemed of special significance under voluntary protection from commercial development. No easements are currently in force, Melnick said, but "There's a few in the weeks ahead" that may come to fruition.

The Bennett Hill acreage, near Route 443, was donated to the group in December by its previous owner, a Columbia County dentist. It has been a target for acquisition by ACLC since its founding in 1992, according to Melnick.

Bennett Hill commands vistas of the Albany skyline and Helderberg Escarpment. It also includes an unusual feature, a small wetland parcel near the summit.

The top of the hill remains lightly grown, mostly with lodgepole pine, scrub oak and blueberry bushes.

King said the site was a popular local destination a century ago, and ACLC hopes to mark a public trail to the summit for picnickers and day-hikers. But King expects interest in the moderately steep climb to remain primarily local.

"We see this site as being mostly for folks from Clarksville and the surrounding area," King said. He expressed hope that nearby residents will become involved in managing the site, as has been the case with the Holt preserve, opened to the public two years ago.

Management plans for both sites are now under review by ACLC's land management committee.

Melnick said, and the group hopes to formally open both sites for public access this coming summer.

ACLC is currently negotiating with the Northeast Cave Conservancy, owner-managers of nearby Knox Cave, to co-manage access to Onesquethaw Cave.

The cave property was acquired by Albany County in foreclosure on a previous owner in March of 1990, according to Tom Engel of the cave conservancy group. Following an incident just months after the foreclosure, in which five cavers were trapped in because of rising floodwaters, the county has sought to divest itself of the property, Engel said. The transfer of the property to ACLC was completed last fall with the approval of the county Legislature.

Lions breakfast on tap

Bethlehem Lions Club will host its 38th annual pancake and sausage breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 28, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Blanchard American Legion Post on Poplar Drive in Elmsmere.

Proceeds will be used to support the Lions Eye Institute at

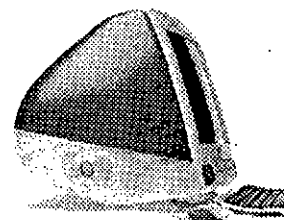
Albany Medical Center and other community service projects.

Tickets can be purchased in advance from any club member or at the door. The price is \$4 for adults, \$3.50 for seniors over 62, \$2.50 for children under 12; and free for preschoolers.

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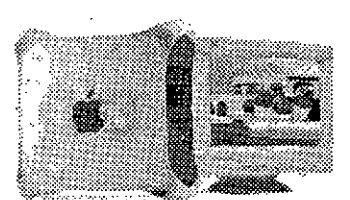
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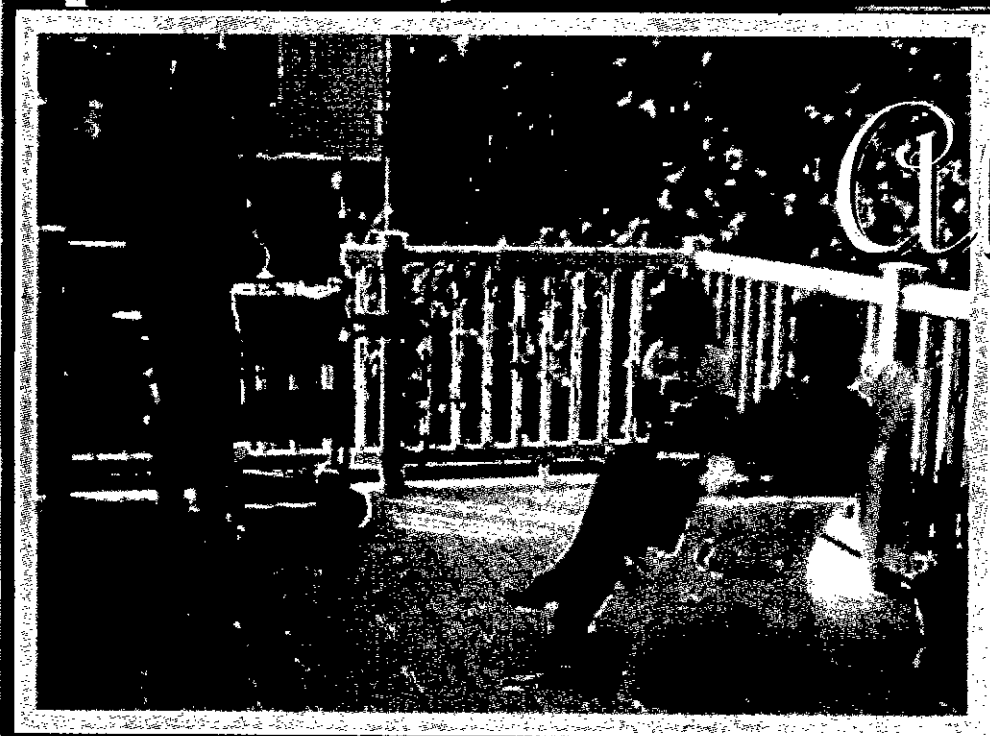
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HOMER

Spring

improvement



Call Decked Out

The latest word in outdoor
decks with a discussion
of styles, materials
and costs.

See page 2

More choices, more materials available for decks

by Leigh G. Kirtley

WITH SPRING JUST AHEAD, YOU THINK OF SPENDING TIME outdoors and enjoying that deck you've been meaning to build. Deciding what material to use is not as clear-cut as it used to be. Pressured-treated lumber is still the most common choice, but since its introduction five years ago, vinyl decking is growing in popularity. Pressure treated lumber's biggest advantage is the look and feel of real wood. Warping, splitting and fading can add to its natural beauty. However, if that's not for you, regular maintenance can keep your wood deck looking like new and give it a life span of about 10 to 15 years.

