



True to its roots

A talking plant is one of the stars of the Voorheesville high school production of "Little Shop of Horrors," which has a surprise ending.

See Page 2.



Hair today ...

Mike and Stacy DeBritz watched their daughter lose her hair to leukemia. On Saturday, they'll watch people willingly part with all their hair.

See Page 24.



Away games

The Guilderland lacrosse team is preparing for a trip to the Northwest, where it will face Bellevue, Wash., and two-time defending Oregon champion Lincoln.

See Page 36.

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Rules take aim at head injuries

Local couple spurred to action after son was hit by baseball

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Spotlight

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End near for eyesore?

Residents hope court date will force action on rundown house

By MARCY VELTE
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Residents of one South Bethlehem neighborhood are hoping an approaching court date could close the book on years of complaints over an abandoned and dilapidated house on Willowbrook Avenue.

Residents said the home was abandoned years ago and has fallen into disrepair. Local kids often used the home as a hangout spot, but when the creek behind the property overflowed after Hurricane Irene last August, the surge of water caused the back of the home to collapse.

"It's a terrible eyesore," said Jim Goss, who has lived at the corner of Willowbrook Avenue and Orchard Street for nearly 30 years. "The house is disgraceful and it's bringing down the values of our homes."

Town Building Inspector Gil Bouchard said he has been contacting the owner of the home, James

Albertine, since he took over the job in 2008. He has no record of how long the home has been abandoned, but said he knows his predecessors had contacted the owner when it started to get run down.

"I think I called him 30-plus times since then, and I finally decided to take him to court," he said.

"The house is disgraceful and it's bringing down the values of our homes."

Neighbor Jim Goss

According to Bouchard, most of the home's doors had been left unlocked and many of the windows were open so people could easily get inside. He also said furniture and clothes had been left throughout the house. There is an empty in-ground pool at the back of the property. There is no water in the pool, so Bouchard said it isn't a drowning hazard, but it would still be an issue if someone were to fall in.

"You could pretty much walk right into the pool," he said. "If somebody falls into that they can sue him, you you'd think the owner would want to get it taken care of. The whole property is a hazard."

Albertine did not return numerous calls to

□ End Page 22

Eatery looks to head indoors

Casa Mia owner drafts plans to remove deck, add banquet room

By MARCY VELTE
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The Italian restaurant and pizzeria Casa Mia in Glenmont may soon be expanding.

Owner and Chef Raymond Cecunjanin on Thursday, March 15, presented plans before the town's Development Planning Committee to replace the deck and outside seating area on the south side of the building with a larger banquet room.

"The deck is underused," said Cecunjanin. "I spent all that money doing the deck and it didn't pay off. Its use depends on the weather too much."

Cecunjanin said he took over the restaurant in 1994 and at the time, Casa Mia was one of the few eateries on Route 9W in Glenmont. Over time, the area has become more developed and larger chain restaurants moved in.

"The competition is stiff ever since all of these businesses came in," he said.

Cecunjanin told the committee there was previously 3,000 square feet of banquet space upstairs that he converted into apartments. He said it was hard for seniors to

□ Eatery Page 29

Plant upgrades will run in millions

Bethlehem wastewater facility will see double the input in 30 years

By MARCY VELTE
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A 30-year plan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant on Dinmore Road was presented to the Bethlehem Town Board on Wednesday, March 14, capping off a two-year Department of Public Works study.

The study was performed with the help of two consulting firms, Clough Harbour & Associates and CDM Smith, to help the town find the most cost effective way to maintain the aging plant as the population of Bethlehem grows.

"The facility is more or less 40 years old,"

said Commissioner of Public Works Erik Deyoe. "There is a lot of existing original equipment, existing original unit processes, and obviously the town has grown over that period of time. So we were interested in looking at what the long-term needs are, looking at future growth, as well as where we have limitations and redundancies to see how we can make the treatment process more robust."

According to Karen Clark, vice president of CHA, the plant was built in 1972 with the capacity to treat 4.9 million gallons per day. Upgrades to the plant were performed in 1992 and the plant was re-rated in 2003 to increase the treatment capacity to 6 million gallons per day.

Various pieces of equipment have been updated over the years, prolonging the life of the plant, according to Clark. A new air compressor was purchased in 2006 and a new dissolved air flotation thickener, which is part of the process to turn waste into "sludge," was installed in 2010. Because of damages sustained from Hurricane Irene, a clarifier that separates "sludge" from water was replaced this year.

The companies performed an energy study and inspection of the facilities and equipment, a climate change study, a sludge reduction study and a capacity analysis for the project. They also performed an odor control review because of complaints from nearby residents and those visiting Henry Hudson Park.

□ Plant Page 22

Bethlehem food pantry seeks bigger location

Need has steadily grown along with recession

By MARCY VELTE
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The Bethlehem Food Pantry has been lending a helping hand to the town's needy families since 1982, but following a recession and facing rising food costs, staff members say pantry need has increased but storage space has not.

A joint program between Bethlehem Senior Projects and the town's Department of Senior Service, those who run the food pantry are now thinking of ways to expand. According to Senior Services Director Joyce Becker, about 1,800 people used the pantry last year and demand has tripled since 2009.

"We're looking for someplace where we have more room," she said. "Right now, we are just jammed. We do a lot with very little space."

For the past 20 years, all of the food either donated or purchased by Bethlehem Senior Projects through the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York has been stored in Town Hall. Most of the food



All of the food either donated or purchased by Bethlehem Senior Projects has been stored in Town Hall.
Marcy Velte/Spotlight

is kept hidden behind the stage curtain of the main meeting hall, but the space is also shared with a local orchestra. A small room to the left contains additional food storage, but wheelchairs, walker, and crutches are stored there as well for another Bethlehem Senior Projects program.

Jane Sanders, the town's senior social worker, said 55 to 60 families visit the pantry each week, a great increase from several years ago. Then, only about 30 families each week were in need. Sanders said about 20 percent of visitors are seniors living off of their Social Security payments. The rest are families

who need help because a member of the family has been laid off or is now on disability.

"Gas, utilities, the price of food, everything has gone up except income," she said. "Some people may come in once a month until they get on their feet, and there are others who have used it for years. There are some who are working full time, but minimum wage doesn't get them very far."

Becker said families in need are first paired with a social worker before they visit the pantry to find them additional help.

"Many people have no idea what is out there for them," she said.

Becker said one of

the main problems for Bethlehem residents who find themselves unemployed is they are overqualified for many entry-level positions.

"We're seeing more people go back into the workforce after being trained to do something entirely different, but in the short term they need some help."

The food pantry has about eight regular volunteers who help throughout the year. Sanders said the largest food drives held by local Boy Scouts, the Post Office and the library keep the pantry stocked throughout the summer and into the fall. After that, there is a delivery every two weeks of purchases from the Regional Food Bank.

All of the food is then sorted and stacked into cabinets. The town food pantry doesn't have refrigeration, so only nonperishable items can be accepted. For some people in emergency situations, Bethlehem Senior Projects will provide supermarket gift cards.

"We encourage people to get their boxed or nonperishable food from us so they can save their

money for fresh produce," said Sanders. "We try to give a couple weeks worth of meals depending on size of family, but they shouldn't just be eating what we have to give. People can't live on that."

Cosmetics, cleaning products and toiletries are also accepted. "We like to be able to have a small variety of toiletries available because they are items that cannot be purchased with food stamps," Sanders said.

She said there is no additional space available within Town Hall. Indeed, town leaders last year bemoaned the lack of space when embarking on a project that, among other things, saw conference rooms split up to create additional offices.

Partly because of that lack of space, Sanders said privacy is an issue for some.

It can be uncomfortable for people to use the pantry since it is such a public location, she said. When people visit, white screens are placed in front of the stage for privacy but they can often be seen when entering or leaving the area. Sanders said when the room is in use for a meeting or program, people using the pantry

are led in through the back.

Finding a new location has not been easy. Becker said they have been looking for about two years. The space needs to be bigger, within a short distance from the Town Hall and nearly rent-free.

"At this point we are just looking for ideas," she said. "If some local churches could help, that would be great."

Sanders agreed, adding it would be great if a partnership could be formed. Venture Churches already have an established food pantry at the First Reformed Church of Bethlehem in Selkirk. Sanders said it is bigger and has refrigeration.

"We need a place (or places) where we can grow," she said.

Bethlehem Food Pantry drop-off locations are at the Bethlehem Town Hall, the Bethlehem YMCA, the Delmar Marketplace and the Bethlehem Public Library. Items needed include canned tuna fish, canned chicken, pasta sauces and peanut butter. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

For more information on how to volunteer, donate, or use the pantry call 439-4955 ext. 1176.



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Voorheesville musical holds a ‘Little’ surprise

Production stays true to roots, but has different ending

By MARCY VELTE
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Most people think they know the story, but some audience members may be in for a surprise when they attend Voorheesville High School’s production of “Little Shop of Horrors.”

The end of the musical is far different from that of the 1986 feature film most will be familiar with, according to co-directors Matt Robinson and Wayne Manchester. However, the majority of the music is the same, and those in attendance are still sure to leave the auditorium chanting, “Feed me!”

“When the movie came out, they had some test audiences see it and did film it the way the play ends, but test audiences at the time, when they went to the movies, wanted to see a happy-go-lucky musical,” said Manchester. “They didn’t like the idea of seeing dark musicals, so (the directors) actually re-filmed the entire end to fit with people’s perceptions.”

The story is about a floral shop employee,



Andrea Figlioneni, who plays Audrey, sits in a dentist chair with “Little Shop of Horrors” character Orin Scrivello, DDS, played by Voorheesville junior Liam Brennan.

Marcy Velte/Spotlight

Seymour, who discovers and raises a plant he names Audrey II, after another flower shop employee he has a crush on. Seymour soon discovers as his little plant grows, it has a taste for blood that becomes insatiable. Because of the plant’s constant cries of “feed me” and

its promises of fame and fortune, Seymour agrees to help the plant and mayhem ensues.

Robinson and Manchester do not suggest the play for some younger theatergoers because of the subject matter. The production has not been censored and the topic of domestic

abuse is discussed. Some characters are also killed and body parts are seen on stage.

“Gore is not really an issue,” said Robinson. “We won’t have blood splashing or anything like that, so it’s relatively tame.”

The directors said the plant itself is goofy and while some kids may like it, others may be frightened. They suggest parents have a discussion with their children before attending the musical, so children understand everything they see on stage is pretend.

Mark Guido, who plays Seymour, said the directors have used some theatrical tricks to maintain the integrity of the story while not being overly “gruesome.” Some characters die offstage.

“We are definitely avoiding gory violence, but keeping the poignant violence,” he said. “All of the characters who die onstage are important to the plot, so their deaths have to be meaningful in some way.”

The musical focuses on the subject of greed and its consequences. Because of that, Guido said he liked the ending of the musical production

better than the film’s.

“I think the topic is lost in the film’s revised ending,” he said. “Seymour falls too deep into his own weaknesses, and they end up dominating him.”

Andrea Figlioneni, who plays Audrey, said the cast was taught the ending of the movie version is a “deus ex machina,” a plot device used in Greek theater where an insolvable problem is abruptly solved using an unexpected intervention of someone or something.

“It’s unrealistic,” she said of the film’s ending. “Whereas in the play ... I mean, a giant plant. We’re not going to defeat that. People are going to be eaten.”

Robinson and Manchester said they decided to put on “Little Shop of Horrors” this year because the show calls for a smaller cast. They said not as many students were interested in performing this year, but the ones who did participate are hard working and talented.

“I don’t think we’ve had a cast with so much enthusiasm,” said Manchester.

The directors also said they immediately saw too many similarities between the cast and the musical’s

characters to not choose “Little Shop of Horrors” for this year’s production.

Liam Brennan, who plays the sadistic dentist and Audrey’s boyfriend, said he is completely different from his character, but his looks and mannerisms match those of actor Steve Martin, who plays the character in the film. Brennan said he can see why he was chosen, and the role has challenged him in a good way.

Guido, however, said he is very much like Seymour.

“I like that even though he’s kind of a parody and comic relief, he’s also really deep,” he said.

The play will be performed on March 30 and 31 at 7:15 p.m. and on April 1 at 2:15 p.m. at the Lydia Tobler Performing Arts Center. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students.

According to Robinson and Manchester, the April 1 performance will contain a few extra surprises.

“Not to give too much away, people who come on the April 1 date will see a different show from those who come to the other two performances,” said Manchester.

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Police Blotter

Bethlehem man charged with gang assault

A Bethlehem man was arrested in connection with a gang assault that left an Albany man with severe head injuries, according to police.

Nasir Stratton, 21, of 42 Meadowbrook Drive, was charged with gang assault in the 2nd degree after being identified as one of the men who attacked Havie Everett outside of 148 Clinton Street in Albany on the afternoon of Sunday, March 11.

Albany police said according to witnesses, Stratton and three other men were sitting on the front steps of the victim's brother's apartment on Clinton Street allegedly selling drugs. The victim and his brother told the men to get off the steps or they were going to call police. Police said Everett's brother then went inside his apartment to get his phone while Everette stayed outside.

Witnesses told police Everett and Stratton started to argue and it escalated into a fight and the other suspects soon joined in and attacked Everett. Police said the men repeatedly punched and kicked Everett in the head while he was on the ground.

Police said a witness to the assault called police and when officers arrived the suspects all had fled the scene. Everett was found lying in the middle of the street, police said.

Another man, Oliajuwon Timmons, 26, of 166 Wellington Avenue has since been arrested in connection with the incident, according to Albany police. He was also charged by with gang assault in the 2nd degree on Thursday, March 15. Police said Timmons, who is on federal probation, turned himself in. He was arraigned in Albany City Court and remanded to Albany County Jail, as was Stratton.

Emergency medical personnel treated Everett at the scene and he was later transported to Albany Medical Center. Doctors determined he sustained two broken eye sockets, multiple skull fractures, a broken jaw and bleeding on the brain.

Everett was in serious condition and under sedation, according to police, but his condition has since been upgraded. His injuries are not considered life threatening at this time.

Albany police are still trying to identify the third suspect involved in the assault. Anyone with information should call 438-4000.

Crash closes Route 9W



A head-on collision on Route 9W near the intersection with Wemple Road closed the busy artery for about 20 minutes at about 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 15. Firefighters had to extract several people from a car.

Tom Heffernan Sr./Spotlight

Guardsman charged with fraud

A member of the New York State National Guard has been arrested for fraudulently soliciting money from residents in Bethlehem and Colonie, according to police.

Robert Conde, 20, of Albany was arrested after he allegedly went door-to-door in his military uniform asking residents for money to support U.S. troops, according to police. Conde collected both cash and checks, and then used the funds himself.

Police said Conde is a member of the state National Guard stationed in Auburn. Police said they have investigated about six complaints from residents concerning an unknown amount of money.

"The National Guard, and all branches of the military, do not fundraise," said Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, the Public Affairs Officer for the New York National Guard, in a statement. "If somebody in uniform asks you to give them money for 'the troops,' they are wrong."

New York State Division of Military & Naval Affairs spokesman Eric Durr said "military regulations and ethics forbid such fundraising in uniform."

"With very few exceptions military personal are barred from directly or indirectly asking for gifts, awards and other benefits for themselves or their organizations when in uniform," he said. "Soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines cannot ask for money for their unit, organization or for military-related groups, such as a unit Family Readiness Group, while in uniform."

Conde was charged with scheming to defraud, a felony, and misdemeanor counts of petit larceny, fraudulent accosting, official misconduct and receiving unlawful gratuities, according to police. He was arraigned in Bethlehem Town Court and remanded to Albany County jail in lieu of \$35,000 bail.

Police said Conde is due back in court on Tuesday, April 3.

Police are asking anyone who may have been contacted by Conde to call Bethlehem police at 439-9973.

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There’s no place like home (even first class)

By CAROLINE BARRETT
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On the first day of February break, I was boarding an airplane, kids in tow. We were still sleepy and very disheveled. Obediently, we walked in line, slowly, one step after another until we reached the airplane door. The morning had been a bit frantic and we rushed to get to the airplane. There had been no time to inspect tickets and negotiate window seats among children. Arriving at our gate, we handed over our tickets and stepped right into line. I was daydreaming about my book and new cooking magazine, when Zoe interrupted my reverie.

She showed me the seat number on her ticket: 4C. Figuring it must be a small plane, we stepped inside. Then we saw that it wasn’t a big plane. And I looked from the ticket to our seats, and back to the ticket again, realizing something. Our tickets read 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D. All four right in first class. Yup, me and my loud, ragtag children were assigned to sit in those big, leather, comfy seats. On the other side of the big blue curtain.

While I stood looking from the ticket to the seats over and over, wondering where the mistake came from, I heard a soft, smooth voice over my shoulder.

“You must be Ms. Barrett. Let me help you with your things.” The flight attendant had the whitest teeth I’d ever seen. And no one, before or since, has been as nice to me as she was that day.

Sheepishly, I settled into my seat. I figured that soon, they would discover the mistake and we’d have to collect our bags and move back to the seats we really belonged in.

Meanwhile, though, champagne was being served to the lucky passengers in first class.

