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Haunted happenings

Events around the Capital District give residents goosebumps
See Page 21

Area News



Elections

Tuesday, Nov. 6 is Election Day. For more coverage, see pages 3 and 14.



Miss Saigon at Cohoes

Everyone comes expecting the helicopter, Artistic Director Jim Charles said of "Miss Saigon," now being staged by C-R Productions at Cohoes Music Hall. When the show first opened on Broadway, the real helicopter used on stage became the talk of the performance.

See story on Page 33.



Soccer playoffs

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk boys and girls soccer teams both played last Thursday in the opening round of the Section II, Class B playoffs with mixed results.

See story on Page 48.

THE

Serving the Towns of
Bethlehem & New Scotland

Spotlight

WWW.SPOTLIGHTNEWS.COM

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Cunningham seeks first full term as supervisor

Technology and 'smart' growth are key issues in campaign

By JIM CUOZZO
cuozzoj@spotlightnews.com

Jack Cunningham's introduction to politics came in his Bethlehem High School years when he worked on Michael Breslin's first campaign for Bethlehem town judge. Breslin is now running for another term

as Albany County executive, and Cunningham, after a three-year run as Albany County legislator, will attempt to win election to his first full two-year term as Bethlehem supervisor on the Democratic and Independence party lines.

"It had been my intention at some point to run for this office," said Cunningham, who was appointed to the position by the Bethlehem Town Board in April. Cunningham

□ Term Page 30

Grady runs for supervisor

Candidate says business background can help with town's bottom line

By KATHERINE MCCARTHY
mccarthyk@spotlightnews.com

Jim Grady is passionate about the town of Bethlehem. So passionate that the 44-year-old native is making a run for the spot of town supervisor.

A member of the Independ-

dence Party, the Republicans have endorsed him as their supervisor candidate.

Grady considers himself a bottom-line man, and believes that's the talent he can best bring to town government.

"As a businessman, I was responsible for 'X' amount of dollars, and I'd have to make the numbers work," Grady said. "I had to make the bottom line happen. I've had to justify investments to the Securities Ex-

□ Grady Page 30

A HIDDEN DANGER

Lead poisoning risks are not always easy to see

By ANN MARIE FRENCH
news@spotlightnews.com

During the past three months, about two dozen types of toys have been recalled by manufacturers, encompassing nearly 2 million toys, because traces of lead had been detected.

The prospect of digging through toy bins to determine which toys fall into the recall category may seem time-consuming, but local doctors say it is a necessary action to protect the health of the community's youngest and most vulnerable assets.

"The impact of lead poisoning on the developing brain is crucial," said Dr. Tyrone Bristol, attending pediatrician at Albany Medical Center pediatric

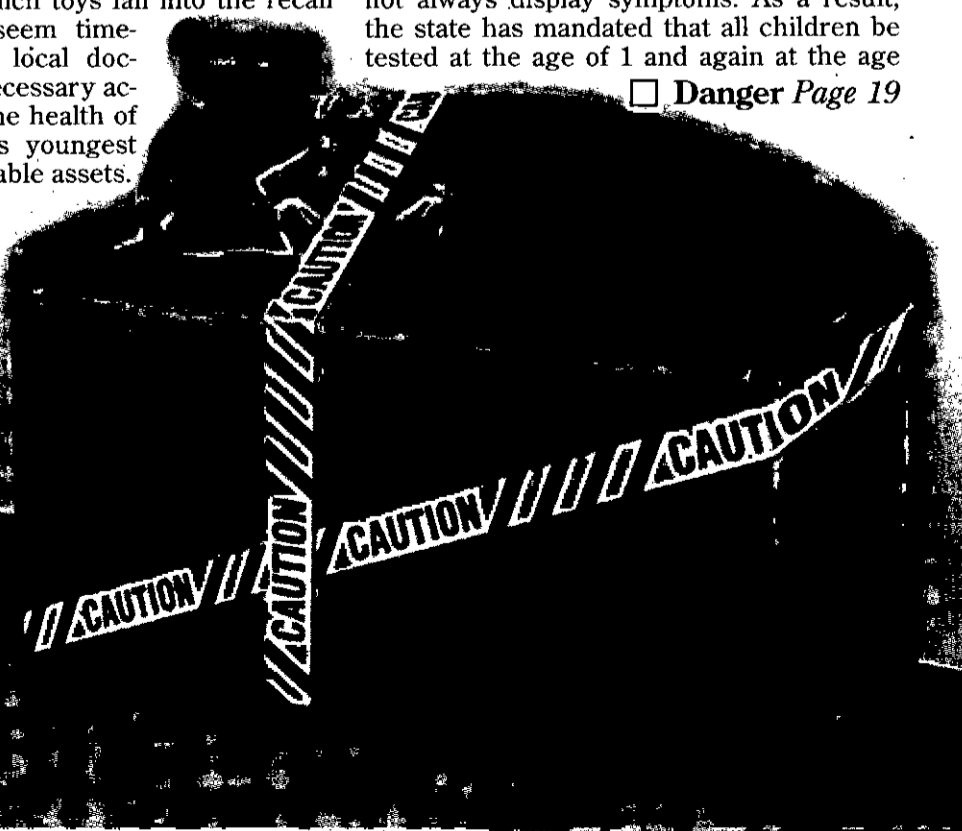
group and an associate professor of pediatrics at Albany Medical College.

Dr. Michael Looney of Delmar Pediatrics agreed, saying, "Lead affects your neurological development. The younger you are, the more development you have going on."

Both doctors note that continued exposure to lead could cause long-term damage, which might include trouble learning, behavior problems and developmental issues.

Looney states that parents must be aware that children with elevated lead levels do not always display symptoms. As a result, the state has mandated that all children be tested at the age of 1 and again at the age

□ Danger Page 19



Farmer, lawyer square off

New Scotland race for supervisor features political newcomers

By JILL U. ADAMS
news@spotlightnews.com

With Ed Clark stepping down as supervisor of the town of New Scotland, two men are stepping up as first-time candidates for the job.

Both Tom Dolin and Doug LaGrange are committed to seeing the town preserve its rural character. Both seek housing solutions for aging residents who want to downsize without leaving town. Both see commercial development along Route 85— done properly — as a way to relieve the tax burden of homeowners.

The difference between Dolin and LaGrange, they both said, is who's going to get it done and get it done right.

Democrat Tom Dolin is a retired lawyer and former town justice who wants to take on the challenge of supervisor. He has the know-how, he said, citing his experience with town governments. Dolin served as a municipal lawyer for the towns of New Scotland and Westerlo,

□ Square Page 20

Plant announces layoffs
see Page 30



Police Blotter

Berne man charged with DWI in Delmar accident

An East Berne man is charged with DWI following a one-car accident Sunday, Oct. 21, on Delaware Ave.

Bethlehem police responded to an area of Delaware Avenue near Kensington Court after receiving a call that a person driving a 1995 Ford Taurus struck a utility pole.

When police arrived, they observed the driver, 20-year-old Timothy Sigond, of 418 Sawmill Road walking toward the unattended vehicle. Sigond told

police he consumed eight beers in Albany before the accident, according to reports.

The responding officer reported that Sigond's speech was slurred and an odor of alcohol was also detected. Sigond, the lone occupant of the vehicle, was then placed into custody and the vehicle was towed.

National Grid also had to respond to the scene to inspect damage to the company's utility pole. In addition to misdemeanor

DWI, Sigond was charged with aggravated DWI, driving with more than .08 percent blood alcohol content and failing to stay in his designated lane.

He was issued a Tuesday, Nov. 6, appearance ticket for Town of Bethlehem Court. Sigond's vehicle was also towed from the scene.

Got news?
Call Spotlight at 439-4949.



Nancy Mendick, president of the Bethlehem Business Women's Club, with Elizabeth Schimanski and Beth Wensley, members of BBW's Custom Throw Committee presenting a check for \$5,000 to Margaret Reed, vice president of Bethlehem Senior Project's, Inc. towards Senior Projects, Inc.'s fundraising goal of \$100,000 to replace two vans in the department.

Elect
Rich Mendick
County Legislature District 36



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Re-Elect
Nancy Mendick
Receiver of Taxes



20 Years of Tax Office Experience
Knowledgeable, Dedicated, Involved

Paid for by the Friends of Rich Mendick

Correction

The Oct 17 article about candidate for town clerk Denis Foley referred to archived records from the clerk's office currently stored in the basement of town hall. Foley said

documents stored in file cabinets are not categorized and workers sometimes cannot find the keys to open the file cabinets. He also said file cabinets were not labeled.

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Four run for New Scotland board Town appoints new assessor

V'Ville resident to replace David Leifer

By JIM CUOZZO
cuozzoj@spotlightnews.com

By JILL U. ADAMS
news@spotlightnews.com

There are four candidates for town board in New Scotland: Chuck Voss, Gary Schultz, Rich Reilly and Debbie Baron.

The challengers

• Chuck Voss

Chuck Voss has a vision.

He sees a New Scotland hamlet, a progressive development complete with town green, retail, clustered housing and a lot of preserved open space on the site of the Bender melon farm, at the eastern intersection of route 85 and 85A.

It's just a "concept idea" at the point, but it's the kind of thing Republican Voss says he can bring to the town. A planner by profession, Voss feels he has the experience and foresight to script plans consistent with the town's comprehensive plan.

It's an idea that residents are interested in, said Voss, including the Benders, who have been approached by a number of developers. His possibility for the commercially zoned Route 85 corridor is one he wants to put before the town.

"Public input is extremely valuable," he said. "It's not an annoyance."

Voss has 19 years of land-use planning municipal planning in Albany, Utica, and Queensbury. He currently works for an engineering and consulting firm.

Voss has lived in New Scotland for nine years with his wife and two children. He serves on the planning board.

Voss said it's important for the town to be proactive in thinking about any development. Otherwise, developers come to property owners

with their ideas, putting the planning and town boards in a reactionary mode.

"My concern is having the town be prepared and ready when growth comes," said Voss.

• Gary Schultz

Growing up as the son of a mayor of Voorheesville, Gary Schultz actively avoided politics until now. But with "life experience and business know-how" under his belt, he feels he has something to contribute. A Republican, Schultz is a lifelong citizen of New Scotland who owns his own business designing and building swimming pools.

New to politics, Schultz is already disillusioned by the power the political parties wield during the campaign season. Even so, his disgruntlement only serves to further motivate him.

Schultz said that the same issues are facing New Scotland now as 13 years ago when the current comprehensive plan was drafted. Those issues, including development, infrastructure and senior housing, must be addressed.

"The comprehensive plan is outdated," he said. Further, recent changes proposed by a resident's planning advisory committee have not been made.

Without a proactive strategy, Schultz warned that New Scotland risks "looking like Guilderland."

Schultz would like to see certain kinds of development encouraged, if it is appropriate to the community and will not have a negative impact on the schools.

Schultz is also committed to opening the town government to the people more than he thinks occurs now. An interactive town Web site is one way to invite more community involvement, he said.

The incumbents

• Rich Reilly

Rich Reilly has served on the town board for eight years and is seeking his third term.

Democrat Reilly has worked on a senior housing incentive that he'd like to see through. The incentive is a way to attract developers to build the senior housing Reilly feels the town needs by allowing them to build units at a higher density than usual. The drafted plan is proving controversial in town.

In addition, New Scotland could use a greater gradation in housing types, Reilly said. As of now, few properties fit the "starter home" profile, namely, small and relatively inexpensive.

A desire for New Scotland to retain its fundamental rural character doesn't mean shutting down all growth, said Reilly. Rather, the town board can direct responsible growth with its comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances.

The plan has served the town well, Reilly said, and is appropriately drawn in broad strokes to use as guidelines. The details are delegated to specific projects by zoning.

"We've worked on concrete serious proposals in detail," said Reilly.

Still, Reilly says certain aspects of the comprehensive plan do need updating, like many data fields and by making use of new mapping technologies.

Committed to service, Reilly said that being a town board member is a great way to be involved.

"If I wasn't on the board, I'd probably be a volunteer firefighter or something else," he said.

Reilly lives in New Scotland with his wife and four children. He is

a lawyer at a small law firm in Albany.

• Debbie Baron

Debbie Baron has served on the town board for four years and is running for a second term.

Since moving to Voorheesville 20 years ago, Democrat Baron said she has been involved in the town in some way, first PTA committees at her children's school, later in the town courts. Today she works as the tax collector for the Voorheesville School District.

On the town board, Baron said her specialty has been programs for the town's senior citizens. Senior issues are a priority given the changing demographics of the town, Baron said. While the overall population has decreased from 1990 to 2000, the percentage of seniors has increased.

Baron has advocated to make the senior outreach program coordinator a full-time position and helped get the "little yellow bus" program up and running, with the help of a \$7,000 grant from Albany County. The program rents buses from the school district to facilitate social outings for seniors.

"It's a quality of life issue," Baron said, adding that the trips are generally well attended.

Baron would like to expand the program to include trips to area hospitals, which would require additional funding from the town to lease a van.

Also, Baron wants to see a senior housing project go forward and thinks that current zoning is sufficient. She argued that the level of detail some critics demand would keep property owners from negotiating with developers. "You can't mandate incoming developers to the final T," he said.

Baron lives in New Scotland with her husband and four children.

Patricia C. McVee of Voorheesville is the new assessor in Bethlehem.

McVee's appointment was made unanimous by the Bethlehem Town Board. She will replace assessor David Leifer, who is retiring after 15 years with the town.

"I have known Miss McVee a long time and she is good," said Leifer. "I think the board is doing a good thing by moving forward Patty's appointment," said Leifer at the Wednesday, Oct. 24, meeting of the town board.

McVee has been the assessor in the city of Cohoes since 2000. Prior to that position she was assessor in the town of New Scotland from 1994 to 2000.

"I am very excited to be working here," said McVee. "I know the people in Bethlehem; this is where I'm from."

McVee's appointment generated discussion from a few residents who questioned the new assessor's status as a real estate broker and the potential conflicts of interest that could exist.

"Selling real estate and being an assessor would be a conflict, and I think you need a ruling that this is not a conflict of interest," said Linda Jasinski.

Supervisor Jack Cunningham said McVee has offered to halt any real estate work in the town of Bethlehem while assuming her new assessing duties. McVee said the assessor position is full time, adding she will be extremely limited in any real estate work she can do.

"My real estate license is part of my retirement plan down the road," McVee said. "When I worked in New Scotland and Cohoes, I did not sell real estate in either the town or the city."

McVee said her assessor position in Bethlehem is similar to the job in New Scotland because of the similarities in town government compared to city governments.

"There are three different school districts in Bethlehem and the town of New Scotland had six," she said. McVee said in Cohoes there is only one school district.

McVee's first day on the job was Thursday, Oct. 25. She will be working side by side with Leifer until the end of the year. Leifer's last day working for the town will be Jan. 11.

"It's been a great 15 years, and I have loved every minute of it," said Leifer.

The assessor's salary in Bethlehem is \$62,102 annually.

Justice candidates seek to serve New Scotland

By JILL U. ADAMS
news@spotlightnews.com

Four lawyers are running for two town justice seats in the Town of New Scotland.

Town justices preside over misdemeanors, traffic offenses, and small claims cases brought to town court. The two justices also handle arraignments as needed, often at odd hours of the night.

Republican Margaret Adkins has served one four-year term and wants to continue.

Democrat David Wukitsch has been on the bench since May. Never elected, he was appointed to the seat after Tom Dolin stepped down to run for town supervisor.

Republican John Keenan and Democrat Brendan O'Shea are running for the first time.

Adkins has a private law practice

focusing on real estate closings and wills. She became a solo practitioner after her children were born in order to work from home.

She has also been an attorney for the zoning and planning boards and a prosecutor in animal control cases. She has also represented clients in local town courts.

The town justice seat is a continuation of her community service, said Adkins.

In town court, judges see everything, Adkins said. It's a catchall place for civil, criminal and traffic cases.

"You can make a difference," she said.

In addition to being fair and respectful, Adkins also feels an obligation to explain what's happening to the people before her, since town court is the one closest to the people, she said.

"I try to do the best for people and their families," she said.

Adkins has lived in New Scotland for 18 years with her husband and two sons.

Wukitsch specializes in labor and employment law in his work at the Albany law firm McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams. He also is experienced in municipal law.

Wukitsch is campaigning for the first time, though he's been serving as town justice since May.

Town court is where most people have their first contact with the judicial system, said Wukitsch.

"You meet all kinds of people, all kinds of personalities," he said. Not only has he found it "fascinating," but he finds it a stimulating counterpoint to his day job.

Wukitsch has had a long interest in serving as a judge.

"I always thought that I could be fair and effective as judge," he said. "It's rewarding to resolve cases fairly."

Wukitsch volunteers with the Clarksville Historical Society, senior services and youth sports. Wukitsch has lived in New Scotland since 2000. He is married with four children.

Keenan has wanted to serve as a town justice for a long time.

A self-employed lawyer, Keenan has a long list of affiliations with local courts and with the town. He's been a corrections officer, village attorney in Voorheesville, and is the town prosecutor for animal control cases.

In his private practice, he deals mostly with landlord-tenant issues, traffic, small claims and DWI cases he said are similar to town court cases.

Keenan said his extensive experience in town courts gives him a leg up on his opponents. "If you've never prosecuted or defended [a DWI], how can you pass judgement?" he asked. "The idea is to have an educated judge who knows as much

about the law as the two competing lawyers."

Keenan also feels he can build trust with the people who appear in court. "If people understand that they're being treated fairly, they feel more accepting of the consequences," he said. If left in the dark, they're more likely to feel cheated.

Keenan moved to New Scotland - where his wife was raised - five years ago. The Keenans have three children.

O'Shea is a partner at a law firm he started with four colleagues nearly 20 years ago, Gleason, Dunn, Walsh & O'Shea. Foster children and adoption make up the bulk of his work, but he practices all kinds of law and has represented clients in many of the suburban town courts in Albany County.

Before attending law school, O'Shea taught third grade in the Boston area.

"The breadth of my teaching and legal career, I've always dealt with kids and families," he said. "I have a good feel for the things people bring to the table."

O'Shea committed himself to knock on every door in the town of New Scotland to campaign for the spot he sees as a way of giving back to the community.

If elected, O'Shea his goal as a judge would be "to leave people feeling like they got a fair shake."

O'Shea has lived in New Scotland for six years, is married and has two sons.

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Relax in luxury with a trip to the Carolinas

By BILL GIERING
news@spotlightnews.com

Hey Travel Guy: I've been in a relationship that's been going great for almost a year, but I see a disaster looming. She wants to go away to celebrate our first year together. She likes fine dining; I'm a Burger King guy. She likes drinks with umbrellas in them after tennis; I like to pop a cold can after golf. I can't afford her kind of vacation, and she will be disappointed with mine. I was in the military until a couple of years ago and don't have the resources for a five-day, luxury getaway. Any ideas?

Dear Burger King Guy: I usually think that honesty is way overrated ... but in your case you may want to have a sit-down with your girlfriend and clear the air before you both suffocate. If you think you are going to have a hard time celebrating, just imagine how your relationship will go when the inevitable hard times pop up.

Maybe you will be celebrating with this lady for years, or maybe this relationship is going nowhere. In either case, you can still take her away for five days, and you will both have a ball if you talk it over in advance.

How about a destination where you can still find real value in the center of luxurious choices that may satisfy both of your celebration goals? What about a trip where you will find top-notch tennis resorts, deep-sea fishing in the Atlantic, five-star golf courses and Broadway shows every night, as well as magnificent gardens, walks on a moonlit beach and some of the best restaurants and shopping on the eastern seaboard?

And what if I told you that this same destination has the best stay-and-play golf deals in the country, friendly-family bars with happy hour specials every day, hometown diners, and every fast food outlet you can imagine? And there is more: nightly entertainment of every variety priced to meet every pocketbook and one of the best



beaches in the east — perfect for just hanging out.

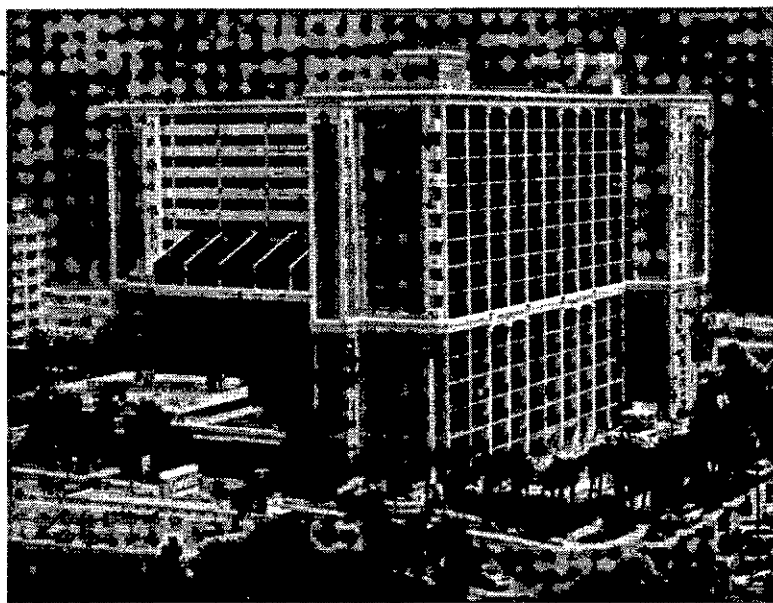
She can catch a whopper while deep-sea fishing, or you can catch a Whopper at Burger King.

