Cops probe murder, beating in Delmar

BY LIBBY SCHIRMER

Bethlehem Police are investigating a murder and a beating in a little more than a month after, respectively, receiving a call on Nov. 11 at 11:26 a.m. on Monday morning and Monday, Nov. 22 at 11:30 a.m. on Monday afternoon.

Peter Porco, 52, described as a quiet, friendly lawyer and avid politico, was found dead in his home at 36 Brockley Drive in Delmar by a male coworker after failing to report for work Monday. His wife, Joan, 54, was located in a bedroom upstairs from Peter Porco with multiple injuries to her body.

"We're looking for several people to interview. We are looking to interview both sons."

Thomas Heffernan, Jr.

Heffernan wouldn't disclose the hospital Joan Porco was taken to or her condition Monday afternoon. He characterized Peter Porco's injuries as "blunt trauma to the head." Joan Porco, Heffernan said, had multiple injuries.

"It would appear that she was beaten," Heffernan said.

Heffernan wouldn't confirm reports that the weapon used was an ax. He also wouldn't say whether a weapon was used.

Teen suicide panel cites grim statistics

BY KATHERINE McCARTHY

The statistics are staggering; the personal stories heartbreaking.

Nearly 100 people gathered in the auditorium at Bethlehem Central High School last week to hear a seven-person panel speak about depression and suicide among teenagers. Sponsored by the Bethlehem Central Community Organization, "Depression: A Tough Issue for Teens" lasted nearly two hours as speakers identified issues and offered suggestions about addressing depression and preventing teen suicide.

More than 19 million Americans suffer from clinical depression, including approximately 3 to 5 percent of the teen population. That means that in a group of 25 teens, one is likely to be clinically depressed.

Too often, that depression leads to suicide.

"One hundred and fifty thousand New York teenagers will try to commit suicide and 70 will succeed," said Marcia Fazio, deputy director, division of children and families at the state Office of Mental Health. "New York is No. 4 in the national suicide rate."

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among 15- to 24-year-olds, behind accidents and suicide and 70 will succeed.

Longtime town engineer retires

BY LIBBY SCHIRMER

With his retirement in September, former town engineer Mike Cirillo took with him 35 years worth of memories from town hall.

On his last day, colleagues stopped in, wishing him well and saying their goodbyes, recalled Cirillo, who worked under seven town supervisors.

Cirillo stopped short of calling his last day emotional, though he said walking out of the office last time, he knew he'd miss his coworkers.

He and his wife, Alice, also a former town employee, promptly took off for Italy on a 16-day family trip.

When he was hired, Cirillo reported to the old town hall at 393 Delaware Ave., the former Adams Hotel, moving with dozens of other town employees in 1980 to the current town hall.

Cirillo said what any resident already knows: that in the nearly four decades that he worked for the town, Bethlehem has experienced a lot of growth.

In 1969, six years before Cirillo started working under former town Supervisor Bertram Kohinke, the town's population stood at 18,936. Today, it's more than 31,000.

Cirillo's job was anything but routine, he said. Every project brought new contractors, new engineers, new surveyors and new governmental agencies to work with, from the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

"It's far from routine," Cirillo said. "Each project is unique, and the design for each is a challenge."

That growth, Cirillo said, was reflected in the number of projects undertaken by the town.

"There's been an enormous amount of growth," Cirillo said.

In busy years, Cirillo said, on average, drivers would see about two miles of new town roads. In slower years, they might see just one more mile.

Cirillo worked on the projects that constructed upper Wemple Road between Feura Bush and Beacon roads and Van Dyke Road, which connects Delaware Avenue to the Delmar Bypass Extension.

"The highway projects could go on for quite a while," Cirillo said.

And with growing adult populations, "RETIRES" page 40
Boy Scout Troop 75 to host 31st annual Sportsmart

On Saturday, Nov. 20, Delmar Boy Scout Troop 75 will kick off the 31st annual Sportsmart at Bethlehem Central High School on 700 Delaware Ave. in Delmar.

Sportsmart is the area’s largest ski swap and new and used athletic equipment sale.

The sale will be from 1 to 4 p.m.

Consignment registration will be from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the school.

A $1 donation will be used to help local food pantries.

Ski proceeds help support the Troop’s camping trip to Philmont, Ariz., and Colorado.

St. Thomas School students visited the Stratton Veterans Administration Medical Center, sang patriotic songs and distributed handmade Veterans Day cards. From left, Melissa Saxe, Kathleen Barada, Catherine Jira and Halli Clayton pay a visit to William Caldwell and George Barner.

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To Life announces new programs

To Life! has scheduled more topics for its Brown Bag Lunch Series sponsored by the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce. On Thursday, Nov. 18, Connie Barber, RN, and Diana Grubien, LMT will give a talk on healing touch, massage and reflexology. In January, Susan Jaffe, LMT will give a talk on healing through poetry.

All brown bag lunch sessions are held from noon to 1 p.m. at the To Life! offices, at 410 Kenwood Ave. in Delmar.

There will also be a To Life! program on Wednesday, Dec. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Guilderland Public Library on 2228 Western Ave.

The discussion will address genetics and treatment decisions, which is the use of genetic expression profiling in early stages of disease; innovations in radiation therapy for cancer; and understanding pathology reports.

Check in will begin at 5:30 p.m. For information, call 439-5973.

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Jeffrey Benekoff, MD
New Scotland board passes $4.7M budget

By MARTIN J. BANAN

At its Nov. 10 monthly meeting, the New Scotland town board adopted next year's budget. The $209 budget of almost $4.7 million is a 9.9 percent increase above last year's figure of nearly $4.2 million. The proposed budget includes costs for all operations in the town as well as capital expenses for building renovations, road repairs, fire protection and ambulances.

The only major change made to the proposed budget discussed at the meeting was an increase in the town's share of real estate taxes amounting to 20 cents per $1,000 of assessed property value. The board voted 4-1 for an increase of 10 cents.

Prior to the vote, an adjustment was made funding for the deputy tax collector position which was formerly funded as an assistant tax collector. With that adjustment, Arlene O'Rourke was appointed to the newly classified position. The budget passed unanimously with no further discussion from the floor.

In other business, board members and the town official tried to iron out glitches still preventing the town from entering into an agreement with the town of Bethlehem, allowing expansion of the Heldervale sewer district as well as new sewer lines on Mason Lane.

The current hold-up stems from language in the proposed agreement. The town most important in avoiding possible damages from negligence. According to Town Attorney Michael Mackey, Bethlehem does't want responsibility for things such as back check valves. In order to proceed, he said, New Scotland would have to indemnify for any sewer related negligence.

Mackey agreed that going forward with the agreement and changing the language of a proposed agreement would make the town the insurer of any sewer expansion. "We have to have a policy decision," he said. "Do you want to take a risk knowing your insurer said it is uninsured and uninsured?"

Residents waiting for progress in the matter expressed frustration with the deadlock.

"Everybody's been talking about the expansion; issue for years," said local resident Kathryn O'Rourke. "People are getting impatient."

Councilman Richard R. Brandy sympathized, saying "This is a complicated matter but a legitimate concern. We can't put the town in that kind of financial risk."

Clark suggested that further discussions should be done with all key players present.

"Every discussion seems to hinge on input and decisions from people who aren't present. We need to round everybody and sit them down at the table to straighten this out," he said.

In other business, the board named town historian Robert Parminter to a vacancy on the town board, replacing Michael Cavanaugh who took a seat on the town's zoning board of appeals.