“Champagne?” she

Our Daily Plate
Caroline Barrett



asked in that cool voice, offering me a tall glass filled with bubbly.

Champagne? It was seven in the morning, we were all wearing sweatpants and my hair wasn’t even brushed. Of course I wanted champagne!

I sipped from my glass, Lucy drank from a seltzer with lime, and Zoe and Elliot each had a juice. Good, I thought. Now we just need to act like we belong here in first class, then no one would ever suspect that we didn’t. Lucy was game. She pulled out her big sunglasses and fashion magazine, and acted like she owned seat 4B. Cool as a cucumber, she was.

Across the aisle, it was a different story. Elliot was bouncing up and down on the leather seat, trying to get as much air as possible. He spilled his entire glass of juice after the first sip. And Zoe, subtlety is not in her nature. She leaned across the aisle and yelled to me, “Mom! Hey mom!”

I leaned over and waited.

“How much do you think these seats cost?” she yelled.

Oh, boy.

“I mean, how much money do you think the other people up here

spent on their tickets?” This she said even louder, thinking perhaps I hadn’t heard her the first time. A snooty woman with an expensive handbag sitting in front of us kind of sneered and turned her nose up. I think she knew we really belonged in back. I asked Zoe and Elliot if they would just settle in, enjoy the peace and relax a bit. You know, the nice way of saying sit down and shut up.

We did enjoy ourselves on that plane ride. My favorite flight attendant brought us steamy hot towels to wipe our faces, followed by a tray of food that was really good, and not just by airline standards. I had a salad and delicate pasta stuffed with pumpkin and ricotta cheese. The tray my food was brought on had a proper napkin, real silverware and ceramic salt and pepper shakers. Warm rolls were brought and served with butter. Yes, I thought, this first class thing is working out quite well.

Smiling Flight Attendant came and asked me how I was doing, multiple times, always in that low, smooth voice. Ms. Barrett in seat 4A was doing just fine.

The plane brought us to the place where we met my father and my sister, for a week of water and sun. We ate well, drank frosty drinks in the sand and snorkeled in the clear,

blue, water. Too soon, it was time to go home.

Doing the shuffle-walk again on the airplane, we paused in the first class section. Zoe looked looked around, wondering.

“Hey, mom,” she yelled, “which one is ours?”

Keep walking, I told her, head on back. All the way back. Our seats were 23A, 23B, 23C, 23D. The flight home was uneventful. No one offered us hot towels or warm meals and the flight attendants didn’t call me “Ms. Barrett,” not even once. It didn’t matter how we got there though, because I was so happy to be going home. Sure, the week away was blissful. But I missed my husband, our dog and our snug little house. We spent days telling Paul all about what we’d seen and done.

Being back in my kitchen was pretty nice, too. This dish is one I created, remembering the fresh flavors of the food we ate in that warm, faraway place. It’s full of flavor and mango is so sunny and sweet and delicious.

We don’t have any trip planned soon, but hopefully we’ll pack our bags and head off for another vacation next year. And when we do, we’ll walk right past those comfy leather chairs in first class. We’ll head to the other side of the big blue curtain, back where we belong.

Chicken with Mango and Basil

serves 4 with leftovers

- 4 chicken breasts
- sea salt
- olive oil
- 6 cups baby salad greens
- 2 ripe mangoes
- 1 14-oz can black beans, drained and rinsed well
- 2 green onions, trimmed and chopped
- 1 handful fresh basil, cut into slivers

for the dressing: 1/2 c. olive oil, juice of 1 lime, 2 t. rice vinegar, 1 t. honey, sea salt and black pepper to taste

Rinse the chicken breasts and pat dry. Season both sides with a sprinkle of salt and brush with a little olive oil. Heat a grill or a grill pan over medium heat and cook the chicken for 4-5 minutes on each side, or until done. Remove from heat and let cool.

Meanwhile, shake the dressing ingredients together in a glass jar and set aside. On a platter, arrange the salad greens, then layer on the black beans and mango. Slice the chicken into strips and place in a glass bowl. Stir the chicken, basil and green onions together with a spoonful of the dressing. Arrange over the mango. Pour the remaining dressing over all, and serve. Refrigerate any unused dressing.

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Matters of Opinion in The Spotlight

Waste not, want not

We report this week on a situation with the Bethlehem Food Pantry that’s not altogether a bad problem to have: the pantry needs more space.

Regular attendees of town functions in Bethlehem may or may not be aware that the Town Board is sitting just a few feet in front of the pantry’s stockpile, which is stacked on the auditorium’s stage.

It’s nice to see that the pantry is able to keep a good amount of supplies on hand, even in the face of what are some pretty tough times. As we’ve reported several times in the past few years, even in relatively affluent suburban communities there is an increased need for the services of local food pantries and the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

In 2009, we reported the number of families served by the Bethlehem Food Pantry had doubled in just two years. In this week’s edition, Marcy Velte reports that since that time, demand has tripled. Last year, 1,800 used the services of the pantry, which is roughly 5 percent of the town’s population.

The story is much the same in other places, if not worse. The regional food bank, which operates in 23 counties, many of them rural, delivers food that is distributed to nearly a quarter-million people. The bank reports 70 percent of the families its serves live under the poverty line, but 40 percent have at least one adult working.

Altogether, the organization Feeding America, which coordinates with regional food banks across the nation, figures that in 2010, a shocking one in six Americans (37 million people) drew on the services of a food pantry, and that about 15 percent of America households are “food insecure” — having enough food to go around is not a given.

This is of course much better than what’s going on in some parts of the world, such as in Sudan, where hundreds of thousands are threatened by real and actual starvation. But for America, which is truly a land of plenty, these figures are simply incomprehensible. Until you start to think about how much food we throw away.

According to the EPA, in 2010 food accounted for 14 percent of the municipal waste stream — 34 million tons. That’s more than plastics, or paper or yard waste — we throw away more food than leaves. And according to a more recent report by the Natural Resources Defense Council, anywhere from 30 to 50 percent of the food produced worldwide never reaches a mouth. It’s thrown out.

A lot of this is owed to factors beyond the control of the common person. Humanitarian aid to hungry people is held up and rots. A rash of poor weather kills crops on the vine. Contamination in a factory means tons of food must be tossed.

But on the other hand, that same report figures the average American throws out 33 pounds of food every month. Considering that in the poorer parts of the world people are accustomed to eating apple cores, boiling every gram of nutrition out of animal bones and stewing up what we consider to be garbage, it’s truly astounding how much perfectly good food we throw out simply because we never got around to eating it.

So what can you do to help your local food pantry? Donating, first and foremost. But for those of us who are unable or unwilling to do so, you can help your neighbors and yourself by being smarter at the grocery store and using what you buy. More money will be left in your wallet, and the food you leave on the shelf will make its way to a pantry.

Editorial

What happened to customer service?

By DEE BASEMORE

The writer is the head of classifieds and the business directory for Spotlight Newspapers.

Thinking back (my age showing here) I remember when you called a friend and there was no such thing as call waiting. The line was busy, you hung up and waited. Then there was the pager, but there was a pay phone to be found on every corner back then, too.

Now, there are so many gadgets, I can’t even keep track and not sure if I could distinguish an iPhone from an MP3 Player.

All this technology is great, please don’t get me wrong. It is wonderful to know that I can program my DVR player from work so I don’t miss a favorite TV show, or make plans with friends through texting. The other wonderful thing is all the jobs that it creates.

The problem? Real customer service can get lost in all this technology. We do not really own the gadgets we have purchased. They own us. Thus, the people who are employed at these companies have the answers we need and so, we are at their mercy. This is not always a comforting thing. Customer service has suffered where technology has soared.

There are many options when trying to receive customer service. Here are just a few.

Using the computer. Everything now has a website connected to it, but unless you are computer savvy, it can be difficult to navigate through all the pages to get what you actually want... An answer to your problem.

Making a phone call should be one of the easiest ways to receive customer service, but notice I did not say “good customer service”. One should not feel “dumb” for calling because they cannot understand something, but it happens. This is not just in relation with the gadgets we have, but with all the services

Point of View

that we deal with daily or even just asking a simple question.

When dealing with a real person on the phone, you have a few options that may or may not be in your best interest. Many companies have opted to outsource, so you are not sure whom you will get on the phone and language barriers do not help. Other times, you receive a voicemail and you just have to pray you will receive a call back. Or, the classic, getting someone on the phone that does not really care about you or your problem. It’s just eight hours and a paycheck at the end of the week for them.

You can call the automated support line and deal with pushing buttons until you get carpal tunnel or disconnected. I called a company once to deal with an issue I was having. They had just introduced their IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System). Oh, the joy! I was instructed to speak my commands or use my keypad on my phone. There was no option to speak with a customer service representative at all. I spoke and pushed and was then given an email address to send my request if my questions or problems had not been solved.

I sent an email to the address, more fun here! I was not allowed to send more than one request and had to wait at least 48 hours for a response. That was it. They were done with me and I still did not have my problem solved. I understand moving along with the times and the efficiency of automation, yet, I still question the lack for full supported customer service.

Companies rely on customers. We all, at some point, are, or will be a customer. We deserve then, especially after spending the money that we have spent on

gadgets and other services, to receive the best that company has to offer. I know it may not always be easy. People are people and won’t always be having a good day, but just who should suffer for that? If I just spent \$200 on a Kindle and I am having a problem downloading something, the last thing I want to hear is, “Did you go to our website?”

The hard-earned money that we spend entitles us to full, proper service. I cringe when I think someone may have treated my mother badly on the phone or talked an elderly person into something “extra” they really did not need. The old saying of “The customer is always right,” may not always be true, mistakes do happen, but that does not mean that they should not receive the best service when they call, stop by or email.

We all at some point will deal with an unruly customer. We all at some point may be that unruly customer. But if I have chosen to be in the profession of customer service, then there is a certain standard that I must uphold.

Customer service representatives will not always make every customer happy, but think about the ones who do. That one voice can speak volumes. There will also be that one customer who rants and raves and uses words that are not in the dictionary. No one should have to deal with that type of abuse, so there are limits. Each situation with a customer will be unique and should be handled respectfully.

My mom always says, “Don’t allow anyone to steal your joy.” I say this to all customer service representatives. A customer may upset you, make you angry or take your smile away briefly, but do not allow one angry customer to dictate your mood, tone or professionalism toward the next customer. I am no customer service guru by any means. We receive what we put out.

Weekly poll

Do you donate to local programs aimed at feeding the hungry?

Log on to www.spotlightnews.com to cast your vote.

Last week’s poll results:
“What should be the first thing cut from school budgets?”

- Teachers–Increase class sizes 23%
- Athletics programming 8%
- Technology 8%
- Extracurriculars–Clubs, etc. 0%
- Transportation–Higher walking distance 23%
- Nothing--Raise taxes as high as needed 38%

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Panda breaks out

The next Family Movie Friday feature, at 7 p.m. on March 23, is a computer-animated sequel to the 2008 Panda blockbuster. In this PG-Rated flick, Po and his friends battle to stop a would-be conqueror with a powerful new weapon, with the giant panda discovering a disquieting link to his past.

Featuring the voices of Jack Black, Angelina Jolie, Gary Oldman (yes! Gary Oldman), Jackie Chan,



and Dustin Hoffman, this was more successful at the box office than the original. Come enjoy it on the Helderberg Room's big screen.

Anime? What's that?

You know what anime is, and that's why you need to be at the next Anime Club gathering on Wednesday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m.

This is your time to hang out with fellow anime-lovers, watch some peer-selected anime series episodes and movies, and even create your own manga artwork. Open to

grades seven through 12. No registration necessary.

Mark Curiale

For more information on these programs, please call the Library at 456-2400, or email info@guilpl.org. The Guilderland Public Library is at 2228 Western Ave., Guilderland. Visit the Library's website at www.guilpl.org. Check out the "unofficial" Library stuff at facebook.com/GuilderlandLibrary, follow the Library on Twitter (@GuilderlandLib), and get music information and downloads on the Library's Freegal page. It all starts at guilpl.org.

Learn about digital downloads

Drop in and learn how to borrow free ebooks and audiobooks from the library's Overdrive collection at a digital download open house on Friday, March 23, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Bring your own Nook, Kindle or Apple device, or sample the library's Nook Color, Nook Touch, iPad, iPod Touch, Kindle Touch and Literati e-readers. Small group sessions will start every half hour. Call the library for more



information.

Kim and Reggie Harris

Music and the Underground Railroad Monday April 9 at 7 p.m.

Kim and Reggie highlight one of the most fascinating chapters of American history with songs, stories, audience involvement and an

award winning multimedia presentation. The inspiring triumph won by a network of slaves and committed citizens from all walks of life unfolds in their dynamic performance. Kim and Reggie Harris are superbly talented traditional folk performers whose captivating stage presence and unique harmonies have earned the respect and love of audiences for over 30 years.

□ Learn Page 8

One Kindle, one author

We've preloaded several Kindle e-readers with all available books by an individual author. You can borrow Kindle Collections of Maeve Binchy, Lee Child, Janet Evanovich, Sue Grafton, Stephen King, George R.R. Martin and James Patterson. Coming soon: Terry Brooks, Jude Deveraux, John Grisham and more. These collections are available through the regular library catalog.

Jazzy weekend

Talented high school students will regale us with their love of jazz this Saturday, March 24, at 2:30pm. Members of Bethlehem Central High School's Jazztic Measures ensemble will perform under the direction of Patrick Beauregard.

Skip Parsons has been a frequent guest of the library over the years; we're happy to again welcome him and his trio this Sunday, March 25, at 2 p.m.

Poetry online

April is National Poetry Month, and we invite kids in kindergarten through



grade five to participate in our poetry contest. Submit your entries online beginning next Monday, March 26, through April 25. Go to www.bplkids.org for details. Winning poems will be posted on our website.

Petition forms available for trustee seats

Nominating petition forms are available for two vacancies on the Bethlehem Public Library board of trustees, one for a full term of five years, and one for a partial term of 1 year. Petition forms and information packets are available at the library information desk.

Petitions must contain at least 99 signatures of voters residing in Central School District No. 6 of the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland. Petitions must be filed with the District Clerk, 90 Adams Place, Delmar by 5 p.m. on April 16.

Children's circle

Thursday, April 5, 6:30 p.m.

Stories, songs, crafts and toys for children of all ages and abilities.

Library board

Monday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.

Guerilla gardening

Tuesday, April 10, 2:30 p.m.

Make a "seed bomb" for some random acts of gardening in your yard or community; dig into some stories. Grade K-5.

Magic Tree house party

Tuesday, April 10, 7 p.m.

Vote for your favorite book in this long-running series, play games, do crafts. Grade K-5.

After dinner books

Wednesday, April 11, 7 p.m.

"Stash" by David Klein. The author will be present at the discussion. New members welcome.

Louise Grieco

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

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Learn more about Medicare

Got Medicare? Getting Medicare soon? Have questions? Find out about Medicare, prescription drug insurance, private medical insurance (Advantage Plans) and Medicare supplementary insurance on Thursday, April 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Guilderland Town Hall's Board Room. To register, call the Senior Office at 356-1980, ext. 1094. Walk-ins are also welcome. This information will help you determine what insurance will work best for you. The session is sponsored by the state Office for the Aging, Albany County Dept. for the Aging, and Senior Services of Albany.

Balance class

We will be holding a free, eight-week Balance Class in the Town Boardroom.

Town of Guilderland

SENIOR CALENDAR

Dates: April 5 to May 24, 10:30 a.m.to 12:30 p.m. Please call to register.

Monday, March 26

Scheduled Shopping
10:30 a.m. OsteoBusters
10:30 a.m. Sr. Fitness
Noon Zumba
1:30 p.m. OsteoBusters

Tuesday, March 27

9 a.m. OsteoBusters
11:30 a.m. Luncheon: Chicken al a King or Cold Plate
12:30 p.m. Bingo/Games/ Billiards

Wednesday, March 28

9 a.m. Zumba
10:30 a.m. OsteoBuster
No Sr. Fitness
1 p.m. Needlecraft
1:30 p.m. OsteoBusters

Thursday, March 29

Scheduled Shopping
9 a.m. OsteoBusters
9 a.m. Zumba
10:30 a.m. Movie: "Moneyball" with Brad Pitt
12:30 p.m. Mahjongg
1 p.m. Pinochle

Friday, March 30

Scheduled Shopping
10 a.m. Painting
10:30 a.m. Bridge
1 p.m. Quilting

Seniors having dinner at SCCC

Join us for dinner at the Department of Culinary Arts and Tourism of Schenectady County Community College on Tuesday, March 27. at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$25, payable to the Town of Bethlehem.

Dinner will include spinach salad with orange slices, red onions and poppy seed vinaigrette, followed by roast loin of pork with Dijon mushrooms, garlic and spring onions, glazed baby carrots and duchesse potatoes; salmon wellington wrapped in puff pastry with sautéed spinach and rice; or a vegetarian option of seasonal vegetables in crepes with tomato coulis, vegetables and potatoes. Dessert will be strawberry whipped cream cake with fresh berries and whipped cream.

