

'Once Upon a Mattress'
set at BCHS

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Egg presents
two one-man plays

○ Family Entertainment

League questions
football plan

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The Spotlight

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem & New Scotland

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March 24, 2004

BIG Arena to have meltdown

By KRISTEN OLBY

Skaters who typically take lessons at the BIG Arena in Bethlehem are hanging up their skates for the spring and summer as the facility prepares to melt its two ice rinks in early April. For the first time since the 75,000-square-foot arena opened in 1999, the arena will close for the season, citing a lack of scheduled commitments for the rinks in the months ahead.

"Hockey season's over, and we just don't have the ice commitment after that date," said arena board member Brendan O'Shea. "What we are planning on doing is taking the ice off as of the second week in April."

It's possible a sport floor used for indoor football and in-line skating could stay open to the public throughout the summer, said O'Shea. Typically, the arena offers learn-to-skate programs in the spring and summer.

The rink is currently up for sale with an asking price of \$4.2 million. Negotiations are under way with the Capital Region YMCA to possibly purchase the complex, but both sides insist no deal has been reached yet.

"We're not close on a number," said YMCA President John Flynn of the multi-million dollar price tag.

"There's no reason to think we are opening the arena in the near future," he added.

Flynn does expect the Y to name a committee comprised of Bethlehem

□ BIG/page 19

Public to air views on moratorium

By KRISTEN OLBY

Bethlehem's residential moratorium is drafted, and now the public will have its say.

The plan to severely limit construction of new homes for one year will be the subject of a public hearing at town hall, on Wednesday, March 31, at 5:30 p.m.

If passed as written, the moratorium will prohibit construction of more than four homes in a single subdivision for 12 consecutive months. Projects that have already been granted preliminary plat, conditional final plat or final plat approvals prior to the passage of the law will not be affected.

The planning and zoning boards

□ MORATORIUM/page 20

On tap



Benjamin Pasqualitti learns how to tap a maple tree from Kevin Eames at Five Rivers last Saturday.

Jim Franco

Dionysians tackle 'Jekyll and Hyde'

By MARTIN J. BANNAN

Evil lurks through the fog in Voorheesville, and only one man knows the secret. So hold on to your seats as the truth unfolds when the Voorheesville High School Dionysians present "Jekyll and Hyde," a Gothic musical based on Robert Louis Stevenson's 1886 classic.

Adapted by Leslie Bricusse (script and lyrics) and Frank Wildhorn (music), "Jekyll and Hyde" adds a chorus to the cast and a romantic triangle to the plot, but doesn't skimp on any suspense. The show premiered in 1990, in Houston, Texas, and worked its way across the country, finally reaching Broadway in 1996.

The original book, "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" was actually pulp fiction from the Victorian era, said play director and teacher, John Lopez. "The story deals with the duality of man," he said. "Are we the beast, the saint, or a little of both?"

According to Lopez, the musical version takes the form of Greek tragedy where the central character, Dr. Henry Jekyll has a fatal flaw because of his pride that eventually leads to his downfall.

"Jekyll tries to separate opposing traits of good and evil in order to rid man of his dark side," he said. "It can't be done, but his pride gets in the way as he loses control of his experiment."

Instead, the evil side of Jekyll comes to life as Mr. Edward Hyde and the suspense intensifies.

"Playing multiple personalities in one



Terry Devine and Ali Glaser rehearse for 'Jekyll and Hyde.'

Martin Bannan

role is fun and challenging," said senior, Terry Devine, who plays Jekyll/Hyde. "The toughest part is switching from being respectable to monstrously evil and making each personality visible." Devine added that playing lead in "Jekyll and Hyde" is more work than football practice.

Sophomore Jessalyn Ballerano, who plays Lucy Harris, said this is one of her favorite roles. "I like scary, suspenseful drama because I can get into the audience's head," she said, adding that she has acted before in youth plays with the Capital Repertory Theatre and the Voorheesville Drama Club.

Harris is a young starlet struggling to work her way out of London's slums, fall in love and get happily married. She has eyes for Jekyll but can't have him because he is engaged to the wealthy and sophisticated Emma Carew.

□ JEKYLL/page 19



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THE SPOTLIGHT \$75

Glenmont home lost in stove fire

BY KRISTEN OLBY

A Chatham Square home was destroyed by fire over the weekend, when an electric stove was reportedly left on. Neighbors spotted smoke coming from a

house at 23 Rusfield Drive in Glenmont around 4:30 p.m. Saturday and called for help. The homeowner had left the house shortly before.

"They had left to run errands and when they came back smoke

was bellowing from the garage," said Bethlehem police Sgt. Robert Helligrass.

A stove in the garage used by the family for canning was inadvertently turned on, said Helligrass. Firefighters from Elsmere and Delmar fought the blaze for nearly an hour and a neighboring home also suffered water and smoke damage.

No one was injured fighting the fire.

Two arrested for DWI

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

Robert Nicholson, 49, of 319 Rarick Road, Selkirk was stopped by police on March 14 at 12:24 a.m. while driving on Route 32 in Delmar.

Police said Nicholson hit a parked vehicle in Albany and then left the scene of the accident. Police said Nicholson failed field

sobriety tests and was charged with DWI.

Bethlehem police were called to the Delaware Avenue CVS for a report of an intoxicated person on March 12 at 9:45 p.m. Police found Joyce Williams, 51, of 13 Lincoln Ave., Delmar in her vehicle with the keys in the ignition. Williams failed field sobriety tests and was charged with DWI.

Selkirk man arrested for Glenmont robbery

By KRISTEN OLBY

A Selkirk man has been arrested for allegedly robbing the Route 9W Cumberland Farms in Glenmont of several thousand dollars in 2002.

Bethlehem police have charged Eric Catello, 20, of 15 Pine Ridge Trailer Park in Selkirk with grand larceny, a felony.

On Sept. 5, 2002, police said Catello approached an assistant manager as she opened the store around 5:30 a.m. Dressed in camouflage, police said Catello was wearing a mask and brandished a handgun, which later turned out to be a pellet pistol. Catello allegedly pushed the employee inside and forced her to open a locked safe. Police said he took deposit bags containing about \$15,000.

"The investigation revealed the possibility of an employee being involved," said Bethlehem Det. Chris Bowdish, "what we call

an inside job." Police expect to make a second arrest in the case this week.

Catello was arraigned March 17 before Judge Paul Dwyer and remanded to the Albany County Jail without bail. He was later indicted by an Albany County grand jury.

Delmar man wins award for book

The McGraw-Hill Standard Handbook of Biomedical Engineering & Design, created and edited by Myer Kutz of Delmar, was the winner in the engineering books category for 2003 in the Professional and Scholarly Division of the Association of American Publishers (AAP).

Kutz developed the idea for the handbook and secured the contributions of over 40 experts at universities and medical centers. The handbook will help bio-medical professionals who need to solve a wide range of engineering and design problems.

Kutz is a consultant to the publishing industry and has written seven books, including a book on the Rockefeller family, published by Simon & Schuster. He is the editor of a number of handbooks. Kutz was trained as a mechanical engineer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Letters policy

The Spotlight welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing for fairness, accuracy, style and length. All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Write to Letters to the Editor, The Spotlight, 125 Adams St., Delmar 12054. Letters can be faxed to 439-0609.

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VOTE FOR JOHN CUNNINGHAM ON APRIL 27TH.

Residents air concerns about subdivision

By KRISTEN OLBY

A handful of residents turned out at Bethlehem's March 16 planning board meeting to air concerns in a public hearing about additional traffic and water runoff as a result of the proposed Troubador Estate Subdivision just off Route 9W in Selkirk.

Real estate agent Bernice Ott owns 60 acres of land across from Church Road, and hopes to build 11 homes on roughly an acre each.

The remaining property would not be developed, said Ott, who described the houses as "exclusive" and in the price range of \$350,000. The single-family ranch homes would be designed for seniors, she said.

"There's nothing in Bethlehem that will give me a single family (home) all on one floor,"

The board tabled the project.

Also at the meeting, Delmar Construction and Interior Design owner Linda Stockwell presented a proposal to renovate an existing Victorian home at 427 Kenwood Ave., to serve as corporate headquarters for her full-service custom-remodeling firm.

The proposal calls for the addition of a three-bay garage behind the home and a nearby storage shed for supplies. The company has been operating out of an office along Delaware Ave., and storing supplies in a barn.

A small retail shop behind the house would be demolished and Blue Moon Gallery, an art gallery currently located in the home, will be moving, said Stockwell.

The board favored the improvements to the dilapidated house but expressed concerns about the aesthetics of the metal garage. The matter was tabled for further discussion.

In other news, Nigro Cos. Vice President Steve Powers presented a modified layout for the proposed Staples office supply

store and another unnamed retail store just north of Bethlehem Town Center on Route 9W.

In an attempt to satisfy the board's concerns about the store's orientation along the highway — facing south with the rear of the building visible from the north — Nigro Cos. shuffled the buildings 180 degrees.

The company's new plan shows both stores facing north, with Staples roughly 50 feet from Route 9W.

The modified layout did not sit well with board members or Town Planner Jeff Lipnicky.

All expressed reservations about the Staples big box design greeting visitors from both directions and the store's close proximity to the highway.

"Our feeling is that it sets not a very good precedent for future development along the corridor," said Lipnicky.

Board members agreed they would not support the layout, and requested the store be set back in line with the adjacent Wendy's.

Powers explained the office supply store insists on a highly visible location in close proximity to the highway.

"I know companies will do it if they want to be there bad enough," said board member Howard Engel.

"I would tend to be against the building being right up against Route 9W at this point."

The board tabled the matter to allow Nigro Cos. to rework the layout.

How sweet it is



Anna Holop Kaufman watches as Benjamin and Anneka Knoll sample raw maple syrup at Five Rivers last Saturday.

Jim Franco

That creek is steadily rising and therefore getting eroded and washed away. You're going to get blockage because it's not big enough to handle that water.

Jeff Ward

explained Ott, who plans to live in one of the houses she constructs. The land is zoned for residential agricultural use.

Water runoff from the homes will flow into the nearby Vroman Kill creek, according to the proposal, which surrounding homeowners contend will cause additional flooding.

"That creek is steadily rising and therefore getting eroded and washed away," said Jeff Ward who lives on Clapper Road where the creek passes by his house. "You're going to get blockage because it's not big enough to handle that water." Ward requested town engineers examine the creek and they agreed to do so.

Carol Pank of Selkirk anticipated that the proposed subdivision, combined with existing commercial development along the highway, will intensify existing traffic congestion in the area.

"It's causing traffic problems on Rt. 9W, which continues to be a two-lane country road," said Pank. "I think the town needs to really take a good hard look at doing something about traffic."

BCHS to present musical comedy

By KATHERINE MCCARTHY

A laid-back prince, an overbearing mother and a princess with boundless energy might not sound like an appealing cast of characters for a musical. At Bethlehem Central High School Stage 700's upcoming production of "Once Upon A Mattress," though, those very characters will make you laugh, sing along with them and view the children's fairy tale, *The Princess and the Pea*, in a new light.

Middle school music teacher Frank Leavitt will direct this weekend's show. High school choral teacher Jason Dashew is the musical director, Fran Coccozza is the choreographer and Jill Baboulis is the art adviser.

Fifty-six students will perform in the show, 21 students will play in the pit orchestra and 40 students have worked on the sets, sound and lights for the show.

In "Once Upon A Mattress," Prince Dauntless would like to marry — and the people of his kingdom would like him to marry so that they also can. The prince has no lack of princesses who'd like to marry him, but his mother, Queen Agravain, is reluctant to let her boy go.

"She's a very controlling mother, very protective of her boy," senior Elizabeth Birkhead, who's playing the queen, said. "She's horrible and hilarious, which is a lot of what the play's about. A lot of the characters are really screwed up."

Peter Marler, also a senior, plays the prince.

"I want a wife, my kingdom wants me to have a wife, but my mother doesn't want me to have a wife, so all the princesses are put to horrible tests," he said. "Dauntless has been a fun character to play, and he's different than I am. He's very shy and passive, and succumbs to what people want him to do."

Birkhead has been in a number of past productions; this

is Marler's first time in a school production.

Beth Carcich plays Winnifred, the princess forced to sleep on a pile of mattresses to see if she perceives the queen's obstacle.

"Winnifred is different than all the others," Carcich said. "She is the princess of the swamps, and asserts herself. She's not dainty, and she's kind of loud."

A senior, Carcich has been in the spring musical since ninth grade and was in last fall's production of "Much Ado About Nothing."

Amy van Deusen plays Lady Larkin in the play, David Peterson is Sir Harry and Dylan Lewis plays the king.

Cara Ferrentino has been the show's technical director, and the person who designed the set. "It's going well," she said. "We'll be on time. We've accomplished a lot."

Leavitt said that he and Coccozza chose "Once Upon A Mattress," a play they had worked on at the middle school a few years ago.

"It's a fun story," Leavitt said. "Everybody knows the story, but this is the real story of *The Princess and the Pea*. You don't find out until the end the real reason the princess couldn't sleep."

The students, he said, have been wonderful on many levels.

"We've been trying to connect the cast, the crew and the pit more," he said. "Theater is collaborative, and there's no intentional design in separating people. But often there's a schism between the tech crew and the actors, and the pit never feels involved. But if you take one element out, you don't have a show."

Putting the focus on collaboration, he said, has helped to develop a cohesiveness in the show and a commonality among



Peter Marler, Beth Carcich and director Frank Leavitt ready for 'Once Upon a Mattress.' Katherine McCarthy

the kids as they move through the school.

"The audience will like the colors of the show," Leavitt said, pointing out the richly-colored costumes that Coccozza described as jewel-toned. "The story is over the top, and the music is wonderfully fun. There's a huge cast, so you'll always have somebody to look at." Coccozza pointed out that the set is designed in levels, so that all of the cast can be seen. "Look at the set," she said, "you'll see the shadows of the mauves and purples we used in the costumes."

The student directors for "Once Upon a Mattress" are Monica Ayers and Rose Norris. Ayers has been in the shows in the past, and wanted to try something different before she graduated.

"Everyone is so wonderful," she said; "Mr. Leavitt, Mr. Dashew, Mrs. Coccozza. The students have been wonderful and supportive. This play is a lot of fun — outrageous and overdone. It's *The Princess and the Pea* like you've never seen it before."

"Once Upon A Mattress" will be performed Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 25, 26 and 27, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 28 at 2 p.m. at Bethlehem Central High School on Delaware Avenue.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, and \$5 for seniors and students. Tickets are available at The Perfect Blend at Delmar's Four Corners and The Paper Mill in Delaware Plaza, or at the door.

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We could all use the promise of spring right now

By KATHERINE McCARTHY

One of our current favorite movies is "Daddy Day Care," in which Eddie Murphy's corporate character loses his job, opens a day care center and learns the challenges, delights and joys of spending extended amounts of time with the under-5 set.

The best part of the movie is in one of the outtakes, when the winsome little boy playing Murphy's son looked at the camera and said, "You're killin' me, you're killin' me" as Murphy tried to get him to do or say something. These days, my kids are killin' me. A bit of March madness — bearing no relationship to basketball — has invaded our house in the guise of questionable behavior in one child and less than acceptable grades in another.

These loves of my life seem not to notice that I have taken to hiding in my room to try to figure out why they are torturing me so.

Why can't they take more of the energy they apply to turning my hair gray, and put it to work at school or helping around the house? Why must they debate every point that's raised? Why must they question the way everything is set up, from the hours that school begins to the format of the assignments they're given?

