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## NEWS Crime spree

Bethlehem Police helped track down alleged crime couple Saturday.

Story on Page 3

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## More on 2015

Last year, we saw the departure of longtime Guilderland supervisor Ken Runion, and more.

Story on Page 4

## TOP STORY



# A look ahead

Swearing in of town officials, appointing committee members, much to do when Bethlehem's Town Board meets next week

By **TRICIA CREMO**  
cremot@spotlightnews.com

**BETHLEHEM** — Updates to police tech, improvements to Delaware Avenue and more are planned for 2016 as the Town Board holds its organizational meeting next week.

The Wednesday, Jan. 13, meeting will outline the Town of Bethlehem's calendar for the entire year. Here, a preview of topics that will be discussed:

### Police

New Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems for police vehicles are planned for the department in the coming year. The information management systems will update patrol officer's capabilities to provide information on individuals they pull over, providing greater real-time information.

"In the future, other counties will begin to adopt this technology for greater cross-sectional information," said Town Supervisor John Clarkson.

Continues on page 15

## IN LIVING



### Shhh....

Why Bethlehem denied a request to post a Christmas sign on town property, and what happened next.

Story on Page B1

## SPORTS



### Dutch falter

The weekend was not kind to the Guilderland boy's basketball team, dropping two in a holiday tournament last week.

Story on Page 8



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## Can you give me a description of your business?

Safe Home Delmar caters to homeowners who are absent from their home for reasons that include, spending winters in the south, vacation, business travel, hospital stays, as well as homeowners who have relocated but their house remains on the market. Gary Fish, my husband, has made his law enforcement and security background available to me, as a consultant. Gary is a retired Police officer, private investigator and former owner of Fishhead Security, LLC, his experience and knowledge will be a great asset. Regular check-ins of the property will occur according to the various "visit options" chosen by the homeowner or Real Estate Agency. Check-ins are exterior and interior, entry points are always checked, flyers & trash are picked up and discarded, we make sure no water damage is occurring and systems are working, if needed, plants are watered. If contractors are in place to plow or do yard work, we keep an eye out to make sure the work is being performed and performed satisfactorily. Post-storm checks are done, as well. If there is an animal involved, a plan is put in place during the 1-hour free consultation, to make sure the furry family pet is fed, walked and has some one-on-one time, since they will be missing the homeowner. Homeowners are kept current with calls or emails.



**Terri Fish, Owner**

## You are a long-time Delmar resident; can you give me some background that our locals may connect with?

Of course! My parents, Chuck and Betty Bassett moved our family of six to Delmar in 1968 from Interlaken, NY due to my father's New York Farm Bureau job transfer, after retirement he worked as a local Real Estate agent. Hamagrael Elementary was the first school I attended locally then continued on through the Bethlehem High School where Gary and our three children also graduated. Another piece of my history will bring a few people back, my first job other than babysitting, was as a cashier at Hilchie's Hardware and on Geneseo college breaks I waitressed at Normanside Country Club, where I started dating my husband who was also working there to put himself through college. So yes, I am a long-time resident and I love it here! I am also proud to call myself a Capital Region local, Safe Home Delmar caters not only to Delmar, but the surrounding area. From 2010-October 2015 I owned M & T Helping Hands, LLC, a non-medical Senior care service, which was built from the ground up with my business partner. M & T Helping Hands continues to thrive under new owner, Lisa Hickman. Founding and building that business was my platform for experiencing what it takes to succeed in growing a successful, reputable business, where customer service is paramount. I consider both M & T and Safe Home as care giving services, where a personal touch is needed.

## What is the customer benefit of using a local business such as Safe Home Delmar, LLC?

I can share my personal feelings on this. Whether my customers are in Delmar or the surrounding area, this is my community, it's personal to me. Houses are not just structures, they represent the capital region families, memories and hard work. Safe Home Delmar will be dedicated to our home area's customers and our services will be done while respecting and protecting your privacy.



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"Terri Fish is a caring, responsible person who has been taking outstanding care of our home for many years whenever we are away. Her work ethic, her attention to detail, her responsible nature provide us with peace of mind with regard to our home. Terri carefully checks all areas of the house inside and out including the basement for water or any other problem. The plants are watered, broken branches are brought out to the road, packages are brought into the house."

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## ■ COPS, COURTS AND EMERGENCY CALLS

# Two arrested after string of holdups

Pair attempted to rob businesses in Albany, Rensselaer counties

**ALBANY COUNTY** — Janelle M. Litton, 34, of Ravena, and her alleged accomplice Donald R. Mason, 50, of Coeymans, were arrested after Litton reportedly attempted to holdup several businesses in Albany and Rensselaer counties the night of Saturday, Jan. 2.

Bethlehem Police said Litton appeared at the Glenmont Subway at the corner of Route 9W and Feura Bush Road at 9:30 p.m. and stole cash from the register after she displayed a demand note and implied she had a

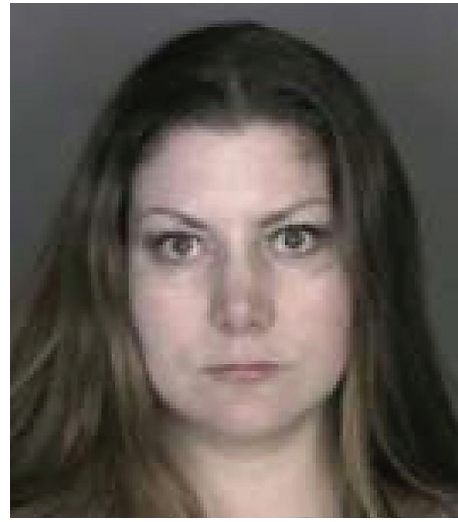
concealed weapon. Police said Litton and Mason then fled by vehicle.

Witnesses reported Litton was wearing a winter coat with a fur-lined hood pulled over her head and held her hand in her coat pocket, suggesting she was holding a gun, said police, though no weapon was displayed. Bethlehem Police are not releasing charges.

A Stewarts in Feura Bush was also robbed that night with matching description of the accused, and is under investigation by state police.

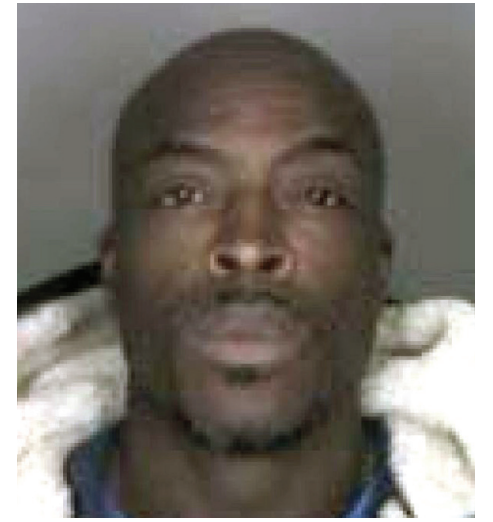
According to East Greenbush Police, the pair later attempted another robbery at approximately 9:40 p.m. at the ZK Sunoco Mobil gas station on Columbia Turnpike in East Greenbush.

Litton allegedly yelled that she had a gun and ordered the cashier to hand over money. Instead of handing over money, the cashier reportedly shouted back at Litton and told her he was calling police. As he grabbed a cell phone to call for help, Litton ran out of the gas station and jumped in a vehicle waiting outside



Janelle M. Litton

East Greenbush Police



Donald R. Mason

East Greenbush Police

and drove off, according to police.

The cashier gave a description of the vehicle to emergency dispatchers and a car matching that description was stopped by several police agencies a short time later at the entrance to the Dunn Memorial Bridge on Columbia Turnpike near Broadway in Rensselaer.

East Greenbush Police charged Litton and Mason with attempted robbery

in the first degree and conspiracy in the fourth. Litton was additionally charged with menacing in the second degree and Mason was additionally charged with felony vehicle operation and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

The Glenmont Subway employee later positively identified Litton as the culprit, and Bethlehem Police plan to make similar charges to those made by

East Greenbush Police. There were no injuries reported with any of the incidents.

Litton and Mason were arraigned in East Greenbush Town Court on Sunday morning, Jan. 3.

The joint investigation was conducted by East Greenbush Police, Bethlehem Police and State Police with cooperation from North Greenbush and Rensselaer police departments.

## County SVU to prosecute Egan

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**  
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

**LATHAM** — The case involving a local pastor arrested for allegedly capturing a woman in a thrift shop dressing room on video has now been transferred to Albany County Court to be prosecuted by the county's Special Victim's Unit.

Rev. Adam Egan was arrested by Colonie Police Wednesday, Dec. 23, on two felony charges of unlawful surveillance and tampering with evidence after he allegedly recorded the victim changing her clothes at the Salvation Army thrift store at 350 Troy-Schenectady Road in Latham.

A court date has not been scheduled at this time. Egan was arraigned in Colonie Justice Court on the day of the alleged offense in front of town justice Andrew Sommers. He was initially remanded to the Albany County Correctional Facility without bail; however, he was offered bail the following day. Egan is now out of jail after posting \$10,000 bail.

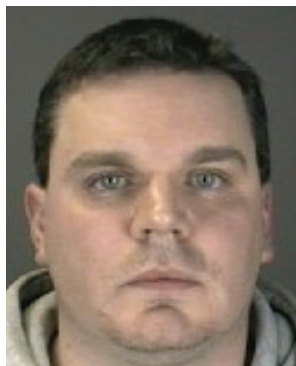
Egan faces up to four

years in state prison should he be found guilty of the surveillance charge. The tampering with evidence charge, however, carries a potential maximum sentence of 20 years.

Colonie Police Det. Sgt. Michael Franze said the 35-year-old was caught as he "held his cell phone over the divider" of the store's dressing room, allegedly taking a video of a woman as she changed her clothing. "She saw him. The police were called and he fled," said Franze. Police later located Egan less than a mile away, where he was arrested and his phone confiscated.

On his Twitter account, Egan identified himself as a "husband, father, Episcopal Priest, Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Delmar NY and the Diocese of Albany. Avid Pittsburgh sports and NASCAR fan." That account has since been taken down. All references to Egan on St. Stephen's website and Facebook page have also been removed. According to the church, Egan has been placed on leave.

Egan retained the services of attorney



Adam Egan

Colonie Police

Stephen R. Coffey of O'Connell and Aronowitz. Coffey returned a phone call to confirm his services were retained, but refused further comment. Last year, publishers of *U.S. News & World Report* and *Best Lawyers* named the Albany law firm among the country's best in criminal defense, health care and personal injury. Individually, Coffey is named among the top four percent of practicing lawyers.

The Special Victim's Unit is tasked with investigating and prosecuting domestic violence, sexual assault, crimes against children, elder abuse, animal cruelty, and cases involving the mentally ill.

## Man charged with unlawful surveillance of stepdaughter

**DELMAR** — Bethlehem Police arrested Erich Kaminsky, 53, of 842 Feura Bush Road, Apartment 1 in Delmar, on Tuesday, Dec. 15, for allegedly videotaping his stepdaughter while she showered.

Kaminsky, a computer programmer at Momentive in Waterford, was charged with unlawful surveillance, a felony, and endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor.

The victim, a 15 year-old female, had reportedly spoken to a Child Protective Services at Bethlehem Central High School to discuss the living conditions at her home after being "creeped out" by Kaminsky. He had been living with the victim at 202 Elm Ave. in Delmar, but was reportedly ordered out of the

house several months ago because of his pornography addiction.

The victim's mother reportedly told police she had found the photos and videos of her daughter in the shower on Kaminsky's phone. After arriving to the house after work, Kaminsky admitted to taking photos and a video while the victim was showering, using a camera placed in a vent, which was attached to his cell phone, said police.

Kaminsky was arraigned in Bethlehem Town Court, where bail was set at \$10,000. He was bonded out and released to one Sally Kaminsky.

A stay away order of protection against Erich Kaminsky was issued to protect the victim.

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## ■ YEAR IN REVIEW

## Runion's exit highlights 2015 news

Guilderland Supervisor can't stay long enough to see end of term

By **TRICIA CREMO**  
cremot@spotlightnews.com

**GUILDERLAND** — In November, Guilderland's Town Supervisor Ken Runion ended 16 years as supervisor on a sour note when he retired a month before his allotted term. In New Scotland, Supervisor Thomas Dolin leaves his position after eight years in the role.

Runion's role was quickly taken up by incoming supervisor Peter Barber, while Dolin's role will be filled by Councilman Doug LaGrange, both providing great experience to their respective rolls.

While Runion and Dolin are leaving their towns in good hands, Dolin will be remembered for the many great things he did for the town, while Runion will be remembered for the same, as well as for the inscrutable way he left his role.

Runion reportedly moved to Florida along with his wife to be with their son and

grandchildren.

The former town supervisor could not be reached by phone.

## New Scotland looks hard to define zoning

**NEW SCOTLAND** — Since 2011, the Zoning Board has worked through a grant from the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) Linkage Program to improve the area's zoning, which hasn't seen major changes in over 20 years. This year, the town finally moved forward with plans, holding committee meetings starting last summer, with its first public hearing held in August.

"Land that's great farmland is usually great development land, and sadly that's usually the first to go," said Marian Hull, AECOM project manager, the town's hired consultant. This sentiment — the loss of open space for the sake of redevelopment — is the most-heard concern from residents who fear that their town will cease to be

the quaint village that it is.

Though residents fear their village will lose its character, development is needed in town. With new businesses taxes across towns will be reduced, and, rather than lose character, the town will gain a homier presence with a more walkable town center. In all, new zoning is not something that should be feared, but embraced. While resident fears are understandable and will certainly be a part of plans moving forward, New Scotlanders should realize that these plans will take a long, long time to be realized, and will provide for the economic growth the town needs.

## Historic site nearly razed

**NEW SCOTLAND** — In 2015, the Town of New Scotland continued their efforts to save the century-old LaVie barn, located on land that the Colonie Country Club is seeking to develop. Councilman Dan Mackay took leadership on the project, applying for grants



Incumbents were not safe in Guilderland as some of those seated at the Town Board lost their seats.

Spotlight File Photo

throughout the year for the barn to be moved. That is, before Mackay abruptly left his position on Town Board in June to move across the country.

An 18-lot subdivision is currently under construction at the barn's Maple Avenue location. Town officials had until Feb. 28 to figure out a plan, and were given an extension until August, which has also expired.

A potential hail mary arose when it was proposed to tie the barn's relocation costs, estimated to be at least \$500,000, to state funds received for the Albany County Rail Trail's completion. Should the proposal go through, the barn would become a small shopping center at the end of the trail. The fate of the barn remains in the balance.

"We're not demolishing the barn because we want to demolish the barn," said Dan Hershberg, out of fear of being cast in the villain role in the barn debate. "The difference of leaving out one or two lots is the difference between a profitable project in the long run." The barn is simply a barn. Besides the uniqueness of its large size (most barns of that era were far smaller), the barn holds no historical significance to the state at large. This fact may have impacted the National Historic Preservation

Society's decision not to award the town grants thus far. For locals, however, the barn is historically significant to the town.

Nearly a year has passed and the LeVie barn continues to stand. As its fate remains in the balance, the town's efforts to save it will be the thing most people will remember. Though it has been some time since we last heard of the barn, with some renewed interest from residents and greater media coverage, one can only hope that the Rail Trail plans can come through.

## Water district in works

**NEW SCOTLAND** — A water project over a decade in the works was finally completed this year. After last year's cold winter saw the pipelines created for the new New Salem water district created, and contract negotiations with Bethlehem for water completed, residents in the area who were burdened with dry, unpredictable wells were saved.

Fourteen years ago, about 150 neighbor signatures and a grant of almost \$3 million made the newly created New Salem Water District along Route 85/85A possible.

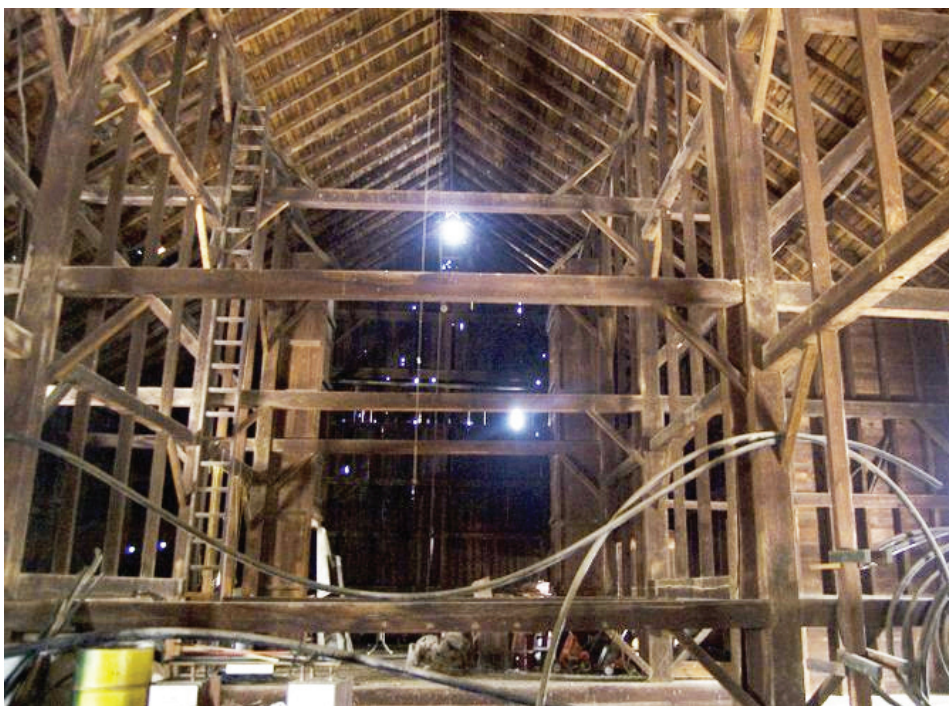
In 2001, 2010 and 2011 three separate applications for the grant were submitted, before a fourth

grant application sent in 2013 was finally approved. Funds were used to update the district's pipes and water structures, which date back to the 1900s.

