



NEWS Elderly targeted

Mother and son among six to admit guilt in hate crime victimizing elderly

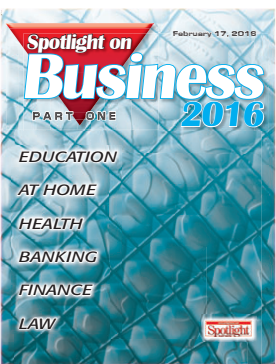
Story on Page 3

INDEX

Cops, courts and calls 3
Sports 9-10
Entertainment..... B1-B24
Classifieds B20-B21
Opinion 14
Crossword B7
Service Directory B18

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Business

Our quarterly supplement that places the spotlight on local business

See Inside



TOP STORY

The Real McCoy

Nano brewery crops up in the midst of an ever-expanding Four Corners dining square

By **TRICIA CREMO**

cremot@spotlightnews.com

BETHLEHEM — An old auto repair shop is setting the scene for the town's first brewery.

The Real McCoy brewery, located at 20 Hallwood Road in Delmar, near the town's growing Four Corners retail and dining square is open Thursdays 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Known as a "nano brewery" because it is so small, Real McCoy, named for an idiom that means real or genuine, offers seven beers on tap. Tastings are free and growlers are available for \$13 or a \$7 refill.

Though the business has been quietly operating out of the garage since September, owner Mike Bellini, 45, a talented home brewer who opened the shop as a passion project as a side to his full time job, is not planning on rolling out any large promotional initiatives.

Continues on page 13

◀ The Real McCoy is opened for business, with owner Mike Bellini behind bar.

Photo by Tricia Cremo/SpotlightNews

ENTERTAINMENT



Happy 25, Maestro

Yo-Yo Ma returns to the ASO in December, as 2016-17 season marks Music Director's anniversary

Story on Page B1

SPORTS



Big dreams

Bethlehem grad is turning some heads in baseball's minor leagues

Story on Page 9

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■ COPS, COURTS AND EMERGENCY CALLS

Police warn of IRS scam

More than 100 Bethlehem residents receive calls

BETHLEHEM—Town Police are warning residents not to divulge personal information over the phone after more than 100 Bethlehem residents reported IRS scam calls to police.

"In the last several days, Bethlehem Police have received over 100 calls from town residents reporting they are being called by someone stating they are representing the IRS," said Police Chief Louis Corsi. "The caller tells the person that they owe large sums of money to the IRS and that if they do not pay the money immediately, a warrant for their arrest will be issued." These calls are fictitious and are not from the IRS, said police. It is believed that the calls are originating from outside of the United States, and that they are part of a much larger fraud ring.

Bethlehem Police are warning residents to not divulge personal information to these callers and to not send any money to the individuals calling.

The Federal Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) and the IRS are aware of this ongoing scam, which has hit

"We continue to say if your are surprised to be hearing from us, then you're not hearing from us."

John Koskinen
Commissioner,
Internal Revenue Service

multiple parts of the country.

"Taxpayers across the nation face a deluge of these aggressive phone scams. Don't be fooled by callers pretending to be from the IRS in an attempt to steal your money," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen.

"We continue to say if your are surprised to be hearing from us, then you're not hearing from us."

If you receive a suspect call and believe you might owe federal taxes, hang up and call the IRS at 800-829-1040 for help with your payment questions.

Anyone who receives or has received a suspicious call from someone claiming to be with the IRS asking for payment, should fill out the IRS Impersonation Scam form on the TIGTA website, www.tigta.gov, or call TIGTA at 800-366-4484.

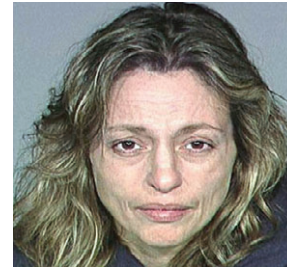
■ WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE A CALL

- Do not share any of your personal information with the caller.
- Contact TIGTA at (800) 366-4484 or visit www.tigta.gov and complete the IRS Impersonation form
- File an online complaint with FTC at www.ftc.gov
- File an online complaint with the IRS at www.ic3.gov

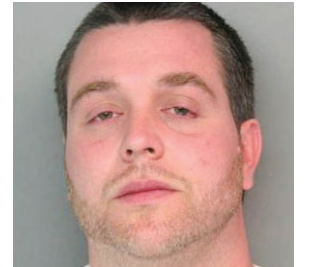
You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at www.FTC.gov and add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments in your complaint.

Residents can also go to www.ic3.gov and file an online complaint.

If you are unsure of the legitimacy of the call you are receiving, contact your local police and remember to not give out or even confirm any personal information that the caller may be seeking.



Susan Barr



Brian Barr

Mother, son plead guilty to hate crime

Total of six people admit to scheme

ALBANY—Two more individuals have pled guilty to involvement in a scam targeted at the elderly in Bethlehem, Colonie and the City of Albany. A total of six individuals have now admitted to the scam, in which the defendants not only performed home repairs under false pretenses, including driveway sealing, foundation work and roof repairs, but also either overcharged victims or failed to do work for which payment was collected. Theft from all victims is in excess of \$40,000.

Susan Barr, 58, of Altamont, and Barr's son Brian Barr, 37, of Schenectady, pled guilty to counts of grand larceny in the fourth-degree as a hate crime, and conspiracy in the fifth-degree as a hate crime, both felonies, announced District Attorney David Soares on Thursday, Feb. 11.

Susan Barr faces 2 to 4 years in State Prison, while Brian Barr faces 7 and 1/2 to 15 years in State Prison when the pair is sentenced on March 18. Their co-defendants include Frank Chrysler, 49, of Watervliet; John Waterson, 38, of Albany; Henry Hicks, 59, of Albany; Jessica Paradiso, 27, of Schenectady; and John Risto, 60.

State Police arrests:

• Todd J. Marble, 55, of Schenectady, was arrested on Sunday, Feb. 7, and charged him with felony-level DWI, due to a prior conviction in the last ten years. Police stopped Marble on I-87 for an alleged traffic violation and reportedly found him to be intoxicated. Police said he had a BAC of 0.17 percent. He is scheduled to appear in Guilderland Town Court on Feb. 18.

• Ty-Ron P. Brown, 29, of Schenectady, was arrested on Wednesday, Feb. 10, and charged with grand larceny after he allegedly stole money from a McDonald's on the thruway in Guilderland. Brown reportedly stole roughly \$1,300 over the past month from the restaurant's register. He is scheduled to appear in Guilderland Town Court on Feb. 18.

Ensuring that safety wins

Three-day, county-wide Super Bowl weekend crackdown yields multiple arrests, citations

VOORHEESVILLE—Eighteen motorists were arrested for allegedly operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs over Super Bowl weekend. Individuals were charged during an enforcement wave conducted between Friday, Feb. 5, and Monday morning, Feb. 8, by the Albany County Sheriffs Department and Albany County STOP-DWI.

Police said arrests include an

individual who had a BAC of 0.29 percent and the Leandra's Law arrest of Yudelka Almonte-Leclec, 36, of Albany, who was reportedly stopped in Albany for driving with a BAC of 0.10 percent while her five children were passengers.

Additionally, the Town of Guilderland Police Department investigated two alcohol-related crashes where only minor injuries were reported.

"During the enforcement wave, agencies throughout the county were out in full force in an attempt to reduce the incidence of impaired driving to ensure the safety of our roadways," said Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple.

In all, the enforcement period resulted in numerous traffic stops with 196 citations issues for a variety of violations.

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Residents look upon the proposed plans the enhance Delmar's Delaware Avenue corridor during a public informational meeting held at Bethlehem Town Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Photo by Tricia Cremo/SpotlightNews

COMMUNITY

Delaware Avenue improvements

By **TRICIA CREMO**

cremot@spotlightnews.com

BETHLEHEM — More information is out on the upcoming Delaware Avenue improvements, which will begin construction this summer.

"The idea has always been let's fix up our Main Street. Let's fix up our town center," said Supervisor John Clarkson at an informational meeting held Tuesday, Feb. 9, where details on the project were released and public input was collected.

"It's about improving transportation, it's about improving pedestrian and bicycle access and safety and it's very much about improving our back corner business district. Four Corners is now the happening in the Capital Region, or at least in our town. It's our town center and it's a town center we enjoy."

"Though the project is limited to Delaware Avenue from Elsmere past the Four Corners, its impact will be felt across the town," he said.

When the improvements were proposed in 2008, the funds were not available for the changes, but today they are. A \$1.2 million grant from the New York State Department of Transportation and \$1.9 million provided by the town has made this possible. The federal aid is related specifically to roadway improvements and cannot be used for beautification efforts.

Changes include planting roughly 100 trees along the street using a Garden Club program, improved sidewalks and parking along the street and the addition of crosswalks and signaled beepers across from the Bethlehem Public Library, at Adams Street connecting to the Albany County Rail Trail and across from Stewart's Shop on Delaware Avenue, where middle school students often cross to get to school and back. Crosswalks will be decorative, using red brick. Other street entrances to the rail trail will also be enhanced.

Essentially, the changes will blend the style and feel of the improvements

made to Four Corners two years ago into Delaware Avenue.

Bidding by construction groups will be reviewed in Fall 2016 after plans are finalized this spring.

Where there is no definition or ambiguous separation between vehicular and pedestrian areas, once the project is completed, the roadway will have clear definition. Bicycle lanes were considered during Delaware Avenue Improvement project meetings, which brought together members of town board and town departments, community groups and affected businesses. However, because of the narrowness of Delaware Avenue, this option was not possible. Bikers can still use the sidewalks or roadways to travel, and the Albany County Railroad will be fully paved this summer for bikers to use.

"If we had eliminated parking we could have given a limited bike lane, but that's really not what we wanted because we wanted to maintain the parking there," thus improving the business interest there, explained Monika King, Town of Bethlehem senior engineer.

Benches, bike racks and pedestrian-level lighting, supplementing taller street lamps, will also be added along the street, and areas have been set aside along the street that could become small gardens.

The railroad overpass on Delaware Avenue will see the most improvements, as a mural will be added to the wall there, a "Welcome to Delmar" sign is to be added, and refurbished yellow bricks, recovered while removing pavement on Kenwood Avenue, will be added to the border of sidewalks in this area.

"We noticed while travelling under the bridge that that area had become really corroded, so we definitely wanted to add improvements there, and we are going to fix some of those drainage issues there," said King in reference to the problems that arise in the areas during rainy periods.

Public input on the project is also being sought online. To express your thoughts on the Delaware Avenue improvement project, visit townofbethlehem.org.

Town Board opposes proposed gasline

BETHLEHEM — The town has passed a resolution against the Northeast Energy Direct Pipeline (NED) from Kinder Morgan.

At the Wednesday, Feb. 10, meeting of Town Board, the board moved unanimously to draft the resolution, drawn by Councilman David VanLoven, which puts pressure on the state to not allow construction until a comprehensive health study is completed.

NED is proposed to run through Selkirk and North Bethlehem as it travels 350 miles to transport gas fracked in Pennsylvania to Massachusetts.

Two natural gas pipelines currently run through town; one dates back to the 1950s and the other to the 1980s. A third, the Connecticut pipeline, is currently in construction after being approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) last year. Its route will run parallel to the Northeast Energy Direct pipeline in certain areas of town. The town's attorney James Potter has filed as an official intervener with Kinder Morgan on behalf of the town.

— Tricia Cremo

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Doors closing on fundraising efforts

Receipt of state grant, private donations needed to relocate historic barn

By **TRICIA CREMO**

cremot@spotlightnews.com

NEW SCOTLAND —

With only a month left to raise funds to move the historic Hilton Barn at LeVie farm, residents can now donate to the cause.

Supporters of the relocation and rescue of the historic structure can now donate funds to that effort via the Voorheesville Community and School Foundation (VCSF). Gifts will be tax deductible.

VCSF was designated by the New Scotland Town Board to receive private donations.

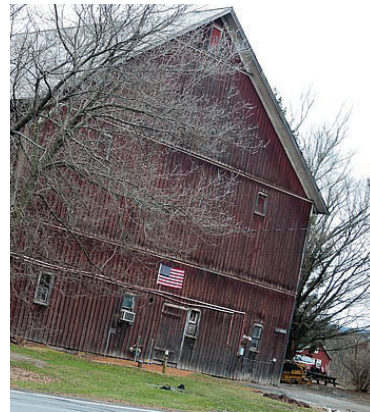
Checks, made out to VCSF, may be mailed to the organization at PO Box 523; Voorheesville, NY 12186. Please write "Hilton Barn donation" on the memo line and include an email address with your contribution.

The barn has preliminary approval for one of the two grants the town has applied for in order to reach the full \$185,000 needed for the move. While Albany County has given preliminary approval for a \$50,000 grant, the wait continues for a \$125,000 state grant, which Assembly Woman Pat Fahy helped the town apply for. Another \$25,000

comes from the town's parks and recreation fund.

Using this town fund, which holds fees raised by renting out fields at the town's park, is a normal practice for governments.

A new source of funding has also come from the possibility of selling lumber cut during the process of clearing land at the barn's new location. The county and a local architect are now offering to do work pro-bono, and along with a reduction of initial estimates, such as those from the three cable companies, who have agreed to move their cables during the moving of the barn, the move may not even cost



The historic Hilton Barn

Michael Hallisey/Spotlight

the full estimated \$185,000.

Yet, even with \$75,000 committed to the project, without the state grant the town simply

does not have the funds to make the move. And, the supervisor said he would not be willing to have the town pay the entire bill on its own, out of respect for taxpayers, who would be paying for the burden for years to come.

"... it really depends on whether we get that grant," said Supervisor LaGrange. "It's a tremendously small window of time."

There is an Albany County public hearing Wednesday evening, Feb. 17, at New Scotland Town Hall concerning Albany County assistance to finance the move of the barn, and residents are encouraged to come show their support.

Ten Eyck tapped for vacant Town Board seat

By **TRICIA CREMO**

cremot@spotlightnews.com

NEW SCOTLAND — A new addition has been made to the Town Board, but not without a small share of controversy.

Laura Ten Eyck, formerly of the Planning Board, has been chosen as the new interim Town Board member. She fills a vacancy left by Supervisor Doug La Grange, who had one year left on his allotted Town Board term before he ran unopposed this year for the role of supervisor of New Scotland.

Ten Eyck will serve as interim councilman for one year, after which time she plans to run for re-election in order to serve a full four year term.

She was chosen among five candidates who approached the board and applied for the position.

"We've considered several names and the board members have separately discussed their feelings on the candidates with me," said LaGrange of the process.

Her appointment will be effective March 1.

"Obviously her family has been here for a long time," said Councilman Adam Greenberg of the Ten Eycks, who own Indian Ladder Farms. "She represents both farming and business interests, so I think she'll be a great edition to the town."

Ten Eyck, 53, a lifelong resident of New Scotland, worked as the retail manager for Indian Ladder Farms for 12 years. There she helped the farm achieve conservation status from the state, which led her to work for the American Farmland trust beginning in 2008. In her role there, Ten Eyck works with towns over extended periods of time to help other farms apply for conservation.

While the Town Board members agreed to her appointment, and unanimously approved it at their Wednesday, Feb. 10, Town Board meeting, some residents questioned her preparedness.

"I find it strange that she's not here," began resident Sharon Boelke at the meeting, to which Councilman Adam Greenberg replied to say Ten Eyck had wanted to give the town the opportunity to speak openly about her appointment without her there. And Boelke did just that.