Jim Kelly, assistant manager for The Home Depot, recommends sealing your deck shortly after it is installed. Treated lumber is only resistant to rot and insects. It still needs regular protection from heavy water and sun damage.

"Every other year is usually good," Kelly said. "Just don't

wait until it needs it."

Although the initial cost of treated lumber is affordable, the maintenance can be both time-consuming and expensive. Before staining or sealing an older deck, a deckwash is advised. Once the deck dries, the sealant is applied. Total cost averages \$100 to \$200 per treatment. It's this kind of maintenance which makes vinyl decking so attractive. With a vinyl deck, you can skip the cost of maintenance. Once the deck is complete, a squirt with the garden hose or a little household cleaner is all you need to keep the deck like new.

The drawback is the cost. Expect to pay nearly double for vinyl deck material compared to the price of pressure-treated lumber.

"Without the maintenance cost, the vinyl deck makes up the difference in a few years," said Lynn T. Munger, owner of Vinyl Deck & Dock Distributors in Schenectady. "And it comes with a lifetime warranty against chipping and rotting."

Munger pointed out that



Vinyl decks stay cool enough even for the kids to lounge on during the hot summer months.

vinyl decks are a premium grade of vinyl, unlike the material used for patio furniture. Vinyl decking won't fade or pit and because it is highly reflective, it stays cool and won't be damaged by the sun. A wood deck can get as hot as 120

degrees on a summer day.

Other advantages to the vinyl system include a slip-resistant surface and no more splinters. Vinyl is impervious to most stains and it is more environmentally friendly because there are no chemicals to leach into the soil or water. Pressure treated lumber is infused with an arsenic sub-compound. Whether you're building a new deck, need a railing for your

front porch, or want to retrofit an existing deck, Munger invites anyone interested to visit his web site at www.vinyldeck.com.

Both Kelly and Munger agree that it's not too early to start planning. A building permit is required and this early in the season, the local building departments aren't busy. Permit fees vary by town and most are valid for six months to one year.

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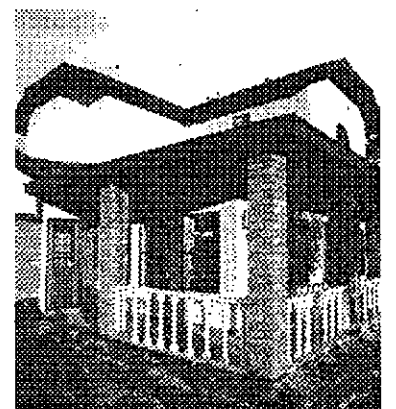
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What you need to know about floor covering guarantees

By Bill Fonda

FLOOR COVERINGS ARE ABOUT MORE THAN JUST MAKING THE FLOOR LOOK nice; they get walked on, rolled on, slid on and spilled on, so finding a good covering with a good guarantee is important.

Tom Bova, sales manager of Carpet Master/Carpet One at 356 Troy-Schenectady Road in Latham, said carpet shoppers should look for a lifetime installation guarantee, stain guarantees of five to 10 years and matting and crushing guarantees.

"Anybody can sell carpet, but

Get the facts on home equity loans

For some, home is where the heart is. It may also be a source of financial power if you get a home equity loan.

A home equity loan uses your equity in your home — the amount of the mortgage you've already paid off — as collateral to secure the loan. This kind of loan is an increasing popular way to pay for education and home improvement projects and to consolidate debt.

In addition to traditional lenders like banks and savings and loan associations, it is now possible to obtain home equity loans through mortgage bankers, mortgage brokers and finance companies.

Here are a things you should know about home equity loans.

- Since home equity loans are sometimes offered at lower interest rates and the interest paid on a home equity loan may be tax deductible, it may be to your advantage to use a home equity loan to finance a new car or some other big ticket item.

- Always do your homework. If you haven't done business with the lender before, check out its track record with the Better Business Bureau or a consumer protection agency.

- When you take a home equity loan you risk losing your home if you fail to repay the loan.

To learn more about home equity loans, contact the National Home Equity Mortgage Association at 800-342-1121 for a booklet or visit the Web site at www.nhema.org/consumer/front.

you need service after the fact," he said.

In addition to the regular stain guarantees, Carpet Master/Carpet One offers Scotchcare, which Bova said is like taking out insurance on the carpet. It covers materials that are not normally part of the stain guarantee, such as bleach, and costs \$79.99 for the first 50 yards and \$69 for each additional 50 yards.

Laminates are typically wood-grain products that resemble a counter top but with a higher exterior surface and a high-density core to protect against scratching and scraping. They are "floating" coverings, meaning they are not glued directly to the floor, and can even be installed on concrete or ceramic floors.

"There's no straight, even surface that it won't go over," Bova said. The standard manufacturers' warranty is for one year, but Pergo and Wilsonart, the two companies that are carried by Carpet Master/Carpet Care, offer an additional one-year total satisfaction guarantee.

"If you dislike it for color or

pattern, those companies will replace it with a different pattern or color for no charge, including labor," Bova said.

Carpet Master/Carpet Care also has a manufacturer-backed, 20-year wear, stain and fade guarantee, five years longer than the typical 15-year guarantees.

So what style of floor covering should someone buy? Bova said carpet provides more warmth, but laminates are more durable, making them more suitable for kitchens. Either can be used for living rooms or family rooms.