The creation of this district is just the most recent example of cooperation between the Town of New Scotland and the Town of Bethlehem," said Town Engineer Bruce Secor, of Stantec Engineers, who prepared the application on the town's behalf and designed the structures. Though New Scotland's water negotiations with Bethlehem have not always been pristine, as New Scotlanders often complain of high water rates, negotiating with Bethlehem for the New Salem district provided the Town of New Scotland a leveraging tool when they took on some of Bethlehem's costlier water residents, in exchange gaining a smaller water check for residents.

Residents who benefitted paid one-time costs to attach to the new pipes and create new water readers when needed, and will pay \$600 yearly to repay the \$2.8 million loan over the next several years. However, as so many residents needed the repairs, these costs are nothing when compared to the security felt from no longer having to worry

**Continue on 10**



The LeVie barn holds historical significance to the town at more than 100 years old, but the town continues to scramble to keep it from falling victim of progress.

File photo

## ■ COUNTY GOVERNMENT

# A year of dysfunction

By ALI HIBBS

hibbs@spotlightnews.com

2015  
[YEAR IN REVIEW]

**ALBANY COUNTY** — County government has had a banner year—when it comes to dysfunction. Here are a few highlights.

### Federal Redistricting Decision

For the third consecutive decade, the Albany County Legislature faced federal sanction for the way they drew new legislative district lines following the 2010 federal census. After years of contentious argument and several failed attempts at resolving a lawsuit that was filed in 2011 by minority members of the community and the regional NAACP chapter, Senior U.S. District Judge Lawrence Kahn ruled in March that the disputed districts violated the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, diluting the voting strength of black voters by packing them into districts already dominated by minorities.

In his 81-page decision, Kahn cited “the persistent presence of racial bloc voting, the continued low levels of minority-preferred candidate success, the lingering effects of past discrimination that continue to inhibit minority participation in the electoral process, and the questionable manner in which the County conducted its redistricting process.” He ordered that the lines be redrawn, and approved, before Albany County would be permitted to move ahead with 2015 county elections.

At the heart of the issue was the number of minority-majority districts (MMDs), in which minority citizens represent a majority of voters—essentially ensuring that minorities have the opportunity to elect candidates representing their interests to the legislative body. While the black population in Albany County increased by more than 35 percent between 2000 and 2010, the number of MMDs remained the same—four of the 39 districts. Plaintiffs argued that the number should have been increased to five.

Following Kahn’s decision, Majority Leader Frank Commisso (D-11) announced the formation of a redistricting

committee composed of five Democrats and two Republicans, headed by Deputy Majority Leader Sean Ward (D-16) of Green Island. The new maps, which carved out a fifth MMD in Albany’s east side, were approved by Kahn on April 21.

The new MMD, the 6th legislative district, was ultimately won by the only white candidate in the race, much to the chagrin of minority community leaders. Democrat Sam Fein defeated opponent Danielle Hille by just 58 votes. The new maps also angered Bethlehem Democrats, who felt that the redrawn lines intentionally gerrymandered at least one competitor out of an incumbent district in the Bethlehem area. Dissatisfaction with the redistricting process caused many to call for an independent redistricting body and contributed to the formation of a reform coalition within the Democratic caucus.

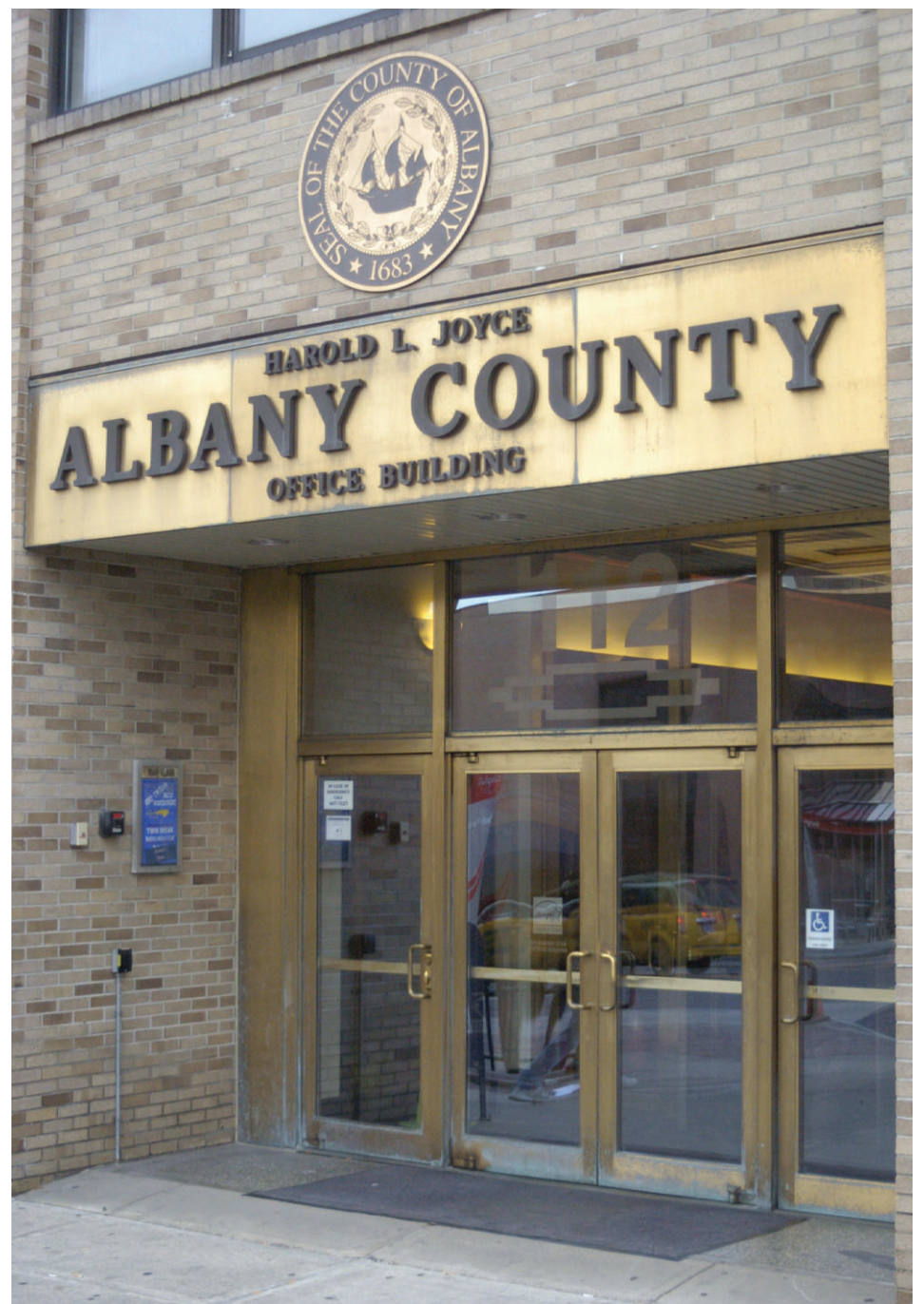
In September, the judge ordered Albany County to pay \$1.2 million in plaintiff’s legal costs, significantly less than the \$6.9 million originally sought by their lawyers.

In November, Albany County voters denied charter changes that would keep the redistricting process within the legislature, but no legislation has yet been passed to provide for the formation of an independent body either.

Commisso told *Spotlight News* in early December that voters elect legislators to do the job of redistricting and that any independent committee made up of members appointed by the legislature would inevitably have political allegiances, therefore undermining the whole point of an independent body.

Others like Joe O’Brien (D-25), who was narrowly defeated in a recent challenge to Commisso for the position of Majority Leader (the only challenge Commisso has faced since taking the position in the early 90s), believe that there are ways to establish a credible independent commission. “I would be in

**Continues on 11**

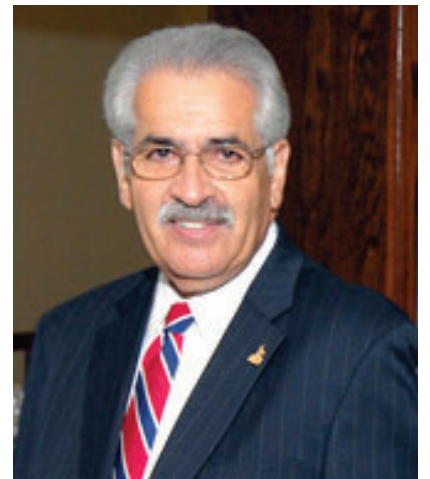


Albany County leaders faced a number of contentious issues during 2015, including redistricting and the establishment of a Democratic Reform Coalition just weeks before the general election.

Spotlight Newspapers

Albany County Legislature Majority Leader Frank Commisso (D-11) retained his position after narrowly defeating challenger Joe O’Brien (D-25) late last year.

Submitted photo



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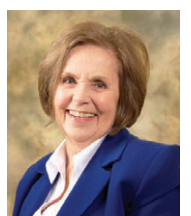
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## ■ COMMUNITY

# Sign language for babies and toddlers

Wouldn't it be great if you could know what babies were thinking? Teaching sign language to infants and toddlers can facilitate this early communication by allowing them to relay basic needs and thoughts to their caregivers using signs.

The library is pleased to be offering a Signing for Babies and Toddlers series that will take place every Friday from Jan. 15 until Feb. 5 at 10 a.m. Over the course of the program, presenter Rebecca Demarest will show parents how to use American Sign Language with their children, which is credited with fostering spoken language development. Bring your baby or toddler to the library and get ready to play, sing and sign! Registration is required, and you can sign up online at [www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org](http://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org).



[bethlehempubliclibrary.org](http://bethlehempubliclibrary.org) or by calling the library at 439-9314. Please plan on attending all of the sessions in the series.

Rebecca is a speech language pathologist and Signing Smart instructor in the Capital District. She began signing with her own daughter, who was able to use about 25 signs regularly by her first birthday. She now instructs other parents in age-appropriate ASL vocabulary.

## A show of force

Do you make it your business to know all there is to know about the Star Wars universe? Can you recite key passages from every one of the movies, including the one just released? Are you a force to be reckoned with when it

comes to Star Wars trivia? If so, your presence is requested at our Star Wars Trivia Night on Tuesday, Jan. 12, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Parents and kids can team up to cover all of their bases. Register online at [www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org](http://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org) or call the library at 439-9314.

## Get tax filing help at the library

We are now making appointments for tax filing assistance with staffers from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. If your household income is under \$62,000, you can get free help filing your state and federal returns. Returns must be e-filed. Time slots are available at the library on Tuesdays from Jan. 26-April 12, and appointments must be made in person at the information desk, at which

time you will be provided with a list of items you will need to bring.

## Upcoming events

### Friday, Jan. 8

#### Preschool STEM: Oil and Water

Experiment with oil and water using food coloring and jam jars. For up to age 6 with caregiver. 10 a.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 9

#### Time Out for Tales

Stories and fun for children up to age 6 and families. 11 a.m.

#### Saturday STEM: Oil Spill Science

Make your own oil spill and then evaluate different clean-up methods. For grades 1-5. 11 a.m.

### Monday, Jan. 11

#### Tiny Tots

Stories, songs and fingerplays for children up to age 35 months with

caregiver. 9:30 a.m.

#### Creative Coloring for Adults

Join the latest craze in stress relief for grownups. We provide the materials and a snack. 7 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 12

#### Tiny Tots

Stories, songs and fingerplays for children up to age 35 months with caregiver. 9:30 a.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 13

#### Family Storytime

Stories, songs and activities for children up to age 6 with family. 9:30 a.m.

#### Family Playtime

Free play and socialization with toys, blocks, balls and more. Up to age 6 with family. 10 a.m.

#### AfterDinner Books

Discuss "The High Divide" by Lin Enger. Copies are available at the

information desk. Audio and downloadable copies may be available. 1:30 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 14

#### Family Storytime

Stories, songs and activities for children up to age 6 with family. 9:30 a.m.

#### On My Own

Stories, songs and fun for children age 3-6 while parents wait at our café tables. 10:15 a.m.

#### Tai Chi for Health

Practice the ancient Chinese art that promotes health and wellness while focusing on new movements in the Tai Chi for Arthritis form. All ages and abilities welcome. 11:15 a.m.

#### Family Build Night

Use your imagination to build cool objects using Legos, K'nex, Qibits, Strawbees, 3D puzzles and more! For kids and families. 6-7:30 p.m.

— Kristen Roberts

# Coloring for adults

Use your imagination and relieve stress at Creative Coloring for Adults on Monday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m., at the Bethlehem Public Library. There is no cost. The library will provide materials and a snack.

The Caregiver Support Group — for those caring for a loved one with a chronic or terminal illness — will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 13, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Share your struggles and successes with others who understand. Outreach Worker Heidi Ziemke will facilitate. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176, to register.

Legal services for Albany County residents aged 60 and older will be available at no cost on Thursday, Jan. 14, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176, for an appointment.



Town of Bethlehem

The Second Milers Club for retired men will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at Normanside Country Club for lunch and a short program or speaker. Call Bob Mulligan, at 439-3802, for more information.

The health and wellness program on Friday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m., at Town Hall will feature Dr. Roger Shannon of Shannon Chiropractic Wellness, who will demonstrate stretches and exercises to promote proper motion and good posture. You can join us for lunch before the program at the Windowbox Café, cost on

your own. No reservations are needed to attend the program alone. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176, to make a lunch reservation.

Federal funding (HEAP) is available for income eligible people who need assistance with home heating costs. Outreach Workers are available to assist with counseling on HEAP, as well as health insurance, housing issues, food stamps, and health and income related programs. Make an appointment by calling 439-4955, ext. 1176.

Donations can be made to Bethlehem Senior Projects online at [bethlehemseniorproject.org](http://bethlehemseniorproject.org), or via check payable to Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc., 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar 12054.

— Wilma DeLucco

## ■ NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### Bus trip to Boston Flower and Garden Show

**BETHLEHEM** — Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation is offering a bus trip to Boston for the city's annual Flower and Garden Show Saturday, March 19.

Participants have the option of attending the Flower and Garden Show or sightseeing in Boston on their own. The bus leaves at 8 a.m. from Elm Avenue Park and arrives in Boston at 11 a.m. People may disembark at either Faneuil Hall or at the Flower and Garden Show. The bus leaves from Faneuil Hall at 7 p.m.

The cost is \$65 per person for the bus trip and tickets to the Flower and Garden Show, and \$49 for the bus trip only. Checks should be made out to Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation. Reservations and payments are due by Feb. 19.

For more information, call 605-6580 or email [info@friendsofbethlehemparks.org](mailto:info@friendsofbethlehemparks.org).

### Q.U.I.L.T. Inc. holds monthly meeting

**BETHLEHEM** — Q.U.I.L.T. Inc. is holding its monthly meeting Friday, Jan. 8, at 9:45 a.m., at the Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave.

Following the general meeting at 9:45 a.m., Kathie Greenwold presents "Quilts through the 20th Century." A member show and share concludes the morning.

For more information, call 393-2284 or visit [www.quiltinc.org](http://www.quiltinc.org).

### Onesquethaw Fish and Game Club breakfast

**NEW SCOTLAND** — The Onesquethaw Fish and Game Club, 2032 Tarrytown Road, is holding a breakfast Sunday, Jan. 10, from 7:30 to 11 a.m.

Breakfast includes regular, blueberry and whole wheat pancakes, eggs, bacon, home fries, toast, sausage and sausage gravy.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 children 6-10 and free for children 5 and under. Take outs are available by calling 526-8721.

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## ■ COMMUNITY

# Helping one and all

The Bethlehem YMCA is much more than a gym. It's a cause — a cause that continues to impact and strengthen our community.

As the Y begins its 2016 Annual Campaign, it's important to remind everyone that no one is denied a chance to participate in YMCA programs and activities because of an inability to pay.

This year, your contributions to our Annual Campaign enabled the Y to provide program support and financial assistance to over a thousand families and individuals who need it, and 100 percent of your donation stayed in our community. Membership and program fees at the Bethlehem YMCA do not cover all the costs to support vital community programs. And we thank everyone for their generosity.

In 2015, the Bethlehem YMCA gave out more than \$110,000 in Annual Campaign scholarship



funds. That's more than the previous year, and less than our goal for 2016. The need continues to grow.

But the story of our Annual Campaign is best told not by how many people we helped, but how we helped each person that needed it — which reminds me of the classic starfish story.

A young man was walking along the beach on which thousands of starfish had washed ashore. He came upon an old man who was slowly picking up one starfish after another and tossing each one gently into the ocean.

"Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" he asks.

"Because the sun is up and the tide is going out and if I don't throw them further in they will die."

"But, old man, don't you

realize there are miles of beach and starfish all along it? You can't possibly save them all; you can't even save one-tenth of them. In fact, even if you work all day, your efforts won't make any difference at all."

The old man listened calmly and then bent down to pick up another starfish and threw it into the sea. "It made a difference to that one."

Sarah is very grateful for her Annual Campaign scholarship to the Y. "When I was unemployed, the twice weekly morning yoga classes gave my week structure and purpose. As I gained strength, I gained confidence that I would find a job that I loved soon. Taking care of my body helped keep my mind clear. As a single parent, I tend to put myself last in the priority of family life. Having a place to go to nurture my own self has been the greatest blessing the Y could give me."