I'm talking about the Carolinas, specifically, Myrtle Beach. It has gone through such dramatic and luxurious changes in the last few years, it's hard to remember that years ago it was known as the "Redneck Riviera." Today, million-dollar condos and gated, high-end communities are regular sights. And the amenities that attract this international luxury market have been opening faster than iPods have been selling.

The award-winning Grand Dunes Tennis Club with 10 lighted courts will win her heart right from the start. If you choose to play or just have a drink and watch others, this is a great experience. The facilities at the Grand Dunes are so plush they are fun just to drive by. In fact, you might consider spending one of your five nights here.

Splurge one night and take her to Greg Norman's Australian Grille on the waterfront of Barefoot Landing. It's one of my favorite restaurants on the east coast. Sample some of Greg's wines — perhaps the Greg Norman Yarra Valley, Australia 2001 — and enjoy great service in a fun atmosphere. You can't go wrong in ordering anything off Chef Joe Coppolino's mouth-watering menu — the steaks are amazing and anything chocolate by pastry chef Andy Kilz is a must.

If that sounds a bit too hyper for you, head south, where a 20-mile stretch of Atlantic Ocean coastline between Georgetown and Myrtle Beach takes in Murrells Inlet, Litchfield and Pawleys Island. Here it's a little less crowded and more relaxed, and you'll find the new Waccamaw Golf Trail with



The Caravelle Resort recently completed an \$8 million renovation.

13 terrific courses along with a ton of good restaurants and interesting shops. I like the Villas at Pawleys Plantation overlooking their Jack Nicklaus signature course.

Two of my favorite courses anywhere are part of the more relaxed Waccamaw Trail: Caledonia Golf and Fish Club, which not long ago was voted the best course in the country for women, and the Tournament Player Club, which was recently purchased by Chip Smith, who plans on keeping its five-star rating and building some spectacular villas around the property. Both of these courses will leave you with lasting memories and are so well-designed that they are fun just to ride around, if your girlfriend cares to join you.

Even the big beachfront hotels in the center of town have been upgrading.

One of the oldest and most historic in the area, the Caravelle Resort, has just completed an \$8 million renovation. Each room has been completely remodeled, and rooms now have plasma televisions. A family-friendly place with outdoor heated pools, it also has a lazy river ride (just in case your girlfriend has kids). You will find the staff very helpful when you coordinate your days and nights.

If you haven't been to Myrtle

Beach in a while, I think you are going to be amazed by the transformation that has taken place in this once wild town. It will work for your beer budget and her Champagne tastes.

Another thought might be to try to share some of your military background with her and let her get to know you better by visiting Fayetteville, N.C., the home of Fort Bragg, a U.S. Army post and Pope Air Force Base. A must-see is the Airborne & Special Operations Museum (ASOM), which relates

the history of these exceptional troops through superb scenery, equipment, mannequins, audio-visual presentations and photography.

Fayetteville is an exciting, revitalized city with a thriving brick-paved main street lined by busy sidewalk cafes, which serve a mean cappuccino under the shade of very old trees.

Theaters, art galleries and boutiques, along with the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens, provide off-course interest while the choice of where to eat and drink ranges from casual brew pubs in renovated historic brick buildings to more elegant surroundings set in one of the antique houses-turned-restaurant. Very romantic.

In addition to some great value priced golf-and-stay packages, Fayetteville's a wonderful little town that would give you both a chance to find time to discover each other.

For information, visit the following Web sites:

- www.waccamawgolftrail.com
- www.pawleysplantation.com
- www.golffoliday.com
- www.shark.com/australiangrille
- www.thecaravelle.com
- www.visitfayettevillenc.com

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Spotlight Newspapers welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing for fairness, style and length and should be contained to 500 words or less.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Spotlight Newspapers reserves the right to limit the number of letters published from a single author.

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The deadline for all letters is noon Friday prior to publication.

Spotlight Newspapers also welcomes longer opinion pieces for the Point of View section.

For information about on submitting a Point of View, e-mail Editor-in-Chief Katherine McCarthy at mccarthyk@spotlightnews.com or call 439-4949.



WEEKLY WEATHER

Chief Meteorologist Mike Bono



TIME WARNER CABLE

Albany Almanac

Record high/low/year	
AVERAGE HIGH 52°	AVERAGE LOW 34°
Day	High/Year Low/Year
Wednesday, October 31	73°/1946 18°/1988
Thursday, November 1	78°/1950 22°/1964
Friday, November 2	82°/1950 19°/2002
Saturday, November 3	75°/1990 20°/1980
Sunday, November 4	76°/1994 17°/1951
Monday, November 5	75°/1994 17°/1951
Tuesday, November 6	72°/1948 15°/1951

ANNUAL PRECIPITATION
35.50 inches as of Thursday, October 25th
3.63 inches above average

This week in weather

November 3, 1927 During the Great Vermont Flood, 9" of rain fell in 2 days, devastating the Winooski Valley and putting western New England rivers over their banks. 84 lives were lost in Vermont and a total of 200 in New England. Albany recorded 3.28" of rain on the 3rd.

Sun & Moon

Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Wednesday	7:27am	5:50pm
Thursday	7:29am	5:48pm
Friday	7:30am	5:47pm
Saturday	7:31am	5:46pm
Sunday	6:32am	4:44pm
Monday	6:34am	4:43pm
Tuesday	6:35am	4:42pm

Moon Phases



Planets

When	Where
Saturn Dawn	V. High East
Mars Dawn	High South
Venus Dawn	Bright East
Jupiter Dusk	Low SW

Rivers & Recreation

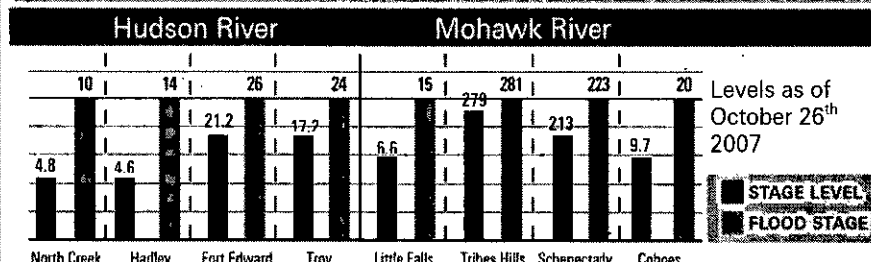
Tides at Albany

Day	High	Low
Wednesday	9:44am, 10:02pm	4:08am, 4:14pm
Thursday	10:44am, 11:01pm	5:03am, 5:13pm
Friday	11:46am, ----	5:59am, 6:13pm
Saturday	12:02am, 12:47pm	6:55am, 7:13pm
Sunday	1:02am, 12:46pm	6:49am, 7:11pm
Monday	1:00am, 1:41pm	7:40am, 8:06pm
Tuesday	1:54am, 2:31pm	8:29am, 8:59pm

Factoid

As of late October there were 13 named tropical storms, and 4 hurricanes, 2 of which made landfall in Central America as Category 5's. The US had only one hurricane landfall, Humberto.

River Levels



Tuesday November 6th Vote For The Democratic Team *Vote Row A*



Keep Bethlehem Moving Forward

The Right Experience
The Right Team

✓ **JACK CUNNINGHAM**
Town Supervisor

✓ **JOANN DAWSON**
Town Board

✓ **MARK HENNESSEY**
Town Board

✓ **DENIS FOLEY**
Town Clerk

✓ **PAUL DWYER**
Town Justice

✓ **PATTI PARSONS**
Receiver of Taxes

KEEP CUNNINGHAM
Our Town Supervisor

Tuesday, November 6th
Polls open 6am – 9pm

Paid for by Committee to Elect Cunningham

Matters of Opinion *in the* Spotlight

Changing lanes doesn't make it a good road

Now it's a free health clinic that's gotten in the way of Gov. Eliot "The Steamroller" Spitzer.

In what looks like retaliation for the opposition that state Assembly Minority Leader Jim Tedisco, R-Schenectady, has brought to the governor's move to provide drivers licenses to illegal immigrants, member item funds for the Schenectady Free Clinic have been taken away. The administration is offering convoluted explanations as to why the funds are removed, but in the end, those who can't afford health care lose.

Tedisco and the county clerks, especially Kathy Marchione of Saratoga County, are right to protest the licensing of illegal aliens — even in the new form that Spitzer presented over the weekend.

Protests against licensing illegal aliens have nothing to do with racism, and everything to do with observing the rule of law. If the governor were serious about bringing illegal aliens out of the shadows, he would create a guest worker policy to allow them to pay taxes and live legally in our state.

The licensing policy is a slap in the face to those who stand in line for hours at the DMV, proper paperwork in hand. There are rumors that it's a purely political ploy: investing in tomorrow's Democratic voters today.

And there's that fight The Steamroller's in with the state's other leading Republican, state Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, R-Brunswick. The governor sicced the state police on Bruno to check out whether he'd been abusing the use of state-funded helicopters. Investigations from both sides seem to be ongoing, even to the point of drawing Albany County District Attorney David Soares away from prosecuting real criminals to focus on the governor and the senator.

Bruno, to retaliate, has held up a lot of Spitzer appointments. We're all used to gridlock in our state Legislature, but the potential for a budget in 2008 seems grim indeed.

And who loses? We, the people.

Gov. Spitzer, you promised us that everything would change on Day One. We sure didn't expect it to change for the worst. Don't forget that we hold the ultimate power: our votes. We won't put up with bullying, being hoodwinked and treated superciliously.

Voters, it's up to you. We don't vote for governor next week, but remember that today's town leaders could be tomorrow's state leaders. On Tuesday, Nov. 6, get to the polls and vote.

Editorial

Smart parents let kids do the math

By ROBIN SHRAGER SUITOR
news@spotlightnews.com

Don't adults have anything better to do than worry about whether or not they are smarter than a fifth grader?

Fifth graders can't drive. They can't vote. They can't get into R-rated movies. Most fifth graders don't care much about personal hygiene. They have to be reminded over and over to brush their teeth.

And yet, all across the land, fully grown men and women are willing to go on national television to find out whether or not they are smarter than a 10-year-old.

I've never actually seen the game show "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" but I've heard about it from friends and family.

I was told that one of the questions asked on the show was "What is the name of the city Charles Lindbergh traveled to on his transatlantic flight?" I didn't know the answer. And apparently neither did the fifth grader or the adult contestant. I was closer because I guessed "somewhere in Europe." The adult on the show picked a city in California.

A tougher general question to ask adults is, "Are you as smart as you were when you were in fifth grade?" I think the television networks should keep track of the fifth graders who appear on the game show. In 25 years, they can gather them up for a televised reunion and ask them the questions from the 2007 shows.

Adults today have so many hard questions to answer, such as "Deal or No Deal?" and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" The answer to the first question is, "If it's enough money to buy a car, even a small car, then it's a deal." The answer to the second question is, "Everyone, excluding those

Point of View

individuals who've made a vow of poverty."

I watched the "Millionaire" quiz show when it first came out. The contestants have the option to "phone a friend" for help with a question. It would drive me crazy when the contestant would take forever to read the question to the friend. I'd be yelling at the TV: "You only have 30 seconds total. Don't use it all up on the question. Your friend will have no time to answer."

Last year I believed I was at least as smart as the fifth grader living in my house. But then she moved on to sixth grade and my whole intelligence rating shifted.

The very first math homework she brought home had me confused. It was about integers, whole numbers, rational numbers and irrational numbers. Sure, I'd heard all the terms before, but I didn't remember what they meant.

Is "negative 2,327" a whole number? I thought it might be, but I wasn't sure. So Rachel brought over her enormous math textbook, found "whole numbers" in the index and turned to the page indicated. On the page there was a box. Inside the box was the phrase "whole numbers" followed by "0, 1, 2, 3..." as examples.

I looked at the box and said, "Maybe negative 2,327 is not a whole number." Just to be sure I decided to phone a friend. Not just any friend, but a friend who teaches math. I took less than 10 seconds to ask my question: "Can a negative number be a whole number?" She said no. She also gave us a tip for remembering that whole numbers start with zero. She said, "Whole numbers start with the doughnut hole."

Then we talked ever so briefly about what constitutes a repeating pattern after the decimal point in a rational number. And then the call was over.

I started to worry. Already I needed outside help and this was simple stuff. What's going to happen when the math homework becomes more complex?

More troubling was the fact that I had known these answers at some point. For goodness sake, I took calculus in high school and even earned college credit. And now a mere, um, 25 years later I'm not sure about whole numbers?

To my relief, I found I was not alone. I polled several people on whether "negative 2,327" is a whole number. Every adult I asked said "yes." That's what I thought, I told them, and then explained that I had re-learned that whole numbers begin with zero and include only positive numbers.

On the heels of whole numbers came the "associative property of multiplication" and the "commutative property of addition" and other principles that require thought. I was so

glad that my daughter would be the one taking the quiz.

As my friends with older children tell me, I've already been through sixth grade. I don't have to do it again. This time it is Rachel's turn.

Recently, I asked her some questions about a poster she was working on. I felt like she wasn't really listening to me. "Mom!" she snapped, clearly exasperated. "You've asked me the same thing three times. I already told you what I'm going to do!"

"All right, then" I replied, pursing my lips and walking out of the room.

She followed me into the kitchen. I thought she was going to apologize for snapping at me, but instead she said "Mom, when you keep asking the same question it gets kind of annoying."

At first I just stared at her. In my head I was screaming "I'M THE ONE WHO IS ANNOYING???"

I am just trying to help you, I told her. When you forged some homework in your locker last week, did Daddy say, "It's annoying when you leave things at school" or did he say, "Don't worry, I'll take you back to the school this evening?" When you say, "I'm confused about how to start this assignment," do I tell you it's annoying when you need help with your homework, or do I sit down and talk through ideas with you?

Now it was her turn to stare at me.

Finally she said, "It's just that when you ask me the same thing over and over it makes me feel like you're not listening."

In my head I was screaming "I'M THE ONE WHO DOESN'T LISTEN???" But what I said to her was, "I'm sorry if I made you feel that way."

Having a contest about who was more annoying wasn't going to serve any purpose. Trying to explain that I had actually asked her the same question three different ways because I wasn't satisfied with her answer was also not going to end this stand off. And I was truly sorry for making her feel like I wasn't listening.

The question for adults isn't really "Are you smarter than a fifth grader?" but "Are you wise enough to help the children around you learn and grow and put their accumulated knowledge to good use as productive citizens?" But the latter doesn't make a very catchy game-show title.

Luckily, real life isn't a game show. In real life, if you get the answer wrong, you generally get another chance to learn the right answer. And if as an adult you need to know the capital of a European country or an example of an imaginary number or the steps of photosynthesis, there's usually a young person around who can readily provide the information.

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Show your presence at the VOTING booth and VOTE to REelect Howard A. SHAFER (Lever 9A or 9E)

On Tuesday 06 November 2007, 6:00 AM - 9:00 PM

First, Howard A. SHAFER has earned the right to run on these three political party lines -
 Democrat 9A ----- Working Families 9E ----- In the Public's Interest 9E

Second, let us set the record straight - the Albany County Charter Section 202 states "Each County Legislator shall reside in the district from which that County Legislator seeks election . . ."
 One of the other candidates lives at 39 Peel Street which is NOT in the election district.

On your behalf, SHAFER has been making a presence:

Howard fought to keep GE's PCBs out of our district

SHAFER fought to keep Waste Management out of our district

Howard has been to every Public Hearing on the county budget four years in a row

SHAFER was at this year's Public Hearings on the Selkirk Fire Department budget 16 October 2007 and the Town Budget 24 October 2007

Howard serves in the Selkirk Fire Department (SFD) and works at its fund raising functions

SHAFER has spent his whole life in Albany County and is a decorated Vietnam Marine Corps veteran

Howard has run a multi million dollar business, the Public Employees Federation, moving it from financial red to in the black in less than 4 years

SHAFER ran for Ravena Coeymans School Board three times and served two terms

Howard is a member of SAFER (Selkirk Association For Every Resident) fighting for a Selkirk By-Pass

SHAFER attended the League of Women Voters "Meet the Candidates" debate

Howard signed the Fair Campaign Practice Pledge

SHAFER knows that part of his Legislative District #36 includes the Town of Coeymans (ToC) election district #06

His opponents:

both opponents were "absent"

both opponents were "absent"

both opponents were "absent"

both opponents were "absent"

one opponent "claims" to live in SFD. BUT is active in another company - = the other absent

????????????????????????????????

????????????????????????????????

have not voted on a school budget in 9 of the last 10 last forums; never attending any of the public hearings while Shafer was on the Board

both opponents were "absent"

one candidate refused to show while the other just did not show

????????????????????????????????

did not even solicit one ToC signature on their nominating petitions

Howard's endorsees are:

Charles Schumer, US Senator states "You couldn't ask for a more dedicated representative for the residents of the 36th District . . ."
 Michael R. McNulty, US Congressman states "Howard . . . has demonstrated his energy and strong commitment . . . over and over again."

- Neil D. Breslin, NYS Senator
- Ron Canestrari, Majority Leader NYS Assembly
- John J. McEneny, Assemblyperson
- Bob Reilly, Assemblyperson
- Paul D. Tonko endorsed when he was an Assemblyperson
- Michael G. Breslin, Albany County Executive
- Thomas G. Clingan, Albany County Clerk
- James L. Campbell, Albany County Sheriff
- Timothy Cavanaugh, Albany County Coroner
- Paul Marra, Albany County Coroner
- Herman Thomas, Albany County Coroner

- Of 27 of 32 Democratic County Legislators (CL)
- Aidala, Aylward, Beston, Burke, Clay, Collins
- Commisso Majority Leader,
- Connolly, Domalewicz, Ethier, Gordon
- candidate Gross, Horstmyer
- Houghtaling, Jr. - Chairman
- Infante, Joyce, Maffia-Tobler
- former CL Messercola, McCoy, McKnight
- Monjeau, Morse, Nichols, Reilly, Riddick, Shafer,
- CL candidate Timmins,
- Ward - Deputy Chairman
- Wiley, & Willingham

- Gerald D. Jennings, Mayor Albany
- John T. McDonald III, Mayor Cohoes
- Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan, Mayor Green Island
- Jack McNulty, Former Mayor Green Island
- Brian Stratton, Mayor Schenectady
- Robert D. Carlson, Mayor Watervliet
- Charles J. Diamond, Councilperson Watervliet
- Ronald K. Hotaling, Jr, Supervisor Town of Coeymans
- Michael Hammond, Supervisor Town of Knox
- Margaret Warner, Chairperson Town of Berne Republicans

- Gerald J. O'Malley, Democratic Chairman & Tax Collector Town of Berne
- Bill Bailey, Trustee Village of Ravena
- Thomas Wade, Democratic Chairman Rensselaer County
- Douglas McGivney, Supervisor Town of Kinderhook, Minority Leader
- Columbia County Board of Supervisors, and NYS Democratic Committee Member
- 108th AD
- Albany County Central Federation of Labor which represents over 30,000 union members & their families
- SEIU 1199, CSEA, & PEF
- RFK Democratic Club
- Albany County Young Democrats (9A on the voting machine)
- Working Families Party (9E on the voting machine)
- In The Public Interest Party (9E on the voting machine)

Howard A. SHAFER has a first term record of voting AGAINST taxes and for protecting our rights, our seniors, our children, our farmers, our environment, and for just simply doing the right thing!

In closing - Howard A SHAFER voted **NO** to the County's 2005 28.6% property tax increase while 100% of the county legislators endorsed the republican party, 95% of the county legislators endorsed by the independence party, and 94% of the county legislators endorsed by conservative party voted "yes".

The choice is clear: REelect Howard A. SHAFER your County Legislator

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Your Opinion *in the* Spotlight

The Capital District's Quality Weeklies

Spotlight

NEWSPAPERS

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Students, businesses provide meals

Editor, *The Spotlight*:

The students in Grade 7 of St. Thomas the Apostle School have served as a Mercy House Meal Team for a number of years. Mercy House is a diocesan-sponsored shelter for homeless women and children in Albany. The Meal Teams provide dinners for these guests every month throughout the year.

