



# Managing editor wins award

DeVoe takes first-placé for column writing at state press association.

See Page 24

## Area News



### Tebbano named superintendent

It was the end of an era as Bethlehem Central School District looked to its future on Wednesday, April 2, when it named Michael Tebbano as its new superintendent.

See story on Page 3.



### Mop and Bucket keep it clean

In the early 1990s, Michael Burns decided to start a local improv comedy group.

There was only one problem: Improv hadn't quite caught on in the Capital District.

See story on Page 27.



### Delmar Dash

Chuck Terry was alone, and that was fine with him.

The 25-year-old Albany resident pulled away from the field at the one-mile mark and never looked back in taking the overall men's title at Sunday's Delmar Dash.

See story on Page 44.

# THE

Serving the Towns of  
Bethlehem & New Scotland

# Spotlight

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## When age makes you a target



### Crimes and scams can plague unprepared seniors

By ROSS MARVIN.  
Spotlight Newspapers  
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There's a classic "Seinfeld" episode where Jerry goes to a bakery in search of a loaf of marble rye bread. At the bakery, an elderly woman orders the last loaf just before Jerry steps to the counter.

Jerry offers the woman \$50 for her rye, but she refuses. She says it's a one-of-a-kind marble rye.

Seeing the woman as she is, unassuming,

brittle and slow-moving, Jerry follows her out to the streets of New York City where he mugs her for her marble rye, calling her "an old bag" and running off into the night, leaving the woman stranded with a look of disbelief on her face.

While the "Seinfeld" scene was meant to be humorous, the senior-as-victim scenario is all too real. According to local police and consumer affairs officials, senior citizens are undeniably vulnerable to acts of violence and fraud.

□ Age Page 25

## Dash makes a splash

### Delmar race holds its 20<sup>th</sup> competition

By JARRETT CARROLL  
Spotlight Newspapers  
carrollj@spotlightnews.com

The rain held off and the community came together to run and have fun at the 2008 Delmar Dash.

With an overcast sky and an early spring chill in the air, hundreds heated up the streets of Delmar Sunday, April 6, to transform the hamlet into a bonafide marathon arena for all ages. Aside from a few scraped knees and elbows, organizers said the 20<sup>th</sup> annual 5-mile run and children's races went on without a hitch.

Residents lined the streets with lawn chairs and baby strollers to root on competitors, and watch a shoulder-to-shoulder road full of runners zip past them by early morning. About an hour later they were treated to kid's races and saw boys and girls dash down Kenwood Avenue and back again.

Without a pool in sight and the road blocked off, Bethlehem children were free run down the street to their hearts content without being told "no running."

Even Supervisor Jack Cunningham was seen in the thick of the ac-

□ Dash Page 20

## Board votes down appointment guidelines

### Councilman called for a less party-motivated process

By JARRETT CARROLL  
Spotlight Newspapers  
carrollj@spotlightnews.com

How the Town of Bethlehem makes its appointments has come under scrutiny by one of its own Town Board members.

Councilman Sam Messina put forth a proposal in early March to create guidelines for the way the town advertises and appoints

people who are non-civil service to various boards and committees not deemed competitive by the state.

Messina's proposal was voted down 4-to-1 at the Wednesday, March 26, board meeting, with him casting the only vote in its favor.

Positions ruled competitive are subject to civil service exams and must follow state and county guidelines.

Currently the Town Board makes appointments once a position opens up or a term ends and those interested in a particular

committee or board send a letter of interest to the supervisor. Some applicants are interviewed, some are not, but the board gets a final vote on all paid and unpaid appointments.

"The people working in the town are very good people ... but political parties should not control these appointments," Messina said, citing his reason for the proposal. "There shouldn't be six Democratic committee members out of eight applications for a zoning board seat."

Messina's proposal stated, "The guidelines are intended to

enable outstanding candidates to become aware of, express interest in, be considered and if successful, be appointed to established positions."

Messina is the board's only Independence Party member, although there were several cross endorsements between his party and the Democratic Party to the five current members of the Town Board when they ran for office. The other four members were primarily endorsed as Democrats and ran on the ballot under the party's name.

□ Board Page 24



# Police Blotter

## Assault leads to weapons charges

Three Bethlehem residents were arrested on Tuesday, April 1, following an early morning assault that led to a confrontation involving a loaded shotgun, according to Bethlehem Police.

Rebecca F. Smiley, 49, of Slingerlands was charged with felony reckless endangerment, menacing and criminal possession of a weapon — both misdemeanors. Paul A. Smith, 48, also of Slingerlands, was charged with misdemeanor assault, and Mark A. Cossingham was charged with a parole violation.

Bethlehem police say they received a call at 3:30 a.m. that a fight was in progress at a residence on Krumkill Road in Slingerlands, and, when police arrived on the

scene, they found Smith standing in the middle of the road.

Smith told police that he had an argument with a woman at Smiley's residence earlier and that he went back to the Krumkill Road home to check on her, according to the police report. Police said Smith told them that when he arrived at the home, Smiley pointed a loaded shotgun at him.

Upon further investigation, police discovered that Smith had allegedly assaulted the woman he had argued with inside Smiley's home. According to the report, the assault victim had been drinking earlier with Smith, Smiley, Cossingham and Smiley's landlord inside of the Krumkill home, and,

when she went upstairs to go to sleep in a bedroom, Smith allegedly followed her, the report states.

Police said Smith allegedly "was hoping to have sexual relations with her," but, according to the report, the woman rejected his advances. According to the report, the victim said Smith held her down on the bed and choked her. When she tried to scream, she reports that he covered her mouth with his hand. When the woman attempted to get Smith off of her, he allegedly "struck her twice with a closed fist in the head and face," according to the arrest report.

Bethlehem police say the woman left the Krumkill home after the incident.

Police say the assault victim was found at her home with swelling and bruising around her eye and that she had a cut on her face.

At the time Smith returned to the Krumkill home, Smiley allegedly pointed a shotgun at him, "ejected a shell and did re-cock another shell into the chamber," and Smith fled the property, but there was no verbal exchange between the two, the arrest report states.

Police said that Cossingham was inside of the home drinking, even though Smiley had an active "stay away" order of protection against him. It was also discovered that Cossingham is currently on parole.

Police contacted Smiley via telephone and asked her to leave the residence for questioning, but she refused, the reports state. She eventually left the house "to retrieve a garbage container at the end of the driveway," and police apprehended her.

All three were then taken into custody, processed and charged.

Working with the state's division of parole, Cossingham was sent to the Albany County Correctional Facility, without bail, for violating the conditions of his parole. Smiley and Smith were both arraigned in Bethlehem Town Court, according to police.

Smiley was sent to Albany County jail in lieu of \$5,000 bail, and Smith was sent to Albany County jail in lieu of \$2,000 bail, and police say that a Mossberg shotgun and shotgun shells were taken from Smiley's residence as evidence.

driving north on Adams Street in Delmar. Police attempted to catch up to Lowenski, who was driving a Jeep, and found him pulling into a driveway on Burtonwood Place.

Lowenski allegedly did "stumble and almost fall while exiting the vehicle," and was swaying while walking toward police, according to the arrest report. Police say he smelled like alcohol and displayed signs of intoxication, and, when asked if had been drinking, Lowenski replied, "No."

He told police he was on blood pressure medication, the report states.

Lowenski failed several field sobriety tests and was transported to the Bethlehem Police Department before being released into the custody of his wife, the report states.

He is scheduled to appear in Bethlehem Town Court on April 15.

### In other arrests

• Dan L. Lowenski, 55, of Delmar, was arrested on March 28 for DWI, aggravated DWI, driving with a blood alcohol content greater than 0.18 percent; operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content of 0.08 percent or greater; and leaving the scene of property-damage auto accident.

Police say they received a call that a person driving a green jeep hit the caller's vehicle and continued

### Correction

The April 2 *Spotlight* article, "School budget talks continue in Vville," stated that an informal show of hands by School Board members suggested that they would be open to adding additional staff at the elementary level. Board members actually opposed the plan by a 5-to-2 margin.

*The Spotlight* regrets the error.

**APRIL SPECIALS**  
**ON VOLVO REPAIRS & PARTS!**

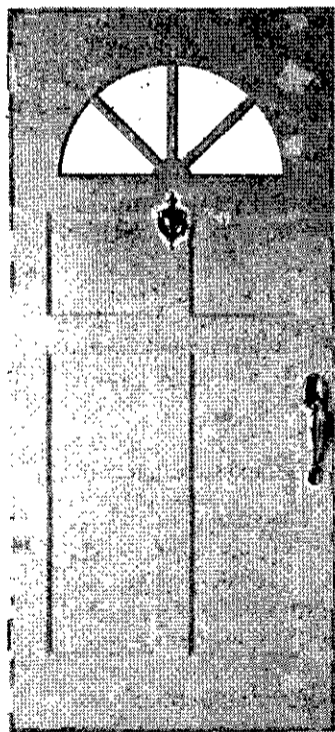
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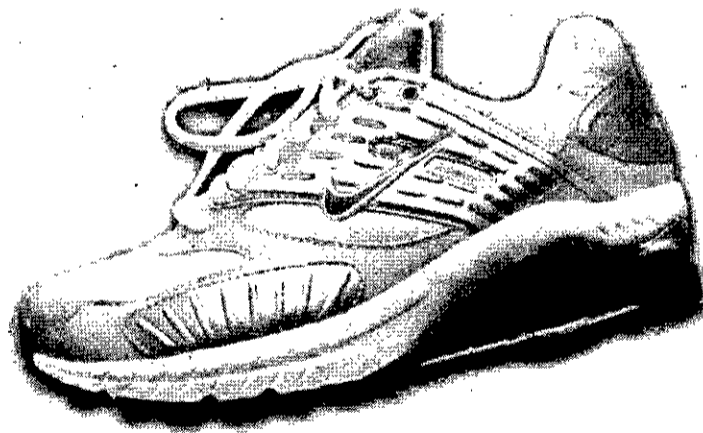
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2



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# Builders asked to put best face forward

**Plans move ahead as planning board shows preference for homes facing roadway**

By JARRETT CARROLL  
Spotlight Newspapers  
carrollj@spotlightnews.com

Keeping backyards in the back and front yards in the front was the topic of discussion during the Tuesday, April 1, Bethlehem Planning Board meeting.

The board listened to a presentation for an alternative lot layout for Brookside Meadows, a 77-lot subdivision off of Clapper Road, and an amendment to the Dowerskill Village plans.

Representatives of Brookside Meadows presented two possible lot layouts for board members. The first showed the development with the front of the homes facing the road, and the second had the back of the properties facing the road.

Planning Board Chairman Parker Mathusa said he preferred to see the front of the homes from the road.

"I wanted to promote the use of Clapper Road itself," Mathusa said. "The houses designed to face Clapper will give more of the community feeling to the development."

Mathusa said he and fellow board members didn't want to see the back porches, grills and other items one would see in the back of a home facing the roadway. The board voted nearly unanimously for the first plan, in

a 6-to-1 vote.

Planning board member John Smolinsky vote for the second plan, saying he preferred the design with the back of houses facing the road.

The Brookside Meadows plans show 77 homes proposed inside of the complex off of Clapper Road, with an additional 13 homes being built off the road itself.

This is the second time Brookside Meadows developers have come before the board, but, according to Mathusa, "We still have more work to do."

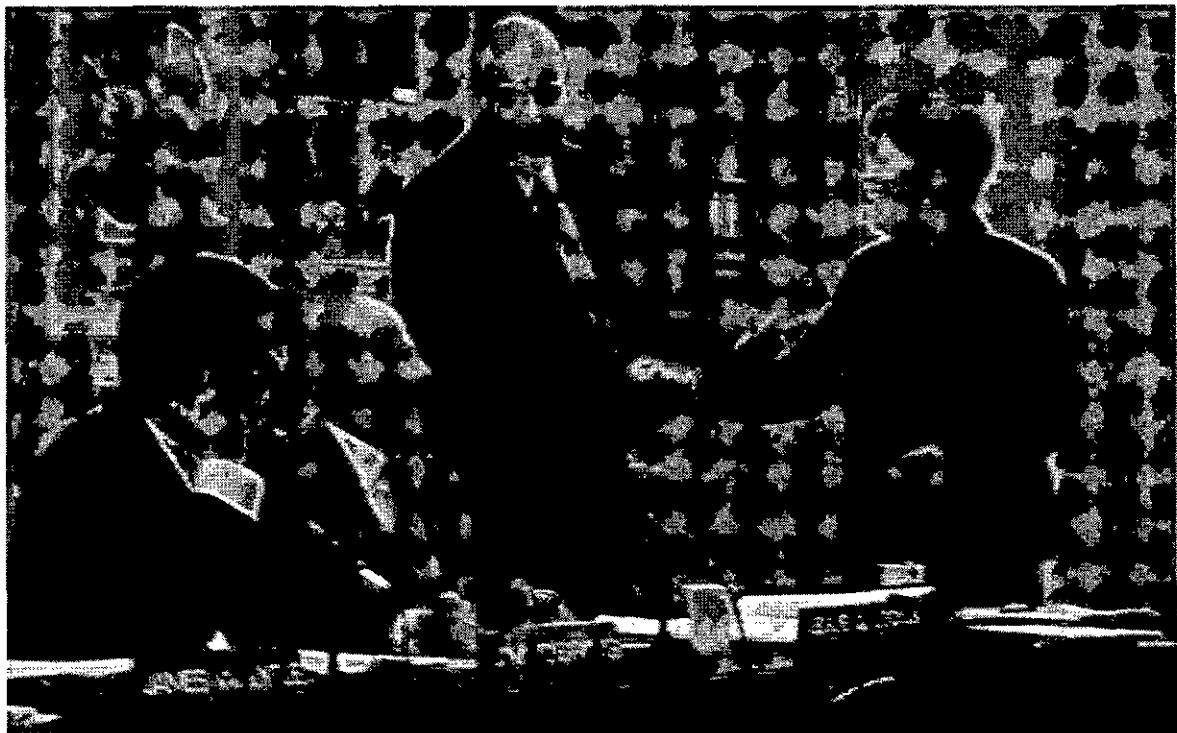
Mathusa said more engineering plans were needed for issues such as sidewalks and water and sewer lines.

The Dowerskill Village is a proposed development in Glenmont that would include apartment houses. Wetland issues forced developers to change some plans and those houses are now, too, being proposed to face the road.

"A number of people in the community said they would like the apartments facing the road," Mathusa said. "To make it look like a normal street."

Planning Board Member Katherine McCarthy said that she also approved of the design changes.

"I appreciate the work the developer did to make preliminary adjustments," McCarthy said. "It's really important that developments look as nice as possible, and by having the front of houses face the main road, we achieve that."



Michael Tebbano was selected as the new Bethlehem Central School District superintendent at the Wednesday, April 2, board of education meeting. Tebbano will officially take over in July following the retirement of Les Loomis.

# Bethlehem makes choice for new superintendent

**Michael Tebbano will move to the head of the class when Les Loomis retires**

By JARRETT CARROLL  
Spotlight Newspapers  
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It was the end of an era as Bethlehem Central School District looked to its future on Wednesday, April 2, when it named Michael Tebbano as its new superintendent.

The board of education accepted the resignation of Tebbano as Bethlehem's assistant superintendent of educational programs and appointed him to replace outgoing Les Loomis as superintendent of the district.

Loomis has been at the head of the district for 21 years.

The announcement to appoint Tebbano was officially made public during the Wednesday, April 2, board of education meeting, but *Spotlight Newspapers* revealed the exclusive on its Web site the night before.

Concluding months of searching and interviewing candidates from as far away as Texas, the board unanimously decided that Tebbano was the right man to carry the district into a new age of education.

And, according to Board of Education President James Lytle, just because the ultimate successor was already walking the halls of Bethlehem Central, it doesn't mean the board's extensive search was a wasted effort.

"Now I know some people are going to ask, 'Why did you go through all this trouble?'" Lytle said at the meeting. "It's because we felt the community deserved that kind of commitment."

The superintendent search involved reviewing 29

applicants for the position, which was narrowed down to six semifinalists during a first round of interviews. Then three finalists were chosen and interviewed by the board and six panels of community and school district representatives.

Tebanno described the interview process as "very intensive."

"I enjoyed to opportunity to sit down and meet with the various community stakeholders," Tebbano said. "It seemed to me that my answers resonated with the community stakeholders."

The board of education was unanimous in its support for Tebbano.

"The best person to lead us in this district," Lytle announced at the meeting, "is Dr. Michael Tebbano."

Tebanno will officially become superintendent on July 1, following Loomis' retirement after more than two decades as superintendent.

"I am thrilled by the opportunity to become the next superintendent of BC," Tebbano said prior to the meeting. "I believe BC is an outstanding district and is poised, to become even stronger and more focused in offering a global educational experience for every student. The students, parents, faculty, staff, administrators and the community at large bring many wonderful strengths and talents to this special learning community."

Tebanno's starting salary will be \$170,000.

The entire board stood and applauded for Tebbano following the announcement as he made his way around the room and shook the hands of board members and fellow administrators.

"I'm very excited, and I am looking forward to working for you," Tebbano told colleagues and audience members after taking his seat.

In a follow-up interview, Tebbano said he was "very happy and very honored to be selected as the district's superintendent."

As the district's assistant

superintendent for educational programs since 2005, Tebbano joined the district as the K-12 music supervisor in 1997, and became principal of Bethlehem Central High School in 2002.

"I love living in Bethlehem. I've been here for 11 years," Tebbano said.

In his current position, he has been responsible for the leadership and direction of the district's academic programs and helped chart new directions for the district in full-day kindergarten, technology education, advanced placement offerings, and the introduction of Chinese into the second language program.

Tebanno is expected to focus on the technological challenges ahead of the Bethlehem Central School District in training and educating a whole new generation of students in the 21st century.

Tebanno's first initiatives will include improving the district's communication with the community, creating a mechanism for sound fiscal accountability, as well as using growth models to better prepare students for college and the world ahead of them.

"One of the first things I think is important will be better communication and support for programs," Tebbano said. He also wants to control costs while maintaining the quality of programs in the school.

"I want to see that every Bethlehem student is able and prepared to successfully complete four years of college if that is what they want to do," said Tebbano.

Lytle said Tebbano was the right choice and looks forward to his stewardship of the district.

"At the end of the process, the board unanimously concluded that the best qualified and most dynamic person to lead Bethlehem into the future was Dr. Tebbano," Lytle said.

Board member Lynne Lenhardt concluded the appointment announcement by saying, "We're very, very fortunate."

# State museum plans events

The state museum has the following events planned.

- Trash to Treasures, Sunday, April 13; 1 to 3 p.m., Adirondack Hall, free.

Trash to Treasures features an art project using manufacturing mistakes and materials destined for the landfill. Join us for an interesting story or video and an Earth-friendly exhibition.

- Jazz Celebration, Sunday, April 13, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Adirondack Hall, free.

Enjoy the smooth sounds of local jazz performers as you walk through the exhibit hall.

The schedule is 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Pearl River Jazz Trio; 2 to 3 p.m., Ten 27; 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Nat Phipps Trio.

- Spring Into the Museum, Monday, April 14 through Friday, April 18, 1 to 4 p.m.

Throughout the museum, free. Fun, hands-on activities for the whole family during school vacation week.

- Tuesday, April 15, Weird Science 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., classrooms two and three.

Make Oobleck and a variety of other projects that illustrate chemistry concepts.

- Tunes to Paint 1, 1:45, 2:30, and 3:15 p.m., student center.

Art Instructor Peggy Steinbach will lead a creative art experience with participants painting to a variety of musical sounds. A "Musical Map" will be given to take home along with the finished masterpiece.

- Wednesday, April 16, What Did The Owl Have For Dinner? 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Bird Hall

Discover what owls eat, examine the contents of owl pellets and attempt prey skeleton reconstruction.

- Life Drawing for Adults, Wednesdays: April 16, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Adirondack Hall. Cost is \$55/museum members, \$65/non-members for all eight sessions.

Weekly sessions feature a live model in a different museum setting.

Contact psteinba@mail.nysed.gov or call 473-7154 for information or to register.

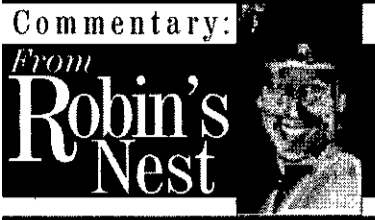
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# Adoring grandparents build lasting memories

By ROBIN SHRAGER SUITOR  
news@spotlightnews.com



I am jealous of children who live near their adoring grandparents. And also a bit resentful of how these young people don't realize their good fortune.

Doting grandparents are loving, yet not demanding. They give you dirt on your parents. They are your allies during arguments. They practically force you to eat candy.

My daughter likes having overnights with her grandma and grandpa. Her grandparents don't enforce bedtimes, they let her watch as much TV as she pleases and they ply her with ice cream and other treats. They used to buy her books and toys. Now they supply her with cash.

When she was smaller, the traditional greeting of "Hello" was replaced by "What did you bring me?" They never seemed offended. I guess they shouldn't be. After all, they established themselves as one-way giving machines.

The parent tells the child, "Say thank you to Grandpa" or "Go give Grandma a hug." The child replies, "Do I hafta?"

My parents have never expected anything in return. It seems that seeing the grandchild's eyes light up is all the thanks they need. Either that or my parents take some kind of perverse pleasure in undermining my efforts to teach my child manners.

I can see why being a grandparent is fun. You can just spoil, spoil, spoil those kiddies without any concern for imposing discipline. You get the fun of buying presents and taking kids on outings, but not the bother of middle-of-the-night feedings or nagging about homework. If the diaper is dirty, you hand the baby back to the parent. If the teen gives too much attitude, you send them packing.

**Commentary:**  
*From Robin's Nest*

I am looking forward to one day being a wiser, calmer, more fun version of myself. That's right, I think it will be great to be a grandparent. Of course, I'm talking about a time in the distant future, after my 11-year-old daughter becomes a college-educated, employed, married adult.

I recently found a photograph of my maternal grandparents and me. I'm lying in what looks like the precursor to an infant car seat. The seat is on top of a table. I'm wearing a bib with the words "I'm The Boss."

I've seen this photograph before or one taken on the same day. My mother used to display it in a photo cube frame in our kitchen.

When I was a child, all I saw in that frame was a baby, my Nana, and the grandfather I never knew.

But as an adult looking at the picture, I see things differently. Although I don't remember my grandpa, I realize that I did once know him, and he certainly knew me.

My parents have told me about how Grandpa was crazy about me. He'd come over all the time and take me out for walks in my carriage. They say I gave him an extra year of life; He passed away not too long after my first birthday.

When my own daughter was born, I saw first-hand how a tiny baby brings joy to a grandfather. Seeing my father and daughter interact, I was able to imagine how my own grandpa might have felt about me.