A mother thanked the Bethlehem Y for her family's Annual Campaign

scholarship, writing: "This has been a difficult year for us and your help and support has meant the world to us. Being a member of the YMCA has enabled me to encourage healthy habits and a healthy lifestyle for me and my children. It has also become one of the greatest bonding experiences for us."

Like the old man saving the starfish one life at a time, your contribution to the Bethlehem YMCA's Annual Campaign made a difference to Sarah, and it made a difference to a mother and her kids.

A donation to the YMCA's Annual Campaign is one of the best investments you can make in your community's future. If you would like to make a contribution to the Bethlehem YMCA's Annual Campaign, you can stop at the Y's front desk, or contribute online at CDYMCA.com.

— Mark Hansen

# Sensory storytime

Discover animal tracks on Saturday, Jan. 9, at 10:30 a.m. Kids will learn what different animal tracks look like and where to find them. Make your own animal track, too. Join us for a storytime that combines books, songs and movement to stimulate all five senses and promote learning. This inclusive program of stories, songs and socialization is great for wiggly listeners.

## Edible Science

Kids will learn some kitchen chemistry and make old fashioned honeycomb toffee candy at the library on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 2 p.m. Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk schools are closed that day. The program is appropriate for ages 7 and up. Registration required.

## RCS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

### Friday Flicks

The library will screen "A Walk in the Woods" (R) on Friday, Jan. 15, at 2 p.m. Robert Redford stars as writer Bill Bryson, who challenges himself to walk the Appalachian Trail with friend Katz, played by Nick Nolte. Grab a friend and a bag of trail mix and watch on our big screen.

### Martin Luther King Day hours

The library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 18, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

— Carol Melewski

# Driver needed

We need a volunteer to help deliver meals to homebound residents in Gunderland on weekday mornings, from approximately 10 to 11:30 a.m. Please call the Senior Office at 356-1980, ext. 1095 for more details.

## Trip suggestions

We did not fill-up on all summer trips, and one trip was cancelled due to lack of participation. We would love to hear from you your day trip suggestions. We will be planning them in February.

## Weekly schedule

### Thursday, Jan. 7

Scheduled shopping  
9 a.m. Silver Sneakers

### Town of Gunderland SENIOR CALENDAR

9 a.m. Strong Bones Plus  
12:30 p.m. Mahjongg  
1 p.m. Pinochle

### Friday, Jan. 8

Scheduled shopping  
10 a.m. Painting  
No 10 a.m. Bridge  
1 p.m. Quilting  
1 p.m. Intermediate Bridge

### Monday, Jan. 11

Scheduled shopping  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
10:30 a.m. Strong Bones Plus  
1:30 p.m. Senior Fitness  
1:30 p.m. Strong

### Bones Plus

### Tuesday, Jan. 12

9 a.m. Strong Bones Plus  
11:30 a.m. Luncheon: baked cod or cold plate  
Noon Food Pantry Raffle  
12:30 p.m. Bingo/Rummikub

### Wednesday, Jan. 13

Scheduled shopping  
9 a.m. 20-20-20 Fitness  
9:30 a.m. AARP  
Defensive Driving Class at Gunderland Public Library  
10:30 a.m. Strong Bones Plus  
10:30 a.m. Senior Fitness  
1 p.m. Needlecraft  
1:30 p.m. Strong Bones Plus

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January 6, 2016

# Spotlight on Sports

www.spotlightnews.com PAGE 8



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## ■ PLAYER OF THE WEEK



### ANDREW SISCHO

Guilderland's Andrew Sischo is the MarGas Spotlight Player of the Week for the period ending Sunday, Jan. 3. Sischo scored a season-high 36 points for the Dutchmen against LaSalle Dec. 30 at the Pep Sand Holiday Challenge boys basketball tournament in Colonie.

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## ■ INSIDE



### Personal best

Bethlehem's Tedi DeMaria cleared the bar at 12 feet, 8 inches to win the Hudson Valley Flying Circus Pole Vault Project.

Page 9

## ■ GUILDERLAND



▲ Guilderland's George Marinopoulos (32) gets ahead of the Albany Academy defense for a layup attempt during the opening round of the Pep Sand Holiday Challenge Dec. 29 in Colonie.

Guilderland's Kevin Greene (23) attempts a shot before an Academy defender can block it.

Robert Goo/www.goosphotos.com



# Dutch falter

Guilderland loses both games  
at Pep Sand Holiday Challenge

By **ROB JONAS**

jonasr@spotlightnews.com

**GUILDERLAND** — The Guilderland boys basketball team struggled at the Pep Sand Holiday Challenge Dec. 29 and 30 at Colonie High School.

The Dutchmen lost their opening-round game to Albany Academy 71-62 Tuesday, Dec. 29. Hameir Wright poured in 27 points for Albany Academy, while George Marinopoulos



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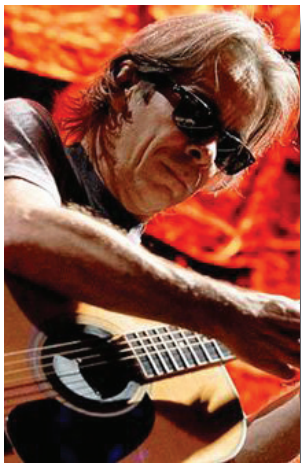
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**PICK OF THE WEEK**



**Tim Reynolds**

Grammy award winning artist Tim Reynolds is to play a solo acoustic performance at the Cohoes Music Hall on Saturday, Jan. 9, at 6:45 p.m.

Pages B17

**INSIDE**



**Arts calendar**

Pages B6-B9

**ONLINE**

Check out our expanded calendar of events at [www.spotlightnews.com/events](http://www.spotlightnews.com/events).



**CULTURE**



**Shhh....**

Why Bethlehem denied a request to post a Christmas sign on town property, and what happened next

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**  
[halliseym@spotlightnews.com](mailto:halliseym@spotlightnews.com)

**DELMAR** — It started on the ides of December. Elena Marcelle, a resident of Bethlehem, petitioned the town to place her “Merry Christmas” sign at a small public park where Kenwood and Delaware avenues intersect — commonly known as the Four Corners — just as she had done five years before.

She was denied.

“Five years ago, I petitioned the town to allow me to purchase and hang a “Merry Christmas” sign on the lighted holiday tree at the [Four] Corners,” Marcelle wrote to Melissa Kermani, chairperson of the Bethlehem Republican Committee, after she received her rejection from town supervisor, John Clarkson, who is Democrat. “The town allowed me my request [five years ago]. When I requested the same of the town this year,” stated Marcelle, “not only was I denied, but the town retaliated and took down the “Happy Hannukah” sign.”

The quaint park lies in the crook of the busiest intersection in

▲ A small band of Bethlehem residents gather to protest the town’s decision to reject a woman’s request to post a Merry Christmas sign there. Photo by Michael Hallisey/Spotlight

a town of roughly 33,000 people. Kenwood Avenue connecting residents of Slingerlands to those of the “Tri-Villages” of Delmar, Elsmere and Glenmont. And, Delaware Avenue, once a major outlet connecting the City of Albany to communities out west.

Marcelle reached out to Kermani after seeking out the Alliance Defending Freedom advocacy group out of Scottsdale, AZ. The Alliance is an organization that defends the right of people to live out their choice of religious faith.

“It was brought to our attention by Dr. Elena Marcelle that you have decided to remove a “Merry Christmas” sign from Town of Bethlehem property because you are concerned that allowing the sign to stay might violate the United States Constitution,” stated Alliance attorney Joseph E. La Rue in a Dec. 17 letter to Clarkson. “As this letter will explain, the Establishment Clause allows the Town to place the Merry Christmas sign on its property.”

**Continues on page B12**



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## COMING SOON

# It's a kinda magic next week

Magicians take to the Palace Theatre stage

**ALBANY** — The Palace Theatre will present The Supernaturalists, starring Criss Angel, on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Criss Angel's The Supernaturalists features nine mind-blowing magicians that destroy reality and revolutionize the live magic ensemble experience. Performers include two veterans of NBC's America's Got Talent, illusionist Landon Swank and escape artist Spencer Horsman; and members of Angel's ensemble who have been featured in both his live shows and television projects including mentalist Banachek, up-and-coming female magician Krystyn Lambert, The Great Maestro, and his assistant FiFi. They will be joined by French card master Stefan; the street magician Adrian Vega; and dog conjuror Johnny Dominquez.

The mind-blowing The Supernaturalists promises to destroy reality. Criss has been working on this concept for many years, and is resolute in his mission to bring to the stage a truly revolutionary theatrical experience of magic unlike anything that has ever been seen before.

Criss said, "While there are other ensemble shows out there, performing many of the same illusions that have been around for years, my goal is to redefine magic touring like Cirque du Soleil did for the Circus. I've scoured the globe for the very best performers, each in their respected disciplines, and our lineup is truly historic." For the very first time, Criss has included some of his favorite, original, and signature illusions which audiences have only seen nightly as part of his Las Vegas show, BeLIEve.

When asked about the origin of the name of the show Criss says, "The name has been a recurring theme for me; I used it for the title of my second TV special (2003) and then again in 2008 when I was featured on Ludacris' "Mindfreak" track. Says Angel, "I am overseeing every detail - and will personally be part of each of these limited engagement performances. I am putting my name and reputation on the line in my pledge that The Supernaturalists will amuse, amaze, surprise, enchant and delight all who come."

Ticket prices range from \$39.50 to \$69.50.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.palacealbany.com](http://www.palacealbany.com) or call 465-3334.

The Palace Theatre is located at 19 Clinton Avenue in Albany.

(Cast photo downloaded to Photos folder in Event Press Relases Folder in Week 01 content folder in Lifestyles. LWK)

— Albany Palace Theatre

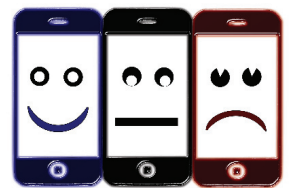


Criss Angel's horde of master magicians attack Albany on Wednesday, Jan. 13.

Submitted photo

## TECHNOLOGY

# Spotlight on mobile apps



With the passing of the holiday season it gives us an opportunity to see what apps people are buying with their newly obtained mobile devices. So, for this week, we focused our attention specifically on the apps purchased during the last week of December.

**Name:** Minecraft:  
**Pocket Edition**  
**Developer:** Mojang  
**Rated:** 9+  
**Price:** \$6.99

This game brings the PC version of the popular game to your finger tips. This game allows you to do almost everything you would be able to do on the PC version. You can learn about building by doing it within the game and figuring out which way would be the most effective to build the building or contraption.

**Name:** Heads Up!  
**Developer:** Warner Bros.  
**Rated:** 12+  
**Price:** \$0.99

Those familiar with Ellen DeGeneres will recognize the name of this game. A traditional party game where you place a card on your head, and you're asked to guess what it says. Choose a category and it gives you a name or object and the people who play the game with you help you guess before time expires.

**Name:** Geometry Dash  
**Developer:** RobTop Games AB  
**Rated:** 4+  
**Price:** \$1.99

In this game you jump and fly your way through rhythm-based platforms. You can push your skills to the limit while you make your way through dangerous passageways and spiky obstacles. It will frustrate you but you will want to keep coming back for more.

— Allison Kurdziolek

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## FASHION

# It's all about layers

Stay warm and stylish this winter with blanket scarves

By **DENISE BENNETT**  
news@spotlightnews.com

Winter has started to come around and with that your fashion game must be amplified to keep you warm and on trend. This can be difficult when you're facing snow, rain and winds. But, it is more than possible with a few tricks and the motto "layer, layer, layer."

Layering your clothes really starts in autumn when you layer your turtleneck with your moto jacket or barn coat. Take that warmth to the next level, by layering your turtleneck with your cardigan and puffer coat or pea coat. I am not a fan of short puffer coats; I think they speak of a decade long ago that should remain in the past. But extend the puffer coat's length to mid-thigh and now you're talking. Also, when looking for a puffer coat, look for one that isn't overly filled. You don't need to look like a giant marshmallow while staying warm. A little down will go a long way. If a puffer isn't your style, look for wool pea coats at a car length. Just be mindful of precipitation with wool. I have lost a beautiful scarf by getting it wet.

So you have your coat on...what's next? A beautiful blanket scarf of course. Why do I say blanket scarves? Not only are they the chicest style right now, but they are very versatile and can fill

your neck and chest area in with material so you aren't zippered and or buttoned to your chin. Plus, the extra pop of color or plaid will add dimension. You could ever get away with leaving your coat open and showcase the entire scarf going down the front of your outfit. If working with this style of scarf is overwhelming, just look for a chunky knit in a favorite color. Keep it monochrome to match your coat and have the power single color expression or boost your impact with a bright color, think bright blue or red. A nice chunky scarf can serve the same purpose as the blanket scarf, but it gets it bulk from the knit not by extra material.

You can also be very adventurous and add a wrap on top of your pea coat and scarf if it is extremely blustery. I don't recommend this with a puffer. It just seems downright weird to me...If you do go this route in the layering game with a pea coat, I would make sure the scarf is monochrome and of a thinner variety. Put your scarf on first, add your wool piece and then take a wrap and put it over your shoulders. What would really pop is an all monochrome scarf and coat with a dark plaid wrap. That's also the bonus of blanket scarves... they can double as around your shoulders if you aren't currently wearing it around your neck. Can you tell I enjoy this fashion accessory?

So you're dressed in your coat, scarf and potentially a wrap. What's next? The little accessories like fingerless gloves and a beanie hat. Two items that continue to be seen on the best dressed time and time again. Fingerless gloves are for the tech savvy who are addicted to their devices and need a way to minimize heat loss while responding to the latest email or text. I recently was gifted a different type of fingerless glove that's almost like a fingerless mitten. There is only a hole for the thumb, not each individual finger. Brilliant! Now you can move this glove lower or higher on your hand. Beanie hats have the same versatility with being able to sit on the back of your head with a clip or full on your head to keep the heat in. In either way you wear it, adding a pom-pom is a must this season.

So are you inspired to layer it up and stay warm this winter? I know winter is my favorite time of year, because I like adding layers and dimension to my outfits. So don't be afraid of going out there and fear blending in with warm gear. Add a pop of color and a pom-pom and you may find yourself in perfect sartorial style.

*Denise Bennett maintains a fashion and lifestyle blog on Perfect20.co. She also is a frequent contributor to SpotlightNews Living as our fashion and lifestyle columnist.*

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## ■ EDUCATION

# Separate college from the economy

Selection process places too much emphasis on career training

By **CAITLYN FRONK**  
intern@spotlightnews.com

**H**igher education is a stressful process that is on the minds of high school seniors everywhere, including myself.

It consumes a potentially fun year with stress and preparation for more education. Students develop a mindset that choosing a college is the most important decision in their life, like choosing the “wrong” one will make them a dead-beat. This dreadfully stressful process places too much burden on a student to ultimately decide what they want to do for the rest of their lives. Higher education has, therefore been reduced to feel more like a game

rather than an important life decision.

Choosing a major, and college is such a stressful burden on students because they feel like they are making one of the most important decisions of their life, yet many have no direction. You couldn't expect a teenager to make the correct decision concerning what they will do for the vast majority of their lives. They could become invested in their chosen path, both financially and emotionally, even if that major isn't right for them. For example, I have always wanted to major in biology, yet I recently changed my major to English. If I had decided to stick with biology, how long would it have been before I got

*In its current state, college is like an industry with the production line being a set of students who can eventually contribute to society. Instead of nourishing a student's wealth of knowledge, college neglects the individual by preparing them to succeed in a capitalist economy.*

bored, or finally understood English was a better suit? It could have been months, or even years. Either way, forcing an indecisive student to choose a major is like throwing time and tuition into the garbage.



Spotlight File Photo

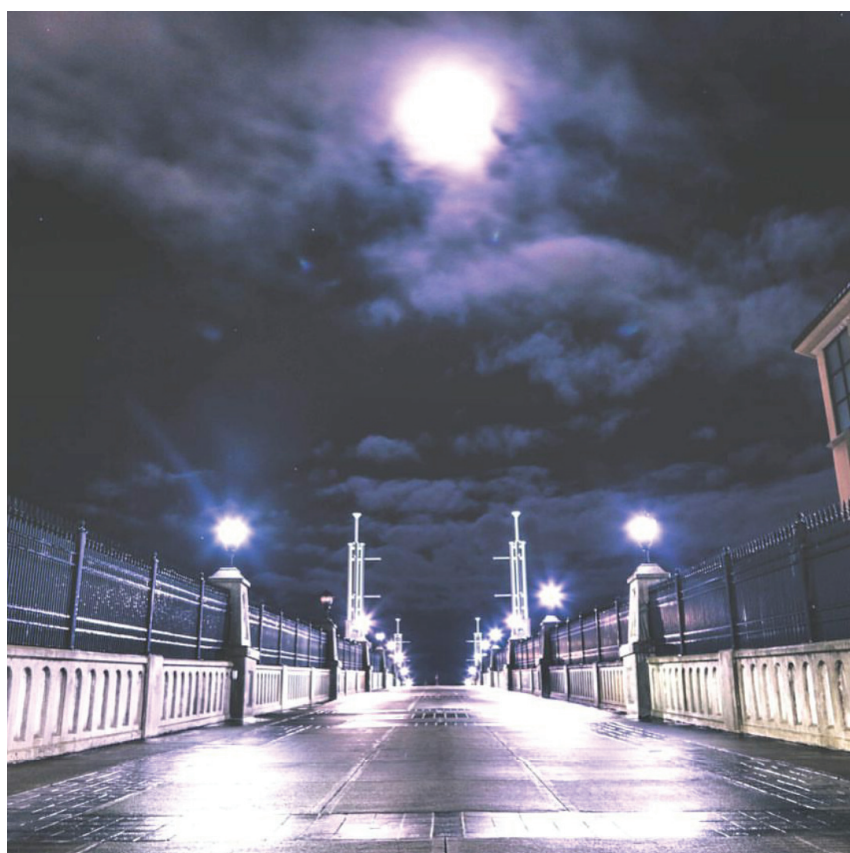
If the college process wasn't centered on choosing a career path, the students could relax. Instead, college could be presented as a place to further develop their consciousness, and understand what they would enjoy studying. This is because education isn't treated as a separate

organization from our economy. In its current state, college is like an industry with the production line being a set of students who can eventually contribute to society. Instead of nourishing a student's wealth of knowledge, college neglects the individual by preparing

them to succeed in a capitalist economy. This has lead to the commercialization of higher education, and the devaluation of a college diploma.