They pose a question when I

COMMENTARY:

Mom's
the
Word



ask them these questions. "Do you want automaton droids for children?" they ask indignantly. "Yes!" I cry.

When parenting seems most hard to me, I am bound to run into examples of perfect children. On the day that I feel my children will be lucky to be asking "Want fries with that?" in their professional careers, I will run into the mother rhapsodizing about her honor-roll, musically-gifted, athletically-coordinated child clearly on the fast track to a Nobel Prize.

"Don't trust everybody's game face," Chris has cautioned, and I know I've been guilty of spinning my own truths on occasion.

It's just that I want all of us to be all that we can possibly be, and the toughest part about parenting is being able to mesh that goal with reality.

When things are tough for children, few parents want to blame the kids themselves. We are like mother bears, wanting to protect our offspring and find an external reason for sub-optimal behavior. Since school is where our children spend the bulk of

their days, that's where we look first.

What's happening there that our brilliant and gifted children hate to go? Why are they not motivated to work to their very best ability? Why are they not clear on where they should be handing in their assignments? Why, when it's time to put together a "unit packet" of completed work, are three pages missing, when we've seen those pages completed in our very own homes? Why are our children so hesitant to go talk to their teachers? Does some of their reluctance have to do with their peers? Are the other kids horrible? Is there a problem with their peers? Are our children being teased or ridiculed?

After venting comes the realization that the children must also be accountable in some ways. Perhaps they're lazy; clearly they're ungrateful for all that we've given them. They should buckle down and do the work expected of them and do it well. They need to grow up a little; they need to learn to suffer consequences more. Something prickles, and the blame I've assigned to the school and the

children is just a dollop compared to the blame I heap on myself. I have been too lax with them and haven't taught them to work hard. I've been too hard on them, and they are rebelling. I work too hard, and they have decided that's not what they want for their lives. I am too prone to procrastination and disorganization, and they are doing as I do, not as I say. I yell at them too much; I don't yell enough. When I finally throw myself down on the bed in a fit of tears, only one thing is clear: I am a worthless person, and why I

Drang of my own emotion. The second way might be easier on my kids and husband, but is part of the "killin'" process my kids are putting me through. I think and think and weigh options, talking myself out of one and into another. Co-parenting with Chris spreads out the angst, as he presents his own insights, opinions and options, and soon my stomach is so tied up in knots that all the cookies I ate to comfort myself just want to come back up again.

None of that written material about discipline depicts the child's reaction. Parental fury is nothing compared to the reaction of a child who feels wronged. Years ago, a dad told me about sending his child to his room and the child leaving the room. Eventually, the dad stood on one side of the door, holding it shut, while the child raged on the other. Mom stood with Dad, who shook his head and said what a lot of parents feel a lot of the time: Does this seem right to you?

I know in my parental heart that it's crucial to teach my children that doing the right thing carries a reward and doing the wrong thing brings an unpleasant consequence. We work to keep things in perspective and to guide our children firmly toward the paths that will be their lives.

When we first held them as infants in our arms, we saw the promise of their lives. It was our promise then, and as our children grow, they seem to have promises of their own to keep. Our tough job is to teach them right from wrong so they can have all they want in their lives. Bringing children into this world required a leap of faith, and we can't stop believing in them just when they need it — and us — most.

I know in my parental heart that it's crucial to teach my children that doing the right thing carries a reward and doing the wrong thing brings an unpleasant consequence.

ever thought I could raise children properly is beyond me.

Eventually, the maelstrom subsides and I realize that blaming anybody is pointless, even if a kind of relief follows my rage at the world in general and myself in particular. There's only one way to affect some sort of change, and, horror of horrors, it means that I must be the grown-up. All the child-rearing books and articles make this seem easy. I must find punishments that fit the crimes and explain them clearly to my children.

All that printed advice never addresses the reality of arriving at this point. When faced with a situation of difficult proportion, I generally respond in one of two ways. The first is to explode and yell at my kids until their eyes glaze over and the point is completely lost in the Sturm und

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New Scotland sets public hearings

By MARTIN J. BANNAN

The residents of New Scotland rate the quality of life in their town very high and are dedicated to preserving its rural, small town atmosphere, said Town Supervisor Ed Clark, referring to preliminary results of a town-wide survey by the Residents Planning

the town board that deal with pressure for Tech Valley development while fitting residents' vision for their community's future, according to Clark.

The committee has scheduled public meetings to discuss the survey results and hear further ideas from residents.

The first phase of the committee's effort will focus on the northeastern section of New Scotland.

"That area holds the most promise for economic development and is under the greatest pressure to develop," Clark said. "We want to prepare for the changes that are happening all around us, rather than wait and have them happen to us."

"As part of our quality of life, residents want us to consider the

need for affordable senior housing; economic development to support our schools; water and sewer district expansion; preservation of agricultural lands; recreation, safety services; traffic control; sidewalks and numerous other issues," Clark said. "We are hopeful that there will be a good turnout for the meetings. The public's reaction is vital for us to be able to share the final results of the survey."

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. at Onesquethaw Firehouse in Clarksville.
- Wednesday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. at Onesquethaw Firehouse on Delaware Turnpike in Unionville.
- Thursday, April 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the Voorheesville Elementary School gymnasium.

For information, call the supervisor's office at 439-4889 or e-mail efclark@nycap.rr.com.

Petitions available for library board seat

Nominating petitions are available for a seat-specific vacancy on the Bethlehem Public Library board of trustees.

Petitions must be filed with the District Clerk, 90 Adams Place, Delmar by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 19.

Petitions are available in the office of the library director. Term of office is five years, beginning July 1.

Elections will be held on Tuesday, May 18, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Bethlehem Central Middle School.

Petitions must contain at least 86 signatures of voters residing in the Central School District No. 6 of the towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland.

Also on the ballot will be a proposition to discontinue the seat-specific nature of trustee seats.

We want to prepare for the changes that are happening all around us, rather than wait and have them happen to us.

Ed Clark

Advisory Committee.

John Egan, former CEO of Albany International Airport, chaired the committee made up of community members representing a broad spectrum of interests. Their job is to develop land use recommendations for

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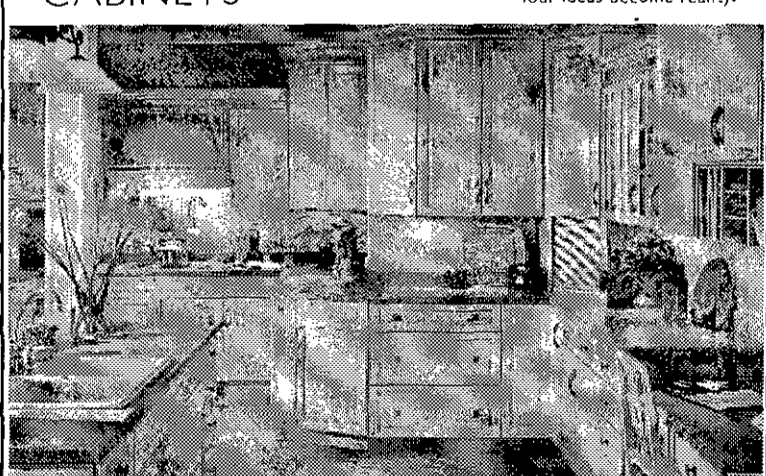
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Matters of Opinion

Support the arts

Across the Capital District, stage lights are being turned on student actors and actresses, musicians and dancers as they take part in productions they have spent the past several months rehearsing.

From Bethlehem Central High School's "Once Upon a Mattress" to Voorheesville High School's "Jekyll and Hyde," junior thespians are flexing their artistic muscles.

Editorial

At the same time, school boards are preparing to take a hard look at district budgets and contemplating program cuts to keep years of essentially stagnant state aid from hitting homeowners with double-digit tax hikes.

Unfortunately, often the first programs on the cutting block are the arts — music, theater productions or art and design classes.

Each year, professional arts associations also struggle with their budgets — many cities have lost their symphonies or dance companies because of a lack of support from public sources.

Locally, Capital District residents are up in arms about the possible loss of the New York City Ballet's summer residency at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

But the numbers don't lie, each year fewer and fewer people reach into their pockets to either purchase seats to these venues or donate the dollars that ensure that cultural entities can survive and continue to make the Capital District such a great place to live.

If we say our schools must only teach the three R's because that's all the budget allows, that sends a message to our children that we don't value the role arts play in our society.

Are we heading down a path that will eventually put Shakespeare, Mozart and Degas only in history books and not on stages, in concert halls and museums?

Many of our children are first exposed to live theater, dance and music in the schools. Often, PTA-sponsored and parent-driven programs bring traveling productions into classrooms and pay for costumes, royalty fees and sets for the school play.

Theaters and symphonies offer deep discounts for students to see programs, only to have the opportunity snatched away because schools often can't afford to bus the children a few miles to the site.

Let's not forget the importance of arts education in our schools and try to support it at every turn.

The children enjoying a school production or visiting musician today are the arts audience of the future — let's not fail them.

How having cancer improved my life

By KATHERINE MURPHY

The writer lives in Clifton Park and is the author of Awake O Sleeper: How I Rediscovered God through Breast Cancer.

A few years ago when Lance Armstrong's book, *It's Not About The Bike*, hit the bookstores, I bought a copy and read it immediately. Not because I'm a biker or an Olympic athlete or have aspirations for either, but because I am a cancer survivor.

His is a story of cancer, miraculous recovery, triumph and inspiration. Yet, what happened to him can happen to anyone suffering from any serious illness. It's what you make of a situation and how you learn to be grateful for what you have that's important. I consider myself fortunate because like Lance and countless other survivors, I, too, discovered that facing cancer and its treatments not only extended my life, but also made it better.

In 1988 when I was coming out of anesthesia after biopsy surgery for breast cancer and heard the words, "You have cancer," I was scared and frightened. I was sure I would die because throughout my life, cancer meant death. At the time, I knew little about cancer and knew few people who had lived through it. When I was growing up, my girlfriend's father and my aunt both had lung cancer and died. My paternal grandmother, who I never knew, died of cancer when my father was 9. The people who did have cancer and survived weren't talking about it. After I was married, I remember being shocked to learn that a family friend had had breast cancer 20 years earlier.

Still, I remember the first reaction to my diagnosis; there must be a mistake or some sort of mix-up. I was young and healthy. How could I have cancer when I had no symptoms and felt fine? However, after a lumpectomy, months of chemotherapy, radiation treatments and feeling poorly and tired, I knew cancer was real. My two sons were 7 and 10 at the time, and I was scared for them and scared for myself. I worried I wouldn't be around to watch them grow up, that they

Point of View

wouldn't have a mother to love them. I worried about my husband.

In an attempt to overcome these uncertainties, I became determined to do everything in my power to fight the disease. I'd be vigilant about my physical needs and heeding the advice of my doctor, I searched for a sense of peace in the midst of the turmoil.

As I looked back at the direction my life was taking when I was diagnosed, I am surprised where it was headed. At 39, I was married with two young sons and

resurfaced and reached out, offering words of encouragement. Together with my circle of family and close friends, they provided a support system I could not have imagined. I had never been on the receiving end of so much kindness, and it was overwhelming.

At the same time, I began a spiritual path that brought me back to the faith of my childhood and beyond. It provided strength I didn't think possible. I discovered I was not in control of many facets of life, but with my renewed faith I could take a positive stance and face the challenges that came my way.

These changes that began with cancer have endured over the years and make my life far richer today.

Several years after my cancer, I met a young woman newly diagnosed with breast cancer who lived out of state. Her situation was much like mine, and I began corres-

I consider myself fortunate because like Lance (Armstrong) and countless other survivors, I, too, discovered that facing cancer and its treatments not only extended my life but also made it better.

ponding with her. teaching in a public school. My husband was in the data communications field, which was on the verge of the technology explosion of the 1990s, and our life was blossoming in front of us. We had recently built a home in a nice suburban neighborhood. We drove new cars, took family vacations and had just purchased a boat that we moored at a lake nearby.

We were running on the fast track, living the American Dream and controlling our own destiny, or so we thought. But I had a lot to learn, and cancer became my greatest teacher.

The lessons tumbled one on top of another. I was not in charge as I had once thought. Family was most important. Health was a gift I had taken for granted. I was one small cog in a large wheel of people. I needed to take notice of the world around me. Appreciate the goodness in it.

Each day, I learned to count my blessings. And for the first time I felt dependent — dependent on doctors and health-care professionals, but mostly dependent on God.

For me, one of the biggest concerns regarding my treatment was the loss of my hair. In many respects, I allowed this worry to override greater fears. But when it came to my appearance and my hair, I realized how much both were a part of me, part of my identity.

With the loss of my hair, I had to delve deeper, go within myself and discover who I was and what was important to me. The support of the people in my life helped me understand this.

I remember being hospitalized for a second surgery, and my family and friends phoned, sent cards, brought flowers and meals for my family. When they visited and cried, I was the one who comforted them because I sensed their pain, too. Acquaintances, co-workers and friends from the past

One day after receiving a particularly poignant letter, I wanted to let her know she wasn't alone in her feelings. Since I always enjoyed writing, I had kept a journal throughout my treatments, and knew I had recording similar feelings. I found those passages, copied the pages and sent them to her.

Almost immediately, she called to say how much they helped. I realized the importance of sharing our stories and connecting with other survivors, how it gives each of us courage and hope. That experience led me to write my story, to put it in book form.

Today, 15 years later, my horizons continue to take new shape and direction. Things once taken for granted have long since been given greater value and meaning. I am grateful for each day. I take better care of my health. I am involved at my church. I recognize the strength my faith has provided during some of life's more recent and difficult challenges; the death of my father from lung cancer, a son's diagnosis of diabetes, the sudden deaths in car accidents of two very young close friends.

Despite all of this, I can't say I'm happy I had cancer. I'm not. I hated it: the treatments and drugs, the hair loss and fears. Yet the things I hated are the very things that enabled me to change and grow into the person I am today. So I am grateful for the experience it rendered. And just as Lance Armstrong found that cancer brought new awareness, gifts and gratitude into his life, my hope is that other women diagnosed with breast cancer will discover what's important to them and see the blessings in each day.

I hope they also will come to know, as I did, the gift of a new and better life after cancer — a life filled with strength, faith and renewed health.

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Matters of Opinion

BCHS student ranking change is ill-advised

Editor, The Spotlight:

On March 15, I was going over the NCAA Division 1 Men's Basketball schedule, seeing who was in the top 65 and where they placed in each bracket.

I enjoy the competition and seeing who makes it on the road to the Final Four and on to be champion.

The following morning my wife and I visited with my child's guidance counselor at BCBS and felt as if we had fallen through the rabbit hole into Alice's Wonderland.

We were informed that starting next year, Bethlehem will no longer be reporting class ranking to colleges.

Instead, the district will place the students into four groups, and then report everyone in the same group as if they had the same class rank.

This way, the student who was No. 1 in the class will be treated the same as the student ranked 90th.

I have spoken with a district administrator and was told that this was decided by district staff and was a done deal.

I am a regular reader of *The Spotlight* and district mailings and

do not recall hearing anything about this.

Why was this done in secrecy? What happened to community involvement and shared decision-making?

I am all for the goals stated in No Child Left Behind, but this feels as if the district has embraced a philosophy of No Child Encouraged to Excel. Keeping score counts, that is part of life.

What message is this sending to our children?

It is a good thing that the school administration is not running the NCAA. They would probably cancel the playoffs.

