

V'ville principal
to retire

See Page 7

'The Sweepers'
comes to Cap

Family Entertainment

Lots of letters
on bond issue

See Pages 7 to 15

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November 26, 2003

BC voters head to polls

By LINDA DeMATTIA

Third in a three-part series

Bethlehem Central School District voters will decide on the largest bond issue in district history on Tuesday. Voting on the \$93 million bond, more than half of which will be reimbursed in state aid, will be from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the middle school on Kenwood Avenue.

At the high school, the project is critical to ease overcrowding, improve safety and modernize facilities to prepare students for 21st century careers, according to district officials.

"All of our school are crowded but the high school is jam-packed," said Superintendent Les Loomis. "We really need the additional classroom space and program needs are severe."

High school Principal Michael Tebbano said safety issues, as well as educational ones, would be addressed by the new construction.

"Our building is currently like a spider, with a central hub and legs," he said. "Many years ago, it was thought having an open plan that would allow students access to the outdoors was a good idea."

To get from one wing to another more quickly, students bypass the severe congestion in the hub by going outdoors. Tebbano said that to accommodate them, doors need to be left unlocked.

"Here we are in the post-Columbine age and we have to worry about people coming in," he said. "We'd like to lock (the doors) but we just can't."

Although the current high school student population is about as high as it was at the peak of the baby boom in the late-1960s and early-1970s, mandates have reduced the number of regular

classrooms, he said.

"We have had to convert regular classroom space to accommodate special education class, physical therapy, occupational therapy and academic intervention services," Tebbano said. "There has also been an increase in regular educational mandates. In the 1970s, students needed two years of science, now most students who want to go to college really need four."

Les Loomis

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has also created the need for different layouts and science classrooms, Tebbano said.

"In the 1960s, if you splashed something in your eyes, you went to the nurse," he said. "Now, each classroom has to have an eyewashes and shower stations. Our science rooms are woefully out of date."

Instrumental music is another
□ VOTERS/page 5

**All of our school are
crowded but the high
school is jam-packed.**

Safety sale



Zach Eck and Brian Bentley try on helmets at the annual Sports Mart sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 75 Saturday at the high school.

Jim Franco

Bethlehem site wins \$1M from county

By KATHERINE MCCARTHY

Today, it's woods and fields; but in five to eight years, 370 acres west of the Slingerlands Price Chopper could be home to LaGrange Technology Park.

In March, Albany County Executive Michael Breslin pledged \$1 million toward the development of a tech park in Albany County. On Monday afternoon, a crowd gathered under a tent on LaGrange Road to hear that the site, located in Bethlehem and New Scotland and with a design developed by BBL Construction Services, was the one that the Albany County Business

Development Corp. had selected to receive the county's \$1 million. The ACBDC was formed in the early 1990s to administer the AITech loan fund, which receives federal job development grants. Today, ACBDC can undertake other economic development initiatives.

Breslin, a Delmar Democrat, announced the \$1 million initiative in March.

"The \$1 million is money that the county set aside expressly for a tech park," Breslin said.

With Sematech and other high-tech companies poised to enter the Capital District, Breslin said he believes that the area can take its place with Silicon Valley and Austin, Texas, as high-tech industrial centers.

Breslin said he worked with the ACBDC, the Albany County Legislature, and the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce to make sure the initiative came to fruition.

The Bethlehem Industrial Development Agency believed from the beginning that Bethlehem was the right place for the county's \$1 million in seed money to go.

"The IDA encouraged developers to submit proposals for an application, coordinated the process with Supervisor Sheila Fuller, and assisted the companies with completing their proposals," IDA Chairman Michael Tucker said.

When BBL Construction Services and LaGrange Technology Park were named among the five finalists, the IDA worked to make sure that the chamber and the ACBDC knew that Bethlehem supported the park.

During an election campaign that brought Bethlehem's willingness to accept growth into question, both candidates for town supervisor also wrote letters supporting the project.

At Monday afternoon's meeting, everyone in attendance was looking forward to the possibility of almost 800,000 square feet of technology and research development space in the towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland. The tech park, which will be accessed by the Slingerlands Bypass Extension that is slated for completion in 2005, could support 2,900 jobs and will require \$131 million to fully build.

"This is great for our tax base," Tucker said, "and it's consistent with our residential nature."

"This will have a substantial economic impact on the town," Supervisor Sheila Fuller said. "The project will bring jobs and tax dollars."

Fuller said she has tried for years to bring high-tech industry to the town, and as she nears the completion of her final term, is glad to see the tech park proposal on the drawing boards.

"I'm happy to be sharing this news a few days before Thanksgiving," Fuller said. "This is something I've been working to get for the town."

□ \$1M/page 5

Library opposes Patriot Act

By KRISTEN OLBY

Bethlehem Public Library has joined forces with libraries nationwide, in formally opposing several provisions of the U.S.A. Patriot Act.

The library board recently endorsed resolutions drafted by the American Library Association and the New York Library Association, adding its voice in opposition to provisions of the act that, critics contend, compromise library patrons' intellectual freedom and right to privacy.

The Patriot Act, passed shortly after the 9/11 terror attacks two years ago, was designed to help law enforcement fight terrorism, in part by granting greater surveillance powers to the FBI.

Under the act, law enforcement can require public libraries to release reading lists of patrons suspected of engaging in terrorism. Librarians are prohibited from notifying patrons that records have been released. Library computers may also be monitored by law enforcement.

"We're concerned about abusive power," said library board member Randy Fisher. "I think a library really should be a sanctuary where people are free to

□ LIBRARY/page 5



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Librarian receives award

Youth services librarian Polly Hartman has received the New York Times Librarian Award for 2003. Hartman is one of just 27 librarians in the country to receive the award this year.



Nominated by a patron earlier in the year, Hartman was notified of her selection on Nov. 13. She will attend a reception in New York City in December, where she will receive a plaque and a check for \$2,500. Winners will be announced in *The New York Times*. Hartman has been a Bethlehem Public Library staff member for almost 20 years. This is a great honor for her, the library and this community.

Healthy circulation

Despite construction vehicles, containment walls, and peripatetic collections, current circulation statistics are only 5 percent reduced from last year's at this time. That statistic really emphasizes how much you use your library. Young folks literally rub elbows with older folks; strollers are everywhere; we're busy from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. most days. Your continued support and patience with the inconveniences of renovation are gratifying to library staff, administration and trustees.

Thanksgiving hours

The library will close at 5 p.m. today for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be reopen on Friday, Nov. 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit us online at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org. Have a safe and happy holiday.

Louise Grieco

Police arrest 3 for DWI

Bethlehem police recently arrested three people for driving while intoxicated.

Amy Weisheit, 20, of 119B Weisheit Road, Glenmont, was stopped by police on Nov. 22 at 2:28 a.m. for weaving and crossing the hazard markings on Wemple Road.

Police said Weisheit was also speeding and failed field sobriety tests. She was charged with DWI.

Susan Tucker, 26, of 5 Kisor Road, Highland, was stopped by police on Nov. 16 at 1:41 a.m. at 822 River Road in Glenmont.

Police said Tucker was operating an unregistered motor vehicle without an inspection certificate.

Police said Tucker failed field sobriety tests and was charged with DWI.

Elizabeth Millett, 32, of Four Seasons, Lot 29, Ravena, was stopped by police on Nov. 16 at 2:06 a.m. on River Road near Beaver Dam Road.

Police said Millett turned without signaling and crossed the double yellow line.

Police said Millett failed field sobriety tests and resisted arrest.

She was charged with felony DWI due to a prior DWI conviction from Schenectady in 1996.

Phony 20s hit town

BY KRISTEN OLBY

It didn't take long for counterfeit versions of the new \$20 bills to begin circulating in Bethlehem.

On Nov. 5, fake \$20 bills were passed at Petrol Fuels on Route 9W and at Hess Express on New Scotland Road in Slingerlands.

At least one of the bills did not have a watermark or security thread. Bethlehem police believe the same person may have passed both bills.

A counterfeit \$20 bill was also passed at Price Chopper in Slingerlands. It was later determined the fake bill originally came from an ATM machine.

Counterfeit money isn't

uncommon in Bethlehem around the holidays, according to police. They typically collect about 10 fake bills a year. So far, five counterfeit \$20 bills and one fake \$10 bill have turned up.

"With the hustle and bustle of the holidays, people don't look at their money," said Bethlehem Detective John Cox. "The store doesn't notice it right away or it may go on to the bank."

Police advise patrons to check their change closely at stores and look for bills missing a security thread.

Those responsible for passing fake bills could face a felony charge of criminal possession of a forged instrument and petty larceny, a misdemeanor.

Cancer support group needs support

To Life! is in immediate need of handy volunteers of all sorts to help the breast cancer support group prepare to move into its new home at 410 Kenwood Ave.

This beautiful building needs some sprucing up, minor prep work and renovations to make it a welcoming and permanent home for To Life!'s services for women (and their families) who are dealing with breast cancer.

Phase One work began last weekend and will be on-going to prepare the building for the anticipated move in date of Jan. 2.

Phase Two will flow directly from Phase One and will continue into 2004 to facilitate the actual move.

To sign up, call To Life! at 518-439-5975 or email info@tolife.org. Please note your skills and any hand/power tools you can provide while volunteering.

Families are welcome, but volunteers need to be at least 16 years old.

Tucker to serve on St. Anne's board

F. Michael Tucker of Delmar was recently elected to serve as president of the board of the St. Anne Foundation.

The foundation provides financial support for St. Anne Institute in Albany, which offers a range of programs for young girls.

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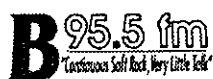
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To-do about Ado



The cast of "Much Ado About Nothing" rehearses at Bethlehem Central High School. The play is set to run Dec. 5 to 7 and 12 to 14.

Jim Franco

Baron wins New Scotland board seat

By MARTIN J. BANNAN

The waiting game is over in New Scotland's town board race. Democrat Deborah Baron, 51, won by 22 votes after absentee ballots were counted Nov. 14 at the Albany County Board of Elections.

On election night, neither Baron nor Republican Doug LaGrange, 44, claimed victory. Machine counts had Baron up by only 32 votes, a total of 1,496 over LaGrange's 1,464. With more than 100 absentee ballots outstanding, the race could not be decided.

In the four-way race for two seats, incumbent Democrat Richard Reilly, 28, won re-election with 1,686 votes while Conservative Elizabeth Gentner, 46, got 855 votes. With absentee ballots counted, the final total is now 1,554 votes for Baron and 1,532 for LaGrange.

New Scotland town board members serve four years. Their annual salary is \$6,711.

"It was a nerve-racking week," said a relieved Baron. "I look forward to working with Supervisor Ed Clark in the best

interest of the town. Doug was also well-qualified and is a nice gentleman. I appreciate all the support from people who voted for me. I hope I do well by them."

Baron appeared on both the Independence and Conservative lines in addition to the Democratic line. The election leaves the New Scotland Democrats with a 3-2 advantage on the town board.

Party enrollment in New Scotland is split evenly between Democrats, Republicans and independents.

Supervisor Ed Clark, who won re-election over Democrat rival Wayne LaChappelle, hoped this year to gain a Republican majority on the board.

"I congratulate Baron and look forward to her dedication to the best interest of the town," Clark said. "Currently, we have serious financial problems with an annual budget deficit of a quarter

of a million dollars. I hope to convince board members about our need to reform the town's finances before we dip into reserve funds. The 1990s are over. We have to adapt to changes in the economy. Changes have to be made."

LaGrange, who ran on Clark's platform of fiscal reform, did best in the town's southern precincts including Unionville and Clarksville. Baron ran strongest in Voorheesville.

"I gained some issue-oriented support," LaGrange said. "Considering it was a close race in a campaign where the odds were against me, I can't complain. I congratulate Deborah and Richard on their victory. I wish them the best."

LaGrange added that he has learned a lot during the past year and is open to either another run for town board or a try for a seat in the Albany County Legislature.

Fund seeks donations

The Bethlehem Festival Fund, formerly known as the White Christmas Festival, is beginning its annual holiday appeal for cash and food donations to assist Bethlehem residents. Greg Jackson, president of the fund, hopes to raise at least \$15,000.

Begun in 1942, the fund aims to fill a temporary need not otherwise met by traditional assistance programs. It plans to deliver about 80 turkeys and food baskets again this holiday season and encourages community involvement. BC students participate in the food drive by depositing canned goods and other supplies into boxes located in the schools. School nurses and social workers sort the donations and coordinate delivery in time for the holidays.

The fund has assisted nearly 150 community members this year. School personnel and the

Senior Services Department identify individuals and families who could use assistance. It can range from covering the cost of eyeglasses or hearing aids to enabling a child to get tutoring services or attend school-related activities. This year the fund will award a \$1,500 scholarship to a graduating BCHS student who demonstrated outstanding community service.

The fund is a nonprofit organization operated by volunteers with minimal overhead. Mail tax-deductible donations to: Bethlehem Festival Fund, P.O. Box 341, Delmar 12054. State employees can contribute by putting SEFA number 50-303 on their pledge cards. Federal employees can put CFC number 9576.

For information or to make food donations, contact Jackson at 439-7828 or e-mail him at BethFestFund@aol.com.

NS board spars over budget amendment

By MICHELE FLYNN

Party lines crossed as the New Scotland town board discussed the 2004 budget at its Nov. 12 meeting. Disagreement centered over a budget amendment proposed by Councilman Scott Houghtaling, granting a \$500 stipend to the parks and recreation coordinator.

Newly re-elected Town Supervisor Ed Clark was the first to comment.

"I oppose paying people separate stipends for separate jobs. We should not do this in bits and pieces. We should reward by policy, not individual," Clark said, though he noted, "Pat works very hard."

The current coordinator, Pat Geurtze, works as highway clerk for the town.

"She's done an excellent job on the program and the brochure. She's the nuts and bolts of the program," said Councilwoman Andrea Gleason.

Councilwoman Cathy Connors opposed the measure.

"I've supported one stipend in the last four years. Based on the discussions we've had, I don't think it's a good idea," she said.

The amendment passed, with Republican Gleason and Democrats Houghtaling and Reilly voting in favor. Connors, a Democrat, sided with Clark, a

Republican, in voting against the stipend. The amended budget then passed unanimously.

Due to the escalating cost of health insurance, the town is considering changes in benefit plans for new employees.

Houghtaling offered particulars of the plan: Town employees working 20 to 40 hours per week would receive 50 percent coverage; those regularly working less than 20 hours will not have subsidized coverage, but could purchase health insurance through the town. The legalities of the proposed plan will be investigated before the board decides the issue.

Houghtaling also presented a change to the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP). The LOSAP committee at the New Salem Fire Department requested a change in the allocation of investments, with equal parts going to equities, corporate bonds and fixed-rate investments. The investments were previously split 30 percent, 30 percent and 40 percent, respectively.

"This is the first time in four and a half years that we've made a change in allocation," Houghtaling said.

In other business, Heather Dooley of Delmar was approved as a member of the Onesquethaw Fire Department.

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m.

V'ville principal to retire

By MICHELE FLYNN

Elementary School Principal Ed Diegel will be retiring in July after 18 years with the Voorheesville Central School District, 15 as principal. At the Nov. 10 meeting of the Voorheesville school board, Superintendent Alan McCartney reported that the search for a replacement has started.

I have no plans yet. Travel and spend time with my granddaughter. I don't golf. I'll have to find a hobby.

Ed Diegel

Diegel previously worked for the Shenendehowa and South Colonie school districts. He hasn't decided what to do after retiring.

"I have no plans yet. Travel and spend time with my granddaughter. I don't golf. I'll have to find a hobby," Diegel said.

Two years ago, his wife Kathleen retired from her job as an elementary school teacher in Colonie.

McCartney also reported that the district is tightening its voting measures. In future elections, voters will be asked to show identification and sign-in each time they vote. The initial signature will be obtained at the next election in the spring, after that signatures will be compared.

"That should alleviate some of the anxiety that people have," McCartney said.

The board discussed the possibility of sharing the cost of legal counsel with the town of New Scotland. Atlas Copco and Colonie Country Club are

challenging their town tax assessments.

Board president Robert Baron noted that responsibility rests with the town, though the schools have the most to lose, if the tax bill on those properties decreases.

Trustee John Cole was opposed, "I really object to this situation. The village and county have opted out."

The town had previously made separate requests for support to Albany County and the village of Voorheesville.

Board vice president C. James Coffin worried about the school district being hurt by the decrease in funds from the town tax rolls.

"I agree with John (Cole) that it's the town's responsibility. But it's too much to walk away from," Coffin said.

The board decided to wait for a preliminary report from the town before it determines whether the school district will become involved.

Warren Silverman, a member of the Voorheesville Community and School Foundation, presented the board with two advance copies of the recently published alumni directory for inclusion in the school libraries. The book lists approximately 10,000 names of past students of Voorheesville High School and contact addresses for many.

The next regular school board meeting will be on Monday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the high school.

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Gratitude is mixed with hope this year at Thanksgiving

By KATHERINE MCCARTHY

This week, we will gather with family members we are happy to see again and family members who set our teeth on edge. Our bathrooms are scrubbed, the good dishes are out and if there really is a God, none of the kids will announce that creamed onions make them barf. We will bow our heads over the bounty on the table and each be grateful for something different.

My own Thanksgiving list is long this year, and it's mixed with prayers for the future and prayers of gratitude to the people that help to make my own life so wonderful.

I'm grateful that in the two years since Sept. 11, there haven't been any more terrorist attacks on American soil. I'm grateful to all the soldiers who are fighting to cut off terrorism where it grows, and I pray that they will all come home safe and sound,

sooner rather than later.

I'm grateful that the people who oppose the war can state their opinions publicly. I'm grateful that they can gather on village corners, main streets and in front of public buildings. I pray that they will not need to protest long.

I'm grateful that my own sons are too young to go to war, and I pray that they grow up in more peaceful times.

I am grateful for this family that surrounds me. I pray that my boys never stop using the brains that they currently employ to test and push me and that they always face the world with inquisitiveness.

I am grateful that first-quarter report cards are more cause for celebration than concern. I pray that their teachers have the patience and strength to motivate them and all of their classmates through the coming school year.

COMMENTARY:

*Mom's
the
Word*



I pray that I'm able to encourage them to do their best and that I can see beyond who I want them to be — or who I wish I had had the chance to be — to recognize them for who they are.

I am grateful for the dog that we've had for over six years now. She's wild and exuberant and loves our children with a fierceness that sometimes seems stronger than ours. She allows our children to exhibit love and affection and act like silly kids again, even when they prefer to be aloof and diffident. I pray that they continue to have spontaneous moments when they throw their arms around her,

bury their faces in her fur and tell her how much they love her.

I am grateful that 17 years later, my husband and I can finish each day with a giggle about something in our lives, and that we still say "I love you" when we turn out the light. I pray that as we move into our children's teenage years, we continue to feel so close.

I am grateful for my health and I pray that I can appreciate it enough to maintain it. Maybe this will be the year I finally lose the weight I've been vowing to lose for many years, and this will be the year that I exercise consistently. I pray that everyone I know and love who is not in good health soon will be and that comfort comes to them and their families.

I am grateful for this cozy house that shelters us, and I pray that we can keep it in good shape and that its value increases for a good long time yet.

I am grateful to John Wooster, the contractor who brought Charlie, Bob and Peter to expand our cozy abode by one room and fix up all the cracks in our aging ceilings. I pray that I can paint those ceilings and the walls of the rooms before Christmas.

I am grateful that we are content with the space we have. I pray that I can make it seem bigger by clearing out the clutter that has taken on a life of its own in the seven years we've lived in this house. I pray that people who don't have a place to call home are safe and warm tonight and that they find a permanent place to shelter.

I'm grateful that the television Chris bought with his first paycheck 18 years ago still works.

I pray that I never see the need to spend thousands of dollars on a television with a screen so big that our neighbors can watch it from their houses.

