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NEWS Questions on water

Advocacy group opens eyes to rain runoff

Story on Page 2

INDEX

Cops, courts and calls 2
Sports 9-10
Entertainment..... B1-B24
Classifieds B19-B20
Opinion 14
Crossword B7
Service Directory B16-B17

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Home invasion

Attempted home invasion leads to an arrest in G'land

Story on Page 2

TOP STORY

Tax cap?

Demystifying the property tax cap and how legislators hope to pay for much-needed water infrastructure upgrades

By ALI HIBBS

hibbs@spotlightnews.com

First enacted in 2011, the New York State property tax cap limits the amount by which local governments and school districts (outside of New York City) can increase property taxes on residents within their jurisdictions—to 2 percent or a percentage tied to the rate of inflation, whichever is less. There are some exceptions, including a provision that allows a voting process to override the cap, but the state provides financial incentives to the residents of municipalities that manage to remain under the proscribed limit, which, according to a 2015 report released by the office of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, 80 percent of municipalities and school districts have done during the first three years—saving the typical taxpayer more than \$800.

Continues on page 16

SPORTS



Spring fever in the air

Last week's warm temperatures brought Bethlehem's spring teams out onto the field

Story on Page 9

THE SPOT 518



Ain't just whistlin' Dixie

Musician has kept a true American legacy alive, making memories along the way

Story on Page B1

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■ COPS, COURTS AND EMERGENCY CALLS



Lucky to be alive

A 16-year-old girl was seriously injured after she drove her car underneath a semi-tractor trailer on Route 9W in Selkirk late last Tuesday night. At approximately 9:20 p.m. on March 15, the semi-tractor trailer, owned by Glazier Trucking Company out of Kiefer, Oklahoma, was headed north on Route 9W, turning left onto Creeble Road. The truck driver overshot the turn, and in an effort to correct measures, ended up making a sharp turn, right into the path of the southbound Suzuki sedan driven by the victim. Selkirk Fire Chief William Aspron says that the teenage girl is very lucky to be alive. Bethlehem Police continue to investigate the accident and say that charges are pending against the truck driver. Photo by Tom Heffernan, Sr.

Man arrested after attempted home invasion

GUILDERLAND — Jeffrey M. Cascini, 40, of 1026 O'Brien Ave., Schenectady, was arrested by Guilderland Police around 6 p.m. Friday, March 11, for attempted home invasion and DWI.

Police said Cascini attempted to enter a locked garage door at

a residence on Ostrander Road in Guilderland by breaking a window. Cascini fled the scene prior to police arrival but was stopped for vehicle and traffic violations a short distance from the scene, said police.

He was charged with attempted burglary, DWI,

DWAI – combined drugs or alcohol influence, all felonies; fourth-degree criminal mischief; a misdemeanor; and multiple traffic infractions.

Cascini was arraigned in Guilderland Town Court and committed to Albany County Correctional Facility.

State Police arrests:

• Robert L. Silvestri III, 22, of Albany, was arrested on March 13 for reportedly driving with a BAC more than twice the legal limit. Police stopped Silvestri on I-87 for multiple alleged traffic violations, and reportedly found him to be intoxicated. Silvestri was transported and processed at State Police in Albany, where he was found to have a BAC of 0.18 percent. He was charged with aggravated DWI and is scheduled to appear in Bethlehem Town Court on April 5.

• Kipp W. Spencer, 29, of Delmar, was arrested March 12, and charged with aggravated DWI. Police responded to investigate a motor vehicle accident involving Spencer, in which he had rear-ended another vehicle at the intersection of Western Avenue and SUNY Albany Campus Road. Spencer

showed signs of intoxication, said police, and failed field sobriety tests. He was taken to Troop G headquarters in Latham, where he reportedly had a BAC of 0.18 percent. Spencer is scheduled to appear in Guilderland Town Court at a later date.

Bethlehem Police arrests:

• David Burghoffer, 54, of 27 Garden Circle, Selkirk, was arrested on March 10. He was charged with felony aggravated DWI, due to a previous conviction; felony aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle; and several traffic infractions. Police reportedly observed a vehicle travelling in a diagonal direction on Old Town Road in Selkirk, and found the driver, Burghoffer, to have a strong odor of alcoholic beverage on his breath. After failing field sobriety tests, Burghoffer was

transported to the Bethlehem Police Department, where he was found to have a BAC of 0.27 percent. He was arraigned in Bethlehem Town Court and remanded to Albany County Jail in lieu of \$7,500 cash bond. He was scheduled to reappear in court on March 15.

• Dustin D. Walker, 23, of 3 Wisconsin Ave., Delmar, was arrested on March 5 and charged with DWI and speeding. Police reportedly observed Walker travelling 68 mph in a 40 mph zone on Route 9W in Glenmont. Upon interview, Walker displayed several indicators of intoxication, including a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emanating from his breath. Walker failed sobriety tests administered in the field and was later found to have a BAC of 0.08 percent, according to police. Walker is scheduled to appear in Bethlehem Town Court on April 5.



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■ ENVIRONMENT

More questions over water

"Rampant" under-reporting of sewage overflow could be polluting our drinking waters

By **ALI HIBBS**

hibbs@spotlightnews.com

ALBANY — "There is a sacred bond between clean water and public health that is being broken," said Liz Moran, a water and natural resources associate with Environmental Advocates of New York (EANY), at a press conference on Thursday, March 10 at the Legislative Offices Building in Albany. "In 2012, state legislators passed the Sewage Pollution Right to Know Act, a common-sense law that says, knowing the public health dangers, if a sewage discharge occurs, the public must be immediately notified."

Moran was announcing a new report documenting the "rampant" under-reporting of sewage overflow events that can negatively impact public health when raw sewage enters public recreational or drinking water sources. Issues can occur when heavy rains or thawing ice overwhelm Combined Sewer Systems (CSS), where stormwater and wastewater enter a treatment plant at the

same point. According to the EPA, CSS are generally able to direct all wastewater to the plant where it is treated waterborne pathogens, parasites and other disease-causing organisms like E. coli and Rotavirus before being safely returned to a local waterbody. However, in 2004, the EPA estimated that conservatively, there were as many as 5,000 cases of illness that could be attributed to exposure to overflows near recreational areas such as beaches. A 2013 analysis of beach water samples taken by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) found that 13 percent of the samples taken in New York state exceeded the EPA's standards for safe human activity.

Due to inadequate implementation of the Sewage Pollution Right To Know Act, according to EANY, the data on the DEC website accounts for only a fraction of the discharges that occur throughout the state, and those that have been reported are frequently incomplete—a full 85 percent failed to include required overflow volumes. Here in the Capital District, the Capital District Regional Planning Commission estimated in 2009 that the Capital District releases as much as 1.2 billion gallons of untreated sewage into the

Hudson River annually, yet only reported 1.2 million over a two year period. Annually, the amount of discharged untreated sewage that is reported to the DEC is estimated to represent only .002 percent of the 28 billion gallons that EANY said ultimately ends up in the New York Harbor.

According to reports released by the DEC in 2008 and the Office of the State Comptroller in 2014, there is a staggering funding deficit for addressing sewer infrastructure needs in a system that has begun to show signs of its age. Along with its reported findings, EANY released three recommendations that they feel will ensure that New York residents are adequately informed of potential contamination risks. Increased funding for additional staff and more resources to enforce regulations and an investment of \$800 million a year in the New York State Water Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015 (NYSWIIA), as well as the extension of the NYSWIIA beyond its three-year life span. Additionally, EANY advocates restricting the legislation so that no exemptions are granted, expanding notification areas to include downstream regions and other potentially affected areas, immediate reporting



With a growing concern over drinking water in New York State, the Environmental Advocates of New York announced there is a evidence municipalities are under-reporting reporting potentially harmful sewage overflow events.

Public domain

of all discharges and a "more robust" public notification effort.

In the executive summary of the EANY report, entitled "Tapped Out: New York's Clean Water in Peril," environmental advocates claim that, "The spirit of the law is simple: when potential contamination from raw sewage occurs, the public should be notified." It is not enough,

they say, for the public to find out that they should be boiling their water or avoiding favorite recreational areas "after-the-fact." The law also has had the effect of highlighting important funding shortfalls. A lack of investment in New York's drinking and wastewater infrastructure over several decades, said Moran, has created "an aging and failing system

which dumps tens of billions of gallons of raw sewage into local waterbodies every year."

In the Town of Colonie, sewage discharges happen with less regularity than neighboring urban areas, due to having separate stormwater and sewage systems, but failing water infrastructure is still a major concern and public

Continue on 13

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EDUCATION

BCSD Board considers raising some wages

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

BETHLEHEM — The Bethlehem Central School District Board is considering a wage increase for employees who receive \$10 an hour — one dollar above the current state minimum wage.

Custodians, bus attendants, aides, cafeteria staff, and substitute teachers are among those who currently receive \$10 per hour. If approved by the School Board, they would receive an hourly wage increase of \$1 or \$2.

Based on what is being considered, substitute teachers would receive \$12.00 per hour, as finding substitutes has been a difficult task at the district's current \$10.00 per hour rate, explained Chief Financial Officer Judith Kehoe during the Wednesday, March 2, School Board meeting. This would add \$28,000 to the school budget.

Custodians would receive a wage bump to \$12.00 per hour, while school monitors, bus attendants, cafeteria staff and clerical workers would see their wages increase to \$11.00 per hour. "Based on the regional mark, we think that wage is fair," said Kehoe.

"These [wage] increases are not reflected within budget," explained Interim Superintendent Jody Monroe. "If it is something the board wishes to approve, we would add it later on in the budget process."

During the Board's February meeting, Kehoe announced that this year's budget is in such good standing, the board is considering proposals for excess fund use, wage increases being first on the list.

The proposed wage increase follows a recent announcement from New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo that the state is moving toward instituting a \$15 minimum wage across the board. "Minimum wage is supposed to provide a decent minimum wage, and \$9 just doesn't do that," said Cuomo at a Fight For 15 rally at the State Capitol on Tuesday, March 15.

School Board President Matt Downey said, at minimum, he hoped the state would exempt costs of wage increases from the two percent tax cap. "It's hard enough to stay within the two percent minimum cap even without a 20 percent increase in wage," said Downey.

For perspective, had Cuomo's minimum wage increase taken effect during the coming year, the consequence would be a few million dollars added to the budget, said Kehoe. "In discussions with legislators, we've made the case that if you are going to increase the minimum wage to please do it on a gradual level," she said. "The impacts are not just on raising the bottom of the wage scale, it's on adjusting everyone's salaries to show there's value for the work that's being done."

At this point, the budget faces a gap of only \$361,000 — the smallest seen in many years. And, the final state aid awarded will likely be more than estimated, particularly if the governor decides to fully eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), potentially adding another several hundred thousand dollars to the district.

Last year, when the GEA was partially restored six years after it was introduced, the \$2.3 million in state aid added to the budget was used to close the district's \$1.4 million budget gap and restore teaching staff levels slightly closer towards 2009 levels. In the six years that followed the GEA, hundreds of thousands of dollars in state aid were lost yearly, totaling over \$3 million.

This year, the School Board is accepting proposals from the various school departments on how to use this year's extra funds. The transportation, operations and maintenance, technology, special education, athletics and student services departments have each presented their proposals already.

During the next School Board meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, the K-12 curriculum department will present its proposal. A week later, at the Tuesday, April 13, meeting, the board will discuss the budget, before adopting it during its meeting on Tuesday, April 19.



Spotlight file photo

EDUCATION

Voter approval sought for purchase

BCSD officials request 15 new buses in an effort to ease overcrowding, replace older vehicles

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

BETHLEHEM — Elementary school students are sitting three to a seat on some of the district's buses, filling them to capacity with up to 66 children on some routes. Officials say more buses are needed to fix this.

Voter approval is required for the additional \$1,413,000 necessary to purchase the 15 buses Bethlehem Central School District Transportation Department is requesting. This sum would not only be used to replace aging buses, but to also add at least one additional route for each of its four elementary schools.

"When you have 50 or 60 kids and they're behind you, and you're trying to drive a big vehicle — that's a lot to manage," said Transportation Director Cindy Jurewicz during the Wednesday, March 2, School Board meeting.

"For elementary parents, this is the number one complaint," said board member Joanne Cunningham. "It sounds like it's become a little mayhem for the students."

While adding the routes would not necessarily reduce student commute or wait times, a reduction in the number of students would allow for better passenger management, as each bus driver is solely responsible for the behavior of all students he or she is transporting.

"When you talk about student management, and that is the bus driver's responsibility, student management becomes a problem," said Jurewicz.

The additional routes would bring average bus attendance at the elementary level down to 40 children. Currently, the average bus transports about 50 children. Prior to 2013, an average of 30 to 40 elementary students



Public domain

were transported per bus.

A bus' maximum seating capacity is 70 children. However, fitting three students in a single seat can be uncomfortable once they begin bringing snow gear in the winter and travelling with instruments and projects, said Jurewicz. "We've had parents call and ask, 'Can I send my child home with

their friend?' and that will just depend on how many students are riding," she said.

Jurewicz has proposed to replace 13 buses that have aged significantly and purchase two more to account for student need. When replacing, some costs are returned as older buses are sold for profit at auctions.

Based on the district's projections, 11 buses should be replaced each year. But, because there were a number of years where budget strains did not allow for the purchase of new vehicles, the transportation department is asking for 15 this year to catch up.

"Some of these buses slated for replacement

are well over 100,000 miles, some are as much as 120,000 [miles], 130,000 [miles] and up," said the district's Chief Financial Officer Judith Kehoe.

Ten of those new buses would be large buses and five would be small. The request this year comes behind last year's resident-approved purchase of 10 new buses.

Voting on this year's proposal will take place on May 17, along with the school budget and school board elections. Two seats will be contested, as board member Michael Cooper will seek reelection, while board member Diane Giacone Stever will not. Petitions to run for the seats are now available, and 64 resident signatures are required to run.

The next School Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, in the high school library beginning at 7 p.m.

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COMMUNITY

Mold your world

Despite advances in animation that can blur the lines between fantasy and reality, there's an old-school technique that retains a quirky charm: claymation. On Friday, March 25, at 2 p.m., kids in grades 2 and up can get hands on with this art form when they work with others to create an original stop-motion short using the library's play dough and iPads. Will the next Gumby or Shaun the Sheep will emerge from these efforts? Registration for the program is required. Sign up online at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org or call 439-9314.

Business cents

Having that great spark of an idea for a new product or service is only part of the equation in getting a business up and running. The next step? That's the real challenge. One of the biggest questions for would-be entrepreneurs is how to find the needed financing to get their good idea off the ground. On Tuesday, March 29, at 7 p.m.,



Bethlehem Public Library will host a panel of experts that might just have the answer.

