

Board to consider
park set-asides

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Blues festival coming
to The Egg

○ Family entertainment section

Brides and Grooms

○ supplement inside

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Spotlight

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem & New Scotland

Volume XLIV Number 52 Fifty Cents

January 10, 2001

Buddy system



Morgan, a golden retriever at a Peppertree Rescue adoption clinic at L.C. Smith pet store in Delmar, gets to know Chuck Haley up close and personal. *Jim Franco*

Pofit views job as 24-7 privilege

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

Tonight's town board meeting marks the start of New Scotland Supervisor Martha Pofit's second year in office — and an occasion for a look back on her freshman year.

"When I was originally approached to run for office, the impression was it was somewhere between a part-time and a full-time venture," Pofit said.

"I don't know, maybe it's me. I can't do anything partway. For me, it's a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week privilege."

Long hours were not the job's only surprise for the daughter of a former Granville mayor.

"I had hoped I'd be able to concentrate on what I guess I'd call the chief executive officer aspects of the job, meeting with our citizens, being out there working with our adjacent municipalities and the county," Pofit said. "To some extent, I've been able to achieve that."

Still, the supervisor's other leadership functions in a small municipality — as chief financial officer, overseeing fiscal policy and planning in lieu of a full-time comptroller, and chief operating officer, overseeing day-to-day management and staffing of key appointments — have absorbed an unexpected degree of her attention.

"There's always a need with each passing day to determine how much time you spend inside town hall as not," she said. "I've chosen to spend more time in

the first year in the chief financial officer role, because of the emerging complexity of town operations."

One asset, she said, is a supportive town board — a majority of fellow Democrats, two incumbents eager to work as part of a team, and two fellow newcomers.

"The assets the new members brought were greater than their liabilities in that they were new," she said.

From the beginning, board members agreed to divide oversight for the town's operations and affairs into "portfolios" assigned to each of the members — and to work as a committee of the whole on planning and personnel issues.

"My job was also made easy by inheriting a financially and operationally healthy organization," she said. "I've been very impressed with the caliber and commitment of both town officials and employees who work at the town. I don't think you'll find a better, more talented or dedicated group."

Among her major first-year goals, she said, "I will always put citizen involvement on the top of our list here."

Pofit cited efforts to involve Voorheesville high school students in public service projects, the Christmas in April and Volunteers in Service to New Scotland programs launched last spring, and the tapping of voluntary expertise from among the town's residents,

□ POFIT/page 13

Liability claims driving insurance rates higher

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

The town of Bethlehem may face higher premium costs for its general liability insurance coverage in the future — and town officials blame that in part on the bumper crop of litigation the town faces this year, from claims related to the Elsmere landslide to a pedestrian fatality case.

In a memo addressed to town board members dated Jan. 5, Comptroller

Judith Kehoe informed the board that The Hartford Insurance Co., for more than four decades the town's principal carrier of business auto and umbrella insurance as well as its general liability coverage, has signaled that it would either jack up the town's general liability premiums — or discontinue that coverage at the end of February.

"They have effectively decided not to renew our coverage for 2001," Kehoe wrote. "While they would continue to write the coverage if we desired, their premiums would rise significantly, which is not acceptable."

As a result, for the first time in years, the town's insurance agent, Burt

Anthony Associates of Delmar, is seeking quotes from other municipal carriers for general liability coverage.

"It's not a nonrenewal," said Greg Turner, president of the agency.

But he said the new premiums The Hartford proposed to charge the town for its general liability lines would represent "substantial" increases on the order of 50 to 100 percent above the current rates. He declined to be more specific.

They have effectively decided not to renew our coverage for 2001. While they would continue to write the coverage if we desired, their premiums would rise significantly, which is not acceptable.

Judith Kehoe

In 2000, the town paid roughly \$110,000 in premiums for general liability coverage. General liability coverage applies to property and premises — claims related to the town's roads, streets and public property. Such matters as injuries suffered slipping on a public sidewalk, or property

losses due to water main breaks and sewers that back up, are frequent subjects of claims against municipalities like Bethlehem.

The implications of The Hartford's proposed rate hike are clear, Turner said, "It's a perception of a deterioration of the liability exposure we carry."

Translation: the town's a worse perceived risk than it used to be.

In recent years, Bethlehem has certainly been an iffy risk by The Hartford's standards. When a notice of

New Scotland town officials to consider ethics issues

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

Discussion of an ethics policy for town employees will highlight a busy agenda for tonight's New Scotland town board meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. at town hall.

At the board's request, Town Attorney John Biscone and board member Cathy Connors are overseeing a review of the New Scotland's policies regarding conflict-of-interest disclosure by town employees with outside income or employment.

Connors, deputy commissioner of human resources for Albany County, will review best practices in other municipalities regarding disclosure requirements and Biscone will report on the current state of town law regarding disclosure at the meeting.

The inquiry, said Supervisor Martha Pofit, is part of an overall review of town policies and practices launched last spring, and is not prompted by any specific issue or complaint of impropriety regarding a present town employee.

"No examples have been brought to my attention," she said. "It's just one of those things, whether it's the town investments policy or our other procedural policies, that needs review from time to time."

□ ETHICS/page 28



□ INSURANCE/page 28

Deputies arrest 4 on DWI charges

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

Four individuals face charges of driving while intoxicated (DWI), one of those a felony, after arrests during December in the town of New Scotland by Albany County sheriff's deputies assigned to the Voorheesville substation.

The felony DWI arrest was recorded on Christmas Day on Route 85A. Rolf C. Erickson, 42, of 3407 Geri Lane, Schenectady, was stopped for failure to keep right, and arrested for DWI after field sobriety tests were administered.

The charge was elevated to a felony after a license check revealed a suspended license. Erickson, arraigned before Town Justice Thomas Dolin, was sent to Albany County jail in lieu of bail

and is due in New Scotland Town Court on Jan. 18.

An arrest was recorded on Tuesday, Dec. 5, on Delaware Turnpike when William J. Lyons, Sr., 50, of 32 Woodstock Road, Westerlo, was stopped for an equipment violation.

After field sobriety tests and a prescreening were administered, he was arrested for DWI and ordered to appear in court on Jan. 11.

Also due in court the same day is James J. Price, 31, of 7 Sunset

Lane, East Berne, stopped on Dec. 21 for crossing hazard markings on Johnson Road.

He was arrested for DWI after field sobriety tests were administered.

Another arrest was made on Dec. 26 when sheriff's deputies responded to a one-car accident on Route 157 near Thatcher Park.

Christopher M. Thorn, of 1322 River Road, Selkirk, was arrested for DWI. He was ordered to appear in New Scotland Town Court on Jan. 18.

Home heating assistance available

The CHOICES program will accept Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) applications at its Faith plaza office in Ravena for residents of southern Albany County.

Applications will be accepted

Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

For information about fuel assistance days, income eligibility guidelines or verification needed, call 756-8650.

DWI cases adjudicated

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

Four individuals facing charges of driving while intoxicated (DWI) in Bethlehem and New Scotland were sentenced in town courts.

In Bethlehem Town Court on Jan. 2, a nearly year-old DWI case, involved William James Ivery, 59, of 11 Division St., Catskill, who was arrested June 9, 1999, on Route 9W in Glenmont.

Ivery has been arrested on three more occasions on bench warrants issued by the Town Justice Kenneth Munnely after failing to appear in court to answer the initial charge.

In Town Court last week, Ivery pleaded guilty to DWI and was fined \$500 and a \$90 state-mandated surcharge. His license was also revoked for six months. Several traffic citations in the case were dismissed.

A DWAI plea was entered in Bethlehem Town Court by Erik Charles Schissler, 17, of 68 Sanford Ave., Amsterdam, who was arrested Dec. 22. He was fined \$300 and a \$35 mandatory surcharge. He also pleaded guilty

to a charge of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and was fined an additional \$75 and a \$25 surcharge.

In New Scotland Town Court on Jan. 4, Jonathan Bruno, of Delaware Avenue, Delmar, pleaded guilty to a DWI charge stemming from his arrest on Oct. 7 by State Police from the Feura Bush substation.

Bruno was fined \$500 and a \$125 mandatory state surcharge. His license was revoked for six months.

Bruno also pleaded guilty to driving an uninspected motor vehicle and was fined \$25 and a \$35 surcharge. A charge of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle was dismissed.

Pleading guilty to DWAI the same night was Minard J. Dibble Jr., 47, of Calendon Road, Albany, arrested on Sept. 24. He was fined \$300 and a \$35 mandatory surcharge, and his license was suspended for 90 days.

All four defendants were also ordered to face a victim impact panel and undergo a drinking-driver remediation program.

Delmar man pleads guilty to lesser charge

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

An Delmar man facing charges of assaulting a police officer in a Sept. 29 incident pleaded guilty last week to a reduced charge of attempting to resist arrest.

Michael Paul Mavroudis, 27, of 503 Baxter Court made the plea in Bethlehem Town Court on Jan. 2, after waiving his right to a presentencing review by county probation officials prior to sentencing.

Town Justice Kenneth Munnely sentenced Mavroudis, who spent five days in custody at

the Albany County Correctional Facility while awaiting his initial court appearance on Oct. 3, to time served, and also fined him \$200 and a mandatory \$95 surcharge assessed by New York state. He was also ordered to continue an ongoing substance abuse counseling program.

The plea came in full satisfaction of original charges of second-degree assault and disorderly conduct, stemming from a pre-dawn incident in which Mavroudis was approached by police officers investigating multiple complaints by residents of Astor and Baxter courts of a disorderly man.

He was arrested after allegedly throwing a punch at a police officer sitting in a patrol car.

Culinary arts students win skills competition

Several local students were among 29 culinary arts and hospitality technology students at Albany Vo-Tec Center who recently competed in the Skills USA/VICA competition.

Adam Coons of Clayton A. Bouton High School took first place in the food preparation assistant competition.

Mike Millet and Nate Gordon of Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Senior High School took first and fourth place in the food and beverage service competition, respectively.

And, Ryan Kellem, also of RCS, took second place in the culinary arts competition.

The winners of the local competition will compete in regional competition in March at Schenectady County Community College.

Skills USA/VICA is a national organization for vocational-technical students that promotes educational, professional, and personal growth.

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Final salute

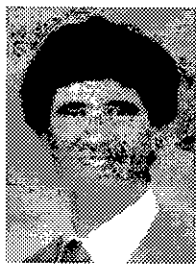


Colleagues and friends carry the coffin of Walter Eck Sr., a longtime Slingerlands fire official who belonged to and led a host of fire organizations in the area and throughout the state. See obituary on Page 18. Bill Fonda

Coach relieved of varsity duties

By ETHAN SCHOOLMAN

After more than a year of contentiousness and litigation, the school board brought the hammer down on Jesse Braverman last week, informing him in a letter signed by school board president Lynne Lenhardt that he will not be invited to coach the varsity baseball team at the high school in 2001.



Braverman

"Due to your continued unwillingness to comply with the Suburban Council rule, we will be unable to continue your appointment as varsity baseball coach," wrote Lenhardt in her brief letter.

Braverman has not been at work at the middle school since Dec. 7.

Normally, he teaches eight

periods a day, and, at this time of year, coaches the freshman girls basketball team.

But Braverman, who until a month ago had not taken a sick day in 19 years, has been out sick since the school board meeting on Dec. 6.

"I hope to feel better at some point, but I'm not there yet, and I don't know when I'll be back," Braverman said.

As for his girls basketball team, which has found another coach, Braverman said: "I'm not well enough to do the job right now, and the kids need someone who's there."

Braverman, a 27-year veteran of the district, brought suit early this year against the Suburban Council, the Bethlehem school board and numerous individual administrators, over a Suburban Council rule that prohibits coaches from coaching in the off season teams more than half made up of students from their regular school teams.

Braverman has coached the

Bethlehem Mickey Mantle summer team since 1987.

In November, a federal judge issued a decision in which he strongly criticized the guideline, but upheld its constitutional legitimacy.

The school board sent a letter to Braverman in December informing him that he would not be able to remain as both varsity baseball coach and head coach of the Mickey Mantle team.

The board told Braverman that he would be welcome to coach grade seven and eight baseball for the district, or else remain as varsity coach and take an off-the-field position with Mickey Mantle. Braverman has not responded.

School board member Warren Stoker recently expressed sympathy for Braverman.

"Jesse is and was a very good teacher, whom I worked with for many years," said Stoker, who is a retired middle school social studies teacher.

"I hope he comes back soon," he added, "He's a good man."

Center DEIS under planning review

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

The development of the Bethlehem Town Center shopping plaza in Glenmont continues to move through the public review process — slowly.

Developer Nigro Cos. recently submitted its pre-liminary draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) to the town planning department, and that document is now under review by Vollmer Associates, the engineering firm hired by the town as a consultant.

On Jan. 2, Nigro officials offered a brief public presentation before Bethlehem's planning board of two elements of that DEIS: analysis of its preliminary traffic study data gathered in the fall, and simulations of the project's visual impact on nearby neighborhoods.

At present, no further appearance by Nigro before the planning board has been scheduled.

The agenda for next Tuesday's meeting has not yet been finalized, but "I suspect that this will probably be on Tuesday's planning board meeting (agenda) for whatever comments the board might have," said Town Planner Jeffrey Lipnicky.

Once review of the DEIS is completed and any modifications or additional data the board might request have been obtained, Lipnicky said, "The next step really is for the planning board to make a recommendation to the town board that the DEIS is either complete or is incomplete."

The draft will then be presented for public comment, most likely before a public hearing, possibly later this spring.

Board to consider law on park development

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

On a crowded agenda for its first meeting of the year tonight, the Bethlehem town board will consider a proposal that would make residential developers partly responsible for providing recreational resources commensurate with their projects' impact.

A proposed local law drafted for the board's consideration by Town Planner Jeffrey Lipnicky would require developers to set aside a portion of their property under development for use as a public park, playground or recreational area, or pay a fee to the town, to be set aside for future parkland development.

The board will be asked by Supervisor Sheila Fuller to set a date for a public hearing, most likely its Feb. 14 meeting.

"I think it's a good idea," Fuller said. "When we take a look at the pace of development around our town, we need to look and see to it that some land is set aside for recreational use by the new residents it will bring."

"There's no specific requirement at present in the town subdivision regulations or zoning code that requires a developer to set aside park land," Lipnicky said.

But state law governing municipalities permits towns to establish such set-aside policies, and many local communities, including Guilderland and Niskayuna, have incorporated them in their municipal codes.

"There's also a provision in the law that allows a municipality to require a fee in lieu of reserving land," Lipnicky said.

Similar to the standard planning review practice of requiring right-of-way easements deeded to the municipality for the future building or roads and other infrastructure, a park set-aside policy would reflect the impact of residential development on the town's recreational resources.

It would also formalize the long-standing practice of the town's planning board, Lipnicky said, of raising the question of park and recreational land as a part of the environmental impact review of residential developments.

"It's been looked at and considered for all the major projects in the past five years," he said. "When you have a developer of, say, 235 homes, it has an impact on the town's recreational facilities, and it's reasonable to ask, how are you going to mitigate that impact?"

Developers often respond by providing the town with recreational easements around environmentally sensitive or scenic features of their property such as wetlands and creeks; others, like Haswell Farms, have put such areas in the hands of homeowners associations to determine their future disposition or set them aside as off-limits to development.

When they sought site plan approval from the planning board several years ago, the developers of Dowerskill Village in Glenmont

took the more direct step of setting aside nine acres, as well as additional lands bordering the Dowerskill, for future recreational use.

"We are trying to set it up in a way that would at least attempt to tie land reservation requirements to the population likely to be generated by the development," Lipnicky said.

Rather than require a strict percentage of property to be set aside, the proposed law would set a schedule of property allotments or fee payments that reflects the population generated by different types of housing units — highest for single-family homes, for instance, and lower for multi-unit apartment complexes where presumably family sizes are smaller, Lipnicky added.

For those paying fees rather than setting aside land, the proposed law would require payment a piece at a time, when the developer seeks building permits for the individual units, rather than paying in full earlier in the project approval process, as is the practice in some communities.

"From my perspective and the (planning) department's perspective, that's a big up-front cost, so we designed the law to try to spread the cost out a bit," Lipnicky said.

According to Fuller, a set-aside policy was discussed informally by the town board in 1999.

"Certainly it was discussed at budget time this year, and it was discussed before that," Fuller said. "I certainly think we should act on it now to make it part of our planning for the future."

If approved by the town board following a public hearing, the local law would go into effect immediately.

As for developers, "I'm sure nobody will be happy about it," Lipnicky said. "But by the same token, it's something that's out there in other communities, and it's to the long-term benefit of the town to require it."

The land reservation policy highlights a town board agenda tonight that includes four public hearings on tax exemption and traffic control measures, as well as the board's annual organizational agenda — making routine appointments, setting salaries and business hours, authorizing petty cash accounts for town departments and other business.

George Lenhardt is set to be reappointed as deputy supervisor. Other reappointments include Doug Hasbrouck and Michael Hodom, respectively, to one-year terms as chairmen of the planning and zoning boards.

Planning board member Dan Odell will be reappointed to a new seven-year term on the board, and Marjory O'Brien returned for five years to the zoning board of appeals.

Not on tonight's agenda: the originally slated discussion of the proposed Four Corners Overlay District. With the board's full plate for tonight's meeting, Fuller said, the matter has been postponed, most likely until Jan. 24.

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Motherhood's forever, and that's a very long time

By KATHERINE MCCARTHY

I quit.

This isn't one of those idle mommy moments that has me saying "Someday I'm going to walk out that door and I'm never coming back."

This isn't like the times I've escaped alone to the movies, to come back cheered by a romantic comedy and a giant box of Milk Duds.

This isn't a "I don't care what's for dinner tonight" moment.

This isn't one of those moments that could pass, where I'll realize just how lucky I am to live in a nice house in a nice town with a nice husband and nice kids.

This time I just want some change.

When I worked full time for money — when, I might add, the hours were infinitely shorter than in this mothering gig — I switched jobs every couple of years, either by moving up the ladder, or moving to try something new or to earn more money.

COMMENTARY:

*Mom's
the
Word*



I've been a mother for 10 years now, and most days it feels like I'm just holding the ladder in place, so that my family can climb over me to get where they need to go.

I wouldn't mind so much if there was some acknowledgement once in a while. But when my youngest, cherub-faced angel recently told me I was a failure as a parent, I felt ready to walk away and let the ladder fall.

We have a lot of imperfect moments in our house, but mostly I think we do OK. Lately, though, our younger guy seems to be asserting his independence in a manner that is exhausting his parents.

A more dispassionate person might see his changes as a

normal phase of development, and not dissimilar to some we worked through with his big brother. It could also be regarded as something of his own, having little to do with me.

But a more dispassionate person wouldn't be his mother, who ultimately feels responsible for every action her children take.

That overinvolvement made my heart break right on the spot, which I not-so-effectively covered with a useless verbal torrent of "Look at everything I do for you," — a litany that started with an epidural that wore off too soon and ended with me stomping from the room to give myself a time-out.

Which became a huge crisis of self-reflection and introspection.

Well, of course I'm a failure. Just look at the evidence: my kids watch too much TV, don't eat their vegetables, don't like school, rarely do as they're told and aren't grateful for what they have. They also swear, fight with each other and never put their clothes in the hamper — it goes on and on.

Each of these failures is a shortcoming of mine, because I have been unable to teach them how to do each of these things. I'm not the patient person I imagined I could be.

I can't just repeat over and over again, "Please put your dirty socks in the hamper. Please put your coat in the closet, not on the kitchen floor. Time to get up for breakfast now. Time to do your homework now. Where are your mittens? Two bites of vegetables, please."

Oh, I'm all right the first five times I have to say each of these things. But if you take five times per day — probably a low average — and multiply it by the 365 days there are in a year, then by the number of years I've been a mother — I'm bored and frustrated just thinking about all those words that have fallen on deaf ears.

And I'm tired and dispirited thinking about how to even start to change things. Sure, I need to be calmer and firmer, and follow through with consequences when things get out of line, instead of launching into tirades that both the kids and I stop listening to after the third word.

Chris and I should go out more often and he and I should each take more time on our own.

We should strive for quality time with the kids, maybe a weekly board game night. We should split up and spend more one-on-one time with each kid. We

need to be firm, gentle, kind, loving and unafraid to dole out consequences.

We should insist on respect from our children.

There's the part that's hardest. We work so hard; don't our kids see it's all for them? Don't they see that their father and I love them so much that it hurts sometimes?

Why do they sometimes want to prove the adage, give them an inch, they'll take a mile? Are we doing all we can to teach them how to contribute to the world and appreciate the good things of their lives?

There's the rub — if they're going to appreciate their lives, I need to appreciate mine. I guess I'm just continually amazed at how much work parenting is.

It's not just changing diapers, cooking healthy meals and dispensing Tylenol for fevers. It's staying centered when temper tantrums happen, finding the right words when kids are discouraged and not being hurt when they lash out.

It's about finding the best solutions you can, hoping the rest will come to you eventually, and loving your kids no matter how much it hurts.

Of course, this parenting thing is mostly about not quitting. When my tirade and self-pity session are over, I realize that nothing matters more to me than my children.

So I'll work at letting go where I can, being tough where I need to, and making sure they know that they are loved, no matter what they say to me.

OK, I won't quit. But, just for a minute, can somebody else hold up this ladder?