I'm grateful for technology, especially the Internet, which lets me stay in touch with family and friends scattered far and wide. I pray that I retain the mental agility to keep up with our ever-changing world. Barring that, I pray for the brain power to understand my children when they explain to me exactly what an MP3 player does, why we need a digital camera and what the heck a pixel is anyway, and how to send a text message from the cell phone.

I also pray that somebody invents a VCR that tapes things with voice command, so that nearly 20 years after owning a VCR, we're finally able to tape shows that we might want to watch later.

I'm grateful for the friends who make my life so rich with their humor, their insights and their companionship. I pray that they stay happy and healthy and in touch all the days of their lives.

I'm grateful for the food that is available to us with such great ease, and I pray that we can be mindful of our hungry brothers and sisters this Thanksgiving, and throughout the year.

When we bow our heads over our food on Thursday, I pray that we all can bring to mind something that has made us happy this past year and that that joy sustains us throughout the days to come.

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(From Page 1)

New Scotland Supervisor Ed Clark was equally happy with the news. About one-fifth of the park will be in New Scotland.

"The residents planning advisory committee has been trying to find ways to reach out and bring this sort of business to town," he said. "This stands for tax support, support for the school system, jobs and economic improvements that are not contrary to our rural atmosphere. I congratulate the people who made it happen and look forward to it."

Bethlehem Central school board president Robin Storey was pleased with the announcement, especially as Bethlehem faces a vote on a \$93 million bond issue on Dec. 2.

"We're thrilled," Storey said. "It should help with school taxes, and bring down taxes in town."

County Legislator Charles Dawson, D-Glenmont, said the tech park will be a good thing for the towns and the county and believes the park can be built without having a negative impact on traffic.

"High tech can be low intensity," he said, "and won't add to the traffic congestion. We'll be able to address any problems that arise. The fact that we can make this happen means we can make other things happen."

Bill Herbert of BBL Construction Services said that having business and government work side-by-side sent a powerful message and will bring a number of companies and jobs to the area.

Herbert said that BBL had been analyzing the LaGrange site for years. While the county's \$1 million pales compared to the estimated \$131 million to build out the site, Herbert said the county money gives the site visibility to attract companies to the tech park.

Herbert said that the completion of the Slingerlands Bypass will help, since it will bring the LaGrange Technology Park to within a few minutes drive of the University at Albany, Sematech and the CESTM site, and provide for good traffic flow.

Herbert said that, despite a lengthy approval process looming with both towns, he hopes to have the park completed in five to eight years.

For Bethlehem's Supervisor-elect Theresa Egan, the tech park is good news.

"I'm ecstatic, and look forward to making it a reality," she said. "It fits our Blueprint for Bethlehem and will bring in tax dollars and help support our schools."

Egan said the tech park fits with the moratorium she proposed during the campaign, since that would only affect residential growth in the town.

"We need clean and environmentally sound business for the town," Egan said. "This opportunity is unique for Bethlehem, and I hope to find more like it."

Breslin hopes so, too, although no further funds have been allocated to attract business.

"This was a priming of the pump," Breslin said. "When private businesses see how beneficial this is, I hope they will come forward and make similar investments."

Voters

(From Page 1)

program that does not have the space necessary for optimal learning, Tebbano said.

"Instrumental music is taught out of the old wood shop," he said. "It never really had its own room. It's one of the best programs, as attested to by the accolades and awards they receive, but (the facilities are) not conducive for the kind of program we have."

Improvements to the physical education facilities will benefit not only students, but the entire community, Tebbano said.

"The fitness center is not adequate and needs to be moved where all students and community members can access it easily," Tebbano said. "We need to increase teaching space for physical education during the day as well as practice times for teams at night. We want to have teams practice at a reasonable hour."

Eating at a reasonable hour is also a concern and will be addressed by expanding the cafeteria, he said. The cafeteria currently holds less than 400 students, making it necessary to have more, smaller lunch periods. To accommodate the current rate of growth without expanding the cafeteria, lunch periods would have to begin far too early in the morning and end very late in the afternoon.

"We want to have students eating lunch around noon time," he said.

Tebbano said the community needs to look at the building project as an investment in the future of not only the school district, but also the entire community.

"We are trying to educate students for the kinds of jobs they will have in the high-tech world of the 21st century in a building that was built in the mid-20th century," he said.

Bethlehem resident Lamar Hill, who is involved with the Tech Valley initiative, said good quality schools are essential to attracting high-tech companies.

One of the key issues for this region to be successful in transitioning our economy is our K-12 program," he said. "Access to a talented work force is the No. 1 issue for technology-based companies. The quality of life in a region is also important and quality schools are key to quality of life."

Tebbano said he hopes residents will look toward the future when they vote on Dec. 2.

"We can only hope that the community will see that this educational program is an investment in the future of this whole community," he said.

Library

(From Page 1)

use its resources and not be concerned about the government monitoring them."

In an effort to protect patrons' privacy, the library will limit its record-keeping practices and the personal information obtained from patrons. Once a book is returned, a record of the loan is eliminated. The library will not maintain records of patrons who use the Internet service provided on library computers.

"We do not keep records any longer than absolutely necessary," said library Director Nancy Pieri.

Some local libraries have also posted signs warning library

visitors law enforcement could be monitoring the books they check out or Internet sites they peruse. It's a step the Bethlehem library won't take.

"That seemed a little unnecessary," said Pieri.

The library will provide patrons with information on the Patriot Act and its impact on intellectual freedom, privacy and confidentiality.

"All the resolution can do is get the message out, that groups of people don't like these provisions, and encourage lawmakers to appeal portions of it," said Fisher.

The library's statement of support will be forwarded to the president, attorney general, and county and local lawmakers.

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Matters of Opinion

Thanks for nothing

In a pre-holiday frenzy, the federal Congress worked overtime to produce a piece of turkey sausage that purports to help seniors pay for prescription drugs.

The bill is complicated and expensive, more than \$400 billion in money that the government, in its current parlous fiscal state, will have to borrow from future taxpayers.

Editorials

And, while some of this money will help some seniors buy drugs, most of it will go to drug and insurance companies which have thoroughly corrupted any legislative consideration of health care issues.

A strange part of this bill's story is the alliance of AARP, the nation's pre-eminent lobbying group for senior citizens, with those who plainly want to privatize Medicare.

But perhaps it's not so strange, since AARP is as much an insurance company as it is a group that works to help seniors, and is now clearly siding with its fellow insurance companies against its members.

Consumers Union, which has no such conflicts of interest, has analyzed the bill and come to the conclusion that this bill is not even half a loaf, but more like a moldy crust or two.

According to the nonprofit, non-insurance company consumer group, the bill will cover less than a quarter of seniors' drug costs, will prohibit the government from negotiating volume discounts from drug makers and will encourage privatization of Medicare.

Finally, Consumers Union estimates that the average Medicare recipient in 2003 who spends \$2,318 a year for drugs without prescription drug coverage will pay \$2,911 out-of-pocket in four years under the plan, assuming that drug costs continue their annual double-digit increases.

In other words, the average Medicare recipient who needs help with his/her drug costs will pay about a quarter more for drugs under this bill.

What a turkey!

Thanks for everything

Despite the many trials and tribulations of modern American life, like legislators who give away our grandchildren's tax money to their contributors, we have a lot to be thankful for on this, and every, Thanksgiving.

Besides our unprecedented national bounty, we have many personal blessings, prime among them good health and family and friends.

We also need to be mindful of those who don't share in these blessings, and help them as much as we can. In the Capital District, the Equinox Thanksgiving dinner for the needy and lonely is an important local tradition, with hundreds of volunteers pitching in to help thousands of those who need it.

The modern American Thanksgiving has always been essentially about food with family. So gather 'round the turkey with your loved ones and have a great Thanksgiving.

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Medicaid is crushing counties

By MICHAEL BRESLIN

The writer, who lives in Delmar, is Albany County executive.

In January, I'll take the oath of office for my third term as Albany County executive.

I'm excited about the next four years. I believe we are poised to take advantage of unprecedented economic growth as more and more high-tech firms discover the advantages of locating in our region.

But in addition to the opportunities, the next four years will also present significant challenges. The most pressing, which has devastated local property taxpayers from one corner of the state to the other, is the spiraling cost of Medicaid.

Medicaid is an essential program that provides health care to millions of Americans. In New York, however, the program's funding formula has created a crisis situation.

County governments in our state pay about 25 percent of most Medicaid costs. While some

Point of View

states require their counties to pay a portion of Medicaid costs, none force their counties to pay such significant costs as New York.

Because county governments must rely on property taxes to pay

Good government groups, business organizations and financial analysts have all warned that New York state is pushing its counties towards financial ruin.

this huge debt, it is ultimately the homeowners that suffer. And because the property tax is the most regressive form of taxation, a great burden is placed on those who can least afford it — low and middle-income homeowners. Especially hard hit are senior citizens on fixed incomes, some are even forced to sell their homes when they can't afford the rising taxes.

Besides being unfair to homeowners, the funding formula is also bad public policy, because it encourages the state to expand the program without considering the overall costs of expansion.

In other words, the state determines which Medicaid services are available here in New York. But it does so with the knowledge that it will only pay roughly one-quarter of the costs, as the federal government picks up 50 percent and local governments the remaining 25 percent.

So every time the governor and state Legislature expand the Medicaid system in New York — which they have done 13 times in the last five years — they need not be concerned about the costs of the expansion because someone else is paying most of the bill.

Perhaps this is why we've seen a dramatic expansion of the Medicaid program in the last decade and especially in the last few years. In our county, Medicaid appropriations have climbed by 60 percent in just the last three years.

For 2004, the county's Medicaid appropriations will increase by nearly \$6 million, bringing total appropriations to \$65.5 million. This increase would have been higher, had it not been for a one-time increase in federal Medicaid assistance.

Without that federal assistance next year, Medi-

caid appropriations are projected to jump by nearly \$8 million for 2005, bringing total appropriations to \$73.3 million.

When I first came to office, Medicaid appropriations were less than half that amount. In fact, in 1996, Albany County appropriated about \$35 million for Medicaid — which was \$5 million less than the county's property tax levy.

Just three years later, Medicaid expenditures actually exceeded the county's property tax levy. And, unfortunately, that trend has continued.

Next year, Medicaid appropriations will surpass the county's entire property tax levy by more than \$14 million. Other New York counties are facing similar drastic increases in mandated Medicaid spending.

Even if the economy were to turn around tomorrow — even with a dramatic increase in sales tax revenue — it will be impossible to maintain services and stabilize our property tax levy in the face of these runaway Medicaid costs.

Good government groups, business organizations and financial analysts have all warned that New York state is pushing its counties towards financial ruin. In

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Your Opinion Matters

fact, Moody's Investors Services recently issued a report on the Fiscal Challenges Facing New York's Counties, in which they studied and rated 53 of New York's counties.

Nine counties had been downgraded, 10 received negative outlooks, and two have been placed on a watch list for potential downgrade. Further, the report indicates that financial pressures facing New York's counties will likely lead to additional downgrades in the future.

The Moody's report notes: "Much of this pressure is driven by the most rapidly expanding expenditure — Medicaid — dictated by the New York state cost share allocation with New York counties."

The situation will only grow worse, unless decisive action is taken. Many of my colleagues in counties all across the state, Republicans as well as Democrats, have joined me in calling for a major reform of the method by which Medicaid is funded in New York.

We have called for a cap on the local share of Medicaid costs at 2001 levels. Had this cap been implemented, Albany County's Medicaid appropriations for 2004 would be reduced by \$20 million.

In order to increase awareness of the Medicaid crisis, and to encourage the governor and state Legislature to address the problem, I have begun a petition drive to cap Medicaid now!

I'm asking people to fill out a coupon they can find on our Web site at www.albanycounty.com. You can also call my office at 447-7040 if you would like more information about Medicaid or about the petition drive.

I plan to deliver these signatures to the governor and the state's legislative leaders to demonstrate clearly that the people want a change in the way we fund Medicaid in this state. It's not right for so large a portion of the costs to be borne by our homeowners, and it's not right that Medicaid costs are forcing local governments to choose between service cuts, layoffs and property tax hikes.

It's time to shift these costs back to the state level, and pay for them with the state and federal government's much broader tax base. Otherwise, we will continue to tax many of our residents out of their homes, out of the county, and out of the state.

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Bond issue deals with town's explosive growth

Editor, The Spotlight:

Bethlehem is growing! According to town records, as of December 2002, 1,552 new dwelling units had been approved for development, but not yet built. An additional 1,616 units have been proposed and are under review by the town.

Traffic on Elm and Cherry avenues is expected to increase by up to 60 percent, while traffic on Feura Bush Road is projected to almost double.

And the Capital District, newly dubbed "Tech Valley," is poised to boom economically, leading to the high likelihood of additional residential growth in Bethlehem.

All this growth is why the Bethlehem Central school board, Superintendent Les Loomis, Assistant Superintendent Stephen O'Shea and a 22-member committee spent the last year carefully projecting the impact of potential residential development and weighing possible plans of action.

What they ultimately recommended was a \$93 million bond that will, if approved, protect and preserve Bethlehem's continued commitment to the high quality of education our children now receive.

At a cost of under \$44 million to district taxpayers, the bond leverages more than \$49 million in additional state funding to build a needed elementary school near the high school, add a fourth "house" onto the middle school, and upgrade each elementary school and the Early Learning Center, among other improvements.

That's an across-the-board set of needed upgrades for every area of the district, all at a cost of about \$45 per year for each \$100,000 of assessed value. For the owner of a \$200,000 home, that's about 25 cents a day. Cheap for what we get.

At the same time, to make sure that this is the last such bond of

its size for a long while, we as a town need to aggressively address the issue of growth, especially residential development.

Supervisor-elect Theresa Egan has promised to do this in the years ahead. I would like to see, as part of this effort, a proposal to require residential developers to contribute, in a fair and equitable way, to the infrastructure costs of development, which would include a component that offsets the additional costs of that development to the Bethlehem school district.

In the meantime, kudos to the committee; their recom-

mendations make a lot of sense to me.

That's why I support the excellent, deliberative and careful work of these dedicated

Bethlehem residents. On Dec. 2, I will vote "yes" to approve the school bond.

Caleb Wistar
Delmar

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Matters of Opinion

Bond supporter is willing to pay more for good schools

Editor, The Spotlight:

I've heard many people discussing why they will or will not support the school bond.

Many lament another rise in taxes of any kind. Others complain of the imbalance in our tax base, putting too much of the burden on residents to support our schools.

Some feel that the town should wait and require future

developers to foot some of the bill through public improvement fees or other initiatives common in high growth areas around the nation.

Having moved to Bethlehem from out of state three years ago, I must admit that the reputation of the schools was a significant draw.

I spent countless hours on the Internet "touring" towns in

upstate New York to find one that felt like a good place to live. Bethlehem schools continually ranked high, and the small size (class size and district size) was refreshing.

You see, we had been living in an area that was called The Tech Center, south of Denver. When my son started second grade, he was in a brand-new school housing roughly 400 students, grades pre-K through six.

After the first year, the enrollment had grown to about 650 (all district schools were growing at the same record pace) so the board decided to embark on a year-round schedule — nine weeks on, three weeks off.

The student body was

randomly divided into four "tracks." One fourth of the students were on vacation at a time.

This allowed for less crowded classes, but split the community — friends and neighbors could have dramatically different schedules. Some people liked the variety, others missed the traditional calendar.

The following year, the enrollment reached more than 900 students in my son's school. (This was in a three-year time period.)

The year-round schedule remained, but the schools were still packed. "Temporary classroom" buildings covered much of the huge grassy playground.

My point is this: Growth can happen faster than we can ever imagine.

Bethlehem has grown significantly in the short time that I have been here. I can't imagine what it must be like for the long-time residents.

We haven't even seen the boom yet from all of the "Tech Valley" talk. And I believe we will.

Bethlehem is so attractive to those looking in from the outside. They will be willing to pay for our good schools, for our community, for our tremendous assets.

The growth will happen regardless of the bond issue outcome, so we need to be prepared for it.

I will definitely vote for the bonds on Dec. 2, as well as encourage the town leaders to adopt a plan that allows for the new developers and businesses to participate in funding the future infrastructure needs of the town and the school district.

Most would be glad to do so; they, too, know the value of the area and its schools.

Mary Judd
Delmar

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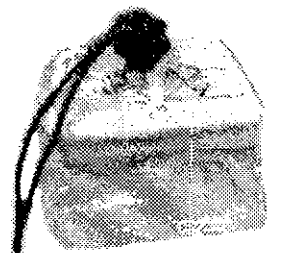
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Your Opinion Matters

BC board member argues for 'yes' vote

Editor, The Spotlight:

I'm writing to appeal to those who are on the fence or feel they can't support the Bethlehem Central School District bond issue because of its cost or its broad focus.

As a board of education member, I have, as well as other members, spent hundreds of hours over the last 15 to 18 months reviewing the details and options with a critical eye on need and cost-effectiveness.

I don't like spending our money on unnecessary or glamorous capital improvements and have been quick to question, debate and voice objections when reviewing the various options that were considered during the planning of the scope of the proposed projects.

This is not a fat proposal reflecting someone's wish list.

I've owned four homes over the course of 30 years while residing in the district. With each child came a need for more space and instead of renovating, which some of my neighbors pursued, I weighed the economics and moved.

My behavior was like the school district's—I didn't buy the big house first, I waited and responded to needs. This is exactly where we're at in the district.

The timing is right with the state aid and interest rates at levels that probably won't be matched in the future.

The district has mailed extensive informational brochures to all residents and held many public forums to give everyone the information needed to make an informed decision.

At a recent meeting I attended at Slingerlands Elementary School, several residents questioned what the district would do if state aid—either the total amount or percent eligibility—changed after voters approved the bond.

My response is that the board would have to review/revise the scope as we would not increase the \$43.8 million that local taxpayers would pay for the bond.

The board has been advised, however, that the probability of the state changing its aid, based on past history, is highly unlikely.

Please take the time to carefully review the materials you received and/or visit our schools. I hope you vote "yes" for the bond issue on Dec. 2 at the middle school. It's a cost-effective solution to the community's commitment to our children.

Dick Svenson
Delmar

Low interest rates, state aid make bond timely

Editor, The Spotlight:

I support the bond issue proposed by the Bethlehem Central School District.

I think we all agree that our schools, presently, are overcrowded. Given the current and proposed rates of growth in our district, this problem will become worse.

I understand that there are concerns regarding specific points in the bond proposal. However, careful review of the bond proposal shows that the district's strategy will solve the problem of overcrowding in the schools, increase overall security at the schools and strengthen the science program at the high school.

The proposed cost (\$93 million) is high and we will have to bear the burden of increased taxes. However, the district is to

be commended for maintaining a fiscally responsible approach towards improving our schools.

The proposal maximizes the 53 percent of costs to be reimbursed by the state Education Department. As a result, Bethlehem school district taxpayers will be responsible for \$44 million.

The current economic conditions, with low interest rates, impart a sense of urgency to the bond issue.

Should the bond proposal be voted down, there will be a significant delay in developing and approving a revised proposal. If interest rates increase, the delay may ultimately prove to be more costly.

Additionally, a scaled-down version of the proposal will not sufficiently address the current problems of overcrowding, security and updating the

science labs.

As a relative newcomer to the town of Bethlehem, I have been impressed with the commitment and dedication of parents, teachers and administrators in supporting our schools.


I think that voting for the bond

issue today guarantees continued excellence in our schools of tomorrow.

Arlene Ramsingh
Vice president,
Parents for Excellence
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Your Opinion Matters

Bond issue addresses high school overcrowding crisis

Editor, The Spotlight:

On Dec. 2, the polls will be open for residents of the

Bethlehem Central School District to vote on the bond issue. I have lived in this vibrant

community for 27 years with my husband and two children. When my children entered the

Bethlehem school system, I took an interest in participating in their school's PTA by serving on

numerous committees and ultimately serving as president at all three school levels. I currently serve as co-president of the Bethlehem Central Community Organization (BCCO) at the high school.