The students are asked to earn

the money on their own toward the budget for this project. In addition, this year, the students held an in-school doughnuts and cider sale to jumpstart their budget. Special recognition needs to be extended to Stanton's Feura Farm and owners of Our Family's Harvest, who graciously contributed so much toward this sale. Additionally, we offer special thanks to Mr.

Vince Razzano, manager of the Glenmont Price Chopper, for his contributions toward the sale as well.

Please support these fine businesses within our community, as they share so generously with their neighbors.

Maureen D. Bernstein
Social Justice Coordinator
St. Thomas the Apostle School

Glenmont residents proud of town

Editor, *The Spotlight*:

It's nice to know how your school tax money is spent, so my husband and I decided to attend the open houses at the Bethlehem middle and high schools on Saturday, Oct. 13.

At both schools, student guides gave us a tour through the buildings so we could see the much-needed new additions,

renovations and upgraded equipment. The improvements are impressive.

The student guides also fielded questions regarding the curriculum, instructional methods, cafeteria food offerings, etc. From computer technology and traditional courses to health and security concerns, it was encouraging to

hear that Bethlehem has kept up with the times. The students we met were proud of their schools and appreciative of the rich learning opportunities that are available to them. We are very glad to live in a town that supports educational excellence.

Pam and Ed Tafel
Glenmont

Correction regarding years of service

Editor, *The Spotlight*:

I am writing to correct two letters recently published in *The Spotlight*. Both reference candidate Mark Hennessey's tenure on the zoning board of

appeals. One letter states, "twice appointed" (Caleb Wistar, Oct. 10, p. 9) and a second letter states "serving his second term" (Battle, Oct. 24, p. 10). Since members of the town's ZBA serve five-year terms, the implication seems to be that Mr. Hennessey has in excess of five years experience on the board.

In reality, Mr. Hennessey was selected to replace retiring board

member Robert Wiggand in May 2006 and was appointed to a regular term commencing January 2007.

Readers might incorrectly infer from reading the above referenced letters that Mr. Hennessey has more experience on the board than the 18 months he has actually served.

Gilbert Brookins
Member, Bethlehem Zoning Board of Appeals

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Over the last six years, spending has increased 58%.

Property taxes are scheduled to double over the next six years. Can you afford it?

Almost 100% of the people I've met say that property taxes are too high. At least 25% of these folks tell me that they will have to move out of Bethlehem because of high taxes.

We must reverse this trend.

Our seniors are being chased out of town – just at the time in their lives when they most need their family, their friends and the community that they helped build. What a shame!

Republican / Conservative: 35th LD – Albany County Legislature

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Your Opinion *in the* Spotlight

Halloween Hay Day was a big success

Editor, *The Spotlight*:

I would like to thank all of the residents who attended the Halloween Hay Day event at the Elm Avenue Park on Sunday, Oct. 12. We had a beautiful day, and more than 600 people participated in our activities which included games for prizes, bingo, bag decorating, air brushing, balloons and of course, hayrides.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped make this free event for the residents of Bethlehem such a success: Don Glatetter, Bill Allen and Scott Turner (parks and maintenance staff); Stacey Whitely and her student staff at youth court,

Christine Corson and the Bethlehem High School Freshman Class (snacks and refreshments); Peg Were (air brushing); John Green (clown/balloons); Becky Wood; Lina Kleinhans; and Kristin Skelley (participation in government students); Kim Gallo; and Rachel Promutico.

Events like the Halloween Hay day are just another reminder of how special it is to be a resident in the town of Bethlehem.

Have a safe and happy Halloween.

Jason Gallo
Assistant Administrator
Town of Bethlehem Parks
and Recreation

Come decorate Four Corners

Editor, *The Spotlight*:

The Four Corners in Delmar needs your help.

Marlene Brookins of the Little Country Store is again spearheading holiday events at Delmar's Four Corners. Assistance is needed with decorating, music, elves, and a volunteer Santa. Many businesses in the historic business district

will offer refreshments and special enticements starting on Friday night, Nov. 30. There will be tree lighting at the Delmar Reformed Church that evening.

Can you help? Please contact Marlene at The Little Country Store at 475-9017.

Marty DeLaney
President, Bethlehem
Chamber of Commerce

Got a gripe? E-mail a letter to news@spotlightnews.com

Re-elect

Rich REILLY Debbie BARON

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Art Scheuermann



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Mix of candidates vie for seven county seats

There are seven county legislative races affecting residents of New Scotland, Bethlehem and Guiderland on Election Day.

In the race for the 31st Legislative District, incumbent Democrat William F. Aylward Jr., is being challenged by Republican Ted Danz.

Aylward, who is also running on the Independence line, is attempting to capture a third term in the Albany County Legislature.

Danz, who is running on the Republican/Conservative line,

is a resident of Gardner Road in Altamont. He said he is running for county legislator because "taxpayers are paying too much to fund an overgrown and wasteful county government."

Democrat Mary Lou Bartolotta-Connolly, a four-term county legislator, is running for re-election in the 32nd Legislative District against Anton Konev. Bartolotta-Connolly has been involved in government for 30 years. Konev is running for his first political office at the age of 23. The Republican-endorsed candidate is currently

a senior legislative aid in the state Assembly and a graduate of the University at Albany. He considers himself a community activist who will help to improve the quality of life to Guiderland and Albany County residents.

Longtime legislator Herbert W. Reilly Jr., is running for a third term as 33rd District legislator. The Democratic-and-Independence-endorsed candidate is also a 22-year veteran of New Scotland town government serving as town supervisor for 12 years and councilman for 10 years. The Holy Cross graduate owns

Reilly and Son Funeral Home in Colonie and Voorheesville.

Reilly's opponent is Republican/Conservative candidate Patrick Greene, an Albany attorney who lives in Slingerlands. Greene said he would like to reduce the size of county government.

In the race for 34th District county legislator, it's a battle of newcomers, pitting newly appointed Democrat Thomas J. Cotrofeld Jr., against Republican/Conservative Jared King. Cotrofeld, a resident of Delmar, was appointed to the 34th District seat in May replacing Jack Cunningham who accepted a position as Bethlehem town supervisor. Cotrofeld is employed by General Electric as a government contract negotiator and administrator for GE Global Research.

King, also a Delmar resident, is a graduate of Bethlehem High School and Yale University. He works as a stock and options trader. King said voters should expect more from elected officials.

"I selected, I will represent and communicate with all the citizens of the district," said King.

Albany County's 35th Legislative District also has a contested race, pitting incumbent Democrat and Independence candidate Charles S. Dawson Jr. against Republican Mitch Goldstein. Dawson, a resident of Glenmont, was first elected county legislator in 2000. Much of his legislative work in the county

involves economic development. He is a volunteer firefighter who holds a doctorate in public administration from Rockefeller College, State University of New York at Albany.

Goldstein, the president of a real estate investment and management firm, says he will reduce taxes and wasteful spending by capping county property taxes, eliminating the county taxes on gasoline and cracking down on Medicaid fraud.

The 36th District will see a three-year race for legislator this year, pitting incumbent Democrat Howard A. Shafer of Selkirk against Independent Leo Dorsey Jr. and Republican/Conservative candidate Richard Mendick.

Shafer is finishing his first term as a county legislator. Formerly a fiscal analyst with the state Health Department, he is currently a member of the county's public works committee.

Dorsey is running on the Independence Party line. He was a detective sergeant in the Bethlehem Police Department and is currently a member of the Delmar Fire Department.

Mendick holds an MBA from the University of Denver and has a 30-year business background in accounting, strategic planning, and budgeting.

The information for these candidate literature from the Albany County Web site at www.albanycounty.com.

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Nutrition *in the* Spotlight

Late Frost

LAURIE TEN EYCK
General Manager
Indian Ladder Farms,
Altamont, NY

As I sat down to write this column on Friday, October 26th we still had not experienced a frost. I was all prepared to write about cold weather crops and winter storage foods but what are traditionally late summer and early fall crops, such as raspberries, tomatoes and zucchini, are still coming in. This concerned me. I decided to investigate and called the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service Forecast Office located at the Albany International Airport. What I found out wasn't very reassuring.

According to Kimberly Sutkevich, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service the latest recorded frost for our area occurred on November 12th 1883, however our average first frost strikes between October 1st and October 10th.

Sutkevich pointed out that, the late frost aside, we haven't been having typical fall weather for the entire season. She explained that the factors influencing our prolonged

spell of warm weather take place far to the south and north. "We are experiencing a little bit of La Nina. This has to do with the water temperature off the coast of South America in the Pacific Ocean." La Nina, Spanish for "little girl," is an ocean-atmosphere phenomenon that causes cooler water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean along the coast of South America. La Nina winds, which blow from east to west, push the warm water at the surface of the ocean westward, allowing the cold water below to rise to the surface. Because the water is colder less moisture evaporates into the atmosphere. "We are receiving less moisture through the trade winds," explained Sutevich. "Moisture aids in the development of low pressure weather systems which give us cloudy, rainy, cooler weather. Without it we have been experiencing high pressure systems."

Another factor influencing our fall weather lies to the north. Normally, this time of year, the jet stream starts bringing in cold air from Canada. This year that hasn't been happening. "Usually Hudson Bay is partially frozen by now but it's not," said Sutkevich. "We are not getting

that burst of cold from Canada. That has a huge impact. We are not receiving any cold because it is just not there."

Could this be a symptom of global warming? Speaking for the National Weather Service Sutkevich could not say. The official line is that the weather service has no conclusive evidence that our warm autumn has been caused by global warming.

What does it mean for the crops? Here at Indian Ladder Farms it is good for some and maybe not so good for others. Strawberries benefit because they continue to photosynthesize for a longer period of time, laying the groundwork for next year's crop. Apples however require what my father Peter Ten Eyck calls, "the orderly progression of the seasons." What they need is a gradual hardening off period during which the trees go dormant. After this long, warm autumn below zero temperatures in December could cause significant damage. In the meantime we must enjoy what's left of the fragile tomatoes, basil, and summer squash. Hopefully next week I'll get down to writing about what to do with cabbages.

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Taming the trail

Glenmont hikers trek the entire length of Appalachian Trail

By JIM CUOZZO
cuozzoj@spotlightnews.com

Glenmont residents "Doctor Ninja" and "The Breeze," more commonly known by the names Paul Sypek and Matt Stannard, are now part of an elite group of hikers who have finished a remarkable 2,175-mile journey along the Appalachian Trail.

The two young men, both 21 years old, began the odyssey in early spring in Georgia, ending at the summit of Mt. Katahdin in Maine on Monday, Oct. 8, in a trek that spanned breathtaking terrain, including the Great Smokey Mountains of Tennessee and the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

"It was amazing," said Sypek, resting comfortably at home and sporting a long bushy beard, now 40 pounds lighter from the daily hikes through woods and across streams in 14 states. "I've been sleeping a lot in my own bed."

The two friends decided to hike the trail "because it was there," and for the thrill and adventure of a lifetime.

"It sounded like a good idea at the time," Sypek said.

The journey began on a long Greyhound bus ride from Albany to Gainesville, Ga., and on to Springer Mountain, where the trail begins. With maps, camping gear, good walking shoes and plenty of dehydrated food, Sypek and Stannard walked, hiked and climbed that first exciting day through Springer Mountain.

"The hardest hike was the beginning 7 miles," said Sypek. "I was completely out of shape."

But a few days later, the two found their groove, and their legs became sturdy and their lungs refreshed as they breathed in the clean mountain air. Crossing six national parks, eight national forests and living among the 2,000 or more rare and endangered animal species, Sypek and Stannard continued on.

"We saw many bears, and at one time were about 10 feet away from a bear," said Sypek who said they also encountered many rattlesnakes in Pennsylvania along the Alleghany and Susquehanna rivers.

Everyone who hikes the trail is given a nickname. Sypek was called "Doctor Ninja" because he brought along so many Band-aids and medicine supplies. Stannard's trail name "The Breeze" comes from a Lynyrd Skynnyrd song "Call me the breeze."

The hikers covered an average of 12 to 18 miles a day, some days resting to take in the locale and other days hiking as many as 30 miles.

"We saw snow in early April somewhere in North Carolina, and it was sub zero in the Smokey Mountains," said Sypek, who said the Grayson Highlands in Virginia was one of his favorite spots on the trail.

"The south is beautiful, with some of the biggest mountains we went over," Sypek said.

The mystique of the Appalachian Trail began 82 years ago when architect Benton

MacKaye was looking to escape the Industrial Revolution growth and growing pollution of the early 20th century.

"The trail was conceived in 1924 by MacKaye as essentially an escape from urban growth," said Martin Bartels, marketing director for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving what is now known as the National Trail System.

Myron Avery was the second Appalachian Trail pioneer, who organized hiking clubs along the length of the trail to preserve its identity.

Author Bill Bryson brought the trail more fame with his book "A Walk in the Woods," published in 1999, which covers his journey along the Appalachian Trail.

Bartels said hiking the trail is really a spiritual and special event that people never forget.

"I think what people are most proud of and what I hear most is the psychological battle; the solitude that can also be communal," said Bartels. "There are hours or an entire day or more when you don't see people."

Stannard and Sypek did meet their share of hikers and nearby residents who live along the trail in many sections, and they remembered the generosity of one man in Greenwood Lake, Orange County, who let the two stay overnight and allowed them to linger while he went to work.

"He was going to Washington, D.C., the next morning and said he would be back in a couple of days, leaving behind bagels and other food for us to eat," Sypek said. "People who know about the trail will take you in."

After having spent close to six months on the trail, in early October Stannard and Sypek trekked the final 5,000 feet up to the summit of Mt. Katahdin, which was a very emotional experience.

"I was laughing uncontrollably, and I saw other people crying,"



Twenty-one-year-olds Matt Stannard, with arm raised, and Paul Sypek of Glenmont recently completed a 2,175-mile journey along the Appalachian Trail. The men hiked through 14 states from Georgia to New Hampshire before reaching the summit of Mt. Katahdin in Maine in October.

Submitted photo


said Sypek. "It was a pretty amazing feeling."

More than 9,000 people have

hiked the entire 2,175 miles of the trail, which now has 5,500 volunteers working annually to

preserve it. For information on the Appalachian Trail, visit www.appalachiantrail.org.

Elect



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New Scotland Town Supervisor

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Who worries about our children's future?	Tom Dolin, Grandfather
Who knows how Town government works?	Tom Dolin, Town Attorney
Who can listen and make a decision?	Tom Dolin, Town Judge
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IN BRIEF

United Methodists collecting used children's books

The members of the Community United Methodist Church of Slingerlands are collecting new or gently used children's reading books appropriate for the primary grades. They will be delivered to Van Cleave, Miss., by volunteers returning to that town to help with the reconstruction that is continuing after the Katrina disaster.

Members are asking the

community to support this good cause by bringing books to their church at 1499 New Scotland Road by Saturday, Nov. 3.

Olde Tyme Gifts Craft Fair this weekend

The 18th annual Olde Tyme Gifts Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 38 Whitehead St., off Route 396, in Selkirk.

Many new vendors are expected.

Clarksville Elementary School to create alumni tile wall

Clarksville Elementary School is getting more than a facelift. After more than 38 years, the Bethlehem elementary school is undergoing its most wide-ranging renovations and additions since it was built in 1948.

To commemorate the changes, the PTA will create a tile wall to decorate the cafeteria and hallways. The

funds raised from the sale of the tiles will be used to outfit the cafeteria with state-of-the-art audio-video equipment.

Tiles will list the name of the alumnus and the year graduated from Clarksville and will be decorated with the Bethlehem eagle design.

All alumni are invited to purchase tiles at \$15 per tile (or \$25 for two).

For information, call 475-0735 or e-mail at sg101@verizon.net.

Puppeteers to put on spooky classic

Old Songs, Inc. will present The Puppet People in their performance of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" on Sunday, Nov. 4, at 2 p.m. at the Old Songs Community Arts Center, 37 South Main St., Voorheesville.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$3 for children 15 and under and may be purchased at the door.

For reservations, call 765-2815.

"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," as presented by The Puppet People, is a thrilling comic rendition of Washington Irving's number one haunting tale. Focusing on themes of bullying, jealousy and superstition, this show features hand-crafted marionettes, two life-sized puppets, special lighting and smoke effects, and both classical and traditional folk music.

The Puppet People are husband and wife team Mark Carrigan and Michelle Smith-Carrigan, who have been entertaining people for more than 20 years.

The Puppet People have performed at many schools, theatres, festivals, libraries, museums, community centers and churches throughout New York, Massachusetts and Vermont.

For information and to reserve tickets, call 765-2815.

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The New York ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes Program and Multifamily Performance Program, both developed under the New York Energy SmartSM initiative and sponsored by NYSERDA, are designed to lower energy costs, reduce energy demand, and help protect the environment.

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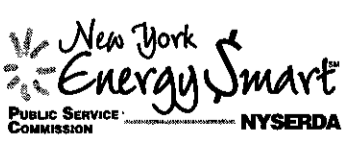



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New Scotland clerk faces Republican challenger

Deschenes cites experience; Barone says she's open to new ideas

By JILL U. ADAMS
news@spotlightnews.com

The office of the town clerk is considered the link between residents and local government. Such matters as licensing, access to town documents and official forms, and notary service take place here. The town clerk, an elected position, oversees the functioning of the office and is the first face most people see when they come to town hall.

Diane Deschenes has been working in New Scotland's Town Hall for more than 10 years. In 1996, she started as the clerk to the building assessor. In 1999, she successfully ran for town clerk, an office she has held ever since. In 2005, she also began collecting taxes as the two jobs were merged into one.

While Deschenes has been in office for eight years, this is the first time the Democrat has had an opponent in the campaign.

With 30 years of customer

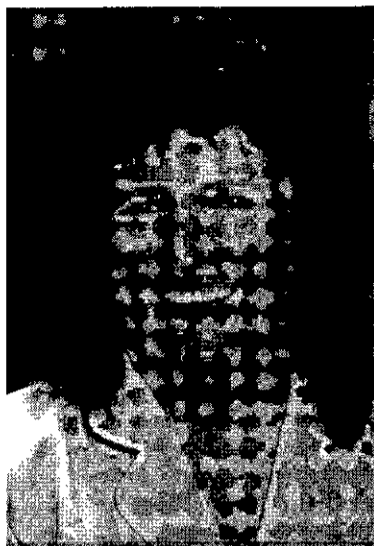
service experience, Republican Penny Barone said she's also experienced at record keeping and organization. Currently, she is a medical receptionist; prior to that, she worked as a restaurant manager. An expert in "meet-and-greet," she also has computer, phone, and cash-handling skills, all of which are necessary to a town clerk.

Deschenes said she believes she has been open and accessible to the public during her years in office.

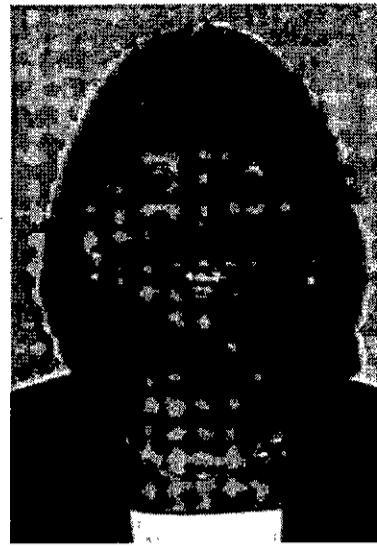
"I feel I do a good job for the town every day," she said, also giving credit to her deputy clerk and tax clerk, Carol Cootware and Arlene Herzog.

The three women have all worked in other offices in town hall, which means as a team they have the know-how to help residents navigate just about any town matter, said Deschenes.

The town clerk must be skilled at dealing with the public, which to Deschenes means being "polite, helpful and available." She believes the town has considered her office to be "very open."



Penny Barone



Diane Deschenes

As town clerk, Deschenes said she worked to save the town money. Merging the positions of town clerk and tax collector was one way. Deschenes has also written a handful of grants over the years, bringing in more than \$90,000.

One of these was a records grant, to bring the town's record keeping closer to New York State archival standards.

"I care about this community," said Deschenes. "I'm a hard worker. I'm going to do the best job I can."

Her challenger Barone cites her own multitasking abilities as key to the job of town clerk.

She is more than familiar with town hall as her aunt, Marilyn Holmbers, worked as the town's tax collector for many years.

Visiting her aunt there, Barone witnessed the appeal of meeting people and serving a small community on a personal level.

Barone has several ideas to change the way the town clerk's office functions. She and town supervisor candidate Doug LaGrange would have town hall be open one night a week, making it more convenient for town residents with daytime work hours to access permits and licensing.