Featuring representatives from The Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region, New York Business Development Corporation, the Capital Region Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Development Center, the "Financial Resources for Businesses" program will discuss financing options available to business start-ups and expansions from a variety of sources, including conventional banks and non-traditional lenders. Topics will include credit, business planning, financial projections, do's and don't's, and more. Get some great information from people who know the process inside and out.

This program is co-sponsored by the Bethlehem Department of Economic Development and Planning and the

Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce.

Reach for the stars

Don't forget, the library now has Orion StarBlast 4.5" telescopes for loan. When you borrow one, you get everything you need to start stargazing – the telescope itself, a carrying bag, lens brush, Celestron flashlight, guides to the night sky, and an easy-to-follow user manual. Telescopes are available to borrow for one week at a time.

Author event

If you are a published Albany County author interested in participating in our local author event on April 10, there is still time to register. Fill out the form at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org/authorfair.asp. The deadline is March 31. For more information, contact Natalie McDonough at 439-9314, ext. 3023.

Make a run for it

Nominating petition

forms and informational packets are available at the library for one open seat on the Bethlehem Public Library board of trustees. The seat holds a full term of five years. Petitions must contain at least 64 signatures of voters residing in Central School District No. 6 of the towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland and are due April 18. The election will be held on May 17.

Upcoming events

Friday, March 25

Vacation Cinema

Bring a blanket or pillow to get comfy and be ready to laugh at the adventures of Shaun and his barnyard buddies in "Shaun the Sheep Movie" (PG, 85 minutes). For kids and families. 10 a.m.

Saturday, March 26

Time Out for Tales

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

Origami Club

Create a project with

us, bring something you want to work on, or just brush up on the basics. 3 to 4 p.m.

Monday, March 28

Tiny Tots

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

Tuesday, March 29

Tiny Tots

Stories, songs and fingerplays for children up to age 35 months with caregiver. 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 30

Family Storytime

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

Family Playtime

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

Pajama-Rama

Wear your PJs and bring a stuffed friend to enjoy some fun and stories before bedtime. Up to age 6 with family and friends. 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 31

Family Storytime

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

On My Own

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

Tai Chi for Health

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

Family Build Night

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

— Kristen Roberts

Library and lunch program

Join us for the Lunch and Library program at Tool's Restaurant and the Bethlehem Public Library on Friday, April 1. The program at the library will be "History of the U.S. Submarine Service," presented by Al Singleman, US Submarine Veterans National Commander. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176, to make your reservation.

Have you seen "The Lion King?" This award winning performance is a must see. Join us at Proctors on March 29 for the 7:30 p.m. performance. The cost is \$55. Call 439-4955,



ext. 1176 to make your reservation.

The Caregivers' Support Group of those caring for a loved one who has Alzheimer's or another dementia will be held on March 30 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176.

The Senior Legal Services program, funded by Albany County

Department for Aging, is available to Albany County residents who are age 60 or older. Call 439-6765 to make an appointment.

You can get help with filing New York State and federal income tax returns at Town Hall on Wednesdays, by appointment, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through April 12. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176, to make an appointment.

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.

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.

— Wilma DeLucco

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Bethlehem Area YMCA hosts Good Friday brunch

BETHLEHEM — The Bethlehem Area YMCA, 900 Delaware Ave., is hosting a Good Friday brunch Friday, March 25, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Participants will learn about what really happened on the first Easter, as well as evidence that supports Christianity.

Nature Center program focuses on salamander migration

VOORHEESVILLE — The Thacher Nature Center is hosting a program about salamander migration Saturday, March 26, at 10 a.m.

Come learn about salamanders and the importance of maintaining their wetland habitats. The program is free and open to the public, and registration is required.

For more information or to register, call the Thacher Nature Center at 872-0800.

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■ COMMUNITY

Sport court reappears

The Bethlehem YMCA is truly unique in many ways, and certainly a big one is our ice rink. The Bethlehem Y is one of only four YMCAs in the entire country that have an ice skating rink.

Seeing our ice rink filled with parents and fans cheering on Bethlehem hockey; watching families enjoying a fun and brisk time during our public skating sessions; and watching youngsters glide gracefully over the ice during an early morning figure skating practice are all great symbols of winter fun in our community.

But winter, we hope, is over, and it's time for the ice to be melted away. And in its place, the Y's sport court will be put down. A few years ago, the Bethlehem Y purchased and installed a state-of-the-art, ergonomic, sport tile surface. The next step was to come up with fun ways to use it. Here are a few:

Arena Flag Football

— The Y is organizing an arena flag football league that will play on Friday nights from 7 to 8:30 p.m. beginning April 1. It's a five-on-five league with 20-minute halves, and it's co-ed. You can register as an individual or as a team. The cost is only \$3 for Y members, \$5 for non-members.

Adult and youth roller hockey — Just because the ice is down doesn't mean hockey has to stop. Just switch from skates to wheels and come for some fun in the Bethlehem YMCA's roller hockey leagues.

The adult hockey league games will be on Tuesday nights from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and 8:45 to 10:15 p.m. from March 29 through April 26. You can register as a team or an individual. There are nine players per

team, and the cost is \$100 for Y members and \$120 for non members. There will also be pick-up roller hockey games on Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at a cost of \$5 for Y and league members and \$10 for non members.

The youth roller hockey league games will be on Monday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for kids 12 and under; 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. for players 14 and under; and 8 to 9 p.m. for players 16 and under.

The youth games are four-on-four with two 20-minute halves, with eight skaters and a goalie per team. The cost is \$120 for Y members and \$130 for non members.

For more information on all of these sport court leagues and activities, as well as court availability for spring practice sessions for all sports, please contact Rusty Decker at the YMCA at 439-4394.

— Mark Hansen



Healthy habits for a healthier you

As part of its Healthy Living series, the library will be hosting a program on April 14 at 6 p.m. that will delve into how a healthy brain and body are connected.

Science is now able to provide insights into how to optimize our physical and cognitive health as we age. This program offers participants an opportunity to learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement, and to use hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations into a plan for healthy aging.

This is a program by



Maura Fleming of the Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern New York. Please register.

Selma: The March for Voting Rights

2015 marked 50 years since the landmark civil rights march spearheaded by Martin Luther King. This program, on Wednesday, April 20, will include a showing of the movie, "Selma," followed by a discussion facilitated by Dr. Paul Murray from Siena College, an expert on the civil rights

movement. Susan Butler, a civil rights activist who marched during the Selma to Montgomery event, will share a firsthand account of her experience. The movie will be shown at 5:30 p.m. The discussion will begin at 8 p.m., after a short break at the movie's conclusion.

Join us for this special educational program. The program is suitable for high school students and up. Light refreshments will be served.

Registration for all programs can be done at the library, by phone at 765-2791 or online at www.voorheesvillelibrary.org (click on the event calendar).

— Lynn Kohler

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■ COMMUNITY

Homeopathic medicine

On Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m., GPL kicks off a three-part series on homeopathy with "Introduction to Homeopathic Medicine."

Homeopathic medicine is a 200-year-old holistic healing art and science, the principles of which have a great deal to teach us regarding the nature of health and illness, the importance of the mind-body connection and the self-healing capacity of the human organism.

Join Dr. Larry Malerba as he explains this poorly understood but rapidly growing approach to healing, gives practical first-aid tips that can be used at home for common ailments, and offers insight into the reasons behind the rising tide of chronic illness in America and how the trend can be reversed.



Dr. Malerba will also have copies of his books for sale. Please call 456-2400, ext. 2 to register.

All about the new SAT

If you're taking the SATs this year (or are the parent/guardian of a teen who is), then it's in your best interest to attend "All about the New SAT" at GPL on Thursday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m.

So much depends upon this test, and major changes are being introduced, including updates to the vocabulary, essay and evidence-based reading sections. This informational session with

Umang Sharma will tell you what you should expect from this new format.

Umang is a graduate of UAlbany currently serving in the US Army. He has been a tutor for eight years and is a certified instructor for the revised SAT through the Princeton Review. Parents and teens are encouraged to attend this important event. Please register by calling 456-2400, ext. 4.

American Classics discusses 'Cat's Cradle'

Lovers of fiction are invited to join Guilderland's own Andy Genovese on Tuesday, March 29, at 7 p.m. for this month's American Classics book discussion. You'll examine Kurt Vonnegut's "Cat's Cradle," called by

the New York Times "a free-wheeling vehicle ... an unforgettable ride."

If you've read the book, you're going to love the discussion. If you've not read the book, or it's been a while, come anyway because after the discussion you'll go right to the fiction stacks and take it out.

Published in 1963, "Cat's Cradle" explores issues and situations that are strikingly relevant today — everything from the way science and technology have changed our lives to examinations of religion and free will. Along the way, it skewers the arms race and other situations that — good or bad — surround us now.

Please register for this entertaining book discussion by calling 456-2400, ext. 2.

— Mark Curiale

GX3+ performs at church

Acoustic Doorways returns for a special Thursday evening performance on March 31, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Reformed Church of South Bethlehem.

GX3+ is a quartet that will highlight a variety of music with a South American twist, featuring flamenco guitar, classical guitar, mandolin, charango and percussion. Wondering what that GX3+ means? It's "G" as in guitar, times three, plus drums.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and are available at the library or at the door.

Thanatology Café

Thanatology Café is a place where people can join in a conversation about death and dying in a safe, nonjudgmental environment. It's a

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venue where participants can talk about their personal experiences, their reflections about death, how they cope or don't cope with a death and share their suffering in their experience of death.

The session takes place Saturday, April 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. Facilitated by Harold Vadney. Registration requested.

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

Friday Flicks kicks April off with a sonic boom. Catch the seventh installment of the blockbuster "Star Wars" series on our big screen on Friday, April 8, at 2 p.m.

— Carol Melewski

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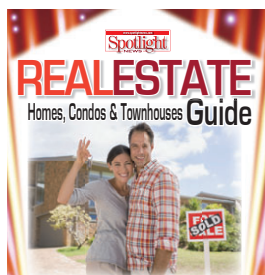
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INTERVIEW

PICK OF THE WEEK



Parmalee

Country music band Parmalee takes to Upstate Concert Hall Saturday, March 26 at 8 p.m. Hailing from North Carolina, the band's namesake is taken from the members' hometown of Parmalee.

Pages B8

INSIDE



Arts calendar

Pages B7-B10



Ain't just whistlin' Dixie

Skip Parsons shows pictures of how Riverboat Jazz Band has evolved over the decades.

Photo by Rob Jonas
/TheSpot518

Musician has kept a true American legacy alive, making memories along the way

By **ROB JONAS**

jonasr@spotlightnews.com

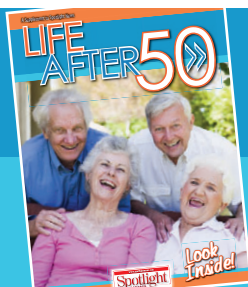
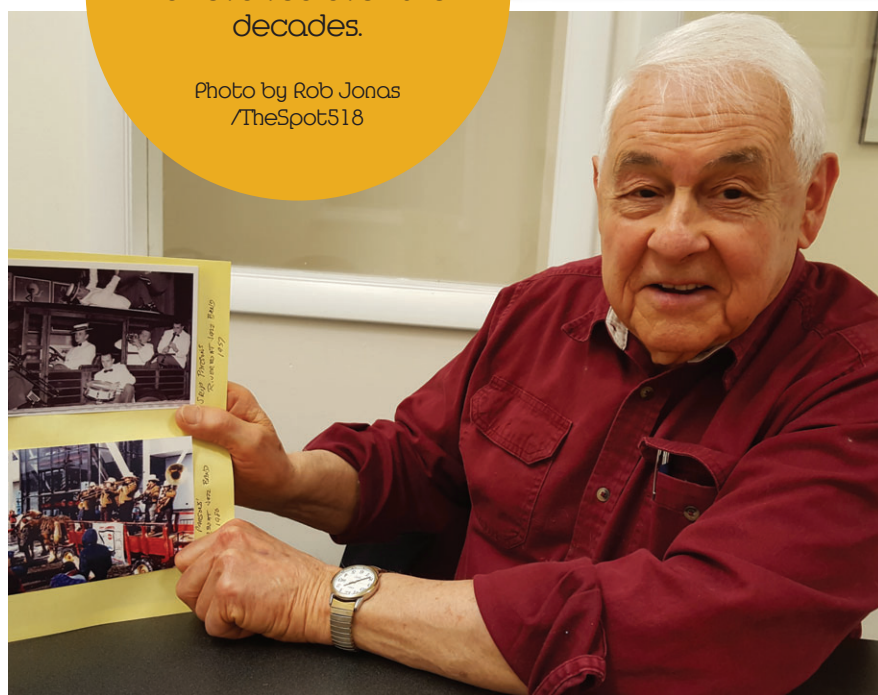
Skip Parsons continues to keep the spirit of Dixieland jazz alive.

The 80-year-old clarinetist is in his sixth decade of performing the style of music once popularized by the likes of Benny Goodman and Louis Armstrong. He and his group, the Riverboat Jazz Band, perform one weekend a month at The Fountain on New Scotland Avenue in Albany, and he is looking to perform a once-a-month show at The Twisted Vine at the Four Corners in Bethlehem with his other group, the Clarinet Marmalade Trio.

The Albany native and Feura Bush resident said his interest in Dixieland dates back to his childhood.