I have observed that all of our schools are seriously overcrowded. The halls at the high school and middle school during "passing time" become a hazard to anyone in them. The number of students per classroom has gradually increased to the point that some classrooms do not adequately accommodate all students as well as sections of curriculum.

I was one of the members of the Enrollment and Facilities Planning Committee. Through careful, conscientious consideration, we provided options for consideration to the school board.

There are numerous items on this bond dedicated to the high school. A partial list includes two additional classroom wings, a new gymnasium, a larger cafeteria, new orchestra and choral rooms, renovation of the current science classroom, renovated art classrooms and locker rooms, and an expanded counseling center.

These are not wish list items.

The bond proposal will also accommodate safety updates, including replacement of the fire alarm system, upgrade of the electric power system and lighting and heating, and partial replacement of the roof.

Postponing these updates can only result in increased costs while seriously jeopardizing the safety and well-being of our students.

A visit to the school district's Web site at <http://bcsd.k12.ny.us> provides complete information about the proposed building project and upcoming bond vote.

I feel, as a resident and Enrollment and Facilities Committee member, that the school board has put forth a very responsible bond. I encourage you to vote "yes" on Dec. 2. This is an investment in the future of our community and our children.

*Karen Graziade
Slingerlands*

Bond will help home values

Editor, The Spotlight:

Contrary to the well-known real estate adage, "location, location, location," when a family is considering relocating into a community, their real concern is "location, location, education."

The fine reputation of Bethlehem Central schools has for so many years been the key reason why so many families have moved to town and why we all have been the beneficiaries of a favorable appreciation of our home values.

I believe that the approval of the upcoming bond issue will continue to assure that our schools, community and home values will remain strong into the future.

*Bill Alston
Delmar*

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Your Opinion Matters

BC bond proposition is larded with unnecessary spending

Editor, The Spotlight:

The numbers and quotations in this letter are derived from five articles on the bond issue provided by the Bethlehem Central School District.

In Article 1, the current student population can be calculated at 4,210. The predicted increase (in the next six to 10 years) would be 4,810 students. Article 2 states that enrollment had already reached "4,470 ... by the mid 1990s" and that "student numbers already approaching 5,100." Article 3 reverts to the numbers found in Article 1. Figures found in Article 4 indicate the projected increase in students for the next six years will actually be less than the increase for the past six years.

Yet, we are warned of "rapid rates," "record levels" and "outstripped projections." A fifth article uses yet another set of enrollment numbers. Which enrollment numbers are the real ones?

A table of the BC Planning Report contains Enrollment Projection Ranges. The (official) sum total number of expected new students over the next five years is 9 percent larger than the one derived if one simply adds the column numbers. Which numbers are the real ones?

The inconsistencies and inaccuracies in these BC numbers raise serious questions as to the validity of all the numbers used to derive bond issue figures.

Can the taxpayer assume the errors presented above are the "only errors"? That is a \$94 million assumption!

Generalities provided by BC through vague improvement descriptions gloss over many actual item expenditures. Here is a sample from the BC Planning Report. Do we really need to exceed state Education Department standards by 44 percent for a gym?

There are \$6 million for athletics at the high school alone. Do we really need to burden the taxpayer by including new ticket booths for the football field? One option will spend \$365,000 on network access from home, broadcast video to classrooms and video conferencing stations.

Elementary students will be

able to document "field trips using iMovies using digital cameras." Elementary students will use 35 digital camcorders and 35 digital cameras. Students can "take advantage of opportunities to create full-length movies," "to incorporate streaming video chips" and allow teachers to "use technology to take attendance each period." (I do not believe the "new state mandate on attendance" necessitates this electronic attendance option.)

Do we need 15 Smart Boards so teachers can "e-mail absent students"? Do we need 150 Palm Pilots to "get immediate feedback from students" and "to distribute documents or Web site information to all students"? Is it really necessary to "give electronic quizzes" and "instantly find out if they understood the lesson"? Do we need 180 laptops on mobile carts and 45 mobile documentation cameras? What theft insurance will be appropriate here?

If the infrastructure is "crumbling" in spite of regular maintenance, I find it serendipitous that every school in the

entire district seems to be on the cusp of collapse and needs immediate construction. Why were such long-term maintenance costs not planned and offered as smaller bond issues?

Some items also seem inappropriate as long-range debt: "Building lacks smoke detectors or visual devices," "carpet is worn (sic)," "existing tiles are starting to pop (sic)" and "existing roof is deteriorating."

The new proposed parking lot will only generate more traffic congestion, parking problems and safety issues, not solve current ones. Why does every driving student require his/her own fee card — no family sharing, environmental or expense concern?

Improvements to athletic fields are desired so that the school can "keep pace ... with increase requests for use by community users." Why are the taxpayers asked to support community recreation and non-school activities with school tax dollar increases? At this rate, the school budget will soon be requesting money for town traffic signs.

A quick glance at the state budget problems suggests we should not presume continued state aid at its present rate. Moreover, Bethlehem will be facing other increases in our local school tax requirements. This includes probable increases in funding employee pension funds and health benefits. Remember, these annual budget increases will be in addition to the proposed bond increases over the next five to 25 years.

Virtually all BC tax impact numbers are preceded by the word "about." I have discussed the data provided by the district with various financial experts, including MBAs, CPAs, lawyers and other persons familiar with IDA bonds. All of them state that they cannot answer the question with the published data.

Please note the BC comment, "After the fifth year, there will be

no more tax increases to pay for the debt issued to fund this project." While there will be no increases for this project, the bond tax will be in addition to any and all annual tax increases in the annual school budget for the next 25 years.

I support education and education improvements — but this bond is excessive and far beyond what is required to maintain our outstanding educational facilities. Not all of Bethlehem's citizens have unlimited financial resources and can easily absorb such tax increases. Many are senior citizens with fixed incomes.

There are times of tight money for many Bethlehem citizens. This proposal contains a wasteful and hugely inappropriate budget.

Floyd Henderson
Delmar

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An RPS for New York

The New York State Public Service Commission has initiated a process for developing a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to ensure that within 10 years at least 25% of the electricity purchased in New York State is generated from renewable resources. These renewable resources may include wind, solar, photovoltaics, biomass, tidal, and others. The RPS proceeding is intended to increase and diversify New York State's generation capacity portfolio with electricity from renewable resources.

Developing an RPS provides an opportunity to lower air emissions, reduce wholesale prices, increase capacity, and increase customer choice by supporting a more robust "green power" market in New York. An RPS also has the potential to improve energy security and help diversify the state's electricity generation

mix. In addition, there are economic development benefits to attracting renewable technology manufacturers and installers to New York State.

The RPS Proceeding

An important step in the Commission's proceeding is to gather input from a wide range of interested parties on how best to achieve the 25% RPS. Because the RPS proceeding impacts a broad range of industry, competitor and consumer advocate interests, the Commission established a collaborative effort for interested parties to identify and overcome obstacles to meeting the 25% RPS within 10 years.

Key issues being examined by the parties in the collaborative working groups include: eligible renewable resources; compliance mechanisms; methods for energy suppliers to procure renewable resources; and, the appropriateness of a renewable trading system.

Also there are discussions related to the appropriate methodologies for assessing the benefits and costs of an RPS. The meeting agendas and notes of the collaborative working groups are available by visiting the Commission's www.AskPSC.com Web site.

Comments and Opinions

The public is encouraged to comment on the RPS initiative. Your input as well as your evaluation of the RPS proposals and alternatives under consideration, are integral to Commission deliberations in developing policies concerning alternative energy resources for the state. More information on how to comment on the RPS proceeding is available by visiting the Commission's www.AskPSC.com Web site.

How to Stay Informed

The Internet: You can stay informed about the Renewable Portfolio Standard Proceeding

by visiting the New York State Public Service Commission's www.AskPSC.com Web site. If you have questions or wish to informally express your views concerning an RPS for New York, you may do so by filling out a Comment Form on the Commission's consumer Web site. Many libraries offer free Internet access.

Toll-free Opinion Line: If you wish to informally express your views on a Renewable Portfolio Standard for the State, you may also do so by calling the toll-free Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This phone line is set up to receive comments from in-state callers, 24 hours a day.

Participation: Anyone interested in seeking active party status in the Commission's RPS proceeding can do so by writing Administrative Law Judge Eleanor Stein, New York State Public Service Commission, 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York

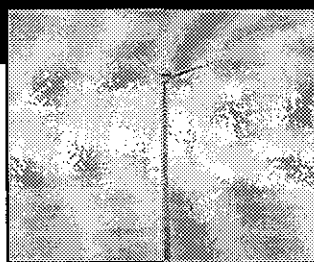
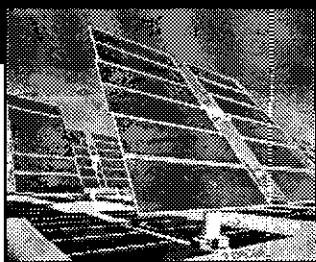
12223. Active parties attend hearings and negotiations, and file legal briefs and formal comments. Letters seeking active party status should reference the "Renewable Portfolio Standard" (Case 03-E-0188).

For more information on the New York State Renewable Portfolio Standard, call the New York State Public Service Commission's Business Advocates at 1-877-661-9223 or the New York State Public Service Commission's Consumer Information Line at 1-888-Ask-PSC1.

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New York State is currently developing a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that requires within 10 years at least 25% of the state's electricity is generated from renewable resources. These may include wind, solar, photovoltaics, biomass, tidal, and others.

An RPS should lower air emissions, including greenhouse gases, and reduce other adverse environmental impacts. It may reduce New York's dependence on imported fuels and help diversify our generation fuel mix. Also, attracting renewable technology firms to New York will have economic benefits, as well.

The Public Service Commission is working collaboratively with other organizations and parties to develop New York State's RPS.

To participate in New York State's RPS proceeding:

- Stay informed by visiting www.AskPSC.com
- If you have a question or would like to informally express your views, visit www.AskPSC.com and provide your comments on the PSC Comment Form.
- Leave a comment on the PSC's toll-free Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120.
- If you are interested in participating formally as an active party, write to Administrative Law Judge Eleanor Stein, the New York State Public Service Commission, 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223, and request active party status.

For more information on New York State's RPS, call the NYS Public Service Commission's Business Advocates at 1-877-661-9223 or the Public Service Commission's Consumer Information Line at 1-888-Ask-PSC1.



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William M. Flynn, Chairman

Your Opinion Matters

BCMS teacher: Smaller classes create needed rapport

Editor, The Spotlight:

As a community of learners, we are at a crucial junction. Next month, we have the opportunity to cast a vote of confidence for our district.

The result of this vote will not only affect how our community is perceived, but it will affect, profoundly, the quality of our children's education.

Please read all the information you can concerning the bond issue; for the kids, you must be informed. Remember, the ones most affected are those who can't vote; and at this time, they are the ones who are most vulnerable.

This is my eighth year teaching as a full-time art teacher at Bethlehem Central Middle School, and each year just seems to get better.

There are many reasons for this: my colleagues are imaginative and fun to work with; the kids are cooperative and enthusiastic; and frankly, I've gotten better at my craft.

This particular school year, however, has been exceptional because my class numbers have been lower, and while I'd heard so much about the advantages of smaller classes, I'd never really experienced those advantages firsthand.

When class size is smaller, there is more space to work. Last quarter in Room 51 at the middle school, I had two classes of 18 students. In those classes, I could seat two students at each table. They sat across from each other with plenty of space to work.

As any artist knows, the quality of studio space is crucial to the creative process. Last quarter, my students had space to spread out and focus on developing their ideas without the distractions and interruptions caused by another person competing for the space.

In a class with smaller numbers of students, discipline is not as much of an issue. Students

aren't tripping over one another, as they are, literally, in overcrowded classes; and consequently, there are fewer arguments and better concentration during lessons.

If I spend less time on management issues, that gives me time and energy to interact with the kids and develop the kind of relationship so crucial to learning.

Also, when kids, materials and time are more manageable, I can devote more energy to developing and implementing even more exciting lessons, which, of course, will lead to deeper learning and the encouragement of lifelong learning. Come and see the wonderful artwork displayed at our school.

Everyone knows the real estate adage that goes: "The three most important things to consider when buying a house are,

location, location, location." Well, the educational equivalent is: "The three most important things to consider when teaching kids is, rapport, rapport, rapport"; or as a colleague of mine has said, "They must know that you care before they care what you know."

When a school has adequate facilities, and class size is reasonable (dare we say small), it is a joy to build rapport.

Rapport is about personal interaction, and in large groups, the opportunities for meaningful interaction are compromised.

With a small group a teacher can relax, joke around, ask kids about their lives and have fun; with smaller groups, a teacher can take time to ask and answer questions and kids can be asked to elaborate more and delve deeper. In large groups, too often it's all business.

Teachers love kids and look forward to coming in to a school

where the facilities are such that those human interactions are easy and natural.

As the student population rises and facilities age, I fear the middle school will become an understaffed, overcrowded institution with less and less confidence in the support it may have from its community.

In such a place, stress runs high, enthusiasm runs thin and I'd want to run away. We're been

talking about the affective domain and, well, how would kids feel in such an environment? How could it ever be a mistake to provide a richer, more nurturing educational environment for the children of our community?

Here at BCMS, over the years, I've had the privilege of knowing so many wonderful kids, and they're worth every penny.

Peter Ruggiero
BCMS art teacher

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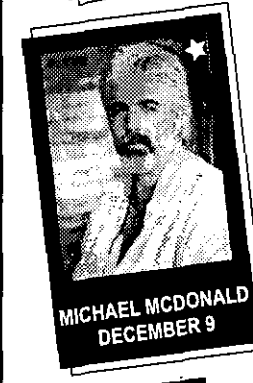
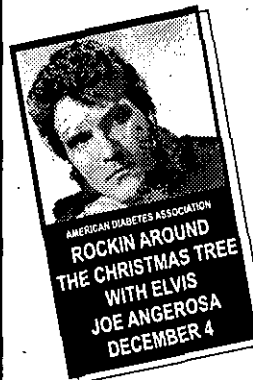
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Matters of Opinion

Take advantage of state aid by passing bond issue now

Editor, The Spotlight:

Please come out and vote "yes" for the bond issue on Tuesday, Dec. 2. We need to vote for this bond issue for two important reasons.

1. To continue the high quality education Bethlehem is known for. This bond issue is absolutely necessary to handle the continuing increased number of students that we have seen over the last 15 years, as well as what is projected for the next 10 years.

I am convinced that failure to pass this bond issue will result in

the school district having to look at different scheduling options that may have to include double sessions as well as increased busing of students.

Many, if not most, of our classrooms at all our school buildings are overcrowded today, with many sessions held in common areas and even hallways.

Many of the building repairs that are included in this bond issue will need to be done regardless if the bond issue is approved.

Without this bond issue, the

cost of these repairs will be paid 100 percent by our school taxes. With the bond issue, only 47.1 percent will be paid directly by our school taxes.

2. To take full advantage of the current state funding of 52.9 percent of the cost. The need for additional classrooms will not go away nor will the maintenance items that have been included in this bond issue.

If this bond issue is not approved, the school district will be forced to either take critical time and prepare a different bond

issue for approval or be forced to try to do many of the improvements through significant increased school taxes every year.

I believe that the amount of state aid for school bond projects will continue to decrease, thus even a delay of one year may cause us to pay more in school taxes than we will if this bond issue is approved.

I would much rather pay the estimated 1.8 percent tax increase each year for the next five years for this bond issue than worry about large annual double-digit school tax increases that we will

have if this bond issue does not pass.

Many communities across the Capital District have seen annual school tax increases of 10 percent to 20 percent over the past few years. Voting for this bond issue is the best way for Bethlehem to avoid huge annual school tax increases and keep delivering the high quality education that our children deserve.

Please vote "yes" for the bond issue on Dec. 2 at the middle school.

Bill Cushing
Delmar

Teacher-parents support bond issue

Editor, The Spotlight:

We are parents and teachers in the Bethlehem Central School District who are concerned about maintaining the high quality educational standards that exist in Bethlehem.

Our children have benefited from the district's and community's commitment to small class size, advances in technology, support services and programs that contribute to a well-rounded educational experience for each child.

It is our hope that this legacy of excellence will continue for current and future students. This community has always valued

quality education. We need to create appropriate facilities and meet diverse student needs, in order to ensure their continued academic success. Appropriate facilities support today's tougher learning standards and are mandated by New York state. BCSD buildings, like your homes, are in need of continued maintenance.

Please review the literature

that has been distributed regarding the upcoming bond issue on Dec. 2 to help you make an informed decision.

The students of today will be our community tomorrow.

Carol Smith, Nancy Smith,
Kathy Gutman, Susan
Cunningham, Sheryl
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Your Opinion Matters

PTA leaders support bond Science rooms need bond-funded improvements

Editor, The Spotlight:

As members of Presidents' Council, a group of parent leaders of school-affiliated organizations, we are writing to encourage the Bethlehem Central School District community to support the proposed bond issue coming before voters on Dec. 2.

We feel this bond issue appropriately addresses the academic, athletic, and musical needs of our students in grades K-12.

With a local cost to taxpayers of \$43.8 million, this bond addresses the pressing issues faced by our schools.

It will, among other things, add two new wings of classrooms at the high school, build new and renovate existing science labs, add an orchestra and choral room, as well as a new gymnasium and athletic fields.

At the middle school, it will enhance the house plan system by allowing for four distinct houses through a two-story classroom addition and renovations to existing classrooms as well as expand music, gym, and cafeteria space.

At the elementary level, the bond will provide for a 12-classroom new school, four additional classrooms at the Early Learning Center and two more at Clarksville.

As we all know, Bethlehem has experienced significant growth in the last decade.

But the school district is responsible for educating the children of Bethlehem whether or not we have the room for them.

In fact, 85 percent of this bond issue will support the students who are already here. Our schools are not going to become overcrowded if the bond issue does not pass; they already are that way.

Many of us with students in the district moved to Bethlehem because of the quality of its schools. If we want this level of quality to continue it is important for this bond issue to pass. Please support it on Dec. 2.

Karen Graziade
and Sandra Tutshen
BCCO

Helen Smith
BCMS PTA
Patty Lane and Paula O'Donnell
Glenmont PTA
Jean Viglucci
and Lisa Allendorph
Slingerlands PTA

Lori Wagner
Elsmere PTA
Tracy Gibeau
Clarksville PTA
Anthony DeBlasi
Parents of Excellence

Rebecca Marvin
and Ronnie Siegel
Bethlehem Music Association
Theresa Barrouman
Bethlehem Athletic Association

In Delmar,
The Spotlight is sold at
Delmar Marketplace, Stewart's,
Mobil, Getty and the Sunoco at
Elm Avenue.

Editor, The Spotlight:

During this year's open house at Bethlehem Central High School, several parents who were former biology students from 25 or 30 years ago stopped by to say, "Hi."

In reminiscing, some said that I had not changed, and neither had Room 7. A compliment for me, but not for a biology classroom.

A science room should have changed over this period of time. In another science classroom, a guest speaker remarked to a colleague that he couldn't believe science was being taught in such a small, sparsely equipped room.

Due to increases in student enrollment, as well as higher

graduation requirements, the number of students taking science courses has grown by more than 60 percent in the past 10 years. New York state now mandates that students must take three years of science. A generation ago, students needed only one year of science.

Despite these changes, the number of science rooms has increased by only about 30 percent in the past decade. This year, many science teachers are sharing laboratories and some are teaching in as many as three different classrooms each day. Such room sharing results in teachers teaching off a cart in a room not designed for their subject.

To remain a first-rate school, Bethlehem must have the facilities to support the increase in students and courses. The bond issue with its proposed building construction and projects to expand and upgrade facilities will supply the required support. Without the additional classrooms and renovations, the programs will suffer.

The problems in science are not unique, but are shared by the other departments. Overcrowded classes result in students feeling disconnected and unable to get needed attention.