"It depends on the decorating scheme more than anything else," Bova said.

In high-traffic areas that require a lot of warmth, berber carpets can provide the best of both worlds. They do not show footprints, and their loop construction allows easy maintenance because the dirt sits on top. Carpet Master/Carpet One carries carpets starting from \$19.99 per yard, which includes the carpet, pad and installation. Laminates start at \$3.49 per square foot, but labor is not included.

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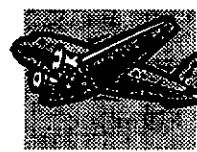
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Computer kitchen design a snap for homeowners

by Leigh G. Kirtley

EVER WONDER WHAT YOUR DREAM KITCHEN MIGHT LOOK LIKE? COMPUTER-generated images give you detailed, three-dimensional views of the finished product including cabinets and appliances.

Wendell Parsons of Bellevue Builders in Schenectady has been helping customers design kitchens for 13 years. He said that computer design packages have been around for 12 years, but they were very basic and only two-dimensional.

Today's sophisticated computer-aided design, or CAD software packages, allow kitchen designers to show their customers a variety of options from any angle. "You can even look at it from your cat's point of view," Parsons said.

The CAD programs make the whole design process easier. Customers select their choice of cabinets and appliances and can view any combination on-screen in three dimensions. Switching one cabinet design for another takes a matter of minutes and customers get a better feel for the layout.

The program Wendell uses stores the prices of up to four



Designing your new kitchen is easy using CAD software packages.

different cabinet styles. Customers instantly know how much their dream kitchen costs.

"Sometimes the design takes longer because customers get carried away with all the options," Parsons said. He advises people to come prepared when they're ready to design their new kitchen.

Before he can start laying out a room on-screen, he needs the

dimensions of the room. He advises starting in one corner and measuring everything. He needs to know the location and size of doorways and windows and the sizes of all the appliances.

"Refrigerators are the jokers in the appliance deck. Sizes are all over the place," Parsons said.

Parsons also suggests knowing your budget and

picking out cabinet styles before sitting in front of the computer. Advanced planning avoids the confusion and intimidation some people feel when they walk into the showroom.

Once a customer settles on one or two designs, Wendell gives them a black and white printout to take home. Most people remodel their kitchen only once and, considering the cost, they should take their time deciding.

Architect William Stevens cautions that CAD programs aren't the only way to design a kitchen. For 20 years, he's been doing it the old-fashioned way with pencil and paper. Unlike a computer, an architect makes house calls and can help customers create a kitchen appropriate to their home's style.

"It's important to see the new room in the context of the whole house," Stevens said.

Of course, anyone wanting to remodel their home or kitchen can purchase a CAD program from a computer store. The better programs begin at \$50, while the less expensive, \$10 versions, lack important features like updated cabinet styles and the latest in counter-top materials. Bellevue Builders doesn't charge for the computer-generated design and you get the benefit of working with a professional.

Without a doubt, computers are the design tools of the future. The industry is moving toward virtual reality applications which will allow homeowners to walk through their dream kitchen before building it.

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For a homeowner's guide to using pressure-treated wood, call the American Wood Preservers Institute at 1-800-356-AWPI or visit the Internet site www.awpi.org.

For facts on tile roofing, visit the National Tile Roof Manufacturers Association Web site at www.ntrma.org, write P.O. Box 40337, Eugene, OR 97404-0049 or call (541) 689-0366.



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Builders find owners want homes to reflect lifestyle

By Katherine McCarthy

QUALITY TIME AND CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ARE driving two of the most popular building trends right now, according to Kimberly S. Seymour, executive vice president of the Albany Area Builders Association. In addition to kitchen countertops and Jacuzzi bathtubs, some of the most popular options going into homes today are things you don't even see.

"Multi-purpose rooms, especially those that can be used as a home office, are very popular now," Seymour said. "More and more people are choosing to spend, if not all, at least some of their work time at home. Computers and technology are making that possible, so builders are pre-wiring a room or rooms in the home to accommodate modems, fax machines, and enough telephone trunk lines to handle that."

Seymour said the desire to work at home is cutting across many different fields, from accounting to the builders, remodelers and suppliers who make up the membership of her association.

"Built-in shelving is another option that can be altered to accommodate different kinds of equipment," Seymour said, "and we're seeing things like a bedroom with a closet constructed so that it could be a self-contained home office, maybe even with a window."

A guest room, Seymour said, could also serve as home office space. "Space is expensive, so people are looking to get value out of it," she said.

Kitchens are another area that adapt to changes, Seymour said, and people are looking for warmth nowadays.

"People are interested in kitchen furniture that's not built in," Seymour said. "They like the look of hutches or armoires; storage units that look like pieces of furniture, rather than just cabinetry. It has a warm appeal, and in two or three years, something like an antique cupboard could be used in the guest bedroom for clothing."

Bob Wiggand of Glenmont's J. Wiggand and Sons said that people pay a lot of attention to kitchens. "People are looking for ease of operation, and want

everything installed right from the start," Wiggand said. "We're seeing more in large country kitchens, with a snack-bar counter still in demand, and less interest in large formal dining rooms."

Warmth is an overall trend, Seymour said, as the size of homes being built seems to have stabilized. "There's also a trend where people are returning to the coziness of a room with a particular use," Seymour said. "24-foot or 30-foot ceilings might be dramatic, but they're not cozy. If you can't get warmth at home, where can you get it?"