*Caitlyn Fronk is a senior at Bethlehem Central High School and is an intern with SpotlightNews.*

## #spotlightliving



### “That’s no moon”

Actually, it is. But, those who recognize the quote from Star Wars may appreciate that the last time a full moon graced us on Christmas was in 1977, the same year Star Wars was released for the first time.

dannymaggs/Instagram

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4:45-5:30	Broadway Kids gr. K-2	X	Group Voice gr. 2-5
5:30-6:15	Broadway Kids gr. 3-5	X	Broadway Kids gr. K-2
6:15-7	Acting 1 (middle school)	X	Acting 2 (high school)
7-8	Musical Theatre 1 (MS) FULL	Musical Theatre 1 (MS) FULL	Musical Theatre 2 (MS) FULL

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\*Cinderella class will meet on Sunday. \$50/ class.

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or (518) 728-4985



\*\*\*All classes will be held at:  
**Broadway Bound Performing Arts Academy**  
785 Delaware Ave  
Upper Level  
Delmar, NY 12054

CLUB LISTINGS

**9 Maple Avenue**  
9 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs. www.9mapleave.com  
Fri: **George Muscatello Group** | 9 p.m.  
Sat: **Steve Lambert Quartet** | 9 p.m.

**Athos**  
1814 Western Ave., Albany. 608-6400  
Fri: **Patricia Dalton Trio** | 7 p.m.

**Caffe Lena**  
47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs. 225-0882  
Thur: **Open Mic** | 7 p.m.  
Fri: **Hot Club of Sararoga** | 8 p.m.  
Sat: **Golfstrom with Brian Melick** | 8 p.m.  
Sun: **Beaucoup Blue** | 7 p.m.

**Cafe NOLA**  
617 Union St., Schenectady. 357-8628  
Fri: **Pat Attanasio** | 6:30 p.m.  
Sat: **Session Brothers** | 6:30 p.m.

**City Beer Hall**  
42 Howard St., Albany. 449-2337  
Every Sat: **90s Dance Party** | 10 p.m.

**Club Helsinki**  
405 Columbia St., Hudson. 828-4800; helsinkihudson.com  
Thur: **Pro Jam 14 featuring: Sari Shorr, Bruce Katz, Tas Cru, Rick Knapp, Sonny Rock & more** | 8 p.m.  
Fri: **Bully**  
Sat: **The Living Roots Trio** | 8 p.m. | \$15 adv./ \$20 at door

**Emack & Bolio's**  
366 Delaware Ave., Albany. 512-5100  
Fri: **Deb Cavanaugh** | 7 p.m.  
Sat: **Gross & Hart** | 7 p.m.

**The Fountain Restaurant**  
283 New Scotland Ave., Albany. 482-9898  
Fri: **Skip Parson's Riverboat Jazz Band** | 10 p.m.  
Sat: **Skip Parson't Riverboat Jazz Band** | 9:30 p.m.

**Fuze Box**  
12 Central Ave., Albany. 703-8937  
Fri: **Miauhaus** | 9 p.m.  
Sat: **Synergy** | 9 p.m.

ARTSCALENDAR



**From classical to contemporary**  
The Finger Lakes Guitar Quartet will perform its blend of classical and contemporary music Sunday, Jan. 10, at 2 p.m., at the Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Ave. Submitted photo

**Grappa '72**  
818 Central Ave., Albany. 482-7200  
Wed & Thur: **Hamilton Street Jazz Company** | 6:30 p.m.

**The Half Moon**  
48 S. Front St., Hudson. thehalfmoon-hudson.com  
Sat: **Hush, So Hideous, Slow Collins, Alter Moy** | 8 p.m.

**The Hollow Bar + Kitchen**  
79 N. Pearl St., Albany. 426-8550  
Fri: **Good Fiction, Carl Daniels and the Black Box, Linear North** | 9 p.m.  
Sat: **Sly Fox and the Hustlers, The Ameros** | 9 p.m.

**The Low Beat**  
335 Central Ave., 432-6572

Wed: **The Deadbeats** | 10 p.m. | \$5  
Fri: **Henry's Rifle** | 5 p.m.  
**Lost Giant, Franklin Delano's NY Sensibilites, Shrapnel Warning, Breaking the Fast** | 8 p.m.  
Sat: **Cry Havoc, Live Nude Girls, New Red Scare, Girth Control, Scuba Dudes** | 8 p.m.  
Sun: **Pop Punk Pizza Party** | 6:30 p.m.

**Madison Theater**  
1036 Madison Ave., Albany. 438-2094  
Fri: **Albert Cummings** | 8 p.m.

**McGeary's**  
4 Clinton Square, Albany. 463-1455; mcgearyspub.com  
Wed: **Best Damn Open Mic Ever with MotherJudge** | 7:30 p.m.  
**Mouzon House**

1 York St., Saratoga Springs. 226-0014  
Wed: **Joe Gitto & Dan Wancyk** | 6:30 p.m.  
Thur: **Hot Club of Saratoga Trio** | 7 p.m.  
Sat: **Joe Gitto & Dan Wancyk** | 6:30 p.m.

**Oh Bar**  
304 Lark St., Albany. 463-9004  
Thur: **Karaoke** | 10 p.m.  
**One Caroline Street**  
1 Caroline St., Saratoga Springs. 587-2026  
Wed: **The Masters of Nostalgia** | 8:30 p.m.  
Thur: **Chris Carey & Mike O'Donnell** | 8 p.m.  
Fri: **Mark Kleinhaut** | 6 p.m.  
**The Hot Tri-City Three** | 9 p.m.  
Sat: **Jeff Nania Afro-Cuban Ensemble** | 9 p.m.  
Mon: **Tim Wechgelaer** | 7:30 p.m.

**Platinum Pub**  
795 3rd Ave., Watervliet. 270-9907  
Every Tue: **Open Mic**

**Provence**  
Stuyvesant Plaza, 1475 Western Ave., Albany. 689-7777  
Thur: **Jazz Connection** | 7 p.m.  
Fri: **Tom Shields** | 7 p.m.  
Sat: **Misty Jazz Trio** | 7 p.m.

**Prime at Saratoga National**  
458 Union Ave., Saratoga Springs. 583-4653  
Sun: **Joe Sorrentino Trio** | 10 a.m. jazz brunch

**Putnam Den**  
63a Putnam St., Saratoga Springs. 584-8066  
Fri: **Lethal Entity, Foaming at the Mouth, Tentacles, King Pariah** | 9 p.m. | \$5

**Rustic Barn Pub**  
150 Speigletown Rd., Troy. 235-5858  
Thur: **Open Mic** | 8 p.m.  
Fri: **The Harmonic Duo** | 8 p.m. | Free  
Sat: **The Back 40 Band** | 8 p.m.

**Scrimshaw Tavern**  
Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Rd.,

Home on the Range

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By Charles Preston

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Answers on Pg. B17

## ARTS CALENDAR

Colonie. 869-8100

Fri & Sat: **Ruth Hellcamp**

### Speakeasy 518

42 Howard St., Albany. 449-2332

Thur: **Bryan Brundige Duo** | 9 p.m.

Fri: **Jeff Nania Trio** | 9 p.m.

Mon: **Joe Finn** | 8 p.m.

Tue: **Jam Session** | 8 p.m.

### Stockade Inn

1 North Church St., Schenectady. 346-

3400; www.stockadeinn.com

Thur: **Tommy Verrigni** | 7 p.m.

Fri: **Sonny & Perley** | 7 p.m.

### Waterworks Pub

76 Central Ave., Albany. 465-9079

Thur: **DJ Shawn Gillie** | 11 p.m.

Fri: **Karaoke** | 10 p.m.

Sat: **DJ David Barna** | 10 p.m.

Mon: **Karaoke** | 10 p.m.

### Yono's

25 Chapel St., Albany. 436-7747

Fri: **Hamilton Street Jazz Duo** | 6:30 p.m.

Sat: **Frank Mastan Jazz Duo** | 6:30 p.m.

## CONCERTS

### Sally Rogers and Claudia Schmidt in Concert

Award-winning singer-songwriters perform together for a night a original folk music. Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m., Eighth Step at Proctors, GE Theatre, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: advance \$24, day of show \$26, Gold Circle \$35. Information: 434-1703, 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

### Albany Symphony Orchestra

Special guest Joann Falletta conducts the orchestra through a performance of Bernstein's "On the Town, Three Dance Episodes," Miguel Del Aguila's "Concierto en Tango" for cello and orchestra, and Brahms' "Symphony No. 2." Cellist Roman Mekinulov is the featured performer. Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$19-\$60. Information: www.palacealbany.com.

### Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

The Friends kick off their 50th year as a volunteer organization with the first of their "Beat the Snow" concert series — a performance by Route Fifty 5. Jan. 10, 1:30 p.m., at the Central Library, 99 Clinton St., Schenectady. Refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public.

### Finger Lakes Guitar Quartet

Guitarists Joel Brown, Brett Grigsby, Sten Isachsen and Paul Quigley perform a wide range of music spanning five centuries, including original arrangements. Jan. 10, 2 p.m., Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Ave., Guilderland. Free. Information: www.guilpl.org.

### Schenectady Symphony Orchestra

Performing the overture to "Semiramide" by Giochino Rossini, "Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Flat Major" by Franz



## Twice the folk

Folk singer-songwriters Sally Rogers and Claudia Schmidt perform together Saturday, Jan. 9, at 7:30 p.m., at the 8th Step at Proctors (GE Theatre), 432 State St., Schenectady.

Submitted photo

Lizst, and the "New World" symphony by Antonin Dvorak. Featuring pianist Joseph Eisele. Jan. 10, 3 p.m., Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: \$12-\$20. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

### Fidelis Care Organ Series

Organist Charles Jones performs on "Goldie," Proctors' mighty Wurlitzer. Jan. 12, noon, Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

### The Supernaturalists

Cris Angel stars in an ensemble magician show certain to dazzle the audience. Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$39.50-\$69.50. Information: www.palacealbany.com.

### Hammer of the Gods — The Led Zeppelin Experience

Considered by many to be the ultimate Led Zeppelin tribute band. Jan. 16, 8 p.m., The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Tickets: \$39.50-\$44.50. Information: 473-1845 or www.theegg.org.

## THEATRE

### Sleuth

Mystery and comedy blend in this classic thriller written by Anthony Shaffer about two men who battle for the love of a woman. Presented by Curtain Call Theatre, Jan. 8 through Feb. 6, 210 Old Loudon Road, Latham. Shows: Thursdays 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m., and Sundays 3 p.m. Special Jan. 16 matinee performance at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$24. Information: 877-7529 or www.curtaincalltheatre.com.

## COMEDY

### MopCo

Presenting "Theatresports," an improvisation competition featuring teams of comedians competing in a variety of scenes, songs and stories based on the audience's suggestions. Fridays from Jan. 8 through Feb. 26, 8 p.m., Proctors Underground, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: adults \$14, children and seniors \$6. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

### The Funny Bone

Bruce Bruce headlines two nights of standup comedy. Jan. 8 and 9, 7:30 and 10 p.m., Crossgates Mall, Western Avenue, Guilderland. Tickets: \$25. Information: 313-7484 or albany.funnybone.com.

### The Comedy Works — Albany

George Gallo and Harris Stanton headline. Jan. 8 and 9, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., 500 Northern Blvd., Albany. Tickets and

information: 512-4075 or thecomedy-works.com.

## LITERARY

### Connie Mayo — "The Island of Worthy Boys"

A reading, discussion and book signing with the author of a book about two boys in 1889 who accidentally killed someone and hid at the Boston Farm School. Jan. 8, 7 p.m., Northshire Bookstore, 424 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information: 682-4200 or www.northshire.com.

### Peter Golden — "Wherever There Is Light"

A reading, discussion and book signing with the author of a book detailing a decades-long love affair between a Jewish immigrant and the granddaughter of a slave. Jan. 10, 3 p.m., Northshire Bookstore, 424 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information: 682-4200 or

www.northshire.com.

### Stories of Aging Gracefully — the 117th Story Sunday

A benefit for Schenectady Inner City Ministries and Story Circle at Proctors, featuring storytellers Kent Busman, Alden (Joe) Doolittle and Harlan Ratmayer. Jan. 10, 5 p.m., Glen Sanders Mansion, 1 Glen Ave., Scotia. Tickets: \$36 includes entertainment and a three-course meal, \$50+ for patrons. Information: 384-1700 or www.storysunday.org.

## FAMILY/YOUTH

### The Reluctant Dragon

Kenneth Grahame's classic children's tale gets a modern update in Ric Chesser's production, presented by Steamer No. 10 Theatre, 500 Western Ave., Albany, Jan. 9 through 24. Shows: Saturdays and Sundays 3 p.m., with two special Martin Luther King Jr. Day performances Jan. 18 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets: \$15. Information: 438-5503 or www.steamer10theatre.org.

## FILM

### Minions

Come see the animated movie about how three minions search for a villain to serve. Jan. 8, 7 p.m., Helderberg Room, Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Ave., Guilderland. Information: www.guilpl.org.

## EDUCATION

### Gallery Talks

Enjoy a docent-led tour of the museum's exhibitions. Saturdays and Sundays, 1 p.m. (Schedule subject to

change, please call to confirm.) Albany Institute of History and Art, 125 Washington Ave., Albany. Info: 463-4478 or membership@albanyinstitute.org.

### Animal Tracking Class

Join the park naturalist on a family friendly hike that will be sure to impress. Learn animal tracks and their winter behaviors from an expert. Jan. 7, 10 a.m. to noon, Moreau Lake State Park, 605 Old Saratoga Road, Gansevoort. Registration is necessary with 24 hours advanced notice. Call 793-0511.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Fiction Writing Workshop

Join local award-winning author Janine De Tilio Cammarata to work on your short stories or novels. Each class builds up to the next, so commitment to all six classes is recommended. All levels of writers are welcome. Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m., Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park. Register by calling 371-8622 or in person.

### It's a Small World

Families with children ages 3-9 are invited to join local performer and educator Diane Payette for a fun program full of songs, stories and activities about children from around the world. No registration is required for this drop-in program; siblings welcome. Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m., Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park.

### Hibernation

Come learn why, when and what animals do to prepare for winter, and which animals hibernate. Jan. 7, 10

**Continues on B8**

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## ARTS CALENDAR

a.m., Peebles Island State Park, Waterford, and Schodack Island State Park, Schodack Landing. Meet in the visitors center for a presentation and conclude with a short hike to identify possible hibernation spots. This program is geared for preschoolers.

### Genealogy assistance

Genealogical researcher Lisa Dougherty will be here to help you with your questions, roadblocks, and other stumpers. Drop in with questions, and then stay for the roundtable discussion starting at noon. No registration is required. Jan. 7, 11 a.m. Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park. Please call the library at 371-8622 for more information.

### Book Buddies

Calling all kids entering grades 1–4! Come and read to a teen buddy to build up reading skills and self-confidence. All reading levels welcome. The series starts Jan. 7, with individual sessions starting every 30 minutes beginning at 3 p.m., and continuing every Thursday through Feb. 11. Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Ave., Guilderland. To register, call 456-2400, ext. 4.

### Scratch Camp

Scratch is a computer programming language that makes it easy to create your own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art -- and share your creations on the web. This class will motivate students for further learning through playful experimentation and project creation. For students in grades 3–5. Jan. 7, 4 p.m., Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park. Please register online or by calling the library at 371-8622.

### Wagging Their Tails for Tales: Reading Therapy Dogs

Help your children gain more confidence in their reading abilities and improve their reading skills with this special therapy dog program in the Children's Library. Children build confidence from the experience and are encouraged to continue with their reading at home. For children entering grades 1–4. Limited 15-minute appointments are available by calling the Youth Services Department at 371-8622. Walk-ins welcome if time slots are available. Jan. 7, 4 p.m., Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public

Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park.

### Guided meditation classes

Sessios include basic guided meditation instruction, practice and discussion. Classes take place on Thursdays from Jan. 7 through Feb. 25, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Troy Public Library, 100 Second St., Troy. Information: 274-7071.

### Lake Ann hike

A lesser-known trail nicely weaves through some thick forest up to the top of Palmertown Range. This hike will be a challenging 4+ miles. Please bring lunch and plenty of water. Appropriate shoes are necessary. Jan. 8, 10 a.m., Moreau Lake State Park, 605 Old Saratoga Road, Gansevoort. Reservations are required with 24 hours advanced notice. Call 793-0511.

### First Friday Friends

Come make new friends! Children ages 12 to 36 months and their parents are invited to the library to play and interact with others while using age appropriate toys, books and puzzles. This is a drop-in program, no registration required. Jan. 8, 10 a.m., Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park.