Concert to benefit leukemia patient

A live benefit concert to help a local leukemia patient is set for Saturday, Jan. 13, at Delmar Reformed Church on Delaware Avenue in Delmar.

Pajamazon, F-timmi and Plan 10 will perform beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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FEESTELIJK BETHLEHEM

CALL FOR ARTISTS

On Sat., April 28, 2001, Feestelijk Bethlehem will highlight the artistic offerings of the Town of Bethlehem. To be considered, send a promotional package containing either individual and/or group biography, audio or video tape, photo and contact telephone number(s) to: Feestelijk Bethlehem Entertainment P.O. Box #1, Delmar, N.Y. 12054 (*Note: Solicitation materials will not be returned.) Deadline for applications is: February 15, 2001

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Teen driving program designed for families

By KATHERINE MCCARTHY

If you're a parent lying awake nights worrying about your 16-year-old being in control of 2 tons of traveling metal, or if you're a 16-year-old hitting the road for the first time, the upcoming Teen Drivers ... Safe Drivers program will offer tips to help both parties negotiate the road a family travels when a teen starts driving.

Bethlehem Networks Project will offer the program at First United Methodist Church on Monday, Jan. 22, from 7 to 9 p.m. It will have a similar format to the Home and On Your Own program Bethlehem Networks offers for elementary school children.

Part of the driving program will be for teens and parents together, then the two groups will split up to meet in alternating 45-minute sessions with Bethlehem Police Officer Jeff Vunck and counselor Barbara Hoffman.

"Because learning to drive and securing a driver's license is such an important event for young people, it should be a family matter," said Mona Prenoveau, coordinator of Bethlehem Networks Project. "For safety's sake, parents should be as involved as possible as teens begin to drive."

Hoffman, who teaches Spanish at Bethlehem Central Middle School and has been a facilitator for EPIC (Every Person Influences Children) workshops, said that Teen Drivers ... Safe Drivers is designed to go where driver's education doesn't.

"Driver's ed teaches kids to move the machine, and the legal parts like observing the speed limit," Hoffman said. "We wanted to offer something to bring teens and parents together, to get them to think about the things they have to face. We wanted to get some communication going, and give some pointers about what to talk about."

Hoffman said part of the session's goal is to offer parents support, while making it interesting for teens by letting them talk to each other about driving.

"Some parents assume that they have to let their kids get their driving permit when they're 16," Hoffman said. "But it's OK to look at the responsibility side of things, and what each child is like."

Likewise, Hoffman said, some teens find starting to drive very intimidating, and the work-shop will focus on whether teens see driving as positive or negative.

Hoffman said that a driving contract addressing specific limits might help ease anxiety for both teens and parents.

"If friends ask for a ride, for instance, have parents set parameters about where a child can drive?" Hoffman said. "What if a kid comes to where a road is blocked; do they know how to get where they're going?"

She hopes to get kids and parents talking about who pays for gas, insurance and the car itself.

"We want to cover all our bases," Hoffman said, adding that the workshop will also cover serious issues such as drinking and driving, smoking, playing loud music, wearing seat belts and observing speed limits.

Vunck will handle the legal and safety aspects of teen driving.

"Jeff Vunck will talk about what to do if a car breaks down, how many passengers can safely be in a car, nighttime driving, and what to do if you get pulled over and ticketed," Prenoveau said.

Students must be 16 by March 1 to attend the program, and a parent or guardian must come with each teen driver.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

To register, call Bethlehem Networks Project at 439-7740.

Antique Study Club schedules meetings

Tri-Village Antique Study Club will sponsor a variety of programs in the upcoming months.

Barbara Roemer will discuss Taghkanic baskets on Jan. 31 at 1:30 p.m. in Bethlehem Public Library's community room.

On Feb. 14, at 1:30 p.m., John Dyer will discuss Abe Lincoln during the Civil War, at Delmar Reformed Church on Delaware Avenue.

"What Is It?" day will be held on March 28 at 1:30 p.m. Bring your unknown pieces to the program at Delmar Reformed Church.

Diane Carrk will discuss early lighting on April 18 at 1:30 p.m. at her home in Greenville. Meet at the CDTA Park 'n' Ride on the Bypass Extension.

On May 23 at 1:30 p.m., Mary McClaine will talk about buttons at the Beverwyck in North Bethlehem.

And on June 20 at 1:30 p.m., there will be a discussion by Gladys Amos and Pat Lattimer on lace and handkerchiefs at Delmar Reformed Church.

For information, call Diane Carrk at 439-3055.

Church cafe to serve dinner

Willowbrook Cafe of South Bethlehem United Methodist Church will serve a budget deficit dinner on Friday, Jan. 12, from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

The menu includes spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, and dessert. There is no set price for the meal.

RCS thespians to present 'Harvey' Jan. 26 and 27

The RCS Drama Club will present the three-act comedy "Harvey," by Mary Chase, on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 26 and 27, at 7 p.m. at the high school auditorium.

The play revolves around the eccentric Elwood P. Dowd and his imaginary friend Harvey, a 6-foot white rabbit.

The cast includes Dallas Trombley as Elwood P. Dowd, Katy Boomer as Veta Louise Simmons, Carly Assael as Myrtle Mae Simmons, J.T. Poirier as Dr. William Chumley, Kate Bishop as Nurse Ruth Kelly, Adam Sugrue as Dr. Lyman Sanderson, Sarah

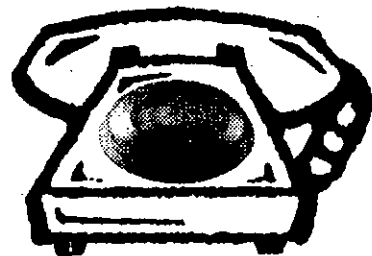
Nestlen as family lawyer Judge Olivia Gaffney, Jessica Gadani as Mrs. Betty Chumley and Kris Jeune as hospital attendant Duane Wilson.

Also, Adrienne Davis as society lady Ethel Chauvenet, Jackie Noblett as cab driver E. J. Lofgren, Suzette Berry as Miss Johnson, the Simmons' maid; Rachel Dehar as Elvira the cook, Rachel Kissel as Mrs. Tewksbury, Sarah Schools as Mrs. Frank Cummings, Erin Leavitt as Mrs. Halsey, Krystl Sherman as Mrs. Crossmire, Ashley Gonyea as Mrs. Burger, and Angela Zullo as Mrs. Duprey.

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Matters of Opinion

The dream of 2001

Every year around this time, the occasion of the Martin Luther King holiday prompts a contemporary examination of the status of blacks in American society.

Each year, the consensus seems to be that blacks are doing better, but remain ever short of the kind of color-blind equality that King crusaded for.

King called his vision a dream, and perhaps, given human nature, the goal of real equality will always be ephemeral, like other dreams — that the richest country in the history of the world should have no poor children; that no one should get sick or injured and then have to worry about paying for health care; that religion would be a source of comfort rather than conflict; that the whole nuclear weapons thing would just go away; etc.

Although such dreams will never be realized, the better part of man's nature lies in our capacity for improvement, which is surely needed to bridge what has been called the great divide — race.

This year, for blacks, there is the added element of the extraordinarily close presidential contest in Florida. Blacks overwhelmingly backed the ultimate loser, both nationwide and in Florida, and some black leaders continue to argue that second-class treatment at the Sunshine State's polls was an important factor in the end result.

Conventional wisdom-spouting pundits (almost all of them well-off whites who have no trouble voting) call for blacks to "get over it." But the ways Florida handled matters from voting machine modernization to felon disqualification to new voter registration clearly had the effect of discriminating against blacks.

Given the long history of voting wrongs in the South, we can understand blacks' anger. But anger is not a strategy for change; blacks cannot let their disappointment over the election become just another way to ineffectually demagogue their discontented.

Extremist voices, for instance, those calling for "reparations" for slavery, can only further distance blacks from the mainstream of American politics, where a solid consensus exists to eliminate illegal electoral discrimination.

The political arena is not all bleak for blacks. The candidate spurned by American blacks has appointed two blacks to his top foreign policy posts.

And in New York, the only black to ever win statewide election is poised to make a run for the state's top office.

The dream of real equality remains a worthy, if unattainable, goal. The King holiday reminds us that we must always work to improve our ever-imperfect reality.

Editorials

Board concerned about state tests

By LYNNE LENHARDT, WARREN STOKER, STUART LYMAN, HAPPY SCHERER, DENNIS STEVENS, ROBIN STOREY and ROBERT WING

The writers are members of the Bethlehem school board.

Make no mistake about it: standardized tests are what stand between every child and a high school diploma in New York state. In fact, the state education commissioner and Board of Regents have chosen to rely on standardized tests as the primary tool for evaluating not only students, but schools and districts as well.

As individuals charged with overseeing the educational programs and services offered to Bethlehem's 4,900 students, we have made the statewide tests among the highest priorities guiding our work. As a board of education, we are proud of the outstanding state test scores that our students and teachers have achieved. But as members of an education community known for its "tradition of excellence," we are compelled to voice our concern about the state's overemphasis on testing.

We believe that there's much more that matters in a BC education and that there are other equally important ways to measure student success. We acknowledge that the state has made these tests crucial checkpoints along the way to graduation, but to distort our educational program in response to them would be misguided and detrimental to our students' learning and their futures. The state's test-driven agenda has turned up the pressure on students and teachers, but not always in ways that improve the quality of education.

Certainly, there is value in testing, in general, as an assessment tool. At Bethlehem, we believe in a standards-based education, and that requires a means by which we can determine how all students are performing against a common set of standards for what they should know and be able to do. As part of a multi-faceted assessment approach, standardized tests can

Point of View

help identify students' strengths and weaknesses and, along with portfolios of student work and teacher observations, can offer insights into students' academic development.

Ideally, standardized test results can help us tailor our instructional and support offerings to individual students in the areas that such tests, along with other assessments, show they are needed. Over time, the results as a whole may reveal certain trends that help us target our larger improvement efforts within the educational program.

But those kinds of diagnostic and programmatic benefits receive little attention each year when the state releases the results from the statewide mandated fourth- and eighth-grade tests with much fanfare about which schools are "failing our children."

The obligatory rankings begin, pitting school against school, often within the same district. Administrators are distracted into defending where their schools ranked — even those schools that clearly exceeded the standards — when attention should be focused on any students who may have fallen short of the standards. And the public is left worrying about percent changes that are less a reflection of any drop in educational quality than the normal year-to-year fluctuation one can expect when the tests and the students who take them change from year to year.

The state asserts that test results are the easiest way for the public to compare schools and hold them accountable for educating students. But let's not forget that these scores represent children, and perhaps the easiest way isn't always the best.

A suburban district like Bethlehem will always fare well in such comparisons, particularly against districts that lack the community support, talented teachers and dedicated principals and supervisors that we enjoy.

However, the rankings do a disservice to districts that start out at the bottom. Those districts may make huge strides, but if they don't land near the top, their improvement efforts go unrecognized, to the detriment of other districts that are always looking for proven practices to replicate.

The fourth- and eighth-grade assessments, along with Regents results, form the basis of the School Report Cards by which all New York schools are judged. In other words, that judgment rests on snapshots of the work of elementary students, who are at an age where a few weeks can make all the difference developmentally, and the work of middle school students, who are only weeks away from the pressures of their regular final exams — and the end of the school year.

What's more, there is, as yet, no evidence of the predictive value of the fourth- and

eighth-grade results on students' performances on Regents exams.

Each year, after the state tests are administered, months pass before districts receive students' results, thwarting their efforts to use the data diagnostically. By the time teachers can make use of the information, fourth-graders have had the rest of the school year to grasp the concepts that may have eluded them the previous winter. And the eighth-graders who take the state tests each May are already in the high school, enrolled in a full schedule of classes, when their scores arrive.

Thus, the school is left making adjustments after the fact to ensure that any students in need of academic support, as indicated by the state test results, receive the appropriate services.

And what is the effect of all this testing on instructional time? Starting this year, eighth-graders will take no less than five state-mandated standardized tests, amounting to the equivalent of at least 10 days of lost instructional time. More time is lost when teachers are out of the classroom scoring these tests.

One has to wonder if the time wouldn't be better spent reading, writing, conducting science experiments, or practicing math or a foreign language.

Our concerns about the administration of statewide tests and how the results are used aside, the emergence of standardized tests as an educational priority in New York state raises more important questions about what is best for students.

More and more research has supported the idea of multiple intelligences — that is, that individuals learn in different ways and at different paces. Educators, including our teachers at BC, have worked to incorporate this new information about child development into the classroom; and yet, the state's focus on standardized tests seemingly flies in the face of that research.

The tests measure students' abilities in narrowly defined ways, giving no consideration to "late bloomers" or students who simply aren't good test-takers. As a result, we end up with 9-year-olds who may label themselves as failures.

We don't believe that it's in the best interest of any child to offer only one path to success. Even if we do everything we can with all the resources we have to help students pass the Regents, there will be those who won't make it. In the past, those same students have been very successful pursuing local options to a high school diploma. What does it do to their futures if they are left without those options?

We have heard educators in other districts tell us that the high-stakes nature of these tests has forced them to change what has worked so well for their students in the past. At Bethlehem, we cannot allow mandated assessments to dictate what we do and how we teach our students. We pride ourselves on our local programs — the EXCEL

□ TESTS/page 8

The Spotlight

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Your Opinion Matters

Youth sports need different focus

Editor, The Spotlight:

The Braverman saga continues. Why is it that the underlying dynamics seemly go unaddressed as this controversy plods on? What does it suggest about the district's administrative system?

Why is it that Mr. Braverman feels maltreated — is it because the system doesn't trust him to do the right thing by our children in potentially conflicting positions? Why is it that the district relies on a one-size-fits-all rule — is it that the athletic program lacks more constructive administrative controls?

I believe this conflict is just symptomatic of a larger, deeper problem. How often do we observe coaches prowling the sidelines, ranting intimidatingly at our children, causing fear, ridicule and embarrassment? How often do we observe coaches screaming at officials, questioning their calls? How often are we, as fans, guilty of the same behavior? What are our children learning about respect, self-discipline and emotional control? Has our hyper-inflated enthusiasm to win and live vicariously through our children and our players run amuck?

Why does our public school program diminish current opportunities for age-appropriate players to participate, while playing up in age younger students who will in the future help to build a winning program? Whose needs are being met — the adults who control program design and operate from their zeal to win or students who play to have fun competing and socializing with their peers? Are these experiences really what we want for our children?

When done "right," youth sports provide opportunities for children to learn important lessons about determination, commitment, hard work, teamwork and empathy, while acquiring increased self-confidence and positive character traits. Unfortunately, these opportunities are all too often squandered because coaches and parents blindly emulate the win-

at-all-cost mentality that filters down from the professional sports entertainment business.

Is the culture of sports like the weather — there's nothing we can do about it? Or is there something that can be done to create a more positive experience for our children?

First, as "customers" of our school system, parents must make known their concerns. Do we have the moral courage to speak out, notwithstanding our fear of causing retributions on our children? Coaches rightfully have the power to select players and to determine playing time. But it is that seemingly unfettered power that causes parents and players to be silenced. A system which is totally reliant on customer-initiated complaints for feedback, is a system flawed in design.

Second, parents, students, coaches and administrators can, in partnership, specify a mental model for youth sports in our district. In so doing, we can better align the program's mission with operational realities. We can have a standard of excellence to guide coaches as they exercise their discretion and parents as they adjust their expectations.

The Positive Coaching Alliance, a nonprofit Stanford University based organization, has established a national 10-year mission "to transform youth sports so sports can transform our youth." The alliance has developed the Positive Coaching Mental Model and will promote it until it becomes the industry standard for youth sports.

Third, with an explicit mental model in hand, we can then employ contemporary, customer-satisfaction assessment methods. The alliance offers a survey instrument for annual assessments and player and parent feedback to coaches and administrators. The very existence of a customer feedback process, in concert with an explicit mental model, should encourage coaches to self-monitor their goals, decisions and behaviors.

One-size-fits-all rule-making will then become less critical,

because players and parents know the system is designed to operate consistent with desired principles and to truly hear their voices if awry.

Individually and collectively we can act intentionally to improve youth sports. Further letters to *The Spotlight* from players, parents, coaches and administrators can continue a much needed community conversation on this subject.

I invite parents, coaches and administrators to visit the alliance's Web site at www.positivecoach.org.

It is loaded with useful information and even has a customized, interactive, online workshop for parents, coaches and administrators.

Guy Dugas
Glenmont

Thanks due to owners of In and Out the Window

Editor, The Spotlight:

A recent *Spotlight* editorial discussed the closing of a popular local business, In and Out the Window.

Many people are familiar with the shop and know the ways it supported local families.

But many people are not aware that the owners of In and Out the Window worked with students twice a week after school to help them learn job and life skills.

We are very grateful to Anita Stein and Deirdre Jameson who were mentors to several Bethlehem Central Middle School students over the years. These two caring business women helped the community by serving as positive role models to our youth.

Being a mentor is an important and challenging job and many young people benefited from an ongoing relationship with a committed adult.

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing," said Albert Schweitzer.

We wish Deirdre and Anita great luck in the future.

Yvonne Doberman

Bethlehem middle school
guidance counselor

Mona Prenoveau

Bethlehem Networks Project
coordinator

Sharon Felson

Bethlehem Youth
Employment director

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AUTO FACTS

by John Quirk



PRESSURE SITUATIONS

The first thing to remember about maintaining the recommended tire pressure is that it helps to ensure safety, good fuel economy, and tire wear. Keeping your vehicle's tires properly inflated is easy and inexpensive. With all this in mind, it might be a good idea to invest in an accurate tire-pressure gauge. Check your tire's pressure in the morning to assess the cold pressure of the tires. For improved performance handling, try a bit more air than factory specification in the front tires of front-wheel-drive vehicles. For rear-wheel-drive cars, adding a bit more pressure to the rear tires may help response and balance.

Adding a bit more pressure to the front tires of all-wheel-drive cars may help steering and response.

Properly inflated tires can extend their life and improve your vehicle's performance. BETHLEHEM AUTO SERVICE can help keep your car or truck fit for the road. Routine maintenance checks include inspection of tire pressure and wear and wheel alignment if needed. Call us at 426-8414, or visit us at 62 Hannay Lane in Glenmont off Rt. 9W behind Stone Ends for quality auto service with a personal touch. We feature a clean, comfortable waiting area. Business hours are Mon.-Fri., 7-6.

HINT: Over-inflating tires compromises the comfort of the ride.

Matters of Opinion

Suggestions for library

Editor, The Spotlight:

As someone who has renovated five homes, I am very aware that a substantial part of the cost of renovation is tearing out what already exists.

Because new construction is less expensive, I would like to propose a three-part move that would center on building a new Bethlehem Public Library.

Because our library is a school district library, I suggest:

- The existing library building

become a new Bethlehem Central School District headquarters, successor to the terribly overcrowded offices now at 90 Adams Place.

- A new library built on land across Van Dyke Road from BCHS. This property was acquired, after voter approval, to meet future district needs. A new library at this site would be convenient for students and convenient for the community.

- The administration building on Adams Place would be sold, and proceeds would be used toward building the new library.

Meeting rooms in what is now the library could continue to be used by community organizations, and parking would no longer be a problem.

As the library board further considers this issue, I hope it will look at approaches to meeting community needs, rather than scale back the original proposal.

New construction would allow an affordable library appropriately wired for 21st century technology.

Vicki Bylsma
Delmar

Drivers must heed signs by post office

Editor, The Spotlight:

During the past month, a gentleman was struck by a car at the crosswalk by the Delmar post office. There are signs clearly stating that pedestrians have the right of way, and yet no tickets were issued to the driver who hit the man.

Just a week later, I was standing inside the post office waiting for the counter to open. I saw an elderly woman trying to cross from the opposite side of the street.

Seventeen vehicles went by, including two Bethlehem school buses, and neither side of the road yielded.

The man was hospitalized for his injuries, and yet motorists in this fair town had obviously not learned a lesson from this accident.

I would also like to mention the early morning joggers and dog walkers that have been given sidewalks for their safety.

They continue to use the road, where they cannot be seen. Motorists swerve to avoid them even in slippery weather.

If the jogging is for their health, where is their common sense?

Liz Bradt
Delmar

Tests

(From Page 6)

program, the Lab School, our pre-engineering and apprenticeship programs, courses such as science research, and many more — that appeal to students' different strengths and interests. We have no intention of sacrificing what makes them special in the name of test preparation.

The irony is that state and federal education officials have often espoused the importance of replicating best practices. Over the last 10 years, instruction and assessment approaches have benefitted greatly from what we've learned about how the brain works and how children develop mentally and physically.

Our teachers have worked hard to apply this knowledge, developed other innovations, and sought out best practices to continuously improve teaching and learning for our children.

Yet regardless of what's worked for different districts in the past, New York state now requires that all districts make the state tests a priority. We will abide by that mandate, and do what we need to do to help our students achieve the best scores they can. But we are not willing to sacrifice any child's future for the political and policy agenda of state bureaucrats.

If success can be reduced to passing high-stakes standardized tests, then teaching to the test would be the only rational response. The threat that high-stakes testing poses to real teaching and learning as it is still done here in Bethlehem is palpable.

We agree that school districts

must be held accountable for student achievement, but measuring achievement solely on a scale of one to 800 doesn't begin to be enough for us as a district.