Call 439-4955, ext. 1169 to make a reservation. Home pickup can be arranged. Suggested van donation: \$5.

The always popular musical, "Fiddler on the Roof" is being staged by the Schenectady Light Opera, 427 Franklin St. in Schenectady, on Sunday, March 25. The cost is \$25, payable to the Town of Bethlehem. Senior transportation will leave Town Hall at about noon. Home pick up can be arranged. Suggested van donation: \$5. Call 439-4955, ext. 1169 to place your name on the wait list.

Tuesday, March 27

- Seniors in Motion

A low level fun aerobic exercise class to music. Bethlehem Town Hall auditorium, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 9 to 10 a.m. No registration is necessary. \$3 fee per class.



Wednesday, March 28

- Caregiver's Support Group will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Bethlehem Town Hall. Share your concerns, successes and frustrations with others who care for someone diagnosed with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Jane Sanders, LMSW, will facilitate. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176, to arrange transportation.
- A. A. R. P. tax counseling will be available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Town Hall. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176, to make an appointment. Transportation can be arranged.
- Senior grocery shopping for residents of Elsmere, Delmar, Slingerlands, North Bethlehem and Marie Rose Manor. For reservations, call 439-5770

Thursday, March 29

- Bethlehem Senior Citizens Club meets weekly on Thursdays for an enjoyable afternoon of games and socializing at the Bethlehem Town Hall auditorium, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar at 11:30 a.m. We play mah jongg, bingo and pinochle. All seniors are welcome. Bring a sandwich and join others for lunch if you wish.
- Senior grocery shopping for residents of Glenmont, Selkirk, and South Bethlehem. For reservations, call 439-5770.

Friday, March 30

- Senior grocery shopping for residents of Good Samaritan Senior Housing and Van Allen Senior Apartments. For reservations, call 439-5770.

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

Wilma DeLucco,
Bethlehem Senior
Projects, Inc. Board
Member



UAlbany plans musical performances

The University at Albany Department of Music is holding the fourth annual Youth Movements Festival, which kicked off March 7 and concludes March 25, 2012 at the UAlbany Performing Arts Center on the uptown campus. The festival events celebrate youth of all ages, both in terms of the music performed and the participants performing.

On Saturday, March 24 at 1 p.m., pianist Duncan Cumming will join the University Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Christopher Neubert, for a free performance of Saint-Saëns Carnival of the Animals. In the tradition of past festivals, Cumming has invited elementary age students to contribute to the program. Third graders have written and will recite their poetry during the performance and artwork on the various subjects of the movements will be projected.

"Initially, the Youth Movements Festival grew out of a small idea to try to expose young people to some great music, and this middle event of the festival speaks most clearly to this notion," Cumming said.

The grand finale of the festival will take place on Sunday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. with a four-hand program for pianists of all ages from around the Capital Region who will play works by Johannes Brahms. Performers will include faculty, staff, students and alumni from UAlbany as



Duncan Cumming

well as other teachers and students of all ages from the area.

Tickets for the March 25 concert are each \$8 for the public and \$4 for seniors, students and UAlbany faculty-staff. Tickets may be purchased through the Performing Arts Center Box Office. Admission to the March 24 performance is free. For further information, contact the box office at 442-3997.

Learn

(From Page 7)

Boston Bus Trip

On Saturday April 21, join the Friends of the Library on a trip to Boston! The bus will leave at 7 a.m from the Voorheesville Middle School parking lot and drop us off at the New England Aquarium. Spend the day sightseeing in good old Beantown. Bus leaves Boston at 7 p.m and will arrive back in Voorheesville at approximately 10 p.m.

Paid reservations can be made at the Circulation Desk at the library. Call 765-2791 for more information.

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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Cuts for a cause

Fundraiser to raise money for cystic fibrosis

By ALYSSA JUNG
jung@spotlightnews.com

CJ is a little boy with a big smile.

“CJ is the most smiley, outgoing baby,” said Tracy Van Hattum, his mother. “He’s always got a smile on his face. ... He just brightens up a room.”

But the big grin that Van Hattum said can turn around “even the darkest of days” hides something most people can’t see and what the 2-year-old is still too young to understand: cystic fibrosis.

“People look at you funny when you tell them your child has CF. He looks perfectly fine; it’s not something you can see,” said Van Hattum, of Albany.

Inside his little body, CJ is far from fine. CF affects around 30,000 people in the U.S. and attacks the lungs and digestive tract, so the simplest ailment, like the common cold, can last twice as long. CJ has been on antibiotics on and off since infancy.

“It makes every day living a challenge,” said Van Hattum.

She’s determined to help find a cure in her son’s lifetime so that each day doesn’t have to be a struggle, so Van Hattum raises money for The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to fund research. On Sunday, March 25, she’ll hold the 2nd Cystic Fibrosis Cuts For a Cause at Destiny’s

Hair and Nail Salon at 372 Delaware Ave.

“Anything we raise goes towards life saving research,” said Van Hattum. “Last year, we made about \$1,500.”

People interested in a haircut or trim can make an appointment for March 25 by calling 462-0226, or just walk in that day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“I just opened my doors for them to come in. I’m always open to stuff like that and it’s on a Sunday and that’s originally when we’re closed so it kind of worked,” said Cindy Bishop Patel, owner of Destiny’s. “It was a question asked and a simple answer.”

Van Hattum said raising money and educating people about the disease are both important.

“People don’t understand the disease and that’s my whole goal now to make them understand,” said Van Hattum. “It’s a mother’s love for her child. Life expectancy is 37 and that’s just too young for me.”

Van Hattum spends her days giving CJ nebulizer treatments, adding salt to his drinks and feeding him Vitamin D, a multivitamin and enzymes. She makes monthly trips to the doctor.

“This has just become a typical, every day thing,” said Van Hattum.

Like many 2-year-olds, CJ is a picky eater, but with CF he can’t afford to be.

“He’s not a big fan of eating and with CF you really have to force them to eat, he has to have the calories, has to have



Tracy Van Hattum’s son, CJ, got his first haircut at last year’s Cuts For A Cause, which raises money for The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. CJ, 2, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at 2 weeks old.

Submitted photo

the enzymes,” said Van Hattum. “He’s extra picky and still eating baby food and Pediasure for extra calories.”

For the most part, though, CJ leads the life of a normal baby.

“He doesn’t know enough to let the disease take over but he’s just this energetic little spitball. He doesn’t stop going,” said Van Hattum. “He’s hitting all his milestones like he should be.”

In two years, Van Hattum has raised about \$19,000 for The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and since this January, has already raised about \$1,000. She said there is constant progress made on the research front, which gives her hope and

the drive to keep going.

“Within the past few months they have found a drug that’s almost like a cure for 4 percent of the population that has CF. There’s so many different mutations of the gene,” said Van Hattum. “We keep crossing our fingers and hoping if we keep up with this, maybe his gene will be the next one they concentrate on and find a cure.”

Perhaps the deepest motivation for Van Hattum’s tireless efforts is that she was never supposed to be a mother.

“I was told I’d never have a child; there was no way, come hell or high water, I’d ever have a child,” said Van Hattum. “To me, God gave me

this miracle, whether this miracle is healthy or not healthy, it’s a gift and I’m going to do whatever I can to take care of it.”

CJ’s grandparents and father are Van Hattum’s day-to-day support system but she said it’s the community that’s really stepped up.

“We couldn’t do it without the community,” said Van Hattum, who does the majority of fundraising from February to May. “It’s a fight but you do it out of love. ... Hopefully one day I can look at him and say, ‘We were able to spread awareness and find a cure for you.’”

Cuts For A Cause

on March 25 kicks off the spring fundraising events. Men’s and children’s haircuts are \$10 and women’s are \$20. Every Monday in April, 25 percent of the profit from dining at Mingle on Delaware Avenue from 4 to 11 p.m. will be donated to CF. On April 14, Glow Golf at Crossgates Mall will be an all-day event with a percentage of proceeds donated to CF. For tickets, email sweetie45843@yahoo.com.

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Ellis unveils unique new heart treatment

Schenectady man first patient of new hybrid ablation procedure

By JOHN PURCELL
purcellj@spotlightnews.com

For almost 20 years, Schenectady resident Dave Connelly had dealt with heart problems, but he now has a regular heart rate — admittedly, feeling “normal” felt odd at first.

“At first it was a little tough to get used to,” Connelly said. “Now I can feel the old age stuff, because I am not worried about the other stuff right now.”

Connelly, 62, said he ignored his symptoms for several years before seeking medical treatment for what he thought was just a gastric issue. He described a symptom as feeling like he had butterflies in his stomach. Once the feeling started to occur more frequently he knew something was wrong.

After a series of tests in 1998, he was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation, or a-fib, which is an irregular and often rapid heart rate that typically leads to poor blood flow throughout one’s body. A-fib is a common



ABOVE: From left, Dr. Hebert Reich, Ellis Cardiothoracic Surgeon; Dr. Robert Joy, Cardiology Associates of Schenectady and an electrophysiologist at Ellis Medicine; Dr. Brian McDonald, of Schenectady Pulmonary Critical Care Associates; and Dr. Robert Parkes, of Cardiology Associates of Schenectady, pose at “A Meeting of the Minds” on Thursday, March 8. Each physician presented on a different area of advancement in cardiac care during the event.
RIGHT: Schenectady resident Dave Connelly, 62, was the first patient to receive the hybrid ablation procedure at Ellis Hospital.

cardiac arrhythmias that can increase the of risk of stroke, and around 5 million people are afflicted.

In December, Connelly became the first patient to undergo the hybrid ablation procedure at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady. The two physicians performing the procedure on Connelly, Dr. Herbert Reich and Dr. Robert Joy, along with two other Ellis physicians,

discussed the heart care advancement during “A Meeting of the Minds” informational event on Thursday, March 8, at the Hilton Garden in Clifton Park.

An electrophysiologist and a cardiothoracic surgeon work together to perform a hybrid ablation procedure. Cardiothoracic Surgeon Reich created scar tissue on the outside of Connelly’s heart, while Electrophysiologist Joy

used a catheter to create scar tissue inside the heart. The scar tissue helps restore normal heart rhythm by blocking damaged electrical pathways causing the irregular heartbeat.

“I work from the outside in and he works from the inside out,” Reich said.

Reich, a Niskayuna resident, said a benefit of the procedure is that it’s minimally invasive, requiring him to make



a 1-inch incision in the abdomen. The device he uses is 3 centimeters in length and he uses it to complete around 80 percent of the work, before Joy does his share.

Besides the benefit of being minimally invasive, he said theoretically there is a high, long-term success rate.

“It can take a long time. It can need a second, third or rarely a fourth procedure to get it to set and you have to meet certain criteria,” Reich said. “Hopefully it is done in a more efficient manner time wise so it is less anesthesia for the patient.”

Often, such as with Connelly, Reich said patients are on medications to control irregular heartbeats.

“Most of the time the patients are on medications to control the heart rate and heart rhythm ... medications are costly and have side effects,” Reich said. “The need to take several drugs, plus the side effects, plus the cost, kind of adds up on some of these people. Even with all the medicines some patient still don’t tolerate being in atrial fibrillation well — they feel it.”

When diagnosed, Connelly said he used medication and adjusted the dosage level for around four years. He continued using the medication for around 12 years until it didn’t work effectively anymore.

“That kept things under control, I was having instances of a-fib over that period of time, but it would be once to twice a year and the episodes would last anywhere from half-an-hour to two or three hours,” Connelly said.

His doctor tried using a different medication, but continued to have episodes on a daily basis, which he said felt like

“a runaway train in his chest.” Episodes at night would even wake him up out of a sound sleep, with symptoms sometimes lasting up to 19 hours.

“I could function generally, but it depended how intense the episodes were,” he said, “sometimes the episodes would be so intense that I was extremely irritable and then you wouldn’t want to deal with me.”

After a week trying the new medication, Joy talked to him about the newly offered procedure.

Since the Dec. 19 procedure he said he hasn’t had any real episodes, which is one less thing he has to worry about since it could happen at any time. The longer he doesn’t have an episode, the more likely long-term relief will be realized.

The only medication he is on now is a blood thinner, which is planned to be short term.

“I’d like to say I am drug free, but I am still on a blood thinner as a precautionary thing,” he said. “I feel good — I feel better.”

His resting heart rate now falls within the normal range, at 70 to 80 beats per minute. Before the procedure, his heart rate was kept artificially low at about 50 to 60 beats per minute.

“It is kind of a nice thing,” he said.

Good candidates for the procedure are patients with more persistent a-fib or have other conditions, such as abnormally large hearts, that might not achieve the same benefits from catheter-only based procedure. There also have been few minimally invasive treatment options for these patients previously, which also involved longer recoveries and increased risks.

“Any time you have something that can improve the patients’ life, lifestyle, make them feel better and get them out of the medical risks of stroking and needing medications ... it is a win for everybody,” Reich said.

To learn more about the hybrid surgical-catheter procedure for chronic atrial fibrillation, call Ellis at 243-3610.

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Local twins show ‘there will always be love’

Sisters pen picture book that explains autism

By ALYSSA JUNG
junga@spotlightnews.com

If there’s one thing Jocelyn Davis learned growing up beside a twin sister with autism, it’s that there will always be love.

“We’re all human and have differences and there will always be love, and that’s what you need to look at when you approach any type of person that’s different than you,” said Jocelyn.

Jocelyn learned the concept of love and acceptance at a very young age. The way she learned that lesson, though, was anything but loving or accepting.

“It was very hard, especially being in the same grade and sometimes being in the same class, to see how people treated Jessica because they didn’t understand who she was, what she was about,” said Jocelyn.

To her classmates, Jocelyn’s sister, Jessica, was weird. But to her family and those who knew better, Jessica was just Jessica.

“She wasn’t weird, she just processed thoughts and things that she saw differently,” said Jocelyn.

In fact, it seemed everyone knew Jessica was a little different even before she did.

“For my older sister and twin sister, I’m not sure when they found out exactly but they definitely knew before I did,” said Jessica. “There wasn’t a lot that my parents could do. For me, eventually they explained to me, sat me down, told me what I

was and what it was.” Navigating childhood, as twins and individuals, wasn’t always easy, so Jocelyn and Jessica have come up with something they hope will help kids in similar situations cope. They’ve written and illustrated a book, “There Will Always Be Love,” published in February.

“I thought it would be really interesting for me to share my point of view of growing up with Jessica,” said Jocelyn. “I wanted to write it in the point of view of somebody who was just realizing the differences in their sister and themselves.”

Jocelyn wrote the book, 25 pages of quirky rhymes told from an 8-year-old’s voice, in 30 minutes.

“I was graduating college and got this book ‘All the Places You’ll Go’ by Dr. Seuss and really liked how it was fun and poetic and something that could reach people who were of any age,” said Jocelyn.

Enlisting her sister to draw the pictures was a no-brainer.

“It was really obvious that (Jessica) was going to be the one who illustrated it,” said Jocelyn. “She’s very talented.”

Jessica said she loves the way her bright, bold and colorful images mirror her sister’s words.

“I really like the book and how it came out,” said Jessica. “A lot of the literature is targeted toward older people. ... We didn’t really have a lot of books when we were kids that helped my sister explain what autism is.”

Creating a picture book that explained autism in a straightforward, kid-friendly way was important



to the twins and a resource they both wish they’d had growing up.

“We thought it was a pretty good idea to see if we could make a book that could help younger kids, especially family members, understand what autism was,” said Jessica.

For the most impact, “There Will Always Be Love” had to be written together as twins.

“There’s a lot of books written by family members about autistic people ... but there aren’t a lot of books written together,” said Jessica.

Jocelyn said showcasing Jessica’s art in the book sends an equally powerful message.

“There’s a lot of misinformation and fear about autism as something that is negative and something you don’t want your

children to have and Jessica’s illustration of the book demonstrates that there’s so much talent in the autism community,” said Jocelyn. “It’s not something to be feared, it’s something to be educated about, it’s a way of life to be embraced.”

Jessica took her diagnosis of autism in stride and didn’t let it

hold her back.

“I beat school. I managed to get through school with very little help in terms of special needs. I graduated college and I hold a steady full-time job and I’m glad that I can do that and that I’ve been able to do it,” said Jessica, who lives in Colonie.

Based on what doctors told her parents when she was younger, the Jessica of today should be considered something of an anomaly.

“My parents were told I wouldn’t be able to do anything,” said Jessica, who credits her family talking about autism and learning to cope with it early as reasons for her success.

Jessica hopes “There Will Always Be Love” will help another child with autism overcome its “boundaries.”

“I hope it helps them to cope. Autism and coping with autism ... is just as difficult for everyone who doesn’t have it as

much as it is for someone like me to cope with it,” said Jessica.

Jocelyn said she wants the book to create a dialogue among families and encourage kids to ask questions.

“I want for this book to encourage parents, to encourage siblings, to really talk about the person who has autism in their family and not to keep it bottled up and not to pretend that there’s nothing wrong,” said Jocelyn. “Keep that open mind and ask the questions and don’t just look at what you see at face value.”

The twins have plans for follow-up books and are both writing books on their own.

