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Holiday Gift Guide - Remembering Mathusa

Ideas for early shopping
 See Page 17-20

Community pays respect to one of its own
 See Page 5

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Area News



Career choices

Jessica Loy's only limitation in creating her new book "When I Grow Up: A Young Person's Guide to Interesting & Unusual Occupations," was the number of pages she had to work with.
 See story on Page 3.



A 'Carol' with strings attached

Mark Carrigan and his wife have put on puppet shows about elephants, about bullying, about dragons and princesses.

It's simple: If there is a play or story out there that the two of them like, they turn it into a puppet show.
 See story on Page 25.



Fresh faces

On the surface, the Bethlehem boys basketball team looks like it is in for a long season. But, head coach A.G. Irons is convinced his team can compete.
 See story on Page 36.

THE SPOTLIGHT
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Recent State University of New York at Oswego graduate Elizabeth Rocco of Saratoga unpacks her bags for Thanksgiving break during her freshman year.
 Submitted photo

Staying the course

New freshmen can sometimes question their college decisions this time of year

Many college freshmen will be packing their bags this week to return home for the holidays.

Those students can feel a lot of pressure when they return home to impress their parents and friends with how well they have adjusted, all the new people they have met and how they can't wait to go back. But what do you do when your child is unsure about returning?

It's common for college freshman to feel so out of sorts in the first part of the year that they begin to feel uncertainty in their decision. According to a 2007 study conducted by University Counseling Centers across America, the freshman dropout rate during the second semester

has increased by about 26 percent.

Parent advisor for college-bound students and founder of The Right Fit, Lisa Jordan of Rotterdam said one of the main indicators of how well a freshman is adjusting is the mood and content of the phone calls and e-mails home. Jordan said some students are really good about contacting their parents, especially when they need advice, money or help.

"Students will often, but not always, send home great news, too, such as goals scored, an A on that bio exam, the cute date last Friday. Occasionally parents will sense they are not getting

By JENNIFER FARNSWORTH
 Spotlight Newspapers
 news@spotlightnews.com

□ Course Page 21

District warns of state aid cuts

Superintendent says school is not out of the woods yet

By JARRETT CARROLL
 Spotlight Newspapers
 carrollj@spotlightnews.com

Although Gov. David Paterson's proposed mid-term state aid cuts to education appear to be dead, Bethlehem Central School District's Superintendent, Mi-

chael Tebanno warned that the district must brace for the worst.

"We dodged that bullet this week, but I don't know what will happen next week," Tebanno said during the Wednesday, Nov. 19, board of education meeting. "I'm not totally convinced that we dodged the bullet. ... I'm not totally convinced this whole thing is going to blow over."

Paterson's proposed mid-term cuts were never brought to the

floor for a vote during a special session at the capitol in Albany on Tuesday, Nov. 18.

Partisan bickering halted any movement on the proposal after an hourlong "leaders meeting." The governor, however, is expected to cut state aid for health care and for education in his new budget proposal.

Tebanno said that after see-

□ Cuts Page 21

Stores gear up for the holidays

With slow economy, hopes pinned on busy season

By JARRETT CARROLL
 Spotlight Newspapers
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As the DOW drops along with consumer confidence and spending, local retail stores are pinning their hopes on a good holiday season — or, at the very least, not a terrible one.

Local stores are beginning to offer sales, and hoping that customers will begin to look locally, as customers' willingness to spend dwindles with each new economic report.

Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce President Marty DeLaney said local chambers offer support to their members year round, but particularly during the holidays.

"Like all the local chambers of commerce, we continue to offer support to our members — talking to them, making suggestions, steering them towards a variety of advertising opportunities, doing weekly 'e-bursts,' keeping them in touch with each other through leads groups, all the things we usually do — only more of it," DeLaney said.

Chambers offer other kinds of support, too, she said.

"Sometimes moral support and working together is the biggest help," said DeLaney. "We sponsored a talk last month by a financial expert about the economy and its future, we promote mixers where businesses bounce ideas off each other, we brainstorm everyday in person and on the phone with our members to come up with new suggestions to help, and most importantly, we listen to local business people."

The Consumer Reports National Research Center has reported that most consumers have yet to begin their shopping this season, which translates to high hopes for the official kickoff of holiday shopping the day after

□ Busy Page 22



Police Blotter

Second sighting leads to DWI arrest

Police arrested a Selkirk man for DWI after seeing him in his car outside of a store and then later driving down the road a short time later.

David A. Gilmore, 45, of Selkirk was arrested on Nov. 9 on Elm Avenue in Delmar for DWI; operating a motor vehicle with a BAC of .08 percent or greater; failure to keep right; and failure to use a signal to turn.

Bethlehem Police said while on patrol an officer saw Gilmore inside of a vehicle parked outside of a convenient store on Delaware Avenue. After discovering the vehicle was registered to Gilmore and a check on his name came back negative for outstanding warrants or violation, officers spoke with him and discovered

that he was waiting for his daughter to "take him home," according to the arrest report.

Police said the officer resumed his patrol only to discover Gilmore's vehicle traveling south on Elm Avenue approximately 20 minutes later. Police observed Gilmore fail to keep right and after he failed to use his turn signal the officer activated his emergency lights and made a motor vehicle stop, the report states.

Officers asked Gilmore for his driver's license, insurance and registration but he displayed "poor motor skills" while complying by "dropping the requested items in his lap," according to the report.

Police said they could smell alcohol on Gilmore's breath while interviewing and observed

him display signs of intoxication, and, when asked where he was going, Gilmore told police he was on Feura Bush Road and that he was going to his daughter's house.

When asked if he had been drinking, Gilmore responded, "Yes, beer," the report states, and when asked further he said he was at a bar "but didn't know how many beers he had consumed."

He was asked to exit the vehicle and "at that time a passing motorist pulled in front of Gilmore's vehicle," and officers went to the car to advise to the driver and discovered that it was Gilmore's daughter who said she "was enroute to pick up her father, David," from a store in Delmar, according to police.

Gilmore's daughter left the

scene and after failing a field-sobriety test and testing positive for alcohol, the report states, he was taken into custody and transported to the Bethlehem Police Department when he consented to a chemical test that revealed his BAC was twice the legal limit of .08 percent.

Police said his vehicle was towed and he was released to the custody of his daughter after being issued appearance tickets and scheduled to appear in Bethlehem Town Court on Dec. 2.

Other arrests

• Donald G. Teidman, 45, Glenmont was arrested at his Beacon Road home on Oct. 30 for first-degree unlawfully dealing with a child.

Bethlehem Police said upon investigation, "it was discovered that Teidman had provided alcoholic beverages" to two male minors. Officers on the scene located an empty bottle of vodka, which was secured as evidence, after Teidman consented to a search of his residence, according to the arrest report.

Police took a statement from Teidman after the incident and then placed him into custody before booking and processing him, the report states, and he was released on appearance tickets for Bethlehem Town Court.

Correction

In the article "Bethlehem sets up Web site..." in the Nov. 19 issue of *The Spotlight*, the BC@Home Web site was developed by Peter Kowalski of Bethlehem's Technology Department, not Peter Teal as reported. The program's creator was misidentified on Bethlehem Central School District's Web site.

The Spotlight regrets the error.

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Festival Fund holiday appeal begins

The trustees of the Bethlehem Festival Fund, a nonprofit group that serves Bethlehem residents in need of a helping hand, hope to raise at least \$32,000 to assist the record number of families and individuals struggling to make ends meet. The Festival Fund has already helped approximately 200 individuals this year and plans to distribute at least 100 holiday food baskets to local families.

The Festival Fund, formerly known as the White Christmas Festival, is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that has served Bethlehem residents since 1942. All donated money goes to help local individuals and families with temporary needs that are not met by traditional assistance programs.

"We help students, senior citizens, families and individuals with health concerns and economic difficulties attributable to job loss, house fires, divorce, illness or other life changes," said Treasurer Paul Gutman, who added that he felt so good when a woman approached him at a recent fundraiser to say that if it weren't for the Festival Fund, she couldn't have celebrated Christmas with her family two years ago.

The Festival Fund works in conjunction with school personnel and the Bethlehem Senior Services Department in identifying individuals and families who need temporary assistance. Requests are handled confidentially and are considered on a case-by-case basis. The Festival Fund assists with a wide range of needs such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, medications, utility bills and tutoring services and also provides assistance to the local food pantry at Bethlehem Town Hall.

For the past two years, the Festival Fund has collaborated with the Rotary Club of Delmar to provide school supplies to Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk students, many whom are Town of Bethlehem students. The Festival Fund also provided \$1,500 college scholarships to three graduating Bethlehem High School seniors who exemplified a commitment to community service.

Donations are tax-deductible and can be mailed to: Bethlehem Festival Fund, P.O. Box 341, Delmar 12054. State workers can contribute to the Bethlehem Festival Fund through the United Way's SEFA Campaign by writing in the code 50-303 when they make a contribution through Dec. 31. For additional information about the Festival Fund, contact Greg Jackson at 462-6731 or BethFestFund@aol.com.

Career designs

Delmar woman uses graphic arts background to create a young person's guide to unusual jobs

By JARRETT CARROLL
Spotlight Newspapers
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"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

It's a question just about every parent and child is familiar with, and it's also a question with an answer limited only by the imagination and passion of those who answer it.

Jessica Loy's only limitation in creating her new book "When I Grow Up: A Young Person's Guide to Interesting & Unusual Occupations," was the number of pages she had to work with.

"There are so many interesting jobs out there that we don't know much about, and I only had so many pages to work with," she said, referring to the 48-page guide.

In the end, she chose to include 14 careers, ranging from entomologist and Alpaca farmers to guitar makers and robotics engineers.

"My editor and I sat down and made a long laundry list of careers, and then we got it down to 25," said Loy. "After that I called around to family



Jessica Loy

and friends and others to see if I could find these people. Then it kind of became fate after that and whittled itself down from there."

Loy, who lives in Delmar with her husband and two daughters — one a recent Bethlehem Central High School graduate and another currently attending high school, said she was inspired by her own kids to create books for young people.

"I'm a graphic designer and have always enjoyed doing publication, and when

I had children, it was just a natural progression," said Loy. "Children's books were inspiration to my children, and I thought, 'I can do this.'"

As an accomplished graphic designer, painter and associate professor at the Center for Art and Design at The College of Saint Rose, Loy said her books are as visually pleasing as they are interesting and educational.

She said the goal of "When I Grow Up" is to show young people that their own passions and hobbies in life can lead to a successful career.

"I was looking at careers for the book that give in to passion," Loy said. "I think when we get older, we forget some of those things and sometimes go for [jobs] that make more sense financially."

Loy said she sought to feature people who followed their dreams and still created successful and financially secure careers.

"I tried to find people that really followed a passion that led them to their careers," she said.

The colorful pages of "When I Grow Up" describe each

career in text and pictures.

When asked why some careers, such as journalist, didn't turn up in her book, Loy said she tried to think of jobs that were visually appealing.

"I have to admit, I was a little biased in looking for careers that stood out graphically," she said.

She said she has been getting good feedback on her work, including a review from The School Library Journal, which called it, "a wonderful informative book. ... There is a wealth of material packed into these attractive pages. ... An enjoyable read as well as a learning experience."

The book costs \$16.95 and is published by Henry Holt and Company, Books for Young Readers. It can be found at area bookstores, including I Love Books in Delmar, Borders and Barnes and Nobles, or online at www.amazon.com.

Loy's work can also be found at libraries and the Five Rivers Environmental Center in New Scotland. Loy's first book, published in 2003, was called "Follow the Trail: A Young Person's Guide to the Great Outdoors."

Election brings shift in political landscape

Democrats take the senate; new power structure rests with Downstate legislators

By JARRETT CARROLL
Spotlight Newspapers
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After a historic November Election Day, the White House wasn't the only house in the nation to experience a political shake up.



Breslin

Here in New York, the state Senate netted a Democratic majority for the first time since 1964 and a first Democratic trio of governor, Assembly and Senate since the Great Depression.

"It hasn't happened since a blip in 1965 and in the 1930s, so there's not much precedence set," said state Sen. Neil Breslin, a Democrat representing Albany County. "I've been studying the session in '65 and the legislature in the '30s in order to prepare myself a little bit."

Breslin, who first won his Senate seat in 1997, will be a part of the new Democratic majority after a 10-year career in the minority. The current senate minority leader is

Malcolm Smith, a Queens Democrat who took over the post after current Gov. David Paterson left the Senate.

Paterson left to run as lieutenant governor with former Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who in turn resigned amid a prostitution scandal.

There have been rumors that some Democrats from New York City would not support Smith or their own party for majority of the senate.

City Councilman Hiram Monserrate, a Democrat from Smith's Queens district, is a senator-elect after winning his seat on Nov. 4 and was rumored to be considering voting against Smith's bid for majority leader in the Senate. Monserrate has since confirmed he will support Smith.

However, that leaves three other Democrats, state Senators Carl Kruger and Ruben Diaz Sr., and Senator-elect Pedro Espada who may not side with their fellow party members. The three issued a statement indicating they might seek to keep the GOP in power.

Breslin called them "the three amigos," but said he is confident Democrats will ultimately control the senate.

"The three amigos will come to their senses and realize that they're Democrats," he said.

If that happens, it means a big change in Albany and beyond:

Kyle Kotary, who runs a public relations firm called Empire Public Affairs, is familiar with the politics of the state legislature, having worked with the previous minority in the Senate, as well as through his own political career. Kotary is a Democrat and a Bethlehem town councilman.

"For Democrats in New York, there is no longer an equal adversary, there are no more partisan excuses," Kotary said. "The buck really does stop with the Democrats."

Democrats will control New York's government for the first time since the Great Depression and Kotary said there will be pressure on his party to get things done. He warned against the pitfalls of a one-party rule, but said he thinks Democrats will ultimately work together and fix New York's problems.