While Clark presented both Parminter and Charlie Voss, a certified planner as good candidates, the board unanimously approved for Parminter.

"I think Parminter will be a good addition to the planning board," said Councilman Scott Houghtaling.

O'Rourke agreed but added that the would like to see Voss be considered for the next vacant position on the planning board. Voss had expressed an interest in the previous opening on that board.

Finally, the board approved the appointment of the following as members of the town's Volunteer Fire Company: Aaron Bardini, Nicole Carter, Keith Deragon, Scott Harrington, Peter Houck and Scott Knickerbocker.

"Based on our previous discussions, I knew the board wanted to see the cars and how we were going to hide the cars," said Devin Dal Pos of Lacker Development, which is working for CVS

Discussion of the project at Thursday's meeting.
Fantasy is welcome respite from real world

By KATHERINE McCARTHY

Maybe it’s the approach of the holiday season that’s bringing thoughts of losing myself in fantasy worlds. Mentally, I still feel like I’m on summer vacation, sitting on my sister-in-law’s deck, listening to a friend mull over his father’s words of wisdom.

“He always said two things,” Paul had reminisced. “He said, ‘Look at that view’ and ‘Time flies.’”

Anyone raising kids knows that time flies, and that’s often too little a time to look at the view. Or, when we make our kids pull off the Walkman or read a novel, we make our kids climb as far up the nearby chestnut tree as they could.

Being in a beautiful place often makes my fantasy world come true, for the space seems to open all of us up a little, and the kids turn to each other instead of the TV, computer or their toys to play.

Sometimes I think our house is a fantasy world come true for my kids who, when figures and Star Wars heroes still emerge from the playroom in ongoing games, add to that: books, newspapers, magazines and printouts from Web sites, and we live amidst honey clutter that pays tribute to our willingness to project ourselves into other worlds.

“Dungeons and Dragons” has now spread our home, and I couldn’t be happier. Christopher arris every time he hears a reference to D&D players as geeks. “Yup,” he says, and my heart rejoices at his disdain for labels. He’s found a game he likes, and no outside pressure will take away his pleasure in it.

When I was in high school, I played field hockey and tennis, and liked it OK but was never really part of the groups of girls that made up those teams.

When Christopher, Cormac and their friends roll many-sided dice and create characters and scenarios, I remember running down over loose-leaf notebooks, writing the stories that often filled my head while I ran up and down the bicycle field.

Like many adults, I worry that the structured lives of today’s kids could mean a dearth of imagination for our society. Could it negatively impact the future of novels, movies, even television shows? I had been working on a little theory about reality television shows, and that the current spate of them had come because kids who’d never had time to look at clouds and sea heights is shining armor were making them.

When every second of the day is scripted, there’s not much time for imagining things. It kids have to pay attention to school, to the soccer game, to homework, to the babysitter, when will they have time to be bored enough that they imag­ine a scenario where they are the first people to walk on Mars? Who will dream up the invention that will beam us away from the place where we might die of boredom if something doesn’t happen soon?

Could there be a link between structured lives and our love affair with reality television on?

If we lose our ability to make magic in our minds, does our daily life look like something we need to study in depth?

My husband, who never heard, read or saw a piece of information that he didn’t retain forever, shot this out of that field

Brady shows started in Finland,” he said. “They’re really, cheap to make.”

OK. So much for my future career as an observant observer.

Two recent movie releases also had me concerned. “The Incredibles” and “The Polar Express” both looked fun, but I avoided them.

Is it not fair to theorists, without seeing the situation, so off we went to see “The Incredibles.” I was ready to be skeptical, but good writing, incredible Pixar animation, and contentment at being out of my cluttered but efficient and organized, 1640 sq. ft. of the area’s largest selection of fine collectibles and enchanting treasures ... and thrill that special someone with a gift From Wit’s End.

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Guess who’s coming to Thanksgiving dinner

By ETHAN SCHOLMAN 11/17/04

Like American Indians bringing food to Massachusetts settlers, Europa, the Albany-based nonprofit agency, and thousands of volunteers have signed up to bring holiday cheer and a good meal to an even larger number of people in the Capital District who have a hard time providing for themselves.

"It’s a massive project, that’s the only way to describe it," said Europa Director of Development Lulleen Lamar. "It’s like controlled chaos.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of Europa’s first Thanksgiving dinner. It all started back in 1969, when a small group of community and religious leaders put turkey on the table for about 200 college students who couldn’t make it home.

Things have grown since then. This year Europa, aided by the New York State Office of General Services and Sodexo Services, will serve over 500 dinners at Albany’s First Presbyterian Church, and deliver 6,000 more to people around the Capital District.

Lynn Lekakis, a consultant hired by Europa to help with the planning, said that planning for Thanksgiving starts in July. Equinox staff review last year’s dinner, update their computers, hire extra administrators, and talk about ways to make things better. Part of what Lekakis suggested Equinox staff do a couple years ago was write down their procedures... and recipes.

"You had the same people making the stuffing for 15 years, and it was delicious, but no one else knew what went in it. Things like that had to be put on paper," Lekakis said. In September the ball really gets rolling, and by November Lekakis, Lamar, and Kounoupis said their procedures... and recipes.

"I grew up very poor, so I know it,” said Lamar. "It’s amazing that it started for the disabled on Thanksgiving morning, and the amazing thing is that it continues.

Thousands of volunteers get in line to pumpkin pie, and on Thanksgiving morning, those thousands of volunteers get in line to pick up meals to deliver to people in their neighborhoods.

"From start to finish, this event is a tremendous example of community pride," Lamar said. "People contribute in a lot of different ways. Businesses give food and money, and volunteers give their time.

One of Equinox’s most reliable contributors is Peter Kounoupis, owner of Latham Meats Market. Kounoupis donated turkeys for the annual dinner since 1979. This year he plans to send over 25 to 30 birds that he ordered specially for Equinox — no leftovers allowed.

Kounoupis said his upbringing in Greece is a big reason why he helps out.

"I grew up very poor, so I know what poor people go through," Kounoupis said. "I try to help out any way I can.

To request a meal, donate food, or volunteer to cook or deliver meals, call 454-0131.

Albany police made two DWI arrests recently.

On Oct. 30, around 4:22 a.m., police said Stephen Michael Hunt, 27, of 1787 Western Ave. in Guilderland, rapidly accelerated from a red light when it turned yellow. He was cited for running his tires on the pavement.

As Hunt did so, his vehicle skidded across the lane markers, police said.

After police stopped Hunt in his vehicle, they said they detected a strong odor of alcohol on his breath and noticed his eyes were glassy and bloodshot.

Hunt, who said he was on his way from the Hallway House in Ravena, said he had just finished two beers there.

Police said Hunt failed the field sobriety tests they administered. Hunt was arrested and processed for DWI. He submitted to a chemical test, which showed him to be positive for alcohol. He has a return date of Nov. 16.

Then, on Halloween morning, around 2:52 a.m., police made a traffic stop when they noticed a car traveling with no head light, which then failed to use a left-turn only lane as its driver made an abrupt turn.

Hunt failed field sobriety tests administered by police. He was arrested for DWI, processed and released. Ogedegbe submitted to a chemical test, which showed him to be positive for alcohol.

He is scheduled to appear in Town Court Nov. 16.
Lend a hand

Equinox known mostly for its annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner, will celebrate its 35th anniversary this year on Nov. 25. We congratulate Equinox for its vast contribution to the entire community and for mounting such a monumental event year after year.