"I am frequently at Planning Board meetings and I still see her in somewhat confusion when I see her trying to grasp what's been going on. And, I know the theory is that the Planning Board is a good training spot to start as with you Adam," she said, referring to Greenberg's several years on the Planning Board prior to his appointment to Town Board at the end of 2015.

"I'm sure you learned a lot about the town about its expectations and desires before you got to your seat now, but there is a learning curve, and I don't think that it's six or seven months. I think it's a while, just like it's going to take you with the Town Board."

"I don't know Laurie personally, but she admits herself that she's still having a hard time grasping things... I don't disapprove of her - I see her as a great candidate. I have no ill will toward Laurie at all, I just wanted to know how long her experience had been," she said.

Ten Eyck had been on the Planning Board for roughly a year, said Supervisor LaGrange. "We didn't expect any of the candidates to have experience on any of the boards," said LaGrange, "So her having

that was just that little bit more [that led to her appointment.]

"Either way it was a good start to her learning process, and that wasn't the sole reason. We had good conversations about her outlook and plans for the town."

Ten Eyck agreed: "The same skill set that led for them to appoint me to the Planning Board led them to appoint me to the town board," said Ten Eyck. "From what I understood experience on any board was not a criteria for being on Town Board. The Town Board will fill someone to fill my spot on the Planning Board. Fortunately we have a wealth applying of who have skill set to do that."

"All of my experiences seemed like a good fit when I was put on the Planning Board and I think all that background experience is a good set up for Town Board, as well. If everyone wants me to switch roles to the Town Board I will. I even prefer it. I think it's a better fit for me, as well."

She will make her first Town Board appearance on Wednesday, March 9.



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■ COMMUNITY

Dog days at the library

We see a lot of people coming through our doors every day – it's a library, after all. We even have an occasional dog or two drop by for our Paws to Read programs. But it's not every day we get a visit from the Big Red Dog himself, and when we do, it is a cause for celebration!

Clifford will be swinging by Bethlehem Public Library on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 3 p.m., and he can't wait to hang out with you! Join WMHT's Barbara Lukas while you watch a short film featuring Clifford, make a craft and, best of all, meet everyone's favorite crimson canine in person.

This winter break activity is a perfect outing for kids and families.

More winter break fun

The fun doesn't stop when Clifford hits the road. The following day, Friday, Feb. 19, we'll be celebrating Seuss-style as we mark the great Theodor Geisel's upcoming



birthday with crafts, games, stories and videos. Stop by and join the Seussabration at 10 a.m.

March meeting rescheduled

The Bethlehem Library Board of Trustees' March meeting has been moved up to March 7 to accommodate a scheduling conflict. Meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are always open to the public.

Reference only a mouse dick away

We've recently added materials from the Gale Virtual Reference Library (GVRL) to our databases. The GVRL e-books are available 24-7 with no wait and can be browsed, searched and downloaded anytime from any Internet-connected device. Topics include test preparation, financial literacy, job readiness, computer

literacy, do-it-yourself projects and cooking. They are also integrated into the library's online catalog, so they will show up if they match any of your searches.

The Gale Virtual Reference Library e-books can also be browsed by going online to www.bethlehemlibrary.org and clicking on "databases" in the Quick Links section.

GoPro at the library

The library's addition of a half-dozen GoPro cameras and accessories to its collection has already received a lot of positive feedback. The cameras are easy to use and the picture quality is great. Come see what all the fuss is about.

Each GoPro Hero3+ camera is available to borrow for a week at a time and comes with a waterproof case, USB cable, rechargeable battery and 32GB MicroSD card. Also included are a chest mount harness and head strap harness, as well as a quick clip mount that can be used on a baseball



Every time Clifford visits the library, it is a cause for celebration.

Library staff

cap. Available to borrow separately are a dog harness mount, child-sized chest harness and an arm harness mount.

Upcoming events

Saturday, Feb. 20

Origami Club

Bring your own project

or fold something with us. In February, we'll create animals. For kids and families. 2:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 21

Knit One, Purl One

If you're an experienced knitter, bring your current project. If you're a beginner, bring size 8 knitting

needles; we'll provide yarn and get you started. For adults, teens, kids age 9 and up. 2 to 3 p.m.

Sunday Cinema

Matinees feature PG and PG-13 titles geared toward adult audiences. 2 p.m.

— Kristen Roberts

■ NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Garden Club gives out grants

BETHLEHEM — The Bethlehem Garden Club announced two grants it awarded to local teachers to enhance their environmental science curriculum.

The club presented one check to Eagle Elementary School fifth grade teacher Barbara Riegel Tuesday, Feb. 2. The grant will go towards the purchase and planting of trees by the fifth graders and their second-grade buddies. A previous grant to Riegel and Eagle Elementary helped build the school's vegetable and fruit garden.

The other grant went to the Bethlehem Children's School for continued improvements to

its innovative school gardens. The gardens demonstrate the connections between plant life and animal habitats. Heather LeVeille, executive director of the Bethlehem Children's School, said the plan is to plant more species to the region and plant more food sources for butterflies, bees, birds and small animals.

The annual grants are financed by the Bethlehem Garden Club's yearly garden tour and plant sale. This year's event is June 8, when the community will be able to tour five inventive local gardens and purchase plants. The plant sale takes place at the First Presbyterian Church on Delaware Avenue.

For more information, visit the club's website at www.bethlehemgardenclubny.org.

Heather Ridge Farm Supper Club returns

PRESTON HOLLOW —

The next edition of the Heather Ridge Farm Supper Club takes place Saturday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m. in the 1820s farmhouse at 989 Broome Center Road.

Chef Rob Handel creates an imaginative five-course menu with the meat and poultry raised on the farm, combined with items he has foraged for, as well as produce and dairy products from other regional farms. The menu can be found online at heather-ridge-farm.com.

The dinner costs \$75 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Reservations must be made with a credit card.

Additional events have been

scheduled this winter. A monthly "Grange Kitchen" supper has been added, offering a three-course meal of comfort food. The next Grange Kitchen is Friday, Feb. 26, from 6 to 8 p.m., and the cost is \$24 per person.

A maple syrup brunch buffet takes place Saturday, March 5, and Sunday, March 6, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$19 for adults, and children pay their age.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 239-6234.

Voorheesville Legion hosts Polish dinner

VOORHEESVILLE — The sons and the auxiliary of the Voorheesville American Legion Post No. 1493 are hosting an

all-you-can-eat Polish supper on Saturday, March 5, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Voorheesville Avenue.

The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 6-12.

Learn about trilobites at Thacher

VOORHEESVILLE —

The Thacher Nature Center at Thacher State Park is hosting a program about trilobites Saturday, Feb. 20, at 2 p.m.

Paleontologist Dr. Lisa Amati will explain what these extinct arthropods were, how they lived and why they are important creatures to study.

The event is free. In the event of inclement weather, call 872-0800 to confirm.

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■ COMMUNITY

Ys help around the world

The Bethlehem YMCA has more than 10,000 members. And yes, on a cold January night, it seems like they are all there working out at the same time. Many of our members support or participate in YMCA programs that help make Bethlehem a strong community.

After all, the mission statement of the YMCA is "To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all."

The mission of the YMCA goes far beyond our region and stretches to almost every part of our planet. The Y operates in 119 countries and reaches 58 million people. The World Alliance of YMCAs, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, supports the missions of YMCAs all over the world, advocates on global issues affecting young people, promotes youth leadership and coordinates YMCA emergency response efforts.

Each nation's Y organization has a mission statement tailored to meet the needs and concerns of each individual country.



Here are some interesting examples and highlights of YMCA mission statements:

- In Russia, the mission of the YMCA is to "contribute to harmonic personality development and the integration of young people into a democratic society based on Christian and Humanistic values;" as well as to respect every person's individuality and to accept his/her personalities' traits; unite people under the idea of kindness and service to others.

- The YMCA of France emphasizes "building a human community of justice and solidarity, striving to foster dialogue and partnership between people of different origins, cultures, faiths and opinions, physical and mental capacities."

- In Senegal, the mission of the Y is "to build a strong youth which is responsible in their family, leader within

their peers and committed within their community."

- The YMCA of Lebanon, a nation long torn by civil war and sectarian violence, has a motto that says "we do not ask you what is your religion? But, what are you suffering from?"

- The mission statement for the Y of Japan states, "We shall strive to preserve human rights, seeking justice and fairness, and will work to develop a society where people volunteer to share in the pain and joy of others. Recognizing our historical responsibility to the people of the Asia-Pacific region, we shall walk forward hand in hand with the people of the world to build a world of peace."

- In India, the YMCA recognizes that India was a nation of vastly diversified people in terms of language, culture and religion. Moreover, the caste system and the levels of wealth and poverty needed to be seriously considered.

As a result, the YMCA of India adopted a mission statement that says "The Young Men's Christian Association of India seeks

to unite Men, Women, Youth and Children as co-workers with God to promote mutually caring, loving and humane communities. Accordingly, the YMCA participates in God's mission of restoring abundant life to all, with special concern for the most distressed and dehumanized in the country. The Indian YMCA is committed to strive for a just society where oppression, exploitation and denial of life is confronted and transformed. It believes in the sanctity of all life and preservation of all God's creation. It stands for renewal and reconciliation in broken communities."

YMCA mission statements may be different around the world, but the Y's core values are the same regardless of geography and have remained the same since the Y was founded in London in 1844: caring, honesty, respect for everyone, and responsibility. It is the Y's values and mission that enable us to build stronger families and communities in Bethlehem and all over the world.

— Mark Hansen

Acoustic Doorways

The Acoustic Doorways concert series returns this month.

Join Brian Melick and friends on Friday, Feb. 26, at Grace Methodist Church beginning at 7 p.m. The quartet will highlight vintage European pop from the 20's through the 60's. Vocals, upright bass, accordion, clarinet and percussion will transport you across the ocean to another time.

Tickets are available at the library and the door: adults \$10 and children \$5.

Early Explorers: Music

Kids 3 and up are invited to explore music in a four-part series. Join us to make some noise, sing a pitch perfect

RCS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

tune and keep rhythm. Tuesdays at 2 p.m. starting Feb. 23, and then running again on March 1, 8 and 15. Registration is required.

Preview the final "Downton Abbey" episode

See what becomes of all your favorite characters on "Downton Abbey" weeks before it airs on television. We will show the final episode on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m., almost two weeks before it is shown on PBS.

Be sure to watch the second to the last episode on Sunday, Feb. 21, so you are up to date!

— Carol Melewski

Nimblefingers month

The Nimblefingers ladies have done it again, filling the library with dozens and dozens of original, handcrafted items. The walls are covered, the display case is bursting at the seams and the hall gallery is filled to capacity. Stop by and see what your neighbors have crafted.

While you're here, be sure to vote for your favorite design in the table-runner challenge. If you are interested in joining the group, everyone is welcome. They meet every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the Voorheesville Library to discuss textile arts, work on projects, get helpful advice from fellow crafters and enjoy some delicious snacks.

Clifford's birthday

How would you like to visit with Clifford and wish



him a happy birthday? Well you can do just that on Feb. 20.

Barbara Lukas from WMHT and Clifford

the Big Red Dog will be paying a special visit to the Voorheesville Public Library at 10:15 a.m. Come enjoy some Clifford books, watch a "Clifford" episode, make a Clifford puppet, sing Clifford happy birthday, eat

a piece of birthday cake and take a photo with our special doggie pal. Children in pre-K through grade 2 and their families should register online or sign up the next time you are at the library.

— Lynn Kohler

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■ COMMUNITY

Kids: bring your parents to 'Read Local'

Sylvie Kantorovitz, children's book author and illustrator, whose "Zig and the Magic Umbrella" is a children's favorite, will speak at the Guilderland Public Library's "Read Local" event on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 2 p.m.

Sylvie will read aloud from one of her recent books and draw a special illustration based on suggestions from the young audience members. She'll answer any and all questions about what it's like to write and illustrate books. She will bring an assortment of her books to sign and sell. Children are especially welcome at this event.

Sylvie's "draw-and-talk" presentation is sure to inspire young minds. Sylvie, who lives in Albany, is also the author and illustrator of "The Very Tiny Baby" and has illustrated many other

GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
www.guilpl.org

books, including the popular "Little Witch" series.

What's the weather?

Find out what makes our weather when you come to GPL on Friday, Feb. 19, at 1 p.m. CNSE Children's Museum of Science + Technology will lead kids in grades 3 through 6 as they do hands-on experiments and learn about air pressure, wind direction, the water cycle and more. Please call 456-2400, ext. 4 to register.

Walden: discuss

Guilderland's own Andy Genovese will lead a discussion of Thoreau's timeless "Walden" at this month's American

Classic Book Discussion on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m.

So much hidden meaning comes out of a discussion of this chronicle of a time when Thoreau embarked on an experience that was part social experiment, voyage of discovery and test of self-reliance. Andy's expertise in creating a comfortable environment for the free exchange of ideas makes this discussion group a joy to be a part of. Please let Andy know you're coming by calling 456-2400, ext. 2.

Rain gardens

Spring is just around the corner. (We hope so, at least.) Join us for a discussion of rain gardens, on Saturday, Feb. 27, at 10:30 a.m., led by

the folks from Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Rain gardens are small, shallow depressions that collect storm water run-off, allowing the water to be cleaned as it filters down through the soil to the local aquifer. These gardens use native plants that can withstand the extremes of drought and excess water; they fit well with our local environment, offering food for birds and pollinators. CCE's Horticulture Educator Sue Pezzolla will show you how this green infrastructure practice works and help you determine if it's a good fit for your yard. Register by calling 456-2400, ext. 2.

GPL Sprouts: Can You Build It?

Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 3:30 p.m. for a fun-filled STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) program for kids

ages 4 through 7. We'll explore the world around us through literature, experiments, activities and crafts. There is lots of hands-on learning for everyone. Please register by calling 456-2400, ext. 4.

Sunday Crafternoons

Adults all need a creative outlet; why should kids have all the fun? That's the idea behind Sunday Crafternoons, particularly with this collage session on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.

In this craft program for adults, we explore different ways to express ourselves through the arts. Collage requires no real artistic knowledge and is a great way to find your unique creative voice. We will supply the materials and adhesives; you bring your imagination. Space is limited. Please register by

calling 456-2400, ext. 2.

Sinatra Sundays continue

Our centennial celebration of Frank Sinatra continues on Sunday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m., when we show Frank Capra's "A Hole in the Head" (1959) on the Helderberg Room's big screen.

This comedy-drama finds Sinatra the proprietor of a Miami Beach hotel. A widower with a young son, he asks his rich older brother, Edward G. Robinson, for money to help keep the business going. Robinson does an end-run trying to set Sinatra up with wealthy widow Eleanor Parker. It's a funny, bittersweet movie.

— Mark Curiale

www.Spotlightnews.com

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Post Valentine's Day dinner

Join us for a post-Valentine's Day dinner at the Normanside Country Club on Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 5:30 p.m., cost on your own. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176.

The Caregiver's Support Group will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 24, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Bethlehem Town Hall. Join others who are caring for a loved one who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176.

Income eligible people can get free help with filing New York state and federal income tax returns at the Bethlehem Public Library on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through April 12. Appointments must be made in person at the library.

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.

