Dry conditions prompt townwide water alert

By JOSEPHA A. PHILLIPS

A dry summer and a near-drought fall have left Bethlehem's reservoirs at their lowest levels, the Vly Creek Reservoir in New Scotland, at a 20-year record low level, Public Works Commissioner Bruce Secor told the town board last Wednesday.

The board granted his request to declare a formal alert, in keeping with the town's water emergency plan. That requires formal notification of residents and major commercial water users, asking that they reduce non-essential consumption.

Secor also obtained the board's go-ahead to open negotiations with the town of Guilderland about buying water from its processing plant — and step up negotiations with the City of Albany to increase the town's purchases under its contract with the city.

Secor said that the reservoir as of Nov. 14 stood at roughly 38 percent of its storage capacity of 1.25 billion gallons — and had dipped below 70 percent of its normal seasonal average storage for the first time this season, the level at which an alert is triggered under the terms of the emergency plan. He said that he anticipated storage would drop to roughly 31 percent by the end of the month.

That level is the lowest for this time of year in the 20 years that the department has tracked seasonal averages, lower than the drought years of 1985 and 1986 — "a foot lower than 1985," he said.

Reservoir volume tends to peak in the spring, fed by seasonal rain and runoff, and drop throughout the summer, except when replenished by substantial rainfall. It tends to rise slightly in October and November when normal seasonal rainfall returns. But the near-record dry conditions of the past two months have reduced the existing reserve.

"We're going to go from alert to warning to emergency if we don't get something going," said Secor. "Hopefully we'll get some rain and if it goes away." In the meantime, he said, he would seek backup supplies through purchases from neighboring municipalities and urge conservation, reducing nonessential usage. The alert also triggers weekly meter readings to more closely monitor usage.

Notices of the alert were to be mailed last Friday to the town's major industrial water customers. But with residential bills for December already printed before the town board OK'd notification, alerting residential customers will wait until January billings should conditions still dictate, Secor said Friday.

Unlike summer, when swimming

Day to step down from top post

By JOSEPHA A. PHILLIPS

Gerald Day chuckled as he gestured toward the vintage 1934 Mack fire engine, dwarfed by the more modern apparatus surrounding it in the bay of the Delmar Fire Company's Adams Street station.

"That was our top-of-the-line fire engine when I joined the company 40 years ago," he said. "Of course, we still take it to the training grounds once a year and run the pumps so they stay in working order."

All is still in working order at the Delmar firehouse, but much has changed — for both the company and the community it serves — since Day has been involved.

"The fire district has not changed since the day it was formed in 1917," he said. "What has changed is what's in the district.

I can remember when I came

BCHS thespians tackle 'Macbeth'

By KATHERINE McCARTHY

Superstition holds that, inside a theater, William Shakespeare's tragedy, "Macbeth," should only be referred to as "The Scottish Play."

But Jim Yerra, director of the Bethlehem Central High School's Shakespearean troupe, Theatre Without A Net, doesn't believe in such things, and uses the play's proper name as he watches the fog machine, checks out the carpet under the "thrust stage" that brings the main stage forward, and answers a steady stream of questions from his performers.

"I'm not superstitious," Yerra said. "I believe you make your own fate." The ability to make your own fate is just one of the issues that's central to Macbeth, as the lead character, spurred on by prophesying witches, strives ruthlessly to do just that.

The frequently unfortunate result of unleashed ambition and yearning for power are what drives Macbeth and his wife to take, and connive to keep, the throne of Scotland. The Macbeths are a frustrated couple, and great violence results from their plots. The play had not yet been cast before Sept. 11, and for a while, Theatre Without A Net contemplated doing a lighter play.

"Macbeth's been on the docket since last year's performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," though, and
By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

Bethlehem police made two driving while intoxicated (DWI) arrests last week.

One of the two arrests stemmed from an incident in Selkirk on Thanksgiving, Nov. 22. Shortly after 6:30 p.m. a resident reported to Bethlehem police the license plate number of a vehicle that drove off after it struck a utility pole on Bridge Street, downing several wires.

Sgt. James Haker spotted the vehicle traveling northbound on Route 9W and pursued it as it turned westbound onto Fenna Bush Road, where eventually it was halted by another police officer blocking its path near Sutberry Drive.

Office Scott Anson conducted field sobriety tests and administered a preliminary screening on the driver, Lauren Ashley Radliff, 22, of 392 Winne Road, Delmar. Radliff was arrested for DWI and leaving the scene of a personal damage accident.

A mobile crisis unit was summoned and transported her to Albany Medical Center Hospital for examination for possible injuries, and to Capital District Psychiatric Center for observation.

A second arrest took place on Wednesday, Nov. 28, on Blessing Road in North Bethlehem. Officer Jeffrey Vunck stopped a vehicle on a traffic violation, and administered field sobriety tests on the driver, Mark Edward Seavey, 37, of 172 Schoolhouse Road, Albany.

Seavey was arrested for DWI and driving while ability impaired (DWAI) under the influence of drugs.

He was also cited for speeding and for unlawful possession of marijuana.

Both Radliff and Seavey are due in Town Court on Dec. 18.

Meanwhile, on Nov. 20, David Patrick Casey, 44, of Rolling Brook Drive, Clifton Park, pleaded guilty in town court to a reduced DWAI conviction, in satisfaction of charges stemming from a DWI arrest on Oct. 26. Casey was fined $500 and a $35 mandatory state surcharge, had his license suspended for 90 days, and was ordered to face driving while intoxicated reformation and a Victim Impact panel.

Friendship Singers to perform Dec. 11

The Friendship Singers will present a program of holiday music on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m., at Delmar Reformed Church on Delaware Avenue in Delmar.

The program is free and open to the public.

The director of the Friendship Singers is Marie Liddle, the pianist is Linda Drew and choreographer is Muriel Welch.

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THE SPOTLIGHT

Town police charge two with DWI

Police arrest woman for Stewart's theft

HVVc to offer courses at BC

A Coeymans woman was arrested and another individual is under investigation, in connection with the theft of more than $1,900 in cash and merchandise from a Selkirk convenience store, reported to Bethlehem police last week.

Cynthia Anne Bush, 45, of 124 Buck Ranch Road, Coeymans, an employee of the Stewart's store at 3344 Route 5W in Selkirk, was arraigned before Bethlehem Town Justice Theresa Egan on Nov. 18 on a felony count of grand larceny and released in her own recognizance. She was ordered to appear in Town Court on Dec. 18.

According to a police report, a loss prevention officer for Stewart's contacted Bethlehem police last week following an internal investigation of ongoing thefts of cash, food and beverage merchandise from the store over a nine-week period.

Bush was arrested after giving a statement to the incident to police, and charged with stealing $77 in cash, $470 worth of lottery tickets and $675 in merchandise between Sept. 24 and Nov. 25.

A second, as-yet unnamed suspect is under investigation of similar charges, according to police, and the investigation is ongoing.

HVVc to offer courses at BC

HVVc will offer courses at eight other off-campus locations this spring, including Albany High School, Colonie Central High School, Shenendehowa High School, Guilderland High School, Cohoes High School, Cohoes High School, Lansingburgh Central High School, and at the college's Albany extension site at 175 Central Ave., Albany. HVVC offers more than 60 degree and certification programs.

To offer courses at BC
V'ville board gets earful on noise law

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

The Voorheesville Village trustees sought public input on a proposed noise ordinance at a hearing preceding the board's regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 27.

What emerged loud and clear from the meeting was the complexity of a noise-control statute — and how problematic enforcement might be, as summed up by trustee Bill Hotaling.

"I have no qualms about a noise ordinance," he said. "I just don't want to put a law on the books that nobody's going to enforce."

The draft law, labelled Local Law 3-2001, seeks to craft a trustee and deputy mayor Jack Stevens, "to prevent excessive, unnecessary, and objectionable loud noises." It was drawn up in response, Stevens said, to complaints about motor vehicle noise in the village — particularly with loud sound systems cruising through the streets in the early mornings.

As drafted, the law covers motorcycle and automobile noise; the audible stimulation of "any radio, stereo, television, sound system"; animal noise; and noise emanating from gatherings, "whether public or private," at private residences and meeting halls.

It sets a definition for restricted noise — "of such character, intensity and duration, or of a type or volume that a reasonable person, normal sensitivities would not tolerate under the circumstances, and that is determined to create a health or welfare of any individual or would cause or create a risk of public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm." The definition was crafted "deliberately subjective."

The law would authorize town and county officers, county sheriffs and state police serving the town to convey a first-time warning to offenders, followed by repeated complaints with a formal citation. It also set the penalty for violations at a fine "not to exceed $300."

The village already has a dog law and public nuisance and disorderly conduct laws, and vehicle and traffic law sets parameters for vehicle noise as defined to decibel levels, with the new law, Stevens said, "We're giving (enforcement) two teeth."

"But that's not to say this is all encompassing," he said. "It can be modified, added to, subtracted from."

Mayor Ed Clarke added comments on what the law might have overlooked.

I don't want to see everything snowed in to where every little thing somebody does, there's got to be a law to cover it." — Bill Hotaling

State group taps Lenhardt for board

By KATHERINE McHARRY

Dalmar resident and Bethlehem school board member Lyne Lenhardt will take her experience statewide this spring when she begins a term on the board of directors with the New York State School Boards Association.

The association is about 100 years old, and some 700 of the state's 740 school boards belong to it; it provides advocacy, training and information for school boards in support of their mission to govern the state's public schools.

"The School Board Association is set up to support local governance of schools," spokesperson David Ernest said.

The state is divided into 13 areas that have representation from each of the state's 13 school districts. Lenhardt would represent area seven, which includes Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington counties.

Lenhardt already has some experience with the Capital Area School Boards Association, since she currently serves as one of its ambassadors.

Beyond this and her school board experience, Lenhardt has been involved in many other education-related organizations. There's also a pending leadership role which she's been involved in, but that's not decided yet.

Lenhardt was selected by the State School Boards Association to be among 100 members to participate in a mentor program which gives new board members a chance to learn from experienced leaders.

"It's a great number," Lenhardt said. "It's especially important that the kindergarten through twelfth grade experience allows more interaction between teachers and students as they learn to read, write and listen."

School facilities have expanded in the last 14 years, which means that the board has done a responsible way."

"We're always looking at a five-year plan, but we're also sensitive to board issues," she said. "At no point, did we overbuild."

Currently, Lenhardt, like other administrators and school board members, is concerned with the state's education funding.

"Certain people's opposed to higher standards," Lenhardt said, "but we are worried about excessive testing, and that there might be some students who won't meet the higher graduation requirements. In Bethlehem, we want to look beyond the testing at the whole student.

"Children come to school not ready to learn," she added. "Sometimes there's a lack of professionalism, or a lack of parental support. We have a certain amount of limited resources, we need to educate kids to be productive members of society."

"There's also a pending shortage of leaders — like principals and superintendents — in the state's school districts.

"We need to find qualified people to fill in where these shortages will be," Lenhardt said, adding that the need for math and science teachers also is increasing.

Lenhardt, who was president of the Bethlehem school board in the 2000-01 school year, says on the front line of education by substitute teaching, something she has done for years. Although she cannot sub in the Bethlehem schools, she is a regular sub in Guilderland.

"That reminds me of why I do all these other volunteer things," Lenhardt said. "It lets me see things from the teacher, faculty and administration viewpoints. It adds a perspective that helps in my board work."

Lenhardt jokes that joining the State School Boards Association will give her "a 100 percent pay increase" (all her school board and affiliated work is volunteered), but it's likely that she'll stay in education for some time to come.

"It's important that we prepare our students to be respectful and respected citizens who can contribute to society," she said.

Rudolph backup

Owen Janssen meets Fandancer from Greenbank Llamas outside Turtle Pointe gift shop on Delaware Avenue in Delmar last Saturday.

Jim Franco

December 5, 2001 — PAGE 3
Too much Bah humbug, not enough ho, ho, ho

By KATHERINE McCARTHY

Christmas, we know, doesn’t come from a store. Yet, there we are, every bit of resolve to let the Christmas season gently surround and suffuse us, washed away in one more chorus of piped in “Holly Jolly Christmas” as we wait in the world’s slowest checkout line.

Will all the good will and sense of unity that this fall taught us be forgotten as man’s inhumanity to man manifests itself in the desire to be first when the register in the next lane finally opens? It’s hard to be first when the register in the next lane finally opens? It’s hard to figure who’s more to blame, the cranky customer who won’t use a pen that’s attached to the counter to write her check, or the sales clerk who snaps that he’s really too busy to give you office furniture, not computers, when a woman asks him how to clean a computer mouse.

In what is an undeniable sign of advancing middle age, it now seems clear that customer service was infinitely better 20 years ago — back in the days when my mother complained that it was even better 20 years before that.

We all have our stories of poor service. Local merchants beg us to patronize them, but don’t bother to say hello when we walk through their doors. At huge department stores, finding an open cash register is harder than hailing a New York City taxi during a rainy rush hour. The commercials promise doting, knowledgeable staff, but in home improvement stores, the people in the orange aprons always seem to be helping somebody else, or are really busy on their walkie-talkies. The words “Thank you” seem to have disappeared entirely from our language, and I find myself playing sanctimonious governor to a legion of cashiers.

After flogging over about $20 at a local sandwich shop, a clerk cheerfully pressed buttons, and gave me back change. A response to his silence rose unbidden from my throat, and he looked sort of perplexed to hear me say, “Now is the time when you thank me.” At the office supply store where I hope the woman with the mouse hadn’t bought her whole computer, I found one of those elusive open cash registers, and, writing a check, heard a suddenly muffled statement. “See your license.”

“She’s here,” said firmly, parental reflex kicking in. Massive, Yeah, apparently they don’t have that.

I was torn between feeling embarrassed that I have become Miss Rambo Manners, and outraged that nobody seems to appreciate all of us spending our hard-earned money in their establishments. If some places of business are worried about the recession hurting their business, their employees sure missed the memo that being polite is a good way to get people to come back.