Ira Goldstein
Delmar

Thanks to community for Finn concert

Editor, The Spotlight:

We would like to thank everyone involved in making the McNulty-Finn benefit concert fund-raiser on Feb. 8 such a success.

Graduation party planners to meet

Editor, The Spotlight:

June 25 may seem like a long way off, but parents of high school students are already working on this year's Graduation Celebration for Bethlehem Central High School's class of 2004.

Join us at the next meeting on Sunday, March 28, at 7 p.m. in Room 101 at Bethlehem town hall.

If you can't make the meeting but would like to get involved, please call Carol Tymann at 439-5666 or Mary Caraco at 475-0351.

Parents of juniors — we

There was a tremendous outpouring of support from the students, parents and staff of the Bethlehem Central School District, community members and our food sponsors —

Andriano's Pizza, Angela's Pizza, Pizza Inferno, Pizza Baron, Deli Plus, Beff's, Bellini's, Mangia, Price Chopper, Hannaford, Pizza Hut, Domino's American Pie and Delmar Marketplace.

Special thanks to the members of Hair of the Dog and the Albany police Pipes & Drums Band and all the volunteers that made this event possible. The proceeds from the concert will go directly to the family.

Donations are still being accepted at the middle school:

Bethlehem Detective Bruce Oliver and BCMS Principal David Ksanznak and the McNulty-Finn Fund-raising Committee

especially need your help on the night of the event.

A meeting for junior parent volunteers will be held Monday, June 7, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the BCBS cafeteria.

Mark your calendars!

Sue Conroy
Graduation Celebration
publicity chairwoman


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

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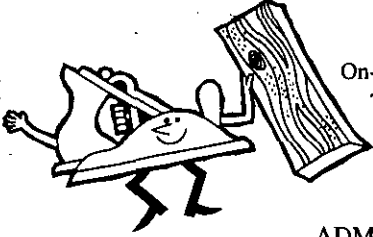
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Matters of Opinion

Russell Ellers fund-raiser a rousing success

Editor, The Spotlight:

Once again, we wish to express our gratitude and thanks to all who participated, helped with and attended the Feb. 26 FLY/BCMS faculty "Slamfest," at the high school to benefit the Russell Ellers Fund.

This year's game was another huge success, raising more than \$2,500 for Russell's fund.

Avery special thanks to Kristin Burns, Dave Kazanek, Sandra Morley and the more than 50 faculty and staff members at the middle school who worked together to make this game so successful. You are absolutely amazing.

Thanks also to coaches Bob Salamone and Jeremy Klugman, referees Marty Rowan and Ray Parafinczyk, announcer Frank Leavitt, to those who sold tickets at the door and worked at the

concession stands, as well as Linda Zwicklbauer, Genya Shimmkin, Abby Stambach, Calyn Austin, Jaclyn Entringer and the high school custodial staff for their cooperation and assistance. Thanks to FLY92, and all who have attended these games to raise money for Russell's fund.

The game on Feb. 26 will be the last FLY92/BCMS game to benefit Russell's fund. Various fund-raisers over the last four years, such as the Fly 92 basketball and softballs games and donations from the Student Senate, Bethlehem JV cheerleaders and the BCMS Student Association have raised more than \$11,400. Thank you.

We want to let you know how your efforts have benefited and will continue to benefit students of the districts.

In each of the past two years, one eighth grade student who graduated from the middle school was awarded The Russell Ellers Sports Scholarship, and each was sent to a summer camp of his or her choice for a week. The students were selected by staff of the middle school, and in future years, one eighth grade student at the middle school will continue to receive a sports scholarship.

This year would have been the year Russell would have graduated from BCHS. To honor his graduating class, a scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 will be awarded to one or be split between two recipients, depending on need.

The selection will be made by BCHS staff and the deciding factors will include, but not limited to, those students of outstanding character, leadership ability, athletic ability, sense of humor and a willingness to help others.

These are the same qualities that best describe Russell's

character and endeared him to so many during his short life.

In the future, each BCHS graduating class will continue to receive a scholarship award.

The Russell Ellers Fund is ongoing, and donations will always be welcome. If you would like to continue to remember Russell by donating to his fund, please send your donation to:

The Russell Ellers Fund
Community Foundation for the Capital Region
Executive Park Drive
Albany 12203

The family and friends of Russell Ellers thank you for making these scholarships possible and thank you for your continued support.

Thanks to all of you, Russell will never be forgotten, because through his fund, his memory lives on in the hearts of those he left behind.

Dawne Ellers
Delmar

Community group focuses on town's character

Editor, The Spotlight:

These are exciting times in Bethlehem. The town has embarked on constructing a much needed comprehensive plan for our future.

During the town board and supervisor election process last summer, it became apparent that there was deep concern within the community about our unbridled residential growth.


At the community conservation forums conducted by Bethlehem Tomorrow organization, we discussed our concerns for maintaining community character while channeling our efforts to facilitate smart growth.

Supervisor Theresa Egan is well aware of the tremendous resident knowledge base and is looking to incorporate previous planning efforts into the new plan.

The Bethlehem Tomorrow group is an impressive mix of experts on various aspects of the quality of life we know as "home."

We will be providing informational forums to the community and town boards on the top four items of concern that have been identified as vital to keeping our community character.

Cindy Hill
Delmar



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Matters of Opinion

Iraq should control its fate Many ways to support troops

Editor, The Spotlight:

In letters to *The Spotlight*, many people have expressed reservations about removing U.S. combatants from Iraq soon for three reasons — they need us to set up their democracy; there is going to be a civil war if the U.S. pulls out; and the U.S. has made such a mess that it can't pull out before fixing things up.

To suggest that Iraqis left to their own devices cannot set up their own government, but need outsiders "to put them on the proper path" is tantamount to some form of racism, I believe. We in the U.S. have a long history of that so-called "white man's burden." On the contrary, all people have the right to author their own history.

Who would contend that Iraqis are less intelligent than foreigners or less qualified to choose their own destiny? After all, the cradle of civilization was there. Also, the U.S. risks the appearance of trying to install a puppet government if it continues its present policies and military control.

Fear of civil strife if the troops are removed ignores the level of violence that the U.S. has visited on this people with bombs and sanctions in these last 13 years — that killed over a million people — and the fact that the current violence is largely due to the presence of occupiers who have been unjustly and recklessly placed in an "atrocious-creating situation."

Nor can we forget our own bloody Civil War before attempting to preach to others.

It is not clear who are the perpetrators of the attacks on religious targets. So far, the Sunnis and Shiites have been united in their rejection of them. What is clear, though, is that the propaganda machine is working

hard with these events to justify in advance the permanence of the U.S. occupation.

No one knows what would happen after a pull-out. The geographical distributions of the different groups within Iraq, however, could prove to be a deterrent to massive retribution and violence.

I believe the history of American involvement with Iraq makes it impossible for the U.S. to play any credible role in its rebuilding. The U.S., or better, those who planned this unconstitutional war, should be made to pay reparations for all the destruction of life and habitats. The rebuilding should be left to the Iraqis, who are quite capable and in need of work.

In a democracy, citizens are responsible for the actions of the government. That means that the Iraq situation now belongs to all of us, and that as citizens, we are duty-bound to speak up and act.

Gus Cadieux
Slingerlands

Editor, The Spotlight:

As I pass the Four Corners every week and see the folks with signs against the war, I think of the troops — 560 killed to date.

Our troops have been deployed overseas for just over a year. The troops go where they are told and do what is asked for the greatest nation on earth. I support our troops, and I hope you do, too.

There are many ways to support the troops in harm's way. You can donate your frequent flier miles to members of the Armed Services who are returning from overseas on emergency leave.

Delta, Air Tran, Midwest, Northwest, Pan Am, Southwest, United, American, America West, Frontier and Alaska allow you to donate miles.

You can get information on Operation Hero Miles at www.heromiles.org.

The USO also has "Operation USO Care Package" for anyone who would like to donate \$25, which goes toward sponsorship of

a care package, and you can put personal greetings with the box. This program is at www.usometrodc.org/care.

The American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services fund also helps all the services. The VFW has Operation Uplink that donates calling cards for service members to call home

for free. This program is at www.vfw.org.

Our Armed Services members are working to keep all of us in the U.S. safe. I thank them and am thankful for all that they are doing. They are truly the brave ones.

Scott Anson
Delmar

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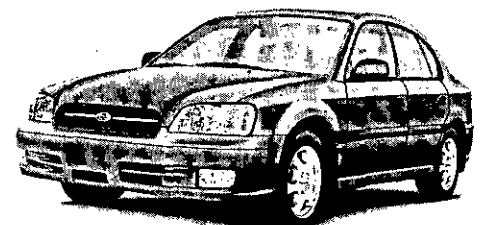
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BC board grapples with budget reductions

By LINDA DeMATIA

Bethlehem Central school board members continue to struggle with reductions to fund necessary staffing increases in

priority categories. Priority 1 additions included two high school teachers and an elementary school teacher at Hamagrael. Priority 2 additions included an additional high school teacher, an elementary

school.

"We are gaining more students and more students are taking more classes," he told the board. "Students desire to proceed into college with extra (English, science and math) courses. Potentially, we are cutting back on whole electives. The majority of students who need studio art are out of luck if we don't have enough sections."

Superintendent Les Loomis said the staffing needs at the elementary schools were also a top priority.

"The three teachers at the high school are needed as much as the two teachers at the elementary schools," he said. "Given the current staffing at the (elementary) schools, the need is equally great at Hamagrael and Slingerlands."

Middle school Principal David Ksanznak requested a full-time hall monitor to supervise the front door all day for security reasons since the school office is well away from the front door.

"All similar schools have someone at the front entrance and someone walking the halls," he said. "Many parents have called me since the Columbia High incident and asked me why the front entrance is so open."

Mac Carlton, the district's technology director, explained

the need for the database coordinator.

"We need to support data that New York state is requesting electronically," he said. "All of this data needs to be compiled and reported correctly or we don't get our aid."

During the budget workshop session last week, the board went back and forth on what and how much to reduce to help offset the requests: Included in the cut list are equipment, the Regents for All program for at-risk elementary students, field trips, elementary intramurals, some athletic equipment and supplies and some summer cleaning.

The board agreed to add the .2 FTE requested for Lab School coordinator and all requested personnel.

Board member Jon Bartow

questioned the need for the hall monitor and said he did not want to see drastic reductions on field trips and intramurals. The other board members agreed to reduce the items, but not as much as proposed. All board members agreed to keep most of the funding for the programs for at-risk students. The computer replacement program was also not reduced as much as suggested.

The bottom line for the 2004-05 budget, with all reductions and additions, currently stands at \$59.4 million. At its meeting on March 24, board members will receive a current revenue picture, including a projected tax rate increase. They can still add to or reduce the spending plan until the budget is adopted, also scheduled for tonight's March 24 meeting.

We are gaining more students and more students are taking more classes. Students desire to proceed into college with extra (English, science and math) courses. Potentially, we are cutting back on whole electives. The majority of students who need studio art are out of luck if we don't have enough sections.

Michael Tebbano

school teacher for Slingerlands, a middle school hall monitor and a technology database coordinator. Those additions amount to more than \$340,000.

High school Principal Michael Tebbano said

the 2004-05 budget.

At its previous meeting, administrators had gone before the board to advocate for staffing increases that were listed in two

that with more students attending the school next year and students taking heavier course loads, the staffing need is great at the high

Letters policy

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

All letters must include the writer's name, address and a daytime telephone number for verification.

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

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Science fiction is a lot more than 'little green men'

"Our mission: to boldly go where no one has gone before." This line from the weekly prologue to the "Star Trek" television series might well be the science fiction writer's credo.

But space travel is only one aspect of the genre. Sci-fi writers boldly explore alternate and parallel worlds and timelines, ecological and sociological issues, artificial intelligence and bio-engineering, love and immortality.

followed by 30 years of classics by Ray Bradbury (*The Martian Chronicles*, *Fahrenheit 451*), Robert A. Heinlein (*Stranger in a Strange Land*) Isaac Asimov (Foundation trilogy), Arthur C. Clarke (*2001: A Space Odyssey*) and Ursula LeGuin (*Left Hand of Darkness*, *Lathe of Heaven*).

Today's authors embrace and expand scientific progress in nanotechnology, bioengineering and artificial intelligence.

Morphing

Sci-fi has always moved easily into other media. Orson Welles scared a nation with his 1938 radio broadcast of *War of the Worlds*. Rod Serling dealt with the vagaries of human nature in the "Twilight Zone" — the dark and progressive television series of the 1960s.

More recently, Philip K. Dick's vision has moved easily and provocatively into the film genre. "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" "Bladerunner", "Minority Report" and "Paycheck" are based on his work.

Shape-shifting

Librarian Gordon Noble is an avid sci-fi reader. He defines science fiction as "something that has the possibility of being real. Hardware seems to ground sci-fi in reality."

He points to magic — "the dragon factor" — as the distinguishing element of fantasy. The boundaries are blurred, however; much science fiction

could be classified as fantasy, and vice versa.

Like fantasy, series and shared worlds are common in science fiction. Noble conscientiously tries to fill in gaps in our collection; as with fantasy, the earlier series are increasingly hard to complete.

But science fiction is unique among genres in that it successfully runs the gamut from series and epics to novellas, short stories and even short-shorts.

First voyage

Noble suggests that adults new to sci-fi start with Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. "It's about books and censorship, and is relevant to any time," he said. "Besides, Bradbury wrote it in a library, at a cost of \$9.60 — 96 hours using a library typewriter for 10 cents an hour."

For young adults, Noble recommends Orson Scott Card's Ender series. "These books give a good taste of sci-fi with a little social commentary mixed in," he said. "They offer a young adult hero, who matures in the course of the series — an important factor that might encourage young readers to keep reading sci-fi."

Our science fiction collection ranges from classic to cutting edge. For a star map through the galaxy of science fiction out there, look on our reference shelves for *Genreflecting: A guide to reading interest in genre fiction* by Diana

Tixier Herald. Reading lists, often annotated, are provided.

Virtual reality

Noble favors the classics of the 1960s and books by Card and Ben Bova. "The best sci-fi allows exploration of real-life social issues in a more flexible, non-threatening way," he said.

Because sci-fi settings are so often exotic, social commentary can be presented in a pure context, unencumbered by the

anxieties and preconceptions of our own world.

Science fiction offers something for everyone — adventure, intrigue, fascinating characters, serious ideas and just plain fun.

At its best, it is a lyrical, thoughtful, courageous genre, rich in imaginative speculation. It reaches across time, probing the mysteries of the universe and the human heart.

Louise Grieco



Feminism, militarism, detective fiction and parody have also found a place in the genre. Like the world of fantasy literature, borders are porous and variations are plentiful.

Event horizon

Some credit Mary Shelley with the first science fiction novel in 1818. Shelley was only 18 when she wrote *Frankenstein* — the modern Prometheus — but she cleared a path for sci-fi pioneers Edgar Allen Poe, Jules Verne and H.G. Wells. In the early 20th century, sci-fi serializations and short stories became popular, but the genre was not called "science fiction" until 1929.

A low period in the 1950s, where our preoccupation with alien contact produced forgettable work, was happily

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Speaker to address alcohol seduction

"Alcohol's Seduction of Teens" is a provocative title intended to grab the reader's attention, and that's a good thing.

Peter DeBenedittis will be talking about this vital topic when he comes to Bethlehem Central High School for an assembly on Tuesday, March 30.