LaGrange would join Barone on some of those nights with an open door to the supervisor's office, for residents to ask questions or raise issues.

Barone will look to offer other conveniences, perhaps holding flu clinics or offering goods like lawn bags in town hall. She pledged to stay open to new ideas.

"The town clerk's job is to take care of the community as a whole and not get involved in the politics," said Barone.

Barone was born and raised in Bethlehem and has lived in New Scotland for six years with her husband and four children.

IN BRIEF

Saint Thomas to hold open house

Saint Thomas the Apostle School in Delmar is holding an open house on Monday, Nov. 5, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy refreshments while exploring this faith-filled, top-ranked, Middle States accredited Pre-K through 8th grade school, 42 Adams Place, Delmar.

For information, call Principal Tom Kane at 439-5573 or e-mail stthomas@nycap.rr.com

Art group's annual fall show nears

The annual fall show of the Bethlehem Art Association will hang during November at the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

Painting, calligraphy workshop planned

Leigh Wen will present a workshop in Chinese brush painting and calligraphy on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Delmar Presbyterian Church, 585 Delaware Ave in Delmar.

Registration is limited. The cost is \$30 for Bethlehem Art Association members; \$35 for others.

Call 489-1882 or 439-3948 for information.

Educational Opportunity Center appoints manager

Giorgia Dinegar of Slingerlands was recently named the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center's ATTAIN Lab Manager/Coordinator.

Dinegar joined the Capital District EOC in September. She holds a master's degree in instructional technology from the New York Institute of Technology and a bachelor's degree in music from Herbert H. Lehman College.

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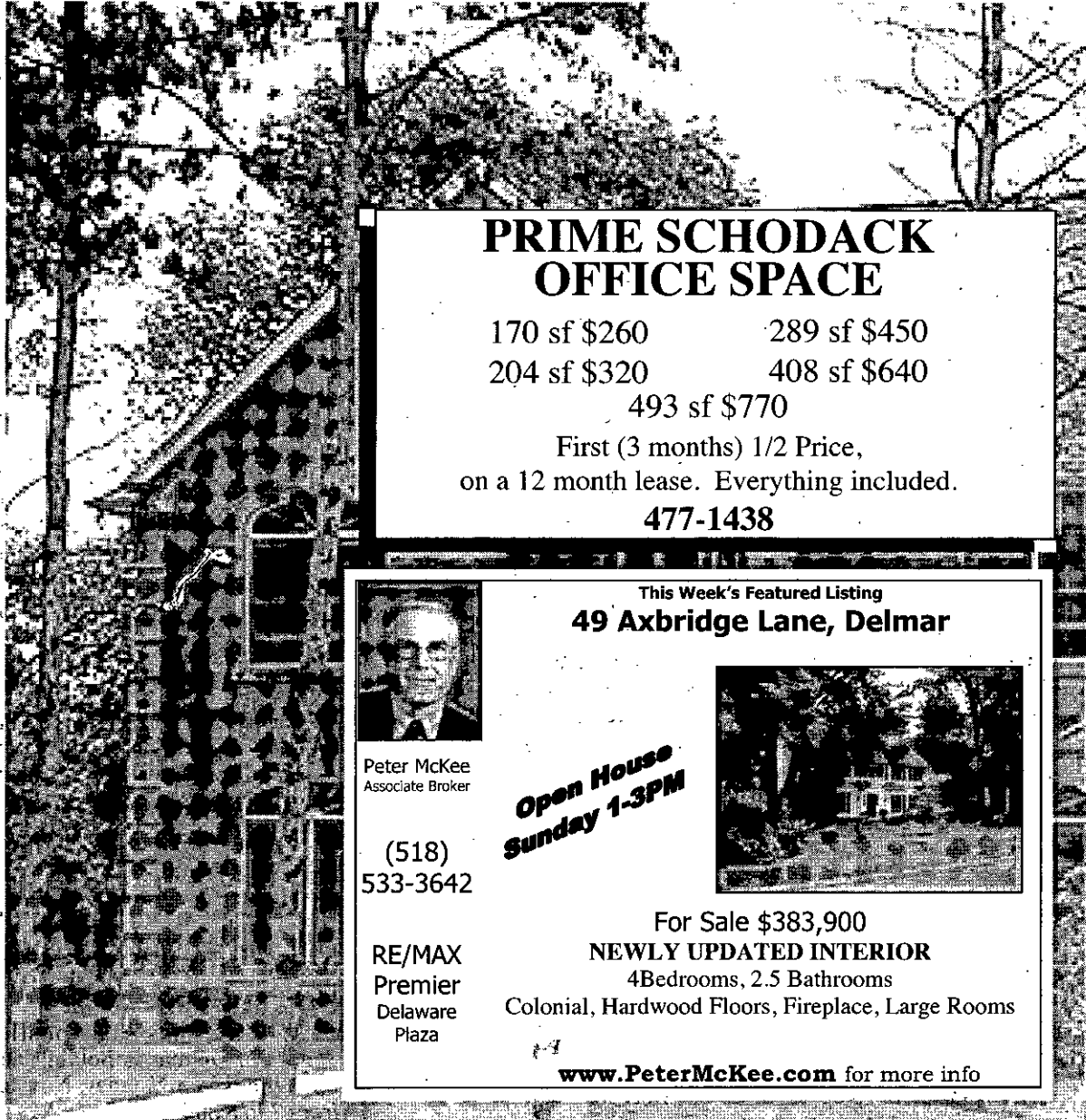
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Friends of Music to present Cabaret

The Voorheesville Friends of Music presents Cabaret 2007 on Saturday, Nov. 3, in the gym at the Voorheesville high school. The show will begin at 7 p.m. and doors will open at 6:15.

Admission for adults is \$5, students and seniors will be \$4.

Board of Education to meet

The Voorheesville Board of Education will meet on Monday Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

All are invited to attend.

District closed for holiday

Schools in the Voorheesville Central School District will be closed Monday, Nov. 12, for the Veterans Day Holiday.

NEWS NOTES

Voorheesville
Betsy Glath
765-4415



Mission Bazaar

The Voorheesville Mission Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Voorheesville Methodist Church on Maple Avenue.

Lunch will be available. There be crafts, white elephant items and baked goods for sale.

All proceeds from the day will be used for Mission projects selected by United Methodist Women.

Town of New Scotland to hold drama class

The Town of New Scotland is holding a class called "Original Dramatic Works" on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for children in grades one to four.

The class combines playwriting, movement, ensemble acting, creative set design and creative costume design.

Students will create their own original theatrical piece based on a central theme. A performance will take place at the end of the class and the cost is \$45.

It will be held at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center on New Salem Road in Voorheesville.

For information or to register, call 475-0385.

St. Matthew's to hold breakfast

The Men's Association of St. Matthew's Church in Voorheesville is holding a breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 11, from 7:30 a.m. to noon in the social hall at St. Matthew's Church, 2 Mountain View Road.

Menu items include pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, home fries, toast, juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

The cost for an adult is \$5 and children are \$3. Take-out meals will also be available.

Proceeds help the association raise money for its many activities around the Parish and throughout the local community.

Struggles, victories of WWII

On Veterans Day, Kate Dudding's expressive voice will present some of the unpublished stories of World War II, weaving details of life on the front lines and here at home to capture an era.

Her presentation of "Remember When: Stories and Songs of World War" is focused on stories of specific



people, but kindles memories for all who lived through that time.

Dudding, a resident of Clifton Park, recognized her calling as a storyteller in 1995. To prepare for this WWII program, she approached local veterans and asked for their stories.

She is a member of the National Storytelling Network, New England Storytelling, Story Circle of the Capital District and the Saratoga County Arts Council, and was a co-founder of the Hudson Valley Storytelling Alliance.

Come for an entertaining and educational hour of enjoyment Sunday, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m. The program is presented by the Friends of the Voorheesville Library.

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St. George Greek Orthodox Church
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Rug Hooking

Local fiber artist Lori Lupe Pelish will be at VPL on Sunday, Nov. 4, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. for a discussion of rug hooking.

Sleepy Hollow

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Nov. 18, for a shadow puppet presentation of the Legend of Sleepy Hollow by PuppeTree.

Free and open to the public.

It is not over

The library survey deadline has been extended to Dec. 1. Visit the VPL Web site to give us your responses concerning the library's future. Two additional focus group sessions are scheduled for the public: Nov. 1, from 5 to 7 p.m. and Nov. 15 from 7 to 9 p.m., conducted by our consultant Linda London. Sign up to attend by calling or e-mailing VPL.

On Board

After receiving a degree in history and policy studies from Syracuse University and her master's in special education from the University of Hartford, Rebecca Pahl has returned to the area with her husband, Kurt, daughter, Rachel, and their turtles, Bert and Ernie.



Pahl

She has been appointed to fill the remainder of the board of trustee term of Cathy Anderson and will be eligible for election on the spring ballot.

Thanks go to Anderson for her years of service and concern for VPL.

Barbara Vink

Be an MVP Gold Strider!

Fall Session now in progress at Colonie Center



COLONIECENTER

We've started a new season of the **MVP Gold Striders Walking Club at Colonie Center!** The **MVP Gold Striders Walking Club at Colonie Center** meets every Wednesday, now through December 19, from 9 am to 10 am (meet at the Food Court). Join us afterward for free activities such as Living Well seminars and health screenings.

The **MVP Gold Striders Walking Club** is sponsored by MVP Gold, a Medicare Advantage Health Plan that helps you take on life and live well!

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IN BRIEF

Intergenerational wealth planning conference planned

The third annual Intergenerational Wealth Planning Conference, hosted by the Pierro Law Group, LLC, is set for Thursday, Nov. 1, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Albany Country Club, 300 Wormer Rd., Voorheesville.

Speakers and topics include Richard Neno, Esq., Wilmington Trust, "Dynasty Trust Planning;" Joan A. Lipton, Lazar Lipton Valuation Services, "Valuing Assets and Discounts;" Richard Blaser, Hartford Insurance Company, "High End Life Insurance Plans;" Philip a DiGiorgio, Esq., Pierro Law Group, "Bulletproofing the Plan for Audit;" and Louis W. Pierro, Pierro Law Group, "Leveraging Charitable Planning." The conference is co-sponsored by the Pierro Law Group, Wilmington Trust, Foundation Source and The Hartford.

Information and reservations are available at 459-2100, or visit www.pierrolaw.com.

Mountain offering discount skiing plan

The Bethlehem Family Fun Ski Group is looking for any interested skiers (ages 4+) and families.

Willard Mountain is offering a special discounted ski program to Bethlehem residents through the Bethlehem Family Fun Ski Group.

Registration deadline is Monday, Nov. 5.

Call 439-1346 for information.

Musicians of Ma'alwyck launch winter concert season

The Musicians of Ma'alwyck return to Bethlehem Public Library Sunday, Nov. 4, at 2 p.m. with "Music in the Spanish Courts" for violin, guitar and cello.

The performance opens the library's 2007-08 winter concert series, "A Little Sunday Music."

Musicians of Ma'alwyck is a flexible-size chamber music ensemble founded in 1999 by violinist Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz. In residence at the Schuyler Mansion and UAlbany, the group performs regularly in upstate New York, specializing in music of the 18th and 19th centuries.

For this performance, Schwartz is joined by guitarist Sten Isachsen and



cellist Petia Kassarova. "A Little Sunday Music" is made possible by a generous contribution from Friends of Bethlehem Public Library. The concert is free and open to the public.

Tech Fair this weekend

Don't forget to visit our Technology Fair this Saturday, Nov. 3. The fair runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Library staff and representatives from the AT&T Store, GE2McS, First

Lego League, New York Capital Region Geocachers, NYSERDA, Sinnamon Sewing Machine Service, Staples, Tangora Technologies, and Upstate New York Unix Users Group will introduce the latest high-tech products and services through exhibits, mini-workshops, and hands-on demonstrations.

Appropriate for all ages and levels of technical knowledge, the fair will offer basic information about high-definition television, home computer security, home wireless access, the library's Computer Partners tutoring service, and more.

A project station for kids will be provided. So come on by; you may get

some holiday gift ideas.

Donate blood at the library

We are sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive on Saturday Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, or you can preregister by calling the library at 439-9314. Donors must be 17 years of age and weigh at least 110 pounds. For information, go to www.redcross.org and click on "give blood."

Louise Grieco

• All library programming is free and open to the public. The Bethlehem Public Library is located at 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar. For information, call 439-9314.

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Real Estate TODAY



by **Cathy Cooley**
Licensed Associate Broker, CBR, SAES

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The house hunting process essentially calls for buyers to check out homes of comparable value ("comps") in a given area and to choose from among them. If all the homes in a certain price range offer comparable numbers of bedrooms, bathrooms, and square footage, what is there to set one apart from the others?

This is a question that sellers should be asking themselves.

Buyers often refer to "that house with the granite counters" or "that house with the gorgeous view," or on the flip side "that house with the dated kitchen." With this in mind, seller's should concentrate on a feature or amenity that sets their home apart from the others.

Remember, as your real estate professional, I can help by providing recommendations such as pristine gardens, creating the ideal home office or media room or using high quality materials in your bathroom or kitchen. These are all features that will help prospective buyers differentiate your home from others.



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First United Methodist Church MVP Gold Moves for MVP Gold members only	October 29 - December 6 Fridays 10 am - 11 am	☎ 388-2485
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Town board hears waterfront plan

Vision includes mixed uses and renovations to Henry Hudson Park

By JIM CUOZZO
cuozzo@spotlightnews.com

Bethlehem's first-ever local waterfront revitalization plan was presented to the public at the Wednesday, Oct. 24, meeting of the town board, and it includes plans for a renovated Henry Hudson Park, complete with a pavilion and new trails for hiking and cross-country skiing.

"We have been working on this for a little more than a year, and we are getting close to making recommendations," said Economic Development Director George Leveille.

A nine-member panel of appointees has been meeting since November 2006, plotting the best future use of the town's nearly 10-mile riverfront corridor, which begins at the Albany city line near the I-90 corridor. The corridor is separated into south, central and north riverfront districts.

The south district begins at Clapper Road and extends all the way to the Hudson River.

"This area is defined by its peaceful rural nature and open spaces," said Rob Holzman of Saratoga Associates, the consultants hired by the town to work with the committee on the revitalization plan.

Holzman said the north corridor near the Port of Albany is mostly heavy industrial, but opportunities exist to create a mixed-use environment to enhance opportunities for tech-based companies and

"This area is defined by its peaceful rural nature and open spaces."

Rob Holzman

light industrial, such as a boat restoration business.

"The central area is the most complicated to understand," Holzman said, referring to its mix of open space and industrial uses. "We strive to recognize the call for balance in this area."

The committee is working

on a way to integrate the Glenmont Job Corps site with town-owned property along Simmons Road that could define a potential waterfront destination.

Plans for the town's Henry Hudson Park may include a monument with a pavilion for skating in the winter and wooded trails for cross-country skiing.

"An opportunity for kayaks and small boats also exists," said Holzman.

The next step for the committee will be to hear what the public has to say about the plan at a Wednesday, Nov. 7, community meeting in Town Hall.

From that point the plan will be reviewed by the Department of State and its inland coastal resources division. The state is assisting the town in completing the waterfront plan, which could potentially see state and federal dollars being allocated.

"We are looking for a mid-winter adoption of the local waterfront revitalization plan," said Holzman.

After the presentation, board member Sam Messina asked how regional coordination of the town waterfront plan would occur with other riverfront locations.

"With ongoing communication between our community and adjoining riverfront communities, we need to think of our stewardship of this part of the river," Leveille said.

The waterfront development plan was a Tier 1 recommendation of the 2005 updated townwide comprehensive plan.

Budget hearing draws questions

Citizens wary of tax increases and spending

By JIM CUOZZO
cuozzo@spotlightnews.com

A handful of residents attended the Wednesday, Oct. 24, public hearing on Bethlehem's 2008 tentative budget, which turned out to be more of a question-and-answer session between town board members and the public.

The \$37.6 million dollar budget raises taxes 2.5 percent while increasing spending by 4 percent.

Selkirk property owner William Stewart said taxes are rising, and he fears losing his home to increasing town taxes.

"What are you going to do to keep taxes from going up?" asked Stewart. "Are you going to cut spending?"

Supervisor Jack Cunningham said he is encouraging commercial economic growth to ease the taxpayer burden. That growth includes more development along the town's Route 9W corridor, along with the opening of Vista Technology Park in Slingerlands.

"We do have a direction, and we are working towards it," Cunningham said.

Resident Robert Jasinski cautioned board members on the potential overspending of general fund reserves. The 2008 budget proposes to use \$2.5 million of unappropriated reserves from four different town funds, including the general fund.

"I don't like to see the general fund go down," said Jasinski.

Republican candidate for town board Art Sheuermann said the No. 1 concern he has heard from residents is the increase in overall town expenditures and its relationship to rising taxes.

"You need to make decisions as a town board to cut spending to keep the tax rate low," said Sheuermann.

Cunningham said the combination of flat revenues and spending increases in certain areas are what caused the tax rate increase. He pointed the cost of supplies like pool chemicals, blacktop and an 8 percent hike in health insurance spending as areas that affected the 2008 budget.

"This year's budget has been a challenge," said Cunningham. "Although our expenses continue to increase, our revenue streams are flat."

Norman Morand said the town board approved raises for employees as costs for seniors continue to rise.

"Nobody seems to be worrying about them," said Morand.

Board member Kyle Kotary said this year's budget process has been open under the newly appointed town supervisor because of the "difficult decisions" made.

Other 2008 budget highlights include the addition of a new full-time senior outreach worker and a full-time consultant to address the town's stormwater management problems.

"We were able to add some significant initiatives that are needed," said Joann Dawson, town board member.

Employees across the board will also receive 3 percent cost-of-living increases. The town board is expected to approve the 2008 budget at its Wednesday, Nov. 14, meeting.

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Play it safe

Keep toys kid-friendly by staying on top of recalls and safety guidelines

By JENNIFER FARNSWORTH
news@spotlightnews.com

Any parent will say it is virtually impossible to always keep a constant close eye on young children. Consequently, they put a lot of trust in companies that manufacture children's toys.

For the most part, infant, toddler and children's toys must meet strict safety guidelines, but when they do not, the consequences can be serious. The amount of information on toy safety and recalls can be overwhelming for parents to sift through, but a good place to start is with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, or CPSC.

According to the CPSC statistics, there are about 400 recalls each year, an average of 22 deaths per year from furniture tipping on children reaching for toys, and almost 100 injuries from small mag-

nets in toys.

"The home is where people feel comfortable and secure, but constant awareness is the key to keeping families safe. CPSC is aiming to increase awareness to the hidden hazards around the home in order to help parents protect against these dangers," said CPSC Chairwoman Nancy Nord.

Rotterdam mother Nikki Bick said she only allows her 1-year-old son, Colin, to play with age-appropriate toys. Bick said she keeps his toys within his reach and likes let him play with simple items such as plastic food containers.

"If I am in the kitchen, I let him play with Tupperware containers. It keeps him in sight, entertained, and I use the big tops and bottoms, which I know are a safe bet," said Bick.

Many parents and teachers suggest stocking up on educational toys that have a history of being kid-friendly, such as blocks. Many preschoolers also like to begin exploring with role-playing and make

believe. Old Halloween costumes or clothing items make great dress-up outfits.

Wonderland Nursery School teacher Leslie August said it's important to remember to stay away from items that would cause strangulation or cut off circulation.

"The home is where people feel comfortable and secure, but constant awareness is the key to keeping families safe."
Nancy Nord

"The children at our school use the dress-up clothes regularly," said August. "We know to make sure there are no ties or long scarves that the children could use to wrap around any part of themselves."

August also said she recommends keeping play areas stocked with oversized Legos, cardboard brick blocks, baby dolls and wooden toys such as trucks and puzzles.

"We try to only choose toys that are classics, ones we know the children love,

are educational, yet safe," said August.

Keeping small parts away from preschool children seems easy enough, but there are other aspects of play that can be overlooked.

According to the CPSC, a growing hazard is fast-food toys. The safety group recommends parents first check out the toys before handing them to children.

Also of concern are electronic toys with batteries. The CPSC said parents should not assume safety is only an issue with young children. Older children still tend to put their hands near their mouths, and if they do so after touching a toy with a leaky battery, it can be a hazard. Adult supervision is also recommended with battery chargers and adapters.

The Parent-Teacher store in Latham is a good local source for unique learning toys that are not mass-marketed. Assistant manager Martha Bonaparte said an advantage of choosing toys from a specialty store is the one-on-one assistance.

"We have the ability to make sure our stock is up-to-date with any recalls. We can aid parents and teachers with choosing, and we can easily address any concerns," said Bonaparte. "One of the easiest things a parent can

do is follow the age-appropriate guidelines printed on toy packages."