Is it right to blame the clerks, the people who are often the only part of a business we see? I’m willing to hear their side of things — they could have other troubles; they could be having a really bad day; and, sure, the salary they’re earning might not be enough to motivate them to care one flip about me.

I feel really old when I go through the next part of my speech, and have fortunately been able to brake myself before I end up stepping back from all stores everywhere.

It goes like this: I didn’t tell you to take this job. You did it, so do a good job, and maybe someday there will be a better job. As a general aside, if you can’t stand people, maybe you should look for jobs in a different department.

I fume at management, too, who should be training their staff to behave consistently with the people they pay the checks and stock options possible.

Some companies get this. When the line at our local CVS gets long, the clerks click a ring, a bell, and more red-smocked staff appear with more cash registers. They then look you in the eye, smile, ask if you found everything, and get you quickly on your way.

There’s a greenhouse: I pass every walking my day, see someone call a clerk at the front line people who are often school. I had been a a local sandwich shop, a clerk salary they’re earning might not At the Four Corners Breakfast Deli, every day, I became a Price-Greenleaf customer.

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Local DARE programs reap no benefit from fund-raiser

By JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS

A second of two parts.

A door-to-door fundraising drive now underway in local communities, including Bethlehem, is a fundraiser on behalf of DARE America—a national merchandising outfit that sells everything from curricular materials to promotional supplies to local Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education programs.

But local DARE officials, including Bethlehem’s Mike McMillen, have taken pains to emphasize that their programs do not have a direct connection to DARE America, one of several licensees with whom local DARE campaigns do business—and will receive no direct share of the money DARE America is raising in the area.

“Our main focus is, to let people know that since we have a reputable program and it’s pretty well supported by the town and by private donations, that we do not support this,” said McMillen. “We’re not soliciting door-to-door by any means.”

DARE America officials say they are careful to make those distinctions too.

“We are clean as a whistle,” said marketing director Misty Bell Banks. “We are very careful to make sure our people know exactly how to conduct themselves.”

The coupon sales campaign is conducted on DARE America’s behalf by a Toronto-based organization called Play And Save, which in turn contracts with a local marketing agency—in the Capital District, it’s Excel Advertising of Latham—recruit “Charity Ambassadors,” the door-to-door sales force.

Play And Save’s Web site includes a Code of Ethics for these workers that, among other things, emphasizes that they are not collecting donations, but selling a product—coupons, for a variable price of between $1 and $5 per stars, deter criminal by a random scratchoff.

Which, Banks emphasized, is not a donation: “They’re not supposed to accept any sort of thing in return, with DARE America getting a share of the proceeds.”

Should a customer inquire about donating to the local DARE program, the sales crew is directed to suggest that they “contact the charity directly to make a receivable donation.”

“It’s my understanding Colonia had sent me a letter (with Play And Save’s) solicitations recently…because they’d gotten heavy handed,” McMillen said. Six Play And Savers registered for peddler’s licenses in Colonia on Sept. 18, and the town clerk’s office began fielding calls from residents in Latham and Loudonville inquiring about the sales folks at their doors.

“They seemed to be targeting (neighborhoods) where homes are closer together, tighter neighborhoods, where they’re looking for a lot done in a hurry,” said David Brickner, attorney in the town counsel’s office. And, said town attorney Mark Zilgme, callers alleged that, “There was an impression created that the solicitors were associated with our local DARE agencies, and they weren’t.”

The Colonic police union issued a public statement denouncing any connection, and three Play And Save ambassadors were issued summons alleging that they had misrepresented themselves in violation of the town peddler’s law. Due to appeal before Judge Philip Caprona on Oct. 18 to show cause why their licenses should not be revoked, the three instead voluntarily surrendered them.

Since then, Zilgme said, “We have not received any other complaints or statements on the remaining ambassadors) that they are in any way violating their licenses. If we do, we will follow up on them.”

And he said, “We’re not saying they don’t have any right to solicit in Colonia. We’re not suggesting they’re putting the money they raise in their pockets. We’re not making any allegations like that. We just want the public to understand there’s a difference between DARE America and local DARE.”

DARE America’s vice president for program development, Tom Hazleton, disputes that view. While Play And Save and its local marketers keep the lion’s share of the proceeds — 65 percent, Hazleton said — the remainder goes to DARE America.

And supporting DARE America, Hazleton said, is supporting local DARE, since the company produces the curriculum DARE officers teach in the local schools. Fund-raising helps keep the price of those materials low, about $26 cents per DARE workbook, he said.

Moreover, a portion of the Play And Save proceeds are set aside in special accounts for the local police departments to draw on when they purchase the DARE America products and services.

“It’s real money,” Hazleton said. “It’s just that no money changes hands between us and the local programs. DARE units do not want checks written to them. But it’s theirs to use when they purchase from us.”

But that’s only if the local DARE program buys from DARE America. “Which we don’t very often,” said McMillen. “We do most of our business with another licensee in Wisconsin.”

So chances are, local programs will see almost none of the money being raised in the region’s suburbs.
Elsmere's angels

An Elsmere letter writer this week had nothing but praise for the efforts of Elsmere Elementary School students for raising $10,000 for relief for families of the victims of the World Trade Center attack.

We echo his praise.

The students, faculty and staff at Elsmere had a run-a-thon and hosted a Praise America Day at the school last month. Their dedication and commitment to this cause was in no small part remarkable. To think that children of this age could sustain such an endeavor is heartening.

The desire to help is an example to us all. Superinten- dent Les Loomis said last week there have been a number of student activities designed to help NYC in its time of need. And he said that many of the fund-raising ideas came directly from the students. It's comforting to think that these kids are as far away from the 'Me Generation' as they can be. Clearly they are thinking of others first.

We salute them all.

Kudos for service

Delmar fire Commissioner Gerry Day has been a stalwart of the Delmar Fire Department for 40 years. This year, however, Day will step aside as commissioner, a job that he's held for the past 25 years.

Day, who will stay with the department, feels it's time to step down as chairman in order to travel more with his wife Carolyn. Their trips will certainly be well-earned vacations. Day has been instrumental in the war the depart- ment on the cutting edge in its years of growth, as well as keeping it second to none in terms of its service to the community.

Gerry Day who has devoted so much of his life to the Delmar Fire Dept. and to the town of Bethlehem.

Montreal is 'tres' user-friendly

By BILL FONDIA

The writer is editor of the Guillemard Spotlight.

I know culture shock is supposed to be a bad thing, but I got a little bit of it myself recently and I quite enjoyed it.

It was in Montreal, where my fiancée Suzi and I spent a weekend earlier this month. It was my first time in the city, and my first real experience in Canada other than a 45-minute sojourn to the Canadian side of the border in high school.

Having heard great things about the city, I was worried about — Customs and the fact that I didn't think much of my three years of high school French were going to be much help.

In fact, one of the first things we came across was a street sign saying "15 Nord" meant we were going north on Route 15. Luckily, we had a map, and the middle of a red octagon could only be a sign saying "limited visibility".

Once I had figured out that the use of pictures on most of the signs was a bit of a concession to non-French speakers, because none of the road signs had any English on them, not even "sortie".

We made sure to get gas on the way up because we were told that it was more expensive in Canada. So I was surprised to see a sign from the highway that said gas stations; the cost was actually closer to $2.54 a gallon Canadian, or about $3.52 American.

Once we arrived at the station, the cashier told us the next time we should go to a gas station that was more expensive, and people didn't seem to mind; maybe they're used to it.

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Advertsing Manager - Louise Havens
Advertising Representatives - Corinne Blackman, Ray Emerick, Dan O'Toole, John Salvo, Mark Tripoli

125 Adams St., Delmar 12054
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Phone/ADVERTISING CLASSIFIED: (518) 439-4494
FAX (518) 439-0609
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Canadian funds. I felt rich, and by the time the weekend was over, I actually got comfortable using the $1 and 52 Canadian coins.

The second shock was not as pleasant. On Rue Ste. Catherine, we went into a shop and I found an Edmontons Olliers jersey for just under $100 Canadian, or roughly $60 U.S. and I had thought I would get an even better exchange rate using my credit card. However, I was flanked by drawings of a skidding car and 0 degrees Celsius basically meant "road slippery when frozen."

We couldn't figure out until we were on our way home that the sign featuring an old man blowing snow across the road was a sign saying "low visibility."

Having heard great things about the city, I was worried about — Customs and the fact that I didn't think much of my three years of high school French were going to be much help.

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Once we arrived at the station, the cashier told us the next time we should go to a gas station that was more expensive, and people didn't seem to mind; maybe they're used to it.

Kudos for service

Delmar fire Commissioner Gerry Day has been a stalwart of the Delmar Fire Department for 40 years. This year, however, Day will step aside as commissioner, a job that he's held for the past 25 years.

Day, who will stay with the department, feels it's time to step down as chairman in order to travel more with his wife Carolyn. Their trips will certainly be well-earned vacations. Day has been instrumental in the war the department on the cutting edge in its years of growth, as well as keeping it second to none in terms of its service to the community.

Gerry Day who has devoted so much of his life to the Delmar Fire Dept. and to the town of Bethlehem.

TheSpotlight

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Elsmere students shine in fund-raising efforts

Thanks for making Four Corners event a big success

Parks agency grateful for help

Elsmere Elementary School

The Spotlight:
In November, students of Elsmere Elementary School participated in two major events. One was "Run for America" and the other was "Fifth-Grade Youngsters Run Their Community." I was amazed at their pace and, moreover, their commitment to persevere through the event.

All seemed to earn much more than the funds from those who pledged a donation (for victims of the World Trade Center) could reach inside their hearts and rally as a community (see below).

Secondly, on Nov. 17, the fifth-grade students orchestrated a major fund-raising event at the school with a series of family-centered activities in a concerted effort to generate a second set of funds to be sent to families affected by the World Trade Center tragedy.

Local members of the armed services, law enforcement agencies, parks departments and EMTs were honored by the children who sat on stage.

The runners and joggers gained a youthful glimpse of the underlying meaning of endurance in the name of honor and commitment to others unknown to them.

Finally, it is a wonder that such young students could generate a total of $10,000 which is an astronomical figure - an amount that seemed unreachable for the stars.

We salute the girls and boys of peer leaders. Jack Simone Elsmere

and the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce

PHYSICALLY SPEAKING

If you are a "weekend warrior" who engages in specific bursts of running, lifting, and walling, chances are that your body no longer functions as well as it should. In fact, those activities can possibly contribute to chronic diseases, a degenerative disease of the joints that develops when the articular cartilage in the joints is worn away, causing the bone to rub against each other. Moreover, traumatic injuries that are not allowed to heal completely also increase the risk of arthritis. Occasional muscle, tendon, or ligaments injuries, or any that occur more than once per year, result in pain and swelling. Painful joints can help strengthen muscles around joints to make them more flexible and range of motion.

The hips, knees, feet, fingers, and spine are the most common areas in which ostearthritis will develop. If you are experiencing discomfort, pain, swelling, or stiffness in a particular joint before a change in weather or if you use, or if you use muscles appear symmetrically, ask your physician for a referral to your physical therapy practice. In abuse therapy, we often see neck and shoulder pain, which include ulnar nerve and muscle therapy, please call the number listed below. Free parking and wheelchair access available.

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Contemporary Shopping & Services

The Spotlight:
The town of Bethlehem Parks & Recreation Department recently held its annual Halloween Heyday at Elm Avenue Park on Sunday, Oct. 28.

Skeeter the clown entertained with balloon sculptures, ghoulish faces were airbrush painted and children decorated Halloween bags.

The day was highlighted by rides on our hay wagon.

We would like to thank the following volunteers: Bethlehem Youth Court, Sigma Kappa Delta Fraternity and the Bethlehem Central High School freshmen class for making the event such a success. New England events like these provide opportunities for our students to participate in local community events.

Karen Hoogkamp
Parks & Recreation assistant administrator
Family is grateful for support after accident

Editor, The Spotlight:

This letter is to thank all of those who helped save the lives of the people in a tragic accident on Rock Hill Road on Saturday, Nov 10. We are thankful to all who were involved and to the many family members and friends who gave their support to us, and we will be forever grateful.

We are thankful to the fire departments that were at the scene because their actions played an important part in my son’s survival.

And we are especially grateful to the helicopter crew members Dave Bruce, Roger Skinner and Jon Gryniki who helped my son breathe again when his lungs collapsed.

When my son Michael and I met Jon Gryniki and were told that they did not think Michael was going to make it to the hospital, Michael asked what he could possibly say to thank you for saving his life. Jon’s response was “Spread the word of what you have been through and will have to go through so maybe some of your friends and family will not have to go through it.”

Thank you to all of the people at the scene of the accident, to all of the doctors and nurses.

There are no words we can even begin to explain how grateful we are, my husband Tom, my older son TJ, and especially Michael. If not for all of you and the faith I have gained through my own serious surgeries at St. Peter’s Hospital, I don’t think I would have made it through this most difficult time in my life.

It has been said that there is no greater pain than losing a child, and I believe it. We are all fortunate to have wonderful hospitals and caring staffs. Some were just doing their jobs, some doing things because they knew they knew us and some just helping because they care, but we are grateful to all.

We brought Michael home on Thanksgiving Day and celebrated his 18th birthday the following Sunday. We still have a long road ahead, but at least we have the chance to travel it, thanks to everyone who helped.

Many prayers have been answered and many of our families’ prayers will be said for Michael and the others who were injured in the accident. We will always be in your debt and whenever possible, we will show our appreciation to you for all you have done for us.

Bonnie, Tom, TJ and Michael Kleinke

---

Center offers help for gamblers

Editor, The Spotlight:

Almost every person has gambled in some way during his or her life. Throughout the years, the accessibility and availability of gambling venues has skyrocketed, creating a wide variety of choices for everyone.

For millions of New Yorkers, gambling is a social recreational pastime that poses no difficulties. But for some people, gambling starts as a recreational pastime but becomes a devastating problem that not only destroys them, but also harms their family, friends and co-workers.