"The challenge is going to be to see if what was once external inter-party fights won't become internal intra-party fighting," he said. "If they succumb to the temptation of one-party rule ... that's a recipe for disaster."

Borrowing from the victory speech of President-elect Barack Obama, Kotary said Democrats will be representing everyone in the state, even those who voted against them and are now responsible for representing "both sides of the aisle."

The new majority will translate into an estimated 200 to 500 jobs at the capitol changing hands and will propel some tenured senators, such as Breslin, into more powerful positions.

With the power of the state government resting in the hands of Downstate representatives, such as Paterson from Harlem, Smith from Queens, and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver from Manhattan, Kotary said Upstate residents will be watching the new majority.

"One of the things Upstaters will be looking at is which Upstate senators will be put in the big committees," said Kotary.

Breslin said he is confident Smith will include Upstate representatives.

"I've been very impressed with Sen. Smith's commitment to not putting one part of the state above another," Breslin said. "The Upstate economy really needs help, and Sen. Smith is aware of that."

Breslin is a ranking member on the insurance committee, which he said could translate into a chairmanship in January. He is also a member on other committees such as finance, agriculture and labor.

Being in the majority can only help his district, he said.

"It can only enhance what I can do within my district as a Democrat in the new majority," Breslin said. "I will have access to greater funding, which will only help my district."

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Chart a new course this Thanksgiving

Count your blessings but forget the baking

By **BILL GIERING**
Spotlight Newspapers
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Ask the Travel Guy is a light-hearted look at your travel questions. Send questions to: askthetravelguy@spotlightnews.com.

Dear Travel Guy: Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays - full of loved ones, rich foods and a deep appreciation for all the gifts our family has been blessed with. But this year I feel like it's time for me to throw in the apron. Maybe I'm finally at an age when I just don't feel like doing all the work to make Thanksgiving happen in my house. I need a change this Turkey Day. My heart isn't in it.

My two grown sons will be visiting with their young families. The boys and their dad are fun but aren't really very helpful in the kitchen. And my sedentary sons spend most of the day talking about beer and baseball and watching football. After we eat, the three of them loosen their belts and fight off snoring while their wives control the kids and I clean up. I love that they come to our home, I love being together with my family ... but I just need a break from the grind this year. I don't want to sound like the mean



old Grinch ... any ideas?
- Fed Up with Thanksgiving

Dear Fed Up: So many of our holidays have grown in directions that have nothing to do with the original intentions. Thanks for sharing your feelings about this holiday. Last year at my home we went around our Thanksgiving table and shared something that we were individually thankful for. When it got to be a dear friend's turn to share what she was grateful for, she said: "I'm grateful I didn't have to make Thanksgiving dinner at my house this year." We all laughed but understood.

Sometimes when we have the strength to make real changes, we later recognize them as opportunities to end mindless busy work and rethink our actions, to make changes that can help us fulfill a greater purpose. What is more important ... mashing potatoes or sitting, talking and laughing with your grandson?

Let's take a look at some non-traditional ways that people spend time with their families around the Capital District area

on Thanksgiving and see if they might work for you as a break from the routine. Let's try to add some old-fashioned heart, body and soul to your Turkey Day.

Good for your heart

Use this Thanksgiving as an opportunity to take stock in what really matters to your family. Don't downsize the bigger meaning. Make it a day your family will remember. Why not volunteer everyone to help those less fortunate by sharing some time with the Annual Equinox Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner?

This will be the 39th annual event for the largest and longest-running holiday tradition in the Capital District. The event wouldn't happen without the 3,000 volunteers who participate, serving nearly 8,000 homeless, homebound and lonely neighbors.

Have your family sign up to help with the cooking, serving, delivering or the cleanup. It might change your family's attitude about the holidays. Everyone I have talked to who has made the Equinox tradition a part of their holidays say that it is the highlight of the season, and they do it every year they can. To volunteer to prepare or deliver meals, donate food or money on Thanksgiving, call the Equinox Thanksgiving Dinner hot line at 434-0131 or www.equinox.org/thanksgiving.

Good for your body

If you ever want to experience a guilt-free pig-out on Thanksgiving, here is a great way to begin. Get your family up early, then bundle them up and bring them to Troy for the 61st annual Troy Turkey Trot, the oldest foot race in the area. Join 5,000 other people who are out to have a little exercise and a few laughs before they start to binge on turkey all day.

There are events for every category and age, so whether you are walking, jogging or a combination of both, you will have a blast. Just going over to cheer on the joggers and welcome the season is a happy and different way to start the day. There is a new route for the 5K (3.1 mile) race this year, which should help accommodate the ever-growing number of runners in this popular race.

A little fresh air and some exercise is the perfect way to start Thanksgiving. And after that, you really do feel that you can eat your heart out the rest of the day guilt-free. For information visit the web site www.troyny.gov/turkeytrot or call the Gobbler Line at 235-8993.

Good for your soul

What if I promised you a picture-perfect Thanksgiving designed just for your family. It's only a little more than an hour's drive to Cooperstown, where your husband and sons could be surrounded by the history and future of world-class sports and rich Belgian beers at their fingertips.

Wander through The Farmers' Museum watching real life enactments of the way life used to be in the 1800's. Spend time at the Fenimore Art Museum or stroll through Cooperstown, the perfect American village. The men in your life and kids of all ages will love the National Baseball Hall of Fame, full of the rich history of baseball and the heroes we all have loved.

Along the way enjoy a bounteous Thanksgiving feast at the historic Otesaga Resort Hotel, which has spectacular views of Lake Otsego. For information, go

to www.otesaga.com.

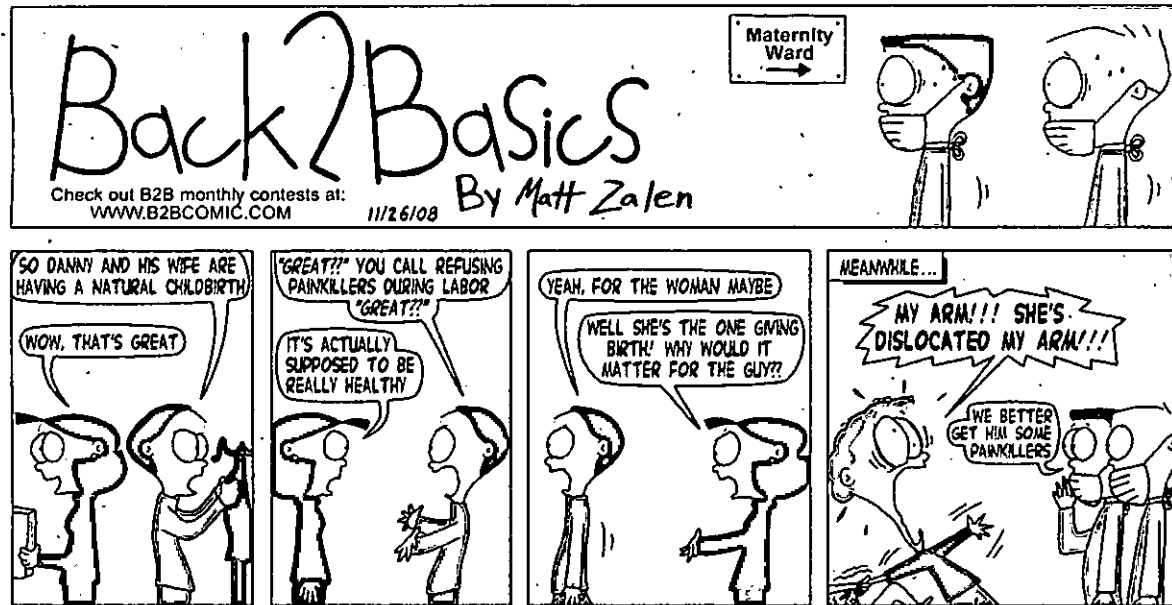
The Otesaga is truly one of the grand hotels of New York state, with a fun golf course run by Cooperstown cheerleader and PGA pro Dan Spooner. I strongly suggest you take a break this year and try Thanksgiving at the Otesaga where families can spend a special and traditional Thanksgiving away from home. Every day you have breakfast and holiday dinners, cocktail receptions, family hayrides, wine tastings, bingo and interesting village tours around the town.

The specially priced holiday is available Nov. 26th - 30th. Looking forward, next year the Otesaga will be celebrating 100 years of successful operations and manager John Irvin is preparing at least 100 surprises for you. Go to www.cooperstown.com for more information.

A very short distance from the Otesaga Hotel is the Brewery Ommegang where brew master Phil Leinhart, uses Belgian brewing techniques to create a colorful flavor palate, from light fresh beers to heavy dark brews. Take your guys to an afternoon tasting tour and let their mouths water from these delicious hand-crafted Belgian ales and beers, some served with rich Belgian chocolate.

The second weekend in December is a great time to visit Ommegang for the family Christmas party with fun foods, gifts and wonderful dark and golden taste of holiday beers. See www.ommegang.com for information.

Sometimes it's important to relearn how to enjoy the holidays. We in the Capital District sometimes forget the notion that travel is an American birthright. I want to encourage you to take a holiday vacation and break away from the stresses of everyday life. There are so many mental and physical health benefits of planning and taking a holiday vacation with family, friends or a significant other. This year, relax with your family, teach them something new, and have a Happy Thanksgiving.



WEEKLY WEATHER

Chief Meteorologist Mike Bono



TIME WARNER CABLE

Albany Almanac

Record high/low/year		
AVERAGE HIGH 42°	AVERAGE LOW 26°	
Day	High/Year	Low/Year
Wednesday, November 26	67°/1979	-11°/1938
Thursday, November 27	66°/1896	8°/1957
Friday, November 28	68°/1990	6°/1951
Saturday, November 29	66°/2005	3°/1875
Sunday, November 30	67°/1933	-10°/1875
Monday, December 1	67°/1934	-5°/1875
Tuesday, December 2	66°/1998	-2°/1875

ANNUAL PRECIPITATION
41.74 inches as of Friday, November 21st
6.87 inches above average

This week in weather

November 24-25, 1950 Perhaps the most intense November storm on record hit the Eastern U.S. with blizzard conditions and cold from the Northeast to Georgia. An all-time record wind gust of 83 mph was recorded at Albany with sustained winds of 50 to 60 mph.

Sun. & Moon		
Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Wednesday	7:00am	4:24pm
Thursday	7:02am	4:24pm
Friday	7:03am	4:23pm
Saturday	7:04am	4:23pm
Sunday	7:05am	4:23pm
Monday	7:06am	4:22pm
Tuesday	7:07am	4:22pm

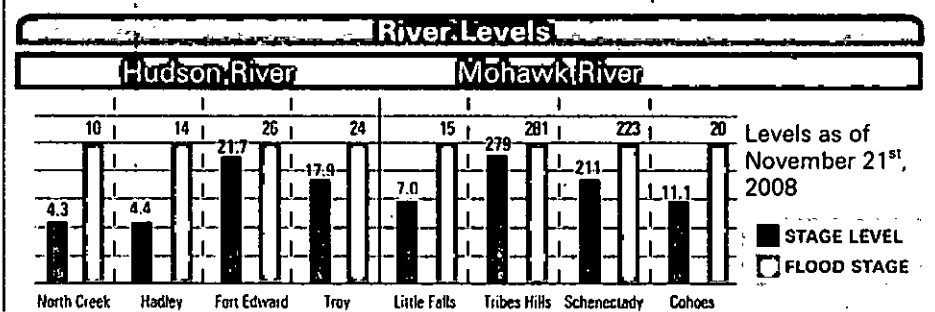
Moon Phases
Nov. 27th New
Dec. 5th First

Planets	When	Where
Jupiter	Dusk	Low SW
Venus	Dusk	Brighter SW
Saturn	Dawn	High SE

Rivers & Recreation

Tides at Albany		
Day	High	Low
Wednesday	3:41am, 4:06pm	10:04am, 10:44pm
Thursday	4:26am, 4:47pm	10:48am, 11:29pm
Friday	5:07am, 5:27pm	11:31am, -----
Saturday	5:46am, 6:05pm	12:13am, 12:14pm
Sunday	6:24am, 6:43pm	12:56am, 12:56pm
Monday	7:02am, 7:21pm	1:39am, 1:39pm
Tuesday	7:42am, 8:01pm	2:22am, 2:24pm

Factoid
At Barrow, Alaska, when the sun sets on November 18th, it doesn't rise again until January 23rd. Most of this period there's just some twilight around the middle of the day.



Community pays respect to one of its own

Parker Mathusa's death brings town together and elicits fond memories

By JARRETT CARROLL
Spotlight Newspapers
carrollj@spotlightnews.com

A testament to the loss brought on by Parker Mathusa's death was in plain view on Wednesday, Nov. 18, alongside Kenwood Avenue, as dozens of residents waited outside a funeral home in freezing temperatures to pay their last respects to a man they admired.

At the age of 70, Mathusa lost his battle with ALS, — also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease — around noon on Sunday, Nov. 16, at his Delmar home, surrounded by the family he loved.

Born on April 5, 1938, in Cedar Hill, Mathusa has become an indelible part of Bethlehem's history after a lifetime of

dedication, service, and honoring the very history he has become a part of.

There is no shortage of talk about the life and legacy that Mathusa leaves behind. After a lifetime of amazing accomplishments, including assisting in the building of the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, *The USS Enterprise*, Mathusa will not be forgotten.

Bethlehem Supervisor Jack Cunningham called Mathusa a trusted friend and mentor.

"I had the privilege of talking with Parker last weekend at his home," Cunningham said after Mathusa's death. "We had a great talk for about an hour and he was in high spirits."

He said the town also feels the loss of Mathusa.

"He's an institution here at Town Hall," Cunningham said. "He's really going to be truly missed."

Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce President Marty DeLaney said Mathusa was known for helping people help themselves.

"Parker had a subtle but very effective way of motivating people without being a nudge," DeLaney said. "The way he got things done was to plant the seeds of an idea and let people think they came up with it themselves."