Motivated students, a talented and caring faculty, a supportive

administration and community and a strong diversified curriculum have brought distinction to Bethlehem's science program.

But much of this progress will be undermined unless our facilities provide the conditions essential for quality science teaching and learning.

The improved science facilities, renovations and technology upgrades in the bond issue will begin to solve the current problems that threaten the excellence of our programs and our children's education.

Thomas Cunningham
biology teacher

Vote 'yes for the future

Editor, The Spotlight:

My wife, Claire, and I have been residents of Delmar for the past 36 years. Our three children and one grandchild graduated for the town's schools and one grandchild attends the middle school.

I have served as a member of the board of education for nine years, one as president.

I cannot imagine a better town and school district in which to raise and educate future citizens.

The school district needs the support of the residents so that our children and grandchildren can be provided with the educational environment to nurture their minds and bodies.

We will vote "yes" for the proposed construction and renovation projects on Dec. 2, and we urge our fellow citizens to cast a vote for their children and grandchildren's future.

Robert Ruslander
Delmar

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Holiday Gift Guide

Easy Christmas gifts for the men in your life

By MICHELE FLYNN

If you're a woman who dons a Santa hat and heads out shopping at 7 a.m. on Black Friday, this article isn't for you. I'm going to make it easy for those of you who sleep in after a long day of cooking and eating. Here are some ideas for Christmas gifts for the man in your life, and I won't even mention ties or slippers.

You can start shopping in your jammies, browsing the American Automobile Association travel store at www.AAA.com. If you want more of a selection, visit an AAA office in Albany, Troy or Hudson. They offer accessories for emergency purposes such as

shovels, flares, solar flashlights and first aid kits.

Robert Soroka, of AAA, said, "Gift membership is probably one of the most popular items for the holiday."

Besides memberships, AAA offices offer gift checks, gift cards and travel certificates. And, pick up some stocking stuffers while you're there: discounted tickets for the Regal and Spectrum theaters.

Next stop is for a smaller motorized engine. Powerama, on New Scotland Road in Slingerlands, specializes in outdoor power equipment that makes the vroom vroom noise men love. They keep lawnmowers, riding tractors, weed trimmers, hedge trimmers and leaf blowers in stock year 'round.

Manager Joe Roberts notes, "Last year was a big year for snowblowers and chainsaw." Many people cut their own wood for fireplaces and wood stoves.

Maybe your husband is the only man on earth who isn't into machines. Try the Open Door Bookstore and Gift Gallery on Jay Street in Schenectady for a



first novel, *Hornets Nest*, set during the Revolutionary War.

While you're at the Open Door, you can pick up a set of book ends, and some sweets from the Chocolate Gecko, because the way to a man's heart ...

But there are other routes to a man's heart. EJ from Colonie Leather Fashions on Central Avenue, said that he'd be happy with a new winter jacket. Besides winter jackets, his

store sells American-made leather goods, including fashion jackets, boots, pants, chaps, vests, gloves and boots.

And there are jackets and saddlebags for your biker guy.

So, sleep in on Black Friday, start your shopping when you're ready. Rest assured, on Christmas night, hubby will be snoozing on the couch in his new leather pants, after having used his new chainsaw to cut enough wood for fires for the whole winter. *The Complete Far Side Collection* open on his chest, and dreaming about that trip you'll both be taking, using his AAA travel certificates.

recently released book. If he's not much of a reader, pick up a book of photography: *American Music Photographs* by acclaimed photographer Annie Leibovitz, or *America 24/7*, a collection depicting one week in the life of our country, with pictures taken by over 25,000 photographers.

Does he have a funny bone? Try the boxed set of *The Onion*, *The Complete Far Side Collection*, or the compilation *Christmas at the New Yorker*. Baseball fans will like Yogi Berra's book, *Ten Rings*. For the history buff: Jimmy Carter's

Holiday Gift Guide

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There's no place like home for the holidays

10 tips to make time with loved ones special

The holiday season is a time to step back from daily routines, reflect and spend time with loved ones. This year, take time to truly feel the holiday spirit by gathering family and friends together to decorate the home for holiday festivities. Try these 10 special yet simple activities to be enjoyed with loved ones:

- Fill your home with the warm, beautiful light of candles. During the holidays, candles are available in all shapes, sizes and styles — often decorated with glitter and sequins for an even more shimmering effect. Cluster them together in a fireplace as an alternative to a crackling fire.

- Create festive table decorations — a fun and easy project to do with the kids! Grab some plain salt and pepper shakers, slather on some glue, then add glitter, sequins, silver stars and puffy paint... voila, these shining shakers are sure to add decoration — with function — the table.

- Top the tree with something extraordinary. Have an older guest and a younger one create the focal point of the

room by topping the tree together with an eye-catching decoration.

- Wrap silver or gold garland around lampposts, pillars and staircase banisters and drape tinsel on mirror frames and mantles. Add bows for some additional color and sparkle.

- Bake cookies. Use fun holiday-themed cookie cutters to create different shaped treats and decorate them with colored sugars and glossy icing.

- Catch the light. Hang

multiple of the same crystal ornament from a mantle, interspersed with greenery, colorful berries and candles creating a personalized holiday display.

- Cover throw pillows with festive slipcovers or purchase simple ones and add on beads in holiday colors. All that is required is a needle and thread, some beads, trim and lots of creativity.

- Fashion napkin holders out of crystal ornaments and now place them around fancy cloth

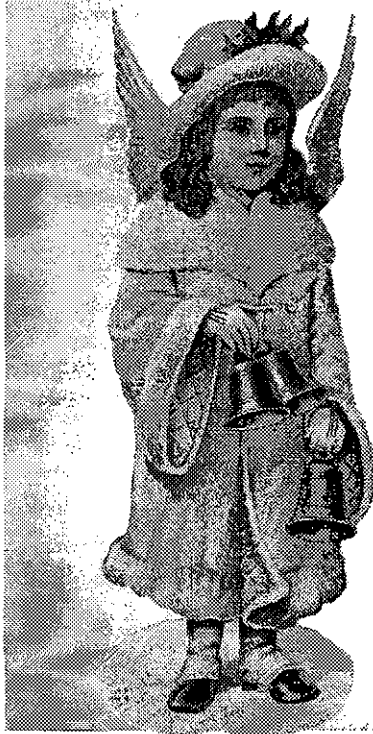
napkins to top off a festive holiday table.

- Sprinkle glitter on flat surfaces to make a holiday table, mantle, shelf, windowsill twinkle.

- To make the new tradition of decorating together even more special, give memorable gifts to each participating member this year, such as a special ornament.

Fun with loved ones is what holiday spirit is all about. Celebrate each other. Make memories and traditions this year that will last forever.

Holiday Gift Guide



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Consider Christmas gifts with a unique flair

By LINDA DeMATTIA

If you are on the lookout for unique and unusual gifts this year, you need not hop on a plane and fly to an exotic location yourself. Many local merchants began last spring to bring the hot items for this holiday season to the Capital District.

Truly exotic gifts can be found at Staghorn Valley Alpaca in Delanson, according to Jerry Weisgran, who co-owns the business with Judy Phaff. As if to emphasize how exotic his wears are, Weisgran was in Arequita, Peru, South America during his phone interview. He was down there he said, to learn more about breeding alpaca and to purchase locally made items to sell at the Staghorn Valley gift shop.

"We try to go (to South America) once every couple of years," he said. "We are working on setting up our own network to import items ourselves."

From clothing to teddy bears, gifts for sale are almost exclusively made of alpaca fiber, he said.

"Alpaca is a very unique fiber.



available for spinners and weavers. The animals are shorn once a year.

The gift store is open weekends from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. through Christmas, as well as on Black Friday. There are currently baby alpacas at the farm, and families are encouraged to make a day of it to see them.

If jewelry is more your style, the current look calls for lots of sparkle, according to Mary Vail of Joyelles Jewelers in Delmar.

It's about the finest fiber available, and when it is spun or knitted, it is a phenomenal fabric," he said "It is three to five times warmer ounce per ounce over wool, it's not scratchy and doesn't have the oil that can cause allergic reactions in some people."

Teddy bears of alpaca fiber are handmade, Weisgran said. They have a complete line of blankets, throws, capes and other clothing items from Peru that are either handmade or factory produced with superior craftsmanship. Trade agreements make the prices attractive too, he said, because there are no custom duties.

"The craftsmanship is equal or superior to what you can get in a department store, and the prices of Peruvian products are very reasonable."

His hottest item this season is a woven alpaca blanket that is reversible. It comes in natural colors in king and queen sizes.

For those unfamiliar with alpaca, Weisgran said they are like "honey I shrunk the llama. They are identical in anatomy except for their ears, and they are smaller and have much, much finer fiber. Alpaca were bred for their fiber, unlike llamas that were bred as pack animals and therefore have coarse fiber."

Staghorn Valley Alpacas raise their own animals and have fiber

"White gold hasn't been this popular since the 1970s," Vail said. "Clear diamonds are selling better than colored stones, and pieces with small diamonds that look like they are paved in diamonds are very hot, as well as pieces with accent diamonds."

"Daring Diamonds," silver pieces with tiny diamonds on them are also "sleek and affordable," she said.

Huggie earrings for pierced ears are a great new look, Vail said. "They have a real uniform look because they are hinged on the bottom, and you can't see the workings of the earring. They look like they are hugging the ear, that's how they got the name."

Starting in December, Joyelles is open Sundays from noon until 4 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

If you like nutty gifts, the Peanut Principal on Route 9 north of the Latham Circle might be just the thing, according to owner Kathryn Cassimeris. In addition to more nuts than you can see anywhere else, the Peanut Principal has handmade chocolates, candies and other sweet treats, she said.

"Unique this year are our chocolate roasted turkeys and candies and mixes with cranberries in them," she said. "We have a white chocolate bark with pistachios and cranberries and cranberry almond drops."

Their No. 1 seller for Christmas is cinnamon squares, the aroma of which fills the store. Unique gift baskets are

(GIFTS/page 7)



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Give the gift of health & fitness this year

In many parts of the country, when the temperature drops, so does our activity level.

When the snow falls, it is often hard to participate in favorite activities like hiking, biking and swimming — so a lot of people cocoon. Inactivity often leads to weight gain and the winter "blahs," but there is something you can do to brighten the outlook for yourself, your friends and family.

"Give a gift that promotes health and fitness this holiday season," says Karen Righthand, director of marketing at Atlas Snow-Shoe Co. "Pick up a pair of snowshoes for someone you love for a season filled with healthy fun."

Since anyone who lives in a cold climate can participate in the sport daily, snowshoeing has steadily been gaining in popularity with

nearly six million participants in the United States.

"It's like hiking, only you can



go places you never dreamed possible in your hiking boots," said Righthand.

Holiday Gift Guide

And while hiking will only burn about 340 calories per hour for the average person, snowshoeing will burn twice that: 680 calories.

"Snowshoeing is the best bang-for-your-buck fat burning workout you can get in the winter time," said Cathy Sassin, a world-class adventure racer, personal trainer and nutrition consultant who cross-trains year round.

Not only do you burn calories, you improve your core body strength and balance and get an aerobic workout. Snowshoeing raises your heart rate and compares favorably with activities such as running, swimming, cross-country skiing and bicycling. In fact,

many cyclists, mountain bikers,

trail runners and adventure racers snowshoe as a way to cross-train and improve their cardio fitness during the winter months.

Snowshoeing can be done anywhere there are a few inches of snow on the ground. Backyards, local golf courses, hiking trail systems, national parks and forests are all accessible to people with snowshoes.

"One of the great things about this sport is its affordability," said Righthand. "You don't have to pay a lift-fee each time you want to go down a hill, just strap on your snowshoes, grab your poles and get out there."

An added bonus, there are no limitations. Snowshoes can go anywhere your feet can take you — where there is snow. So, this winter, give a gift that will be remembered and enjoyed for seasons to come. The revitalizing outdoor experience and fitness benefits of snowshoeing are guaranteed to provide the healthiest present of all for mind, body and soul.



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Nutcrackers add a whimsical touch



The holidays are like no other time of year — warmth and good cheer are in the air as friends and family gather to celebrate. It is also a chance to turn your home into a fairytale version of itself, with twinkling lights, gauzy ribbons and glittery garland to capture the love, tradition and joy of the holidays.

"Decorating your house for the holidays is all about your personal touch," said Sherry

Pounds, senior buyer for the Bombay Company, a home decorating and accessories retailer.

Whether you're known for your elaborate Christmas trees or for your whimsical home decorations, don't be afraid to use this opportunity to express your personality.

"Just like other decorating decisions you make year round, it's all about the details," said Pounds.

The possibilities are endless, and that may seem intimidating to some people. Here are some hints to help you create your own winter wonderland. You may want to choose a theme as the foundation for your

decorating plan. Your theme can be as simple as a color scheme, or it can focus on a specific object.

For example, you can focus on snowflakes, Santas or

complete with a magnifying glass; and McIntosh the golfer, who is accompanied by a caddy wearing matching tartan plaid. These collectible nutcrackers are 15 inches tall, made of solid



Pounds' favorite, nutcrackers.

"Nutcrackers are a German tradition," she explained. "They originally represented power and strength and were used as guardians of the home. Today, they are often given as a gift symbolizing luck and happiness."

Part of the Bombay Company's holiday tradition is a collection of nutcrackers in unique designs.

"We always offer a Santa, a king, and a soldier," said Pounds.

This year, the assortment also includes a Detective Barrymore nutcracker,

wood and meticulously hand-painted. There's also a 42-inch soldier nutcracker that is a perfect way to greet guests in your front hall. He also looks good standing guard in front of your fireplace or Christmas tree.

The nutcrackers can serve as a focal point in your living room or family room. Line

them up on your mantle surrounded by garland for a built-in conversation starter. Another

option for mantels and under the tree are Bombay's hand-painted Nativity sets.

Once you've chosen your theme, try to come up with some unusual twists. Consider swathing your banister in netting and lights, then festooning it with ornaments for a bright, festive glow. Ornaments are also great hanging from the chandelier in the dining room. Gifts wrapped in ribbons and bows and adorned with ornaments add an extra sparkle to your Christmas tree.

If you're serving food, make sure your table is set for the occasion.

"There are so many ways to make a table sparkle," said Pounds. "Use a pretty table runner, your best china and crystal and plenty of candles. This is the time of year to go all out."

The nutcrackers can also play a starring role in your tabletop decorations. Group them together and surround them with colorful votive candle holders.

Now that the main areas of your house are covered, don't forget the kitchen and the powder room. Chances are your guests will be spending time in these rooms as well. And if you're hosting out-of-town guests, add some holiday touches to the guestroom. Simple extras like holiday-themed hand towels and soaps go a long way to say "welcome."

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Teaching kids the true meaning of the season

Teaching a child that the holidays aren't only about receiving is not always easy in our materialistic culture. Passing on values of giving back to make the world a better place can be a challenge, especially with the pressure of holiday expectations.

However, "Kids get pleasure from seeing someone else happy," said Charles A. Smith, Ph.D., a professor of child development at the School of Family Studies and Human Services at Kansas State University. "The act of giving unleashes the idea that a child can touch someone's life."

Teaming up with Heifer International, an organization that

provides animals to poor families in 48 countries around the world, is a great idea for parents seeking an experience in which their child can find pleasure in bringing happiness to someone else.

While kids might have difficulty in understanding what it means to write a check to charity, they can easily grasp the power of giving an animal — such as a goat, flock of chickens, cow, llama or honey bee hive — to families with extremely limited resources. Children delight in earning their own money to help make the gift of an animal possible for families to improve their lives through the benefit of milk, eggs, wool, fertilizer or honey.

Some participate in Read to

Feed, an educational program that teaches about places in the world where the children's lives are much different from their own. Others "Carol for Cows" or make and sell animal ornaments and cookies; or decorate cans with Heifer International catalog pictures. The cans are then placed in stores and restaurants and money is collected to help end world hunger.

From Hanukkah to Christmas to Kwanzaa, Heifer offers a unique way to teach a child about giving back to help the less fortunate. This year, let Johnnie

honor Grandpa with a donation to Heifer International in his name. Grandpa receives a beautifully designed "honor card" explaining the gift. Grandpa tells

Johnnie that giving is truly better than receiving, especially when it makes a difference

in the life of someone who truly needs help. The world is a better place and Johnnie knows he helped make it so.

For information, order Heifer's "Most Important Gift Catalog in the World" by calling (800) 696-1918, or visit www.heifer.com to learn about the many ways to get involved.



Gifts

(From Page 4)

available, and they can custom make a basket or fill other containers to order.

"It's a fun place to shop," Cassimeris said. "We can do anything!"

The Peanut Principal is open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon until 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Unique and traditional collectables fill the store at Grandma's Country Corners on Central Avenue in Colonie. This year, fairies have taken center stage and anything with a fairy theme is selling well, according to Ellie Davis, one of the store managers.

"Fairy figurines, ornaments, sun catchers are hot items this year," she said. "Santas, angels and snowmen are also very

popular. We carry the new releases of Department 56, including this year's gift sets for Dickens Village, Snow Village, Christmas in the City and North Pole Village."

Swarovski crystal jewelry and silver crystal is also selling well, as well as Armani, Fenton Glass, Precious Moments and plush and resin Boyd's Bears.

For shoppers who are in a hurry, there is complementary gift-wrapping on items over \$10. Grandma's Country Corners is open 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday.

If there is a baby in your gift list, nothing is more unique than a CD of lullabies that include the baby's name, according to Michelle Wynn, owner of Turtle

Point Gift Shop in Delmar.

"We are the only store to carry these CDs in the area," she said. "We have the top 100 names, and people can special order CDs with any name, and they will arrive in just a few days."

The "Glimpse of Heaven" CDs by Sister Song also have the baby's name on the front cover.

The "Stranger in the Woods" book by Jean Stoick and Carl Sams is also big for the younger set.

The "must have" for teenagers are paper start lamps, Wynn said, and accessories with an Adirondack theme are popular for adults.

"We have a nice selection of locally made items including glassware, trivets and candles," Wynn said, adding that "people

really seem to appreciate our free gift bags."

Turtle Pointe is open Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays through Christmas from noon until 4 p.m.

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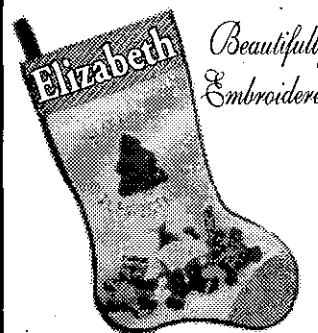
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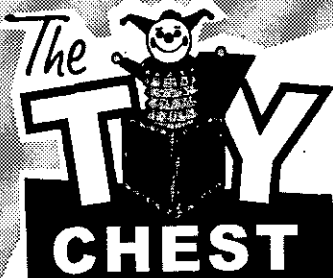
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Pet pampering popular with animal lovers



When people need pampering, they've long retreated to their favorite spas, treated themselves to special gifts and savored their favorite foods. With increasing frequency, more and more pets are enjoying the same kinds of tender loving care. In a recent survey by the American Animal Hospital Association, a majority of pet owners said they had cooked special meals for their pets, given them holiday and birthday gifts, and played special music for their animals.

According to the survey, 93 percent of pet owners said they felt that love and attention contributed more to their pets' quality of life than anything else.

"As a longtime pet owner, I know what an important part of the family pets can be," said Sandra Lee, creator of the Semi-Homemade philosophy. "People do more for their pets sometimes than they do for themselves, and they're always looking for new ways to shower their pets with affection."

By combining affordable items with personal creativity — the foundation of Lee's Semi-Homemade philosophy — pet owners can indulge their pets with flair. Sandra Lee offers the following tips for dog, cat, and bird lovers:

- All dogs love to eat. Cook a special meal to celebrate your pet's birthday, to celebrate a special holiday, or to soothe nerves after a harried trip to the vet. Homemade snacks such as Bone-nanza Bones (see recipe below) will leave your pet feeling perfectly appreciated.