Thousands of holiday dinners will be served at First Presbyterian Church at Willett and State streets in Albany and delivered throughout the Capital District to people who are homebound and/or unable to get to the church.

Equinox truly embodies the spirit of sharing and thanksgiving, through its generosity and through its dedicated volunteers who spend their holiday cooking or packaging food at Empire State Plaza or delivering meals.

It's a win-win situation since shut-ins and the homebound receive traditional dinners and the company of the volunteers. The volunteers, including many families, talk about how moving it is to participate in the event and often they get more than they give from the people they meet.

Most of us have some idea of cooking a meal for a dozen or so relatives and friends, but only Equinox volunteers know how to manage dinner for 6,500 people.

The Thanksgiving Day tradition is sponsored by the staff of Equinox, the Equinox Thanksgiving Day Dinner Hotline at 434-0311.

Monetary donations can be sent to Equinox, 95 Central Ave., Albany 12206.

Another thing to keep in mind at this time of year is the need to make sure that the food drives are adequately supplied by an ever-increasing need. We urge you to give as much as you can as often as you can.

Editorial

Point of View

By ETHAN SCHOOLMAN

The writer is a reporter for Spotlight Newspapers

It's a good thing citizens of Red Sox Nation aren't as fanatical about their politicians as they are about their ballplayers.

If they were, there would be a lot of objections to the Red Sox off-season before presidential elections.

Did Kerry wait too long in September before setting his campaign manager, Mary Beth Cahill, like Grady Little Leaving Pedro Martinez in the 2004 World Series against the Yankees in last year's gut-wrenching Game 7?

Did he take a new August in after the Democratic convention, like the top of the Red Sox batting order seemed to do after beating the Angels in this year's division series?

Was his choice too late in the campaign, like an unable freshman senator who couldn't even carry his own state, like the Red Sox, management bring in stars like the Angels' Hideki Matsui and Hyun Joo Kim to be their closer last summer?

No doubt, there'll be a lot of Wednesday-morning quarterbacking in Boston, and across the Democracy, about this year's third off-season before presidential elections.

Did Kerry pick the wrong guy to be his running mate, like an affable freshman senator who couldn't even carry his own state, like the Red Sox management bring in stars like the Angels' Hideki Matsui and Hyun Joo Kim to be their closer last summer?

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No doubt, there'll be a lot of Wednesday-morning quarterbacking in Boston, and across the Democracy, about this year's third off-season before presidential elections.
Columnist needs reality check

Editor: The Spotlight:
Katherine McCarthy’s weekly commentary reads like an advertisement for all that the Republican Party has offered voters. Each week she treats us to the sweet and sentimental side of being well off and happily located in Delmar.

In McCarthy’s world, those frequent shopping trips are necessary and the children will go to expensive colleges, always live in beautiful houses, while driving “Beamers” or maybe a big SUV. They all have health insurance and can afford to drink expensive champagne as they celebrate the myth that life can go “back to normal” now that the election is over.

I don’t want to spoil the party for her, but the fairy tale that she tells every week in The Spotlight does not exist for most people in the world and is disappearing for more Americans every day. It might be time for Katherine McCarthy to ask herself some critical questions.

Many of us have real issues, the children will be drafted into the military in the next four years, we will have to start saving now to buy them the body armor they will need to protect themselves while they fight in the sands of the Middle East.

There is a great divide in this country, and a rift. It grows larger by the day.

This is not about red versus blue and not about Republicans versus Democrats as McCarthy suggests.

It is about the reality of a situation that is threatened, electronic voting machines with no paper trail, a war that cannot be won and a president who led us into war with a lie.

It’s about thousands of detainees in Guantanamo, and a president who claims to be guided by God, to bomb and destroy Iraq. It’s about no-bid contracts to Halliburton and corruption. It’s about morality.

McCarthy referring to the morality of gay marriage. This rift is about the morality of unprovoked war on Iraq and a government that attempts to control its citizens with lies and fear.

If Katherine McCarthy wants to heal the rift, she will need to ask herself some tough questions. She might want to start by asking herself why she thinks George Bush deserved her vote and if she is really convinced he is leading our country in the right direction.

—Trudy Quali
Delmarr

Letters policy
The Spotlight welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing for fairness, style and length.

All letters must include the writer’s name, address and phone number.

The deadline for submitting letters is Friday at noon.

Write to: Editor, The Spotlight, PO Box 100, Delmar, 12054. Letters can be faxed to 459-0409 or e-mailed to editor@nyspotrpr.com.

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All New Scotland residents welcome to dinner

Editor, The Spotlight:

Again this year, the Voorheesville American Legion Post will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday, Nov. 21, at the Legion Hall from 1 to 5 p.m. The dinner will be open to all New Scotland residents and is free of charge. A free-will offering will be accepted to benefit local food pantries, but it is not required.

It has come to my attention that there are people in the village who think the dinner is just for low-income families or people in need.

This is not the case. This is a village holiday meal for everyone. Please come and enjoy the company of your friends and neighbors and have a good time. Dinner will be buffet style.

The idea for the dinner was conceived by a Post member who wanted to reach out to those in need within our area. The families who are served by local food pantries naturally come to mind, but there are single people or couples, young and old, who have no family to spend this special meal with.

This Thanksgiving dinner will be for anyone who would like to share the traditions and joy of this holiday with others. Post and auxiliary members and other area residents have agreed to volunteer their time and cooking talents to see that this idea becomes a reality. We hope to serve 350 meals.

We have had a tremendous response from everyone we have approached in regard to the dinner. We have had time and talent and food items but still need more financial support to help defray the cost.

We are reaching out to business owners, private citizens and church leaders of the community. We still need more food and monetary contributions. Any assistance that can be provided will be greatly appreciated.

The menu will include turkey, ham, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes with gravy, dressing, vegetables, beverage and dessert. The meal will be at the Legion Hall, 31 Voorheesville Ave. in Voorheesville.

Take-out dinners will also be available until 5 p.m. This year, we will also provide limited deliveries within the confines of the village and New Salem if there is a need due to health or limited driving abilities. Please contact me at 765-4359 about food donations or send a donation to my attention at the Legion Hall. All checks should be made payable to Legion Post 1493. Any money that is left over will be donated to local food pantries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Charles Renker Jr.
Voorheesville American Legion Post chaplain

BCUEA wants more respect

Editor, The Spotlight:

As employees of the Bethlehem Central School District, we would like to voice concerns we have for the manner in which the present administration treats its support staff.

They show no regard or respect for the support council and are willing to deal with the people who work so hard to make this district such a great place.

We are working under contract. Negotiations with the district are at an impasse, so once again we will have to continue to work without the benefit of a new and better contract.

The administration disregards the terms of our current contract when terminating employment, reassigning employees and changing titles of existing positions.

We feel all respect and consideration were given to the support staff when these incidences occur, perhaps, we would not feel so vulnerable and angry. If enough people voice their displeasure, constructive change should be the result.

Joanne Meyer, BCUEA representative; Kathy Gutman, BCUEA representative; Lori Byron, BCUEA board director.
Writer has myopic view

Editor, The Spotlight:

Katherine McCarthy is to be commended for writing a weekly column aimed at relating her daily experiences in an interesting way to readers of The Spotlight.

However, it is with apologies that I offer my opinion that quite often she turns out to be exasperating. When she writes about politics, she is at her worst. She often turns out to be exasperating. I guess I am the fortunate mortal who was born with some optimistic genes, and these days they are really useful.