The health and wellness program on Friday, Feb. 26, at 1 p.m. at Town Hall will feature Dorothy Heffernan, Bethlehem Public Library, who will present "ABC's of Literary Wellness." Learn how books can take you on a journey. If you cannot get to the library, use "Books to People" which includes books, DVD's, CD's, e-readers and more. You can join us for lunch before the program at the Windowbox Café, cost on your own. No reservations are needed to attend just

the program alone. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176, to make a lunch reservation.

Get out of the house and go to the library. We will take you to the library on Friday, Feb. 26. Pickups begin at 12:30 p.m. You will have about one-and-one-half hours to enjoy the library resources. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176.

Bethlehem Senior Transportation Service provides rides to medical, dental, therapy, and clinic appointments, grocery stores, and a variety of social and recreational programs. Come to the Senior Office in Town Hall for a copy of our newsletter or visit the Senior Services website at townofbethlehem.org.

The Bethlehem Food Pantry offers assistance to those in need and accepts donations of non-perishable food, as well as paper and household products.

— Wilma DeLucco



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PICK OF THE WEEK



Jimkata

The three-piece anthemic synth-washed rock band out of Ithaca takes to The Hollow stage on Saturday, Feb. 20.

Pages B7

INSIDE



Arts calendar

Pages B7-B10



Happy 25, Maestro

Yo-Yo Ma returns to the ASO in December, as 2016-17 season marks Music Director's anniversary

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

ALBANY — Flanked by Albany's city mayor and county executive at his sides, David Allen Miller sat before pleasantries were exchanged on the onset of the orchestra's annual announcement.

For the maestro, the press conference wasn't unlike any other from year's past. Except, the coming 2016-17 season is to mark the music director's 25th year with the orchestra.

"Don't think of leaving," said Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy, "we'll have you arrested."

The anniversary season will feature recognized artists, including the return of world famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who Miller calls his "idol."

"I am so excited to share our new season...", said Miller. "It

The Grammy Award winning music director, now nominated for his second such award, celebrates 25 years with the ASO this coming season.

Photo above: Submitted
Photo to right: Michael Hallisey/Spotlight



Continues on page B14

LIFE AFTER 50

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ALBANY — Numerous motion picture appearances, countless television shows, sitcoms and standup specials, a talk show, three radio shows and two books. Cedric "The Entertainer", Eddie Griffin, D.L. Hughley, George Lopez and Charlie Murphy — The five members of comedy royalty — come together for an evening of laughs and entertainment with "The Comedy Get Down" on Saturday, April 9 at 8 p.m. at Times Union Center.

Tickets are on sale now through Ticketmaster.com. For more information, visit the Ticketmaster website or call 800-745-3000.

Cedric "The Entertainer" is best known for crowd-pleasing performances in hit films such as "Barbershop," "Be Cool," "The Original Kings of Comedy," and the top-ranking "Madagascar" animated franchise, just to name a few. Cedric will be seen next on the big screen in the much-anticipated comedy feature "Barbershop 3" slated for release later this year. He is executive producer and stars in the current hit comedy series "The Soul Man" on TV Land. Cedric also stars in the buzzed about new reality series, "Cedric's Barber Battle," which debuted on The CW

television network last June.

Eddie Griffin has received worldwide recognition through his numerous stand-up comedy specials, movies, television appearances, music and comedy albums for not only acting, but writing and producing as well. Most notably, "Def Comedy Jam, HBO One Night Stand," Malcolm & Eddie" — for which he won the NAACP Image Award for Best Actor in a Comedy Series award — "Undercover Brother," "My Baby's Daddy," and more. Comedy Central also honored Griffin as one of the Top 100 Greatest Stand-Up Comedians of all time.

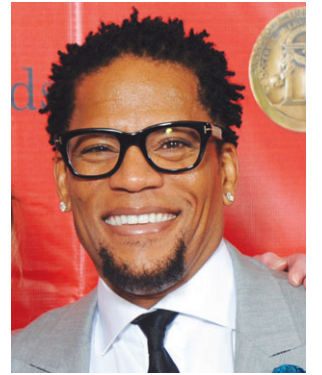
D.L. Hughley, star of his namesake television show that ran on ABC "The Hughleys," is also well known as one of the standout comedians on the hit comedy tour and docu-film "The Original Kings of Comedy." Hughley can currently be heard nationwide as host of his own nationally syndicated afternoon radio show, "The D.L. Hughley Show," heard in more than 60 markets across the country. Known for being astute and politically savvy in true comedian style, Hughley is a published author; and was honored with a prestigious Peabody Award for his satirical



Cedric "The Entertainer"
Submitted photo



Eddie Griffin
Submitted photo



D.L. Hughley
Anders Krusberg/Peabody Awards

documentary special "D.L. Hughley: The Endangered List." Hughley will next star in the upcoming NBC drama "Heartbreakers."

George Lopez is a multi-talent entertainer whose career encompasses television, film, stand-up comedy and late night television. For two seasons, Lopez hosted "Lopez Tonight," a late night television talk show on TBS broadcasting network. His groundbreaking sitcom of his namesake ran for six seasons on ABC, making him a household name. Lopez has risen to become one of the premier comedic talents in the entertainment industry and known for his extensive charity work with various foundations.

Charlie Murphy became a household name as a case member of "Chappelles Show" when he recanted his "True Hollywood Stories" of celebrity and excess. However, he has spent the past two decades solidifying his position in Hollywood as a true acting and writing talent. He's appeared in "Lottery Ticket" with Bow Wow and Ice Cube, "Our Family Wedding" with Forrest Whitaker and "The Perfect Holiday" with Queen Latifah and Terrance Howard. Murphy wrote cult classics like "Vampire in Brooklyn" and "Norbit," and currently stars in Adult Swim's "Black Jesus."

— *Outback Concerts*

Canadian comic coming to Crossgates

Ian Bagg to perform 12 shows at Funny Bone

ALBANY — Kudos to the person responsible for Ian Bagg's biography on the comedian's official website.

"[Bagg] proceeded to do all the show business things that every successful Canadian entertainer does," it states. "He went to a 'Hockey Night in Canada' game on a Saturday night, performed at the 'Montreal Comedy Festival,' kissed a fish in New Foundland and a 'Comedy Now' special on CTV."

This week, Bagg takes to the Funny Bone stage at Crossgates Mall for a 12-

show performance from Thursday, Feb. 18 to Sunday, Feb. 21.

The young comic has appeared on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," "The Late Late show with Craig Ferguson" and "Tonight Show with Jay Leno." He's also been featured on "Make Me Laugh," "Showcase Comics with Louie Anderson," "Fridays" on NBC and the "Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn." He was also featured in Tim Robbins' "The Cradle will Rock," "MVP 2," and "MXF." According to Bagg's bio, "he's the the only known

comic to have worked for Judd Apatow and NOT become a multi-billionaire."

Bagg placed in the Top 5 of NBC's "Last Comic Standing" last year, after first heading off to school to be start a career path as an explosives engineer. He has since had 2 half-hour specials, "Comedy Central Presents" and HBO's "A Comics Climb" and has been featured in 2 seasons of "Gabriel Iglesias Presents Stand-Up Revolution" on Comedy Central.

For tickets and information, visit www.albany.funnybone.com or call 518-313-7484.

— *Michael Hallisey*



Ian Bagg

Submitted photo





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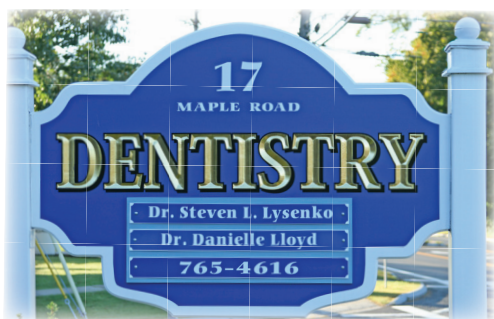
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Dr. Danielle Lloyd

— Dr. Lloyd answers some of the most commonly asked questions about Invisalign® —

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■ RELATIONSHIPS

The power of positive thinking

The key to love and happiness is held in your hand, says author
Becky Ringler

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

Now that Valentine's Day is over, everyone can breathe a sigh of relief.

If there is one commercially-based, Hallmark holiday that causes the utmost stress to nearly everyone you see, Valentine's Day is it, baby. Men feel the pressure of having to decipher the spoken word and read-up on body language. Women just got over the disappointment of having to continue to call their man "boy-friend" a couple more months than they had expected, only to be further disappointed.

But, to be single on Valentine's Day? Oh my god. How many years can one wear black, and fill the night with songs from Depeche Mode and The Cure? If this is you, let's ask you something? Ever catch yourself saying, "There's no good men/women out there?"

Perception is reality, says native Delmartian Becky Ringler. Ringler is a dating and relationship coach in Hawaii, where she also manages a wedding business, helping couples experience intimate beach ceremonies along the Pacific Coast. As of a few weeks ago, she could add published author to her resume with the release of her first book, "Realing Him In: The Essential Guide to Manifesting Your Perfect Guy."

"I dated for probably 18 years before I finally found my husband," said Ringler, 41. "I've given so much dating advice because I made so many mistakes myself — as many as one can make."

Ringler said her past experiences help place today's events into perspective.

When things don't go the way you expect them to, it shouldn't be viewed as a failure, she said. Instead, everything should be seen as a learning experience.

According to a recent report from the Pew Research Center, more than half of singles find it difficult to find someone from their own hometown. Ironically, the same percentage of singles polled for the report, 55 percent, said they were not actively seeking a partner. More women than men (65 to 42 percent) are not looking.

"Actively looking" means just as it reads — "online dating, asking friends, and generally paying attention," said Ringler. "I think most women actively look for mates, unless they are super young, in the midst of career focus, or are 'taking a break' from dating. I was actively looking — when I wasn't dating someone, of course, and although the book can help women of any age, I had women in their late 20s, 30s, 40s and beyond in mind.

Trust me, if they haven't sworn men off or given up hope, they are actively looking. Men are another story altogether," she said.

Ringler points out the importance of positive-thinking and how it manifests positive results in one's love life. When women focus too much on negative thoughts about men, she said those are the men they will attract. "The biggest key is to focus on who you want," said Ringler. "Women have to realize, 'I'm a great catch.' Once you realize your self-worth, you will find the one right for you.

Open your eyes and pay attention," she said.

Ringler has already received feedback from readers, many of which, she said, felt they went through some of her experiences themselves. Her honesty helps separate her book from similar books found on shelves.

"I've had guys tell me, 'Becky, you're way too open,'" said Ringler. "If the one I



◀ Relationships coach, now author, Becky Ringler takes lessons learned from her own dating experience and wrote it all in a How-To book.

Submitted photos

[was] with is not comfortable with that, they're not for me. I'm not going to stop being open. That's just who I am. ... I've had people not want to hurt me, because I was being so genuine. So, it protected me."

Ringler ultimately found her husband, Matt, through Yahoo's defunct online dating site. They married in 2008.

"What I feel is the most important part of this book is that most dating books try to force women into playing games. I

don't do that. I never played by the rules," said Ringler, "which irritated my friends. This book is about empowering women, because they are awesome."

"Realing Him In: The Essential Guide to Manifesting Your Perfect Guy" can be purchased at Amazon and Barnes & Nobles as an e-book or in paperback. You can also visit Ringler's website at www.thelovesenseicoaching.com for more information.

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ARTS

Night & Day

Our top picks for the upcoming week



It's going to be fun staying at Proctors Theatre this Saturday with The Village People.

Submitted photo

Night: The Village People

SCHENECTADY — The Village People will transform a popular Schenectady entertainment venue into a discotheque one night later this week.

Dubbed the “Kings of Disco,” the Village People will perform their pioneering, floor-shaking hits at Proctors Theater this Saturday beginning at 8 p.m.

Internationally known for their classic dance grooves including “YMCA,” “In the Navy,” and “Macho Man,” the six man group, featuring Ray Simpson (Police Officer), Alexander Briley (G.I./Military), Felipe Rose (Native American), Eric Anzalone (Biker),

Bill Whitefield (Construction Worker) and Jim Newman (Cowboy), has sold more than 100 million recordings worldwide and has been recognized with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Tickets, which range from \$20 to \$50, are available at the Box Office, by phone at (518) 346-6204 or online at proctors.org.

Proctors Theatre is located at 432 State Street in downtown Schenectady.

Day: Meet Clifford

DELMAR — Clifford is coming to the Bethlehem Public Library on Thursday afternoon!

Join Barbara Lukas, family learning services coordinator for WMHT, for Clifford's Birthday

Surprise from 3 to 4 p.m. in the library's community room.

Watch a story as Emily Elizabeth, Cleo, and T-Bone plan a surprise party for Clifford! After the story, make stick puppets, a Clifford bag puppet and dog ears to wear home. Don't forget your camera as you'll have the opportunity to meet the Big Red Dog in person!

Admission is free and registration is not required. Best for families with children in Pre-K through Third Grade.

For more information, call the library at (518) 439-9314 or visit its website at www.bethlehempublib.org.

The Bethlehem Public Library is located at 451 Delaware Avenue in Delmar.



Clifford, the Big Red Dog, shown here with Sen. Roy McDonald and Rensselaer County Executive Kathy Jimino from a prior appearance, will pay a visit to the Bethlehem Public Library in Delmar Thursday, Feb. 18, at 3 p.m.

Submitted photo

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CLUBS

9 Maple Avenue
9 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs. www.9mapleave.com
Fri: **Rick Rosoff Quartet** | 9 p.m.
Sat: **Nelson Esposito Quintana** | 9 p.m.

Arthur's Market
35 N. Ferry St., Schenectady. 382-1938
Every Thur: **Edith's Amazing Jam** | 6 p.m.
Fri: **Kitchen Jazz** | 7 p.m.
Sat: **Missing Link** | 7 p.m.
Sun: **Compton & Friends** | 1 p.m.
Mon: **Dave Cornelius** | 6 p.m.
Tue: **Jamie & Paulie** | 7 p.m.

Athos
1814 Western Ave., Albany. 608-6400
Fri: **New York Jazz Duo** | 7 p.m.

Castle Street Café
10 Castle St., Great Barrington, MA. 413-528-5244
Fri: **Wanda Houston Band** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Michael Musillami & Rich Syracuse** | 8 p.m.

Cafe NOLA
617 Union St., Schenectady. 357-8628
Thur: **Open Mic** | 6 p.m.
Fri: **Frank Jaklitsch** | 6:30 p.m.

Caffe Lena
47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs. 225-0882
Every Thur: **Open Mic** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Mipso** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Martin Grosswendt & Susanne Salem-Schatz** | 8 p.m.
Sun: **Tom Chapin** | 7 p.m.

Carney's Tavern
17 Main Street, Ballston Lake. 280-7959
Every Thur: **Matty Finn** | 6 p.m.
Fri: **Black Abbey** | 7:30 p.m.
Sat: **Brad Westcott** | 8 p.m.

City Beer Hall
42 Howard St., Albany. 449-2337
Every Sat: **90s Dance Party** | 11 p.m.

Club Helsinki
405 Columbia St., Hudson. 828-4800
or helsinki@hudson.com
Thur: **Jackie Greene** | 8 p.m. | \$25/\$35

ARTS CALENDAR



Taking their turns in the spotlight
Patricia Brady-Danzig Concerto Competition winners Amarie King (flute), James Alexander (baritone) and Gabriel Pellino (cello) join Dr. David Bebe and the Saint Rose Symphony Orchestra for a performance Feb. 20. Submitted photo

Sun: **Charles Busch** | 7 p.m. | \$60

Crown Grill
390 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. 583-1105
Fri: **Miles Uptown** | 7 p.m.