With the holidays soon approaching, the CPSC has released guidelines for shopping. Among the top tips are avoiding toys with small magnets for children under 6; avoiding small parts for children under 3; using helmets for all ride-on toys; and being cautious of projectile toys such as rockets and darts.

Finally, they recommend parents with children of different ages make an effort to keep the kids' toys separated.

"Keep toys properly stored so that you can see if any parts become detached or broken. Examine toys right out of the package, and if it is something you are unsure about, toss it," said Bonaparte.

For tips on selecting toys and toy recalls, visit the CPSC's Web site at www.CPSC.gov.

A HIDDEN DANGER

— from page 1 —

of 2. Doctors say this is when children are at the greatest risk for lead toxicity since they are regularly gumming, chewing or otherwise putting things into their mouth, increasing the likelihood of ingesting of the poison.

Looney said that in his own experience as a pediatrician, the highest level of lead he ever found in a patient came through this regular screening process with the child showing no outward symptoms.

Bristol and Looney encourage parents to speak to their pediatricians if they are concerned about lead levels in children older than 2. Screening questions should be asked until the child reaches the age of 6, said Bristol.

Testing for the toxin is easy and covered by all insurances. Local health departments can serve as a resource for families without health coverage for their children or with health coverage that does not pay for blood tests.

Looney said that a finger prick test is not as accurate as a venous test, as it may reflect higher levels of lead based on lead dust. Finger tests with high levels of lead should be followed up by a venous test.

Once children are removed from the source of exposure, the lead will eventually leach

out of their system, said Bristol. In extreme cases with higher levels, it is more urgent to remove the lead. Looney said oral medications may be given or admittance into the hospital may be required to administer intravenous medications. Depending on the level of lead in the child's system, the health department may be dispatched to the home (and to the homes of caregivers) to evaluate the setting. In some instances, a child may not be cleared to go back home until the situation has been corrected.

"It is a pretty significant is-

not followed properly, the dust created from the demolition and subsequent remodeling can be passed throughout the home and all people, not just children, residing in the house may find they are ingesting lead.

Lead paint on the outside of homes is not given much thought, but it too becomes an issue when homeowners sandblast the paint as preparation for a new coat. The dust particles sink into the nearby soil, which children may play in or around.

While the recent recall has focused on toys found on the shelves of area toy stores, Looney said parents should also be mindful of family heirlooms. He said many families have items that have been handed down for generations that are made of pewter, which contains lead. One example, he said, is old pewter toy soldiers. These days, most of them are bought and sold with warning labels indicating

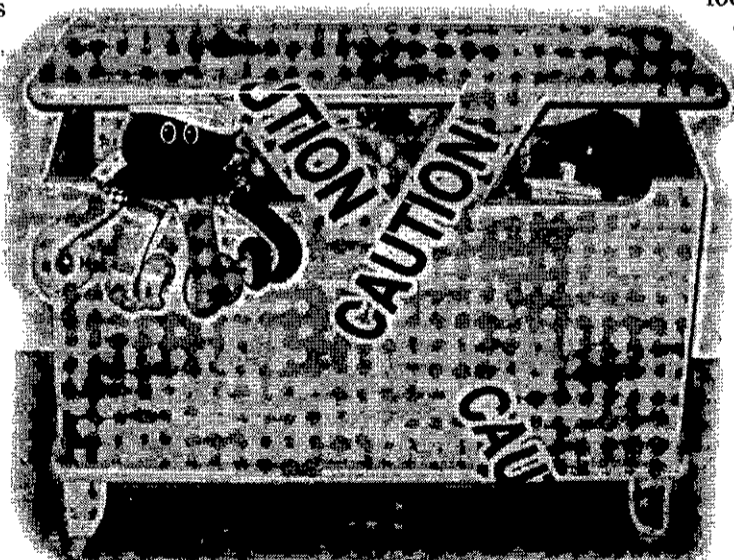
they are not toys intended for the use of children, but for people getting them as gifts or hand-me-downs, there is no such warning. Those toys should be put out of reach and in display cases, said Looney.

Looney also said simple additions to a child's diet can make him or her less likely to have lead problems. Foods high in iron and calcium, such as chicken, turkey, spinach, milk and cheese, are said to help in the prevention of lead poisoning.

sue," said Bristol. "Lead poisoning has been around for a long time, and the focus has been on paint in old homes. This is a reminder to everyone that lead is still out there — just in different forms."

Paint used in homes prior to 1978 can be a source of lead poisoning because, up until that year, lead was a common ingredient. The risk comes about when children eat paint chips that have flaked off the walls.

Renovations to older homes also can pose problems. If lead-safe work practices are



Kristen Roberts/Spotlight



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Square

(From Page 1)

and the Village of Voorheesville.

"There's a legal component to every decision," he said.

The supervisor's job also requires management and financial skills. Dolin said he has relevant experience, having been in charge of running the day-to-day business of his private law practice, a business comparable in size to the town of New Scotland.

Republican Doug LaGrange is a dairy farmer and an eighth-generation resident of New Scotland. He'd never had much interest in politics, until he was asked to serve on the town's planning board as a representative of agriculture and of the town's south side. Then he ran for the position

he currently holds as town board member.

"I've got a six-year doctorate in New Scotland," LaGrange quipped. He said his recent work as town board member and as chairman of the Residents Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) has given him the kind of current experience that only total immersion can.

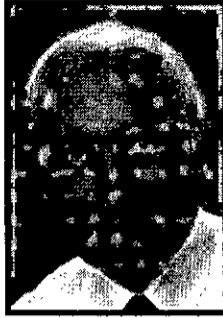
LaGrange acknowledged Dolin's experience in town government, but pointed out that it was well in the past. Dolin remarked on LaGrange's service to the town, but stressed that LaGrange's day job may impede a move up to the full-time supervisor's job.

Both candidates are committed to serve their town, al-

though their motivation comes from different sources.

Dolin has lived in New Scotland for 40 years and has children and grandchildren here.

"I want to see the town continue as it is," he said. Since retiring, he has felt a desire to contribute and feels he has the time to commit to do what needs to be done.



Dolin

Residential development pressures are growing, and will continue to do so, particularly with the planned Vista Technology Park in neighbor-

ing Bethlehem. Town residents don't want overcrowding in their schools or too much traffic on their highways, said Dolin.

"People like it the way it is. They like open space, vistas of

the Helderbergs," he said.

Although a town board member, LaGrange is wary of the political world.

"Like most people, I'm sick of the politics," he said, shunning them whenever possible.

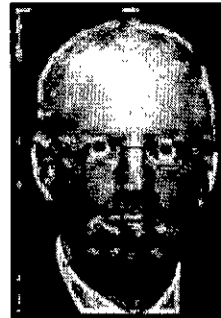
LaGrange wants to serve the town's best interests, not those of a political party. He described himself as an "energetic and aggressive" public servant who is up-to-date on town issues.

"We need to methodically, proactively plan for growth," LaGrange said. In addition, the town must seek outside expertise to do so, which happens to be the approach used by the RPAC, he said.

Both candidates said that some development is desirable. Senior retirement housing and small retail development are at the top of the list, as both are in small supply in New Scotland. They want townspeople to be able to stay in town to shop and live, rather than traveling to neighboring towns. Also, such development will increase the tax base without placing additional demands on the small school system.

The devil, of course, is in

the details. Senior housing is needed, but proper zoning can demand that affordable units are part of the package. Dolin wants to make sure that the town's senior residents aren't priced out. LaGrange warns of design specifics. He has seen current proposals fail to address single-floor living or wheelchair-side doorways.



LaGrange

Industrial development may also be desirable, but Dolin said it's a struggle to attract light, clean commercial operations.

One problem is the lack of infrastructure at target sites. Along Route 85, the only water and sewer systems belong to the town of Bethlehem. Dolin proposed to meet with Bethlehem representatives to work toward a solution.

LaGrange said the town's comprehensive plan is solid, but in need of updating. Moreover, he said, the specifics in zoning orders, which arise on a case-by-case basis, must mirror the guidelines of the comprehensive plan. Instead, what he has seen is a town government that too often reacts to developer's proposals and loses sight of the master plan.



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Haunted happenings

Halloween events let Capital District residents take a walk on the spooky side

By JACQUELINE M. DOMIN
dominj@spotlightnews.com

Doug Bennett's stilts are an important tool for the work he does on suspended ceilings.

They also served as an important prop for his kids' Halloween costumes on Saturday, Oct. 27.

Hali Bennett, 14, and her brother, Sam, 11, both showed up at the Jonesville Fire Department's open house and Halloween party in Clifton Park on stilts. Sam wore a pumpkin outfit, but for Hali, the stilts were pretty much her entire costume.

"They get a lot of attention," said Bennett. "A lot of wow's."

Hali had hoped to use the stilts to stand tall in the fire department's costume parade, but it was canceled because of the rain. There was still plenty for the crowd to do, though. There was a show by balloon artist Mr. Twisty, a haunted house and several bounce houses. In the cafeteria, firefighters handed out free hot dogs, fruit punch, cookies and other treats.

The scene was a common one throughout the Capital District in the past few days, as a number of charitable groups and other organizations offered cheap or even free entertainment, as well as chances to preview Halloween costumes. The Empire State Plaza hosted a Halloween-themed maze, puppet show and magic act. The Guilderland Police Department Youth Services Division had a "Halloween extravaganza and safety night" on Tuesday, Oct. 30,

with a puppet show and a haunted graveyard.

In Scotia, the Flint House on South Reynolds Avenue morphed into a spooky Halloween showcase on Saturday. Visitors entered through a tent marked as the morgue, where kids could mix up a batch of slime. Inside, fake cobwebs covered furniture and a cauldron bubbled in a corner as kids dressed as dragons, pirates, witches and surgeons mingled.

Kierstin Kastberg, 11, of Scotia, sat near the cauldron as she read the kids a book called "Gus and the Baby Ghost." She was dressed as a geisha - an outfit that she assembled herself.

"I got it piece by piece," Kierstin said, recounting trips to New York City's Chinatown. The only part of the costume she didn't get was the wig, which her mom bought on a trip to Washington, D.C.

No one was in costume at the Pruyn House in Newtonville on Saturday, but there was still plenty of activity as Janet Hans and her family worked to convert the Verdox Schoolhouse into a haunted house.

The schoolhouse's front hallway was being transformed into a "tunnel of terror" for Sunday's visitors, Hans said, while inside, family members worked on displays like a recreation of the shower scene from "Psycho" and a "dissection room" where dismembered body parts and a body bag were hung from the ceiling.

The ideas for the displays were culled from the Hanses' years of putting on a haunted house at the home near Loudonville where Hans' daughter, Jane Wasserbach, lives with her husband, Bill. The free haunted house was a big



attraction, drawing as many as 350 visitors.

"It just got so popular," Hans said. "It just scared people to death."

Eventually, it got so big that the family decided to pack it in a few years ago. But everything came out of storage this year when Catholic Charities approached the family about doing a haunted house as a fund-raiser.

"It was kind of hard to say no," said Hans, noting that the haunted house wouldn't have been possible without her five children, spouses and family friends on board.

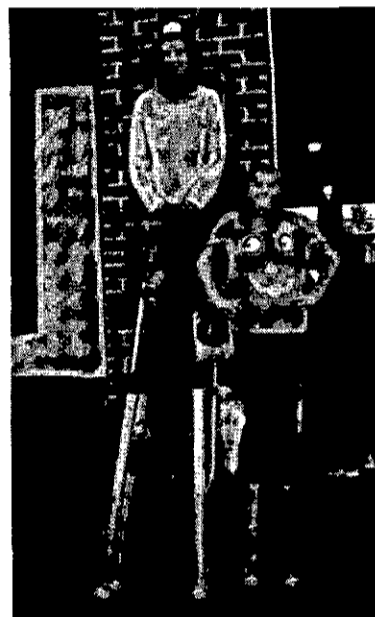
The family worked on the haunted house for more than a month, holding brainstorming meetings and drawing diagrams.

ABOVE: Janet Hans stands ready to greet visitors to Sunday's haunted house at the Verdox Schoolhouse on the grounds of the Pruyn House in Newtonville. RIGHT: Hali Bennett, 14, left, and her brother Sam, of Ballston Lake, show off their stilts at the Jonesville Fire Dept.'s open house and Halloween party in Clifton Park on Saturday.

Jacqueline M. Domin/Spotlight

But the excitement and laughter that filled the schoolhouse on Saturday made it clear this wasn't a chore for any of them.

"We get a lot of fun out of it," Hans said. "We all love Halloween."



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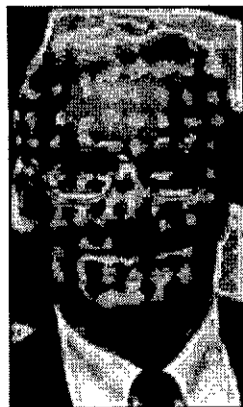
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Autumn a good time to trade cars for bicycles

By JULIE RIGG
news@spotlightnews.com

Commentary

Everyday life seems to call for the car: get to the post office, get milk, pick up photos. You've factored in parking, gas, and the monotonous drive ahead.

But there is an alternative: a lot of what you do can be done by bicycle.

As the bright days of autumn turn to the chilly gray that seems to come from a Hitchcock film, you can still turn your pedals and harvest some benefits along the way.

"Fall is one of the best times to ride a bike," said Dr. Kenneth Kroopnick, a pediatrician of Prime Care Physicians in Delmar. "You can layer up. We live in a very sedentary society; biking and walking are easy ways to integrate exercise."

Most of us can probably remember the carefree childhood days of riding bikes around the neighborhood, unknowingly contributing to our overall health. There's also a certain social aspect to biking ... how can you

ride down the street, pass an acquaintance or neighbor and not say hello? Also, biking doesn't require any crunches to count, or weights to curl.

A surprising number of children — and sometimes their parents — take advantage of their close proximity to bike to school.

Matt Leon, communications director of the Bethlehem Central School District, reported that of the elementary schools in the district, "Elsmere, Hamagrael, and Slingerlands each have 10 to 15 students riding to school."

Principal Art Kane of St. Thomas the Apostle School said five or six students bike to school, mostly sixth through eighth graders.

Ella, Grace and Hayes Meredith, attend Hamagrael Elementary School and are in the fifth, first and third grades. They ride their bikes to school whenever weather permits.

Hayes says, "I like to ride my bike to school because it's easier than taking the bus," Hayes said. Ella adds that she doesn't yawn as much in the mornings at school on the days she does ride her bike.

The Meredith kids also bike to friends' houses and the Four Corners area.

Their mother, Joanne Cunningham, said, "There are tremendous health benefits to biking."

She attributes her higher energy level to biking, and said that she's more fit now than in her days of varsity field hockey.

Kroopnick suggests that very young children — kindergarten age, for instance — benefit from bike riding on quiet streets, which lets them appreciate riding while observing their surroundings.

Dr. Michael Looney of Delmar Pediatrics, said that children as young as 3 and 4 can reap the benefits from bike riding.

"It's great for balance, large muscle strength, hand-eye coordination, as well as cardiovascular health," Looney said, adding that once children can ride without training wheels, "it gives them a whole new skill level, they develop more independence, and it gives them a great sense of accomplishment." Bike experts caution that safety measures must be taken into account, especially helmet wearing.

Looney said of the bike

injuries he treats, most are of the head and face due to children not wearing a helmet. He also said that sandals and flip-flops are not good for biking, and suggests appropriate nonskid surface bottomed footwear, and discourages the use of kneepads or other equipment since they "cut down on maneuverability." Looney also pointed out that bikes should be walked across a street within a crosswalk. Joshua Poppel of the New York State Bicycling Coalition (NYBC), a pedestrian advocacy group, noted that a national government program "Safe Routes to School" offers safety classes for interested individuals and/or families for groups of six to eight people.

Poppel suggested that for dusk or evening biking, bikes should have front flashing or stable lights, and rear red flashing lights.

"Riding on the right side of the road is a key factor. Many people don't realize that bikes are like any other vehicle on the road." He added that bikers should give themselves enough space on the roadway and not push themselves too close to obstacles which could hinder their visibility.

Nan Lanahan, administrator of Parks and Recreation, said the Bethlehem Police hold a Bicycle Rodeo Day every other year. The rodeo takes place at the Elm Avenue Town Park, during which safety issues are addressed, courses are put up for the children to maneuver, and the police inspect each bike. There are also chances to win bikes and

helmets. The next bicycle rodeo is scheduled for the Spring of 2008, although there is no date yet. Parks and Recreation also offers maps with the "Delmar Family Loop", which is about 3 miles long. The loop starts at town hall, travels Roweland Avenue and continues along the neighborhood, ending again at town hall. Copies of the map can be obtained at the Department of Parks and Recreation office, 261 Elm Ave.


The loop can be a good transition to using local roads, which can be a bit daunting for cyclists in a car-centered world.

Landscape Architect Edward Kleinke of Kaaterskill Associates said that the state Department of Transportation made some improvements to lighting at the Four Corners area and it is now a little safer for people to walk, but getting around via bike is still harder. Bicyclists in town have been eyeing the old D&H Railroad tracks for a potential bike trail.

Town Supervisor Jack Cunningham said a Rail Trail program could utilize the old D&H Railroad routes for biking, but it has shared properties with Albany County and as such, the Rail Trail is in a state of obscure development.

Still, though, biking is a possibility as part of the daily routine. So head out, tune up your bike, say hello to your neighbors and do your body, mind, and the car, a favor. Put your pedals to the wind and enjoy the outdoors before that Hitchcock gray creeps in and cools our heels until spring.

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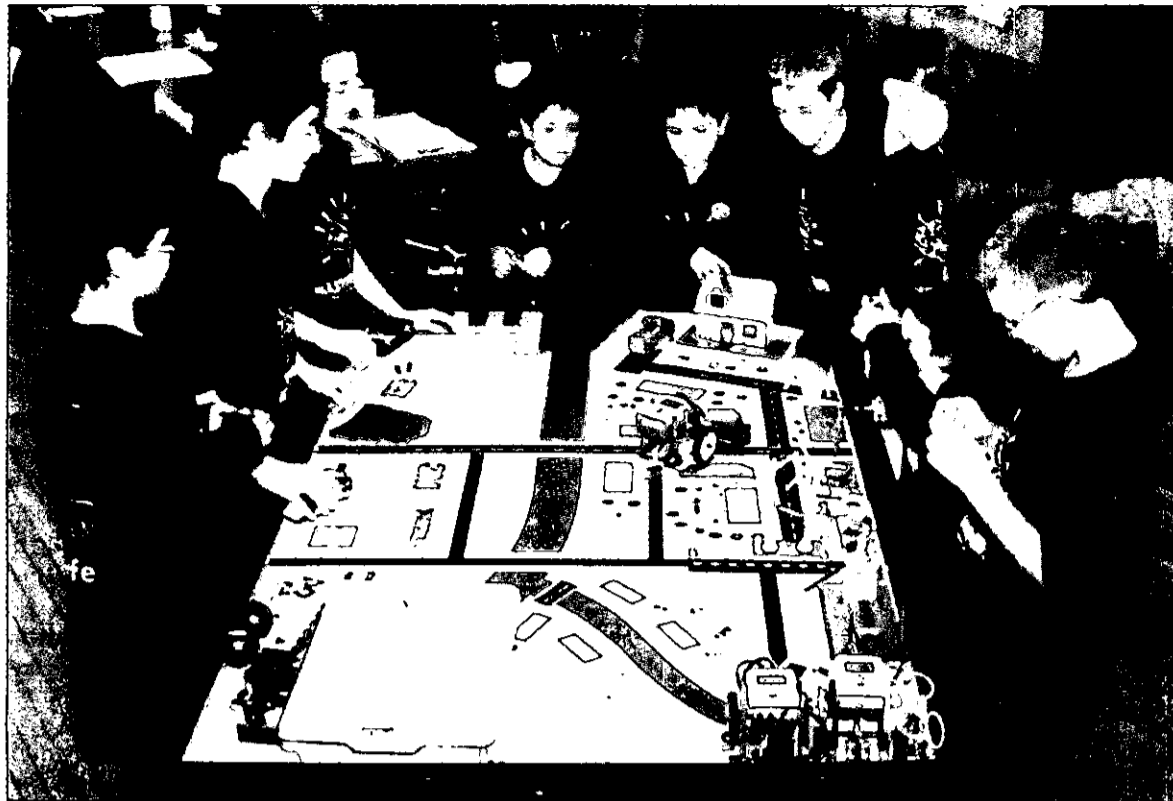
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Emphasis on energy

TOP: The Capital District First Lego League Master Minds hosted an energy fair at Bethlehem Town Hall on Saturday.

LEFT: Audrey Keefe, a member of the Master Minds, shows off an exhibit at the fair.