### What the RAF Airman Took to War

Join author and historian Bill Howard for a discussion of his book "What the RAF Airman Took to War," which is a beautifully illustrated tribute to the WWII RAF and "the objects upon which every wartime pilot depended, from the superstitious good-luck charm to the parachute on which his life may depend, and other poignant items relating to the air war." All are invited to attend this Friday Morning Free-for-All program. No registration is required. Jan. 8, 10:30 a.m., Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park.

### Make It Morning: Bottle Cap Magnets

Is Pinterest your passion? Why should the kids have all the fun? Join us for an adult's-only DIY morning. This month, we will use old books, magazines and bottle caps to make funky magnets. Must be at least 17 to attend. Jan. 9, 9:30 a.m., Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park.

Please register online, in-person or by calling the library at 371-8622.

### Eagle Watch

Grab a pair of binoculars and join park staff on their weekly Bald Eagle survey. Moreau Lake State Park's section of the Hudson is home to wintering bald eagles. It is important for us to monitor their population and health. Please come and help us. Jan. 9, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Moreau Lake State Park, 605 Old Saratoga Road, Gansevoort. Registration is necessary. Call 793-0511.

### Eagle watching event

Schodack Island State Park and the Audubon Society of the Capital Region offer people the chance to help look for eagles. John Loz will do a presentation about eagles, with a hike around the park to follow. Jan. 9, 10 a.m., Schodack Island State Park, Schodack Landing.

### Share a Hoot

Barbara Lukas from WMHT will show "Owl Moon," the story of a young girl and her dad on a midnight winter's walk in the woods. You will then make an owl hat complete with feathers, and you will receive a copy of the book. For children ages 3–6, accompanied by an adult. Jan. 9, 10:30 a.m., Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Ave., Guilderland. To register, call 456-2400, ext. 4.

### Twelfth Night Celebration

There will be fun for everyone all evening, including decorations, seasonal music and 17th century re-enactors. Hearthside cooking demonstrations with a crackling fire, and refreshments will fill out he evening. Then, take a short drive to Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site for "Salutations of the Season," with 18th-century food, music and re-enactors, and wassail toasts around bonfires. Jan. 9, 4 p.m., Crailo State Historic Site, 9 Riverside Ave., Rensselaer. Information: 463-8738 or www.nysparks.com.

### Ferguson and Beyond: Understanding the Black Lives Matter Movement

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany's Black Lives Matter task force and Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration are pleased to present an opportunity to meet and talk with Rev. Julie Taylor, a community minister who has been on the ground in Ferguson, Mo., since the day following the death of Michael Brown. Taylor will speak about her experiences in Ferguson, while Colin Donnaruma and Ariela Perez-Wallach from CAAMI will speak about current issues in Albany. Refreshments will be served, and there will be



## Pictures of slippery slopes

"PlotterKill" is part of Georgie Friedman's "Slippery Slope" exhibition at Union College's Peter Irving Wold Center in the college's atrium. The exhibit opens Jan. 7 and runs through Nov. 30.

Submitted photo

SUDOKU

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Answers on Pg. B17

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Got news?  
Call Spotlight at 439-4949.

## ARTS CALENDAR

a performance by Taini Asili. Jan. 9, 5 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave. A free-will offering will be collected.

### Eagle watching event

Peebles Island State Park and the Audubon Society of the Capital Region offer people the chance to help look for eagles. John Loz will do a presentation about eagles, with a hike around the park to follow. Jan. 10, 10 a.m., Peebles Island State Park, Waterford.

### Geeks Who Drink

A quiz show with eight rounds of eight questions each, including a music round, an audio round and a picture round. Free to play, with prizes for the top two teams and bonus prizes throughout the game. Sundays, 7 p.m., Lionheart Pub, 448 Madison Ave., Albany.

### Yoga program

All levels are welcome to participate in this collaborative program between the Troy Public Library's Lansingburgh branch and the Troy YMCA. Please bring your own mat. Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m., through Feb. 10, 27 114th St. Reservations and information: 235-5310.

### Porcupine Adventure

A park naturalist will take participants up the Red Oak Ridge Trail to view the abandoned graphite mines. Participants will get a chance to see recent porcupine activity in and around the mines, as well as their feeding quarters. Jan. 13, 10 a.m. to noon, Moreau Lake State Park, 605 Old Saratoga Road, Gansevoort. Reservations are required with 24 hours advanced notice. Call 793-0511.

## EXHIBITS

### Albany Center Gallery

Members Show, through Jan. 17. 39 Columbia St., Albany. Info: 462-4775. Albany Institute of History and Art "The Capital Region in 50 Objects," through April 2016; plus "A Gather of Glass: Selections from the Museum's Collection," "Ancient Egypt" and more. 125 Washington Ave., Albany. Info: 463-4478 or www.albanyinstitute.org.

### Albany Public Library

"Through the Looking Glass," featuring whimsical and imaginative works by Zach Austin, JoAnne Carson, Emily Dorr and Ingrid Ludt, through March 26. Pine Hills Branch, 517 Western Ave., Albany. Info: 482-7911.

### Arts Center of the Capital Region

"Monica Bill Hughes: Artist in Residence," "Here + Away: Still Lifes + Landscapes," "Traces: Mary Pat Wager and Rachel Baxter" and "Centered: Our Journeys." 265 River St., Troy. Info: artscenteronline.org.

### Carrie Haddad Gallery

"Photography," featuring a variety of innovative photo techniques. 622 Warren

St., Hudson. Information: 828-1915 or carriedadadgallery.com.

### Mabee Farm Historic Site

"Local Eats! What Does Your Food Say About You?" Featuring original artwork, artifacts and documents from the Schenectady County Historical Society, as well as pieces from the Iroquois Indian Museum, the USS Slater, Hanford Mills Museum, miSci and the City Mission, through April 8. 1100 Main St., Rotterdam Junction. Info: 887-5073 or schenectadyhistorical.org.

### miSci

"Toys and Trains Holiday Show," an elaborate 19- by 27-foot layout constructed by the Upstate Train Associates displays running O Gauge model trains—the trains most people know and love as the Lionel trains—and a display including an amusement park with Santa riding a roller coaster and a pair of children ice skating on a pond, a farm scene with horses and cows, and much more, through Jan. 18; plus "Earth Exposed: Discover Our Planet's Hidden Secrets." Nott Terrace Heights, Schenectady. Info: 382-7890 or www.miSci.org.

### National Museum of Dance

"125 Years of Tango — A Walk through the History of the Dance," featuring costumes, music, artifacts, rare film footage and historical materials of the origins of this famous dance. Through March 30. 99 South Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Info: 584-2225 or www.dance-museum.org.

### New York State Museum

"Empire State Plaza at 50," a look back at the history of downtown Albany's most recognizable feature, through Jan. 17; "The Coast and the Sea: Marine and Maritime Art in America," through Feb. 21; plus "Binghamton University Paleobotany Collection," "The Passenger Pigeon: From Billions to Zero" and "Habitable Sculpture." Empire State Plaza, 222 Madison Ave., Albany. Info: 474-5877 or www.nysm.nysed.gov.

### Saratoga Arts Center

"The Art of First Night," through Jan. 30. 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Info: 584-4132.

### Tang Teaching Museum

"No Place to Hide," a collection of works about the impact of surveillance. Through Feb. 21. Skidmore College, 815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information: tang.skidmore.edu.

### Union College

"Recurrence," featuring artists Kira Nam Greene, Juan Hinojosa, Simone Meltesen, Karen Schiff, Sam Vernon and Rachael Wren, Mandeville Gallery, Nott Memorial second floor, Jan. 2 through April 10; "Slippery Slope by Georgie Friedman," Peter Irving Wold Center, College Atrium, second floor, Jan. 7 through November 30, artist reception Jan. 8, 12:55 p.m.; "LIFE as Art: Digital Prints by Arielle Singer," Wikoff Student

Gallery, Nott Memorial, third floor, Jan. 2 through March 20. Information: 388-6318 or www.union.edu/gallery.

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

### Center for Disabilities

#### Telethon

Holding open auditions for choral groups, soloists and dance troupes for the annual telethon. Auditions take place Jan. 10, from noon to 4 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Express, 400 Old Loudon Road, Latham. To schedule an audition, call 944-2120 or email solini@cfdnsny.org.

#### Highlight Acting Troupe

Holding open auditions for its production of "Four Weddings and an Elvis," a comedy set in a Las Vegas wedding chapel. Roles for seven men and four women. Auditions take place Jan. 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 19 at 2 p.m., Center Brunswick United Methodist Church, 990 Hoosick St., Center Brunswick. Information: Andrew Osterhout, 461-8371.

### Battenkill Chorale

Group is accepting experienced choral singers for its spring concert featuring "The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass" by Carol Barnett with guest artists Monroe Crossing, May 7 and 8, at Immaculate Conception Church in Hoosick Falls. New members will be accepted through Feb. 4. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:45 p.m., beginning Jan. 21, either at Hubbard Hall or Cambridge United Methodist Church, both in Cambridge. Membership fee: \$35, plus cost of music. Information: 677-8233 or email battenkill@mindspring.com.

### 5th Annual MOVE Music Festival

Seeking bands, singer-songwriters and artists to perform in local indie rock music festival known for its Interactive Round Table discussions where Musicians get to sit face to face with Music Industry VIP's and learn hands on how to improve their careers. The festival will take place in April 2016; Regional artists wanting to submit to the festival can do so by emailing links to their website or FB page to MoveMusicFestivalSubmissions@gmail.com. More information can be found at www.movemusicfest.com or by calling 779-3511.

### Dance Omi International Dance Collective

Accepting applications for its 12th Annual Dance Residency. Each summer, Dance Omi invites ten international dancer / choreographers to upstate New York for three weeks of artistic and cultural exchange. This year's residency will take place July 19 through Aug. 8, 2016 at the Omi International Arts Center in Ghent. Information, guidelines

and the online application can be found at: <http://www.artomi.org/dance>. Application deadline for the Summer 2016 Residency is Jan. 4. Notification will take place by March 2, 2016.

### Music Omi Musical Residency Program

Omi International Arts Center is now accepting applications for its 2016 collaborative musicians residency program, taking place from Aug. 11 - 28, when 12-15 selected musicians-composers and performers from around the world will come together for two and a half weeks in a unique collaborative music making residency program at Omi International Arts Center in Ghent. The application portal can be accessed at [www.omiartscenter.org/music](http://www.omiartscenter.org/music). Applications will be accepted through Feb. 1. The application is free, as is attending the program.

### Dancers Needed for Giselle

Ajkun Ballet Theatre is looking for enthusiastic young dancers, (pre-K to young teens) for its summer production of Giselle, staged and performed in the month of August 2016 at The Egg (Albany, NY). Dance Students, aged 14 and above, of Intermediate-Advanced thru Professional level may audition by DVD or in person to join the Company's New York State summer performance tour. Information about the Company may be found at [www.ajkunbt.org](http://www.ajkunbt.org), [www.facebook.com/AjkunBT](http://www.facebook.com/AjkunBT) or by emailing [ajkun@aol.com](mailto:ajkun@aol.com).

### Thursday Musical Club

All women's chorus seeks new members. Rehearsals are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Schenectady. Information: Juli Panke, 370-5434.

### Delmar Community Orchestra

Openings in the string, horn and percussion sections. Information: 813-4299 or e-mail [delmarcommunityorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:delmarcommunityorchestra@gmail.com).

### 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.

### Community Chorus

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

### Tango Fusion Dance Company

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

### Colonie Town Band

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

### Shenendehowa Adult Community Center Senior Chorus

In need of all voices: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. Every Thursday, 10-11 a.m., performances in December and May. Information: 383-1343.

### Adirondack Pastel Society

Group meets four times a year and holds an annual show, promotes and encourages the medium of pastel through exhibitions, education and camaraderie in the medium. Information: 793-9350.

### Etude Club

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

### Siena Chamber Orchestra

Rehearsals Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Siena College, Route 9, Loudonville. Information: 783-2325.

### Colonie Centennial Brass Choir

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

### Friendship Singers

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

### The Orchestra on the Common

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

### Electric City Chorus

Male singing group, training provided, rehearsals at Faith United Methodist Church, Brandywine Avenue and Eastern Parkway, Schenectady, Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Information: 399-1846.

### River Valley Chorus

Sweet Adelines group based in Niskayuna is looking for women to join group. Information: 346-5349.





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## From page B1 ...

Shhh....

La Rue cited *Lynch v. Donnelly*, an example of case law that concluded with the US Supreme Court deciding in favor of the City of Pawtucket, R.I.'s nativity display, a tradition the city had followed every year since World War II.

"The irony is not lost on us that your Town's name is Bethlehem," wrote La Rue. "We hope that Bethlehem, New York, will make room for a sign to wish those who drive by the Four Corners a 'Merry Christmas'..."

The irony wasn't lost on the press, either.

Marcelle's request to Bethlehem's Republican Committee was forwarded to every broadcast news station in the Capital District, the Times Union and SpotlightNews. The Times Union published the story on its front page. It was the week of Christmas; a quick news grab on an otherwise slow news week. The surface details of the story were too rich to pass up. The story was shared on the

Associated Press news wire and subsequently picked up by The New York Post, the Washington Post and other news outlets across the county. "Looks like there's no room in Bethlehem, again," read one headline. Even Nigeria News, an RSS news reader, posted the story.

The term "Separation of Church and State" is an adaptation of a phrase coined by Roger Williams, the Baptist theologian who founded the colony of Rhode Island. "[A] hedge or wall of separation between the garden of the church and the wilderness of the world," was stated in his 1644 book "The Bloody Tenent of Persecution" and borrowed by Thomas Jefferson as a description of the First Amendment in a letter to Danbury Baptists to describe the restrictions of the legislative branch. "Legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, thus building a wall of separation between church

and State."

The simplistic views of the virtual playing field shared by both religion and government has been clouded since Jefferson penned that letter back in 1802. Jefferson's proverbial wall has holes, some of which are of his own doing. Jefferson and James Madison, the author of the Bill of Rights, are both known to have attended religious services held at the Capitol. Since the Reformation of the 1500s to the mid-1800s, Christmas was not openly celebrated — outside of church or home — with parties and cheer. Such demonstrative behavior was not acceptable. But, views on such behavior relaxed in time. By 1870, Christmas was established as a National Holiday. Later, in the midst of the Cold War, Congress adopted "In God We Trust" as the country's motto as a means to separate the United States from atheistic Communism in 1956. Several cases have come in front of the US Supreme Court to interpret the Establishment Clause, in turn, creating several case laws now in use to aid



Protests over holiday displays is nothing new in Bethlehem. In recent memory, the Bethlehem Public Library was the focus of similar attention.

Spotlight file photo

in similar arguments. As with every change of its presiding justices, some variations of the court have provided conservative views, others more liberal, all of whom listen to oral arguments within a chamber decorated with Moses and the Ten Commandments permanently displayed.

When Clarkson received Marcelle's request to place her "Merry Christmas" sign at the Four Corners, he approached town attorney Jim Potter. The unnamed park already possessed a lit Christmas tree and an electric menorah, along with two park benches and a Victorian style clock, crammed into a space the size of an average living room. The display has gone relatively uncontested since it started several years ago. However, that wasn't always the case in the past. The town's public library had a long tradition of displaying a Christmas tree. The practice fell under scrutiny twenty years ago, and has since ceased. "The content of holiday displays on public property has been the subject of contentious litigation for over 25 years," stated Clarkson in his Dec. 18 press release.

Clarkson prefaced his press release with the

clarification the town "did not remove" Marcelle's sign. Matters of free speech and separation of Church and State were cited among his concerns, and with that, whether Marcelle's request would risk the current display. "In fashioning the holiday display, we try to avoid any constitutional questions," stated Clarkson, adding that the current tree and menorah was consistent with a 1989 case involving the City of Pittsburgh.

The case of *Allegheny v. American Civil Liberties Union* centered upon multiple displays that included a menorah, the Christian nativity scene and a Christmas tree. Six of the nine justices believed the menorah display was constitutional, but the majority found the nativity display to be a violation. The presence of the Christmas tree was not questioned, but was mentioned in the justices' published opinions. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor believed the nativity scene to be unconstitutional, and stated she would view the menorah unlawful had it stood on its own. However, the symbol of the Christmas (or Holiday) tree, in her view, was not bound particularly to Christianity. Together with the menorah, she stated, the city created a display

representing multiple religions.

"The town is absolutely being neutral about it," said Melanie Trimble, Capital Region Chapter Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union [NYCLU]. Though it had not been approached for legal advice here, the NYCLU has battled over the issue in courtrooms before. From Trimble's vantage point, "I think the town is weighing the concerns of the public."

The Friday before Christmas, people gathered at Four Corners to protest for the Christmas sign.

"The holiday is Merry Christmas and I think it should be included," said Beth Sontz of Glenmont. Sontz and her family were among a modest group of protesters who gathered despite a steady, winter rain. "There's a menorah, which is a religious sign. I am very respectful of other people's religions. I just think Merry Christmas should be included for Christians, and I'm a Christian, and it's the reason for the season."

When the question was raised about this being an issue of Separation of Church and State, Sontz referred to her daughter, a practicing lawyer in Boston but home for the holiday.

"As long as the government is not openly embracing one religion, as long as there is the ability to have a menorah, to have a Christmas tree, to have Kwanza lights, to be inclusive, then no. I don't see that being an issue," said Meghan Stioccheppi. "I think [the present display]'s a great representation of the season."