People who become addicted to gambling are able to hide their addiction for longer periods of time because there are no ‘visible’ warning signs of being addicted.

The Center for Problem Gambling is an outpatient program that provides services to all those affected by problem gambling. We have offices in Albany and Clifton Park and are committed to serve all those in need, regardless of ability to pay.

For information, contact us at 462-6531 or visit our Web site at www.fcsalbany.org.

Rebecca Martelli
director
Center for Problem Gambling
DECEMBER IS NATIONAL DRUNK & DRUGGED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

That their light may shine

Take a stand.

For too many families in our community, the holidays bring a somber reminder of loved ones they lost to an impaired driver. Albany County Stop DWI & Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID) call upon every citizen in our community to TAKE A STAND AGAINST IMPAIRED DRIVING this holiday season and throughout the year.

* If you choose to drink, DON'T DRIVE!
* Designate a driver.
* Plan a safe and sober holiday celebration.

Sponsored by:

Albany County

Michael G. Breslin, County Executive
Sheriff James L. Campbell, Coordinator
Sheila Fuller, Town Supervisor
Richard LaChappelle, Bethlehem Police Chief
Selkirk group objects to waste facility plan

Editor, The Spotlight:

We are writing to express our opposition to the Waste Management Operations Center proposal for River Road.

We believe that the current zoning of this site does not adequately reflect the residential and historic character of our community. The noise, vibrations, glare, odors, increased truck traffic and congestion on Route 396 and Route 144, as well as related health issues produced by such a facility, run contrary to the aesthetics and ambiance of our tranquil area.

Waste Management officials are on public record stating that this facility will run from 3 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and have additional hours of operation on Saturdays and Sundays.

The ground water from oil, fuel, antifreeze and remants of solid waste pose a threat to the water table as well as to adjacent wells, creeks and waterways.

In addition, we suspect that this is a solid waste facility relative to the town zoning code. Waste Management cannot guarantee that the large volume of trucks and containers is in need of cleaning and storage will be completely free of solid waste at all times.

Accordingly, we are requesting that the 141-acre site included in this project be deemed a Type I Action under SEQRA and require that a complete Environmental Impact Study be prepared prior to any approval by the town planning board.

Further, we are requesting that the town of Bethlehem become the lead agency on the project, once the application is complete, to ensure a thorough review of the proposed use.

In view of the fact that Waste Management has not ruled out the objectionable possibility of a waste transfer station or guarantee a safe future of this site, it is imperative that town officials carefully consider the overall negative impact to the town. We urge a public hearing on this matter since Waste Management has not adequately explained its intentions relative to future habitation of the site.

Marcus Porter, Elizabeth Poirier, Richard A. Ostri, Lauretta G. Dickerson, Benjamin Chi, Virginia Chi, Bill Stine, Ennio Stine, Dominick F. Careto, Richard Zaremba, Christina Zaranko, Dave Shubert, Mary Ann Shubert, Charles Fuller, Faith Fuller, Paul Giordano, Harold L. Warner, Mark Derry, Lori Derry, Howard Shugr, Stephen Sipperly, Charles Berra and Nancy Berra

Concerned town of Bethlehem residents

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Matters of Opinion

Youth activities set at Bethlehem library

Mildred Taylor's Roll of Thunder, Hearth My Cry will be discussed at Bethlehem Public Library's mother-daughter book discussion on Monday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.

Copies of the book are available at the youth services desk. The program is designed for daughters in grades four and up, and their mothers or care-givers.

New members are always welcome. Refreshments will be served.

To register, call 439-9314 and press 4 for youth services.

Middle school students in grades six through eight are eligible for membership on the library's Youth Advisory Council.

Council members provide input on youth-related library programs, books and Web sites.

Call the youth services desk for information.

The library's International Holiday Festival will be held on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m.

Families will share in a variety of holiday customs, arts, crafts, music and food.

Call youth services for information.

Dr. Larry Malera

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Breakfast Photo with St. Nicholas

December 15

Breakfast served between 9:00 am and 11:30 am

Glenmont Community Reformed Church

Weiser St & Chapel Lane (behind K-Mart)

$4 adults - $2 ages 5 to 12

Children under 5 are free

Reservations not required.

Sunday family worship 10:30 am

Christmas Eve service 7:00 pm

All are welcome.

Bethlehem Auto Service

AUTO FACTS

by John Quirk

Getting Into Gears

A vehicle's transmission needs periodic replacement of its hydraulic fluid and internal filter for trouble-free, efficient service. A vehicle's transmission fluid should be checked at least every 9,000 miles and changed every 30,000 miles. This important fluid contains such additives as the screen that can cause sludge and other deposits, corrosion, and sticking of clutch plates in a transmission.

To check the health of automatic transmission fluid, pull out the dipstick, which should be easily accessible in the engine compartment. The level on the dipstick should be between the "Full" and "Add" marks. The fluid itself should be bright cherry red and smell pungent. It is black and smells burned, it could spell trouble.

You can check the transmission fluid level of your vehicle by using a dipstick. In addition to the steps you take to maintain your vehicle, periodically check your emotional

HINT: Unlike engine oil, transmission fluid levels must be checked with the engine running.
Teens fantasy club to discuss The Hobbit

The teen fantasy club meets on the Web at www.lordoftherings.net. Journey to middle-earth with Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf and the dragon Smaug! Go Figure! will be leaving the library on Dec. 12. All teen-agers, adults, clubs and organizations with a desire to help during this holiday season by volunteering an hour or more of time at one of the many local sites, including Price Chopper in Slingerlands and Ames in Glenmont, will be warmly welcomed. For information, call Bob Kop at 475-9677 or e-mail rkopp@walderasasset.com, or Steve Simons at 475-1538 or eladerge@hotmail.com.

Salvation Army seeks help

The Salvation Army is looking for volunteer bellringers. A large portion of the annual local budget is generated by the holiday kettle campaign. However, a shortage of volunteer bellringers to take care of the kettles greatly impacts the Salvation Army's gain for the campaign since it is forced to hire people to fill this role. All teen-agers, adults, clubs and organizations with a desire to help during this holiday season by volunteering an hour or more of time at one of the many local sites, including Price Chopper in Slingerlands and Ames in Glenmont, will be warmly welcomed. For information, call Bob Kop at 475-9677 or e-mail rkopp@walderasasset.com, or Steve Simons at 475-1538 or eladerge@hotmail.com.

The elementary school fifth- and sixth-grade chorus and sixth-grade band will perform on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Elementary School. The concert is free and open to the public.

Kiwisan to host blood pressure clinic

The Kiwanis Club of New Scotland will sponsor a blood pressure clinic on Tuesday, Dec. 11, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. at SuperValu Foods on Maple Avenue. The screening is free and open to the public.

Volunteer bellringers are welcomed. A large amount is generated by the holiday kettle campaign since it is forced to hire volunteer bellringers to take care of the kettles during this holiday season. Final story hours will be held on Monday and Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. and the final open viewing from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 10.

For information call 765-2791. The group will be back to its regular schedule of Tuesdays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Go Figure! will be leaving the library on Dec. 12, so this is your last weekend to visit the giant movie debuted on Dec. 19.

Barber Poll

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Amy Jane

Thanks for being my mom and doing everything for me.

-Heze

Thanks for encouraging us all to be our best, and for your love and support.

-Chelsea

May the rest of your years on this earth bring you more joy and happiness!

Loren

-Heze, Lindey, Chelsea, Tunde, & All the Adeyemi's England, Nigeria & USA

School band to perform Dec. 12

NEWS NOTES

Voorheesville

Jana Norris
439-4952

For information, call Ken George at 765-4442.

Girl Scout Leaders to meet

The Girl Scout leaders next regular meeting will be held tonight, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wyman Outerbridge Community Center in New Salem.

Food co-op orders

New Scotland Extra Helpings food co-op will be accepting orders until Monday, Dec. 10, for the Thursday, Dec. 20, delivery day. Forms and menus can be picked up at New Scotland town hall on Route 85 or at St. Matthew's Church on Mountainview Road.

Anyone in the area is welcome to participate.

In Glenmont The Spotlight is sold at Cumberland Farms, CVS, Glenmont Beverage, Brookwood Mobil, Eva's Mobil, Grand Union, Stewart's and Van Allen Farms.

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December 5, 2001 — PAGE 11
Jack Keenan has produced and hosted "The Old Time Radio Theater" weekly on WMTH-AM since 1981. He also produces and hosts an annual Christmas special which has aired on WGY-AM since 1982. You can still attend "Mr. Old-Time Radio Theater," hosted by Bob Carrathers, 30-voiced mixed choir "Singers for Enjoyment" for a performance of holiday favorites. Organized 11 years ago, the choir has performed at the Empire State Plaza, public libraries, nursing homes, senior centers and other area venues.

Carrathers, who has participated in choral groups since he was a youngster, studied choral conducting at Columbia University. Please call to register for this free concert.

On, Dec. 10, at 1:30 p.m., you are welcome to join librarian Sherry Hainska to talk about Paul Gallico's "The Snow Goose." Set in England in the early years of World War I, this holiday favorite is the story of an isolated artist and a girl who needs his love as they both try to save an injured bird.

New members are welcome at any time. Copies of the books are available at the reference desk. Call to register.

Holiday programs
Sweet home improvements are in store for children in kindergarten through grade five next Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 12 and 13, at 4 p.m.

To build "Candy House Creations," bring a tub of white frosting and an assortment of small candies. All other materials will be provided. Register for one session only.

Families should mark their calendars now for the library's International Holiday Festival, Saturday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. Staff and guest presenters will share holiday customs and costumes, arts and crafts, music and food. In the past, participants have enjoyed a seasonal sampler from Canada, China, Argentina, Ireland, India and Israel. Come see what's in store this year.

Registration etiquette
The monthly program listing in the library newsletter indicates which programs require registration. Most of our programs do. To register, just call 439-9314 and press "2" for adult services or "3" for youth services.

For some programs, attendance is limited. If you register and cannot attend, we'd appreciate a call from you to let us know.

Louise Grieso

Fund-raising under way for town veterans park

The first phase of the restoration work was completed this fall with re-pointing and re-setting of the flagstones at the base of the monument. Overgrown and dead trees were removed, additional lighting was installed and four new benches were also added to the park.

To make a contribution to this five-year project, make checks payable to Bethlehem Memorial Park Fund. Checks should be mailed to Supervisor Sheila Fuller, Bethlehem Town Hall, 443 Delaware Ave., Delmar 12054. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Free holiday concert Dec. 23

The Magic of Music Studio of Delmar will present a holiday concert on Sunday Dec. 23, at 2 p.m. at Bethlehem town hall on Delaware Avenue.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

For information, call 475-0215.

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Winnings ways

Local man completes training

Jacob T. Ingalls of Delmar enlisted in the Navy and graduated from Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill., on Oct. 19. Ingalls is now stationed at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida. He is training in aircraft mechanics school and hopes to serve aboard a Navy aircraft carrier.

He is a 1998 graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and attended SUNY Plattsburgh.

Ingalls is the son of Margaret and Gary Oliver of Delmar and Kevin and Karen Ingalls of Greenville.

V’ville church to present Christmas Festival

The 12th Voorheesville Community Christmas Festival will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. at Voorheesville Methodist Church.

All interested area singers are invited to join the community choir for the performance. Practice sessions will be on Thursdays in December at the Church.

For information, call 765-4442.

Hometown for the Holidays

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Alert

(From Page 1)

pools and law-watering have a major impact on residential usage.

"This time of year, residential conservation measures are really kind of limited. There really aren't many discretionary uses," Secor said. "We ask our customers to reduce water consumption as best they can and to find ways to conserve."

Public works, in the coming weeks, will prepare specific recommendations for distribution. "We probably will also ask fire companies to minimize their drills, or if they have to do any pumping, to draw from a stream or pond," he said.

Secor said a proposal already before Albany water officials would increase the town's purchases from the contractual level of 600,000 gallons a day to as much as 2 million. The town holds a state Department of Environmental Conservation permit to purchase that much and already buys up to a million gallons a day in the summer.

"We've been working together since 1980, and we're a primary customer of the city, I don't anticipate any trouble with negotiating larger purchases," Secor said. But he added the current proposal has yet to be finalized — in part because city water officials have focused much of their attention since Sept. 11 on stepping up security at the Alcove Reservoir. Public works would also be required to make some pipeing changes linking it to the Albany supply, in order to better regulate water flow.

Secor also sought the board's approval to explore purchases from Guilderland, through an emergency interconnect with its water system in North Bethlehem. Guilderland purchases raw water for processing from the Watervliet Reservoir.

"They have the capacity of producing between five and five and a half million gallons a day, but this time of year they produce only three and a half million gallons a day," Secor said. "The complication is, Guilderland is the only town around that puts fluoride in its water. Any substantial purchase of fluoridated water might require Bethlehem to notify 700-plus customers in North Bethlehem, to ensure it did not interfere with any medically prescribed fluoride being used by residents."

The board authorized negotiations, with the stipulation that Secor seek approval of any agreement should the need arise — and to try to close the deal with Albany first.

Asked by board member Susan Burns why Vly Creek Reservoir was at such a low stage while Guilderland had excess capacity, Secor said that Vly Creek's 2.5 square mile "catchment area" was far smaller than the 112 square miles that drain into the Watervliet Reservoir.

The current 450 million gallons stored at Vly Creek, at normal rates of usage, would supply the town for 190 days — or well into the next spring runoff season — if the drought conditions persist, Secor said.

"Irregular rains return, we'll be OK," he said.

"I wouldn't want to give anybody the impression we're running out of water," Secor told last week. "We're an area rich in water — the river, the Pooestankill. It's development of those watersheds that is the issue.

Bethlehem and New Scotland officials are already discussing a permanent raw-water connection to the Watervliet Reservoir to supplement Vly Creek. Work is also progressing by contractors for Earth Tech Environment and Infrastructure of California to drill "directionally-driven wells" beneath the Hudson River. Those wells would supplement the town's Schermerhorn Island infiltration gallery, which supplies its Cooper Road treatment plant.