He will be talking to students about how teenagers are drawn in and tempted by alcohol advertising from companies like Anheuser-Busch. He will discuss the marketing of alcohol disguised as soda in products like wine coolers and "hard" lemonade — what he calls "alcopop."

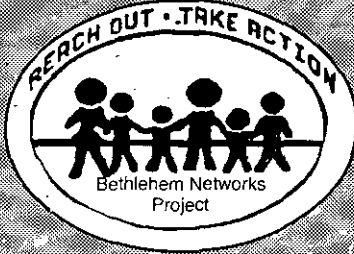
DeBenedittis will address issues we face in Bethlehem, such as binge drinking and house parties.

If you are wondering why you should pay attention to DeBenedittis, keep in mind that he ran an ad agency for 10 years, so he knows all the tricks. And he uses humor to get the message across. Don't miss your chance to see him.


Teens should urge their parents to see him at BCBS that same evening at 7 p.m.

DeBenedittis is coming to the middle school and the high school thanks to the Bethlehem Community Partnership and Networks, with funding from BOU, BCCO, StopDWI and BCMS PTA.

Call 439-7740 for information.



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Kids will read about musical mouse *V'ville H.S. stages play*

A Mouse Called Wolf by Dick King-Smith is the subject of book discussion for second and third graders on Friday, April 2, at 7 p.m.

It's a story about an unusual musical friendship between Wolfgang Amadeus Mouse ("Wolf") and Mrs. Honeybee, the lady of the house. Parents are welcome. The library is only open for the book discussion.

Grades four to six will talk about *Surviving the Applewhites* by Stephanie S. Tolan, a 2003 Newbery Honor Book, on April 10 at 7 p.m.

Jake Semple supposedly



burned down his old school and was kicked out of every school in Rhode Island. When he moves to live with his grandfather in North Carolina, his pattern doesn't change much. There he enters a homeschool run by the most outrageous family you'll ever meet. Jake is quickly paired up with E.D., the girl who longs for order, for the family's first experiment in cooperative learning. You can pick up a copy of either book when you sign up

at the reference desk.

The Every Other Thursday Night Poets meet on March 25 at 7 p.m. The suggested theme is "overheard conversations."

The group is hosting an open mic poetry event in honor of National Poetry Month on Saturday, April 10. Call ahead to sign up or just come between noon and 3 p.m. and put your name on the list to read. Members of the Joan Murray writers group will be joining the Thursday Night Poets, as well as some of the Lifelines writers. There will be refreshments provided by the Library Friends.

It will soon be your last chance to sign up for the April 24 bus trip to New York City. Do it now.

Petitions are available for three upcoming vacancies on the Voorheesville Public Library board of trustees. Any person over the age of 18 who resides in the Voorheesville Central School District is eligible. Candidates can pick up a petition at the library and return it with the signatures of 33 qualified voters by April 16.

Adult book discussion meets on April 7 to discuss *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*. Check the library Web site at www.voorheesvillelibrary.org.

Barbara Vink

Voorheesville high school will perform the play "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" in the Performing Arts Center, Thursday through Saturday, March 25 to 27, at 7:15 p.m. and Sunday, March 28, at 2:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8

NEWS NOTES

Voorheesville
Betsy Glath
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for students/seniors and will be sold at the door.

Helderview garden club to meet

The Helderview Garden Club will have its next regular meeting on Thursday, April 1, at 6:45 p.m. at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center in New Salem. The speaker will be Ed Duncan from Eddie's Aquarium Center. He will talk about water gardens.

For information, call Kazy Gainor at 765-2576.

Fire department hosts fish fry dinners

New Salem Volunteer Fire Department is holding its annual fish fry dinners on Fridays through April 9 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the firehouse on Route 85A in New Salem. Takeouts can be ordered by calling 765-2244.

The cost is \$6.50 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$4 for children.

Ambulance to serve breakfast

The Voorheesville Area Ambulance will serve its annual breakfast on Sunday, April 4, from 7 a.m. to noon at the American Legion Post on Voorheesville Avenue. Tickets will be sold at the

door, and all are welcome to attend.

Voorheesville library explores healing art

The Voorheesville Public Library will explore the art of Chinese healing techniques; tui na acupuncture and herbal medicine on today, March 24, at 7 p.m.

Library has openings for board of trustees

There are petitions available for three upcoming vacancies on the Voorheesville Public Library board of trustees. Any person over the age of 18 who resides in the Voorheesville school district is eligible to serve. Petitions can be picked up at the library and also returned there with 33 signatures of qualified voters, by April 16 to appear on the May ballot.

For information, call the library or stop by the reference desk.

Village to sell bricks

The village of Voorheesville is ordering bricks to place around the Centennial clock in the village park. The cost of a brick is \$40.

The deadline for ordering is March 29. For information, call 765-2692.

Mountainview church to host talent show

Mountainview Evangelical Free Church will be holding "You're the Star Talent Show" on Wednesday, March 24, from 6 to 7 p.m. The evening will begin with a covered dish dinner at 5:30 p.m.

The entire family is welcome to participate in the talent show and enjoy the dinner. For information, call Annie Brill, club coordinator.

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Reverse 911 technology puts private citizens in the know

By MARTIN J. BANNAN

The future is here as local police, fire departments and other emergency response teams utilize "Reverse 911." By zooming into a computer screen and punching a button, emergency workers can place a phone call to residents and businesses within a given area to alert them to a problem.

The system went to work a few weeks ago after an attempted rape in Woodlake Apartments in Guilderland. Minutes after the crime was reported, police were able to call everyone within a half-mile radius of the scene for information to help find the culprit.

"We could never do this going door to door," said Chief Deputy Craig Apple of the Albany County Sheriff's Department. As guest speaker at the March 11 meeting of the New Scotland Kiwanis, Apple talked about the latest wonders of communication now available to respond to emergencies and solve crimes.

"The auto dialer system, also called reverse 911," Apple said, "saves time and money as well as lives. It works off a computer screen where the user windows in on a given location and selects it the same way you zoom in on a Word document. Once an area is

selected, every home and business there gets a phone call."

Last summer, after a gas pipe break in New Scotland, several residents got a reverse 911 call telling them to evacuate their homes and go to the high school. The system can be used to locate missing persons, to warn residents of a rabid dog on the loose or a fugitive believed to be in the area. With its wide range of coverage, Apple said its greatest potential would be evacuating a large area after an industrial accident or terrorist attack.

"Some of the nastiest stuff in the world travels through here on the railroad tracks and we don't know anything about it until something goes wrong," he said. "We now can alert large sections of the county in case of an emergency." He added that reverse 911 has been up and running in Albany County for nine months. Other communication breakthroughs in place include mobile data terminals installed in police cars. "Radios will be a thing of the past," Apple said. "Everything is going to go digital."

Plans are underway to purchase these terminals for every police department in the county with funds from a \$6.8 million weapons of mass destruction grant from the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security, Apple said. He added that the county teamed up with neighboring Rensselaer and Schenectady counties to secure this funding. With these terminals, police can bring up a person's criminal history, maps of an area and pictures.

"Police can pull into a driveway, punch in the address and the computer will list every time the police have been to the house," Apple said adding, "Knowledge is power."

According to Apple, each police department and communication center will be linked underground so that if a terrorist group knocked out all communications locally, they would still be able to send and receive messages.

Digital technology will also enable police and fire departments to talk with each other in the field through one device.

"You will no longer see firemen on the scene carrying four radios," Apple said. "Digital Convergence can take any frequency and marry them

together so emergency response teams can communicate with each other."

Also in the works is a \$1.7 million grant for a public safety answering site that can detect where a cell phone call is being made by using global positioning technology.

"We will be able to pinpoint a call to within a 60 to 90 foot radius," Apple said. "With these

capabilities, we can locate lost or injured persons unable to speak or determine their own location."

With all of this new hardware, the Sheriff's Department has hired computer experts to teach deputies the tools of 21st-century law enforcement. "Albany County is prepared," Apple said. "Should a catastrophe occur or if someone pulls a cowardly act, we are ready."

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Sports

Suburban Council debates new football plan

By ROB JONAS

A plan to realign Section II football is meeting resistance from one of the leagues.

The Suburban Council is mulling over possible legal action it could take to block the section from instituting classification play, which would eliminate the current league structures, for the 2004 season.

"We don't think the section has a constitutional right to do this to our league or any other league," Shaker athletic director David Herman said.

"We'll have a meeting in a week or so with the superintendents, principals and athletic directors of the league as to what direction we will take," Shenendehowa athletic

director Matt Jones said.

Classification play — where teams are divided into divisions based on geography and school size — was approved by a 19 to 8 vote by a special Section II committee. Each of the nine leagues had three votes. Only two leagues, the Suburban Council and the Adirondack League, voted completely against the plan.

"It allows us to schedule games within the section and allows us not to have to go outside the section looking for games," Section II football chairman and Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk athletic director Gary VanDerzee said. "And it allows us to schedule games between schools of similar size."

Several Suburban Council

athletic directors voiced two main concerns with the plan — the fact that classification play means the end of the current league structures in football, and that it could lead to similar moves in other varsity sports.

"In all my years in this section, this is by far the most disturbing scenario I've come across," Herman said. "What this vote says is that if the section can come in and bust up the leagues for football, why can't they come in and do the same thing with other sports?"

"We voiced a strong denial for it because we have a strong league, and we don't want to lose our rivalries," Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake athletic director Bob McGuire said.

With classification play, the nine class AA schools in the Suburban Council — including newly-approved member Ballston Spa — would become part of a three division set-up with the six class AA teams from the Big 10. The three class A Suburban Council schools (Mohonasen, Averill Park and Burnt Hills) and the lone class A Big 10 team (Amsterdam) would join two divisions that include teams from the Foothills Council and the Capital Conference. Classes B and C would also have two divisions, while the seven class D schools from the Northern Adirondack League that offer football would remain in their own division.

VanDerzee said each division

would be drawn along natural geographic lines, but added that many schools will retain rivalries from the leagues they come from.

"It will probably expand the travel of some teams and lessen the travel of other teams," he said.

Niskayuna football coach John Furey isn't concerned so much with the travel as he is with what the new alignments will do to his schedule. He said his school has the smallest enrollment among class AA schools from the Suburban Council, and under last year's two-division format in the league, his team competed against primarily similarly sized schools in the Gold Division such as Burnt Hills and Mohonasen.

"Now, not only am I coaching the smallest (class AA) team in

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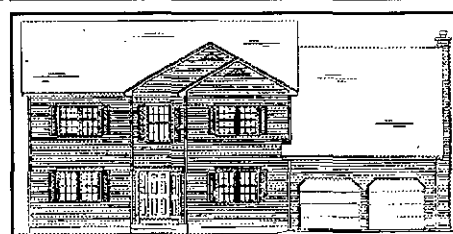
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the section during the playoffs, but I'm coaching against the largest schools during the regular season," Furey said.

Mohonasen coach Scott Sabourin said the new alignment helps his team because it will get away from playing class AA schools.

"We've had situations in the past where if we played really, really well, we'd be competitive. Now looking at the (proposed) schedule, if we play really, really well, we have a good chance of winning," said Sabourin, who is also a member of the Section II football committee.

VanDerzee said that by moving to classification play, there will be fewer debates when teams are selected for the Section II playoffs because there will be a clear cut system in place. The top two teams from each division in classes A, B and C earn berths, while the top four teams in class D will fill the playoff brackets.

Class AA may be trickier, though. Under the current plan, the top two teams from the three proposed divisions earn automatic berths, but two at-large teams will be needed to fill out the eight-team bracket.

"With classification football, it's still going to come down to a committee decision. They didn't settle anything," Herman said.

"You can make a case by draw where you have two teams with similar records, and one of those teams got that record by the luck of the draw because they played easier opponents," Gunderland athletic director Wayne Bertrand said. "So I think you're always going to have discussions about schedules and records."

VanDerzee said he is confident that once the changes are implemented, the skeptics will have a change of heart about classification play.

"Once they get used to the change and once we do it for a year or two, nobody will have any objections to it," he said.

Relay team places sixth at nationals

The Bethlehem girls 4-by-1 mile relay team finished sixth at the National Scholastic Indoor Track and Field Championships March 13 in New York City.

The team of Roxanne Wegman, Claire Luke, Emily Malinowski and Ashley Dwyer finished with a time of 21:40.76. Their sixth-place finish earned them All-American status. Wegman also placed 11th in the two-mile run.

Abba's career ends with last-second loss

By ROB JONAS

In an instant, Williams College's hopes of a second consecutive NCAA Division III men's basketball title went up in smoke.

Jason Kaslow's jump shot with two-tenths of a second left lifted Wisconsin-Stevens Point past the Ephs 84-82 in last Saturday's championship game in Virginia.

The loss ended Williams' reign as Division III champs and the basketball career of Delmar native Chuck Abba Jr.

"It was a tough one to swallow, but I thought we played pretty well," Abba said after returning to

Delmar Sunday. "They had the ball at the end, and I thought it would come down to whoever had the ball last."

Abba did everything he could to help Williams defend its title. He scored 21 points, including a three-pointer with 1:38 left that put the Ephs ahead 82-80.

"We shot the ball well from the three-point line," said Abba of his team, which knocked down 10 treys in the second half. "When we play like that, usually we don't lose."

Williams needed every three-pointer it could get. The Ephs trailed by as many as 11 points in the second half before rallying to take a 61-59 lead. The lead changed hands several times

before Kaslow's shot won it for Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

"It was a fun game to be part of," Abba said. "We came out on the short end of it, but it was a fun game."

Abba said he enjoyed his four-year playing career at Williams, which included helping the Ephs win their first NCAA title last season.

"I'm trying to look at the big

picture right now. I had a great four years there," he said.

Abba said he has no plans to pursue a basketball career at this point. Instead, the former Bethlehem Central High School standout is aiming for a law degree.

"I'm going to take a year off and work at a law firm, hopefully in Boston," he said. "Then I'll apply to law school."

They had the ball at the end, and I thought it would come down to whoever had the ball last.

Chuck Abba Jr.

Dolphins offer swim clinic

The Delmar Dolphins swim club is offering its annual clinic series for children ages 7 through 12 interested in learning competitive swimming skills.

The two-week series runs April 5-8 and 12-15 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Central High School. Each session focuses in on the skills necessary to be a competitive swimmer.

Athletes must be capable of

swimming a strong 25-yard crawl stroke. Testing dates are available on March 29 and 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Central to assess a child's readiness to participate in the clinic.

The cost of the clinic is \$40 per swimmer.

For information, contact head coach Doug Gross at 664-0801 or send e-mail to dolphinscoach@juno.com.