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## COMING SOON



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# Winter Warm Up

The Linda hosts a winter jam with great regional bands on tap

**ALBANY** — Come on out for The Linda's Second Annual Winter Warm Up on Saturday, Jan. 16, at 8 p.m.

Shake out those cabin fever blues while enjoying performances by three great regional bands, and maybe a special guest or two, which will get you up and moving. KoriSoron,

Sub Slab, and North & South Dakotas are primed for a fun evening to warm you up and shake up your winter doldrums.

KoriSoron is an instrumental acoustic trio that combines rock and progressive influences with musical traditions from across the globe. Guitarists Scott Collins

(featured performer on the *God of War 2* video game and "Come Alive" from the *Trials Evolution* video game) Farzad Golpayegani (guitarist and composer for the *Quest of Persia: Nader's Blade* and *Garshasp* video games) and percussionist Dean Mirabito bring international touring and recording experience to the New York Capital Region

based project.

Sub Slab is an Albany, N.Y.-based quintet that might best be described as an Alt / Pop band playing all original music. It writes songs about love and life informed by 60 years of the American Rock 'n' Roll tradition. Influences span time and genre, creating powerful tunes with melodic hooks, thundering bass lines, harmonious guitars and rock-steady drumming.

The North & South

Dakotas, created in the winter of 2011 by founding members Zack Hay, Mark Retajczyk, and Colin Hunt, set out crafting a sound that paid homage to the spirit of old-time American music, mountain folk and singer-songwriter traditions. With the addition of drummer Mike Graves and utility-man Nayt Patenaude, the band continued honing in on a sound containing elements of bluegrass, country, folk, honky-tonk, and rock 'n' roll. The mixture of each

members' different musical background has culminated in a unique, harmony-rich, genre sweeping style determined to break up the monotony of the modern airwaves.

Tickets cost \$10. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/second-annual-winter-warm-up-tickets-20015725574>.

The Linda is located at 339 Central Avenue in Albany.



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LIVE MUSIC

DMB guitarist to play in Cohoes

Grammy winning  
artist plays Saturday

**COHOES** — With a musical career spanning more than 35 years, guitarist and sonic innovator Tim Reynolds is known for his masterful command of melody and timing and for his uncanny ability to improvise on any instrument he touches.

Reynolds is to play a solo acoustic performance at the Cohoes Music Hall on Saturday, Jan. 9, at 6:45 p.m.

A two-time Grammy nominee, Reynolds is currently lead guitarist for the Dave Matthews Band and performs as one-half of the acoustic Dave Matthews-Tim Reynolds duo. He has performed on nearly all of DMB's CDs.

Reynolds had a peripatetic childhood, moving from Alaska and through much of the Bible-belt Midwest, eventually settling in St.



Two-time Grammy Award winner Tim Reynolds is to play solo at Cohoes Music Hall.

timreynolds.com

Louis, Mo. His musical introduction began at age eight with piano lessons, but he quickly progressed to playing the acoustic guitar and electric bass guitar in the local church gospel band during his teens. During this time he was also secretly

experimenting and riffing with forbidden rock, funk and soul. Upon graduating from high school, Reynolds left the constraints of his conservative upbringing and eventually moved to Charlottesville, Va., where he explored his musical craft even further, adding

psychedelic and progressive rock to his burgeoning repertoire of music.

It was in the mid 1980s Reynolds founded his breakthrough electric power trio, TR3 (Tim Reynolds Trio), known for its fusion of funk, rock, and jazz. He toured with

TR3 during the 1980s and 1990s, using a rotating cast of musicians. It was at this time he met and befriended Dave Matthews and their ongoing musical collaboration began. He eventually decided to relocate to Santa Fe, N.M., and pursue his solo acoustic career. During the 1990s and 2000s, his musical progression continued throughout his many years on the road as a solo guitar wizard playing for packed houses and to crowds who quickly determined that he is one of the most talented and thoughtful musicians on the circuit today.

After a number of years in New Mexico, Reynolds relocated to the Outer Banks of North Carolina in 2007. After a chance meeting with two talented musicians, bass player Mick Vaughn and drummer Dan Martier, a few rehearsals later, and several stealth appearances throughout North Carolina, Reynolds decided

to resurrect the electric TR3. TR3 has been touring ever since, and in 2009 it released its first studio CD "Radiance." Its first live double CD "From SPACE and Beyond" was released in June 2011. Reynolds continues to surprise and delight his fans with rare acoustic performances throughout the country.

Reynolds discography is more than prolific. He continues to release a large number of acoustic and electric CDs, from the widely-acclaimed "Stream" to his recently-released acoustic "The Limbic System" and collaborates frequently with other musicians on a number of side projects.

For tickets, go to <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2467121>.

— Cohoes Music Hall

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3	8	6	9	1	7	2	5	4
9	5	4	2	8	6	7	1	3
6	2	1	8	7	4	3	9	5
8	4	5	3	9	2	6	7	1
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I	D	E	A	T	E	P	A	R	A	D	I
		G	E	M		N	I	T	E	R	
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netted 18 points for Guilderland. Michael Wine contributed 15 points for the Dutchmen.

Catholic Central edged Guilderland in the Dec. 30 consolation game 51-48, despite 36 points from Guilderland's Andrew Sischo. Christian Englund, Terrence Jones and Gabe Woodley each scored 13 points for Catholic Central.

## Girls basketball

The Guilderland girls basketball team lost both of its games at a tournament in Amsterdam Dec. 28 and 29.

Kingston defeated Guilderland 39-33 in the opening round Dec. 28. Skye Lindsay scored a game-high 16 points for the Lady Dutch, while Logan Brennan paced the Tigers with 13 points.

Baldwinsville from Section 3 edged Guilderland 49-47 in the second round Dec. 29. Lindsay tallied 14 points in the loss for the Lady Dutch.

## Indoor track

Xaviir Berry and Clarence Skipped posted a 1-2 finish in the boys triple jump for the Guilderland boys indoor track and field team at the Rhode Island Classic Dec. 30.

Berry took first place with a distance of 43 feet, 8 inches, while Skipped placed second with a distance of 43 feet, 5.5 inches. Skipped was also third in the long jump with a leap of 20 feet, 8.75 inches.

Andres Torres finished sixth in the boys 55-meter hurdles final with a time of 8.14 seconds, and Hannah Gallagher placed sixth in the girls 3,000-meter race with a time of 11:29.19 for Guilderland. The Dutchmen's boys shuttle hurdles relay team was third with a time of 32.47 seconds, while the girls shuttle hurdles relay team took sixth place with a time of 38.98 seconds. Guilderland's boys distance medley relay team finished sixth with a time of 12:36.02.

## BETHLEHEM

# DeMaria sets PR in pole vault

Bethlehem senior wins Hudson Valley Flying Circus

By **ROB JONAS**  
jonasr@spotlightnews.com

**BETHLEHEM** — Bethlehem's Tedi DeMaria proved to be the best in a field of talented pole vaulters at the Hudson Valley Flying Circus Pole Vault Project Thursday, Dec. 31, in Warwick.

DeMaria set a personal record in winning the high school division by clearing the bar at 12 feet, 8 inches. Not only was it the fourth-best performance of the indoor season nationally, but it was also No. 6 on the state's all-time best performance list.

DeMaria had a chance to break the 13-foot barrier for the first time, but she narrowly missed at 13 feet, 1 inch.

## Hockey

Bethlehem split two games at its annual Winter Classic hockey tournament Dec. 28 and 29 at the Bethlehem Area YMCA.

Section 3 power West Genesee downed Bethlehem 7-1 in the opening round Dec. 28.

West Genesee scored twice in the first four minutes of the game to take a quick lead. Kellen Hagen tallied with 10:34 left in the first period to get Bethlehem on the scoreboard, but West Genesee pulled away from there to record the win.

Jay Considine and Pat McDonald each scored a pair of goals for the visiting Wildcats. Ryan McDonald added a goal and two assists, and goaltender Sammy Colabuto stopped 13 shots.

Bethlehem netminder Alex Breiner made 11 saves.

The Eagles bounced back by beating Fayetteville-Manlius 5-2 Dec. 29. Bethlehem scored three goals in the third period to break open a close game.

Matt Bievenue and Skyler Anson tallied early in the third period to give the Eagles a 4-1 lead. Will Healy scored to pull Fayetteville-Manlius within two goals, but Thomas Liebold netted an insurance goal late in the game.

Michael Bievenue and Brian Harder tallied in the first period to put Bethlehem in front 2-0, and goaltender Alex Breiner stopped 18 of the 20 shots he faced to pick up the win.

Ben Hammond added a goal for Fayetteville-Manlius, and goaltender Mike Hockenberger made 24 saves.

## Boys basketball

The Bethlehem boys basketball team's struggles continued with a pair of losses at Christian Brothers Academy's annual tournament.

Kingston defeated the Eagles 84-65 in the opening round Monday, Dec. 28. The Tigers outscored Bethlehem 26-15 in the fourth quarter to pull away.

Dante Nardi poured in 20 points, and Andrai Bailey contributed 15 points for Kingston. Ryan Murray led Bethlehem with 16 points, and Matthew Riker added 15 points.

LaSalle defeated Bethlehem 59-55 in the consolation game Tuesday, Dec. 29. Joe DeLollo scored 15 points for LaSalle, while Murray and Luke Dole each knocked down 14 points for Bethlehem.

## COMMUNITY

# Renowned quartet performs Sunday

If you're fan of guitar music, then the performance by the Finger Lakes Guitar Quartet at GPL on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 2 p.m., is a must.

The quartet presents exciting, eclectic programming spanning five centuries, including original arrangements. The four accomplished guitar soloists — Joel Brown, Brett Grigsby, Sten Isachsen and Paul Quigley — have performed throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. Past performances include the Eastman School of Music, Ithaca College Guitar Festival and Skidmore College.

## Who Done It?

Learn the science of crime solving when you come to GPL on Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 6:30 p.m., when Super Detectives from CNSE Children's Museum of Science and Technology will present "Who Done It? Detective



Science Sleuths," an "elementary" introductory course on Crime Scene Investigation (CSI). You'll examine fingerprints, learn about observation skills and get some insight into this fascinating field. For kids in grades three through six. Please register by calling 456-2400, ext. 4.

## GPL pops up at Crossgates Mall

Be sure to stop by GPL's "Pop-Up Library" at Crossgates Mall on Thursday, Jan. 14, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. You'll be able to register for programs, borrow books and DVDs, download the latest eBooks ... even get a library card. We'll be easy enough to find; just look for the "Imagine, Discover, Connect @ GPL" sign. We'll see you there.

## Me and My Tween: Crafty Book Club

Parents and tweens are invited to GPL's twist on the traditional book discussion group. Read the same book at the same time, and join the group to discuss it over a craft project.

The next meeting is on Thursday, Jan. 14, at 5 p.m., when it's a free read. Pick a book that the both of you have read, and come tell the rest of us all about it.

The group now meets on the second Thursday of every month. Register by calling 456-2400, ext. 4.

## Share a hoot

Barbara Lukas from WMHT will be at GPL on Saturday, Jan. 9, at 10:30 a.m., to show "Owl Moon," the story of a young girl and her dad on

a midnight winter's walk in the woods.

You will then make an owl hat complete with feathers, and receive a copy of the book to take home and keep. The program is for kids ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult caregiver. Please call 456-2400, ext. 4 to register.

## Music & Movement

There are still just a few spots available for GPL's

Music & Movement series that meets Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 10:30 a.m. Join us and we'll sing songs, dance, learn about music through fun games, play instruments and read books. The class meets again on Tuesday, Jan. 19. Please call 456-2400, ext. 4 to register.

## Minions, Minions and more Minions

If there's a movie sure to

get the kids giggling, this is it. Minions Stuart, Kevin and Bob are recruited by Scarlett Overkill, a supervillain who — alongside her inventor husband, Herb — hatches a plot to take over the world. And it's all happening on the "Big Screen" in GPL's Helderberg Room on Friday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. Popcorn, PG, about 90-minutes long.

— Mark Curiale

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## Keep moving in 2016

Best Fitness is challenging the Capital Region to lose a combined total of 500 pounds in 2016. The fitness center, with three locations in the Albany area, has created "Weigh-In America" that encourages people to lose weight and keep it off. The contest is free and open to all regardless if they are a member of the gym. There will be initial weigh-ins on January 15, 16 and 17, 2016 and final weigh-ins in early April.

Photo by Michael Hallisey/  
Spotlight

## EDUCATION

# Spaceman visits BC students

Brazilian astronaut visits BCHS engineering class

By TRICIA CREMO  
cremot@yahoo.com

**BETHLEHEM** — Students walked into their technology class to a surprise when they were greeted by astronaut Marcos Pontes.

On Thursday, Dec. 17, students in Kevin Shannon's introductory engineering class at Bethlehem Central High School met Pontes, Brazil's first and only astronaut sent into space, and a member of the country's first class of astronauts.

"I came from a poor family and used to watch the airplanes fly over my head and dream about someday being up there," said Pontes in an introduction outlining his long road to space. Alongside his descriptions of life in space and his assertion that more engineers are needed to

*"I've been met with a lot of challenges, but with persistence and big dreams you can do anything."*

— Marcos Pontes  
Astronaut

enter the field came a powerful message to "follow your dreams."

"I've been met with a lot of challenges, but with persistence and big dreams you can do anything," said a smiling Pontes.

Pontes has two masters degrees and a PhD. He once learned Russian in three months in order to spend the next five months learning how to control the Russian space technology to finally be sent into orbit in 2006.

He became part of Brazil's first class of astronauts in 1998, and was as one of 32 chosen out over 10,000 applications received that year, in a

process similar to that of NASA's millions of applications which will surely be received this year with the organization calling for new astronauts after 10 years without any new ones.

With his dream of space travel now realized, Pontes' most important mission now is to educate youth, emphasizing the dedication it takes to realize a dream such as his.

Through his work with IntegraOptix engineering, Pontes made it a point to speak to children when travelling for work. As well, through his Marcus Pontes Children's Foundation ("Fundacao Astronauta Marcos Pontes" in Portuguese) he works to promote the same skills of perseverance with free engineering activities to "teach children about technology and empower their future" in his native country.

With his contract with Brazil ended this year, Pontes hopes to travel into space yet again through other countries.

## From page 4 ...

## Guilderland/New Scotland 2015

about their wells drying.

## Crazy elections

**GUILDERLAND** — It was a tale of two towns in last year's elections; while nothing unusual occurred in New Scotland, Guilderland had all prognosticators puzzled.

New Scotland Democrats Pat Snyder and Bill Hennessy won reelection, Councilman Doug LaGrange won in an unopposed race for supervisor, and appointed

Councilman Adam Greenburg won a full term.

In Guilderland, Democrat Peter Barber, a lawyer who served as Zoning Board chairman for 15 years won a close race for supervisor against Republican Brian Forte. In an even more unpredictable race, the race for two Town Board seats was decided in absentee ballots, with less than 100 votes separating all of the challengers.

Ultimately, Democrat Rosemary Centi, the town

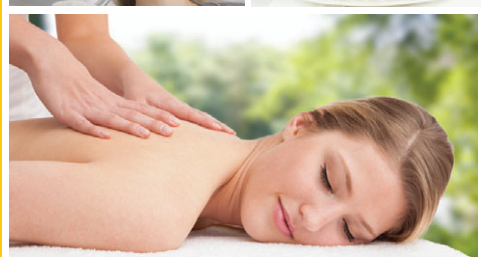
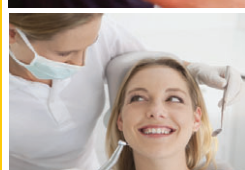
clerk for 13 years and Republican Lee Carman, an Albany County Legislator won the tight race for Town Board over Republican Michele Coons and Democrat Al Maikels.

Experience won out in Carman's case, while a surprise came when incumbent and experienced accountant Democrat Al Maikels lost. Not only did Maikels lose, but the incumbent came in last among all four competitors. The greatest success of the election came from Centi, who showed that with enough canvassing, strong ideals and dedication to the town, a newcomer can win out.

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## From page 5 ... Dysfunction

favor of having minority representation, someone from the NAACP,” said O’Brien. “Maybe some other independent folks like retired judges who understand the process involved. That way we can get away from the party politics. The way it’s done now is they carve out safe seats for themselves.”

“I just don’t see how you can do good government without that,” said Bryan Clenehan (D-30), who is running to replace Shawn Morse (D-17) as chairman of the legislature when the body convenes after the first of the year. “And it’s not like it hasn’t been done elsewhere.”

## Democratic Reform Coalition

Just three weeks before the Nov. 3 election this year, a group of Albany County legislators and candidates announced the formation of a Democratic Reform Coalition, which touted a platform of reforms that would make it more difficult for sitting legislators to guarantee themselves victories in their legislative districts, and shed light on a legislative process that many have decried as too opaque.

The announcement, timed as it was, was widely viewed as a push to get reform-minded Democrats elected to the legislature. And it seems to have worked: five of the six coalition candidates were elected to office and all five sitting coalition members seeking re-election won in their districts. (A sixth, Noelle Kinsch (D-6), did not run for another term.)

As well as calling for a non-partisan and independent redistricting committee, the coalition platform included a call for all county government meetings to be broadcast and live-streamed; term limits on leadership positions; empowerment of rank-and-file legislators; the codification of county legislation, rules and regulations; the appointment of an ethics commission that, while the legislature voted unanimously in favor of in 2011, was never created; and a general agenda promoting environmental responsibility, civil rights and economic opportunity.

Announcement of the coalition was met with hostility by sitting Democratic leadership. Outgoing Chairman Shawn Morse sent an email to coalition founder Chris Higgins (D-5) in which he accused the legislator of hypocrisy and of jeopardizing democratic elections in suburban districts, where the races tend to be more competitive.