- Dog parks are all the rage these days, but it's always risky to introduce pets that aren't familiar with one another. Instead, consider coordinating a dog party among friends and neighbors in the backyard or a local park. Pets can interact while owners mingle. Doggie

treats made from scratch or selections such as a Dentabone or jerky strips can be the party favors for pooches.

- Cats love to groom. To help kittens maintain their claws (and save furniture), make a personalized scratcher. Cut 45 to 50 strips of corrugated cardboard so that they fit snugly into the lid of a shoebox. Attach double-sided tape to the inside of the lid, then pack the strips vertically and tightly into the lid. Press down lightly to adhere the strips to the tape. Finish by sprinkling the top with dried catnip. Or visit your local discount retailer for a variety of feline-loving toys and treats.



- Parakeet owners can make an edible ladder that is both nutritious and fun. The ladder can be made using Popsicle sticks tied together with lengths of cotton twine. Coat the ladder with parakeet food by using a pastry brush to cover sticks with egg whites that will hold sprinkled birdseed in place. The ladder should be baked for five minutes and cooled for two. This process should be repeated until all surfaces are covered and seed coating is thick. It should be allowed to cool completely before

being placed in the cage, approximately 30 minutes.

- For those who are not pet owners but love nature's little creatures, treat them to a "Critter Granola" that will appeal to a variety of outdoor animals from bunnies to birds. Simply combine 2 cups each of popped popcorn, spoon-size shredded wheat cereal, sunflower seeds, rabbit pellets, and wild birdseed. Place in an outside-appropriate container.

BONE-ANZA BONES

Makes 10-12 dog bones

Ingredients:

- 1 jar (6-ounce) turkey and rice baby food
- 1/4 cup prepared savory beef gravy
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 1/2 cups whole-wheat flour
- 1 egg white
- 1 egg yolk mixed with 1 tablespoon whole milk (optional egg wash)

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with parchment or wax paper. Mix all ingredients (except egg wash) together in a large mixing bowl until a dough forms. Place dough on a floured work surface. Roll out dough to 1/2 inch thick. Using a bone-shaped cookie cutter, cut out 10-12 bones. Transfer bones to prepared cookie sheet. Brush bones with egg wash (optional). Bake for 30 to 35 minutes, or until golden brown. Cool completely.

Storage and leftovers: Store in a resealable bag in the refrigerator for up to five days.

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Sports

Hoop teams welcome new coaches in 2003-04

By ROB JONAS

The three local boys basketball teams have new coaches guiding them this season.

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk and Voorheesville opted to turn to former coaches when their positions opened up after last season. **Bruce Stott** moves from the RCS varsity girls team, which he guided the last five years, to the varsity boys team, while **Bob Crandall** returns to the Voorheesville varsity sidelines for the first time since the late 1980s.

"I coached boys for 15 years before going over to the girls," said Stott, who replaces **Mike Sgambelluri**. "I had a wonderful time coaching the girls, but now is the time to switch back over."

Meanwhile at Bethlehem, **Jeremy Klugman** moves up from the boys junior varsity program to take over for **Chuck Abba**, who resigned after last varsity season.

"It's been challenging," Klugman said. "I've learned a lot from coach Abba in terms of technique and fundamentals. I think I've learned from one of the best in Section II."

Crandall has coached at the junior varsity level at both Voorheesville and Guiderland since leaving the varsity program in 1988. He takes over for **Shane Clary**, who moved to Flint, Mich.

"They had a lot of success late in the season," Crandall said of the varsity team, which reached the Section II, Class CC finals last year. "They had some frustrations early (with injuries), but they had a lot of success late."

Here is a capsule look at the three boys basketball teams.

Bethlehem

Key returning players: **Cameron Brown, Brendan Venter, Evan Marsh, Marcus Kaplan, Luke Sullivan.**

Key newcomers: **Craig Orner, John O'Brien-Carrelli.**

Outlook: The Eagles lost several key players from last year's team, including center **Matt Robbins**, but Klugman is optimistic that they can be

RCS Soccer Club slates registration

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Soccer Club is holding its final registration session for the 2004 recreation program season Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the middle school cafeteria.

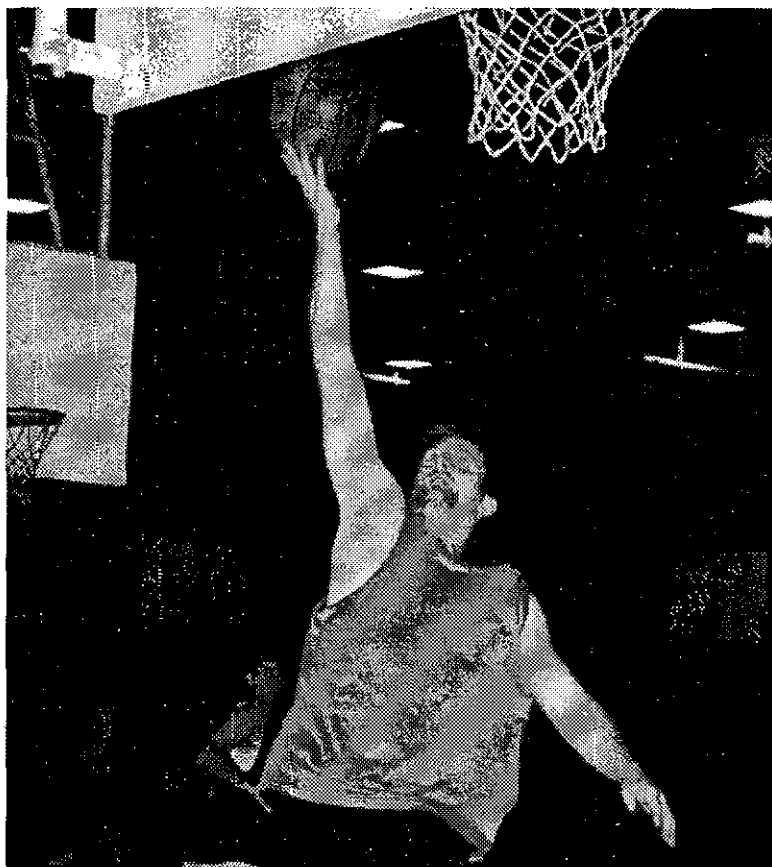
For information, call **Mike Mine** at 767-9202 or **Cathy Smith** at 756-1749.

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.



Evan Marsh goes in for a layup during last Friday's Bethlehem boys basketball team practice. Rob Jonas

competitive in the Suburban Council Gold Division. "We're going to try to play to our strengths, and we're going to try to shoot the ball as best we can," Klugman said. "We know we're going to have to battle for rebounds."

Ravena

Key returning players: **Ricky Rider, Victor Bermudez.**

Key newcomers: **Joey Fisk, Paul Eddy.**

Outlook: The Indians have two top scorers back in Rider and Bermudez, but they will have to rely on such newcomers as Fisk and Eddy to keep them competitive in the Colonial Council. "It's an interesting blend of a few

seniors with some young players up from the JV," Stott said. "It will depend on how well we come together as a team." Ravena opens at this weekend's Tartan Tournament at Scotia-Glenville High School.

Voorheesville

Key returning players: **Mark Carson, Greg Delaney.**

Key newcomers: **Andy Catellier, Nick Duncan, Mike Jones, Greg Klopfer.**

Outlook: Crandall is hoping to avoid the slow start the Blackbirds went through last year. "With a young team, I think it's important that we get off to a good start," he said. "The kids are working hard in practice."



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Although it may not seem to be a problem that needs treatment, long-term clenching and grinding can

damage the temporomandibular joint, wear teeth down, cause teeth to break, disturb sleep patterns, and cause chronic headaches. The most common indicator of nocturnal disturbances is cold and touch sensitivity along the gum line of one or more teeth.

Having sensitive teeth is NOT normal or healthy and should be checked by your dentist. There are treatments for many causes of tooth sensitivity and your dentist will be able to guide you in the right direction.

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Schools closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving

Schools in the Voorheesville school district will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28.

Thacher Nature Center to host holiday workshops

Thacher Nature Center is holding two holiday workshops, the first on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Participants will construct holiday wreaths from balsam and other natural objects. The workshop is appropriate for ages 14 and older. There will be an \$8 fee per wreath.

The second workshop will be

NEWS NOTES

Voorheesville
Betsy Glath
765-4415



held on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants can choose from several craft projects as this program offers something for everyone. Bring a favorite photo if choosing to make a picture frame.

There is a \$2 fee per craft to cover the cost of materials. Space is limited to 20.

For information or to register,

call 872-1237.

Kiwanis to hold tree sale

The New Scotland Kiwanis Club is holding its annual Christmas tree sale beginning Tuesday, Dec. 2, in the parking lot of SuperValu in Voorheesville.

Decorated and plain wreaths will also be available. The cost of the trees is between \$30 and \$40 depending on the size.

Proceeds will be used to support Kiwanis youth service projects.

Garden club to meet

The Helderview Garden Club will have its holiday party and

grab bag on Thursday, Dec. 4, at Albany Country Club.

The cost is \$22 for members. For information on the time or any other questions, call Kizzy Gainer at 765-2576.

Village board to meet

The next Voorheesville board of trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. at village hall, 29 Voorheesville Ave.

Nursery school has openings

The Voorheesville Nursery School at the United Methodist Church has openings for the pre-school programs.

For information, call 765-2951

Kids Club program has openings

The Kids Club program at Voorheesville Elementary School has openings for the before- and after-school program.

For information, call 765-2043.

Friends add bus for NYC trip

Two busloads of holiday revelers will be traveling to New York City from Voorheesville Public Library on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Friends of the Library have confirmed they will be sending a second bus, so there are a few additional openings available.

Voorheesville Public Library

If you would like to travel with the group, go to the library with your checkbook now. Reservations must be prepaid at \$25 per person if you are a member of Friends of the Library or \$30 for nonmembers.

The price is for transportation only. You are on your own to enjoy the lights and decorations, shop, visit museums, catch a theater matinee and/or have dinner.

The buses will drop off and pick up passengers near Radio City. Other details are available at sign-up. Bring the kids or the neighbors for a fun day together.

Lifelines prose writers meet on Monday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. No sign-up is necessary and newcomers are welcome. Bring a short prose piece — from a paragraph to a few pages — on any topic to read to the group.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson is the topic of book discussion for grades four to six on Tuesday, Dec. 9. Sign up at the reference desk and pick up a copy of the discussion book.

Adult book discussion meets at 7 p.m. on Dec. 3 to discuss *I Want That* by Thomas Hine. Sign-up is necessary.

Regular fall story times have ended. The darkest month will be aglow with special holiday story times with the theme of "Light Up December" on Dec. 3, 5, 10 and 12 at 10:15 a.m. No sign-up is necessary.

The Alzheimer's Caregivers Support group meets on Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. No sign-up is necessary. Call 765-5111 or 438-2217 for information.

The library will be closing at 1 p.m. on Nov. 26 and remain closed through Thanksgiving Day. Enjoy the holiday.

Sign up for library programs by calling 765-2791 or e-mail voorefq@uhls.lib.ny.us. Visit the library Web site at www.voorheesvillelibrary.org.

All library programs are free, handicapped accessible and open to the public.

Barbara Vink

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Give Education This Holiday Season

By ROBERT AGEL
Senior Vice President,
McDonald Financial Group

Holiday gift-giving time will soon be upon us, and parents and grandparents should consider giving higher education gifts to the young people in their lives, well before they approach college age. Investing in the higher education of children or grandchildren provides the recipients a remarkable return on investment through increased lifelong earning power. Making such investments also benefits the donors through important tax advantages.

Higher education is the fastest-rising expense among the three major costs a family typically faces. It's increasing more rapidly than either

retirement expenses or a new home purchase.

For more than a decade, the cost of higher education has risen twice as fast as the consumer price index — jumping by 47 percent at state-supported, four-year schools and by 42 percent at private colleges and universities. Even with an inflation rate of only 5 percent, by the year 2020 the projected cost of a four-year education (tuition, fees, room and board) will be \$85,816 at a public school and \$226,472 at a private college — about 265 percent more than in 2000.

Today, Union College in Schenectady costs \$30,573 per year, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy \$33,560 to \$36,314 depending on room and meal plans, and the University at Albany \$11,702 for New York state residents and \$16,602 for

out-of-state students. If this weren't scary enough, college costs are higher in our part of the country than elsewhere in the United States.

As a result of rising costs, and a decline in financial aid grants, more students must borrow to pay for their education. Although grants grew by 10 percent over the past year, students also borrowed 14 percent more.

Fortunately, parents and grandparents can use 529 College Savings Plans to help students afford higher education. Starting such a plan for a young person sure beats giving a new videogame system for a holiday gift.

These plans allow contributors to save and invest on a tax-deferred basis in professionally managed, tax-advantaged portfolios through state-admin-



Robert Agel

istered college savings programs, which also may help to reduce their estate tax exposure.

The 529 College Savings Plan may offer more flexibility than other traditional state-sponsored plans such as an Education IRA or gifts under either the Uniform Gifts to Minors or Uniform Transfer to Minors acts.

Contributions to 529 College Savings Plans are treated as completed gifts for federal tax purposes, and contributors may save up to \$11,000 annually per beneficiary, or \$22,000 for married couples, without exceeding the federal gift tax exclusion. In addition, contributors can give up to \$55,000 per beneficiary, or \$110,000 for a married couple, in the first year of a five-year period if no additional gifts are made during that same period. Anyone may contribute, regardless of income or state residency.

Finally, a person making a contribution to a 529 College Savings Plan can also make a contribution to a Coverdell Education Savings Account in the same year.

- Investment earnings accumulate tax deferred.
- Proceeds may be used at any accredited postsecondary school in the United States for part- or full-time education.
- Beneficiaries receiving 529 income remain eligible for the HOPE

scholarship and Lifetime Learning Credit in the same year.

- The contributor, or owner, retains control over the withdrawals.

• Contributions are invested in professionally managed portfolios.

• Earnings used for qualified education expenses are tax free upon withdrawal. Scheduled to end in 2010, this provision may be extended.

Two basic restrictions apply: The earnings portion of any nonqualified withdrawal is generally taxed at the owner's tax rate and is subject to a 10 percent penalty, and the owner will be refunded the scholarship amount without penalty if the beneficiary wins a scholarship.

The 529 College Savings Plan offers investment options that mix and balance equity, fixed-income and cash funds, based on an investor's growth

needs and tolerance for risk. Investors should work with a qualified and licensed investment professional to select an investment portfolio that meets these needs.

The flexibility of 529 plans includes the availability of several options if the beneficiary receives a scholarship. Funds can be withdrawn from the account to pay for education expenses not covered by the scholarship, or can be left in the account for future use, such as for an advanced degree.

A family also may withdraw from the account the same amount as the scholarship without penalty (though earnings on the amount will be taxable to the account owner at the owner's tax rate). Finally, the owner may change the beneficiary to a family member of the original beneficiary.

The plan owner also has several choices if the beneficiary decides not to go to college, including leaving the money in the account for future use (either by the beneficiary if he or she decides eventually to go to college or by the beneficiary's children). The owner also may change the beneficiary to someone who is a family member of the original beneficiary.

There also is the option of taking a nonqualified withdrawal from the account (though withdrawals used for noneducation expenses are subject to regular income taxes plus a federally mandated 10 percent penalty on the earnings). Finally, the owner may make a penalty-free withdrawal (however, the earnings on the investments are still subject to regular taxation).

Because anyone — parents, grandparents or other family members — can contribute, a 529 College Savings Plan offers an opportunity to reduce potential estate tax exposure. Annual gifts and any of the growth attributable to a 529 College Savings Plan are not included in an individual's taxable estate.

This feature makes the 529 College Savings Plan a powerful estate planning tool. Donors can give as much as \$55,000 per individual and \$110,000 per couple, removing those sums from their estates and thereby reducing estate taxes. Then those same funds accrue earnings tax free for the recipients.

Benefits and advantages of 529 College Savings Plans are uniform under the IRS code, but each state may provide different approved portfolio managers. Consult a qualified and licensed investment professional for information on 529 College Savings Plans.

About the author: Robert Agel is an investment consultant and senior vice president with McDonald Financial Group, a KeyCorp company, in the Capital Region office, and advises a variety of business owners with managing company and personal assets. He may be reached at 391-1480 or ragel@mcdinvest.com.

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Obituaries

Joseph Morrison

Joseph Anthony Morrison, 81, of Delmar, died Saturday, Nov. 22.

A graduate of Providence College, he was a veteran of World War II and was a prisoner of war.

Mr. Morrison worked in the leasing department for Key Bank and in management for General Electric. He was also a bookkeeper for Farrell Brothers Plumbing in Albany.

He was a member of the Parkinson's Association of the Capital District and the Nathaniel Adams Blanchard American Legion Post in Delmar.

He was husband of the late Alice Shirlee Morrison.

Survivors include a sister, Mary Morrison of Cranston, R.I.; a niece, Elizabeth Whitney; and

special friends John and Lynn Safarik of Delmar.

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

Arrangements were by Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar. Contributions may be made to Providence College Alumni Association, Harkins Hall #109, Providence, R.I. 02918.

Franklin McDonald

Franklin McDonald Sr., 75, of Selkirk, died Wednesday, Nov. 19, at Stratton Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Born in Albany, he was a longtime resident of Selkirk.

Mr. McDonald retired from the Navy after 21 years, including service in World War II and the Korean War. He also served for

10 years in the Naval Reserve.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Doris Crosier McDonald; four daughters, Lois Rothaupt, Maude Dunn, Ellen Deere and Sandy McDonald; four sons, Frank McDonald Jr., Elmer McDonald, Kelvin McDonald and Marty McDonald; 13 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and his dog Gomer Pyle McDonald Rothaupt.

Services were from Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar. Entombment was in Memory's Garden in Colonie.

Contributions may be made to the Onesquethaw Volunteer Fire Co. & Rescue Squad, Clarksville 12041.

In Selkirk, The Spotlight is sold at Corner Market, Deli Plus, 3 Farms and Stewarts.

Retirement party set for Sheila Fuller

There will be a community celebration for Sheila Fuller on her retirement as Bethlehem town supervisor on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Normanside Country Club in Delmar.

The event will run from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and there will be hors d'oeuvres, a light buffet and a

cash bar.

Tickets are \$15 per person; RSVP by Friday, Dec. 5.

Make checks payable to Sheila Fuller Celebration Committee, P.O. Box 526, Delmar, 12054.

For information or reservations, call 369-3962.

Grange plans chicken/biscuits dinner

The Bethlehem Grange will sponsor a family-style chicken and biscuits dinner on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the hall on Route 396 in Selkirk.

The cost is \$8.50 for adults, \$4

for children, and free for children.

Takeouts will be available and the hall is handicapped-accessible.

For information, call 767-3342.

Village Stage slates 'Harvey'

The Village Stage will present "Harvey," a comedy about a man and his rabbit friend, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 to 6, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec.

7, at 2 p.m., at the Bethlehem Grange on Route 396 in Selkirk.

The cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors.

For information, call 439-9200.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF BETHLEHEM NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem on the 10th day of December, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. to consider a proposed Local Law amending the Code of the Town of Bethlehem as follows:

AMEND VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC CHAPTER 119, ARTICLE II, Section 119-29, Schedule III, One-way Streets as follows:

ADD: BENDER LANE - Eastbound for a distance of 100 +/- feet from an area 450 +/- feet west of Route 9W to an area 550 feet west of Route 9W.

All interested persons and citizens will have an opportunity to be heard at the said hearing.