I did get a chance to know both of my grandmothers. But since we moved upstate from Brooklyn when I was a toddler,



Robin and her maternal grandparents, Michael and Pearl Blassman. Submitted photo

we were limited to long-distance relationships. Still, we usually visited twice a year and we also exchanged cards and letters.

When I think about Nana, my maternal grandmother, I recall the smell of her pot roast cooking, her black metal telephone that was hard to dial, and the dishes of Nips candy on the coffee table in her living room.

One summer, Nana came to visit us in Voorheesville. She gave me money so I could ride my bike to the one local ice cream parlor and get a cone. We'd sit together on lawn chairs on the front porch, and I would confide in her about boys I thought were cute.

When I think about Bubbi, my paternal grandmother, I remember her Yiddish accent, her incredibly hot apartment, and the stash of Hershey bars in her refrigerator.

I regret not getting to know Bubbi better. What stopped me was my inability and ignorant unwillingness to understand her English. I would end up answering, "Yes" to anything she said. That would work if she inquired if I was enjoying school, but would not be a fitting response to any open-ended questions. She must have thought I was an idiot at times.

As an adult I realize that it

wasn't that I couldn't understand her; it was that I wasn't listening hard enough. I was too embarrassed to ask her to repeat herself, so I just wanted off the phone quick.

Both of my grandmothers had lived interesting lives and endured various struggles. But I don't remember ever asking them about themselves. Certainly my letters would include the polite, "How are you?" but would otherwise be filled with details of my important life: what the weather was like, what I was working on in school, my upcoming dance recital. Perhaps this is the typical content of letters to grandmothers, but I can't help wishing I'd taken more of an interest in them. I was 14 when they died.

"What's good about having Grandma and Grandpa close by?" I asked my daughter.

"They let me stay up all night watching cable TV," she answered.

"Yeah, I meant besides the TV and the spare change," I said.

"Well," she said, "Grandparents are interesting because they grew up when there were no cell phones."

I told her, "Forget cell phones. Your grandparents knew a time before television existed. I've known television and cell phones, so I wonder what technology will be new when I'm a grandparent."

She said, "I bet soon cable TV will be so yesterday."

Maybe it's just not possible for young folks to appreciate their grandparents. Maybe there's no need for resentment.

Maybe the point is for kids to enjoy their grandparents and to build lasting memories. This ensures that as the cycle of life continues, children for generations to come will benefit from the special relationship and generosity of adoring grandparents.



## WEEKLY WEATHER

Chief Meteorologist Mike Bono



TIME WARNER CABLE

### Albany Almanac

#### Record high/low/year

Day	AVERAGE HIGH 55°	AVERAGE LOW 34°
Wednesday, April 9	77°/1991	16°/1977
Thursday, April 10	86°/1922	21°/1974
Friday, April 11	82°/1945	20°/1874
Saturday, April 12	84°/1977	13°/1874
Sunday, April 13	87°/1977	19°/1874
Monday, April 14	83°/1968	19°/1973
Tuesday, April 15	86°/2003	21°/1940

**ANNUAL PRECIPITATION**  
13.05 inches as of Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>  
4.46 inches above average

#### This week in weather

April 11, 1987 Ten days of flooding in the northeastern U.S. finally came to an end. Damage from flooding due to rain and snow melt ran into the billions of dollars. The collapse of the New York State Thruway Bridge over Schoharie Creek claimed ten lives.

#### Sun & Moon

Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Wednesday	6:19am	7:33pm
Thursday	6:18am	7:35pm
Friday	6:16am	7:36pm
Saturday	6:14am	7:37pm
Sunday	6:13am	7:38pm
Monday	6:11am	7:39pm
Tuesday	6:10am	7:40pm

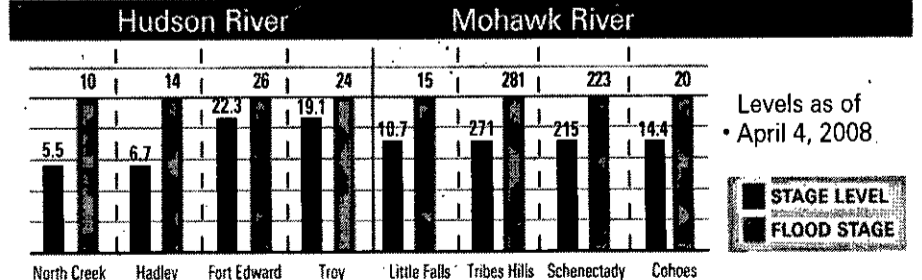
#### Moon Phases



Planets	When	Where
Jupiter	Morning	Bright SE
Mars	Evening	High SW
Saturn	Evening	High SE

### Rivers & Recreation

#### River Levels



#### Factoid

In April, we're used to enjoying more daylight in the early evening since we moved the clocks forward. In Albany, we gain 1 hour and 13 minutes on the length of day in April.

#### Tides at Albany

Day	High	Low
Wednesday	8:05am, 8:32pm	2:18am, 3:06pm
Thursday	8:57am, 9:28pm	3:09am, 4:01pm
Friday	9:54am, 10:29pm	4:05am, 4:58pm
Saturday	10:55am, 11:34pm	5:05am, 5:56pm
Sunday	11:58am, -----	6:07am, 6:55pm
Monday	12:40am, 1:02pm	7:08am, 7:51pm
Tuesday	1:43am, 2:03pm	8:09am, 8:46pm

# Bethlehem sewer pump stations to be renovated

## Pumps from the '30s to be replaced

By JARRETT CARROLL  
Spotlight Newspapers  
carrollj@spotlightnews.com

Bethlehem's sewer pump stations are getting a \$5.2 million makeover.

The Bethlehem Town Board discussed replacing seven aging sewer pump stations, some of which were originally built in the 1930s, according to the town's commissioner of public works, Josh Cansler. The Town Board did not officially adopt the plan, but held a discussion on it during its March 26 meeting.

"We will be taking the existing

pump stations and renovating them," Cansler said. "We will use the same building structure and replace the pumps inside of them."

Supervisor Jack Cunningham said the \$5.2 million would be bonded over a three-year period to pay for the upgrades, which he said were necessary.

"Some of the stations were built back in the '40s," he said.

Cansler pointed out that some of the stations were actually originally built in the 1930s.

"The newer stations are designed to keep employees out of harms way," Cunningham said, referring to the fact that town employees currently have to monitor the older pump stations and "crawl around" to perform

maintenance.

The new stations will have computerized monitoring systems installed in order to constantly monitor the stations from a centralized off-site location. The field operations division of the town's public works department monitors all sewer pump stations.

There are 37 pump stations throughout Bethlehem, according to Cansler, and the renovation plan calls to replace three this year and four next year. The contracting work for the replacements will be placed out to bid for the lowest contract, he said.

"The stations pump the sewer

out of the lower areas," Cansler said. "It's pumped to another station or directly into the sewer system."

Cunningham said some of the stations were built next to developments and the stations pump sewage up from homes and into the town's municipal system.

## Workshops aim to help reduce people's stress

Author Paula Chaffee Scardamalia hears comments like "I don't have space in my house for me let alone in my day," "why do I feel guilty when I attend to my own needs?" and "sometimes I just want the world to go away so I can breathe again" over and over again as women and men struggle to find personal space for themselves amidst increasing demands on their time and energies.

"The law of attraction is the hot topic today but the challenge for many people is that, with their highly stressed lives, they don't even know what it is they want to attract or even who they are anymore. We are too distracted by the constant noise around us to hear our own still small voice," says Scardamalia.

In "Making Space in Your Home, Your Mind, and Your Life for You," a workshop at the Four Corners in Delmar, Scardamalia will talk about the value of silence and solitude and how to capture it

on your way to work. Learn how your cell phone is a useful tool in journaling and dreamwork. Use your dreams to take a vacation without leaving home. Explore simple rituals like a cup of tea for renewal.

This workshop can help you hear yourself think again, identify your dreams and renew your connection to self during six Wednesday evenings, from 7 to 9 p.m., beginning Wednesday, April 9, at the new Heart and Spirit Psychic Studio at the Four Corners in Delmar.

Scardamalia is the author of "Weaving a Woman's Life: Spiritual Lessons from the Loom," which won an award last year in Foreword Magazine's Book of the Year Awards, and a nationally recognized weaver who has sold her work at juried craft shows and galleries throughout the country. She writes for both print and online publications like Vision magazine and Beliefnet.com.

## Heart association encourages everyone to walk on April 16

Wednesday, April 16 is National Start Walking Day. The American Heart Association is encouraging Americans to fight the No. 1 killer in the United States, heart disease, by wearing your sneakers to work, and taking a 30-minute walk during the day.

Studies show that adults may gain as much as two

hours of life expectancy for each hour of regular vigorous exercise - like very brisk walking. The exercise can come intermittently during the day, or in one chunk.

If you're an employer, just think: a few 10-minute breaks during the day will get your staff invigorated and could cut down on sick days.

## Musicians of Ma'alwyck to host event


Musicians of Ma'alwyck will hold its final 2007-2008 dinner/wine-tasting/concert on Tuesday, April 22, at 6 p.m. at the Van Curler Room at Schenectady County Community College.

The dinner prepared by the award-winning culinary team at the college includes a meal based on recipes from early America, including as the entree a sausage-cornbread stuffed guinea hen (a vegetarian entree is available upon request). Wines will be paired with courses and are provided by vintner Joseph Carr.

The concert, which features repertoire from the late 1700 and early 1800s for flute, violin and cello, includes works of Fischer (son-in-law of painter Thomas Gainesborough), Gehot (a Belgian-American composer) and Danzi (a cello virtuoso).

Tickets are \$50 each and reservations are necessary. Tickets are available online at www.sunysccc.edu (click on college store and continue from there) or in person at the bookstore during regular business hours.

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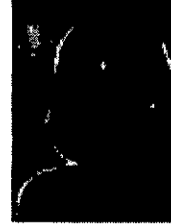
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# Matters of Opinion *in the* Spotlight

## Protect seniors from predators

Native Americans said that life is a circle, from childhood to childhood. Some felt that this was the nature of all powerful things — humans being one of them — and others simply thought that old age, or the “second childhood,” was the reward for a demanding life.

When we are young, we learn from others how to defend ourselves, what pitfalls to be aware of and how to develop a keen eye for someone trying to take advantage of us. As we hear more and more stories of our elderly being swindled, defrauded and, in some cases, violently attacked, it is becoming apparent that in our second childhood we must re-learn those skills.

This is not to say that our senior citizens are feeble or weak — mentally or physically — but they do face a unique set of challenges in today's world. People are living longer, healthier lives, often living unassisted lifestyles when in the past they would have been cared for by family or professionals. This presents a new demographic for those looking to swindle, defraud or attack individuals for their personal gain.

The state Senate recognized this earlier this year, when they passed “Granny's Law” in an attempt to impose stiffer penalties for attacks on the elderly.

This bill would elevate the charges for assault of a person 65 years or older when the perpetrator is more than 10 years younger than the victim to a Class D felony, punishable by up to seven years in prison.

The bill was created in response to an attack last year of a 101-year-old Queens woman who was mugged on her way to church. The same attacker went on to beat and mug 85-year-old Solange Elizee just a half an hour later.

The bill has been sent to the governor for consideration.

Niskayuna resident Priscilla Brighty's letter, which accompanies this week's centerpiece story on senior safety, was sent to *The Spotlight* as a letter to the editor. But it was more than that. It was an indication of the changing times in which we live and a reminder that while one person's parents or grandparents are living longer, so too are another person's victims.

Take the time to petition your government to follow through with “Granny's Law,” but also take the time to read the safety advice within, given by local law enforcement officials, so that these crimes can be avoided.

## Editorial

## Caregivers need a break, too

By LINDA LAUDATO  
news@spotlightnews.com

*The writer is a Guilderland resident and a volunteer with Community Caregivers.*

Spring has finally arrived. As the crocuses and tulips appear, we can look forward to enjoying a brief, restful interlude between shoveling snow and mowing lawns. Longer days of warm sun mean more time to enjoy outdoor activities. For many people, spring break is a time for spiritual retreats, school vacations and trips to tropical islands.

There are some folks, however, who will not be taking a break this year. In fact, many of them can't remember the last time they had an hour to themselves. They are the caregivers, the people who faithfully manage the care of chronically ill family members. They are often on duty or on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Caregivers on the whole are reluctant to ask for help even when their own health is in jeopardy. In the December issue of AARP magazine, author Sheree Crute quotes recent studies that show caregivers are at particular risk for a host of physical illnesses, as well as anxiety and depression. Interviews with caretakers revealed that many of them abandon hobbies, forgo vacations and lose their social networks, even very close friendships.

This is all too familiar for many of the people we meet each week at Community Caregivers. Over the past few months we have noticed a significant increase in the number of requests for respite visits, particularly for those caring for loved ones with dementia and terminal illnesses. As we speak with them on the phone and visit them in person, we witness exhaustion, guilt, fear, anxiety, depression and loneliness.

Last evening as I watched

## Point of View

an exciting finish to a NCAA basketball game, I noticed exhausted players being called off the court during a “time out.” The coach replaced them with other team members to give the starting players a few moments to catch their breath. Although the substitutes didn't play very long, they made valuable contributions to the team's efforts. They played just like our respite team.

Our respite volunteers provide one to two hours a week of friendly companionship so that caregivers can enjoy a brief reprieve from their caretaking duties. The requests we receive are for “time out” activities such as naps, haircuts, fishing, a lunch date, attending a son's concert; all simple pleasures that we take for granted but are worth a million dollars to an exhausted caregiver. Some folks are simply looking for a visitor to brighten their day or a friendly chat on the phone with an understanding neighbor.

As an organization, Community Caregivers continually assesses the needs of the community and seeks ways to meet those needs. We know that there is an urgent need for caregiver respite and that this trend will continue as our population ages. As a community team, we need more players to serve as respite volunteers. Our caregiving neighbors need substitute team members so they can catch their breaths.

Will you consider joining us? If you are a current volunteer, would you like to try something new?

As a member of our Respite Team, you will receive support from staff, professionals and each other. You can “play” as little as two hours a month or as much as you like. All you need are listening skills, compassion and

a sense of humor. Community Caregivers will be offering regular seminars on topics geared particularly toward caregivers and volunteers. Our goal is to provide opportunities for learning, socializing and relieving stress. All programs are free and open to the public. Call 861-5181 for more information or to register.

### Some upcoming programs

- Introduction to yoga: 2 p.m. Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7 at the Community Caregivers office, 6378 Gun Club Road, Altamont. Colleen Hassett, a Kripalu yoga instructor, will conduct this six-week series. This is a beginner's level class, and chair yoga will be an option. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a blanket or yoga mat. You may attend one class or the six-week series, but call one week ahead to register.

- Introduction to Community Hospice: 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, at Community Caregivers office. Don Stark, of Community Hospice, will present an overview of the hospice programs and lead a discussion on the opportunities for communication with those at the end-of-life stage.

- Managing difficult behaviors/therapeutic fibbing: Thursday, May 15, time to be announced, at Community Caregivers office. A speaker from the Alzheimer's Association will discuss practical ways to deal with difficult behaviors in people with Alzheimer's.

If you would like to join our Respite Team, or provide other volunteer services, please join us for an information/orientation session: 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, Christ the King Church near routes 20 and 155 in Westmere or 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 22, at Lynnwood Reformed Church on Carman Road in Guilderland.

Call 861-5181 or e-mail info@communitycaregivers.org for information.

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Spotlight Newspapers welcomes announcements of programs or events occurring in our coverage area.

All events must be open to the public and announcements should contain the date, time, location and cost (if any) of the event, along with contact information. Announcements are published space and time permitting.

The deadline for all announcements is noon Thursday prior to publication.

The Spotlight Newspapers also 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.

Submissions can be e-mailed to news@spotlightnews.com, faxed to 439-0609, or mailed to Spotlight, P.O. Box 100, Delmar 12054.

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 on submitting a Point of View, e-mail Executive Editor Tim Mulligan at mulligan@spotlightnews.com or call 439-4949.

# Your Opinion *in the* Spotlight

## Town should take a bow

Editor, *The Spotlight*

I would like to publicly commend the amazing work put in by the "grown-ups" who made last week's BCHS production of "The Boy Friend" such a delightful success.

True creativity, organizational skills, and grit were shown by the women and men who designed and created the costumes, helped create the scenery and amass the props, styled hair and makeup, successfully sold tickets, organized the

refreshments, handled all sorts of logistics, and even created the cast party.

Individuals volunteered unimagined for the production and took their reward in satisfaction, not in paychecks.

The results were awesome. In a category by themselves, of course, are the high school teachers who directed the play, made the music, and choreographed the dances that had the audience applauding wildly.

Each year, the highly professional team of James Yeara, Jason Dashew and Danielle Vincent put their lives on hold so they could offer students at the high school the opportunity to

participate in a high-quality musical theater production.

Each year, audiences are entranced by the results, and students have new reasons to be proud of their own success. Students never forget the time they spend as part of a

production such as "The Boy Friend."

It took a whole town to make this one happen, and parents of those students who were part of it—whether backstage as members of the superb crew, or on stage in the

spotlight—are very grateful to all those who were so generous with their time and talents. As the parent of one of the actors, I hope I speak for us all when I say, "Thank you!"

Deb Adler  
Delmar

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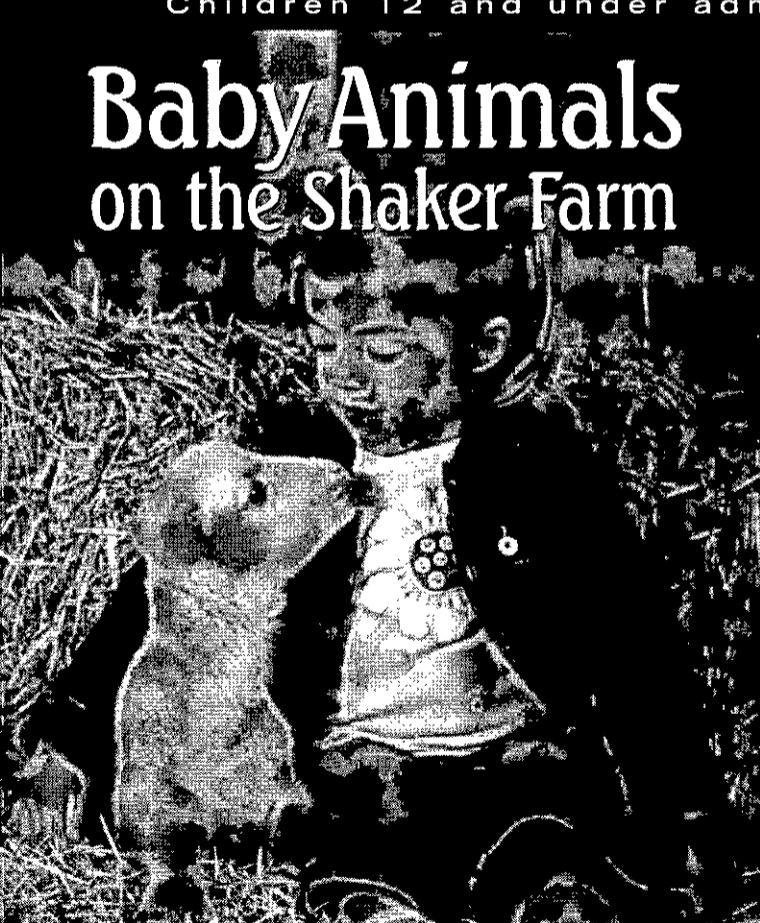
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# Your Opinion *in the* Spotlight

## Voting is a serious duty

Editor, *The Spotlight*:

Prior to this election, how many people ever heard of "super delegates?"

These super delegates have been around for about 35 years (how many of you knew that?), and we are now hearing about them every day because of the tight race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

As of March 31, not including Florida's 23 and Michigan's 27 due to those states not running their Democratic primaries on their required dates, there are 793 super delegates within the party. Assuming everything stays as is, the total number of national delegates is 4,046. The number needed to win the nomination stands at 2,024.

Awhile ago, "Meet the Press" host Tim Russert asked Sen. Chuck Schumer how he, as a super delegate, should vote for the Democratic presidential nomination. Schumer immediately did the "Schumer Shuffle," stating no real answer. He did, however, say he wanted

to "vote my conscience."

Any mention of conscience by a politician, or "political conscience" for the sake of discussion, begs comparison to such famous oxymorons as "military intelligence."

Political conscience?

Should the same politicians that fail us so many times on basic, important issues be allowed to "vote their conscience?"

With all due respect 'super delegate,' if you don't have the "conscience" or moral fortitude to properly legislate against the horrific, growing population of child predators or pharmaceutical companies that manufacture drugs with "possible side effects" like depression serious enough to result in suicide, why should you and your conscience have the chance to vote for anything other than what we the people want?

The turnout for the Democratic primaries this year has been as large and as vocal as

any in recent history. And now the same Democratic Party that cried "foul" long and loud after the Al Gore fiasco in Florida during the 2000 presidential vote is now dancing back and forth about where to draw the line regarding the very same topic — the popular vote.

If this race continues to be close, super delegates will be a very strong deciding factor in who will get to run for president of the United States.

We are making a big mistake by not asking, better yet insisting the super delegates state what they think their definition of super delegate is, what responsibilities it carries, and most importantly how they will decide who they will support and why.

As a parent, I have always told my kids, and anyone else within earshot, we only really have the power of the vote. Voting is a serious duty, not just a privilege. If you do not exercise your power of the vote, then your opinions on anything resulting from the election you did not vote in carry no weight at all.

"We the people" are staring right into the barrel of losing the power of the vote. Do not think for one minute this is any less important than anything else we are faced within our daily lives.

R. M. Sherlach  
Delmar

## Thank you for contributions

Editor, *The Spotlight*:

Glenmont Elementary School would like to thank the community and local businesses that supported its annual "Hoops for Hearts" fundraiser. We raised more than \$22,000 in our most recent endeavor, and in the past 10 years we have presented more than \$225,000 to the American Heart Association.

In particular, we would like to thank Del Lanes; Gochee's Garage; School's Out, Inc.; Thomas H. Pratt

Jr. and Associates; Burt Anthony Associates; Subway of Glenmont (Feura Bush Road); Cart Away, LLC; and Robert Wright Disposal for their generous contributions to our event.

We are a caring community and together we can fight heart disease.

Laurie Nolan  
physical education teacher  
Bethlehem Central  
School District

## Support makes event a success

Editor, *The Spotlight*:

On behalf of the Glenmont Elementary School PTA, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the following businesses for taking time out of their busy routines to support our school on March 27: Sam's Italian Restaurant, Panera Bread, Manning's Menu and Catering, and Franklin's Tower, whom all donated food to our annual staff-appreciation lunch.

These businesses really made the event, a time that the


PTA sets aside to thank all of its wonderful staff and faculty for all they do for our children, one that will be remembered by all.

It is nice to know there are such great businesses in our community that are willing to step up and be a caring and supportive neighbor.

Thank you for your support.