Earth Tech has guaranteed that the improvements will boost the plant's capacity to at least six million gallons a day.

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students, who had been rehearsing parts of "Macbeth" for their auditions, wanted to stick with it. "We thought about "Much Ado About Nothing," "The Tempest" and "The Merchant of Venice," Yarea said. "But somebody pointed out the president's call for us to get on with our lives, so we took a vote."

In addition to shaping his own fate, Yarea also believes in democracy, and when the vote came in 26 to 5 for "Macbeth," the show was on.

"Our student director, Harris Kornstein, makes reference to Sept. 11 in his notes," Yarea said. "We have 27 witches, and they are the spirit of the dead. We start with how the witches become witches, and show the battle, with how the witches point out the role of Lady Macbeth. We built the platforms."

"I wanted to do this play," Kornstein said. "There's a good message in it. Some of the violence and the war seems disgusting, but we should expect that. We should complain about war. There should be an outcry against the society that harbors this violence."

"Macbeth" is part of the 10th-grade curriculum, but Kornstein said that performing it is an entirely different matter. "In 10th grade, we focused more on the characters themselves, and not so much on the issue of war," he said. "I like the idea of the witches as spirits, exposing war. We had to look a little deeper to perform it."

Senior Jeff Barnet is playing Macbeth.

"It's been interesting, exploring his compassion," Barnet said. "I learned a lot more about Macbeth by being in the show. There are so many different levels to it," he added. "This show is very dark."

Kathy Curran and Gail Balhoff are the co-presidents of the Festival in Ottawa, and they are as omnipresent at rehearsals as cast and director, who have been rehearsing non-stop since the end of September. "This is a real community event," Yarea said. "Macbeth" will be performed in the high school auditorium, since Studio 46 is in service as the fire escape while construction takes place at the school. To preserve the intimacy necessary for a Shakespeare play, seating will be limited to 200 seats in the auditorium. Yarea hopes to be back in Studio 46 by next year.

"Macbeth" will be performed on Dec. 6, 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. There will be a 1:30 matinee on Saturday, Dec. 8. There will be performances at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Dec. 15. and at 2 p.m. on Dec. 16. Student and senior tickets are $5, and other adults are $7. Tickets are available at the door, or at lunchtime in the high school cafeteria.
Day
(From Page 1)

first to Delmar. Fernbank Avenue was a dirt road. Now it’s all
residences — it’s kept growing and growing and growing. You go
down below Feura Bush Road, which is still in the Delmar fire
district, it used to be farmland. It’s kept growing and growing and
growing. It will not stand for re-election to the
fire commissioners, of them are very young — I’d
say Day — an employee of the manpower to its current
residences — it’s kept growing
and growing and growing. It costs guys I really learned a lot from
the people down in the line for the demands that’s made me feel
special kind of people to do it.

Day — an employee of the town highway, sewer and water
departments for almost four decades before retiring in 1986— has
witnessed an evolution of calls a year in the three fire working side by side with us. We
- that’s made me feel best.

It’s certainly been a family affair for the Days: Carolyn has been a member of the auxiliary as long as Day has served.

The Sept. 11 tragedy has not scared off volunteers. Day said. “This is a thing, we have a
team that plays in the town park, we try to make it nice for the
callers and Adams Street, and
built a small garage adjacent to it.

Since then we’ve put in three
two ambulances. It’s been three, four trucks and two ambulances. Demand for ambulance coverage increased tenfold, to almost 2,000 calls a year in the three fire districts Delmar ambulances cover.

The cost of equipment has also
climbed.

“Used to be a new unit for
$100,000,” he said. “Now it costs
half a million.” Still, he said, “Our
equipment today is as good as any
place around and meets the needs
of our district.”

And, he added, without breaking the
bank.

“I’m very proud that over the
years we’ve been able to maintain
budget that’s been very
reasonable. We’ve never had a
dependant situation,” he
said.

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The science of medicine
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Really, darling, who has time to cook?

BY KATHERINE MCCARTHY

You’ve survived the mob scenes at countless stores, you’ve stood in line at the post office, and you’ve spent hours decorating and wrapping presents. The last thing you feel like doing is cooking — so don’t.

Try having your next party, or holiday meal catered, or just pick up the food and serve it in the comfort of your own home. If you’re looking for someone to cater a large party, try the Glen Sanders Mansion.

“We service an event as if it were here,” said Susan Baker, director of sales for the restaurant located at 1 Glen Ave. “If you’re looking for someone to pick up the food and serve and clean up after, as well as salads and appetizers.

“McCarroll’s also provides food to take out. We’re very busy at this time of year,” Baker said.

“Everyday’s homemade, and we’ll make what our clients want, from hot dogs and Chateaubriand,” said Dale Houghtaling, chef and owner.

A look at Houghtaling’s menu leaves only one problem: how to choose from the variety? There are cold buffets and sandwich platters, and even a firemen’s picnic, with steak, chicken, quiche, hot dogs, potato salad, baked potatoes, corn and dessert.

There are giant subs, a country pig roast, and an a la carte menu that includes chicken Florentine, veal parmesan and Jumbo shrimp and scallops. There’s also a standard Italian fare — lasagna, baked ziti and sausage and peppers.

You can pick up meals from Houghtaling’s, or they’ll deliver and set it up at no extra charge. You can also go all out, with a plated and served meal. “This is a family-run operation,” Houghtaling said. “We put a lot of hard work and care into everything we do.”

Houghtaling’s will also be offering a Christmas dinner this year, with a choice of prime rib, turkeys, or seafoods. There’s also a standard Italian fare — lasagna, baked ziti and sausage and peppers.

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“One of the rooms even has a fireplace. You can reach Glen Sanders Mansion at 374-7600. At McCarroll’s, located in the Delmar Marketplace at Delmar’s Four Corners, a variety of items are available — and freshly-made — for you to take out and enjoy at home.

“We can do meat platters, fruit platters, cheese platters, shrimp, subs, sandwiches — you name it,” said Christine McCarroll.

The McCarrolls put a strong emphasis on freshness. “All our salads are homemade,” McCarroll said.

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Local merchants offer gifts for under $10

By DONNA J. BELL

It’s time to stuff a stocking, or pick up a quick gift for an exchange party, child, teacher or other special person on your list. But, the catch is you need to do it for under $10.

Impossible? Not according to local storeowners. There are plenty of items on their shelves that will fit the bill.

At Northland Granny’s, located at the Four Corners in Delmar, you can pick up small collectibles such as dragons. These dragons are even more popular now because of the kids who love Harry Potter, but also for adults who collect medieval pieces or just love glass or ceramic collections.

Candles are always appreciated and the ones that Northland Granny’s carry are just a little bit different than the typical, which is indicative of many of their items.

“We are a unique store, we make all kinds of handmade decorations and ornaments with prices as low as possible,” said Angie LaSure, one of the store’s owners. “All of our items are from local vendors. When you come here you get an old fashioned feeling.”

If it’s a child you need to shop for don’t forget to check out The Toy Chest in Price Chopper Plaza in Slingerlands. They boast stockings full of items for under $10. What is hot this year? Bendis’ bendable action figures that come in different sports like baseball and football and occupations like doctor or nurse.

Craft kits are always popular,” said clerk Terry Sears. “Every girl loves the Hello Kitty items, too.”

But those are just a few to choose from — there are also “My Pocket Friends,” airplane kits, card games, puzzles, Dover activity books that feature stickers, mazes or stencils, smaller Lego sets starting at $2.99 and Beanie Babies for $5.99 with Christmas beans just in.

There is much more and Sears suggests you stop by for personalized help and free gift wrapping.

If you enjoy handmade and Americana check out the Little Country Store in the Four Corners area on Kenwood Avenue.

“We have tons of things for under $10,” said Marlene Brooks boasting that the items are all American-made.

“We have ornaments like hand-painted angels, hand-painted snowmen, cinnamon flags, hand-carved stars and real tin tinsel,” Brooks said, adding that 90 percent of the ornaments she stocks are under $5.99. As she walked through the store she reeled off lists of great gifts for just about anyone in the family or on your list such as magnetic shopping lists, sticky notes and note paper.

Yankee candles and handmade candy canes. The Little Country Store also has a section of specialty foods such as gourmet vinegars and oatmeal.

“We make sure we have a good supply of less expensive gifts so that children can come in and buy for their moms and dads,” Brooks said.

I Love Books, on Delaware Avenue at the Four Corners, has books, lots of them — but they also have much more. “It is so hard to find neat little things to put in the stocking,” said owner Melissa Steen. Steen loves to have the “fun stuff” in her store. There is much to choose from — from $5 Bendis, small magnetic people who bend and stick to anything metal, to Z Cardz which are like collectors cards for boys except you punch out the shapes and build things with them. Z Cardz come in a dozen different styles and they sell for just $2.50 for a pack. Steen also stocks lots of jewelry for under $10 and had a collection of “game” key chains with games like Boggle, Chess and an entire series of classic board games — some of which are playable. How about some magnetic poetry for the “artist” on your list? Regular sets sell for $10 and for $5 you can purchase magnetic poetry games you hang on your backpack.

They also come in French and Spanish. “Both are in,” said Marlene Brooks, according to Steen, especially favorites.

At Turtle Pointe on Delaware Avenue in Delmar, you can pick up a few sparse turtles, or a wide variety of fun and unusual items said Bruce Winn, husband of the shopowner.

“We have an eclectic variety of unique gifts, things you won’t get at the mall,” Winn said. “We also have plenty of items from local vendors. When you come here you get an old fashioned feeling.”

“Jingle, Jingle, Jingle”

November 27

Local merchants offer gifts for under $10
Give your children the gift of books

BY JACKIE MOYLAN

With Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa, December is a month of gift giving. What better gift to give or receive than a good book?

On a snowy, winter's day there is nothing as heavenly as sitting by the fire with a steaming cup of cocoa lost in a wonderful story.

We try to impart our love of reading to our children by being good role models and supplying them with abundant reading material.

What books do middle schoolers want this holiday season? Talk with your children. Many kids know exactly what they want or have favorite authors or genres. If they do not know or you wish to surprise them, here are a few suggestions.

Talk with people who are experts in the field of children's or young adult literature. These include teachers, librarians and those who oversee children's bookstores or children's departments in larger bookstores. They are happy to recommend titles, authors, or themes. Some may be able to provide you with lists of appropriate books. Also, check out the Internet. ALA.com (American Library Association) gives information broken into categories such as author, title, award winners and grade level. Each book is also summarized. Amazon.com is not limited to ordering. It is a fine source of book prices, publishers, and find books by the same author.

In addition, the site provides reviews from notable journals and from readers across the country. Don't forget audio books for those kids with reading disabilities. There is a wide variety of titles. These tapes are also great for long trips in the car.

Books written in languages other than English can be exciting to receive. For example, my sixth grade daughter takes Spanish in school and enjoys reading simple picture books written in this language. It can be fun to translate and learn new vocabulary.

Recently, I conducted an informal survey of some middle schoolers from Cairo, Bethlehem and Ravenna. They were asked to list their favorite books and even those they would like to receive. Here are their top 10 selections.

1. All of the "Harry Potter" books. It is interesting to read how Harry and his friends deal with various challenges and triumphing over evil.


3. 5. Holes by Louis Sachar. A young teen is unfairly sent to reform school at Green Lake Camp and forced to dig holes. It has a great ending.

4. A Break with Charity: A classic book about a boy tired of living in a crowded city, Sam goes off to be one with nature in the Catsell Mountains.

5. Dear America series by Ann Rinaldi. Susanna Paulsen. This is a survival story of a young teen stranded in the Canadian wilderness after a plane crash.

6. Various books by horror master, Stephen King. Parental discretion should be used. While teens love King's works, some of his books contain violence and adult themes.

7. Chicken Soup for the Teen's Soul and Chicken Soup for the Teenager's Soul. Like their adult counterparts, these books are filled with teenager feel-good stories, poems and testimonials.

8. My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George. A classic book about a boy tired of living in a crowded city, Sam goes off to be one with nature in an important American era such as Westward expansion, the Great Depression and World War II.

9. The Royal Diary series by several authors. This historical fiction collection is written in diary form by a character living in an important American era such as the Civil War.

10. The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton. A timeless book, kids continue to cheer on Ponyboy and his Greaser brothers as they grow up on the wrong side of Tulsa, Okla. It shouldn't be missed.

Get the most out of the dust by Karen Heese.

Newbery Winner. Written in blank verse, this is the story of a teen's struggle for survival during the Dust Bowl.

3. Revolting Rhymes by Roald Dahl. Don't let the title fool you. These rhymes are not revolting; they are hysterical.

Red Ridinghood, Goldilocks and Snow White with a twist.

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Gift certificates solve the problem

BY KATHERINE MCCARTHY

The newspaper deliverer, the mailman, the kid's teacher, the friend who has everything, and the aunt who doesn't like anything. They have one thing in common: you haven't a clue what to get them for the holidays.

Sure, you could just throw money at the problem—literally—but you could also finesse it a little bit and give them a gift certificate. For the person who always drives a dirty car, for instance, there's a gift certificate from the Glenmont Car Wash, located on Route 9W South, just past Ames and Knauer.

Holiday time equals food time, and you could always give the gift of a good meal or a treat. With a gift certificate from Cardona's, at 340 Delaware Ave, in Albany, there's Italian food and groceries of the same caliber as the famous Balducci's in New York City.

"We started as a meat market, about 50 years ago," owner Robert Cardona said. "We've been a beautiful store, with things like homemade ravioli, Junior's cheesecake, or chestnuts in a honey sauce."

Cardona's also has homemade spaghetti sauce, cooked meatballs, and pasta, all available as take-out. Gift certificates are available for cash gifts in dollar amounts, or for specific services that include therapeutic massages, microdermabrasion, and manicures and pedicures.