Wiggand said in his experience, people are looking for an open feeling. "We're building a home now where you can stand in the living room, and look right through to the kitchen. We built all the doorways into the rooms larger than usual." This isn't necessarily contradictory to the search for warmth, as Wiggand said a lot of the reason

for the open look is so that people can see their gas or woodburning fireplace from the kitchen.

"Gas fireplaces very popular," Wiggand said. "People push an

easier to maintain, and seven times more durable than laminate countertop."

"People also want their laundry rooms close to their bedrooms, where the laundry is generated,"

Wiggand said.

"And, for the first time in my 50 years in this business, there's more of a request for wider doors that allow handicapped people greater accessibility to bedrooms and bathrooms. Doors should be a minimum of 32 inches wide; we won't build a door less than 30 inches wide."

Showing sensitivity to the environment, and as part of the search for the best value, Seymour reported a trend towards "green" building, which utilizes environmentally wise building practices.

"This can range from saving beautiful mature trees on a

property to using materials more efficiently with less waste," Seymour said. "Builders know that materials are valuable resources which have an end, and are trying to use them wisely."

The first professional "green building" convention, sponsored by the National Association of Homebuilders, is scheduled for April 8 to 10 in Denver, Colorado. "I think the results of that will spread nationwide," Seymour said.

"Many builders are already using green building techniques nationwide," Seymour said, "and this will prompt everyone to look at building homes in a new way."

The Albany Area Builders Association is a professional membership organization for the residential building industry with 150 members locally. It serves the greater Capital District, and is part of a national federation whose purpose is to improve housing for all Americans. They are located on Everett Road in Colonie and can be reached at 438-6102. J. Wiggand & Sons can be reached at 434-8550.

newsworthy trends



More home buyers are choosing to have the electrical wiring for a home office built into their new houses.

automatic control like for a TV, and they light a fire. There are some good products out there, with the new gas stoves looking more realistic and provide an amazing amount of heat."

Another feature Wiggand is just starting to work with is laminate flooring. "It looks like real wood," he said. "It's not cheaper than wood, but it's

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What to do when **DISASTER** strikes your home

INSURED PROPERTY LOSSES HAVE REACHED MORE THAN \$32 BILLION ANNUALLY. A natural disaster, accident or criminal act that causes property damage to your home can be devastating—even though you may be well insured. That's why it's critical to have a disaster plan in place, so you know what to do when a crisis occurs. Paul W. Davis Systems, one of the nation's leading property damage restoration companies, offers these tips for homeowners to deal with disasters while waiting for expert assistance.

Water, water everywhere!

It doesn't have to be a major disaster to seem like one. When a

pipe bursts, a roof leaks, or a heavy rain causes flooding and you're faced with dealing with water damage, either minor or major, it's often difficult to think clearly.

Doing the right things can control the damage, while doing the wrong things can exacerbate the situation and even increase your losses.

What you should do

- ✓ Disconnect all electrical power to affected areas.
- ✓ Stop the flow of water if possible. For example, if the problem is a broken pipe or backed up plumbing, turn the water off at the master shut-off valve.
- ✓ Remove as much of the

standing water as you can as quickly — but with care and caution — as possible.

- ✓ Place furniture on aluminum foil or wood blocks to prevent further damage to both the furniture and the carpet or flooring. This also allows the carpet to dry more quickly. Remove all cushions, rugs, books, paintings and other similar items to a place with good air circulation where they can dry faster and mold is less likely to develop.
- ✓ Remove valuable paintings and pictures from wet walls. Transfer all art objects to a safe place. Open all drawers and doors, including closets and cabinets, for maximum aeration and drying.

- ✓ Open suitcases and luggage to dry, in sunlight if possible.
- ✓ Hang furs and leather goods to dry separately at room temperature, then take them to a dry cleaner that specializes in their treatment.

What you shouldn't do

- ✓ Do not use any electrical



Experts can advise, help clean-up and repair after a disaster strikes your home. *Paul Davis Systems*

fixtures if the ceiling is wet.

- ✓ Do not enter rooms where the ceiling is very wet because plaster could fall and cause injury.
- ✓ Do not use newspaper to absorb moisture; soggy paper is difficult to work with, and the newspaper will leave stains.
- ✓ Do not leave colored items of any kind on wet or damp floors or

appliances such as fans, hair dryers, or vacuums while the floor on which you are standing is still wet.

carpets.

- ✓ Do not walk on carpets more than absolutely necessary until they have completely dried.

- ✓ Do not turn on ceiling



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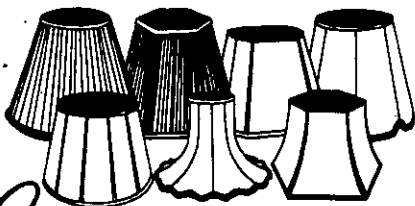
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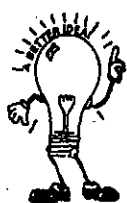
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Once the fire is out

Few things are more devastating than the experience of seeing your home damaged by fire. With the direct damage from the flames and the indirect damage from smoke and water, even a small kitchen fire can create a big mess. But once the flames are out and the fire trucks have departed, what should you do?