Gina M. Schwind  
secretary  
Glenmont Elementary PTA

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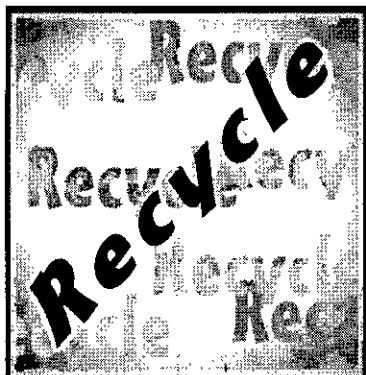
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NCUA



# Your Opinion *in the* Spotlight

## District should have supported student athletes

Editor, *The Spotlight*:

We are writing in response to Bethlehem School Board President James W. Lytle's March 26 letter to the editor ("Community service part of district's mission") about Bethlehem student athletes who are forced to choose between playing on a team and attending a church mission trip to help rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina over the school's spring break.

In the letter, Lytle wrote that the board sent the issue on whether or how to change the sports policy to a committee.

While we recognize the need to seek input from those affected by this policy, this process should not be used to avoid making or being held accountable for hard decisions.

In his letter, Lytle states that the district regards service to the community "to be very much a part of our mission." Through school assemblies, posters and other means, the district tells our children about the importance of character and serving and respecting others.

These high school student athletes were putting these very values into action; they should have been supported by our school district, not penalized harshly by the loss of being able to play on a team this spring.

We do not believe that drawing an appropriate line would be impossible. For example, the School Board could endorse a sports policy where students can seek waivers in writing due to public service or emergency reasons from the rule

requiring attendance at all practices and games.

The consequences for missing the spring-break period could include not starting in the first several games and/or forfeiting the right to serve as team captain.

Leaders make tough decisions by going back to a community's core values and principles. We hope that our school leaders will be showing our children that the messages they've heard about the importance of character are not just posters on the wall.

Robyn Ryan  
Rebecca Lane  
Delmar

### IN BRIEF

#### Palace showing classic movies

The Palace Theatre's movie series continues. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Tickets are on sale at the Palace Theatre box office, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany, or by calling 465-4663.

• "Spartacus," 1960, 184 minutes, not rated, Monday, April 21, 7 p.m.

• "Lawrence of Arabia," 1962, 216 minutes, not rated. Monday, May 5, 7 p.m.

• "Jaws," 1975, 124 minutes, rated PG. Monday, May 19, 7 p.m.

#### Legislative group offering scholarships

The New York Conference of Italian-American State Legislators is now accepting applications for four \$1,500 scholarships to be awarded at its annual conference in June.

The awards will be given to four current or future college students from New York state. All applications must be received by 5 p.m. on April 30 in order for

recipients to be considered for the new academic year beginning in the fall. Eligibility will be based upon the student's grade point average, interest in pursuing a higher education, involvement in the local community as well as individual financial need.

For information, call 455-3191 or visit [www.senatorbruno.com](http://www.senatorbruno.com) and click on the contact link to request an application.

#### Empire State College center to hold information sessions

Empire State College, of the State University of New York, will hold public information sessions about its undergraduate degree program on Thursday, April 10, at 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, April 16, at 5:30 p.m.; Monday, April 21, 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, call 800-847-3000.

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# Teens' films a hit at festival

Seventy-five people attended our inaugural Teen Film Fest on March 15. Thirteen entrants competed for awards in several categories. The envelope, please ...

- Best animation: "Bad Dream: Claymation" by Alex Nye
- Best comedy: "The Optimistic Sandwich" by Dylan Welch
- Best documentary: "Biography of Nicola Tesla" by Keenan Sanchez
- Best short film: "Wait Room" by Josh Steinert and Alex Nye
- Best technical experimental: "Montage" by Coby Berger
- Best overall: "Bad Dream"
- People's choice: "Optimistic Sandwich."

Winning films can be viewed on our Web site, [www.bethlehempublib.org/teens](http://www.bethlehempublib.org/teens). All contestants' films have been posted on YouTube.

With help from the Bethlehem Central High School art department, the library also sponsored a Film Fest logo contest, won by David Ruf from



a wide field of excellent entries. The logo will soon appear on our Web site and will be used for all future teen film fests.

Congratulations to our winners and thanks to all contestants. We hope to see you again next year.

## 2008 town directory

The latest edition of the "Bethlehem Town Directory" is now available in the library. Updated annually, this little booklet is full of practical information about town services, schools and resources. Each entry contains contact information and a short description. Pick up your copy at the information desk.

This library publication wouldn't be possible without the able assistance of Kim Ryan, assistant to the town supervisor.

The library also publishes

annual updates of "Community Contacts," "News Media Directory," "Volunteer Opportunities for Adults," and "Donation Sites." All are available at the information desk; "Community Contacts" is also available online at [www.bethlehempublib.com/ourcommunity](http://www.bethlehempublib.com/ourcommunity).

## Sonny and Perley

"Brazilian Romance" is the theme for our next Sonny and Perley concert this Sunday, April 13, at 2 p.m. Husband-and-wife duo Sonny Daye and Perley Rousseau are complemented by percussion and bass in an afternoon of captivating Brazilian music.

The concert is cosponsored by Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. with funding from the Albany County Department of Aging.

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.

# Bethlehem's looking for a few good alumni

## Nominations for BCHS Alumni Hall of Fame can be made online

The Bethlehem Central Hall of Fame Committee has provided an online nomination form for community members to submit candidates to be inducted in the BC Alumni Hall of Fame's Class of 2008.

The online nomination form is available on the district's Web site and can be accessed by visiting <http://bcbsd.k12.ny.us/alumni/HOF.htm>.

The Alumni Hall of Fame was created in the fall of 2004 after months of discussion between the district and community organization about wanting to recognize graduates for their achievements.

Selection is based on the nominees' accomplishments and significant contributions made in their careers or to the lives of others since graduating. Hall of Fame classes of three inductees each were recognized at the 2005 and 2006 graduation ceremonies. There was no Hall of Fame Class in 2007 due to a lack of nominations.

"We were disappointed last year when we did not have a Hall of Fame class," said Bethlehem High School Assistant Principal Scott Landry. "We believe the online nomination form will make it more convenient for people to submit candidates' names and allow us to move forward in recognizing our

outstanding graduates."

Landry also chairs the selection committee. The Hall of Fame Committee will field the nominations and make the selections, as it has in the past. The committee is made up of Bethlehem Central administrators, community members and staff members.

Nominations are due by May 16 for the Class of 2008, which will be inducted at this year's BCHS commencement ceremonies on June 27.

The inaugural inductees were community activist Jo-Carol Block Davidson, '74; former president of NBC News Neal Shapiro, '76; and Captain Dennis E. Fitzpatrick, '76, commanding officer of the USS John F. Kennedy. The Hall of Fame Class of 2006 was former New York State Supreme Court Justice Joseph R. Cannizzaro, '72; Richard Jadick, '83, an osteopathic physician who, as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, is credited with saving the lives of more than 30 Marines on a tour of duty in Iraq; and Eva Marie Saint, '42, an Academy Award-winning actress who played graceful leading ladies in many films starting in the 1950s.

Those who do not have access to a computer wishing to nominate a Bethlehem Central alumnus for Hall of Fame recognition should contact the high school's main office at 439-4921, ext. 900.

— Jarrett Carroll

## FREE SCREENINGS & LECTURES

# Spring Into Heart Health

Join us as we kickoff our six-part educational series focusing on ways to live a heart-healthy lifestyle.

## SPECIAL KICKOFF

Monday, April 14, 2008  
5 to 8 pm.

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- Cooking demonstration
- Ask The Pharmacist (Bring your current medications or a list of them to review with a pharmacist)
- Exhibits on exercise, nutrition, women's health and more
- Visit our new facility, enjoy free massages, refreshments and healthy snacks

### Lecture (6:30 to 8 pm)

"Three Keys To A Healthy Heart"  
Presented by **David Wolinsky, MD, FACC**, Albany Associates in Cardiology  
Learn your risk factors and how to make important lifestyle changes. Q & A to follow lecture.

Registration is required for the April 14<sup>th</sup> event by calling 1-800-HEART-76.

The event is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Free parking.

The remaining lectures will be held on Mondays at 400 Patroon Creek from 6 to 7 p.m. Registration is requested by calling 1-800-HEART-76. You may sign up for all or some of the lectures. Refreshments will be served.

**April 21**  
Wellness Care, Lifestyle Management, & Medical Nutrition  
Paul Lemanski, MD, FACP

**April 28**  
The Mediterranean Diet: What It Is and How It Works  
Laurie Burton-Grego, MS, RD

**May 5**  
Exercise & Your Heart  
Charity Bopp, MS, RCEP  
Michael Jantzen, Exercise Physiologist

**May 12**  
Complementary Therapy To Boost Well-Being  
Edie Miskewicz, RN, LMT

**May 19**  
Peripheral Artery Disease/Peripheral Vascular Disease: Diagnosis & Treatment  
Michael J. Martinelli, MD, FACC



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 Abbey Farbstein Listing Team Leader The Farbstein Group vm# 640-4670	 Janet Carberry Sales Team Leader vm# 640-4604	 Judie Janco Special Achiever Team Leader vm# 640-4668	

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# Bethlehem food pantry in need of donations

The Bethlehem Food Pantry is one of many cooperative efforts of Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. and Bethlehem Senior Services. It needs your help right now.

Boxes for donations are conveniently located at Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar; the lobby at the YMCA, 900 Delaware Ave., Delmar; and Del Lanes, 241 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Non-perishable items such as boxed and canned foods as well as toiletries are especially needed. Pasta, sauces, crackers and canned products such as tuna fish, meats, juices, fruits, vegetables and soups are helpful.

Please remember the Bethlehem Food Pantry when you go shopping, and drop off your items on the way home or when you visit any of the drop-off locations.

The Bethlehem Food Pantry is stocked and coordinated by community volunteers and has been utilized by more than 600 people during the past year. Be assured that it is definitely important and necessary to many members of our community.

Should you have questions about the food pantry or wish to know how to access it, call 439-4955, ext. 1176.

## Upcoming program highlights

**Saturday, April 12**  
• Garden day at the town's

## Senior Action



April 12 to 18

compost facility, Route 32, 1244 Feura Bush Road, Selkirk (just north of the GE facility). Bring a shovel and containers for free compost and wood chips to start your spring gardening.

### Sunday, April 13

• Enjoy a light early dinner (cost on your own) at My Place and Co., 241 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Then enjoy a concert presented by Sonny & Perley, whose "Brazilian Romance" features the 1960's sounds of Sergio Mendez and Brazil 66. Reminisce and sing along to great songs like "The Girl from Ipanema" in this free, fun-filled concert at 2 p.m. at the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

Bethlehem Senior Transportation leaves Town Hall at approximately noon; home pickup is available on a pre-arranged basis. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176 for reservations.

### Monday, April 14

• Legal Aid Society and Albany County Department of Social Services Medicaid representatives will be available

at Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., to answer food stamp questions and help with applications, 10 a.m. to noon. For an appointment, call 439-4955, ext. 1176.

### Wednesday, April 16

• Meals ... music and more. At the First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, 38 Church St., Selkirk. A delicious lunch of beef tips over noodles will be followed by uplifting music by Tommy Eppolito. Suggested donation for lunch is \$2.50 for seniors and \$5 for those younger than 60, with a voluntary donation for the music program. Lunch and music from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Reservations for lunch and transportation are necessary at 439-4955, ext. 1176. Bethlehem Senior Transportation leaves town hall at noon.

• Home Energy Assistance Program (H.E.A.P.) application assistance available for all Albany County residents regardless of age. A representative of Cornell Cooperative Extension will assist individuals on fixed or low incomes (approximately \$1,876 per month for one person or \$2,454 for two people) with energy-related bills. Call 439-4955, ext. 1173 or 1174 to make an appointment and for details related to specific documents needed. Meet in Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., Room 110, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

• Alzheimer's caregiver support group meets at Delmar Presbyterian Church, 585 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 2:30 p.m. Call the Alzheimer's Association at 438-2217 for information.

• Seniors grocery shopping for residents of Elsmere, Delmar, Slingerlands, North Bethlehem and Marie Rose Manor.

### Thursday, April 17

• Senior grocery shopping for

residents of Glenmont, Selkirk and South Bethlehem.

### Friday, April 18

• Senior grocery shopping for residents of Good Samaritan Senior Housing and Van Allen Senior Apartments.

*Doris Davis, Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. board member*

• For information on the above or a list of additional activities, call the Bethlehem Senior Services Office at 439-4955, ext. 1176.

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**IN BRIEF**

**SUNY New Paltz to host epilepsy walk**

The State University of New York at New Paltz will host Sara's Third Annual Walk for Epilepsy from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 3. Proceeds from the two-mile walk will benefit the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York (EFNENY). Volunteers are being sought to participate in the walk and to raise money.

The walk was the idea of a 13-year-old New Paltz Middle School student named Sara-Elizabeth, who was diagnosed with idiopathic benign childhood epilepsy. The Gardiner resident had her first seizure when she was 16 months old, and throughout her young life continued to experience tonic clonic and partial complex uncontrollable seizures.

Now seizure-free, Sara-Elizabeth is focusing her efforts on helping the more than 40,000 individuals with epilepsy throughout northeastern New York.

To participate as a walker, visit [www.itsnotwhoiam.com](http://www.itsnotwhoiam.com) or call Susan Kaczynski at 456-7501 or e-mail [skaczynski@epilepsyneny.com](mailto:skaczynski@epilepsyneny.com).

**Senior center seeks craft show vendors**

The Shen Senior Center is seeking vendors to display at its annual fiber arts and craft show on Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact the center at 383-1343 for registration forms and information.

**Visit the islands at the library**

Take a trip to the islands with traveler Diane Luci on Tuesday, April 22, at 7 p.m.

Discovered in 1535, the Galapagos Islands are seemingly lost in time. The 19th century explorer and biologist Charles Darwin, author of "On the Origin of the Species," was inspired by these islands 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador. The moon-like volcanic landscapes, pristine beaches and crystal clear waters are teeming with life. With little fear of man, sea lions jump in to play alongside swimmers, iguanas sit patiently for portraits and boobies and frigate birds pursue their mates within arm's length of visitors.

Luci, of Voorheesville,

**Voorheesville Public Library**



visited this unique area with its exotic animals and would like to share her trip with you through pictures. No signup is necessary. Bring friends and family.

**Vacation week programs**

Preschoolers through grade two are "Going on a Dragon Hunt" on Tuesday, April 15, at 10:30 a.m.

On Wednesday, April 16, at 2 p.m., grades one to five will make windchimes at a workshop presented by the Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum.

Book discussion for grades four and five meets on Wednesday, April 23, at 7 p.m.

Lapsit for infants and caregivers meets on April 17 at 10:15 a.m. Sign up.

There will be no regular storytimes during school vacation week.

**Potluck poetry brunch**

The potluck poetry brunch is Saturday, April 12, at 11 a.m. Join the Every Other Thursday Night Poets for the brunch in the VPL community room. Bring food and poetry to share. All welcome.

It is not too late to sign up for vacation week fun programs for kids.

**Board of Trustees**

Petitions are available for any school district resident over the age of 18 who is interested in running for the VPL Board of Trustees. Candidates are required to obtain signatures from 25 qualified voters and return the notarized petition to the library by 4 p.m. on Monday, April 21.

Barbara Vink

All library programming is free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public. Voorheesville Public Library is located at 51 School Road, Voorheesville. For information, call 765-2791 or visit [www.voorheesvillelibrary.org](http://www.voorheesvillelibrary.org).

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**APRIL 10**  
All Kosher for Passover Wine Tasting 4-7pm  
**APRIL 12**  
Swedish Hill and Goose Watch  
2nd Wine Tasting TBA

**APRIL 19**  
Southern Wine & Spirit pouring Standing Stone & Lamoreaux Landing  
Empire Wine & Spirits Tasting Smirnoff Grand Cosmo and Pomegranate Martini, Cuervo Golden Margarita

**APRIL 26**  
Bill Bartford from Empire Merchants Pouring New Amsterdam Gin 3-6  
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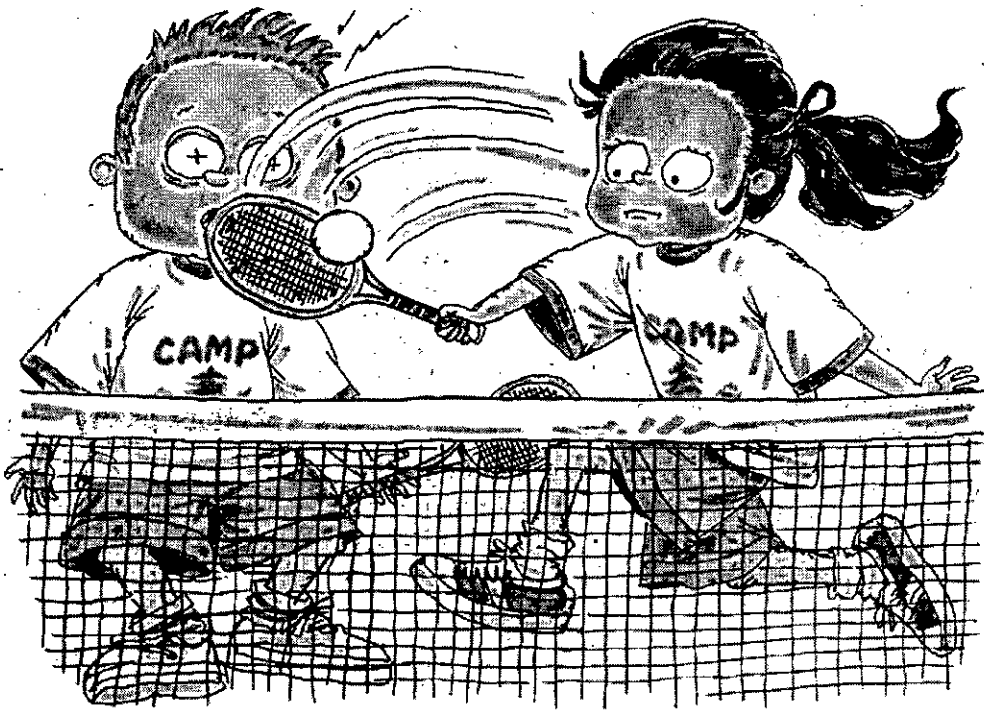
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**St. Anthony's Summer Program**  
  
**What:** St. Anthony's Early Childhood Center Summer Program  
**When:** Monday, June 30th - Friday, August 22nd  
 Summer Camp 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
 Daycare (Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)  
**Where:** St. Anthony's Early Childhood Center  
 1840 Van Vranken Avenue  
 Schenectady, NY 12308  
 (518) 372-5961 or (518) 381-4830  
**Who:** Currently Registering 3 to 9 year olds for Summer Fun!  
**Program Includes:**  
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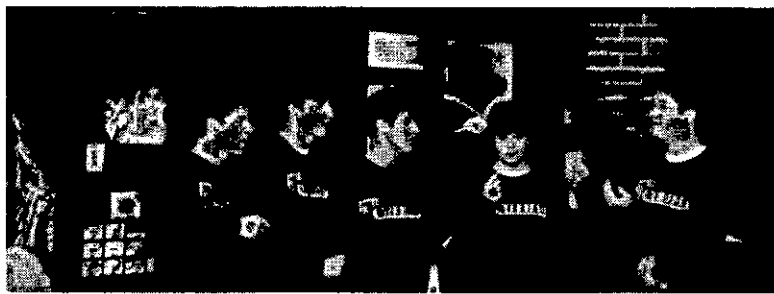
Bethlehem Central High School students dance at the monthly Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce breakfast on Thursday, March 27.

Submitted photo

## Chamber holds breakfast at high school

The Bethlehem Central School District hosted the monthly Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce Breakfast at Bethlehem Central High School on Thursday, March 27.

The menu for the day included a snapshot of the academic programs and co-curricular activities students are engaged in every day, including a presentation from the school's Future Business Leaders of America group and performances by the high school's brass quintet, selected scenes from the theater group Stage 700's production of "The Boy Friend," and two



Students perform scenes from the theater group Stage 700's production of "The Boy Friend" during the Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

Submitted photo

songs from the school's A capella group.

The event also offered

an opportunity for chamber members to tour the renovated and expanded high school.

# Residents invited to town meeting

The next meeting for the Town of New Scotland will be held on Wednesday, April 9, at the Town Hall in Slingerlands. All are invited.

### NEWS NOTES

**Voorheesville**  
Betsy Glath  
765-4415



### Schools to close for spring recess

Schools in the Voorheesville Central School District will be closed Thursday, April 10, through Friday, April 18, for spring recess.

washing windows, making minor house repairs, painting or light housekeeping.

Those who need help or those who would like to volunteer help may call Susan Kidder, senior liaison at 439-9038 or e-mail her at skidder@townofnewscotland.com.

### Thacher plans open house

Tuesday, April 15, to Friday, April 18, is Earth Week Open House at Thacher Nature Center. Come and explore the activity stations where you can play games, do crafts and many other activities while you learn about ways to take care of the earth.

For information, call 872-0800.

### St. Matthew's plans Tuesday for Teens

Tuesday for Teens is a new teen program at St. Matthew's. Teens from throughout the Albany Diocese are invited to attend a special program of workshops, speakers and activities during "Spring Enrichment" at the "Tuesday for Teens" program on Tuesday, May 13, from 3:30 to 8:15 p.m.

Check out the brochure at [www.rcda.org](http://www.rcda.org) for information and the registration form. Space is limited to the first 100 entrants who register.

For information or to register, call Mrs. Dorn at 765-2373 or e-mail [www.stmatthewsyouthministry@verizon.net](mailto:www.stmatthewsyouthministry@verizon.net).

### Volunteer day set for May 3

The Town of New Scotland is holding a townwide volunteer day on Saturday, May 3. Volunteers will gather at the Town Hall before 9 a.m. and go out to low-income senior and handicapped homeowners in the community.

The town is looking for individuals or families who might need help with raking, cleaning out flowerbeds,

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## BETHLEHEM HIGH SCHOOL TO HOST "FAMILY FIRST FEST"

A benefit concert for the family of John and Diane Demeo will be held at The Bethlehem Central High School Sports Complex, 700 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York, on Sunday, June 8, 2008. The concert will feature the music of Hair of the Dog, The Lustre Kings, Rocky Velvet and the BCHS Hooligans.

Coach Demeo has been a teacher and coach in the Bethlehem School District for over thirty years, serving the last two years as the district's athletic director. His wife, Diane, lost her courageous battle with cancer on March 7, 2008. The concert will be held to celebrate Demeo's dedication to the Bethlehem community, including the many students who he has worked with in a variety of capacities. It will also be in honor of John and Diane's tireless dedication to their families and to the idea of putting "family first". Along with music, food and refreshments will be sold by the Bethlehem Central Boosters, and there will be face painting and other children's activities.