"When I was a kid, my aunt used to take care of

Continues on page B17



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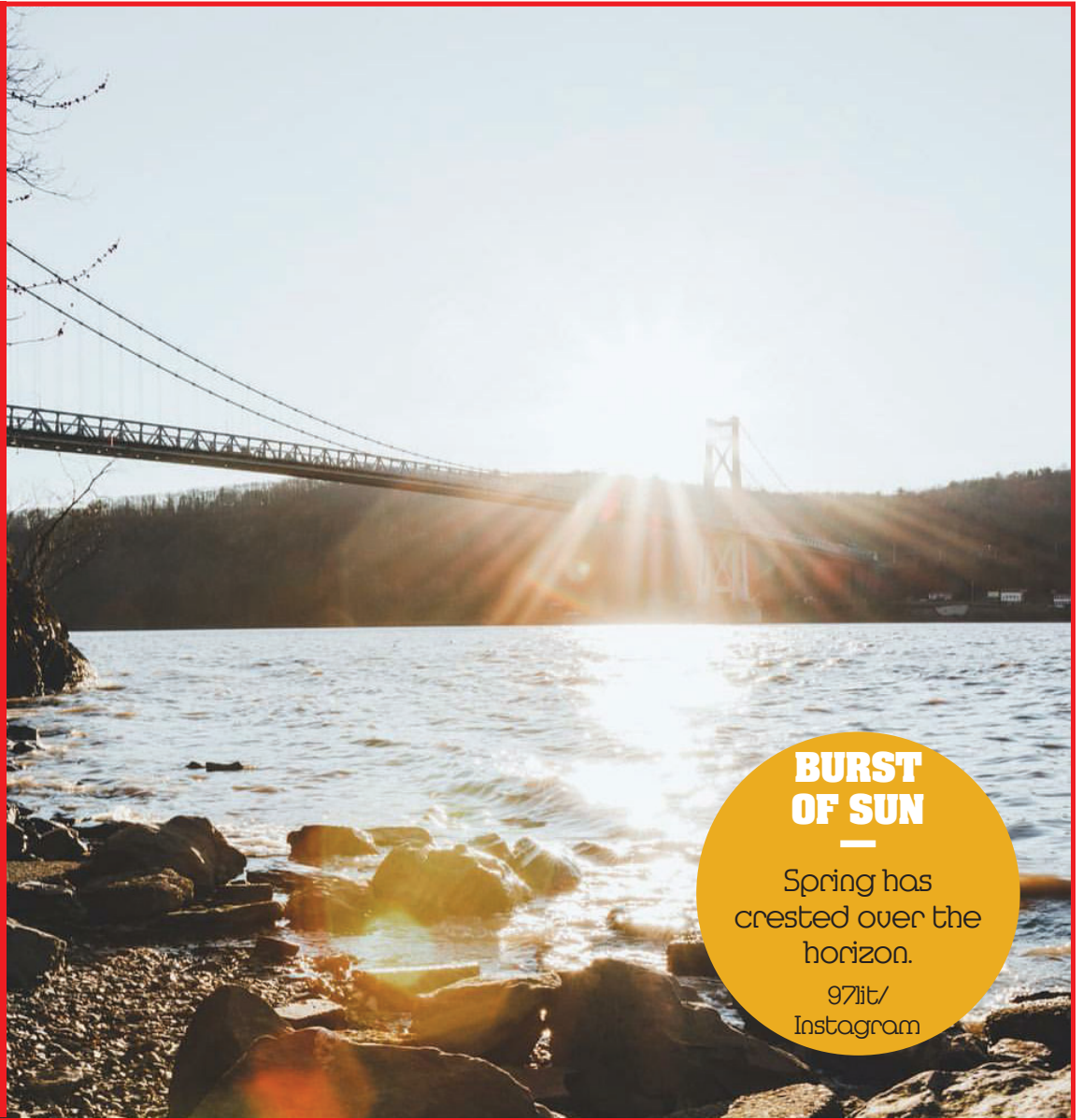


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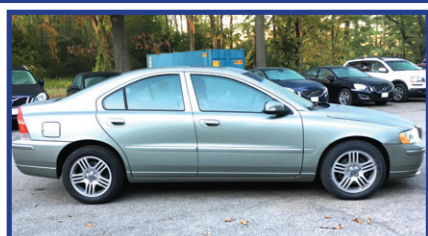
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■ LITERATURE

Your permanent record

Local teacher pens memoir into book

By LIANNE WEBSTER-KIM

kiml@spotlightnews.com

SCHENECTADY — When longtime faculty member Paul O'Brien retired from Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons School in June 2014, he decided that he should "try to put down a few thoughts" about his teaching career. He recalls that three articles he wrote, which were later published in the English Record, "kind of evolved" into a new project that "took on a life of its own."

In his recently published memoir, "Voices from Room 6: A Teacher Remembers," O'Brien, who began teaching English and literature at Schenectady's Notre Dame High School in 1964, transferring to the merged Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons in 1975, takes readers on a journey through his 47 years at the helm of a Catholic high school classroom. Room 6 at 2600 Albany Street served as his home away from home for over 35 years.

Sifting through nearly five decades worth of ND-BG memories, some of which are "so vivid in my mind that I've relived them so many times," O'Brien selected "... moments that felt a little deeper than normal to me. [I tried to] capture the truth that was in those moments," comparing it to how [Ernest] Hemingway used to talk about the iceberg: you sort of see it, but then you feel a lot more that's underneath the water." These memories are grouped into four categories: the importance of laughter in the classroom, what happens in a small school when someone dies, music in the classroom, and what he refers to as misses/near misses, "when I didn't reach students or reached them later in life."

As he shares his memories with readers, he not

only explains the meanings behind some of the personal objects he kept in Room 6, including the items photographed on the book's front cover, but also introduces them to the family members, friends, colleagues and students who've influenced and inspired him, both inside and outside of the classroom.

O'Brien realizes that those who have ties to the ND-BG community or a familiarity with Catholic education as a whole will have the most interest in his memoir. However, based on input from some family members, friends, and his publishing agent, he isn't ruling out the possibility of a wider reach.

"I don't know about a bigger audience," he says. "Someone said it's a good book for all beginning teachers to read [because I discuss] the journey from the beginning.... Overall, I think it almost has the feel of what it's like to be a teacher and deal with real people."

To date, his memoir seems to have a captive audience: its first printing sold out. Eighty copies were purchased during a book reading and signing held in the school's library earlier this month, while dozens more were sold to friends and alumni around the Capital District after O'Brien announced its publication on Facebook.

Copies of the second printing of "Voices from Room 6" are now available for purchase locally at The Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza or Market Block Books on River Street in Troy for \$17.95. The book is also available online at amazon.com.

Editor's Note: Lianne Webster-Kim, a copyeditor and page designer for The Spotlight Newspapers, is one of O'Brien's many former students. She graduated from ND-BG in 1994.



Paul O'Brien, retired teacher turned author, took his 47 years in front of a classroom and penned it into a compelling book popular among local alumni.

Submitted photo

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15 year old, Noah Roman's world was turned upside down and the world as he knew it, changed forever on February 9, 2016. While Noah was attending his High School's basketball game, his family's home was destroyed in a fire. He lost his beloved parents, only sibling (Nate, age 10), and family dog in the tragedy. He was left with only the clothes on his back. We are looking to raise money to rebuild Noah's future. We want Noah to know that there is always hope for a better tomorrow and that his family and friends will Stand by His Side.

Please help to bring hope back into Noah's future by Standing by him and joining us for the 'Stand By Noah Roman' Fundraiser & buffet dinner (buffet times 2:30 & 5:00) on March 26, 2016 from

2pm to 7pm at the Albany Hilton. Tickets are \$25 per person. Each paid ticket will include one Door Prize Ticket, Buffet, DJ Scott-Diamond Entertainment, Dancing, Kid friendly activities, Cash Bar, Raffles and more. Seating is limited, so please register by March 11th.

Please visit <http://standbynoahroman.bpt.me> for credit card ticket purchase on line
OR

Complete the below information and mail check or money order made payable to 'Stand By Noah Roman' to Kate Fahey, 595 Old Loudon Rd, Box 167, Latham, NY 12110

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If you are unable to join us and would like to donate, please make check or money order payable to 'Stand by Noah Roman' and mail to the address listed above. Donations can also be made at any Pioneer Savings Bank location. This is a tax exempt fund account. Please contact Doreen Weidman at dweids@nycap.rr.com or Kate Fahey at Kathleen.fahay@live.com if you have any questions. On behalf of Noah, his family and friends we Thank You for your support!

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■ COMMUNITY

Dive into reading

Grassroot Givers give everyone the gift of reading

By JILL RIFKIN
news@spotlightnews.com

ALBANY — A mammoth swimming pool overflowing with exciting books for all ages? Sounds like a setting concocted by J.K. Rowling or Dr. Seuss. But, it's a reality at Grassroot Givers at 274 Washington Avenue in downtown Albany, with Capital District children and adults in need the lucky beneficiaries.

The prime magicians of the

transformation of the former YMCA pool into a meticulously organized book treasure trove are Mary Partridge-Brown, former director of the Bethlehem Children's School, and Roberta Sandler, founding partner and former pediatric nurse at Albany Medical Center. These two joined forces in 2011 to change the former pool into a giant repository for gently used or new donated books, offered free of charge to those who need them. With "Giving With Dignity," as their motto, the two women operate a free community store filled with clothing and household goods, all in top notch

Continue on B11

■ CULINARY ARTS

Food & Vino

Ricotta Cookies

By ANN LINDA CIOTOLI
news@spotlightnews.com

sheet.

Ingredients For The Cookie

4 cups flour
4 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
2 cups sugar
3 eggs
1 lb. ricotta cheese
1/2 lb. butter softened (2 sticks)
2 tsp. vanilla, lemon, or almond extract
(whichever you choose)

Preparation

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, mix butter and sugar until blended. (use any type of mixer). Increase speed to make the mixture light and fluffy, about 5 minutes. Mix in ricotta, extract and eggs until combined. Add flour, baking powder, baking soda and beat until a dough forms. Drop a level tablespoon amount, separate about 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 15 minutes until light golden. They will harden as they cool. Repeat with remaining dough, if only using one cookie

Ingredients For The Frosting

1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
3 Tbs. milk

Preparation

In a small bowl stir sugar and milk until smooth. When cookies are cool, spread the frosting with a butter knife on each one. You can top with colored sprinkles, or colored sugar crystals, if you wish.

Pairing

Ruffino Prosecco - Ruffino Winery - Tuscany, Italy - This sparkling wine is straw yellow in color, with aromas that are intensely fruity, and floral. Crisp and clean with flavors of peaches and apples.

Ann Linda Ciotoli owns a catering business called Good Enough to Eat. She is also a frequent contributor to TheSpot518 where she is one of our culinary arts columnists. For questions and information, e-mail Anne at sodeliciousalc@yahoo.com.

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Turkuaz has a date with the Putnam Den Thursday, March 24 at 8 p.m. in Saratoga Springs.

Turkuaz/Instagram

Night & Day

Turkuaz to bring the funk

SARATOGA SPRINGS — The weekend starts a little early for those planning to see Turkuaz at the Putnam Den this Tuesday in Saratoga Springs. The Brooklyn powerpunk band takes to with guest Iespecial at 8 p.m.

Turkuaz is a nine-piece band, blending elements of Sly & The Family Stone, Rick James, The Beatles, Motown, R&B, and a splash of Talking Heads to create a new wrinkle in the funk genre.

New Yorker magazine went one step further, describing the band's sound as a mix of "just about any genre that gets people dancing."

Turkuaz is currently touring in support of its Fall 2015 release "Digitonium."

Iespecial hails from New England, with an "aggressive death-funk dance" sound cultivated out of Boston.

The three-piece band hits the road to support "Ceremony," its second and latest release since 2011.

Putnam Den is located on 63 Putnam St. in Saratoga Springs. Doors open at 8 p.m. For more information, visit Turkuaz on its Facebook page.



Miracle at The Palace

ALBANY — The 2004 Disney film that captured the story of one of the greatest upsets and sports history will be featured at the Albany Palace Theatre, Saturday, March 26 at noon.

Herb Brooks (Kurt Russell) leads his team of college hockey players through a gauntlet of international competition, including a heavily favored Soviet Union team.

For tickets and more information, visit palacealbany.com.

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Map & guide: www.ThurmanMapleDays.com

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Tue: **Dave Kitchen Trio** | 7 p.m.

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Sat: **Frank Jaklitsch** | 6:30 p.m.

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Fri: **Dos Amigos** | 7:30 p.m.
Sat: **E.J. Hopeck & Bobby V.** | 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

ARTS CALENDAR



Nothing but Beethoven

The Capital Trio — the University at Albany’s resident classical trio — plays an all-Beethoven program Wednesday, March 30, at the school’s Performing Arts Center. See Page B8 for details.

Submitted photo

Thur: **Lustre Kings, Laura Hope & the Ark-Tones** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Yo La Tengo** | 9 p.m.

Emack & Bolio’s
366 Delaware Ave. 512-5100
Fri: **Sydney Worthley** | 7 p.m.
Sat: **Alyssa Yeager** | 7 p.m.
Every Tue: **Open Mic** | 7 p.m.

Fuze Box

12 Central Ave., Albany. 703-8937
Thur: **Axis, I Disappear, Throat Culture, Widowed** | 7 p.m. | \$5
Fri: **Cretin Hop** | 9 p.m. | \$5, ladies free
Sat: **Panzram, The Power, Life’s Not Fair, Totally Gnarly, Black Iron Prison** (Panzram CD release) | 8 p.m. | \$10

Ginger Man

234 Western Ave., Albany. 427-5963
Fri: **Nat Phipps** | 8 p.m.

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

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

Wed: **Titus Andronicus, Craig Finn** | 8 p.m. | \$15-18
Fri: **Gratefully Yours** | 10 p.m. | \$12-15
Sat: **DMAs** | 8 p.m. | \$15-18

The Low Beat
335 Central Ave., 432-6572
Every Wed: **The Deadbeats** | 10 p.m. | \$5

Thur: **Pythias Braswell, Walking X-Ray, Hospital Corners** | 8 p.m.
Fri: **Warhols Woodshed Happy Hour Bowie Tribute: Ziggy Stardust** | 5 p.m.

The Orange, Dryer, Gobi | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Crescente, The Dread Resisters, Hino Sol** | 8 p.m.
Mon: **Dorothy** | 7:30 p.m. | Free (WEQX show)

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
Wed: **Jessica & Rob** | 7 p.m.
Thur: **Mike Kailas & Friends** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Ron Sorenson** | 7 p.m.
Sat: **Mick Mahoney (Bob Dylan)** | 7 p.m.
Every Sun: **Open Mic** | 7:30 p.m.
Mon: **Nancy’s Hootenanny** | 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: **Chuck D’Aloia** | 6 p.m.

Eric Margan & Cara May Gorman | 9 p.m.
Sat: **Jeanne O’Conner & the New Standard** | 9 p.m.

Parish Public House
388 Broadway, Albany. 365-0444
Thur: **Bonerama, Oobleck** | 8 p.m. | \$17 Adv.