- ✓ Call your insurance agent or company adjuster immediately and begin the claims process.
- ✓ Remove all pets to a clean, safe environment.
- ✓ If your electricity has been turned off for safety reasons, empty your refrigerator and freezer and prop the doors open. This will keep mold and odors from forming.
- ✓ Do not use any of your electrical appliances that were either plugged in at the time of the fire or that may have been damaged by the heat, smoke or water; until they have been checked out and determined safe by a service technician.
- ✓ Protect your plumbing if you are unable to occupy your home temporarily. If you are in a northern climate and there is a possibility of freezing, call a plumber to drain the plumbing system and winterize commodes with antifreeze. Do not leave water in toilet bowls, sinks or anywhere that might be damaged if the water freezes.
- ✓ Close connecting doors to localize smoke odors as much as possible.
- ✓ When you are in the house, open windows and ventilate as much as possible; however, do not leave the property unattended with the windows open.
- ✓ If the furnace and/or air conditioning system is being used, cover air registers with cheesecloth to limit the circulation of odors.
- ✓ Wash plants with mild soap and water, cleaning both sides of the leaves.
- ✓ Do not consume exposed food items or canned goods which have been subjected to excessive heat.
- ✓ Do not try to clean walls, ceilings, or absorbent surfaces like upholstered furniture and drapes yourself; this is a task best left to trained professionals with the proper equipment. Also, do not use upholstered furniture until a professional restoration expert has checked it out and declared it clean and safe.

In many cases, the smoke, water and aftermath of a fire is as much or more damaging to a home than the fire itself. You can minimize this damage by doing the right things and not doing the wrong things before the professionals arrive. If you are in doubt, do nothing until you consult with a professional.

When vandals strike

Vandals can strike for a variety of reasons. Regardless of the motivation, if your home or office is the target of vandals, you need to know what to do, and what not to, to avoid

making a bad situation worse.

Here are some tips for what to do when vandals strike:

- ✓ Notify the police and call your insurance agent to get the claims process underway.
- ✓ Take photographs of the damage.
- ✓ If the vandals used eggs or other spoiled food items, wash or hose down the exterior of the building before the materials dry and bake onto the surface.
- ✓ Sweep or vacuum up broken glass and other sharp materials to avoid potential injury.

- ✓ Scrape up and then blot — but don't rub — any freshly spilled food from carpets and upholstery.
- ✓ Retrieve and retain all broken pieces of porcelain and art objects. Arrange for a knowledgeable disaster clean-up and restoration service to deal with the mess.
- ✓ As critical as knowing what to do is knowing what not to do, and that includes:
- ✓ Do not try to remove ink or paint spills. Proper, effective removal requires expert knowledge of the chemical compo-

- nents of the material used. If containers were left on the premises, save them so the restoration expert can analyze the contents and use the appropriate removal techniques
- ✓ Do not try to use damaged lamps or other electrical appliances and devices until they have been checked and confirmed safe by an electrician.
- ✓ Do not attempt to remove large pieces of glass from window panes or picture frames.
- ✓ Do not discard pieces of broken furniture because restoration experts can often repair damaged items very effectively. In fact, it's a good idea to not discard anything until the insurance adjuster has completed his work and the clean-up process is ready to begin.

New paint is mildew-proof

HOMEOWNERS ARE TAKING MORE THAN A SPLASH OF INTEREST IN a new paint which preserves the fresh, clean look of siding longer.

The 100 percent acrylic paint, called Perma-White Mildew-Proof Exterior Paint, offers a five year mildew-proof guarantee. It uses an advanced resin system that is highly resistant to moisture, cracking, peeling and fading.

Tested on some of the toughest mildew-prone surfaces in Florida and other hot, humid areas of the country, the

product's hard, smooth film and satin sheen is reported to fight mildew and resist dirt pick-up.

This reduces the chance for soil particles to attach to the paint film and become nutrients for mildew.

An interior formula is also available for bathrooms, basements and other moisture prone areas of the home.

Perma-White comes in a bright white formula which can be tinted to create virtually any light or medium tone color.

The paint, available in home centers, paint and hardware stores, is quick drying, has low

odor and is water-based for easy cleanup.

For information on mildew control, call Wm. Zinsser & Co. at (732) 469-4367 or visit the company's web site at www.zinsser.com.

For information about disaster tips or repair estimates from Paul W. Davis Systems, call 800-722-1818 or visit the website at www.pwds.com.

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Log homes are eye-catching and energy-efficient

By Debbie Eberle

ADMIT IT, WHEN YOU DRIVE DOWN A COUNTRY ROAD AND HAPPEN TO see a log home, you definitely take a second look. There is just something about the warm and cozy look that is inherently attractive.

Built a little more than 20 years ago, Jim and Linda Ringler's home in Delmar is still getting looks, said Linda Ringler.

Some of the benefits of living in a log home are its "uniqueness and charm," she said.

"It's not like just another house in a row, looking like all the rest," she said.

David and Jill Koonz also had people stopping to stare as they built their log home in Selkirk 11 years ago.

"People would just slow down, stare and sometimes even stop," Jill Koonz recalled. "One person even wanted to buy it from us before it was built."

"Nostalgia" is the word Bob Rich of French Mountain Log Homes in Lake George uses to describe the No. 1 reason why people choose to build a log rather than a stick-frame home. According to Rich, there are more than 500 different log home manufacturers in the United States today, ranging from very large companies to "mom and pop" type companies.