Jim Franco/Spotlight

IN BRIEF

STAR program taking applications

The state Department of Taxation and Finance has launched a public outreach initiative to provide information to taxpayers on the 2007 middle class STAR Rebate Program.

To receive a STAR rebate this year, property owners with a basic STAR exemption on their 2007-2008 school tax bills must complete and submit an application, which is available on the state Department of Taxation & Finance's Web site - <http://www.nystax.gov/>, by Nov. 30.

Adoptive families to hold adoption fair

The Adoptive Families of the Capital Region, Inc., is hosting its 12th annual adoption fair on Monday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel, 189 Wolf Road, Albany.

The adoption fair will feature adoption agencies, adoption attorneys, social workers, immigration representatives, pediatricians and adoptive parents.

The event is free and reservations are not required.

War correspondent to speak at UAlbany

Chris Hedges, Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent and author of "War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning," will be the keynote speaker at a UAlbany conference, "The Ecologies of War: Life Technologies and Planetary Conflict" on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 8 p.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom on the UAlbany uptown campus.

The event is sponsored by the New York State Writers Institute and UAlbany English Department. It is free and open to the public.

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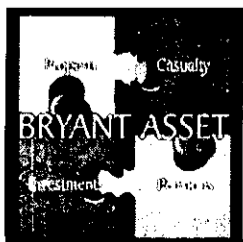


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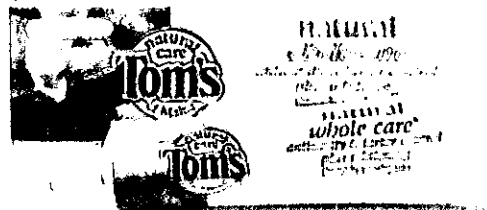
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RCS library reading program pairs kids and canines



The Wagging Tales reading program pairs children with special canine reading companions for 15 to 20 minutes of enjoyable, relaxing reading practice.

This kind of program, nationally, has proved its value for improving children's reading abilities and attitudes.

The next reading times are Thursday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 4, at 1 p.m.

A few slots are still available for Sunday's session. Call the

Ben, a therapy-certified golden retriever, and his owner/handler, TerryAnn Lisinski, will be one of the teams reading with children at the RCS Community Library on Sunday, Nov. 4. Call the library at 756-2053 to register your child.

library at 756-2053 to sign up your child.

Children's story kits

Do you know about our children's "story kits?" Each kit contains several children's books, activity ideas, and extras such as DVDs, CDs, games and toys all with a common theme. Kits can be checked out for two weeks with a valid library card. Just some of the many story kits we have include:

- Backyard Creatures
- Weather Watch
- Let's Make Music
- All Kinds of Families

New databases

The Upper Hudson Library System's list of online databases contains links to everything you need to make life easier. These databases

are available from home with a valid library card from a public library in Albany or Rensselaer counties. Just log on to www.uhls.org and click on the online databases link.

Several new databases have recently been added to the system, including:

- **Novelist:** Offers a wide range of resources that will expand your ability to find the right book.
- **Testing and education:** Prepare for the GED; civil service and military entrance exams; licensing tests for law enforcement, real estate, and other fields.
- **Home improvement:** This is the definitive online tool for home improvement assistance, including maintenance, remodeling, electrical work, and plumbing.

New adult fiction

"The Farther Shore" by Matthew Eck

"Bones to Ashes" by Kathy Reichs

"The Careful Use of Compliments" by Alexander McCall Smith

New nonfiction

"Band of Sisters" by Kirsten Holmstedt. American women at war in Iraq.

"On the Shoulders of Giants" by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Describes how his passion for basketball, jazz, and the Harlem Renaissance helped to shape his life and career.

"Twice as Good" by Marcus Mabry. Condoleezza Rice and her path to power.

New children's books

"Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity" by Mo Willems

"Do Not Open this Book!" by Michaela Muntean

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Museum to hold lecture series on Hudson Valley

The state museum will host a series of evening lectures in coming weeks focusing on the Hudson Valley, as well as a separate lecture on the mastodons of New York.

• **Nov. 7:** The Revolution in Albany: Poverty and the Law, 1750 to 1800. Tricia Barbagallo, senior research associate at the museum's Colonial Albany Social History Project, highlights people listed on the City of Albany's first poor list in 1799. She also

discusses the causes of indigence, the state policy on relief, and how the city of Albany and paupers manipulated laws.

• **Nov. 14:** Geologic History of the Lower Hudson River: Where North America Almost Broke Apart. State paleontologist Ed Landing reconstructs the ancient history of the lower Hudson River Valley and explains why the modern river follows the western edge of the Appalachians south of Glens Falls, but crosses the Appalachians at the Hudson Highlands.

• **Nov. 28:** The Schuyler Flatts Burial Ground: A Unique View of African Life in Colonial Albany. Discovery of an unmarked 1700s

burial ground in the town of Colonie allows new insight into the lives of enslaved Africans in Colonial Albany. Museum bioarchaeologists Lisa Anderson and Vanessa Dale discuss their research.

• **Dec. 5:** Fishes of the Lower Hudson: Freshwater fishes, marine strays and the exotic. The fish assemblage of the lower Hudson is the richest in New York State. The species list has changed over the past 200 years, with additions, losses, and a dramatic change in relative abundances. Museum ichthyology curator Robert Daniels explains what's here; what's gone and whether we should be concerned.

Please take note of our Thanksgiving Week DEADLINES

November 21, 2007 Issue

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Historical society plans WWII field camp, exhibit

Explore a recreated World War II Field Camp at the New Scotland Historical Association on Saturday, Nov. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn more about World War II from re-enactors portraying soldiers from several battle-tested military units. Each will display authentic uniforms and military equipment from the conflict.

Craig Gravina will portray a staff sergeant from Easy Company, Second Ranger Battalion, a unit famous for scaling the cliffs near Omaha

Beach on D-Day. Later, the unit fought its way through the Battle of Huertgen Forest and the Battle of the Bulge.

Another unit that landed on Normandy was the 28th Infantry Division. Gary Dimaio from Pennsylvania will portray a soldier from that division, which was one of the first to enter Paris, and the first American division to enter Germany.

The recreated 101st Airborne will be represented by Howard Young. The famous "Screaming

Eagles" were trained for parachute and glider assault. Their battle honors include Normandy, Bastogne and Operation Market Garden.

Christopher Petronis will portray a soldier from 105th New York Infantry Regiment, a National Guard regiment recruited in the Capital District. In WWII, it served in the Pacific Theater as part of the 27th Division. His uniform will depict the regiment as it appeared in 1940, when an anxious United States was preparing for war.

Visitors will be able to see a restored WWII Jeep complete with a mounted 50-caliber machine gun and a rare M22 "Locust" Tank. Only 830 of these airborne tanks were made. They were designed to be transported behind enemy lines in a glider.

The Field Camp will also provide the public with another opportunity to view the exhibit titled "From the Home Front to the Front Lines: New Scotland in WWI and WWII." This exhibit highlights the contributions of

New Scotland residents who served in the military and depicts life on the home front during those crucial years. Artifacts, documents and reminiscences bring the era to life. A key part of the exhibit is a recently conserved New Salem Honor Roll Banner from WWI.

Admission to the field camp and the exhibit is free. It will be located at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center on Old New Salem Road off Route 85 in New Salem.

RCS District responds to its first MRSA case

On Wednesday, Oct. 24, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk administrators were informed that a student in the Pieter B. Coeymans Elementary School has a confirmed case of community-associated methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (CA-MRSA).

As soon as the district received notice, administrators contacted the Albany County Health Department, which determined the case to be "un-reportable" - meaning that there was very little chance that the victim could have spread the bacteria to others.

A letter explaining the situation was sent home with all students and information is available on the RCS Web site - www.rcscsd.org.

RCS continues to stress good hygiene practices with students and has encouraged parents to be vigilant in making sure students wash their hands thoroughly with soap, which health authorities tell us is the best preventive measure for this infection.

The district has also

implemented preventive measures to try to eliminate the spread of the bacteria.

Additional cleaning and sanitizing efforts by our custodial staff throughout our school buildings are taking place with special emphasis on physical education and sports equipment, locker rooms, bathrooms, and common surfaces and areas. In addition, all building administrators, nurses, maintenance and transportation personnel have been made aware of the symptoms and precautionary measures related to CA-MRSA.

In addition to the extra cleaning performed in common areas, locker and restrooms, custodial staff is disinfecting and cleaning all classrooms the affected student may have been in.

Facilities Director Gene Doane said daytime custodians will follow-up on the vigilance of the evening cleaners who disinfected. The day cleaners will monitor and disinfect common areas throughout the day.

IN BRIEF

UAlbany to screen 'Designated Mourner'

"The Designated Mourner" will be shown on Friday, Nov. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., on the University at Albany's downtown campus. Sponsored by the New York State Writers Institute, the screening is free and open to the public.

For information, contact the Writers Institute at 442-5620 or online at www.albany.edu/writers-inst.

Auditions under way for 'Senior Idol'

Seniors 60 and older are invited to audition for the Senior Idol Talent Show on Wednesday,

Nov. 28.

Auditions are being held Thursday, Nov. 1, at the Louise Corning Center, 25 Delaware Ave., Albany.

Individuals and group acts welcome. Seniors are invited to sing, play instruments, perform comedy and more.

Call 465-3325 to reserve your spot.



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Clarksville Elementary plans open house event

Clarksville Elementary School will host an open house event, "A Star Among the Stars: Revisiting Clarksville Elementary School," on Thursday, Nov. 1, to celebrate recent renovations to the school.

The open house offers parents and community members an opportunity to tour the building, including the new cafeterium, expanded library and new main office area, as well as other improvements done under

the district's ongoing building plan.

The open house will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and will feature stargazing with the Dudley Observatory, tours and refreshments, selected works from Clarksville's permanent art collection and an opportunity for alumni and student families to purchase personalized tiles for the school's Great Wall of Art.

All parents and community members are invited to attend.

Church to hold annual fall fair

With Halloween over and a chilly breeze kicking the leaves around, thoughts of holiday shopping aren't too far away. Two events at local churches on Saturday, Nov. 3, will give shoppers - even if it's not for the holidays - a head start on the season.

The First United Methodists Church will hold its 26th annual Fall Fair, an offering of books, linens, kitchenware, appliances, furniture, holiday items, toys, sporting goods, antiques, collectibles, plants, home decor, and jewelry. Each category has its own area, and visitors will also find handmade woodworking items and baked goods.

Money raised from the fair provides for local families in need throughout the year;

supports the environment by recycling high quality, lightly used goods back into the community; and raises money to sustain the work and mission of the church here and abroad - all with a great spirit of community friendship and fellowship.

This year's theme is western frontier. Breakfast and lunch will be served and warm fresh cider doughnuts will be available throughout the day.

The First United Methodist Church is located at 428 Kenwood Ave., Delmar. For information, call 439-9976.

At St. Thomas the Apostle School at the corner of Kenwood Avenue and Adams Place, the third annual "Shop Til You

Drop" craft fair and Scholastic Book Fair will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Crafters will feature jewelry, handmade American Girl doll clothes and furniture, hand knit scarves, floral arrangements, religious items from O'Connor's and items from Emergency Response Embroidery.

In the cafeteria, there will be homemade clam chowder and chili all day for eat-in or take out. The St. Thomas PTO will also have some delicious baked goods available for sale. The book fair is new this year, offering a large variety of titles available for all grade levels.

Admission is free. For information, call 439-5573.

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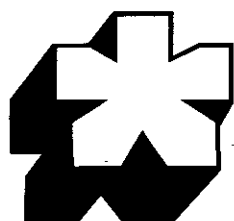
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IN BRIEF

Art auction to benefit AIDS care

"Art For AIDS Sake 8," a silent art auction to benefit the Albany Damien Center, the Capital District's AIDS Community Center, will be held on Thursday, Nov. 1, at 6 p.m. in the State Room on Eagle Street in Albany.

Fifty percent of the proceeds from the sale of artwork will support Albany's artistic community, which has increased artist participation in Art for AIDS Sake 8.

View and bid on original paintings, drawings, sculpture, jewelry and other works of art from more than 100 artists from the Capital District. The event will include a reception featuring desserts, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, complimentary Moët and Chandon champagne, and the music of Joye Belle. Ticket prices are \$30 prepaid, \$35 at door.

Proceeds will benefit the Albany Damien Center, The Capital District's AIDS Community Center, which provides programs and support for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

To make reservations or for information, contact the Albany Damien Center at 449-7119 or call 436-4728.

a total of \$21,000 to several charitable organizations in the upstate New York area. The funding will help support of small business development and micro enterprise lending initiatives.

TD Banknorth awarded grants to the following organizations:

- New York State Rural Housing Coalition, \$2,500
- Capital District Community Loan Fund, \$10,000
- Small Business Development Center, \$5,000
- Albany Center for Economic Success, \$3,000

College to hold information sessions

Empire State College of the State University of New York will hold public information sessions about its undergraduate degree programs on Thursday, Nov. 1, at 5:30 p.m.; Monday, Nov. 5 at 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the college's Northeast Center location, 21 British American Boulevard, Latham. To pre-register for any of the information sessions being held, please call 800 847-3000.

Information sessions also will be held on Thursday, Nov. 8, at noon at the college's Empire State Plaza location, Room 114 of the Northwest Gallery of the Plaza.

College representatives will be available at the information session to answer questions about the college's flexible associate, bachelor's and master's degree programs.

Money for a good cause



State Assemblyman Tim Gordon, I-Bethlehem, recently presented \$12,500 to To Life! and Breast Cancer Options to help the nonprofit organizations provide free-of-charge breast cancer education and support services to breast cancer patients, caregivers, family and friends.

Submitted photo

TD Banknorth gives charities \$21,000

TD Banknorth, through the TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation, recently donated

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Grady

(From Page 1)

change Commission. I'd like to get the most efficient government."

Grady is a 1981 graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, following which he ran his own landscaping business. From there, a client recruited him to work for the brokerage firm of Fitzgerald, Derman and Roberts. Shortly before the Oct. 19, 1987, stock market crash, Grady had liquidated many of the accounts he held, based on reports he'd been reading, a sense of the market, and his own intuition.

"I followed my intuition," he said, "and had liquidated a lot of accounts on Sept. 30."

Shortly after that, Grady bought a machine that could transplant fully grown trees, and started the company he ran for 20 years, Grady Trees LLC.

"My brother had a roofing business, and he was doing a lot of work in Covington Woods in Guilderland," he said. "I worked with a lot of developers planting trees that were between 15 and 20 feet high. Compared to a fence, that offers more privacy."

Grady also planted a lot of trees for local municipalities; his opening foray into the political world came in the spring when he distributed small trees to the general public.

His advocacy for tree growth — they can be productive and income earners, he pointed out — feeds into his thoughts on open space. As the owner of 75 acres in Glenmont, he said he began advocating when Sheila Fuller was supervisor for the town to acquire some land, and keep it vacant.

"Once it's gone, you can't get it back," he said. "When you look around the nation and the world, there are some great parks. The town isn't doing what it could to develop parks."

Grady pointed out that the Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation, for instance, could raise money and try to obtain grants.

"It's one thing to talk about having goals and another to put them into ac-

tion," he said.

Grady said the Vista Tech Park project is a good example of the town, county and state working well together.

"There are excellent working relationships among those entities," he said. "That will bring high-paying jobs to the Capital District, and all the things that go with it."

Grady would work for more of those close relationships, in particular with the state Department of Transportation.

"Route 9W hasn't changed since I was growing up," he said. "Traffic backs all the way up to the Thruway."

Grady said he thought the process of creating and adopting the master plan worked out great, with the use of focus groups.

"I've seen a lot of change, most of it good," Grady said.

Grady's parents moved to Glenmont in 1957:

"They came for the same reason people still come — the school district," he said. "When I was growing up, Farm Family was new. I went to kindergarten at the Bethlehem Preschool."

Grady said the town is more diverse now, something that's good, but is still a tight-knit community. "My niece was killed in a car accident in 1995," he said. "The way the town rallied around us was really something special."

A common theme that Grady has been hearing is that people are paying too much in taxes.

"We get good services, but spending needs to be brought under control, especially for the elderly," he said.

Grady is currently managing money for some clients privately. He has a 14-year-old son who is a freshman at Guilderland High School.

His work life has given him a good feel for the Capital District economy, he said.

"I'm not a politician, I'm a business person," he said. "I would take the position of supervisor responsibly. If we build the town responsibly, we'll all benefit."



Grady

Term

(From Page 1)

replaced Theresa Egan, who accepted a position as deputy commissioner in the state Department of Motor Vehicles.

"I considered running in 2003 for supervisor and spoke with Terri and (town board member) Dan Plummer before deciding Terri should run," said Cunningham.

A lifelong Bethlehem resident who grew up in a farmhouse on Elsmere Avenue and attended St. Thomas the Apostle school, Cunningham said he entered the job with no preconceived notions as to what to expect.

"It's an incredibly busy office," said Cunningham, who has now served close to seven months.

"I am amazed at the number of people that come in and talk to the supervisor," he said.

With 32 years of banking and information technology experience under his belt as an employee of several banks, including First American, Trustco, Cohoes Savings Bank and Key Bank, Cunningham said he feels he can help improve the town's current technology infrastructure.

"One of our technology initiatives is the improved online assessment system, where we now interface with the statewide assessment system to access information," Cunningham said.

Another area being addressed in next year's budget is the new online registration process in the town parks department.

"We will be able to accept credit cards over the Internet for payment for parks and recreation programs," said Cunningham.

Embracing a new town comprehensive plan, proposed technology park corridor, Route 85 road work and local waterfront revitalization work are just a few of the ongoing projects Cunningham inherited from his predecessor. Vista Technology Park is a town-board-endorsed project expected to bring thousands of new jobs to 440 acres of land in the towns of New Scotland and Bethlehem. Vista currently has no announced tenants, but Cunningham said he believes the project will help "balance the town tax base" by encouraging commercial growth.

"The commercial growth adds to the town tax base," said Cunningham, who said he agrees that the direct revenues from Vista to the town are not substantial.

"If Vista is a fast build-out, the school district will receive more revenue," said Cunningham, who said construction on the tech park is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2008.

Although the first tenants will most likely be retail, Cunningham said Vista is being built to attract high-tech facilities.

"The tech park is

zoned to encourage tech companies to come in with the belief this whole area will be a technology corridor," he said.

Cunningham said he believes town property values will also be enhanced because of Vista. When asked about residents' concerns of Vista becoming another big box retail region similar to the Glenmont 9W corridor, Cunningham said any retail development within the Vista Park is there to "support the office workers."

As for Route 9W, Cunningham calls the area a "region in transition."

"Wal-Mart was built prior to any comprehensive plan," said Cunningham, who considers 9W in Glenmont a "good" commercial district.

"Some residents in that area don't like it at all and others don't mind it being a retail commercial area," he said.

Sidewalks, not town finances are the No. 1 concern of residents Cunningham has heard from this year.

"People want sidewalks," he said. Another top concern he has heard is that people in South Bethlehem and Selkirk feel they do not receive the same level of services as residents in the rest of the town.

"I try and talk to them about where they see that and try to address their issues," Cunningham said.

Lower sales and mortgage tax revenue is forcing the town board to dip into the healthy fund balance reserves that stood at 20 percent or more. However, a \$2.5 million dollar appropriation in the 2008 budget has dropped the four main fund reserves to around 15 percent.

"This year, we have had some challenges, but we have a strong fund balance, and we are using that to manage tax growth," said Cunningham, who believes the town's current fiscal plight will turn around in the next 18 months.

Cunningham's opponent is Jim Grady, who was endorsed by the Republican and Conservative parties. The two squared off for the Independence Party line in September, with Cunningham winning the coveted spot.

"I am getting positive feedback from people," said Cunningham, who is running the traditional door-to-door campaign along with holding house parties to get his word out.

Managing employee growth and addressing the town's aging infrastructure needs are two areas Cunningham said he would tackle if elected. Cunningham said if the town had an extra \$100 million to spend, he would "repair all sewer pipes leaking in the town and build a new state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility and new court facility."

Cunningham is married with two children, one a student at Bethlehem high school. In 2008, the town supervisor's salary is scheduled to be set at \$102,779.



Cunningham

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Owens Corning announces layoffs

BY JIM CUOZZO

cuozzoj@spotlightnews.com

A sagging housing market is forcing Owens Corning to lay off one production line of workers numbering anywhere from 140 to 160 employees at their Bethlehem plant in Feura Bush by the end of the year.

It's the first bit of negative economic news for a town that has been accustomed to hearing how businesses like the much anticipated Vista Technology Park want to locate here.