The birthday party that the children gave me was really wonderful and I am blessed. Thank you very, very much. I am so glad that Doris brought me the lovely article about me. I had tried all summer to keep my name out of the papers, but you changed that with your flattering article about me.

The Spotlight was the subject of a Point-of-View column on Oct. 20.
Writer should steer clear of politics

Editor, The Spotlight

Katherine McCarthy’s column “Can the red and the blue peacefully coexist?” in the Nov. 11 Spotlight provides more evidence, if any were needed, that she should be permanently barred from writing about politics. That was already a crystal-clear years ago when she blithely ignored the fact that the Republicans trashed President Clinton during his well-deserved two terms. In fact, she continues that practice by making her snide, and absolutely unjustified, remarks about the married couple of former president and current New York senator before figuratively only zipping her lip. President Clinton was an infinitely more capable, more moral and more intelligent chief executive than the one that just went re-election.

It was too bad he couldn’t keep his pants zipped, but he was not the first president with that failing. I, like, as a Republican with the same moral issue, the well-respected President Eisenhower.

I find it difficult to end this document without dealing in more detail with the blunt and repeated hypocrisy of the Republicans in the administration, in Congress and in the general public. Katherine included. But that’s another subject.

Please, please, please spare us further afflication with Katherine’s political views on any subject whatever. She should be limited to writing Lucy Ricardo-like stories about how cute her kids are.

William H. Pittman

Niskayuna

Library patron clarifies remarks in article

Editor, The Spotlight:

I read with interest the recent article about Bethlehem Public Library. I was quoted in the article as a result of an interview with your reporter. What appears in print is accurate enough, but what was discussed and does not appear in the article — perhaps due to space limitations — I believe should be added to the interest of fairness.

During the interview, I stressed that there are new library board members, some of whom I do not know, but some that I do know and for whom I have a great deal of respect.

I am hoping this new blood on the board will affect a philosophical change, and that I am taking a wait-and-see attitude toward the situation in order for them to have the chance to develop a vision for the library.

I realize that most board members, both present and past, have had the best interests of the library and the community at heart, even if their views were diametrically opposed to mine.

The blowhards with personal agendas and incompetents, who I hope have all now departed with varying levels of publicity, have been in a distinct minority.

It would be unfair to condemn the current board for the sins of their predecessors, and I believe that the context of your article may give readers that impression. In the interest of cooperation, I would hope you find space to print this clarification.

David S. Moore

Delmar

BCHS program was moving, worthwhile

Editor, The Spotlight:

We recently attended a panel discussion on Nov. 9 sponsored by the Bethlehem Community Partnership and Bethlehem Networks.

The topic was teen depression and suicide. We were tremendously impressed by the quality of information provided. We were moved by the personal statements of the two mothers who each tragically lost their sons to depression and suicide.

The topic of BCHS to implement strategies to face this issue should be applauded. Adolescent mental health issues can be best addressed through community involvement in open, honest discussion.

We hope other school districts are as committed as BCHS.

Dr. Lorraine Lemons and Dr. Michael Morin

CapitalCare Pediatrics, Albany

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There is new hope for osteoporosis patients who live with the pain and lifestyle restrictions caused by spinal fractures. Since 1994, a nonsurgical, outpatient procedure called vertebroplasty has brought relief — often within hours of treatment. This minimally invasive, image-guided treatment, performed by an Interventional Radiologist, significantly reduces pain and improves range of motion in more than 90% of patients treated.

Know your options. Today you have nonsurgical choices and direct access to these specialists.

You should consult with your physician to see if you are a candidate for this procedure. For more information about vertebroplasty, or to schedule a consultation call our office at: 518-262-5149

Kenneth Mandato, MD

Interventional Radiologist

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Equipment Lease + Tax Laws = Increased Savings in Fourth Quarter

By ANTHONY J. LANZILLO, Senior Vice President, Business Banking, KeyBank N.A.

Many small businesses rely on leasing equipment—everything from fax machines to forklifts—to conserve cash resources and reap significant tax benefits. The cash and tax savings can be even more substantial if realized during the fourth quarter.

Acting quickly in the final months of the year, small businesses can investigate cash-preserving leasing options offered by some financial institutions. KeyBank, for example, is offering a limited-time offer lease that allows business customers to skip a certain number of payments corresponding to the length of the equipment lease. You can choose which payments you want to skip to best match your company’s cash flow.

By planning ahead, business owners can also take advantage of a major tax break associated with President Bush’s Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act, which expires on December 31, 2004. The tax act includes potential 50 percent bonus depreciation for new equipment acquired and placed in service by December 31. Accelerating depreciation of new capital equipment reduces tax liability by allowing a more substantial write-off closer to the time of purchase.

Paying less tax will free up working capital you can use for other purposes. Most important, new equipment can make your business more productive and ultimately generate more profit. This is true whether the equipment lease provides your business with new capabilities or replaces older, less efficient or obsolete equipment.

Tax savings are realized for new equipment acquisitions, regardless of whether the equipment was purchased or leased. Depending on how an equipment lease is structured, and whether your business can use the depreciation deductions, your business may claim the accelerated depreciation benefit on increased tax return or may be able to “trade-in” the write-off in return for a lower monthly payment and improved cash flow.

Beyond the cost and tax savings incentives, which benefit you when you act in the fourth quarter, leasing also is an effective strategy for the long run. Leasing is generally easy on your business’ cash flow. You conserve cash because leasing generally requires no down payment; offers 100 percent financing and can include such extras as shipping, installation and training. These could add as much as 10 percent to 20 percent to the investment; lease financing leaves more money for revenue-generating activities.

Leases also provide equipment for specific time periods at fixed payments, facilitating financial forecasting. Businesses can schedule lease payments to fit their own cash flow patterns or other budgetary cycles.

Other tax benefits of leasing will remain in place after this year, allowing businesses to reduce taxable income by increasing depreciation deductions. When considering ongoing tax benefits, the IRS classifies leases in two ways—either as a tax lease or non-tax lease—with tax advantages to both. To determine the tax classification, the IRS examines the apparent objective of both the lessee and lessor when a lease agreement comes into being.

When the IRS uses a tax lease classification, the lessor owns the equipment for federal tax purposes and depreciates the asset, but the small business also benefits as it can claim the full lease payment as a business expense, which is completely tax deductible.

In the case of a non-tax lease, the IRS considers the lease as a purchase or loan for federal tax purposes. Here, the small business receives the tax benefits associated with ownership, instead of the lessor.

Another option is a sale-leaseback, in which the owner of a recently purchased piece of equipment sells the asset to a lessor and then leases it back—a transaction that can provide substantial tax accounting and overall financial benefits.

Every leasing scenario is unique, so working with an experienced lessor, such as Key Equipment Finance, is wise as well as your accountant or other tax advisor to determine the tax and accounting implications for your specific situation.

The overall impact of leasing on businesses and the U.S. economy is astounding. By freeing up capital that would have been spent on equipment purchases, the Equipment Leasing Association reports that leasing across all industries produced an estimated $100 billion to $300 billion in GDP growth from 1997 to 2002, spurred another $228 billion in additional equipment investment and created or preserved 3 to 5 million U.S. jobs. The total value of leased equipment reached $208 billion in 2003 and is projected to rise to $218 billion in 2004 this year.

On the small business front, 86 percent of businesses indicate that they lease equipment.