The concert will take place from 1:00-5:00 p.m.. The gates will open at 12:00. Tickets for the show are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Kids under six are free. Tickets will go on sale April 7<sup>th</sup> in the main offices at all BC schools. Tickets will also be available at Blue Sky Music Studios and the Delmar Market, as well as at the door on the day of the concert. In the case of inclement weather, the show will move inside to the Bethlehem High School lower gym.

For those who cannot attend the concert, donations may be made to the following address:

Coach Demeo Fund  
First Niagara Bank  
197 Delaware Ave.  
Delmar, NY 12054

For more information, contact Mike DeAngelis at 518-477-4629, or [deanmms@bcasd.neric.org](mailto:deanmms@bcasd.neric.org).

# Selkirk school's collection helps service personnel

Elementary school students in Selkirk are looking locally and globally when it comes to charitable causes.

The A.W. Becker Elementary School Student Government Organization and a life skills class are collecting donations for soldiers in Iraq and a food pantry in Selkirk.

"The food pantries are in very dire need right now. The staples that they always have they are running low on," said life skills teacher Lorri McCarthy.

"At the same time, an awful lot of the service men and women get a lot of things at the holidays, and this time of year — just when it gets the hottest — the donations start to wane," she added.

The students are collecting donations throughout April. Community members are welcome to send donations in with students or drop them off at the school during school hours.

Red boxes are located throughout A.W. Becker for donations to the food pantry. Blue boxes are likewise located throughout the school for donations to service personnel.

McCarthy said the food bank donations were the idea of third grade student Alice Holloway, who brought the concept to her teacher Janice Burriesci.

"I have always believed

that kids should look beyond the classroom to learn about the greater community and to learn how to be a part of the greater world community and to be good citizens," McCarthy said.

Teacher Deb Conti said the school conducted an assembly last week, during which citizenship was celebrated and the collections — as well as a school recycling effort — were discussed.

McCarthy said that during the assembly, local food pantry representative and Board of Education member Sarah Hafensteiner told students about the needs of the food pantries and how they help residents.

## IN BRIEF

### RCS absentee ballots available

Ravena-Coeymans Selkirk School District residents who are registered voters and will not be able to vote in person during the May 20 Board of Education elections and district budget vote may apply to receive an absentee ballot.

To obtain an application, residents may pick one up at the district office, 26 Thatcher Street, in Selkirk between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., weekdays; or call the business office at 756-5200, ext. 6000 to have one mailed to them.

Voters can also download an

application from the district's Web site, [www.rcscsd.org/District\\_WebPages/Absentee\\_ballots.htm](http://www.rcscsd.org/District_WebPages/Absentee_ballots.htm).

1, the cost is \$25.

Reservations are necessary. Call 767-9505.

### Vendors needed for church flea market

The First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, 38 Church Road Selkirk, will host its annual flea market on the lawn on May 17.

The church is looking for vendors to fill its lawn. As in the past, firearms, pets or food concessions will not be allowed.

The cost for a 20x20 foot space is \$20, if paid by May 1. After May

### Town plans trip to see 'Jersey Boys'

The Town of New Scotland Recreation Committee is sponsoring a trip to New York City to see the Broadway play "Jersey Boys" on Friday, Oct. 17, for the 8 p.m. show. Tickets go on sale Thursday, April 10, at 10 a.m. at New Scotland Town Hall.

The cost is \$165. Call Pat Geurtze at 475-0385 for information.

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# NYRA announces upcoming racing events

With the snows melted and the clocks turned forward, the New York Racing Association is sprinting ahead with plans for the 140th season at Saratoga Race Course, which runs July 23 through Sept. 1.

A talented crop of 3-year-olds such as Pyro, War Pass, Big Brown, Visionaire, Indian Blessing and Proud Spell headline the spring prep races, while the summer events and activities at Saratoga Race Course will be highlighted by the annual Open House, Hats Off Festival, Travers Festival,

National Football League Alumni Day, Sunset Racing, Final Stretch Festival, and the 139th running of the summer's signature race, the \$1 million Travers Stakes, presented by Shadwell Farm.

"The New York Racing Association is working diligently to make this a summer to remember for our loyal and dedicated fans at Saratoga Race Course," said NYRA President and CEO Charles Hayward "Saratoga promises to feature the sport's most exciting racing in every single divisional category for juveniles, 3-year-olds,

older horses, sprinters and turf horses, as well as the most fan-friendly and welcoming events and activities"

Saratoga will burst forth from the gates July 20, with its annual Open House, a free preview of the upcoming racing meet designed to cater to families and benefit local nonprofit organizations. The Open House, now in its 28th season, will feature an array of family activities, food and drink at "charitable" prices, equine demonstrations, non-wagering races, handicapping seminars, backstretch tours and

innumerable other activities.

The gates officially open for the 140th season on Wednesday, July 23, with the running of the Schuylerville for 2-year-old fillies, the first in a legendary series of graded stakes for juveniles at Saratoga Race Course.

For a complete schedule of the summer's feature races at Saratoga, visit [www.nyra.com/Saratoga](http://www.nyra.com/Saratoga).

The opening weekend at Saratoga offers a blockbuster three days of entertainment, underneath the umbrella of the Hats Off to Saratoga Festival.

A downtown Broadway music festival on Friday, July 25, and Saturday, July 26, will supplement the on-track activities, including the return of Sunset Racing to Saratoga on Friday; the Breeders' Cup Challenge on Saturday; and the traditional hat contest on Sunday.

Breeders' Cup Challenge Day will feature more than \$2 million in purses, marking the richest day of the meet. Breeders' Cup Challenge races on Saturday include the Whitney Handicap, the Diana, Alfred G. Vanderbilt Handicap and the Go for Wand Handicap, which serve as automatic qualifying races for the corresponding Breeders' Cup divisional championship races to be run at Santa Anita in October. On Sunday, the 17th annual Saratoga Hat Contest offers millinery excitement for all fans and fashionistas. Sunday's chapeau competition will include three distinct categories - Uniquely Saratoga, Fashionably Saratoga, and for younger patrons, Kreative Kids.

The traditional NFL Alumni Day at Saratoga moves off its regular Sunday position to Monday, Aug. 11, when fans can meet some of the titans of the gridiron and collect autographs to benefit charity.


The Saratoga season rises to its apex during Travers week, which is celebrated by the Travers Festival.

The festival encompasses dozens of eclectic and equine-oriented events between Saturday, Aug. 16 and Sunday, Aug. 24, the vast majority of which generate funds for local nonprofit organizations. The Travers Festival features fan favorites such as the iconic Chili Cook-Off, the Stewart's Ice Cream Eating Bonanza, the Battle of the Brews and the annual Travers Celebration benefit fundraiser at Saratoga Race Course on Thursday, Aug. 21.

The Travers Celebration, the only evening fundraiser held on-track during the season, will honor StreetSense, the winner of the 2007 Travers Stakes, and his connections. The Travers Festival culminates with the 139th edition of the Grade 1, \$1 million Travers Stakes presented by Shadwell Farm on Saturday, Aug. 23. Oldest of the country's 3-year-old races and centerpiece of the Saratoga Race Course season, the Travers will be televised nationwide on ESPN.

The conclusion of the meet, Final Stretch Weekend, commences with Sunset Racing on Friday, Aug. 29, in advance of a blockbuster series of weekend graded stakes, including The Woodward for older horses, the Forego Handicap for sprinters and the Spinaway and Hopeful for 2-year-old fillies and colts, respectively. The complementary festivities during Final Stretch range from a downtown Saratoga music festival on Saturday and Sunday to the annual Family Fun Fest at Saratoga Race Course on Sunday, Aug. 31 and Monday, Sept. 1. The backyard activities benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Capital Region. The meet concludes on Monday with its traditional Labor Day barbecue.

For information about the 140th edition of Saratoga Race Course, visit [www.nyra.com](http://www.nyra.com) or call 488-6000.



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# Obituaries *in the* Spotlight

## Margaret Buschofsky

Margaret (Heilmann) Buschofsky, 85, of Glenmont, died at her home.

Born in Germany to the late Wilhelm and Gertrude (Glees) Heilmann, she had been a Capital District resident for many years and was a secretary for more than 15 years with the state Department of Agriculture and Markets. Prior to her retirement, she was a member of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Albany.

Mrs. Buschofsky took music lessons for years and loved to play the organ.

She was the widow of William N. Buschofsky.

Survivors include a brother, William (Dolores) Heilmann, of Castleton; a sister, Carol Alexander, of Glenmont; a daughter, Carol A. (Keith) Mastromarchi, of Castleton; a son, William E. (Alicia) Buschofsky, of East Nassau; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday at the Rockefeller Funeral Home in Rensselaer. Contributions may be made to the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, 57 Hurlbet St., Albany 12209.

## Mabel I. Frisbee

Mabel I. Frisbee, 84, of New Salem, died Wednesday, April 2, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born in Guilderland, Mrs. Frisbee was a member of

the Unionville Reformed Church.

Survivors include her husband, Marshall V. Frisbee; her two daughters, Sandra (Bill) Beardslee of North Carolina, and Beverley (Earl) MacMillen of Voorheesville; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law; one brother-in-law; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Guilderland.

Contributions may be made to the Unionville Reformed Church, 1134 Delaware Turnpike, Delmar 12054 or to Voorheesville Ambulance Squad, 21 Voorheesville Ave., Voorheesville 12186.

## Jan Warren

Jan Warren, 57, of Delmar, died Thursday, April 3.

Born in Nutley, N.J., she was the daughter of Claire (Truska) Wackenhuth and the Rev. Erwin Wackenhuth. Mrs. Warren was a graduate of Concordia College in Bronxville.

She received a special education teaching degree at the University of Kentucky and a master's degree in special education from the College of Saint Rose.

Mrs. Warren served as director and kindergarten teacher at St. Matthew's School in Albany and taught first grade for 19 years at Our Savior's Lutheran School in Colonie. She later worked as a medical transcriptionist at

Albany Medical Center and at Northeast Career Planning in Troy.

Mrs. Warren was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church and belonged to the church choir, served as its music librarian and served on the church altar guild. She also was a member of the Jubilate Singers and a past member of the Schenectady Pipe Band.

She had a love for animals, especially her family cats. Her many interests included gardening, knitting, cross-stitch, reading and golf.

Survivors include her husband, Gary G. Warren; mother, Claire Wackenhuth; a stepdaughter, Alison L. Warren; two brothers, Paul (Sandy) Wackenhuth and David (Arleen) Wackenhuth; and several nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were by the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar. Services were from the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Delmar.

Burial was in Bethlehem Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Sarcoma Research Fund, 10 Brookline Pl. W., 6th Floor, Brookline, MA 02445 or the Bethesda Lutheran Homes & Services, 600 Hoffman Drive, Watertown, WI 53094.

## Donald J. Holmes

Donald J. Holmes, 92, formerly of Albany, died Thursday, April 3, at the Good

Samaritan Lutheran Health Care Center.

Born and educated in Albany, Mr. Holmes worked for 32 years as a car man with the New York Central Railroad, Mohawk Division.

After his retirement from the railroad, he worked for 11 years as a maintenance supervisor with Picotte Realty.

Mr. Holmes was a World War II Army veteran, having served in the European Theater. He was a recipient of a Purple Heart and he was a communicant of St. Vincent de Paul Church.

He was the son of the late Theodore A. and Nora Lamb Holmes. He was the husband of the late Ruth (Barton) Holmes.

Survivors include two sons, Gerald J. (Mary) Holmes of Albany, and Barry J. (Susan) Holmes of Glenmont; a brother of Charles Holmes of Albany; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held in St. Vincent de Paul Church. Arrangements were by Daniel Keenan Funeral Home in Albany on Sunday.

Interment was in Calvary Cemetery in Glenmont.

Contributions may be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, 900 Madison Ave., Albany 12208.

## Roslyn C. Levine

Roslyn C. Levine, 85, of Bethlehem, died Saturday, April 5, at her home after a long illness.

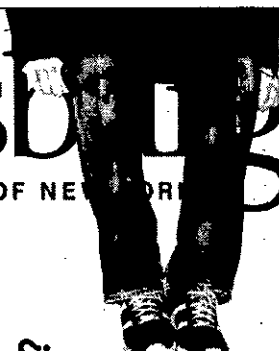
Born in Brooklyn, she lived in White Plains from 1948 though 2002, where she was a member of Temple Israel, a life master bridge player and an accomplished golfer.

Mrs. Levine moved to Slingerlands in 2002 and was an area bridge player and a regular attendee at her great-grandchildren's activities.

She was the widow of Noah Levine and Max Joseph.

Survivors include three daughters, Carol Bluestein, of Slingerlands, Alynne (Philip) Sharp, of Jacksonville, Fla., and Joan Levine, of New York City; a son, Richard (Carol) Levine, of LaGrange; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

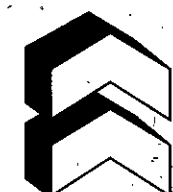
A graveside service was held at Sharon Gardens, Valhalla, and arrangements were by Reilly and Son Funeral Home.




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# Milestones in the Spotlight



Leah Raucci and Damian G. Scisci

## Raucci, Scisci to wed

Leah Raucci, daughter of Leonard Raucci of Saratoga Springs and Christy Raucci of Bradenton, Fla., and Damian G. Scisci, son of Franco Scisci and Cynthia Peterson, both of Colonie, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate

of Niskayuna High School and Strayer University. She works for Well Point, Inc., in Albany.

The future groom is a graduate of Colonie Central High School and The College of Saint Rose. He is an entrepreneur.

The couple plans a June 7 wedding in Loudonville.



Melissa Nuttall and Tim Wilson

## Nuttall, Wilson to wed

Melissa Nuttall, daughter of John and Linda Nuttall of Delmar, and Tim Wilson, son of Steve and Donna Wilson of Cary, N.C., are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Saint Michael's College. She is a cemetery services representative for Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Mass.

The future groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Babson College, where he received an MBA. He is a sales engineer with the Rogers Corporation in Watertown, Mass.

The couple plans an October wedding.



Roger and Jamie Naggar

## Costanzo, Naggar wed

Jamie Kay Costanzo, daughter of James and Teri Costanzo of Delmar, and Roger Simon Naggar, son of Karam and Marianne Naggar of East Meadow, were married Sept. 29.

Judge Chester Klobukowski officiated the ceremony at the Shaker Ridge Country Club in Albany, where a reception followed.

Mackenzie Koster was the maid of honor. Holly Oths was a bridesmaid.

Robin Naggar, brother of the groom, was the best man. Jason Smuckler was a groomsman.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and the State University of New York at New Paltz. She is the exhibits coordinator for Infobase Publishing in Manhattan.

The groom is a graduate of East Meadow High School and the State University of New York at New Paltz. He is a custom publishing production manager for Bedford/St. Martin in Manhattan.

After a honeymoon trip to Tahiti, Moorea and Bora Bora, the couple resides in Forest Hills.

### Send us your announcements

Spotlight Newspapers welcomes your engagement, wedding or anniversary announcements. There is no charge. For information or to receive a Spotlight Milestones announcement form, e-mail [news@spotlightnews.com](mailto:news@spotlightnews.com) or call 439-4949.

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# Young Colonie guitarist has string fever

**Boy gearing up to play at Altamont Fair**

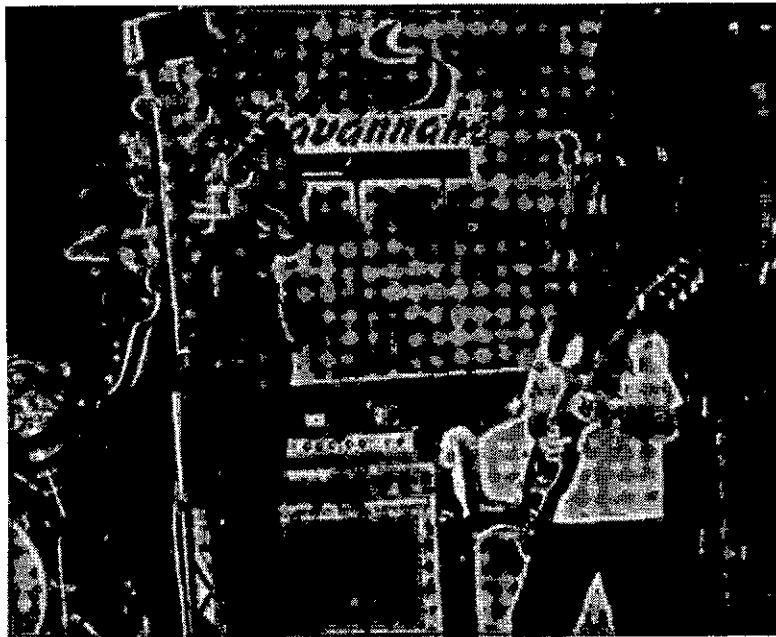
By ARIANA COHN  
Spotlight Newspapers  
cohn@spotlightnews.com

Eleven-year-old Jared Alpern keeps his eyes closed sometimes when he riffs on his electric guitar. His mother says they do not need to be open because the talent he possesses naturally flows from his fingers.

As Alpern approached the stage at Savannah's nightclub on South Pearl Street in Albany on Saturday, March 29, to perform with his teacher, Charlie Smith, and his band, The Charlie Smith Blues Band, he was more excited than nervous.

"It's really fun that the people get to hear my music," he said.

Alpern's interest in being a musician began a little over two years ago, according to his mother, Laura Bulatao. Although Alpern also has experience with the piano and keyboard, his mother said he is most impressive and developed with his guitar playing.



Eleven-year-old Jared Alpern performs with The Charlie Smith Blues Band at Savannah's nightclub on South Pearl Street in Albany Saturday, March 29.

Ariana Cohn/Spotlight

He got his first guitar in November 2005. Since then, Alpern spends about an hour per day practicing all of his instruments, "which is really not that much," said Bulatao. "When parents ask

me how much he practices, they want to hear that he practices a lot so that he can inspire their kids to practice a lot."

But practice aside, Alpern's skill is combined with a natural-born instinct that less than 1 percent of the population has. North Colonie District Music Supervisor Deborah Kehough labeled this musical gift as "perfect pitch."

"It means that if you hear any note, [a person with perfect pitch] can tell you what it is; they just recognize it immediately," she said. "For example, if I picked a note on a trumpet, somebody with

this talent can pick it out, and it is a very rare skill. Jared can hear something, even say on the radio, and he knows that those notes are, say, an E minor chord. And he can immediately play it."

Kehough said that Alpern not only recognizes the sound of the notes, but can instantly repeat them, which allows him to learn and create music more easily.

"Often [people with perfect pitch] are drawn to music in some way. When they play their instrument, they just know, this is where G is," she said.

Alpern's guitar teacher, Charlie Smith, believes the boy is part of a fraction of young musicians with few of the concerns that are typically associated with performing. "They've got great confidence and don't have much fear. When he gets in front of a crowd, he gets excited as hell, but it sure isn't fear."

Smith had first learned about Alpern when he was playing a benefit concert at a local mall. He and five of his friends noticed Alpern playing the piano.

"Jared just appeared all of a sudden playing a Beatles song," he said.

Smith, his teacher of about six months, said Alpern is rarely uneasy, especially in front of large crowds.

"He wants me to book him at SPAC [Saratoga Performing Arts Center]," said Bulatao. "He is totally un-phased by crowds. He tells me, 'The more people the better.'"

And Smith is confident that

with Alpern's abilities, he soon will be able to play at such large shows.

"Let me just say, he's 11 years old. I didn't even play a guitar or an instrument at 11. At that point, for someone to play at that age at that ability is uncommon," he said, "He's a little guy with little hands carrying a big guitar."

With Smith's instruction, Alpern has learned that musicianship is mostly mental but also very physical.

Smith said the time is nearing where he will no longer be helpful.

"Honestly, I'm about three to six months away from me not being able to not teach him a heck of a lot more," said Smith, "But I am teaching him to teach himself at the same time. Instead of answering questions right away, I make him think about it."

Though Smith may have been a large musical influence in Alpern's life, it is also possible that Alpern has musical genes in his family. His mother attended the Manhattan School of Music as a flute performance major, and was a member of the Empire State Youth Orchestra in the 1970s. She now helps teach music to her son.

"Jared has definitely grown up with music all around him," she said.

The sixth-grader, who attends Bought Hills Elementary School, is not a member of a school band since one does not exist in which he can play the electric guitar. However, he will be attending Shaker Junior High School next year, at which he is hoping to play in the jazz ensemble.

Alpern has played various solo performances throughout the North Colonie School District including at jazz band concerts.

In the upcoming months, Alpern will begin preparing for a performance at the Altamont Fair, to be held at the Altamont Fairgrounds on Aug. 12.

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LEFT: Runners head to the start of the kid's race at the Delmar Dash. ABOVE: Bethlehem Police lead the pack of runners down Kenwood Avenue.

## Dash

(From Page 1)

tion, timing in around 42 minutes. By comparison, the best men's time for the 50-54 age bracket was Robert Colborn of Niskayuna at 30:19.

"I did all right," Cunningham said as he jogged by with a smile. Chuck Terry of Albany handily won the men's race with time to spare, coming in at 25:48 and besting the second-place runner Tom O'Grady by over a minute. Voorheesville's Dana Peterson

won the overall women's race by crossing the finishing line at 31:17.

Marcia and Tom Adams are in their second year of directing the race, and they couldn't be happier with the turnout.

"It was awesome, and there were over 600 finishers," Marcia Adams said. "As far as finishes, it was the second largest field we've ever had."

Adams described the police and public safety officials' work at the event as "awesome," and thanked their efforts for making a safe and successful event.

Over 300 children ran in the kid's race, she said.

"This is our second full year directing the race and some of the volunteers have been there since Hank Steadman started it," Adams said. "And that's a testament to Hank's great work with the race."

Adams said no one was seriously injured in race with the exception of one Achilles tendon problem.

"We got lucky again this year," Adams said. "You never can predict what will happen at the Dash weather-wise."

Volunteers were treated to pizza and wings after the event for the first time this year.

As for the winners, Adams said all of the impressive winners never cease to amaze her.

"She kicked a lot of young butt out there," Adams said of Peterson. "She's just so sweet." And Terry was better than ever, she added.

"He keeps getting better and better every year. He's an amaz-

ing runner."

Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce's coveted Chamber Pot award also changed hands for the third year in a row with the SABIC Innovative Plastics' team beating Matchless Stove and Chimney's team.

The SABIC team was made up of Brian Whitman and Christian Lietzau who finished the race with an impressive 29:36 and was the No. 1 finisher in the men's 40-44 age group. Whitman, who ran in the very first Delmar Dash in 1988, ended with a time of 32:58.

The Chamber Pot plaque, which actually has a chamber pot attached to it, is given to the best average time of two runners for a participating business.

"I ran in the first, second, and 11th Delmar Dash," Whitman said after winning the Chamber Pot in this year's 20th Delmar Dash. "I don't really run other races, I usually only run at lunch time. ... But it looks like I'll have to be back next year."