Spokesman for Owens Corning Jason Saragian said the layoffs are due to a weakening demand for building materials and are not tied to the overall U.S. economy. Employees of Owens Corning first

heard the company news late last week.

"We haven't laid anybody off currently," said Saragian, who said the first layoffs at the local plant would not occur until Jan. 1.

There is no plan to shut the local plant down completely, according to Saragian.

"It's a volume issue due to the market," Saragian said.

The downturn in the housing market began in the second half of 2006 and according to Saragian the trend has continued in 2007.

"It's simply a matter of an oversupply in the housing market," Saragian said.

Owens Corning is a Fortune 500 company founded in 1938. It is considered a market innovator in fiberglass technology.

Obituaries *in the* Spotlight

William C. Blackwell

William C. Blackwell, 90, of Delmar, died Friday, Oct. 19, at St. Peter's Hospital.

Born in 1917, he was a graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School and RPI. He was a mechanical engineer for the state Office of General Services for more than 30 years, retiring in 1980. He volunteered as a driver for the American Red Cross and the American Cancer Society. He was a member of the Normanside Country Club for many years and a communicant of St. Catherine of Siena Church.

Survivors include his wife; Virginia (Tobin) Blackwell; three sons, William B. (Paula) Blackwell of Edinburg, Jeffery J. (Susan) Blackwell of Portland, Maine, and Christopher M. (Kelli Batcher) Blackwell of Albany; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Albany. Arrangements were by the Daniel Keenan Funeral Home, Albany. Burial will be in St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands.

Helen Donato

Helen Donato, of Voorheesville, died Monday, Oct. 22. She was the widow of Frank Donato Sr.

Survivors include five sisters and three brothers; nine children, Vicki Hayford, Bonnie Cameron, Angel, Christine, Michael, Cindy and Kenny Donato, Tammy Harrington, and Maria Jenkins; 34 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at the Fredendall Funeral Home, Altamont.

Richard Kenneally Jr.

Richard Kenneally Jr., 52, of Altamont, died Monday, Oct. 22.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth J. Kenneally; a daughter, Lisa Kenneally Wilson of Fonda; and a son, Eric Kenneally of Hunter. He is also survived by a brother, several stepchildren and grandchildren.

Services were held at the Fredendall Funeral Home, Altamont.

Raymond H. Cox

Raymond H. Cox, 83, of Guilderland, died Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born in Liberty, he served in the Army during World War II. He retired from the state Office of General Services. He was a life member of the American Legion Post and of the Boyd Hilton VFW Post.

Survivors include his wife, Frances Cox; two daughters, Sandra Goulet and Sharon Lukens; a daughter-in-law, Lauren Cox; three stepdaughters, Linda (David) Gardner, Diane (Timothy) Gilligan, Jo-Anne (Mark) Stulmaker; a sister, Alice (Amos) Hallenbeck; a brother, Robert Cox; several grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Services were held at the Fredendall Funeral Home,

Altamont. Burial was in Memory's Garden, Colonie. Contributions may be made to Community Hospice of Albany, 445 New Karner Road, Albany 12205.

Mary G. Dobert

Mary G. Dobert, 67, of Delmar, died Friday, Oct. 26, at Albany Medical Center.

Born in Syracuse, she moved to Delmar at an early age. She attended Bethlehem Central schools and graduated in 1958 from Bethlehem Central High School.

She was a 1962 graduate of The College of Saint Rose in Albany with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry. She started her career at Sterling Winthrop Drug in Rensselaer but soon left to raise her family.

She was a gifted seamstress who started a business designing and making elegant gowns for wedding parties. After her children were grown, she worked for the state, retiring in 2006 from the comptroller's office retirement call center. She was a tile painter and active participant in the Tuesday Tolers, a painting group in Delmar.

Survivors include her husband, Thomas J. Dobert; two children, Shawn Dobert (Brian) St. James of Delmar; Timothy J. Dobert and his partner, Betsy

Heartfield, of Crested Butte, Colo.; three brothers, Laurence S. (Pat) Gifford Sr., of Belfair, Wash., Barry J. (Barbara) Gifford, of Scituate, Mass., and James K. (Shirley) Gifford, of Danville, Calif., and two grandchildren.

Services were from the Applebee Funeral Home, Delmar. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Delmar. Contributions may be made to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, PanCan, 2141 Rosecrans Ave., Suite 7000, El Segundo, CA 90245.

Gertrude Lenzenhuber

Gertrude Lenzenhuber, 101, of Delmar, died Thursday, Oct. 25, at

Rosewood Garden.

For many years, she and her late husband, Ludwig, were the proprietors of the Ace Pastry Shop in Albany. She was a former member of the German American Club in Albany.

Survivors include three children, Joseph (Mary) Lenzenhuber, of Delmar, Inge (Neil) Martinis, and Mary Lou (Martin John, both of Florida; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services were from the Durant Funeral Home, Delmar, and were held at the convenience of the family. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Glenmont.

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Obit

Milestones *in the* Spotlight

Pauline Ouderkirk

Pauline Ouderkirk, 81, of Delmar, died, Saturday, Oct. 27.

She was the widow of Clarence D. Ouderkirk.

She was a past president and life member of the Delmar Fire Department Auxiliary.

She was a member of the Albany County Volunteer Fireman's Blanchard Adams Post #1040 and member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Survivors include a daughter, Karla Burns and her husband, Robert, of Selkirk; two sisters, Marie Wright Privlar of Delmar, Elsie Shoup of Windsor, Vt.; two grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be held Wednesday, Oct. 31, at 10 a.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave., Delmar. Interment in Memory's Garden, Colonie. Arrangements are by the Durant Funeral Home, Delmar.

Contributions may be made to either the Good Samaritan Home, 125 Rockefeller Road, Delmar, 12054, or the Bethlehem Lutheran Church.



Benjamin A. Miner and Haven L. Hull

Hull, Miner engaged

Haven L. Hull, daughter of Ronald Rife and the late Billie Rife and Timothy and Cindy Hull, and Benjamin A. Miner, son of Andrew and Mary Miner formerly of Delmar, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of James Buchanan High School and Shippensburg University, where she received a master's degree.

She is a microbiology research

associate for the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C.

The future groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, Grove City College and Averett University, where he received a master's degree.

He is a payroll manager for McNeil Technologies in Springfield, Va.

The couple plans a June 7 wedding.



Eileen Lesar and John M. Carlino Jr.

Lesar, Carlino to marry

Eileen Lesar, daughter of Timothy and Susan Lesar of Mechanicville, and John M. Carlino Jr., son of John and Jean Carlino Sr. of Niskayuna, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate

of Catholic Central High School and the University at Albany.


She is a data analyst for Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield in Albany.

The future groom is a graduate of Niskayuna High School and the University of Albany, where he received a master's degree in administration.

He is a math teacher and football coach for Bethlehem Central Schools in Delmar.

The couple plans an Aug. 1 wedding.

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Entertainment *in the* Spotlight

By KATHERINE MCCARTHY
mccarthyk@spotlightnews.com

Everyone comes expecting the helicopter, Artistic Director Jim Charles said of "Miss Saigon," now being staged by C-R Productions at Cohoes Music Hall. When the show first opened on Broadway, the real helicopter used on stage became the talk of the performance.

"We have a great helicopter effect," Charles said. "We have a great scenic design team that works all year. We went round and round about how we would do this on our small stage."

The end result, he said, often gets applause.

But "Miss Saigon" is about much more than a helicopter. Based on Puccini's opera "Madame Butterfly," the musical tells the story of Chris, an American GI in Vietnam, and Kim, his lover and mother of his child. When Saigon falls, Chris leaves on the last helicopter, which Kim is unable to board. Later, he and his American wife meet Kim, along with her and Chris' son Tam in Bangkok. Kim takes her own life so that her son can go to America with his father.

"It's bittersweet," said Yvonne Same, the California native who is playing Kim. "She's done what any mother would do in that situation. She sacrifices herself so her child can have a better life."

"This is a poignant story that needs to be told and re-told," Charles said, who said the show is more moving than depressing.

"When the final curtain goes down, you can hear a pin drop," he said. "There's a second before the audience starts clapping. That's a good thing; the audience is caught up in the story. As they're leaving, we hear them say that they can't



Brian Jose, on stage, welcomes American GIs to the "Miss Saigon" contest.

Cohoes stages poignant story

'Miss Saigon' stirs emotions at Music Hall

wait to tell their friends about the show."

Now in its fifth season, Charles said C-R Productions felt it can begin to take more chances with the shows it offers. While choosing "Miss Saigon," he said the company was looking for something as moving as "Ragtime" had been last season, and something not yet performed in the Capital District.

"This is happening all over again," he said of the wartime

situation that is the setting for "Miss Saigon."

"The story is for mature audiences; it's heavy on love, and it depicts the changing of the guard in Vietnam, the change in culture and society," he said.

Charles said that casting has become easier with every show, but finding enough Asian people for "Miss Saigon" proved challenging. Many of the supporting players came from the New York City area, but Charles said this show represents the largest number of local actors in a C-R Productions show to date.

Brendan Hoffman, playing the lead role of Chris, is one of those local actors. He's a music teacher at Albany High School. He has played lead roles at Park Playhouse in the summer, done ensemble work at Lake George Opera and sung solo classical pieces with local groups like Albany Pro Musica.

"This is a dream role for me," he said of his character, Chris. "It's the type of show and role I've longed to do."

Hoffman described his character as someone who could be thought of as a real



Above, Yvonne Same and Brendan Hoffman play Kim and Chris, lovers caught in the fall of Saigon. Right, Yvonne Same believes Chris will return for her.



jerk, or someone trying to make a tough decision.

"You don't get a lot of the story, like what happens when he goes home," Hoffman said. "He loves his American wife, and although the decision he makes is more about him, it's the best decision at the time."

Everyone involved in the show has a great deal of admiration for their co-stars. "People should know this is an incredible pool of awesome performers," Hoffman said. "It's a huge show and we do it really well. It's worth everyone coming out to see it."

"We have a seven-piece full-time orchestra," Charles said. "The actors don't take a break; this is essentially an opera. The leads are great; the supporting actors are great. People are blown away by the music and by

what we can do."

"Miss Saigon" will be performed through Nov. 11, on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. On Saturday, Nov. 10, there will be a 3 p.m. matinee. Tickets range in price from \$23 to \$32, with 20 percent off on Thursdays. For information or to purchase tickets, call 237-5858 or visit www.cohoesmusicall.com. Cohoes Music Hall is located at 58 Remsen St. in Cohoes.

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MISS SAIGON
Hit Broadway musical presented by Cohoes Music Hall, 58 Remsen St., Cohoes, through Nov. 11, \$23-\$40. Information, 237-5858.

NUNSENSE
Off-Broadway comedic musical, presented by Local Actors Guild of Saratoga, Dee Sarno Theater, Saratoga Arts Center, 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, through Nov.

4, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, \$20 adults, \$18 students and seniors. Information, 587-7088.

RED HOT & COLE
Cole Porter's greatest hits in one musical, presented by Not So Common Players, Shenendehowa High School Little Theater, Clifton Park, through Nov. 4, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, free. Information, 371-6681.

SIDE MAN
Presented by Home Made Theatre, Spa Little Theatre, Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs, through Oct. 28. Information, 587-4427.

THREE VIEWINGS
Three one-act monologues set in a funeral

parlor, presented by Albany Civic Theater, 235 Second Ave., Albany, through Nov. 11, 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays, \$15. Information, 462-1297.

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE
Based on Mitch Albom's book, presented by Epiphany Theater Company, 153 Regent St., Saratoga Springs, through Nov. 18. Information, (877) 238-5596.

Music

ALL-STAR ACOUSTIC JAM
Fund-raiser for American Cancer Society featuring Ramblin Jug Stompers, Maggie Mayday, Idette and the Sunrunners, Simple Theory, Mitch Elrod and Moth-

erJudge, and more, Nov. 1, 8 p.m., Tess' Lark Tavern, 453 Madison Ave., Albany, \$5 suggested donation at the door. Information, 463-9779.

TERRY ADAMS ROCK AND ROLL QUARTET
NRBQ piano player brings side project to town, Nov. 2, 8 p.m., WAMC Performing Arts Studio, Central Avenue, Albany, \$23. Information, 465-5233, ext. 4.

"GOLDEN OLDIES SPECTACULAR"
Featuring Bobby Rydell, Lou Christie, the Tokens and other stars of the doo-wop era, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m., Proctor's Theatre, State Street, Schenectady, \$34.50. Information, 346-6204.

THE FRANK WAKEFIELD BAND
Mandolinist extraordinaire, Nov. 3, 8 p.m.,

Parting Glass, 40-42 Lake Ave., Saratoga Springs, \$15. Information, 583-1916.

ROBERT FRIPP AND THE LEAGUE OF CRAFTY GUITARISTS
King Crimson guitar wizard and his ensemble, Nov. 3, 8 p.m., The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany, \$27. Information, 473-1845.

THE DAVID BROMBERG BAND
With the Angel Band, Nov. 4, 7 p.m., The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany, \$29.50. Information, 473-1845.

BACK OF THE MOON
Traditional music and song of Scotland, Nov. 9, 8 p.m., Old Songs Inc., 37 South Main St., Voorheesville, \$17. Information, 765-2815.

THE CAPITOL STEPS
Satirical comedy troupe, Nov. 3, 8 p.m., The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany, \$35-\$42.50. Information, 473-1845.

BRAD GARRETT
"Til Death" star, Nov. 14, 8 p.m., Palace Theatre, corner of Clinton Avenue and North Pearl Street, Albany, \$28-\$68. Information, 476-1000.

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Visual Arts

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM
"Unseen America NYS: Pictures of Working Lives Taken by Working Hands," through Oct. 21; "Look Alikes: The Amazing World of Joan Steiner," through Dec. 31; 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 ART
"Indian Ladder, A Lyric Journey: Photographs by John Yang," and "The Helderberg Escarpment: A History of Tourism and Science," through Dec. 30; "Full Steam Ahead: Robert Fulton and the Age of Steamboats," through Dec. 31; plus exhibits on Hudson River School painting, American sculpture and the history of Albany, 125 Washington Ave. Information, 463-4478.

SCHENECTADY MUSEUM
"A Woman's Touch," featuring works by Aleathia Brown, Fern Cunningham, Catherine Reavis, Sharon Cropper, Raymina Mays and Deborah Jack, through Nov. 11, plus Spirit of Schenectady, collection highlights and planetarium, Nott Terrace Heights. Information, 382-7890.

ALBANY AIRPORT GALLERY
Site-specific installations by Larry Kagan and Cara Nigro, as well as installations by Anthony Garner, Baris Karayazgan, Paul Katz, Nancy Klepsch and Victoria Palermo. Information, 242-2243.

ALBANY CENTER GALLERIES
"Print," featuring works by Lindsay McCulloch, Jennifer Leigh Caine, Sandra Wimer and Katie Casey, through Nov. 3, 39 Columbia St., Albany. Information, 462-4775.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DANCE
"Dawn of Modern Dance: Music, Myth and Movement," exhibit chronicling the careers of Ruth St. Denis and Isadora Duncan, plus ongoing exhibits, 99 South Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information, 584-2225.

NEW YORK STATE MILITARY MUSEUM
"Worth a Thousand Muskets: Civil War Field Artillery," "Battleground for Freedom: New York during the Revolutionary War," and "World War II: United for Victory," ongoing, 61 Lake Ave., Saratoga Springs. Information, 581-5100.

SARATOGA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM
Ongoing exhibits including "East of Detroit" and New York racing, 110 Avenue of the Pines, Saratoga Springs. Information, 587-1935, ext. 20.

SARATOGA COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
"Print," featuring works by Lindsay McCulloch, Jennifer Caine, Sandra Wimer and Katie Casey, through Nov. 3, Arts Center Gallery, 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information, 584-4132.

TANG TEACHING MUSEUM AND GALLERY
"West African Masquerade," photographs by Phyllis Galemba, through Dec. 29; "Atmospherics/Weather Works," through Dec. 30; "Stripes," through Dec. 30, 815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information, 580-8080.

CLARK ART INSTITUTE
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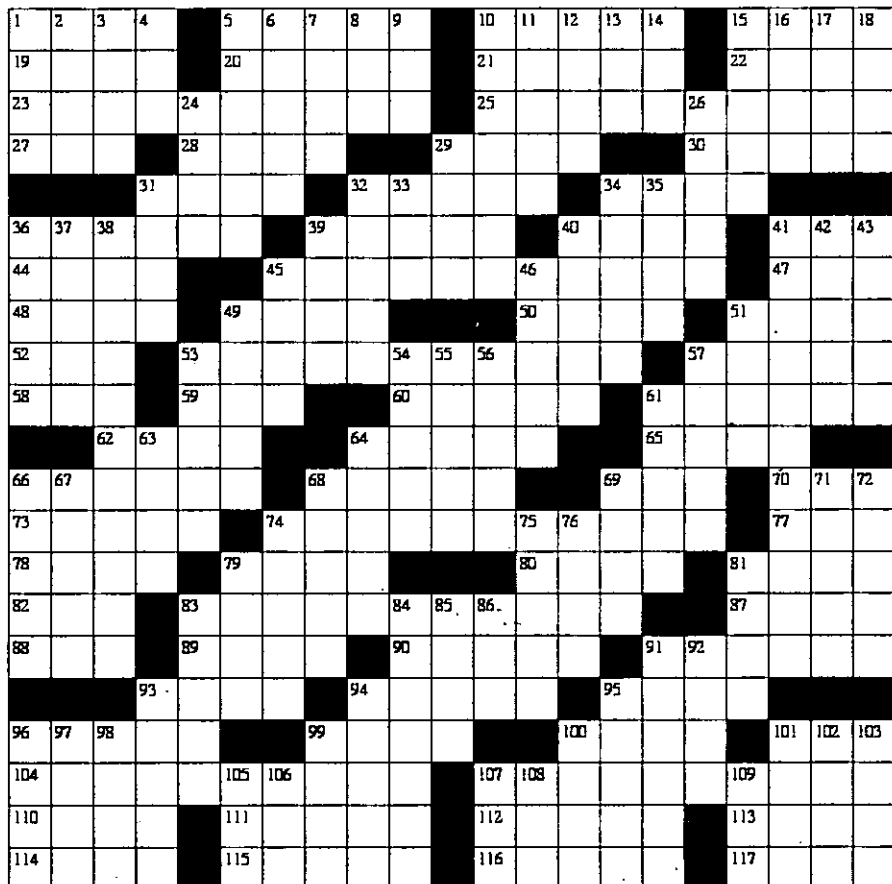
- ACROSS**
1 Servant
5 Cornered
10 Cognizant
15 Mideast money
19 Reed
20 Glow
21 Yuletide sound
22 Border
23 Dining-out arrangement
25 Joint problems
27 Greek letter
28 Press
29 Verdi opera
30 Interprets
31 Squishy lump
32 Greek island
34 Take ___; acknowledge applause
36 Carved gems
39 Nobleman
40 Shortly
41 Tablet
44 Rat-___
45 With 116 Across, worker's savvy
47 Mr. Whitney
48 Sound of relief
49 Leg part
50 Head covering
51 Compensated
52 Pierre's pal
53 Candies
57 Nut
58 1 of 3600 in an hour: abbr.
59 Four and six
60 Recline again
61 Stop
62 1939 film estate
64 Western
65 Enticement
66 Tonsils' site
68 1705
69 Neb.'s neighbor
70 Sunburned
73 Like mackintosh weather
74 Brought success
77 Guido's note
78 Suffix for conifer or coexist
79 Over
80 Large piece
81 Couple
82 Sound of mild fear
83 Abusing
87 Ending for girls' names

- 88 Asp's greeting
89 Metals
90 Claims against property
91 Cain, for one
93 Wallet items
94 Princess' title
95 Old cars
96 Fifth tire
99 Mil. officer
100 Prefix for space or nautical
101 Late Asian leader
104 Feats of legerdemain
107 Doesn't ___; is very alert
110 Words of understanding
111 TV show host
112 Prevent legally
113 Shaving lotion brand
114 Canopus or Capella
115 Refuges
116 See 45 Across
117
DOWN
1 Style
2 Touch
3 Tiny amount
4 12th of 12: abbr.