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Bethlehem announces spring sports schedule

The following is the spring varsity sports schedule for Bethlehem Central High School (home games in bold):

Baseball

March 31 — Schenectady, 4:15 p.m.
April 1 — Voorheesville, 4:15 p.m.
April 2 — Albany, TBA
April 6 — at Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, 4:15 p.m.
April 7 — Berne-Knox-Westerlo, 4:15 p.m.
April 8 — Columbia, 4:15 p.m.
April 13 — Averill Park, noon
April 14 — Queensbury, noon
April 15 — at Niskayuna, noon
April 19 — at Shaker, 4:15 p.m.
April 21 — Mohonasen, 4:15 p.m.
April 23 — at Shen, 4:15 p.m.
April 24 — Guilderland, noon

April 28 — Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, 4:15 p.m.
April 30 — at Columbia, 4:15 p.m.
May 1 — at Amsterdam, 6 p.m.
May 3 — Colonie, 4:15 p.m.
May 5 — at Averill Park, 4:15 p.m.
May 7 — Guilderland, 4:15 p.m.
May 10 — Niskayuna, 4:15 p.m.
May 12 — Saratoga, 4:15 p.m.
May 14 — at Mohonasen, 4:15 p.m.
May 16 and 18 — at Schenectady Tournament, TBA

Boys lacrosse

March 26 — Queensbury, 4:15 p.m.
March 30 — LaSalle, 4:30 p.m.
April 1 — CBA, 4 p.m.
April 6 — at Columbia, 4 p.m.
April 8 — at Shaker, 4 p.m.
April 12 — Colonie, noon
April 14 — Shenendehowa, noon

April 16 — Ballston Spa, noon
April 20 — at Saratoga, 4:30 p.m.
April 22 — Guilderland, 4 p.m.
April 24 — Columbia, noon
April 26 — Niskayuna, 4 p.m.
April 28 — Shaker, 7:30 p.m.
April 30 — at Colonie, 7:30 p.m.
May 5 — at Shen, 7:30 p.m.
May 7 — at Niskayuna, 7 p.m.
May 12 — Saratoga, 4:30 p.m.
May 14 — at Guilderland, 7:30 p.m.

Boys tennis

April 2 — at Averill Park, 4 p.m.
April 5 — at Niskayuna, 4 p.m.
April 7 — Shaker, 4 p.m.
April 8 — Shenendehowa, 4 p.m.
April 20 — at Colonie, 4 p.m.
April 21 — Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, 4 p.m.
April 23 — at Guilderland, 4 p.m.
April 26 — Saratoga, 4 p.m.
April 27 — Queensbury, 4 p.m.
April 30, May 1 and May 3 — Suburban Council Tournament, TBA
May 6 — Mohonasen, 4 p.m.
May 10 — Columbia, 4 p.m.

Boys track and field

April 6 — at Niskayuna, 4 p.m.

April 17 — at Albany Academy Invitational, 9 a.m.

April 20 — Mohonasen and Averill Park, 4 p.m.

April 27 — at Saratoga, 4 p.m.

May 1 — at Colonie Relays, TBA

May 4 — at Albany County Championships, TBA

May 8 — at Suburban Council Championships, Shenendehowa High School, 10 a.m.

May 11 — Shenendehowa and Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, 4 p.m.

May 15 — at Schuylerville Invitational, TBA

Girls lacrosse

March 26 and 27 — at Hammossett Beach State Park, TBA

April 6 — Saratoga, 4 p.m.

April 12 — at Shen, 4 p.m.

April 14 — Guilderland, noon

April 16 — Shaker, noon

April 20 — Colonie, 4 p.m.

April 22 — at Averill Park, 4 p.m.

April 27 — Niskayuna, 7 p.m.

May 1 — at Columbia, 4 p.m.

May 4 — Shen, 7:30 p.m.

May 6 — at Columbia, 4 p.m.

May 10 — at Shaker, 4 p.m.

May 13 — at Guilderland, 7:30 p.m.

May 14 — at Saratoga, 4 p.m.

Girls track and field

April 5 — at Shaker, 4 p.m.

April 7 — at Saratoga, TBA

April 20 — Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, 4 p.m.

April 22 — at Penn Relays, 10:55 a.m.

April 29 — at Columbia, 4 p.m.

May 3 — Colonie and Niskayuna, 4 p.m.

May 5 — Averill Park and Shenendehowa, 4 p.m.

May 12 — at Suburban Council Championships, Guilderland High School, 4 p.m.

May 15 — at Schuylerville Invitational, TBA

Softball

April 5 — Broadalbin-Perth, 4 p.m.

April 6 — at Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, 4 p.m.

April 8 — Columbia, 4 p.m.

April 13 — Averill Park, noon

April 14 — Catholic Central, noon

April 15 — at Niskayuna, noon

April 19 — at Shaker, 4 p.m.

April 21 — Mohonasen, 4 p.m.

April 23 — at Shenendehowa, 4 p.m.

April 28 — Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, 4 p.m.

April 30 — at Columbia, 4 p.m.

May 3 — Colonie Central, 4 p.m.

May 5 — at Averill Park, 4 p.m.

May 7 — at Guilderland, 4 p.m.

May 10 — Niskayuna, 4 p.m.

May 12 — Saratoga, 4 p.m.

May 14 — at Mohonasen, 4 p.m.

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It's never too early to teach children about money and saving

By Lori Childs,
Vice President,
KeyBank N.A.

It's more than just a really cute sight for us when a young child carries a piggy bank or cookie jar full of change into a bank building to set up a first savings account. It's also the first step toward understanding the power of saving and how banks can help fulfill long-term goals.

Banks help make it as easy as "1-2-3," through outreach to schools and other organizations and establishing special accounts, but this basic financial education works best when parents partner with both their children and a bank.

The Myth of Magic Pockets

Children think money magically appears in mom's or dad's pockets whenever they say "I want..." Experts disagree on whether children should work around the house to earn an allowance, but most agree they should be paid for extra chores such as washing the car or mowing the lawn.

Children should learn this is how money appears in parents' pockets: They earn it, and the children can, too.

Now, versus Later

As soon as children want something that costs more than they have in their pockets, it's time to talk about saving, how money that they don't spend right now can

accumulate into more money that they can use later to buy what they want but can't afford now.

Tell them they have options and can save all their allowance toward the new video game, for example, or just half their allowance, but also explain that this will take longer.

This is the first step in a progression from saving for a new PlayStation to a BlackBerry to a BMW.

Piggy Bank to Real Bank

Once a child has successfully saved for a first deferred gratification purchase, talk about banking and interest. This requires some abstract thought: A child approaches a teller's window with cash -



Lori Childs

ing after a high school course in banking, finance or economics. Like their younger fellow investors, many are drawn to stocks in companies whose products they enjoy, such as Nike, Coca-Cola, or SONY.

Top 10

While many parents encourage children to save a consistent percentage of their allowance and other earnings and cash gifts, comprehensively budgeting savings and spending also makes good sense and is an important part of children's financial education.

Children don't have to be taught about the instant gratification of pulling out cash for a purchase right now, but they should learn that this can be accommodated in an overall plan that also directs money to purposes beyond impulse buys. The American Bankers Association Education Foundation suggests children take 10 percent off the top and direct it to a chosen charity, such as Girls Inc. or Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

That leaves 90 percent - 30 percent for fun spending on movies, pizza, music or makeup; 30 percent for short-term savings, toward a cell phone, perhaps; and 30 percent for long-term savings, such as college tuition.

How Adult Is Too Adult?

Some families intentionally shield their children from financial realities, seeking to let their kids simply be kids.

Such protection has a significant downside. Keeping children in the dark about finances deprives them of their parents' financial experience, insights and management methods.

Once children are old enough to ask, and to understand saving and banking, parents should explain family finances to them, including budgeting, planning, saving and credit. Show them bills and checks and investment statements and explain what they mean in terms of meeting current obligations responsibly while also developing future possibilities. Also, set a good example, paying bills on time and telling your children about it.

In this way, children will learn good saving habits, through parents' influence and the experience of using bank accounts. Parents may also find their children serve as good examples in solid financial management.

About the author: Lori Childs is a vice president of KeyBank, with 20 years' experience in providing financial services to businesses and families. Her office is at 66 So. Pearl Street in Albany, and she can be reached at 257-8605, or via e-mail at Lorraine_A_Childs@Key.com.

money they know will buy things - and leaves with...a receipt or savings passbook, and without something valuable that he or she brought into the bank.

Here's where the notion of interest comes in: "Leave this money here and it's safe yet still available to you. Even better, the bank will give you more money because you're keeping it here." You can reinforce this concept by making a withdrawal soon after the first deposit, to reassure the child with the restoration of the cash. But also point out that there's no interest added to the account when the money isn't in the bank long enough.

The idea of compound interest may be too complex for some younger children, but the appeal of earning free money by doing no more than earning other free money has enormous appeal for children old enough to grasp this useful concept.

Many banks offer special accounts with particular benefits for children, such as Key's DinoSaver account that requires no minimum balance and charges no fees. Children earn dinosaur stickers each time their savings top \$10 and receive the DinoTales newsletter of financial information. The account also provides other incentives, such as dinosaur models.

Some banks also bring financial education right into schools, acquainting young students with different denominations of currency and coins, explaining and demonstrating how checks work, and how interest adds up without effort.

In addition, some parents encourage their children to save by matching funds they deposit in their accounts.

Savings Account to Wall Street

For some children, the transition from saver to investor happens very quickly. These are the future MBAs who buy Ben & Jerry's or Disney stock before hitting their teens, and retire before hitting their midlife crisis.

Most children, however, become interested in invest-

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Play written, directed by two halves of local couple

By KATHERINE McCARTHY

Everyone knows that a New York minute moves a little faster than minutes elsewhere, but what can happen in 24 New York hours is a whole different story.

Delmar resident Katherine "Kate" Ambrosio has written a play about 24 hours in one actress' New York City life. "Mouse" had its debut at the Hilton Center for the Performing Arts in Albany last weekend and will run for two more weeks. Another Ambrosio is part of the play - Ralph Ambrosio, Katherine's husband, is directing "Mouse."

Ambrosio is also playing the main character, Maggie McGinn, who is based on a close friend that Ambrosio had during her own acting days in Manhattan.

"'Mouse' is fictional," Ambrosio said, "but it's based on a friend who was a very talented actress, but a troubled woman with bipolar disorder. New York was very hard for her."

Maggie struggles with her own mental illness and the 24 hours depicted in "Mouse" begin in the middle of the night as she witnesses a suicide.

"The play gets better and ends well," Ralph said. Billed as a dark comedy, Ralph said the audience's reaction so far has been great.

"People were guffawing and giggling, and the play got some belly laughs," he said. "There's a great deal of irony and sarcasm



Ralph and Katherine Ambrosio

in the play."

Maggie is joined in "Mouse" by a small cast of only-in-New-York characters. The day that starts so badly is an important one for her, since she is an actress scheduled for her biggest audition yet. There's a female Goth named Dolores who's schizophrenic, but has memorized the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, and diagnoses everyone she meets. She is the girlfriend of the suicide, who "willed" her to Maggie, and Maggie cannot get rid of her.

Maggie's downstairs neighbor and friend, Henry, a hearing-impaired accountant, appears at Maggie's apartment and is smitten with Dolores. Maggie has a fruit produce-delivering, bad-news boyfriend who adds to the pressure of her day, and when Maggie arrives at her audition, she is startled to see her sister, Colleen, for whom everything always turns out right, reading for

the same part. The play's producer Ron (played by another Delmar resident, Kevin Mahoney) is impressed with Maggie's audition piece - a retelling of the events of her life brought on by her mental illness.

"C o m e d y comes out of human identification," Ralph Ambrosio said, "and Kate has written understandable human events that land on Maggie's head. Maggie handles them with a great deal of elan."

Katherine Ambrosio wrote "Mouse" over a period of three years. An earlier play of hers, "Cracked Pieces," has been performed throughout the area, and her play "The Face on Vitamin B-12" was recently produced in New York City. She has written three other full-length plays and three short plays. She and Martin Manjak adapted Yannis Ritsos' poem "The Dead House" for White Noise Theater.

Writing plays wasn't Katherine Ambrosio's first theater love, though; she began her stage life as an actress in Manhattan. Ralph Ambrosio also began acting after college, at Mac-Haydn Theater in Chatham, which is his hometown. Ralph began with the summer theater in 1968 after his first year

of college. In 1977, a friend of both Ambrosios, Leslie Everhart, talked Kate Ambrosio into coming to Mac-Haydn for the summer. Kate played Julie in "Showboat." Ralph played her husband, Steve - maybe a foretelling of their life to come.

"I proposed to Kate three days after our first date," Ralph said. Kate's answer, 27 years ago, was yes, and the Ambrosios have been married for 25 years.

Ralph's road took him away from the theater first, as he became a New York State trooper, then a law school student, and today works as assistant counsel for the division headquarters of the State Police.

Kate stayed in the theater longer, doing secretarial work at Rogers & Hammerstein and continuing to act in New York. For a while, the Ambrosios had a commuter marriage while Ralph worked in Dutchess County. After a stint in Claverack, they ended up in Delmar, and now have four sons: Louis, 22; Ben, 18; Pat, 15; and Elliott, 13. After the birth of her first son, Kate took a Saturday morning play-writing class with Elizabeth Diggs at the Bethlehem Public Library, and began the next phase of her theater career.

In recent years, the Ambrosios have returned to working together. Ralph acted in Kate's "Cracked Pieces," and the two played Linda and Willy Loman in "Death of a Salesman"

at the Hilton Center last year. Kate also works as a standardized patient at Albany Medical Center, acting as a certain kind of patient for residents to get experience. "I've been a domestic violence victim for the past year," she said.

Originally, Ralph was going to act in "Mouse," and Dr. Marino Baselice was going to direct. When Dr. Baselice was unable to direct, Ralph stepped in.

"Whenever Ralph and I see a play together, he always says, 'oh, they should have done it this way,'" Kate said. "He's done great; he's unbelievable. He sees the whole picture."

Both Ambrosios are delighted with the cast of the play.

"These are professional actors on a professional stage," Ralph said. "Everyone is top-flight."

In addition to Katherine Ambrosio and Kevin Mahoney, Hal Hughes, Agnes Elizabeth Kapusta, Jon South, and Debra Caulfield perform in "Mouse."

Classic Theater Guild is presenting the Gemini Stage Production of "Mouse" at the Hilton Center for the Performing Arts at 40 Russell Road in Albany. Performances are scheduled for this Friday and Saturday, March 26 and 27 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, March 28 at 2 p.m. It will also be performed on Friday and Saturday, April 2 and 3 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, April 4, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$10 for seniors and students. For reservations, call 453-1048.

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Message Therapy for Older Adults page 7
From the Chef's Corner page 12
A Spotlight Newspapers publication in cooperation with Senior Services of Albany April 2002 Vol. 1 No. 3
Telephone support groups offer help for caregivers

capital district Senior Spotlight

2nd Annual Health & Services Fair

I set year, an exciting collaboration took place as the Albany Jewish Community Center brought together two health fairs that had become staples in the region. The newly formed Health & Services Fair was a tremendous success last year, so much so, that once again the Capital Region will be presenting the 2nd Annual Health & Services Fair for seniors on Sunday, April 26th at the Shalom Albert Jewish Community Center, 340 Whitehall Road from 11am until 4pm. This fair is presented by the Albany Jewish Community Center, the major synagogue in the Capital Region. The fair is a free and open to all adults and the fair provides free health screenings (see page 6 for details).



Volunteering - It's good for the soul

April is a time of renewal, a time when spring is in the air. Help us bring a smile to the faces of our seniors. Retirement is a great time to give back to the community. Volunteering is a way to spend your time with others. It's a great way to get out of the house and spend time with others. It's a great way to give back to the community. It's a great way to spend your time with others. It's a great way to give back to the community.

capital district Senior Spotlight

Jekyll

(From Page 1)

"I'm pleased to be working with so many good people," said sophomore Ali Glaser, who plays Carew. "We all are serious about our work but we don't take ourselves too seriously."

Lopez admits 'Jekyll and Hyde' is the most complicated production he has ever done with high school students. He credits much of its progress to musical director Mary Abba as well as all of the students and volunteers involved.

"They're doing a wonderful job. Both the chorus and solo numbers are strong," he said. "For a district this size, we have a large pool of motivated and

talented students."