We also measure it in terms of the insightful discourse between teachers and students in the classroom, our students' senior art portfolios, the impact our students have on the community through internships and service projects, the camaraderie that develops among our student athletes, and the effect courses such as digital electronics, music theory, wildlife biology or Web site design can have on developing students' academic interests and career aspirations.

What students learn from these experiences may never appear on any state exam, but that makes them no less important, because it is our mission to educate our students to be successful in life, not in taking tests.

Letters policy

The Spotlight welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing for fairness, accuracy, style and length.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number.

Unsigned letters receive no consideration.

Write to Letters to the Editor, The Spotlight, 125 Adams St., Delmar 12054. Letters can be faxed to 439-0609 or e-mailed to spotnews@nycap.rr.com.

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Matters of Opinion

Becker community says thanks for help

Editor, The Spotlight:

The "Kids Giving to Kids" holiday assistance program at A.W. Becker School was once again a huge success. Through the efforts of the school and local organizations, we were able to assist 40 families in need this season.

We thank the following organizations for their help this year: St. Vincent de Paul Society, for donating toys; Old Castle Cement, for its donation of \$250; GE Selkirk, for a \$400 Kmart gift card; Avaya Communications, for its \$500 donation; and Jerusalem Reformed Church of Feura Bush,

the American Legion and Bethlehem Elks, that all adopted families.

Along with these organizations, local food pantries donated food baskets for these families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Members of the Becker staff, students and their families were also very generous, donating gifts and money to purchase gifts.

Our sincere appreciation to all those who once again helped us to make Christmas brighter for these families.

George A. Montrone
and the A.W. Becker staff

Aid was much appreciated

Editor, The Spotlight:

This letter is to thank the 911 dispatcher, the policeman, ambulance squad and the able medic who on Dec. 20 responded to my call for help in the early morning hours.

I give my heartfelt thanks for the swift, efficient life-saving knowledge, abilities and driving needed to get me to St. Peter's Emergency Room in time.

At the time of need, names unknown, they are our closest human contact who became "family" when we are alone.

What a town I live in! Thank you. Happy New Year.

Marjorie Laraway
Good Samaritan Senior
Apartments

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Write to Letters to the Editor, The Spotlight, 125 Adams St., Delmar 12054. Letters can be faxed to 439-0609.

Story time registration begins Tuesday, Jan. 16

Bethlehem school district residents can register for spring story times next Tuesday, Jan. 16, beginning at either 9 a.m. in person, or 1 p.m. by phone.

Residents and nonresidents can register by phone or in person on Wednesday, Jan. 17, beginning at 9 a.m. No registrations will be accepted via voice mail.

Check It Out
Bethlehem Public Library

Story times begin Monday, Jan. 22, and run through Thursday, April 5.

On days when Bethlehem schools are closed or have a delayed opening, story times are canceled. Sessions can be made up at a family story time.

There will be no story times school vacation week Feb. 19 to 23.

The story time schedule is as follows:

• Toddler — 22 to 35 months

with adult. Tuesday 9:30 a.m., Wednesday 10:15 or 11 a.m. and Thursday 10:15 or 11 a.m.

• Preschool — age 3 and 4, no adult. Monday 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday 9:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.

• Advanced — age 4 and a half and up, no adult. Tuesday 10:15 a.m. and Thursday 1:30 p.m.

• Family — age 3 and up with family. Tuesday 1:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King Day

All this week, kindergarten and up can honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by taking part in an ongoing peace puzzle project. Stop at the youth services desk for details on how to make a piece for peace.

The library will close at 5 p.m. next Monday, Jan. 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

A vacation-day presentation of "Ralph S. Mouse," a short film based on Beverly Cleary's story, is offered for children in grades two and up at 2 p.m. on that day.

To register, call 439-9314.

Louise Grieco

Girls academy names honor roll students

Several local students have been named to the first trimester honor and high honor rolls at Albany Academy for Girls.

To qualify for the high honor roll, a student must have an A- or better average.

The following students are on the high honor roll: 10th-graders Emmalie Dropkin of Delmar and Rebecca Toseland of Selkirk; 11th-grader Elisa Stefanik of Feura Bush; and 12th-graders Stephanie Downs of Voorheesville, Madeleine Robillard of Selkirk and Caroline Vu of Glenmont.

To qualify for the honor roll, a student must have a B or better average.

The following students are on the honor roll: 10th-graders Hannah Gold and Elena Plank, both of Slingerlands, Sarah Samson of Voorheesville and Elizabeth Drew of Delmar; 11th-graders Laura Rubinchuk of Slingerlands and Megan Tucker of Delmar; and 12th-graders Melia Fast of Selkirk, Marlanna Ghovanloo of Voorheesville, Elizabeth Pulice of South Bethlehem and Amanda Sullivan and Laura Braunstein, both of Delmar.

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Drama club to present one-act play festival

The high school drama club will host the director's choice one-act play festival on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 14, at 2:15 p.m. at the school.

The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens.

Town board to meet

The New Scotland town board will meet tonight, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m. at town hall on Route 85 in Slingerlands.

Driving course set at community center

A 55 Alive defensive driving course will be offered on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 11 and 12, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wyman Osterhout Community Center on the Old Road in New Salem.

Class size is limited to 30 people and participants must be 50 or older.

The cost is \$10 and is payable on registration at New Scotland town hall on Route 85A.

For information, call the New Scotland clerk's office at 439-4865.

PTA to meet

The PTA next regular meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the elementary school cafeteria.

Activity night slated for fifth and sixth-graders

Activity night for Voorheesville students in fifth and sixth grade will be held on Friday, Jan. 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the elementary school.

There will be a DJ, games, food and more. Tickets will be sold at the school and need to be purchased prior to the event.

Friends of Music schedule meeting

Friends of Music will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. at the high school.

No school Jan. 15 for King Day

Schools in the district will be closed Monday, Jan. 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Swim program registration set at high school

Helderberg Aquatics will hold registration for swim lessons on Monday, Jan. 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the high school foyer.

The registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and payment is required.

The Red Cross-approved swim lessons will be held from Feb. 3 to April 7. Classes will meet once a week on Wednesdays or Saturdays for 50 minutes. Instructional levels 1 to 5 will be offered.

The cost is \$80 per student for

Letters policy

The Spotlight welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing for fairness, accuracy, style and length.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number.

Write to Letters to the Editor, The Spotlight, 125 Adams St., Delmar 12054. Letters can be faxed to 439-0609.

NEWS NOTES

Voorheesville

Jane Norris
439-8532



eight lessons. There is a discount for siblings.

The Infant and Preschool Aquatics Program will meet once a week on Saturday for 30 minutes. The cost is \$48 per session.

There will be an open swim on Fridays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. beginning Feb. 9.

The cost of the open swim is \$2 for adults, \$1 for students and free for children under 5. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

For information, call 765-7987.

Library to make giant peace puzzle

Bethlehem Public Library's Youth Services Department invites school age children, in kindergarten and older to help with a giant peace puzzle in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stop at the Youth Services Desk for details on the ongoing project.

Join celebration of Pooh's b-day

Families are invited to gather at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16, for a birthday celebration for Winnie the Pooh during evening story time.

Friday, Jan. 12, is the day for Films and Fun for preschoolers. Join youth services librarian Joyce Laiosa for 30 minutes of short films followed by an art activity.

Caregivers, remember — regular daytime story hour times have been slightly changed so that all begin at 15 minutes past the hour. Story times are Monday at 10:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. and Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:15 a.m.

The library is open on Martin Luther King Day, Jan. 15, but there will be no story times.

Food for Fines is going strong this month. Overdue items can be returned with a canned good or nonperishable food item for a \$1

No parking reminder

The Bethlehem Police Department reminds residents that the town's "No Parking" ordinance is in effect and will remain so through April 15.

The ordinance prohibits vehicles from parking on town streets and highways between the hours of 1 and 7 a.m.

Vehicles in violation of the ordinance may be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.

Voorheesville Public Library



credit in back fines for each item, up to a maximum of \$3. Donations collected will be turned over to the local food pantry.

Book discussion of *City of Light* by Lauren Belfer meets at 7 p.m. on Jan. 17. If you are a fast reader, you can still sign up.

On display during February are first day covers from the stamp collection of Harry Flint.

If you have a collection that you would be willing to share with us, call Barbara Vink at the library. There are several openings this year.

In the hall gallery are paintings by Voorheesville artist Diane Wozniak.

If you have not received the January/February "Bookworm," copies are available at the library. Call 765-2791, if you live outside the school district and would like to be on our mailing list.

Barbara Vink

Five Rivers slates guided night walk

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center will be offering a guided night walk on Friday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m.

Center naturalists will offer instruction on how to use night vision and hearing while listening for owls and other night sounds during an evening at Five Rivers.

The program is free and participants should dress warmly.

For information, call the Five Rivers center at 475-0291.

BLOOD DRIVE



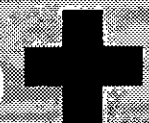
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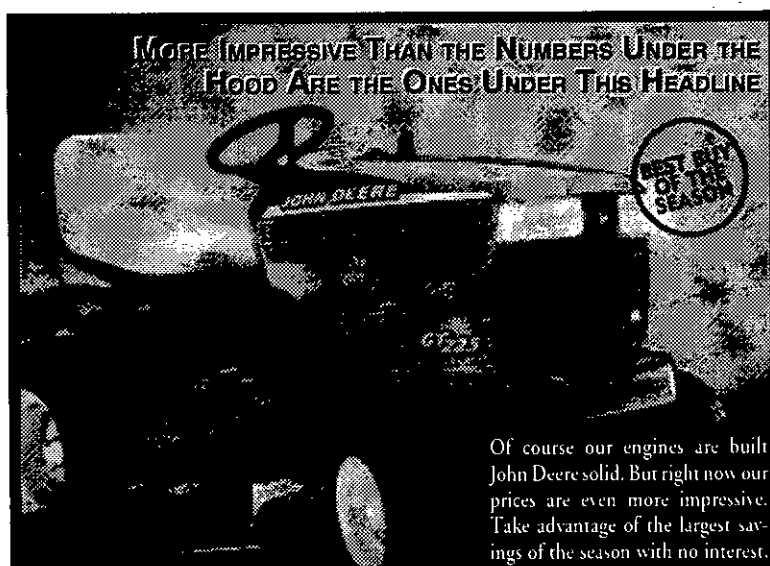
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Youth dance to feature Mr. C

All area middle and high school youth are invited to a dance on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Knights of Columbus hall on Main Street in Ravena.

Mr. C — The Cool Wizard of WVCB-FM will be the disc jockey.

The dance is sponsored by the town of Coeymans youth advisory committee/youth council.

A nominal entry fee will be charged. The event is smoke, drug and alcohol-free.

Numerous door prizes have been donated by local merchants and citizens.

NEWS NOTES

Selkirk
South Bethlehem
Linda Marshall
756-3520



Proceeds will be used to fund future youth activities.

For information, contact the youth director at 756-6006.

PTO meeting set

Pieter B. Coeymans Elementary School PTO will meet today, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m. at the school on Church Street in Coeymans.

Parents are encouraged to attend.

Free throw contest set

Ravena Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a free throw contest at RCS middle school on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Kindergarten registration set Jan. 16

Children who will be attending kindergarten at P.B. Coeymans Elementary School starting in September are asked to register on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the school.

Select ensemble chorus to present concert

RCS select ensemble chorus will perform on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. at the high school.

Book group to meet

The book discussion group will talk about *Lost in Place*, a memoir by Mark Salzman, on Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. at RCS Community Library.

Beat the doldrums at Five Rivers events

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center will offer a variety of activities.

• Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Winter landscape painting. Local artist Marta Jaremko will teach a five-part indoor course. Students will paint indoors, looking out the windows at nature. Class fee is \$120. For information, call the Artist Studio at 478-0645.

• Friday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m. — Winter night walk. Look for animal tracks and winter constellations or listen for owl hoots and coyote howls.

• Saturday, Jan. 13, 2 p.m. — Owls of New York: This indoor program will focus on the biology

and behavior of New York's half-dozen resident species of owls.

• Saturday, Jan. 20, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. — Project WET workshop. For teachers and youth leaders, this interdisciplinary aquatic education workshop will introduce Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). Preregistration is due by Jan. 17.

• Saturday, Jan. 27, 2 p.m. — Watchable wildlife: beaver. Field study of the ecology of beaver and other denizens of the Five Rivers wetlands.

For information about programs, call the center at 475-0291. Five Rivers is on Game Farm Road in Delmar.

RCS library slates activities & crafts

RCS Community Library will host several activities this month.

• The weekly preschool story hour is held on Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Activities and crafts follow each 30- to 45-minute program.

Preregistration is not needed for individuals, but is appreciated for groups.

• The library will hold small-group, hands-on lessons about the Internet for beginners on Wednesday at 11 a.m., and on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Call the library to register for either program at 756-2053.

• The book discussion group will be discussing *Lost in Place*, a humorous memoir by Mark Salzman.

The group will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m.

Copies of the book are available at the desk.

Library staff remind those who wish to visit the library but are unable to that the library can deliver books, large-print books, audio books and videos on a regular schedule to residents who are house-bound.

Call the library and the staff will create an individualized program for you.

To volunteer to make deliveries, call the library at 756-2053.

BCAA to serve spaghetti dinners

Bethlehem Central Athletic Association will dish up spaghetti dinners on Fridays, Jan. 12 and 19, from 4:30 to 8 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Tickets are \$8 each and proceeds will be used to fund scholarships to graduating seniors by the athletic association and to provide summer sports camp scholarships to district students.

For information, call Jim Kelly at 464-1300 ext. 312 or 439-0716.

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The flu is a respiratory infection caused by the influenza virus that is responsible for at least 45,000 deaths annually in this country due to flu-related complications such as pneumonia. Ninety percent of these deaths involve people over age 65. The flu can also lead to other complications (such as dehydration) and worsen underlying medical conditions (such as congestive heart failure or asthma). Nearly one-third of all people over age 50 have a chronic medical problem, such as diabetes; heart, lung, or kidney ailments; or a suppressed immune system, that puts them at risk for flu-related problems. For those reasons, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently lowered the recommended age for annual flu vaccination from 65 to 50.

For many, especially the elderly, the flu virus can really set you back. Getting a flu shot can save weeks of discomfort and weakness, which is especially critical as you get older. At Good Samaritan Lutheran Health Care Center, 125 Rockefeller Road, those who come to us for services often comment on how helpful our staff is in providing information and soliciting support services as needed. Give us a call at 439-8116.

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Pofit

(From Page 1)

concerning everything from accounting oversight to evaluation of the town's computer operations, as steps forward.

As the year has progressed, Pofit said, she has also sought greater intermunicipal and intergovernmental cooperation with the village of Voorheesville, local school districts, and other public entities, like Voorheesville Public Library, which has helped establish and develop the town's Web site.

In particular, closer cooperation with village officials had led to consolidation of the town and village building and assessing departments, an intermunicipal animal control program, expedited review and public passage of a service award program designed to help Voorheesville Ambulance with retention, and other initiatives.

In the long-range planning retreat for town board members and officials held last September at Camp Pinnacle, Voorheesville Mayor Ed Clark was an integral participant, she said.

"I'm very grateful for a close relationship with village Mayor Clark and village officials," she said. "Who could have guessed in a 12-month period we would have been able to have a trusting relationship to the extent of being able to combine services?"

Another key accomplishment was the establishment of a new public safety committee involving critical agencies including the Albany County Sheriff's Department, local fire and rescue companies, and the county and town highway departments. Pofit hopes to see an improved town emergency management plan emerge from its deliberations.

Similarly, a committee to study the future of the parks and recreation department has only recently gotten off the ground, as has a townwide study of water supply issues; Pofit anticipated progress with those this year.

In the meantime, some crucial extensions to the town's several water districts have been set in motion, and the North Road water extension, now awaiting final clearance by county health

officials, was completed.

"I'm very pleased with what we've been able to pull off in the current year," she said of the water supply improvements. "We have to be aware that's probably the most mileage we can get in such a short time."

Other key accomplishments Pofit cited include emendations to the town's zoning code last spring, establishment of a help line and other service improvements for the senior citizens, and steps toward a long-range capital plan for the town.

One key goal not yet realized is development of an integrated policies and procedures manual for town employees.

"That's the biggest challenge for me personally, which would be a challenge for anyone coming into municipal service—the need to have all practices, procedures and protocols in writing," she said. "I have set myself a goal of no more than the current year to see that accomplished."

She hopes for greater cooperation with her neighbors in Bethlehem and Guilderland, particularly on water issues.

Of Bethlehem town officials, she noted, "At every level, they have bent over backwards to share their expertise and experience with us"—citing in particular Comptroller Judith Kehoe.

Town employees have taken the rapid pace of change in stride, Pofit said. But in December, concerns about merit and performance evaluation standards being put in place in the town's highway department prompted a vote by workers on whether to unionize and affiliate with Local 106 of the International Union of Operating Engineers. The unionization drive was defeated, 7-12, but the vote was a reminder of the stress of change.

"I want to reassure our employees that the changes that are being made are ones that we hope will always accrue to their benefit," Pofit said. "We have committed ourselves to having crisp job descriptions that we can measure people against. There is a desire on the part of our board, and it's shared by the supervisor's office, that we should provide tools to reward those that are major contributors to doing public service in the town. Because of that, I'm sure there can only be anxiety about, gee, how will I do under the circumstances?"

But with numerous administrative and fiscal changes set in motion, Pofit aspires to be a hands-off executive.

"I sort of subscribe to this servant-leader philosophy of management: Surround yourself with the best people and get out of the way," she said.

She also hoped for better citizen outreach.

"I have not been able to meet with clusters of citizens in a way that I had just assumed I would have had time to do," she said. "I look forward to doing that more, with the neighborhood associations, with just focus groups of people in the hamlets, where there is no municipality to work with easily—to make sure we're always in touch with (their) needs."

But generally, she said, "For one year, I couldn't be more delighted with the inspired enthusiasm. Having the tone set by this town board, it radiated throughout the community."

Correction

In the year-end wrap-up article in the Jan. 3 issue, the Bethlehem Central varsity football team did in fact reach the Sectionals last fall—losing in the opening round to Bishop Maginn.

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Jim Franco

Physically Speaking

by Nick Valenze, P.T.

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The extension of a joint beyond its normal range of function (hyperextension) may damage the soft tissues that surround the joint, resulting in muscle strain or ligament sprain. Because they display similar symptoms and spelling, sprains and strains are often confused by the average person. Strains result from stretching and tearing of muscle fibers. Sprains result when ligaments or other non-muscle tissues around joints are torn. Although minor sprains and strains will heal on their own, immediate medical attention should be sought if there is acute swelling at a joint and/or persistent pain and tenderness to the touch. In the meantime, follow the RICE prescription (Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation) to help reduce pain, inflammation, and swelling.

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Sports

Lackie wins third straight RCS Tournament title

By ROB JONAS

Jared Lackie's perfect record at the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Wrestling Tournament remained intact last weekend.

Lackie swept through the 171-pound division to claim his third consecutive title and help the Indians place sixth in the team competition.

"I was pleased with our effort," Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk coach John Vishneowski said. "Some of the kids looked the best they have all season."

Lackie had little trouble earning his third title. After a first-round bye, Lackie pinned Hadley-Luzerne's Kevin King in 52 seconds to reach the semifinals against Salem's Doug Bardin. Though he did not get the fall, Lackie recorded a 14-0 majority decision over Bardin to earn a spot in the championship round.

In the finals, Lackie found himself going up against a stubborn competitor in Maple Hill's Sean Eaton. The two battled until the final minute, when Lackie pinned Eaton to win the title.

Two more Indians reached the finals, but had to settle for second-place finishes. John Dibble (135 pounds) pinned Canajoharie-Fort Plain's Adam Parkinson and Voorheesville's Jesse Sommer before losing to Hadley-Luzerne's

Kevin Swinton 9-2, while Justin Schipano lost to Salem's Steve Johnson after posting victories over Maple Hill's Travis Gladd and Catskill's Jose Rivera.

Four Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk wrestlers made it to the consolation bracket finals. Sam Lambert (112) took third place by pinning Hadley-Luzerne's Brant Spotswood in four minutes, while Curtis Graham (125) defeated Canajoharie-Fort Plain's Mike Spaulding 8-2 to finish third.

Landon Kier (140) and Aaron Covey (215) lost their consolation finals to place fourth. Kier was defeated by Canajoharie-Fort Plain's Scott Peck 14-5, while Covey was pinned by Adam Tittlebeck of Red Hook (Section IX) in the middle of the third period.

Voorheesville was the only other local team to participate in the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Tournament. The Blackbirds finished near the bottom of the 11-team field with 33 points.

"We were coming off a long break," Voorheesville coach John Jenkins said. "We hadn't wrestled in over two weeks, and that kind of put us behind."

Sommer, Josh Welton (96) and Arone Silverman (130) were the only Voorheesville wrestlers to place in the top four. The trio reached the consolation finals in their weight classes before losing.



Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk's Sam Lambert struggles to avoid a pin during a 112-pound match at last Saturday's RCS Tournament. Lambert finished third in his weight class.

Jim Franco

BCHS boys hoops end winless skid

By ROB JONAS

All the elements fell into place in one night for the Bethlehem Central boys basketball team.

The Eagles used a 15-3 third-quarter run to defeat visiting Shaker 65-58 last Friday in a Suburban Council and earn their first victory of the season.