Bethlehem Councilman Kyle Kotary said Mathusa was always "at your service."

"He was just a great, great guy and an incredible public servant," Kotary said. "I can't even tell you how many times he reached out to me personally. One of the things he always used to say is 'I'm at your service' and he really meant it."

Fellow planning board members Howard Engel and Katherine McCarthy said they would miss their colleague and friend.

"He was a great family man and an incredible person," Engel said. "I've known him for a long time and his list of accomplishments and dedication is endless."

McCarthy said Mathusa's legacy is fitting.

"What a great guy, who just devoted himself to town and family ... and was the warmest, friendliest person around," McCarthy said. "The best part is that his legacy lives forever."

The Mathusa family said he will be missed, but never forgotten.

"Parker Mathusa was a loving and generous man," his family wrote in tribute. "He will be

greatly missed by the many people whose lives he has touched."

During a park bench dedication in honor of Mathusa at Town Hall in October, his granddaughter Brittney Tangora said her "pops" taught her the most important lessons of life.

"Pop, you've been everything to me. I wish I could stay in your arms forever and hear your heart beat against my ear," Tangora said. "You have proven to me that even smallest things in the life matter the most."

The Parker Mathusa bench can appropriately be found near the Hudson River in the Henry Hudson Park in Selkirk.

IN BRIEF

Friendship Singers to put on concert

The Friendship Singers will hold their annual holiday concert Monday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m., at the Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., near the Four Corners in Delmar.

The concert is free and open to the public. It will feature many upbeat numbers, including

"Christmas Gift Rap" and "Swinging at Santa's Place."

The Friendship Singers will also perform the holiday program in early December at area club sites and senior residences.

The 20-women performance group is led by Director Marie Liddle, accompanist Linda Drew and choreographer Muriel Welch. The group is accompanied by drummer Bill Reusswig.

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Matters of Opinion *in the* Spotlight

Come to the table

A lot can change in a few hundred years.

In 1621, William Bradford became the freshly elected governor of Plymouth after Gov. John Carver — having survived a winter so bitter that it killed nearly half of the colony — died of sunstroke in the month of April. By most accounts, Bradford was a firm but careful man, and there are few complaints in recorded history about his leadership.

That year, Bradford brought the Colonists and Wampanoag Indians together to share a feast in order to celebrate the fall harvest, a feast that is widely acknowledged as the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the Colonies.

In 2008, 387 years after Bradford became a sort of accidental governor, David Paterson found himself appointed to the governorship of New York, after Eliot Spitzer — having survived an inaugural year of bickering, infighting and roadblocks to his own promise of reform — died politically from his own brand of overexposure: a sex scandal.

Paterson, having assumed the governorship in spring, like Bradford, came out of the gate as also being a firm but careful man, and at the time of his inauguration, there were few complaints about what his leadership would bring.

Unfortunately for Gov. Paterson, we are not viewing New York's current economic crisis through the prism of 387 years of history. In the here and now, the crisis is catastrophic; and the governor and the Legislature's "attempt" at addressing it in the special session on Nov. 18 was embarrassing.

What occurred during that special session was the anti-Thanksgiving. Our state leaders, Democrat and Republican, sat in discord with a fervent resolution to agree on only one thing: Our state deficit is looming and will grow ten-fold if not acted upon. Beyond that, no one could even bring themselves to offer a solution, let alone concede a point. What's worse is that most of those leaders sat in that session full with the spoils of the November electoral harvest still warm in their fat bellies.

And what do we, the founders of this feast, get in return? Nothing. Nothing but the prospect of higher taxes, decreased services, and our legislators handing over the state's finances to some legal arbitrator so they can wash their hands of the tough decisions we elected them to make — unless Gov. Paterson and other key officials can show some leadership.

Gather your Colonists and Indians to the table and strike an accord that can instill some promise in the economic future of New York.

Editorial

Reporter survives political panic attack

By JACKIE SHER
Spotlight Newspapers
sherj@spotlightnews.com

The writer is a Spotlight Newspapers editorial department staff member.

One of the most stressful nights I've had recently — perhaps since I turned in my college senior thesis — was this year's election night. Of course it was stressful wondering who was going to win, but that wasn't my main source of anxiety that night. I was on the verge of nervous breakdown (at least I think that is what it must feel like) because I was out all night, in the field, standing with other news reporters and camera operators and campaign people and politicians, gathering information to produce a story to go in the newspaper the next day.

Usually when I am working on a tight deadline, I make a regimented plan to get things done, and while it usually doesn't work exactly as planned, at least it helps a bit. Since this was the first election I had covered, I was out there scrambling for information and quotes without a clue.

I'm sure the people covering the national election were under more pressure than I was, and also spending a lot of money — I read that some reporters covering Obama's side of the election had to pay about \$1,000 to stand in downtown Chicago to cover the election. For my part, I was running around Schenectady County, trying to figure out how to push my way into speaking with certain candidates and trying to figure out how to ask tactful questions to them and their supporters, even if it was obvious they weren't going to win. Thankfully, I was able to get in contact with everyone with relative ease, but I did spend a significant amount of time standing around waiting, feeling a little uncomfortable and a little

Point of View

exhausted.

As a new reporter I had a little bit of a tough time trying to figure out which questions to ask and who to ask them to. In fact, I've never before felt so unsure about what I was doing.

Several weeks ago, I found myself out in Ohio campaigning for a presidential candidate. A new interest in politics had recently developed and I had an itch to do something meaningful for a



Spotlight reporter Jackie Sher works her beat on Election night, Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Spotlight

little while. I was "between jobs," or, if you want to get technical, unemployed.

I figured that I would never have an opportunity to drop everything on a whim and run to Ohio again, so I left the Capital District and spent some time in the great Midwest. While I was there, I decided to write an article about my experience. Little did I know when I e-mailed my story to my editor that three days later I would be writing for the newspaper full time, and that I would be jumping into the thick of it all at the tail end of election season.

While I thought I had a decent grasp on local politics before, when I found out that I would be interviewing the candidates whom I had only read about in newspapers casually, I felt that my knowledge was inadequate. My first weeks on the job became a constant scramble to read up and learn as much as I could about the people who were running for various offices. I found myself interviewing George Amedore, Mark Blanchfield, Jim Buhrmaster and Paul Tonko, the politicians in my coverage area of Schenectady County.

When Election Day approached, my co-workers kept referring to the day as the reporter's Super Bowl. Having never watched the Super Bowl, but understanding that it's pretty big day for football

enthusiasts, I couldn't quite figure out how such a monumental event, such as a presidential election, and football, which has its place but won't determine our country's future, could be related. Nevertheless, whether you're a football enthusiast or a newspaper reporter, both provoke similar emotions and even physical responses. The big game, like the big election, can be suspenseful, anxiety-provoking and exciting. You can get an adrenaline rush by paying close attention to either; you can cry; you can be driven to pull out your own hair. Also, both require substantial amounts of time

spent standing (for reporters), or sitting (for football fans) in front of a television and checking the Internet obsessively for updates.

I imagine, though, that Super Bowl day is a little more relaxing — you generally don't have to stay up all night reporting on the outcome for the next morning's paper (unless you're a sports writer, I suppose). The excitement, tension and sense of joy and camaraderie (or commiserating and sadness, depending on whom you were hoping would win) I saw from the various election night parties, though, must be similar to what sports enthusiasts feel as they watch their favorite players run around with a football.

I'm grateful that in my election coverage experience, I didn't have to pay for access to candidates and their campaign officials — I got to talk to whomever I wanted (albeit sometimes I had to wait a while) for free. I'm also grateful I was able to wait for results inside a heated building, with my BlackBerry providing all the phone and Internet I needed. And I'm glad that I didn't have to deal with throngs of people, traffic jams and security.

For the next election, I'm not sure how I'll do things differently — maybe I won't drink as much coffee. Maybe I'll know which questions to ask. Maybe I will have calmed down by then. We can only hope.

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Your Opinion *in the* Spotlight

Music Association is full of top performers

Editor, *The Spotlight*:

The Bethlehem Music Association (BMA) would like to congratulate the following students for their acceptance into the New York State School Music Association Winter Conference All-State Festival:

Jenny Gorman, soprano, mixed chorus; Dana Niu, cello, string orchestra; Stephen Smith, oboe, symphonic band; Joseph Tanenbaum, horn, symphonic

band; Ross Triner, bassoon, symphony orchestra; and Paul Viglucci, trumpet, symphonic band.

The All-State selection process begins with the solo being evaluated by a NYSSMA Certified All-State adjudicator. Every student who earns a score of 98 to 100 on a level 6 performance may apply. This year, over 2,400 students received scores of 98 or higher and were recommended for All-State

consideration.

Only 900 are selected from this group of very talented musicians. It is a credit to our strong Bethlehem school music program that we have such strong representation in this group of some of the top student musicians in New York state.

The students will perform in the Eastman Theatre, Rochester, on the weekend of Dec. 6.

Karen Latter
president, BMA

Mix it Up a worthy program

Editor, *The Spotlight*:

I read your great editorial about Mix It Up at Lunch (*Mix it up*, Nov. 19) and want to share with you our experience.

The third-, fourth- and fifth-graders of Elsmere Elementary participated in National Mix It Up at Lunch Day for the third time this year. On this special day, students were randomly assigned numbers as they entered the cafeteria. They then sat at the corresponding tables on which were lists of conversation starter questions that had been previously created by students. Lists included questions such as "Do you have any siblings?" and "What TV shows do you like?"

Groups of children reached outside their usual groups of peers in getting to know — or know better — their classmates. They discovered commonalities they may not have known about and learned new things that may help them appreciate their differences.

A straw poll indicated that students enjoyed the experience and left many asking, "When can we do this again?"

Thank you for helping to promote this easy, fun and meaningful event.

Kate Kloss
principal

Elsmere Elementary School

Help children grow into a global community

Editor, *The Spotlight*:

I was heartened to read the Nov. 19 editorial, "Mix it up," endorsing a program that effectively teaches elementary school children to embrace diversity rather than be wary of it.

The program is sponsored by the nationally recognized civil rights organization, Southern Poverty Law Center. Among its many programs, which include the tracking of hate groups and litigating their leaders, SPLC administers Teaching Tolerance, the sponsor of Mix It Up at Lunch Day, the program you highlighted.

Our society and nation have entered a period where the historic and often painful strides in achieving the lofty ideals of our founders are to be tested at the highest level of governance with the election of a person of color to

the presidency.

SPLC already has been logging the increase in hate-based incidents across the nation. To stem such destructive behavior for the future, efforts to teach tolerance to our youngsters are critical before prejudiced attitudes harden and the adoption of hate is shared with others and, thus, strengthened.

I encourage the Bethlehem

Central School District and parents to visit www.splcenter.org and www.tolerance.org/teach, to learn more about how to help our children grow into a global community as part of a remarkable civilization striving since its birth for "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" for all.

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Arthritis Foundation to hold 'Rose Day'

The Arthritis Foundation, Northeastern New York Chapter, will hold its 20th annual "Rose Day" on Friday, Dec. 19.

People throughout the Capital District may purchase medium-stemmed roses at \$20 per dozen. The proceeds will go to continued arthritis research and patient service programs.

Management of many local businesses can participate by designating a "Rose Rep" within the company to sell roses to their

employees until early December. Then on Rose Day, the roses are delivered in decorative bouquets to the companies by volunteers.

Call the chapter office at 456-1203 to request a Rose Day kit.

Individuals may also purchase roses by calling the chapter office. There are several locations throughout the Capital District designated as sites for individual pickup on Rose Day. The deadline for orders is Friday, Dec. 5.

Business, uncorked



Wine Reserve Fine Wine and Spirits owner Robert McDonald conducts a wine tasting at the celebration of his new store opening in the Glenmont Plaza. He opened the store recently with his wife, Nicole.

Submitted photo

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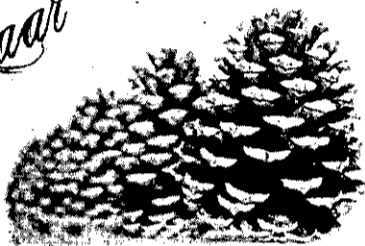
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IN BRIEF

Historical group plans holiday tea

The Bethlehem Historical Association will hold its annual Holiday Silver Tea on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Victorian tea will be held at the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse, which will be decorated with Victorian dolls, elves, fairies and trolls.

The schoolhouse is on River Road at the corner of

Clapper Road in Selkirk. For information, call the association at 767-9432.

RCS to offer GED program

RCS will offer a free GED program this spring for area residents who are 19 years old and who no longer attend school.

An information session and

orientation will be held Feb. 24 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the high school library distance learning room.

Classes will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. in the high school. Enrollment is continuous; students can begin the class at any time.

For information, call 756-5200 ext. 2038.

Fire department to hold barbecue

The North Bethlehem Fire Department will hold a Brooks Barbecue Tuesday, Dec. 2, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Take-out dinners are \$9.

The department is at 589 Russell Road in Albany.

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Chip maker in line for big tax breaks

By CHARLES WIFF
Spotlight Newspapers
wiffc@spotlightnews.com

Editor's note: This is the third installment of The Spotlight's series on AMD coming to the town of Malta.

AMD Fab Technologies Inc., the subsidiary of Advanced Micro Devices that will be building a microchip manufacturing facility in Malta, recently applied for \$27.8 million in tax exemptions relating to the construction of the \$4.6 billion project.

Those millions are only the tip of a tax break iceberg that AFT will reap by locating in Saratoga County, however. By building in an Empire Zone, the project qualifies for a slew of breaks that are included in the state's \$1.2 billion incentive package.

The Empire Zone Program qualifies the project for a waiver of the 4 percent sales tax, but the Saratoga County Industrial Development Agency can provide relief from the remaining 3 percent county tax on the estimated \$807 million in construction costs. The \$27.8 million in tax breaks would cover the whole 7 percent.

"It's going to be the biggest project for the IDA as far as projects we have helped in working with the [Saratoga Economic Development Corporation]," said Mike Valentine, senior planner with the SCIDA.