Emack & Bolio's
366 Delaware Ave., Albany. 512-5100
Fri: **Werthner & Frederick** | 7 p.m.
Sat: **Meara McTague** | 7 p.m.

Every Tue: **Open Mic** | 7 p.m.

Fuze Box
12 Central Ave., Albany. 703-8937
Thur: **Poison Idea, Child Bite, Aggressive Response, Dialysis, Eternal Crimes** | 7 p.m. | \$12
Fri: **Cretin Hop** | 9 p.m. | \$5, ladies free
Sat: **Linear North, Bushicks, Nobody for President** | 8 p.m. | \$7

Ginger Man
234 Western Ave., Albany. 427-5963
Fri: **Brian Patneaud Duo** | 8 p.m.

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

The Hollow Bar + Kitchen
79 N. Pearl St., Albany. 426-8550

Fri: **Consider the Source** | 9:30 p.m. | \$15
Sat: **Jimkata** | 9:30 p.m. | \$15

The Low Beat
335 Central Ave., 432-6572
Every Wed: **The Deadbeats** | 10 p.m. | \$5
Thur: **Ornery Cuss, Cold Sweats, Show-shine, Coupons, Giant Peach** | 8 p.m.

Fri: **Boxed Hemmond, Blind Crow, Braking the Fast** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Shana Falana, The Black Ships** | 8 p.m.
Sun: **#21** | 10:30 a.m. (Rock N Roll Brunch)
Mon: **Bare Mattress, Wishbone Zoe, Erik Savage, Hill Haints** | 7 p.m.

Madison Theater
1036 Madison Ave., Albany. 438-2094
Sat: **Michale Graves** | 8 p.m. | \$20

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

Moon & River Café
115 S. Ferry St., Schenectady. 377-5100
Thur: **Running the River** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **P.W. Mallory** | 7:30 p.m.
Sat: **The Anonymous Figg Leafs** | 7 p.m.
Every Sun: **Open Mic** | 7:30 p.m.
Mon: **Nancy's Hootenanny Open Song Circle** | 7 p.m.
Tue: **Dave Kitchen Jazz Trio** | 7 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.

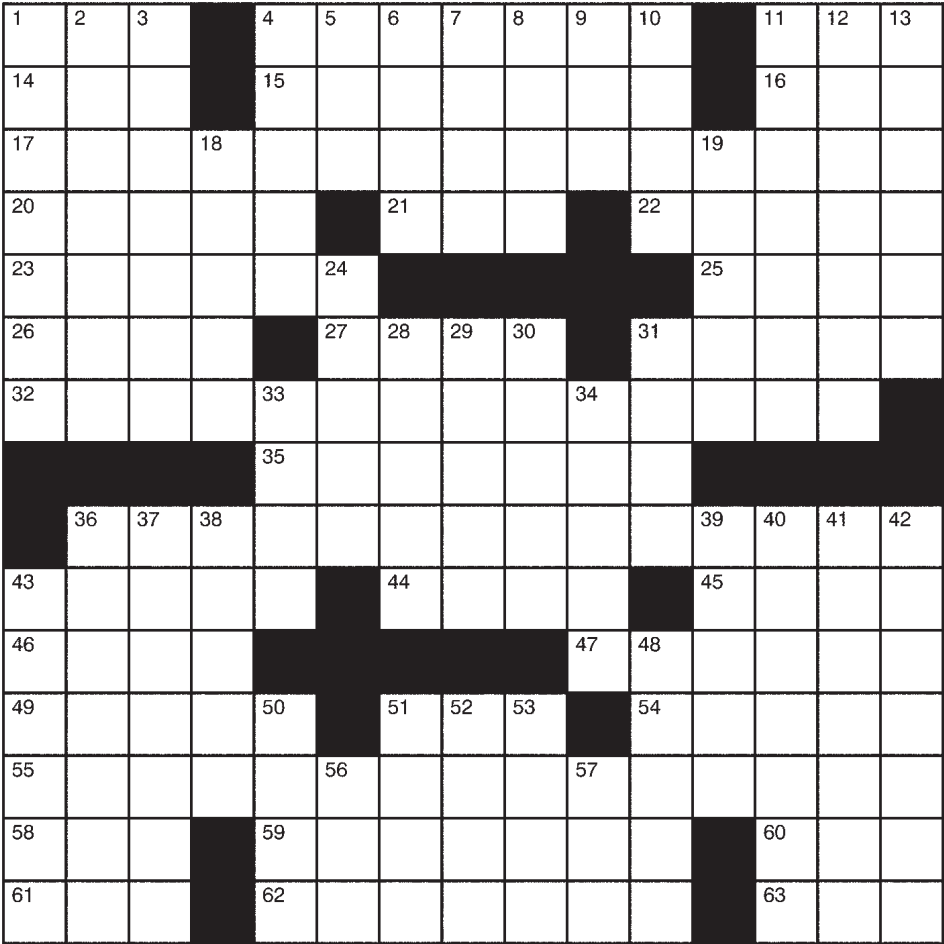
Oh Bar
304 Lark St., Albany. 463-9004
Thur: **Karaoke** | 10 p.m.

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: **George Muscatello** | 6 p.m.
Jeff Nania Afro-Cuban Ensemble | 9 p.m.
Sat: **Useless Cans** | 9 p.m.

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

Continues on B8

Musicale



ACROSS

- 1 *Ben* ____
4 Spots for struggling artists
11 Some of the IBM line
14 Eight bits
15 ____ of Aquitaine
16 Modern music style
17 Weill/Brecht opus, with *The*
20 Ten or pen followers
21 Nourishment oversight grp.
22 Tasty
23 Certain Chopin works
25 Velocity
26 Deed: Sp.
27 His cookies are famous!
31 Fine fiddle
32 Cornettist Red Nichols' story
35 Antofagasta announcement
36 Small-stakes school
43 Di Laurentis, and namesakes
44 "____ we forget . . ."
45 Launder
46 Line from Lod
47 ____ the ocean

- 49 Violinist Oliveira
51 Suitable
54 Garde starter
55 Somerset Maugham tale, with *The*
58 Deviate
59 Oyster, for example
60 EC member
61 Functional or peptic beginning
62 Modern sculptor Jacob
63 Palm Sunday mount

DOWN

- 1 Roastee's place
2 Let go
3 Send a different way
4 Canadian flyers
5 Jungfrau or Eiger
6 Great Barrier, e.g.
7 Pretoria specie
8 Sicilian resort
9 FAO Schwartz product
10 Theater sign message: pl.
11 Get ready
12 Roman kindness
13 Dug
18 " . . . the ____ the

- beginning": Churchill
19 ____ Quebecois
24 London theater or cabbage
28 Musically, this can be heavy
29 Have a view
30 Shiites and Shakers
31 ____! crackle! pop!
33 London's ____ of Court
34 Negatives from Nikita: var.
36 Hold up to ridicule
37 Charms
38 Pitcher Ryan
- 39 Branch or oil
40 Shaba, once
41 Displays
42 Lessees
43 Considered
48 Von ____
50 Broccoli ____
51 Selling letters
52 Early college entrance exam.
53 Bathroom wall-covering, often
56 Chill
57 Sweet age, in old Roma?

ARTS CALENDAR

Provence

Stuyvesant Plaza, 1475 Western Ave., Albany. 689-7777
Fri: **Just Nate** | 7 p.m.
Sat: **Jazz Connection** | 7 p.m.

Prime at Saratoga National

458 Union Ave., Saratoga Springs. 583-4653
Sun: **Joe Sorrentino Trio** (Jazz brunch) | 10:30 a.m.

Putnam Den

63a Putnam St., Saratoga Springs. 584-8066
Thur: **Buddha Clark** | 9:30 p.m. | \$10 under 21
Fri: **Toys in the Attic** | 9:30 p.m. | Free, \$10 under 21
Sat: **Wild Adriatic, Let's Be Leonard** | 9:30 p.m. | 9:30 p.m. | \$10, \$15 under 21

Roux

10-01 Vista Blvd., Slingerlands. 487-4358
Wed: **Axford & Borrello** | 6 p.m.

Rustic Barn Pub

150 Speigletown Rd., Troy. 235-5858
Thur: **Open Mic** | 8 p.m.
Fri: **Not Right** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Dr. Jah & The Love Prophets, Green Therapy** | 8 p.m.

Sake Japanese Steakhouse

611 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham. 785-7215
Wed: **New Edge Trio** | 7:30 p.m.
Sat: **Nitro Jive** | 7:30 p.m.

Scrimshaw Tavern

Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Rd., Colonie. 869-8100
Fri & Sat: **Ruth Hellcamp**
Speakeasy 518
42 Howard St., Albany. 449-2332
Wed: **Banshee Tree** | 8 p.m.
Thur: **Bryan Brundige Duo** | 9 p.m.
Fri: **Nate Giroux Trio** | 9 p.m.
Sat: **David Vandevort 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
Wed: **Dino Cimino** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Bronte Roman** | 7 p.m.

Tierra Coffee Roasters

1038 Madison Ave., Albany. 621-7299
Fri: **Terri Roben Kosek Quartet** | 7 p.m.
Sat: **Ralph Pezzulo** | 7 p.m.

Twisted Vine

384 Kenwood Ave., Delmar. 439-3241
Sat: **Mike Benedict Jazz Trio** | 7 p.m.

Upstate Concert Hall

1208 New York 146, Clifton Park. 371-0012, upstateconcerthall.com
Sat: **Snails, Ghastly** | 7 p.m. | \$15

The Van Dyck

237 Union St., Schenectady. 348-7999
Thur: **Colleen Pratt & Friends** | 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.

MUSIC

Tadeusz Domanowski

Polish-born pianist presents an all-Chopin program. Feb. 18, 7 p.m., University at Albany Performing Arts Center, uptown campus, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany. Tickets: general public \$8, students, seniors and staff \$4. Information: 442-3997 or www.albany.edu/pac.

An Evening with Styx

Classic 1970s/1980s rock band performs its hits. Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$39.50-\$84.50. Information: palacealbany.com.

Operation Superpower — a Children's Opera

Opera Saratoga's "Opera to Go" production for children focuses on how to take a stand against bullying. Feb. 20, 2:30 p.m., Schenectady Civic Playhouse, 12 North Church St., Schenectady. Free. Information: 382-2081.

Winter's Lasagna Dinner and Concert with Annie & the Hedonists

A benefit for the Old Songs Festival featuring food from chef Fritz Stafford and music by Annie & the Hedonists. Feb. 20, 6 p.m., Old Songs Community Arts Center, 37 South Main St., Voorheesville. Tickets: adults \$25, children 12 and under \$5. Information: 765-2815 or oldsongs.org.

Bebel Gilberto

Born into bossa-nova royalty (her parents are João Gilberto and Miúcha), Bebel Gilberto—who has been performing contemporary Brazilian jazz since the age of nine—performs her "Valentine's Day is for Lovers" concert. Saturday, Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. at The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Tickets: \$34.50. Information: 473-1845 or www.theegg.org.

Saint Rose Symphony Orchestra

Featuring solos by Patricia Brady-Danzig Concerto Competition winners Gabriel Pellino (cello), Amarie King (flute) and James Alexander (baritone). Feb. 20, Kathleen McManus Picotte Recital



Music and a meal

Annie and the Hedonists provide the music at the Winter's Lasagna Dinner Saturday, Feb. 20, at Old Songs Community Arts Center in Voorheesville.

Submitted photo

Hall, Massry Center for the Arts, 1002 Madison Ave., Albany. Free.

Village People

The kings of disco music. Feb. 20, 8 p.m., Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: \$20-\$50. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

Beat the Snow

Concert series continues with Rosanne Hargravem Michael Clement and Michele Boretti Feb. 21, 2:30 p.m., McChesney Room, Schenectady County Public Library, 99 Clinton St. Extension, Schenectady. Free. Information: 346-8081.

The Fab Four

One of the top Beatles tribute bands. Feb. 21, 8 p.m., The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Tickets: \$39.50. Information: 473-1845 or www.theegg.org.

Saratoga Acoustic Blues and Jam Night

Sonny Speed hosts this month's jam with special guest Billy Graham. Feb. 24, 7 p.m., Caffè Lena, 47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs. Tickets: \$5. Information: 583-0022.

Gaelic Storm

World famous Celtic fusion band. Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m., The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Tickets: \$34. Information:

473-1845 or www.theegg.org.

Potsdam Brass Quintet

Crane School of Music's quintet-in-residence performs works by Fisher Tull, Tomaso Albinoni, Thomas Ritter George, George Gershwin, Morley Calvert and Raymond Dempsey. Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m., University at Albany Performing Arts Center, uptown campus, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany. Advance tickets: general public \$15, students, seniors and staff \$10. Day of show: general public \$20, students, seniors and staff \$15. Information: 442-3997 or www.albany.edu/pac.

Disney Fantasia—Live in Concert

Featuring clips from the famous Disney animated film and a live performance by the Czech National Symphony. Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m., Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: \$20-\$65. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

THEATRE

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Tennessee Williams' classic play, presented by Home Made Theater, Spa Little Theater, Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs,

Feb. 12-28. Shows: Friday and Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. Tickets: \$24 and \$27. Information: 587-4427 or www.homemadetheater.org.

Glengarry Glen Ross

David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning play about the cutthroat world of real estate salesmen. Presented by Curtain Call Theatre, 210 Old Loudon Road, Latham, Feb. 19 through March 19. Shows: Thursdays 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 3 p.m.; special matinee Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$24. Information: 877-7529 or www.curtaincalltheatre.com.

Walk On: The Rosa Parks Story

Musical about the woman whose actions sparked the civil rights movement in the 1960s. Feb. 23, 10 a.m., Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: \$7 and \$8. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

Word Plays: Irresistible

Myths, historical, personal and literary stories about people drawn to what they cannot resist told by Kate Dudding, Margaret French, Marni Gillard and Barbara Palumbo. Feb. 28, 2 p.m., Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: \$12. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

SUDOKU

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	1			4		8	5	9

Answers on Pg. B21

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Guilford-July 18th-22nd: Lynnwood Reformed Church
Halfmoon-July 25th-29th: Halfmoon Town Park
Niskayuna-August 1st-5th: Schenectady JCC
Colonie-August 8th-12th: Christian Brothers Academy
Queensbury-August 15th-19th: Ridge/Jenkinsville Park

CAMP TIMES
8:30am - 4:30pm
Monday - Friday

To register please visit: www.blackwatchpremier.com and then click on Soccer School logo or email: blackwatchpremier@hotmail.com

97615_4

ARTS CALENDAR

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 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

Ian Bagg headlines. Feb. 18-21, Crossgates Mall, Western Avenue, Guilderland. Shows: Thursday through Sunday 7:30 p.m., with 10 p.m. shows on Friday and Saturday. Tickets: \$17-\$20. Information: 313-7484 or Albany.funnybone.com.

The Comedy Works — Albany

Nathan MacIntosh headlines. Feb. 19 and 20, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., 500 Northern Blvd., Albany. Tickets and information: 512-4075 or thecomedyworks.com.

The Comedy Works — Saratoga

Brian Beaudoin headline. Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m., and Feb. 20, 8 and 10 p.m. 388 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Tickets and information: 275-6897 or thecomedyworks.com.