Sara Madden of Matchless Stove and Chimney, who won the best average time with her husband Jeremiah Madden last year, handed over the Chamber Pot plaque to Whitman. She finished the race at 35:12, which was a personal best for her.

"I'm just happy to beat my own record," Madden said. "We couldn't touch those times. ... I guess I have to start training now for next year."

And, if Matchless Stove wants the Chamber Pot back in their office, they're going to have to knock off SABIC to do it.

Whitman said he registered for the award after hearing about it in the paper.

"When I saw the [stories] in *The Spotlight* and read what their times were, I knew we could beat that," Whitman said, adding that the plaque's new home would most likely be in the reception room at the SABIC plant.

SABIC Innovative Plastics is the former GE Plastics plant in Feura Bush off of Route 32. Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce President Marty DeLaney was on hand to oversee the transfer of title between the two companies.

Each year's winner is added to the plaque, having their name inscribed into it, and that business holds it until another company beats them and takes claim of the plaque. The first-year winner was Policy Research Associated Inc., then it went to Matchless Stove and Chimney, and now SABIC Innovative Plastics has staked its claim.

This year's Dash saw slightly fewer children running in the kid's races, but the race's co-directors say that the adult race was bigger than ever.

For a complete list of race winners, places and times, as well as photos and video of the event, visit [www.spotlightnews.com](http://www.spotlightnews.com).

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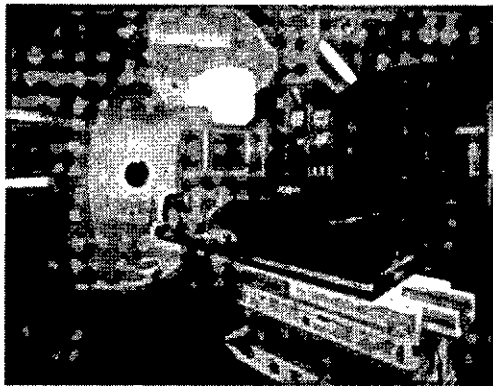
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### 'Dash' cam

The community came together to run and have fun at Sunday's Delmar Dash. TOP LEFT: The new Chamber Pot winner is SABIC Innovative Plastics, after beating last year's champs Matchless Stove and Chimney. Brian Whitman, left, of SABIC accepts the plaque from Sara Madden, right, of Matchless as Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce Marty DeLaney, center, watches the transition. TOP RIGHT: Runners race down Kenwood Avenue. LEFT: Young runners cool off after the race.

Photos Jarrett Carroll/Spotlight  
More coverage on pages 43 and 44

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**IN BRIEF**

**Fire department plans egg hunt**

The Slingerlands Fire Department, as one of its community projects, will hold its annual after-Easter egg hunt at the park next to the firehouse in Slingerlands on Saturday, April 19, at 11 a.m. There will be a large egg and candy hunt, together with an egg rolling contest.

The grounds will be divided according to age groups so that all children will have an equal opportunity in each event. Prizes will be awarded in each age group.

In case of inclement weather, the hunt will be conducted in the firehouse. All are welcome.

**USS Slater receives grant**

The Board of Trustees of the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum recently announced it received a grant for educational

programming aboard the USS Slater.

Stewart's Holiday Match is donating \$350 to support the educational mission. Each year since 1986, Stewart's has collected and matched donations in its shops from Thanksgiving until Christmas. This year, more than \$1.2 million is being allocated for children's programs.

The USS Slater operates as a nonprofit educational museum and receives no governmental operating support.

The USS Slater is open to the public from April through November. The ship is moored on the Hudson River in downtown Albany. For information, call 431-1943 or visit the Web site at [www.ussslater.org](http://www.ussslater.org).

**Daylily society plans meeting**

The Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society will meet at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County, Martin Road, Voorheesville, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 19.

Betsy Thompson will be doing a slide show presentation on English gardens.

The public is invited.



Katie Williams of Albany, left, and Jillian Thornton of Latham cut floor boards with alongside a Belizean teen during a short-term mission trip last February. Submitted photo

**'True Belizers' prepare for mission**

A group of junior and senior high school students from the Capital District will be bound for Belize, Central America, later this month to help build a house for a poor family, teach in a preschool and perform music and drama for Belizeans. The 12 teenagers call themselves "True Belizers" and have been planning the trip since last spring.

"We originally planned a trip to Belize to provide families with a short-term mission experience" said John Richter, one of the trip's adult team leaders and member of Grace Fellowship Church in Latham, "but to our surprise, mostly teens responded to the invitation."

Seventeen-year-old Christie Phelan of Nassau said she has had a desire to go on a mission trip since the eighth grade. "I was sitting in my mom's office at the IAM Center in Albany in front of a giant world map when I first felt called to go on a mission trip," said Phelan.

The youth will be accompanied by six adults, also from the Capital District. Aside from a local church's donation earmarked for a

construction project, the teens are raising their own funding for travel and lodging expenses.

Beth Fijal, 17, of Clifton Park, is looking forward to "playing soccer with Belizean children, making friends and talking to mothers." Fijal, who plays soccer for the Loudonville Christian School girls varsity team was recently honored as a Central Hudson Valley League All-star.

When the teens realized that they represented the majority of the mission team, they banded together and took ownership of their own fundraising. They also pooled their talents to form a musical worship group and a drama team that will perform for churches and a preschool in Belize. Kym Grove, 17, of Niskayuna, also an LCS student, said she is excited about interacting with the people who live in Belize, "especially the kids; kids are so easy to connect with and ready to be loved" said Grove.

Grove, who recently played the lead role in the LCS production of "Little Women," will be participating on the True Belizers worship and drama teams.

"They have their work cut out for them" said Richter. "I'm thrilled by their enthusiasm, but I have to admit it's going to be a challenge

to build a house in one week when most of our team is unskilled at construction."

Troy teen Evan Mistur, a concert violinist, will participate on the worship team playing the electric violin. Although excited by the prospect of building a house Evan stated, "I never built anything that stayed together for more than a couple of days."

The team's core mission is embodied in comments made by 17-year-old Katie Skiff, of Castleton, in response to being asked what she hopes to accomplish on the trip. "I think the most important thing we can do is to show people the love of God with our works. When we build a house, we'll be doing it for the Lord, and when we just take the time to talk to the people, they'll see a difference in us," she said.

The eight girls and three boys need to raise \$1,400 each to cover their costs. The group will be staying at an established mission maintained by a pastor and his wife in the Western Region of Belize about 20 miles from the Guatemalan border. The True Belizers raised support in front of the Latham Farms Wal-Mart on Saturday, April 5, taking donations and selling coffee, "Rainforest" cookies and Belizean keepsakes.

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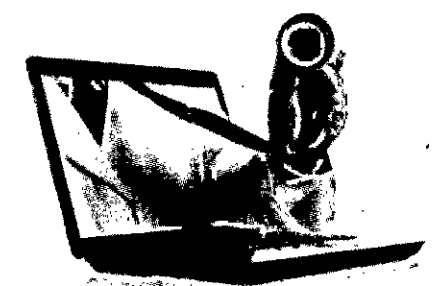
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# Managing editor wins NYPA award

DeVoe takes first in best column category

By TIM MULLIGAN  
Spotlight Newspapers  
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Spotlight Newspapers Managing Editor William R. DeVoe has earned a first-place award for column writing from the New York Press Association.

DeVoe won the honor for his Reporter's Notebook columns published in 2007.

"I am very honored," said DeVoe. "I didn't expect it."

DeVoe says his columns are usually an extension of whatever mood he is in just before he sits down to write, but anxiety is a key feeling that usually gets his creative thoughts flowing.

"There is no shortage of things to be worried about," DeVoe said, "so that's the way I sort of deal with those feelings and put them in perspective."

He was awarded for columns on getting dumped, his son Nathan's pre-natal arrhythmia and

holiday procrastination.

"The last one was a natural as I am late writing an article as I am saying this," DeVoe said.

DeVoe, who has been with Spotlight Newspapers since July 2006, first as Saratoga Springs reporter and now in his current role as managing editor, says he enjoys column writing and looks forward to his new offering, Pop Culture.

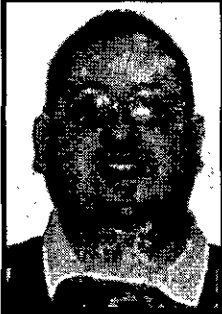
"I'm excited. This will just fuel me to deliver good columns in Pop Culture," said DeVoe.

Pop Culture debuted on March 26 and will appear in Spotlight Newspapers every fourth week of the month, opposite From Robin's Nest by Robin Shrager Suitor.

"Bill is a columnist that makes me laugh out loud," said Spotlight Newspapers Vice

President and CEO John McIntyre. "He's smart and funny, and he's getting the recognition that he deserves."

The award was given to DeVoe at NYPA's annual Spring Convention and Trade Show Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5, at the Crowne Plaza in downtown Albany.



William R. DeVoe

## IN BRIEF

### AARP, town offer driving course

This two-day defensive driving program is available to all valid drivers' license holders. It will be held at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center on June 5 and 6, from 1 to 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 for materials, payable upon sign-up at Bethlehem Town Hall. Checks should be payable to "AARP." Class size will be limited to 30 people. Check with your

insurance agent to see how this could affect your automobile insurance premium. Contact the town clerk's office at 439-4865, if you have questions.

### Q.U.I.L.T. to hold April meeting at church

Q.U.I.L.T. Inc. will meet on Friday, April 11, at Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave, Delmar. Meeting starts at 9:45 a.m.; doors open at 9:15 a.m. \$5 donation for non-members. General Meeting with Lecture and Trunk Show by Monty Haubold: "Take Two."

For info, call 439-1194. Check its Web site at [www.timesunion.com/communities/quilt](http://www.timesunion.com/communities/quilt) for details.

## Board

(From Page 1)

Supervisor Jack Cunningham and other board members said Messina's resolution was voted down because it proposes to regulate a problem they say doesn't exist.

However, Messina says that it appears appointments are being made on the virtues of political spoils as opposed to qualification, although the councilman was quick to point out that this is not always the case. He said he has supported many "highly qualified appointments."

Messina's criticisms are unfounded and "disappointing," according to Cunningham.

"Sam and I have talked about this over and over again, so he knew I was opposed to this before we put it on the agenda; he knew how I was going to vote," Cunningham said about voting down the proposal. "We do a very good job appointing very good people. There's no evidence that we need to add a bureaucratic process."

Messina countered by saying he and Cunningham only spoke about the proposal "an hour before the board meeting," and that he sent out e-mails to his fellow board members about it but got no responses.

Cunningham maintains that his intentions were well known to Messina.

According to Messina, Councilwoman Joann Dawson spoke with him on the telephone prior to the vote and said the proposal "sounds reasonable," but then voted against it at the board meeting.

Cunningham and others have suggested that Messina proposed the guidelines in retaliation for being passed over for deputy supervisor, a position he actively pursued, and that he is attempting to create an issue where there is none, simply out of bitterness.

Daniel Plummer was appointed as deputy supervisor by the Town Board in January in a similar 4-to-1 vote, with Messina voting against the appointment.

There was some debate over the appointment at the Town Board's Jan. 9 organizational meeting, according to the minutes held by the town clerk.

Messina admits that he wanted the position of deputy supervisor, as did other board members, and is critical of Plummer for not attending town board meetings, but said that he only wants transparent governance and the opportunity to appoint the best, most experienced personnel possible for the town.

He denied harboring any personal vendetta or calculating motives, saying even in the face of a possible political backlash, he was doing what he thought was best for the town and its residents.

"I'm not going to do things just to go get some political position in the future. There are worse things than losing elections," Messina said. "One of those things is doing what I feel is right."

Messina said that other board members were also interested in the deputy supervisor job and he feels the position should remain with some Town Board member, even if not him.

The Bethlehem councilman added that too many Democrat-

ic Committee members were being appointed to too many town positions, too quickly, and that he would like to see "full participation" from every political background.

Democratic Councilman Kyle Kotary said Messina's charges of political pandering couldn't be further from the truth.

"I voted against it ... because it deals with a problem that doesn't exist," Kotary said. "Party affiliation is by no means a requirement. Look at Parker Mathusa on the planning board or Mike Hodom on the zoning board."

Messina said Mathusa and Hodom, who have been affiliated with parties other than the Democratic Party, were reappointments and obvious and sensible choices because of their qualifications, but were not new appointments.

Mathusa weighed in saying he understood both sides of the issue.

"I think Sam would prefer the appointment process to be more formal," he said. "There are pluses and minuses to both sides."

Kotary said the town follows all legal procedures when it comes to appointments and Messina's proposal would simply tie up the business of the board.

"New York State law is very clear ... the town board has authority in its discretion to make appointments," said Kotary. "This is his view, his perception, and it would handcuff future board members. ... It's like saying, 'We're going to legislate how I'm to go vote,' and that's insane."

Kotary said the town was essentially a \$36 million corporation with 250 employees and that it was "critical that the board not be handcuffed arbitrarily."

Messina said that proposal was not a legal maneuver intended to tie down the board and it was voted down for "fear of opening up government" and because it was "a control issue."

"My objective is to begin to achieve some public awareness in this community so some changes can take place," Messina said. "The role of political parties in this town is much stronger now than it was under the Egan administration."

Messina was also critical of Cunningham's succession after former Supervisor Theresa Egan stepped down to take a post in state government. He said it was done too quickly and that even though he supported appointing Cunningham, the decision was made "by the party," before other candidates were considered. Messina said a more open appointment process would benefit the town.

"These days I'm being voted down a far amount of time," Messina said.

Responding to Messina's comments, Cunningham told *The Spotlight*, "Mr. Messina is upset because he is not deputy supervisor." He also said Messina became upset at the meeting when Cunningham publicly stated that Messina's proposal was a solution to a problem that doesn't exist.

Cunningham said he doesn't make appointments according to party affiliation and he receives many letters of interest from people across the political spectrum. He pointed to nomi-

nating two former supervisors to chair the 2020 Committee, one Democrat and one Republican, as well as to Mathusa's and Hodom's re-appointments.

"We have a very active and involved community," he said. "The biggest issue that I have is that I don't have enough positions and things to do for all of our qualified applicants."

As for Messina getting his proposal voted down, Cunningham said, "He might want to reconsider the approach he takes."

Kotary said, as far as he knows, this is Messina's first proposal of the year, and he went on to defend his vote for Cunningham's appointment.

"He was by far the best candidate, and I emphasize the best candidate, and he's done a hell of a job," Kotary said of Cunningham. "He's always wanted to be supervisor since he was a kid and he took a huge pay cut to take it. ... I would like to know precisely what appointments he [Messina] didn't think were good ones."

The other item of contention is announcing the positions available for appointments. Messina said he asked to put the announcements on the town's Web site, which Cunningham said he has complied with. However, there is no consensus between the two men on how the issue has been dealt with.

Messina said he asked Cunningham to place the announcements on the town's homepage shortly before his proposal vote, but that Cunningham told him "he couldn't commit to that."

The supervisor denies that conversation took place.

"We announce any positions we have open right on our Web site," Cunningham said when asked about the conversation. Messina said they also had a previous conversation about posting jobs.

"I asked that things be posted on the Web site, and I was told they would be," Messina said about an earlier conversation on the matter. "For one week in December there was an announcement on the Web site. For three hours of that week it was on the town's homepage. ... For the rest of the time it was listed under departments and human resources and could barely be found."

"That's not making the public aware of things," he concluded.

There are currently jobs posted on the town website's human resource page.

Republican chair Melody Burns, who ran unsuccessfully for Town Board last year, said political appointments were commonplace in all areas of government.

"I don't think it is anything new. ... I applied for a few boards that I was declined for," Burns said. "Sam made a great point, though. ... I think everybody should be aware of it. I would love to get the announcements to the Republican Party."

Burns however agrees that Messina may be somewhat motivated by not getting the deputy supervisor seat, saying she "was surprised when he wasn't appointed."

"I guess Sam has been a victim of that system," Burns concluded. "Instead of being political I would rather see the most qualified people be appointed because we all want the best for our community."

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Paul Vandenburg



# Age

(From Page 1)

In mid-March, a man pleaded guilty in Albany to charges that he broke into the home of an 86-year-old woman and used a knife to rob her.

At the end of February, an elderly Albany couple was allegedly mugged and physically assaulted by three teenagers on McKinley Street.

At the time, Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares said the crime was an example of the "increasing fear permeating our communities" and he called for an end to "future acts of senseless violence, especially against our older citizens."

In an attempt to impose stiffer penalties for attacks on the elderly, the state Senate passed "Granny's Law" earlier this year.

This bill would elevate the assault of a person 65 years or older when the perpetrator is more than 10 years younger than the victim to a Class D felony punishable by up to seven years in prison.

The bill, which has been sent to the governor for consideration, was created in response to an attack last year on Rose Morat, a 101-year-old Queens woman who was mugged on her way to church. The same attacker went on to beat and mug 85-year-old Solange Elizee just a half an hour later.

But violent crime against seniors isn't limited to metropolitan areas of the state.

Last fall, an 88-year-old Rotterdam woman was brutally beaten by two young women who allegedly followed her home from a shopping trip and attacked her for her credit cards. Just before they ran away, police said, they threw a cup of bleach in the woman's eyes.

In the aftermath of the heinous crime, Rotterdam police's Community Service Unit began giving safety presentations at the Rotterdam Senior Center on Hamburg Street.

"We think it's important to give regular updates on the law, safety and concerns about senior fraud," said Investigator Richard Dunsmore, of the Rotterdam Police Department.

"Always leave your porch light on, check your vehicle before you get into it, and if you have to go out in the evenings, be sure to park in well-lit parking lots," said Dunsmore.

Dunsmore also said it wasn't advisable to tell a senior to fight off an attacker.

"We tell our seniors to be cooperative, to give the attacker what they want in an attempt to spare

themselves from violence," said Dunsmore. "There are a lot of little things you can do — something as simple as carrying your keys in your hand when you're going to your car so you don't have to fumble around if you're approached by someone — that can keep seniors safe."

Dunsmore also said that locally his unit is seeing more and more attempts to scam seniors.

Most commonly, Dunsmore said, he hears complaints of door-to-door companies claiming to be contractors who might be better labeled con men.

"A (con man posing as a) contractor comes to the door saying he'll pave your driveway, or give you a seal coat, or do odd jobs or handiwork, and he'll ask for the money upfront and then he'll take off and never come back," said Dunsmore. "There are many people out there who feed off of the trust and generosity of seniors."

C. Todd Godlewski, Schenectady County's director of consumer affairs investigates consumer fraud complaints. He said about 90 percent of his complaints are against contractors and that 50 percent of those complaints are made by seniors unhappy with the service of a hired handyman.

"We've had about an 80 percent success rate in our investigations," said Godlewski, who said investigators routinely go out and inspect the work of contractors when a complaint has been filed.

He said that his agency, with the assistance of the County Attorney, can levy fines against businesses that don't complete work. Godlewski said that his office also tries to get contractors to make full restitution to senior consumers, whether that means finishing a plumbing job or returning misused funds.

"But shoddy plumbing and driveway potholes aren't the only scams being run on seniors in Schenectady County.

In December, two senior citizens reported a person who claimed to be a representative with the Social Security Administration had asked them for their Social Security numbers over the phone. While one senior refused to give out information the other revealed personal information that led to a loss of \$300 to the scammer.

"It's important to question every phone call and every e-mail," said Cathryn Berne-Smith, manager of senior and long-term care in Schenectady County.

Her office has teamed up with the department of consumer affairs to provide free informational sessions on senior fraud to area

## A victim's difficult lesson

*Editor's note: The following is a Letter to the Editor that was submitted by Niskayuna senior Priscilla Brighty. Brighty says she wrote the letter to remind other elderly residents not to get too complacent in their environments when it comes to safety.*

Editor, The Spotlight:  
Perhaps your newspapers can send my message to the young man who took my billfold just before Christmas.

I am so sorry our paths crossed. I will always remember your dark hair and pale white face above a black coat. While I am quite old, my wisdom seems to be in disarray.

When you came to my door you knew it took me a long time to come downstairs. When I signed the delivery sheet for the flowers, you knew my vision was faulty. When I chatted with you, you learned that I would be going back upstairs for my much-needed nap.

When, after I tipped you, I put my billfold full of paper money on the counter it was just waiting for you to come back. As you left, you could hear that I did not lock the door.

When I came downstairs two hours later, I was puzzled to find the back door ajar and when I looked for my billfold I could not find it. For a while I blamed my faulty memory.

The loss of the money was most painful, but what really darkened my Christmas was the realization that I had tempted you with my carelessness. You might never have stolen before, but now you could see how easy it was to rob an elderly person. You will always be looking for another chance. I have lived alone for 20 years in such a safe community that I never felt threatened. Now I have learned I must lock my doors. So many people have been so helpful to me that I forgot one must beware of strangers. I also must remember not to let anyone else know too much.

Thank you for my costly lesson. I find that I have swiftly gotten into the habit of locking the door all the time.

I apologize for making your theft so easy and hope, since you are so young yet, that you might change your ways. But, thanks to my stupidity, for which I am so conscious-stricken, there is little reason to hope.

Priscilla Brighty  
Niskayuna

residents.

Most recently Godlewski and Berne-Smith outlined the various types of consumer fraud at the Schenectady Public Library on Clinton Street on Tuesday, March 25.

The talk focused on mail fraud, like sweepstakes, e-mail fraud, telemarketing scam, contracting scams and fake-check scams.

Of work-at-home scams that guarantee high hourly wages and sweepstakes guaranteeing "no entry necessary to win," Godlewski said, consumers should be particularly wary.

"If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is," said Godlewski. "These people make a living selling your personal information."

Godlewski also focused on Medicare and Medicaid fraud. He said his office was investigating a complaint by a senior citizen who claimed that a representative

from Medicare contacted them and asked for personal information.

"The minute a scammer hears that you are on Medicare, they immediately think you are retired, you have a savings and you're vulnerable," said Godlewski.

Godlewski said he thinks seniors are particularly vulnerable to fraud because they are generally less threatening to criminals. He also said he thought seniors were more trusting than others and are often lonely or isolated from society.

Helen Quirini, a senior citizen from Rotterdam, said she attended the session because she believed she was the victim of credit card fraud and other

scams. "I haven't made a charge on this particular card in a long time and yet I'm still getting a bill," said Quirini. "I'm also getting magazines I never signed up for and I'm getting bills for those too. The paperwork is getting to be too much."

Godlewski and Bern-Smith said they thought that an awareness program was the best way to educate seniors.

"What we're trying to do is teach seniors how to recognize these scams and to recognize that these scams actually occur in this area," said Godlewski.

Godlewski said it's also important that seniors know where to turn when they have a problem.

Quirini agreed. "I'm just looking for the outfits that can help me," she said.

## Upcoming senior fraud informational sessions

The Schenectady County Department of Consumer Affairs in association with the Department of Senior and Long Term Care continue to offer informational sessions on way to prevent senior fraud.