In essence, the scale is the only remarkable part of the project; the IDA will treat it as any other

initiative.

The SCIDA is a part of the county planning department, and is controlled by a seven-member board appointed by the county board of supervisors. The AFT facility will be its 83rd project in its 20 years of operation. It often works with the SEDC, a private organization, funded by Saratoga County and private donations. It primarily helps businesses apply for Empire State Zone and other benefits.

"We have a marketing agreement with [the IDA]," said SEDC President Dennis Brobston. "We bring them projects that fit their criteria. The AMD and Foundry project is a manufacturing project that fits their criteria."

The application to the SCIDA reveals AMD will seek to purchase between 200 and 340 acres of land at the Luther Forest Technology Campus. AMD says the facility will supply 1,465 jobs directly, with a payroll of \$88 million. Hopes are to have the doors open by 2011 and ramp up operations over the following years.

Created in 1986, the Empire State Zone program is meant to entice businesses to build in

BUILDING the FUTURE

certain areas by offering tax breaks. There are 82 zones across the state, and businesses must prove to the Department of Economic Development that their project will create new jobs and invest in the area.

The benefits of enrollment in the program include wage tax credits, reduced utility rates and tax credits for the cost of creating new jobs. In most cases a qualifying business will also receive a 10-year exemption from sales and, in some cases, property taxes.

"It all comes down to competition," Brobston said. "The state of New York is one of the highest taxed states in the nation. The Empire Zone Program was designed by the state of New York to make us competitive in the national competitions for manufacturing projects."

In AMD's case, the roughly \$1.2 billion state incentive package will include \$650 million in grants to the company, and the rest will be paid out over a period of 10 years in Empire Zone benefits.

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Tim Barrett

Under Malta's zoning legislation for LFTC, businesses that locate there will have to pay full property and school taxes. The Ballston Spa School District and the Stillwater Central School District will split the taxes, 75 percent and 25 percent.

A number of Empire Zones are scattered across Saratoga County, but the largest by far are in the Malta area, at Luther Forest Technology Campus and the Saratoga Technology and Energy Park.

The project recently had to reapply for Empire Zone status, as the new company, AFT, is to take over. The Town of Malta recently

approved the new entity.

"That allocation was made a few years ago, we just had to change the name," said Malta Supervisor Paul Sausville.

The Town of Stillwater and Saratoga County will have to sign off on the changes to make AFT part of the Empire Zone, as well.

The IDA will hold public hearings on AMD's application for county sales tax exemption for construction materials on Dec. 8, at 8 a.m. at Stillwater Town Hall, and at 10:30 a.m. at Malta Town Hall.

It is likely that a decision will immediately follow the hearings.

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Questions? call Rachel Ginther 797-3373

Book groups look at past and future

The library's evening book group, AfterDinner Books, takes up Sara Gruen's "Water for Elephants" Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m.

The novel is set in the 1930s, when work is scarce and hobos ride the rails. After the death of his parents, Jacob Jankowski walks out on his final exams at Cornell and hops a circus train. This old-fashioned story by the author of "Riding Lessons" is told in retrospect by the 90-year-old Jacob, now living in a nursing home.

Michael Cunningham's "Specimen Days" is up for discussion at our next DayBooks meeting on Monday, Dec. 15, at 1:30 p.m.

Cunningham has borrowed his title from Walt Whitman's 1882 autobiography. Much like he did with Virginia Woolf in "The Hours," Cunningham writes three connected stories, set in New York City and spanning two centuries. We meet the same group



of characters throughout the book: first in a ghost story during the Industrial Revolution, then in a terrorist thriller, and last in a futuristic city.

New members are always welcome at both groups. Books are available at the information desk. Large-print and audiobook versions are often available as well.

Friends donate walker

We have a new walker available for patron use — a four-wheel "walkabout" equipped with a seat and carrying basket. It is located in the hallway along with our wheelchair. This item was a gift from our library Friends.

Thanksgiving hours

The library will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 26. We will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, for Thanksgiving Day. On Friday, Nov. 28, the library will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. We are always open online at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org. Trustees and staff wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Additional programs

• Teen time: Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2:30-4:30 p.m. DDR, Guitar Hero, Wii, and games for grades 6 and up. Just drop in.

• After dinner books: Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m. A discussion of "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen. New members welcome.

Call 439-9314 for information.

• Preschool movies: Friday, Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m. Movie versions of classic children's picture books. Age 3-6 with adult.

• Holiday sounds: Friday,

Dec. 12, 2 p.m. Performance by the Town of Bethlehem Senior Chorus, directed by Claudia Summers. Cosponsored by Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc.

• Day books: Monday, Dec. 15, 1:30 p.m. A discussion of "Specimen Days" by Michael Cunningham. New members welcome. Call 439-9314 for more information.

• Library board meeting: Monday, Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m. Open to the public.

• Reindeer games galore: Monday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m. Stories, crafts and games — everything reindeer. Call 439-9314 to sign up.

• Teen time: Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2:30-4:30 p.m. DDR, Guitar Hero, Wii, and games for grade 6 and up. Just drop in.

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.

IN BRIEF

Theater group to put on 'MacBeth'

Theatre Without a Net at Bethlehem Central High School will perform "MacBeth" during the first two weekends in December.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for seniors. They will be available at the door and can also be reserved at theatrewithoutanet.org or by calling 439-8270.

Performances will take place at Bethlehem Central High School, 700 Delaware Ave., Delmar on:

- Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 6, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 7, 2 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.

Five Rivers slates program on birds


Families are invited to a program on birds will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m., at Five Rivers Center in Delmar.

The program will feature a book reading, craft project and an outdoor walk to look for birds.

There is a \$3 fee per craft maker (\$2 for Friends of Five Rivers members).

Register by Thursday, Dec. 11, by calling Five Rivers at 475-0291.

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WHAT: Digital Technology and the Media
A leader in the public broadcasting industry, both locally and on the national level, will speak about current developments in television and radio including how advances in wireless technology are radically transforming the rules governing the public airwaves.

WHO: Deborah Onslow
President, Onslow and Associates
Former President and General Manager, WMHT Educational Telecommunications

WHEN:
Monday, December 1, 2008, 10 a.m.
(Free and Open to the Public)

WHERE:
Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Avenue, Delmar

Future H.I.L.L. Lectures:
January 26, 2009, Neil Shapiro, "Changes in Televised News-Post 9/11"

Spotlight Newspapers
Not just local
Really local

Seniors plan holiday programs

Join the Bethlehem Seniors for some special holiday social activities scheduled over the next two weeks. Some of the upcoming holiday programs include the following:

On Dec. 2, weather permitting, the senior vans will travel to Bob and Ron's Fish Fry in Albany, after which they will view Washington Park's annual Capital Holiday Lights. Bethlehem Senior transportation leaves Town Hall at 4:30 p.m. (The suggested \$5 van donation for this evening will be donated to the Albany Police Athletic League.)

On Dec. 6, Bethlehem Seniors will attend the 3 p.m. performance of "Nuncrackers - The Nonsense Christmas Musical" at the Cohoes Music Hall (\$23). Senior transportation leaves Town Hall at 1:30 p.m. Only "wait list" tickets are available; if interested, call and add your name to that list. (Van donation \$5)

Friday evening, Dec. 12, you can attend a winter concert featuring the Mendelssohn Club with bass baritone, Donnie Rae Albert, at the Kitty Carlisle Hart Theater at Albany's The EGG. (\$18) Senior transportation leaves Town Hall at 6 p.m. (Van donation \$5)

Upcoming programs

Tuesday, Dec. 2

- Enjoy the Capital Holiday Lights in Albany's Washington Park after a delicious fish fry supper at Bob and Ron's Fish Fry in Albany.

- Seniors in Motion - a low-level aerobic exercise class to music, Bethlehem Town Hall auditorium, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 9-10 a.m. No registration



Nov. 29 to Dec. 5

necessary. \$3.00 fee per class.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

- Seniors grocery shopping for residents of Elsmere, Delmar, Slingerlands, North Bethlehem and Marie Rose Manor. For reservations, call 439-5770.

Thursday, Dec. 4

- Bethlehem Senior Citizens Club meets for an enjoyable social afternoon of games and other entertainment, Bethlehem Town Hall auditorium, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 11:30 a.m. All seniors are welcome. For information, call 439-4955, ext. 1176.

- Seniors grocery shopping for residents of Glenmont, Selkirk and South Bethlehem. For reservations, call 439-5770.

Friday, Dec. 5

- Seniors in Motion (see Tuesday's activities for details).

- Seniors grocery shopping for residents of Good Samaritan Senior Housing and Van Allen Senior Apartments. For reservations, call 439-4955, ext. 1176.

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

Doris Davis, Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. board member

Library hosts day of crafts for kids

Moms and dads, you're going to love this! Drop off the kids for four hours of fun while you get some holiday errands, shopping or baking done. Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Laiosa and our volunteers will have board games, craft stations, cookie decorating, readers and storytellers to keep the young ones busy while you are out. Our special guest for the day will be Sammi, the PAWS dog. No babysitting fees, no worries. Please bring a sandwich for your child, and we will supply drinks and snacks. The program is on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and is for children in kindergarten and older with registration required.

Jolly time

Readers in grades second and third grade should enjoy "Miss Holly is Too Jolly," part of the "My Weird School" series by Dan Gutman. Miss Holly, the Spanish teacher, has always been a little weird, but now something even weirder is going on. Miss Holly is hanging mistletoe everywhere. That means boys will have to kiss girls and girls will have to kiss boys - ugh! Is Miss Holly taking the holidays way too far? Read the book and join us for a fun-filled evening of book-related discussion, games, crafts, and refreshments on Friday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. Parents are welcome. The library will be closed except for program.

Tis the season

The Season's Readings display is set up in the main reading room. Our annual gift guide is available online or in print with



ideas for everyone on your list. By purchasing items at Amazon.com using a link from our site, a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the Friends of the Voorheesville Library.

Books on wheels

The bad weather is heading our way, and we have lots of volunteers ready to pick up and deliver materials to those of you who are ill or who just do not get out easily in the winter. Take advantage of our home delivery service for yourself, your parent, grandparent or someone else you know who would benefit from this program. Call the

library (765-2791) to put a name on our list and we will contact that person to discuss their reading or viewing preferences so we can package materials special for them. Don't forget to decorate our Mitten Tree with winter wear for kids.

Holiday hours

VPL closes at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26, and is closed on Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 27.

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.

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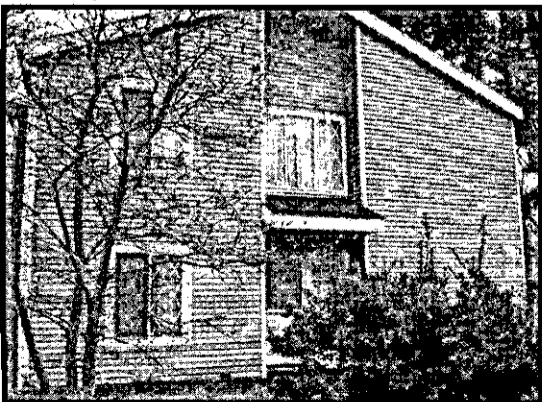


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Three advisory committee members resign

Robinson, Elliott and Biscone resign from advisory committee

By DAN SABBATINO
Spotlight Newspapers
sabbatinod@spotlightnews.com

Three members of the New Scotland Commercial Zone Advisory Committee have resigned as of Friday, Nov. 21, and the town has not had any conversation about how to proceed at this time, according to Town Supervisor Tom Dolin.

Dolin said Roz Robinson, the committee chair, Cynthia Elliott and John Biscone handed in letters of resignation from the committee.

Robinson said she had two

primary motivations for leaving. The first was the alleged conflict of interest regarding CZAC member Liz Kormos. The second, she said, was the "bullying" tactics of the advocacy group New Scotlanders for Sound Economic Development, also known as NS4SED, regarding the direction new zoning laws should take.

Kormos was accused by Robinson of not disclosing a business relationship Kormos had with a potential bidder on the Bender Melon Farm, a key piece of property in the commercial zone.

"I still believe, and always will believe, she had a conflict. It really is a matter of trust for me," Robinson said. "The more

I think about it the more I don't think I can serve the town and the committee without having confidence in the committee."

She also said she feels that the independence of the committee was corrupted, and said she felt the Town Board and said she felt the Town Board dismissed the matter at its Wednesday, Nov. 12, meeting.

Kormos said statements made by the resigning members of the committee are inaccurate, and an investigation into the matter would have shown that she had no real conflict. The Town Board dismissed the matter at its Wednesday, Nov. 12, meeting.

Kormos said she wants to see the committee back in action.

"They should appoint another two members and let's get on with it," she said in an interview Thursday, Nov. 20, before Biscone stepped down.

CZAC was charged with drafting recommendations to change the town's zoning law to coincide closer to the Comprehensive plan. Sphere Development LLC is planning to develop the Bender farm with a 137,000 square-foot retail anchor store if the zoning law permits it. Kormos, a member of NS4SED and supporter of a 50,000 square foot cap on retail developments, opposes Spheres proposal.

Robinson described the Wednesday, Nov. 12, meeting of the New Scotland Town Board as exhibiting "chaos, name calling and bullying," and said she was surprised Dolin allowed it to proceed. She said the atmosphere created by NS4SED instills some fear in opponents to a 50,000 square-foot retail size cap.

"[NS4SED] was throwing a tantrum. They should have been reigned in," she said.

Robinson said that CZAC had completed about 80 percent of its work, with the help of Mike Welti, a planner with Behan Planning Associates, the private planning firm contracted to assist in the zoning changes.

Robinson added that she is "saddened" by how the situation turned out and said the committee did a lot of good work.

Elliott cited "political posturing," deception and financial interests as tainting the process, in her written resignation to the Town Board.