The Town of Bethlehem provides reasonable accommodations for the disabled. Disabled individuals who are in need of assistance in order to participate should contact Nan Lanahan at 439-4131. Advanced notice is requested.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM KATHLEEN A. NEWKIRK, CMC TOWN CLERK

Dated: November 12, 2003

LD-9174

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

289 ONTARIO ST LLC Notice of Formation of the above Limited Liability Company (LLC) Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY ("SSNY") on August 8, 2003. Office location: Albany County, SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY may mail a copy of any process to the LLC, PO Box 325 Albany NY, 12201 No registered agent. Purpose: For all legal purposes. LCD-9126

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

898 LOUDON ROAD, LLC, Notice of formation of a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC) Articles of Organization filed with the New York Secretary of State on October 16, 2003. 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 596 New Loudon Road, Latham, New York 12110. LCD-9081

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

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

1. The name of the limited part-

LEGAL NOTICE

nership is "WORCESTER PARTNERS, L.P."

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

3. The Secretary of State is hereby designated as agent of the limited partnership upon whom process against it may be served, and the office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the limited partnership served upon him is 596 New Loudon Road, Latham, New York 12110.

4. The name and business address of the sole general partner is:

Shopping Center Development Co., L.L.C.

596 New Loudon Road

Latham, New York 12110

5. The latest date upon which the limited partnership is to dissolve is June 30, 2103.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Certificate of Limited Partnership on the 20th day of June 2003, and verify and affirm under penalties of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct as of the date hereof.

WORCESTER PARTNERS, L.P.

by: Shopping Center

Development Co., L.L.C.

By: Kenneth B. Segel, Member

LCD-9085

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

LIBERTY WAY, LLC Notice of formation of the above Limited Liability Company ("LLC"). Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY ("SSNY") on 10/23/2003. Office location: Albany County, SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any such process served to: the LLC, P.O. Box 11-600, Albany, New York 12211-0600. Purpose: any lawful business purpose. LCD-9146

(November 26, 2003).

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Core Wealth Management, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 11/19/03. Office location: Albany County, LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 3/28/02. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Principal office of LLC: 740 State St., Ste. 202, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-9193

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of HAF Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 11/6/03. Office location: Albany County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY

LEGAL NOTICE

shall mail process to: 419 Elm Ave., Selkirk, NY 12158. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-9192

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: MNR REAL ESTATE LLC.

Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/17/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 66 Madison Avenue, Apartment 5J, New York, New York 10016. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-9190

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: KIRBY BURNETT HILLS REALTY LLC. Articles of Organi-

zation were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/17/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 66 Madison Avenue, Apartment 5J, New York, New York 10016. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-9189

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of ACS IT Solutions, LP. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 11/14/03. Office location: Albany County, LP formed in Delaware (DE) on 8/25/03. SSNY designated as agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011, registered agent upon whom process may be served. DE address of LP: The Corporation Trust Co., 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Name/address of each genl. ptr. available from SSNY. Cert. of LP filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful purposes. LD-9186

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of ACS IT Solutions, LP. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 11/14/03. Office location: Albany County, LP formed in Delaware (DE) on 8/25/03. SSNY designated as agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011, registered agent upon whom process may be served. DE address of LP: The Corporation Trust Co., 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Name/address of each genl. ptr. available from SSNY. Cert. of LP filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful purposes. LD-9186

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Chat LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 10/20/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process: 3724 Carmen Rd., Schenectady, NY 12303. Purpose: any lawful purpose. LCD-9183

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Paypoint Electronic Payment Systems, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 10/24/2003. Office

LEGAL NOTICE

location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 8/15/1994. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 11207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Principal office of LLC: Mailstop M23A6 12500 E. Mt. Belford Ave., Englewood, CO 80112. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., Federal & Duke of York St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-9182

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Publication DIPLOMATIC INTERNATIONAL LLC was filed with SSNY on 11/14/2003 Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: The LLC, 46 STATE STREET, 3RD FLR, ALBANY, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA CORPORATE SERVICES INC. at the same address. Purpose: any lawful purpose. LCD-9181

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of TexPar Energy, L.L.C. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 11/7/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Wisconsin (WI) on 10/3/03. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. WI address of LLC: 920 10th Ave. North, P.O. Box 189, Onalaska, WI 54650. Arts. of Org. filed with WI Dept. of Financial Institutions, P.O. Box 7846, Madison WI 53707. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-9175

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of ACS Business Services, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 11/12/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 7/21/03. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Principal office of LLC: 2828 N. Haskell, Bldg. 1, Ft. 10, Dallas TX, 75204. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes. LD-9172

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LEGAL NOTICE

Articles of Organization of Home Run Properties, LLC ("LLC") filed with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on November 13, 2003, effective upon the date of filing. Office Location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY may mail a copy of any process to the LLC, 34 Princess Taylor Lane, North Bethlehem, New York 12203. The purpose for which the LLC is formed is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the LLC. LCD-9160

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Pet Wellness Clinic, LLC, a foreign professional service limited liability company (PLLC). Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 10/2/03. Office location: Albany County. PLLC formed in Ohio on 9/13/01. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Susan Sanders, 1 Bay Club Dr., #1400, Bayside, NY 11360, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose: practice the profession of veterinary medicine. LD-9155

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of CH Realty II/Amboy, L.L.C. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 10/17/03 as amended. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/14/03. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. Principal office of LLC: 2100 McKinney Ave., Suite 700, Dallas, TX 75201. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, P.O. Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-9152

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 98 Fourth Street, LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 7/9/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process: Bernard Dillenberger, 320 Dean St., Brooklyn, NY 11217. Purpose: to deal in real estate and any other lawful purpose. LCD-9151

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of James M. Gaughan, LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 11/3/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process: Box 102, Altamont, NY

LEGAL NOTICE

12009. Purpose: any lawful purpose. LCD-9150

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Westminster Holdings, L.L.C. Fictitious name in NY State: Westminster Holdings Realty. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 11/7/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in New Jersey (NJ) on 10/10/03. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Office address of LLC in jurisdiction of organization: 18 Columbia Tpke., Florham Park, NJ 07932. Arts. of Org. filed with NJ Secy. of State, Div. of Rev., 225 West State St., Trenton, NJ 08608. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-9144

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Under Section 203 of the Limited Liability Company Law New Scotland Florist, LLC (LLC) articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 24, 2003. New York office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as an agent upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon it is 263 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY 12208. The purpose of the LLC is any purpose for which a limited liability company may be organized under applicable law. LCD-9143

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: ALBANY MANAGEMENT, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/30/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 23 Glenda Drive, Deer Park, New York 11729. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-9141

(November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: TECH VALLEY REAL ESTATE L.L.C. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/06/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy

LEGAL NOTICE

of process to the LLC, c/o Sheldon Singer, 75 McGuffey Lane, Delmar, New York 12054. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-9140 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: TECH VALLEY PARTNERS LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/18/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, c/o Sheldon Singer, 75 McGuffey Lane, Delmar, New York 12054. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-9139 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: AZAD-JESMIN HOLDINGS, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/09/03. The latest date of dissolution is 09/01/2102. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 9 Ternan Avenue, East Greenbush, New York 12061. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-9125 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Risk Based Lender, LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 10/17/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process: 26 Locust Dr., Voorheesville, NY 12186. Purpose: any lawful purpose. LCD-9123 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Nelick's Home Furnishings of Rochester, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Sec'y of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 11/03/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1440 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-9121 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). The name of the LLC is RED OAKS RESIDENCES, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on November 3, 2003. 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 302 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, New York 12203. LCD-9105 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF REGISTERED LLP Budd, Tribble & Von Ahn, CPAs, LLP, filed a Certificate of Registration with the New York Secretary of State on October 29, 2003. Its principal office is located in Albany County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process may be served. A copy of any such process shall be mailed to P.O. Box 687, Fonda New York 12068. Its business is to engage in the practice of certified public accountancy and any other lawful activity for which limited liability partnerships may be organized under Section 121-1500(a) of the New York Partnership Law. LCD-9103 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Z-LAND ACRES, LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company, Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of the State of New York on 10/21/03. NY office location is Albany County. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon Sandra Zabarsky, One Mann Drive, Apt. 6, Castleton, NY 12033. The Purpose of LLC is real estate investments. LCD-9101 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of AIMCO 311/313 EAST 73RD STREET, LLC. Authority filed with Sec'y of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 3/17/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 3/14/03. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Principal office of LLC: 4582 South Ulster Street Parkway, Suite 1100, Denver, CO 80237. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Sec'y of State, 32 Lookerman Sq., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-9100 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Albany Systems LLC. Authority filed with Sec'y of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 10/24/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 7/8/03. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Principal office of LLC: Promenade II, 1230 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 1938, Atlanta, GA 30309. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Sec'y of State, Federal & Duke of York St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-9098 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of AMB FUND III NEW YORK II, LLC. Authority filed with Sec'y of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 10/21/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/16/03. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Principal office of LLC: Pier 1, Bay 1, San Francisco, CA 94111. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Sec'y of State, Corporations Division, Lookerman & Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-9092 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of AMB FUND III NEW YORK, LLC. Authority filed with Sec'y of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 10/21/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/16/03. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Principal office of LLC: Pier 1, Bay 1, San Francisco, CA 94111. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Sec'y of State, Corporations Division, Lookerman & Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-9090 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of limited liability company (LLC): Name: Golden Knights Associates, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/20/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of

LEGAL NOTICE

process to Golden Knights Associates, LLC, 23 Bergen Woods Drive, Cohoes, New York 12047. Term: Perpetual. Purpose: real estate holding company and any other lawful purpose. LD-9087 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC). Name: WOODRIDGE BUSINESS PARK, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NYS Secretary of State on October 9, 2003. Office Location: Albany County. NYS Secretary of State designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. NYS Secretary of State shall mail copy of process to the LLC at 462 Route 9W, Box 25, Glenmont, NY, 12077. LD-9086 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC Elmira Apartments LLC, filed Articles of Organization with the New York Secretary of State on October 16, 2003. 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 Elmira Apartment LLC, c/o Dawn Homes Management, LLC, 20 Corporate Woods Boulevard, Albany, New York 12211. Its business is to engage in any lawful activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under Section 203 of the New York Limited Liability Company Act. LD-9077 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC TOC, LLC, filed Articles of Organization with the New York Secretary of State on October 15, 2003. 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 TOC, LLC, c/o Dawn Homes Management, LLC, 20 Corporate Woods Boulevard, Albany, New York 12211. Its business is to engage in any lawful activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under Section 203 of the New York Limited Liability Company Act. LD-9075 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE PURSUANT TO LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW 206 (1) The name of the Limited Liability Company is: MPM PROPERTIES, LLC (2) The Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State on July 15, 2003. (3) The limited liability company is located in Albany County. (4) The Secretary of State has

LEGAL NOTICE

been designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served and the following is the post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against it served upon him or her: PMB: 175 1971 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203 (5) The character and/or purpose of the limited liability company is to engage in Real Estate Management. LD-9066 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A REGISTERED LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (LP) The name of the LP is CAMPINO ENTERPRISES, L.P. The Certificate of Registration of the LP was filed with the New York Secretary of State on October 10, 2003. The purpose of the LP is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LP is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LP upon whom process against the LP may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LP is 2 Edgewood Circle, Menands, New York 12204. LCD-9064 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). The name of the LLC is R&S MENANDS, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on October 10, 2003. 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 2 Edgewood Circle, Menands, New York 12204. LCD-9063 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC Forrest Pointe LLC, filed Articles of Organization with the New York Secretary of State on June 10, 2003. 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 Forrest Pointe LLC, c/o Dawn Homes Management, LLC, 20 Corporate Woods Boulevard, Albany, New York 12211. Its business is to engage in any lawful activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under Section 203 of the New York Limited Liability Company Act. LD-9062 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Qualification of Doral Services of New York, LLC. Authority filed with Sec'y of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 5/28/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Wisconsin (WI) on 5/13/03. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011, registered agent upon whom process may be served. WI address of LLC: 1017 West Glen Oaks Lane, Suite 206, Mequon, WI 53092. Arts. of Org. filed with WI Department of Financial Institutions, Division of Corporate and Consumer Services, 345 West Washington Ave., 3rd Fl., Madison, WI 53703. Purpose: all lawful purposes. LD-9044 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

PINETREE Mgmt., LLC Notice of formation of the above Limited Liability Company ("LLC"). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY ("SSNY") on 10/23/2003. Office location, Albany County, SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any such process served to: the LLC, P.O. Box 11-600, Albany, New York 12211-0600. Purpose: any lawful business purpose. LCD-9147 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Real Property Options, LLC Notice of formation of the above Limited Liability Company ("LLC"). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY ("SSNY") on 10/09/2003. Office location, County of Albany. Spiegel & Utrera, P.A., P.C., 45 John Street, Suite 711, NY, NY 10038 has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any such process served to: The LLC, P.O. Box 1251, Latham, NY 12110. Purpose: any lawful act. LCD-9135 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

ROCKMORE, LLC Notice of formation of the above Limited Liability Company ("LLC"). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State on NY ("SSNY") on 10/23/2003. Office location, Albany County, SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any such process served to: the LLC, P.O. Box 11-600, Albany, New York 12211-0600. Purpose: any lawful business purpose. LCD-9148 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

SELLNOW REALTY, LLC Notice of formation of the above

LEGAL NOTICE

Limited Liability Company ("LLC"). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY ("SSNY") on 10/23/2003. Office location, Albany County, SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any such process served to: the LLC, P.O. Box 11-600, Albany, New York 12211-0600. Purpose: any lawful business purpose. LCD-9149 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

SOBE PROPERTIES, LLC. Notice of formation of the above Limited Liability Company (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/5/2003. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copies of any process against it to SOBE PROPERTIES, LLC, 420 Route 9W, Glenmont, NY 12077. LLC is member-managed. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. LCD-9120 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals of the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 3, 2003, at 7:45 p.m., at the Town Offices, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York to take action on application of Greg and Carol Roeder for Area Variance under Article XVI, Front Yards, Section 128-71, Accessory Structures and Article XII, Percent of Lot Occupancy, Section 128-55, Accessory Structures of the Code of the Town of Bethlehem for construction of a detached garage, which will encroach into the Front Yard setback requirement and also exceed the allowable percentage of Lot Occupancy for an accessory structure at premises 10 Fernbank Avenue, Delmar, New York. Michael C. Hodom Chairman Board of Appeals LD-9127 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

WOODVILLE MOTORS LLC NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Articles of Organization for Woodville Motors LLC (the "LLC") were filed with Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on October 21, 2003. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at 1037 Central Avenue, Albany, New York 12205. Duration is perpetual. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act for which limited liability companies may be organized. LCD-9074 (November 26, 2003)

LEGAL ADVERTISERS:

Please note our new

Legal Advertising Deadline is ...

Friday

at 11:00 A.M.

Obituaries

Richard Switzer

Richard M. Switzer, 69, of Glenmont, died Thursday, Nov. 20, at St. Peter's Hospital.

Born in Glendale, Lewis County, he was a graduate of SUNY Oswego and earned a master's in education from Syracuse University.

Mr. Switzer began his teaching career in 1956 in one of the first public school programs for children with physical disabilities in Suffolk County. In 1961, he became headmaster of Human Resources School for the

Disabled in Albertson, Long Island.

In 1978, he was appointed assistant commissioner of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and later became deputy commissioner for training and employment for persons with disabilities.

He was a member of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and the White House Conference on the Handicapped.

In his retirement years, he assisted in the pastoral care office

for the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar. He worked with the clergy in developing programs for seniors of the parish and provided assistance when needed to persons with disabilities. He also visited parishioners who were in nursing homes, hospitals or homebound.

He was treasurer of the board of directors at Good Samaritan Nursing Home and was a member of the Commission on Aging for the Albany Catholic Diocese, Marie Rose board and the DePaul Management board.

He had a lifelong interest in Boy Scouting, serving as past commissioner for the Fort Orange District, Scoutmaster for Troop 71 and merit badge counselor.

He received many awards, including SUNY Oswego's Distinguished Alumnus Certificate of Merit, the Al Felmet Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Rehabilitation, the St. George Emblem, in recognition of outstanding service to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in the Boy Scouts, and the

Good Samaritan Professional Award.

Survivors include his wife of 45 years, Patricia Connors Switzer; four sons, Richard Switzer, Christopher Switzer, Damian Switzer and Brian Switzer; a daughter, Mary Victoria Switzer; a brother, Arthur Switzer of East Orleans, Mass.; and eight grandchildren.

Services were from the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, with burial in St. Peter's Cemetery in Oswego.

Arrangements were by Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar.

Contributions may be made to the St. Thomas the Apostle Senior Programs.

Edith DeFlumer

Edith E. Murray DeFlumer, 84, of Eden Park Nursing Home in Utica and formerly of Delmar, died Friday, Nov. 21.

Born in Kingston, she was a graduate of Russell Sage College, Albany.

She was a Navy veteran of World War II.

She worked for the state Office of General Services in Albany for many years.

She enjoyed reading and traveling and was a member of several miniature clubs.

She was wife of the late John S. DeFlumer.

Survivors include six daughters, Beverly Anthony of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Joyce DeFlumer of Mount Kisco, Westchester County, Deborah DeFlumer of Oak Ridge, Tenn., Mary Jean DeFlumer of Gainesville, Fla., Laura Palmer of Liverpool, Onondaga County, and Elizabeth Paul of Utica; a son, John Michael DeFlumer of Delmar; two sisters, Marian Barber of Hudson and Jean

Emerick of Castleton; a brother, John Murray of North Abington, Mass.; and 14 grandchildren.

Services were from Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar.

Contributions may be made to the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar 12054.

Michael Williams

Michael W. Williams, 21, of Voorheesville, died Tuesday, Nov. 18,

He attended Berne-Knox-Westerlo and Voorheesville schools.

Survivors include his mother, Debra M. Flagler Williams of East Berne; his father, Jeffrey Williams of Voorheesville; his maternal grandmother, Marie Flagler of East Berne; his paternal grandparents, Rodney and Shirley Williams of Dade City, Fla.; and a sister, Tracy Williams of East Berne.

Services were from Thompson's Lake Reformed Church.

Arrangements were by Fredendall Funeral Home in Altamont.

Contributions may be made to the Salvation Army, 21 Colvin Ave., Albany 12206 or the Mohawk & Hudson Humane Society, 3 Oakland Ave., Menands 12044.

Marion Desormeau

Marion Desormeau, 91, of Slingerlands and formerly of Amsterdam, died Thursday, Nov. 20.

Survivors include two daughters, Darlene Leder and Gayle Markowitz.

Services were from the Guzielek-Pomykaj Funeral Home in Amsterdam.

Burial was in St. Stanislaus Cemetery.

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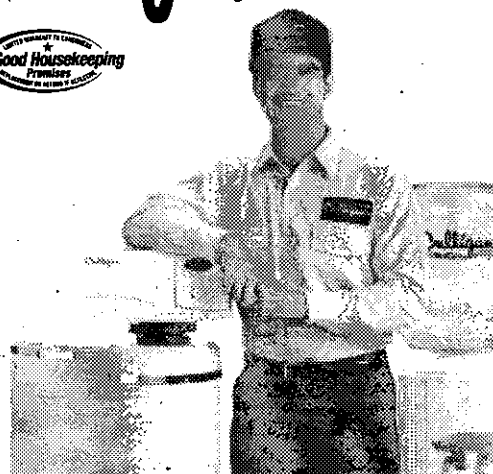
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Christine and Gregory McKnight

Piorkowski, McKnight wed

Christine Piorkowski, daughter of Robert and Margaret Piorkowski of Lake Jackson, Texas, and formerly of Delmar, and Gregory McKnight, son of Gregory McKnight of Willow Creek, Calif., and Karen Newton of Eureka, Calif., were married Aug. 2.

Dr. Sarah Griffith performed the ceremony at Escot Farm in Salyer, Calif. A reception followed.

The maid of honor was Jennifer Piorkowski, sister of the bride.

The bridesmaids were Katie Coar, Lynn Langdon, Amy Degenfelder, Michaela Hasler

and Dawn McCormick.

Raven McAdams, niece of the groom, was the flower girl.