"Everyone buys them," Dubois said. "Women buy them for men, men buy them for their wives or girlfriends, and children buy them for their mothers. Everyone can benefit from our spa treatments."

If the person you're giving a gift to treasures their pet, try a gift certificate from Reining Cats & Dogs, a pet boarding, grooming and training facility located at 739 Route 9W in Glenmont. Now in its 12th year of business, Reining Cats & Dogs can board 40 pets in its traditional kennels, as well as "pampered pets" suites, 10 feet by 10 feet, where pets can lounge on a cushioned futon bed, and watch Animal Planet all day long. There are also six four feet by eight feet rooms for toddler-sized beds and TV's.

"This is less stressful for the pet, and makes it more like home," Lisa Norris, training coordinator for Reining Cats & Dogs, said. The classes that Norris heads up include puppy training, basic obedience, and dog agility classes.

Gift certificates can also be used for grooming services, from brushes and nail clippings to full show grooms and clippings. Both training and grooming can be done in conjunction with boarding.

"If even the thought of where to get a gift certificate has you stumped, the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce has the answer, with the CertificateCheck it started offering this past summer. "CertificateCheck's are good for five dollars to fifty dollars," Chamber of Commerce President Marty DeLaney said. "Seventy merchants have signed up for the program so far."

That means that you give the gift certificate, and the recipient gets to decide if they'd like to go to a restaurant, get a haircut, or buy some lumber or home repair items.

A brochure listing participating merchants comes with the gift certificate, and those merchants can also be identified by stickers on their places of business. You can order CertificateChecks through the Chamber's Web site, www.bethlehemchamber.com, by calling 977-770-4438, or contacting the Chamber of Commerce, located at Main Square in Delmar, at 439-0612.

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WOLBERG ELECTRICAL SUPPLY
Jewelry & you: a perfect holiday pair

By ANDREW GREGORY

How much do you know about jewelry? Probably not as much as you should.

During the holiday season, jewelry is one of the most popular gift items regardless if you’re a man or a woman. With the right pendant or ring, you’ll be able to charm your way into that special someone’s heart. So where do you begin?

The underlying factor in jewelry shopping is education. Most local jewelers take pride in educating their customers. Marty Finkle of Harold Finkle’s Jewelers believes in customer satisfaction through communication.

“Whether a customer comes in our store to buy a diamond engagement ring or a watch, we’ll sit down and talk to them about their purchase.”

The main idea of shopping around is to ask a lot of questions. Don’t be afraid to sit down with a jeweler and ask what they’re buying because it is a major financial and personal investment.

Finkle has found that as the holiday season comes to an end, he talks more to men than with women. Men come in and purchase engagement rings and diamond earrings. They want to know exactly where it came from. It’s comforting to anyone buying a diamond to know exactly where it came from.

At Joyelle’s, there is a wide variety of items to choose from. Besides bracelets and charms, you can also buy various lotions, candles, and holiday knick-knacks.

We have such a wide variety of gifts because we cater to everyone. Someone could come in and buy a pendant and pick up a bottle of perfume as well.

When asked which piece of jewelry was the top choice of the average consumer at Joyelle’s, Vale was certain in her answer. “Earrings are our best seller. They’re affordably priced and a nice pair of earrings are a sure fire success.”

With such a wide selection, choosing the right piece of jewelry is never an easy task.

Wherever you decide to shop keep this in mind: Jewelry is a gift that is appreciated over time. It’s value is both monetary and sentimental. And while you may not be able to afford a diamond ring or a pair of sapphire earrings, a simple sterling silver bracelet will just be as loved by that special someone. After all, it is the thought that counts.

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Spa and health gifts a great alternative

By DONNA J. BELL

What to buy, what to buy? Mom has dozens of pairs of fuzzy slippers under the bed, and Dad has enough baseball caps and ties to last a decade.

If you want to break from the "typical" gift, try a health or spa package, gift or gift certificate this year.

Choices Studio and Day Spa in the Delmar Plaza has everything to pamper the woman (or man) on your shopping list.

"A lot of husbands buy packages for their wives," said Tammy Martin, store manager. "Many wives pick up a brochure and circle the treatments they would like."

How about letting the gal in your life enjoy the 'Love You Head to Toe' package which includes a four-layer facial by Retechage, aromatherapy pedicure, classic manicure, one hour massage, makeup application, and a paraffin hand wax treatment — all for just $154.90. Martin said the value is $225.80.

Ed Levin Jewelry makes a gift something special. Come see our beautiful collection in silver and gold. Always 20% off.

Or how about the 'Massage Trio' package? Three one-hour massage sessions for $119.99 with either a male or female massage therapist. "It is so wonderful," Martin said of the experience adding that the customer can choose different techniques such as Swedish, Shiatsu or deep tissue and each masseuse, custom blends essential oils to enhance the experience.

"I'm not a 'touchy' type of person," Martin said of her initial reluctance to try a massage. "But I have one almost every week, it is such a nice relaxing feeling, when you are done you could take on anything, I am now an addict, when you have a professional massage it's a wonderful experience."

The 'Bethlehem Body Care' package includes a peppermint seatwist, which is a full body wrap in ace bandages, with peppermint oil that purports to slim you down while removing extra water weight. The treatment comes with a half hour massage for $84.95.

"Many mother and daughter pairs buy packages for each other," Martin said. "Best friends treating themselves buy two packages for a bonding experience."

Is there a health nut (or health nut wannabe) or your holiday shopping list? Why not purchase some fitness equipment or a certificate so they can start the New Year on the right "get healthy" foot?"

Ed Bernstein is president of I Love My Heart fitness equipment store, and a physical therapist. He recommends that you really know the person you are shopping for before you invest in a big piece of equipment.

"Find out their past experience in a club setting or when they travel what equipment they like to use — getting the right piece is the key to whether they will use it or not. You want to make sure what you want is appreciated."

Couples often will buy fitness equipment for each other or as a family gift and Bernstein recommends trying out the equipment first. Will it be comfortable? Will it fit into the house? Where in the house will it go? What type of return policy does the store offer? These are some of the questions that Bernstein says the gift buyer should consider first.

Of course there are smaller accessories available such as exercise balls, pulse meters, yoga mats, and exercise belts. Don't forget that you can always get a gift.

I Love My Heart is located at 1581 Route 9 near Clifton Park.

For information, call 371-8645.

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Simple solutions to avoid holiday stress

The holidays are the busiest time of the year for many people. And while holiday cheer goes a long way toward offsetting the difficulties of the season, stress is definitely something you should be concerned about.

This is especially true for people with high blood pressure. Holidays can throw off their routine, which can adversely affect their health. Holidays can make us all crazy. Before you let it get to you, here are a few commonsense reminders from the same half of your brain.

- Try to stick with your diet and exercise routine. Maintain your weight, even if you are going to holiday parties.
- Eat a well-balanced diet and limit your consumption of sodium and alcohol.
- Engage in regular exercise, such as brisk walking. If the weather doesn't permit a good walk outdoors, this is a good time of year to visit the mall. Many malls open early just for walkers, and you can enjoy the holiday decorations while you exercise.
- Take some time for yourself amid all the bustle.
- Don't try to do more than you can reasonably accomplish in the time you have.
- Listen to relaxing music.
- Read a good book or see a movie.
- Engage in regular exercise, such as brisk walking. If the weather doesn't permit a good walk outdoors, this is a good time of year to visit the mall. Many malls open early just for walkers, and you can enjoy the holiday decorations while you exercise.
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- Listen to relaxing music.
- Read a good book or see a movie.

How to beat holiday bulge

'Tis the season to eat, drink and be merry. But holiday calories can add up fast, and if you want to avoid any drastic New Year's resolutions, here are a few suggestions when attending holiday parties:

- Focus on talking more to party guests and eating less.
- Avoid hanging around the buffet table.
- Stick to high protein foods, fruit and veggies. Go for turkey, sliced meats, fresh fruit and raw veggies (without the dip).
- Avoid high-fat hors d'oeuvres such as cheese, nuts and anything fried.
- Eat before heading out to a holiday gathering. Have some fruit and low-fat cottage cheese, yogurt, a bowl of consomme with Melba toast, a low-fat protein shake, a handful of grapes or an apple.
- Alcoholic drinks are full of calories. Make yourself the designated driver at least half of the time.
- Plan your own holiday activities other than food. Have an ice-skating party followed by hot, spiced apple cider, a walking tour of the neighborhood to look at lights, a tree-trimming party with low-car treats, or go caroling from house to house.
- Cook your favorite lowfat recipe and bring it to a holiday event. Sample some of the other goodies but stick to your own food.
- Keep up your exercise schedule. Not only will it help to work off the extra food, but it will help alleviate holiday stress as well.

Weight, even if you are going to holiday parties.

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Giving Kwanzaa gifts

By SALLY WILLIAMS

Kwanzaa means “First Fruits” in Swahili, an African language. It was established in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chair of Black Studies at Cal State Long Beach (California) to help black Americans take pride in their African roots.

The holiday, which reaffirms the ties between African Americans and their ancestral home in Africa, lasts seven days, from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. Each day represents one of the seven guiding principles of Nguro Sahab: Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperation and Support, Self-Examination and Setting Goals, and Honoring Tradition. Each evening, family members light a candle and talk about that day’s principles. On the sixth day, Dec. 31, the community gathers for a feast called a koino, at which they eat African foods, talk about their ancestors and discuss their goals for the coming year. There is also music and dancing.

Gifts are usually exchanged on Jan. 1, the day the seventh candle is lit. Families are encouraged to give each other gifts that they have made themselves. These can range from original works of art and sculpture to straw place mats.

If one wants to buy a gift, it should be affordable and represent some aspect of African culture. For example:

- African carvings, jewelry or artifacts are welcome, as are gifts of fruits or vegetables, which represent the blessings of Mother Earth for her children.
- Educational gifts, such as books on African history, folklore and culture, as well as books by African and African American writers.
- Especially welcome are books on Kwanzaa, such as "Kwanzaa: The Seven Principles" by Rod Terry, et al, and "Kwanzaa Crafts, Gifts & Decorations for a Meaningful & Festive Celebration" by Marcia Odle McNair.
- An especially fine book for children under the age of 10 is "Let’s Celebrate Kwanzaa" by Helen Davis Thompson. This is an activity book that helps youngsters understand the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The book also has a Kwanzaa song, word games and holiday activities. It’s available at most bookstores or online at www.amazon.com.

- For a comprehensive reference on foods, recipes, Afrocentric hairstyles, fashions and more, there’s "Kwanzaa: Everything You Always Wanted To Know But Didn’t Know Where To Ask" by Cedric McEldere.
- Finally, if you wrap your gifts, tie them up with black, red and green ribbons—the colors of Kwanzaa.

Have a call at: 439-4949

Spotlight Newspapers • Holiday Gift Guide 2007
Talke great holiday photographs

The holidays are the times a
when family and friends get
together and celebrate. Photos
taken at the holidays can keep you smiling throughout the following year. But how many times have you been disappointed by your efforts? Here are some tips:

1. Shoot a practice roll beforehand and compare the results with what you thought you saw in the viewfinder. Many adjustments can be made simply by getting familiar with your camera and its capabilities.
2. Get as close as you can to your subject without going out of focus. Three to five feet is a good distance to shoot from.
3. Be aware of the background. Make sure no decorations other objects appear to "grow" out of your subject's head. Make a final check through the viewfinder before snapping, and if needed, shift your position slightly to avoid unwanted details in the background.
4. Try to keep it simple. Take a close-up away from your subject when you put too many other distracting elements in the picture.
5. Use a faster film.

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When snapping family photos in the bright sunlight, turn the camera's flash on to eliminate unflattering harsh shadows.

For those outdoor action shots—a fierce snowball fight, for example—try capturing the peak moment. Use a high-speed film to capture the action without a distracting blur.

Try turning the camera vertically for added variety in your photos.

W hen photographing children, get down to their level for the best perspective. Children will also act more natural when photographed in their own environment, like a playground or a favorite chair.

Ensure you get that winning picture by taking several exposures of every shot you compose.

And don't forget to have everyone say, "Cheese!"

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You can't use the same hair dryer you kept at home. Voltage at www.voltagevalet.com has put together details on what you'll need and how to figure it out. It even has a "What You Need for Where You Want to Go" page that shows you diagrams of outlets and plugs and tells you, by country, what kind of plug it uses, the outlet volts, frequency/ertz and the module adapter needed. Travelsupplies.com has a similar, very helpful section.

Some gift suggestions and prices at voltagevalet.com:

• SP2 EuroSurge 220/240 Volt Surge Protector, to protect multivoltage and dual voltage computers while being used with 220/240 volt power sources ($49.95)
• PDI Digital Telephone Line Tester, in case the hotel uses digital phone systems but the modem is designed for analog ($19.95)
• ET Tax Impulse Filter, to prevent signals that can disrupt modem connections ($13.95)
• TAS Australian Telephone Adaptor ($5.95)
• HD2 dual voltage Hair Dryer for about $9.95
• SS2 dual voltage Travel Steam Iron ($32.95)
• GPS GeoPlug Adaptor System ($99.85)

There's a lots of cool stuff at www.Magellians.com, and here's sampling (you also can try looking for them in any travel oriented store):

• KWIKPOINT laminated, passport-size folding card with world ($1)
• Talking Translator ($29.95)
• Travel Money Belt ($29.95)
• Travelers Aid ($5.95)
• Talking World Map ($29.95)
• Innovative Traveling Glasses ($9.95)
• Talking World Phone ($39.95)
• Passport Wallet ($14.95)

Aurora Wallet: wraps around arm, wrist or ankle to carry essentials ($12.95)
• Collapsible Platypus Bottles & Flexi-durable plastic laminate, 1-liter water bottle you can roll up when it's empty. Set of two ($31.85)
• Mosquito Head Net, fits over your hat. Great for safaris, trips down the Amazon, annoying mosquitoes, etc ($5.85)

Have a safe and happy holiday, wherever you're celebrating.
Santa's sleigh loaded with goodies for car enthusiasts

By GREG ZYLA

NORTII POLE—Thanks to some extra persuasion from the elves, our secret meeting with Santa concerning what's hot in toy-gifting for automobile buffs took place last weekend. Santa allowed us a peek inside his sled, and here's what we found:

COMPUTER SOFTWARE
For 2001, the perennial leader in motoring simulations, Sierra/Papyrus, again receives the top gift pick for car-obsessed computer buffs. The new PC-based "NASCAR Racing 4" ($29.99) offers better graphics, solid sound and some other new twists that make it a must for all racing or car fans. Also on Santa's sleigh is another simulation called "Midtown Madness 2" by Microsoft ($19.99), which takes you through the streets of San Francisco and London. We also like NHRA Drag Racing 2 (Main Event $20), which features Pro Stock, Top Fuel and Funny Car; any 2000 or 2001 Electronic Arts (EA) Grand Prix games (from $29.99) and the new Indy Racing League Racing for Nintendo 64 by Infogrames ($29.99). Other perennial favorites include Ralph's World Of Outlaws Sprint Car Racing ($29.99) and the popular Test Drive games (from $19.99). Have fun, but remember that Donner got into big trouble last Christmas Eve because he became addicted to "Midtown Madness" and was late hooking his sled up.