Continues on B8

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57					58						59		

- ACROSS**
- 1. “ER” doctor
 - 5. ____ vs. Goliath
 - 10. Black bird
 - 13. Black, in poetry
 - 14. Baba ghanoush ingredient
 - 15. “Aladdin” prince
 - 16. To remove government regulatory controls
 - 18. Feminine side
 - 19. Land
 - 20. Branch
 - 21. Two year old doe
 - 22. Innocent
 - 23. Much less
 - 25. ____ el Amarna, Egypt
 - 26. Endure
 - 28. Put on, as cargo
 - 29. Battlefield shout
 - 31. Bit
 - 32. The art of taking pictures
 - 35. Aluminum coin of Burma
 - 36. Flirtatious women
 - 37. Cliffside dwelling
 - 39. Advertising sign
 - 40. “Acid”
 - 43. ____ Silver
 - 46. See-through sheet
 - 48. Bolivian export
 - 49. “Much ____ About Nothing”
 - 50. Infinite amount of time
 - 51. ____ v. Wade
 - 52. The „Áúbox,Àù in hockey
 - 54. A pint, maybe
 - 55. Relating to holy observances
 - 56. Aug. follower
 - 57. “Absolutely!”
 - 58. Bumper sticker word
 - 59. “ ____ quam videri” (North Carolina’s motto)

- DOWN**
- 1. Blue-pencil
 - 2. Tropical African tree
 - 3. Reddish brown
 - 4. Contemptuous look
 - 5. Broad valley
 - 6. “Bingo!”
 - 7. Aqua ____
 - 8. Dead to the world
 - 9. Cheerless
 - 10. Everyday routine (3 wds.)
 - 11. Turned away
 - 12. Rapid or swift
 - 14. Small, powerful towing ship
 - 17. South American cowboy
 - 23. Garment covering from ankle to knee
 - 24. Thin, narrow strips of wood
 - 27. High school formal dance
 - 29. Committee head
 - 30. Coastal raptor
 - 32. Mountain range between Spain and France
 - 33. Salamanders that inhabit ponds of Mexico
 - 34. Extreme poverty
 - 35. Stalk of a plant in which the leaf is attached
 - 37. Lead ____
 - 38. Go by, as time
 - 40. Former money of account of France
 - 41. Imbues
 - 42. To assess at a lower value
 - 44. Archetype
 - 45. Present
 - 47. “Cut it out!”
 - 50. Apartment
 - 53. Parenthesis, essentially

Answers on Pg. B20

ARTS CALENDAR

Fri: **Charlie Hunter Quartet** | 8 p.m.
| \$20, \$15 Adv.
Sat: **Autumn's Shroud, Spire, Straight Through Sanity, Glass Skeleton Death March** | 9 p.m.

Pauly's Hotel

337 Central Ave., Albany.
paulysshotel.com
Fri: **Hammer Hawk** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **N.Y. Grey** | 9 p.m.
Mon: **Blue Monday Blues Jam** | 8 p.m.
Tue: **Acoustic Open Mic** | 7 p.m.

Platinum Pub

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

Provence

Stuyvesant Plaza, 1475 Western Ave., Albany. 689-7777
Fri: **Patricia Dalton Trio** | 7 p.m.
Sat: **A3** | 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: **Turkuaz, Iespecial** | 9 p.m. | \$15, \$10 Adv.
Fri: **Nat Osborn Band, Woolly Mammals** | 9:30 p.m. | \$7
Sat: **Formula 5, Teddy Midnight** | 9 p.m. | \$10

Roux

10-01 Vista Blvd., Slingerlands.
487-4358
Wed: **Azzaam Hameed & Allen Halstead** | 6 p.m.

Rustic Barn Pub

150 Speigletown Rd., Troy. 235-5858
Every Thur: **Open Mic** | 8 p.m.
Fri: **The Bear Bones Project** | 8 p.m.

Sake Japanese Steakhouse

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

Speakeasy 518

42 Howard St., Albany. 449-2332
Wed: **Shaun McCarthy** | 8 p.m.
Thur: **Bryan Brundige Duo** | 9 p.m.
Fri: **Lecco Morris Trio** | 9 p.m.
Sat: **Nate Giroux Trio** | 9 p.m.
Mon: **Joe Finn** | 8 p.m.
Tue: **Justin Henricks** | 8 p.m.

Stockade Inn

1 North Church St., Schenectady.
346-3400
Thur: **Wee-B3** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Azzaam Hameed & Annette Harris** | 7 p.m.

Tierra Coffee Roasters



24 hours to create five plays

The annual 24 Hour Theatre Project returns to the University at Albany Performing Arts Center Saturday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m. Fifty playwrights and actors will collaborate and create five new plays.

Submitted photo

1038 Madison Ave., Albany. 621-7299
Fri: **Misty Jazz Trio** | 6:30 p.m.

Twisted Vine

384 Kenwood Ave., Delmar. 439-3241
Thur: **Angela Ford & The Lost Keys** | 7 p.m.
Sat: **Mia Jazz Trio** | 7 p.m.

Upstate Concert Hall

1208 New York 146, Clifton Park.
371-0012 or upstateconcerthall.com
Sat: **Parmalee, Jordan Davis, Adam Craig** | 8 p.m. | \$22, \$20 Adv.
Mon: **Silverstein, Being As An Ocean, Emarosa, Coldrain, Rarity** | 6:30 p.m. | \$22, \$18 Adv.

The Van Dyck

237 Union St., Schenectady. 348-7999
Fri: **Melissa Sgambelluri Trio** | 6 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: **Hamilton Street Jazz Duo** | 6:30 p.m.

MUSIC

Toshi Reagon and BIGLovely

Acclaimed soul/blues singer and her band. March 24, 7:30 p.m., Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, 30 Second St., Troy. Tickets: \$34. Information: 273-0038 or troymusichall.org.

David Wax Museum

Indie folk/Americana duo featuring David Wax and Suz Slezak. March 25, 8 p.m., The Linda: WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$18. Information: 465-5233 or www.thelinda.org.

Enter the Haggis

Rock and roll meets traditional Celtic music with this Canadian band, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary, with opening act Ghost of Paul Revere. March 26, 8 p.m., The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Tickets: \$28. Information: 473-1845 or www.theegg.org.

Moondance — The Ultimate Van Morrison Tribute Concert
Playing all of Morrison's hits. March 26,

8 p.m., The Linda: WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$20. Information: 465-5233 or www.thelinda.org.

Capital Trio

Resident ensemble performs all-Beethoven program. March 30, 7:30 p.m., University at Albany Performing Arts Center, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany. Tickets: general public \$8, students/seniors/staff \$4. Information: 442-3997 or www.albany.edu/pac.

Straight No Chaser

Male a cappella group tours in support in of its album, "The New Old Fashioned." March 30, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$29.50-\$49.50. Information: palacealbany.com.

The Down Hill Strugglers

Performing songs from the Alan Lomax Library of Congress Music Collection, along with The Four O'Clock Flowers and Meredith Axelrod, hosted by Michael Eck. March 30, 8 p.m., The Linda: WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$18. Information: 465-5233 or www.thelinda.org.

Raise Your Voice: Sing for Kids

A special concert with teens and young adults (ages 14-22) performing in a benefit for the Court Appointed Special Advocates of the Capital Region. March 31, 7 p.m., Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: \$22. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

Ethan Bortnick

Young artist recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as "The World's Youngest Solo Musician to Head-line His Own Concert Tour." April 1, 7:30 p.m., Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: \$19-\$39. Information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

Kim Nazarian

Albany native and founding member of New York Voices celebrates her first solo jazz recording. April 1, 8 p.m., The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Tickets: adults \$25, students/seniors \$20. Information: 473-1845 or www.theegg.org.

Melissa Ferrick

Singer-songwriter returns for another show in support of her new album. April 1, 8 p.m., The Linda: WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central

Ave., Albany. Tickets: \$20. Information: 465-5233 or www.thelinda.org.

THEATRE

The Blue-Sky Boys

A play about how NASA used outside-the-box thinking to successfully get a man to the moon and back. Presented by Capital Repertory Theatre, 111 North Pearl St., Albany, through April 3. Tickets and showtimes: 445-7469 or www.capitalrep.org.

The Lion King

Broadway musical based on the modern classic Disney animated film. March 22 through April 17, Proctors Mainstage, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets and information: 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

24 Hour Theatre Project

Fifty playwrights and actors will collaborate and create five new plays in one day and present them April 2, 7:30 p.m., at the University at Albany Performing Arts Center, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany. Advance tickets: general public \$15, students/seniors/staff \$10. Day of show: general public \$20, students/seniors/staff \$15. Information: 442-3997 or www.albany.edu/pac.

COMEDY

MopCo

Presenting "Real Life: The Improv," where celebrities are interviewed about their lives, and improvisors react to their stories in spontaneous and unpredictable ways. Fridays through April 29, 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

Shawn Wayans, March 24-26. Crossgates Mall, Western Avenue, Guilderland. Shows: Thursdays and Fridays 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 7 p.m., late shows Friday and Saturday 10 p.m. Information: 313-7484 or Albany.funnybone.com.

The Comedy Works — Albany

Mike Gaffney headlines, March 25 and 26, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. 500 Northern Blvd., Albany. Tickets and information: 512-4075 or thecomedyworks.com.

The Comedy Works —

Saratoga

Chris Rich headlines, March 25 and 26, 8 and 10 p.m. 388 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Tickets and information: 275-6897 or thecomedyworks.com.

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ARTS CALENDAR



Nosh on Jewish cuisine

The annual Capital Region Jewish Food Festival takes place April 3 from noon to 3 p.m. at Congregation Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Ave. in Schenectady. Sample traditional and gourmet dishes from area restaurants and caterers.

Submitted photo

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ists takes the stage. April 9, 8 p.m., The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Tickets: \$38.50-\$48.50. Information: 473-1845 or www.theegg.org.

DANCE

Albany Dance-Sport Club

Monthly ballroom dance including a group lesson and a mid-event showcase. March 27, 6:15 to 10 p.m., Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Extension, Albany. Tickets: adults \$10, students \$5. Information: 456-3995.

Single Squares of Albany

Modern western square dancing with caller Matt McGovern and cuer Walter Wall. April 6, 7:30 p.m., Colonie Elks Club, Watervliet-Shaker Road, Latham. Tickets: \$7. Information: 674-2076.

FAMILY/YOUTH

Art for All

A family program presented by the Albany Institute of History and Art, 125 Washington Ave., on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March's program: Marbled Paper Butterflies, inspired by the Karner blue butterfly. Families will create swirled blue patterns for butterfly wings from a marbled paper technique using shaving cream and paint. Information: www.albanyinstitute.org.

Comedy Pet Theatre

A blend of the comedy and juggling skills of Gregory Popovich with the talents of his pets. March 26, 3 p.m., The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Tickets: \$18, adults free when accompanied by a child. Information:

473-1845 or www.theegg.org.

FILM

Miracle

The 1980 United States Olympic hockey team's story of how it defeated the Soviet Union. March 26, noon, Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Tickets: adults \$5, children \$3. Information: palacealbany.com.

African Queen

Classic American movie starring Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn. March 28, 7 p.m., Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Tickets: adults \$5, children \$3. Information: palacealbany.com.

In Between Days

The story of a Korean girl who tries to make a new life for herself in a North American city. Screened in conjunction with Albany Pro Musica's "City of Immigrants" concert and the New York State Writers Institute's Classic Film Series. April 1, 7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., Albany. Free. Information: 442-5620 or www.albany.edu/writers-inst.

LITERARY

David Gelernter

Computer scientist and theorist offers a seminar and a reading sponsored by the New York State Writers Institute and the University at Albany's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. March 31, 4:15 (seminar) and 8 p.m. (reading), Recital Hall, University at Albany Performing Arts Center, 1400 Washington Ave. Information: 442-5620 or www.albany.edu/writers-inst.

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.

Lincoln on the Civil War:

Selected Speeches

Author Giacomo Calabria leads a reading and discussion of President Abraham Lincoln's speeches spanning his political career. Thursdays through April 14, 6 to 8 p.m., Huxley Theater, New York State Museum, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Free. Information: 474-0575 or email Nicole.lafountain@nysed.gov.

MISCELLANEOUS

City of Immigrants: A Special Conversation

A look at Albany's history with WAMC's Alan Chartock and the Times Union's Paul Grondahl. March 24, 1 p.m., The Linda: WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave., Albany. Free. Information: 465-5233 or www.thelinda.org.

Capital Region

Jewish Food Festival

Featuring samples of traditional and gourmet Jewish food prepared by the Capital District's restaurants and caterers. April 3, noon to 3 p.m., Congregation Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Ave., Schenectady. Tickets: adults \$15, children 13-17 \$5, children 12 and under free.

Continues on B10

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■ ARTS CALENDAR

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.

Family Fun Ceramics

Weekly 90-minute class taught by Catie Singer on Sundays, 2 p.m., Schenectady Jewish Community Center, 2565 Balltown Road, Niskayuna. Cost: members \$8, guests \$12; all materials are included. Information: 377-8803 or www.schenectadyjcc.org.

Weekly ceramics

Two-hour Thursday class taught by Chris Singer, 1 to 3 p.m., Schenectady Jewish Community Center, 2565 Balltown Road, Niskayuna. Cost: members \$8, guests \$12; all materials are included. Information: 377-8803 or www.schenectadyjcc.org.

One Big Roof

Weekly classes include Gentle Yoga (Monday, 8:30 a.m.), Meditation in Motion Yoga (Monday, 5:30 p.m.), Saratoga Stress Reduction Program (Tuesday, 5:15 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.), Tai Chi (Tuesday, 7 p.m.), Deepening your Practice/Embodiyoga (Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.), Yoga for

Beginners (Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.), Health-preserving Qigong (Wednesday, 7 p.m.), Synerivation Physical Therapy (Wednesday, 5 p.m.), Candlelight Yoga (Thursday, 6:30 p.m.) and dharma Meditation (Sunday, 9 a.m.). 538 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs. Information: www.oneroofsaratoga.com.

Empire State Lyme Disease Association

Holding open forum support group meetings March 30 and April 27, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Bethlehem.

EXHIBITS

Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center

"Nature at Your Doorstop," a photo exhibit featuring many of the natural wonders of the Capital District, through April 30. 25 Quackenbush Square, Albany. Information: 434-0405.

Albany Institute of History and Art

"The Capital Region in 50 Objects," through April 2016; "Masterworks: 225 Years of Collecting," through Sept. 4; plus "A Gather of Glass: Selections from the Museum's Collection," "Ancient Egypt" and more. 125 Washington Ave., Albany. Info: 463-4478 or www.albanyinstitute.org.

Albany Public Library

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

Arts Center of the Capital Region

"Every Which Way," featuring new and ongoing sculptures by Abraham Ger-raro, March 25 through April 24. 265 River St., Troy. Information: artscenteronline.org.

Carrie Haddad Gallery

"Photography," featuring a variety of innovative photo techniques. 622 Warren St., Hudson. Information: 828-1915 or carriedaddadgallery.com.

The Hyde Collection

"Norman Rockwell in the 1960s,"

featuring 21 illustrations and original magazine covers by the artist, through April 3; "60 from the 60s: Selections from the George Eastman Museum," through April 3. 161 Warren St., Glens Falls. Information: 792-1761 or www.hydecollection.org.

Laffer Gallery

"Space + Volume," an exhibit featuring artists Robert Guille and Gyula Varosy, through April 3. 96 Broad St., Schuylerville.

Mabee Farm Historic Site

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

miSci

"Earth Exposed: Discover Our Planet's Hidden Secrets." Nott Terrace Heights, Schenectady. Info: 382-7890 or www.miSci.org.

New York State Museum

"PLAY! 6th Annual Capital Region CANstruction," through March 30; "REPRESENT: Contemporary Native American Art," through July 3; "St. Paul's Chapel: A Place of Refuge," through Aug. 21. Empire State Plaza, 222 Madison Ave., Albany. Info: 474-5877 or www.nysm.nysed.gov.