"It was a really nice game," Bethlehem coach Chuck Abba said. "The kids did a great job."

For once, the Eagles (1-2

league, 1-9 overall) didn't have problems getting the ball to go through the basket. They scored 17-or-more points in three of the four quarters to wind up with their highest total of the season.

"The kids have been doing a good job of getting open shots, but we haven't gotten the ball through the hoop on a consistent basis," Abba said.

Bethlehem built a 20-16 lead after one quarter, but Shaker outscored the Eagles 17-11 in the

second period to grab a two-point advantage. Bethlehem's defense came out strong in the third quarter to hold the Blue Bison to three points, as the Eagles broke the game open.

Nate Turner scored 20 points and pulled down seven rebounds to pace Bethlehem. Steve Maltzman contributed 17 points.

"We're getting contributions from a large number of kids — not only points, but also in areas that most fans don't see such as setting screens and getting rebounds," Abba said.

Bethlehem suffered its ninth straight loss last Wednesday with a 55-41 setback against Niskayuna.

Josh Burnett was the lone Eagle to reach double figures. He finished with 11 points. Bria Meyers had 19 for Niskayuna.

The Eagles hoped to continue their winning ways Tuesday night with a trip Averill Park. The Warriors entered the contest winless in their first season in the Suburban Council.

"Going to Averill Park is going to be a tough game," Abba said. "Averill Park has played well at home, even though they haven't won a game."

Bethlehem returns home Friday night for a game against Mohonassen. The Eagles then have a week off before playing Shenendehowa Jan. 19.

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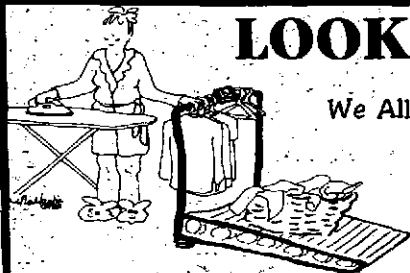
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Bride & Groom

Weddings with that personal touch

By JENNIFER ARSENAULT

If you are planning a wedding on a budget, or want a personal, creative touch, area stores have plenty of do-it-yourself options for wedding ceremonies and receptions.

For starters, Arlene's Artist Materials, in Albany, stocks nearly 200 handmade papers, along with calligraphy pens that can be used for invitations, thank-you cards, and placecards.

Because the paper is made by hand, there may be slight variations in color from sheet to sheet, store manager Donna Garramone said.

Arlene's also carries unique photo albums made from velum handmade paper that can be used as keepsake wedding albums. If you'd like to hang your wedding photos or invitations later on, the store has a complete framing department. The store is located at 57 Fuller Road in Albany.

Decorative stationary supplies like stamps and embossers can be found at crafts store A.C. Moore in Latham. The store also stocks kits for make your own cards, and employees hold how-to classes.

A.C. Moore has craft projects for brides including classes on how to make veils, silk or dried flower bouquets, wedding and shower favors, and decorative items for receptions.

Additionally the store stocks Wilton molds and pans for wedding cakes that can be baked and decorated at home. Customized candy molds, with a couple's name and the date of their wedding can be special ordered.

The store's floral department can custom-make centerpieces and trellises from dried or silk flowers at no cost except for the flowers. Dried or silk flower bouquets for the bride are a less pricey option than fresh flowers, and will last much, much longer.

Many more ideas are available at the store. A.C. Moore is Latham. The Party Warehouse store carries over 20,000 party-related items, including place settings of paper or plastic plates, cups, napkins, tablecloths, and utensils in every color imaginable.

They sell products you can do yourself like make-your-own chocolate favors with candy molds, while others can be made by store staff, like custom made centerpieces.

"You can get something just as elegant for probably half the cost of a floral centerpiece. It's possible to cut corners without making it look cheesy or tacky" said Party Warehouse co-manager Lynn Edelstein.

To look at these or any other of the Party Warehouse's discount party supplies, visit the store at 76 Fuller Road in Albany, or Shoppers World Plaza on Route 146 in Clifton Park.



A handmade nosegay can be beautiful and sentimental.

Touch of Class hosts bridal shower

Touch of Class Limousines is hosting its second annual bridal show.

Touch of Class owner Maria Lanides has been in the business for more than a dozen years. She said her show, Jan. 21 at Jillian's on Pearl Street in Albany will be a way for brides and grooms to get everything they need in one place.

"It's like one-stop shopping," she said.

On hand will be exhibitors from bridal shops, invitation stores, and travel agents.

Lanides said to save time

brides and grooms should type out their name, address, phone number and date of ceremony. This label can be attached to the cards most exhibitors have that enter visitors to the show in prize drawings.

To reserve a ticket, call the bridal show hotline 242-3960 and can reserve a ticket. There is no fee.

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Catering to your desires

By LEIGH G. KIRTLEY

Food.

It's hard to imagine a celebration without a feast and a wedding is no exception. Traditionally, a reception menu consists of hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, a main course and, of course, the wedding cake served with coffee and tea.

While your personal preferences are important, think of your guests as well.

Is anyone that you know of on a special diet?

Or allergic to anything?

Are any of your guests vegetarians and if so, to what degree?

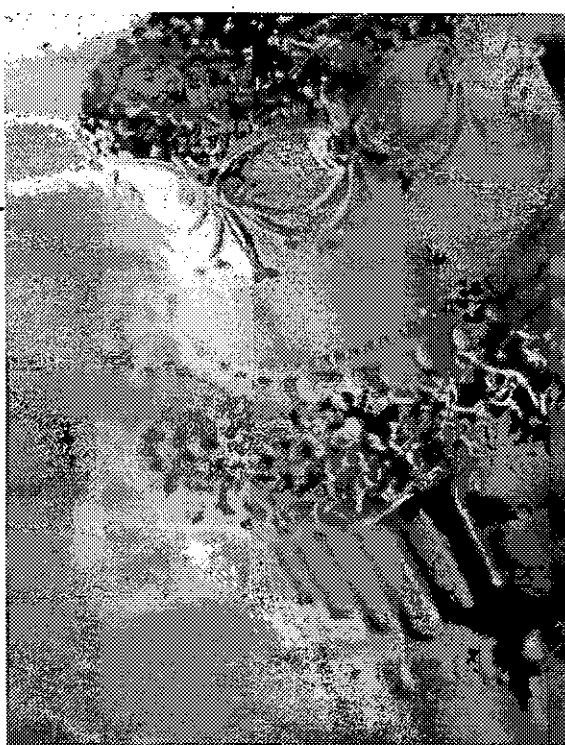
Some vegetarians avoid all animal products like milk and eggs in addition to meat.

Consider also the theme for your wedding.

For a very formal affair, a sit-down dinner with a choice of entrees is appropriate.

Without sacrificing formality, a buffet allows you to offer your guests a variety of dishes and keeps them circulating and interacting more.

Stations are similar to buffets in that they help guests mingle. Rather than a long table and long lines, stations presenting



Caterers work to make sure your dreams are realized.

different entrees or meats are placed around the room.

That way guests are only in line for foods they care to enjoy.

"People are going for a real variety. The trend is to out-do each other," said Marc Yanni, owner and chef of Yanni's Restaurant Fine Food and Catering in Ravena and Yanni's Too At The River in Coeymans. "They're looking for more creative menu planning."

And delicious creativity is what Yanni will give you.

Rather than specializing in one type of cuisine, he can help customers develop a menu to impress and satisfy their guests.

"I cook many different types of meals, Italian, Asian; I do it all," he said. Yanni can bring the meal to you as a full-service, licensed caterer or, you can bring your party to Yanni's.

Either way, the decisions on

the menu are completely yours.

Before deciding, though, taste test some of the entrees if you are not familiar with them.

Keep in mind, too, that if you want to take advantage of the best and most creative menus, think seasonal.

A real good caterer helps you to make choices that incorporate seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Of course, caterers do not just serve full-course meals to hundreds of people.

They can accommodate smaller parties as well. If you are having a small, early afternoon wedding, why not have a Victorian tea setting for your guests with scones, finger sandwiches and petit fours?

A cocktail hour reception goes over well after an early evening ceremony with an array of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres.

How about a brunch reception if your wedding is early in the day?

Whichever you decide, plan ahead. Yanni is already scheduling events for the year 2002.

He also mentioned that weddings in May and June are competing with graduation parties for dates. You can reach Yanni's or Yanni's Too at 756-1766.

Choosing the perfect wine

While it's nice to pair a specific bottle wine with your main course, that can be difficult at a buffet-style reception. Here are some suggestions of wine varieties that will not compete with your menu and appeal to most wine enthusiasts without breaking the bank.

By LEIGH G. KIRTLEY

Reds

Rioja - Spain
Shiraz - Australia
Sangiovese - Italy

Whites

Riesling - New York state or Australia
Pinot Grigio - Italy
Nino Verde - Portugal

Champagne/Sparkling White

Cava - Spain
Korbel - California
Domaine Ste. Michelle - Washington State

Talk with your local wine merchant who can offer you more choices. It's also good to take advantage of wine tastings or buy a bottle before ordering a case.

Except for sparkling wines, California labels are conspicuously missing. Though California vineyards offer some of the best wines available, they can be expensive. Imported wines offer exceptional taste and value.

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Make money work in your marriage

By KATHERINE MCCARTHY

During your engagement, financial planning consisted of figuring out payments for the dress, the tux, the flowers, and the gifts for the bridesmaids and ushers.

With the costs of the ceremony behind you — and maybe a check or two as a gift — it's time to start planning finances until death do you part.

Certified financial planner Mark Bryant, of Bryant Asset Protection in Slingerlands, suggests that newlyweds start thinking of their finances as a pyramid.

"You need to build up from a base," Bryant said. "Start thinking about a financial safety net, with disability insurance and life insurance. Make sure that you have wills, and a durable power of attorney. Even if it's a very simple will, it can avoid nasty proceedings and the expenses that come with

hiring lawyers."

After that, Bryant advises balance.

"You should have three to four months' worth of savings in the bank, or in a money market account," Bryant said. "You'll want to then balance your savings between retirement savings, and the intermediate goals of your life, like a new car every few years or a house."

Scott Ferguson, financial adviser and branch manager of Raymond James Financial Services in Colonie, advises

newlyweds to assess their financial styles before they take that walk down the aisle.

"Everybody's needs are different," Ferguson

said. "One of the couple may be a spender, and the other may be a saver. Fair questions to ask before you get married are how you feel about saving money, spending money and meeting financial goals."

Ferguson advises a couple to stay out of debt as much as possible.

"If I received \$5,000 as a wedding present, and had some debt, except for a car or house, I'd try to pay it off," Ferguson said.

Ferguson took Bryant's advice of having three to four months' worth of salary saved up even further, to six months' worth.

"In this day and age, you see it less and less frequently," Ferguson said. "But as you grow together, and perhaps have a baby, or other major expenses, it makes sense to be prepared rather than get knocked off your feet for some catastrophic reason."

Discussing a timeframe to meet goals is also important, Ferguson said.

"Few things are more emotional than love and money," Ferguson said, "and combining them can be volatile."

Bryant advised that a couple begin saving as soon as possible, particularly for a retirement fund like a 401k.

"Even if you only save \$10-\$25 per pay period, save something," he said. "Let that money do its compounding for you."

Bryant put children's education savings into the category of long-term goals.

"There are 529 plans that offer tax deferrals as you save," Bryant said, "and when the money is withdrawn when a child is 18, it's taxed at the kids' rate."

The benefit to accounts like this, one of which is the New York State College Savings Plan, is that parents maintain the controls over the money.

"This is different than the uniform gift to minors," Bryant



Bryant Asset Protection A.W. Scherhorn Agency Inc., offers a variety of services. Mark Bryant and Jeff Bryant seated, pictured here with Al Scherhorn can meet planning and investment needs.

said. "529 plans are great for parents, and for grandparents who are doing estate planning."

Unless a couple has the financial knowledge to know exactly how they want to invest their money, Bryant suggested mutual funds, which invest money in stocks and bonds.

"They're a good investment vehicle for a young couple," he said. "They offer a great deal of diversification."

Both Bryant and Ferguson agreed that discipline is the key to financial success. Bryant said that the main thing a couple should do is some cash flow planning.

"Eighty to 90 percent of the people who come to see me have no budget," Bryant said. "You should try to visualize, set and commit to your goals."

Bryant likened himself to the quarterback of a financial planning team, coordinating the work among himself, his clients, a small group of attorneys and the CPAs he recommends. As a registered investment adviser, Bryant is required to disclose whom he works with, and how he is paid, as he advises clients on their financial investments.

Ferguson is the manager of a division of Raymond James Financial Services, which was established in 1962.

"We offer clients a personal service with a high level of investment choices," Ferguson said. "We guide them to financial goals that let them sleep at night."

Bryant Asset Protection can be reached at 439-1141 or 439-4911. Raymond James Financial Services can be reached at 862-9222.

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Wedding planners smooth rough waters

By DONNA J. BELL

Whether you are planning a small at home wedding for 25 or a big blow-out for 200 a wedding planner could be just what you are looking for. With many of today's couples both holding down demanding jobs, more and more people are turning to an expert to plan the perfect wedding.

"Times are changing, many couples are older and independent and very busy," said Jill Cerone of Beautiful Beginnings. "They don't have time to plan all the little details." Cerone, a certified wedding specialist, offers everything from a planning consultation where she gives advice and directs couples to resources to taking care of every aspect from butterflies to cakes, reception halls to DJs and tuxes.

A wedding planner needs to be a "detail person" because there are literally hundreds of decisions that couples could make.

What food will be served at the reception, will the style be formal and traditional, ethnic or casual, how many guests are to be invited. These are just a few of the fine points that need to be ironed out.

"When couples come in I have them take a fun quiz to get a sense of what they want — what are their ideas — what are their priorities," said Cerone.

"Usually people have a good idea of where they want their ceremony but past that they need help," said Cerone.

According to Cerone, it can take up to 250 hours to plan, and that is if you are a professional. If you start to run into problems then it can take much, much longer.

For many people planning a wedding is filled with firsts. Where do you find a vocalist and a pianist for the ceremony? Want butterflies released as you come out of the church where on earth do you find a butterfly broker? What is better a sit-down dinner or a buffet? Open bar or just champagne?

The best thing about having a professional handling these items is that they have seen and planned hundreds of ceremonies.

Almost every possibility has already been dealt with and you not only have someone who knows the ropes but someone who knows what the costs are and how to save the most money. The main thing to figure out first, Cerone said, is budget and priorities.

"If a couple wants to splurge a certain item, such as flowers, we can trim a little from here and cut a little from there and they can have everything that they want," Cerone said.

One job of the wedding planner is to offer alternatives and choices and to help the couple get the wedding they dream of at a cost that is reasonable for them.

"I take orders from the bride and groom, tell me what you want and I'll do it," Cerone said. "I can offer alternatives because I know the costs, the merchants and know how to deal with all the little details you don't have time for." Cerone said that it is ideal for a couple to contact her six months to a year in advance but she has

planned last minute weddings when couples were tying the knot in a few weeks or months.

"I just can't say no," Cerone laughed. A professional also sees how the trends for weddings are changing and is current on what's hot and what's not.

"Couples today put a lot of

friends and family and perhaps there are differing opinions," said Cerone. "That's where I can step in and see that the couple gets what they want from their wedding."

While weddings are usually traditional, ritual laden affairs as society changes so do the



Everything from flowers to rings, to cakes can be handled by the planner.

thought into their weddings, the grooms are more involved than ever," Cerone said. "They have some pretty amazing ideas of their own. Part of Cerone's job is to mediate between families so that each family is happy with the outcome of the wedding. I meet with the couple first, I throw out ideas and they discuss it with

ceremonies that surround them. Today there are more blended families. Divorced parents, stepparents and children from previous marriages offer challenges to the planning. However, Cerone said a planner is used to handling these types of dilemmas.

"There are a lot of different solutions for dealing with different types of families including extended families," Cerone said. There are a lot of things you can do to make the kids feel a part of the wedding."

Indeed there are now ceremonies that have the children of the couple play an active role in the ceremony-special jewelry to give to kids, candles to light or pledges to give to the children and the family.

While Cerone is independent and not affiliated with any merchant, she knows the wares, prices and quality of each service provider she recommends.

"I do try to know as much as I can about a merchant to know

the quality and prices, I need to work with different budget and different priorities," Cerone said. Cerone works with reputable companies and says she can give couples a great deal on invitations, favors and ingraveable party gifts

"Many couples do want to plan their own wedding, but unfortunately they don't have the time to do all that is involved or a couple who wants to get married but only has a vague idea of what they want," Cerone said.

"Just by sitting and talking I can get a feel for the personality help them have the wedding the truly want."

For information call Cerone at Beautiful Beginnings at 782-0423.



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Stepping out with men's formal wear

By JENNIFER ARSENAULT

You've popped the question, set a date, and picked a location for you and your bride-to-be's wedding day.

So, what are you going to wear on the big day?

Anthony Commisso, owner of Tuxego Latham recommended picking a classic, simple tuxedo.

"Timelessness is what you're looking for hopefully those wedding pictures are going to be looked at in 40-50 years and you don't want to look dated in them," he said

The black, three-button tuxedo is both classic and popular for evening weddings, said Tony Choppa, owner of Choppa and Son, in Albany.

For morning or afternoon weddings, he suggested a cutaway tuxedo jacket with striped pants and an ascot, a look often worn by royalty.

If a bride and groom are not shopping for the tuxedo together, the groom should to have a swatch of the bride's dress color so that shirts match it.

Knowing the color of the bridesmaids dress is also important if you wish to match the best man and bridegroom's accessories to their dresses, which is a popular trend now.

For grooms, Choppa suggested a white or ivory vest and tie, or a solid black look.

Ideally, tuxedos should be picked 3 to 4 months ahead of time in order to ensure a proper fit.

Commisso recommended choosing a formalwear store located near the site of the wedding for out-of-town guests or if last minute adjustments are needed.

Internet store and resource www.MarryingMan.com has a list of formal wear shops across the country, as well as information on tuxedo related issues from fittings



Experts advise grooms get classic looks for tuxedos.

to how to tie a bow-tie.

The site also has a question and answer section for any of your formal wear questions.

Tuxego Latham is located in Peter Harris Plaza, 952 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham.

The store has a Web site at www.tuxego.com

Choppa and Son is located at 1020 Central Avenue in Albany.

Both stores take walk-ins, but appointments are suggested for outfitting the whole wedding party at once.

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By LEIGH G. KIIRTLEY

Honeymoon hot spots



After a year or two of decisions and arrangements and planning and paying, most couples are ready for the honeymoon before they make it to the rehearsal dinner.

And a relaxing, romantic vacation is well deserved. But before packing their bags, they need to decide where to go.

Where is the hottest honeymoon spot?

"Aruba is definitely the hottest place to go," said Kelly Colton-Shepard, owner of Destination Travel in Clifton Park.

"The temperature is about 85 degrees year round and it's not in the hurricane belt," she said.

By the way, hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30 and can put a halt to the best-laid plans.

Add to that white, sandy beaches, an annual rainfall of just 17 inches and you have the perfect mix for a tropical getaway that is only five and a half hours away by air.

Although it is a small island,



Aruba's warm temperatures and sandy beaches make for a great honeymoon spot.

there are activities for everyone.

You can be spoiled by lavish resorts like the Wyndham Hotel or head over to the natural side of the island for horseback riding and four-wheeling over the sand dunes.

You can try your skill at parasailing, scuba diving, windsurfing or just lounge by Wyndham's pool and enjoy frozen

fruit kabobs.

A short bus ride takes you downtown where you can enjoy cafes and shop till you drop.

Often, you can get good prices on gems and jewelry if you know what you are looking for.

Consider learning about stones you are interested in before you travel.

"The staff at the Wyndham will take very good care of you when you're on your honeymoon," Colton-Shepard said.

She recommends that couples book early and take advantage of all-inclusive packages for the best value.

"And stay at least five days. Couples who stay less always call and ask us to extend their visit," she said.

If you would prefer to have a more playful honeymoon, Disney World offers three honeymoon packages that may include hotel,

food, activities and entrance to the various parks. The basic package starts at \$1150 and the Grand Plan begins at \$4050.

On the other hand, if you and your partner want the ultimate in pampering and couples-only activities, consider a cruise.

Once on board, you pay extra for alcoholic beverages, port excursions and souvenirs. Meals, shows, even ballroom dance lessons are included.

Cruise lines like Princess Cruises, a.k.a. 'The Love Boat,' treat you like royalty with honeymoon packages beginning at \$799 per person.

As wonderful as these destinations sound, they can be expensive.

You can save money by planning ahead and taking advantage of off-season packages.

Aruba is definitely the hottest place to go. The temperature is about 85 degrees year round and it's not in the hurricane belt.

Kelly Colton-Shepard

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In that case, it may be easier to postpone your honeymoon rather than plan your wedding around the honeymoon.

Another way to save money is to consider honeymoon spots you can drive to.

A three to five hour drive from the Capital District puts Montreal, the mountains, New York City or the ocean within easy reach.

No matter where you go for your honeymoon, remember two simple things:

First, find a place with activities you both enjoy.

Second, find a place that matches your budget.

That way, your homecoming will be as happy as your honeymoon.