Upcoming presentations include:

- Monday, April 14, at 2 p.m.; The Holy Rood House, 201 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Scotia.
- Friday, April 18, at 12 p.m.; Eddy SeniorCare Center; 504 State Street, Schenectady.
- Wednesday, April 23, at 9 a.m.; channel 16 SACC TV; "The Today Show with Ann Parillo."

To report a scam to the Schenectady County Consumer Affairs Department, call 356-7473.

To file a police report with the Schenectady County Sheriff's Department, call 388-4300.

For senior-safety information from the Community Services Unit of the Rotterdam Police, call 355-7331.

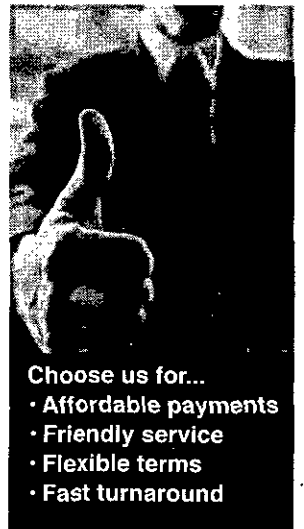
For readers outside of Schenectady County, scams can be reported to the New York State Office of the Attorney General by calling 800-771-7755. Police reports may also be filed with local law enforcement agencies.

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# Lifestyles *in the* Spotlight

## Catch and release

A few weeks ago, my husband asked me if we had abandoned our grocery budget. Yes, I said. But I will get back on track this week. Promise.

There are times when I look at prices carefully, plan accordingly, and stick to a budget. But I'm a food person, not a money person. So there are many weeks where I shop according to what I feel like eating. Lamb chops, pomegranate and Ben and Jerry's, anyone? Then we go back to my husband asking what happened to the budget, and, well, you get the idea.

Last week was a budget week. I planned on a roasted chicken, homemade soup and a vegetarian meal. I also wanted fish - we hadn't had seafood in awhile.

Elliot and I made our way through the grocery store, checking items off the list. We arrived at the fish counter, where I saw a beautiful piece of sea bass. My favorite fish, it is sweet and mild, and easy to prepare. I spent some time talking with the fish guy about what I wanted, and would he find a piece that was just right for me? He carefully cut and wrapped my fish. I thanked him and started off, asking Elliot what was next. He answered with a howl, and it took me a moment to realize just what his problem was. I'd forgotten. The lobster.

In Elliot's eyes, purchasing groceries is not the real reason we visit the grocery store. We actually go to meet up with a lobster. And we do meet a lobster every time we shop. I have tried to distract him, or just say no when I'm in a hurry. But it doesn't matter to Elliot. Seeing and touching a lobster is way more important than any excuse I can think of for needing to hurry our way through the store. We asked to have a lobster pulled out for us, and there we were, marveling at a dripping lobster waving its claws and tentacles at us. Once we got that over with, Elliot waved goodbye and we were on our way.

I pushed toward the chickens when something in the cart caught my eye. It was the fish. Specifically, the price tag on the fish. I had ordered \$47.45 worth of sea bass.

### From a Caterer's Kitchen

Caroline Barrett



And on a budget week, too. Calmly, I chose my chicken, wondering what I would do with this fish. Sure, I could spend the money. But then what if it turned out to be one of those dinners where we have a mutiny (you know, where one kid refuses the meal, and then the rest follow suit)? Of course, I could always tuck the package of fish in between the yogurt and cheese in the dairy aisle when no one was looking. Forget about fish this week.

I decided to confess my mistake to the young man at the fish counter.

I should have looked at the price and asked him how much before he cut it.

After apologizing maybe 10 times, I explained that it was more than I wanted to spend.

And could I have a piece of whitefish instead? The fish I ended up buying worked very well in this recipe (and it was \$4.99 per pound rather than \$18.99 per pound.) Any mild white fish will do.

Look for whitefish, cod or tilapia. Ask at the fish counter for a flaky, mild white fish without any bones.

The thing about this recipe that appeals to my kids is the sauce: it's a little sweet, salty and has lots of flavor, thanks to the hoisin. Hoisin sauce can be easily found in the Asian food aisle. It is made from fermented soybeans, and has garlic, vinegar and sugar added. It's kind of like an Asian barbecue sauce. When making a recipe like this one, that requires some prep work, I often spend a few minutes while I wait for my girls to get off the bus mixing the sauce and chopping vegetables. Elliot likes to peel carrots for me. Then I put everything in the refrigerator until I'm ready to put it all together.

And what to serve with this fish? The last time we ate this, I ended up pulling out a recipe my neighbor gave me for broccoli pancakes. I changed the ingredients to give it



### Roasted Fish in Hoisin-Chili Sauce

- 2 - 2 1/2 lbs mild white fish
- 2T hoisin sauce
- 1T soy sauce
- 1 t sugar
- 3 c. julienned vegetables (carrots, red peppers, snow peas, green onions)
- 3/4 c. chicken broth
- 1T chili sauce
- 1T fish sauce
- 1 T grated fresh ginger

Preheat oven to 400°. Mix the chicken broth, hoisin, soy, fish sauce, sugar and ginger together in a bowl. Rinse the fish and place in a shallow roasting pan. Pour the sauce over the fish, arrange the vegetables on top and cover with aluminum foil. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Use a fork to check for doneness. If the fish flakes, it's done. Serve the fish, with a few tablespoons of sauce and a few vegetables on each plate.

### Broccoli Pancakes

- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 1/4 c. chopped green onion
- 3/4 c. white whole wheat flour (available in the baking aisle)
- 1/4 c. vegetable oil
- 1 t salt
- 1/2 c. chopped cilantro
- 1 T grated fresh ginger
- 1t garlic powder
- 3/4 c. skim milk

Steam the broccoli (I throw it in the microwave with a little water for 2 minutes). Combine the broccoli, cilantro, green onion, and ginger in a food processor and pulse to chop fine (not pureed). Mix with the flour, oil, garlic, salt and egg in a bowl and stir until well combined. Pour the milk in, stirring. The batter should not be too thick. Add more milk if necessary. Coat the bottom of a large skillet with cooking spray. Set over medium heat. Drop by the spoonful, and turn as they become just brown. Keep the pancakes warm under a towel while cooking in batches. Serve with the fish.

more flavor, adding cilantro, green onion and ginger. The savory flavor was a perfect complement to the sweet hoisin fish. They have a broccoli flavor, of course, but are also onion-y and with the fresh taste of cilantro. It did take my kids a little convincing to eat them, because they are, well, green pancakes. At first, Zoe would only agree to eat what she called 'a bite', but was more like a speck. It might have been less than a speck. But once she tried a few specks, they turned into real bites and she ate a whole pancake. Elliot loved them so much that they went into his lunch box the next day. Lucy ate her pancakes dipped in mustard.

One more thing, you might wonder if the man at the Price Chopper fish counter rolled his eyes or acted angry about taking the expensive fish back. Well, he didn't. He was very kind and understanding. And he also didn't mind reaching back into the tank to show Elliot another lobster.

Caroline Barrett can be reached at [news@spotlightnews.com](mailto:news@spotlightnews.com).

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# Entertainment *in the* Spotlight

By JACQUELINE M. DOMIN  
Spotlight Newspapers  
dominj@spotlightnews.com

The members of the Mop and Bucket Co. have diverse backgrounds that include comedy, music and theater.

In the early 1990s, Michael Burns decided to start a local improv comedy group.

There was only one problem: Improv hadn't quite caught on in the Capital District.

"There was no one with improv experience here," Burns said.

A decade and a half later, that's changed. Improv has enjoyed a nationwide surge, and Burns' troupe, the Mop and Bucket Co., is a frequent local performer. It just wrapped up eight well-received shows at Proctors in Schenectady. Next up are two performances in Saratoga: "An Evening with the Mop and Bucket Co." on Saturday, April 12, and "Theatresports" on Saturday, April 26.

Burns said the first show is typical of what most improv companies do. The audience supplies story and scene ideas that the company then uses to create comedy skits. There's even a "musical about you" segment using details gleaned from an interview with someone in the crowd.

"Theatresports" puts a bit of a twist on things. Again, the audience provides suggestions for material, but this time the company is split into teams. The performers create stories, games and songs, which are scored by three Olympic-style judges, with one team emerging as the winner.

"It's improv as a competitive sport," said Kat Koppett, the Mop and Bucket Co.'s co-director.

Koppett is well-versed in "Theatresports," having performed with Theatresports companies in New York City and San Francisco. All together, she has more than 20 years of experience in improv.



## Hands-on comedy

As improv gains a following, local troupe stages events that draw audiences in

Burns' improv history includes a stint in New York City, too. There, he and David Shepherd developed the Compass Institution, an improv troupe that toured senior centers and hospitals.

Burns and Koppett said the way the audience gets involved with improv sets it apart from traditional theater or comedy shows.

"Audience participation is putting it mildly," Burns said. "It's a very user-friendly type of theater experience. It really is a collaborative experience."

After all, he noted, the audience not only provides the company with ticket revenue, it

essentially provides it with all of its material for the night.

"We really embrace our audience," he said.

In turn, the Mop and Bucket Co. has been embraced by the local community. The crowds at the eight Proctors shows were so diverse, Burns said, that he couldn't nail down the company's demographic: There were older couples, young professionals, and families with children.

"The trend is intelligent people who like to have a good time," he said. "It's smart entertainment."

About one-third to one-half of the group's eight or so members had experience with improv before joining the Mop and Bucket Co.

"We're eclectic," Koppett said. "We have a lot of different backgrounds. Some have theater backgrounds, some don't."

One thing the members do have in common is an "innate talent" for improv.

"We have this sort of charmed group," Koppett said. "Everyone has a great stage presence."

Exercises designed for "creative muscles" help the members stay sharp for the constant thinking on their feet that improv requires, she added.

Burns said the company's long-term goal is to find a venue where it can perform on a continual basis - a sort of home base where people know they can go to watch the Mop and Bucket Co.

Proctors will provide something along those lines when it brings the company back for 18 shows next

spring, and Burns is hoping to also find a niche in Saratoga.

"We have been very successful at First Night," he said, referring to Saratoga's annual New Year's Eve festival. "It's a really friendly town for us."

As such, the company has been looking for a space in the city to rent to stage a few shows. It settled on the Epiphany Theater for its upcoming performances. Both shows start at 8 p.m., with tickets priced at \$12.50 for seniors and adults and \$15 for everyone else.

"This is really an experiment," Burns said. "We've been kind of searching for a venue that would work for us."

Those who can't make it to either of the Saratoga performances can check out the Mop and Bucket Co. on Saturday, May 3, when it performs a benefit for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at the Linda, WAMC's performing arts center, on

Central Avenue in Albany. Ticket information for all performances can be found on [www.mopco.org](http://www.mopco.org).



Kat Koppett and Michael Burns are co-directors of the Mop and Bucket Co.

**NYS Theatre Institute**  
**NYSTI**

8 PM: Sat, Apr 26  
Fri, Apr 25, May 2\*  
2 PM: Sun, Apr 20, 27  
10 AM: Weekdays -  
Apr 18, 22, 23, 24,  
25, 29, 30, May 1

\*sign language interpreted performance

Recommended for ages 11 and up

At: Russell Sage College, Troy  
Directions online

Tickets:  
\$20 Adult  
\$16 Senior/Student  
\$10 Children (to age 12)  
25% discount for groups of 10 or more.

**Box Office:**  
(518) 274-3256  
[www.nysti.org](http://www.nysti.org)

*Anastasia*

by Marcella Maurette  
English Adaptation by Guy Bolton

# Arts & Entertainment

## Theater

**AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS**  
Based on famous novel, presented by Curtain Call Theatre, 210 Old Loudon Road, Latham, through May 10, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, \$20. Information, 877-7529.

**BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA**  
Presented by Conetti Stage, Albany Masonic Hall, 67 Corning Place, Albany, through April 13, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, \$15 adults, \$10 children. Information, 242-8015.

**NEW PLAYS FESTIVAL**  
Premieres of three new works, presented by 440 Upstairs at Proctors, 440 State St. Schenectady, through April 27, \$26 for individual shows, \$70 for three-show package. Information, 346-6204.

## Music

**LAKE GEORGE OPERA-TO-GO**  
Featuring Jessica Norris, Nadine Kulberg, Rebecca Saslow, Daniel Hinson and Michael Certo, April 9, 7 p.m., Caffe Lena, 47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs, \$15. Information, 583-0022.

**EUROPA GALANTE**  
Featuring conductor/violinist Fabio Biondi, April 9, 8 p.m., Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, corner of Second Avenue and State Street, Troy, \$45-\$50, presented by Troy Chromatic Concerts. Information, 273-0038.

**FRANK WAKEFIELD**  
Bluegrass mandolinist, April 11, 8 p.m., The Parting Glass, Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs, \$15. Information, 583-1918.

**LEO KOTKIE**  
Guitar master performing blend of bluegrass, folk and blues, April 12, 8 p.m., Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, corner of Second Avenue and State Street, Troy, \$26-\$29. Information, 273-0038.

**MIKE DOUGHTY**  
Touring in support of new album "Golden Delicious," April 12, 8 p.m., Revolution Hall, River Street, Troy, \$18 advance, \$20 at door. Information, 274-0553.

**PEGGY SEEGER AND ANNE HILLS**  
Folk music legend and singer-songwriter, April 12, 8 p.m., Old Songs Inc., 37 South Main St., Voorheesville, \$17 adults, \$5 children 12 and under. Information, 765-2815.

## "HUDSON RIVER QUADRICENTENIAL"

Featuring Mark O'Connor, Don Byron and more, April 12, 8 p.m., The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany, \$28. Information, 473-1845.

## MONDAY MUSICAL CLUB

Featuring works by Handel, DeBlasio, Soarez, Jobim, Guinga and Garoto, with organists Agnes Armstrong and Mark Baumach, and guitarists William Simcoe and Eugenio Reis, April 13, 3 p.m., St. James Church, Delaware Avenue, Albany, free.

## "SONGS OF 1969"

Caffe Lena benefit show featuring Sirsy, Mallory O'Donnell and others, April 13, 7 p.m., Caffe Lena, 47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs, \$19.69. Information, 583-0022.

## RICKY SKAGGS & BRUCE HORNSBY

Bluegrass giant teams up with singer-songwriter, April 17, 8 p.m., Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, corner of Second Avenue and State Street, Troy, \$42-\$48. Information, 273-0038.

## Comedy

### WIT&WILL THEATRE

Presenting "The IRS Can Kiss my Assets," a show featuring improvised comedy, song, dance and poetry, April 12, 8 p.m., Zu Zu's Wonderful Life, Inc., 299-301 Hamilton St., Albany, advance purchase prices \$10 adults, \$6 students/seniors; door prices \$12 adults, \$8 students/seniors. Information, 439-7698.

## Visual Arts

### NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

"Art for the People: Decorated Stoneware from the Weitsman Collection," through fall 2009, 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

"Cast with Style: 19th Century Cast-Iron Stoves," through May 25; "Venetian Scenes by Walter Launt Palmer," a collection of 15 paintings, sketches, diaries and photographs, through June 1; plus "The Folk Spirit of Albany: Folk Art from the Collection of the Albany Institute of History and Art" and exhibits on Hudson River School painting, American sculpture and the history of Albany, 125 Washington Ave. Information, 463-4478.

### SCHENECTADY MUSEUM

"Cities @ Night," featuring urban images from General Electric's Photographic Collection, through April 20, plus Spirit of Schenectady, collection highlights and planetarium, Nott Terrace Heights. Information, 382-7890.

### ALBANY CENTER GALLERIES

"21st Annual Mohawk Hudson Invitational," featuring works by Ginger Ertz, Naomi Lewis and Gina Occhiogrosso, through April 19, 39 Columbia St., Albany. Information, 462-4775.

### ALBANY AIRPORT GALLERY

"Repetitive Nature," in Concourse A gallery; "Air Craft," photos by Jeffrey Milstein; plus 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.

### LOCAL COLOR ART GALLERY

"Tonal Impressions," featuring works by Colonie Art League members, through April 30, 961 Troy Schenectady Road, Latham. Information, 786-6557.

### 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

"The Syracuse Mile," featuring two of the central New York's famous stock cars, plus ongoing exhibits including "East of Detroit" and New York racing, 110 Avenue of the Pines, Saratoga Springs. Information, 587-1935, ext. 20.

### THE HYDE COLLECTION

"Art in the Toon Age," through April 13; "Focus on Modernism," through Sept. 14; 161 North Warren St., Glens Falls. Information, 792-1761.

### CLARK ART INSTITUTE

"Remington Looking West," featuring Frederic Remington's illustrations, sculptures and paintings, through May 4; 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. Information, (413) 458-9545.

### TANG TEACHING MUSEUM AND GALLERY

"Molecules that Matter," through April 13; "Joseph Grigely: St. Cecilia," through June 8; Skidmore College, 815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information, 580-8080.

### IRON SPRING GALLERY

"Reflections on the Moon," a gallery members show, through April 26, 49 Front St., Ballston Spa. Information, 885-5855.

### ARKELL MUSEUM

"Immigration, Politics and Caricature: Ethnic and Political Images from the Appel, ArkeLL and Zim House Collections," through June 8; "Famous and Fabulous Portraits: From George Washington to the Golden Girl," through July 20; plus "ArkeLL's Inspiration: the Marketing of Beech-Nut and Art for the People," ongoing; Canajoharie. Information, 673-2314.

## Call for Artists

### TANGO FUSION DANCE COMPANY

Auditioning professional dancers by appointment at Arthur Murray Dance Studio, 75 Woodlawn Ave., Saratoga Springs. Information, 306-4173.

### DELMAR COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Openings in the string, horn and percussion sections. Information, 439-7749.

### COLONIE TOWN BAND

Several openings, rehearsals on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at town hall, Route 9, Newtonville. Information, 783-2760.

### COLONIE CENTENNIAL BRASS CHOIR

Openings for brass players, rehearsals on first Thursday and third Tuesday of the month, at 7:15 p.m., town hall, Route 9, Newtonville. Information, 783-2760.

### SUBURBAN SOUNDS COMMUNITY CHORUS

Openings in mixed chorus, rehearsals Sundays at 7 p.m. at Lynnwood Reformed Church, Route 146, Guilderland. Information, 861-8000.

### FRIENDSHIP SINGERS

Openings in women's singing group, focusing on old favorites and show tunes, rehearsals Tuesday mornings at Delmar Reformed Church, Delaware Avenue, Delmar. Information, 439-2360.

### A CAPPELLA

New, informal, coed a cappella group in Delmar, for adults and teens 16 and older. Information, 439-0130.

## Dynamic Duo



Bluegrass giant, Ricky Skaggs, teams up with singer-songwriter, Bruce Hornsby, April 17, 8 p.m., Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, corner of Second Avenue and State Street, Troy, \$42-\$48. Information, 273-0038.

### "SIENA CHAMBER" ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR

Rehearsals Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. for orchestra, Wednesdays at 6 p.m. for choir, Siena College, Route 9, Loudonville. Information, 785-2325.

### THE ORCHESTRA ON THE COMMON

Openings in the string section, also need French horn, trombone, flute and bass drum players, rehearsals Friday at 9 a.m., Shenendehowa Senior Center, Clifton Common, Clifton Park. Information, 372-5146.

### ELECTRIC CITY CHORUS

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

### RIVER VALLEY CHORUS

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

# Weekly Crossword

## ANIMAL CRACKERS

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	
13					14					15					
16					17					18					
19					20										
21					22					23					
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			44						45	46			47	48	49
		50	51						52	53			54		
55													56		
57									58				59		
60									61				62		

## ACROSS

- 1 Lawn tree
- 4 Word in Cooper title
- 8 Anagram for steer
- 13 Dumas heroes
- 14 Murre genus
- 15 In accord
- 16 Sikorsky
- 17 Simple pastime
- 19 Shenanigans
- 21 French connectives
- 22 Burro
- 23 Dolores \_\_\_ Rio
- 24 "The Old \_\_\_"
- 26 Used food coloring
- 28 Word with stand
- 31 Group attitudes
- 33 Court participant
- 34 Puller or service
- 35 Banker's aid
- 36 Nina and Ferdinand
- 37 Molding
- 38 Coin for Fellini
- 39 Some club members
- 40 Heart, e.g.
- 41 Sudsy sipper
- 42 Kind of fish
- 43 Author Josephine
- 44 Org. for Nasser

## DOWN

- 1 Rye fungus
- 2 Best portion
- 3 Mindy's pal
- 4 Ball and Stone
- 5 Some street children
- 6 In \_\_\_
- 7 Moscow news agency
- 8 Was worthy of
- 9 Madame de \_\_\_
- 10 Bushy clumps
- 11 Periods of milit. service
- 12 Female ruff
- 13 Precedes study
- 18 Autumn drinks
- 20 U.S. engineer
- 25 One Chaplin
- 26 Pleasing
- 27 Variants of yes
- 28 Change holders
- 29 Code word
- 30 Age group
- 31 Ms. Fitzgerald
- 32 Turn one's hand to
- 33 Topee material
- 34 Diminished, with off
- 36 Search around
- 40 Of hearing
- 42 Dealer's locale
- 44 Kind of renewal
- 45 Landscape painter
- 46 Remainder, in Rouen
- 48 "\_\_\_ Irish Rose"
- 49 Concerning
- 50 \_\_\_ and hounds
- 51 Work: Sp.
- 52 Follower of Aug.
- 53 Hearty's mate
- 54 Diana or Betsy
- 55 John Brown's dog

# Calendar of Events *in the* Spotlight

## Wednesday, April 9

### BETHLEHEM

**BETHLEHEM GARDEN CLUB**  
Garden club meeting at the Bethlehem Public Library's Community Room, from 1-3 p.m. For more info., call 439-0346.

**DELMAR ROTARY**  
Normanside Country Club, 7:30 a.m. Information, 767-2930.

**PLAYGROUP MEETING**  
First United Methodist Church playgroups will meet from 10:30 to noon in the nursery. Playgroup provides opportunity for childcare takers and pre-nursery school age children to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere. Information, call 439-9976, ext. 228.

**MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS)**  
Christian fellowship group for mothers of preschool children, at the Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., nursery care provided, 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Information, call Jennifer at 439-9929 or e-mail, info@drchurch.org.

**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**  
Parks and Recreation Office, Elm Avenue Park, 2-5:30 p.m. Information, 439-0503. **SECOND MILERS** (October thru June) Normanside Country Club, noon, Information, 439-2752.

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

**CHENREZIG PRACTICE AND MEDITATION**  
Meditation on the Bodhisattva of Compassion, at the KTC Buddhist Center, Doane Stuart School, Route 9W, Albany, 7 p.m., Information, 374-1792.

**TOWN BOARD**  
Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 5:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

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

**EVENINGS ON THE GREEN (JULY)**  
Bethlehem Public Library's Free Summer Concert Series, 7 p.m. Information, 439-9341.

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

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 58 (WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION)**  
Elsmere Elementary School, 247 Delaware Ave., 7:30 to 9 p.m.