Opalka Gallery at Sage College

"Kate Teale: The Housed," an exhibition of atmospheric paintings and large-scale drawings of waves and bedsheets that float between figuration and abstraction, plus a site-specific wall drawing, through April 10. 140 New Scotland Ave., Albany. Information: 292-8607.

Saratoga Arts

"Showcasing Saratoga Arts' Teaching Artists," featuring works by 23 faculty members, through April 30, 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information: www.saratoga-arts.org.

Tang Teaching Museum

"Alma Thomas," a collection of artwork spanning her career, through June 5; "Borrowed Light: Selections from the Jack Shear Gift," through Aug. 14; "Eleva-



Half a world away

"In Between Days" tells the story of a Korean woman who moves to North America to start a new life for herself. The New York State Writers Institute will screen the movie Friday, April 1, at Page Hall, 135 Western Ave. in Albany.

Submitted photo

tor Music 30: Critter & Guitari," where visitors are invited to play unique musical instruments designed by Critter and Guitari in the museum's elevator, through June 5; and "Liz Collins — Energy Field," through May 31. Skidmore College, 815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Information: tang.skidmore.edu.

Union College

"Recurrence," featuring artists Kira Nam Greene, Juan Hinojosa, Simone Meltesen, Karen Schiff, Sam Vernon and Rachael Wren, Mandeville Gallery, Nott Memorial second floor, through April 10; "Slippery Slope by Georgie Friedman," Peter Irving Wold Center, College Atrium, second floor, through Nov. 30. Information: 388-6318 or www.union.edu/gallery.

University Art Museum

"Keltie Ferris: Body Prints and Paintings," "Race, Love, and Labor: New Work from the Center for Photography at Woodstock's Artist-in-Residency Pro-

gram" and "Gerard 7 Kelly: Performance Documents," through April 2. University at Albany uptown campus, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany. Information: 442-4035 or www.albany.edu/museum.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Upper Union Street BID

Seeking artists for its annual Strawberry Fest & Art Show, which will be held Saturday, June 18. Individual artist fee is \$30. The fee is waived for students. Registration forms and information: Madelyn Thorne, 727-6689 or www.upperunionstreet.com.

Choose Cohoes for Art

Seeking artists and authors in Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties to participate in its annual Cohoes Artist Showcase June 11 and 12 at the Cohoes Music Hall. Entry deadline is May 9.

Information: info@ChooseCohoesForArt.org.

Dancers Needed for Giselle

Ajkun Ballet Theatre is looking for enthusiastic young dancers, (pre-K to young teens) for its summer production of Giselle, staged and performed in the month of August 2016 at The Egg (Albany, NY). Dance Students, aged 14 and above, of intermediate-advanced thru professional level may audition by DVD or in person to join the Company's New York state summer performance tour. Information about the Company may be found at www.ajkunbt.org, 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.

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From page B5 ...

Dive into reading

condition, at the site. Customers can choose what they wish, receiving help in making selections, if desired.

"We share only what we'd be proud to have in our own homes," Partridge-Brown emphasized. With the help of hundreds of volunteers from area colleges, scout troops and civic organizations, Partridge-Brown and Sandler have sorted, organized and then given away more than 70,000 books, primarily to the Albany Public Schools. Other beneficiaries of books as well as clothing and home décor are more than 50 non-profit agencies catering to underserved Capital District residents, including

homeless shelters, housing programs and people in transition, nursing homes and veterans.

Convinced the way out of poverty is through literacy, Partridge-Brown and Sandler have also set up numerous "Little Free Library" boxes in front of each of the Albany public schools. Residents of any age may help themselves to books or "leave a book, take a book." "Sixty percent of inner city homes don't have any books in their homes at all," Sandler said. "We want to do all we possibly can to change that."

Visitors to Grassroot Givers climb down one of several staircases to the enormous pool floor and are confronted with dozens of labeled bookshelves holding an astonishing variety of

books, carefully arranged according to topic and alphabetized. Best sellers, biography, poetry, classics and more, with comfortable sofas and chairs arranged nearby to encourage "in-pool" reading, minus the water. There's even a separate children's section, where Mary Poppins, Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat, baby pop-up books and puzzles vie for the curious child's attention. Tiny rocking chairs and a blow-up raft lined with plush cushions provide the perfect locale for fostering a love of reading. Patrons may read at the site or take books home to keep.

Hardworking volunteers rave about the organizations and its founders. "Mary and Roberta are absolutely amazing people," said Norma Redmond. "I've never met people so kind, so caring and so compassionate."

Prospective donors or volunteers may contact www.grassrootgivers.org for information. Donated books, clothing and household items should be in excellent condition. Books accepted are generally less than 10 years old.

Grassroot Givers invites all avid readers and book lovers to its Book Club Open House at its facility on Thursday, March 24, at 274 Washington Ave., in Albany.

Join for light refreshments in our "lap pool library" (no bathing suit required). Suggested donation is \$25.

Please RSVP on our Facebook page (type in Book Club Open House), call Mary at (518) 542-1276 or email our event coordinator, Heather, at hchristensen@siena.edu.

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

CAMP TIMES
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Tryouts for this coming Long Course Season are as follows:

March 23rd - 6:30-7:30 Siena College
March 28th - 6:30-7:30 Siena College
March 30th - 6:30-7:30 Siena College

March 24th 5:30-6:30 Ravena HS
March 29th 6:30-7:30 Niskayuna HS
April 5th - 5:30-6:30 Ravena HS

to assist in registration please bring a copy of your birth certificate to the tryout

For more information, please visit www.albanystarfish.org or email coachsteve@albanystarfish.org



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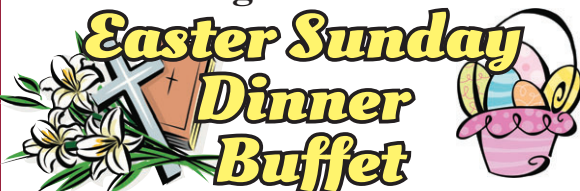
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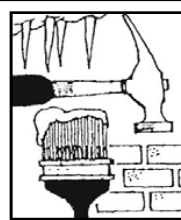
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From page B1 ...

Ain't just whistlin' Dixie

me when my mother went to work. She used to get these records of Bing Crosby and Louis Armstrong and all that," said Parsons. "I guess that was the start of it."

At first, Parsons said he wanted to be a saxophone player like his cousin and another friend of his, but he was told to start with the clarinet. Once he picked up the clarinet, though, he never put it down.

"I did eventually play the saxophone, but I found my greatest pleasure was playing the clarinet," said Parsons. "It was much harder to play."

As a young man growing up in the big band era, Parsons wanted to emulate his musical heroes such as Goodman and Armstrong. With the help of his friend and drummer, Tom Brown, he formed his first group in 1955 and played shows at the Van Schoick Tavern in Cohoes. Eventually, the band grew into the first incarnation of the Riverboat Jazz Band in 1956.

Over the next 60 years, the Riverboat Jazz Band has had many members come and go — to the point where one of Parsons' friends, Cliff Lamere, started a website dedicated to listing all of the people that have been part of the group.

"He's got some pictures of people that he took or pictures that he got from me or other people that he has on the website," said Parsons. "So, there's been probably 250 people who have played with me."

One of the few constants for Parsons has been his band's monthly shows at The Fountain. For the last 45 years, the Riverboat Jazz Band has played the second weekend of every month at the venerable Albany restaurant — a deal he struck with his friend, John Romano, who founded The Fountain. The shows were a big hit with the locals, and Romano was just as much a part of it as the band, as he interjected comments and pretended to play a clarinet by holding a Galliano bottle while standing on the bar.

Romano died in March 1976, but the Riverboat Jazz Band's monthly shows continued.

"John told his wife (Bonnie), 'I want you to know that if anything ever happens to me, I want them to always have their job,'" recalled Parsons.

Parsons' shows continue to draw crowds, especially as younger generations come into contact with his style of Dixieland jazz.

"It's wonderful, and some of it came around with the business of the swing dancing," said Parsons. "We used to play some of those things, but those kids got to know us

Skip Parsons and his band have rubbed elbows with some men in high places, like then NYS Governor Mario Cuomo.

Submitted photo



from some of that and they still come around.

"Some younger kids ... can appreciate what we're doing, and they appreciate the talent and they like the music. I've been known to say, this is about the third time in my life the kids came around again — and

they're coming around again now, which is marvelous. But, it's not really their music like it was the music of people my age. The music of their age is not us, although they can appreciate us and they like us. It's not their thing."

Playing music has brought Parsons to some interesting places in his life. He's had the chance to play with some jazz luminaries such as Jimmy McPartland, John "Ed" Hubble, Bobby Hackett and Vince Giordano. He and his band once played for former New York Governor Mario Cuomo.

And then, there was the time Parsons and his band became ABC's official band for its 1980 Winter Olympics broadcasts from Lake Placid. For nearly two weeks, they played at several venues around the village, and even got the chance to kick off the first broadcast from the top of Whiteface Mountain.

As Parsons recalled, the band wasn't even fully assembled when the request came in from the network producer.

"We couldn't get everybody up there because of the credentials and the security and all that stuff," said Parsons. "So it's 11 o'clock at night and I'm in ... Marvin Bayer's office, and he was the chief honcho there. And he said, 'We're going to have you up there to start the Olympics up on Whiteface Mountain tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock.' And I said to him, 'We've got a problem. I only have three of us here. We still got three more guys down in the Albany area.' He said, 'Who are they?' I give him a name, he said 'What's his address?' And there's a guy walking by the door. He says, 'Hey Sam' — or whatever he called him — 'take this over to George and send a bus down to Albany to pick these guys up.' Just like that, they went down in the middle of the night, picked those other three people up, and the next morning we were on Whiteface Mountain."

The original plan had the Riverboat Jazz Band performing on a horse-drawn flat bed stage, but it was nixed when the police told them everyone needed credentials — including the horses.

"So, the broadcast people said to me, 'We've got

Continues on B18

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From page B17 ... Ain't just whistlin' Dixie

another plan. 'They put us on this (tractor), went to the top of Whiteface Mountain, and that's where we started the Olympics — in the snow,' said Parsons. "We set up to play ... the women's downhill was supposed to be first. And we became the first thing on documentary tape in the Smithsonian Institute. They had across the front of Ernie's tuba '1980 Winter Olympic Games, Lake Placid, New York.' And they backed up, and there's the band. And then they moved over to the women's downhill."

"Stuff like that happened every day. Every day, something ... just a miracle thing."

And speaking of

miracles, the Riverboat Jazz Band found itself in the middle of a wild celebration after the United States defeated the Soviet Union 4-3 in the "Miracle on Ice" hockey game.

"We were ready to leave (on the day the U.S. hockey team beat the Soviets) ... and I get this phone call," said Parsons. "Ed Lewi, who arranged that whole thing for us, was on the phone. He said, 'Oh, you're still here,' and I said yeah. 'Have you got a band?' And I said, 'I think so. We're packing up.' 'Get down to the Olympic Arena. We might win the game.' So we got down there, but it was so crowded that we couldn't get in."



"So, we're outside. I said, 'Let's stick it here for a little while. Maybe somebody will come around.' And then all of a sudden, the doors flew open and they (the fans) come screaming. And I

thought, well they must have won. Anyway, they came over and they tried to pick up Ernie (Belanger) with his sousaphone ... and this was all on the front page of the New York Post the next day."

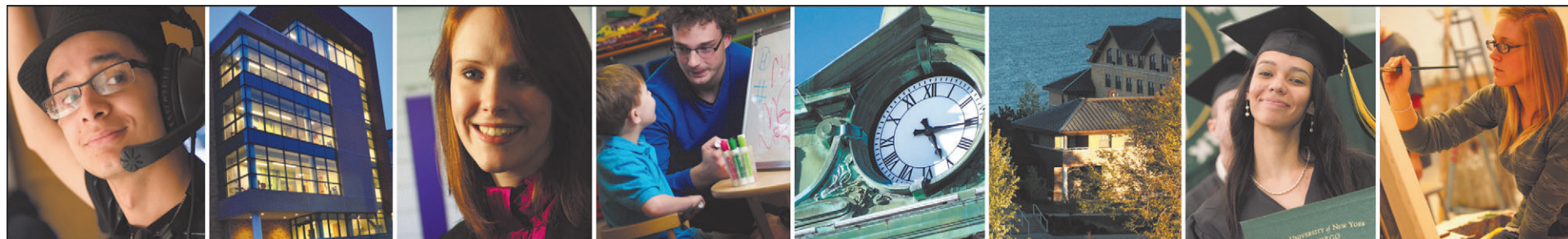
Parsons hasn't been part of any wild celebrations since that day in 1980, but he still feels the rush of playing Dixieland jazz

wherever he goes.

"It's forever changing; it's forever new," said Parsons. "With jazz, you're never playing the same thing twice. You're playing the same song, but you don't play the same licks. You're always reaching for new statements or new notes to play, and you're always working on it. It's a challenge."

The Riverboat Jazz Band was witness to one of the greatest memories of the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics.

Submitted photo



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ARTS

Artist showcased at JCC

Enforcement officer turned artist has exhibit

By **CHAD VERGINE**
news@spotlightnews.com

SCHENECTADY — Local artist Tim Dobert, first decided to pick up a paintbrush after spending 25 years in law enforcement. He was looking for something to help him deal with the stress from the job. Since then, he has found that and inspiration through his art.

Dobert stated that he found an escape in his paintings. Dobert found a form of therapy that brought him peace, being able to take a blank canvas and create a portal into another world.

After Dobert's retirement from law enforcement, he decided to devote his energies into his art. He said he likes to create pieces that help others escape, for that moment in time, and help ease the stress of everyday life.

Dobert is a practicing Shingon Buddhist, and has been practicing martial arts since the age of 10. These practices reflect in Dobert's work. His works are taken from moments in his life. Whether he was thinking of someone, something or someplace, once he's inspired by that thought, at that moment, Dobert turns his mental

image, into a vision on canvas.

Dobert said each piece is created with a meditative energy. He reaches deep down inside to share a small piece of himself while he creates something to calm and sooth the mind and take the person looking at his work to another time and place.

Dobert said he learned to appreciate art from an early age. He first learned how to draw; learning the subtleties of shadowing, blending and lines. He then tried his hand at oil painting. The self-taught artist learned from the likes of Beaurpe, Ginzburg and Christenson.

Dobert has a love for the East, wildlife and jazz music and even created his own art company Dobert's Canvas. Dobert lives in upstate New York with his wife and three sons.

A collection of Dobert's work is currently on display and for sale in the Farber Miness Lounge, located in the lobby of the Schenectady Jewish Community Center at 2565 Balltown Road.