“Jessica is going to illustrate the one I wrote and ... I’m going to really attempt to illustrate the one Jessica’s writing,” said Jocelyn. “They all deal with sibling issues.”

“There Will Be Love” is available on amazon.com.

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Area presentation taps the roots of ‘Taps’

Historical Society hosts talk on Butterfield’s bugle call, local ties

By JOHN PURCELL
purcellj@spotlightnews.com

Most people would recognize the famed military bugle call “Taps,” but Schenectady County’s connection to the song isn’t as well known as the tune.

The Schenectady County Historical Society hosted a presentation by Frank Taormina, SCHS board member and Union College alum, about the origins of “Taps” and the man credited for creating the tune, Daniel Butterfield, on Saturday, March 10. Audience members filled the room and listened to Butterfield’s life and events leading up to “Taps” and events following it.

Taormina, former assistant superintendent for Niskayuna Central School District, said he dived into Butterfield’s life after being asked to give a presentation for Union College Academy for Lifelong Learning.

“I just did some reading on



Daniel Butterfield is known for creating the classic bugle song “Taps,” but some people might be surprised to know his local tie to Union College. Those ties and other aspects of his life were discussed at a recent Schenectady Historical Society presentation by Frank Taormina.

Submitted photo

him and tried to find out as much as I could going to the archives at Union College and looking at a variety of other places,” Taormina said.

Butterfield graduated from Union in 1849 and was a member of the Sigma Phi Society, which is credited as the second oldest Greek

fraternity in the country.

Also, he later became President of Union’s Alumni Association and invited famous people, such as Frederick Seward and Andrew Carnegie, to give talks in Schenectady on a variety of subjects. In the 1890s, around when General Electric was being founded,

one of the talks focused on electric energy.

Taormina said Carnegie also had local connections, because Student Center building at Union used to be called Carnegie Hall due to his donations to help fund construction.

Former treasure of Union Alexander Holland also married Butterfield’s sister, Sophia, Taormina said. Holland later left his job at Union to become the financial manager for American Express.

Butterfield’s connection to “Taps” was started by his passion for bugle calls. He even had his own bugle calls made for his troops. “Taps” was played at night before soldiers went to sleep that everything is secure and is also played during military funerals.

When Butterfield was in Virginia in 1862 he arranged what is now “Taps” from a French bugle call signaling lights out for the night. He had felt the call was too formal and wanted to create something different from his troops.

Using an older bugle call that stopped being played just before the Civil War, he rearranged the

last five and a half measures to create the ubiquitous 24-note song. The call quickly caught on throughout the Union army.

Taormina said searching the Internet for “Taps” reveals a plethora of information and theories behind the song.

“If you are an old guy like me, you can just sit there and spend the afternoon listening to ‘Taps,’” Taormina joked.

Taormina’s talk ties in with the ongoing focus the Historical Society has given to the Civil War.

“We have done a series of programming on commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War ... we started last year and will go until 2015,” Ryan Mahoney, curator of the historical society, said. “Daniel Butterfield has a local connection with Union College ... it fit in perfectly.”

Mahoney said Butterfield’s life after the Civil War is also interesting with several controversies.

“You just mainly hear about Butterfield with the Civil War, but there is really so much with his life going on afterwards,” Mahoney said.



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Submitted photos



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Questions about eligibility may be directed to AGCNYSEducation and Environmental Director

Brendan Manning at 456-1134.

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Seton Health/St. Mary's Hospital is offering the Food for Thought series — "Gardening Without Pain" on Tuesday, March 27, 6 p.m. at St. Mary's Hospital, 1300 Massachusetts Ave., Troy, in Conference Rooms A and B.

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Fab 8 project adheres to strict noise laws

GloFo reps say just eight noise complaints since groundbreaking

By JULIE CUSHINE-RIGG
riggj@spotlightnews.com

The Town of Malta has a new, stricter noise ordinance, but it doesn't apply to the most significant construction project in the town: the GlobalFoundries microchip plant.

After several revisions, the Malta Town Board has adopted an updated noise ordinance that sets thresholds for noise levels within the town at 50 decibels between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. and 60 decibels between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. The ordinance also limits the use of power tools (including chainsaws and leaf blowers) to

during the day and limits construction hours on Sundays.

Those parameters do not apply to the 222 acres within the Luther Forest Tech Campus that are host to GlobalFoundries' Fab 8 project, though.

"The general town code and local laws are applicable to the entire town, and then there are those specific to the zoning for the Planned Unit Development within GlobalFoundries," said Anthony Tozzi, Malta's building and planning director.

Limits for the sound leaving the property lines are stricter than those in the rest of the town: 45 decibels at night and 55 decibels during the day.

Noise at the construction site was an issue long before ground was broken.

"We have stayed within the standards since construction began in June of 2009. Right now we're in the gray area between the construction phase and the operations phase," said Travis Bullard, a spokesman for GlobalFoundries.

"There have been some complaints from adjacent neighbors who were finding levels in excess of those limits. We've been hearing reasons for the excess including (ground) elevation differences," said Tozzi of complaints.

Since 2009, GlobalFoundries has received 125 calls via a 24/7 hotline for reporting any issues associated with the site.

"Of those calls, 42 were job seekers, 62 were from businesses (not related to the noise), 11 were from telemarketers and eight

were noise complaints. The noise was not related to us but had to do with other projects in the town," said Bullard.

Of particular concern are flywheels associated with continuous power supply units. These would allow enough time for generators to kick on should GlobalFoundries lose power, and some of them are quite loud. A full power outage at the fabrication facility could be a costly disaster for GlobalFoundries.

GlobalFoundries has employed many strategies to combat noise, including an earthen berm approximately 60 feet high, five noise monitoring sensors placed along fence lines and periodic checks with handheld sensors from places such as rooftops. Additionally, special baffles have been

installed to filter noise on the electrical services building.

That building had four custom-made baffles installed last fall. Two were placed on the south side, and two on the north side of the building.

"Those were not part of the original design," said Bullard. "We wanted to be a good neighbor and reduce noise if we could."

GlobalFoundries has been working with Novus Engineering of Delmar on noise issues, and the company recommended the baffles.

"We have reduced the noise there by 14 percent," said Bullard.

GF is now in the midst of a project that includes the installation of exhaust fan stack silencers on the roof of the electrical services building. The silencers will be placed

on top of a piping system on the roof and should be completed in June.

A portion of a letter sent to residents by GlobalFoundries reads, "The new Exhaust Fan Stack Silencers are expected to help further reduce the noise coming from the Fab 8 site. This is an intensive project requiring custom manufacturing equipment and specialized engineering and design work to remodel the structure of the building, but we are moving forward quickly."

The GlobalFoundries facility is expected to be completed by the end of the year. GlobalFoundries will hold a quarterly "Neighborhood Meeting" on Thursday, March 22, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Fab 8 Admin building. The meeting is open to the public.

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Scotia banker sets sights on Tonko's seat

Announcement comes at Glen Sanders Mansion

By JOHN PURCELL
purcellj@spotlightnews.com

First National Bank of Scotia Senior Vice President Bob Dieterich is hoping to bounce Paul Tonko from Congress like a bad check.

Dieterich, R-Glenville, announced his candidacy for the 21st Congressional District on Wednesday, March 7, at Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia, to a crowd of family and friends. Under a proposed congressional

redistricting map he would be running in the newly formed 20th District, which includes Schenectady and Albany counties and portions of Montgomery, Saratoga and Rensselaer counties. The new district lines have been said to make the district more Democratic and less favorable to Republicans.

Dieterich, chief financial officer of First National Bank of Scotia, was recognized by the Capital District Business Review as the 2011 CFO of the year for the under \$20 million business category. He has worked at the bank for over 18 years.

He completed a decade of service in the 109th Airlift Wing of New York Air National Guard in 2008. Through his service he earned an array of military awards, such as the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal and Humanitarian Service Medal.

He chastised Congress for not working together and on fiscal policy.

"Too many American families right here in our district are suffering the consequences of irresponsible federal fiscal policy,"

□ Sights Page 27

"For the sake of my daughters, their entire generation and generations to come, I want to help give rise to a new era, a new culture of service and leadership in Washington."

-Bob Dieterich



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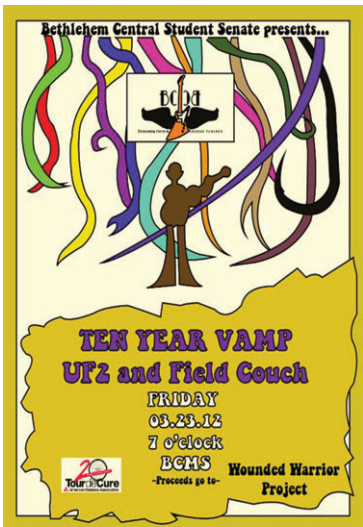
BC students organize, promote benefit show

Students in the Bethlehem Central High School Ad Agency program have once again coordinated a benefit concert, which will be held Friday, March 23, in the BC Middle School auditorium. UF, a U2 cover band from New York City, and Field Couch, the winning band out of last week's auditions of BC High School bands, will open for local group Ten Year Vamp. The Bethlehem High School Student Senate is putting on the show and proceeds will benefit the Tour de Cure and the Wounded Warrior Project. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults and are on sale now at the high school. Tickets can also be purchased by emailing bcbcforada@gmail.com. Students in the Ad Agency created promotional posters for the event shown here.

Posters submitted




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For Ryan Artis, returns are the most important part of the game.

Ryan was first introduced to 15-LOVE as a third grader in Albany's inner city. For three years it was his passion for tennis that kept him coming back.

After close contact with coaches helped him develop important life skills, Ryan was determined to help make the program even stronger.

While still in high school he developed the 15-LOVE website and even recruited donors to pay the cost of registering and hosting the site. He continued to maintain the website while earning his degree in electrical engineering at Union College.



After graduation, while studying to get into law school, he served as a program director. He was also one of the first people to go through the 15-LOVE program and become a member of the organization's board of directors.

Ryan says 15-LOVE taught him to set goals, work hard to accomplish them, and care for other people.

And that's the same message he shares with other kids in the program, as he strives to pass along the key points they need to succeed in the game of life.

To learn about how you can help, visit www.15love.org, or call (518) 438-2039.

Capital Heroes is NEWS 10 ABC and Capital Bank's way of celebrating ordinary people doing extraordinary things. The unsung heroes among us who give of themselves to help their neighbors and improve their communities.



New rules aimed at stopping head injuries

Local family played part in advocating for concussion law

By MARCY VELTE
veltem@spotlightnews.com

The MacDonald family of South Bethlehem have been advocating for brain injury awareness for years, ever since their son suffered major head trauma in 2003.

Now, the family is lending its voice to educate local residents and school districts about the newly passed State Concussion Management and Awareness Act. The law requires coaches, teachers and other school personnel to be educated on the severities of brain trauma and how to keep it from happening to students playing sports or participating in physical education class.

"People don't understand how serious a brain injury can be until it's too late," said Mary MacDonald, mother of 12-year-old Brandon MacDonald.

When Brandon was 4 years old and his brother Joshua was 9, their father, Randy, brought them to play at Elsmere Elementary playground.

Mary was going to school at the time and was attending class.

According to Randy, the boys were playing on the basketball court and at the same time Little League practice was going on nearby. The team had moved away from the field and closer to the playground because the field was wet. A teenage volunteer then began hitting "pop flies."

"I remember hearing 'heads up' and when it hit (Brandon), I was hoping it just hit him in the shoulder, but I knew it didn't," said Randy.

Randy examined Brandon's head and found a large, baseball-sized indent.

"I tried my best to stay calm so I didn't frighten either of the boys," he said. "I told Joshua to pick up the toys, get in the back of the car and keep talking to Brandon."

Joshua said he didn't notice his brother's injury until he got into the car. He said he was scared, but didn't know what his father said. Brandon said he doesn't remember much about the day, except getting in the car and waking up at the hospital.

Brandon underwent

surgery and a plate was put in his head, but he will never be the same.

According to Mary, the injury to his brain affected his learning ability and he is now several grades behind other kids his age. He attends the Niskayuna BOCES program instead of attending school closer to home.

"We've found they don't offer the support he needs here," said Mary. The family said Brandon also has an extremely short temper and can sometimes become violent.

Mary MacDonald said she knows her family's situation is different from those who will be affected by the new law, since Brandon wasn't playing sports when his injury occurred, but she said all brain injury awareness is important.

"Parents and coaches should err on the side of caution," she said. "If injuries can be prevented, there's no reason not to know how to prevent them."

According to the Brain Injury Association of New York State, brain injuries are the largest killers of children and young adults in the nation.

The new law goes into

effect in July. It requires a student or child to be immediately removed from sport activities if they are believed to have sustained a head injury; authorization from a licensed physician to return to play; the establishment of concussion management teams in every school district; and information to be made available to parents. The law also requires coaches, teachers and other school personnel to attend concussion training sessions.

"This has really been an area of interest to some legislators for a number of years," said Judith Avner, executive director of the state Brain Injury Association. "There have been a number of very publicized and tragic deaths of student athletes. That's when professional sports started to pay closer attention. They started a movement to get the states to gear their

policies toward student athletes, and two years ago the NFL joined in. They wrote a letter to all governors who did not have state legislation for student head injuries to enact laws to address those issues."

John DeMeo, athletic director for Bethlehem Central Schools, said the district had already implemented many of the requirements in the law several years ago.

"If the student is hit and they tell the coach they are having problems, they are immediately pulled from play for a minimum of one week," he said.

The student then needs to be seen by a physician to be cleared to play. DeMeo said they sometimes can return to light cardio during practices depending on what the trainer, school nurse or doctors say.

District coaches are also trained in what to look for when it comes to head injury symptoms.

Avner said if a concussion goes unaddressed or a student returns to play too soon, it can be detrimental to a student's health.

Mary MacDonald knows just how life changing a brain injury can be.

"It really changes your whole family dynamic," she said. "I tell people if they don't think brain injuries are serious they should come spend a day with our family."

Since Brandon's injury, the MacDonalds have formed several brain injury support groups in the Capital District and have worked closely with the state Brain Injury Association to promote awareness. She said many people who sustain brain injuries eventually suffer from depression, drug addiction and alcoholism.

"Everyone should be vigilant around sports, because really, anyone can be at risk," she warned.

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Youth group looks outward for spring break

Clifton Park teens to do missionary work
Several teens from the Clifton Park area will be going on a trip for spring

break, but their days won't be spent lying on the beach.
The group, The Senior High Youth Group from

Christ Community Reformed Church in Clifton Park (CCRC) will leave for New York City on Easter Sunday to embark

on a week of missionary work.
“Our mission is to do work as an active act of faith – locally,

internationally and internationally,” said the Rev. Johan Bosman, who has been at the church for eight years.

Nine high school students and two adults will be staying in the Bronx and working in cooperation with Priority 1 Ministries, an organization headquartered in Pennsylvania dedicated to teaching youth about missionary work through coordination of missionary trips between church groups and those in need.

Ryan Golden, a sophomore at Shenendehowa High School, is looking forward to the trip. He's been on a few in the past and says that with this one being to the Big Apple, it was interesting to him.

“Some people are not as fortunate as we might be. I get a perspective when I come back and realize that my brother and sister, when I talk about the trips, are listening and hear my side. Then maybe they'll want to help out too when they can. My brother will be going to confirmation classes next year and will go probably go on next year's trip. I thought he'd be bored hearing me talk about it, but he's interested,” said Golden, whose brother is 13 and sister is 10.

Golden shared an experience of a prior trip, saying, “We entered on to a farm where we helped raise animals that were being sent to another country. I thought it was really cool that we were able to help people from another country without having to actually go to another country. I realized how little other people have.”

On this trip, the group will be helping to prepare and serve meals, assisting the homeless and volunteering at a Bronx storehouse, among other work. Bosman feels strongly that these trips serve to teach their youth through being “hands on” and are vitally important.

“What we try to do at the church is take the kind of approach that we can care and serve each other. The kids learn from a very young age to get involved with community and to be serving, realizing it may not always be in the most comfortable situation and the food may not be the best. They really become sensitive to others. We expose them to the real world. We're fortunate here, most of the kids are in privileged homes, and it's good for the adults to see as well. It's not always as good as we have it here,” said Bosman.

He added that the kids will be interacting with the homeless, an

aspect that helps them to realize that most people aren't homeless because they're lazy, but that there are other factors involved.

Hutch Tibbits, an adult chaperone for the trip and member of the church for nearly 10 years, has not been on a mission trip yet but is ready for the challenge. Tibbits, a retired guidance counselor from Guilderland Central School District, is also a Stephen Minister at CCRC. Stephen Ministers assist those in the congregation who may be having difficulties in their lives.

“Hopefully they'll come away with a sense of compassion for how others have to live, to see for example where there's no housing and people have to fend (for a place to stay) and for food,” said Tibbits of the potential influence of the trip for the kids.

“Johan (Bosman) is a regular guy, and so knowledgeable about so many things. He's just a wonderful person and really knows people. He's always available and interested. His wife Marie is very talented as well, especially in the choir, and the two of them are quite an engaging pair,” added Tibbits.