Jeff Kuhn, the Bethlehem

Democratic Chairman, responded to Morse’s email, which was widely distributed, saying that it was Morse’s “disastrous tenure as leader of the county legislature and the unseemly ‘Old Albany’ tactics epitomized by [his] email that make life more difficult for suburban Democrats.”

“That email is what ‘democracy’ looks like in the county legislature,” Higgins responded in a statement. “It represents yet another example of the ‘old Albany’ bully tactics members of the legislature have been subject to over the past four years.”

With the exception of Democrats from Bethlehem, angry at the April redistricting, none of the coalition members went so far as to call for the ouster of party leadership, but the creation of the coalition itself was a clear critique of the way the legislature has been run for decades.

## Challenges to Leadership

Ultimately, members of the newly formed Democratic Reform Coalition did decide to challenge Majority Leader Frank Commisso (D-11) for his seat at the head of the Democratic caucus, a position he has held, unchallenged, since the early 90s. They chose to run Legislator Joe O’Brien (D-25), who will be going into his second term in January.

“A number of people have been asking for meaningful change,” O’Brien told Spotlight, saying that rank-and-file legislators are frustrated at their lack of involvement in the political process. Describing the current process as essentially a three-white-men-in-a-room dynamic, he said that there is very little representation of women or minorities and that, often, committees have little knowledge of legislation that they are expected to pass.

Commisso, Chairman Shawn Morse (D-17) and Deputy Majority Leader Sean Ward (D-16), according to several legislators, make legislative decisions and then present them to the rest of the legislature as, essentially, foregone conclusions. There have been a number of notable instances when this has caused suspicion and anger among the other 36 democratically elected members of the legislature.

Commisso responded that he was confused by the challenge and questioned O’Brien’s motivation. “Anyone who knows Frank Commisso,” he said, “knows that he’s accessible, that he’s there when called upon, and he’s a true democratic leader.”

Ultimately Commisso

retained his position, when at least ten reform Democrats boycotted the vote on the evening of Thursday, Dec. 10, with a vote of 17-0-1. When all the lobbying was said and done, several reform Dems apparently chose to support Commisso for Majority Leader and incoming legislator Lynne Lekakis (a member of the coalition who will represent the 8th district) abstained.

It remains to be seen who will replace outgoing Chairman Morse. That vote will take place between Jan. 1 and Jan. 8, per charter rules, and will be decided by the entire legislature rather than just the Democratic caucus. Republicans who are unhappy with current Dem leadership may be persuaded to support a reformist for the seat—Clenehan seems to be the likeliest choice—and, if all coalition Dems decide to vote in support of the changes outlined in their platform, it’s possible that legislative leadership could be divided between the old guard and the new for the next four years.

If the budget vote in early December was any indication, Clenehan may have the support he needs to defeat Ward; All but one Republican voted consistently to deny changes made to the initial budget by sitting leadership.

## Budget Bitterness

All was well with the 2016 County budget put forth by County Executive Dan McCoy in advance of the September primary elections—it contained no tax increase and legislators on both sides of the aisle were prepared to approve it.

Then, in the 11th hour, certain expenditures were mysteriously added. Confused legislators questioned 12 percent raises that suddenly appeared for the three top county officials: McCoy, Sheriff Craig Apple and Comptroller Mike Conners; 2 percent raises for each of the legislators; and additional attorney positions for the offices of the sheriff and county executive.

No one, it seems, would admit to adding the items. “We repeatedly asked the leadership how they got there,” one legislator told Spotlight in early December. “And no one would give us a straight answer.”

Deputy Minority Leader Richard Mendick (R-36) and outgoing Democrat Tim Nichols (D-19) were the most vocal in their opposition to the additions and offered a number of amendments attempting to strip those expenditures from the budget before approving it.

“All of these positions came to us without a great deal of documentation, after the budget that we originally received,”



The Heritage Shaker Foundation received \$500,000 via the state’s Regional Economic Development Council initiative in 2015.

Spotlight File Photo

argued Mendick.

Nichols, criticizing the process that led to the additions, said that he could not, “in good faith,” support the budget as it was. He proposed moving some of those funds to the legislative Ethics Commission instead—a commission that he said has received only \$250 in each of the four years since its inception.

After a lengthy and heated discussion, and several roll call votes on proposed amendments, legislators ultimately approved the raises for themselves, leaving the door open to give themselves raises aligned with other non-union county workers over the next four years. They also approved the additional counsel positions and the raises for McCoy, Apple and Conners.

“Is it any wonder that our constituents and the public are outraged?” asked a clearly angry Nichols, after pointing out that the budget contains no increase to the Social Security COLA (cost of living adjustment) in 2016.

The \$610 million budget passed with a voice vote—meaning that individual votes are not on the record, a method that has since been questioned for its legality and drawn criticism from legislators who would like their constituents to know how they voted.

Attempts to call a roll call vote for this purpose were unsuccessful, but legislators have indicated they will likely require roll call votes for all future budgets.

## Cuomo’s ‘Hunger Games’

Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) initiative, often referred to as his “Hunger Games” due to its competitive nature, was implemented in 2010 as a way to encourage state municipalities and developers to collaborate regionally to solve their unique economic challenges. Economic

Development Councils, representing 10 regions around the state, work to develop strategic plans and submit those plans to a review committee that analyzes and ranks them before deciding which project will receive funding.

This year, in addition to competition among each of the 10 regions for up to \$750 million in state funding for specific projects, Cuomo announced that \$1.5 billion would be given to three of the seven eligible upstate regions as part of an Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI) in the amount of \$100 million per year over five years for each region.

While the Capital Region was not selected to be a recipient of URI funding in early December, the governor has said that he will allot each of the four upstate regions not selected an additional \$50 million—which would bring the amount received for local projects to approximately \$148 million for economic development in 2016.

Projects that were chosen for funding include: \$500,000 to the Heritage Shaker Foundation; \$37,500 to Bethlehem’s Waterfront Revitalization project; \$5 million for a mixed-use high-rise in downtown Albany; and \$4 million to upgrade the Port of Albany. Projects that were passed over include: a clean-energy complex next to the Amtrak station in Rensselaer; STEM development for public K-12 schools; and the expansion of CDTA services.

“The Capital Region has been named a top performer for our recent success in nanotechnology, research and development, and manufacturing,” said state Assemblyman Phil Steck of Colonie. “The \$98.1 million awarded to fund projects through the Regional Economic Development Council will allow the Capital Region to continue to grow and thrive. Economic sustainability is not possible without these critical investments.”

**LEGALS**

## LEGAL NOTICE

148 Columbia Turnpike L.L.C. Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 4/21/2015. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Joseph W. Zappone, 12 Upper Loudon Rd., Loudonville, NY 12211. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#103776

## LEGAL NOTICE

183 CHAUNCEY, LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 12/11/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105159

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is 216 River Street Properties LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on November 30, 2015. 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 302 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, New York 12203. Ad#103969

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is 230 ROUTE 43 LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on December 2, 2015. 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 205 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054. Ad#103408

## LEGAL NOTICE

256 PPW LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 10/7/15. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Nat Guerriera, 363 6th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215. General purpose. Ad#104660

**LEGALS**

## LEGAL NOTICE

353 Grange Road L.L.C. Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 4/21/2015. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Joseph W. Zappone, 12 Upper Loudon Rd., Loudonville, NY 12211. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#103777

## LEGAL NOTICE

635 5th Ave. LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 10/7/15. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Nat Guerriera, 363 6th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215. General purpose. Ad#104662

## LEGAL NOTICE

65 NORTH MIDWAY ROAD, LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 12/8/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105133

## LEGAL NOTICE

67-56 78TH STREET, LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 12/8/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105135

## LEGAL NOTICE

79-06 68TH ROAD, LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 12/8/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105136

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Articles of Organization of 8 Irving LLC (the "LLC") were filed with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on December 1, 2015, effective upon the date of filing. Office Location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY may mail a copy of any process to the LLC c/o Brian Perrotto, 6 Delsmere Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054. The purpose for which the LLC is formed is to engage in any lawful act or activity within the purposes for which limited liability companies may be formed under the Limited Liability Law of the State of New York. Ad#104901

**LEGALS**

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF AFN DISABILITY CONSULTING, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/16/2015. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC, P.O. Box 11184, Loudonville, NY 12211. Purpose: any lawful activity. Ad#105174

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF ALL SEASON REMODELING, LLC Under Section 203 of the Limited Liability Company Law (1) The name of the limited liability company is ALL SEASON REMODELING, LLC. (2) The articles of organization of the said limited liability company were filed with the New York State Secretary of State on August 24, 2015. (3) The principal business location of the limited liability company will be at 8 Leach Avenue, Albany, NY 12205 in Albany County. (4) The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address within or without this state to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the limited liability company served upon him or her is: 8 Leach Avenue, Albany, NY 12205. (5) The name and street address within this state of the registered agent of the limited liability company upon whom and at which process against the limited liability company may be served is: Charles Barnes, 8 Leach Avenue, Albany, NY 12205. (6) The effective date of the Articles of Organization shall be the date of filing, to wit: August 24, 2015. (7) The limited liability company is to be managed by one or more members. (8) The character or purpose of the business of the limited liability company is to engage in the business of residential and commercial remodeling, renovation and construction of all types and description. Michael T. Horan, Esq. Attorney for Limited Liability Company 670 Franklin Street Schenectady, NY 12305 Ad#103517

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). Annex Entertainment LLC. Articles of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/10/15. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process may be served, SSNY shall mail

**LEGALS**

copy of process to 42 Eagle St Albany, NY. Purpose is any lawful purpose. Ad#104870

## LEGAL NOTICE

ARCHITECTURAL BUILDING SERVICES, LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 11/12/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105144

## LEGAL NOTICE

BATTERY PROPERTY LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 11/17/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105141

## LEGAL NOTICE

Belmont Re. LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/16/15. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 222-240 Belmont Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11207. General purpose. Ad#105172

## LEGAL NOTICE

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC) Name: BIGBOX IP HOLDING COMPANY, LLC Articles of Organization filed by the Department of State of New York on: 11/09/2015 Certificate of Amendment filed: 11/19/15 changing LLC name to: THE ORIGINAL BIGBOX COMPANY LLC Office location: County of Albany Purpose: any and all lawful activities Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Goldberg & Rimberg PLLC 115 Broadway, Suite 302 New York, NY 10006 Ad#104309

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). Name: BLACKBIRD 1 LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NY Secretary of State, December 4, 2015. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. Office: in Albany County. Secretary of State is agent for process against LLC and shall mail copy to P.O. Box 990, Latham, NY 12110. Ad#104345

## LEGAL NOTICE

Buckram Partners, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/20/15. Off. loc.: Albany Co.

**LEGALS**

SSNY des. as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 15 Buckram Road, Locust Valley, NY 11560. Purpose: General. Ad#105503

## LEGAL NOTICE

C-LynneArities, LLC, Articles of Org. filed with SSNY on 05/05/2014. Office loc: Albany. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Jozef Szadvari, 80 State St, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#102739

## LEGAL NOTICE

CAPITAL DISTRICT RECORDS, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 5/22/2015. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Joseph W. Zappone, Esq., 6 Century Hill Dr., Latham, NY 12110. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#103773

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Limited Liability Company (LLC) 1. The name of the LLC is: capital Star Home Inspection, LLC 2. The date of the filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State of the State of New York (SSNY) is: 10/26/15 3. The office within New York State of the LLC is located in Albany County. 4. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 1A Terry Ct. Albany, NY 12205 5. The purpose of the business of the company is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the Limited Liability Company Law. Ad#104024

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of CV INVESTORS LLC, Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on December 17, 2015. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams, P.C., 677 Broadway, Suite 500, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activity. Ad#105496

## LEGAL NOTICE

DCE SOLUTIONS LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 12/14/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg.

**LEGALS**

Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105154

## LEGAL NOTICE

Delmar Painting & Contracting, LLC Articles of Organization, filed New York Secretary of State (SSNY). Office in Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to c/o Eli Morone, 3 Taylor Terrace, Delmar, New York 12054. Purpose: any lawful act. Ad#105642

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of a Corporation. ECA on Pearl Inc. Certificate of Incorporation filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/23/2015. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process may be served, SSNY shall mail copy of process to 42 Eagle St Albany, NY. Purpose is any lawful purpose. Ad#104868

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: Enlighten Chiropractic, PLLC. The Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of New York (SS-NYS) on October 9, 2014. The company office is located in Albany County. The SS-NYS has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNYS shall mail a copy of process to: Enlighten Chiropractic, PLLC, 2 Tower Place, Albany, NY 12203. The purpose of the company is to engage in any lawful business of every kind and character for which LLCs may be organized under the New York LLC Law, or any successor statute. Ad#103233

## LEGAL NOTICE

FIDZIELLA GROUP LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 12/17/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105152

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FINE PROPERTIES WESTERN, LLC On 12/28/2015, Articles of Organization of Fine Properties Western, LLC were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of New York. The office of the NY limited liability company is located in Albany County. The SSSNY is designated as the agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served and the post office address within New York State to which the SSSNY shall mail a copy of any process against it served upon him or her

**LEGALS**

is Fine Properties Western, LLC, 1529 Western Avenue, Albany, NY 12203. The purpose of the limited liability company is for any lawful business purpose or purposes. Ad#105554

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FILING OF THE ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF FULL SERVICE RESTORATION & CONSTRUCTION, LLC UNDER LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW SECTION 206

The name of the limited liability company (LLC) is: FULL SERVICE RESTORATION & CONSTRUCTION, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed on October 23, 2015 with the Secretary of State (SS). The office of the LLC is in Albany County, NY. The LLC shall dissolve on December 31, 2065. The SS of NY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SS shall mail a copy of any process against it served upon him is the LLC, 21 Brookview Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be formed, both within and without NY State. Ad#102744

## LEGAL NOTICE

GALLERY HOMZZ, LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 11/17/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105156

## LEGAL NOTICE

Garden Road Capital Advisors, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 9/25/15. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 60 W. 23rd St., Ste. 1001, NY, NY 10010. General purpose. Ad#103164

## LEGAL NOTICE

GRHWG GROUP, LLC Notice of formation of GRHWG Group, LLC, a limited liability company (the "LLC"). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (the "SSNY") on 12/9/15. Office location: Albany County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC, upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC, 43 British American Boulevard, Latham, New York 12110. Purposes: any lawful activity. Ad#105179

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of a FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Name of LLC: Happy Life

**LEGALS**

Home Goods, LLC Date of Filing of Articles of Organization with the New York Department of State: July 1, 2015

Office of the LLC: Albany County. Originally filed in Nevada. The NY Secretary of State has been designated as the agent upon whom process may be served. NYSS may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at: 685 Watervliet Shaker Road, Suite 483, Latham, New York 12110. Purpose of the LLC: Any lawful Purpose Ad#103934

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of LLC-J&Z 8, LLC has filed an Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State of New York on 12/11/2015. Its office is located in Albany County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process may be served. A copy of any process shall be mailed to 2050 Western Ave., Guilderland, NY 12084. Its business is to engage in any lawful activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under Section 203 of the New York Limited Liability Company Act. Ad#105175

## LEGAL NOTICE

Katchakid Northeast, LLC Arts of Org filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/19/15. Office in Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 65 Dove St., Albany, NY, 12210-1810. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose Ad#104021

## LEGAL NOTICE

KIDDANCE, LLC. Art of Org filed with SSNY on 10/28/2015. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent for process shall mail to the LLC, 441 Loudon Rd, Loudonville, NY 12211. Purpose: Any lawful. Ad#103520

## LEGAL NOTICE

LA CASA DEL MOFONGO 207 LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 11/3/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105150

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). Name: LOVE CHILD YOGA, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NY Secretary of State, October 19, 2015. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. Office: in Albany County. Secretary of State is agent for process against LLC and shall mail copy to Registered Agents Inc. 90 State Street STE 700 Office 40, Albany, NY 12207. Ad#103902

COPS, COURTS AND EMERGENCY CALLS

Other arrests:

- State police in New Scotland arrested Derrick W. Ingleston, 25, of Colonie on Dec. 20 and charged him with DWI. Ingleston was stopped on Schoolhouse Road in Guilderland for allegedly failing to dim his headlamps. Police said Ingleston failed field sobriety tests and had a BAC of 0.12 percent. He is scheduled to appear in Guilderland Town Court Jan. 14.
- Bethlehem Police arrested Calvin J. Jackson, 84, of 58 Cherry Ave. in Delmar, on Dec. 12 and charged him with DWI, failure to use designated lane and failure to dim headlights. Jackson was stopped for allegedly failing to use a designated lane at the roundabout on Cherry Avenue and

- failing to dim headlamps. Upon interview, Jackson reportedly displayed an odor of alcoholic beverage on his breath. Police said he failed field sobriety tests and reportedly had a BAC of 0.08 percent. He was scheduled to appear in Bethlehem Town Court Jan. 5.
- Bethlehem Police arrested Tammy Ann Grumme, 40, of 238 Van Wies Point Road in Glenmont, on Dec. 15 and charged her with criminal possession of a forged instrument, a felony. Grumme was arrested on the charge when she appeared in Bethlehem Town Court for an unrelated matter. She was arraigned in court and bond was set at \$2,500. Grumme is scheduled to reappear in court Jan. 19.