The New York "Country" Comedy Tour

A night of standup featuring upstate New York native Ross Bennett. Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m., Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: advance \$20, day of show \$25. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

Pretty Much the Best Comedy Show

Dave Hill headlines this month's comedy showcase. Feb. 20, 8 p.m., Proctors Underground, 432 State St., Schenectady. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

Jerry Seinfeld

Comic legend steps out of his car to perform his stand-up routine. March 3, 7 p.m., Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$48-\$150. Information: palacealbany.com.

DANCE

Country dance line lessons and open dancing

Instructor: Kevin Richards from 100.9 FM — "The Cat." Mondays in February from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Schenectady Jewish Community Center, 2565 Balltown Road, Niskayuna. \$8 per person per class.

Single Squares of Albany

Modern western square dancing with caller and cuer Gene King. Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., Colonie Elks Club, Watervliet-Shaker Road, Latham. Tickets: \$7. Information: 674-2076.

Albany Shindig!

Featuring live music from George Wilson and Selma Kaplan. Paul Rosenberg will serve as the event's caller. This event is a unique chance for Capital Region residents to partake in simple, traditional dances including square dances, hoe-downs and more. Feb. 19, 7 p.m., at The First Congregational Church, 405 Quail St., Albany, \$7 suggested donation; \$5 DanceFlurry Organization members. \$2 children under 12.

Berkshire Ballroom

"Love is in the Air" February ballroom-social dance, including hour-long dance

lesson, and featuring the music of Evie Garstang. Feb. 20, 7 p.m., Masonic Hall, 116 South St., Pittsfield, Mass. Admission: USA Dance members \$10, guests \$15, school and college students \$5. Information: www.berkshireballroom.org.

USA Dance

Monthly ballroom dance featuring group lesson and a dance demonstration, Feb. 21, 6:15 p.m., Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Extension, Albany. Tickets: adults \$13, USA Dance members \$10, students \$5, children 18 and under free. Information: Jim DeForge 233-0957 or jdefo51814@aol.com.

Albany DanceSport Club dance

Monthly event features group dance lesson, a mid-event showcase featuring Albany DanceSport Club members and dancing to music by house DJ. Feb. 28, 6:15 p.m., Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Extension, Albany. Tickets: adults \$10, students \$5. Information: 456-3995.

FILM

Frozen

Disney's popular animated movie, part of the Kinderhook Bank Movie Series. Feb. 17, 3 p.m., Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Tickets: adults \$5, children \$3. Information: palacealbany.com.

Food for Thought: Autism in Love

Screening of documentary, plus enjoy food supplied by Honest Weight Food Co-op. Feb. 18, 7 p.m., The Linda: WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$8. Information: 465-5233 or thelinda.org.

The Princess Bride

Classic 1980s film, part of the Kinderhook Bank Movie Series. Feb. 22, 7 p.m., Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Tickets: adults \$5, children \$3. Information: palacealbany.com.

LITERARY

Poet Sherwin Bitsui

Feb. 18 reading at 4:15 p.m. in the Standish Room, University at Albany Science Library.

Poetry reading by Brian Dorn

Brian Dorn maintains an active presence on the Albany poetry scene. He has written a vast array of poems, many of which can be found in his new book, "From My Poems To Yours (The Live Versions)." Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Social Justice Center, 33 Central Ave., Albany, 7:30p.m. The suggested donation is \$3.

Makin Taken: The 27th Infantry Division's Baptism by Fire

Pat Chaisson, author and retired New York Army National Guard officer, will trace the course of the four-day Battle of Makin, the first clash between US Army troops and their Japanese opponents in the Central Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. Feb. 20 at New York State Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, at 2 p.m.

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.

Special Needs Planning: The Basics

Seminar providing people with planning techniques for maintaining control of you or your loved one's care and daily life. Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m., Pierro, Connor and Associates, 43 British American Blvd., Latham. Register: 459-2100.

Animal Signs in Winter

Learn to look for signs of activity and take a walk outside to find clues left behind by the animals. Feb. 19, 10 a.m., Thacher Nature Center, 87 Nature Center Way, Voorheesville. Information: 872-0800.

The Figure in Motion:

Creating Space with Line and Movement

A dance and drawing workshop for every body, taught by artist-in-residence Andrea Hersh. Feb. 20, 1 to 4 p.m., free, The Arts Center of the Capital Region, 265 River St., Troy. Information: 273-0552.

Trilobites, the Lost Empire

Learn about these extinct arthropods that were important components of ancient marine ecosystems from paleontologist Dr. Lisa Amati. Feb. 20, 2 p.m., Thacher Nature Center, 87 Nature Center Way, Voorheesville. Information: 872-0800.

Repainting to Repurpose with Funcycled!

Learn the techniques to restore old furniture taught by Sarah and John Trop. Feb. 24, 9 a.m. to noon, and Feb. 25, 6 to 9 p.m., The Arts Center of the Capital Region, 265 River St., Troy. Information: 273-0552.

African American History Month Celebration

Featuring a performance by the Gospel Gala Choir and including hands-on exhibits of the music, art and science that impacted the United States, as well as a theatrical performance with African drummers and dancers, jazz legends, tap dancers and rap artists. Presented by the African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region, Inc. Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Free. Information: palacealbany.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

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.

Color Between Wines

Adult coloring program. Library supplies the art materials, but adults must bring their own beverages. Wednesdays, 5 p.m., Brunswick Community Library, 4118 State Highway 2, Troy. Information: 279-4023.

LaBlast classes

Join Patty Brown, a LaBlast Fitness Ambassador instructor, for a month-long series of classes on Wednesdays through February. Classes run from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the National Museum of Dance, 99 South Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information: lablast1@gmail.com.

Family Fun Ceramics

Weekly 90-minute class taught by

Continues on B10



Visiting from SUNY Potsdam

The Potsdam Brass Quintet — the Crane School of Music's resident brass ensemble — performs at the University at Albany Performing Arts Center Thursday, Feb. 25.

Submitted photo



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■ CULINARY ARTS

Food & Vino

Strip Steak With Blackberry Jam Sauce

By **ANN LINDA CIOTOLI**

news@spotlightnews.com

G rass fed beef is not only a fashionable trend in today's culinary world, it's healthier for you, too. Of course, if you are self-conscience about the food you eat, the recommendation is that you do your own homework. But, generally speaking, grass fed beef should be free of steroids or added hormones, producing a lean meat product without the added chemistry. You may want to try it for this week's recipe.

Strip Steak

Ingredients - Serves two

Two (1/2 lb.) strip steaks, preferably grass fed
Salt, and fresh ground black pepper
Olive Oil
1/4 tsp. arrowroot powder (much like cornstarch, but without GMO's, or a chemical refinement process)
1/2 cup, dry red wine
2 Tbs. three ingredient blackberry jam
1 rosemary sprig
1 thyme sprig
1 garlic clove
1 Tbs. unsalted butter

Preparation

Season steaks with salt and pepper. Let them stand for 30 minutes. Heat a large skillet, with a heavy bottom (cast iron) over medium-high heat for 10 minutes. Drop enough oil to coat both sides of meat. Place in pan, making sure you press the meat into the pan to ensure you get an even crust. After two minutes, flip and cook two minutes. Cook two more minutes on each side. Transfer steaks to a plate and let them rest.

In a small bowl, whisk arrowroot powder into the wine. Pour the excess oil from the pan. Pour in red wine mixture, jam, rosemary, thyme, and garlic, whisking constantly, until reduced by half (three to four) minutes. Discard herbs, garlic, and remove from the heat. Whisk in the cold butter until mixture is thickened. Stir in any of the resting juices from the steaks.

Slice steaks into 1/2 in. thick slices and top with a drizzle of sauce.

Blackberry Jam

Ingredients

24 ounces of fresh blueberries
2 cups agave nectar (similar to honey)
Juice of 1 lime

Preparation

Stir blackberries and agave together in a large bowl. Cover tightly with plastic wrap and allow the berries to macerate. Place the berries and juices in a pan, and simmer on medium heat.

Add lime juice, and cook until thick and glossy (20 minutes). Strain jam over a mesh strainer into a heatproof bowl.

Wine Pairing

Chono Reserve, Carmenere - Maipo Valley, Chile - Deep ruby red in color, with outstanding aromas of red and black fruits, black spices, and a sweet vanilla completely derived from the oak. It also tastes of blackberries, and is laced with silky tannins, and soft touches of vanilla.

Ann Line Ciotoli owns a catering business called *Good Enough to Eat*. She is also a frequent contributor to *SpotlightNews Living* where she is one of our culinary arts columnists. For questions and information, e-mail sodeliciousalc@yahoo.com.



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MORE ARTS CALENDAR

Autism Information Expo Art Exhibit

Seeking artists with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities to submit their works for display at the annual expo April 10 at the Saratoga Springs City Center. Bring artwork to Saratoga Bridges, 16 Saratoga Bridges Blvd., Ballston Spa on March 29 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. All artwork must be picked up at 3 p.m. on April 10 at the expo. Entry forms must be postmarked by March 10. Information: www.facebook.com/ParentNetworkCapitalRegion.

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.

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, N.Y.). Dance students, aged 14 and above, of intermediate-advanced through 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, www.facebook.com/AjkunBT or by emailing 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.

St. Patrick's Day T-Shirts

ALBANY — The United Irish Societies of the Capital District are hard at work preparing for the upcoming St. Patrick's Parade in Albany on March 12.

This group is comprised of several Irish social and cultural organizations from the Tri-City area. Within the Irish American community, this year's parade has a special focus, and important significance. 2016 marks the 100 year anniversary of Ireland's "Declaration of Independence" from England, generally referred to as The Easter Rising in 1916.

Additional events are being

developed to commemorate the historical significance, and promote the day as a family-friendly celebration of Irish culture and heritage. In conjunction, with the Irish American Heritage Museum, a family festival with food trucks, craft booths, and amusements, is being organized in University Plaza at the foot of State Street.

While planning the public events for the area's oldest, and largest parade, organizers are also addressing the agreement to assist the City of Albany in defraying the costs associated with holding the event. Sponsorships and assistance are being solicited from local

businesses, with an advertising journal, and sale of Parade Supporter signs. In addition, an attractive green T-shirt has been designed commemorating the 66th anniversary of the Parade, and the Centennial of the Easter Rising, for sale to the general public.

Information on purchasing the shirts for \$15 each is available by contacting Marie Glavin of the Celtic Hall in Schodack, at mpglavin@aol.com, or (518) 732-2258. Information about ads and sponsorships is available at (518) 542-4949 or albanyparadejournal@gmail.com.



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Cold enough?

If you felt left out of the cold this Valentine's Day weekend, you were not alone. The windchill dipped to more than 20° below zero, making it life threatening conditions for those who did not dress appropriately. This week's picture from 97lit was taken several weeks ago, but looks all the more appropriate for the sub-zero temperatures we've endured over the past few days. Now, by the time this paper hits the stands, temps were expected to reach as high as 50°. Somewhere, somehow, Mother Nature is laughing at our expense.

97lit/Instagram



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The Albany Symphony Orchestra was established in 1930 by Professor John F. Carabella, and today calls the Albany Palace Theatre its home.

Photo by Michael Hallisey/Spotlight

From page B1 ... Happy 25, Maestro

features my very favorite music, new and old, as well as many of my favorite guest artists, including the magnificent Yo-Yo Ma. At the same time, we have also invited many young and emerging performers and composers, who will be with us for the very first time."

Additional highlights include Beethoven's 9th Symphony, an opening night gala, a weekend of Mozart and

Bach, and the popular American Music Festival.

"There is so much to be excited about as we embark upon our new season," said Miller. "We hope to encourage as many people as possible to purchase a subscription and celebrate with us all year long. You won't want to miss the exciting emerging composers who will join us, as well as those who regularly grace us with their talents, including Michael Torke, George Tsontakis, Christopher Rouse and Joan Tower, whose "Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman, No. 6" will be performed alongside Beethoven's

Symphony No. 9."

The guest artists for the 2016-2017 season are among the most talented in the music world. The gala opening concert will feature soprano Saili Oak and pianist Natasha Paremski. In January, Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 will be performed by the great Russian virtuoso, Ilya Rashkovskiy. Other artists making their first appearance with the Albany Symphony include oboist Kathleen Needleman, violist Richard O'Neill, and guest conductor Karina Canellakis. In addition, there will be soloists from the Bard College Conservatory for the Mozart & Bach weekend. Several outstanding guest artists will participate in the American Music Festival in May, including the radiant violinist Chee-Yun and legendary Indian Folk-Clarinetist Shankar Tucker.

In 2014, the orchestra was made mention in the same audience as Pharrell, Jay-Z and Justin Timberlake at that year's Grammy Awards, and took home an award for best classical instrumental solo.

And, it's happened again.

Miller and soprano Talise Trevigne have been co-nominated for a 2016 Grammy Award for Best Classical Vocal Solo Album for the symphony's 2015 release of Chris Rouse's "Kabir Padavali."

"We want to thank our talented music director for the 25 years he has dedicated to our incredible Albany Symphony," said Marisa Eisemann, chairperson of the board. "David has brought world-class musicians and renowned composers to the orchestra, and his vision and passion have made so many people fall in love with classical music, old and new. During his tenure, the Albany Symphony has become one of the most vital, exciting, and important orchestras in the country. We look forward to many more years of great leadership and inspiration from Maestro Miller."

The season will also connect the orchestra and the music it performs to society and community in meaningful ways. For example, the January 7, 2017 concert, featuring John Corigliano's masterpiece Symphony No. 1, "Of Rage and Remembrance," will feature part of the AIDS quilt in the lobby of the Palace Theatre.

"A lot has changed during my 25-year tenure with the Albany Symphony," said Miller. "What hasn't changed are the incredible quality of our musicians and the sophistication and passionate interest of our listeners. Our goal remains to provide each audience member with unforgettable, one-of-a-kind musical experiences that celebrate the power of music. I feel so fortunate to have lived and worked in our enlightened, artistically vibrant community for these 25 years."

Since taking reign of the symphony orchestra in 1992, Miller has established a reputation above his peers. From his occasional costumes to his penchant for showcasing contemporary works Miller has drawn attention to himself, and to Albany's orchestra.

Twice, the orchestra has played before a New York City audience at Carnegie Hall for the annual "Spring for Music" festival — which highlights the country's most creative orchestras. Over the years, the ASO has earned 30 ASCAP Awards, more than any other orchestra in the nation — for adventurous and innovative programming.

In 2003, Miller earned Columbia University's Ditson Conductor's Award, the oldest such accolade honor conductors for commitment to American music. The 2016-17 season runs from October through June. Concerts will be held at the Palace Theatre, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, and EMPAC.

Patrons are encouraged to purchase season subscriptions, which are currently on sale. For those purchasing the full subscription series, the Albany Symphony will provide eight concerts for the price of seven—and subscribers will have priority access to the very best seats for Yo-Yo Ma's concert on December 8, 2016. Patrons can purchase a season subscription by phone or by visiting the box office (see info below).

2016-2017 Season:

Opening Night Gala- Ravel & Sibelius

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016: 7:30 p.m.

Palace Theatre

David Alan Miller, Conductor

Saili Oak, Soprano

Natasha Paremski, Piano

Reena Esmail: "Aria" for Soprano and Orchestra

Ravel: Piano Concerto in G

Sibelius: Symphony No. 5

Peer Gynt

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016: 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016: 3:00 p.m.

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall

David Alan Miller, Conductor

Katherine Needleman, Oboe

Reznicek: Donna Diana Overture

Leroy Anderson: Three Pieces

Rouse: Oboe Concerto

Grieg: Peer Gynt, Suite No. 1

Tchaikovsky: Francesca da Rimini

Water Music & Schumann

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016: 7:30 p.m.