"As I sat, listened and endured the last Town Board meeting it became painfully clear that the committee's ability to function, let alone go forward had been forever fractured," she wrote. "It would be my opinion that the conflict of interest as presented is a blatantly clear one. The Town Board's inability to recognize that

and then its failure to address it speaks volumes about the overall leadership."

Greg Widrick, a managing partner at Sphers, said it has not changed its plans in light of the recent developments.

"We're committed and we're here to the end," he said.

He added that he is also concerned with the information Kormos was giving CZAC because it was the same information she was providing to Mark Shafer, a potential bidder on the Bender melon farm and Kormos' business associate, as his consultant. He said Kormos also had the responsibility to disclose her potential agreement to be a "minority" partner in the ownership if Shafer won the bid.

"How is that, in any world, not a conflict of interest?" he questioned.

Widrick also criticized NS4SED for their conduct during the commercial zone moratorium.

"There's a vocal 30 to 35 people who are doing this and they're disrupting the process," he said.

Daniel Mackay, founder NS4SED said the advocacy group is not to blame for the frustration of New Scotland residents.

"The organization will not take responsibility for individual comments or demeanor," Mackay said.

He said people are tired of the long process and frustrated with the lack of progress and have been vocal about it.

Mackay said the road to zoning changes has become "highly politicized" and problematic.

"I don't know what to make of it. I'm just disappointed there's going to be further delay," he said. "I don't know where this leaves the process."

Saul Abrams, another NS4SED member also defended the group.

"There was no bullying or mob mentality. What the Town Board was doing was the righteous indignation of the public who for years through the Comprehensive Plan, RPAC, etcetera has indicated how they want their town developed and the years the Town Board and Planning Board ignored the public opinion," Abrams said.

Town officials will discuss how to proceed, Dolin said, and no action has been taken at this time regarding the formation of a new advisory committee or the replacement of Robinson, Elliott or Biscone.

"Nothing has been discussed yet," Dolin said.

IN BRIEF

Bookstore, orchestra team up for benefit

Barnes and Nobles in Colonie Center will hold a bookfair benefit for the Empire State Youth Orchestra Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The event will feature live music, face painting and story times.

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Holiday Gift Guide

a supplement to spotlight newspapers

Stay in the spirit and out of debt this holiday season

Sticking to a well-orchestrated budget while hunting for the must-have gifts of the season, planning the perfect holiday meal and arranging flawlessly timed travel are not tasks for the novice. This time of year can drain even the savviest shopper's budget, but there are easy ways to save and even earn money this holiday season.

When Jonni McCoy became a stay-at-home mom, she learned first-hand how to manage her family budget with only one income. Since then, she has written three books and launched a Web site (www.miserlymoms.com) teaching others how to make frugality a lifestyle for the entire family, especially during the holidays.

Try to avoid a holiday shopping hangover this coming January and start with a financial game plan to tackle holiday decorating, gifts, travel and entertaining. Take time to prepare your budget, draw up gift lists and comparison shop for the best deals. Here are some more tips from McCoy to help you make the most of your holiday spending.

Deck the halls - for less

- Stay simple. Use evergreen trimming as a table centerpiece and sprinkle silver confetti over it for some sparkle.

- For unique holiday home decor, buy terra-cotta clay, roll out 1/2-inch-thick pieces and use cookie cutters to make ornaments. Let them dry overnight, paint and then decorate.

- Display your holiday cards in a festive basket or punch holes in the cards and string ribbon through them to hang around your home.

Shopping wonderland

- Make a detailed shopping list of who you are buying gifts for. Set a dollar limit and the type of gift you would like to purchase next to each name. Total up the amounts and make sure you can afford what you are planning to spend. Once you fit the gifts within your budget, carry the list and stick to it while shopping.

- Save money while you shop by using credit cards with special holiday promotional offers. For example, if you sign up for the Shell Platinum MasterCard from Citi by Jan. 4, you can earn double rebates for the first 60 days, which means 10 percent rebates on Shell gasoline purchases for holiday travel and 2 percent rebates on all other purchases - such as holiday gifts.

- Spend a few minutes online

at your favorite retailer's Web site and search for Web deals. Some offer better prices and free shipping.

Give from the heart, not the wallet

- Think outside the gift box and make creative and personal gifts. Easy and cost-effective ideas include baked goods arranged in decorative containers and themed gifts for those on your list such as the movie or pet lover.

- With large groups or family, draw names for gift-giving and set a spending limit. Giving one or two people a very nice gift is often better than giving many people a small gift.

- Make your own gift tags from last year's greeting cards. Use scalloped scissors to create edging.

Most importantly, stop shopping once you have neared the end of your budget and you have purchased all of the items on your list. It is very easy to keep shopping with all of the retailer promotions during this time of year. It's never too early to begin thinking about next year. Stocking up on decorations and gifts during the after-holiday sales will get you ahead of the game and help keep you within budget next year.



This time of year can drain even the savviest shopper's budget - try to avoid a holiday shopping hangover with a financial game plan.

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Holiday ideas and inspirations from Newton Plaza

Choosing a gift for loved ones and friends doesn't need to be difficult or expensive. In fact, Newton Plaza located on Route 9 in Latham, is proud of its family-style shopping center that gives old-fashioned personalized service.

If you're looking for merchants who know their stock, if you're looking for gift wrapping and delivery, you can still find these priceless accommodations at Newton. The Plaza provides a "lifestyle" atmosphere with more than 92,000 square feet and the right mix of locally owned and operated shops with some nationally owned stores. Nearby residents have grown up depending on this friendly, well-

run resource with fine food, specialty shops, conveniences and fashion boutiques.

Several merchants will be offering the following solutions to your holiday needs this Thanksgiving weekend. Looking for something special? A variety of one-of-a-kind gifts is unique to Newton. Choose from fine jewelry, fine art, kitchen specialties, comfort shoes, children's clothing, rubber stamping, personalized items, chocolate-dipped fruit, full-service salons for men and women, to name a few.

Shop at Newton from Friday through Sunday, Nov. 28-30, and take advantage of a variety of specials:

- Kick off your holiday with a

stamping event. Make your own cards at Stampassion.

- Anthony's Chocolate Dipped Fruit is giving away a free sampler box of chocolate dipped fruit with a purchase of \$50 or more.

- Casa Flora and Clearly Yours are offering 20 percent off merchandise storewide.

- Morningside Gallery has 20 percent off selected merchandise.

- Newton Wine & Spirits will have specials, including 10 percent off half cases of wine and 15 percent off full cases of wine.

- Receive a free Wusthof 7 honing steel with a \$25 cutlery purchase and, double stamps on preferred customer cards

continued on next page



According to the National Retail Federation's holiday survey, sales and promotions will be a deciding factor for 40 percent of holiday shoppers this year, and 44 percent of shoppers looking for a deal are going to search online.

Tips for online shopping

No one's quite ready to cancel the holidays because of the economy, but sales and promotions will be a deciding factor for 40 percent of holiday shoppers this year, according to the National Retail Federation's recent holiday survey. And 44 percent of shoppers looking for a deal are going to search online, the survey shows.

"This holiday season, shoppers will be exceptionally cost-conscious. But great deals can definitely be found online," says Jim "Griff" Griffith, eBay marketplace expert. "People constantly tell us that finding great deals is one of the reasons they love eBay."

Before you buy online this holiday season, keep Griff's top tips for online shopping

in mind:

Do your research

You can find information about virtually anything online. Start your holiday shopping by researching product information, competitive pricing and user reviews from a site like Shopping.com. Know the value before you buy and you'll be in a better position to get a bargain.

Communicate

If something needs to be addressed at any point during the transaction - you need to change the shipping address or payment method, you'd like additional information about the item, etc. - keep the

continued on next page.

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Save face with the perfect present

Fusion Spa offers the gift of glamour and relaxation

Why is it that we exchange gifts at the holidays? Is this tradition based in religion or merely propagated by the retail industry? Perhaps the true essence of gift giving is the expression of appreciation for one another. Therefore, the perfect gift may simply be the gift of time to treat oneself to something special.

A gift certificate from Fusion Spa provides the ultimate in relaxation. Everyone from teenagers to the young at heart need to de-stress and rejuvenate. Men and women can both benefit from the variety of services available at Fusion Spa.

Gift certificates can be customized to your specifications in any amount, from large to small, no matter what your budget. They can even be used for massages, facials, micropel-

makeup, laser hair reduction or even for medical services such as Botox, Juvederm, I.P.L., mesotherapy/lipodissolve and vein treatment.

Winter is one of the best times to visit Fusion Spa and unwind by the fireplace in our Asian-inspired tea lounge. Our Holiday Glow event on Thursday, Dec. 4, will showcase the internationally popular mineral makeup by Jane Iredale Minerals. Visit the Spa for this event, learn about the most sought-after makeup and glamorize your holidays just in time for all the holiday socials. Purchase the perfect gift to show how much you care.

Visit Fusion Spa online at www.fusionspaofalbany.com, purchase the gift certificate from our secure Web site, and pay no shipping costs. For those without Internet access, call Fusion Spa at 439-4700, place a phone order, and we will send it anywhere free of charge.

ONLINE SHOPPING from page 18

lines of communication open between you and the site or seller you are buying from. Communication can help ensure a smooth transaction.

Find hidden gems

You can use a Web site's internal search function to find some hidden gems. Search using commonly misspelled

words, or use terms like "outlet," "liquidation" or "refurbished" to find a bargain.

Follow through

If you're buying from an online auction site, pay quickly. Once you win a bid, the seller is holding the item for you, and losing out on other potential buyers. View your winning bid as your commitment to complete the transaction in a timely manner.

Safe and easy

Reputable sites take strong safety measures. You can make the payment process even safer and easier by using PayPal. For the first time, shoppers who pay with PayPal on eligible purchases on eBay are covered for a hundred percent refund on qualifying transactions. PayPal buyer protection covers the full purchase price and original shipping costs.

NEWTON PLAZA

from page 18

with purchases of \$50 or more at the new Different Drummer's Kitchen.

- Be dazzled at Connelly's Diamond Gallery when you receive 30 percent off all diamond earrings.

- Receive 30 percent off all merchandise at Lollipops Children's Shop.

Looking for fashion? Newton's trendy boutiques are filled with men's and women's clothing, handbags, accessories and stylish furs.

The newest addition to the Plaza is La Sartoria Fashion for men and women. Visit the brand new store this weekend and receive 10 percent off all merchandise. Shop at Me Fashion

Boutique and receive 20 percent off merchandise storewide, and at Max Zeller's Furs, receive 30 percent, plus another 10 percent, off all merchandise. Shoppers will receive 20 percent off merchandise storewide at Gracie's, too (excluding special orders).

Get you're busy stuff done at Newton and make your life easier for the holiday - you'll find everything from a dry cleaner to a doctor, as well as a drugstore, banks, a newsroom, optician and more.

Take advantage of The UPS Store-Latham and, receive 29-

cent color copies for your holiday needs.

Newton has fine food choices, too. Dining options include bagels, deli, coffee shop, an Italian bistro, seafood, Chinese and Japanese grill and hibachi, ice cream and, more.

This weekend at Gorman's NY Deli, receive 10 percent off any purchase.

Extended holiday hours throughout the Plaza are: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

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Tough Traveler sells high-quality, U.S.-made gifts

In the current economic conditions, many people have been searching for U.S.-made items for themselves or to give as gifts. U.S.-made items can have high value for excellence in product quality, employment and environmentalism.

In the textile field, imported items are often made in countries that have low environmental standards, along with varying product quality. Also, the purchase of an import does not often bring a reciprocal balance of U.S. employment.

Many people who are shopping for U.S.-made luggage, backpacks, and bags are turning to the Internet as a source, as U.S.-made luggage, backpacks and bags can

almost never be found in retail brick-and-mortar stores.

Luggage

Tough Traveler Luggage is known for its excellence, and Tough Traveler Luggage is made in Schenectady. This luggage ranges from simple duffel bags to more structured, lightweight wheeled small carry-ons and wheeled large cargo suitcases.

Tough Traveler Luggage products range from the small new Tough Traveler patent-pending accessory strap that allows easy well-controlled carriage of another bag or pack on top of a wheeled piece of any-brand luggage, to mid-sized carry-ons including the Tri-

Zip Carry-On to carry computer and a day or weekend's clothing – as featured in Kiplinger's Business Magazine, to the large Expedition Duffel for hauling family sports gear, college students' laundry, or everything needed for the big trip to camp or hide-away. From simple toiletries bags, to the classic well-loved Venture Convertible Suitcase-Backpack (for European three-month college student or teaching journeys), Tough Traveler Luggage is an excellent gift choice.

Packs

As with all Tough Traveler luggage, bags and packs, Tough Traveler backpacks are made in Schenectady. Known

worldwide for use with babies and by school-age children up to adults, these backpacks range from very simple school packs and daypacks for adults for travel or work activities, to chiropractor-recommended comfort backpacks for school, hiking or travel, as well as child-carrier backpacks.

Tough Traveler backpacks are known for durability, with many families using their Tough Traveler child-carrier backpacks for years from one child to the next, and sometimes one neighbor or relative to the next. Tough Traveler backpacks have been recommended or featured in many media including the "Today Show," Outside Magazine, Backpacker, Women's Sports and Fitness, Child, Parents, and Consumers' Digest. Many area people purchase Tough Traveler backpacks for themselves and their extended families.

Bags

Tough Traveler bags come in a number of sizes and shapes for a number of uses. From the well-known classic CitiBag purse/shoulder bag and the classic Muriel, to the Messenger Bag and the newest Poplar, a combined small backpack with shoulder bag, Tough Traveler bags are made for people of all ages and occupations, for

day use at school to days out to travel.

The bags are used worldwide in a number of capacities, including as duffel bags, carry-ons, shave kits, cosmetics bags, epinephrine pen pouches, medical bags, guitar bags, drummers' stick bags, dog bags and packs, lunch bags, camera bags, computer bags and computer backpacks, and waist packs, from the full WaterBoy to the smallest belt pouches (popular stocking stuffers).