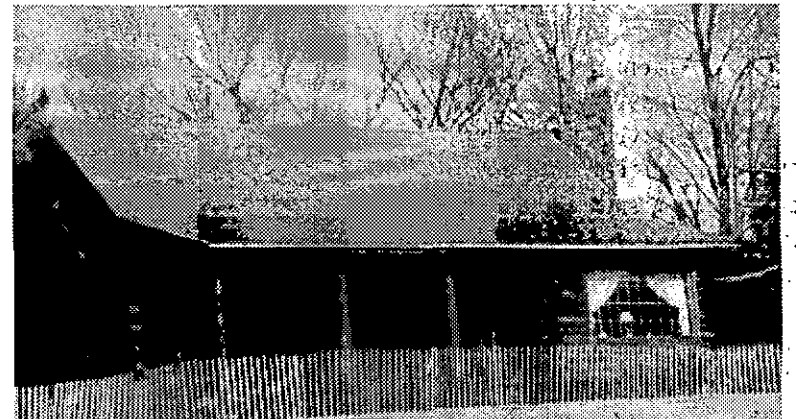
"The choices are endless," Rich said of purchasing a log home. "First you choose a kit and depending on what's included in it, you are responsible for the rest."

Tina Dean, co-owner of Dean Structures in West Sand Lake, built a log structure.

"We originally built a log home because of its look and the feeling the wood gives you," Dean said. "It's cozy, warm and very soothing compared to wallpaper and sheetrock."

Now Dean and her husband are in the business of selling log homes. She said that several studies had been done in Japan that revealed the stress relieving qualities of wood. As a result, our country exports quite a lot of logs to Japan for building log homes.

"It takes a lot of planning",



Jim and Linda Ringler's log home in Delmar is protected by a fence since deer like to nibble on the logs. Debbie Eberle

said David Koonz, recalling how important it was to know in advance what you want in your new home.

Determining where you want to install fixtures is essential because, as in his case, wires for outlets had to be drilled right into the logs at the third log up from the ground in order to properly conceal the wires.

"If you decide on fixtures after the logs are in place you have to put molding over the wires, on top of the logs and it just doesn't look nice," Koonz said.

Owing a log house isn't just an aesthetic consideration — log buildings can also be economical.

A study conducted by the

National Bureau of Standards for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Energy determined that "during a three-week, spring heating period, the log building used 46 percent less heating energy than the insulated wood frame building. Also during an 11-week summer cooling period, the log building used 24 percent less cooling energy than the insulated wood frame building."

These results led the National Bureau of Standards to conclude that the log walls are an "energy-conserving feature in residential construction."

Not only do log homes look "warm and cozy" in the winter-time — scientific studies have found they truly are.

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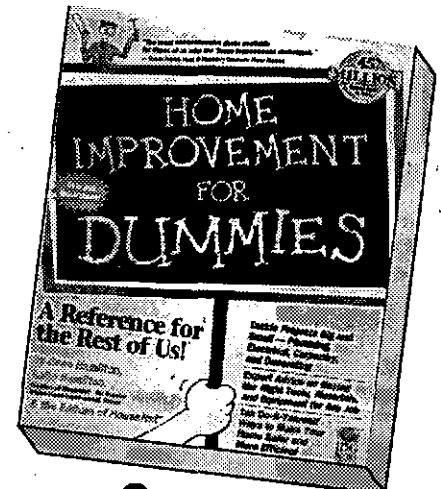
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Automatic garage door brings comfort on dark night

By Debbie W. Eberle

THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN NOT HAVING A GARAGE IS HAVING TO GET out of your car on a cold, dark, rainy or snowy night to manually open your garage door.

According to Tom Murphy, owner of Murphy Overhead Doors, convenience is the No. 1 reason why people would choose to spend approximately \$300 for an automatic garage door opener — completely installed.

"People do not want to get out of their car in the dark," Murphy said.

Martin Poole of Delmar agreed saying that convenience was the reason he installed an automatic garage door.

"If you have a bad back, it's a wonderful thing," Poole said. Since Poole's automatic garage door was a surprise gift from his wife, Sharon, she had to choose between a chain drive or a screw-driven opener.

She was told by Sears that the screw-driven option was quieter, had less moving parts, and was more expensive. Since their garage is not attached to the house, she chose the chain driven option to save money.

While many people pay to have a professional overhead

door company install their opener, Martin Poole installed theirs himself. It took approximately three hours and saved him \$100. "It's extremely simple to do," he said.

Many people are concerned about the safety of the automatic doors — especially when it comes to children. Since 1993, an infrared beam is required by law to be standard in all units sold. This is simply a beam of infrared light which is sent out from a unit installed about six inches from the ground and received by another unit installed directly across from the first.

"If you're installing the opener yourself, the garage

door simply won't work if you don't hook up the beam correctly," Poole said, suggesting that you have a level on hand for this part of the installation. If the beam of light is broken for any reason while the door is closing, perhaps by a child or a pet, the garage door would automatically stop and reverse to its open position. That isn't the only change you will find modern automatic doors.

"The latest feature in automatic garage door openers is the rolling code in our keypad feature," said Murphy. The older keypad units required that people punch in a numeric code on the outside of the garage. Unfortunately, these units could be tampered with because they were operated by wires. The newest ones are battery operated and rely on radio transmit-

ted signals from the keypad on the outside of your door to the opener itself. The frequency is programmed to change each time it's used which makes it tamper-proof.

"You can even put a code in for a one-time use. Say you want to let the UPS man inside for a delivery because you won't be home. You program it to work just one time," Murphy said, adding that people really like the security.

Common sense, as well as advice from the National Safety Council, suggests that parents discuss garage door safety with their children. Remember to tell them that remote control door openers are not toys, it's not safe to play under or around any garage door, and games like "beat the door" are definitely not allowed.

How-to tips for savvy homeowners

YOU CAN FEEL RIGHT AT HOME LEARNING TIPS TO BRING FRESH LOOKS to your kitchen. Consider these tips from the "how-to" experts on The Learning Channel (TLC).