Sunday Nov. 20, 2016: 3:00 p.m.

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall

David Alan Miller, Conductor

Richard O'Neill, Viola

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Bermel: “A Shout, A Whisper, and a Trace”
Schumann: Symphony No. 4

An Evening with Yo-Yo Ma
(Non-Subscription Series, best seats and presale access available to season subscribers)

Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016: 7:30 p.m.
Palace Theatre
David Alan Miller, Conductor
Yo-Yo Ma, Cello
Wagner, Prelude to “Die Meistersinger”
Dvorak, Serenade for Strings
Conor Brown, New Work (World Premiere)
Elgar, Cello Concerto

Tchaikovsky’s First Piano Concerto
Saturday, January 7, 2017: 7:30 p.m.
Palace Theatre
David Alan Miller, Conductor
Ilya Rashkovskiy, Piano
Barber: The School for Scandal Overture
Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1
Corigliano: Symphony No. 1, “Of Rage and Remembrance”

Brahms’ Fourth
Saturday, February 18, 2017: 7:30 p.m.
Palace Theatre
Karina Canellakis, Guest Conductor
Higdon: Dance Cards
Beethoven: Triple Concerto
Brahms: Symphony No. 4 in E minor

Mozart & Bach
Saturday, March 4, 2017: 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 5, 2017: 3:00 p.m.
Troy Savings Bank Music Hall
David Alan Miller, Conductor
Soloists from the Vocal Division of Bard College–Conservatory
Mozart: Symphony No, 40 in G minor
Torke: Three Concertinos for Solo Instruments and Orchestra (World Premiere)
Bach: Cantata No. 78 “Jesu, der du meine Seele”

Beethoven’s 9th
Saturday, April 8, 2017: 7:30PM
Palace Theatre
David Alan Miller, Conductor
Albany Pro Musica
Tower: Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman, No. 6
Tsontakis: 25th Anniversary Commission (World Premiere)
Beethoven: Symphony No. 9 in D minor (“Choral”)

American Music Festival
Saturday, May 21, 2017: 7:30 p.m.
EMPAC
David Alan Miller Conductor
Chee-Yun, Violin
Shankar Tucker, Clarinet
Harbison: Partita for Orchestra
Theofanidis: Violin Concerto
Reena Esmail: Clarinet Concerto (World Premiere)
Mellon Young Composer: New Work (World Premiere)

Additional Subscriber Specials:
Roscoe: An American Grand Opera, by Evan Mack (Concert Premiere)
Saturday, October 15, 2016: 7:30 p.m.
Palace Theatre
David Alan Miller, Conductor
A new opera composed by Capital Region resident and Skidmore College Professor Evan Mack, based on the novel of the same name by Pulitzer Prize winning author William Kennedy.

Magic of Christmas
December 4, 2016: 3:00 p.m.
Palace Theatre
David Alan Miller, Conductor

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LIVE MUSIC

Styx will perform at the Palace Theatre in Albany on Feb. 18.

Submitted photo



John Mellencamp will perform at the Palace Theatre in Albany on April 23.

Submitted photo

Plan to rock and roll at the Palace

Styx, John Mellencamp scheduled to perform

ALBANY — Concert dates have been set for a couple of major rock and roll tours at Albany's Palace Theatre.

Styx will perform first on Thursday, Feb. 18, followed by John Mellencamp with special guest Carlene Carter on Saturday, April 23. Both concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

Styx rose to top-hit status in the 1970s and early 1980s

with songs that included "Lady," "Come Sail Away" and "Blue Collar Man." After the band hit its stride with 1976's Crystal Ball, it then became the first group to score four triple-platinum albums in a row: The Grand Illusion (1977), Pieces of Eight (1978), Cornerstone (1979), and Paradise Theater (1981).

Having spent more than a decade together on the road, the

current six-member incarnation of Styx looks forward to performing as many shows as it can for as long as it can.

Tickets for Styx range from \$39.50 to \$84.50.

During his 40 year career in music, John Mellencamp has transitioned from pop star to one of the most highly regarded songwriters of a generation. He is also one of the most successful live concert performers in the world. Mellencamp, who is

currently on tour in support of his latest studio album, "Plain Spoken," will perform songs from that highly-praised release in addition to other fan favorites.

Tickets for Mellencamp's upcoming performance range from to \$115.

Tickets for both shows are now on sale at the Palace Theatre Box Office (located at 19 Clinton Ave). Regular Box Office hours are weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. The Box Office may be open during other select hours for events and On Sales. Tickets are also available for purchase via Ticketmaster Charge-by-Phone at 800-745-3000, all Ticketmaster outlets, local Wal-Mart Ticketmaster Centers or online at ticketmaster.com.

For more information about these and other upcoming concerts at the Palace Theatre, visit palacealbany.org.

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Albany Pro Musica continues celebration with a collection of Broadway hits

TROY — Albany Pro Musica continues to celebrate its 35th Anniversary Season with “From Broadway to the Concert Hall: A Collection of Popular Broadway.”

This performance will take place at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

This is a joyous evening of music as the chorus members of Albany Pro Musica step off the risers and perform solo.

Selections from “West Side Story,” “Phantom of the Opera,” “Jekyll & Hyde,” “Evita,” “Les Miserable,” “The Lion King,” and more are just some of the great musicals represented in this Broadway choral collage. A not-to-be-missed evening of song all under the baton of APM Artistic Director José Daniel Flores-Caraballo.

The performance will also showcase the talents of guest artists Benita Zahn and Brandon Jones.

Zahn is well known as the co-anchor of local NewsChannel 13 Live at 5 and 6 with Jim Kambrich. She is also the WNYT health reporter, co-produces and hosts “Health LINK” Thursday nights on WMHT and writes a weekly column for the ‘Live Smart’ page in the *Albany Times Union*. She is active in local theater and her credits include performances at Capital Rep, Fort Salem Theater, Park Playhouse, Albany Civic Theater, Schenectady Civic Theater and Schenectady Light Opera.

Jones is a musical theater teacher and performer living and working in his native Albany. He studied Theater at AMDA and has worked with several community theater companies, including the New York State Theater Institute, Schenectady Light Opera Company (SLOC), Debuts Theater Company and the Not So Common Players. He has performed in New York City, and has been seen locally in several productions, including as Freddie in the Not So Common Player’s production of “Chess.”

The 35th Anniversary Season continues with:

A City of Immigrants

Sunday, April 3, 4:00 p.m.



The chorus performing at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall.

Submitted photo

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall

An homage to the rich cultural heritage of the Capital Region with The Musicians of Ma’alwyck, The Capital District Youth Chorale and Saratoga Springs Nacre Dance Company. Albany’s nickname “City of Immigrants” inspired this unique concert featuring music from many of the cultures which have influenced our region, including Dutch, German, English, Italian, Pole, African-American, Asian, Irish, Jewish and Hispanic. The concert will include the world premiere of a work by a New York State composer, commissioned exclusively for this event. The concert will be preceded by a week-long celebration throughout the Capital District with art exhibitions, lectures and other events.

The Dueling Brothers

“Who is the King of Instruments”

Sunday, April 24, 4 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Albany

Albany Pro Musica Artistic Director, Jose Daniel on the organ and his

brother Marcos Daniel on the piano will amuse the audience with a celebration of the long-standing rivalry between instrument aficionados (and siblings) with an electrifying program filled with challenging repertoire that entertains and delights audiences as it keeps them on the edge of their seats. A local celebrity will be a mediator in this duel with a humorous narration while the exquisite voices of Albany Pro Musica will add to the challenge accompanied and conducted by the contending brothers.

Mahler Symphony #2

Sunday, May 15, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre, Albany

A highly anticipated event, Albany Pro Musica’s annual collaboration with the Albany Symphony Orchestra presents Mahler Symphony #2.

For more information about this series, visit www.albanypromusica.org or contact the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall at 518-273-0038.

— Troy Savings Bank Music Hall

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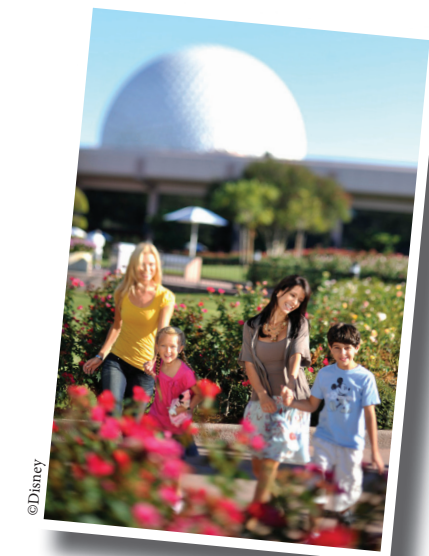
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BUSINESS

McLaren Engineering opens downtown



Capital Region Chamber, Downtown Albany BID hold ribbon cutting with civic and business leaders

ALBANY — McLaren Engineering Group, a full-service engineering firm with eight divisions, announced today that it is opening its newest office at 5 Clinton Square in downtown Albany's Patroon Building to serve its growing roster of public and private sector clients. The Capital Region Chamber and the Downtown Albany Business Improvement District (BID) held a ribbon cutting today with Mayor Kathy Sheehan, County Executive Daniel McCoy and other regional leaders to celebrate the new office.

McLaren's clients in the region include the Albany Port District Commission, EYP Architecture & Engineering, Harrison & Burrowes Bridge Constructors, Kirchhoff-Consigli Construction Management,

New York state Department of Transportation, New York State Office of General Services, New York State Power Authority, New York State Thruway Authority/Canal Corporation and Saratoga Associates.

"As McLaren Engineering continues to expand, we want to be closer to our key Capital District public and private sector clients," says Malcolm McLaren, president and CEO, McLaren Engineering Group, headquartered in West Nyack, NY. "The Capital District offers opportunities to serve clients in all of our eight diverse disciplines including transportation, structures, marine and entertainment."

McLaren's Albany office will be led by Peter Melewski, McLaren's national director of strategic planning, and James Bridges, McLaren's capital district regional director, both licensed professional engineers.

"The Chamber is proud to welcome a firm of McLaren's caliber to our community," said Mark Eagan, CEO of the Capital Region Chamber. "Their services and expertise will help support our region's continued growth."

McLaren's regional projects have included the Hurricane Irene

Emergency Reconstruction Project, the Colonie Center building expansion and redevelopment, the Walkway over the Hudson, and the world's first recycled plastic bridge in the town of New Baltimore.

"Downtown Albany continues to attract world-renowned companies and we are pleased to welcome McLaren Engineering Group to that list," said Georgette Steffens, executive director of the Downtown Albany BID. "Coming at a time of unprecedented investment and growth, these new employees are surrounded by tens of millions of dollars in investment, over 60 new and well-established retailers and restaurants, and world-class arts and entertainment."

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Answers from Five Experts.



For generations, Drs. Decker, Sbuttoni, Boghosian, DiCerbo and Lawless have cared for residents of the Capital Region to create healthy, beautiful smiles. They answer patients' common questions:

Q: What should everyone know about orthodontics?

A: Orthodontic treatment creates beautiful smiles and increases self esteem for people of all ages. However, many people are not aware of the direct health benefits it provides. Straighter teeth are easier to clean, keeping both gum tissue and supporting bone healthier. There is substantial research documenting the direct relationship between healthy gums and overall general health and well being. Correct alignment of the teeth and jaws can also improve speech, chewing, digestion, and reduce the potential for TMJ problems. Orthodontics creates beautiful smiles and healthier bodies.

Q: When should my child be evaluated by an orthodontist?

A: The American Association of Orthodontists recommends children have an initial screening by the age of seven, when permanent teeth begin to erupt. An orthodontist will be able to assess space needs and evaluate the patient's jaw alignment. For many children, it may be an optimal time to begin treatment. Early intervention can ensure better results, lessen the need for extraction of permanent teeth and ultimately shorten the time in braces or clear aligners (Invisalign®). It is important

that the assessment and planning be done by a well trained orthodontist.

Q: How can I be sure my provider has adequate training?

A: Dentists may choose to provide orthodontic care, but they are not specialists in orthodontics. An orthodontist is a dentist that has pursued an additional 2-3 years of orthodontic education beyond dental school in an accredited orthodontic specialty program. It is not unreasonable to ask for an orthodontist to provide your care. You may also check with the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) to see if your provider is an orthodontist. Another distinction to look for is board certification. To become a certified member of the American Board of Orthodontics an orthodontist must pass a rigorous exam where actual patients' treatment results are critically evaluated to determine if the orthodontist possesses the judgment, technical skills and knowledge necessary to provide the highest level of orthodontic care.

Q: What are some of the newest advancements in orthodontics?

A: In orthodontics, innovation continues to improve treatment

efficiency and the quality of care for patients. Technology in orthodontics has evolved at an amazing rate in recent years. Intraoral scanners, 3D imaging systems and printers, temporary anchorage devices (TADS) and Invisalign® have dramatically changed the way we diagnose and treat patients. In our practice, we pride ourselves in using the latest technological advances including mini metal braces, ceramic tooth colored braces, Invisalign and lingual braces (braces behind the teeth) to provide the highest quality of care while meeting patients' individual needs.

Q: As an adult do I have options for treatment?

A: Multiple appliance systems are available to meet the individual needs of adult patients. Treatment can be provided with mini tooth colored braces, lingual braces or Invisalign. Treatment goals can be comprehensive in nature or more limited to address a patient's specific concern such as crooked front teeth or preparing for replacement of missing teeth. It is never too late to seek treatment. We provide free initial examinations for all patients so they can feel comfortable exploring treatment options with no financial obligation.

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February 17, 2016

Spotlight on Sports

www.spotlightnews.com PAGE 9

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■ PLAYER OF THE WEEK



ANDREW SISCHO

Guilderland's Andrew Sischo is the Spotlight Player of the Week for the period ending Sunday, Feb. 14. Sischo scored 25 points to lead the Dutchmen to a 69-55 Suburban Council victory over Colonie in their regular season finale Tuesday, Feb. 9. Sischo is averaging 24 points per game this season.

■ INSIDE



Seed secured

The Bethlehem hockey team locked up the No. 2 seed for the Section 2 Division 1 playoffs after beating Christian Brothers Academy 5-3 in its final regular season game Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Page 10

■ BASEBALL



Bethlehem native Mike Fish is hoping to move up to the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim's Class AA affiliate in Arkansas this season when he reports to minor league training camp at the end of February.

Photos by Jerry Espinoza

Swimming forward

Mike Fish continues his journey
through the Angels organization

By **ROB JONAS**

jonasr@spotlightnews.com

BETHLEHEM — Mike Fish is looking to move one step closer to fulfilling his dream of playing Major League Baseball.

The Bethlehem Central High School and Siena College graduate will be heading to Tempe, Ari., at the end of the month for his second minor league Spring

Continues on page 10



Camp Guide

Spotlight
NEWS

Listings and
editorial on all
the Capital District's
Summer Camp
activities, workshops
and programs.

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From page 9 ... Swimming forward

Training camp with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim organization.

Fish spent the majority of last season with the Inland Empire 66ers of the Class A California League, but he also had a week-long stint with the Angels' AA affiliate in Arkansas, where he collected two singles in seven games.

"I had a good year in high A last year, so I'm hoping to move up to double A this year, but you never know," said Fish, who was back in Bethlehem last week.