By equipping yourself with this overview and professional advice on the benefits of equipment leasing, you can enhance your control over your cash flow and take advantage of the short- and long-term tax benefits of equipment acquisition that will allow your business to be more productive and profitable. It is important to keep in mind that the greatest value of your equipment comes from its use rather than its ownership.

Leasing’s optimal benefit may be that it allows the equipment to work for you while it pays for itself.

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About the Author: Anthony Lanzillo is a senior vice president and oversees KeyBank’s Small Business division for the Capital Region. He has provided banking services to area businesses for more than 10 years with KeyBank. His office is at 66 South Pearl St. in Albany.

November 17, 2004 — PAGE 11
A 20-year-old landmark study on reading is still relevant today. It states: “The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children. This is especially so during the preschool years.” (Becoming a Nation of Readers; the report of the Commission on Reading, 1980)

Youth services librarian Polly Hartman has taken those findings to heart for many years. The 2003 winner of the New York Times Librarian of the Year award will conduct “Bookstart Your Preschooler,” a two-part workshop, at the library on two consecutive Mondays, Nov. 22 and 29, at 7 p.m.

“Bookstart Your Preschooler” will help to answer these questions:

- What are the elements of a good book for preschoolers?

- How do I evaluate a book’s appropriateness?

- How can I read aloud more effectively?

Hartman has served for 25 years as a librarian and elementary school teacher.

She also draws from an active involvement in programs and workshops about reading and children, as well as from parent-teacher resources available at the library such as Straight Talk About Reading (Susan L. Hall, 1999) and 100 Best Books for Children (Anita Silvey, 2004).

She believes meaningful books need to reflect the preschooler’s developmental level and real-life experiences and that the best books for this age group are rooted in their world, not in the world of adults.

Bright colors, engaging illustrations, and the lively sounds of the language - rhymes, alliteration, onomatopoeia - are all important elements of a good book for preschool children.

Hartman believes that, given the choice between television and a read aloud, children prefer to be read to.

“The advantage reading aloud has for both reader and child is that the experience is interactive,” she said. “Unlike television, which carries the watcher along with it, reading can be paced according to the child’s needs.”

She adds that reading aloud also enriches vocabulary and lengthens attention span. Beyond all this, the act of reading aloud to a child can be an oasis of quiet joy in our noisy, busy lives. When it’s done right, it’s magic.

“Bookstart Your Preschooler” is sponsored by Friends of Bethlehem Public Library.

Those interested can call 439-9314 to register.
St. Matthew’s Church preparing for annual holiday bazaar

St. Matthew’s Church will hold its annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the social hall.

Please take a minute to review the signup sheets in the Parish Center lobby to see where you might be able to help out, as help is still needed.

All are welcome. There will be crafts, food, raffles and lots of games and fun for the kids.

Annual Mission Bazaar set for Nov. 20

The Annual Mission Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Voorheesville United Methodist Church.

There will be handmade gifts, baked goods and white elephant items for sale. Lunch also will be available.

For information, call Karen Indicato at 851-0029.

Preschool to host silent auction

The Voorheesville Community Preschool at the Voorheesville United Methodist Church on Maple Avenue will hold a silent auction on Saturday, Nov. 20.

The auction will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the annual bazaar.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the preschool.

The bidding will begin at 10 a.m. and the winners will be announced at 1 p.m.

Big pine trail walk offered at Five Rivers

This 4-mile trail walk on the Big Pine Trail will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. at the state Department of Environmental Conservation’s Five Rivers Environmental Education Center on 56 Game Farm Road in Delmar.

This beautiful trail is probably one of Five Rivers’ best-kept secrets.

This program is free. Participants should dress for the outdoors.

For information, call the Five Rivers Center at 475-0291.

BCHS Class of 1980 planning reunion

The Bethlehem Central High School Class of 1980 is planning its 25th year reunion. There is a reunion committee meeting on Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. Anyone interested in helping to plan the reunion event should contact Brian Collier at 439-5964.

Letters policy

The Spotlight welcomes letters from readers on subject of local, national and/or regional interest. Letters are subject to editing for fairness, accuracy and length.

Write to Letters to the Editor, The Spotlight, 123 Adams St., Delmar, NY 12054. Letters can be faxed to 439-0200.

Energy Audits make sense & save you $$$!

Right now, your heating costs could be 40% higher than they should be. The causes of these high prices are air leaks, inadequate insulation and various pests that can affect your heating system. An ENERGY STAR Audit can identify these problems and get you on the path to creating a more energy efficient environment that will save you money this heating season…and that really makes sense!

For information or to register, call 873-1237.

Thacher Nature Center holds wreath-making workshop

Thacher Nature Center will hold a holiday wreathmaking workshop on Friday, Nov. 26, from 1 to 3 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 27, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The workshop is appropriate for ages 14 and older and the fee is $10 per wreath.

Bekah Seaman of Native Ways Living History will demonstrate tools and weapons made from natural objects and display an authentic Chippewa kitchen.

There will also be a fire-making demonstration and closing ceremony of appreciation around the fire.

There is no fee for this event, but a donation of $5 per family is appreciated.

All donations will support this and other public programs that are offered throughout the year. Each of the crafts, however, has a materials fee.

The Nature Center is located on Thompson’s Lake. Call 872-0800 for information.

Village board to meet Nov. 23

The Voorheesville board of trustees’ next regular meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m.

It will be held at the village hall on Maple Avenue in Voorheesville.

The annual community bazaar will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 10 a.m. to noon.

Nature Center sets Thanksgiving celebration

Saturday, Nov. 20, from 1 to 4 p.m., the Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center will hold its fourth annual Native American Thanksgiving Celebration that honors the Native American tradition of gratitude and appreciation for gifts of the natural world.

Through stories, music, crafts and demonstrations, participants will explore the connections among all living things that are honored in Native American teachings.

Rainbow Weaver, a Mohawk teacher, will lead participants in song and dance. Creative folks may make leather pouches and beaded necklaces and bracelets that symbolize our connection with nature.

Larry Montalto of Native Ways Living History will demonstrate tools and weapons made from natural objects and display an authentic Chippewa kitchen.

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Thacher Center hosts wreath-making workshop

Thacher Nature Center will hold a holiday wreath-making workshop on both Friday, Nov. 26, from 1 to 3 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 27, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Greens, basic supplies and ribbons will be supplied. The materials fee is $10 for each wreath. Please register early as space is limited.

This craft is appropriate for ages 14 and up.

For information or to register call 872-0800.

The Bethlehem Central High School Class of 1980 will be planning its 25th year reunion. There is a reunion committee meeting on Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. Anyone interested in helping to plan the reunion event should contact Brian Collier at 439-5964.

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The workshop is appropriate for ages 14 and older and the fee is $10 per wreath.

If possible, bring a pair of garden sheers for cutting greens. A limited number of sheers will be available for the public to use.

For information or to register, call 873-1237.

In case of inclement weather, the workshop will be held Saturday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to noon.

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Elsmere fire Co. receives grant

The Elsmere Fire District is two-for-two for a 2-year-old federal grant program it has applied through for money to purchase new equipment. The Elsmere Fire District has been awarded just over $86,000 to purchase more advanced equipment.

The grant program, administered by the U.S. Fire Administration, a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is now part of the Department of Homeland Security, assists rural, suburban and urban fire districts around the nation.

The $86,004 will go toward the purchase of 20 self-contained breathing apparatus, which are used by certified firefighters who go into burning structures, according to Elsmere Fire District Commissioner George Kaufman. Kaufman.