Ushers were Rosnawn Beere, Steve Bohner and Jeff Langdon.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Ithaca College, where she also earned a master's degree. She is a physical therapist in Eureka.

The groom is a mason and general contractor.

After a wedding trip camping in Southern California and Arizona, the couple lives in Fieldbrook, Calif.

Student selected for fellowship

Keelin Purcell, daughter of Mary and Shawn Purcell of Delmar, has been selected as a Cornell Tradition Fellow for the 2003-04 academic year at Cornell University. The Cornell Tradition, a national recognized undergraduate fellowship program, was created in 1982.

Students are nominated for the fellowship based on their work ethic, volunteer service, extracurricular activities, and outstanding academic achievement during high school. Keelin is one of 150 freshmen nominated and selected for this program from a class of about 3,000 students.

Grand, Steil to marry

Jennifer Grand, daughter of David and Carol Grand of Delmar, and Daniel Steil, son of Robert and Linda Steil of Old Bethpage, Long Island, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and the University of Delaware. She earned a master's degree from the University at Albany.

She is an English teacher at

Bethlehem Central Middle School in Delmar.

The future groom is a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School and the University at Albany.

He earned a master's degree from Adelphi University.

He is a middle school special education teacher in the Hudson City schools.

The couple plans a July 11 wedding.

Firefighters to serve breakfast

Onesquethaw Volunteer Fire Co. will serve an all-you-can-eat breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 30, from 7 a.m. to noon. Meals will be

made to order. Price is \$6. Children under 5 eat for free. The firehouse is five miles west of Delmar, off Route 443.

Wedding Directory

for Bridal Services

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Community members reach out and take action

Since 1982, the Bethlehem Community Partnership has fostered a spirit of cooperation and activism for the benefit of our children. This coalition has brought together many different groups, including police, parents, businesses, schools, churches and local government with prevention in mind.

Last month, 20 dedicated people gathered on a Saturday morning for breakfast, brainstorming and break-out planning sessions at the annual Community Partnership Workshop. Many concerns were raised, such as teen depression and suicide, Internet safety, underage alcohol and tobacco use and binge drinking.

Two task forces emerged whose members will work together over the next year to address these issues with direct prevention efforts, community outreach and education.

Co-sponsors Bethlehem Networks and BOU would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this ongoing venture such a success, including those who could not attend but generously offered their assistance in the coming year.

We would also like to thank Hannaford supermarket in Delaware Plaza for its generous donation of refreshments.

To help out or be added to the Community Partnership mailing list, call Networks at 439-7740 or e-mail BethlehemPreventionProject@yahoo.com.

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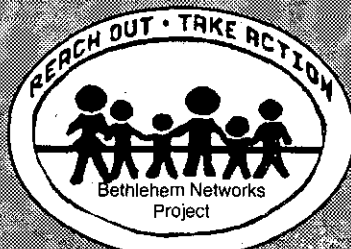
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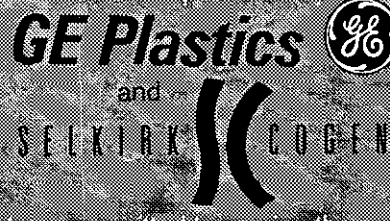
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A clean sweep

'The Sweepers'
offers new take on ethnic humor

LINDA DeMATTIA

For a new play about 1945 Boston that is having its first production outside New York City, "The Sweepers" has been selling to packed houses at Capital Repertory Theatre since opening on Nov. 14, according to Nancy Larabee, Cap Rep's Marketing and Public Relations Director.

"We have sold out five performances and have had just a seat or two left for five others," she said. "The response has been phenomenal."

Set in the close-knit Italian section of Boston's North End near the end of World War II, the play tells the story of three Italian-American women whose families have been friends and neighbors since childhood.

In a changing world that threatens the traditions that bind them together, the women worry about their loved ones fighting in the war, are concerned about children growing up and marrying "out of the neighborhood" and deal with the betrayal of friendships.

Because the play deals with war, it resonates with people today, Larabee said.

"It is very timely, what with the war in Iraq," she said. "And the women do what they always do, sweep up the mess that is left behind. The play is funny and very touching, and very relevant to what is happening today."

Larabee said response to the play has been particularly strong from Italian-American and women's groups.

Playwright John Picardi, who lives with his family in Quincy, Mass., wrote "The Sweepers" for this master's thesis at Carnegie-Mellon. Based upon his first play, Picardi was awarded a grant from the National Italian-American Foundation to write a series of plays, each covering a 10-year period in the 20th century. The plays are designed to present Italian-Americans in a positive light, unlike the stereotypical mobsters or working class buffoons so common in TV and movies.

"Working class doesn't necessarily mean that you are unintelligent, involved with the Mafia," Picardi said in an interview with Cap Rep staff member Erin Johncox. "I guess my goal is to change - to put out a new image of - Italian Americans. We are not all criminals; we don't all have some link to organized crime."

"The Sweepers" stars Stephanie Cozart as Karen Foletti, Carole Healey as Bella Cichinelli, Matthew Montelongo as Sonny

McCarthy-Cichinelli, Brigitte Viellien-Davis as Dotty Larnino and Lori Wilner as Mary DeGrazia.

It is directed by Frances Hill, who will be producing Picardi's new play "Seven Rabbits on a Pole" at Urban Stages in the spring.

The show runs through Dec. 14; showtimes are Tuesday to Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday shows at 8 p.m., Saturday at 4 and 8:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Theater-goers can join a post-show discussion with the cast, artistic director and special guests on discussion nights, Nov. 26 and Dec. 3 and 10.

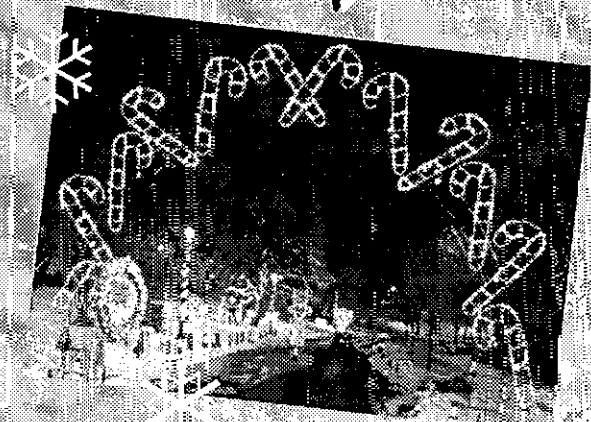
For information, call the box office at 445-7469.



(Above) The happy couple, Karen Foletti (Stephanie Cozart) and Sonny McCarthy-Cichinelli (Matthew Montelongo), is planning to marry. Bella and her "Sweeper" friends think the couple should follow tradition and live with Bella in Boston's North End. Karen and her affluent Italian American family want the young couple to move to the new suburbs that are cropping up as World War comes to a close. (Left) Mary DeGrazia (Lori Wilner - back left) and Dotty Larnino (Brigitte Viellien-Davis - back right) wonder and speculate about where their friend Bella Cichinelli (Carole Healey - front) goes when she leaves their Italian neighborhood in Boston's North End and what secrets she might be keeping from them.

Photos by Joe Schryler

Light up the holidays



Albanian Mayor Gerald D. Jennings and the children of the Albany Police Athletic League (PAL) invite everyone to the 7th Annual "Capital Holiday Lights" in Albany's Washington Park from Nov. 24 through Dec. 31.

The theme for this year's winter

wonderland of lights is "Jolly Holidays," with proceeds benefiting the youth programs of the Albany PAL.

Since it began in 1997, "Capital Holiday Lights" has become one of the foremost holiday events in the Capital Region, welcoming thousands of visitors to a world that brightens the

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With more than 100 displays and scenes and thousands and thousands of lights, surprises wait throughout the mile-and-a-half drive along the scenic lakefront and exquisite carriage paths of historic Washington Park.

ARTS and ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

THE SWEEPERS

neighborhood comedy, Capital Repertory Theatre, 111 N. Pearl St., Albany, through Dec. 14, \$31 to \$39. Information, 445-7469.

GREETINGS

holiday comedy, Curtain Call Theatre, 210 Old Loudon Road, Latham, through Dec. 14, \$18. Information, 877-7529.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Nebraska Theatre Caravan production, Proctor's Theatre, 432 State St., Schenectady, Dec. 1, 7 p.m., \$29.50, \$25.50 and \$19.50. Information, 346-6204.

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

New York State Theatre Institute, Schacht Fine Arts Center of Russell Sage College, Troy, Dec. 5 to 18, \$20, \$16 for seniors and students, \$10 for children under 13. Information, 274-3286.

BABES IN ARMS

Rodgers and Hart musical, Schenectady Light Opera Company, 826 State St., Dec. 5 to 7 and 11 to 14, \$18, \$9 for children under 13. Information, 393-5732.

COMMUNICATING DOORS

Ayckbourn comedy, Schenectady Civic Players, 12 S. Church St., Dec. 5 to 7 and 11 to 14, \$12, \$10 for students. Information, 382-2081.

Music

LIVINGSTON TAYLOR

The Van Dyck, 235 Union St., Schenectady, Nov. 28, 7 and 9:30 p.m., \$25. Information, 381-1111.

MARK LINDSAY

The Van Dyck, 235 Union St., Schenectady, Nov. 29, 7 and 9:30 p.m., \$28. Information, 381-1111.

MOE.

Palace Theatre, North Pearl Street and Clinton Avenue, Albany, Nov. 30, 8 p.m., \$22 and \$25. Information, 465-4663.

WINDHAM HILL WINTER SOLISTICE CONCERT

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, State and Second streets, Dec. 2, 8 p.m., \$24 and \$27. Information, 273-0038.

DUBRAVKA TOMSIC

pianist, playing works by Hadyn, Beethoven and Chopin, Memorial Chapel of Union College, Schenectady, Dec. 4, 8 p.m., \$20. Information, 372-3651.

HOT TUNA

The Egg at Empire State Plaza, Albany, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., \$24. Information, 473-1845.

Visual Arts

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

The Course of Empire: Thomas Cole and

the Hudson River School Landscape Tradition, through Nov. 30, plus permanent collections on New York state history and geography, Empire State Plaza, Madison Avenue. Information, 474-5877.

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY AND ART

All Aboard: Models, Memorabilia and Memories of Railroads; plus exhibits on Hudson River School painting, American sculpture, Egypt and the history of Albany, 125 Washington Ave. Information, 463-4478.

SCHENECTADY MUSEUM

Spirit of Schenectady and Collection Highlights, planetarium, Nott Terrace Heights. Information, 382-7890.

ALBANY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GALLERY

Albany-Shaker Road, Colonie, Unplugged: Painting in the Age of Technology, through Jan. 4. Information, 242-2222.

LOCAL COLOR ART GALLERY

961 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, Holiday Show and Children's Art Exhibit, through Jan. 31. Information, 786-6557.

Call for Artists

DELMAR COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

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.

SUBURBAN SOUNDS COMMUNITY CHORUS

openings in mixed chorus, rehearsals Sundays at 7 p.m. at Altamont Village Hall, 115 Main St. Information, 861-8000.

FRIENDSHIP SINGERS

openings in women's singing group, focusing on old favorites and show tunes, rehearsals Tuesday mornings at

Community United Methodist Church, 1499 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands. Information, 439-2360.

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

ANNIE SCHAFER ORCHESTRA

openings in the string section, rehearsals Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to noon, Nott Terrace and Eastern Avenue, Schenectady. Information, 372-5146.

MALE 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.

ARTISTS WANTED

exhibit space available for original paintings at Local Color Art Gallery, 961 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham. Information, 786-6557.

Classes

DANCE CLASSES

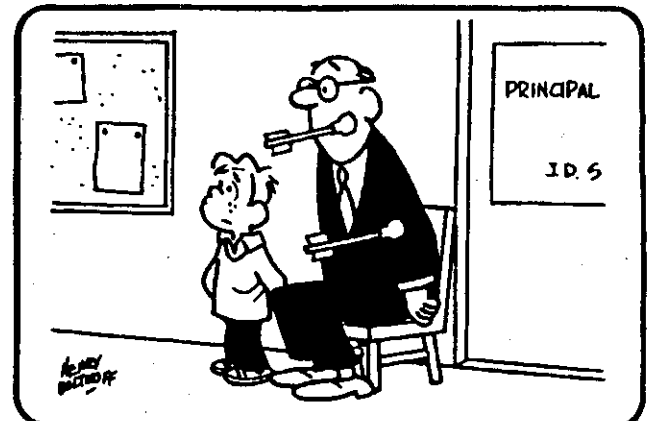
ongoing, all levels, ballet, jazz and modern, New School of Ballet, 1098 Parkwood Blvd., Schenectady, Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays. Information, 346-1096.

ART CLASSES

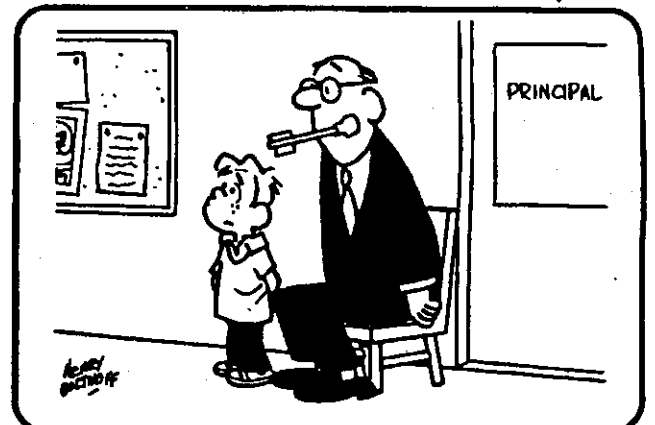
watercolor, oil and drawing, beginner and intermediate, Wednesdays and Thursdays, taught by Kristin Woodward. Information, 783-1828.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Letters missing from window. 2. Arrow is gone. 3. Third notice on bulletin board. 4. Writing added to letter. 5. Shoes are black. 6. Shirt has short sleeves.

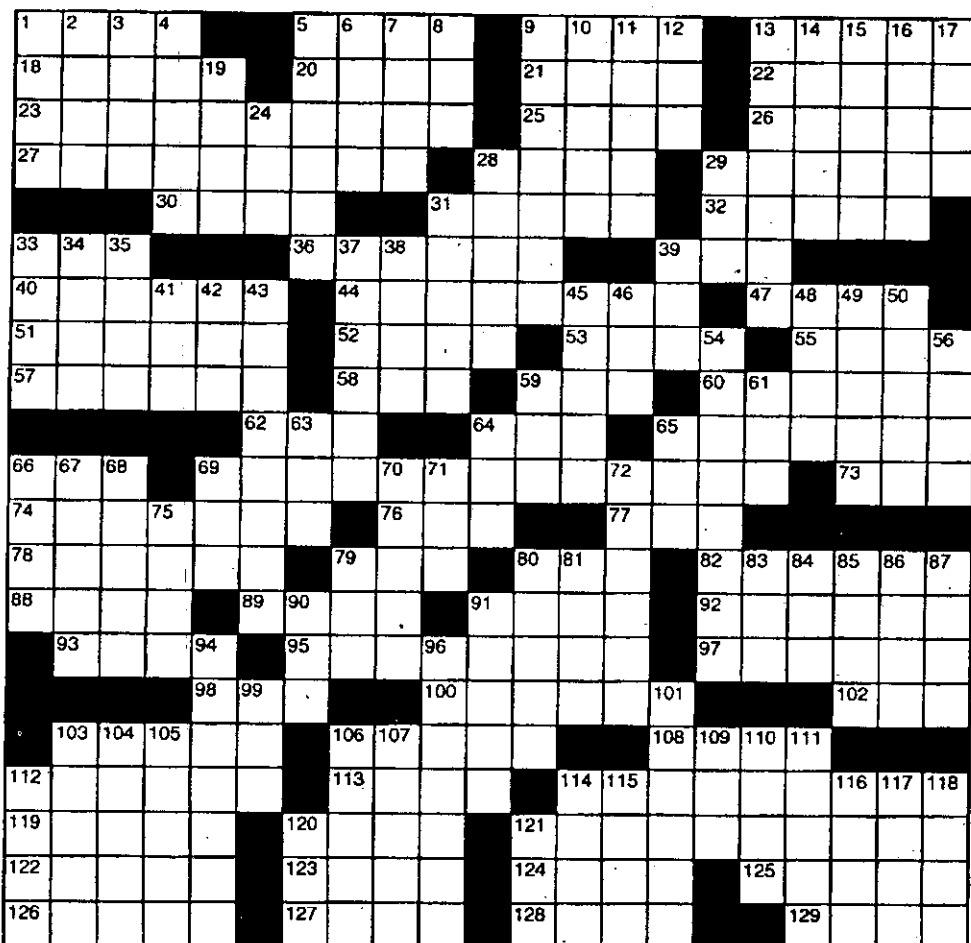
MAGIC MAZE • BOOKS

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

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

Baking Cookies Iguanas Unix
Beekeeping Dating Insurance Weddings
Birds Etiquette Lawn care Windows XP
Camping Grilling Red wine

The Super CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Zhivago's love
5 Touch up the text
9 It should be square
13 "Don't — it!"
18 Act like Etna
20 Birdbrain
21 Garfield's pal
22 Fragrance
23 Tennessee cry of denial?
25 "— Shuffle" ('77 song)
26 Long walks
27 Pleasant contents
28 Jeroboam
29 Way up
30 Vend
31 Get — (be successful)
32 Mikita and Musial
33 Find the sum
36 Spring holiday
39 TV's "— Sharkey"
40 Mature
44 North Carolina cry of encouragement?
47 Seizes suddenly
51 Join the leisure class?
52 Item for 37 Down

53 Live on lettuce
55 Coasted
57 Texas cry of sympathy?
58 Feel wretched
59 Writer Rand
60 Second Triumvirate member
62 EMT's skill
64 Everything
65 Dickens character
66 Yak
69 Pennsylvania cry of disgust?
73 — Moines, IA
74 He'll bend over backward for you
76 Grazing ground
77 Permit
78 Witch doctor
79 Hoopsters' org.
80 Exec's deg.
82 Utah cry of revulsion?
88 Chihuahua dough
89 Chihuahua snack
91 Italian port
92 Dwell
93 "Scat!"
95 Illinois cry of surprise?
97 Sampras

and Rafter
98 Weeding tool
100 Duration
102 Chemical suffix
103 Buy off
106 See
129 Across
108 Orient
112 Uproar
113 Mr. Diamond
114 Least liberal
119 Gravel-voiced
120 Thailand, formerly
121 Michigan cry of chagrin?
122 Senator Kefauver
123 Cultural grp.
124 Nautical adverb
125 Concluded
126 Hackneyed
127 Big man on campus
128 Cunning
129 With 106 Across, legendary drummer

on
6 Barbie or Ken
7 Unemployed
8 Sock part
9 "Le Misanthrope" playwright
10 Minneapolis suburb
11 Helped
12 Composer Delibes
13 Massachusetts cry of contempt?
14 Author Jong
15 Symbol
16 Forebodings
17 "Boss" Tweed's nemesis
19 What you used to be
24 Actor Kilmer
28 Baby basset
29 Egyptian viper
31 Playwright Fugard
33 Taj town
34 Sleuth Nancy
35 Kids connect them
37 Jockey giant
38 Darjeeling dress
39 Revolutionary Guevara
41 Drollery
42 Psychic

Geller
43 Inclination
45 Tennyson tale
46 — rummy
48 About
49 Bank deposit?
50 Burn a bit
54 Quiet
56 Colors
59 Maugham's "Cakes and —"
61 Pro-gun grp.
63 Saucepan
64 Drillers' org.
65 TV's "Murder, — Wrote"
66 Huff and puff
67 Feels sore
68 Impertinent
69 Cops' org.
70 — grease
71 Indeed
72 Grievance
75 "Typee" sequel
79 Sgt. or cpl.
80 — Carta
81 Improve oneself, in a way
83 Turn right
84 DDE's predecessor
85 Tiny coin
86 Genesis setting
87 Hawaii's state bird
90 Veneration
91 Freeway

sounds
94 Idaho cry of excitement?
96 Jack of "The Odd Couple"
99 Poetic preposition
101 "Hiroshima" author
103 Good time
104 Dread-locked one
105 Set in motion
106 Kevin of "In & Out"
107 Range rope
109 Actress Meyers
110 Seafood selection
111 Accent feature
112 Mus. directive
114 — con-tendere
115 Summit
116 "The Never-Ending Story" author
117 WWII gun
118 "The — Is High" ('80 hit)
120 Crestfallen
121 Lummo

The Spotlight CALENDAR

Wed. Nov. 26
BETHLEHEM
DELMAR ROTARY

Quality Inn, Route 9W, 7:30 a.m.
Information, 767-2930.