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Bridal Checklist Calendar

Nine to twelve months before the wedding

- Determine the type of wedding you want, size degree of formality, setting.
- Select a wedding date and time
- Set a tentative budget.
- Decide how expenses will be shared.
- Shop together for wedding rings.
- Determine the size of the guest list.
- Plan reception and book location.
- Select and book caterer.
- Select and book photographer, videographer.
- Select and book reception entertainment.
- Select and book transportation for out-of-town guests and the wedding day.
- Select wedding attendants.
- Choose your dress and headpiece.
- Schedule fittings and delivery date.
- Choose bridesmaid dresses and accessories.

- Select a travel agent and start planning for your honeymoon.

Six to nine months before the wedding

- Announce your engagement in the local paper.
- Register for gifts.
- Maintain records of all gifts received and send thank-you notes immediately.
- Select florist and discuss color schemes.
- Begin shopping for men's wedding clothes.

Four to six months before the wedding

- Order invitations and order stationery.
- Ensure that all bridal attire has been ordered.
- Check marriage license requirements.
- Select baker and order wedding cake.
- Order favors.

Two to three months before the wedding

- Choose the men's wedding attire and reserve the right sizes.

ding attire and reserve the right sizes.

- Start addressing invitations and announcements. Mail out-of-town invitations six weeks before the wedding.
- Purchase accessories such as cake knives and candles.
- Confirm details with your professionals.
- Confirm ceremony details.
- Arrange rehearsal details, including dinner.
- Make appointment with your hairdresser.
- Finalize honeymoon plans with your travel agent.

One month before the wedding

- Finish addressing invitations and mail them four weeks before the wedding.
- Get marriage license.
- Have your dress fitting.
- Have final fitting for wedding attendants.
- Purchase gifts for wedding participants and for fiancé.
- Finalize rehearsal dinner details.
- Draw a map to direct guests to the ceremony and

reception sites.

Two weeks before the wedding

- Contact guests who have not responded.
- Pick up wedding rings make sure they fit and are properly engraved.
- Meet with photographer and make list of preferred pictures.
- Meet with entertainer; offer a list of music to be played.
- Continue writing thank-you notes for gifts received.

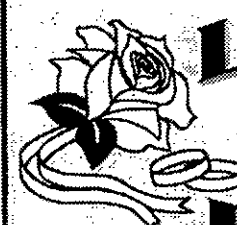
One week before the wedding

- Provide the caterer with the total guest count and confirm details.
- Plan seating arrangements.

- Confirm honeymoon reservations and accommodations, pick up tickets and travelers checks.
- Assign tasks to be done on the wedding day to your wedding party.
- Pack for the honeymoon.
- Check with florist to ensure flowers will be delivered on time.

On the wedding day

- Bring wedding ring and license to ceremony or ask someone else to do it.
- Apply make-up slowly.
- Start dressing two hours before the ceremony.
- Mail the wedding announcements to the newspapers.



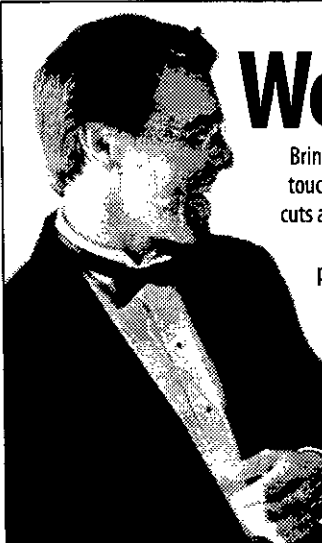
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Capture your day with style

By DONNA J. BELL

Right after a couple finds the church and the reception hall — they start looking for a photographer.

The wedding pictures that are taken that day will define your memories of the big day for the rest of your life, so it's very important to choose the right person to take those photos.

Most people have never had the opportunity to interview or choose a photographer.

While word of mouth is a great start — your best friend's photographer may not be the right one for you.

The best way to choose the person who will be with you for most of your wedding day is to set an appointment with several, view their photos and ask them about their style. Is their forte

traditional, candid or photo-journalist or posed?

You need to feel comfortable with the "look" they show you through their portfolios of previous weddings. Carefully examine each photographer's past work.

Be sure you are looking at work shot by this particular photographer, not by other professionals who work at the same studio.

Take your time. When you are looking at the photos look to see if they are framed and centered well, if the photographer

uses quality paper and developing, check to see if flesh tones look real, if the detail is sharp and if the lighting is effective.

Look at the faces — see if the wedding party looks comfortable and relaxed. "When people choose a photographer they buy

their expertise and style," said Dennis LaGrange of La Grange Photography in Delmar.

"I try to use waterfalls, gardens and rock walls in the photos. I like to use natural elements," he

said. LaGrange said that couples are getting away from posed photos at the altar and moving more toward taking pictures with natural landscapes.

Clapper always tries to accommodate special requests.

She has even stood on a ladder to get a shot of the entire reception of a wedding with a lot of out-of-town guests.

Matt Blanchard, owner of North Photographics, in Troy, said not to be afraid to call references and ask: Were you satisfied overall? And did the photographer get the shots you wanted?

"It is important to get what you want," Blanchard said.

Those shots will forever be a reminder of one of the most special days of your life.

Take the time up front to ensure that your wedding day photos will be a priceless reminder of a wonderful event.

Experts say a wedding neophyte is a risk. You want someone who is experienced with wedding mechanics and won't miss key moments.

Clapper also says to find out if the photographer is a member of the Professional Photography Society of New York or of the Professional Photographer of America.

Those photographers have gone to seminars and workshops to stay current with their craft.

When couples meet with

Ask your photographer

- ✓ Does the photographer develop his own film?
- ✓ How long does he keep negatives?
- ✓ Can you buy your negatives from the photographer?
- ✓ How much do they charge for wedding albums?
- ✓ Are the wedding albums archival and photo-safe?
- ✓ Does the photographer have a back up plan in case of an emergency?
- ✓ How many cameras and what type will they be bringing?
- ✓ What type of lighting equipment is he bringing and how long does it take to set up?
- ✓ Will they be working alone or bringing another photographer or assistant?

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Hot party games for wedding showers

Celebrating a friend's upcoming marriage with the time-honored tradition of a wedding shower is a custom that has taken on new wrinkles over the decades.

Many wedding showers focus only on the bride, but if the groom and friends will be in attendance, games are a simple, fun way to involve everyone.

If the food, sweets and presents aren't enough, try out some of the shower games below

to get the laughter flowing at your shower. A bride can always use as much womanly wisdom as possible before the big day.

To share some of the marriage wealth, the game Words of Wisdom is the perfect idea.

On each shower invitation, request that each guest bring her own words of wisdom in the form of a song, poem or saying.

The saying can be about marriage or life in general.

For example, "Give a man a

fish and he'll be fed for a day, but teach a man to fish and you can send him away for a whole weekend!"

Another fun game to play at a bride-only shower is a purse scavenger hunt.

Divide the guests up into teams and give them a list of items.

Each item has a point value, and the more unlikely someone is to have the item in her purse, the higher the point value.

Consider your guests when creating a list and be sure to have a gift for the team with the most points.

A more risque game just for the girls, "Where's My Pajamas", is sure to add a personal element to your shower without offending moms or aunts who may be at the party. It's also the perfect game for guests to get to know each other.

Ask each guest to bring a brown bag that contains her favorite sleepwear. The bride then proceeds to guess who it belongs to.

Whether it's an old T-shirt or a fancy nightgown, the guests will get an idea of the other guest's personality.

If you're throwing a co-ed wedding shower, a theme is a good idea.

One of the most popular is a stock the bar shower. You can encourage guests to not only bring beverages like beer and wine, but also bar accessories such as wine racks, martini glasses and drink recipes.

Another creative co-ed shower game is "Candy Bar Poems." The host of the party places several items on a tray such as a Milky Way candy bar or a YooHoo



Single sex or co-ed showers can be spiced up with games.

wrapper. Candy bars work well, but you can use anything that comes to mind.

After seeing the tray of items, each group must write a short poem about the bride and groom using the phrases on the tray. The poems are usually hilarious and they make good keepsakes for the bride and groom. Whatever game you choose to play, keep it upbeat and happy, and remember to try and involve all of the guests, even the ones who are reluctant to bring their PJs.

The hidden meaning behind types of wedding flowers

Almost every wedding today is graced with flowers. From the bride's bouquet to the church's pews, flowers have become a way of expressing a couple's individuality and adding beauty to an already extraordinary event.

Flowers are not only an extension of the bride and grooms personality, but they express a language all their own, and incorporating their beauty throughout the wedding takes planning and a short lesson in the language of flowers.

Symbolically, flowers have come to represent different things throughout the years. Many brides choose flowers for their wedding that have sentimental value.

"Perhaps it was the first flower she received from her fiancé or maybe the flower her mother carried down the aisle at her wedding."

For brides who want to create their own tradition, the meanings of individual flowers can help with the decision.

One of the more traditional flowers most often used at formal weddings is the rose. This customary flower's colors represent many different emotions and the rose is the most widely given flower in the name of love.

A red rose represents passionate love; a white rose represents pure love; a pink rose represents innocent love; and a yellow rose symbolizes friendship.

Brides today are straying away from tradition, and that includes flowers. Some of the more non-traditional flowers have also come to represent certain feelings and emotions. The beautiful gardenia symbolizes joy while the lacy Lily of the Valley is related to happiness.

For a regal feel at your wedding, purple lilacs — which represent regal unity — might be appropriate. The softness of a white lilac is often related to youthful innocence, while the strong aroma of forget-me-nots may convey the feeling of true love during your nuptials. Along with the expression of emotions, the flowers you choose for your wedding should also coordinate with other items.

The shape, size and style of the bouquet should compliment your dress and you. Whatever flowers you choose, be sure that the bouquet is well constructed to ensure that it lasts all day. The

attendant's flowers usually compliment the bridal bouquet as well as their dresses.

For a more romantic feel, flower headdresses are the perfect addition to your own wedding attire. A traditional circle of flowers or small additions in any pattern or shape to suit your hairstyle is another way to incorporate your flower theme of choice into the day.

Groomsmen, best men and ushers

should also accessorize with the use of buttonholes, continuing the same theme or pattern of the bride and her attendants. However you incorporate flowers into your wedding day, they send a plethora of messages all their own.

Whether it's their traditional meaning, a distinct aroma or colorful petals, the language of flowers at a wedding is identical to the language of love.



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International teams meet at local tournament

By ROB JONAS

North American teams dominated the recent New York International Hockey Cup at the BIG Arena and Albany Academy Fieldhouse.

Three teams from this side of the Atlantic Ocean won division titles at the five-day tournament. The lone European club to earn a championship, defending European champ Metallurg of Siberia, needed an overtime shootout to oust the North American representative — the Minutemen Flames from Concord, Mass.

"Overall, I think everyone was very pleased to have an event like this unfold on the East Coast," NYIHC organizer **Craig Jenkins** said. "I think we made a fairly strong statement this year in terms of geographic representation, foreign and domestic, as well as in terms of the level of play."

The tournament featured 35 teams representing seven countries at four levels of youth hockey — squirt, pee wee, bantam and midget. Among such highly-regarded clubs as the Los Angeles Junior Kings and HC Vimpel of Moscow were several local teams, including the Albany Junior River Rats and the Troy-Albany Rivermen.

"Just playing with teams from all over the world is a privilege," said **Ryan Bormann**, a Bethlehem resident who was brought up to the Albany Junior River Rats' bantam team to play in the tournament.

"The kids, they are really glad to be here," HC Vimpel coach **Sergei Trakhan** said through an interpreter. "They really like this place."

Metallurg, which won the squirt division title, was the lone European team to reach the finals. The other three divisions featured matchups between North American squads.

In the pee wee finals, the Syracuse Stars defeated the Washington Little Capitals 4-1. The Stars built a 3-0 lead and cruised to the victory.

The bantam finals was decided in the first 12 minutes, as Eaglebrook School defeated the Connecticut Yankees 2-0. **Alex Muse** and **Alex Berry** recorded first-period goals for the only scoring of the game.

The midget division was won by the American All-Stars, a collection of prep school players from across New England. The All-Stars edged the New England Coyotes of Enfield, Conn. 5-3 in the finals.



Albany Junior River Rat forward and Bethlehem resident **Ryan Bormann** carries the puck up the ice during a game against Junost of Minsk, Belarus at the New York International Hockey Cup tournament Dec. 28 at the BIG Arena. Bormann was one of three Bethlehem residents to skate for the Junior River Rats bantam division team at the tournament, which ended Dec. 31.

Rob Jonas

Jenkins plans to invite more European teams to next year's tournament.

"We'll have the same number

of teams, but we will have more foreign representation," Jenkins said. "We had over 20 percent this year. Next year, I'd like to raise it

over 30 percent.

"In terms of next year, I think we can raise the level of play another two notches," he added.

BCHS swimmers remain unbeaten

By ADAM SHPEEN

The Bethlehem High School boys swim team continued their undefeated season Thursday when they faced the Niskayuna Swim team at home. Under coach **Anthony Ferro**, the Eagles soared into an easy victory.

"We did real well," says Ferro, "we're hitting all our targets."

At the meet, Ferro put two Bethlehem swimmers in each race to push the other. By doing this, competition was high and times were low.

"Our times are going down as

well as our concerns," says Ferro.

The Eagles came in first in the 200-yard medley relay, as well as the 200 and 400 freestyle relays.

"This season is going well," says sophomore swimmer **Andrew Whiting**. "Everyone is improving."

In individuals races, swimmers **Kevin Parazelli** and **Avi Rosowski** brought Bethlehem first- and second-place finishes in the 100 breaststroke. Sophomore **James Traylor** came in first for Bethlehem in the 200 freestyle.

Overall, the team is confident but cautious in preparation for their final regular season meet against Burnt Hills in early February.

"We have a lot more work to do before Burnt Hills," say junior swimmer **Chris Porko**.

"We are preparing everyday for Burnt Hills," says Ferro, "but our primary focus is still on sectionals."

The team's next match is today against Gloversville/Mayfield at the high school.

Ice fishing tourney at Thompson's Lake

Thompson's Lake State Park is one of four Saratoga-Capital District Region state parks that will host this year's regional ice fishing tournament.

The tournament will run on four consecutive Saturdays beginning Jan. 27 at Grafton Lakes State Park and ending Feb. 17 at Thompson's Lake. Other sites include Saratoga Lake (Feb. 3) and Moreau Lake State Park (Feb. 10).

In addition to the contest prizes at each park, participants will be eligible to win one of three grand prizes.

Fishermen can register for each contest on-site and will receive five points for participating. Additional points will be awarded for the top 10 largest fish caught at each contest. Five points will be awarded for all of the other participants' best fish. Tournament winners will be determined after the final event at Thompson's Lake and will receive their awards that day.

There is a \$5 registration fee per event. Proceeds will be used for park programs. Checks should be made payable to the Natural Heritage Trust.

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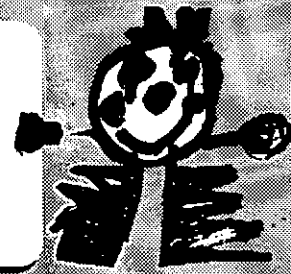
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Living resources is seeking instructor to work one-on-one w/ developmentally disabled teenager in the Delmar area. Duties include behaving as a positive role model while assisting an 18 year old, developmentally disabled male with support and participation in community activities. As well as teach, instruct and assist with life skills.

Hours for this position are on a per diem basis with the opportunity for additional hours within our Residential Habilitation program. Min. reqs include H.S. diploma and valid driver's license.

Call Lisa at 346-8888 ext. 3343 for more information.

Norton scores 15 for RCS girls in victory against Mechanicville

By ROB JONAS

A big piece of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk girls basketball team's lineup has returned, and so have the Indians' winning ways.

Center **Aimee Norton** scored 15 points in her second game back from an ankle injury to help RCS defeat Mechanicville 51-43 last Wednesday in a Colonial Council game.

"It was a big win because we've been shorthanded with players out due to illness and injuries," RCS coach **Bruce Stott** said.

The Indians (2-3 league, 4-4 overall) had been scrambling most of the season to compensate for the absence of Norton, who started the campaign with a

shoulder problem that kept her out of the lineup.

"Some of the younger girls who were on (the junior varsity team) last year stepped up while she was gone," Stott said. "It gave some of the other girls some valuable experience."

With Norton back, the Indians were able to handle a Mechanicville team that was riding the emotional wave of seeing one of its players, **Melissa Marra**, break the school record for career points on the Red Raiders' home floor.

After Marra broke the record in the first quarter, RCS quieted the crowd by building a 37-28 lead heading into the final period. Marra finished with 24 points, but no other Red Raider reached

double figures.

Besides Norton's 15-point effort, the Indians received 14 points from guard **Rachel Matousek** and eight points from **Fallon Haldane** in the victory.

RCS looked to reach the .500 mark in league play Tuesday night when it traveled to Clayton A. Bouton High School to take on first-place Voorheesville.

"It's going to be a tough game," Stott said. "They've got some good guards in (Katelyn) Berger and (Brittany) Burnham, and they have (Andrea) Burch inside. So, it's going to be a tough game for us."

The Indians return home to face Schalmont Friday night and Lansingburgh next Tuesday. Both games start at 7:30 p.m.

Hoffman wins New Year's Eve tourney

Robert Hoffman of Glenmont took home the boys 14-year-old singles title from the New Year's tennis tournament Dec. 31 at the Tri-City Tennis and Fitness Club in Guilderland.

Hoffman defeated **Kevin Gioia** of Schenectady in the semifinals and edged **Nicholas Thuell** of Saranac Lake 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 in the finals to earn the championship.

Jesse Hoffman reached the consolation finals in the boys 12 singles competition. Hoffman defeated **Anthony Purritano** of

Watervliet in straight sets during the consolation semifinal round, but lost to **Alex Kolomiets** of Guilderland in the third-place match by a score of 6-1, 6-3.

Jesse Hoffman won his opening match against **Alex Harrison** of East Greenbush by a score of 6-1, 6-2 before losing in the semifinals to **Derrick Angle** of Troy 6-2, 6-4.

In the other divisions, **Bryan Chow** of Niskayuna swept both of his matches in the boys 10 singles round-robin tournament. Chow beat **Matthew Kandath** of Gan-

sevoort and **Jacob King** of Albany.

Adam Barelski of Rensselaer won the boys 16 singles title with a victory against **Brandon Flanagan** of Scotia in the finals. Barelski beat **David Gould** of Burnt Hills in the semifinals.

Rohan Raikar of Albany took the boys 18 singles championship with a 6-1, 6-2 win against Queensbury's **Mike Zappone**.

Jasleen Sandhu of Latham won both of her matches in the girls 12 singles round-robin competition.

WEEKLY SPORTS SCHEDULE

WED., JAN. 10

BOWLING

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk at Watervliet, 4 p.m.

Voorheesville at Cohoes, 4 p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

Gloversville/Mayfield at Bethlehem, 4:30 p.m.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Hawthorne Valley at Voorheesville, 6 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Averill Park at Bethlehem, 8 p.m.

HOCKEY

Bethlehem at South Glens Falls, 7 p.m.

WRESTLING

Bethlehem at Averill Park, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 11

BOWLING

Guiderland at Bethlehem boys, 4 p.m.

Shenendehowa at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk girls, 4 p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

Saratoga at Guilderville, 4:30 p.m.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Voorheesville at New Lebanon, 6 p.m.

GYMNASTICS

Shenendehowa at Bethlehem, 6:30 p.m.

WRESTLING

Schalmont at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, 6 p.m.

Voorheesville at Lansingburgh, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 12

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk at Schalmont, 7:30 p.m.

Voorheesville at Watervliet, 7:30 p.m.

Mohonasen at Bethlehem, 8 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Schalmont at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, 7:30 p.m.

Watervliet at Voorheesville, 7:30 p.m.

Bethlehem at Mohonasen, 8 p.m.

HOCKEY

Bethlehem at Glens Falls, 7:15 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 13

GYMNASTICS

Bethlehem at Saratoga Invitational, 10 a.m.

HOCKEY

Saranac (Section VII) at Bethlehem, 7 p.m.

WRESTLING

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk at Shenendehowa Tournament, TBA.

SUNDAY, JAN. 14

HOCKEY

Saranac (Section VII) at Bethlehem, noon.

MONDAY, JAN. 15

HOCKEY

Bethlehem at CBA, 6:45 p.m.

INDOOR TRACK

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk at Hudson Valley Community College, TBA.

TUESDAY, JAN. 16

BOWLING

Bethlehem boys at Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, 4 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Albany Academy at Voorheesville, 7:30 p.m.

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk at Lansingburgh, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lansingburgh at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, 7:30 p.m.

Voorheesville at Holy Names, 7:30 p.m.

GYMNASTICS

Guiderland at Bethlehem, 6:30 p.m.

Hoop clinic starts Sunday

The Fun with Basketball Clinic starts Sunday, Jan. 14 at Bethlehem Central High School.

The program is open to girls in grades one through four and will teach basketball skills through fun drills and games.

The cost is \$40. For information, call Bethlehem girls basketball assistant coach John Hooper at 439-1917.

Special on WMBT CHANNEL 17

Jazz part 3 of 10
Wednesday, 9 p.m.

The 1900 House
Thursday, 8 p.m.

World of National Geographic
The Grizzlies
Friday, 8 p.m.

Ballykissangel
Saturday, 7 p.m.

Nature: Triumph of Life
part 1 of 6
Sunday, 8 p.m.

Jazz part 4
Monday, 9 p.m.