Firefighters outfitted with the new units will see an improvement over the 14-year-old equipment the department currently uses and will comply with higher standards that have been adopted since 1988, Kaufman said.

"We applied for the first year and were awarded the money, and we applied this year and also got the money, so we're very pleased," Kaufman said.

When the department first got the equipment, it was in compliance with safety standards of that day. When the standards are much tougher, old equipment isn't necessarily out of compliance, Kaufman said, but when fire departments purchase new equipment they must buy the upgraded versions.

The department got a little more than $54,500 last year. The 20 units will outfit about one-fourth of the company's 80 members, Kaufman said, but not all of the members are certified to enter burning structures.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program awards one-year grants to make not only firefighters safer, but the residents of the communities they serve safer, too, according to U.S. Fire Administration Director R. David Paulison.

"In this nation, far too many individuals lose their lives or are injured by fire. Among these victims are firefighters, who provide emergency response services to their fellow residents," Paulison said.

In New York state, the Elsmere Fire District is one of 53 fire departments to receive a grant through the program, which administered $3.7 million-plus through the state. Nationally, 9,000 fire departments were awarded $750 million this year.

Delmar man to head banking operations

A Delmar resident has been appointed to a position in which he will head up commercial banking operations in eastern New York.

Stephen P. Malinowski, who lives in Delmar with his wife and daughter, has been named Citizens' Bank as senior vice president and regional manager of commercial banking for eastern New York.

A graduate of Siena College in Loudonville and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, Malinowski has previously served as division vice president and manager of corporate banking for the eastern New York division of Charter One Bank, recently acquired by Citizens' Bank.

Malinowski will manage a team of several relationship managers and analysts.

Citizens is seeking to expand its commercial banking activities in eastern New York, a stretch of land from the Canadian border to Delaware, Ulster and Sullivan counties, and from Utica to the Massachusetts border.

Malinowski previously served for 15 years at Chase Manhattan Bank and for five years at Peninmore Asset Management.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Siena College and an MBA from RPI.
Ravena's Public Library has announced the winners of its annual "Pumpkins By the Book" contest that was recently held. The concept of the competition was to turn an orange construction paper pumpkin shape into a book character. The children that took part came up with colorful collages and life-like creations, some as tall as two-feet high. The winners of the "Pumpkins By the Book" contest include:

**Ages 3 to 5 division:**
- First place - Haylee Wallace for the Cheshire Cat.
- Second place - Sean McNess for the Spider and the Fly.
- Third place - Sydney Meredith for the Very Hungry Caterpillar.

**Ages 6 to 8 division:**
- First place - Sean O'connor for Captain Underpants.
- Second place - Johanna Muller for Junie B. Jones.
- Third place - Alana Kelly and Kathleen Askew for Pooh and Piglet.

The Library will reopen Friday, Nov. 26, for its regular hours.

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**Coeymans NY**
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**Burnt**
Whether it's hiking hunting, or enjoying an incredible view, this 3 BR 2 Bath ranch, partially finished basement w/ woodstove, and pond is knocked out on 22 acres! A rare find with many extras and an excellent commute to Albany........ $315,000

**Westerlo**
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**50th Year Anniversary**

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**November 17, 2004 — PAGE 16**
Thanksgiving

Shiny, new books can be the perfect for gift-giving season

Are your friends and relatives tired of receiving the same old ties, toasters and tiddlywinks for all occasions?

The gift-giving season is approaching at warp speed and our librarians have rushed to your rescue with a display of the best gift of all—a shiny, sweet-smelling new book.

See what strikes your fancy on the table of just-published books located behind the reference desk at the Voorheesville Library. If you are short on time, take home our attractive booklet called Season's Readings

THE GIFT-GIVING SEASON

It will be decorated with your donations of small warm-wearing apparel such as hats, scarves, gloves and mittens that you bring to the library.

On Wednesday, Dec. 15, we will wrap the gifts and give them to an area school for distribution to children with cold fingers and uncovered heads.

If you bring a warm gift to the library for our Mitten Tree, don't be surprised if you experience a warm feeling inside.

Free yoga session offered

Mira Lechowicz, a certified Kripalu yoga teacher, will be presenting a free session of yoga on Thursday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m.

Kripalu yoga teacher, will be

The library will be closing at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 24.

Thanksgiving week.

Regular storytimes resume Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Call the library for additional program information, or visit the library Web site at www.voorheesvillelibrary.org

Happy holiday

The library will be closed on Thanksgiving.

We wish you all a safe and peaceful celebration with those you love.

Barbara Vink

Warm gifts needed

We are making a Mitten Tree that will go up on Monday, Nov. 29.

Local doctor wins award

Dr. Thomas A. Caputo of Delmar is one of two area doctors who has been awarded with the first Chand Award, for excellence in obstetrics and gynecology. Caputo is vice chairman in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at New York Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Caputo has served on numerous hospital committees and is a past treasurer of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Enron rep to talk turkey in Selkirk

The Bethlehem Historical Association will hear a presentation on wild turkeys on Nov. 18.

Karl Parker, with the state Department of Environmental Conservation, will give a talk on turkey migration.

The talk will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse, on 1003 River Road in Selkirk.
homicides and accidents," said John Owens, assistant director, bureau of community outreach and public education at Delmar. "In grades nine through 12, 8.8 percent of students will attempt suicide. In a typical high school, it's likely that one boy and two girls will attempt suicide every year."

Generally, more girls are likely to contemplate suicide, while more boys are "successful" at it.

Rita Levay, Bethlehem's director of pupil personnel services, said that middle and high school students have completed a youth risk behavior survey that the Centers for Disease Control puts out. It covers all kinds of risk factors, from whether students wear helmets when bicycling to whether they've injured themselves seriously enough to need medical attention.

Levay addressed answers to questions that include whether kids have felt hopeless enough in the past two weeks to stop their normal level of activities, whether they've completed a youth suicide ideation scale, and whether they've injured themselves seriously enough to need medical attention.

It's also OK to ask them if they've thought about killing themselves, she added.

Panel member Joseph Albert spoke from a personal and professional point of view. Albert works as the counseling center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is the father of Jonathan Albert, who committed suicide while in college.

"The next week, I was in (high school) counseling the office, saying that we need to work as hard as we can to make sure that doesn't happen to anyone else," Faist-Stanton said.

Faist outlined ways to help kids avoid depression.

"We need to have ways to showcase their talent, develop a sense of hope and belief in the future; and believe that their successes are due to their talent and ability," Faist said.

Owens presented a Suicide Prevention Education Awareness Kit (SPEAK) to distribute throughout the state.

"The response to the project is overwhelming," Owens said.

"We need to work on partnership," Levay said. "Nobody can do it alone."
Budget

(From Page 1)

With an eye to the future, circumstances require some four town funds (general, around 22 percent, because of added that she devises budgets such mutually dependent term, and I think wouldn't necessarily put the town which would three years has really hit the Bethlehem's revenues are Albany, which has dipped into quarterly, so there needs to sometimes five years ahead, and of safeguard.

Kehoe said. In predicting a modest surplus from this year's budget, Kehoe also noted that: 70 percent of Bethlehem's revenues are "economically driven revenues," largely mortgage and sales taxes. Interest rates are up now, possibly affecting the town's income from mortgage taxes, Supervisor Theresa Egan said.