**DELMAR FIRE COMMISSION**  
firehouse, Adams Place, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-3851.

**HEALING TESTIMONY MEETING**  
First Church of Christ, Scientist, 555 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-2512.

**NEW SCOTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**  
New Scotland Town Hall, Route 85, 7 p.m. Information, 439-4889.

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

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

**NEW SCOTLAND SENIORS**  
Wyman Osterhout Community Center, New Salem, call for time. Information, 765-2109.

**AA MEETING**  
First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville, 68 Maple St., 8 p.m.

## Thursday, April 10

### BETHLEHEM

**OPEN HOUSE**  
The Creative Play Preschool of the First Reformed Church is hosting a community open house from 6 to 7 p.m. Event held at the preschool at 38 Church Rd., Selkirk. If your child will be three by Dec. 1, 2008, registration information will be available. For more info, call 767-2243.

**DELMAR ROTARY**  
Normanside Country Club, 7:30 a.m. Information, 767-2930.

**PLAYGROUP MEETING**  
First United Methodist Church playgroups will meet from 10:30 to noon in the nursery. Playgroup provides opportunity for childcare takers and pre-nursery school age children to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere. Information, call 439-9976, ext. 228.

**MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS)**  
Christian fellowship group for mothers of preschool children, at the Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., nursery care provided, 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Information, call Jennifer at 439-9929 or e-mail, info@drchurch.org.

**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**  
Parks and Recreation Office, Elm Avenue Park, 2-5:30 p.m. Information, 439-0503. **SECOND MILERS** (October thru June) Normanside Country Club, noon, Information, 439-2752.

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

**CHENREZIG PRACTICE AND MEDITATION**  
Meditation on the Bodhisattva of Compassion, at the KTC Buddhist Center, Doane Stuart School, Route 9W, Albany, 7 p.m., Information, 374-1792.

**BLUE DOG ARTS**  
"Drop In And Draw" every Thursday 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. for grades 4 - 8 at 333 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Join in a community of youth interested in sketching, socializing, and learning and sharing drawing techniques. More info. — call Tracie Killar, 439-3309.

**TOWN BOARD**  
Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 5:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

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

**EVENINGS ON THE GREEN (JULY)**  
Bethlehem Public Library's Free Summer Concert Series, 7 p.m. Information, 439-9341.

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

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 58 (WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION)**  
Elsmere Elementary School, 247 Delaware Ave., 7:30 to 9 p.m.

**DELMAR FIRE COMMISSION**  
firehouse, Adams Place, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-3851.

**HEALING TESTIMONY MEETING**  
First Church of Christ, Scientist, 555 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-2512.

### NEW SCOTLAND

**TOWN COUNCIL**  
New Scotland Town Hall, Route 85, 7 p.m. Information, 439-4889.

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

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

**NEW SCOTLAND SENIORS**  
Wyman Osterhout Community Center, New Salem, call for time. Information, 765-2109.

**AA MEETING**  
First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville, 68 Maple St., 8 p.m.

## Friday, April 11

### BETHLEHEM

**GARAGE SALE**  
St. Thomas the Apostle School will hold its presale date for its annual garage sale from 3:30 pm until 7 pm, to benefit the eighth grade trip to Washington DC and Philadelphia. Admission fee of \$5 at 42 Adams Place, Delmar. For more info., call 475-0805.

**BETHLEHEM NEIGHBORS FOR PEACE**  
Peace and Sustainability Conference with keynote speakers Cindy Sheehan and Victor Sidel of Iraq Veterans Against the War. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave., Albany, 7:30 p.m. Music by Cultural Relativity.

**AA MEETING**  
First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, Route 9W, 7:30 p.m.

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

**Q.U.I.L.T. INC.**  
Meeting at Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave. Starts 9:45 a.m., doors open at 9:15 a.m. Call 439-1194

### NEW SCOTLAND

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

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

## Saturday, April 12

### DELMAR

**GARAGE SALE**  
St. Thomas the Apostle School will hold

its annual garage sale from 7:30 am until 3 pm, to benefit the eighth grade trip to Washington DC and Philadelphia. Admission fee of \$5 at 42 Adams Place, for more info., call 475-0805.

**BLUE DOG ARTS**  
Easter Arts and Crafts from 2-3 p.m. for grades K-5 at 333 Delaware Ave. Make and take home Easter arts and crafts to decorate your home for the holiday. \$5 per child, for more info. call Tracie Killar — 439-3309.

### BETHLEHEM

**BETHLEHEM NEIGHBORS FOR PEACE**  
Peace and Sustainability Conference. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave., Albany, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featured speakers include Cindy Sheehan, Victor Sidel, Elliott Adams, Steve Breyman, and members of Iraq Veterans Against War.

**AA MEETING**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave., 7:30 p.m.

**GLENMONT**  
Story Hour at Tea and Tattered Pages Used Books; 329 Glenmont Road, Glenmont, 10:30 a.m.

### RAVENA

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Bargain Shed & Book Nook with bake sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 16 Hillcrest Dr., Ravena. Regular hours will be Tuesdays 9-1, Thursday 5:30-7:30, Saturdays 9-1. Something for everyone.

## Sunday, April 13

### BETHLEHEM

**WORSHIP INFORMATION**  
Bethlehem Community Church, 201 Elm Ave., 439-3135.  
Bethlehem Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Elm Avenue and Feura Bush Road, 439-0358.  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave., 439-4328.  
Delmar Full Gospel Church, 292 Elsmere Ave., 439-4407.  
Delmar Presbyterian Church, 585 Delaware Ave., 439-9925.  
Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., 439-9929.  
Family of God Nazarene Church, Krumkill Road, Glenmont, 436-7710.  
Gospel Fellowship, 10 Rockefeller Road, Delmar, 482-2132.  
King's Chapel, 434 Route 9W, Glenmont, 426-9955.  
KTC Buddhist Center, Doane Stuart School, Route 9W, Albany, 10 a.m. meditation, 11 a.m. tea, 11:30 a.m. study course, 374-1792.  
Mount Moriah Ministries, Route 9W, Glenmont, 426-4510.  
Old Gospel Fellowship Church, 10 Rockefeller Rd., Delmar, 10 a.m.  
Slingerlands Community UMC, 1499 New Scotland Road, 439-1766.  
Solid Rock Church, 1 Kenwood Ave., Glenmont, 439-4314.  
South Bethlehem United Methodist Church, 65 Willowbrook Ave., 767-9953.  
St. Michael's Shrine, Beacon Road at Route 9W, Glenmont, 462-2016.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Poplar Drive and Elsmere Avenue, Delmar, 439-3265.  
St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 35 Adams Place, Delmar, 439-4951.  
Unity of Faith Christian Fellowship,

436 Krumkill Road, North Bethlehem, 438-7740.

### NEW SCOTLAND

**WORSHIP INFORMATION**  
All Nation's Baptist Church, 2558 Western Ave., Guilderland, 475-9086, ESL and Bible classes, 9 a.m.; Worship Services, 10 a.m.  
Clarksville Community Church, Route 443, 768-2916.  
Family Worship Center, 92 Lower Copeland Hill Road, Feura Bush, 768-2021.  
Faith Temple, New Salem, 765-2870.  
First United Methodist Church, 68 Maple Ave., Voorheesville, 765-2895.  
Jerusalem Reformed Church, Route 32, Feura Bush, 439-0548.  
Mountainview Evangelical Free Church, Route 155, Voorheesville, 765-3390.  
Onesquethaw Reformed Church, Tarrytown Road, Feura Bush, 768-2133.  
New Scotland Presbyterian Church, Route 85, 439-6454.  
St. Matthew's Church, Mountain View Road, Voorheesville, 765-2805.  
Unionville Reformed Church, Delaware Turnpike, 439-5001.  
United Pentecostal Church, Route 85, New Salem, 765-4410. DAY —

## Monday, April 14

### SLINGERLANDS

Adamsville Ancients Fife and Drum Corps offer lessons for beginner fife, snare drum and bass drum at 7 p.m.; rehearsal at 7:30. Call 439-8727 for information.

### BETHLEHEM

### WATERMAIN FLUSHING

Watermain flushing program 2008 will continue in area 1 until April 21, including Slingerlands, North Bethlehem, and New Scotland. Area 2 will begin and run until May 7, including Delmar and Elsmere. Some discoloration may occur, run water until it clears before doing laundry.

**FOOD STAMP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
Bethlehem Senior Services sponsors free program where representative of Legal Aid Society will help with food stamp applications. Appointment required, 10 a.m. to noon. Bethlehem Senior Services office, 445 Delaware Ave., 439-4955 ext. 173 or 174.

**PEACE VIGIL**  
Bethlehem Neighbors For Peace, weekly peace vigil, Four Corners intersection, Delmar, 5-6 p.m., Information, 439-1968.

**PLAYGROUP**  
First United Methodist Church, 428 Kenwood Ave. Meets 10:30 a.m. to noon in the nursery. The playgroup provides opportunities for child care takers and pre-nursery school age children to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere. Information, call 439-9976 ext. 228.

**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**  
Parks and Recreation Office, Elm Avenue Park, 2-5:30 p.m. Also Wed. 2-5:30 p.m. Information, 439-0503.

### DELMAR KIWANIS

Toot's Family Restaurant, Delaware Avenue, 6:15 p.m. Information, call Chris at 439-3026 or Gary at 439-9629

**CLASS IN JEWISH MYSTICISM**  
Delmar Chabad Center, 109 Elsmere Ave., 7 p.m. Information, 439-8280.

**INDOOR PISTOL SHOOTING**  
Albany County Pistol Club, Winne Place, 7 to 9 p.m. Also Tuesday. Information, 439-0057.

**DELMAR COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA**  
Rehearsal, Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-7749.

**AA MEETING**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave., 8:30 p.m.

### NEW SCOTLAND

**QUARTET REHEARSAL**  
United Pentecostal Church, Route 85, New Salem, 7:15 p.m. Information, 765-4410.

## Tuesday, April 15

### DELMAR

**WEIGHT WATCHER DELMAR MEETINGS**  
The local chapter of Weight Watchers meets today at 12:15 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church, Delmar.

### BETHLEHEM

**FARMERS MARKET (SPRING SUMMER AND FALL)**  
Market and Chicken Barbeque, 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. rain or shine, First United Methodist Church, 428 Kenwood Ave.

### TREASURE COVE THRIFT SHOP

First United Methodist Church, 428 Kenwood Ave., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Gently used brand name clothing and accessories at very low prices.

### CHURCH LUNCH (JUNE, JULY, AUGUST)

Sponsored by the South Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Willowbrook Avenue, weekly on Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Information, 767-9953.

### PRAYER MEETING

At Gospel Fellowship, 7 p.m., 10 Rockefeller Rd., Delmar, beneath Normans Kill bridge, Information 482-2132.

### PLANNING BOARD

Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

### BINGO

at the Bethlehem Elks Lodge, Route 144, 7:30 p.m.

### BETHLEHEM LODGE 85

Masonic Temple, 421 Kenwood Ave.

### NEW SCOTLAND

### PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

51 School Road, Voorheesville Public Library, 10:15 a.m. Information, 765-2791.

### NIMBLEFINGERS/QUILTERS (SEPTEMBER-JUNE ONLY)

Voorheesville Public Library, 51 School Road, 1 to 3 p.m. Information, 765-2791.

### VOORHEESVILLE PTA

Elementary school cafeteria, 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-3644.

## Wednesday, April 16

### BETHLEHEM

### DELMAR ROTARY

Normanside Country Club, 7:30 a.m. Information, 767-2930.

### PLAYGROUP MEETING

First United Methodist Church playgroups will meet from 10:30 to noon in the nursery. Playgroup provides opportunity for childcare takers and pre-nursery school age children to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere. Information, call 439-9976, ext. 228.

Your Spotlight Calendar is sponsored by ...

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# a guide to services for your home **Services** *in the* **Spotlight**

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**McGUIRK and McGUIRK**  
Carpentry Ltd



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FINISH CARPENTRY**

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Excellent Service, Price to Match

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All Types of Brick Work  
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- COMPLETE REMOVAL • TRIMMING
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25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

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Clean reliable service.  
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**AUTOS WANTED**

**\$50 CASH on Spot!!** Donate Car, IRS Deduction, Any Condition, Help Kids, No Papers OK, ESPANOL, 1-888-429-2202

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Gold Wedding band lost at Hannaford or Price Chopper in the tri-village area. May have been lost in or out of the store. Please call 482-6622 if found.

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Assorted toys/ videos for toddler- boys to age 6. Call for info 885-2637.

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Various custom HO-scale model railroad locomotives and rolling stock. All are priced to move. Please call Rich at 785-8751 & leave message or email me at rweriksen@verizon.net

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**PIANO LESSONS/ PROFESSIONAL SINGER:** Will come to home. Preferably beginners. Also Singer for Special Events! Call Sarah at 221-8424.

**MUSIC LESSONS**

**GUITAR LESSONS:** Guitarist available for private lessons. Your home or mine. 20+ years experience. Call Rob, 810-6378.

Trumpet and Trombone lessons, NYS Certified Music Teacher, 25 yrs experience, Reasonable rates, 357-2715.

**PIANO TUNING & REPAIR**

Piano Tuning and Repair. Carl A. Treiber. Experienced and insured. 765-4095.

**PROFESSIONAL TUNING and REPAIR,** Michael T. Lamkin, Registered Piano Technician, Piano Technicians Guild. Over 25 years. 427-1903.

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**AIDES AVAILABLE:** Mature, Reliable, Specializing in Alzheimer's, stroke, rehab & eldercare. Bonded & insured. Over 30 yrs. experience. Clean background checks. 312-7404.

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**WANTED**

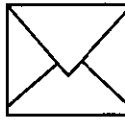
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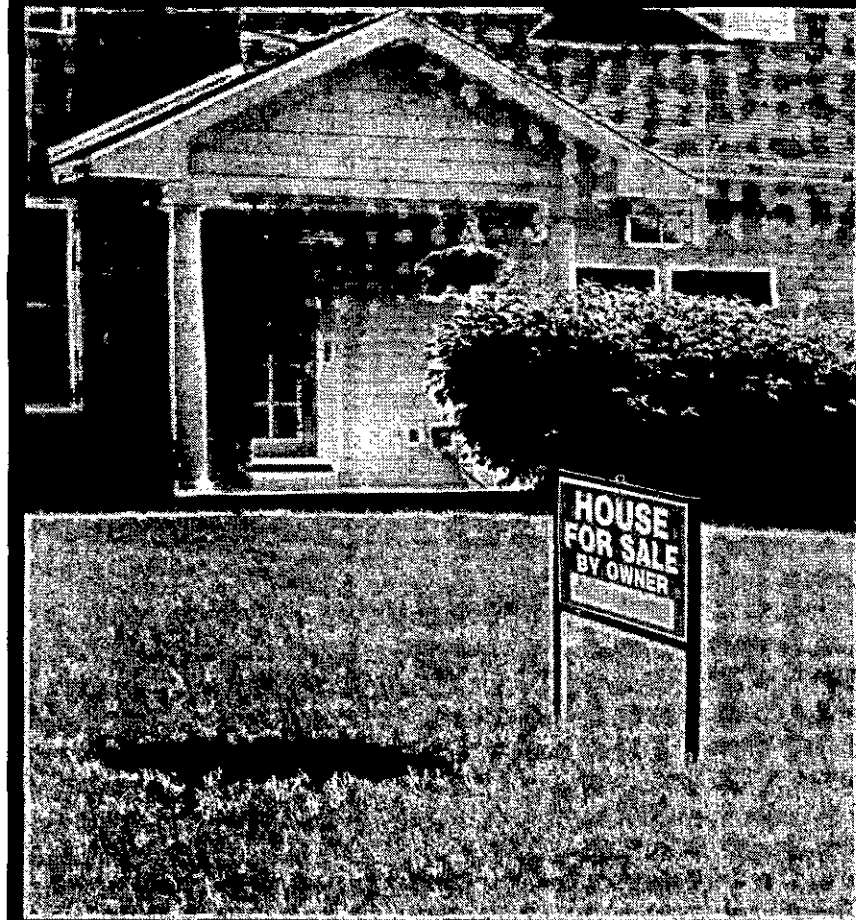
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# Suburban Council baseball battles tight as ever

## Bethlehem faces stiff competition in Gold Division

By ROB JONAS  
jonasr@spotlightnews.com

The bad news for the three Suburban Council class A teams – Averill Park, Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake and Mohonasen – is that the league will be as competitive as ever this year.

“Throughout the league, there’s a lot of balance,” said BH-BL coach Paul Deluca. “It’s going to be tough for the single As, as

it always is.”

The good news for the class A teams is that they won’t need a .500 or better league record to make the Section II playoffs. The Suburban Council is switching to a point system where a league victory over a team from a different class is worth two points and a win against a team from the same class is worth one point. Seven points will get a Suburban Council class A team into Sectionals.

“I think it’s tremendous,” said Averill Park coach Mike Conroy. “There’s two points now for a quality win over a double A team, which would solidify our playoff

position. Anything that allows us to receive recognition for our quality wins is a good thing.”

While the competition between the three class A teams to reach seven standings points will be keen, the competition between the class AA teams to get the best league record will be tougher. Several teams have a chance to reach that goal including defending class AA champion Guilderland, defending Blue Division champion Colonie and perennial powers Shenendehowa, Columbia and Shaker.

“I think it’s going to be very competitive,” said Guilderland

coach Doug LaValley. “I can see five or six teams that can compete for the overall league title.”

Here is a closer look at the Suburban Council.

### Blue Division

#### Colonie Garnet Raiders Head coach: Greg Lanni

Key veterans: Joe Poletto (centerfielder), Nick Carnevale (pitcher), Derek Zielinski (pitcher/outfielder), Matt June (shortstop), Andy Carucci (outfielder/pitcher), Ron Notar (first baseman), Adam Herman (pitcher/third baseman), Kevin Smith (catcher), Chris Smith (pitcher), Matt Weinman (second baseman), William Keegan (first baseman/outfielder/pitcher)

Key newcomers: A.J. Monin (catcher), Matt Vetrone (second baseman), Colin Mooney (outfielder), Dan Bardaro (third baseman), Eric Birdsall (catcher/pitcher), James DeVoe (pitcher)

Outlook: The Garnet Raiders are armed for another shot at the Blue Division title and the No. 1 seed for Sectionals.

“We have a solid group of returning players, and we have depth on the (pitcher’s) mound,” said Lanni. “Hopefully the bats will really come around, and we can be competitive in every game.”

#### Saratoga Blue Streaks

##### Head coach: Rich Lofink

Key veterans: Brad Elliott (infielder), Drew Jeffreys (infielder), Ryan White (pitcher), Colby Hudson (pitcher), Mike Allen (third baseman), Scott Hladik (catcher), Joe House (pitcher)

Key newcomers: Ford Plowman, Matt Coleman, Erich Lange, Paul Dreyer, Will Dreyer

Outlook: Lofink said he believes his team can move up in the division standings this year.

“We have a great mix of experience and youth,” said Lofink. “With a solid three starters (in the pitching rotation), we should be competitive in the Suburban Council.”

#### Shaker Blue Bison

##### Head coach: Pete Mravlja

Key veterans: Mike Casey

(catcher/pitcher), Thomas McDonald (infielder/pitcher), Blaise Agnew (third baseman), Casey Haydock (second baseman), Mike Skroupa (infielder), Sean Fruscio (outfielder), Eric Breton (outfielder), Brian Cary (pitcher/outfielder), Mike Petilli (designated hitter)

Outlook: Mravlja is hoping his team gives him a better season than his varsity coaching debut in 2007.

“I think we’ve improved a lot since last year,” he said. “We learned a lot from last year – what we did well, and what we didn’t do well. We’ll be a very good baseball team if we remain focused, play together and cut down on our mistakes.”

#### Shenendehowa Plainsmen

##### Head coach: James Carrese

Key veterans: Jon Shippee (pitcher), Jeff Carter (pitcher), Bryan Marotta (catcher), Sam Rosenzweig (first baseman), David Balsalmo (shortstop), Chris Howard (centerfielder), Tim Jones (outfielder/catcher)

Outlook: After losing eight games by one run and missing the playoffs for the first time in several years, the Plainsmen are looking to their veterans to lead them back to the top of the division.

“This is probably my favorite group (of players) to work with,” said Carrese. “They work very hard, and they get along with each other well.”

#### Gold Division

##### Ballston Spa Scotties

##### Head coach: Dave Sunkes

Key veterans: Kyle Baldani (catcher), Jim Tino (shortstop), Chris Schaefer (outfielder), Jordan Kaplan (outfielder/pitcher), Chris Curcio (outfielder/pitcher)

Outlook: Pitcher Zach Hartman is gone, but most of the Scotties’ rotation remains intact for what Sunkes hopes is a good season.

“These guys know what to expect on a day-in, day-out basis. They know they won’t have a day off in this league,” said Sunkes.

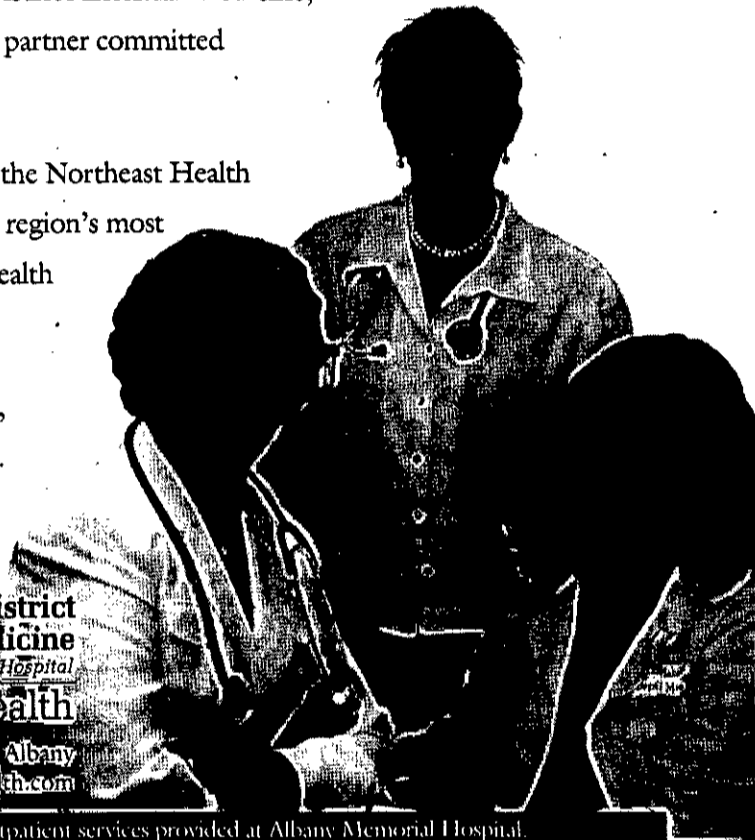
□ Council Page 41

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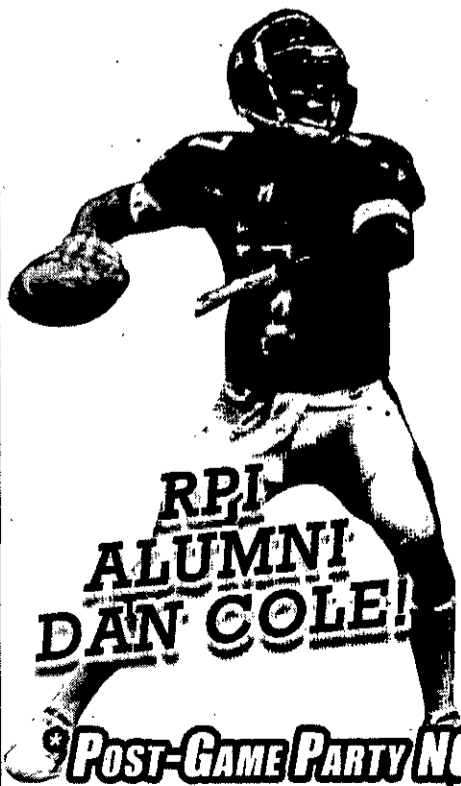
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# Council

(From Page 40)

## Bethlehem Eagles

**Head coach: Rob Helm**

Key veterans: Will DeRuve (shortstop), Mike Bellizzi (second baseman), Matt Nash (pitcher/third baseman), Alex Sobiecki (outfielder)

Outlook: The Eagles are hoping to build on last year's push into the class AA quarterfinals.