Frontline: The Clinton Years
Tuesday, 9 p.m.

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Are you the parent of a teen driver? Did your son or daughter recently obtain a permit? Are you concerned because of the large number of reports of teen crashes? Do you worry about the independence that goes along with the license? Do you want to help your teen be a safe, responsible driver?

For safety's sake, please consider taking part in a new family education program which is designed to promote responsible driving called Teen Drivers ... Safe Drivers. On Monday, Jan. 22, from 7 to 9 p.m. at First United Methodist Church on Kenwood Avenue in Delmar, young drivers and their families can work together to promote safe driving.

Bethlehem police officers will lead discussions about important safety issues and an experienced guidance counselor will work with families to improve communication and promote responsible decision-making.

In order to attend, students must be 16 years of age by March 1, and must attend with a parent or guardian.

To register, call Bethlehem Networks Project at 439-7740. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.



Corporate neighbors committed to serving the community



Arlene Ainsworth and Myer Kutz

Ainsworth, Kutz to wed

Arlene Ainsworth of Delmar and Myer Paul Kutz of Delmar and Manhattan are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

The future groom is a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of

Technology and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

He is president of Myer Kutz Associates in Albany and Manhattan.

The couple plans a May wedding.

Glenmont Brownies distribute toys

Glenmont Brownie Troop 374 recently collected and wrapped 70 presents and distributed them at Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Care Center in Albany as a service project.

The girls received donations of toys from Kmart and Ames in Glenmont and Wal-Mart at Cross-

gates Commons.

Troop 374 is led by Ruth Kvale, Geri Walsh and Debbie Betts and includes Kelly Bartlett, Nicole Betts, Danielle Caswell, Hannah Doherty, Emily Kvale, Maggie Morrell and Hannah Walsh, all of Glenmont.

Births

St. Peter's Hospital

Boy, Sean Christian Stuart, to Carol and Mark Stuart of Niskayuna, Nov. 12. Maternal grandparents are Pat and Anne Kendrick of Delmar.

Class of '00

Cornell University

Carrie Danziger of Slingerlands, bachelor's in nutrition

University at Albany

Kathryn Basal of Voorheesville, bachelor's in English, summa cum laude.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Brian Scott of Delmar, master's in statistics.

Dean's List

Clemson University — Greg Thomson of Delmar.

Savannah College of Art and Design — Ashley Gall of Delmar.

SUNY Geneseo — Rachel Schoolman of Delmar.

BCHS graduate earns honors

Carrie Danziger of Slingerlands recently graduated from the School of Human Ecology at Cornell University.

While a student, she was a Human Ecology Dean Scholar and a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Golden Key Honor Society and Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society.

She plans to attend medical school in the fall at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse.

Danziger is a 1997 graduate of Bethlehem Central High School.

V'ville student works with professor

Christopher Horn, son of Edward Horn and Erica Sufrin of Voorheesville, recently participated in the UTRA (Undergraduate Teaching and Research Assistantships) program at Brown University.

He served as a summer research assistant to Louis Putterman, professor of economics, working on a project titled "Analysis of Behavior in Public Goods Experiments."

Horn is a senior at Brown, concentrating in economics.



Penny and Michael Gertzberg

Silk, Gertzberg marry

Penny Heather Silk, daughter of Dr. Paul and Ann Silk of Delmar, and Michael Gertzberg, son of Dr. Marvin and Kathleen Gertzberg of Slingerlands, were married Sept. 23.

The ceremony was performed by Rabbi Martin Silverman at Green Harbour Club in Lake George.

A reception followed at The Sagamore in Bolton Landing.

The bride's attendants were Jill Silk and April Solomon, both sisters of the bride; Marisa Gertzberg, sister of the groom;

and Tracy Gertzberg, sister-in-law of the groom.

The groom's attendants were Joe Gertzberg and Jamie Gertzberg, both brothers of the groom; Howard Solomon, brother-in-law of the bride; and Adam Behar.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and George Washington University.

The groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Regis College in Denver, Colo.

The couple lives in Chicago.

Delmar student named to Who's Who

Winifred Corrigan of Delmar, a senior at Davidson College, was recently selected to be included in *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*.

She is a 1997 graduate of Bethlehem Central High School.

At Davidson, Corrigan is a member of the honor council and is vice president of the Rusk eating house.

She is also co-captain of the women's varsity soccer team and is involved with Leadership Davidson.

Mail weddings, engagements

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

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

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

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INVITATIONS

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Community



BCAA to serve spaghetti dinners

Bethlehem Central Athletic Association will dish up spaghetti dinners on Fridays, Jan. 12 and 19, from 4:30 to 8 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Tickets are \$8 each and the proceeds will be used to fund scholarships awarded to graduating seniors by the athletic association and to provide summer sports camp scholarships to students in the Bethlehem school district.

For information, call Jim Kelly at 464-1300, ext. 312 or 439-0716.

Obituaries

Walter Eck Sr.

Walter W. Eck, 65, of Slingerlands died Saturday, Dec. 30, at his home.

Born in Jersey Shore, Pa., Mr. Eck was a lifelong area resident and worked for the former New York Telephone Co. and Nynex for more than 30 years, retiring in 1990.

Mr. Eck was very active in volunteer fire organizations and was well known across the state. He was a trustee at the Volunteer Firemen's Home in Hudson and was currently serving as its vice president.

He was a commissioner of the Slingerlands Fire Department and captain of the fire police and was formerly a third assistant chief as well as a past president and chaplain. Mr. Eck was a member and past president of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, the Hudson-Mohawk Volunteer Firemen's Association, the Volunteer Firemen's Judging Association and the Albany County Volunteer Firemen's Association, where he also served on the board of directors.

He was also a member of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, the Bethlehem Fire Officers Association, the Volunteer Fire Police of New York State, the Rural Fire Chiefs of Albany County and the Albany County Fire Police Association where he also served on the board of directors. He was also a member of Bethlehem Elks Lodge 2233.

Mr. Eck was husband of the late Annette "Cookie" Eck.

Survivors include three sons, Walter W. Eck Jr., David W. Eck, and Michael P. Eck, all of Slingerlands; a daughter, Margaret M. Eck of Slingerlands; two sisters, Mary Donato of Altamont and Clare Wright of Delmar; and nine grandchildren.

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

Arrangements were by the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar. Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery in Glenmont.

Contributions may be made to either Operation Small Change, c/o Firemen's Home of New York State, 125 Harry Howard Ave., Hudson, 12534; Slingerlands Fire Department Heavy Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 99, Slingerlands 12159; or the Delmar Rescue Squad, 145 Adams St., Delmar 12054.

Ernest Sacco Sr.

Ernest J. Sacco, 82, of Voorheesville died Thursday, Jan. 4, at his home.

Mr. Sacco was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving as a gunner's mate and master driver.

He worked for the former New York Telephone Co. for 36 years

as a garage mechanic before he retired.

He was a charter member of Voorheesville Ambulance, a member of Voorheesville Fire Department, a lifetime member of the Communications Workers of America Local 1118, Knights of Columbus, Telephone Pioneers, VFW Post 6776, American Legion Post 1493, St. Matthew's Men's Association and the master gardeners.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Hollner Sacco; a son Ernest Sacco Jr.; a daughter, Christine Noel Sacco; a brother, Joseph Sacco of Delmar; a sister, Arminia Belfort of Albany; and a grandson.

Services were from St. Matthew's Church in Voorheesville. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Glenmont.

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

Contributions may be made to Cobb Memorial School Flower Memorial Garden, PO Box 503, Altamont 12109 or Community Hospice of Albany County, 445 New Karner Road, Colonie 12205.

Helen Gavin

Helen R. Gavin, 89, of Delmar died Friday, Jan. 5, at Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Delmar.

Born in North Hoosick, she was a graduate of St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing.

She was a registered nurse at Stratton Veterans Administration Medical Center in Albany. She was head nurse there for many years.

She was a member of NARFE, the Albany Council of Catholic Nurses. She was a communicant of Church of the Blessed Sacrament.

Survivors include three nephews, Ronald Gaci of Schenectady, and Keith Gavin and Peter Gavin, both of Australia.

Services were from the Daniel Keenan Funeral Home in Albany and Church of the Blessed Sacrament. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Hoosick Falls.

Contributions may be made to Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 607 Central Ave., Albany 12206.

Franklin Walker

Franklin Victor, Walker, 74, of Delmar died Friday, Dec. 29, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born in Los Angeles, Calif., he was a veteran of World War II. He was a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and Harvard University with a doctorate in economics.

Mr. Walker taught at Pomona College in California and was a staff economist at the Federal

Reserve Board in Washington, D.C.

He joined the faculty at SUNY Albany in 1966 and retired in 1997.

He was an active member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany and the Albany Memorial Society. He was also a longtime volunteer and board member for Equinox.

Survivors include his former wife, Jean Walker of Boulder, Colo.; two daughters, Jeannette Walker Kornreich of Boulder and Lisa Walker Murray of Summit, N.J.; a son, Lawrence Walker of Gloucester, Mass. his wife, Eloisa Le Conte Walker; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service is scheduled at 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany.

Arrangements were by the Meyers Funeral Home in Delmar.

Contributions may be made to Equinox, 306 Central Ave., Albany 12206 or the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany 425 Washington Ave., Albany 12206.

Charles McKern

Charles R. McKern, 67, of Selkirk died Monday, Jan. 1, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born in Chatham, he was an Army veteran of the Korean War.

Mr. McKern was a car man for Conrail for 20 years before he retired.

He was a member of the Joseph Zaloga American Legion Post in Albany.

He was husband of the late Evelyn McKern.

Survivors include two sons, William McKern of Vermont and Raymond McKern of Buffalo; two daughters, Lisa McKern and Tina McKern, both of Selkirk; a brother, Edward McKern of Albany; a sister Eloise Folmsbee of Long Lake; and six grandchildren.

Services were from the Babcock Funeral Home. Spring burial will be in Chatham Rural Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to St. Peter's Addiction Recovery Center, 875 Central Ave., Albany 12206.

Maurice Groves

Maurice Willard Groves, 91, of Delmar died Sunday, Dec. 31.

Born in Kingston, he graduated from Roxbury High School.

He received a bachelor's in civil engineering from Cooper Union.

Mr. Groves worked on highway construction.

He was a veteran of the Army Air Forces of World War II.

He was husband of the late Gwen Groves.

Survivors include two sons, Allan Groves of Lincoln, Mass., and Dennis Groves of New York City; a sister, Katrine Groves of Prescott, Ariz.; and four grandchildren.

Arrangements were by the Edwards-Dowdle Funeral Homes in Dobbs Ferry.

Elizabeth Koonz

Elizabeth Evelyn Koonz of Bethlehem died Monday, Jan. 1,

at Community Hospice of Albany County at St. Peter's Hospital.

Born in New Baltimore, she helped run the family dairy farm.

She was a sponsor of more than 100 children from St. Jude's Foundation.

She was an active member of the bridge club, the garden club and the Grange. She was a matron of the Eastern Star and served on the Women's Guild of First Reformed Church.

She was the widow of Andrew Witbeck Koonz.

Survivors include a son, Andrew Koonz Jr.; a brother, Chester Hotaling of Seabring, Fla.; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Services were from First Reformed Church of Bethlehem.

Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Sopris Funeral Home in Coxsackie.

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

Leonard Lang

Leonard Charles Lang, M.D., 90, of Slingerlands died Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Born in New York City, he graduated from Montclair High School in New Jersey. He received a bachelor's degree from Colgate University and graduated from Albany Medical College.

Dr. Lang interned at St. Peter's and was a resident in psychiatry at Buffalo State Hospital.

He was a lieutenant colonel and commanding officer of the 365th General Hospital, before being promoted to colonel. Dr. Lang was in the service for 24 years.

He was a member of the Buffalo Kiwanis Club and the Albany Kiwanis Club. He was a member of the board of directors of the Albany YMCA and the Salvation Army.

He was also a member of the Albany County Medical Society, American Medical Association and past president of the Capital District Psychiatric Society, life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, American Association of Senior Physicians, AARP, Retired Officers Association, Mental Health Association, Albany Institute of History & Art and Normanside Country Club.

He was husband of the late Genevieve Meagher Lang.

Services were from the Meyers Funeral Home in Delmar. Burial was in Bethlehem Cemetery.

Alice Avery Philips

Alice Avery Philips, 80, of Delmar and South China, Maine, died on Wednesday, Jan. 3.

She was a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, David H. Philips; two sons, David Philips of Delmar and Peter Philips of Richmond, Va.; a daughter, Sherry Hawkins, of Alexandria, Va.; and four grandchildren.

Services were from First Unitarian Universalist Society Association Church in Albany.

Contributions may be made to Community Hospice of Albany County or to South China or Community Church in South China, Maine.

Frank Wickes

Frank Eugene Wickes, 74, of Unionville died Thursday, Jan. 4, at Daughters of Sarah Nursing Home in Albany.

He was a lifelong resident of the Capital District.

He was a Coast Guard veteran of World War II.

He attended State University colleges at Oneonta and Plattsburgh.

Mr. Wickes was a teacher for 28 years in area schools until his retirement in 1981 from Schalmont Central School, having been a faculty member there since 1963.

He was longtime member of the New Scotland Beagle Club. He was the breeder of the nationally known WillRun Beagles.

Survivors include his wife, Olivia (Wolff) Wickes; a son, Brian F. Wickes of Greenville; two brothers, Wilton Wickes of Sun Lakes, Ariz., and Paul Wickes of Bainbridge; five sisters, Jane Emerson of Sidney, Marjorie Dean of Masonville, Barbara DuMond of Pikeville, N.C., Janet Repaal of Bear Lake, Mich., and Claudia Bowen of Sidney; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Spring burial will be in Greenville Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to the Onesquethaw Volunteer Fire Co., Clarksville 12041.

Edward McLaughlin

Edward F. McLaughlin, M.D., 83, of Delmar died Tuesday, Jan. 2, at Albany Medical Center Hospital.

Born in the Bronx, he was a graduate of Chaminade High School, Notre Dame University and Georgetown Medical School.

He was a World War II veteran, serving as a captain in the Army in both the European and Pacific theaters. He was a recipient of the Silver Star.

Dr. McLaughlin served as a general practitioner for 50 years in Lynbrook and retired to Delmar in 1992.

Survivors include his wife, Marion J. McLaughlin; six sons, Edward D. McLaughlin of New York City, Patric J. McLaughlin of Ponta Vidra Beach, Fla., Timothy F. McLaughlin of Seaside Park, N.J., Kevin P. McLaughlin of Lamondville, Brian M. McLaughlin of Lynbrook and Joseph A. McLaughlin of Cortlandt Manor, a daughter, Mary B. McLaughlin Rucinski of Glenmont; a brother, John McLaughlin of Tampa, Fla.; and 20 grandchildren.

Arrangements were by the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar. Services were from the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar. Cremation was at Albany Rural Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to the Albany Medical Center, Cancer Center Inpatient Unit, D4E, 43 New Scotland Ave., Albany 12208.

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SPOTLIGHT ON CALENDARS ♦ ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Contemporary blues kick off Egg festival

By PHILIP SCHWARTZ

"You better get the blues, baby!" reads the advertisement for the Mid-Winter Blues Festival, which kicks off this weekend at The Egg in Albany's Empire State Plaza.

Now in its fourth year, the festival is attempting to spread the blues in the Capital District with three winter weekend concerts that will cover different styles within the genre.

"The whole focus here is to turn people on to the blues and give some up-and-coming artists the chance to perform in a big hall," said Peter Lesser, The Egg's executive director.

The three double-bill concerts start this Saturday with contemporary blues night, which will feature Sista Monica and Michael Hill's Blues Mob. The following Saturday, Jan. 20, Corey Harris and Henry Butler will team up for New Orleans blues night. And on the final Saturday, Jan. 27, The Holmes Brothers and Chicago Rhythm & Blues Kings will take the stage for Swinging Blues Night.

The layman who may not recognize the musicians in this year's lineup, but Lesser said they are national, award-winning acts that are well-known to the blues aficionado.

"These aren't necessarily household names in the business; the blues don't really generate those types of names," he said. "But these are some wonderful musicians. The music is going to be stellar."

Four years ago, following a few successful individual concerts featuring blues artists, event planners at The Egg decided to capitalize on this popularity with the annual festival.

"The idea was to make a mini-series out of it," Lesser said, "And this has been quite successful in the past few years, probably because blues has been a real staple in American music. It's in the roots of jazz, in the roots of rock. It's a real American form."

Sista Monica and Michael Hill's Blues Mob

Sista Monica Parker, aka the Blues Lioness, is currently performing on the heels of her third album, "People Love The Blues," released on Mo Muscle Records. She brings to the stage her gospel roots, which were

born at an early age when she began singing in the Choir at Great Band Missionary Church in Gary, Ind.

Sista Monica is a California "Bammie" Music Award winner and a W.C. Handy nominee for Best Contemporary Blues Female. She has shared the stage with Buddy Guy, Jimmy Vaughn, The Temptations, Gladys Knight, Taj Mahal, Luther Allison, Dr. John, Keb Mo and B.B. King. She won critical acclaim when she filled in for Etta James at the Americas Festival in San Jose and for Koko Taylor at Milwaukee's Summerfest.



Michael Hill's Blues Mob will join Sista Monica for this Saturday's double-bill show. In the past, the 48-year-old

Hill has played alongside Little Richard, Carla Thomas, Archie Bell and Harry Belafonte. He has also recorded with B.B. King.

Bassist Pete Cummings, keyboardist E.J. "The Professor" Sharpe and

drummer Tony Lewis make up the Blues Mob, a band which stands out in the small circle of young,

African-American blues artists who are trying to keep blues alive through creating new musical innovations and blending

different styles. Hill's music is a mix of traditional blues with rock, reggae, funk and rhythm & blues.

These aren't necessarily household names ... But these are some wonderful musicians. The music is going to be stellar.

Peter Lesser

The group's first release, "Bloodlines," earned a Critic's Award for Best Debut Album of the Year by *Living Blues*.

Michael Hill's Blues Mob recently released "New York State of Blues."

Corey Harris and Henry Butler

The second show in the series celebrates the blues of the south with Delta/ragtime acoustic guitarist Corey Harris and New Orleans piano master Henry Butler.

In their first duet album, "Vu-du Menz," Harris and Butler feature 15 songs that create a pure southern musical style through blending straight-ahead blues, ragtime, New Orleans funk, jazz and gospel.

Harris' third album, the 1999 "Greens from the Garden," runs the stylistic gamut by melding reggae, ska, hip-hop, country, ragtime and Delta blues.

Harris has toured solo and played with artists like The Dave Matthews Band, Natalie Merchant, Billy Bragg and Ben Harper.

Butler, like Harris, combines several musical styles as a renowned jazz pianist. For instance, the 1998 "Blues After Sunset" — Butler's first all-vocal record — marries elements of blues, jazz and New Orleans funk in an album that received favorable reviews in *Downbeat*, *Jazz Times* and *The San Francisco Chronicle*.

The Holmes Brothers and Chicago Rhythm & Blues Kings

The final concert in the series features the gospel-influenced sound of The Holmes Brothers and the renowned horn section of Chicago Rhythm & Blues Kings.

The Holmes Brothers, originally from Virginia and now based in New York City, features Sherman Holmes on bass, his brother Wendell Holmes on guitar and Willie "Popsy" Dixon on drums.

The band has had a long-standing relationship with Joan Osborne and backed the pop singer when she opened for Bob Dylan. Also, Osborne produced The Holmes Brothers' spring 2000 release, "Church," and sang on nearly all the tracks.

The Egg's Swinging Blues Night will also feature the Chicago Rhythm & Blues Kings, who play a soul-influenced form of the blues. *Reviews Magazine* considers the band to have "the tightest horn section to blow out of the Windy City in decades."

Chicago Rhythm & Blues Kings feature Terry Ogolini on tenor saxophone, Don Tenuto on trumpet, Bob Halaj on bass, David Mick on guitar, Willie Hayes on drums and Ernie Peniston on lead vocal.

Tickets for each concert are \$18. A package deal offered for \$39 includes a ticket to all three concerts.

Shows start at 8 p.m. Parking is free and convenient underneath the plaza.



ARTS and ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

TERRA NOVA
polar drama, Capital Repertory Theater,
111 N. Pearl St., Albany, Jan. 12 to Feb.
4, \$21 to \$34. Information, 445-7469.

CABARET

starring Lea Thompson, Proctor's
Theater, State Street, Schenectady, Jan.
16 to 20 at 8 p.m., Jan. 20 and 21 at 2
p.m., Jan. 21 at 7 p.m., \$44.50 to
\$55.50. Information, 346-6204.

Music

ROOMFUL OF BLUES
The Van Dyck, 235 Union St.,
Schenectady, Jan. 12, 7 and 9:30 p.m.,
\$15. Information, 381-1111.

THE CORYELLS
The Van Dyck, 235 Union St.,
Schenectady, Jan. 12, 7 and 9:30 p.m.,
\$20. Information, 381-1111.

SISTA MONICA
with Michael Hill's Blues Mob, The Egg
at Empire State Plaza, Albany, Jan. 13, 8
p.m., \$18. Information, 473-1845.

Visual Arts

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM
The Great New York Motorcycle Show,
through April 10, Berenice Abbott's
Changing New York, 1930s photographs
of the city, through April 16, plus
permanent collections, Empire State
Plaza, Madison Avenue. Information,
474-5877.