And high interest rates could also affect consumer spending, which would lower sales tax revenue, Kehoe added, saying such mutually dependent circumstances require some sort of safeguard.

"I know increases are never the popular way to go, but that's one way we have to pay for government services. I've always believed nominal increases are the way to go," Kehoe said. "When I start looking at negative economic indicators, that's when I start looking at the sales tax checks, but those come in quarterly, so there needs to be a buffer."

Egan noted that the $19.10 increase is lower than the 2004 tax hike, which was around $20.

Board members agree nominal increases protect taxpayers in the long run, with Councilman Daniel Plummer saying he supports Kehoe's long-term, planning philosophy and that it puts taxpayers in a better situation.

The budget this year also includes a change in the way sewer charges will show up on bills.

Residents, instead of paying one lump sum charge for usage, will see a smaller, quarterly charge appearing on their water bill. Fees will remain the same, but the January tax bills will now include only the sewer district taxes.

Also, residents can now enroll in an automatic payment plan. By providing their bank information to the town, charges will be deducted from their accounts on the due date. The enrollment application will be available on the town's Web site and in the newest edition of The Bethlehem Report.
Bethelehem Tomboy Girls Softball League
FINAL 2005 REGISTRATION

The Bethlehem Girls Softball League will hold registration for girls grades K to 12 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Saturday, December 4th
at the Bethlehem Town Hall

The fee for the 2005 season will be $65.00 per child ($30.00 each additional child).

For information, please call Barbara Stupp 439-0904

Registration postmarked after Dec. 15th, 2004 will be subject to $25 late fee.
Albany, NY – Did you know that holiday lighting can add more than $100 dollars to your electric bill in less than 30 days?

It's the same each year; place a few candelabras in the windows, string a hundred bulbs inside the home and several hundred outside, plug them in and watch your electric meter spin. Standard holiday lights use between four and seven watts of electricity per bulb. It's festive, but, not very efficient. The New York Energy Smart Program suggests trying something new such as LED (light emitting diodes), compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs, mini-lights, and fiber optic holiday displays. They will provide the same level of holiday cheer, at a significantly lower energy cost.

LEDs have been around for years. They provide high-quality, durable, and safe lighting with low energy consumption, using 0.4 watts while emitting virtually no heat. They come in a wide variety of colors, can be strung in long lengths and when one bulb burns out, the rest of the strand keeps working, making replacement easy.

New in many retail stores, is an artificial tree outfitted with fiber optic lighting in the branches. With one small light bulb and optional color wheel, beautiful light is transmitted through the fibers with none of the heat. Many trees have rotating bases and come in sizes from two to eight feet. Set it up, place your favorite decorations on and you are done.

Mini-lights are very popular and consume 0.4 watts, come in long lengths for indoor and outdoor use, with many colors to suit any festive need. You will also find CFLs, with a mini-base, to fit into candelabras and small holiday displays providing bright, warm light.

Information about lighting, and other energy-saving tips for your home and business can be found by visiting the New York Energy Smart website, www.GetEnergySmart.org.

www.GetEnergySmart.org

A Better Way To
Light Your Night

• Can last 10 times longer and use 75% less energy than standard incandescents
• Great designs produce natural-looking light for true color rendition
• Operates cooler – and safer – with less risk of fire

All New York Energy Smart programs are funded by a System Benefits Charge (SBC) paid by electric distribution customers of Central Hudson Gas & Electric, Consolidated Edison, New York State Electric & Gas, Niagara Mohawk - a National Grid Company, Orange and Rockland, and Rochester Gas and Electric. NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation established by law in 1975, administers SBC funds and programs under an agreement with the Public Service Commission.

New York Energy Smart programs are designed to lower electricity costs by encouraging energy efficiency as the State's electric utilities move to competition. The programs are available to electric distribution customers (residential, commercial, and industrial) who pay into the SBC.
Ravena wins battle of the Indians to advance

By ROB JONES

The nicknames and the helmet logos looked exactly the same, but those were the only similarities between the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk and Peru football teams.

RCS scored on four of its first-half possessions and never looked back in defeating the Section VII champions from Peru 43-7 in last Friday's class B regional game at Ravena.

"The offensive line really took it to them, the (running) backs ran very well and (quarterback) Tim Jordan did a very good job of running the offense," RCS coach Gary VanDerzee said.

The battle between the two Indians was decided in the final minute of the first half. Holding a 15-7 lead, RCS (11-0) scored on a 10-yard touchdown run from Ryan Cross with 45 seconds left. Ten seconds later, Tim Sugrue picked off Tanner Currier's pass at Peru's 36-yard line. A 31-yard pass from Jordan to Keith Geralden set up Cross' second touchdown of the half, a one-yard run with 11 seconds left that made the score 29-7.

"Timmy Sugrue made a great play," VanDerzee said. "Timmy took a lot of abuse from me on the sideline, but he made a great play after that."

RCS set the tone with two methodical drives in the first quarter. Jordan capped his team's first offensive series with a five-yard touchdown run less than four minutes into the game. A 45-yard run added a one-yard scoring plunge with 3:02 left to give RCS a 15-0 lead.

Peru found a chink in RCS's armor in the second quarter. Quarterback John Liccardo fired a 30-yard pass to Travis Soper and added a one-yard scoring plunge with 3:02 left to give RCS a 15-0 lead.

Peru's problem was it couldn't stop Cross and fullback John Liccardo with using half of its defenders to drag them down at times. On one play late in the second quarter, Lynch gained 16 yards, nearly half of which while a Peru player clung to him. That run set up Cross' 10-yard scoring scamper, which began the chain of events that sealed RCS's victory.

"We scored on command," said Cross, who carried the ball 22 times for 229 yards. "Once again, my (offensive) line blocked great tonight."

Peru tried to get something going in the third quarter. Starting from its 16-yard line, Peru drove to RCS's 8 before Currier fumbled the snap on first-and-goal. King dove on the loose ball to complete the change of possession.

Cross then personally put the game out of Peru's reach. He broke free for a 14-yard gain to move RCS away from its 10-yard line and then took off on a 10-yard run that set the Indians up at Peru's 16-yard line...Cross completed the drive by reaching the end zone on two carries, the last of which went for 13 yards.

"We knew we had to get the ball up field, and it was nice to score," Cross said.

For good measure, RCS took the air for its final scoring drive. Jordan completed a 17-yard pass to Eric Stott, a 26-yard toss to Ben Stumbaugh and a 10-yard strike to Danny Hillmann to bring the Indians up at Peru's 8-yard line...Cross completed the series with a 4-yard scoring run through the heart of Peru's defense to provide the final margin of victory.

RCS advances to its first state semifinal appearance since 1999. The Indians face undefeated Rye (Westchester County) at 4 p.m. Saturday at Kingston's Dietz Stadium. It will be RCS's first game on an artificial surface.

"We'll try to get up to Union (Collegiate) for a day or two this week, but it won't matter at this point. We have to come out ready to play (against Rye)," VanDerzee said.

UAlbany hosts conditioning clinic

The University at Albany is holding an off-season strength and conditioning clinic for high school athletes age 14 to 18.

The clinic takes place Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the university's strength complex, starting Nov. 29.

For information, call Tony Tullock at 442-3018.

By ROB JONES

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Bethlehem sends four swimmers to state meet

By ROB JONAS

This year's Section II Girls Swimming and Diving Championship titles will be remembered as much for its top performances as for who didn't get to see those top performances.