"We gained some confidence (in late March) in New Jersey because we did well against Guilderland in a scrimmage," said Helm. "It was only a scrimmage, but we did well."

Helm said he expects Nash and Sobiecki to anchor Bethlehem's offense this season. "We've got some guys who can hit, so hopefully we'll do that," he said.

## Columbia Blue Devils

**Head coach: Chris Dedrick**

Key veterans: Tyler Rose (third baseman), Austin Chase (pitcher), Matt Montross (pitcher/shortstop), Patrick Puentes (outfielder/first baseman), Bobby Peluso (catcher), Nolan Gaige (pitcher/leftfielder), Tyler Kinzelmann (outfielder/designated hitter)

Outlook: Dedrick replaces long-time Columbia coach George Czerno, who guided the Blue Devils to several Sectional finals. "I have some big shoes to fill," said Dedrick, who played for Czerno in 1989.

The Blue Devils should have one of the better offenses this season with the return of Rose, Montross and Gaige, and the pitching staff features three aces in Montross, Chase and Gaige.

"We definitely have some veteran leadership ... and we have some pitching depth," said Dedrick.

## Guilderland Dutchmen

**Head coach: Doug LaValley**

Key veterans: Steve Anderson (first baseman/designated hitter), Jake Colavito (third baseman), Nick Ranalli (outfielder), Andrew Simpson (pitcher/outfielder/first baseman), C.J. Sohl (pitcher)

Outlook: The defending class AA champions are well aware that they will be the targets of every Suburban Council team this season.

"It's different to be the hunted, rather than being the hunter," said LaValley. "No matter what, the game is still the same. We

have to take care of business."

Sohl, Simpson and Kyle LaValley are the primary holdovers from last year's pitching staff.

"I think we should do pretty good (on the mound). We've got some kids who can throw," said coach LaValley.

## White Division

### Averill Park Warriors

**Head coach: Mike Conroy**

Key veterans: Ben Fil (pitcher/utility), Mike Bermas (infielder), Chris Dobert (pitcher/outfielder)

Key newcomers: Tim Murdick (pitcher/utility), Mike Beliveau (catcher/infielder)

Outlook: The Warriors are starting from scratch as they graduated six starters from last year's 13-10 team including four All-Suburban Council players.

"We are rebuilding after the loss of a very deep pitching staff the last two seasons," said Conroy. "We are very young with just four returning players, but this group has versatility and has been working hard in the preseason."

### BH-BL Spartans

**Head coach: Paul Deluca**

Key veterans: Steve Childs (pitcher/outfielder), Dave Fischer (pitcher/infielder), Drew Slocum (pitcher/infielder)

Key newcomers: Bret Dennis (infielder), Keaton Flint

(outfielder/pitcher), Justin Bariteau (pitcher/infielder), Mike Fischer (catcher), Matt Pucunas (pitcher/infielder), Aaron Pennings (infielder)

Outlook: The Spartans are also in the midst of a rebuilding year, as Deluca asks a group of six underclassmen (two freshmen and four sophomores) to be starters.

"I'm going to have a young team this year," Deluca said.

### Mohonasen Mighty Warriors

**Head coach: Jim Huggins**

Key veterans: C.J. Fonda (shortstop), Pat Herrington (catcher), Ben Gatchell (pitcher), Alex Massaroni (rightfielder), Robert Tedesco (pitcher), Dave Hondro (pitcher), Scott Lindsey (third baseman)

Key newcomers: Dominick Bianchi (pitcher/infielder), Jacob Papa (outfielder/catcher/pitcher), Andrew Regan (utility)

Outlook: With a veteran core leading the way, the Mighty Warriors are hoping to improve on last year's 10-12 record, which included a 4-10 league mark.

"I think these kids are ready for the challenge," said Huggins. "We have almost our whole team back, except that they now have a whole year under their belts."

### Niskayuna Silver Warriors

**Head coach: John Furey**

Key veterans: Danny Peters

(third baseman), Ryan Kenealy (pitcher/first baseman), Chris Okonski (outfielder), Joe Privitera (infielder), Aaron Staudinger (outfielder), Seth Wyngowski (catcher), Adrian Mitchell (pitcher/outfielder), John Moore (infielder)

Outlook: Despite the presence

of seven seniors, the amount of actual varsity playing experience is limited.

"We have about two innings of varsity experience for our whole pitching staff, so we're really inexperienced there," said Furey. "We are strong at the plate and solid in the field."

## Union hosts football camps

Union College is hosting a series of football camps this summer.

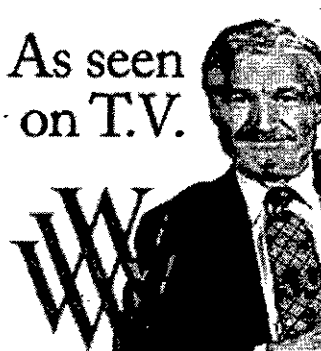
There will be youth and modified level camps the week of July 21-25, and a high school camp the week of Aug. 4-8. All the camps will be held on the college's turf field, and the sessions run from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.


The youth camp is open to children entering grades three through five, while the modified camp is for children entering grades six through eight. The high school camp is for children entering grades nine through 12.


The cost of the youth and modified camps are \$150 per child, and the cost of the high school camp is \$175. Applications can be found online at [www.union.edu](http://www.union.edu) under athletics and summer camps.

For information, contact Union College football coach John Audino at 388-6152 or 470-2602, or e-mail [audinoj@union.edu](mailto:audinoj@union.edu).

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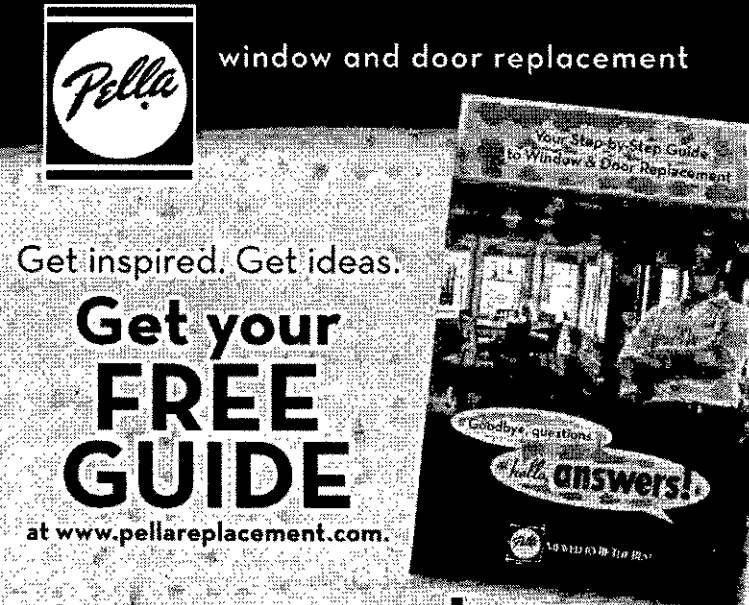
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# Terry

(From Page 44)

people are shouting," said Peterson of how she knew where she stood in the field of 607 runners. "I listen for someone shouting, 'No. 1 female runner,' and then I listen for, 'No. 2 female runner.' If I hear 'No. 2 female runner' too close to 'No. 1 female runner,' I know it's time for me to move."

Besides the overall winners, awards were handed out to the top three place finishers in each age division. They are as follows:

Male 1-19: Justin Veldhuis (Albany) 28:26, Ben Nelson (Jamestown) 28:28, Luke Carpimello (Delmar) 31:56

Female 1-19: Taryn Cooper (Gloversville) 36:39, Kate Thomas (Delmar) 36:52, Emily MacFarlane (Delmar) 37:01

Male 20-24: Tom O'Grady (Colonie) 27:00, Zachary Russo (Guilderland) 31:15, Andrew Martini (Lynbrook) 33:14

Female 20-24: Meghan Davey (Albany) 34:05, Bethany Hawke (Albany) 35:17, Erin Rightmyer (Schenectady) 38:41

Male 25-29: Justin Bishop (Colonie) 27:22, David Vona (Valatie) 28:00, Andrew Rickert (Delmar) 30:10

Female 25-29: Kathryn Bengtson (Watervliet) 33:06, Christina Ardito (Troy) 33:14, Melissa Brinkman (Cohoes) 34:57

Male 30-34: Aaron Knobloch (Mechanicville) 27:19, Brian Northan (Guilderland) 28:35, Dan Murphy (Delmar) 30:23

Female 30-34: Lori Weaver (Loudonville) 34:32, Jessica Hageman (Schenectady) 35:02, Aubrey Fleszar (Farmington, Conn.) 35:13

Male 35-39: Mike Kelly (Selkirk) 30:49, Tim O'Shea (Cazenovia) 31:47, Tim Austin (Delmar) 31:58

Female 35-39: Penny Tisko (Albany) 32:56, Katie Hodge (Delmar) 33:58, Sally Drake (Albany) 38:32

Male 40-44: Christian Lietzau (Delmar) 29:36, Tom Kracker (Delmar) 29:59, Timothy Hoff (Albany) 30:02

Female 40-44: Judy Guzzo (Niskayuna) 32:22, Eileen Lavitt (Delmar) 33:18, Christine Varley (Albany) 34:01

Male 45-49: John Noonan (Ballston Spa) 28:24, Mark Werner (Slingerlands) 30:42, Ken Evans (Delmar) 32:28

Female 45-49: Nancy Nicholson (Queensbury) 33:09, Alice Thomas (Westerlo) 36:32, Wendy Rescott (West Sand Lake) 37:39.

Male 50-54: Robert Colborn (Niskayuna) 30:19, Jack Nabozny (Valatie) 32:09, Robert Somerville (Defreestville) 32:42

Female 50-54: Nancy Briskie (Schenectady) 34:02, Cathy Sliwinski (Niskayuna) 36:50, Susan Burns (Delmar) 37:47

Male 55-59: Lee Pollock (Queensbury) 31:07, George Carpinello (Delmar) 31:07, Kenneth Klapp (Schenectady) 31:40

Female 55-59: Judy Phelps (Rensselaer) 36:06, Katherine Ambrosio (Delmar) 41:11, Judith LeComb (Albany) 43:26

Male 60-64: Patrick Glover (Clifton Park) 30:55, John Stockwell (Troy) 34:38, George Anker (Kattskill Bay) 36:56

Female 60-64: Susan Wong (Glenmont) 40:29, Ginny Pezzula (Colonie) 41:20, Noreen Buff (Latham) 56:09

Male 65-69: John Pelton (West Rupert, Vt.) 35:25, Frank Klose (Castleton) 38:12, Jerry Lussier (Kingston) 41:03

Female 65-69: Sibyl Jacobson (Canaan) 50:33

Male 70-99: Wade Stockman (Rensselaer) 40:59, C. Rush (Schenectady) 41:17, Larry Chase (Westerlo) 41:57

Female 70-99: Anny Stockman (Rensselaer) 46:17, Joan Corrigan (Clifton Park) 58:15

In addition to the main race, there were children's races of one mile, one-half mile and one-quarter mile sponsored by *Spotlight Newspapers*.



Bethlehem Central High School graduate Katie Rowan (21) tries to get past University at Albany's Nikki Branchini during Syracuse's 21-11 victory over the Great Danes last Wednesday. *Robert Goo/Spotlight*

# Grads

(From Page 44)

added her first goal a short time later to give Syracuse a 3-0 lead.

UAlbany wasn't about to let Syracuse run away with the game, though, and Guilderland High School graduate Kayla Best made sure of that. Best tallied twice during a 5-1 Great Danes' run that gave the home team a 5-4 lead against the No. 5 ranked Orange.

"Albany came out, and they were scrappy," said Syracuse coach Gary Gait. "They were tough, and they went hard to the net."

Syracuse recovered from

that lapse and regained the lead midway through the first half. From there, the game evolved into a pattern where the Orange would build a three-goal advantage, only to see UAlbany trim it to one goal.

That pattern ended midway through the second half when Syracuse went on an 8-0 run. Rowan and Quillinan played a major role in that burst, as each scored twice.

"I think we knew (at that point) that we had to step up and take charge," said Rowan, Syracuse's leading scorer.

Best led UAlbany (7-4) with four goals.

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### A Dashing event

Clockwise from top: Competitors in the boys one-mile race take off from the starting line; Albany County District Attorney David Soares watches the kids races; Chuck Terry (third from right) leads the pack in the five-mile race; Colonie residents Elaine Luizzi (left) and Roxanne Wunsch before the start of the five-mile race; women's champion Dana Peterson checks her watch as she crosses the finish line; and Delmar Dash competitors walk to the starting line.

*Robert Goo/Spotlight*



# Sports in the Spotlight

## Varsity schedule

**Wednesday, April 9**

### BASEBALL

Watervliet at R-C-S, 4 p.m.

Voorheesville at Cohoes, 4 p.m.

Maple Hill at Bethlehem, 4:15 p.m.

### GIRLS LACROSSE

Shen at Bethlehem, 4 p.m.

### SOFTBALL

Cohoes at Voorheesville, 4 p.m.

Watervliet at R-C-S, 4 p.m.

### GIRLS TRACK

Bethlehem at Saratoga, 4 p.m.

**Thursday, April 10**

### BOYS LACROSSE

Colonie at Bethlehem, 4 p.m.

### SOFTBALL

Amsterdam at Voorheesville, 4:30 p.m.

### BOYS TENNIS

Bethlehem at Columbia, 4 p.m.

**Friday, April 11**

### BASEBALL

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk at Albany Academy, 4 p.m.

Mechanicville at Voorheesville, 4 p.m.

Albany at Bethlehem, 4:15 p.m.

### GIRLS LACROSSE

Bethlehem at Shaker, 4 p.m.

### SOFTBALL

Mechanicville at Voorheesville, 4 p.m.

R-C-S at Academy of Holy Names, 4 p.m.

**Saturday, April 12**

### BASEBALL

Catholic Central at Bethlehem, noon

### GIRLS LACROSSE

Guilderland at Bethlehem, noon

### BOYS TRACK

Averill Park at Bethlehem, 9 a.m.

R-C-S at Ichabod Crane Relays, 11 a.m.

### GIRLS TRACK

R-C-S at Ichabod Crane Invite, 11 a.m.

**Monday, April 14**

### BASEBALL

Columbia at Bethlehem, noon

R-C-S at Voorheesville, noon

## Terry sets pace

**Albany resident wins Delmar Dash by a wide margin**

By ROB JONAS  
[jonasr@spotlightnews.com](mailto:jonasr@spotlightnews.com)

Chuck Terry was alone, and that was fine with him.

The 25-year-old Albany resident pulled away from the field at the one-mile mark and never looked back in taking the overall men's title at Sunday's Delmar Dash.

Terry finished the five-mile road course in a time of 25:48, more than one minute ahead of runner-up Tom O'Grady.

"I was just trying to run my own race and my own pace," said Terry, who claimed his first Delmar Dash title after two second-place finishes. "There was one guy with me at the one-mile mark, but I was concerned about running my own pace."

Terry's pace was too fast for the rest of the field to keep up with. By the midpoint of the race, Terry had built an insurmountable lead, leaving O'Grady to use his Albany Running Exchange teammate Aaron Knobloch as a pace setter.

"It's tough when you're in a race like that, but you have to focus on your own race," said O'Grady, a 22-year-old Colonie resident. "Chuck Terry is a great runner, too."

Terry and O'Grady were among the runners using the Delmar Dash as a tune-up for the Boston Marathon, which takes place in two weeks.

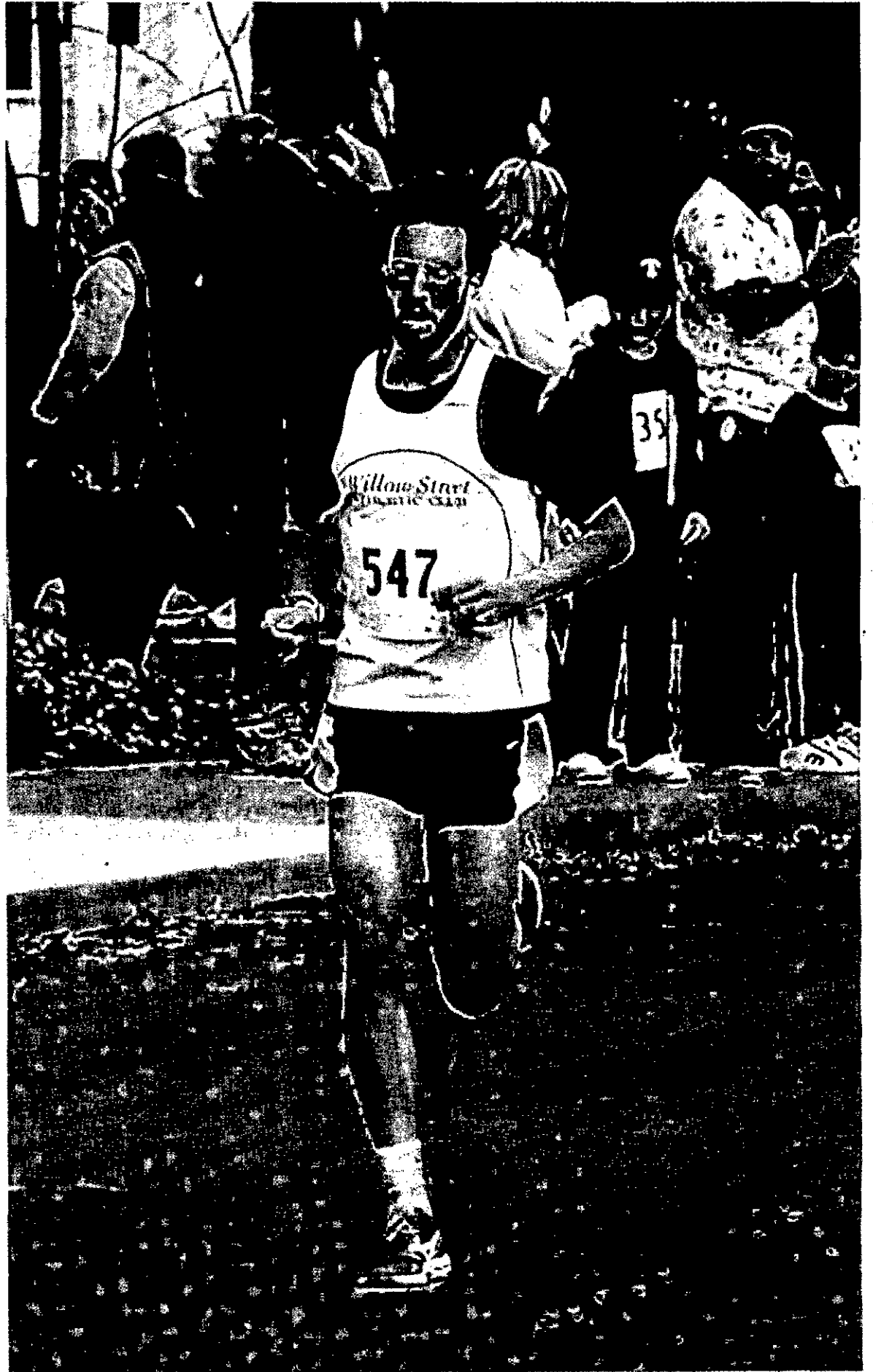
"I've been focusing mostly on marathons, but shorter races are easier. They go by quicker," said Terry.

"It's good because five miles is good to get some speed (training) in," added O'Grady.

Voorheesville's Dana Peterson claimed her first Delmar Dash women's title. The 37-year-old covered the course in a time of 31:17, more than one minute ahead of Niskayuna's Judy Guzzo.

"I just usually listen to what

□ Terry Page 42



Albany's Chuck Terry cruises toward the finish line at Sunday's Delmar Dash. Terry completed the five-mile course in a time of 25:48 to claim his first Delmar Dash title.  
Robert Goo/Spotlight

## BC grads lead 'Cuse past UAlbany

By ROB JONAS  
[jonasr@spotlightnews.com](mailto:jonasr@spotlightnews.com)

With the Bethlehem varsity girls lacrosse team looking on, two Lady Eagle alumni put on a

show at the University at Albany Wednesday.

Katie Rowan had four goals and four assists, and Halley Quillinan added five goals to help the Syracuse University women's lacrosse team fend off a stubborn UAlbany squad 21-11.

"It's fun to come home and play here," said Quillinan, who is one of Syracuse's leading goal scorers. "We never played here in college before."

Rowan and Quillinan saw some familiar faces on the opposite side of the field. Three Bethlehem graduates - Tee Ladouceur, Tricia Primomo and Mackenzie Riegel - played significant roles for UAlbany. Ladouceur finished with a hat trick, while Primomo and Riegel aided the defensive effort.

"It's fun because they're great players," said Primomo. "It was a lot like high school, but they picked up a few new things since then."

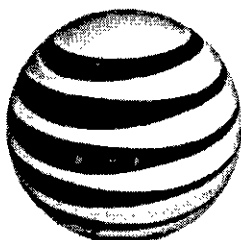
Bethlehem girls lacrosse coach Dawn Austin brought several members of her varsity team to UAlbany following practice so they could watch the game.

"I think it's really fun to watch six Bethlehem alumni play at once at the Division I level," said Austin. "It's exciting to see any alumni excel at the collegiate level, no matter who they play for."

Rowan and Quillinan got things going early for the visiting Orange (9-2). Rowan scored 15 seconds into the game, and Quillinan

□ Grads Page 42

The new



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