More suggestions

Here are a few of the assorted unusual Tough Traveler items people might not yet know of: the patent-pending Add-On Luggage Accessory Strap, Kiddy Lunch, Epi Pouch, Emergency Padre, Rescue Carrier, Hospital Pouch, the Mule Bag (a shoulder bag), the Sprite Hip Pack and the Jiff Bag (ShapeYou.com award-winners for light hike walking or walking and for bike riding).

Where to find

Shop either at the Tough Traveler Ltd. store in Schenectady (393-0168) or online at www.toughtraveler.com. Tough Traveler ships locally and worldwide, and also has gift certificates that may be used online or at the store.



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Course

(From Page 1)

the complete picture, but that's OK, their student will be coming home at the end of the fall semester and they can really talk about how the whole semester went then in person," said Jordan.

Jordan said that the amount of change coupled with exhaustion can sometimes make it hard for students to distinguish the difference between feeling jitters and genuinely not wanting to return to school. She said before parents panic, it's important to remember that in the past four months they have moved away from home, adjusted to a new roommate and dorm life, new professors and academic requirements, and been exposed to many new experiences.

Well-known child psychologist Dr. Michelle Borba travels to colleges across the country to talk with freshman and their parents about depression, stress and drop-outs that peak during the second half of the first year. She points out to parents that when their child is home for the holidays, back to family and friends, parents play a critical role in making sure that second semester goes smoothly.

Jordan's advice to parents with a seemingly unsure or unhappy freshman is to allow their child to acclimate to being back home. She advises parents to let their child reconnect with family and friends before sitting down to determine what the problem is.

"Is it the college itself, some part of the college experience that the staff or an advisor could assist

with, or has your student given it the 'old college try' to find out that it wasn't a good match or they're just not ready? Some of the biggest problems only need a little time and attention to work out and give a chance," said Jordan. "For example, if the roommate situation was so bad that it was worth somebody moving, it'll take time to readjust to the new dorm or new roommate. You've given the resident hall staff a chance to help you, and they'll be aware of your needs when you return."

Parents can be proactive by starting the process of choosing a college long before senior year in high school. Mohonasen guidance counselor Rebecca Pauley said they have plenty of information on where to start when looking at colleges. She said they encourage students to start early so they have time to visit schools and really get a feel for what will best work for them.

"We have actually put together a book in our office that details questions students and parents may have," said Pauley.

At Scotia-Glenville, the guidance department team uses a system called Guidance Direct, which is an Internet-based program that counselors and students use in the student's junior year. It works its way through the common questions, such as whether or not to stay close or go far, a large school versus a small one, two- or four-year and so on.

Scotia-Glenville counselor Lise Williams said the program starts with a public-versus-private section of questions and moves to questions about location - how far from home, which states in

the country - before going on to possible majors the student might be interested in. The counselors then use that information to help students select possible colleges based on grades and SAT scores and the size of the school one is interested in. Lastly, students can choose based on special programs or athletic programs and division levels. Guidance Direct then generates a list of potential colleges that guidance counselors then go over with the students and even parents.

Williams said they invite parents to come in around April and May to meet with the department and their student to look for schools.

"We use our background knowledge to help them narrow the list, often to about 10 to 12 schools. We then suggest the student begin their own research into the schools, looking at the Web sites online, doing the virtual tours so they can narrow down their list even more to schools they would want to visit and take a guided tour. Our hopes in the end are that the student creates a list of schools that have what meets their needs as well as offers variety," said Williams.

For those college freshman who are dealing with the uncertainty of whether they have chosen the right school, there can be comfort in hearing the stories of students who have gone before them.

Many freshmen will say that hearing about past graduates who felt the same but then grew to love the college life is helpful.

Recent State University of New York at Oswego graduate Elizabeth Rocco of Saratoga said

that for her entire first semester, she was convinced she made the wrong choice, but when graduation came, she was so sad to leave and could barely relate to those freshman feelings.

"Talk with friends about your insecurities and give it time. You may not believe how quickly things can change second semester," said Rocco.

Leigh Cagino, of Guilderland, a sophomore at the University of Delaware, said that adjusting to being away was very difficult for her because she is so close to her family. She said the first thing she missed her freshman year was her father's birthday, and she remembers it being a strange feeling to have to call her dad for his birthday.

"The holidays were definitely hard," Cagino said. "Luckily I go home for Thanksgiving, and then it is only two or three weeks until I am home again for Christmas.

What made freshman year a little easier was just thinking of my friends as family. I decorated my room with Christmas decorations, which was fun, and my friends and I did a secret Santa and all went shopping to together for the presents. Everyone was really busy with finals so between that and the fun holiday stuff we made, it went by really fast," said Cagino. Jordan said the first step in getting past the freshman feelings of apprehension is for parents to let their students know that there is a solution. She advises that part of that may include reminding freshman that it is more important to try something, even if you change your mind, than to never have given it a shot.

"Most importantly, remind them that you love them and that you are right behind them all the way. For all the years you've done just that it can be amazing that they still need to be told," Jordan said.

Cuts

(From Page 1)

the political squabbling in the over the budget, and with little being accomplished, that it was going to be "a long cold winter."

"The governor, since August, has been trying to warn us about the budget crisis," Tebbano said. "Next year, there will be cuts. ... It is important that the community understand the magnitude of what was proposed, and what could be in store in the months and years ahead."

State Sen. Neil Breslin, D-Delmar, said he was against the mid-term state aid cuts to schools, but he realizes cuts will have to occur in next year's budget.

"I agree with the cuts for next year, but you've got to give notice," Breslin said.

The Albany County senator added that he hopes the governor's proposed cuts for next year will not be as deep as initial projections.

"Every penny we don't get in aid can only be made up for in one of two ways - by eliminating costs in

the form of programs and services, or through property taxes," Tebbano said. "Our pledge to the community is to maintain a high quality academic program and to hold the line on taxes. This won't change, but we quite obviously depend on the state's investment in education to do it."

In his presentation Wednesday, Nov. 19, Tebbano put the \$1.8 million proposed mid-term cut into context by showing the cost of some select areas of the program. For example, the district spends about \$750,000 on athletics, \$325,000 on technology equipment, and \$150,000 on after-school programs; 10 teaching positions account for about \$625,000 in the budget - roughly a third of the cut that had been proposed.

The district spends about \$150,000 for field trips and \$50,000 on enrichment funding, two areas that have already been affected by the nonessential freeze.

"Let me be clear that these in no way should be taken as areas we are proposing to cut or even the most likely targets," said Tebbano. "The community just needs some context about how crucial the role the state's investment in education is for Bethlehem's students and taxpayers."

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Busy

(From Page 1)

Thanksgiving: Black Friday.
Consumer Reports says the percentage of Americans planning to make the trek to the malls on Black Friday is up over last year, and that they are mostly eyeing home electronics. Of those polled, 85 percent of Black Friday shoppers said they intend to buy TVs, DVD players, home-theater systems, and other such merchandise. It represents a 15 percent increase over those who planned to purchase similar items last year, according to the report.

The national poll, which was conducted with 1,003 adults and conducted between Oct. 30 and Nov. 2, showed that only 38 percent of Americans started shopping for the holidays.

Consumer Reports said the figure was identical to last year, but that it was 5 percent below those who started shopping by the same time in 2006.

Three percent of respondents claimed they had completed their holiday shopping by the beginning of November, according to the report.

The Saratoga Shoe Depot and the I Love Books store in Delmar both said they were ready for the holidays.

"We've got all of the holiday merchandise on the shelves and we are fully stocked for the season," said Melissa Steen, owner of I Love Books. "All of our club members will be getting discounts."

Steen said they are keeping

regular hours on the Black Friday weekend and she expects a good turnout.

"Local independent stores don't have the kind of crazy, hectic shopping like the bigger chain stores do," she said. "But we've been pretty steady ... and weather permitting, I think it's going to be a wonderful weekend."

Her philosophy is that holiday shopping is here, bad economy and all.

"Christmas still happens. Even in a recession, people have to shop," Steen said.

Victor Cusato, who manages the Saratoga Shoe Depot off of Delaware Avenue, said he hopes Black Friday still spurs holiday shopping like in years past.

"In a weak economy were waiting for the tide to turn and to get into the holiday shopping," he said. "Shopping has certainly started later this year than in others."

Although his store "has certainly seen better times," Cusato said that the fuzzy boots seen on the feet of women everywhere, called Ugg Footwear, are a big seller.

"Those have been dynamite for us," Cusato said. "We have a window display facing Delaware Avenue dedicated to them."

Cusato said he is keeping hopeful considering the bad economy.

"The new 'up' is 'flat,' so that's kind of how I'm riding it," he said. "This is the kick off for the busiest shopping season of the year."

DeLaney said buying local just makes financial sense.

"The universal message is: supporting local business saves customers time and money, helps with our tax base and keeps the local economy going," she said.

Planning board votes on Five Rivers proposal

Preservation deal falls apart as no consensus on access can be made

By JARRETT CARROLL
Spotlight Newspapers
carrollj@spotlightnews.com

Debate over a 20-foot access may have sent a deal to donate nearly 25 acres of land to the Five Rivers Preservation by Carol Richards the way of the Dodo.

Richards' subdivision plan of building seven lots on a 35-acre plot and donating the rest of the land to the Open Space Institute and ultimately to Five Rivers, bringing the state preserve into Bethlehem, appears to have broken down in the planning process.

Talks between Richards' lawyers and the town came to a standstill over a 20-foot access to the property from Fischer Boulevard. Richards argued there was already an access on New Scotland Road and the 20-foot strip of land would traverse wetlands.

The town said it wanted Fisher Boulevard access because it fits in with the town's Comprehensive Plan of incorporating pedestrian paths to recreational areas such as parkland and preserves. The access was described as of "critical importance" to the proposal.

Neither side could reach an acceptable agreement over the issue.

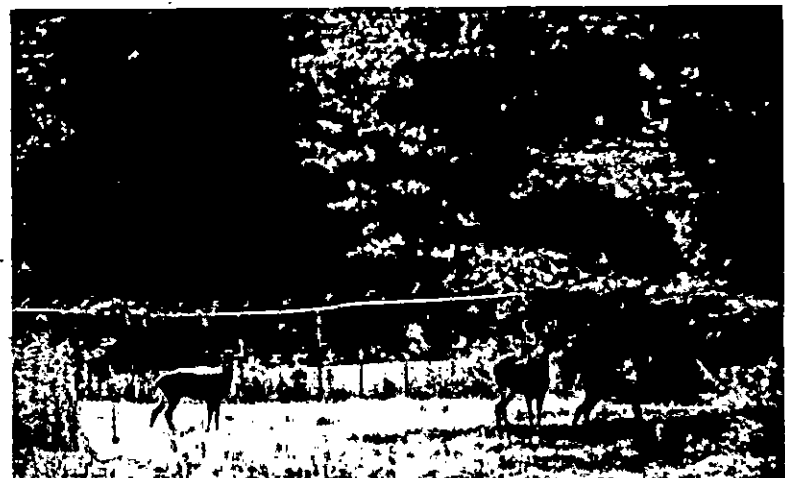
Acting planning board Chairman Howard Engel, who is filling the post for the remainder of the year following the recent death of former Chairman Parker Mathusa, said he understood both sides but hoped some agreement could still be reached.

Engel recommended the board approve proposal as it stood, with the Fisher Boulevard access, and forwarding a recommendation to the town board on the project as is.

The board voted in favor 6-to-1, with planning board member Katherine McCarthy casting the only dissenting vote. According to Richards' lawyer, Teresa Bakner, the vote effectively killed the proposal because of Richards' frustration over the matter.

"Unfortunately we seemed to have come to a roadblock. Things have happened, I'm not sure any of us are sure why they have happened," Engel said. "I think the key to this whole thing ... is the relevance to the entire town of Bethlehem."

Engel acknowledged that "everyone was in favor" of the land deal, including neighbors who want to



The land along Fisher Boulevard in Bethlehem was to be donated to the Five Rivers Preservation, but after a holdup over an access issue the plan may be dead. Landowner Carol Richards has been rumored to be considering selling the land to developers.

Jarrett Carroll/Spotlight

keep the land forever wild, and town residents who want to hike to Five Rivers.

However, he said, "Neither side is willing to compromise."

"I hope something can happen," Engel said, "but at this point in time there's not much point" in continuing the standoff.

McCarthy said she voted against both the proposal's acceptance and the recommendation to the town board because of the parkland resolution that required access on Fisher Boulevard.

"That parkland resolution was the reason I voted against it because she might withdraw the deal," McCarthy said. "I understand the point about the access ... but I think it's a nice chunk of land for the town."

McCarthy said she hoped the access situation could be mitigated in order to move the project forward and preserve the 24-plus acres of land after Richards' was rumored to threaten selling the property to a developer.

However, after the vote came against the protests of several neighbors of the property, Bakner indicated Richards' would be dropping the deal altogether.

Open Space Institute (OSI) sent a letter to Bethlehem dated Monday, Nov. 17, the day before the meeting, saying the access was necessary to move forward.

Bakner said OSI "changed their position" and said Richards was disappointed by the entire situation, which Bakner described as a very generous offer to the tune of \$50,000.

When board member Kate Powers asked what the opposition to the

plan was, Bakner said "She does not wish to provide public access along lot number 45"

Bakner told the board that after hearing news of the planning board vote, Richards "most likely will not move forward ... she feels very strongly about this."

"She believes that her request is reasonable. ... All the lots are double the size and some are triple, four or five times the size of the requirement," Bakner argued of the proposal. "This is rather disappointing to get this [OSI] letter the day before or the day of this meeting."

Bakner noted, "for the record" that Richards only asked \$50,000 for the 25 acres of land and that a nearby parcel sold for \$105,000 for a half-acre lot.