- 5 Houston ___
6 Beat
7 Well, in other languages
8 Santa ___, California
9 Still
10 Movements
11 Mr. Cleaver & others
12 Spectacular song
13 Legendary bird
14 Big game
15 Extend a subscription
16 Notion
17 Old
18 Not so much
24 ___, Hawaii
26 Danish dollar
29 Run ___; become wild
31 One of the girls in "Little Women"
32 Halo wearer
33 Curve
34 "Nay" voters
35 Physicist Niels ___
36 Honduran homes
37 3rd & 4th words in most fairy tales
38 Houdini's stunts
39 Cheese-

- exporting region
40 ___ worse than death
41 War stopper
42 Assumed name
43 Contraction
45 At that time
46 Late atheist
49 "No ___!"; confident person's phrase
51 Prefix for meter or scope
53 Pet that needs a home
54 Pamphlet
55 Word whose homonym begins with "w"
56 Parisian student
57 Practical joke
61 How some folks are taken
63 Highest rating
64 Stranger
66 Work by Kilmer
67 Underwear maker
68 Breath fresheners
69 High heart
71 Cream of the crop

- 72 Challenger
74 Medicinal amounts
75 Biblical word
76 Rushes
79 Dreadful
81 Veggies
83 Painter Claude
84 Goes by
85 Slangy word
86 Wooden peg
91 Cape
92 Pillage
93 Law's partner
94 Yard worker
95 Put in a new lawn
96 Chem. and zool.
97 Tense
98 Vicinity
99 CL doubled
100 TV dog, once
101 Re's followers
102 Biblical book
103 Affirmative response
105 Cath. or Meth.
106 "___ Yankee Doodle..."
107 Encountered
108 UN member
109 Actress Charlotte



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O N E S	R A N E E	R E O S	
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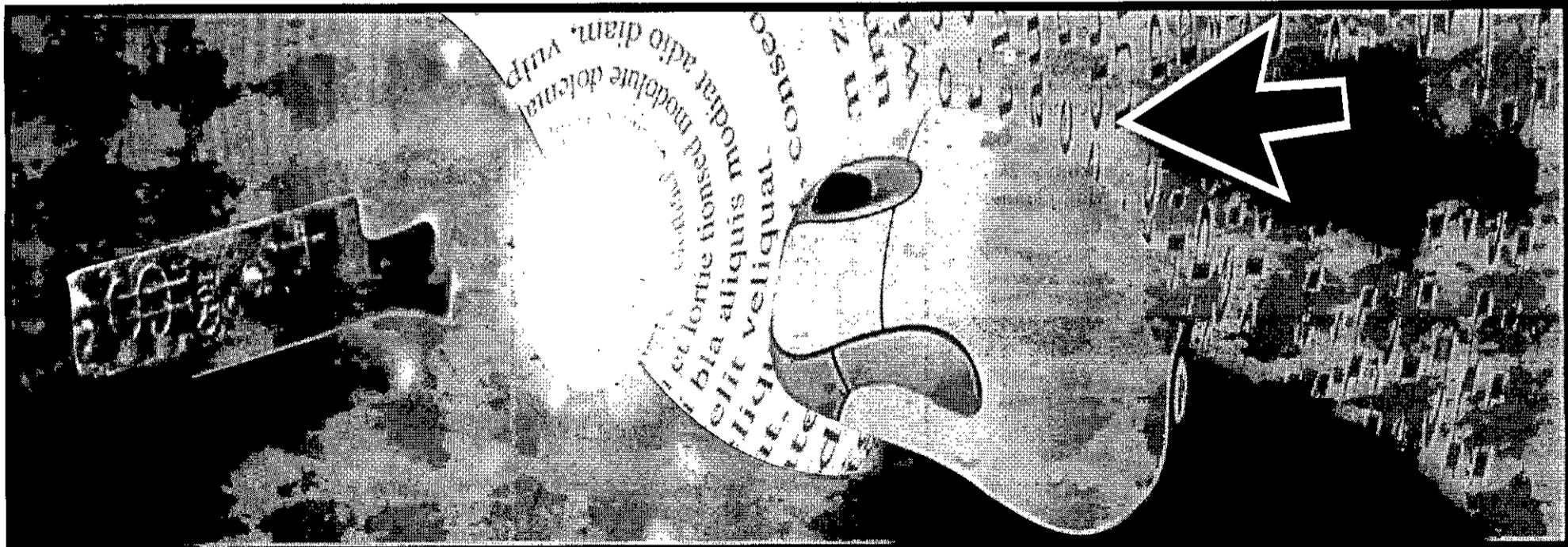
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Sports *in the* Spotlight

Eagles aim for second Sectional swimming title

O'Donnell, Powhida lead Bethlehem into DI battle

The Section II girls swimming and diving championships return to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy this weekend with a new format.

Rather than hold all the finals in one marathon session Saturday, the championship races are being split into two sessions. Division II (classes B, C and D) will hold its finals at 12:30 p.m. Saturday,

and Division I (class A) holds its championship races at 5 p.m.

The 24 teams are equally split between the two divisions as well, now that Niskayuna has dropped down to Division II. The new alignment will help the Silver Warriors, as they avoid swimming against class A powers Bethlehem, Shenendehowa and Saratoga Springs. However, they must battle Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, which only lost one dual meet this season, and Queensbury for the team title.

Division I also figures to be

a close race between defending class A champion Bethlehem, Shen and Saratoga. All three teams feature strong individual swimmers, though Bethlehem and Shen hold an advantage over Saratoga in the relays.

Individually, Shen's Kara Zebrowski is poised to have a big meet. The junior posted the top times in Section II in four different events this season - the 100- and 200-yard freestyles, the 200 individual medley and the 100 backstroke - and was in the top five in two other races. She will be a threat in any individual event she enters.

Other swimmers to watch for in Division I are Saratoga's Taylor Sloane, Mohonasen-Schalmon's Amanda Vitullo and Bethlehem's Bethany Powhida and Katie

O'Donnell. Shen's Andrea Krok, Ballston Spa's Taber Walkowiak and Saratoga's Elizabeth Rice are the leading contenders in the diving competition.

In Division II, Niskayuna's Karoline Hart, Emily Whitaker and McKenna Murphy will be looking to win individual titles. Hart has the top 100 breaststroke time in the section with a 1:09.06 she recorded in an Oct. 19 dual meet against Schenectady, while Whitaker and Murphy posted the third-best times in the region in the 200 and 50 freestyles respectively. Murphy also has the fifth-best time in the 100 butterfly.

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake has a serious individual title contender in Courtney Schwarting. Besides owning the sixth-fastest time in

the 200 freestyle, Schwarting also owns a .04-second victory over Whitaker at an Oct. 11 dual meet in Niskayuna.

The Section II championships begin Thursday with preliminary heats for Division I and II races. The diving competition starts Friday with the preliminary and semifinal rounds.

Defense

(From Page 48)

which downed Hudson Falls 28-14 in last weekend's other class B semifinal. The Bulldogs (9-0) feature a diverse attack led by quarterback Josh Keller and tailback Aaron Christman.

"Their quarterback is the focal point of it, but they have a very good running back, good receivers and they're big up front," said VanDerzee. "They have the whole package."

In other football action, Bethlehem and Voorheesville wrapped up their seasons with crossover victories. Bethlehem knocked off Niskayuna 25-18 last Friday, while Voorheesville edged Hoosick Falls 7-6 Saturday.

Peter Bergquist, Joe Paratore and Sean Murphy each rushed for a touchdown to lead Bethlehem (4-5) past Niskayuna. Bergquist finished with 110 rushing yards including an 11-yard scoring run in the second quarter, and Paratore added a 53-yard scoring scamper to give the Eagles a 12-10 halftime lead.

In Voorheesville, Pat Jones rushed for more than 170 yards, but it was Adam Duncan's 1-yard touchdown run and Lee Fenner's extra point in the first quarter that proved to be the difference for the Blackbirds (6-3) against Hoosick Falls.

Dan Okerman had a 4-yard scoring run for the Panthers.

Bethlehem Tomboys Girls Softball League 2008 REGISTRATION

The Bethlehem Girls Softball League will hold registration for girls grades K to 12.

Thursday Nov. 15th
6:00pm - 9:30pm
at the Bethlehem Town Hall

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against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, c/o Corporation Service Company, 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-17497 (October 31, 2007)

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Notice of Formation of L. VICTOR CAPITAL LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 10/16/07. Office loca-

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tion: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, c/o Corporation Service Company, 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-17498 (October 31, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of formation of Brit-ton's Bay, LLC.

LEGAL NOTICE
Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State New York (SSNY) on 08/02/2007
Office location: County of Albany.
Kyle J. Britton, 176 Sickle Rd, Berne, NY 12023 has been designated as the registered agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The designated agent shall mail a copy of process served to the LLC, 176 Sickle Hill Rd, Berne, NY 12023. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

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LD-17499 (October 31, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO BIDDERS The Slingerlands Fire District's Board of Fire Commissioners will accept bids for the purchase of a new Chief's vehicle. Copies of the specifications may be obtained from the Board of Fire Commissioners at the Bethlehem Town Clerk's Of-

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fice anytime after October 31, 2007. The Bethlehem Town Clerk's Office is located in Bethlehem Town Hall located at 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054. All bids must be submitted to the Slingerlands Fire District and will be publicly opened and read at the November 13th, 2007 meeting at 7:30 pm at the Slingerlands Firehouse located at 1520 New Scotland Avenue, Slingerlands, New

LEGAL NOTICE
York 12159. All bids must contain a non-conclusive bid statement pursuant to Section 103-d of the General Municipal Law and the Fire District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. LD-17501 (October 31, 2007)

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filed with Secy. Of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 10/02/07. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Allstate Corp. Svcs Corp., 41 State St., Ste. 415, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-17378 (October 31, 2007)

Kenney leads BC at Suburban meet

In a year when the Saratoga girls cross country team's hold on the Suburban Council title was seemingly vulnerable, its underclassmen came through with big performances at Saturday's rain-soaked league meet at Saratoga Spa State Park.

Four Blue Streaks finished in the top 10 to help Saratoga fend off challenges from Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake and Shenendehowa to repeat as league champions. The Blue Streaks finished with 33 points, while BH-BL placed second with 44 points and Shen settled for third place with 85 points. Bethlehem placed eighth with 203 points.

Senior Hannah Davidson led Saratoga by taking the individual title with a time of 17:09.52. BH-BL's Sam Roecker and Molly Pezzulo grabbed the next two places with respective times of 17:17.36 and 17:27.60, but Saratoga runners took three of the next five places to set themselves apart from the pack.

Saratoga sophomore Cassandra Goutos was fourth in a time of 17:45.86, with Shen's Cara Janeczko finishing fifth in a time of 18:02.38. Janeczko's teammate Morgan Roche was sixth in a time of 18:04.80, while Saratoga freshman Sydney King took seventh place in a time of 18:18.46.

Saratoga's Brianne Bellon (eighth place, 18:30.95), Bethlehem's Kristin Kenney

(ninth, 18:35.20) and Niskayuna's Chelsea Trant (10th, 18:40.15) rounded out the top 10 in the girls varsity race.

On the boys' side, Shen defended its team title by placing five runners in the top 15. The Plainsmen finished with 43 points, 33 points ahead of runner-up Shaker. BH-BL was third with 82 points. Bethlehem finished 11th with 328 points.

Mike Danaher led the Shen pack with a fifth-place finish in a time of 15:43.68. John McDonald was seventh in a time of 15:57.36, and Brian Trainor finished eighth in a time of 15:58.31. Alex Belenz (11th place, 16:02.56) and Dan Harris (12th, 16:07.77) rounded out the Plainsmen's top five.

Saratoga's Demetri Goutos won the individual title with a time of 15:27.19, nearly six seconds ahead of BH-BL freshman Otis Ubriaco. Shaker's R.J. Sniffen was third with a time of 15:38.59, and Guilderland's Roland Graves finished fourth in a time of 15:42.62.

Shaker's Craig Weiss (sixth place, 15:57.49) and Chris Manico (10th, 16:00.79) also made the top 10, as did Niskayuna's Louis Serafini (ninth, 15:59.46).

Yousef Ahif was Bethlehem's top runner. Ahif placed 45th with a time of 17:14.88.

The Suburban Council teams will join other Section II squads at Friday's Sectional final at Saratoga Spa State Park.

Time

(From Page 48)

define their Hall of Fame careers. Two sets of excellent receivers making clutch catch after clutch catch. Two defenses hanging on by their fingernails to stop the other side from entering the end zone. Who wouldn't want to see that?

Unfortunately, I don't think the NFL has the courage to make such a radical change to its playoff system. Not when tradition dictates that each conference produce a champion, and not when there's more money to be made by having wildcard teams add an extra week to the postseason. The league will say that its playoff system has worked well for nearly 40 years, so why change it now?

The thing is that when you look back at the history of the Super Bowl, there haven't been many super games because there hasn't been a great balance between the two conferences. There have only been four Super Bowls decided on the last play - three on field goals, and one when a player was

tackled a yard away from a game-winning touchdown. Granted, three of those games took place in the last decade - Super Bowls XXXIV (St. Louis-Tennessee), XXXVI (St. Louis-New England) and XXXVIII (New England-Carolina) - which would lead one to believe the NFL is becoming more competitive. But when you consider that only one NFC team has won the Super Bowl in that stretch (St. Louis), it doesn't seem all that competitive.

Of course, the AFC hasn't always dominated the Super Bowl. In fact, from 1981 through 1997, the NFC champion won nearly

every time and in convincing fashion. I'm sure that at the time, people probably wondered if it wouldn't be better for a playoff system which allowed for the top two NFC teams to meet for the NFL title.

So, why shouldn't the NFL switch to my proposed format? After all, if the league wants its championship game to have the best possible match-up, this will guarantee it nearly every time.

It certainly would guarantee it this year because no one else is going to beat New England or Indy.

BC doubles team repeats

Bethlehem's Ali Greenberg and Jen Frangella won their second consecutive Section II doubles title by beating Queensbury's Emily Magee and Erica Fitzgerald in last Thursday's Sectional final at Schenectady Sportime in Rotterdam.

Greenberg and Frangella took both sets by 6-3 scores to advance to this week's state tennis tournament outside Syracuse.

Bethlehem's other doubles team of Brittany Lutz and Alexa Grossman reached the consolation finals, but lost to Shaker's Nicole Ross and Cat Crummey 6-2, 6-4 to finish in fourth place.

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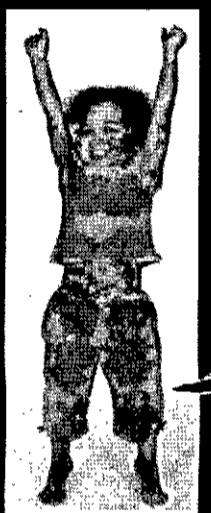
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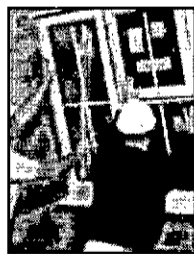
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Sports *in the* Spotlight

Defense comes up big for RCS

Indians shut down potent B-P running game

By ROB JONAS
jonasr@spotlightnews.com

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk's defense came up big for the second week in a row.

As a result, the Indians are back in the Section II, Class B Super Bowl.

R-C-S held Broadalbin-Perth's talented running back duo of Jared Thurber and Mike Hayes to 162 combined yards and no touchdowns on its way to a 9-6 semifinal victory last Friday in Ravena.

"We just played good defense," said R-C-S coach Gary VanDerzee. "We went to a 4-3 (defensive front) and focused on stopping the run."

The Indians (8-1) needed a great defensive effort because their offense had a hard time moving the ball on the Patriots (7-2). R-C-S gained only 68 total yards through the rain and Broadalbin-Perth's stingy defense.

"Both defenses played well," said VanDerzee. "We won the game because of our special teams. Our punt team outplayed their punt team, and our return team outplayed their return team."

The momentum swung R-C-S's way on a special teams breakdown by Broadalbin-Perth early in the fourth quarter. A high snap on a Patriots' punt attempt resulted in R-C-S getting the ball on Broadalbin-Perth's 17-yard line. The Indians pushed their way toward the goal line, and Jared Fortier bulldozed his way into the end zone from one yard out to give R-C-S its three-point lead.

"The offensive line gave us a good surge, and Jared gave us a good run up the middle," said VanDerzee.

Broadalbin-Perth tried to take the lead late in the fourth quarter, but R-C-S came up with a critical stop on fourth down inside its 40-yard line to preserve its lead.

"Brian Paeglow, Geoff Deluca and Jared Fortier — our three senior captains — came up with big (defensive) games for us," said VanDerzee.

Fortier also had a 24-yard field goal in the second quarter for the Indians. Quarterback Cory Caswell scored Broadalbin-Perth's lone points on a 1-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

R-C-S advances to Saturday's Super Bowl against undefeated Cobleskill-Richmondville.

□ Defense Page 46

Soccer playoffs kick off

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk boys and girls soccer teams both played last Thursday in the opening round of the Section II, Class B playoffs with mixed results.

The boys team ran into a powerful Schlamont squad in the opening round and lost 5-0 in Rotterdam, while the girls team downed Hoosic Valley 8-0 in Ravena.

Schlamont (13-6) took a 4-0 lead on first half goals by Marc Case, Alex Barini, Bobby Sheehan and Carlo Viscusi. Case tallied again in the second half to cap the Sabres' scoring.

R-C-S finished the season with a 4-13 record.

The R-C-S girls fared much better against Hoosic Valley last Thursday. Ashley Wilson and Jessica Meyers each scored twice in the Lady Indians' 8-0 victory.

Chrissy Shepard, Jourdan Vatalaro, Emily Scott and Liz Cowan also scored goals for R-C-S, which faced Greenville in the class B quarterfinals Monday after having the game postponed due to rain Saturday.

The Voorheesville boys soccer team also advanced in Sectional play, as the Blackbirds defeated Lake George 1-0 last Thursday in a class CC game. Voorheesville (10-7-2) faces the winner of Monday's Galway-Hoosick Falls game Wednesday in Glens Falls.

Bethlehem's boys team escaped a first-round class AA game against Schenectady with a 1-0 overtime victory last Friday. Lennart Hesse tallied in the third overtime period to lead the Eagles (11-4-2) into Tuesday's quarterfinal against either Columbia or LaSalle.

The Bethlehem girls team received a first-round bye in class AA after earning the No. 1 seed.



Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk's Ryan Adamson (5) closes in on Schlamont's Carlo Viscusi during last Thursday's Section II, Class B playoff game in Rotterdam.
Rob Jonas/Spotlight

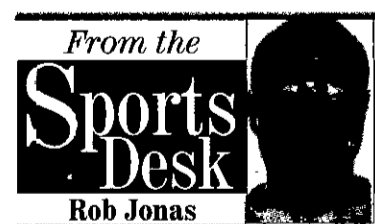
It's time to change NFL playoff format

Let's face facts, folks. Sunday's Indianapolis-New England game is a preview of the NFL championship.

It can't be a preview of the Super Bowl because they play in the same conference, but it might as well be a preview of the NFL championship because whoever wins this weekend will be the favorite to raise the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

But what if there was a way that the Patriots and Colts — without question, the two best teams in the NFL — could meet in the Super Bowl? Wouldn't that be better than the Colts or the Patriots beating down some helpless NFC team next February in Phoenix?

Unfortunately, that can't happen this year. But I have a proposal that could make it possible down the road, if only NFL commissioner Roger Goodell



Rob Jonas

would consider it.

The proposal is based on how Section II organizes its playoffs. You take the four division winners in each conference and rank them based on their records (no wildcards allowed). Then, you have the top team from one conference play the fourth-best team from the other conference, and the No. 2 team plays the No. 3 team from the other side — exactly like Sectionals. The winners meet in the semifinals, with the two victors playing in the Super Bowl.

Let's do this with the NFL's

current division leaders. In the AFC, New England is currently No. 1 with an 8-0 record, followed by Indy No. 2 at 7-0 and Pittsburgh No. 3 at 5-2. No. 4 is a toss-up between Kansas City and San Diego, both of whom are 4-3 and are at the top of the AFC West, but I'll give the nod to the Chiefs because of their win over the Chargers last month.

In the NFC, East-leading Dallas is No. 1 at 6-1, followed by NFC North leader Green Bay (5-1) at No. 2. Seattle and Carolina are both 4-3, but I'll place the Panthers at No. 3 because of a better record against NFC competition (4-1 for Carolina to 3-2 for Seattle).

With my playoff alignment, New England gets Seattle, Indy meets Carolina (again), Pittsburgh plays Green Bay and Dallas hosts Kansas City. Chances are, New England would have no

trouble with the mediocre Seattle Seahawks, Indy would throttle Carolina (again), Dallas would beat Kansas City and Pittsburgh would find a way to edge Green Bay.

Let's advance this to the semifinals where New England faces Pittsburgh and Dallas hosts Indy. The Steelers may have a good offense and a solid defense, but the Patriots have too many weapons and a better defense, so New England gets the nod here. As for Dallas and Indy, the Cowboys simply have too many holes in their defensive unit for Peyton Manning to exploit. The Colts would put Dallas away.

That would lead to a New England-Indy Super Bowl. The two best teams playing for the NFL title. The top two quarterbacks squaring off in a duel that could

□ Time Page 47