In addition to missionary trips, CCRC does fundraising locally year round and has contributed to CAPTAIN (Community Action for Parents, Teens and Interested Neighbors), food pantries, Habitat for Humanity and animal shelters, among other groups. Nationally they have traveled to the south to help rebuild after Katrina, and to South Africa for humanitarian efforts.

Bosman sees the impact of these trips firsthand. He recalls that after a trip to Washington, D.C., one young woman came back and decided to go into teaching in the inner city.

“She's a senior now, and she said it was what she was called to do,” he said.

“I believe to inspire for anything, there has to be a vibrant church. It does not exist for itself. It's about being in touch with God by reaching out and helping others, it's logical...,” Bosman added.

According to Bosman, the cost for the trip is around \$300 for each student. Costs are covered by one of the church's yearly events, The Mission Dinner, when kids raise money by preparing the food and serving the congregation. The group will be returning to Clifton Park on April 13.

— Julie Rigg

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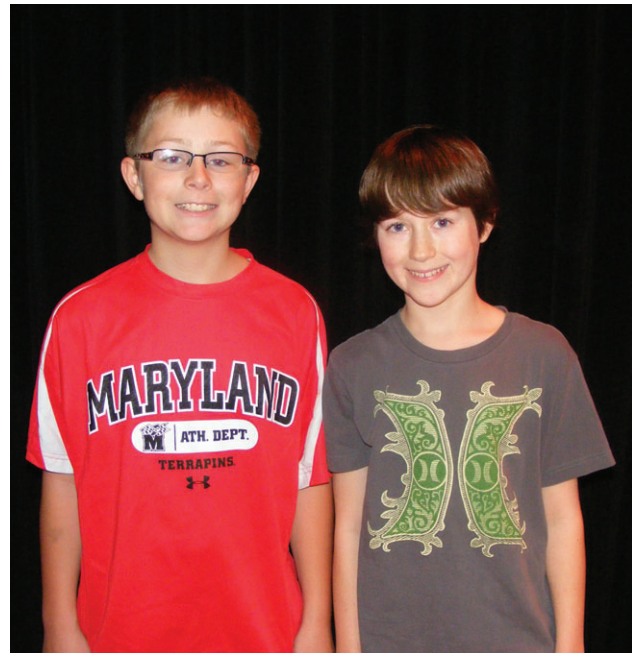
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Submitted photos

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□ End

(From Page 1)

comment for this article.

Bouchard said the town has been in court with Albertine before in efforts to get him to clean up the property, but those orders have clearly not been carried out. The town's next court date is April 28.

"Nothing has been done," said Bouchard. "I take pictures in between each court date for my records. I've been working on it. I have a file thick enough to fill a filing cabinet."

Although Sandy DiNoto is a Delmar resident, she has a friend who lives in South Bethlehem and she has walked by the dilapidated home for years while they exercise.

"I feel there is a double standard here," she wrote in an email. "This has been a mess for years. If it was in the middle of Delmar, it would never be tolerated."

Bouchard said all cases are treated the same by the town, but property owners must be given time to repair the home if they wish. It then goes to the court system. He said there is a law in place that stipulates the town can tear down the house if it is abandoned and in



The swimming pool behind an abandoned house on Willowbrook Avenue is a concern for neighbors.

ill repair, but it doesn't specify a time limit.

According to Bouchard, if Albertine does not show up for the court date or the judge doesn't take sufficient action, he will go before the Town Board to get approval for the town engineer to condemn the home.

"I can't do that. I'm not a structural engineer," said Bouchard. "But at this point it's uninhabitable. There are too many codes not met, but it could possibly be repaired depending on what the engineer sees."

Goss said it's embarrassing when people come into the neighborhood for the first time and see the home.

"It's a shame that people going to church have to see it. Enough is enough," he said.

Bouchard said once the building is condemned, the town would have someone remove the building and the cost would be added to the owner's taxes.

"The problem is if they have back taxes, the town might not ever see the money so that's why they

tend not to do it," he said. "People don't pay, so we're trying to exhaust all of our other options because it's an expense the town would have to pick up."

Bouchard said the town is not ignoring the situation.

"It all depends on the person you are dealing with... on the judge. (If this home were in Delmar) we would go after them the same way and people would still be up in arms," he said. "We can't forcibly make someone do something they aren't doing. It's difficult."

Marcy Velte/Spotlight

□ Plant

(From Page 1)

According to Clark, the town currently processes an average of 4.22 million gallons of waste per day. Expected growth was then calculated over a 30-year period based on future projects before the Planning Board and portions of the town currently not connected with the sewer system.

By 2041, the town is expected to process an average of 8.49 million gallons per day, with Selkirk expected to be added to the sewer system around 2026.

Clark said in three years, screens would need to be replaced along with other minor improvements, costing about \$2.2 million. In between three and 10 years in the future, clarifiers and a disinfection station will need to be upgraded, costing about \$7.3 million. After 10 years, major upgrades will need to be performed totaling about \$20 million. All of the projections include 3 percent inflation for future costs.

According to Clark, after the upgrades are completed the plant will be in good quality for years to come.

"This is the total long-term plan. Once you hit

about 9 mgd the plant will take you into the next 20 to 30 years," Clark told Councilwomen Joann Dawson.

Councilman Kyle Kotary asked if when considering the total cost of the upgrades, it might be cheaper to hold off on upgrades and build a new plant.

Deyoe said the infrastructure was sound, as well as much of the equipment that was upgraded in the last decade.

"The only thing I can say is we built a whole new plant that was only 2.4 million gallons per day, it did not exist before prior to that, and by itself it was \$22 million," said Clark.

As far as odor's concerned, Brian Hilts, project engineer for CDM Smith, said it is not a huge issue and could be addressed when future upgrades are made.

Deyoe said sludge tanks are emptied almost every day except for holidays and weekends. That is when the smell is usually the greatest and the most complaints are received.

"We try to haul as late as we can, recognizing the situation. We want to be good neighbors in that area, but unfortunately this process does have an odor with it and there's just no way really around that," said Deyoe.

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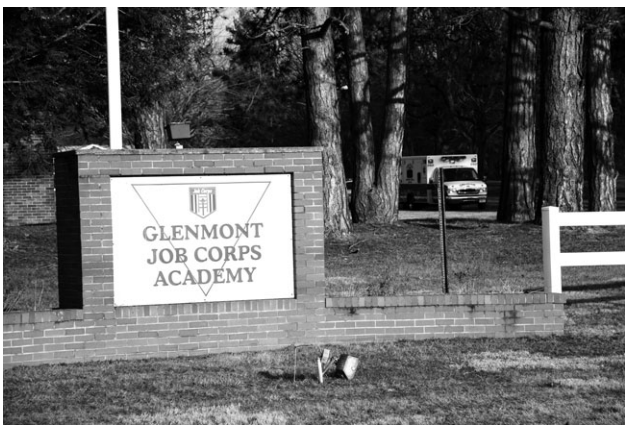
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Police Blotter

Drug incident reported at Job Corps Stuyvesant Plaza jeweler robbed at gunpoint

Three students at the Glenmont Job Corp Academy were taken to Albany Medical Center Hospital after they ingested what police said was synthetic marijuana. Police and several ambulances were called to the scene around 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, after the students were witnessed outside of the building acting erratically. According to police, when officers arrived two of the teens were subdued by staff while a third was “banging his head on the ground and screaming for his God,” according to the report. Officers said they secured the remains of the substance known as “K-2 or Spice.” All of the students were then placed into custody for their safety and taken to



An ambulance leaves the Job Corps Academy in Glenmont, where police were summoned after three students began behaving erratically upon taking synthetic marijuana.

Tom Heffernan, Sr./Spotlight

the hospital. Police said the students will not be charged, since the substance is still legal in New York State. Glenmont Job Corps Director Rodney Butler said, “Students found

of any sort of violation of the school’s behavior policy will get the appropriate sanctions with accordance to whatever their behavior may have been.”

Guilderland Police are investigating an armed robbery that occurred at Stuyvesant Plaza on Thursday, March 15. Police said three men entered Frank Adams Jewelers around 8 p.m. and tied up three female employees. A third employee locked herself in the bathroom and called 911. The women told police the men showed what appeared to be a gun. According to police, the men broke into a display case and removed an undetermined amount of watches. Inventory of the store was being taken to learn the value of what was taken.

A few minutes after the robbery, police said an independent contractor who had been working in the store earlier in the evening came back and freed the women after discovering what had happened. Police said no one was injured in the incident.

The suspects were described to police as two black males and one white male, all in their mid-20s. They were thought to have left the plaza in a dark colored car, possibly a Chevy Impala or a Honda. The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information should call the Guilderland Police Department at 356-1501.

Arrests
• The New York State Police arrested a man for cocaine possession on the Thruway in the Town of Bethlehem. Police said Anthony Pena, 27, of Moshlu Parkway in the Bronx was arrested on Sunday, March 18, at 2:22 p.m. for criminal possession of a controlled substance in the second degree. Police said Pena was found to be in possession of 200 grams of cocaine while traveling north on I-87. Police said Pena was arraigned in the Town of Bethlehem Court and remanded to Albany County Correctional Facility on \$50,000 bail pending further court action.
• Bethlehem Police arrested Jessica Kwant of Albany on aggravated DWI charges on Sunday, March 11.

According to police, Kwant was seen parked on the side of Blessing Road in Slingerlands with a flat tire, talking on her cell phone. When an officer approached to ask if she was OK, her speech was slurred and she was not walking properly, police said. She agreed to a chemical test and was arrested on aggravated DWI charges, said police. She was released and will appear in court at a later date. Gustaf, 21, of 1 Concord Road in Glenmont, was charged with rape in the second degree and criminal sexual act in the second degree, both felonies. Police said he was also charged with a misdemeanor count of endangering the welfare of a child. Gustaf was already in Albany County jail. He was released for his arraignment, with bail set at \$20,000. He was returned with a hearing set for a later date.

Got news or views?

Spotlight Newspapers welcomes announcements of programs or events occurring in our coverage area. All events must be open to the public and announcements should contain the date, time, location and cost (if any) of the event, along with contact information. Announcements are published space and time permitting. Submissions can be e-mailed to news@spotlightnews.com, faxed to 439-5198, or mailed to Spotlight, P.O. Box 100, Delmar 12054. The deadline for all announcements is noon Friday prior to publication. The Spotlight Newspapers also welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing and should be contained to 500 words or less. All letters must include the writer’s name, address and phone number. Spotlight Newspapers reserves the right to limit the number of letters published from a single author. Submissions can be e-mailed to news@spotlightnews.com, faxed to 439-5198, or mailed to Spotlight, P.O. Box 100, Delmar 12054. The deadline for all letters is noon Friday prior to publication.

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Calvary Cemetery, Glenmont General Cleanup

Diocesan regulations concerning memorials and grave decorations are now in effect at Calvary Cemetery. Like other Diocesan Cemeteries, a general cleanup will be conducted on or about April 1. At this time, cemetery staff removes and discards all decorations. Lotowners should remove any decorations they wish to save before April 1. In addition, plantings in violation of the new regulations such as perennial flowers, hosta plants, edging around plantings and the like will also be removed.

For more information, please call 463-0134 or visit CapitalDistrictCemeteries.org

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Entertainment in the Spotlight



Left & Bottom of Page: Luke DeBritz and his friends shaved their heads at a St. Baldrick's event last year as a way to honor Luke's sister, Audrey, and raise money for childhood cancer research. Luke's parents, Mike and Stacy, are sponsoring a St. Baldrick's event at Proctors Theater on Saturday, March 24.

By JACQUELINE M. DOMIN
dominj@spotlightnews.com

Audrey DeBritz couldn't seem to shake the flu. Her symptoms lingered for weeks, including an alarmingly high temperature.

When her doctor ordered blood tests, her parents braced themselves for potentially bad news. But when they learned their daughter had leukemia, they were floored.

"It was the last thing in the world we were expecting," Stacy DeBritz said. In fact, while she'd heard of leukemia, she wasn't even sure what it was.

Since that day three years ago, Stacy and her husband, Mike, have become intimately familiar with leukemia, a type of cancer of the blood. Stacy gets choked up remembering how Audrey spent her 11th birthday in the hospital awaiting her first treatment. The chemotherapy cost her hair and a lot of weight.

"I was watching my beautiful daughter dissipate," DeBritz said.

Those memories stand in stark contrast to the healthy 14-year-old Audrey is today. She stopped treatment about a year ago and is now in remission, with a full head of hair.

But the DeBritzes know too many children face a different fate. One in five kids diagnosed with cancer doesn't survive, Stacy said. Two-thirds of those who do, have to deal with chronic, lasting conditions.

The DeBritzes wanted to help fight childhood cancer, so they took part in

local fundraisers benefiting St. Baldrick's, a charity that funds childhood cancer research. This year, the DeBritzes are hosting their own St. Baldrick's event, the first one in Schenectady County. It's at Proctors Theater on Saturday, March 24. Audrey is one of several children who will be honored and remembered. Another is Luke Romano, a 17-year-old from Clifton Park who died last summer.

If you've never heard of St. Baldrick's, look no further than the name to figure out what it's all about. People of all ages collect pledges and shave their heads. It's a fun and emotional way to raise money as well as stand in solidarity with young cancer patients who have lost their hair.

"When you witness women with shoulder-length hair shaving their heads to help this cause, you can't help but feel inspired," Mike DeBritz

said. "It's just amazing to see so many people come together and rally around finding a cure for children's cancer."

Mike DeBritz plans to shave his head this year, as he has at past St. Baldrick's events. He'll once again be joined by his son, Luke, and Luke's best friend, Colton, both who decided to shave their heads during Audrey's first year of treatment. Colton's mom, Rosemarie Perez Jaquith, had been devastated by news of Audrey's cancer, so she put all her energy into helping Colton raise money.

"That first year I solicited everyone I knew and so did Colton, and if you knew us, you'd know it's impossible to say 'no' to either one of us," Perez Jaquith said.

She's not sure how much Colton raised that first year, but last year he collected about \$1,600, and this year he was at \$1,450 with a week and a

half to go.

The DeBritzes were hoping the event would bring in \$25,000. It will easily surpass that. People who are shaving their heads typically bring in their pledges on the day of the event; about 10 days before the event, the DeBritzes had already collected \$25,000 through online and credit card donations.

"I think we're just scratching the surface," Mike DeBritz said.

Stacy explained that the money raised goes back to St. Baldrick's, where a board reviews doctors and hospitals that are vying for grants to study childhood cancer. Grants are awarded according to need, expected results and local participation in St. Baldrick's.

Although most people who have their heads shaved sign up in advance and collect pledges, walk-ins are also welcome. Stacy DeBritz said one

of the neat things about the St. Baldrick's concept is that the freshly-shorn participants draw attention after the events.

"It really increases awareness," she said. "People will ask why you shaved your head. My husband received donations after the fact. He would tell people about it and they'd say, 'I'll give you \$100 for that.'"

Stacey DeBritz hasn't shaved her head and she's not planning to this year, although she says the day will come that she'll willingly give up her hair. At least five women are expected to shave their heads at Proctors, along with more than 90 men.

"I know how emotional it's going to be watching people get their heads shaved," Stacy said. "This

is the same community that supported us. It's going to be brimming with emotion."

For Perez Jaquith, it's a chance to give back to a "very special family."

"Not once have I ever known them to be angry or even complain about why them, why Audrey," she said. "I would speak to Stacy at least once a week to see how she was during that year of Audrey's treatment and it always ended up that I was the one in tears and Stacy would say things to console me! They turned this horrible, scary thing, into a beautiful opportunity to share a message of love, hope and faith."

The St. Baldrick's event at Proctors Theater will run from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 24, in Robb Alley. There will be live music, raffles and face painting for kids. For more information, including how to donate or how to sign up to have your head shaved, visit <http://www.stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/7884/2012>.

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Arts and Entertainment

Theater

BLACK PEARL SINGS

Regional premiere of Frank Higgins' play about an imprisoned woman who must decide if she trusts another woman with the music that has been passed down to her, presented by Capital Repertory Theatre, 111 North Pearl St., Albany, through April 7, shows Tuesdays through Sundays, \$20-\$60. Information, 445-7469.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Famous musical about the the clash between tradition and a new generation's way of handling love, presented by Schenectady Light Opera Company, 427 Franklin St., Schenectady, March 22-25, shows 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday, \$22-\$28. Information, (877) 350-7378.

LEND ME A TENOR

Madcap comedy about the lengths an opera company will go to cover for the absence of a visiting star, presented by Curtain Call Theatre, 210 Old Loudon Road, Latham, through March 31, shows 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays, \$22. Information, 877-7529.

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES

Christopher Hampton's famous play of deceit and betrayal, presented by Schenectady Civic Players, 12 South Church St., Schenectady, March 21-25, shows 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, \$15. Information, 382-2081.

WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME?

Play based on the story by Annette Dominic, presented by the Albany Elks Lodge #49, 25 South Allen St., Albany, March 23-25, shows 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, \$15. Information, 489-7883 or 368-6159.

Music

MIKE HARRISON

Originals and covers, March 22, 7 p.m., Moon and River Cafe, 115 South Ferry St., Schenectady, free. Information, 382-1938.