HOBBY/RESTORATION TOOLS
Eastwood is another company Santa likes very much, because it offers car lovers a line of tools, cleaning and restoration products. If you need a compact sander or machine to turn old pieces new again, or a sheet metal bender, this is the place to buy. Gifts start at below $20. Call 1-800-343-9553 for a free catalog. Kris Kringle bought a sandblaster recently, and he's cleaning up his sled.

MOTORING APPAREL
Automotive apparel in hot for this year, so check it out at your favorite store. Santa will be wearing a Jeff Gordon sweatshirt under his suit on Dec. 24, while the elves go for Ferrari, BMW and Mercedes golf shirts or button-downs. Prices range from $12.97 to $24 per year. Bob Cratchet advises nation to forget those 2001 car calendars and date books, as they're a Tip Tine favorite and start at only $4.99.

VIDEOTAPEs
There are many excellent automobile-based movies available in video or DVD formats, Santa dubs "Grand Prix," "Le Mans," "Winning," "Tucker," "Heart Like a Wheel," "American Graffiti" and "Days of Thunder" on the sled. All are available at your favorite video store or mail-order company. Prices start at $6.99 and up.

** AUTO continued page 516 **

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** SPOTLIGHT NEWSPAPERS • HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE **

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Unique gifts for a child's room

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** Pool Tables **

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Hanukkah gifts

By SALLY STEIN

The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, also known as "The Feast of Dedication," is a celebration of freedom over tyranny. The history of Hanukkah begins around 330 B.C. when the people of Judea, under their leader Judah Maccabee, rose against the Syrian tyrant Antiochus, who was in control of the country and had tried to destroy the population to give up their belief in the one God and bow down before idols under their victory; the Jews restored or reconstructed their desecrated temple. (The word, Hanukkah means "rededication" in Hebrew.)

However, they had only one day's supply of oil to serve the Eternal Light, which had to be kept burning all times. But miraculously, the lamp burned for eight days, long enough for more oil to be prepared. (The serving of latkes, potato pancakes, is traditional for Hanukkah because they are cooked with oil, remaining people of the miracle of the eight-day lamp.)

Hanukkah lasts eight days. Each evening a candle is lit and placed in the Menorah, an eight-branched candelabrum used only for this holiday. On the second night, two candles are lit. The third night, three candles are lit.

And finally, on the eighth night, all eight candles are lit in a manner that "guards" the others (some say a representation of God's watchful eye over His people). While adults may exchange gifts, the focus is on the child. The Littlest Hanukkah will receive a small gift on each day of the holiday. These may be toys, coloring books, "dresses" (a small sleeping bag) or Hanukkah Socks (chocolate "coins" wrapped in gold foil).

Gifts for the older children this year might include CD albums that include anything Harry Potter books, games and T-shirts, as well as money to keep going back to the movie theater to see "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.

In some families, it becomes a Hanukkah tradition to plant a tree in Israel (one of the ancient hand of God). These cost $10 each and can be ordered by writing to the Federation of American Israel, 42 East 65th St., New York, N.Y. 10021, logging on to the Internet at www.jnf.org or calling 1-800-999-JNF or (212) 879-9300. The JNF will send the family an acknowledgment that includes the trees' location; so that if they ever get to Israel they can visit it.

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Looking for a gift that's hard to buy for person?

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Looking for a gift that’s hard to buy for person?

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How about a GIFT CERTIFICATE from Thorpe?
Christmas tree safety tips

There’s nothing like a live Christmas tree to make holidays bright and joyous. But just make sure that you don’t go too far to light up the night. In recent years, nearly 600 fires per year have been started by ignition of Christmas trees in the United States, causing an average $51 million in direct property damage per year.

Here are some fire-safety tips you should practice when decorating a Christmas tree:

- Check your tree lights for broken or frayed wires and loose connections.
- Replace non-working light sets.
- Avoid decorating Christmas trees with candles.
- Make sure live Christmas trees are fresh. Don’t buy trees with brown needles or dry limbs.
- Consider having the tree sprayed with a flame retardant chemical.
- Give the tree plenty of water. Never let the base holder dry out.
- Don’t place the tree near a heat source, open flames or room heat.
- Keep light strings and other electrical decorations out of children’s reach.
- Always unplug the Christmas tree lights when you leave the house or go to bed.
- Don’t burn the Christmas tree or package wrappings in a fireplace or wood stove.

Tips for holiday shopping

For many, holiday shopping can mean frantic trips to overcrowded malls, frayed nerves and way too much debt come January. When you have suffered from any of these in years past, there are some practical suggestions for gift buying that can put you back into the spirit of things.

- Have a list, a plan and a budget before you shop. Money may not flow as freely through those of those who don’t want gifts.
- Make a list of places where you are comfortable shopping.
- Ask around to find out where others have had great shopping experiences from in the past. Malls are not the only place to shop. Consider factory outlets and mom-and-pop shops.
- Take advantage of seasonal coupons, flyers, limited time specials, offered holiday savings and markdown items. Always make sure they are not marked down because of a defect before you purchase the item. If you’re not sure, ask. Most stores will gladly tell you, if you ask them, when a particular item is going on sale and how long that sale will be going on.
- Stock up for the next year. If you know that you buy seasonal gifts every year for yourself, your household or others, try buying holiday items after Christmas, when they are marked down 50 percent or more.
- Set an affordable budget and stick to it. Set a dollar limit every gift.
- Keep a list of places where you are on a fixed income, sometimes a fruit basket or small candy gifts can mean a lot. Fruits and nuts are always signature items of a festive and fun Christmas.
- Simple cards can be wonderful keepsakes, as well as memorable messages. Snack from your stock.
- Whenever you get paid, set aside money for holiday shopping. For credit cards, spend preferably when there is not a lay-away.
- If you choose a lay-a-way program, make periodic checks on your merchandise to ensure that the store still has your item.
- If you are on a fixed income, sometimes a fruit basket or small candy gifts can mean a lot. Fruits and nuts are always signature items of a festive and fun Christmas.

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"Is the Season! for Holiday Decorations & Gifts"
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Decorative Painting, Flori... Visit http://starsleep.nhlbi.nih.gov

Sleep Well, Do Well

For kids to do their best in school or at play, they should get at least nine hours of sleep every night. Kids can be Star Sleepers like Garfield. Visit http://sleep.nhlbi.nih.gov for sleep tips and fun activities.

The Fitness Guide 
A Fitness Center for Women of All Ages & Fitness Levels
333 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 478-0237
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- One low fee for unlimited use of classes and equipment.
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Give the Gift of Health to Someone Special

Christmas gifts

High-tech fitness gifts

By Kelly Griffin

To make your gift-giving easier this year, save yourself some time and shop online. The thought of fighting traffic and waiting in lines is enough to make anyone’s blood pressure go through the roof. Instead, sit back and relax while you double-click through the following high-tech fitness gift ideas.

- Electronic Pedometer ($16.95), Discovery.com: This is a great gift for someone who is just getting started in an exercise program, allowing them to chart their progress by following their heart rate. When people continue to do the same routine, their heart rate usually slows a bit; we call this the training effect. With a heart rate monitor, you can regulate your heart rate and improve your fitness.
- Cardio Sport First Heart Rate Monitor ($39.97), DickSportingGoods.com: This is a great gift for someone who is just getting started in an exercise program, allowing them to chart their progress by following their heart rate. When people continue to do the same routine, their heart rate usually slows a bit; we call this the training effect. With a heart rate monitor, you can regulate your heart rate and improve your fitness.
- Rate Monitor ($39.97), DickSportingGoods.com: This is a great gift for someone who is just getting started in an exercise program, allowing them to chart their progress by following their heart rate. When people continue to do the same routine, their heart rate usually slows a bit; we call this the training effect. With a heart rate monitor, you can regulate your heart rate and improve your fitness.
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By Kelly Griffin

To make your gift-giving easier this year, save yourself some time and shop online. The thought of fighting traffic and waiting in lines is enough to make anyone’s blood pressure go through the roof. Instead, sit back and relax while you double-click through the following high-tech fitness gift ideas.

- Electronic Pedometer ($16.95), Discovery.com: This is a great gift for someone who is just getting started in an exercise program, allowing them to chart their progress by following their heart rate. When people continue to do the same routine, their heart rate usually slows a bit; we call this the training effect. With a heart rate monitor, you can regulate your heart rate and improve your fitness.
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Holiday CD's make spirits bright

BY DAVID UFFINGTON

A Nancy Wilson Christmas Treacle, $16.97

McDonald wrote eight of the 11 songs here, with notable Christian flavor. Outstanding tracks include the smooth "To Make a Miracle" and the soulful "On Christmas Morning." Truly heartwarming stuff." Peace," co-written with Beth Nielsen Chapman, rings deeply into this shaken world of ours. McDonald has never been more soulful.

The Magic of Christmas: Stories from Call Me Claus Garth Brooks Capitola, $17.97

Originally released in 1999, Garth Brooks' second Christmas album has been updated with three new songs recorded for the TNT holiday special "Call Me Claus." "Call Me Claus," a swinging big-band number, opens the disc; the two other new additions are "Mary Had a Little Lamb," a lowkey, largely acoustic (except for its big, booming finish) retelling of the Christmas story with Trisha Yearwood supplying rich harmony vocals, and a slightly down-tempo, dirky tune, "What Do You Santa Claus?" The rest of the numbers are traditional and modern carols like "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Winter Wonderland," "Sleigh Ride" and "Silver Bells." Brooks manages to sound both introspective and jolly here, and the result is a great country holiday album.

Pokemon: Chris Unas Bash Koch Records, $17.98

For the Pokemon-crated tyke in your home. This album doesn't stick too closely to tradition for the most part, instead breaking away from the expected fare like "Toasty the Snowman" and "Silent Night" for more Pokemon-centric fare like "Winter is the Coolest Time of Year" and "I'm Giving Santa a Pikachu This Christmas." Pokemon's rather secular fare doesn't marry as well to Christmas themes as other holiday craves like The Chipmunks or the Smurfs, but hey, that may just be a personal matter of taste. If you have a kid who breathes Pokemon, this album will do the job.

Christmas Extravaganz: Mannheim Steamroller American Gramaphone, $17.97

Perennial holiday favorites Mannheim Steamroller (they've sold more than 18 million Christmas albums) assembles a dozen carols that were requested by fans on their Web site. The instrumental group breaks some new ground on this album as they do; this year's hits songs on "O Tannenbaum" — the first vocalist ever to sing the Steamroller. This album will leave you in a merry mood indeed. And if you can't get enough of these guys, there's a Christmas box set featuring this album plus their first three Christmas albums.

-- 2001 King Features Synd., Inc.
deliberately try to pick things that are unique.

As you pass the llamas on the front lawn (sorry — not for sale) you'll find hand-made ornaments in all styles and shapes. Or perhaps you'd like to help someone set the party mood with fragrant floating candles. Checkout the collection of "Quarry Critters," little collectible animals with funny expressions.

Don't you hate it when chocolate in your chocolate milk settles to the bottom of the cup? With a Moo Mixer cup you'll find hand-made ornaments in all styles and shapes. Or perhaps you'd like to help someone set the party mood with fragrant floating candles. Checkout the collection of "Quarry Critters," little collectible animals with funny expressions.

Winn said, "They don't spit, and they don't kick." Turtle Point is located next to the Delmar Post Office.

**Books from page 54**

5. Make a Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices, by Paul Fleischman. Newbery Winner. These poems are about insects and are written to read aloud by two people to imitate the noises insects make.

6. The Illustrated Man, by Ray Bradbury. A man's tattoos come alive to tell strange stories. Kids love the framework as well as the short stories.

7. Tangerine, by Edward Bloom. Having just moved from Texas to Florida, Paul has to cope with blindness, prejudice and his disturbed older brother.

8. Monster, by Walter Dean Myers. Sixteen year old Steve is involved in a robbery gone wrong. Will he be sentenced to prison for murder?

9. On My Honor, by Marion Baurer. When a friend drowns during an outing, Tony must face guilt and grief.

10. Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott. The classic tale of four sisters growing up in a poor New England family during the Civil War. This story withstands the test of time.

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**Auto from page 52**

**MODEL KITS**

During the year, the reindeer, Santa and the elves keep their building skills sharp by building model car and trucks. That's why kids young and old will be happy to find a lot or two under the tree, especially those from AMT/ERTL or Lindberg. Priced from $7.99 up, they're available in snap fast for the younger set to more difficult glue-only and higher priced die-cast for teens and parents. Santa's top model pick this year is the 2001 1/24th scale Chevy Corvette.

**FOR THE CAR OR TRUCK**

Turtle Wax has a nice car care kit for $14.99, while Prestone has an emergency battery charger that you keep permanently in your car for $79.99. Frosty the Snowman likes auto emergency kits and stocking stuffers like flat tire inflators, Armor All products Life'.