SOLID ROCK CHURCH

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

BETHLEHEM TOASTMASTERS

The Clubhouse, Adams Station Apts., 1
Juniper Drive, Delmar, 7:30 p.m.
Information, 439-0871.
BINGO
Blanchard American Legion Post, 16
Poplar Drive, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-
9819.

TESTIMONY MEETING

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

NEW SCOTLAND
FAITH TEMPLE

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

PRAYER MEETING

evening prayer meeting and Bible study,
Mountainview Evangelical Free Church,
Route 155, 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-
3390.

NEW SCOTLAND SENIORS

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

AA MEETING

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

Thurs. Nov. 27
Thanksgiving
BETHLEHEM
AA MEETINGS

Slingerlands Community Church, 1499
New Scotland Road, noon, and Delmar
Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave.,
8:30 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

Fri. Nov. 28
BETHLEHEM
VISUAL SUPPORT GROUP

Strategies to cope with visual
impairment, led by Dr. Edwin Pesnel.
Refreshments. Room 101, Bethlehem
Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue,
Delmar, 1-2 p.m. Sponsored by
Bethlehem Senior Services. Information,
439-4955, ext. 4.

AA MEETING

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

CHABAD CENTER

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

NEW SCOTLAND
PIONEER CLUBS

For children grades 1 through junior
high; Mountainview Evangelical Free
Church, Route 155, 3:45 - 5 p.m.
Information, 765-3390.

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

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

Sat. Nov. 29
BETHLEHEM
AA MEETING

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

Sun. Nov. 30
BETHLEHEM
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

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

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL

Holy Eucharist, 8 and 10:30 a.m., coffee
and fellowship, nursery care provided,
church school 10 a.m., Poplar Drive and
Elsmere Avenue. Information, 439-
3265.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

85 Elm Ave., worship services 8 a.m. and
10:30 a.m., coffee/fellowship following
worship. Sunday School and Bible
classes 9:15 a.m., infant and nursery
care, assistive listening devices. Bible
class for developmentally disabled,
second and fourth Sundays of each
month. Information, 439-4328.

DELMAR REFORMED
Worship services, 9 & 11 a.m., with child
care, Sunday school through grade 7,
T.G.I. Sunday contemporary worship at
5:30 p.m. with child care and children's
program through grade 6. 386 Delaware
Ave. Information, 439-9929 or
INFO@DRCHURCH.ORG.

BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY CHURCH

Worship service 10 a.m.; nursery and
Sunday school through grade 5 provided
at both services. 201 Elm Ave.
Information, 439-3135.

SOUTH BETHLEHEM UMC

Sunday school, 9:30 a.m., worship
service, 11 a.m., followed by coffee hour,
65 Willowbrook Ave. Information, 767-
9953.

DELMAR FULL GOSPEL

Sunday service, 9:30 a.m., with Sunday
school and nursery, home groups,
women's Bible studies and youth group,
292 Elsmere Ave. Information, 439-4407.

FIRST REFORMED OF BETHLEHEM

Church school 9:30 a.m., worship 11
a.m., fellowship hour after worship; child
care provided, Route 9W, Selkirk.
Information 767-2243.

FAMILY OF GOD COMM. CHURCH

Church of the Nazarene; Sunday school
9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Krumkill Road at Schoolhouse Road,
North Bethlehem.

FIRST UMC OF DELMAR

Sunday school 9:30, Worship service
9:30 & 11 a.m. (in chapel); adult classes
and fellowship 11 a.m., child-care
provided, 428 Kenwood Ave. Information,
439-9976.

MOUNT MORIAH MINISTRIES

Sunday school, 9:45 a.m., morning
worship, 11 a.m., youth group, 6 p.m.,
evening service, 7 p.m., Route 9W,
Glenmont. Information, 426-4510.

**UNITY OF FAITH CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

Sunday school and worship service, 10
a.m., 436 Krumkill Road. Information,
438-7740.

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST,
SCIENTIST**

Sunday school and worship service, 10
a.m., child-care provided, 555 Delaware
Ave. Information, 439-2512.

KING'S CHAPEL

Traditional Baptist Bible service, 10 a.m.,
434 Route 9W, just south of Glenmont
Road, Glenmont. Information, 426-9955.

**BETHLEHEM CONGREGATION OF
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**

Bible lecture, 10 a.m., Watchtower Bible
study, 10:55 a.m., Elm Avenue and Feura
Bush Road. Information, 439-0358.

SLINGERLANDS COMMUNITY UMC

Worship service and church school, 10
a.m., fellowship hour, nursery care
provided, 1499 New Scotland Road.
Information, 439-1766.

DELMAR PRESBYTERIAN

Worship service, church school, nursery
care, 10 a.m., fellowship and coffee, 11
a.m., adult education, 11:15 a.m., family
communion service, first Sunday, 585
Delaware Ave. Information, 439-9252.

GLENMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday school and worship service,
10:30 a.m., child-care available, 1
Chapel Lane. Information, 436-7710.

SOLID ROCK CHURCH

Worship service, 11 a.m., 1 Kenwood
Ave. Information, 439-4314.

**NORMANSVILLE COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

Services Sundays, 6:30 p.m. Mill Road,
Normansville, beneath the Normanskill
Bridge on Delaware Ave., Delmar,
Information 439-5710.

NEW SCOTLAND
ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at
8:30 and 10:30 a.m., Mountain View
Road, Voorheesville. Information 765-
2805.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

Early worship, 8:30 a.m., worship
celebration, 10 a.m., church school
classes for nursery through high school,
10 a.m., choir rehearsals, 11:15 a.m., 68
Maple Ave., Voorheesville. Information
765-2895.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday school, 9:15 a.m., worship
service, 10:15 a.m., Auberge Suisse
Restaurant, Route 85. Information 475-
9086.

UNIONVILLE REFORMED

Sunday school, 9:15 a.m., worship
service, 10:30 a.m., followed by
fellowship, Delaware Turnpike.
Information 439-5001.

**CLARKSVILLE COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

Sunday school, 9:15 a.m., worship
service, 10:30 a.m., followed by coffee
hour, nursery care provided, Route 443.
Information 768-2916.

**MOUNTAINVIEW EVANGELICAL
FREE CHURCH**

Family Bible Hour, 9:15 a.m.; worship
service, 10:30 a.m., nursery care
provided, Route 155, Voorheesville.
Information, 765-3390.

ONESQUETHAW REFORMED

Worship service, 9:30 a.m., Sunday
school, 10:45 a.m., Tarrytown Road,
Feura Bush. Information, 768-2133.

FAITH TEMPLE

Sunday school, 10 a.m., worship service,
7 p.m., New Salem. Information, 765-
2870.

**NEW SCOTLAND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Worship service, 10:30 a.m., fellowship
following worship service; Sunday
school, 9:15 a.m., nursery care provided;
2010 New Scotland Road, New Scotland.
Information, 439-6454.

**UNITED PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH**

Sunday school and worship service, 10
a.m., choir rehearsal, 5 p.m., evening
service, 6:45 p.m., Route 85, New Salem.
Information, 765-4410.

JERUSALEM REFORMED

Worship service, 10:30 a.m., followed by
coffee hour, child-care provided, Route
32, Feura Bush. Information, 439-0548.

FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., nursery and
Sunday School available, Thursday night
prayer and praise at 7 p.m. 92 Lower
Copeland Hill Road, Feura Bush.
Information, 768-2021.

**NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

In the Wyman Osterhout Community
Center, New Salem, 2 to 4 p.m.
Information, 765-4446.

Mon. Dec. 1
BETHLEHEM
PEACE VIGIL

Bethlehem Neighbors For Peace, weekly
peace vigil, Four Corners intersection,
Delmar, 5-6 p.m., Information, 439-
1968.

MOTHERS' TIME OUT

Christian fellowship group for mothers of
preschool children, Delmar Reformed
Church, 386 Delaware Ave., nursery care
provided, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Information,
439-9929.

DELMAR KIWANIS

Quality Inn, Route 9W, 6:15 p.m.
Information, 439-2437 or 439-6952.

CLASS IN JEWISH MYSTICISM

Delmar Chabad Center, 109 Elsmere
Ave., 7 p.m. Information, 439-8280.

INDOOR PISTOL SHOOTING

Albany County Pistol Club, Winne Place,
7 to 9 p.m. Also Tuesday. Information,
439-0057.

**ELMWOOD PARK
FIRE DISTRICT**

Board of fire commissioners meeting,
North Bethlehem firehouse, 589 Russell
Road, 7:30 p.m.

EXPLORER POST 157

For boys and girls 14-21, focusing on
environmental conservation, 310
Kenwood Ave., 7:30-9 p.m. Information,
439-4205.

**DELMAR COMMUNITY
ORCHESTRA**

rehearsal, Bethlehem Town Hall, 445
Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information,
439-7749.

BLANCHARD LEGION POST

meeting, 16 Poplar Drive, 8 p.m.
Information, 439-9819.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS

Temple Chapter No. 5; Masonic Temple,
421 Kenwood Ave.

AA MEETING

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm
Ave., 8:30 p.m. Information, 489-
6779.

NEW SCOTLAND
QUARTET REHEARSAL

United Pentecostal Church, Route 85, New
Salem, 7:15 p.m. Information, 765-4410.

Tues. Dec. 2
BETHLEHEM
TREASURE COVE THRIFT SHOP

First United Methodist Church, 428
Kenwood Ave., 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Parks and Recreation Office, Elm Avenue
Park, 2-5:30 p.m. Also Thurs. 2-5:30
p.m. Information, 439-0503.

ELSMERE FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Firehouse, Poplar Drive, 7:15 p.m.
Information, 439-9144.

PLANNING BOARD

Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware
Ave., 7:30 p.m. information, 439-4955.

BINGO

At the Bethlehem Elks Lodge, Route 144,
7:30 p.m.

A.W. BECKER PTA

Becker Elementary School, Route 9W,
7:30 p.m. Information, 767-2511.

SLINGERLANDS FIRE COMMISSION

firehouse, 8 p.m. Information, 439-4734.

NEW SCOTLAND
PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Weekly at Voorheesville Public Library,
51 School Road, 10:15 a.m. Information,
765-2791.

NIMBLEFINGERS/QUILTERS

Voorheesville Public Library, 51 School
Road, 1 to 3 p.m. Information, 765-2791.

PLANNING BOARD

New Scotland Town Hall, Route 85, 7
p.m. Information, 765-3356.

V'VILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Village Hall, 29 Voorheesville Ave., 7
p.m. Information, 765-2692.

Wed. Dec. 3
BETHLEHEM
DELMAR ROTARY

Quality Inn, Route 9W, 7:30 a.m.
Information, 767-2930.

OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED

Board meetings first Wednesday of each

month, open to public. Bethlehem Town
Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 4 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BUSINESS WOMEN

Normanside Country Club, Salisbury
Road, Elsmere, 6 p.m.; dinner 6:30 p.m.,
program and meeting to follow dinner.
Information, 439-7237.

SOLID ROCK CHURCH

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

BETHLEHEM LIONS CLUB

Normanside Country Club, Delmar, 7
p.m. Information, 439-4857.

BETHLEHEM ELKS LODGE 2233

1016 River Road (Route 144), Cedar Hill,
7 p.m. Information, 767-2886.

TESTIMONY MEETING

First Church of Christ, Scientist, 555
Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information,
439-2512.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware
Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

BINGO

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

BOY SCOUT TROOP 58

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

BC SCHOOL BOARD

district office, 90 Adams Place, 8 p.m.
Information, 439-7098.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Onesquethaw Chapter, Masonic Temple,
421 Kenwood Ave., 8 p.m. Information,
439-2181.

NEW SCOTLAND

V'VILLE ZONING BOARD
Village Hall, 29 Voorheesville Ave., 7
p.m. Information, 765-2692.

NEW SCOTLAND SENIORS

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

PRAYER MEETING

evening prayer meeting and Bible study,
Mountainview Evangelical Free Church,
Route 155, 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-
3390.

FAITH TEMPLE

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

AA MEETING

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

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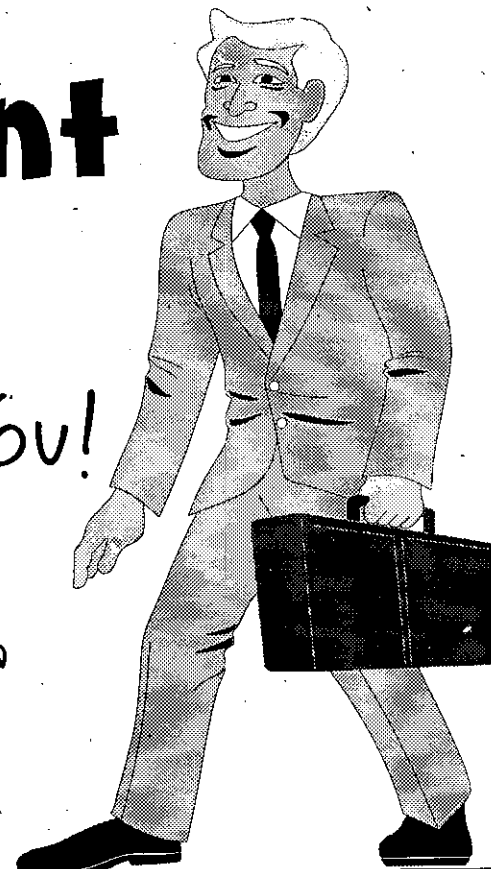
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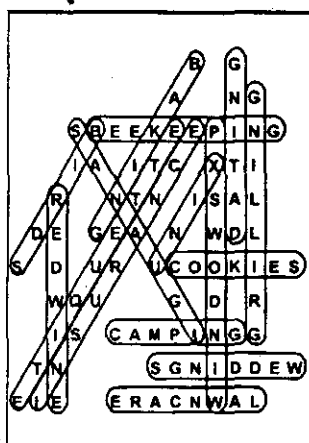
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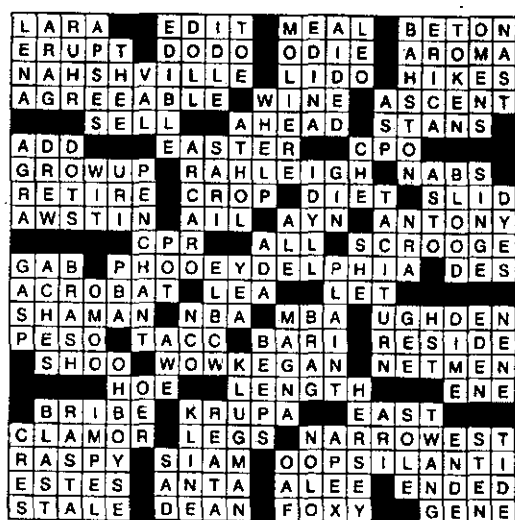
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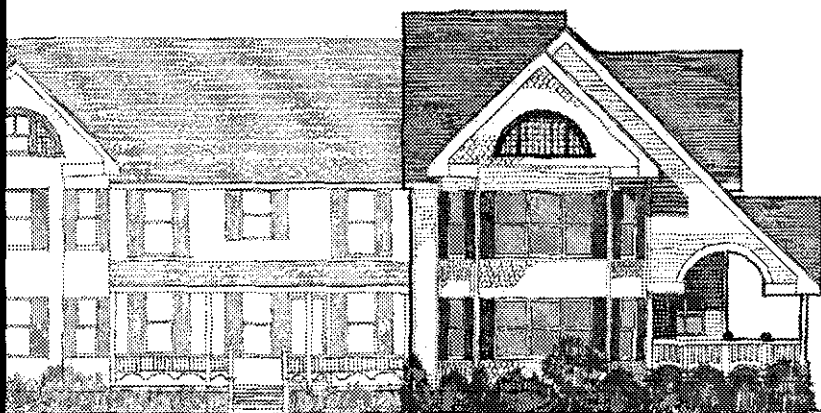
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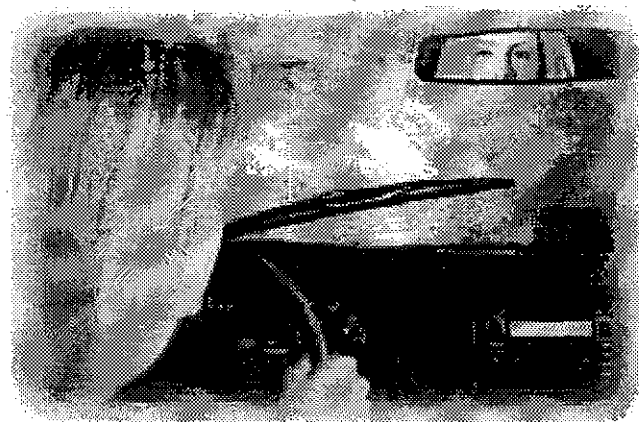
Functional wiper blades clear the way for winter driving

Ask anyone to name their vehicle's most important safety feature and most mention anti-lock brakes, seat belts or air bags. One important vehicle safety feature that many people take for granted, however, are effective windshield wiper blades.

Advanced safety features such as traction control, ABS, and dynamic stability control greatly enhance vehicle response when emergency stopping or maneuvering is required, but having a clear view of the road ahead in all types of weather and driving conditions reduces the potential for such drastic driving.

How many times have you experienced a windshield that is crusted with ice and snow, or smeared with insects, bird droppings, road grime or

other messy deposits? Removing them with worn wiper blades is nearly impossible. Usually, you wind up smearing the mess and obscuring your



vision even more. Changing your wiper blades regularly can help you avoid these problems and keep your eyes on the road.

Know When To Change Blades

Wiper blades should be considered like engine oil, and you wouldn't wait until you have engine trouble before you

change your oil. Despite National Highway Transportation Board recommendations that drivers change their wiper blades every year, the

average US vehicle owner replaces his/her wiper blades only once every 2.5 years. Typically, a worn blade shows physical wear signs like cracking or discoloration. Also, streaking, noisy operation and unwiped areas are dead giveaways that your blades have reached the end of their useful life.

If you frequently change your blades, however, you won't need to examine them by looking for these signs of possible failure," said Greg Palese, brand manager for Old World Industries which markets SmartBlade, the world's first and only premium wiper blade that actually alerts the driver when replacement is needed. According to Palese, SmartBlades' advanced design

includes DuoTec+ dual rubber technology that provides superior wiping quality and long lasting durability. In addition, SmartBlades feature an exclusive wear indicator that, over time, reacts to environmental conditions causing the indicator to turn from black to yellow. "Our revolutionary wear indicator takes the guesswork out of blade replacement by telling the driver, at a glance,

whether the blade will be ready when it is needed most to effectively clean the windshield."

So if you've been procrastinating about changing your windshield wiper blades, take a few minutes to change them with SmartBlade. It's easy to do and will give you the peace of mind that when bad weather comes, you'll be able to see where you're going.

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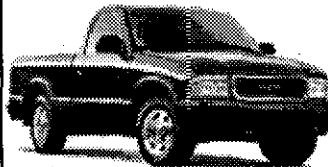
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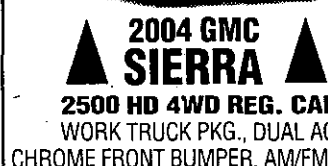


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