Here are a few ideas from JoAnne Liebler of TLC's "Home Savvy" that can dramatically change the feel of your home.

New life for old hardware

The pulls and hinges on your cabinetry can date the look of your cabinets. Fortunately, they can be easy to replace with new hardware, or you can paint what you have now.

Just unscrew the hardware, clean it and rough up the surface with sandpaper. Then, use two or three light coats of rust-resistant spray paint in any color you choose.

Break up that wall

Chair rails can be used in any room to break up the visual monotony of a wall. To install a chair rail, strike a straight line three feet up from the floor.

You'll need a miter saw to cut 45 degree angles at the ends of the trim so they fit at the corners. And be sure to paint your trim before it goes up, so you don't have to mask off your walls.

Cabinet class with glass

Cabinets with glass inserts are a great way to show off your nice dishes and give your

kitchen a fresh open feel.

Most cabinets have a center panel that can be cut out from the backside. Once this is done, use a router to create an L-shaped recess around the inside. The glass butts into the bottom ledge and is secured with an adhesive.

You can use any type of regular glass you like, or give stained glass a try.

It's not that expensive and it can turn a kitchen from feeling like leftovers to being the main course.

Check out www.tlc.com for information on upcoming home improvement programs.



Joanne Liebler, from The Learning Channel's 'Home Savvy' show, offers tips on how to improve an old kitchen.

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Expert advice on designing window treatments

YOU CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN the art of selecting window treatments.

Space

First, look at the window space itself, then the area surrounding it and, finally, the entire room. To visually expand a window or room, choose soft, light or cool colors. Another hint: Coordinate the window treatments with the wall color because low contrasts keep the eye moving around the room. Reverse the technique to make the window or room appear smaller and cozier by using dark, warm colors and high contrast between the window and wall.

Line

Vertical lines add height and dignity to a room, creating a formal atmosphere and drawing the eye upwards. Vertical lines

can also add height and importance to patio doors and other types of windows. Vertical blinds in one of the many fashionable choices available.

Horizontal lines are usually considered less formal. However, using valances and other decorative overtreatments can add height and formality to any horizontal window covering.

Curved lines on windows have a softening effect. Treatments with curves include swags, tapered valances and balloon shades.

Form

Window fashions may also be used to alter and improve existing window shapes. For example, considering rectangles are generally more attractive than squares, a treatment can be installed outside the window opening and above any molding to lengthen the look of the window.

Color

This is the most important element in a room when it comes to setting a mood. It is also what drives many decorating decisions. A good rule of thumb when combining colors in a room is to let the primary color be featured in up to 75 percent of the room, your secondary color about 15 to 20 percent, and your third color about 10 percent. The primary color is usually in the floor and/or wallcoverings since they take up the most area.

Texture

More and more interesting textures are being introduced every day. Visual texture — a material's roughness or smoothness — is the most important consideration. Using several levels of complementary textures adds variety and maintains interest.

Additional information about



Topped by playful scalloped cornices, window shades in a dark color and linen-like texture add coziness to this breakfast nook.

window treatments is available by calling 1-800-937-STYLE or by visiting the Web site at www.hunterdouglas.com.

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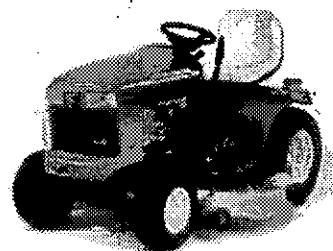
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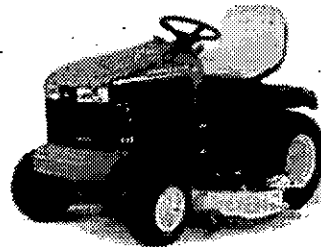


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Today's fences offer more choices and innovations

HOMEOWNERS CAN CONSIDER A VAST ARRAY OF FENCING products to add security, protection, or beauty to their homes and yards. Innovations in the fence industry offer more material and style choices than ever before.

Many fence materials are maintenance-free, and some manufacturers offer 20-year to lifetime warranties.

The most popular materials include wood, chain link, ornamental steel and aluminum, and vinyl.

Wood fencing

Historically, wood has been a fencing favorite. Its versatility is endless, from the rustic charm of a split rail to the Victorian elegance of white picket to the attractive shield of a privacy fence.

Several varieties of wood make good fencing material, including western red cedar, eastern white cedar and pressure-treated southern yellow pine according to Carol Ann Berry of FLW Wood Products.

Other types of wood used in fencing include spruce, hemlock, locust, cypress, poplar, oak and redwood.

Wood fences come in a wide variety of styles and can be custom-built with decorative tops such as lattice, gothic, rail tops, balls or finials.

Chain link

Chain link provides an effective safety barrier at low cost. Whether you want to fence in a swimming area, protect children and pets, or keep intruders at bay, chain link provides a long-lasting, no-nonsense fence.

"If you plant vines and bushes around it, the fence will disappear while still giving you security," said Rick Hamilton, senior project manager of American Fence Company.

Chain link fences are available in PVC-coated colors like black, green and brown, as well as rust-resistant materials such as galvanized steel, aluminum-coated steel and aluminum.

Ornamental steel and aluminum

Mostly used for their security and aesthetic qualities, ornamental steel picket fences require little upkeep, in addition to being strong and pleasing to the eye. Ornamental aluminum has the charm of steel, but won't rust, making it a smart choice for pool areas or around any perimeter.