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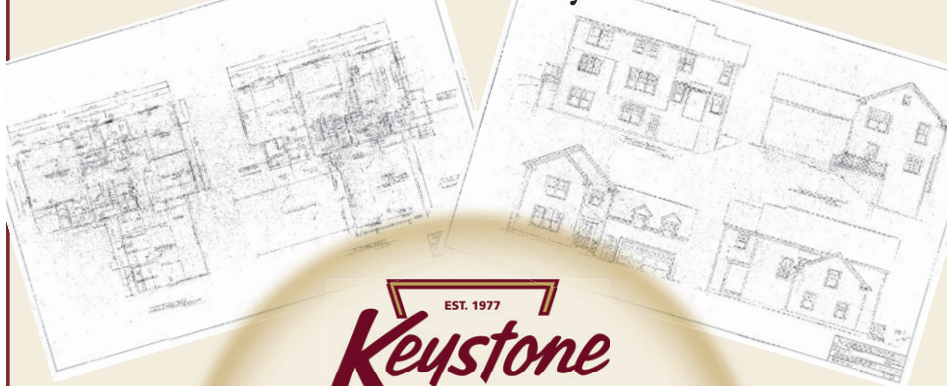
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Line up set for Disc Jam Fest

STEPHENTOWN — Disc Jam Music Festival recently announced its line-up for this year's music festival.

This year marks the sixth annual Disc Jam Music Festival, returning to Gardner's Farm in Stephentown, Thursday, June 9 through Sunday, June 12.

The list of acts include:

Dopapod, Electron, Kung Fu, Taub, Pink Talking Fish, Pigeons Playing Ping Pong, Consider

the Source, Gubbilidis, Govinda, Cappadonna, Space Jesus, The Alchemystics, Lespecial, Vibe Street, Congo Sanchez, Soule Monde, Strange Machines, Wobblesauce, El Dub, Honeycomb Dynamo, Funky Dawgz, Kuf Knotz, Electric Love Machine, Mister F, Formula 5, The Jaunt, Manifested, Teddy Midnight, Litz, Space Bacon Chromatropic, Afterfunk, Lord Electro, Summit, Leila Harrison Stephen Lewis & The Band of One, Matt Carey.

Tickets are on sale at <http://discjamtickets.com>.

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of a memorable music experience and is truly the best small-scale festival you will find in the Northeast.

Disc Jam covers all musical bases with a wooded late-night stage this year, along with two main stages. In addition to the musical talent promised, some creative activities will be added to this year's festival.

A foam dome will be on site for some memorable soapy dance parties, as well as a large theme game tent with a dunk tank, carnival games and a pool table.

As in past years, daily yoga

will be on hand, as well as some surprise interactive art amidst the festival grounds.

This year the Woods stage and camping will be expanding into the forest with the usual car camping available. Disc Jam attendees are always within earshot of the funky sounds of the main stages and have the freedom to roam the beautiful event or play some disc golf on the 18 hole wooded course.

This year's VIP experience will include hotel rooms and shuttles to and from the show, as well as wireless headphones with sets streamed live via the soundboard

feed for a truly unique listening experience.

Staying true to the festival's name and roots, disc golf tournaments for men and women with prizes from Innova and Vibram Disc Golf will be held during the weekend.

For more information, visit the festival's Facebook page at [Facebook.com/DiscJamFestival](https://www.facebook.com/DiscJamFestival) or visit <http://www.discjammusicfestival.com/>.

— Disc Jam Music Festival



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March 23, 2016

Spotlight on Sports

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■ FEMALE WINTER ATHLETE



JENNA GIACONE

Bethlehem's Jenna Giaccone is the Spotlight's female athlete of the winter season. Giaccone averaged 16.9 points per game in leading the Lady Eagles to a second-place finish in the Suburban Council Blue Division and the No. 2 seed for the Section 2 Class AA playoffs.

■ INSIDE



More honors

The Suburban Council announced its girls basketball all-stars last week, while Section 2 boys swimming handed out its post-season awards.

Page 10

■ SPRING SPORTS



Taking the field

Area high school spring sports teams are taking advantage of an abnormally-warm March to get outside to practice, and Bethlehem is no different. All of the teams were outside Wednesday, March 16, to gear up for the start of the season. More pictures on Page 10 and on spotlightnews.com.

Rob Jonas/Spotlight



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HONORS

Giacone makes first team

Wander receives second team all-star nod

CAPITAL DISTRICT —

Bethlehem's Jenna Giacone and Emily Wander are among 15 girls basketball players earning all-league honors.

The Lady Eagles' top two leading scorers were named to the all-star team Tuesday, March 15. Giacone was a first team selection, while Wander earned second team honors.

Giacone led Bethlehem by averaging 16.9 points per game during her senior season. Wander averaged 14.6 points per game during her junior season.

League and Section 2 Class AA champion Shenendehowa led the way in post-season honors. Carly Boland was chosen as the player of the year after averaging 19.5 points per game, while Sydney Brown was named a first team all-star after

posting a 12.8-points per game average.

The rest of the first team all-stars are Columbia's Selena Lott, Shaker's Sierra "CeCe" Mayo and Mohonasen's Saeeda Abdul-Aziz. Lott led the league with an average of 24.3 points per game, while Abdul-Aziz was second with an average of 21.4 points per game. Mayo averaged 17.5 points per game for Shaker.

The second team all-stars are Wander, Albany's Ayanna Hunter, Troy's Sabrina Wolfe, Averill Park's Samantha Laranjo and Saratoga's Kerry Flaherty. The third team list is comprised of Colonie's Erin Fouracre and Aliyah Wright, Ballston Spa's Jordan Hipwell, Saratoga's Catherine Cairns and Albany's Leah Dollard.

— Rob Jonas

Taber swims into honor

CAPITAL DISTRICT —

Bethlehem's Alex Taber and Brendan Cartwright received postseason honors from the Section 2 boys swimming and diving coaches. Taber was named a first team all-star,

while Cartwright was chosen as a second team all-star among Division 1 (large school) swimmers.

Shenendehowa's Luke Gordon was named the Division 1 athlete of the year.

— Rob Jonas

BETHLEHEM



A spring in their steps

Bethlehem track, tennis and baseball teams have taken advantage of the mild winter and early spring to hold the majority of their practices outside at the high school. The spring sports season begins March 30. Rob Jonas/Spotlight

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■ STATE GOVERNMENT

Lifting up from the bottom

Discussion over "living wage" and how current limits don't cut it

By ALI HIBBS
hibbsa@spotlightnews.com

ALBANY — There are 144,415 people in the Capital District making the minimum hourly rate.

In New York's Hudson Valley region, that number nearly doubles and, in New York City, it climbs to 927,400.

According to the Office of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, nearly 2.4 million workers in New York state currently earn less than \$15 an hour. "Today, the minimum wage in New York is \$9 an hour," Cuomo said to an enthusiastic crowd gathered at Empire State Plaza on Tuesday, March 15. "You know what? You can't live on \$9 an hour and have a decent life."

As part of a campaign named for his father, Cuomo has been touring the state in support of raising the minimum wage in New York to \$15 an hour and implementing 12 weeks of paid family leave for every employee. "We've been driving all over the state for weeks, bringing this message to people all across the state, I feel the energy growing, I feel the momentum growing, and we're going to get a \$15 minimum wage right here in New York."

"People are angry," he said. "And you know what? People should be angry. Why? Because the working men and the working women of this state and this country have been going backwards for decades, my friends. Because if you are middle class, if you're a working family, you don't feel like you're getting ahead, you don't see a brighter future, you don't feel the mobility. The bills keep getting bigger and the paycheck keeps getting smaller and you don't know how you're going to make it." As the crowd applauded, Cuomo blamed politics, media and racism for the

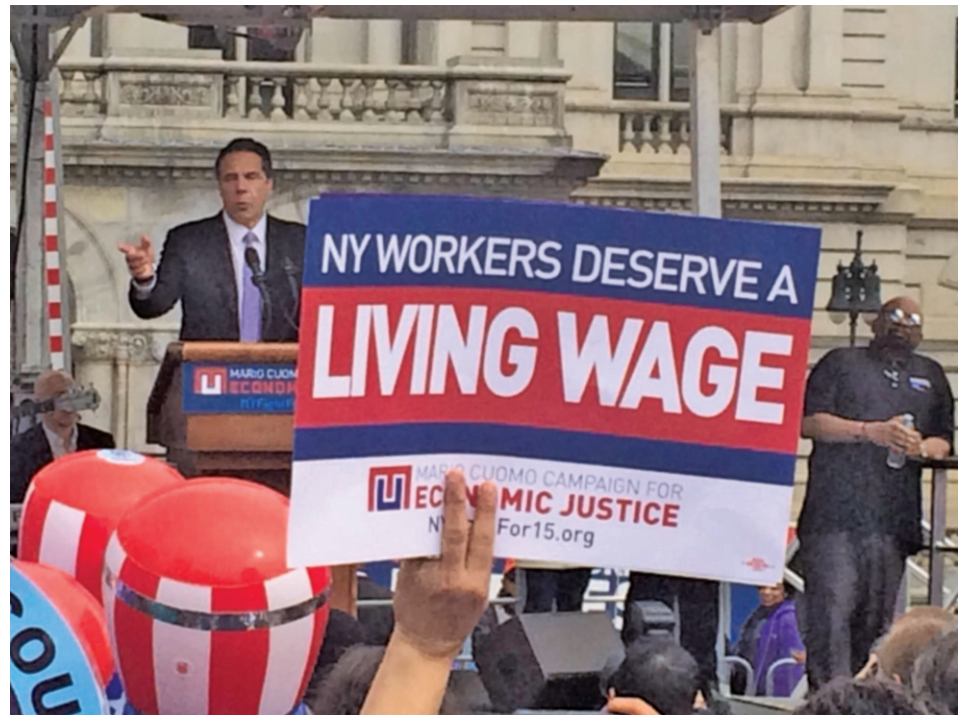
evident discontent of those gathered on the plaza.

"What's causing the problem," he continued forcefully, "is economic injustice, and working men and working women being exploited. We've had enough and we want fairness and we want respect and we want dignity. That's what this is about and it starts with the minimum wage." Quoting President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a former occupant of the Governor's Mansion in Albany who passed the initial minimum wage law in 1938, Cuomo said, "The minimum wage should pay people a salary that allows them a decent living." The hundreds gathered on the Plaza roared with their approval.

Small business owners in Colonie, however, are less enthusiastic about the potential wage hike, expressing concerns about how they will be able to meet payrolls and what to do about long-time employees who aren't making much more than \$15 an hour right now. Some even think it could negatively impact those it is meant to help.

"They're very concerned about how this is going to affect their businesses," said Tom Nolte, president of the Colonie Chamber of Commerce. "They're concerned about payroll and about the Affordable Care Act and feel that it's becoming harder and harder to run a small business. They're going to have to make changes in staffing and pricing in order to continue to do business."

"Needless to say, I'm against it," said Rod Dion, owner of Tech Valley Office Interiors. "But I'm against it because I don't think that they're looking at the long-term effects of it. Does the wage have to go up? Probably. But 67 percent — I think that's the number they keep using — in everyday real-life situations, who gets a 67 percent increase? And, to think that there are no ramifications? I keep hearing the governor saying that we're going to do this and it's good and who am



New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo pitched his plans of raising the state's minimum hourly wage from \$9 to \$15 in front of a crowd gathered at the Empire State Plaza on Tuesday, March 15.

Photo by Ali Hibbs/Spotlight

I to argue that? But, then he also says that there are no consequences on the other side of it—and that's kind of shortsighted and scary, as a business owner, to see that. Because there are real consequences."

"We've just finished going up to \$9," Dion continued. "And the fast food restaurants have just started finalizing their changes. We haven't even allowed that to absorb yet and see how that's going to play out, and all of the sudden we're going to go and quadruple it? What's the

rationale to that? It's hard being a business owner in New York, you finally absorb a new thing and you haven't even breathed yet and then they quadruple it. Won't the fight for \$15 become the fight for \$20? Where does it stop?"

One thing Dion is particularly concerned about is his ability to hire day workers for bigger projects. "The action to raise to \$15 is supposed to help those on the lowest rung, if I understand what the

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

100 NORTH 5TH STREET LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 3/11/2016. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 1726 Starr St., Ridgewood, NY 11285, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#112239

LEGAL NOTICE

1368 LEXINGTON LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 1/11/16. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111425

LEGAL NOTICE

1491 Saratoga Road LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 12/4/2015. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Joseph W. Zappone, Esq., 6 Century Hill Dr., Latham, NY 12110. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#109993

LEGAL NOTICE

41 OSTEND ROAD LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 1/28/16. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111426

LEGAL NOTICE

419 EAST PINE STREET LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 1/28/16. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111427

LEGAL NOTICE

47-07 47TH AVENUE LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 2/1/16. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111428

LEGAL NOTICE

72 Albany Avenue LLC articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY [SSNY] on 12/14/15. Office located in Albany County at 65 Albany Ave., Green Island, NY 12183. SSNY has been designated as agent for the LLC upon whom service may be made and SSNY shall mail a copy of service to the office location. The character of the LLC is any lawful activity. Ad#110765

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

76 Albany Avenue LLC articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY [SSNY] on 12/14/15. Office located in Albany County at 65 Albany Ave., Green Island, NY 12183. SSNY has been designated as agent for the LLC upon whom service may be made and SSNY shall mail a copy of service to the office location. The character of the LLC is any lawful activity. Ad#110675

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): A - Z Builders and Remodelers, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on July 13, 2015. Office Location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: C/O A - Builders and Remodelers, LLC, 483 Joslyn School Road East Berne, NY 12059. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Ad#110664

LEGAL NOTICE

AB & SONS GROUP, LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 12/22/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111416

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: About That Home LLC Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/17/16. 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, 121 Bushendorf Rd, Ravena, NY 12143. Ad#111028

LEGAL NOTICE

BID MANAGEMENT LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 12/28/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111418

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

1. The name of the Limited Liability Company is CAMBRIDGE ROAD PROPERTIES, LLC
2. The Articles of organization of the Limited Liability Company were filed on March 2, 2016 with the New York Secretary of State.
3. The office of the Limited Liability Company is located in Albany County.
4. The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the Limited Lia-

LEGALS

bility Company upon whom process against it may be served.

5. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of process served to the Limited Liability Company to 22 Fairway Court, Voorheesville, NY 12186.
6. The latest date to dissolve is indefinite.
7. The purpose of the Limited Liability Company is to conduct all lawful activity. Ad#111409

LEGAL NOTICE

CDP TRANSPORTATION LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/25/15. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 19 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#111258

LEGAL NOTICE

CHILDREN KREATIVE DAY CARE LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 2/4/14. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111414

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of D & E Walker Enterprises, LLC. Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 2/1/16. Office location: Albany County SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon which process against may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 11 Frost Place, Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: any lawful activities. Ad#111381

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FILING OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK BY A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Name: EdComm NY, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with sec. of state of NY(SOS) on 2/22/16. Office location: Albany County. SOS is designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SOS shall mail copy of process to 27 Aspinwall Road, Loudonville, NY 12211. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. Ad#110081

LEGAL NOTICE

ELETRUNKS, LLC. Art. of Or. filed with NYSS on 3/16/16: Office in Albany County. Registered Agents Inc. is designated as the registered agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. NYSS shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 90 State Street, Suite 700, Office 40, Albany, NY 12207 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#112662

LEGAL NOTICE

ELITE TEST PREP LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 12/22/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process &

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shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111420

LEGAL NOTICE

EQUINOX ENTERPRISES LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 1/7/16. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111423

LEGAL NOTICE

EXCELL CONSTRUCTION LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 3/08/2016. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 497 E. 138th St., Ste. 5E, Bronx, NY 10454, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#111608

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC)
The name of the limited liability company is Fixation Technology LLC. The Articles of Organization were filed on February 9, 2016 with the NYS Department of State. The County within the State in which the office of the LLC is to be located is Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address within or without this State to which the Secretary of State will mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is c/o 17 Bethwood Drive, Loudonville, NY 12211. There is no specific date upon which the LLC is to dissolve. The purpose of the business of the LLC is any lawful purpose permitted of a limited liability company in the State of New York /s/Stephen M. Farrell, Organizer Ad#109409

Ad#109409

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of formation of Fun Zone Entertainment LLC, Art. Of Org. Filed sec'y of state (SSNY) 12/17/2015. Office location: Albany County SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY may mail a copy of any process to the LLC to Kenneth G. Sipperly LLC, 81 Latham Ridge Road, Latham, New York 12110. No registered agent. Purpose: for all legal purposes. Ad#110300

LEGAL NOTICE

KENNETH G. SIPPERLY LLC
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 25, 2016. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC to Kenneth G. Sipperly LLC, 81 Latham Ridge Road, Latham, New York 12110. No registered agent. Purpose: for all legal purposes. Ad#110300

LEGAL NOTICE

GERRY TROUP LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 1/7/16. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg.

LEGALS

Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111432

LEGAL NOTICE

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF H&W Consulting LLC Under Section 203 of the Limited Liability Company Law
FIRST: The name of the limited liability company is H&W Consulting LLC
SECOND: Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity
THIRD: The County within this state in which the office of the limited liability company is to be located in Albany County.
FOURTH: The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. The address within or without this state to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the limited liability company served upon him or her is: H&W Consulting LLC 19 Fairview Rd Albany, NY 12211
FIFTH: The limited liability company is to be managed by: ONE OR MORE MEMBERS.
SIXTH: The existence of the limited liability company shall begin on JANUARY 1, 2016.
SEVENTH: The limited liability company shall have a perpetual existence.
Xiaokum Wang, ORGANIZER Ad#109491

Ad#109491

LEGAL NOTICE
IBRIDGE LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 1/25/16. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111430

Ad#111430

LEGAL NOTICE
KENNETH G. SIPPERLY LLC
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 25, 2016. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC to Kenneth G. Sipperly LLC, 81 Latham Ridge Road, Latham, New York 12110. No registered agent. Purpose: for all legal purposes. Ad#110300

Ad#110300

LEGAL NOTICE
KMH Insurance Services, LLC
Notice of Qualification - LLC was filed with the SSNY on 03/08/2016. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. The P.O. address which SSNY shall

LEGAL NOTICE

mail any process against the LLC served upon him: Kathryn Hoff, KMH Insurance Services, LLC, 139 Stinger Road, Tavernier, FL 33070. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#112241

Ad#112241

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Formation of The Kolodny Group LLC. Arts of Org. filed with New York Secy of State (SSNY) on 2/26/16. Office in Albany Co. SSNY is design. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 159 Delaware Ave #115, Delmar, NY 12054. Purpose: Any lawful purpose Ad#110672

Ad#110672

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Formation of The Kolodny Group LLC. Arts of Org. filed with New York Secy of State (SSNY) on 2/26/16. Office in Albany Co. SSNY is design. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 159 Delaware Ave #115, Delmar, NY 12054. Purpose: Any lawful purpose Ad#110672

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC).
Name: L. Teator, LLC- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 2, 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, 29 Hartman Road, Glenmont, New York 12077. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#109493

LEGAL NOTICE

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. 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

LEGAL NOTICE
MARIANNA STRONGIN, PSY.D., PLLC. Filed w/SSNY on 12/17/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: Psychology. Ad#111415

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
MBS REAL ESTATE GROUP, LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 12/16/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 120 El Camino Sr. #100, Beverly Hills, CA 90212. CA address: 120 El Camino Dr. #100, Beverly Hills, CA 90212. Filed w/SSCA: 1500 11th St. 3 Fl., Sacramento, CA 95814. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111436

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FILING OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK BY A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Name: MerQuies, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with sec. of state of NY(SOS) on 2/24/16. Office location: Albany County. SOS is designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SOS shall mail copy of

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process to 80 State Street, 2nd Floor, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. Ad#110082

Ad#110082

LEGAL NOTICE
MHPG SHORE ROAD LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 1/11/16. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111424

Ad#111424

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
MHPG SHORE ROAD LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 1/11/16. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111424

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Formation of an LLC: Middleburgh Meadows, LLC Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 27, 2016. Office location is in Albany County. The 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 494 Western Turnpike, Altamont, NY 12009. Purpose: for any lawful purpose. Ad#109961

LEGAL NOTICE

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

LEGAL NOTICE
Orion Demolition & Environmental Services, LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY on 01/19/16 Office location: Albany County SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 49 Wilshire Drive, Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: Any lawful purpose Ad#110667

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Articles of Organization of P63, LLC ("LLC") filed with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on December 18, 2015, effective on the date of filing. Office Location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at United States Corporation Agents, INC, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#109986

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Name: MerQuies, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with sec. of state of NY(SOS) on 2/24/16. Office location: Albany County. SOS is designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SOS shall mail copy of

LEGAL NOTICE

process to 80 State Street, 2nd Floor, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. Ad#110082

Ad#110082

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. Name: Peaceful Place Doula Services LLC. Articles of Organization were filed

LEGALS

with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 1/28/16. Office Location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 19 Squire Road, Schenectady, New York 12304. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#108880

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Postpartisan Public Policy (P3) Consulting, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on March 9, 2016. 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: Franklin Esson Jr., 422 Sand Creek Road, Apt. 428, Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Ad#111631

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is PRIMERTY HOLDINGS LLC. The Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on December 23, 2015. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is to the Law Office of Stephen Buckley, P.O. BOX 11627, Albany, NY 12211. Ad#106541

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company Name: Proscenium Data Solutions LLC. Articles of organization were filed with the Secretary of New York (SSNY) on 04/29/2015. 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 the process the LLC to: C/O Proscenium Data Solutions LLC, PO Box 12641, Albany, 12212. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. Ad#108708

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC Articles of Organization for RAPP ROAD PROPERTIES OF ALBANY, LLC were filed with the Secretary of State of New York on January 27, 2016. The office of the company is located in Albany County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon which process may be served and a copy of process shall be mailed by the Secretary of State to the LLC at Lombardi, Walsh, Davenport & Amodeo, P.C., 187 Wolf Road, Suite 211, Albany, New York 12205. Purpose:

Purpose:

Purpose:

From page 3 ... More questions over water

officials say that any additional funding from state or federal governments would be put to good use. A sewer main buried under Albany Shaker Road, for instance, which was originally built using inferior materials, has been causing ongoing headaches for the town's Department of Public Works. While the main is buried far enough into the ground that the breaks are not an immediate threat to public safety, such issues still need to be immediately addressed—the latest was deemed an emergency by the Town Board last week so that emergency funds could be used for repairs.

There are occasional instances, said Commissioner of Public Works Jack Cunningham, when heavy rainfall will “infiltrate” the sewer system, causing the sort of overflows that the town is required to report under the Sewage Pollution Right To Know Act, but he said that those instances are not specific to any one part of town, often surging up through

manholes or occurring at pump stations at random. Another cause of untreated overflow is the occasional sewer main blockage but, again, said Cunningham, no one area of the town tends to be more affected than any other.

Whenever the discharges do occur, Cunningham said that he is alerted within two hours and that he faithfully reports each event to the DEC per the legislation. “It’s a new law,” he said. “It was only enacted two years ago but, to my knowledge, we have been in 100 percent compliance. We are very proactive in complying with DEC regulations.”

But, he added, “Any support we get from the federal or state government to help us afford improvements to the water and sewer infrastructure, we would welcome that in a flash. The issue that we have, particularly when it comes to the sewer system is that, in the 50s, 60s and 70s, the government had programs to encourage

According to EANY, the data on the DEC website accounts for only a fraction of the discharges that occur throughout the state, and those that have been reported are frequently incomplete—a full 85 percent failed to include required overflow volumes.

municipalities to build this infrastructure so that people weren’t using well and septic systems. So, we built this entire system and we’re managing it but, as it ages out, it needs to be replaced and there’s no more federal or state money so that burden all starts to fall to the taxpayers and it becomes very difficult—especially with a 2 percent tax cap and all the other property tax issues we’re dealing with—to be able to maintain that entire system the way you’d want to. So we’ll take any money that they want to send to municipalities; we’ll take whatever we can get.”

From page 11 ... Up from the bottom

governor is saying,” he said. “Yet, on my side of the business, I own an office furniture dealership and don’t keep a large staff on hand for when we have large contracts. So I have to go out to labor-ready places, where you get day laborers for specific projects. So, now with ACA, their rates have already gone up to where they’re almost out of my range. Now, if you add in the minimum wage, ironically, these people who are on the lowest rung are going to be the most affected because I won’t be able to afford to hire them.”

Dion also worries about skilled, long-time employees, noting that it would seem unfair to start new employees at the same (or close to the same) pay rate. “The majority of my employees already make \$15 or more,” he said. “Now, if we make the minimum \$15, then what do I do about my employees who have been here for numerous years and are at that rate now? It’s almost like a double raise.” Small businesses, he said, will be disproportionately affected. “We just can’t absorb the costs the way that larger corporations can.”

“Our core member is that small business,” said Nolte. “That sole proprietor or that mom-and-pop, 11 employee-or-less business, and they’re working on much smaller margins in order to stay in business. They are willing to pay people what they’re worth, but they’re bringing people in who are then getting raises based on their work or based on their skill set instead of setting a bar so high to begin with. I know they’re worried about the implications, about how it’s going to

affect the job pool—possibly you could go anywhere for \$15 an hour and is that going to make people change their skill set?”

“You’re going to hear from the opponents that we can’t raise minimum wage because it will be bad for the economy,” said Cuomo. “First of all, in this state, we have upstate and downstate economies, which are different, and we’ve taken that into account in our plan. We have a phase-in plan for upstate New York.”

Currently, 29 states in the union have minimum wages that are higher than federal law requires (including New York); and in 13 states that raised minimum wage in 2014, all saw higher employment growth during the first half of the year, when compared with states that made no change. Research done by the National Employment Law Project (NELP) indicates that wage increases do not reduce employment or job growth significantly and, in a report, NELP questions the “outdated” methodologies of research opposing wage increases and suggests that savings from reduced employee turnover and increased productivity may help business owners absorb higher payroll costs.

A \$15 minimum wage increase—by the end of 2018 in New York City and by the end of 2021 statewide—has been included in the Democrat-controlled Assembly 2016-2017 budget, but was omitted from the state Senate, which has a narrow conservative majority.

“Obviously this is something that isn’t going to happen tomorrow,” said Nolte. “The hopes are, that if it is going to happen, that there will be ways to ease the burden on small business. Right now, there’s just a lot of conjecture out there.”

LEGALS

for any lawful activity for which limited liability companies may be formed under the law. Ad#108894

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF RENAL VENTURE GROUP, LLC
On 2/17/16, Articles of Organization of Renal Venture Group, LLC were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of New York. The office of the NY limited liability company is located in Albany County. The SSSNY is designated as the agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served and the post office address within New York State to which the SSSNY shall mail a copy of any process against it served upon him or her is Renal Venture Group, LLC, 62 Hackett Blvd., Albany, NY 12209. The purpose of the limited liability company is for any lawful business purpose or purposes. Ad#109736

LEGAL NOTICE

Residence Home Inspections of New York, LLC Filed with SSNY on 2/25/16 Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent for process and shall mail

LEGALS

to: 99 Washington Ave ste 1008 Albany NY 12260. Purpose any lawful. Ad#112354

LEGAL NOTICE

Resolution No. 2016-9 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem in the County of Albany, State of New York has on the 9th day of March, 2016, duly adopted, subject to a permissive referendum, a resolution as follows: **THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS INTO CAPITAL RESERVES**
WHEREAS, the Town has a fund balance policy that establishes an acceptable maximum operating fund balance percentage at 20% of budgeted appropriations; **WHEREAS**, the fund balance policy states that "Balances in excess of 20% of budgeted appropriations will be transferred to the Capital Reserve Funds"; **WHEREAS**, the Town has not transferred funding to capital reserves, based on the fund balance policy, since a calculation performed for year end 2013; **WHEREAS**, it has been determined that the fund

LEGALS

balance exceeds 20% of budgeted appropriations in each of the Town's four major operating funds in the amounts of: \$415,000 General Fund \$350,000 Highway Fund; \$900,000 Water Fund; \$1,200,000 Sewer Fund; **WHEREAS**, it has been determined that the Town has current and future projects established through its capital planning program that will require funding; **WHEREAS**, the Town Board has determined funding through reserves for capital projects to be a prudent action; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board authorizes the Town Comptroller to transfer \$415,000 into the General Fund Capital Reserve; **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board authorizes the Town Comptroller to transfer \$350,000 into the Highway Reserve Capital Reserve. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board authorizes the Town Comptroller to transfer \$900,000 into the Water Reserve Capital Reserve. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board authorizes the

LEGALS

Town Comptroller to transfer \$1,200,000 into the Sewer Reserve Capital Reserve. This resolution shall be subject to a permissive referendum, as permitted by law. The foregoing resolution was presented for adoption by Councilwoman Sasso, seconded by Councilman VanLuvan and approved with the following vote: Ayes - Supervisor Clarkson, Councilwoman Becker, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Sasso, Councilman VanLuvan Nays - none Absent - none Dated: March 9, 2016 Ad#112240

LEGAL NOTICE

S.A. JOHNSON FUNERAL HOME LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 1/5/16. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111421

LEGAL NOTICE

SCHURZ 3 LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 12/28/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Al-

LEGALS

bany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111417

LEGAL NOTICE

SCHURZ 9 LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 12/28/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111419

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company: Security & Technology Solutions LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York on 2/11/16. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: C/O Security & Technology Solutions LLC 9 Flicker Drive, Latham, NY 12110. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#109966

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of a DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LEGALS

Name of LLC: Sh, it's Delicious LLC Date of filing of Articles of Organization with the NY Department of State: January 22, 2016 Office of the LLC: Albany County The NY Secretary of State has been designated as the agent upon whom process may be served. NYSS may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at: 123 Bulson Road, Troy Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose permitted for LLCs under NY Limited Liability Company Act Ad#108687

LEGAL NOTICE

SHLOMUSIC LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 11/17/15. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111422

LEGAL NOTICE

STANTON LEGACY FARM, LLC
Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company
Articles of Organization filed with the Department of State of New York on July 28, 2015. Office location Albany County. Secretary of State of New York State

LEGALS

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 STANTON LEGACY FARM, LLC, 171 Bushendorf Road, Ravena, NY 12143. No reported agent. Latest date of dissolution of LLC: None. Purpose: All legal purposes. Ad#104677

LEGAL NOTICE

SWEETBEAN LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 3/15/2016. Office in Albany Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 195 Bedford Ave., Apt. 5, Brooklyn, NY 11211, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Ad#112352

LEGAL NOTICE

TENURE AVE LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 1/7/16. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111434

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

TOBAGO BORN LLC. Filed w/SSNY on 1/28/16. Office: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 54 State St., #103, Albany, NY 12207. Reg. Agent: USA Corporate Services Inc. @ same address. Purpose: all lawful. Ad#111429

LEGAL NOTICE

Wang Technology, LLC, a New Jersey limited liability company (WTLIC) filed its Application of Authority with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on Feb. 15, 2007. WTLIC's office location is 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: Wang Technology LLC, 42 Washington Rd., Princeton Junction, NJ 08550. The general purpose is a engineering-construction firm. Ad#112261

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March 23, 2016

Spotlight on Opinion

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PAGE 14

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■ FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dumbfounded

Last week the National Football League admitted something local parents have already concluded. There is a link between playing football and developing devastating, debilitating brain disease.