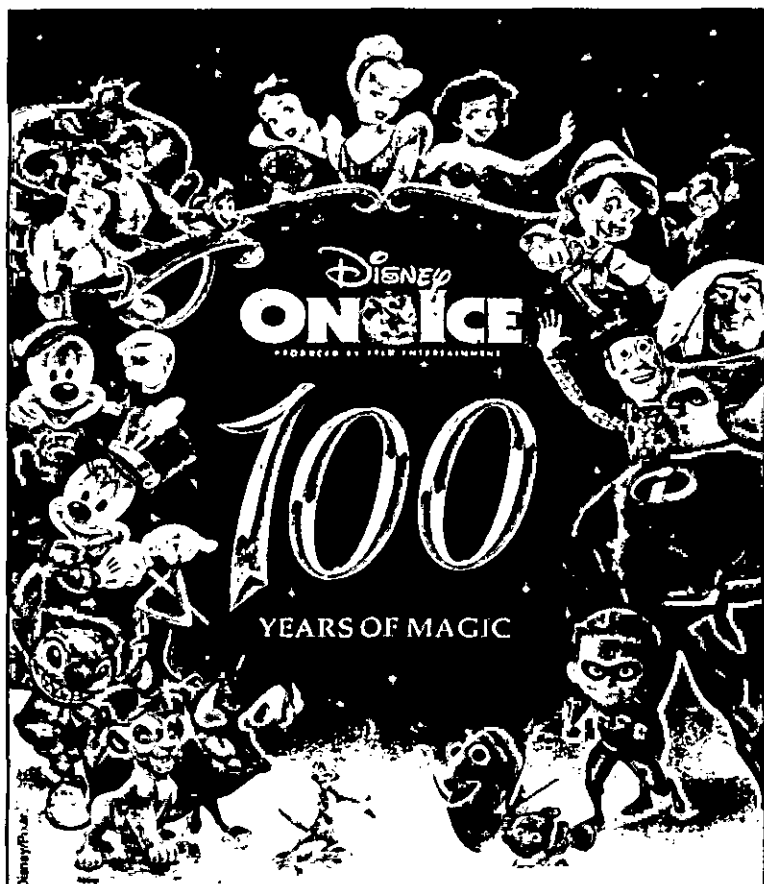
Michael Morelli, the town's assistant director of economic development and planning, said in a previous interview that the town's not trying to be difficult and has been moving the project forward as fast as it could.

With Richards living in California, he said, she has to go through an Albany-based lawyer (Bakner) who speaks with her and her lawyer and then has to work with the Town of Bethlehem.

He noted that none of the lots would be affected by the current plan voted on by the planning board.

Morelli added that the Open Space Institute has offered to buy the 20-foot access and any other property "at fair market value," and that the access would not impact the proposed seven lots.

"This is actually a minor hang-up but it's kind of blown up into a major issue," Morelli said in early November.



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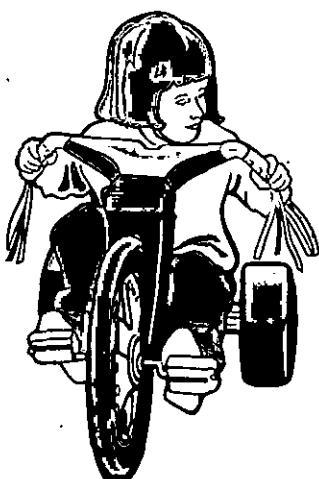
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Obituaries *in the* Spotlight

Franklin Stalker

Franklin James Stalker, 65, of Selkirk, died, Tuesday, Nov. 18, at his home.

Mr. Stalker was born in Elizabethtown, the son of the late Wellington and Phoebe McDougal Stalker.

He was an Army veteran, serving in Germany.

He was a member of the Greenville American Legion Post 291 and an associate member of the Cocksackie Yacht Club. In 2004, he retired on disability, due to the loss of sight in one eye, from Callanan Industries, So. Bethlehem, after 22 years of service.

Survivors include his wife, Catherine (Hotaling-Hyserman) Stalker of Selkirk; a son, Brian Stalker, of Lowville; two daughters, Tammy (Ron) Juby of Lowville, and Kimberly Grizzle of Beverly Hills, Fla; nine grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Per Mr. Stalker's request, he will be cremated and his ashes will be interred in South Russell Cemetery in the family plot.

All arrangements will be private.

Contributions may be made to the Bethlehem Volunteer Ambulance Service, P.O. Box 246, Selkirk 12158.

George C. Chesbro

George Clark Chesbro, 68, of New Baltimore, died Tuesday, Nov. 18, at St. Peter's Hospital.

Born in Washington, D.C., he was

the son of the late George W. and Maxine (Sharpe) Chesbro.

An author of over 25 novels and nearly 100 short stories, he was a recipient of an Ellery Queen Award and had served as president of the Mystery Writers Association of America. Earlier in his career, he had worked as a special education teacher at Pearl River and at the Rockland Psychiatric Center, where he worked with emotionally troubled teens.

Survivors include his wife, Robin N. Chesbro; a son, Mark Chesbro; a daughter, Michelle Chesbro; a sister; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Services are private at the convenience of the family.

Contributions may be made to the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society, 3 Oakland Ave., Menands 12204.

Joanna Thomas

Joanna Thomas, 74, of Selkirk died Wednesday, Nov. 19, at St. Peter's Hospital.

Born in Binghamton and raised in Monopoly, Italy, from the age of four, she was the daughter of the late Marino and Annunziata Franchini.

Mrs. Thomas worked for 34 years for the Tobin Packing Co. She also took care of her grandchildren and did private day care before retirement.

She was the widow of Charles E. Thomas.

Survivors include a daughter, Linda (Kevin) Cookingham; a son, Joseph Thomas; two brothers; a

sister; seven grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

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

Arrangements were by the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Glenmont.

Contributions may be made to the St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105-1942.

Gail M. Frueh

Gail M. Frueh, 52, of Delmar, died Tuesday, Nov. 18, at her home.

Born in Albany, she was the daughter of Raymond and Antoinette (Trota) Curtis.

Mrs. Frueh worked as a special education aide for the Bethlehem Central School District.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her husband, David

P. Frueh; two sons, David P. Frueh Jr. and Michael (Sheri) Frueh; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Arrangements were by the Daniel Keenan Funeral Home, 490 Delaware Ave., Albany. Services were from Historic St. Mary's Church on Capitol Hill.

Interment was in the Mass in Our Lady Help of Christians Cemetery, Glenmont.

Contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memorial and Honor Program, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105-1942.

Myrtle C. Bever

Myrtle C. Bever, 88, of Delmar, died Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Albany Medical Center Hospital after a short illness.

She was born in Pittsfield, Mass., the daughter of Fred G. and Ethel Cooper. She was a communicant of the Emmanuel Baptist Church

of Albany in her early years. She later attended First Baptist Church of Scotia, and then finally attended Bethlehem Community Church in Delmar. Mrs. Bever worked for the state Tax Department for many years as a grade nine. She was also an avid New York Yankees fan.

Survivors include a daughter, Barbara; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a nephew.

Services were from the Tebbutt Funeral Home, Albany.

Contributions may be made to Camp Pinnacle, 621 Pinnacle Road,

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Milestones *in the* Spotlight

Bourke, Serowick marry

Megan Elizabeth Bourke, daughter of Joe and Lisa Furland of Colonie, and Brian Daniel Serowick, son of Dan and Patty Serowick of Niskayuna, were married May 24.

The Rev. Dennis Tamburello officiated the ceremony at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Loudonville. A reception followed at the Century House in Latham.

Audrey Burke, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Mary Domenici, Danielle Fontaine, Paige Pierle and Brittany Rodney. Sara Wall was the flower girl.

Daniel Serowick, father of the groom, was the best man. Groomsmen were Robert Verhagen, Justin Tousant, Dustin Leonard and Michael Bourke, brother of the bride.

The bride is a graduate of Colonie Central High School. She is a pediatric nurse with Capital Care Pediatrics in Clifton Park.

The groom is a graduate of Niskayuna High School,



Megan Elizabeth and Brian Daniel Serowick

Siena College and Union Graduate College, where he received a master's in business administration. He is a hardlines executive with Target Corp. in Saratoga Springs.

After a honeymoon trip to Hawaii, the couple resides in Schenectady.

Leonardo, Engel marry



Michael and Caryn Engel

Caryn Leonardo, daughter of James and Linda Leonardo of Selkirk, and Michael Engel, son of Ken and Jeanne Engel of Webster, were married Aug. 9.

The Rev. David Berberian and Deacon Al Manzella officiated the ceremony at St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar. A reception followed at the Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia.

Laura Sorrentino was the matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Heather Leonardo, Allison Leonardo, Katie Caporta and Suzanne Engel, sister of the groom.

Paul Spoonhower and Scott Schult were the best men. Dave Urbanski, Justin McLaughlin and Chris Leonardo, brother of the bride, were groomsmen.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, the State University of New York at Geneseo and The College of Saint Rose, where she received a master's degree. She is a kindergarten teacher in the Ravena Coeymans Selkirk Central School District.

The groom is a graduate of Webster High School and Penn State University. He is a sales manager with Black and Decker.

After a honeymoon trip to Hawaii, the couple resides in Slingerlands.

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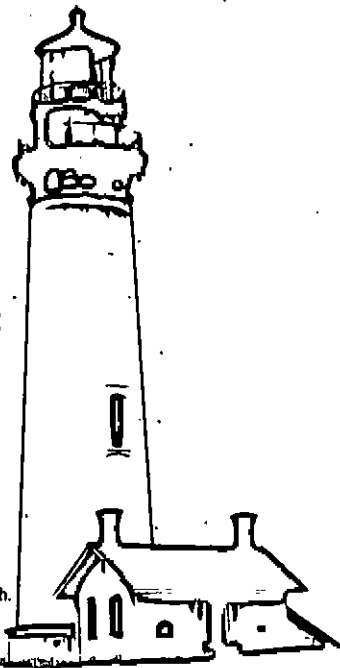
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Entertainment *in the* Spotlight

Mark Carrigan and his wife have put on puppet shows about elephants, about bullying, and about dragons and princesses.

It's simple: If there is a play or story out there that the two of them like, they turn it into a puppet show.

The couple behind the Schenectady-based Puppet People are both big fans of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." But when they first considered turning the tale of Christmas past, present and future into a puppet show, they had reservations.

"All of our other shows are good all year long," Carrigan said. "It takes us a year to build a show. Was it worth the investment to do a show we could only perform for about a month?"

Before he and his wife, Michelle Smith-Carrigan, took the leap and made all the puppets and sets for the show, they approached schools and theaters where they had performed to gauge interest in "A Christmas Carol." The response was strong. So Carrigan and Smith-Carrigan got busy building Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, Ebenezer Scrooge and other characters and working on the show's script.

That was five years ago.

"A Christmas Carol" has been a part of the Puppet People's repertoire ever since. They take the show on the road - they have a weeklong engagement in Philadelphia next month - and they perform it throughout the Capital District. On Sunday, Nov. 30, they'll be at Old Songs in Voorheesville for a 3 p.m. show.

It's the third year they've appeared at Old Songs - a favorite venue of Carrigan's because he likes taking his puppets to small towns that aren't overflowing with entertainment options.



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

The ghosts of Christmas past, present and future visit Ebenezer Scrooge, in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," being staged by the Puppet People at Old Songs in Voorheesville Sunday, Nov. 30.

Puppets portray a classic holiday tale

Schenectady troupe stages 'A Christmas Carol' in miniature

Andy Spence, Old Songs' executive director, thinks that's one of the reasons "A Christmas Carol" has proved a big draw at Old Songs.

"There aren't any other family shows here," she said.

The Puppet People's version of "A Christmas Carol" differs a little from what families might be used to seeing on stage. There's the obvious: the characters are puppets instead of real people. But beyond that, Carrigan and Smith-Carrigan had to pare down the cast since there are only two of them controlling the puppets, and they had to condense the story to about 50 minutes to accommodate kids' attention spans.

"A Christmas Carol" as it's written has a lot of characters, Carrigan said. Bob Cratchit, for example, comes from a large family. To portray those relatives, the Puppet People rely on shadow puppets. Instead of creating elaborate puppets for each person, they use simple puppets whose shadows give the appearance of a crowd.

The show also features a 9-foot-tall parade puppet that wades into the audience - "People really go for that. They think it's really neat," Carrigan said - and a slew of traditional marionette puppets that Carrigan and Carrigan-Smith control from above with a series of thin strings.

The pair have been manipulating puppets for more than 20 years. Carrigan has a degree in sculpture from the University of Massachusetts; his wife has a degree in theater from the University at Albany. After graduation, both landed jobs with the now-defunct Bennington Marionettes. They traveled with the troupe and put on puppet shows, falling in love along the way.

When the Bennington Marionettes went out of business, Carrigan and Carrigan-Smith got what he called "regular jobs." But they kept putting on puppet shows on a part-time basis as a two-person team.

The Puppet People were so successful that Carrigan-Smith eventually made it her full-time job. About eight years ago, they had the financial footing for Carrigan to do the same.

They have performed at churches,

theaters, festivals and schools. Their offerings include "The Elephant Child," Rudyard Kipling's tale of how elephants got their long noses; an anti-bullying program called "Bully Busters" and a variety show called "Puppet Potpourri."

"We like to use a lot of different puppets," Carrigan said, and "Puppet Potpourri" lets the couple do just that. The show includes hand-puppets, mouth puppets, rod puppets and trick marionettes.

"A Christmas Carol," meanwhile, is a special show to perform because he and his wife have both loved the story since they were young. In addition, it's a fun way to introduce kids to a classic author like Dickens, he said.

Tickets for the Old Songs show are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 15 and younger. Call Old Songs at 765-2815 to purchase tickets.