"You never have to paint it, it

comes with a lifetime guarantee, and there's several color variety options," said Scott Goodman, director of marketing at Specrail.

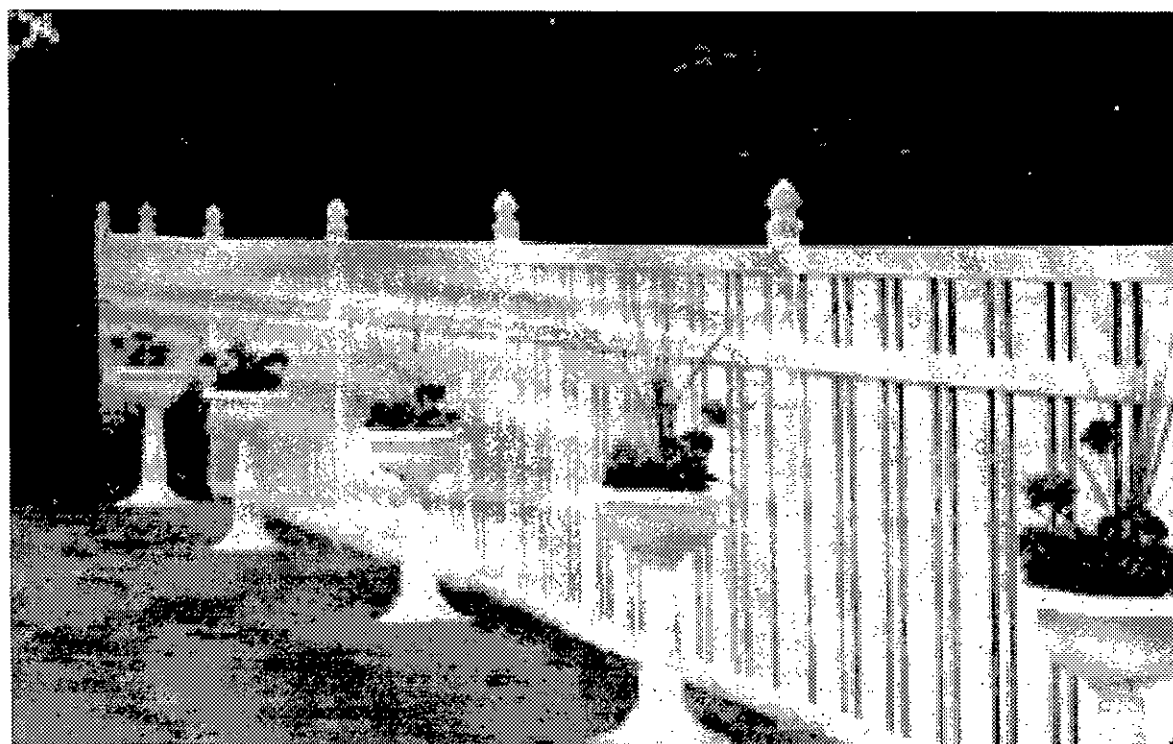
Vinyl

Maintenance-free vinyl fencing is available in many of the same styles as wood and ornamental picket. Although the initial cost is more than for a wood fence, the upkeep costs are minimal.

"Vinyl fencing allows homeowners to spend their time

on leisure and their families, since there is no time required to paint, repair or replace it," said Ralph Palmieri of Bufftech.

Whether you want to enclose a swimming area, protect your children or delineate property lines, today's fence choices are virtually limitless. The American Fence Association can recommend a reputable local fence contractor. Visit the web site at www.americanfenceassoc.org or call (800) 822-4342 for a referral.



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HOMEOWNERS KNOW THAT THERE IS NEVER ENOUGH MONEY TO make all the improvements they want to around the house. What they are finding, however, is that the greatest transformation one can make to a home is to simply let the sunshine in. Natural lighting techniques — or “daylighting” — enable homeowners to give dreary corners a brighter outlook.

Studies have proven daylight to be effective at reducing

fatigue, stress, and depression, while enhancing vision, mood, energy level and overall productivity.

While the skylight has been the standard in natural home lighting, new products offer alternatives.

One of those alternative goes by the brand-name “SunPipe.” The SunPipe is a hollow, super-reflective pipe which runs from the ceiling to about a foot above the roof. Daylight enters the pipe through a clear acrylic

dome and is reflected down the pipe to a white diffuser dome on the ceiling. All that is seen from inside the room is a glowing white diffuser — at night, it also reflects the moon’s glow.

According to Greg Miller, inventor of the SunPipe and founder of The SunPipe Co., the pipe can spread light up to 20 feet with minimum loss of intensity.

“It literally fills a room with bright, diffuse daylight, Miller said. “And since it has an almost



A bright kitchen lit by the sun would enhance anyone's mood.

zero effect on heating and cooling costs, it actually pays for itself when used instead of a skylight,” Miller said, adding that the pipes use no electricity.

According to Miller, SunPipes have even been installed directly adjacent to skylights.

“Sometimes skylights have a dry-walled shaft beneath them which sends the light straight down to the floor,” said Miller. “SunPipe’s ceiling diffuser is so effective at spreading nature’s light uniformly throughout the room, it lights up the walls and even the ceiling.”

In 1994, SunPipe qualified for an Energy Related Inventions Grant as offered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Tests performed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology on behalf of DOE, specifically cited SunPipe’s potential for major lighting-energy savings when used in large area applications.

“We’re just bringing that same technology into the home, and have been doing so since 1991,” explained Miller.

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