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**Jewelry can make holidays sparkle**

By MISS B. DOUX

- Establish your own signature holiday look by wearing the same piece a Christmas tree or ornament brooch every day from Dec. 1 through Christmas. This will become a family tradition — with you as the star. And the brooch will acquire the patina and stories of the past just as you will.

- Dress up your Christmas tree with large, gaudy old rhinestone brooches hung by red satin ribbons.

- Hats are cool look for the winter for those readers fortunate enough to live in an area where snow is common. So take that old brooch and pin it on a beret or felt hat for a festive look.

- Try creating a Christmas gift: Take a strand of your really disgusting, old, junky, chain-link, jewelry and glue the party or large-sized (individual) simulated pearls (look great) in the shape of a Christmas tree onto a velvet-covered cardboard rectangle. Frame same, and the lucky recipient has a decoration for a lifetime of Christmases.

- For stocking stuffers, Miss B. Doux recommends hair ornaments for girls and pens for boys. "Wow to difference!"

**Best Buy Leaders!**

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Bethlehem takes boys title at Shaker tourney

By ROB JONAS

There will be no slow starts for the Bethlehem boys basketball team this year.

Bob Boughton scored 22 points on his way to earning most valuable player honors as the Eagles defeated Broadalbin-Perth, 59-47 in last Saturday's championship game of the Julius Grimindl Tournament at Shaker High School.

"He was terrific," Bethlehem coach Chuck Abb said of Boughton, one of several returning players for the Eagles this season. "We knew we could get it in to Bob and Matt (Robbins), and Bob did a great job."

Boughton and Robbins propelled the Eagles (2-0) to a 19-1 lead after one quarter. Robbins scored seven points, while Boughton contributed six points to jumpstart the offense.

Broadalbin-Perth (1-1) stayed close in the second quarter, but Boughton hit several key shots in the closing minutes to extend the Eagles' lead to 33-25 at halftime.

"I was feeling it," said Boughton, who scored 10 of his 22 points in the second quarter.

BC hockey team ties Burnt Hills

The Bethlehem hockey team tied Burnt Hills-Baldwin Lake 2-2 in last Saturday's Capital District High School Hockey League game at Union College.

Jim Moehringer and Erich Minnear scored first-period goals for the Eagles (1-2-1). Joe Siniski contributed assists.

Bethlehem hosts Christian Brothers Academy tonight, Wednesday, at 7 p.m. at the Big A.

The Lady Eagles opened with a 57-45 victory over Guilderland last Saturday against Guilderland, building a 15-9 lead in the fourth quarter, extending the Lady Dutch's scoreless drought with a three-pointer, and Boughton and Robbins added baskets to seal the victory.

The Lady Eagles had trouble containing Catholic Central's Aiga Bautre in last Saturday's second game. Bautre had 29 points, including three baskets from behind the three-point arc, to pace the Crusaders.

"I ended up playing a forward on her because she was posting up on our guards," Wise said. "Even though she scored 29 points, I thought we did a good job of defending her."

Foley netted 15 points, and Baldwin added 14 points for Bethlehem, which trailed 19-10 after the first quarter.

"I think the first quarter hurt us a lot because I think we came out a little tentative and they came out strong," Wise said.

December 2001 Public Ice Skating Schedule

900 Delaware Ave., Delmar 439-2211

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"The B.I.G. Arena...it's not just hockey" www.bigarena.com
Eagles soared into uncharted territory in 2001

By ROB JONAS

The 2001 Bethlehem football team turned a lot of heads. They were the only team in the Blue Division to win the first seven games of the season, and their 7-3 loss to Shenendehowa in the final game of the season left them with a 6-4 record. The team had been picked to finish in the middle of the division, but they finished with the No. 1 seed and went on to win the Class AA title.

"I knew that we were going to be pretty good, but I knew the other teams in the Blue Division were returning some quality players," Sodergren said.

Bethlehem soon threw the rest of the division for a loop. The Eagles opened the season with a commanding 34-0 victory over Colonie Central and then hung on for a 28-22 win against Shaker to grab sole possession of first place.

"I think the big game for us was the week after our win over Shaker, and just about every other team had at least one loss (in the division)," Sodergren said. "So, we were in control of our own destiny.

That control was tested in the fourth week of the season. In a battle of divisional leaders, Bethlehem suffered its first offensive breakdown in a 7-5 loss to Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake.

"I think we were still trying to find our identity on offense," Sodergren said. "I think something that kind of misled us entering the Burnt Hills game was our passing game. We had thrown eight touchdowns passes out of 10 games, so I think we thought of ourselves as a passing team. As it turned out, we were a running team that could pass, instead of a passing team that could run."

Bethlehem took that new offensive philosophy into its Blue Division game against Shenendehowa in the fifth week of the season. Brennan rushed for 182 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Eagles to a 24-14 victory that kept Bethlehem one game ahead of Columbia and Saratoga.

"The other big game was Shaker," Sodergren said. "Once we had that, we had the division. We still had to play Columbia, but we were in good shape."

The Eagles took care of Columbia the following week with a 21-2 win against the Blue Devils in East Greenbush. The victory coupled with Shaker's win over Saratoga gave Bethlehem the Blue Division title.

After concluding the regular season with a victory over Saratoga, Bethlehem entered the Section II, Class AA playoffs as the No. 1 seed out of the Saratoga County and home field advantage for the first two games. Those games turned out to be against two of the Eagles' Blue Division opponents, Shaker and Columbia. But Bethlehem rose to the challenge, as it pulled out 28-22 victory over Shaker and 20-17 win over Columbia to advance to the championship game.

"In some ways, I wish we didn't have to play two teams that had already played, but I couldn't change it," Sodergren said.

In the Section II Class AA final, Bethlehem faced Troy, whose teams had won the last four Class AA titles. The Flying Horses scored the first touchdown, but the Eagles scored the last five to pull out a 34-17 victory and their first Super Bowl championship.

"They had a big play at the beginning of the game when they returned the opening kickoff 70 yards," Sodergren said. "But I knew that when it took them 10 plays to go the other 42 yards, there was a question of whether we could stop them because I knew we could stop the other team."

The Eagles continued their strong offensive play in a 36-8 regional win against Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Free Academy (Section I) before being stopped in the state semifinals by North Rockland (Section II) 27-7.

"They had the best secondary that we've seen this year," Sodergren said of North Rockland. "They covered our receivers very well.

The ride Bethlehem took this year may be difficult to repeat in 2002. Twenty-six seniors are graduating from a 36-6 team.

"What I tell every team — whether we're coming off a good season, a medium season or a bad season — is that every team has its own character," Sodergren said. "I think (the younger players) know they have to do to get ready."

Views on Dental Health

Once your child leaves for school it is difficult to monitor what they eat and drink. It is important to educate our children about the hazards of certain dietary choices.

A recent study has proven that many top brand sports drinks are acidic enough to erode enamel. Furthermore, the intense consumption, which usually involves switching the liquid after an intense cardiovascular workout, can contribute to adult onset tooth decay.

The best fluid to drink following intense activity is water. However, sports drinks are your fluids of choice, use the sports drink straw to bypass the teeth and remember to refrain from holding the liquid in your mouth for any period of time. It is also a good idea for advice regarding other foods and beverages that may be detrimental to your oral health.

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He is a senior telecommunications major at the University of Rochester.

She is a graduate student at Saint Rose.

The future groom is a graduate of Randolph High School and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

She is a graduate student at The College of Saint Rose.

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William Bennett
William A. Bennett, 68, of Delmar died Friday, Nov. 30, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.
Born in Glens Falls, he attended the Military Academy at West Point and graduated from Syracuse University.
Mr. Bennett was president of Paul E. Killen Inc., a bookbinding and mail-order company in Menands.
He was an avid fisherman and stamp collector. He was a member of the Moose and American Legion.
Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Bennett; a daughter, Elizabeth Bennett of Menands, and two sons, Jeffrey Bennett of Albany and Jeffrey Bennett of the American Legion Post 71 in Westport, Conn.; a grandson, Stephen Bennett.
Contributions may be made to the American Legion Post 71 in Westport, Conn.

William Vincent
William G. Vincent, 74, of Slingerlands died Monday, Nov. 30.
He was a truck driver for H.S. Vincent & Son in Selkirk, Callanan Industries and Cerone Inc.
Survivors include his wife, Isabella Shufelt Throop Vincent; a daughter, Judith Ann Vincent of Port Charlotte, Fla.; two sons, William Jeffery Vincent of Delmar and Walter Vincent of Albany; a sister, Franklyn Vincent of Voorheesville; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.
Arrangements were by the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar.

Carolyn Bennett
Carolyn Bennett, 65, of Delmar died Thursday, Nov. 29.
Mrs. Smith was a beautician, dental assistant and worked as a clerk for Suburban Gal.
She enjoyed word games, and was an avid bowler and card player.
Survivors include her husband, Frederick Smith; a daughter, Deirdra Morrissey of Albany; and two grandchildren.
Arrangements were by the Meyer Funeral Home in Delmar.

Elizabeth Kraus
Elizabeth Ann Kraus, 65, of Delmar died Monday, Nov. 26, at Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar.
Burial was in Prospect Hill Cemetery in Schuylerville.
Contributions may be made to Crystal Cathedral Ministries, PO Box 100, Garden Grove, Calif. 92640.

Wilton Hermance
Wilton E. Hermance, 85, of Delmar died Tuesday, Nov. 27, at Albany County Nursing Home.
Born in Hudson, he was a grandson oflyveland, Mass., and the American Legion.
Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Ann Kraus, 65, of Delmar; a daughter, Catherine Kraus of West Menands; two sisters, Virginia Slater, 92, of Schuylerville; a grandson, Dennis Hermance; a granddaughter, Catherine Kraus; and seven great-grandchildren.
Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Glenmont.
Arrangements were by the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar.

James O’Connell
Mr. O’Connell was a World War II soldier in the Marine Corps.
He was a truck driver for Associated Transport in Albany before he retired.
He was an avid motorcycle and scuba instructor.
Mr. O’Connell was the husband of the late Janice O’Connell.
Survivors include a daughter, Cindy O’Connell; a son, James O’Connell of Glenmont; and three grandchildren.
Burial was in Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville.

Virginia Slater
Virginia Slater, 73, of Tallahassee, Fla., and formerly of Delmar, died Thursday, Nov. 22.
Born in Pittsfield, Mass., she was the daughter of William Vincent and Edith· Slater of Clinton, Ill.
Survivors include her husband, William Slater; her sons, William Vincent Slater of Delmar; and a grandson.
Burial was in St. Dominic’s Cemetery in Delmar.

Carrie Mae Quay
Carrie Mae Quay, 94, of Delmar died Tuesday, Nov. 27.
She had been a school teacher in Knox and was a longtime member of Delmar Reformed Church.
Survivors include a sister, Jennie Quay of Delmar.
Burial was in Bethlehem Cemetery in Delmar.

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Ask About Our New Critical Illness Policy

Eddy recognizes local volunteers
The Eddy AIDS Care Team Program of the Eddy Visiting Nurse Association has recognized members of its volunteer care teams who have marked five years of volunteer service.
In Delmar, volunteers from the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle were honored. Those volunteering include: Virgilia Acquaro, Lea Denault, Helen Harle, Jim and Maureen Mans, Carrie O’Connell, Kathy Peleggi, Joan Pellerin, Henry Perreerule, Mary Ellen Regan, Lois Smith and Carolyn Stedman.

Daniel Dougan
Daniel M. Dougan, 52, of Delmar died Thursday, Nov. 29, at Albany Medical Center Hospital.
Born in Catskill, he lived in Delmar for 10 years before moving to the Capital District 10 years ago.
Mr. Dougan worked for CapitolTaxi for several years.
Survivors include his wife, Lynn M. Dougan; his parents, Harold and Kathleen Dougan of Feura Bush; three daughters, Stephanie Dougan of Great Neck, N.Y., and Dulce Dougan and Stephanie Dougan of Delmar; and a grandson.
Arrangements were by the Meyer Funeral Home in Delmar.

Elizabeth Kraus
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Community Hospice of Albany County at St. Peter’s Hospital.
Born in Whitesboro, N.Y., she was a manager of White Book Encyclopedia. More recently, she was publisher of Restaurant and Architectural Magazine of the Capital Region.
Mrs. Kraus was a member of the Tawasentha Chapter of the DAR, president of the Capital District Round Table, a former chair of the Albany Regional Food Bank harvest dinner and a member of the Albany Panhellenic.
Survivors include her husband, Jerry Kraus; two daughters, Susan Spencer and Cynthia Stevenson; a son, Steven Kraus; and eight grandchildren.
Services were from the Meyers Funeral Home and the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, both in Delmar.
Contributions may be made to the DAR Memorial Scholarship, c/o Tawasentha Chapter.

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Ask About Our New Critical Illness Policy

Eddy recognizes local volunteers
The Eddy AIDS Care Team Program of the Eddy Visiting Nurse Association has recognized members of its volunteer care teams who have marked five years of volunteer service.
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Family
ENTERTAINMENT
COLUMNS
By JOHN BRENT

Actor takes directing role for Steamer 10 show

For several generations, readers have delighted in the adventures of Toad, Rat, Badger and Mole as they engage in their various adventures in Kenneth Grahame's timeless story, *The Wind in the Willows.* Written in 1908, Graham tells the tale of Toad, a rebellious character who is usually up to some form of mischief. In one of his more outlandish adventures, he "borrows" an automobile and following his joyride, smashes the vehicle. He ends up in jail. With Toad out of the way, the Fox and the Fierce Hall and chaos ensues. Toad, with the help of his friends, Rat Badger and Mole, escapes from jail and working together, they get rid of the weasels.

By giving the animals in the story human characteristics, Graham is able to poke gentle fun at society and human nature while providing whimsical entertainment for both children and adults.

Now Steamer 10 Theatre on Western Avenue in Albany is bringing Toad and the gang to life in their stage production of "Wind in the Willows."