In addition to teaching drama, music and art, Lopez, now in his 11th year with Voorheesville, is also a seasoned actor. He has performed with Albany's Park Playhouse, The Schenectady Light Opera Company and the Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown.

Curtains rise Thursday through Saturday, March 25 to 27, at 7:15 p.m. and Sunday, March 28, at 2:15 p.m. at the Voorheesville High School's Performing Arts Center, 432 New Salem Road. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and senior citizens. For tickets, call 872-0800.

BIG

(From Page 1)

business leaders and residents by the end of the month. Roughly 150 people have expressed interest in serving on the committee. The group will play an integral role in selecting the site location and layout, said Flynn, as well as launching fund-raising efforts for the facility.

Meanwhile, arena management has not paid \$56,893 in 2003 school taxes due in September, according to tax records. The company also owes \$20,497 in town property taxes due in January and has yet to pay a \$13,576 payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) bill.

Bethlehem Ice Group has until March 31 to pay the tax bills, accumulating a 2 percent penalty, before they are turned over to Albany County. As of Tuesday morning, the bills had not been paid.

If a buyer for the arena is secured by late August, O'Shea said it's likely the arena would rent or lease a rink from the

buyer, to keep the ice open.

"If no purchaser comes in, we would be intending to run two ice rinks" this fall, said O'Shea.

The temporary closing of the complex has left some skaters and their coaches out in the cold.

"I'm pretty much in the dark," said full-time ice skating coach Kristen Blondin, who said rink management has told her and the students very little about the

future of the arena.

With approximately 35 students, Blondin is searching for an alternative rink to rent in the interim.

"It's been very frustrating. It's hard to plan," she said of the summer closure. "Unfortunately, a lot of our students are local in Bethlehem and Guilderland, and it's going to be a big change to travel to Troy or Schenectady."

Delmar man to run in marathon

On April 19, Mark Nickerson of Delmar will be running 26.2 miles to save lives as a participant in the 15th annual Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC). The DFMC team will join the runners taking part in the running of the 108th Boston Marathon.

By raising a minimum of \$2,500 each to be a team member, DFMC runners are funding the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

Since the DFMC's inception in 1989, the runners have raised nearly \$19 million for the Barr Program, which was founded in 1987 by Dana-Farber trustees and Jacksonville Jaguars owners Wayne and Delores Weaver to honor Dolores Weaver's mother who lost her battle with cancer.

In 1990, Dana-Farber was among the first charity organizations to be given official marathon numbers by the Boston Athletic Association (BAA). This year, 16 charities benefit from the BAA's charity program. The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge features training guidance from Jack Fultz, the 1976 Boston

Marathon men's champion.

To contribute to the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge, send checks payable to "Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge" to DFMC, 10 Brookline Place West, Brookline, Mass., 02445-7226 or go to www.danafarber.org/dfmc.

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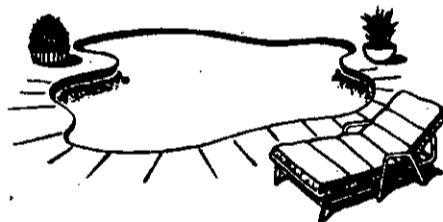
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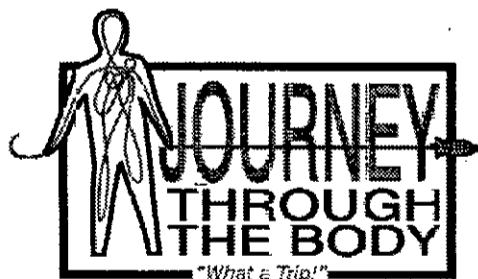
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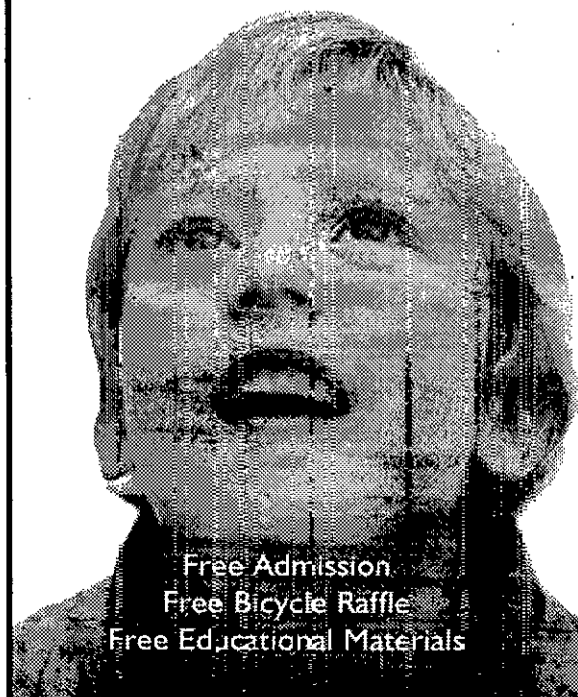
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Moratorium

(From Page 1)

are prohibited under the law from making any decisions on pending applications for home construction once the moratorium is passed.

Real estate broker/owner Catherine Griffin of Re/Max Premier in Delmar anticipates that passage of the moratorium will likely drive market prices up in Bethlehem, a suburb that is already coveted by homeowners for its school system, parks, recreation and "small-town" feel.

"In the short term, a lack of new construction may have a negative effect," said Griffin, who

acknowledged that in the long term, a comprehensive plan for future development may make the town even more desirable for homebuyers.

Resale values in Bethlehem are already higher than in most other Capital District communities, excluding Loudonville and Saratoga Springs, according to Griffin.

In a market based on supply and demand, the moratorium could drive prices upward even more.

"If the supply of new construction lessens, than the value of the resale market increases, because there's a lack

of supply," explained Griffin.

Last year, 131 new single-family homes were constructed in Bethlehem, down slightly from 138 in 2002, according to Griffin. A single-family house in Bethlehem, either previously owned or newly constructed, sold on average for about \$228,000 in 2003, according to statistics gathered from the multiple listing service used by realtors.

"If you take the past three years, it's gone up about 30 percent," said Griffin of the average sale price. In 2001, a single-family home in Bethlehem sold for, on average, \$189,600.

Town Supervisor Theresa

Egan recognized the moratorium might put the town's housing market in a pinch, temporarily.

"That's going to be a possibility," she said. "But we have to look at the greater good, which is that the moratorium needs to be in place to allow the comprehensive planning process to be completed."

So far, she said her office has fielded about 10 inquiries regarding the moratorium, and relatively few complaints.

Work on the comprehensive plan is already under way and will continue while the moratorium is in place. Saratoga Associates, an architectural and engineering

firm, has been hired to work in cooperation with a town committee in drafting the new plan.

The plan will identify key areas for commercial and residential development, while identifying agricultural areas that should be preserved. The town board anticipates the comprehensive plan will be adopted as law, and zoning codes will be updated to conform to the plan.

If the moratorium is adopted, Bethlehem will join the ranks of other Albany suburbs such as Colonie, Clifton Park and Ballston, which have adopted moratoria to temporarily limit development while planning is conducted.

Clifton Park is currently under a moratorium that prohibits development on 18,000 acres in the western section of town, while a year-long environmental study is under way.

"We're trying to find the balance between growth and development," said Clifton Park Supervisor Philip Barrett, in a previous *Spotlight* interview. "It's something we need to continue to do. We have to stay ahead of the curve."

Selkirk student earns honor

Stephanie Jean Mulligan of Selkirk has been cited for academic achievement for the fall 2003 semester at the SUNY College of Technology at Delhi.

Mulligan, an architectural technology major, has qualified for the high honors list. To qualify for the high honors list, a student must have an academic average of at least a 3.75.

SUNY Delhi, located in Upstate New York's Catskill Mountains, is a co-educational, residential college that offers more than 40 academic majors leading to a certificate, an associate's degree or a baccalaureate degree. Hands-on experience is the cornerstone of a Delhi education and Delhi guarantees the technical skills of career program graduates.

Student spends semester in Denmark

Lindsey C. Johnson of Slingerlands, a junior at William Smith College, spent the fall semester studying off campus in Denmark.

Students in the Copenhagen program study at Denmark's International Studies Program (DIS) and take classes taught in English by an outstanding group of faculty. Students take tours to other European countries, including Russia, Germany, the Czech Republic, and other parts of Northern Europe and Scandinavia, and select from two housing choices, either living with a Danish family or in an international student residence. Hobart and William Smith Colleges are coordinate, private, liberal arts institutions, located in Geneva, N.Y., the heart of the Finger Lakes region.

Hobart College for Men and William Smith College for women share faculty, facilities, and curriculum, but maintain separate dean's offices, athletics programs, students governments, and traditions



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Expert to address teen alcohol concerns

Bethlehem Networks Project and the Community Partnership Parent POSSE Task Force will sponsor Peter DeBenedittis, a national expert on prevention of youth alcohol abuse and media literacy education, in several multi-media presentations to students, parents and community members on Tuesday, March 30.

Funded by grants from Bethlehem Opportunities Unlimited (BOU), Bethlehem Central Community Organization (BCCO), the BC Middle School PTA and StopDWI, DeBenedittis' visit will include assemblies at Bethlehem's middle and high schools, followed by an evening presentation entitled "Parenting to Protect Children" at 7 p.m. at the high school. The public is invited to the evening event.

Two 45-minute assemblies at the middle school will build on current prevention efforts and support the school's new character education initiative, BCMS — building character, maturity and a safe community.

The presentation is designed to engage and educate students about how commercial media campaigns and images glamorize alcohol, tobacco use and violence in an effort to influence teen attitudes, behaviors and buying decisions. The high school assembly, a voluntary presentation, will focus on the dangers of underage alcohol use and binge drinking. The evening presentation is designed to engage parents about their role in prevention and battling media influences.

The Community Partnership Parent POSSE (Planning Outreach Service Support and Education) task force was recently formed to address the ongoing problem of underage alcohol use, binge drinking and parental attitudes about children's drinking.

These presentations are one of the outreach programs undertaken by the task force, in collaboration with the high school, and were a direct response to requests from BC students and guidance counselors who heard DeBenedittis speak last spring.

"His message is all about prevention, and students really listen," said Bethlehem Networks Project Coordinator Elaine J. McVoy.

Each year, DeBenedittis speaks to more than 50,000 students and trains 1,000 teachers and health-prevention activists across America about media literacy and using science-based media education for prevention.

He has consulted for the White House Office on Drug Control Policy, Centers for Disease Control and the American Medical Association, and has been featured on the CBS television program "48 Hours."

DeBenedittis uses his presentations to entertain while educating listeners about drug, alcohol and violence prevention, body image and parenting around media and consumerism.

For information, call 439-7740.

Darlene Cole

Darlene Ann Cole, 50, of Clarksville, died Saturday, March 13.

She worked for Van Wie's dairy farm in Clarksville for more than 25 years.

Survivors include three sisters, Ruth Gallagher, Thelma Cole and Donna Cole; and six brothers, Lymon Cole, Raymond Cole, Ronald Cole, Kenneth Cole, Larry Cole and James Cole.

Spring burial will be in Onesquethaw Cemetery.

Theresa Kruzinski

Theresa Carr Kruzinski, 68, of South Bethlehem, died Saturday, March 13, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born in Albany, she was a longtime Albany resident before moving to South Bethlehem.

Mrs. Kruzinski enjoyed spending time with her family.

She was the widow of John M. Kruzinski.

Survivors include three daughters, Theresa Grant and Kathy Santiago, both of Ballston Spa, and Tina Mayou of Rensselaer; two sons, Robert Kruzinski of South Bethlehem and John M. Kruzinski Jr.; two sisters, Catherine Ostrander of Rensselaer and Lucille Hilson of Loudonville; a brother, Charles Carr of Colonie; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Services were from the New Comer-Cannon Funeral Home in Colonie.

Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery in Selkirk.

Lois Macri

Lois L. Macri, 85, of Delmar, died Sunday, March 14, at the Hospice Inn of St. Peter's Hospital.

Born in Troy, she worked for the state Department of Taxation & Finance for many years.

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

She was the widow of Joseph Macri.

Survivors include two daughters, Katherine Burke of Slingerlands and Janice Boyle of

Exton, Pa.; two sisters, Dorothy Welch of Schaghticoke and Louanne Hoag of Stephanville, Texas; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

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

Burial was in St. Agnes Cemetery in Menands.

Arrangements were by the Daniel Keenan Funeral Home in Albany.

Contributions may be made to the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle Building Fund, 35 Adams Place, Delmar 12054 or Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital, 315 S. Manning Blvd., Albany 12208.

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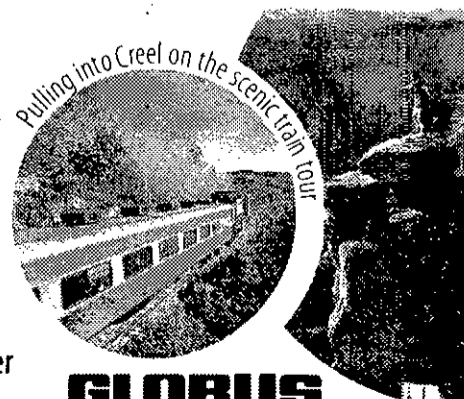
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Obituaries

Alvah Worth

Alvah E. Worth, 92, of Delmar, died Thursday, March 18, at Albany Medical Center Hospital.

Born in Albany, he was a major in the Army Air Forces during World War II.

He attended Cornell University, where he earned a degree in engineering.

For many years, Mr. Worth worked as a consulting engineer for the town of Bethlehem.

He attended St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Delmar for many years.

He was husband of the late Rachel Dean Worth.

Survivors include a son, Michael A. Worth of Baldwinsville, Onondaga County; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services were from the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

Burial was in Albany Rural Cemetery in Menands.

Contributions may be made to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Elsmere Avenue and Poplar Drive, Delmar 12054.

Joan Montgomery

Joan M. "Joanne" Montgom-

ery, of Watervliet and formerly of Selkirk, died Wednesday, March 10, at her home.

Born in Randolph, Vt., she graduated from Randolph High School and attended junior college in Boston.

She and her late husband raised beef cattle, pigs and chickens. She also sold Avon products and Easterling silverware for many years.

She was the widow of Arnold M. Montgomery Sr.

Survivors include two sons, Arnold Montgomery Jr. of Las Vegas and Robert Montgomery of Watervliet; three grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Burial will be in Pleasant View Cemetery in Randolph.

Arrangements were by the Day Funeral Home in Randolph.

Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 20 Speen St., Framingham, Mass. 01701.

Mario D'Ascoli

Mario M. D'Ascoli, 86, of Delmar, died Thursday, March 18, at Stratton Veterans Administration Medical Center in Albany.

Born in Brooklyn, he was an Army veteran of World War II.

Mr. D'Ascoli was a meat department manager for Price Chopper for many years, retiring in 1982.

He was a member of Delmar Presbyterian Church, where he had served as deacon.

He enjoyed playing the violin,

gardening and bowling.

Survivors include his wife, Hazel Groesbeck D'Ascoli; two daughters, Kathleen D'Ascoli and Jeanine Patterson; a son, Michael D'Ascoli; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services were from the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar.

Burial was in Graceland Cemetery.

Henry Kuivila

Henry Gabriel Kuivila, 87, of Glenmont, died Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Born in Fairport, Ohio, he was a graduate of Harding High School.

He attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and graduated magna cum laude from Ohio State University and continued in the graduate program there. He earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University, in 1948.

Mr. Kuivila was a faculty member of the chemistry department of the University of New Hampshire for 16 years, participating in the development of the Ph.D. program there.