SCHENECTADY MUSEUM
Through our Eyes, works by black
photographers, through Jan. 7, plus
permanent collections, Nott Terrace
Heights. Information, 382-7890.

ALBANY CENTER GALLERIES
23 Monroe St., Mohawk Hudson
Regional Invitational, featuring works by
Liz Blum, Betsy Brandt, Danny Goodwin
and Jon Huebner, Jan. 12 to Feb. 23.
Information, 462-4775.

ALBANY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
Albany-Shaker Road, third-floor gallery,
Planes, Trains, Automobiles and ...
illustrations from children's books,
through March 18. Information, 242-
2240.

HYDE COLLECTION
Realizing Courbet, exhibit on 19th-
century French realist, 161 Warren St.
Glens Falls, through Feb. 4. Information,
792-1761.

LOCAL COLOR ART GALLERY
holiday show featuring affordable works
by regional artists in a variety of media,
961 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham.
Information, 786-6557.

Call For Artists

**DELMAR COMMUNITY ORCHES-
TRA**
openings in the string, horn and
percussion sections. Information, 439-
7749.

COLONIE TOWN BAND
several openings, rehearsals on Mondays
at 7:30 p.m. at town hall, Route 9,
Newtonville. Information, 783-2760.

**COLONIE CENTENNIAL
BRASS CHOIR**
openings for brass players, rehearsals on
first Thursday and third Tuesday of the
month, at 7:15 p.m., town hall, Route 9,
Newtonville. Information, 783-2760.

**SIENA CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR**
rehearsals Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. for
orchestra, Wednesdays at 6 p.m. for
choir, Siena College, Route 9,
Loudonville. Information, 783-2325.

**CLIFTON PARK
COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA**
openings in all sections, especially
strings, rehearsals Tuesdays at 7:30
p.m., Clifton Common Senior Center.
Information, 783-2511.

SINGERS NEEDED
for Electric City Chorus, training
provided, rehearsals at Faith United
Methodist Church, Brandywine Avenue
and Eastern Parkway, Schenectady,
Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Information, 785-
4807.

**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
rehearsals at Columbia High School,
Luther Road, East Greenbush, 7 to 9
p.m., Tuesdays. Information, 477-8308.

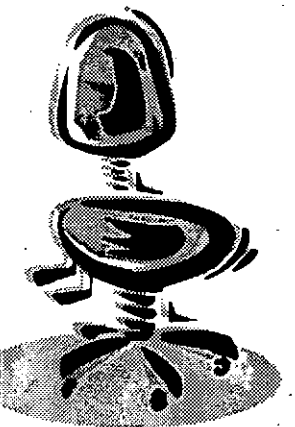
Classes/Lectures

DANCE CLASSES
ongoing, all levels, ballet, jazz and
modern, New School of Ballet, 1098
Parkwood Blvd., Schenectady, Mondays
to Thursdays and Saturdays. Information,
346-1096.

ART CLASSES
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intermediate, Wednesdays and
Thursdays, taught by Kristin Woodward.
Information, 783-1828.



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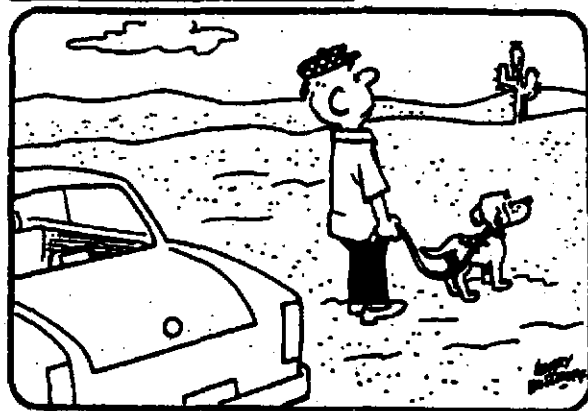
C U Q R N K R R H E B R W Y V
S P M J E H E E A D B E H S Y
V T Q O L M A P B E C F A I G
D B Y W T R M M R M H M M P M
K I F D B Y S A A A A M W U
S Q O M K I H H H M H O F D
B Z X W U S A C A S O C C Q O
N L J H F R M B M A I K K D C
A Y W V G T P S L Q S P O N L
K I H F E C O B E Z Y W V Y U
S R Q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

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

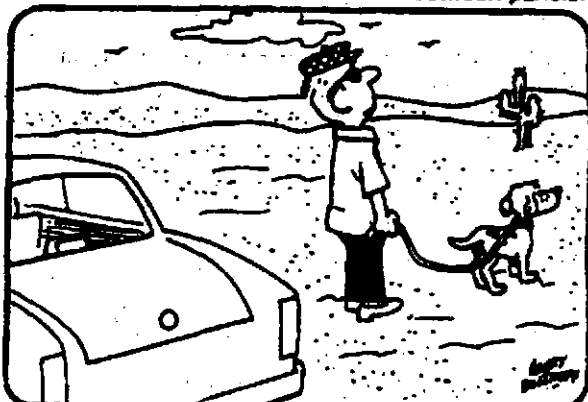
Abraham	Chamber	Hamlet	Shame
Ashamed	Chamois	Hammer	Wham
Bahamas	Champ	Hammock	Yokohama
Chamber	Graham	Hamper	

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cloud has moved. 2. Sunglasses have
longer. 5. Birds have been added. 6. Cactus is closer.
added. 3. License plate is missing. 4. Dog's leash is
longer. 5. Birds have been added. 6. Cactus is closer.

The Super CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 "di-dah"
- 4 Make ready
- 8 Big rig
- 12 "Wheel of Fortune" name
- 17 Scottboro's st.
- 18 Lucca lucre
- 19 Island outfit
- 21 "F Troop" corporal
- 22 Start of a remark by Melanie Clark
- 24 '82 Toto smash
- 25 Light boat
- 26 Spellbound
- 27 Actress Verdugo
- 29 Give a squeeze
- 31 Nationality suffix
- 32 Tombstone lawman
- 35 Handbag part
- 38 Voids
- 41 Part 2 of remark
- 46 Ivy Leaguer
- 47 That's no buff!
- 48 Fairy queen
- 49 Reference volume
- 53 Beam
- 55 Solves crosswords?

DOWN

- 58 Strauss opera
- 61 Spock's forte
- 63 Shade of green
- 64 "Aviv"
- 65 Fence part
- 66 Tavern staples
- 68 Hill dwellers
- 70 Way out
- 72 With 101
- 73 Computer whiz
- 76 "pro nobis"
- 77 Mendel's field
- 79 "trip"
- 80 Medieval menial
- 83 Artist Magritte
- 85 Way to pass the time?
- 86 "Shane" star
- 88 Teachers' org.
- 89 Saw
- 91 "The Last of the Mohicans" hero
- 95 Ernestine, for one
- 97 Museum piece
- 98 Ration, with "out"

DOWN

- 99 Eisen-hower's birthplace
- 100 Schmaltz
- 102 Deck out
- 108 Curly poker?
- 109 Part 3 of remark
- 112 Trailblazer
- 115 Like some music
- 116 Hint
- 117 Wind up
- 118 Bro or sis
- 120 Unscuffed
- 123 ER exclamation
- 126 Confuse
- 129 "Mama" Cass
- 132 End of remark
- 135 Annoyed
- 136 "Leone"
- 137 Lean's river
- 138 Entertainer
- 139 Authority
- 140 Freshwater fish
- 141 WWII site
- 142 Pitch

DOWN

- 1 Lion's den
- 2 Communica-tions word
- 3 Event
- 4 Arab's grp.
- 5 Torn or Taylor
- 6 Perry's creator

DOWN

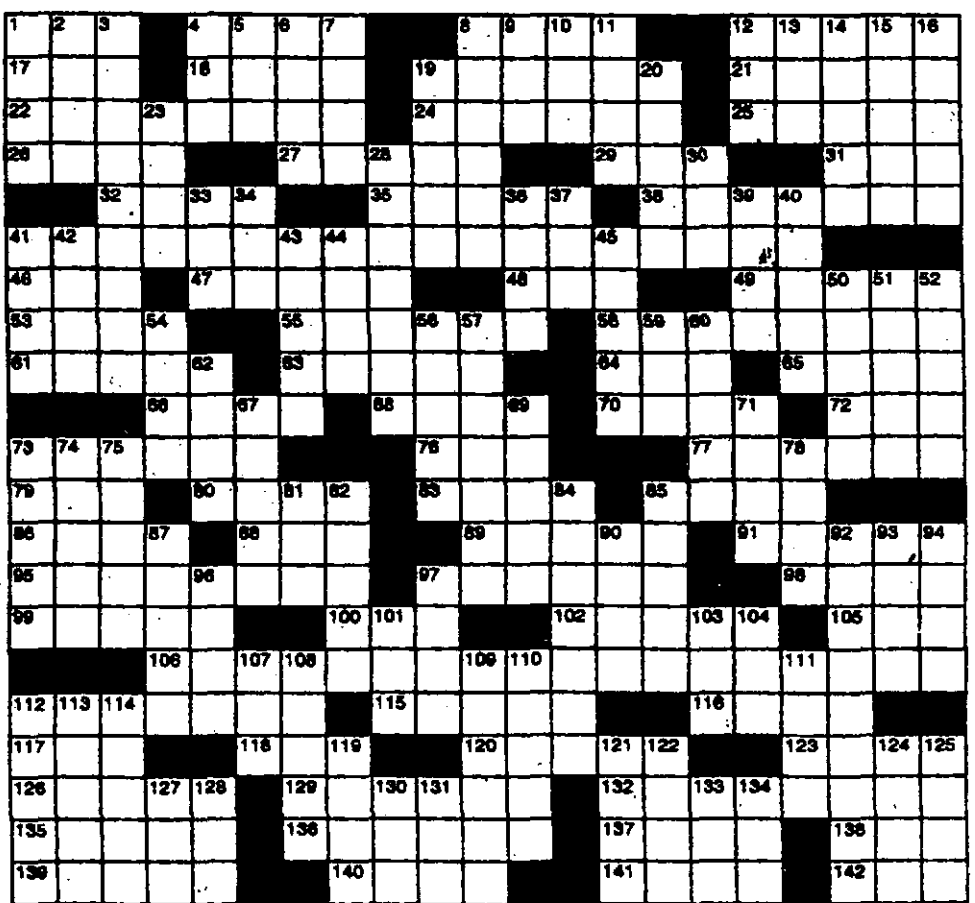
- 7 Rind
- 8 Pay hike?
- 9 Be off base
- 10 Miss Piggy's pronoun
- 11 Move like molasses
- 12 Cul-de-
- 13 Palindromic title
- 14 Jamie Lee's mom
- 15 Cropped up
- 16 Places for patches
- 19 Present company?
- 20 Too thin
- 23 Coup d'
- 28 "CHiPs" star
- 30 "Holy cow!"
- 33 "Kidnapped" monogram
- 34 Cherry stone
- 36 Charitable donation
- 37 Green org.
- 39 Snatch
- 40 Fall flower
- 41 Farmer's place
- 42 Pat on the bun?
- 43 Capsizes, with "over"
- 44 Architect
- 45 Lessen
- 50 Camel cousin

DOWN

- 51 UFO pilot
- 52 Foray
- 54 Kitchen fixture
- 56 Murcia master
- 57 Beeseech
- 59 Reason or Reed
- 60 Slip cover?
- 62 Stage prompts
- 67 Ecumenical Council site
- 69 Actress Dominique
- 71 Soybean product
- 73 Spartan slave
- 74 Dumbstruck
- 75 Manuscript book
- 78 Man the bar
- 81 Rock's Speed-wagon
- 82 '96 Frances McDormand film
- 84 Fit to feast on
- 85 Suspicious (of)
- 87 Haggard
- 90 Spiritual guide
- 92 Able
- 93 "vera"
- 94 Cassandra or Merlin
- 96 Tennis legend

DOWN

- 97 London district
- 101 See 72 Across
- 103 '70 Jackson 5 hit
- 104 Actor Brynner
- 107 "Of course!"
- 108 Produces prunes
- 109 Repeat performance
- 110 Black Sea city
- 111 Perfume ingredient
- 112 Tenor Peter
- 113 Curry country
- 114 In a strange way
- 119 Oscilloscope image
- 121 Questions
- 122 Pkg. abbr.
- 124 Merrill melody
- 125 Dictator
- 127 Bertoz's "Trojans"
- 128 Maestro de Maestri
- 130 Maui memento
- 131 Vex
- 133 Adjectival suffix
- 134 Merger init. of 1955



The Spotlight CALENDAR

Wed. 1/10

BETHLEHEM

TOWN BOARD

Organization meeting, four public hearings, regular agenda; town hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 58

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

DELMAR FIRE COMMISSION

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

NEW SCOTLAND

TOWN COUNCIL

Regular agenda; town hall, Route 85, 7 p.m. Information, 439-4889.

Thurs. 1/11

BETHLEHEM

LANDSCAPE PAINTING COURSE

Five-part indoor course on winter landscape painting. Class fee \$120. Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Game Farm Road, Delmar, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursdays throughout January. Information, 475-0291 or 478-0645.

DELMAR FIRE DEPT. LADIES AUX.

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

ELSMERE FIRE CO. AUX.

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

BETHLEHEM MEMORIAL VFW

Post 3185, 404 Delaware Ave., 8 p.m. Information, 439-9836.

Fri. 1/12

BETHLEHEM

Q.U.I.L.T.

Quilters United In Learning Together; general meeting, quilting video. New members welcome. First United Methodist Church, Kenwood Avenue, Delmar, doors open 9:30 a.m. Information, 456-0552.

LIBRARY BABIES

Storytelling, songs, play for babies 15-to-21 months with a parent. Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 10 a.m. Registration, 439-9314.

WINTER NIGHT WALK

Looking for signs of nocturnal animal life and winter constellations. Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Game Farm Road, Delmar, 7 p.m. Information, 475-0291.

Sat. 1/13

BETHLEHEM

SATURDAY STORYBREAK

Stories, songs, crafts about reptiles and amphibians; for children 3 to 6. Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 10:30 a.m. Registration, 439-9314.

PROGRAM AT FIVE RIVERS

Owls of New York State: indoor program. Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Game Farm Road, Delmar, 2 p.m. Information, 475-0291.

NEW SCOTLAND

YOUNG SNOWMOBILERS' COURSE

Safety certificate program, required for operators under 18. John Boyd Thacher State Park, Route 85, New Scotland, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Registration, 872-1237.

Mon 1/15

BETHLEHEM

DELMAR KIWANIS

Days Inn, Route 9W, 6:15 p.m. Information, 439-24377 or 439-6952.

EXPLORER POST 157

310 Kenwood Ave., Delmar, 7:30-9 p.m. Information, 439-4205.

TEMPLE CHAPTER 5 RAM

Masonic Temple, 421 Kenwood Ave.

Tues 1/16

BETHLEHEM

BLOOD DRIVE IN SELKIRK

Red Cross blood drive; donors must be

17 or older. Walk-ins welcome; appointment recommended. GE Plastics, Noryl Ave., Selkirk, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Information, 475-5034.

PLANNING BOARD

town hall, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

DELMAR ROTARY

Howard Johnson's, Route 9W. Information, 439-9988.

ONESQUETHAU LODGE 1096 F&AM

Masonic Temple, 421 Kenwood Ave.

NEW SCOTLAND

STORY HOUR

Voorheesville Public Library, 51 School Road, 10 a.m. Information, 765-2791.

VOORHEESVILLE PTA

Elementary school cafeteria, 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-3644.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

SHOEBURY LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

SANDBOURNE LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

ROOKFIELD CONSULTANTS LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

OAKMEAD LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

HOLLINGTON TRADING LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC,

LEGAL NOTICE

46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

ELMERSIDE LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

CHARLWOOD TRADING LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

CARAWAY SERVICES LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

CASTLEFORD LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

BRENTHURST DEVELOPMENTS LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

ALVERSTONE LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

ALDERNEY LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

J.R.ROCH AND ASSOCIATES LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/4/00. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

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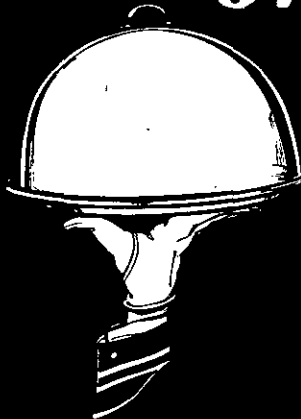
Thurs., Jan. 18th at 7:30pm

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Pasta with Sausage or Meatballs \$7.99
Linguine with Clam Sauce \$8.25
Chicken Parmigiano with Pasta \$10.99

Complete with salad and garlic bread.

Call for Reservations **456-0292 Ext. 14**

LEGAL NOTICE**CERTIFICATE OF LIMITED PARTNERSHIP OF KB FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP**

Under Section 121-201 of the Revised Limited Partnership Act 1. The name of the limited partnership is "KB FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP".

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 6 Majestic Court, Loudonville, New York 12211.

4. The name and business address of the sole general partner is:

KMB LLC
6 Majestic Court
Loudonville, New York 12211

5. The latest date upon which the limited partnership is to dissolve is December 31, 2050.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Certificate of Limited Partnership on the 17th day of November, 2000, and verify and affirm under penalties of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct as of the date thereof.

KMB, L.L.C., General partner

By: S/ Kevin M. Bette, Member

(January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

McLeod USA Purchasing, L.L.C. App. for Auth. filed SSNY 10/25/00. Albany Co., LLC org. in IA 2/24/00. SSNY is process agt. & shall mail copy of proc.: c/o CT Corp. Sys., 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011, the reg. agt. upon whom proc. may be served. Off. addr. & reg. agt. in IA: Randall Rings, 6400 C St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406. Copy of Art. of Org. on file SSIA. Purpose: any lawful purp. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of International Money Transfer LLC a NYS limited liability company (LLC). Formation filed with SSNY on 12/27/2000. Off. Loc.: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agt. of LLC, upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 46 State St., 5th Fl., Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: All lawful purposes. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of AMTAS LLC a NYS limited liability company (LLC). Formation filed with SSNY on 12/13/2000. Off. Loc.: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agt. of LLC, upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 46 State St., 5th Fl., Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: All Lawful purposes. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of BARRY TERRY LLC a NYS limited liability company (LLC). Formation filed with SSNY on 12/19/2000. Off. Loc.: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agt. of LLC, upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 46 State St., 5th Fl., Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: All Lawful purposes. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Application for Authority of USRP Funding 2001-A, L.P., a foreign limited partnership (LP). App. For Auth. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 12/18/00. LP organized in Delaware (DE) on 12/5/00. NY office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Ms. Valerie Silvering, 12240 Inwood Rd., #200, Dallas, TX 75244. Principal office address of LP: 12240 Inwood Rd., Dallas, TX 75244. Name and address of each general partner is available from SSNY. Copy of Cert. of LP on file with DE Secy. of State, Federal & Duke of York Sts., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Application for Authority of G.R.C. Realty Limited Partner-

LEGAL NOTICE

ship, a foreign limited partnership (LP). App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 12/15/00. LP organized in New Jersey (NJ) on 12/8/00. NY office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543, the registered agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. Principal office address of LP: 150 East Palmetto Park Rd., Ste. 400, Boca Raton, FL 33432. Name and address of each general partner is available from SSNY. Copy of Cert. of LP on file with NJ Secy. of State, P.O. Box 302, Trenton, NJ 08625. Purpose: any lawful activity. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Application for Authority of SPHERION ATLANTIC OPERATIONS LLC, a foreign limited liability company (LLC). App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 12/14/00. LLC organized in Delaware (DE) on 11/1/00. NY office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, the registered agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Principal office address of LLC: 2050 Spectrum Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309. Copy of Arts. of Org. on file with DE Secy. of State, Federal & Duke of York Sts., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE CONTAINING SUBSTANCE OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION
Name of limited liability company (LLC): Instant Minds L.L.C. Date of filing articles of organization with secretary of state: December 8, 2000. County in which office of LLC is to be located: Albany. The secretary of state has been designated as agent of the LLC 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 against it served upon him or her is: David K. Lee, 21 Dahlgren Place, Brooklyn, New York 11228-3503. Purpose of business of LLC: For profit motives. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve is December 18, 2050. Name and address of the registered agent of LLC, who is to be the agent of LLC against whom process against it may be served: David K. Lee, 21 Dahlgren Place, Brooklyn, New York 11228-3503. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: GOTHIC OUTDOOR LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 12/6/00. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: One Financial Center, Suite 1600, Boston, MA 02111. Purpose: any lawful activity. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Application for Authority of The Javers Group of Pennsylvania, LLC, a foreign limited liability company (LLC). App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 12/11/2000. LLC organized in Pennsylvania (PA) on 7/20/1999. NY office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, the registered agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Principal office address of LLC: 341 New Albany Rd., Suite 200, Moorestown, NJ 08057. Copy of Arts. of Org. on file with Secy. of Commonwealth of PA, 308 North Office Bldg., Harrisburg, PA 17105. Purpose: any lawful activity. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Application for Authority of SMALL BUSINESS ASSETS I LLC, a foreign limited liability company (LLC). App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY)