Fish's numbers shifted dramatically from his 2014 season with the Burlington (Iowa) Bees in the Midwest League. He raised his batting average 45 points to .297 with the 66ers, but his power numbers – doubles, triples, home runs and runs batted in – all decreased as he changed his approach at the plate.

"I think in the last year, I saw the most improvement in using the whole field," said Fish, who had 104 hits in 88 games

with the 66ers. "I'm also more disciplined at the plate. My walk rate has gone up, and my strikeout rate has gone down."

A 32nd-round pick by the Angels in the 2013 MLB Draft, Fish is competing against a bevy of other talented outfielders in the club's minor league system to make it to Anaheim alongside such stars as Mike Trout and Albert Pujols.

"You've got to work your butt off every day because everybody else is working hard," said Fish. "Basically, they (the Angels) project when you move (up), but you have to keep improving."

Fish's journey began with a highly productive three-year career at Bethlehem Central High School, where he was named a first team Suburban Council all-star three straight seasons and earned all-state honors as a senior. Then at Siena, Fish batted .317 for his four-year career and committed only eight errors in more

than 500 fielding chances. His best season was 2013, when he batted .367 with 12 home runs and drove in 51 runs in helping the Saints reach the NCAA Tournament.

Fish's senior season at Siena drew interest from a number of MLB teams, which led him to start thinking about a possible pro career.

"It's definitely hard to get drafted out of a Northeastern (collegiate) program, but I don't know. I never really worried about being drafted," said Fish. "When I started getting letters from Major League teams, it certainly became more of a possibility."

The Angels gave Fish that opportunity, and he ran with it. He split his 2013 season between the Arizona Angels in the Arizona Rookie League and Orem, Utah, in the Pioneer League, where he collected 60 hits in 46 games and delivered a total of 18 doubles, four triples, nine home runs and 42 runs batted in.

His first full-season minor league action came in 2014 with Burlington. Fish batted .252 in 110 games, but he registered 40 extra base hits and drove in 57 runs while striking out



◀ Mike Fish batted .297 last season with the Angels' Class A affiliate, the Inland Empire 66ers.

Jerry Espinoza

only 30 times.

"The biggest thing was getting used to playing 140 games," said Fish. "You have

to keep your mind sharp and your body in shape."

Now after a 2015 season in which he learned a new

approach to hitting, Mike Fish said he's looking forward to what 2016 brings.

■ SWIMMING

BC fourth at Sectionals

Taber, Cartwright each place in two events to lead the Eagles

By **ROB JONAS**

jonasr@spotlightnews.com

CLIFTON PARK — Bethlehem placed fourth in the team standings at the Section 2 Division 1 Boys Swimming and Diving Championships Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Shenendehowa Aquatic Center.

The Eagles finished with 248 points, 12.5 points behind third-place Ballston Spa. Shaker repeated as Division 1 team champions with

487.5 points.

Alex Taber and Brendan Cartwright each posted state meet qualifying times in two individual events for Bethlehem. Taber was second in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 52.52 seconds, and he finished fourth in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:47.36. Cartwright placed third in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 21.89 seconds and fourth in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 48.57 seconds.

Connor Doyle qualified for the state meet with his fourth-place finish in the 200-yard individual medley. Doyle finished with a time of 1:58.40.

Bethlehem is also sending its 200-yard medley relay to the state meet. The quartet of Taber, Doyle, Cartwright and Richard Sweeney was fourth at Sectionals with a time of 1:39.48.

The state meet takes place March 4 and 5 at Erie Community College in Buffalo.

■ HOCKEY

Eagles secure seed

Bethlehem beats Christian Brothers Academy to gain No. 2 seed

By **ROB JONAS**

jonasr@spotlightnews.com

BETHLEHEM — Bethlehem secured the No. 2 seed for the Section 2 Division 1 hockey tournament by beating Christian Brothers Academy 5-3 in its regular season finale Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the Bethlehem Area YMCA.

The Eagles scored three goals in the third period

to pull out the victory and lock up second place in the Capital District High School Hockey League standings by virtue of its tiebreaker victory over Shenendehowa Feb. 5.

Michael Bievenue's two goals paced Bethlehem. Brian Harder, Nick Hospodar and Michael Lemieux also tallied, and goaltender Alex Breiner stopped 30 shots.

Hunter Pemrick had

two goals and an assist for CBA, and goaltender Justin Bryar made 18 saves before leaving the game in the third period.

Bethlehem hosts the winner of an opening round game between LaSalle and Guilderland/Mohonasen/Scotia Wednesday, Feb. 17. LaSalle and G/M/S met Monday, Feb. 15, at the Bethlehem Area YMCA.

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*\$25.00 late fee after 3/1/16 for grades 1-6 | Registration closes on 3/15/16
Grades 7/8 - \$25.00 late fee after 4/1/16 | Registration closes on 4/15/16

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SPOTLIGHT ON FINANCE

Credit card smarts: Tips for picking the right card and leveraging credit

By RUTH MAHONEY,
President,
Capital Region, KeyBank

When it comes to the benefit of credit cards, people have two stances. Either they are good because they empower people to build credit and provide needed power, or they are bad because they encourage people to overspend and fall into debt. The truth is, credit cards can be both good and bad—depending on the borrower.



Ruth Mahoney

The good: credit cards make it easy to purchase things, and they help borrowers establish good credit by demonstrating that they have the ability and character to repay debt obligations in a timely manner. Building a strong credit history can lead to obtaining other forms of credit, such as car loans and mortgages, with more ease and better terms.

The not so good: according to the Federal Reserve's G.19 report on consumer credit, total U.S. outstanding revolving debt, which is chiefly made up of credit card balances, was \$884.8 billion as of January 2015.¹ And it's a growing problem, costing consumers an average of \$2,630 per year in interest.²

However, credit cards don't have to be such a double-edged sword. In fact with a little effort you can secure a credit card with great terms that suits your needs and spending profile, which will help you reduce fees and maximize rewards.

Getting started

Every time you apply for credit, it gets reported with the credit bureaus and lowers your credit score. So do your homework ahead of time. Compare and contrast offers, but first, consider which type of credit card best fits your needs.

Revolving. This is the traditional credit card, which allows you to make purchases and pay all or part of the outstanding balance on a defined schedule. Once all or a portion of the borrowed balance is paid, that amount becomes available again as credit.

Charge. This card is similar to a revolving credit card in that you can make purchases and take out cash advances. The difference is that you cannot carry a monthly balance. The benefit of a charge card is that you will not accrue interest on your debt.

Secured. This card requires collateral for approval. Your

borrowing limit is determined by the amount of deposit you make to secure the card. It is good option for those with little or no credit history.

Rewards. Reward cards work the same as traditional credit cards but offer rewards, cash back and/or flyer miles in return for your spending.

Student. Designed for students enrolled in an accredited four-year college or university, student cards are great for establishing a positive credit history.

Once you determine the best cards for your needs, begin comparing offers from a variety of financial institutions. For example, check interest rates. Different issuers of national bank cards such as VISA, MasterCard and Discover usually charge different interest rates.

You should also review and compare the following:

Annual fees. Many of today's cards do not charge an annual fee. However, don't automatically remove cards with annual fees from consideration. They may have additional perks and benefits that will help you save money and stretch out the value of your dollar.

Introductory offers. Some issuers offer a 0 percent Introductory APR credit cards for the first 12 to 18 billing cycles for

purchases and for any balance transfers. Make sure to read the fine print because some cards may charge a two to four percent balance transfer fee. Other cards may jump to a high interest rate when the introductory period expires.

Rewards. Whether it's miles, points, cash back or rewards, review how they accrue. Is the offer valid only during specific times? Are there limits on the amount for purchases you can claim with these offers? Some cards may offer promotions for spending a specific amount of money over a set amount of time in order to receive the extra cash back bonus or rewards. Know the details.

Features. Account alerts, FICO credit score tracking, no penalty APR, travel insurance and fraud detection are some additional features that can increase the value of the credit card. Don't overlook these benefits when comparing offers.

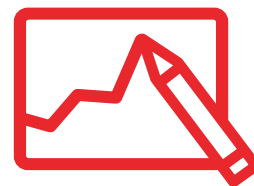
Spend smart

Credit is only good if you allow it to work for you—not against you. And rewards and financial incentives can be great ways to earn extra cash and benefits on regular purchases, such as groceries, bills and gas. But make sure you never borrow more than you can afford to repay and always try to repay your balances in full every month.

If you can't repay your full balance, at least pay more than the minimum balance due. This will ensure that you begin building the credit history you need to secure the best rates and terms for future large purchases, like a home or car.

Ruth Mahoney is president of KeyBank's Capital Region. She may be reached at either 518-257-8619 or ruth.mahoney@keybank.com. This material is presented for informational purposes only and should not be construed as individual tax or financial advice. Please consult with legal, tax and/or financial advisors. KeyBank does not provide legal advice. Copyright © 2015 KeyCorp. KeyBank is Member FDIC.

1. "Consumer Credit Report – G.19," Federal Reserve, Jan. 8, 2016.
2. Erin El Issa, "2015 American Household Credit Card Debt Study," NerdWallet.



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Understanding credit card terms

If you are considering applying for either your first card or a new card, knowing the terms issuers use in describing credit card features and options can be helpful.

Annual percentage rate (APR). This is the annual interest rate that the credit card issuer charges on the unpaid balance of the credit card. Some credit cards have set rates. For cards with variable rates the interest rate changes. The disclosure statement for each credit card gives the guidelines used to decide what the variable interest rates will be. If a credit card offer has a too-good-to-believe low rate, it is likely an introductory rate. After the introductory period is over, the rate will increase. A low rate could be as low as 0 percent whereas 28 percent would be high.

Grace period. This is the amount of time you have to pay your bill before interest is charged on your purchases. Most credit cards offer 20- to 25-day grace periods. Even though credit cards have grace periods, most charge interest from the day you make a purchase if you already have a balance on the credit card.

Annual fee. This is the charge you pay once a year for the right to use a credit card. Not all credit cards have annual fees.

Minimum finance charge (minimum payment due). This is the least amount you will have to pay if you have a balance on a credit card usually. The minimum finance charge is generally between two percent to four percent of the balance.

Transaction fees. These are the various fees you have to pay for cash advances, late payments or charging over your credit limit.

Cash advance. This service allows cardholders to withdraw cash, either through an ATM or over the counter at a bank or store, up to a certain limit. Check the credit card for a cash advance limit, they are often lower than the credit limit. Also, there is often a fee of three percent to five percent of the amount being borrowed and the interest rate is generally higher than other credit card transactions. The interest compounds daily starting from the day cash is borrowed.

Balance transfer. This is the process of moving credit card debt from one credit card to another. Card issuers will often offer lower initial rates to encourage balance transfers coming in and balance-transfer fees to discourage them from going out. If you're making a balance transfer, be sure you know exactly when the introductory rate expires.

Periodic rate. This is the APR divided by 12.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is 1256 CENTRAL OF ALBANY, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on January 27, 2016. 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 address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is c/o Schuyler Companies, 596 New Loudon Road, Latham, New York 12110. Ad#108098

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation Of a Domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC) Under Section 203 of The Limited Liability Company Law The name of the LLC is 208 MORRIS ROAD, LLC. The Articles of Organization were filed with the NY Secretary of State on January 13, 2016. 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 1716 Central Avenue, Albany, New York, 12205. Ad#107964

LEGAL NOTICE

331 W 38TH STREET LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/7/2016. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 1946 78th St., Brooklyn, NY 11214. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business location: 331 W. 38th St., NY, NY 10018. Ad#106551

LEGAL NOTICE

34 CARLTON AVENUE LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/7/2016. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 1946 78th St., Brooklyn, NY 11214. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business location: 34 Carlton Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205. Ad#106550

LEGAL NOTICE

3419 14TH AVENUE LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/7/2016. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 1946 78th St., Brooklyn, NY 11214. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business location: 3419 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11218. Ad#106555

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

348 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD LLC NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 12, 2016. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is 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 to 348 Old Niskayuna Road LLC, 11 Chris Drive, Niskayuna, New York 12309. No registered agent. Purpose: for all legal purposes. Ad#106811

LEGAL NOTICE

352 W 39TH STREET LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/7/2016. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 1946 78th St., Brooklyn, NY 11214. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business location: 352 W. 39th St., NY, NY 10018. Ad#106558

LEGAL NOTICE

426 W 45TH STREET LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/7/2016. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 1946 78th St., Brooklyn, NY 11214. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business location: 426 W. 45th St., NY, NY 10036. Ad#106561

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 457 HAMILTON STREET, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed on 11/19/15 with the Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY). Office Location: Albany County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to PO Box 6632, Albany, NY, 12206. Purpose: Any lawful activity. Ad#106810

LEGAL NOTICE

562 7st, LLC. Arts. of Organization filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/04/16. Off. loc.: Albany Co. SSNY des. as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 303 Forest Drive South, Short Hills, NJ 07078. Purpose: General. Ad#107104

LEGAL NOTICE

574 7st, LLC. Arts. of Organization filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/04/16. Off. loc.: Albany Co. SSNY des. as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 303 Forest Drive South, Short Hills, NJ 07078. Purpose: General. Ad#107103

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 58 ELBERON PLACE (ALBANY), LLC. Arts. of Org. filed on 1/7/16 with the Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY). Office Location: Albany County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to PO Box 6632, Albany, NY, 12206. Purpose: Any lawful activity. Ad#106815

LEGAL NOTICE

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is AL-AQSA MEAT & GROCERY IMPORT ,LLC. The filing date of the Articles of Organization is April 24, 2014. 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 the designated 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 is 200 Troy Schenectady Rd, Latham , NY 12110 Ad#105631

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FILING OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK BY A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Name: Alexander S. Choe, DDS, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with sec. of state of NY (SOS) on 1/27/16. Office location: Albany County. SOS is designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SOS shall mail copy of process to 42 Princess Lane, Loudonville, NY 12211. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. Ad#108101

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation Domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC). Name: BeltTalk LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY 12/18/15. Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity. Office: In Albany county. SSNY is agent for process against LLC and shall mail copy to 28 Comely Ln, Latham, NY 12110. Ad#107134

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is Bob's Appliance Repair, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on 1/27/2016. 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 28 Kenwood Ave, Glenmont, NY 12077. Ad#107877

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) Name: Cannon Equipment, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 15, 2016. 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, 5 Veteran's Memorial Drive, Green Island, NY 12183. Purpose: Any lawful business purpose. Ad#108411

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is Capital Creation Consulting, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on 12/1/2015. The purpose of the LLC is to provide consulting services, and also to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 17 Reynolds Ct, Delmar, NY 12054. Ad#108066

LEGAL NOTICE

Catalyst Chilmark LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/6/15. 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, 3 E. 28th St., 6th Fl., NY, NY 10016. General purpose. Ad#107699

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY FOR FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) Name: CHELSEA DHC LLC. Certificate of Formation filed with Delaware Secretary of State, December 15, 2015. Application for Authority filed with NYS Department of State, December 23, 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 c/o Dawn Homes Management LLC, 20 Corporate Woods Blvd., Albany, NY 12211. Ad#106034

LEGAL NOTICE

DAVOS ADVISORY GROUP, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/05/16. 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

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

LLC, 421 New Karner Road, Suite 11 Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#107880

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FILING OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK BY A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Name: Deer Valley Ventures LLC. Articles of Organization filed with sec. of state of NY(SOS) on 1/7/16. Office location: Albany County. SOS is designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SOS shall mail copy of process to 57 Duncan Phyfe Lane, Slingerlands, NY 12159. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. Ad#106296