Ric Chesser, artistic director for the theater company has established a well-deserved reputation in the area for quality children's theater. Past productions at the former firehouse have included "Rumpelstilskin," "Rio Van Winkle," "Sleeping Beauty" and the very popular "Clintons Ditch" which tells the story of the building of the Erie Canal.

First time director Mark Salocks is helming "Wind in the Willows" but he is no stranger to the company, having appeared in a number of past productions.

Salocks has acted with several community groups in the past and played roles like Hal in "Picnic" and Wolf in "Romeo and Juliet," scripts that are clearly aimed at adult audiences. But about three years ago, the actor began his association with Steamer 10 and children's theater.

"It's great," said Salocks, "to be involved in the company. Kids get to experience what may be their first live theater, ever, and adults can relive some of the childhood stories they knew as youngsters."

"The trick with children's theater is to find characters and situations that appeal to a kid's imagination while at the same time providing the kind of humor and insight that will entertain adults," said Salocks. "Steamer 10 has been pretty successful at finding this balance."

One of the most difficult problems for an actor making the transition to directing is resisting the temptation to show an actor how to play a scene.

"Sometimes, I just want to jump up on stage and do the part," said Salocks. "But I know the director's job is to guide the actor — to offer encouragement and suggestions — to help them find their own way."

"It's amazing what they bring to the characters," said Salocks in reference to his cast. "It's very satisfying to watch them develop, not only during the rehearsal period but during the performances as well."

Salocks recognizes the value of a talented performer who enjoys his work. Jack Shafer, who plays Toad, saw one of the earlier productions at Steamer 10 and sent an e-mail telling the company that he would like to become involved. After several small parts, Jack now plays the lead in "Willows." "He continued to grow," said Salocks. "With each part he developed a little further and he's always a pleasure to work with."

The personal problems forced Salocks to drop out of theater for a while. "But Ric (Chesser) from Steamer 10 came to my rescue," said Salocks. "He stuck by me through some pretty tough times, and he was the one that suggested that I try my hand at directing."

The director's role gives Salocks the option of being able to leave if family emergencies come up — something that would be much more difficult for a cast member acting in a show.

Salocks' interests are not limited strictly to children's theater. He also has his own acting company, Wit and Will Productions and along with partners Parker Cross and Laura Murray, the group stages works by revered playwright William Shakespeare. The company has presented "The Tempest" and "Hamlet" on the Steamer 10 stage and most recently "Macbeth" at the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany.

The group is considering "Twelfth Night" for its next production as a change of pace from some of the heavier drama.

Like many talented people trying to make their way in theater, Salocks has had to make some tough decisions.

"I was into the whole regular job, 9 to 5 thing but I wasn't really happy. I had been involved with theater in high school and with some community theater but I was working full-time, and the theater had to take a back seat."

After some key roles in independent films made by area filmmakers and his association with Steamer 10, Salocks is now devoting his working energies full time to his first love — the performing arts. As an actor or director on stage or in film, Salocks enjoys all aspects of his craft and will no doubt continue to be an asset to area stage and screen productions.

"Wind in the Willows" will be presented on Saturday, Dec. 8 and 15 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., and on Sunday, Dec. 9 and 16 at 3 p.m. Adult admission is $10, children and seniors are $8. There is a $2 discount for advance tickets. For information or reservations call 438-5503.

Toad and friends attempt to get the weasels out of Toad Hall. Pictured from top, Jack Shafer as Toad, Kristin Smallwood as Rat, Agnes Kapusta as Badger and Amelia Robbins as Mole.

"We're really having a great time," said Salocks who is well aware of the ironies in such a script. "We have a show with actors playing animals who are pretending to be people!"

"I'm amazed that my actors are willing to put up with me," the director commented. "I'm asking them to wear heavy makeup and deal with a lot of props — it's not an easy show but the trick is to make it all look effortless."

Does the actor enjoy directing? "There's a degree of control you get as director," said Salocks. "And while I'm not a control freak or anything, I really enjoy that feeling. I don't always have that feeling as an actor."

"When asked if he will be directing in the future Salocks responded that the change from acting to directing was "like a vegetarian tasting meat for the very first time."

"Steamer 10 has not had an easy time of it offstage in the last several years. Not only has the actor survived a bout with cancer but has also been helping his parents who also face serious health problems as well."

"I have older brothers," said Salocks, "but they're not living in the area. Consequently, most of the care provider duties fall to Mark."
Spotlight CALENDAR

**Wed. 12/5**

**bethlehem**

- **Youth Employment Services**
  Place: 316 Delaware Ave., 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Information, 439-5683.

**saturday**

- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**
  Winter Sale, 7:30–9 a.m., 445 Delaware Ave., 439-4407.

**sunday**

- **Delmar Full Gospel Church**
  Service, 9:30 a.m., 852 Elsmere Ave., 439-4407.

- **St. Matthew's RC Church**
  Missas November 5 and Saturday at 6:45 a.m. at the Bethlehem Elks Lodge, Route 144, 7:30 a.m. Information, 765-2021.

**bethlehem women's business council**

- **Meetings**
  Place: 219 South Main St., 7:30–9 p.m. Information, 439-6017.

**sunday**

- **Spotlight**
  Hall, 10:30 a.m.; 445 Delaware Ave., 7:30–9 p.m. Information, 439-4407.

**bible study**

- **Bible Study**
  Place: 316 Delaware Ave., 7:15 a.m. Information, 439-6017.

**bethlehem elks lodge**

- **Meetings**
  Place: 219 South Main St., 7:30–9 p.m., 439-4407.

**sunday**

- **Youth Employment Services**
  Place: 316 Delaware Ave., 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Information, 439-5683.

**bethlehem lions club**

- **Meets**
  Place: 219 South Main St., 7:30–9 p.m. Information, 439-6017.

**bethlehem hills**

- **Meeting**
  Place: First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, Route 191, 7:30–9 p.m. Information, 439-6779.

- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**
  Christmas Eve Eve, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4407.

- **Unification of Faith Christian Fellowship**
  Place: 219 South Main St., 7:30–9 p.m. Information, 439-4407.

- **First Church of Christ, Scientist**
  Place: 219 South Main St., 7:30–9 p.m. Information, 439-4407.

- **St. Michael's Shrine**
  Place: 1 Beacon Road at Route 9W, Glenmont, 7:30–9 p.m. Information, 439-4407.

- **Bethlehem Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses**
  Place: 1 Beacon Road at Route 9W, Glenmont, 7:30–9 p.m. Information, 439-4407.

- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**
  Place: 85 Elm Av., 7:30–9 p.m. Information, 439-6779.

**sunday**

- **Bethlehem**
  Place: Thomas the Apostle, 35 Beacon Road, 10 a.m. Information, 439-4407.

- **Glenmont Community Church**
  Place: 720 Poplar Drive, 7:15 p.m. Information, 439-6779.

- **New Scotland Community Church**
  Place: 240 Willow Lane, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-6779.

**monday**

- **New Scotland seniors**
  Place: 300 Main Street, 10 a.m. Information, 439-8950.

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  Place: 300 Main Street, 10 a.m. Information, 439-8950.

- **Bethlehem**
  Place: 120 Route 146, 9 a.m. Information, 439-6252.

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  Place: 120 Route 146, 9 a.m. Information, 439-6252.

- **Bethlehem Lions Club**
  Place: 219 South Main St., 7:30–9 p.m., 439-6017.

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NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
147 FLATBUSH REALTY, LLC was formed in Delaware on June 8, 2001. Office: Albany County, SUNY. SSNY shall mail any process against the LLC to 119-15 27th Ave., Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful purpose. (December 5, 2001)

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Name: ALPASCAR, LLC
Purpose: any lawful activity. The Limited Liability Company shall be owned by the members. (December 5, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
1. The purpose of the limited liability company is to be a store.
2. Notice of publication. The purpose of the Limited Liability Company is to be a store. (December 5, 2001)

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
The name of the LLC is BRADY & TURNER, LLC. The LLC was formed in Delaware on October 10, 2001. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful activity, including the manufacture, sale, distribution, and storage of products, insurance, and other services not prohibited by law. (December 5, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
FORTY-NINE: The name of the limited liability company is 3D DEVICES, LLC. The purpose of the LLC is to be a limited liability company. (December 5, 2001)

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF 3056 CARMEN ROAD, LLC
(under Section 302 of the Limited Liability Company Law of the State of New York)

FIFTH: The name of the LLC is 3056 CARMEN ROAD, LLC. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful activity, including the manufacture, sale, distribution, and storage of products, insurance, and other services not prohibited by law. (December 5, 2001)

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF SLENDER HEDGE LLC
(under Section 302 of the Limited Liability Company Law of the State of New York)

FIRST: The name of the LLC is SLENDER HEDGE LLC. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful activity, including the manufacture, sale, distribution, and storage of products, insurance, and other services not prohibited by law. (December 5, 2001)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
THE COMPANY, a limited liability partnership, hereby affirms the foregoing as true under penalty of perjury. (December 5, 2001)
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The name of the LLC is FIRST COLUMBIA CENTER-30, LLC. The name of the LLC will be filed with the NY Secretary of State on 10/5/01. The office of the LLC is in the City of New York, County of New York. The address of the LLC is 30 First Street, 3rd Fl., Albany, NY 12207. Pursue any lawful activity.
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The name of the professional service limited liability company is Registered Professional Nursing and Criminal Consulting, LLC. The Articles of Organization were filed on August 8, 2001 with the NYS Department of State. The County within the State in which the office of the professional service limited liability company is located is Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as agent for the purpose of process against the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC to: 590 New Louisa Road, Latham, New York 12005. (DE) (SSNY) SSNY

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The name of the limited liability company is Hill Properties, LLC. The Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State on October 23, 2001. Office address is: 77 State St, Albany, NY 12207. The Secretary of State is designated as agent on whom process against the limited liability company may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the limited liability company is: 77 State St., Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Real Estate.
HELP WANTED

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS: Winter break work. $14.10 base dept.; 1-5 wks available. Full-time/Part-time winter break schedule or previous semester's schedule. Apply now! NOW start after finals in customer service/sales dept. 705-277-9756


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DRIVER: We are opening an experienced driver to join our transportation group. Our van drivers transport adults with developmental disabilities to and from our school. Hours are Monday-Friday, 7:45am-3:00pm. Call for a personal interview at (518) 452-6800.


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PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST for Albany-based association. Excellent communication skills, strong computer knowledge, FLEXIBLE hours can accommodate schedule for parental school-aged children. Good benefits and FREE parking. Mail or fax resume to: NYSHTA, 11 North Pearl St, Albany, NY 12207; Fax: (518) 466-4025; Attr. Kathy.

PEOPLE WANTED: 29 people wanted to get paid $$$ to lose up to 30 lbs in the next 30 days. All natural/guaranteed. Call 237- 5189.

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Voorheesville Public Library seeks assistant to support circulation andReference services. Must have strong computer skills (MS Office), customer service orientation, and ability to multi­ task. Experience preferred. 30 hrs/week (even. & weekends). Send resume to: Carl Sacco, Voorheesville Public Library, 33 North Pearl Rd., Voorheesville, NY 12186. Fax: (518) 765-776. Email: sacco@ullfs.lib.ny.us. Applications accepted until position is filled, those who file by 1/11/02 will be given preference.

Survey Technician - Entry level, will train. Benefits: Driver's license required. E.O.E. Send resume to Box 506, East Berne, NY 12059.

CADD Technician - Entry- to mid-level position requires AutoCAD Version 14 or above experience. Benefits: E.O.E. Send resume to Box 506, East Berne, NY 12059.


WANTED: 29 people wanted to get paid $$$ to lose up to 30 lbs in the next 30 days. All natural/guaranteed. Call 237- 5189.


WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

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With over 100,000 readers every week, Spotlight Newspapers can help you find the perfect employees for YOUR business! Give us a call today at 439-4949!
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for kids to do their best in school or at play, they should get at least nine hours of sleep every night. kids can be Star Sleepers like Garfield. Visit http://star.sleep.nih.gov for sleep tips and fun activities.

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5675 including heat and hot water, 1st floor one bedroom plus den at Village Drive Apartments. Security and references required. Call Karen 1-877-351-8571.

For kids to do their best in school or at play, they should get at least nine hours of sleep every night. Kids can be Star Sleepers like Garfield. Visit http://star.sleep.nih.gov for sleep tips and fun activities.

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THE SPOTLIGHT
December 6, 2001 — PAGE 31

Check Automotive Classifieds on the Web at www.spotlightnews.com
Children's Middle School has announced the honor and merit roll students for Bradford, Jamie Breedlove, Winne, Kyle Wong and Brianna Yurek.

Sanderson, Jill Scott, Rosen, Gregory Russ, Jamie Dylan Arnett, Gabriella Ballou, Thomas Boehm, Lea Agans, the Christopher Lamps program, 5,000 merit and are immersed in a wonderful combination of secular, and Jewish values. While they learn new ideas they also benefit from our rich Jewish heritage.

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Home Learning Center, a non-denominational cooperative of home educators and their children, will hold its registration for the winter session from 2 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the center, at Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave. in Delmar.

For information, call Gina NeJame at 439-3616 or email homelearningcenter@hotmail.com. Registration may include any of the following activities:

- Private lessons
- Parent-run workshops for the winter session from
- Art and science. The fee is $30 per family.

The Home Learning Center, a non-denominational cooperative of home educators and their children, will hold its first meeting on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. Workshops cover a variety of topics including language, art and science. The fee is $30 per family.

Kids, Inc. — Children and their parents volunteer their services throughout the community each week beginning with a planning meeting at Voorheesville Public Library on Thursday, Jan. 3, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The children assist groups, including the elderly, the disadvantaged and disabled children. There is no fee for the program.

The Chessmates — This parent-child chess club meets monthly. All meetings are held in the community room of Bethlehem Public Library beginning Jan. 7 at noon to 2:30 p.m. There is no fee for this club.

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