GAELIC STORM

High-energy, rock-tinged Celtic music group, March 22, 8 p.m., Hart Theater, The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany, \$25-\$35. Information, 473-1845.

BRIAN PATNEAUDE DUO

Capital District jazz performers, March 23, 7 p.m., Athos, 1814 Western Ave.,

Albany, free. Information, 608-6400.

GARY BERNADINI

Singer-songwriter, March 23, 7 p.m., Emack and Bolio's, 366 Delaware Ave., Albany, free. Information, 512-5100.

APPOCALYPZ

Original hip hop, plus singer-songwriter Benjamin McGrath, March 23, 8 p.m., Moon and River Cafe, 115 South Ferry St., Schenectady, free. Information, 382-1938.

VANCE GILBERT

Folk musician who blends humor, virtuosity and the unexpected, March 23, 8 p.m., Caffe Lena, 47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs, advance tickets \$18, door price \$20. Information, 583-0022.

ALAN GOLDBERG

Singer-songwriter, March 24, 7 p.m., Emack and Bolio's, 366 Delaware Ave., Albany, free. Information, 512-5100.

CLIFF EBERHARDT & JAMES LEE STANLEY

Performing special acoustic guitar versions of classic Doors songs, March 24, 8 p.m., Caffe Lena, 47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs, advance tickets \$18, door price \$20. Information, 583-0022.

JO HENLEY

Boston-based Americana band with Schenectady roots, plus opening act Bill Ackerbaur, March 24, 8 p.m., Moon and River Cafe, 115 South Ferry St., Schenectady, free. Information, 382-1938.

MOLLY ANDREWS AND PEGGY LYNN

Songs and ballads from West Virginia and the Adirondacks, March 24, 8 p.m., Old Songs, Inc., 37 South Main St., Voorheesville, \$20. Information, 765-2815.

OPERA SARATOGA

Local opera company performs an afternoon of songs and arias, March 25, 2 p.m., Caffe Lena, 47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs, general admission \$20, \$15 for Friends of Opera Saratoga, Artspass holders and Caffe Lena members. Information, 583-0022.

RORY BLOCK

Highly-regarded Delta blueswoman from Columbia County, March 25, 7 p.m., Caffe Lena, 47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs, advance tickets \$28, door price \$30. Information, 583-0022.

Comedy

MOP AND BUCKET COMPANY

Weekly show of improvised comedy and music, March 23, 8 p.m., Proctors Underground, 432 State St., Schenectady, adults \$14, students/seniors \$6. Information, 346-6204.

COMEDY WORKS

Kevin Meaney and Gary Weing headline, March 16 and 17, 9 p.m., Best Western,

200 Wolf Road, Colonie, March 10, 7:30 p.m., Starting Gate Restaurant, 12 Ballston Ave., Saratoga Springs, advance tickets \$15, day of show \$20. Information, (877) 565-3849 or 275-6897.

Family Fun

IMAGINATION ARTS WORKSHOPS

Learn to create art from felt (April 12) and study impressionism (May 10) at Malta Community Center, open to children age 5-7, registration fee is \$6 per class for Malta residents, \$7 per class for non residents, registration deadline is one week prior to class. Information, 899-4411.

RIVERWAY STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Seven free performances for families the week of April 16-21 at libraries in Bethlehem, Castleton, Colonie, East Greenbush, Guilderland and Grafton. Information, 383-4620 or www.riverway-storytelling festival.org.

Visual Arts

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

"Shadow and Substance: African American Images from the Burns Archive," through March 31; "From the Collections," through April 1; "New York Remembers: Reflecting on September 11," through April 28; plus "Beneath the City: An Archeological Perspective of Albany," permanent collections on the 9/11 recovery effort, New York state history and geography, Empire State Plaza, Madison Avenue. Information, 474-5877.

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF ART

"St. Peter's Church: 300 Years of History and Art," through April 29; "First in the Hearts of His Countrymen: George Washington," through May 20; plus "The Folk Spirit of Albany: Folk Art from the Collection of the Albany Institute of History and Art" and exhibits on Hudson River School painting, American sculpture and the history of Albany, 125 Washington Ave. Information, 463-4478.

ALBANY AIRPORT GALLERY

"Laugh Out Loud," through March 25; plus installations by Paul Katz, Harry Leigh, Harold Lohner, Lillian Mulero, Ken Ragsdale, Nancy Shaver and Joy Taylor. Information, 463-3726.

ALBANY CENTER GALLERY

"Chip Fasciana: Life & Death," through April 6, 39 Columbia St., Albany. Information, 462-4755.

ARTS CENTER OF THE CAPITAL REGION

"Allscapes" and "FLUX," through April 1, 265 River St., Troy. Information, 273-0552.

BROADWAY ART CENTER

"The Human Form: Undressed," through March 31; "Art of the Heart/Heart of the Art," through March 24; Arcade Build-

ing, 488 Broadway, Albany. Information, 489-0866.

CLEMENT ART GALLERY

"Robert Gullie: Roominations," through March 28, 201 Broadway, Troy. Information, 272-6811.

MORNINGSIDE GALLERY

"Exploring Elegance," recent photographic works by Katherine Wardle, through April 1, 588 Loudon Road, Newton Plaza, Latham, hours 10 a.m to 6 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Information, 783-8763.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DANCE

"Tails & Terpsichore" through Nov. 24, 2013; "En Pointel" through Nov. 18; "Eleo Pomare: The Man, The Artist, The Maker of Artists," through Nov. 18; "American Ballet Theatre: Then & Now," through Nov. 18; 99 South Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information, 584-2225.

OAKROOM ARTISTS GALLERY

Works by Stu Eichel and Dave Francis, through March 28, First Unitarian Society, 1221 Wendell Ave., Schenectady. Information, 374-4446.

SAMUELS

"True Grit," featuring Sue Clark's photographs of the Old West, through May 31, 258 Alplaus Ave., Alplaus, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Information, www.suephotography.com.

SARATOGA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM

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

SCHENECTADY MUSEUM AND PLANETARIUM

"FETCH! Lab" and "Fueling the Future," ongoing; Nott Terrace Heights, Schenectady. Information, 382-7890.

SPA FINE ART

Featuring new works by Ken Orton, 376 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information, 587-2411.

UPSTATE ARTISTS GUILD

"Fatal Abstraction 2," through March 31, 47 Lark St., Albany. Information, 426-3501.

HYDE COLLECTION

"Toulouse-Lautrec & Company: Prints from the Belle Epoque," through May 27, 161 Warren St., Glens Falls. Information, 792-1761.

CLARK ART INSTITUTE

"Copycat: Reproducing Works of Art," through April 1; 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. Information, (413) 458-9545.

MASS MOCA

"Geometric Death Frequency 141," through April 30; "Kidspace: Under the

Sea," through May 28; "Sol LeWitt: A Wall Drawing Retrospective," ongoing; 87 Marshall St., North Adams, Mass. Information, (413) 664-4481.

ARKELL MUSEUM

"Rising from the Sea: The Art of Jay Hall Connaway," through May 27; plus "Arkell's Inspiration: the Marketing of Beech-Nut and Art for the People," ongoing; Canajoharie. Information, 673-2314.

Call for Artists

CALL FOR MUSICIANS

Sax player and flutist seeking mature musicians for eclectic commercial jazz project. Information, call Dominic at 590-0948 or 256-7403.

JAZZ PIANIST

Seeking female singer and/or bass player for project. Information, 377-5260 or 847-6841.

BALLSTON SPA COMMUNITY BAND

Openings in several sections, especially percussion, rehearsals Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Ballston Spa High School. Information, 580-1037.

THURSDAY MUSICAL CLUB

Women's singing group entering its 99th year, practices held Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Information, 765-4536.

THE CHORALIERS

Musical group looking for singers of all abilities, performs concerts at Christmas and in the spring, pieces are familiar and fun to sing, no auditions are necessary, practices are 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Saint Clares' Chapel, McClellan Street, Schenectady.

ETUDE CLUB

Looking for women interested in vocal and instrumental performance, meetings held the first Thursday of every month. Information, 374-5536.

CLIFTON PARK COMMUNITY CHORUS

Ongoing rehearsals for its winter concert, Shenendehowa Adult Community Center, Clifton Common, Clifton Park, no auditions required to join. Information, 371-6681.

CAPITALAND CHORUS

Openings for all voice parts for women who love to sing and perform, rehearsals are at 7 p.m. Thursdays at New Covenant Presbyterian Church, corner of Orlanso and Western avenues, Albany. Information, 785-3567.

TANGO FUSION DANCE COMPANY

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

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47 Poorly lit
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52 Yevtushenko's *Babi* ____

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2 Roman poet
3 Gray-brown goose
4 Chang's twin
5 Scant
6 Broadcast
7 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
8 Once called
9 Pavement material
10 Passport adjunct
11 Unending
12 Funny Martha
14 Hot spot
17 Jeer
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22 1051, to 2 Down
23 Get cozy
24 Sacred image
25 Ms. Davis
26 Hunter in the sky
27 Ms. Lupino
28 Usher's beat
29 Russian range
30 Emulates Ms. Ross
31 Bridge coup
35 Hyde Park sight
36 Trouble
39 In a state of boredom
41 Iliac lead-in
42 NY summer time
44 Exchequer
45 Audition
46 Raises
49 Made a hole in one
50 Kind of shirt
51 Arabian sultanate
53 Omit
54 Evergreen
55 Bear young
57 Cry of discovery
58 MA cape
59 Corn or pod start
60 Brouhaha

Your Community in The Spotlight

Vendors needed for sale

The North Bethlehem Fire Department Auxiliary located at 589 Russell Road in North Bethlehem will host its Spring Garage Sale on Saturday, April 21.

The Auxiliary is seeking vendors of all types for used or new items to fill their spaces. The cost for an 8-foot table is \$17.

For information call Lisa at 701-1027.

Bowling event to raise funds

On Saturday, March 24, at 1 p.m., the Capital District Irish American Association, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Albany Democratic Committee will hold the 3rd annual Rolling for Warriors fundraiser to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project and the Albany County Veteran's Services Bureau. The fundraiser will take place at Playdium Bowling Center of 363 Ontario Street, Albany. Bowling will be followed by live music, silent auction and an awards ceremony at the AOH Hall next door at 375 Ontario Street in Albany at 3 p.m.

DA to discuss Occupy concerns

Albany County District Attorney David Soares will discuss his stand on not prosecuting peaceful Occupy Albany protestors on Sunday, March 25, at 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave (corner of Washington and Robin Street), Albany.

He will also discuss other issues of concern in Albany, including the National Defense Authorization Act, fraud based foreclosures and non-citizens whose visas have expired. Admission is free. For further information, call 463-7135 or visit www.albanyuu.org or administrator@albanyuu.org.

Wild edible plants workshop

Pine Hollow Arboretum, 16 Maple Avenue in Slingerlands, will present a workshop on wild edible plants. Taught by Anita Sanchez, a local author and

The big scissors stop at Francesca's



Francesca's Collections Boutique employees, members of the Guilderland Chamber of Commerce, Town of Guilderland officials and Crossgates Mall representatives gathered on Monday, March 5, to cut the ribbon on the new store, which features a unique collection of clothing, shoes accessories and gifts.

Submitted photo

environmental educator, the workshop will be held on Sunday, March 25, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Arboretum's classroom and on the nature trails. Participants will learn about native edible plants while exploring the Arboretum's collection of rare plants while wild teas and salad will be provided indoors.

Admissions are \$10 per person with Pine Hollow members having free entry. Call to 439-6472 to register. Pine Hollow Arboretum is a Capital District green space open to the public by appointment.

Spring hike at Pine Bush

On Saturday, March 24, at 9:30 a.m., join hike leader John Wolcott for a Spring Equinox hike. Attendees should meet at the Discovery Center parking lot at the east side of Route 155, opposite the beginning of Old State Road. Hikers will be walking the trails at the Di Filipo Farm, on the north side of The King's Road just past it's junction with Curry Rd. Dress ready for any

weather. Bring a light trail lunch and something to drink, or plan to join some of the group for lunch at Yonder Farms on Albany Street in the Pine Bush.

Sorelle Gallery hosts exhibit

From March 24 to April 11, the Sorelle Gallery will be hosting art by David Hill and Vincent Pommillio titled Controlled Chaos. The reception will be held on March 24 from 2 to 6 p.m. The Sorelle gallery is located in Stuyvesant Plaza, 1475 Western Avenue, Albany. For more information visit www.sorellegallery.com

Club offers scholarship

The Bethlehem Business Women's Club offers scholarships to any Town of Bethlehem High School graduating senior, high academic standing not necessary. Applications deadline is April 6. See your Guidance Office for details and applications. Questions may be directed to Carolyn

DeGonzague at 478-0638.

Exhibit features Lynn Bunis

From March 12 to April 14, there will be a commemorative exhibit by fabric artist Lynn Bunis. Exhibit hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and on Sundays it will be from 9 a.m. to noon. The late Lynn Bunis (1941-2008) began quilting in 1990 and it quickly became her passion as she began expressing herself through art quilting. She showed and sold quilts in the USA, UK, and Italy. She taught quilting techniques including dyeing fabrics, hand quilting, surface design, machining techniques, making leaf prints on textiles and binding methods. This show is just a sample of her creative and rich artwork. The exhibit was made possible by a generous loan from the collection of her daughter, Molly (Bunis) Daniels. The event will take place at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave (corner

of Washington and Robin Street) in Albany.

Education award deadline nears

The deadline is coming for students to submit their applications for the Capital District YMCA's 15th Annual Student and Educator Awards.

Friday, March 23, will be the final day students and educators can submit for one of these prestigious awards.

All students in grades 10 and 11 residing in the communities of or attending schools in, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Bethlehem, Guilderland, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, or Voorheesville are eligible to apply. Up to 15 students and educators will be honored based on demonstrated leadership and dedication in service to their communities or schools, making responsible and positive choices even when negative peer pressure makes those choices difficult and exhibiting a character trait that embraces the values of all YMCAs nationally: Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility.

Applications may be mailed, faxed, or dropped off in person to either the Guilderland or Bethlehem YMCAs. Contact Kyle Anderson, Program Director, at 456-3634 ext. 1151 for more information.

A 'Walk Through Traditions'

On Sunday, March 25, beginning at noon, Jessie Kerr-Whitt, Jewish educator of Temple Concord, Syracuse, will be leading a "Walk Through the Jewish Traditions" in the Fellowship Hall of the New Baltimore Reformed Church, located at the corner of Church Street and Route 144 in the hamlet. This event will also feature a luncheon of traditional foods.

Ms. Kerr-Whitt led a Family Learning Passover Seder last year. To participate in this memorable afternoon of food, music and stories, reservations can be made by calling the church at 756-8764 or Darleen Westervelt at 756-8962 no later than Wednesday, March 21. Additional information will be available at those numbers as well.

Authors discuss 'Integrating'

Author Arlen R Westbrook and Miki Conn will join us to discuss "Integrating Delmar 1957: The Story of a Friendship" on Thursday, April 5, at 7 p.m.

The book was written in 1957/1958 by Margaret B. Cunningham and Arlen R. Westbrook, when Arlen, and first husband Kendall Birr, a white couple rented their house on Herrick Avenue, Delmar to the first black couple in Delmar, James and Margaret Cunningham and their two daughters, Miki and Fern, and shared the house for a short period with them.

This book illustrates the existence of racism in the north and the courage of individuals to overcome that racism. It chronicles the development of a genuine friendship and describes a co-housing experiment long before it became a movement.

Sponsored by Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace. For more information, call 466-1192.

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IN BRIEF

Church to hold garage sale

The Newtonville United Methodist Church, located on the corner of Maxwell Road and Route 9 near Siena College, will hold a garage sale on Saturday, April 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Garden items, tools, housewares, linens, appliances, furniture, holiday items, jewelry, toys, books, and more will be sold. There will also be a luncheon café and bake sale.

Church plans bag sale

The Pine Grove United Methodist Church, 1580 Central Ave., Colonie,

will hold a bag sale at the Thrift Shop on the following dates in March: Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 on March 20 and 27 and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 on March 24 and 31. Purchase a bag for \$2 and fill it with gently used clothes. Profits from the sale benefit area missions.

Women invited to night out

Women from across the Capital District are invited to come together on Thursday, April 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Williams Center (1072 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham) to enjoy an evening of entertainment, education, food, and fun.

Festivities include

a silent auction, wine tasting, fashion show and cooking demonstrations. All proceeds from the event will support local and national domestic violence programs: Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center of Saratoga County and Face to Face.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. RSVP by March 24 to the Williams Center at 786-7000.

Shoppers fair to be held

The 7th Annual Spring Shoppers Fair will be held at Colonie Central High School on Saturday, March 31, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Colonie Central High School Multi-Use Gym.

The school is at on 1 Raider Blvd in Albany.

Fire department plans breakfast

On Sunday, March 25, the Shaker Road Fire Department will hold a pancake breakfast from 7 a.m. to Noon. The cost for adults is \$7, for seniors, \$6, and for children \$4.

For more information, call 458-1352.