The admission from the league's Jeff Miller, senior vice president for health and safety, in front the U.S. House of Representatives did not cause so much as a ripple through newsrooms, school boards or local Pop Warner meetings. That's because the admission is years, decades late.

Parents old enough to remember may recall the short career of Pittsburgh Steeler wide receiver, and NFL Hall of Famer, Lynn Swann. Swann, an integral tool to Pittsburgh's potent offense during its run for four Super Bowl championships, was often the target of hard hits on the field. As a player, he wasn't shy to allege that some of those hits were intended to knock him out of the game. He would retire after the 1982 season, at the age of 30.

In the Bill Gutman book "Gridiron Greats: Campbell; Zorn; Swann; Grogan", Swann stated his fears over concussions, and what they could do to him outside of football. The book was published to young adults under Tempo publishing in 1979 — 37 years ago.

Other sports and players have already recognized the hazards over concussions. Brett Lindros, the brother of former NHL star Eric Lindros, was forced to end a promising professional career at 20, after playing only 51 games. That was in 1996 — 20 years ago.

No, the ripple effects seen from the NFL's recent admission may come from the overwhelming evidence that ties concussions to impact sports like football and hockey. Today's science has already linked cases with other sports.

ABCNews reported the case of Patrick Grange two years ago, after the 29-year old professional died from an illness related to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, known as Lou Gehrig's disease. After his death in 2012, an

examination of his brain revealed signs of the degenerative neurological disorder Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE).

Athletes today are bigger and faster. Defensive lineman who weight upwards of 400 pounds can run 40-yard dashes at five seconds or less. Imagining the impact caused by a player of such stature is beyond comprehension.

Brief conversations with football coaches on the youth level have been seeing numbers decline over the years. Once competing communities are forced to join together to form a hybrid league to address the dwindling number of players choosing to play football.

Parents already have a quick answer to the problem that plagues football today: Our kids aren't playing. The NFL had 40 years to square up and tackle this situation, and now it has a problem. The most popular sport in the land has a questionable future. It needs only look at the past to see why.

In the Bill Gutman book "Gridiron Greats: Campbell; Zorn; Swann; Grogan", Swann stated his fears over concussions, and what they could do to him outside of football. The book was published to young adults under Tempo publishing in 1979 — 37 years ago. Other sports and players have already recognized the hazards over concussions. Brett Lindros, the brother of former NHL star Eric Lindros, was forced to end a promising professional career at 20, after playing only 51 games. That was in 1996 — 20 years ago. No, the ripple effects seen from the NFL's recent admission may come from the overwhelming evidence that ties concussions to impact sports like football and hockey. Today's science has already linked cases with other sports.

■ GET TO KNOW ...



Mark Grimm
Albany County Legislator

Hometown: Troy, N.Y.
Residence: Guilderland, N.Y.

What kind of music do you listen to?

"We play anything" format at FM 88.3
The Saint

Are you reading anything right now, and would you recommend it?

"The Leader's Voice" by Boyd Clarke and Ron Crossland. Would recommend it because it goes beyond superficial analysis and examines what truly makes the right leadership communication so powerful.

Current favorite television programming?

"Blue Bloods" and "Downton Abbey."

What was the last movie you saw?

"The Best of Me" - surprising twists in plot, wonderfully sentimental.

If you could meet one person, living or dead, who would it be and why?

George Washington. He was our greatest president and yet he was humble enough to walk away from the job.

Describe your dream vacation.

Anywhere with my wife and daughter and/or on a lake with boating and swimming.

Do you have any favorite hobbies?

Host a radio show. Sports: soccer dad;

working out; following Yankees and Siena Saints.

Describe a favorite local memory.

Getting married outdoors on a gorgeous day near the stream at the Appel Inn in Guilderland. With the setting sun behind her, my wife appeared like an angel from heaven.

What is one thing your constituents would be surprised to learn about you?

I've lived in five states --- NY, Colorado, Tennessee, Kentucky and Maine.

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■ DEAN'S LIST AND GRADUATES

Kristen John, of Delmar, graduated with a doctorate degree from Western New England University.

...

Katherine English, of Glenmont, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Azusa Pacific University.

Monya Relles, of Delmar, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Bard College at Simon's Rock.

Colleen Bernstein, of Delmar, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester.

...

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute:

Noah Dropkin of Delmar

Frank Erickson of Glenmont

Nathan Kane of Glenmont

Kallanna Manjunath of Glenmont

Rachael Melita of Slingerlands

Mary Powathil of Slingerlands

Nicholas Schaffer of Schenectady

Allison Thayer of Schenectady

...

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Rochester Institute of Technology:

Raelynn Janicke of Selkirk

Kathryn Cloutier of Glenmont

Rebecca Bogart of Voorheesville

Joseph Cronin of Feura Bush

Lisa Trova of Schenectady

Michael Jones of Selkirk

Austin Malerba of Altamont

Matthew Seita of Guilderland

Chris Partridge of

Delmar

Scott Vincent of Schenectady

Brian Herzog of Slingerlands

Emily Banach of Delmar

James Taggart of Delmar

Spencer Green of Delmar

Matthew Pelletier of Voorheesville

Kyle Bossung of Delmar

Lily Mazur of Schenectady

Nicholas Shafarzek of Schenectady

Morgan Moak of Feura Bush

Victor Rau-Sirois of Guilderland

Paul Hulbert of Guilderland

...

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Binghamton University:

Delmar

Ryan Frederiks

Jenna Hendrick

Jenna Herr

Devin Jensen

Colin Leath

Caroline Maniccia

Sean McGinn

Lauren Nardacci

Justin Rowe

Rani Schoenhaus

Eric Smith

Emily Venezia

Ji-Yuan Yeung

Alexis Young

Schenectady

Laura Earls

Voorheesville

Caroline Weiss

...

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Worcester Polytechnic Institute:

Laura Bauer of Schenectady

Nicholaus Jasinski of Altamont

Christopher Parisi of Schenectady

Amy Toscano of Schenectady

...

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Boston University:

Katherine Dority of Delmar

Elaine Jonas of Delmar

Grace Alessi of Slingerlands

Lindsay Jones of Slingerlands

...

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Roger Williams University:

Paul Corradi of Schenectady

Haley Goodrich of Glenmont

Kristen Neff of Delmar

Alexis Church of Delmar

...

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at SUNY Fredonia:

Kiera De Cotes of Altamont

Kathleen O'Mara of Altamont

Anna Dempf of Glenmont

Hannah Hernandez of Guilderland

Matthew Meacham of Ravena

Julianne Legnard of Schenectady

Joshua Wolfson of Selkirk

Emily Cole of Voorheesville

...

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Le Moyne College:

Angela Boschetti of Schenectady

Ian Cronin of Delmar

Tara O'Donnell of Glenmont

Kelsey Roche of Slingerlands

Dylan Vititow of Altamont

Christopher O'Keefe of Delmar

Benjamin Russell of Delmar

Austin Smith of Delmar

...

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Ithaca College:

Abigail MacKenzie of Delmar

Lindsey Woller of Delmar

Ashley Cohen of Slingerlands

Benjamin McHugh of Slingerlands

Emily Honen of Slingerlands

Mackenzie Lozano of Slingerlands

...

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Colgate University:

Jared Goldsmith of Slingerlands

Lindsey Derbyshire of Slingerlands

Sophia Gallucci of Glenmont

Daniel Mahoney of Slingerlands

Garrett Esper of Slingerlands

...

The following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Fairfield University:

Seamus Barrett of Delmar

Julia Brown of Delmar

Patrick Evens of Schenectady

Danielle Rice of Schenectady



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THE BULL & BARREL SMOKEHOUSE GRILL 155 Wade Rd., Latham 785-7111	MERCATO'S III Peter Harris Plaza 952 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham 783-4444
CENTURY HOUSE 997 New Loudon Rd., Latham 785-0834	PHILLY BAR & GRILL 622 Watervliet Shaker Rd., Latham 785-9559
THE EPICUREAN BISTRO & WINE BAR Latham Farms 579 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham 786-8272	REEL SEAFOOD CO. 195 Wolf Rd., Colonie 458-2068
GARDEN BISTRO 24 1207 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham 456-4566	SMASHBURGER 81 Wolf Rd. Colonie 487-4099
GRANDMA'S PIES & RESTAURANT 1273 Central Ave., Colonie 459-4585	SWIFTY'S RESTAURANT & PUB 95 Everett Rd., Albany 472-0522
THE GRILLE Inside the Radisson Albany 205 Wolf Rd., Colonie 458-7250	WOLF'S 1-11 111 Wolf Rd., Colonie 275-0561
IL FARO RESTAURANT & BAR 698 North Pearl St. Menands 463-2208	<small>*No Substitutions. Not valid with any other discounts, coupons or certificates. Regular Menu Also Available. Select restaurants offering lunch specials as well.</small>

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From page 1 ... Tax cap?

"I am a strong supporter of the 2 percent property tax cap," said Assemblyman Phil Steck. "I commend both the Town of Colonie and our school districts for adhering to it—property taxes are too high in New York. But the tax cap is not really 2 percent. It is a complicated formula that depends on factors like the rate of inflation. The allowable increase under the current tax cap formula for the Town of Colonie is actually 0.12 percent." With a nearly zero tax levy increase, said Steck, the state should be helping municipalities pay for the maintenance of essential infrastructure.

"The governor has been disinclined to

increase funding in the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program," he said, "preferring to incentivize consolidation of services among municipalities. Yet all our municipalities face infrastructure needs. So we either need to bridge the tax cap gap or revitalize AIM, perhaps with a greater focus on infrastructure needs. Another important program in need of additional funding is the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), which provides state funding for roadwork in our town." Assembly Democrats are proposing legislation, said Steck,

modeled on CHIPS, that would establish a similar program for water and sewer infrastructure improvements badly needed by aging municipalities all over New York state.

"We have major infrastructure needs throughout the state," he said, "and the older municipalities clearly have more pressing needs. So we are proposing a bill, which is currently being drafted, to give municipalities the aid they need from state revenue to update their essential infrastructure, which they would be unable to do in a tax cap environment where there's not enough revenue to engage in these repairs. So the bill would have the state provide additional funding—based on the population of the municipality and the age

of their infrastructure—and it would exclude all privately-run infrastructure within that municipality. Obviously the private entities that are operating that should not be entitled to state funding."

(Legislation introduced in the State Senate by Senator Tom O'Mara (R-58) early this month addresses water infrastructure concerns as well, also focusing on the sewage treatment systems and prioritizing projects "that result in the greatest water quality improvement or greatest reduction in serious risk to public health." The bill S6905 is currently in the Senate committee on Infrastructure and Capital Investment.)

"This stuff is really complex," said Steck of the tax cap formula. "Like everything in the state of New York, the agencies are allowed to overcomplicate everything instead of making it simple. Simplicity is a virtue; remember that the more complex a thing is, the more employees you have to hire to figure out what the correct calculations are. So we would really be

better off with a simple two percent cap or, for example, if the state took over Medicaid, then we would have an instant property tax savings."

The New York State Educational Conference Board (ECB) is also in favor of a straight tax cap, like the ones implemented in Massachusetts and New Jersey (2.5 percent and 2 percent, respectively), saying that many of the expenses districts that districts face "bear little or no resemblance" to the factors involved in determining the current cap. "A consistent 2 percent," said ECB in early 2015, "is more predictable and fairer."

The current cap formula requires a seven-step process to calculate: (1) calculation of the total amount of taxes levied by the municipality or district in the previous year; (2) that figure is then multiplied by a "tax base growth factor" supplied to the local government (Town of Colonie = 1.0083; Town of Bethlehem = 1.0020; Town of Guilderland = 1.0121; Town of New Scotland = 1.0024); (3) PILOT

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— Phil Steck
NYS Assemblyman
(D, 110)

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(Payment in Lieu of Taxes from tax-exempt entities) payments received are then added; after which, (4) tax levies used to support legal actions in excess of five percent of the total previous year's tax levy are subtracted; that result is then (5) multiplied by an "allowable levy growth factor," provided by the Office of the State Comptroller; (6) PILOT payments expected in the upcoming year are then subtracted; and, finally, (7) any available carryover from the previous fiscal year is added. (Unused exclusions associated with growth in pension costs or tort judgements are not carried over.)

Other legislators across the state—such as Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-35), leader of the Democratic Conference, last month—have called for a straight 2 percent cap as low inflation has caused most municipalities to have a near-zero cap for this year under the existing formula, while others say the low caps are a realistic limit in light of low inflation. Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan has indicated that he doesn't expect any changes to the current formula for the current year, so lawmakers and local officials are looking for other funding streams to ensure that essential state infrastructure remains safe and functional.