- Bethlehem Police arrested Joseph J. Giacone Sr., 50, of 5 Maple Terr., Delmar, Dec. 21 and charged him with felony DWI, due to a previous conviction, and breath test violation, an infraction. Police responded to 3 Herber Ave. in Delmar for a personal injury automobile accident. Giacone reportedly told police that the second driver in the accident had failed to yield him right of way at a stop sign. No injuries were reported. According to police, Giacone displayed an odor of alcohol on his breath. He reportedly admitted to drinking “two mixed drinks” prior to driving. Police said he failed two of three field sobriety tests and refused to complete the third, due to complaint of injury, which he said was a result of his military service. His attorney advised him of his right to remain silent and refuse additional tests.

- Giacone refused to submit to either a prescreening breath presence of alcohol test or submit to a BAC reading. Giacone was arraigned in Bethlehem Town Court where a \$15,000 bail was set. He posted bail and is scheduled to reappear in court Jan. 19.
- State police in Clifton Park arrested Joshua K. Geier, 25, of Patroon Drive in Guilderland on Dec. 29, and charged him with stolen property in the fourth, petit larceny and making a punishable false written statement. Geier was arrested after a reported robbery in Clifton Park, which was determined to be false. Police said Geier was found to be in possession of a stolen credit card from an apartment where he had been staying, which had been reported stolen. Geier was scheduled to appear in Clifton Park Town Court Jan. 6.

LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS
LEGAL NOTICE  LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC) Name: MADVENTURE ROOMS, LLC Articles of Organization filed by the Department of State of New York on: 11/13/2015 Office location: County of Albany Purpose: any and all lawful activities Secretary of State of New York (SSNY ) is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to:110 Manning Blvd. Albany, NY 12203 Ad#104302	LEGAL NOTICE  NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is NAQI REALTY, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on December 1, 2015. 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 90 Hackett Blvd, Albany, New York 12209. Ad#103411	LEGAL NOTICE  Holdings LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/04/2015. 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: C/O Quail Holdings LLC, 159 Homestead Av # 2, Albany, NY 12203. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date. Ad#104699	LEGAL NOTICE  Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: Professional Engineering. Ad#105160	LEGAL NOTICE  LEGAL NOTICE  SALLY CAT JEWELS, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/12/15. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 447 Krumkill Road, Albany, NY 12203. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#103782	LEGAL NOTICE  NAME: Stephen L. Molinsek, LLC Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on December 3, 2015. Office location: The Mailing Address of the limited liability company/ls office is 2 Nomanskill Boulevard, P.O. Box 69, Delmar, New York 12054, County of Albany. 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 at P.O. Box 69, Delmar, New York 12054. For any lawful purpose. Ad#103973	LEGAL NOTICE  of Organization filed with sec. of state of NY(SOS) on 12/17/15. Office location: Albany County. SOS is designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SOS shall mail copy of process to 30 Iris St, Apt. 1, Glenmont, NY 12077. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. Ad#104903	LEGAL NOTICE  LEGAL NOTICE  WALL STREET DEVELOPMENT LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 12/7/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105138
LEGAL NOTICE  Notice of Formation of MCV INVESTORS LLC, Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on December 17, 2015. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams, P.C., 677 Broadway, Suite 500, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activity. Ad#105499	LEGAL NOTICE  OLIB REALTY, LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 11/13/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105142	LEGAL NOTICE  Residence Inspections LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 9/29/15. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 4 Shamrock Circle, Latham, NY 12110, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#104310	LEGAL NOTICE  RUMBLE, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/16/15. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#103398	LEGAL NOTICE  SANTANIELLO PROPERTIES, LLC Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company Articles of Organization of Santaniello Properties, LLC (the “LLC”) were filed with the Department of State of New York (“SSNY”) on 12/7/15. 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 c/o the LLC, 31 Bradhaven Rd., Slingerlands, NY 12159. The LLC does not have a specific date of dissolution. Purpose: All legal purposes. Filer: Lavelle & Finn, LLP, 29 British American Bl., Latham, NY 12110 Ad#104659	LEGAL NOTICE  NOTICE OF FORMATION DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). Name: SUAA CP LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NY Secretary of State, December 9, 2015. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. Office: Albany County. Secretary of State is agent for process against LLC and shall mail copy to 255 Washington Avenue Ext., Albany, New York 12205 Ad#104300	LEGAL NOTICE  Taste of Troy Food Tours, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/13/15. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 24 Oak Road, Delmar, NY 12054. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#103783	LEGAL NOTICE  WILD EAST BREWING COMPANY LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 11/12/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105146
LEGAL NOTICE  NOTICE OF FORMATION DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). Name: MGH COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NY Secretary of State, November 20, 2015. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. Office: in Albany County. Secretary of State is agent for process against LLC and shall mail copy to 730 Meadowdale Road, Altamont, NY 12009. Ad#104344	LEGAL NOTICE  POMP&CLOUT LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 12/2/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105139	LEGAL NOTICE  NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (LP) The name of the LP is Ridgehill DJC L.P. The Certificate of Limited Partnership of the LP was filed with the NY Secretary of State on December 23, 2015. The purpose of the LP is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LP is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LP upon whom process against the LP may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LP is c/o ADC, L.L.C., 435 Ridgehill Road, Schenectady, New York 12303. The names and business addresses of each general partner is available from the Secretary of State. The latest date on which the LP is to dissolve is January 31, 2115. The character or purpose of the LP is real estate. Ad#105542	LEGAL NOTICE  NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY 1.The name of the Limited Liability Company is Safe Home Delmar, LLC 2. The Article of organization of the Limited Liability Company were filed on December 14, 2015 with the New York Secretary of State. 3. The office of the Limited Liability Company is located in Albany County. 4. The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the Limited Liability Company upon whom process against it may be served. 5. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of process served to the Limited Liability Company to 14 Westphal Drive, Delmar, N.Y. 12054 6. The latest date to dissolve is indefinite. 7. The purpose of the Limited Liability Company is to conduct all lawful activity. Ad#105245	LEGAL NOTICE  Sierra Investigative Group LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/15/15. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 98 New York Ave., Smithtown, NY 11787. General purpose. Ad#105173	LEGAL NOTICE  SVINKIN HOLDINGS LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/13/15. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Altschul & Altschul, 18 E. 12th St., #1A, NY, NY 10003-4458. General purpose. Ad#103905	LEGAL NOTICE  NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX ROLL AND WARRANT TAKE NOTICE, that I, Alicia M. Roney, the undersigned Receiver of Taxes and Assessments for the Town of Bethlehem, have received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes and will receive payments thereon Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at the Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York for the properties assessed upon such roll NO COLLECTION FEE DURING JANUARY 1% collection fee during February 2% collection fee during March TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that pursuant to the provisions of law the tax roll of the Town of Bethlehem will be returned to the County of Albany Director of Finance on April 1, 2016. Ad#105712	LEGAL NOTICE  WOOSTER 41 LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 12/07/2015. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to c/o Pep Real Estate, 25 Howard St., 2nd Fl, NY, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#105276
LEGAL NOTICE  Montie Acquisitions, LLC, a foreign LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/7/15. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o BlumbergExcelsior, 16 Court St., Brooklyn, NY 11241. General purpose. Ad#104656	LEGAL NOTICE  PRESTIGE CAR SERVICE L.L.C. Authority filed with secy of state of ny (SSNY) On 08/18/2015 office location Albany county Designed as agent of L.L.C. upon whom process Against it may be served, SSNY shall mail copy Of process to The L.L.C. 57 Morris st - suite -A-Albany, NY 12208. Purpose: any lawful purpose. Ad#102325	LEGAL NOTICE  RIMKUNAS ENGINEERING, PLLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 10/27/15. Office: Albany		LEGAL NOTICE  SIMPLE BROTH LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 12/7/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105137	LEGAL NOTICE  SWIFT HOLDINGS COMPANY, LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 11/12/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 217 Menands Rd., Loudonville, NY 12211. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105162	LEGAL NOTICE  TJS 5 LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed w/SSNY on 11/10/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#105148	LEGAL NOTICE  Zappone Group Management, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 6/4/2014. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Joseph W. Zappone, 12 Upper Loudon Rd., Loudonville, NY 12211. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#103779
							LEGAL NOTICE  ZapwineZ, LLC, Articles of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/8/2015. Office loc: Albany. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Tommaso Pipitone, 80 State St, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#104648
							To place your Legal Notice: Call 439-4949



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**January 6, 2016**

# Spotlight on Opinion

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## ■ FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

# Unintended consequences

In July 2015, we expressed our concerns regarding the proposed minimum wage hike for fast food workers in New York state. In our editorial, we asked why this increase couldn't be extended to all minimum wage workers and whether raising fast food workers' wages would create the unintended ripple effect of national chains replacing employees with machines.

Since then, the state extended the wage increase to most industries, and this week the minimum wage in New York went up to \$9 an hour — the first step towards a \$15-per-hour minimum wage in the state.

Fortunately, we haven't heard about any plans to replace cashiers with kiosks at places like McDonald's and Burger King. Still, the concerns we had back in July exist today.

For instance, what about the small business owners across the state who have to keep their overhead low in order to survive? By increasing the minimum wage, those business owners have to raise their employees' salaries, which could — in

turn — force them to raise the prices for their companies' services. If they raise their prices too high, they could lose customers, which would then have the unintended consequence of layoffs or even closures.

National chain stores might also react negatively to the new minimum wage. Supermarkets, department stores and restaurants all could raise their prices to protect their profit margins, which would further restrict the average New Yorker's spending power — something the minimum wage increase was supposed to improve. Again, the law of unintended consequences would take hold.

So, how can we guard against unintended consequences? Unfortunately, we can't. The state cannot control prices in the stores and restaurants. The state Attorney General's office could investigate companies for price gouging if it gets out of hand, but no one is going to bother if the increases are only slight or gradual to reflect the gradual nature of this minimum wage hike.

The best we can do is support local

small business owners as much as possible, for they are the ones who drive our regional economy. For every state government office or international corporation that employs local workers, there are dozens of small businesses struggling day to day to survive. If too many of those businesses have to close, our unemployment rate is going to surge, which would have the unintended consequences of more people needing government assistance to survive and fewer people spending money for anything but the essentials.

Admittedly, it's not always economically feasible to turn to local businesses first. National chains undercut the mom-and-pop stores with lower prices, and they plop themselves down in highly visible locations. But if we continue to turn to national chains first, our neighbors will suffer.

So while it may be difficult to do, let's all make the effort to use whatever buying power we gain from the minimum wage increase to support our local businesses and prevent unintended consequences.

*The best we can do is support local small business owners as much as possible, for they are the ones who drive our regional economy. For every state government office or international corporation that employs local workers, there are dozens of small businesses struggling day to day to survive. If too many of those businesses have to close, our unemployment rate is going to surge, which would have the unintended consequences of more people needing government assistance to survive and fewer people spending money for anything but the essentials.*

## ■ GET TO KNOW ...



**Paul Tick**  
**Manager, Delmar**  
**Farmers Market**

*Hometown: Bronx, NY*

### What have you been listening to lately?

I listen to WAMC, public radio and when I am not listening to that, I listened to the birds. We have some great birds here in town including morning doves, woodpeckers, blue jays and many, many more.

### What have you been reading?

I read articles from the [New York] Times, the New Republic, and the New Yorker. The last great book I read was "Enrique's Journey" by Sonia Nazario, about an immigrant boy who endures untold hardships to come to the U.S. to re-unite with his mother.

### What is your favorite show on TV?

I'm not much of a T.V. watcher but HBO has some great series now such as "The Wire" and "The West Wing."

### What was the last movie you saw?

I can highly recommend "Spotlight."

### Could you describe what your dream vacation would be?

I like the outdoors, so plenty of time hiking in the woods followed by a swim in a secluded lake is all I need.

### What are some of your hobbies?

I like to use recycled wood to create picture frames and other items that are useful around the house. I also spend a lot of time in my organic garden.

### What would your last meal be?

Oh my god, not yet!

### Who is the one person (dead or alive) that you would most like to meet?

I'd love to spend an evening with Pete Seeger in his little cabin listening to him sing and strum his guitar and banjo. He recently died at age 93. During his long life, he made more people aware of the necessity of protecting the environment than anyone I can think of.

### What is your favorite local moment?

I love running into friends and neighbors at our locally owned businesses, at the farmers market and hiking on our local nature preserves.

### What three things would you bring to a desert island?

Food, water and a sail boat.

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**Managing Editor** — Michael Hallisey

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## ■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Kudos to young man

Editor, *The Spotlight*,  
I would like to take this opportunity to start the New Year off right by bringing attention to a selfless act. While pulling up to the entrance of our local Walmart this week I saw two vehicles stopped in the crosswalk. The driver of a truck directly in front of me appeared to be recording an incident as it unfolded in front of him. I quickly realized the vehicle in front of him had occupants involved in a dispute between a male and female. The female was a Walmart employee and shortly after some pushing and hair grabbing, the male got in the passenger seat and his vehicle started to drive away. For whatever reason the male then jumped out of the moving vehicle and again tried to confront the female who was retreating into the store. As I exited my truck to help, this young man who appeared to be in his late teens, had also exited his vehicle and stepped

into the male's path and was able to peacefully get him to turn and walk away. Crazy I thought to myself, but admirable none the less. The young man told me he had the entire incident recorded on his phone and I told him to stand by for the police. I myself followed the vehicle out of the lot and back to the city of Albany while I reported the incident to the Bethlehem Police. Once back I reported to management my involvement and after shopping for a half hour I left. Apparently the police had not arrived at that point as the young man was still waiting to share his video with someone. I had been concerned myself of the offender's return, and not seeing a police presence didn't make me happy but maybe we just missed them. I instructed the young man not to wait longer and to call the police and leave his name as a witness. It wasn't until after I left that I realized I had known the young

man when he was much younger growing up and I had not recognized him as the son of a former police colleague. It was obvious he was raised well and used his verbal skills to persuade this offender to move on before the incident escalated, and at his own peril as an unarmed citizen. It should be noted that while this incident transpired there were MANY people who witnessed what was going on and chose to just walk on by or watch from a distance. Shame on them and congratulations to Brady Hughes, a high school senior at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, for stepping up and putting yourself in harm's way because it was the right thing to do. You made your family and community proud of you this day and are a role model to how we should all behave when faced with a choice like this.

Dave Harrington  
Glenmont

*The Spotlight* welcomes letters of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing and are limited to 500 words.

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

Submissions can be emailed to news@spotlightnews.com. The deadline for all letters is noon Friday prior to publication.

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

For information on submitting a Point of View, email news@spotlightnews.com or call 439-4949.

Our full letter policy can be viewed online at [www.spotlightnews.com](http://www.spotlightnews.com).



## From page 1 ...

### A look ahead

Albany County purchased the technology, allowing Bethlehem to obtain the system at a discounted cost, said Clarkson.

As the town and its two police unions continue to work toward a contract, the supervisor hopes the bargaining negotiations will be mutually beneficial and that a solution is near.

### Delaware Avenue

In 2007 the town began plans to improve Delaware Avenue, "for commercial, social and civic benefit."

"I remember when I first saw those plans in 2007 or 8, here we are in almost 2016 and it's finally going to happen," said Supervisor Clarkson.

The Delaware Avenue Improvement Group, a group of citizens, business owners and community group members have been meeting since that time to discuss ways to improve commerce, beautify the area and address traffic and safety concerns.

Bethlehem was awarded a \$1.2 million grant in January 2014 as part of the state's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Multi-use Enhancement Projects Initiative. The entire project is estimated to cost \$3.1 million, so the town will need to make up the remainder of that cost in the coming years' budgets, unless additional grants or fundraising can be found.

Suggested plans include upgrades to sidewalks, addition of bicycle lanes, improved landscaping and decorative lighting.

### Water Negotiations

With upgrades to the Clapper Road water plant underway, the town is next

looking at necessity of upgrades at the New Scotland plant.

The town is renegotiating its water plan with the City of Albany. The decision to upgrade Clapper Road was made in 2000 in order to ramp up output. Another study was initiated in November 2013 to look into the potential upgrades to the New Scotland plant. By utilizing its own plants, Clarkson said Bethlehem could benefit more than from contracting through Albany.

According to Commissioner of Public Works Erik Deyone, the town now pays \$3.78 per 1,000 gallons of water from Albany, versus a cost of \$1.73 at Clapper Road.

"We have raised the issue of a long-term contract with the City of Albany. It's much more water than we'll need under these circumstances. But, there again, the city is financially strapped at the moment, so it's hard for them to look at 2023 and the possibility of dropping Bethlehem as a customer," said Clarkson. He estimates negotiations will take years to execute.

### Borthwick Avenue

This summer's road improvements at Borthwick Avenue saw traffic at the corridor to the Bethlehem Public Library closed or slowed for months. During that time, the town received numerous complaints from neighbors, which the plans to address.

"It's long-awaited. It's a major route for everyone to get to the library, to get to town hall. We have a lot of pedestrians and children there so we really want to look at what's going on there," said Clarkson.

"You can't always solve all the problems, I mean, generally we can't, but we think it's important to try."

## Gas pipeline discussion planned

**SELKIRK** — An oppositional meeting against the proposed Northeast Energy Direct fracked gas pipeline proposed in Selkirk will be held Wednesday, Jan. 6, at First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, 39 Church Road from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

All members of the community are encouraged to attend to discuss the logistics, job tasks and format for a planned Saturday, Jan. 23 informational public forum.

Please RSVP to offer your assistance for either the Jan. 6 meeting and/or the Jan. 23 public forum. The contact persons are:

Ernie Popp, FRCB member: [ernie\\_popp@yahoo.com](mailto:ernie_popp@yahoo.com), 518-434-1495 and

Bob Connors, co-founder of SNYFGP: [raconnors@yahoo.com](mailto:raconnors@yahoo.com), 518-781-4686.



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