Author to sign copies of book

Local author Cynthia Lovely, will sign copies of “Chicken Soup for the Soul: Devotional Stories for Tough Times” at the Niskayuna Barnes and Nobles from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 25.

The bookstore is in Mohawk Commons, 402 Balltown Road.

Sights

(From Page 15)

reckless spending and snowballing government debt,” Dieterich said in a prepared statement. “Yet, when we look to Washington, the place that should be the epitome of American ingenuity and innovation, we instead see a Congress unable or unwilling to transcend the toxic partisan culture and produce real solutions.”

James Buhrmaster, chairman of the Schenectady County Republican Committee, expressed support for Dieterich’s bid. The county GOP has endorsed Dieterich.

“He is an extremely conservative person,” Buhrmaster said. “He is really tired of increasing the size of government and spending money we

don’t have.”

Buhrmaster ran against Tonko in 2008. Buhrmaster said he has no intention of running against Tonko again.

This isn’t a new interest for Dieterich though, because two years ago he was debating a Congressional run.

“He actually was interested in it a couple of years ago and ... kind of at the last minute, Albany picked somebody from Albany,” Buhrmaster said.

Dieterich credited his daughters for spurring him to run.

“For the sake of my daughters, their entire generation and generations to come, I want to help give rise to a new era,” Dieterich said, “a new culture of service and leadership in Washington.”

Buhrmaster said, “Now he has to hit the other counties.”

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: J & T Property Management, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 1, 2012. 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: 1223 River Road, Selkirk, New York 12158. Purpose: For any lawful purpose 79273 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (PLLC) The name of the PLLC is Hollyhock Psychological Services, PLLC. The Articles of Organization of the PLLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on January 20, 2012. The purpose of the PLLC is to own, operate and manage a psychological consulting services company, and also to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the PLLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the PLLC upon whom process against the PLLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the PLLC is 11 Peel Street, Selkirk, NY 12158. 79276 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of SPV 1, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/31/12. Off. loc.: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: One Juniper Drive, Delmar, NY 12054. Purpose: any lawful activity. 79280 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Domtar Industries LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/26/2012. Off. loc.: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/17/1965. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o National Registered Agents, Inc., 875 Ave. of the Americas, Ste. 501, NY, NY 10001, the registered agent upon whom process may be served. DE address of LLC: 160 Greentree Drive, Ste. 101, Dover, DE 19904. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. 79281 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: 1736 Western Ave., LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 3, 2012. 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: 129 Kennewyck Circle, Slingerlands, New York 12159. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. 79282 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of YZES REALTY LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 3/4/09. Office location: Albany County. SSNY des-

LEGAL NOTICE

igned as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Schwartz, 207 Wallabout St., Brooklyn, NY 11206. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79283 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of L J J LENDING, LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 2/6/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79284 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

THE DONOVAN TECHNOLOGY GROUP, LLC Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company Articles of Organization of The Donovan Technology Group, LLC (the "LLC") were filed with the Department of State of New York ("SSNY") on October 18, 2011. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC c/o 73 Darroch Road, Delmar, NY 12054. The LLC does not have a specific date of dissolution. Purpose: All legal purposes. Filer: Ryan T. Donovan Address: 5 Clinton Square Albany, New York 12207 79286 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation Maveric Trans LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 1/9/2012. Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Eric Vinogradov, 2501 South Ocean Drive, Apt. 711, Hollywood, FL 33019. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79298 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is Home Fix Up General Contracting LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on 2/1/2012. The purpose of the LLC is to own, operate and manage a contracting business, and also 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 935 Bridge Street, Selkirk, NY 12158. 79299 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation Cinque Crossing LLC Application for Authority filed with SSNY on 2/3/12. Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. Arts. of Org. filed with SSDE on 11/7/2011. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o the LLC, 10105 Los Padres Place, Las Vegas, NV 89134. Address required to be maintained in DE: 3500 South Dupont Highway, Dover, DE 19901. Name and address of the authorized officer in DE where copy of Arts. of Org. is filed: Delaware Secretary of State,

LEGAL NOTICE

Division of Corporations, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79301 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is KIMBERLY II OF LATHAM, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on 1/27/2012. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 596 New Loudon Road, Latham, New York 12110. 79302 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 120-124 EAST FORDHAM LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 2/10/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79304 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Driftwood Special Servicing, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/13/12. Off. loc.: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/5/11. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: National Corporate Research, Ltd., 10 E. 40th St., 10th Fl., NY, NY 10016, registered agent upon whom process may be served. DE address of LLC: 615 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, DE 19901. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. 79305 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: Twenty Five Elk Street Properties LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/18/12. 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, 25 Elk Street, Albany NY 12207. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. 79518 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Medication Management Services, LLC. Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 1/20/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 25 Parkwyn Dr., Delmar, NY 12054. Purpose: any lawful activities. Latest date 12/31/2110. 79523 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation 220 APT. LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 2/15/2012. Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79525 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation LDL Events, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 2/3/2012. Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79526 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation Rosemina LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 2/13/2012. Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79527 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of EMPIRE HOLDINGS, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. Of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 2/15/12 using the fictitious name of DP HOLDINGS I LLC. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 3/23/11. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. DE address of LLC: c/o USA Corporate Services Inc., 3500 South Dupont Hwy, Dover, DE 19901. Arts. Of Org. filed with the DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St. #4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. 79528 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of JOHANNA C DESIGNS LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 2/15/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79529 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of HOME FUNDING LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 2/16/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79531 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME FRIENDLY EARTH LANDSCAPING LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/6/11. Office location Albany County. SSNY has

LEGAL NOTICE

been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, Friendly Earth Landscaping LLC, 224 Newport Court, PO Box 4, Voorheesville, NY 12186. Purpose for any lawful purpose 79535 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of LINDA DEKKERS LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/1/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to 207 W.16 St. #1, NY, NY 10011. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 79537 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Ramen Champion USA, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/14/12. Off. Loc.: Albany Co. SSNY desig. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 170 Broadway, 4th Fl., NY, NY 10038. General Purposes. 79647 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Great White Directional Services LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/13/12. Off. loc.: Albany County, LLC formed in Oklahoma (OK) on 12/15/05. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Capitol Services, Inc., 1218 Central Ave., Ste. 100, Albany, NY 12205. OK address of LLC: 14201 Caliber Drive, Ste. 300, Oklahoma City, OK 73134. Arts. of Org. filed with OK Secy. of State, 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Rm. 101, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 79651 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of WD GLOBAL LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 2/23/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79654 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of ROI PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 2/22/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 1060 Helderberg Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12306. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. 79670 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of CEG CAPITAL LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 11/9/11. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79656 (D) (March 21, 2012)

The Spotlight

LEGAL NOTICE

SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79673 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Case Funding Associates, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/28/12. Off. Loc.: Albany Co. SSNY desig. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 244 5th Ave., Ste 284 NY, NY 10001-7604. General Purposes. 79674 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of WESTSIDE DONUT 9TH AVE. VENTURES LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 3/1/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79675 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of ABOVE & BEYOND PRODUCTIONS LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 3/1/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79676 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of NZDCKNS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/07/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, c/o Nissim Seliktar, 47-28 37th St., 3rd Fl., Long Island City, NY 11101. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 79677 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Bayport LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/07/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, c/o Jahangir Yaghoobian, 31 Bayport Lane North, Great Neck, NY 11023. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 79678 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 19 Rabbit Run, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/07/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, c/o HHC Co., LLC, 23 Old Kings Hgwy South, PO Box 4004, Darien, CT 06820-4004. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 75007 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Eco-Energy Transportation, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/14/12. Off. loc.: Albany

Eatery

(From Page 1)

climb the stairs and he would get complaints, so he changed it over to housing to continue to make money.

“Plus, the space is probably not handicap accessible and no longer up to code,” pointed out Director of Economic Development and Planning Mike Morelli.

The conversion left the restaurant without a banquet space for larger parties. Cecunjanin said there is a small room behind the bar for 40 people and another room for special events that

seats about 30 people. The main dining room seats about 70 people.

“I can’t close weekends for a private party because that’s our busiest time,” he said. “I’m losing out on bridal and wedding parties.”

He now opens during lunch hours for larger private parties, but it sometimes leaves guests cut off from each other, sitting in different rooms. The new plans would convert the 1,100-square-foot deck into a 1,700-square-foot banquet hall.

“I want to be able to seat 150 in the one room,” Cecunjanin said.

George Leveille,

Planning Board chairman, said there are plenty of parking spaces and didn’t foresee any issues with the plan. Town Engineer Paul Penman agreed.

Cecunjanin and his engineer will need to appear before the Planning Board for final approval, when they will need to present a more detailed plan. Still, Cecunjanin said he hopes to get the project finished over the summer.

“I think it just makes sense for us to have room to cater to larger parties,” he said. “We offer quality and I think people realize that. Now we can offer it on a larger scale and they won’t have to go elsewhere.”

Theater Voices to put on play

Theater Voices will offer its third play of the 2011-2012 Season, “A Steady Rain,” on March 30 and 31, and April 1 at Steamer No. 10 Theatre, 500 Western Ave., Albany.

The play dramatizes the relationship between Joey and Denny, two policemen who have been friends since kindergarten. When a domestic disturbance takes a turn for the worse, their friendship is put on the line. The result is a difficult journey into a moral gray area where trust and

loyalty struggle against a sobering backdrop of criminal lowlifes. The play explores the complexities of a life-long bond tainted by domestic affairs, violence, and the rough streets of Chicago. The recent Broadway production starred Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig. Mature theme and graphic language.

The director is David Girard, who directed “The Hothouse” for Theater Voices last year. The cast includes Chris Foster and Patrick White.

Theater Voices of Albany is a group of

actors and directors who, throughout the company’s history, have presented both new and classic works with the specific goal of emphasizing the richness of the playwrights’ language. Each production is a fully performed staged reading, with minimal scenery and simple costumes.

The group is funded in part by the City of Albany and the New York State Council on the COMMUNITY ART\$GRANTS.

Admission is free.

LEGAL NOTICE

County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 8/8/11. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: National Corporate Research, Ltd., 10 E. 40th St., 10th Fl., NY, NY 10016, registered agent upon whom process may be served. DE address of LLC: National Registered Agents, Inc., 160 Greentree Drive, Ste. 101, Dover, DE 19904. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. 75010 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CST TAX ADVISORS LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/ Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/29/11. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to 1330 Ave. of Americas, Level 23, NY, NY 10019 . Purpose: Any lawful activity. 75018 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation Aero Luggage LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 3/5/2012. Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities. 75019 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation Icon Design Build LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 3/1/2012. Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79913 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation Stoneage LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 3/1/2012. Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79914 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 47-52 43RD STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 3/5/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process

LEGAL NOTICE

against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79915 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 51-46 MANILLA STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 3/5/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79916 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 51-50 MANILLA STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 3/5/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79917 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of ZYM @ 112 LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 11/21/11. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 79918 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Fisher Scientific International LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/29/12. Off. loc.: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 9/19/91. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Capitol Services, Inc., 1218 Central Ave., Ste. 100, Albany, NY 12205. DE address of LLC: 1675 South State St., Ste. B, Dover, DE 19901. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 79919 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Sysco Leasing, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/1/12. Off. loc.: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 9/21/10. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Capitol Services, Inc., 1218 Central Ave., Ste. 100, Albany, NY 12205. DE address of LLC: 1675 South State St., Ste. B, Dover, DE 19901. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 79920 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Gavilon Liberty Grain, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/26/12. Off. loc.: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/28/11. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Attn: Christopher M. Bikus, Husch Blackwell LLP, 1620 Dodge St., Ste. 2100, Omaha, NE 68102. DE address of LLC: 2711 Centerville Rd., Ste. 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, PO Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: any lawful activity. 79921 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Iron Energy LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/2/12. Off. loc.: Albany County. LLC formed in Texas (TX) on 9/26/11. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Capitol Services, Inc., 1218 Central Ave., Ste. 100, Albany, NY 12205. TX address of LLC: 5000 Bee Cave Road, Ste. 106, Austin, TX 78746. Arts. of Org. filed with TX Secy. of State, PO Box 12887, Austin, TX 78711. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 79933 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of LEHIGH GAS – OHIO, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/5/12. Off. loc.: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 4/16/09. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Capitol Services, Inc., 1218 Central Ave., Ste. 100, Albany, NY 12205. DE address of LLC: 1675 South State St., Ste. B, Dover, DE 19901. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover,

LEGAL NOTICE

DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 79934 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Driftwood Hospitality Management II, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/10/12. Off. loc.: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/7/09. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: National Corporate Research, Ltd., 10 E. 40th St., 10th Fl., NY, NY 10016, registered agent upon whom process may be served. DE address of LLC: 615 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, DE 19901. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. 79935 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of MEL's BISTRO LLC, Art. Of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 2/27/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 26 Teasdale Drive, Slingerlands, New York 12159. The Reg. Agt. at such address upon Yusuf Dincer. Purpose: any lawful activities. 80088 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of LEHIGH GAS WHOLESALE LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/8/12. Off. loc.: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/2/11. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Capitol Services, Inc., 1218 Central Ave., Ste. 100, Albany, NY 12205. DE address of LLC: 1675 South State St., Ste. B, Dover, DE 19901. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 80091 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Bowery Member LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/8/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Krishna K. Mehta, Penthouse, 100 Ring Road, Garden City, NY 11530. Purpose: any lawful activity. 80092 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of BUILDING EQUITY MANAGEMENT LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 3/12/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 80096 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of EYE D VISION LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 2/17/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 80094 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of CAMA & CAMA, LLP. Arts of Org. filed with SSNY on 3/13/12. Office Location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLP, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 80097 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of RICHDAVE ANTIQUES LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 3/14/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 80102 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of MILK DIARY LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 3/13/12. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. 80103 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of HEPACO, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/19/12. Off. loc.: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/13/11. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 2711 Burch Drive, Charlotte, NC 28269, Attn: Legal Dept. DE address of LLC: 615 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, DE 19901. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. 80104 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Pyrrho Management, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/9/12. Off. loc.: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 2/14/12. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Capitol Services, Inc. (CSI), 1218 Central Ave., Ste. 100, Albany, NY 12205. DE address of LLC: CSI, 1675 S. State St., Ste. B, Dover, DE 19901. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 80105 (D) (March 21, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOIRROF) March 21, 2012 - Date of publication New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC) 38-40 State Street Albany, New York 12207 (518) 402-3392 On or about March 29, 2012, the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC) will submit a request to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of HOME funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (NAHA) of 1990, in accordance with section 288 (42 U.S.C. 12838), to undertake a project known as ACRHA HOME Rehab Program, for purposes of moderate rehab for 15 single family owner occupied properties. Average expenditure of HOME funds for repair costs per unit will be approximately \$26,667.00. Repairs may include roofs, furnace replacement, septic system repairs (limited site disturbance of undisturbed ground), electrical and plumbing. The service area is Albany County. The activities proposed are Categorically Excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act requirements. An Environmental Review Record

LEGAL NOTICE

(ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at: The office of the Albany County Rural Housing Alliance 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Barbara H. Wigzell, RA, Director, Environmental Analysis Unit, NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation, 38-40 State Street, Albany, New York, 12207. All comments received by March 28, 2012 will be considered by HTFC prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. RELEASE OF FUNDS HTFC certifies to HUD that Ms. Barbara H. Wigzell, RA in her capacity as Certifying Officer consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows HTFC to use Program funds. OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and HTFC's certification received by April 13, 2012 or for a period of fifteen days following its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of HTFC; (b) HTFC has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to

Director of Community Planning and Development U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 26 Federal Plaza New York, New York 10278-0068 Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period. Ms. Barbara H. Wigzell, RA Certifying Officer March 21, 2012 - Date of publication 79936 (D) (March 21, 2012)



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COMMUNITY SALE

THE MARCELLUS United Methodist Church, Gift & Thrift Shop Spring Rummage Sale The MUMC Spring Rummage Sale is Saturday, March 24th 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Great deals on jewelry, clothing, dishes, linens, housewares, books, etc. Shop for Spring Decorations! You can fill a grocery bag for \$4.00. After 1 p.m. each bag is half price. Inside, the Gift and Thrift Shop will be open and stocked with Spring and Summer clothing at regular prices. 1 Slocumbe Avenue, Marcellus, NY 13108

ESTATE SALE

P.J.'S ESTATE Sale! Menands - 2 Graffunder off of N. Sage Hill, off Van Rensselaer Blvd. 3/23 & 24 8 -3 Furniture, piano, glassware, books, collectibles, artwork, households, mower & more!

GARAGE SALE/BARN SALE

DELMAR - 428 Kenwood Ave Tri Village Nursery School, FUMC. HUGE Annual Garage Sale 75+ families. Pre-sale \$5 Fri 3/30 6-8pm, Sat 3/31 8-2.