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ECOLONG LLC: Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on November 23, 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 the LLC at 42 Stonebriar Drive Slingerlands, NY 12159. For any lawful purpose. Ad#107746

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of ELBERON PARKING, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed on 12/4/15 with the Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY). Office Location: Albany County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to PO Box 6632, Albany, NY, 12206. Purpose: Any lawful activity. Ad#106818

LEGAL NOTICE

Fat Cat Antiques, LLC Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company Articles of Organization filed with the Department of State of NY on November 30th, 2015. Office location Albany County. Secretary of State of NY State is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Secretary of State may mail a copy of any process to Fat Cat Antiques, LLC 760 Route 9W, Glenmont, NY 12077. Purpose: Any lawful act. Ad#106317

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of fix it for you LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/30/15 . Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon process against it may be served. SSNY Shell MAIL process to: PARACORP INCORPORATED, ONE COMMERCE PLAZA, 99 WASHINGTON AVE #805A, ALBANY, NY 12210-2822. Purpose: any lawful activities. Ad#107431

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FILING OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK BY A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Name: Gallo Pediatric Dentistry, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with sec. of state of NY (SOS) on 12/22/15. Office location: Albany County. SOS is designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SOS shall mail copy of process to 16 Fenway Drive, Albany, NY 12211. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. Ad#106187

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is GGM Solutions, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on 1/26/2016. 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 PO Box 155, Voorheesville, NY 12186. Ad#107700

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). Name: GREENER TOMORROWS LAWN CARE, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NY Secretary of State, December 3, 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 75 Esplanade Street, Selkirk, NY 12158. Ad#106097

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of: HART STREET 255 LLC Art of Org filed w/ SSNY on 2/14/2014 in ALBANY COUNTY. SSNY is designated Agent of LLC to whom process may be served. SSNY may mail copy of any process to HART STREET 255 LLC, 85 Lorimer Street, Brooklyn NY 11206 Latest date to dissolve: indefinite Purpose: any lawful activity Ad#107488

LEGAL NOTICE

Home & Business Insurance Agency LLC Notice of Qualification - LLC was filed with the SSNY on December 22, 2015. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC served upon him: Home & Business Insurance Agency

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

LLC, 443 Crown Point Circle, Ste. A, Grass Valley, CA 95945. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#105970

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FILING OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK BY A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Name: Integra R&D Holding Company II, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with sec. of state of NY(SOS) on 2/4/16. Office location: Albany County. SOS is designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SOS shall mail copy of process to 745 Albany Shaker Road, Latham, NY 12110. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. Ad#108504

LEGAL NOTICE

JPIRT 81 MERCER, LLC. Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 12/22/15. 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#106562

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KCTCAL, LLC. Articles of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 1/5/2016. Office located in ALBANY County. SSNY designated as Agent upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 62 Brookview Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054. Purpose is any lawful activity Ad#108701

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC Klowl9 Vape, LLC. The filing date of the Articles of Organization is December 17, 2015. The purpose of the LLC is to manufacture E-Juice and sell to retail stores or directly to consumer. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. SSNY is the designated agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which SSNY shall mail a copy of any process is 5 Harmony Hill Rd, Albany NY 12203. Ad#107186

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC).Name: LDFT II LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NY Secretary of State, January 8, 2016. 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 302 Washington Avenue Ext., Albany, NY 12203. Ad#106575

LEGAL NOTICE

MAF Realty Holdings, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/03/16. Off. loc.: Albany Co.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

SSNY des. as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, c/o Jason Rando, 20 Kirkland Dr., Greenlawn, NY 11740. Purpose: General. Ad#108980

LEGAL NOTICE

MIFIT HOLDINGS LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 11/28/2012. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Northwest Registered Agent, L.L.C., 90 State St., Ste. 700, Office 40, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#108893

LEGAL NOTICE

NAMASTE NUGGETS LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/13/2016. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 84 W Broadway 3N, NY, NY 10007. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#108102

LEGAL NOTICE

NAVR PROPERTIES, LLC, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on January 4, 2011, Office in Schenectady Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Audra M. Passonno, 9423 Western Turnpike, Delanson, NY 12053. Purpose: General Ad#108684

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY NAME: NEW SCOTLAND HOLDINGS LLC Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 19, 2016. Office location: The Mailing Address of the limited liability company's office is 791 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, New York 12208. 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 791 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, New York 12208. For any lawful purpose. Ad#107386

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY FOR FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) Name: NICKOLL CR LLC. Certificate of Formation filed with Delaware Secretary of State, December 15, 2015. Application for Authority filed with NYS Department of State, December 23, 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 c/o



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February 17, 2016

Spotlight on Opinion

www.spotlightnews.com

PAGE 14

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■ FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Don't trust that caller

Information is power, and that applies to our own personal worlds as well as the realm of international politics. What you share with strangers over the Internet and the phone will have wide ranging implications for you down the road.

We're only a few weeks into tax season, where our individual income documentations are delivered to us in time to report to the government. And, already, the Bethlehem Town Police have reported more than 100 town residents have received calls from would-be scammers attempting to obtain information for nefarious reasons.

What we have learned of these calls is that victims are receiving unsolicited phone calls from alleged con-artists who claim to be call center representatives for the Internal Revenue Service. From there, the call immediately turns to accusing the victim that he or she owes a large sum of money to the IRS. Worse, the victim is coerced into cooperating with the person on the other end of the line, or else be

served a warrant for his or her arrest.

The IRS said, 'don't you believe it.'

Unfortunately, there are monsters out there who prey on innocent people. People who work hard to earn a living, do well for the community and obey the laws of the land. And, that's where these wolves in sheep's clothing come in and take advantage. It happens over the phone and on the Internet as well.

Over the Internet, this kind of practice is called "phishing." Where victims are accosted, sometimes by something as innocent as a "cut-and-paste" request over Facebook, or an invite to click a link in a personal email, to something more aggressive as by means of hijacking your computer and blackmailing you into action.

Your personal information needs to be held close to your vest. Don't share information to a stranger who just called you out of the blue. And, as for the Internet, if someone from Africa is promising to wire funds into your account, think for yourself whether or not

the situation is too good to be true. If it sounds too good to be true, you know the rest.

Don't give out your account number. Don't give out your Social Security number. Don't share your checking information. Word of advice to anyone who is approached by such calls is to hang-up and call the IRS directly.

Hopefully these people will be caught soon. Your help could make it happen.

TALK BACK

The Spotlight welcomes feedback on this editorial or any other hot topics in the news. Email us at news@spotlightnews.com.

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■ GET TO KNOW ...



Robert Baron
Voorheesville girls
basketball coach

Residence: Voorheesville

What kind of music do you listen to?

I actually like the rock and roll from the late 1960s and the 1970s because that's what I grew up on, but I'll listen to just about anything except rap.

What TV shows do you watch?

I like "Blacklist." That's probably my favorite show right now.

What kind of books do you read?

I like a lot of the James Patterson books. They're mostly detective-type books.

What are some of your favorite hobbies?

Between work and coaching basketball, I don't have a lot of time for outside activities. I do like to travel to see my kids.

What is your dream vacation?

I go on a dream vacation every year. We go to Aruba every year. I like visiting the (Caribbean) islands.

What is your favorite local memory?

Locally, I think it's both of my girls winning state basketball championships (at Voorheesville). I think most of my memories are wrapped around my family.

Who is one person, dead or alive, you would want to meet, and why?

Abraham Lincoln. As an American president, he went through a lot.

What is your favorite meal?

I love Thanksgiving meals where there are a variety of foods. I love a smorgasbord

of food.

What is a surprising fact about you?

I played football on my wedding night. I was playing semi-pro football for the (Albany) Metro Mallers, and they had a game that night. They told me if I played in it, we'd get a trip to Bermuda for our honeymoon. Debbie was all for it because we had no other way to go on a honeymoon. So, I suited up and played that night, and a few weeks later, we had our honeymoon in Bermuda.

"Get to know" is a weekly feature where community members are asked questions that aren't necessarily related to their jobs. If you know of someone you think should be highlighted, email news@spotlightnews.com.

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■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An appeal for public action

Editor, *The Spotlight*;

I appeal to the citizens of Bethlehem to write to our state representatives to oppose the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) gas pipeline that would transit New York State from the fracking fields of Pennsylvania to Massachusetts. My objections include the following:

1. You have instituted a statewide moratorium on fracking activities, yet this pipeline has

as its only purpose to transport fracked gas. If construction is approved, your moratorium will be attacked by fracking proponents across the political spectrum. They will ask how you deny New York property owners the right to use their land to drill for gas while requiring others to cede their rights to a pipeline that will transport gas produced by non-state residents to non-state customers.

2. The pipeline's stated purpose is to provide gas

for customers outside New York State, yet it provides no economic benefit to state residents beyond the temporary benefit of some construction jobs and (presumably) a lasting benefit to a very small number of maintenance employees.

3. As an investment adviser, I have looked at the financial condition of the pipeline's parent corporation, Kinder Morgan, and find serious concerns regarding its cash flow, its capitalization

and its stock price. Its dividend has recently been cut by 75 percent, its debt/equity ratio is high and its stock has recently lost two-thirds of its value. These raise concerns about the company's ability to properly build the pipeline and maintain it over its useful life.

David Vigoda
Delmar

Got news?

The Spotlight welcomes announcements of events occurring in our coverage area.

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

Submissions can be emailed to news@spotlightnews.com with "community news" in the subject line.

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



Support the church

Editor, *The Spotlight*;

A massive natural gas pipeline called the Northeast Direct is proposed to run through Bethlehem, slicing through forests and farms, potentially imperiling residents, and delivering no benefit to the town. In fact, most of the gas from the Pennsylvania fracking fields will likely be exported.

The First Reformed Church of Bethlehem has done an outstanding job bringing together residents to stand against the pipeline. Now, all Bethlehem residents need to speak out and help protect our neighbors and our town.

Please take a moment to contact Governor Andrew Cuomo and ask him to

not issue any state permits until a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment has been completed. It will only take a few minutes, but if we all speak together, our collective roar may be enough to protect our neighbors – and ourselves.

David VanLuven
Delmar

No basis for complaint

Editor, *The Spotlight*;

In Jim Foster's latest complaint letter he cites Supervisor Clarkson's attendance at a fund raiser as evidence that the Town's ethics law needs revision. Foster notes the 'loophole' that allowed John Clarkson to actually attend a political fundraiser in June during the town's office hours, when other town employees are barred from political activities while at work.

Really? Let's get right on that egregious transgression.

In my view, Supervisor Clarkson is no different than the CEO of any large corporation. Top corporate officials don't punch clocks for the very reason that they are always "on duty."

During his terms in office, Supervisor Clarkson's responses to emails often come before and usually after normal working hours, during evenings or weekends. It's not unusual for him to follow up with a phone call, again, when most town employers are home

or relaxing on a weekend.

I'm sure I join other town residents who are fatigued by the last political campaign. Let's hope the election is finally behind us and we're not treated to two years of electioneering emails and complaints. Perhaps Jim Foster's leave of absence from his NYC job will soon be up and allow town government to get back to governing and not replying to his 2017 campaign.

Alan Via
Slingerlands

■ IN BRIEF

February lecture centers around women's suffrage

BETHLEHEM — Performer Bonnie Mion presents a talk and storytelling program about women's suffrage in the Capital District Thursday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave.

A member of Storycircle of the Capital

District and the Capital Advanced Toastmasters, Mion will talk about her research, which includes the discovery that two of her great grandparents were active suffragists.

This free event is sponsored by the Bethlehem Historical Association. Refreshments and conversation follow the talk.

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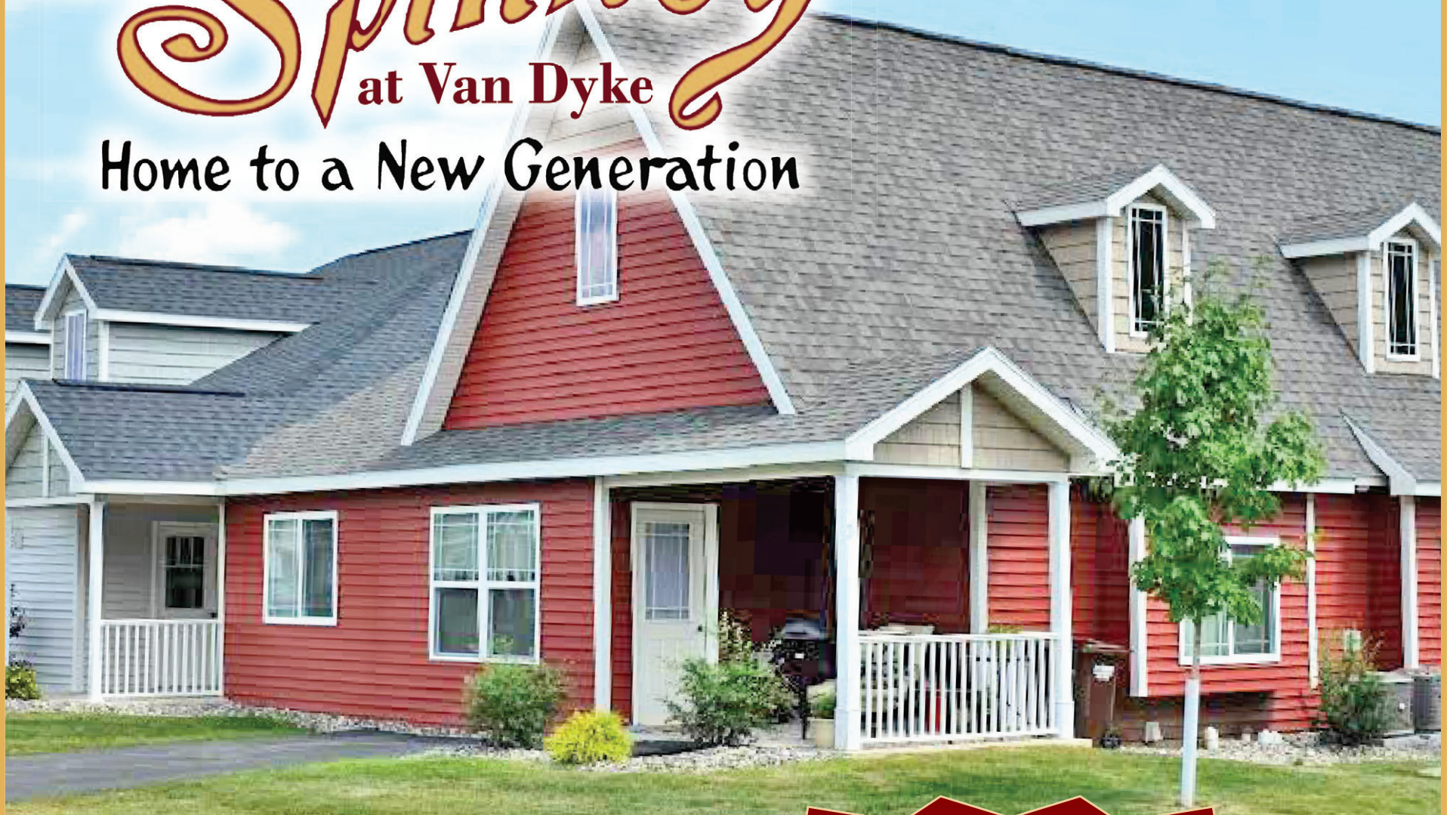
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