In 1964, he came to the State University at Albany to help develop Albany's Ph.D. program, serving as department chairman for five years and devoting the next 19 years of his career to teaching and research.

He received a Guggenheim Fellowship and a National Science Foundation Senior Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in 1959. He

spent a year in California, where he did research at the California Institute of Technology. In 1973, he lectured for two months in Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Society for the Advancement of Science.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy Corn Kuivila; a daughter, Nancy Jean Maddin; two sons, Henry Kuivila Jr. and Ronald Kuivila; a sister, Mildred Kuivila; a brother, Edmund Kuivila; and three grandchildren.

Services were from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany.

Contributions may be made to the Henry Kuivila Lecture Fund at the University at Albany, 1400 Western Ave., Albany 12222, or to the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program at St. Peter's Hospital, 315 S. Manning Blvd., Albany 12208.

Martha Coleman

Martha I. Coleman, 94, of Delmar, died Wednesday, March 17, at the Beverwyck in North-Bethlehem.

A native of Albany, Mrs. Coleman had lived in Delmar, since 1943.

She worked as a secretary for the state Department of Agriculture & Markets for many years. Before that, Mrs. Coleman was an underwriter with Travelers Insurance Co.

She was a member of the Delmar Progress Club, the Trivillage Antiques Study Club, the Embroiders Guild of America, the Eastern Star, the Delmar Senior Citizens and St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Albany.

She was the widow of F. Harris Patterson and Edward J. Coleman.

Survivors include several cousins.

Services were from the Norman E. Dascher Funeral Home in Albany.

Burial was in Bethlehem Cemetery in Delmar.

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

Charlotte Alston

Charlotte B. Alston, 82, of Delmar, died Sunday, March 14, at Albany Medical Center Hospital.

Born in Albany, Mrs. Alston was a lifelong area resident. She was a graduate of Vincentian Institute and was formerly employed as a medical secretary.

She was the widow of Edward F. Alston.

Survivors include four daughters, Rosanne M. O'Meara and Lori M. Alston, both of Albany, Maureen T. Alston of Rochester and Penny Cole of Scotia; a son, Edward F. Alston Jr. of Brunswick; a brother, Edward T. Byer Jr.; two sisters, Rosemary Sweetser and Marilyn Husselbeck; and eight grandchildren.

Services were from Blessed Sacrament Church in Albany. Interment was in Our Lady Help of Christians Cemetery in Glenmont.

Arrangements were by the Magin & Keegan Funeral Home in Albany.

Contributions may be made to the Capital City Rescue Mission, 259 S. Pearl St., Albany 12202.

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Sharman Sacchetti and Scott Isaacs

Sacchetti, Isaacs engaged

Sharman Sacchetti, daughter of Sheila Sacchetti of Lawrence, Mass., and Robert of Sacchetti of Methuen, Mass., and Scott Isaacs, son of Nora and Neil Isaacs of Slingerlands, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Lawrence High School and Emerson College.

She is an anchor for News Ten in the Morning at WTEN

(Channel 10) in Albany.

The future groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and S.I. Newhouse School of Communications of Syracuse University.

He is a senior producer of news at WRGB (channel 6) in Schenectady.

The couple plans a June 19 wedding.

Student joins work program on break

Christopher Abbott, the son of Stella and Herbert Abbot of Slingerlands, is participating in Hamilton College's Alternative Spring Break program this month.

Abbot will be traveling to the Cumberland Trail Site in Crossville, TN. Participants join students from other universities to construct new sites. The volunteer program allows students to work for community betterment and social change.

Abbot, a sophomore at Hamilton College, is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School.

Student inducted into honorary society

Jed Rosenkrantz of Delmar has accepted membership in Golden Key International Honour Society.

Founded more than 25 years ago in Atlanta, the society provides academic recognition to college juniors and seniors in the top 15 percent of their class. The mission of the global, non-profit society is to provide opportunities for individual growth through leadership, career development networking and service.

Membership into the society is by invitation only, to students in all fields of study.

Rosenkrantz is a student at the University of Wisconsin.

*In Elsmere,
The Spotlight is sold at
Friar Tuck Books and CVS.*

Births

Albany Medical Center

Boy, Nicholas James Morin... Girl, Claire Marie Ahlem, to Wrubel, to Jennifer Morin and Cari and David Ahlem of Michael Wrubel of Delmar, Feb. 13. Glenmont, Feb. 19.

Mail weddings, engagements

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

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

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

Community

Corner



Garage sale slated at church

A garage sale of 90+ families will be held at First United Methodist Church on 428 Kenwood Ave. in Delmar next weekend.

The sale will be held Friday, April 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, April 3 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be toys, clothes, household items, a bake sale and much more.

The sale is open to the public, and there is certain to be something for everyone.

Dean's List

- Binghamton University**
Ada Cornell of Delmar.
- Boston University**
Adam Frish and Lauren Marar, both of Delmar.
- Connecticut College**
Patricia Eames and Anne Lind, both of Delmar.
- Fordham University**
Emily Rarich of Slingerlands.
- Ithaca College**
Casey Carroll of Delmar.
- Providence College**
Danielle Blanch and Emily Feustel, both of Delmar; and

- Jonathan Bartow of Slingerlands.
- Roger Williams University**
Evan Gall of Delmar.
- University of Rochester**
Emily Bango, Lindsey Caldwell, Daniel Israel and Jennifer Zogg all of Delmar. Megan Fish of Glenmont. Andrew Hayes of Slingerlands.
- Syracuse University**
Stella Albanese of Slingerlands.
- Western New England College**
Lauren Schucker of Delmar.

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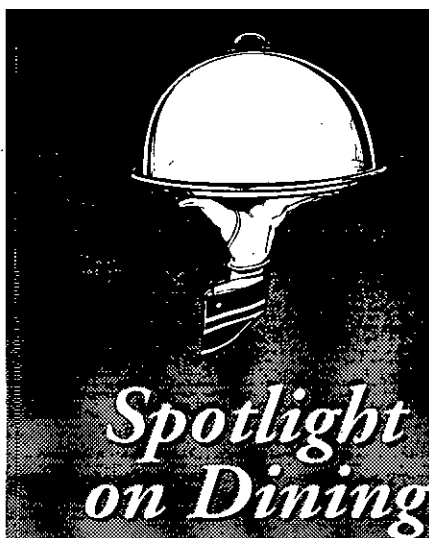


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<p>FLORISTS</p> <p>Floral Garden Specializing in Weddings 339 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 478-7232 www.thefloralgarden.com Catering to all budgets</p>	<p>JEWELRY</p> <p>Harold Finkle, "Your Jeweler" 1585 Central Ave., Colonie. 456-6800. Diamonds - Handcrafted Wedding Rings & Attendant's Gifts.</p>
<p>HONEYMOONS</p> <p>WWW.CAPITALCRUISE.COM. Book on line and save up to 65%. Booking all land and sea honeymoon packages. Call 426-0052.</p>	<p>PHOTOGRAPHY</p> <p>Personal, Professional Photographic Services. - 469-6551.</p>

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

Egg hosts two one-man plays

By DEV TOBIN

This weekend, The Egg at the Empire State Plaza will host two one-man plays performed by their creators that could not be more different.

"Double-Crossed: The Saga of the St. Louis" by David Gonzalez is a multi-media exploration of the famous ship carrying Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany that was denied entry into Cuba and the United States in 1939.

"The Male Intellect: An Oxymoron" by Robert Dubac is a popular comedic exploration of that eternal question "What do women want?"

"Double Crossed" is about the voyage of 937 desperate Jewish refugees aboard the St. Louis (named, ironically, for the medieval French king whose saintly acts included making Jews wear a yellow badge of shame and burning 12,000 Torahs) from Hamburg to a most unwelcoming New World on the eve of World War II.

"This is not just another Holocaust play," said Stella Suib, chairwoman of the parents committee at Hebrew Academy of the Capital District, which organized the show.

The play gets the audience to consider "what would you do if this was happening now," said Suib, adding that this is the first time the play has been

presented in the Capital District.

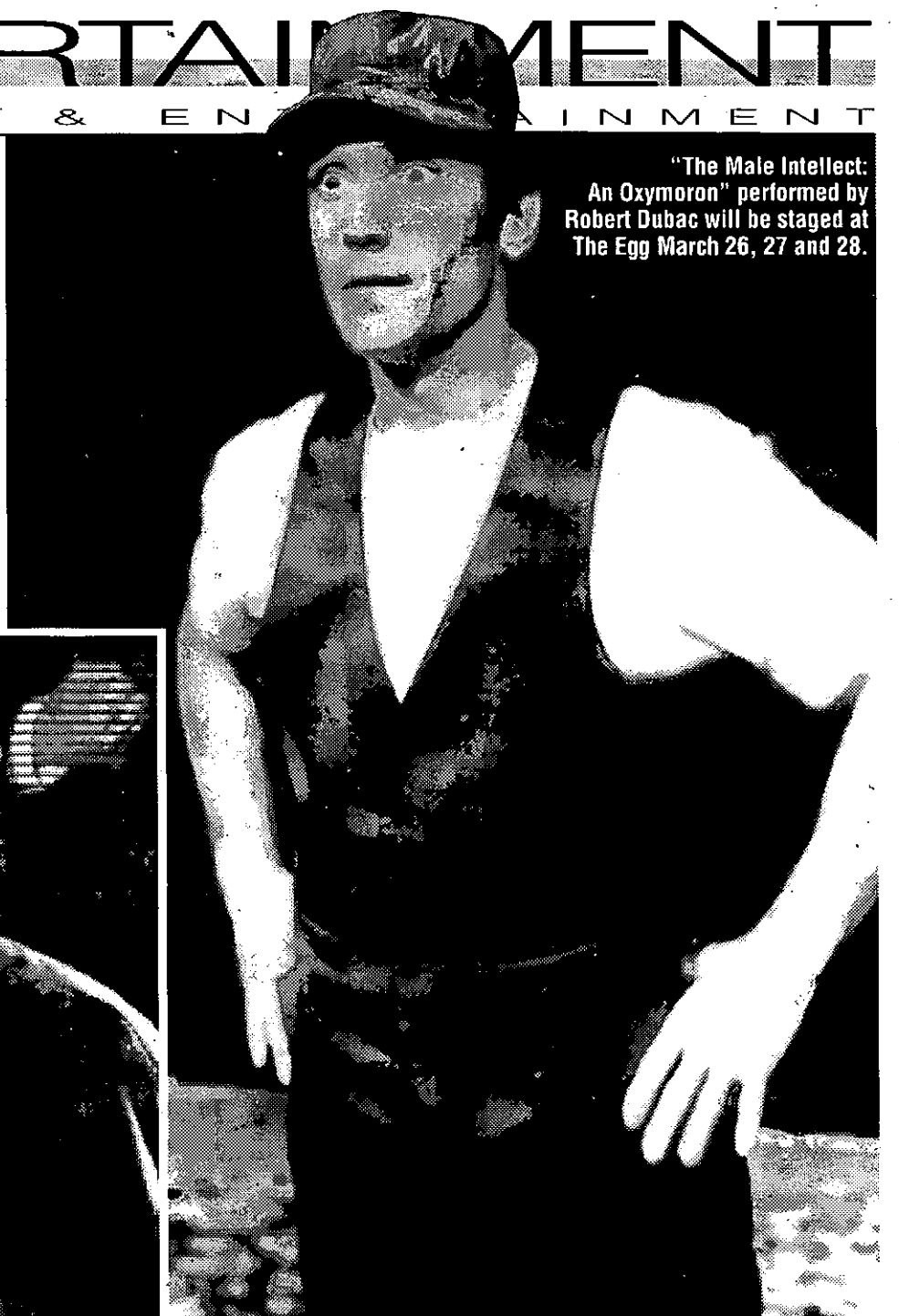
Gonzalez uses music, archival photographs and newsreels, and portrays several characters — among them, the ship's captain, a refugee and a Cuban official who wants more



"Double-Crossed: The Saga of the St. Louis" written and performed by David Gonzalez will be staged at The Egg on March 28.

money before letting the Jews come ashore.

After being refused entry to Cuba and the United States, the ship did not return to Germany, but put in at Antwerp, Belgium, whence the refugees were taken in by Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Great Britain. Many were ultimately killed by the Nazis in the Holocaust.



"The Male Intellect: An Oxymoron" performed by Robert Dubac will be staged at The Egg March 26, 27 and 28.

In "The Male Intellect," Dubac also plays several characters, all with hilarious takes on "what women want."

The story line is simple — Bobby's been dumped and seeks advice from five "mentors" in the amorous arts.

This is the third time Dubac has brought his hit show to Capital Rep.

"We're very excited to bring Robert and his show back," said Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill, Capital Rep's producing artistic director. "It created quite a buzz both times it was here."

"Double-Crossed: The Saga of the St. Louis" will be performed on Sunday, March 28, at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8;

patron tickets are \$50 and up and include a dessert reception with Gonzalez after the show. For information, call 482-0464.

"The Male Intellect: An Oxymoron" will be performed on Friday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 27, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 28, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$33 and \$38. For information, call 473-1845.

Capital Rep's main stage production, Lynn Nottage's "Crumbs From the Table of Joy," a comedy-drama about a black family that moved from the South to Brooklyn in the 1950s, also concludes its run this weekend.

For information, call 445-7469.



Lynn Nottage's "Crumbs From the Table of Joy" will be performed by the Capital Repertory Theatre through this weekend. The cast features standing from left, Stina Nielsen and Melissa Maxwell. Seated from left Erin Cherry, Ron Scott and Chanda Hartman.

How does your garden grow?



Gardeners and would-be gardeners will want to attend the Annual Garden and Flower Show on Friday, March 26, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturday, March 27, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 28, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Hudson Valley Community College, 80 Vandenburg Ave. (Rt. 4); Troy, New York.

Experts will be available every day to answer your questions and fill you with inspiration. An outstanding Garden Marketplace will be on site, featuring 145 vendors. For information email us now at info@gardenandflowershow.com

ARTS and ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY

Lynn Nottage play, Capital Repertory Theatre, 111 N. Pearl St., Albany, through March 27, \$31 to \$39. Information, 445-7469.

THE MALE INTELLECT: AN OXYMORON

Robert Dubac's one-man comedy, a Capital Repertory Theatre production at The Egg at Empire State Plaza, March 26 to 28, \$33 and \$38. Information, 473-1845.

THE LARAMIE PROJECT

play about gay hate crime, Schenectady Civic Players, 12 S. Church St., through March 28, \$10 and \$12. Information, 382-2081.

Brahms, Memorial Chapel of Union College, Schenectady, March 27, 8 p.m., \$20. Information, 372-3651.

SPRING SPECTACULAR

with Gene Pitney, Lou Christie and the Shangri-Las, Proctor's Theatre, 432 State St., Schenectady, March 27, 7:30 p.m., \$27.50, \$37.50 and \$42.50. Information, 346-6204.

MELISSA MANCHESTER AND PAUL WILLIAMS

Proctor's Theatre, 432 State St., Schenectady, March 28, 7:30 p.m., \$19.50, \$34.50 and \$39.50. Information, 346-6204.

MIKE AND PEGGY SEEGER

WAMC Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave., Albany, April 2, 8 p.m., \$20. Information, 1-800-323-9262, ext. 4.

ALBANY PRO MUSICA

performing Bach's Mass in B Minor, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, State and Second streets, April 3, 8 p.m., \$20, \$18 for seniors, \$10 for students. Information, 273-C038.