LOUDONVILLE, GARAGE SALE 30 Southgate rd, Loudonville, Saturday March 24, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. HUGE INDOOR GARAGE SALE SOUTHGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LARGE VARIETY - BASKET RAFFLES - CONCESSION STAND EARLY BIRDS WELCOME 8-9 \$3

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

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| Z | O | N | E | | M | A | I | N | | A | V | E | R |
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| R | I | N | G | S | T | A | R | D | E | M | P | S | E |
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| L | E | I | | | P | A | G | A | N | | S | A | W |
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| M | A | N | O | F | A | L | L | T | R | A | D | E | S |
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| A | P | O | D | S | | | Y | A | R | | S | P | Y |
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Union

(From Page 36)

their regions. Union still has to prove it belongs in that same group and as we all know, a team with something to prove is a dangerous team come playoff time.

Hopefully, what Union will prove beginning this weekend is that it's among the elite college hockey teams in the country. Then, maybe college hockey fans will think twice before saying that the Dutchmen don't have a chance.

Elsewhere, it was only fitting that Dave Doemel and Josh Duell were among the 15 players and coaches named to the Capital District Basketball Hall of Fame's 2012 induction class. Duell was a part of Doemel's first Section II Class AA championship team at Christian Brothers Academy and is now one of Doemel's assistant coaches.

"I have the distinct pleasure of going in with Josh," said Doemel. "I think he and (Brian) Monahan were the ones who launched us on this path (of seven Sectional titles in nine years). They're the ones who made me look like a genius."

"He's going to say that I made him get better, but I would say that he made me get better," said Duell, who went on to play at Siena College before returning to CBA as an assistant coach. "It's awesome that we get to go in together."

Doemel's current CBA team fell short of its goal of reaching the state finals this year, but it wasn't for a lack of effort. The Brothers evaded elimination against Shenendehowa and Troy in Sectionals before falling 68-42 to a taller, faster and more athletic Mount Vernon squad in Saturday's state semifinals. Even in the defeat, CBA pushed Mount Vernon – the eventual state champion – through three tight quarters before the Knights ran away with a 30-point fourth quarter.

"It just seemed like no one on their team got tired, and we got tired in the fourth quarter," said senior guard Christian Leppanen.

This year's CBA team didn't have a transcendent talent like Monahan, Galal Cancer or Kameron Ritter, but the Brothers always seemed to find a hero during their playoff run this season. Whether it was Chaz Lott's offensive rebound and layup with one second left in the 52-49 Sectional quarterfinal victory over Shen, Joe Krong's leaner with two seconds left in regulation to send the Class AA final against Troy into overtime or Leppanen scoring 11 points in the fourth quarter to put away Proctor in the regional final, someone always seemed to step up in crunch time.

It will be interesting to see what CBA will have left in the tank for next season. Lott, Krong and Leppanen all graduate, but forwards Nate Robinson and Greg Stire will be back along with guards Nick Marini

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and Drew Brundige. Those four may be enough to keep the Brothers in the mix for another title run in 2012-13.

Finally, I'm predicting a sparse attendance for this weekend's Federation basketball tournament at the Times Union Center. Not only will there be no Capital District teams involved for the second year in a row, but many of the biggest names in New York high school basketball will be home after losing last weekend.

The only player worth the price of admission this weekend, in my opinion, is Cicero-North Syracuse's Breanna Stewart. The Connecticut-bound senior showed why she was named the nation's top girls high school basketball player with a 42-point, 23-rebound performance against Ossining in the state semifinals, followed by a 13-point, 13-rebound and 13-blocked shot performance in Sunday's Class AA final against Penfield.

If you want to see a player who will soon be a big name in women's basketball, go see Stewart and her Cicero-North Syracuse teammates this weekend.



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Doubles fun at booster club fundraiser



Twenty-four young tennis players participated in a doubles round robin tournament to raise money for the Bethlehem High School Tennis Booster Club March 9 at the Capital Region Tennis and Fitness Club in Albany. The event featured three draws of competitive play, refreshments, prizes and awards for the winning teams. Submitted photo

Kundel qualifies in two relays

Bethlehem Central High School graduate Zack Kundel will compete on Ithaca College’s 200-yard medley and 200-yard free-style relay teams at the NCAA Division III men’s swim meet. It’s Kundel’s first trip to the national meet.

West

(From Page 36)

were sophomores, so that experience will help us,” said McConaghy. McConaghty said generating offense will be a key this year. “We have to score over 10 goals every game,”

said McConaghy. “If we don’t, we’ll lose. We’re not slowing anything down. We’re going to push the ball.” Scoring goals might be a bit easier for Guilderland this season. Some of the Suburban Council’s top goaltenders graduated last year, led by Shenendehowa’s Bobby Wardwell. Still,

McConaghy said that the league will be tough with Shen and Niskayuna leading the list of contenders. After this week’s trip to Mercer Island, the Dutchmen will get nearly two weeks off before beginning their Suburban Council season against South Division rival Columbia April 3 in Guilderland.

Girls

(From Page 36)

other strengths, and we can play to that.” Madsen is also back to anchor Guilderland’s defensive unit, which was one of the best in the Suburban Council last season. “Having (the returning offensive players), it’s nice knowing that they can control the ball,” said Madsen. “But, it’s also nice knowing that I have my defense back to help me.” The Suburban Council season should provide Guilderland with challenges beyond its lone game against Niskayuna April 17. Shaker, Bethlehem, Colonie and Shenendehowa are among the other league teams Chatnik

said will be tough. “There are going to be a lot of good teams. There are no easy games anymore,” said Chatnik. Chatnik has also put together a challenging non-league schedule for his team that includes a home game against Section V power Canandaigua Academy April 14 and a meeting with Massachusetts power Longmeadow April 21. Still, the Lady Dutch know which team they really want to beat – the one that holds the title that they used to own. “We definitely worked really hard in the off-season because we know they (Niskayuna) are the team to beat,” said Camardo.

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Finance in the Spotlight

Five tips for building credit without accumulating debt

By Anthony Lanzillo,
Senior Vice
President, KeyBank

The purpose of building credit is to demonstrate financial responsibility to potential lenders. Unfortunately, credit is a bit of a catch-22. If you have it, you probably have a decreased need for it. If you need it, and don't have it, it's often hard to get...but not impossible.

Building credit is about making strategically sound financial decisions. It's about taking on debt and managing it responsibly so that one day, when you're ready to finance a house, car or a college education, lenders will look at you and say, "this person has a track record of honoring their commitments and is worthy of a large loan."

The dangers of accumulating debt

Establishing credit is not risk free. According to the Journal of Consumer Research, people who use credit and borrow to make purchases spend more money on their purchases

than they would have had they used cash. In fact, one ill-advised purchase can start the snowball rolling down the hill. So once you do have access to a little bit of credit, avoid the



Anthony Lanzillo

tendency to feel a false sense of prosperity. The reality is, credit may give you borrowing power, but it is not a license to spend. If you can't afford whatever it is you may want to buy today, it's generally a good bet that you will not be able to afford the payments tomorrow. And the worst thing you can do to yourself if you are trying to build credit is to accumulate debt.

Accumulating debt affects your ability to qualify for certain loans or financing. In addition, debt limits your ability to save money or invest in your future. Banks, lenders, car dealerships and other financial institutions will look at your credit report to determine whether or not you qualify for a loan or repayment option. Those with bad credit may not qualify for certain loans or receive extremely high interest rates.

In addition to preventing you from purchasing a new car or home, or even financing your child's education, bad debt damages your credit. Failure to honor your debt destroys your credit and it will remain on your credit report for up to seven years. If you file for bankruptcy it will stay on your credit report for ten years. Bad credit can be and is very destructive.

How to build credit responsibly

While having bad credit can make financing the

important things in your life extremely difficult, having zero credit can be equally disadvantageous. Many lenders refuse people with little or no credit history because they have no information to evaluate, which ultimately makes them a potential bad risk for investment. This is why it is imperative to establish credit as early as possible.

Here are five tips for building credit responsibly:

1. Open a secured credit card. A secured credit card often requires you to put down a deposit to provide assurance that you will pay your debt. Your credit limit is often the amount you put down as your deposit. Unlike debit cards, creditors report secured credit card activity to the credit bureaus.

2. Stick with one credit card. People who have multiple credit cards are more apt to use each one. Pick one credit card with a low interest rate and stick with it. Applying for too much credit in a

short period of time can be detrimental to building good credit.

3. Borrow or charge only what you can afford. Having good credit means consistently demonstrating you can pay back what you've borrowed. Essentially, you want to demonstrate to lenders that you are responsible. So start small and only charge what you can afford to pay back.

4. Pay on time and in full every month. The best thing you can do when building credit is to pay bills on time each month, without carrying a monthly balance. Make small purchases—gas or groceries, for example—which will make paying your bill in full each month easier. Missing or late payments can severely hurt your credit score.

5. Check your credit score. Contrary to popular belief, checking your credit score does not lower it. Check it once a year just to ensure that your credit is properly building. It is

also good to check for any mistakes or fraudulent activity.

Credit cards are the most common way to build credit—they are not the only way. Car payments, mortgages or personal loans are also ways to establish credit without ever opening a line of credit. Anything that demonstrates stability and economic responsibility is a great way to establish good credit.

Again, the important thing is to be responsible in your decisions and actions, because securing access to credit should be about the big picture—establishing a stable financial footing that will help you build a better life for yourself and those you love. For more tips, talk with your trusted banker.

About the author: Anthony Lanzillo is senior vice president of KeyBank and heads the Capital Region's Retail Banking team. He can be reached at 518-257-8598 or anthony_lanzillo@keybank.com.

What is a credit score?

Your credit score is a three-digit number that indicates your creditworthiness to potential lenders, banks, insurance companies and even landlords. It ranges on a scale from 300-850—the higher the better. Based on value, your credit score will determine if you are eligible for a loan and at what interest rate. Your credit score takes into consideration your entire credit history, including personal and auto loans, bankruptcy and bill payment history.

Many creditors have their own guidelines for ranking credit score. However, here's an idea of how your credit score can affect your personal finances:

300-580 This is considered poor credit. You will most likely be denied credit or will only be approved for the highest interest rates available.

581-650 This is considered average credit. You can qualify for credit but at very high interest rates.

651-710 This is considered good credit. You can qualify for credit at moderate interest rates.

711-750 This is considered very good credit. You can qualify for credit at low interest rates.


751 and up This is considered perfect credit. You can qualify for credit at the lowest interest rates on the market.

Why is good credit important?

Today's economy relies heavily on credit. Whether you're looking to buy a car, take out a mortgage or receive a student loan to pay for college, a company is extending credit to you. Therefore, your credit score determines how likely you are to repay your debt. Those with good credit will be approved for any loan and often at a much lower interest rate than those with poor credit. Banks often consider a number of 600 or higher as an acceptable credit score.

In addition to loans and mortgages, having good credit can be extremely beneficial in everyday life. Many employers conduct credit checks as part of the hiring process, in order to determine if potential employees are financially responsible. Also, many entrepreneurs are pursuing dreams of starting their own business. However, starting a business requires a good amount of startup cash and you will need good credit to obtain a small business loan. Finally, many landlords and utility companies run a credit check to ensure you can pay your bills. As you can see, having good credit is very important.

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Spotlight on Sports

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Young players raise money

Twenty-four young tennis players participated in a doubles round robin tournament to raise money for the Bethlehem High School Tennis Booster Club March 9 at the Capital Region Tennis and Fitness Club in Albany.

See Page 33.



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Weekly poll

How far will the Union College hockey team get in this year's NCAA Tournament?

- First round exit
- Regional final
- National semifinal
- National final
- National champions

Go to www.spotlightnews.com and click on sports to cast your vote.

Last week's poll results:

Which girls lacrosse team will win the Section II Class A title this spring?

- Guilderland 48%
- Bethlehem 33%
- Niskayuna 10%
- Shaker 10%
- Saratoga 0%

Dutchmen head west

Boys lacrosse team visits Washington to play two northwestern powers

By ROB JONAS
jonasr@spotlightnews.com

The Guilderland boys lacrosse team is going to great lengths to get ready for the Suburban Council season.

The Dutchmen are heading west to Mercer Island in Washington State this week to play Bellevue High School and two-time defending Oregon champion Lincoln.

Coach Sean McConaghy said the lacrosse booster club helped raise the money for the round-trip plane tickets for the players. The team will be staying with host families while they are in Seattle, which cut down on the cost of the trip.

"The parents that were involved in the fundraising efforts were huge," said McConaghy. "They were there meeting after meeting."

The games against two of the Northwest's top boys lacrosse teams are part of McConaghy's strategy to prepare his team for the rigors of another tough Suburban Council schedule.

"That's part of the reason we're doing it – to see other competition in this country," said McConaghy. "Another part of the reason we're doing it is to get ready for the season."

Guilderland is looking to win the Suburban Council South Division title outright this season after sharing it with Colonie last year.

"That's goal No. 1," said McConaghy. "Goal No. 2 is to have a chance at the (Section II



Guilderland's Nick Titolo, left, gets by a defender during last Thursday's practice at the high school. The Dutchmen are preparing for this week's trip to the northwest, where they will face Bellevue, Wash., and two-time defending Oregon champion Lincoln.

Rob Jonas/Spotlight

Class A) championship game."

Unlike last year, McConaghy doesn't have to worry about breaking in a new batch of varsity players. Fourteen veterans are back this season including Taylor Dubose, Connor McLachlan, Danny Santandrea and Sean Klim, who is entering his third season

as the Dutchmen's starting goaltender. Senior defender Dan Rogers returns after missing the 2011 season due to a torn ACL in his left knee.

"The seniors on this year's team have been getting significant playing time for us since they

□ West Page 33

G'land girls want title back

Key offensive players return for Lady Dutch for 2012 season

By ROB JONAS
jonasr@spotlightnews.com

For the first time in five years, the Guilderland girls lacrosse team isn't entering the season as the defending Section II Class A champions.

Niskayuna ended Guilderland's reign by beating the Lady Dutch 15-14 in last year's Sectional final, and Guilderland hasn't forgotten it.

"We're definitely looking to get that championship back," said senior goaltender Jess Madsen.

"We're ready this year," said Guilderland coach Gary Chatnik. "We've got a lot of good talent back, so we'll be in the hunt again."

The Lady Dutch return many of last year's leading scorers including Morgan Hardt, Shelby Iapocce and Kelly Camardo.

"I think our offense will be solid," said Chatnik. "They've grown up a lot and matured a lot during the offseason. They share the ball well, and they're great shooters."

"We definitely know how each other plays," said Camardo. "We know each

□ Girls Page 33

Union has chance to be mythbusters

The Union College hockey team is the ECAC regular season and tournament champion. It's the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament's East Regional. It has the second-most wins of any team in the field.

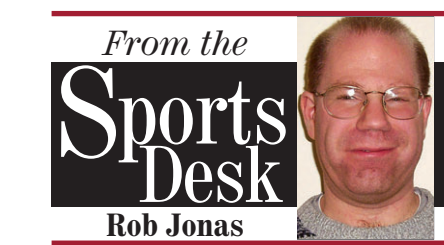
And yet, the Skating Dutchmen are receiving little love from the rest of the nation's college hockey fans.

Minutes after the NCAA Tournament brackets were announced Sunday, I went to a website that specializes in college hockey and went into a live chat room to see what was being said. And, what was being said of Union was not flattering. I don't remember any direct quotes, but the gist of it was, "Union has no chance."

Never mind the fact that among Union's 27 victories was a 6-3 win at the University of Michigan in late November. The same University of Michigan whose hockey team is the top seed in the Midwest Regional.

Never mind the fact that the Skating Dutchmen are on a 15-2-2 run dating back to the start of the calendar year. Only top overall seed Boston College has been playing better, as the Eagles enter the NCAA Tournament with a 15-game winning streak.

Never mind the fact that Union is the



top defensive team in the country, allowing 1.82 goals per game. (FYI: Goaltender Troy Grosenick is a Hobey Baker Award finalist, and he's only a sophomore playing his first full season as a starter.)

Throw all of that aside because – horror of horrors – Union plays in the ECAC. And in the world of Division I college hockey, the ECAC is regarded with only slightly less disdain than the Atlantic Hockey Association (fact: Air Force won the ACHL title). In college basketball parlance, the ECAC is the Ivy League of Division I, which is appropriate because Ivy League schools Harvard, Princeton, Brown, Yale, Cornell and Dartmouth are also part of the ECAC.

Basically, most college hockey fans see the ECAC as a minor league compared to the monsters that are Hockey East (home to Boston College), the Central Collegiate

Hockey Association (home to Michigan) and the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (home to teams like North Dakota and Denver). A lot of them think that ECAC teams can't handle playing against teams from those other leagues.

Unfortunately, ECAC teams have done little in recent NCAA Tournaments to dispel that notion. No ECAC team has won the national title since Harvard pulled off the trick in 1989. The last ECAC team to win the league's regular season and tournament title – the 2008-09 Yale Bulldogs – lost in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament.

Union can change all of that if it can win its regional and reach the "Frozen Four" in Tampa. All that the Dutchmen need to do is beat Michigan State – the fifth-best CCHA team during the regular season – in the opening round, and then get by either Miami of Ohio (the one in Florida doesn't have a hockey team, as far as I know) or Massachusetts-Lowell in the regional final.

The nice thing is, Union will be the only regional top seed that can play with a chip on its shoulder. Boston College, Michigan and North Dakota are all expected to win

□ Union Page 32