LEGAL NOTICE

on 12/7/00. LLC organized in Delaware (DE) on 12/4/00. NY office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, the registered agent of LLC upon whom process it may be served. Office address of LLC in DE: c/o Corporation Service Co., 2711 Centerville Rd., Suite 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Copy of Arts of Org. on file with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Application for authority of CINGULAR WIRELESS LLC, a foreign limited liability company (LLC). App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 12/5/00. LLC organized in Delaware (DE) on 4/24/00. NY office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporate Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, the registered agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Principal office address of LLC: 5565 Glenridge Connector, Glenridge Two, Atlanta, GA 30342. Copy of Arts. of Org. on file with DE Secy. of State, Federal & Duke of York Sts., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Application for Authority of Global Metro Networks New York, LLC, a foreign limited liability company (LLC). App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 10/23/00. LLC organized in Delaware (DE) on 10/4/00. NY office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, the registered agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Office address of LLC in DE: 2711 Centerville Rd., Suite 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Copy of Arts. of Org. on file with DE Secy. of State, Carvel State Office Bldg., 820 N. French St., 9th Fl., Wilmington, DE 19801. Purpose: any lawful activity. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Application for Authority of LFA, Limited Liability Company, a foreign limited liability company (LLC). App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 11/17/00. LLC organized in Indiana (IN) on 5/11/00. NY office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Corporate Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. Office address of LLC in IN: 200 East Berry St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802-2706. Copy of Arts. of Org. on file with IN Secy. of State, 302 West Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. Purpose: any lawful activity. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Application for Authority of LCOR LAMP LLC, a foreign limited liability company (LLC). App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 11/15/1999. LLC organized in Delaware (DE) on 1/19/2000. NY office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, the registered agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Principal office address of LLC: 100 Berwyn Park, Suite 110, Berwyn, PA 19312. Copy of Arts. of Org. on file with DE Secy. of State, Corp. Dept., Lookerman & Federal Sts., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: PUBLIMEDIA COMMUNICATIONS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 10/3/2000. Office location: Albany

LEGAL NOTICE

County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, the registered agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Purpose: To purchase, establish and carry on business as general merchants, manufacturers, importers, exporters, commission agents and distributors, for foreign products only; To buy, sell, manufacture, alter, improve, exchange, import, export and deal any kind of products as well as relating services; To buy, sell, manufacture all products and render all type of services in advertisements, communication and edition sector, including e-business; To carry on the business of merchants, to undertake, conduct, execute all kinds of commercial trading and services, and to engage in any other business or transactions which this LLC is authorized to carry on; and To do all or any of the above things anywhere in the world, but the LLC forbids itself to have any activity in the United States of America. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Application for Authority of Production Finance International, LLC, a foreign limited liability company (LLC). App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 6/14/2000. LLC organized in Washington (WA) on 7/28/1999. NY office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o CT Corporation System, 111 Eighth Ave., NY, NY 10011. Office address of LLC in WA: 905 W. Riverside, Ste. 607, Spokane, WA 99201. Copy of Arts. of Org. on file with WA Secy. of State, 505 E. Union, 2nd Fl., P.O. Box 40234, Olympia, WA 96504-0234. Purpose: purchase order financing for the import and export of pre sold merchandise. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Progressive Systems LLC, App. for Auth. filed SSNY 10/2/00. Albany Co., LLC org. in AL 11/6/98. SSNY designated as agt. upon whom process may be served & shall mail copy of proc.: 1933 Hwy 35, Ste. 194, Wall, NJ 07719. Off. addr. in AL: 1401 20th Street So., Birmingham, AL 35205. Art. of Org. on file SSAL, POB 5616, Montgomery, AL 36103. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

SPEC CONSULTING, LLC
Notice of formation of Spec Consulting, LLC, a limited liability company (the "LLC"). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (the "SSNY") on 12/11/00. Office location: Albany County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC, upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC, c/o Joseph S. Burke, 10 Wildwood Court, Clifton Park, New York 12065, the Registered Agent. The purposes of the LLC are to provide engineering consulting services to businesses and individuals, to employ individuals to perform same, to manage daily activities of the company, and to acquire, own, buy, sell, invest in, trade, manage, finance, refinance, exchange, or otherwise dispose of stocks, securities, partnership interests, CDs, mutual funds, and commodities. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Pursuant to New York LLC Law §206(C)

The name of the Limited Liability Company is BUCHAKJIAN REALTY, LLC.

The date of the filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State was 12/22/2000.

The County in which the office of the LLC is to be located is Albany. The agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served is the Secretary of State, and such shall mail a copy of any process to:

Buchakjian Realty, LLC
Burke, Casserly & Gable, P.C.
255 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, New York 12205

The business purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which LLCs may be

LEGAL NOTICE

organized under the LLCL.
(January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF FILING OF THE ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF DPR CONSULTANTS, L.L.C.

Under Section 203 of the New York Limited Liability Company Law

1. The name of this Limited Liability Company is: DPR Consultants, L.L.C.

2. The Articles of Organization of this L.L.C. were filed with the New York Secretary of State on December 29, 2000.

3. There is no date for dissolution of this L.L.C.

4. This L.L.C. shall have its principal place of business in the County of Albany, State of New York.

5. The Secretary of State is designated as agent of this L.L.C. upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process served against this L.L.C. to DPR Consultants, L.L.C. c/o The Rutnik Law Firm, 112 State Street, Suite 1320, Albany, New York 12207.

6. The character or purpose of the business of this L.L.C. is to engage in any lawful act or activity. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLP

Mesick-Cohen-Wilson-Baker-Architects, LLP, filed a Certificate of Registration with the New York Secretary of State on April 3, 1995. Its office is located in Albany County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail a copy of any process served on him or her to Mesick-Cohen-Wilson-Baker-Architects, LLP, 3 City Square, 5th Floor, 324 Broadway, Albany, New York 12207. Its business is to engage in any lawful activity for which limited liability partnerships may be organized under Section 121-1500 of the New York Partnership Law. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WHOGARA ENTERPRISES, L.L.C.

Under Section 206 of the Limited Liability Company Law
First, the name of the limited liability company is Whogara Enterprises, L.L.C.
Second, the articles of organization were filed with the New York Department of State on November 17, 2000.

Third, the County in which the limited liability company is located is Albany, New York.

Fourth, the Secretary of State of the State of New York has been designated as agent of the limited liability company upon who process against it may be served. The principal address of the limited liability company is 60 Union Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054.

Fifth, the purpose of the company is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the New York Limited Liability Law. (January 10, 2001)

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

The name of the LLC is SOUTH FAMILY, L.L.C. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on December 12, 2000. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 30 Corporate Circle, Albany, New York 12203. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LP

South Mall Towers, L.P., filed a Certificate of Limited Partnership with the New York Secretary of State on November 20, 2000. Its office is located in Albany County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail a copy of any process served on him or her to South Mall Towers, L.P., 101 South Pearl Street,

LEGAL NOTICE

Albany, NY 12207. Its business is to engage in any lawful activity for which limited partnerships may be organized under Section 121-201 of the Revised Limited Partnership Act. (January 10, 2001)

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

The name of the LLC is KMB I, L.L.C. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on November 17, 2000. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 6 Majestic Court, Loudonville, New York 12211. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

AA&CC LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/26/00. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 30 E. 40th St., Ste. 605, New York NY 10016. The Registered Agent is Company Filings Int'l LLC at the same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

I.M.C. INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/18/00. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 30 E. 40th St., Ste. 605, New York, NY 10016. The Registered Agent is Company Filings Int'l LLC at the same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

AQS LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/15/00. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services, Inc. at the same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

GABOR CONSULTING LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/14/00. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P. O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

SUMMERBYS DEVELOPMENTS LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. at same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

SUNNINGDALE LLC was filed with SSNY on 12/12/99. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 State St., 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. The Registered Agent is USA Corporate Services Inc. a same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (January 10, 2001)

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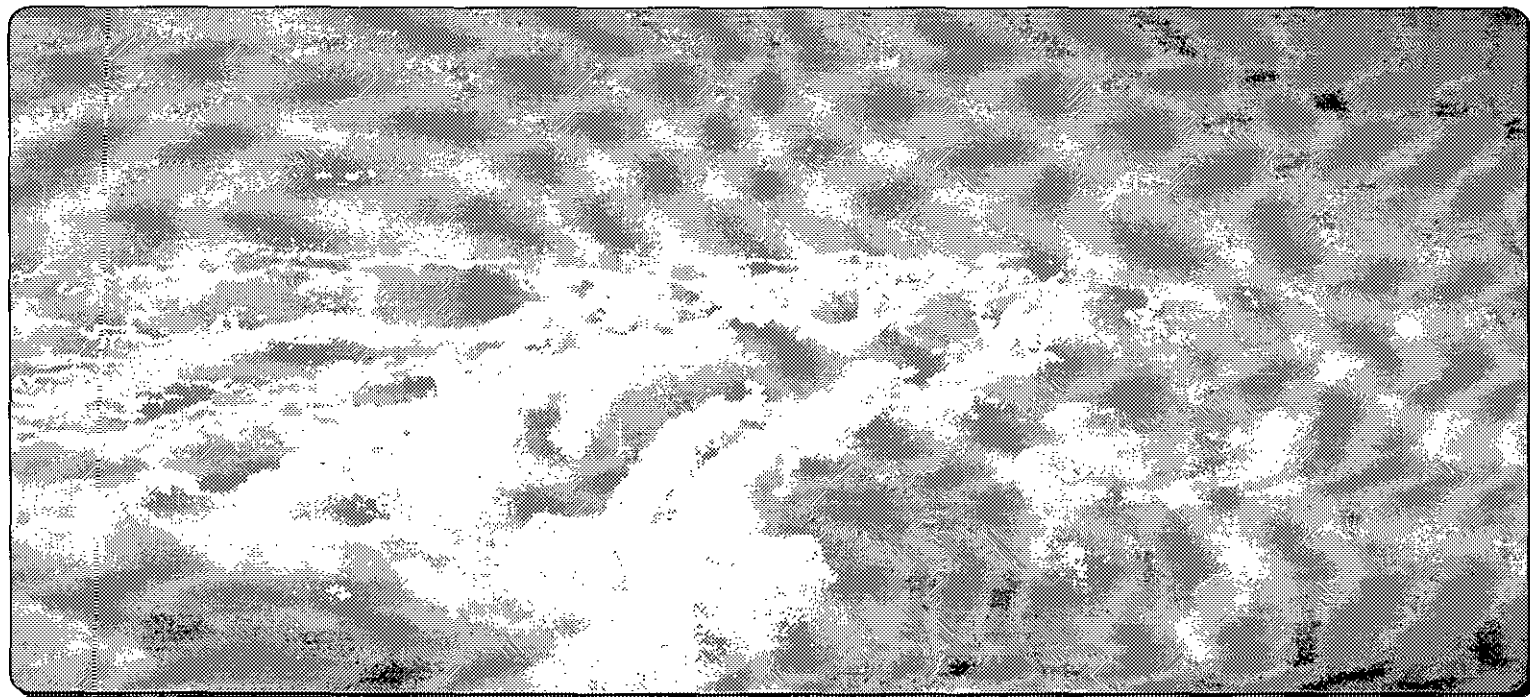
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Answers

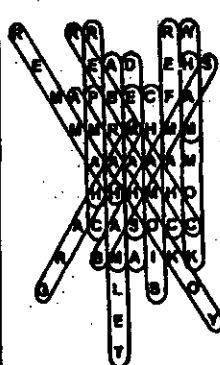
Answers from the 1/3 Issue

LALO	ALIAS	PAPP	DEBAR
AWOL	LADLE	ACRE	ELUDE
DAVID	FROST	CHILL	WILLS
SIEVE	SLOTH	ALAI	KAI
TRIED	OINTMENT	YIN	
ARABLE	POE	TATE	
UMA	GRITS	TAB	AGE
GOLFS	ISHTAR	ANAGRAMS	
HOBOKEN	NAVE	ROME	LOA
ALLENE	ITO	GWYN	ETC
UNDER	ICECUBE	TERSE	
MRS	TINT	ASA	CARAT
ABE	ECCE	SDAK	ANATOLE
DARKROOM	COGENT	LEROY	
NGO	SRO	ERIGH	MOE
SHER	TWO	YAHOO	S
COS	ARABELLA	IMARI	
ACT	RISE	ABABA	NIOBE
PHOEBES	SNOW	ALEX	WINTER
ERATO	OJAI	STALE	TOAD
DETER	SIFT	HONED	ERMA

Answers from the 1/3 Issue

Answers from the 1/10 Issue

Words with "Ham"



Answers to Super Crossword

Answers from the 1/10 Issue

LAW	PREP	SEMI	BAJAK
ALA	LIRE	SARONG	AGARR
IF	PEOPLE	AFRICA	CANOE
RAPT	ELENA	HUG	ESE
EARP	STRAP	NEGATIVES	
DON	LIKETAIL	GATERS	
ELI	STEER	MAD	ATLAS
LENS	ERASES	ARABELLA	
LOGIC	LODEN	TEL	RAIL
MUTS	ANTE	EXIT	MEL
HAGGER	ORA	DOTANY	
EGO	BERF	RENE	LIFE
LADD	NEA	ADAGE	UNCAS
OPERATOR	STATUS	DOLE	
TEXAS	GOO	ARRAY	MOE
WHY	DO	THEY	BUY
PIONEER	TOMAL	CLUE	
END	SIB	CLEAN	STAT
ADDLE	ELLIOT	STICKERS	
RILED	SIERRA	KWAI	NIA
SAVED	PIKE	STLO	TAR

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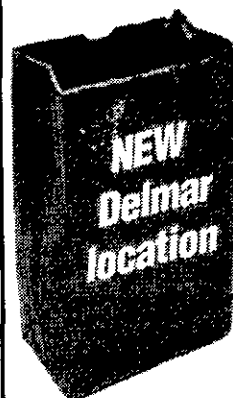
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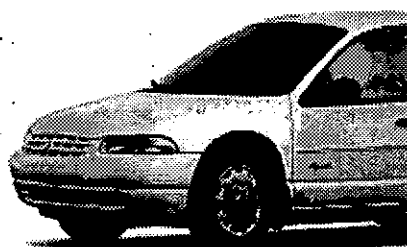
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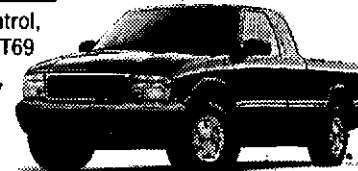
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Stk. #GC28ANow **\$8,995**'00 CHRYSLER
300M17,026 Miles, Full Power, Tan,
Stk. #GOPC33Now **\$23,995**'98 CHRYSLER
CONCORDE33,271 Miles, PW/PDL,
Blue, Stk. #GCR19ANow **\$14,995**'99 PLYMOUTH
BREEZE18,626 Miles, PW/PDL/Cass,
C/C, Tilt, Stk. #G9PC51Now **\$10,995**'96 VW PASSAT
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Stk. #GITC243Now **\$13,995**'97 DODGE
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Stereo Cass, Stk. #GTC18ANow **\$12,995**'00 PLYMOUTH
NEON 4DR8,964 Miles, Tan,
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VOYAGER56,009 Miles, 6 Cly, Light Purple,
7 Pass, A/C, Stk. #GIV61ANow **\$10,995**'95 MERCURY
VILLAGER GS61,839 Miles, Cass, C/C, Air, Lug Rack,
7 Pass, PW/PDL/Tilt, White, Stk. #GIDT38ANow **\$8,995**'00 PONTIAC
SUNBIRD SE24,670 Miles, 4 Dr, Red, Auto, ABS,
4 Cly, Stk. #GOPC43Now **\$11,995**

*Tax, Title & DMV Fees not included in prices.

MARSHALL'S



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Ethics

(From Page 1)

However, two recent situations involving town employees, she said, highlighted the need for clarity in disclosure requirements: the recent election of town Building Inspector Jeffrey Pine as assessor of Rensselaerville, and the appointment of Gerald Gordinier, who performs private building inspections on behalf of several school districts, as head of the newly created town buildings and assessment department.

Both Pine and Gordinier fully disclosed their outside activities to the town board, and Pofit said both were found not in conflict. Pofit also cited the example of former town board member Mark Dempf, an engineering consultant with Vollmer Associates, who presently serves as the town's engineering advisor.

"His connections through Vollmer have been helpful in his consulting for us, but we want to guard against even the possibility in the future of an appearance of any conflict of interest," she said.

"It doesn't feel currently like we need a full-blown ethics structure of any sort," she added. "We just want to have policies and procedures in place so that whoever we deal with or do business with, it will be clear."

Also on tonight's board agenda: receipt of an annual report from Town Clerk Diane Deschenes; updates on the host of issues before the town board at year's end, including the future

of the town parks and recreation department, pending water projects, and the status of the Route 32 school house as a historical site; and follow-up on last week's organizational meeting, including the state of a pair of vacancies on the town's zoning board of appeals.

At last Wednesday's meeting, the board approved the appointment of current zoning board member Paul Cantlin as a member of the planning board. But Cantlin has not yet been replaced as a member of the zoning board, and a prior vacancy already exists.

Pofit said she will seek applicants for both potential vacancies, but the town board will also discuss the pros and cons of leaving Cantlin on the zoning board and thereby providing an intermediary between it and the planning board.

Cantlin has indicated an interest in remaining on both boards, "but I don't want to discourage the possibility of other citizens getting involved," Pofit said.

Quilters to meet at Delmar church

Quilters United in Learning Together (QUILT) will meet on Friday, Jan. 12, at First United Methodist Church on Kenwood Avenue in Delmar.

The doors open at 9:15 a.m., and visitors and new members are always welcome.

For information, call 456-0552.

Insurance

(From Page 1)

claim against the town is filed, Turner said, the insurance carrier sets aside funds in its reserves to cover their best estimate of the worst-case likely payout to the claimant — in effect, bracing for a loss even before an actual lawsuit has been filed.

According to figures quoted in Kehoe's memo, over the past five years, the town's "general liability loss ratio" — the ratio of such charges against the carrier's reserves to its receipts from premiums — has averaged 109 percent; that is, for every dollar in premiums taken in, The Hartford expects to pay out \$1.09 in claims — already marking the town as a poor risk.

But in 1999, that ratio rose to 241 percent, and in 2000, to a whopping 345 percent; anticipated payouts three and a half times as much as premiums on the town's general liability policy.

Early in the year, claims were filed against the town regarding a water main break, a fallen tree that caused a creek to back up into a resident's basement, and a fire truck that allegedly struck a private vehicle, all fairly typical claims. Eight claims were filed in 1999, 10 in 1998, according to figures supplied by Town Clerk Kathleen Newkirk.

But 2000 rang up 20 such claims — and August was a particularly bad month. Residents or businesses impacted by the closing of Delaware Avenue and other residual effects of the May

landslide filed 16 separate claims against the town; none have yet been converted to a lawsuit, but all remain pending.

Even more significant, Turner said, was The Hartford's concern about the town's potential liability in the death of Sandra Crowley last June. The Delmar resident was struck by a car while walking on the shoulder of Fernbank Avenue, and attorneys representing her family announced in August their intention to file a wrongful death suit against the town, citing the lack of a sidewalk or other traffic safety features on Fernbank.

Fuller and Turner agreed there is little that the town can do to anticipate or shield itself from such claims.

"We all know the landslide isn't something caused by the town," Fuller said.

The Hartford, like most insurance carriers, does engage in "loss-control" analyses for its clients — for instance, analyzing equipment being installed on town property for hazards or evaluating the condition of roads or sidewalks.

Still, Turner said, "In general, we are a litigious society, and there is a tendency to look at municipalities as deep pockets."

The rising amount of damage awards further raises the cost of insurance. So does a recent softening of the insurance market, Turner said. Carriers who a decade ago eagerly wooed clients are raising rates and lowering their exposure today in

the face of lower profits. And insurance carriers themselves pay more for "reinsurance" — their own hedges against higher-than-expected payouts.

The Hartford's decision to raise rates or end its long relationship with the town, Turner said, does not effect its coverage of the town's auto or umbrella policies, which insures against extraordinary liabilities of as much as \$10 million.

"It's not going to be a situation where it will be unobtainable or at a prohibitive cost," Turner said. "At this point in my estimation, we will end up changing carriers. The town has been a loyal client of The Hartford for many, many years, but there are other carriers eager to underwrite this exposure."

But he said, "It could very well be" significantly more expensive.

Fuller expressed disappointment at The Hartford's actions.

"Hartford has been very good for the town of Bethlehem, and we always had a very good price from Hartford," she said. "It's unfortunate they chose to judge us on our exposure of recent years."

"I don't know what the cost will be. What will be the impact?" Fuller said. "Will we have to pay more for insurance coverage? We won't know until we look at the quotes. But it's always costly to start with a new insurance company. In the end, we all suffer when something like this happens."

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And while winning awards is nice, our ultimate objective is to please you, our readers, by providing local news coverage and entertainment that you won't find anywhere else.

So when we win awards we feel that our hard work is paying off and that you win with the best coverage and most interesting features we can provide.

Our 2000 NYPA Awards:

- 1st Place - Maureen Freeman - Best Spot News Coverage
- 1st Place - Jim Franco - Best Sports Action Photo
- 2nd Place - Joe Phillips - Best Column
- 2nd Place - Marcus Anderson - Best Graphic Illustration
- 3rd Place - Donna Bell - Best Column
- 3rd Place - Jim Franco - Best Sports Feature Shot
- Honorable Mention - Health Care - Best Special Section Cover
- Honorable Mention - Jim Franco - Best Sports Action Photo

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