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M	O	N	O	T	A	P	E	R	A	S	E
T	U	T	O	P	A	S	A	R	T	E	
S	P	O	R	T	O	F	T	H	E	I	N
			G	R	O	F	E	R	O	D	
S	H	A	R	I	F	R	E	A	S	S	A
I	A	M	A	D	O	L	L	L	A	A	R
P	R	O	P	B	U	F	F	S	A	R	N
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F	A	G	S	M	O	I	L	S	O	V	A
C	R	L	E	A	N	N	A	L	E	M	A
P	E	E	R	N	A	G	S	F	R	E	T

Sudoku Answers

7	6	9	5	3	1	4	2	8
3	8	5	4	2	6	1	9	7
1	4	2	9	7	8	6	3	5
5	9	1	7	6	2	8	4	3
4	2	3	8	9	5	7	1	6
8	7	6	1	4	3	9	5	2
9	3	8	2	1	7	5	6	4
6	5	4	3	8	9	2	7	1
2	1	7	6	5	4	3	8	9

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Eagles

(From Page 36)

South Division with Colonie, Mohonasen, Columbia, Averill Park and defending league champion Guilderland.

But, head coach A.G. Irons is convinced his team can compete.

"We were so experience-heavy with that senior group last year," said Irons. "But I'm comfortable with the younger guys we have this year because I had them on the junior varsity team (two years ago), so I know what they're capable of."

What Irons hopes the Eagles

are capable of is playing at the same frenetic pace as last year's team did.

"I think the style of play we utilized last year we'll try to continue this year," said Irons.

Bethlehem has plenty of players to put on the court, even if only a handful of them saw significant playing time on varsity last year. Irons is carrying 16 players on his roster - though one of them, senior forward Matt Branigan, is out for the year with a torn ACL.

"I would say there are 10 players who will see significant playing time this year," said Irons.

Size is the other thing

Bethlehem has in abundance. No player is listed at under six feet tall, and there are two players - junior Corey Dente and sophomore Ryan Stempsey - who are 6 feet, 5 inches tall.

"We've got some size with the younger guys," said Irons.

Still, experience is something Bethlehem will be lacking in the early part of the season. Senior guard Kevin Wendth is the lone returning starter, and senior guard Ryan Prinzo is the only other player with significant varsity playing time. The other veterans - guard/forward John Kellogg, guard Will Baynes, guard/forward Bobby Shields, guard Riley McGraw and forward

saw only limited playing time last year.

Bethlehem's schedule won't give those players a break as they get their legs under them. The Eagles open the season at Colonie - one of the preseason favorites in the South Division - Tuesday, Dec. 2, and then travel to the Niskayuna Invitational Tournament. Bethlehem's first home game isn't until Friday, Dec. 12, when Niskayuna visits Delmar.

Of Bethlehem's first 11 games, seven are against Suburban Council South Division opponents,

which suits Irons fine.

"I like (the new divisions)," he said. "We now have two more league games which count toward our Sectional points, instead of a league tournament where the games don't count toward our point totals. So, every game means something."

And though the South Division will be tough, Irons said he believes Bethlehem will be competitive in it.

"I look around at what we have, and I know we've lost a lot (to graduation), but so did a lot of other teams," he said.

Honors

(From Page 36)

(junior, CBA), Joey Moore (junior, Saratoga)

Running backs - Sean Murphy (senior, Bethlehem), Van Huyben (senior, Ballston Spa)

Tight end - Kyle Hendrickson (senior, Shenendehowa)

Offensive tackles - Michael Depercini (sophomore, Albany), Dave Schewe (senior, Saratoga)

Offensive guards - Cody Betton (senior, Guilderland), Nick Gallo (junior, Ballston Spa)

Center - Harrison Kim (senior, Saratoga)

Honorable mention

Jake Valentine (senior quarterback, Albany), Andrew Vivian (senior quarterback, CBA), Bronson Greene (sophomore running back, Shenendehowa), Eric Hayden (junior offensive guard, Saratoga), Vince Adams

(senior center, Bethlehem), James LaMarco (senior center, CBA)

Defense

First team

Defensive ends - Devan VanAuken (senior, Guilderland), Michael Gormley (senior, CBA)

Defensive tackles - Khalil Fredericks (senior, Albany), Max A'Hearn (junior, Saratoga)

Linebackers - Anthony Curto (senior, Shenendehowa), Mike Bonaccie (senior, Bethlehem), Don Wilson (senior, CBA)

Strong safety - Shane LaChance (senior, Ballston Spa)

Free safety - Bobby Falcone (senior, Guilderland)

Cornerbacks - Casiem Maxwell (junior, Bethlehem), Mike Daly (junior, Shenendehowa)

Punter - Ford Plowman (junior, Saratoga)

Kicker - E.J. Genzano (senior, Guilderland)

Second team

Defensive ends - Chris Ohnsman (sophomore, Ballston Spa), Hunter Hinds (junior, Saratoga)

Defensive tackles - Ros-I Grady (sophomore, CBA), Dan Donato (senior, Bethlehem)

Linebackers - Cody Futia (junior, Guilderland), Kyle Warmt (sophomore, Ballston Spa), Zach Hartmann (senior, Saratoga)

Strong safety - Shawn Sweeney (junior, Saratoga)

Free safety - Sam Gallup (senior, Bethlehem)

Cornerbacks - Josh Fabian (junior, Ballston Spa), Ryan Sparks (senior, Ballston Spa)

Honorable mention

Billy Kemp (senior defensive end, Guilderland), Matt Ward (junior strong safety, Guilderland)

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LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE
the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 36 3rd Street, Apartment 4-R, Brooklyn, New York 11231. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-20022 (November 26, 2008)	of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/12/08. OFFICE LOCATION: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to Odyssey Energy Solutions LLC, 12 Shanks Place, Delmar, New York 12054. PURPOSE: For any lawful purpose. LD-20027 (November 26, 2008)	lawful purpose. LD-20032 (November 26, 2008)	upon whom process may be served: Allstate Corporate Svcs Corp., 41 State St., Ste. 415, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: professions of Occupational and Massage Therapy. LD-20036 (November 26, 2008)	(SSNY) on 08/06/08. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Allstate Corp. Svcs., 1 Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Ste. 1008, Albany, NY 12260. Registered Agent upon whom process may be served: Allstate Corp. Svcs., 1 Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Ste. 1008, Albany, NY 12260. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-20039 (November 26, 2008)	REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/12/08. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 145 99th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11209. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-20045 (November 26, 2008)
Notice of formation of DRFRMNY, LLC a NYS LLC Formation filed with SSNY on 09/15/08. Off. Loc.: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agt. of LLC, upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 41 State Street, Suite M104, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purposes. LD-20023 (November 26, 2008)	NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is Kim Rocky Point V LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on November 12, 2008. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is c/o Dean DeVito, 621 Columbia Street, Cohoes, New York 12047. LD-20028 (November 26, 2008)	NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: LION GATE AGAMI CAB LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/07/08. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 404 East 66th Street, 7F, New York, New York 10065. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-20033 (November 26, 2008)	Notice of Formation of Paragon Die Cutting and Finishing, LLC. Arts Of Org. filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/23/07. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Allstate Corporate Svcs Corp., 41 State St., Ste. 415, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-20037 (November 26, 2008)	LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: I DON'T CARE EITHER, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/05/08. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, c/o Jylmas Productions Inc., 146 West 57th Street, Apartment 66E, New York, New York 10019. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-20040 (November 26, 2008)	LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: BRIDGESTONE PROPERTIES LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/14/08. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, c/o Steven Goldstein, 335 Central Avenue, Lawrence, New York 11559. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-20044 (November 26, 2008)
Notice of Qualification of BLUE JAY CONSULTING, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/07/08. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Illinois (IL) on 04/21/06. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Address of principal office of LLC: 4700 Millenia Blvd., Ste. 175, Orlando, FL 32839-6015. Arts. of Org. filed with Jesse White, Secy. of State of IL, 213 State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62756. Purpose: Any lawful activity. LD-20025 (November 26, 2008)	LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: MZNA CONSULTING LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/03/08. The latest date of dissolution is 12/31/2068. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 500 East 77th Street, Unit 239, New York, New York 10162. Purpose: For any	LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: FOLISI REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/06/08. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 3 Monroe Place, Brooklyn, New York 11201. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-20034 (November 26, 2008)	LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Formation of Royal Virgin LLC. Arts Of Org. filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/10/08. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Allstate Corp. Svcs., 1 Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Ste. 1008, Albany, NY 12260. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-20038 (November 26, 2008)	LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Formation of NEW WORLD MEDIA LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/27/2008. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Corporation Service Company, 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Term: until 7/31/2058. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-20041 (November 26, 2008)	LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: CAPSCAR LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/12/08. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 354 Humbolt Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD-20047 (November 26, 2008)
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: ODYSSEY ENERGY SOLUTIONS LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary					

Sports *in the* Spotlight

News & Notes

Graham returns to Capital District for tournament

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School graduate Nate Graham returns to the region Saturday to participate in the Northeast Collegiate Duals wrestling tournament at Hudson Valley Community College.

Graham, a sophomore at Bloomsburg University, is one of five former Section II wrestlers expected to participate in the tournament, which brings together some of the top NCAA Division I programs.

Other former Section II wrestlers expected to participate include Columbia graduate Zach Crain (Binghamton), Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake grad Matt Kaylor (Binghamton) and Shenendehowa grads Kareem Naguib (Binghamton) and T.J. Popolizio (Brown).

This year's tournament field includes top-ranked Iowa, 34-time NCAA team champion Oklahoma State and four more nationally-ranked teams — Missouri, Central Michigan, Maryland and Old Dominion.

The round-robin tournament begins at 9:15 a.m. on six mats. Tickets are \$20 per person.

For information and tickets, visit www.journeymenwrestling.com or e-mail Frank Popolizio at Frankiepesce@hotmail.com.

Registration starts for Last Run 5K

Albany's Last Run 5-kilometer race takes place Saturday, Dec. 27, at 5:30 p.m. in Washington Park.

The USA Track and Field certified course is open to runners of all levels and includes the annual Capital Holiday Lights display in the park.

A fireworks display begins the race, which is run in conjunction with Albany's Winter Fest, and there will be a post-race party with refreshments, awards and prizes.

The race is limited to 1,000 runners, and pre-registration is encouraged. Teams are also welcome to participate.

The cost is \$15 per person before Dec. 20 and \$20 after that. Register online at www.active.com or download a registration form at www.albanyevents.org.

Correction

In a Bethlehem girls basketball article Nov. 19, it should have been noted that Caitlin Dole was a returning player.

Eagles start over

Veterans assume new roles at Bethlehem

By ROB JONAS
jonasr@spotlightnews.com

On the surface, the Bethlehem boys basketball team looks like it is in for a long season.

Only one starter is back from last year's team, which finished third in the four-team Suburban Council Gold Division. And the Eagles are playing in a realigned Suburban Council

□ Eagles Page 35



Bethlehem's Ryan Stempsey, right, tries to drive past a defender during last Thursday's practice. Rob Jonas/Spotlight

'Birds become roadrunners

Catellier hopes speed, athleticism helps Voorheesville

By ROB JONAS
jonasr@spotlightnews.com

The Voorheesville boys basketball team finds itself at a crossroads this year.

Instead of relying on their big men in the lane, the Blackbirds are going to have a more guard-oriented, fast-paced offense.

"We're going to push the ball a lot more this year," said Voorheesville coach Don Catellier. "We're going to run up and down the court."

The reason is that Voorheesville lost one half of its twin towers with the graduation of forward Evan Christner. And though the Blackbirds will have junior center Ethan Mackey back for another season, they won't have another sizeable presence in the lane the likes of the 6-foot, 4-inch, 220-pound Christner.

Still, Mackey gives Voorheesville a go-to guy near the basket.

"Ethan, as a junior, is probably going to be one of the best big men in Section II among the small school divisions," said Catellier.

Mackey won't be the only weapon Voorheesville utilizes. Guard Nick Kinisky and forward

Nick Crawford are also expected to play significant roles in the offense.

"Nick Crawford is 6-3, 6-2, but he can jump through the roof," said Catellier.

Kinisky and the rest of Voorheesville's guard corps will have to play well within Catellier's up-tempo offense in order to help the Blackbirds make another run at the Section II title.

"They are very hard working, they are decent outside shooters and they play very good defense," Catellier said of his guards.

Voorheesville's first goal will be to win the Colonial Council — a league that has been reshaped by the departure of Albany Academy, which will play an independent schedule this season.

"It's going to be different without Albany Academy," said Catellier. "Coho is going to be very good — they're probably the team to beat. Watervliet is going to be very good ... and Lansingburgh is always good."

Though there will be a transition period as some younger players get on the court, Catellier said he believes Voorheesville will be up there with Cohoes, Watervliet and Lansingburgh when then Colonial Council season ends.

"We will be competitive in it," said Catellier. "Obviously, we go into every season wanting to win the league, but I think we have a chance."



Voorheesville forward Ethan Mackey goes in for the layup during last Wednesday's practice. Rob Jonas/Spotlight

BC football players earn honors

Section II football announced its Class AA All-Stars last Thursday. They are:

Empire Division

Player of the year: Leejay Pollacchi (senior tailback, Saratoga)

Offensive player of the year: Mark Seager (junior quarterback, Ballston Spa)

Defensive player of the

year: Tony DeLoatch (junior, Saratoga)

All-purpose player of the year: Suhayb Banks (junior, Shenendehowa)

Offense First team

Quarterback — Collin Mulholland (senior, Saratoga)

Wide receivers: Mike Heiserman (senior, Guelderland),

Kyle Niehaus (senior, Bethlehem)

Running backs — Jalon Scott (senior, Albany), Jack Reilly (junior, CBA)

Tight end — Will Dreyer (senior, Saratoga)

Offensive tackles — Steve Brown (senior, Shenendehowa), Adhem Elsayi (senior, Saratoga)

Offensive guards — Chris

Callanan (senior, Ballston Spa), Pete White (senior, Shenendehowa)

Center — Adam Geleta (senior, Shenendehowa)

Second team

Quarterback — Randy Bowers (senior, Bethlehem)

Wide receivers — Dan Sipperly

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