Music

BAABA MAAL

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, March 24, 7:30 p.m., \$23 and \$26. Information, 273-0038.

DOGS OF DESIRE

Albany Symphony Orchestra's avant-garde chamber group, Revolution Hall, River Street, Troy, March 26, 9 p.m., \$20. Information, 465-4755.

TOM LEWIS

Old Songs concert, 37 S. Main St., Voorheesville, March 26, 8 p.m., \$15, \$5 for children under 13. Information, 465-4755.

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Comedy

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Palace Theatre, Clinton Avenue and North Pearl Street, Albany, March 31, 7:30 p.m., \$29.50 and \$39.50. Information, 465-3334.

Visual Arts

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

Lost Cases, Recovered Lives: Suitcases

from a State Hospital Attic, through Sept. 19; Let It Shine: Improvisations in African-American Star Quilts, through March 28; plus permanent collections on the 9/11 recovery effort, New York state history and geography, Empire State Plaza, Madison Avenue. Information, 474-5877.

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY AND ART

Designs Through Time: Motorcycles Past, Present and Future, through June 6; 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

Artists in the Studio: 30 Years at the Millay Colony for the Arts, through Aug. 1, half-hour free parking. Information, 242-2241.

LOCAL COLOR ART GALLERY

961 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, Thinking Spring exhibit of original paintings by member of the Colonie Art

League, through May 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 Lynnwood Reformed Church, Route 146, Guilderland. 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.

ELECTRIC CITY CHORUS

male singing group, training provided, rehearsals at Faith United Methodist Church, Brandywine Avenue and Eastern Parkway, Schenectady, Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. information, 785-4807.

RIVER VALLEY CHORUS

Sweet Adelines group, based in Scotia-Glenville area, rehearsals on Tuesdays, 7 to 9:30 p.m., call for location. Information, 399-1614.

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

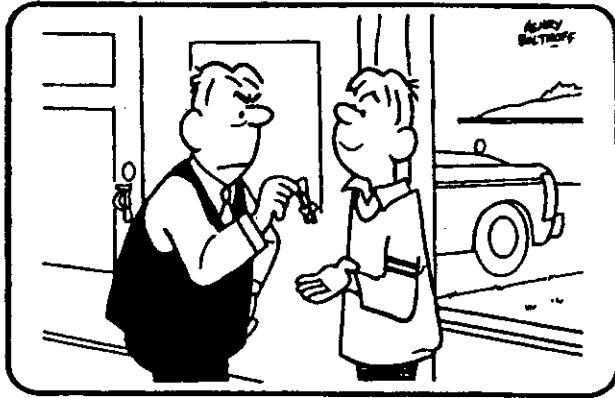
DANCE CLASSES

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

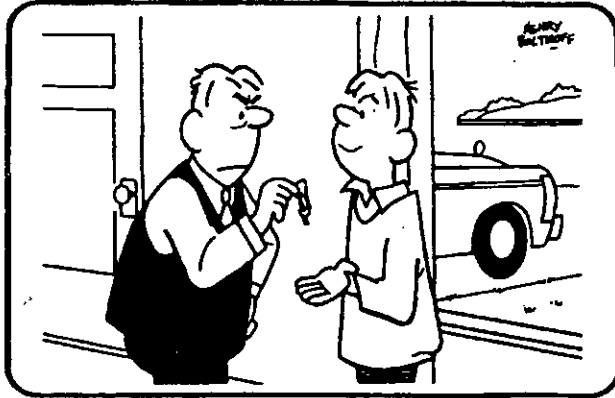
ART CLASSES

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. Tire is black. 2. Shrubs have been added. 3. Sweater has no stripes. 4. One key is missing. 5. Doorknob is different. 6. Wall is bare.

NASDAQ-100 MAGIC MAZE COMPANIES

A grid of letters for a word search puzzle. The letters are arranged in rows and columns, with some letters highlighted in a vertical column.

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

- Amazon.com, Apple, Cisco, Comcast, Costco, Dell, eBay, Intel, Intuit, Microsoft, Nextel, Oracle, Pixar, Staples, Yahoo

The Super CROSSWORD

A crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares. The grid is 17 columns wide and 17 rows high, with some squares filled with black.

- ACROSS: 1 School tool, 6 Sahara vision, 12 Crestfallen, 15 Pigsaw prop, 18 "Carmen" and "The Consul", 20 Genesis peak, 21 In-your-face item?, 22 Director Ashby, 23 SIDE LINE, 27 Extremity, 28 Nurse's helper, 29 East ender?, 30 Sly trick, 31 Composer Thomas, 32 Rocky's rival, 36 Author Antonia, 38 Mingo's portrayer, 41 Fiddling emperor, 42 Turn of phrase, 44 SKY LINE, 52 Nonclerical, 53 New Jersey athletes, 54 Scuba site, 55 TV's "Fly Away", 57 Mischief-maker, 58 Rhone feeder, 59 Has on, 61 Singer, Khan, 63 Naldi or Talbot, 65 Sty guy, 66 Mardi --, 67 Went white, 68 HAIR LINE, 74 Breakfast fruit, 77 Jeroboam contents, 78 Color, 79 Criticize, 83 Speak one's mind, 84 Accent feature, 86 Singer Vaughan, 88 Mrs. McKinley, 89 "Lorenzo's" (92 film), 90 Dividend, 91 41 Across' tutor, 92 Be a pest, 93 LIFE LINE, 99 Took on board, 100 "No Sunshine" (71 hit), 101 Content completely, 102 Aptitude, 105 "and Misdeemeanors" (89 film), 107 Act like a chicken, 110 Belligerent deity, 111 Reminder, 112 Shade of green, 113 Year, in Yucatan, 116 BLOOD LINE, 124 Actor Chaney, 125 Past, 126 Expects the worst, 127 Maris or Mantle, 128 She's a sheep date, 129 -- down (destroy), 130 Petrarach product, 131 Kingdom, DOWN: 1 Dressing gown, 2 "Once -- a midnight dreary...", 3 Balloon material?, 4 Be human, 5 Tracking tool, 6 Medieval weapon, 7 Bother, 8 Math abbr., 9 Meyers of "Kate & Allie", 10 Boyle's concern, 11 Lucy's landlady, 12 Made cotton candy, 13 Broadcast, 14 Thieves' head-quarters?, 15 Anatole France novel, 16 Combs of baseball, 17 Glue guy, 19 Pell, 24 Chemical suffix, 25 Poultry purchase, 26 Wise guy, 31 -- blond, 32 Leg joint, 33 Pride of the pumped-up, 34 "pro nobis" e.g., 35 Prune, 36 Vassal's holding, 37 Linear measure, 38 "a day's work", 39 Biscayne Bay city, 40 "Aida" setting, 43 Club cost, 45 QB's stats, 46 Bounded, 47 Shun, 48 Beatles beater, 49 Cocky, 50.Medicine bottle, 51 Actress Sommer, 56 Youngster, 59 Squeezed out the suds, 60 Vacation sensation, 61 Numbers man?, 62 Kansas city, 64 Soon, 66 Show one's teeth, 69 Vane letters, 70 Serengeti, 71 Cut of meat, 72 Blender setting, 73 Show one's feelings, 74 Bovine bellow - , 75 "The Ramayana," e.g., 76 Coloratura, 78 Pons, 80 Neighbor of Niger, 81 Man or stallion, 82 Patrick of "A Clockwork Orange", 84 Shake-spearean infinitive, 87 Kind of print, 88 Factions, 89 Owns, 90 Leoneine, 91 Reasonably balanced, 94 See 109 Down, 95 China's -- Biao, 96 Skater, 97 Amis' "Lucky --", 98 Sound of disapproval, 102 Under the -- (secretly), 103 Cupid's missile, 104 Sierra -- sahib, 106 Philharmonic section, 107 Bleak critique, 108 Whirlpool, 109 With, 94 Down, fragrant container, 111 Cornfield critter, 112 Only, 113 "Puppy Love" singer, 114 Gallagher of Oasis, 115 Utah city, 117 Actor's lunch?, 118 Self-esteem, 119 Theater sign, 120 Word with take or hang, 121 Solo of "Star Wars", 122 Coleridge composition, 123 "Good Cop" (91 film)

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Classified Rates Private Party Classifieds - Line Ads - Ten paper combo - \$12.00 for 12 words 50 cents for each additional word. Commercial Classifieds - Line Ads - Ten paper combo - \$15.50 for 12 words 50 cents for each additional word. Multiple insertion discounts available. Please call for information.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: FIRST EXCELSIOR INCOME NOTES LLC.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A REGISTERED LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (L.P.)

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Notice of Qualification of Hilton Systems Solutions, LLC.

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Notice of formation of FRANKLIN PLAZA DENTAL, PLLC

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All lawful purposes. LD-9515 (March 24, 2004)

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

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

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Notice of Qualification of GJW Capital, LLC.

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NOTICE OF FILING OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF BEAN DEVELOPMENT CO., LLC

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LEGAL NOTICE
The Articles of Organization of the Company were filed with the Secretary of State on January 29, 2004.

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NOTICE OF FILING OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF BEAN CONSTRUCTION CO., LLC

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Notice of Publication MORE & MORE CONCEPT LLC was filed with SSNY on 02/09/2004

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Notice of Formation of OLILAB LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 1/21/04.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: PINELAND REALTY LLC.

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York (SSNY) on 04/27/00. Office location: Albany County.

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Notice of Formation of ALLC Coordinated Care of America, LLC

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has been designated as agent upon whom process may be served.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC Empire Investors LLC, filed Articles of Organization with the New York Secretary of State on February 2, 2004.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC KT 3000 Hempstead Tpk, LLC, filed Articles of Organization with the New York Secretary of State on February 2, 2004.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC PR 3000 Hempstead Tpk, LLC, filed Articles of Organization with the New York Secretary of State on February 2, 2004.

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PETRA REALTY ASSOCIATES, LLC Notice of formation of Petra Realty Associates, LLC, a limited liability company (the "LLC").

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pany Act. LD-9470 (March 24, 2004)

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC KAR 3000 Hempstead Tpk, LLC, filed Articles of Organization with the New York Secretary of State on February 2, 2004.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC LRP 3000 Hempstead Tpk, LLC, filed Articles of Organization with the New York Secretary of State on February 2, 2004.

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Notice of Qualification of Sutton Place Gourmet, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/26/2004.

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SANTINO'S CAFE, LLC The name of the limited liability company is SANTINO'S CAFE, LLC.

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ganization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (the "SSNY") on 2/5/04.

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PIRRI BUILDERS, LLC Notice of formation of the above Limited Liability Company ("LLC").

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RUNNING IN CIRCLES, LLC NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

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SANTINO'S CAFE, LLC The name of the limited liability company is SANTINO'S CAFE, LLC.

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copy of process against it is SANTINO'S CAFE, LLC, P.O. Box 14851, Albany, New York 12212.

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Scorpion Real Property Solutions, LLC Notice of Formation of the Above Limited Liability Company (LLC)

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VOORHEESVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE REGARDING ABSENTEE BALLOT PROCEDURE

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WellBeing Concepts, L.L.C. was filed with the SSNY on 03/02/04.

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Notice of formation of JL EYEWEAR LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/6/04.

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such a nature as ordinarily to require such absence, the application shall contain a statement of the special circumstances that such absence is required;

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RCS school district in good-standing according to state

By KRISTEN OLBY

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk school district received a passing grade on the 2004 New York State report card, a measure that evaluates public school performance.

The state found the district's four schools earned a "good standing" ranking, having met state standards for academic achievement for the second consecutive year.

Advancements in test scores earned A.W. Becker Elementary a "most improved" school ranking. The designation recognized Becker's improvement in mathematics test scores, with a 21 percent increase in the number of students who passed the state standardized test.

The results of the report card are based on state reading, math and science tests given in 2003.

Not all of the news was as positive. The state identified two

key areas in which the district could improve.

The state found the district should do more to help high school students with disabilities make adequate yearly progress in improving English language arts test scores.

Overall, the 184 high school students who took the exam exceeded the state-set standard by 29 points. Of the 40 special education students who took the English exam, the average score fell below the state standard.

School Superintendent Vicki Wright noted that for many of the disabled students, it was their first experience with a state assessment.

The state also found that, while the 150 fourth graders tested in English language arts met the state standard, fourth graders

with disabilities need additional support.

To address these concerns, RCS' special education department undertook a comprehensive action plan earlier this year to improve its offerings and reduce the number of special education students in the district.

"There are a lot of students that fall into the gray area, they may not be mentally retarded but they have a low cognitive ability," said Carolyn Lawrence, RCS director for special services.

Currently, 20 percent of the student population has been identified as requiring special education. Through intensive teaching programs and additional student evaluations, the district hopes to reduce that number.

"We're looking at other alternatives for those students to

give them the needed support to be successful without classifying them as special education," said Lawrence.

In other news, the state report card found that 85 percent of the district's graduates earn a high school diploma in four years, exceeding the state average by eight percent.

Of the graduates, 81 percent pursued post-secondary education while three percent went on to the military.

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Tim Barrett



Delmar Dolphins slate swim clinic

The Delmar Dolphin Swim Team is offering our annual clinic to area youth who are interested in learning competitive swimming skills. The two-week (eight session) program is an introduction to competitive swimming that focuses on skills necessary to participate in the sport.

The clinic is open to children ages 7 to 12 who are capable of swimming a strong 25-yard crawl stroke.

It will run Monday through Thursday, April 5 through 8 and 12 through 15, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Central High School.

Testing dates are available on March 29 and 30 at 6:30 p.m. at BCHS if you would like to bring your potential swimmer by to assess their readiness for this clinic.

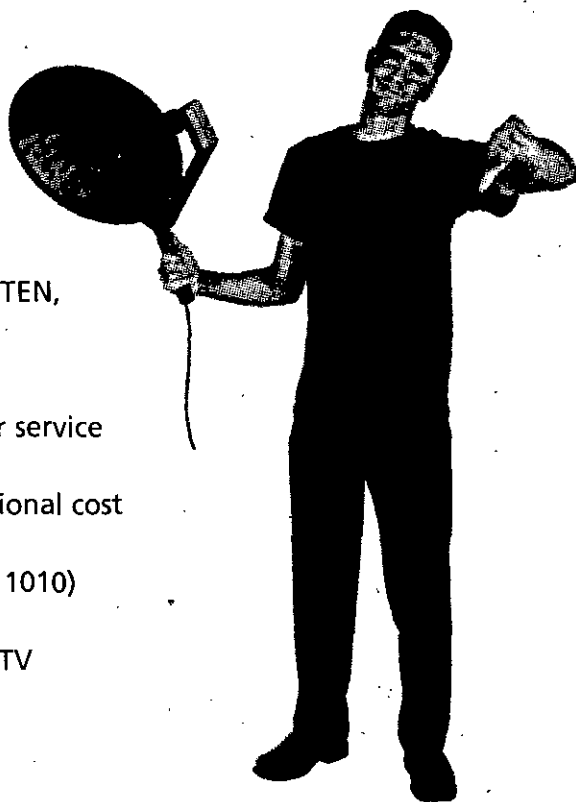
The fee for the eight session clinic is \$40.

For information, contact Head Coach Doug Gross at 664-0801 or dolfinscoach@juno.com.

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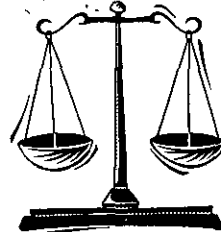
The Spotlight welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing for fairness, accuracy, style and length.

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

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

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