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake senior Dani Stein broke her own record in the 100-yard breaststroke on her way to earning the team's first place in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5.73 seconds and finished second to Stein in the 100 breaststroke with a state meet qualifying time of 1:08.22.

"I guess it shows that team depth wins championships," Seligman said. "We had solid performances from our top swimmers, and the ones who were working in the trenches pulled themselves up.

"I'm so happy with everything," Bethlehem coach Doug Gross said. "She's right in the middle of her taper right now.

Molly Howland, another member of Bethlehem's 400 freestyle relay team, will compete in two individual events at states. Howland claimed the class A title in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:12.25 — 2.11 seconds behind overall champion Holly Furman of Scotia-Glenville — and finished third in the 200 IM with a state meet qualifying time of 2:12.17.

"My strategy (in the 500 freestyle) was in preliminaries, I went out too fast, so I tried to go out slower through the first part today," Howland said. "When I looked over (to the next lane) and saw I was pretty close to (Furman), I knew I must have been decent.

Furman was the top overall swimmer in two events. Along with her win in the 500 freestyle, Furman took top honors in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:55.34.

"My 500 (time) wasn't as good as Thursday, but I'm happy with it," said Furman, who also earned class B titles for her efforts. "It's not a world record, but I'm proud of myself.

Guilderville sends two swimmers to the state meet. Katie Linehan out-touched Mohonasen-Schalmont's Amanda Vittolo for first place in the 50 freestyle, and Stephanie Blintz placed fourth in the 100 backstroke with a state meet qualifying time of 1:00.90.

"I didn't believe it at first because I was behind (until the end)," said Linehan, who took first place in the 50 freestyle with a time of 25.03 seconds. "But, the coaches told me the race would be won in the final yards.

"She's still swimming a bit too fast right now," Bethlehem coach Doug Gross said. "She's right in the middle of her taper right now.

"They Spartans the title. Stein, Furman, Linehan and Sectional meet for Stein. After several complaints of fire safety code violations were reported. The list of cases for Robison Pool is close to 170 people, which was nearly the same total as the number of competitors.

"I was very impressed with the cooperation of the parents from Section II," Seligman said. "The parents of the races they could see — was another strong Sectional meet for Stein. After winning the 500 freestyle, Stein cut her Sectional record in the 100 freestyle to 58.77 seconds and swam the anchor leg for Bethlehem's 400 freestyle relay team, which placed third in a time of 3:43.50 and qualified for this weekend's State meet on Long Island.

"It's been working very hard just three years of hard work," Guilderville coach Walt Kane said.

Niskayuna's Lisa Cuccolo won the 100 butterfly in a time of 58.73 seconds and finished second to Stein in the 100 breaststroke with a state meet qualifying time of 1:08.22.

Section II meet

Team scores

Class A: Shen 374, Burnt Hills 267, Niskayuna 266, Bethlehem 255

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Birds’ comeback doesn’t include happy ending

By PHIL BLACKWELL

Going into overtime, every indicator suggested that the Voorheesville boys soccer team was going to prevail in last Wednesday night’s Class B regional final against the Section III champion Westhill at Chittenango High School.

The Blackbirds had erased a sizable deficit and carried the flow of play. Several key Westhill players were out, for one reason or another. And the Warriors’ goalkeeper was flustered by allowing a long-distance, game-tying Voorheesville goal in the final seconds of regulation.

Yet when the tumult had ended, after 30 minutes of overtime and a penalty-kick shoot-out, the Blackbirds were out, its season ended in a tense and cruel manner. Westhill prevailed, 4-3, in the shoot-out, and the difference was Voorheesville failing to convert on each of its two kicks.

That it even got that far was primarily the result of high skill on both sides, combined with an intense and full effort that fit the occasion. Mostly, though, it was because of the wind. Coming out of the south, that breeze blew constantly at 20 miles per hour and gusted to 30 and beyond. Whoever had that current at their backs would have a much easier time playing soccer.

Forced to face the breeze in the first half, Voorheesville dropped into a 3-0 hole. Jon Martin scored eight minutes into the first half, then used his own corner kick to set up a second goal in the 22nd minute, headed into the net by Sean Bardenett.

Shunned by those blows, the Blackbirds were hit again when, just 1:37 after Bardenett’s tally, the Warriors made it 2-0 with another goal. That gave, 1:54 into the half as Jeff Avery crossed it to Matt Miller, who headed it home.

Down 2-1, Voorheesville kept the ball in Westhill’s end for all but a few seconds of the second half, which had a dual effect. On the one hand, the Blackbirds could keep attacking. On the other hand, Westhill’s defense laid back, forcing long shots that Voorheesville could not possibly control once the wind took over.

Just when the game appeared to be slipping away, though, Voorheesville cut it to 3-2 when, with 6:05 left, Greg Kloper’s corner kick caught the goalie and glanced off the back of Westhill goalie Scott Morton into the cage.

Facing up to nine defenders, the Blackbirds tried every trick as time ticked down, and even Cavanaugh tried to blend into the attack. Still, it all looked to be for nothing. The final seconds were ticking down when, from more than 45 yards out, Dominic Venditti kicked a long shot toward the goal.

Under normal conditions, this was an easy save for Morton — but, perhaps sensing that this shot would just sail over the net like all the others did, the Westhill goalie did not move. And in that deep-freeze, Morton watched, in horror, as Venditti’s prayer flailed inside the crossbar with 19 seconds left. Incredibly, the game was tied.

Trying to take advantage, Voorheesville controlled most of the play in overtime, aided by the fact that Martin was out due to a high ankle sprain and his teammate, Jeremy Cooper, was kicked out with two yellow cards, amounting to a red. Despite all that, the Blackbirds could not win it, overtime ended at 3-3 and now the shoot-out would determine who advanced to meet Potsdam in Saturday’s regional finals.

With key players out for Westhill, Voorheesville seemed to have the advantage, even more so after Bob Vinciguerra’s first kick for the Warriors went wide. The Blackbirds’ first shot proved to be vial. Ben Keller beat Morton — but his shot clanged off the crossbar. After Westhill made its second shot, Mason Jurczek stepped up. He shot to the left, where Morton dove and made the save, fully atoning for his mistake of inaction on that last second goal by Venditti.

Now Westhill had its margin. Though Voorheesville made the next two kicks, it would not catch up.

David Mann’s conversion on the fifth kick ended the Blackbirds’ season.
Look closely and you’ll find 32,000,000 trapped inside.

Here’s a souvenir from a place the good times left behind. A hard place where one out of every eleven families in America is still struggling to survive. A cold place where one out of every six children still goes to bed wanting more, but fears awakening to even less. A little memento — but not for Americans caught in the grip of poverty. Because there are 32 million people who are desperately trying to break free.

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Barone's overtime goal lifts Shen past BC

By TOM JOHNSON

Ashleigh Barone provided an exciting ending to another classic game in the Shenendehowa-Bethlehem girls soccer series.

The freshman forward scored the game-winning goal with 12:55 remaining. It was the third-fastest game-winning goal in Section II history.

"I definitely got it done," Plainswomen coach Holli Mulholand added, referring to her assistant coach Tom Rogan. "This is probably beyond most people's expectations."

Barone put the game on her lap and lifted the Plainswomen to the third-fastest game-winning goal in Section II history.

"This is great," Barone said. "I think it speaks volumes about our character." Mulholand said. "We build a team, we build players, but more importantly we build people."

Although disappointed about the final outcome of the game, Rogan was proud of the effort his team put forth and feels his team overachieved in exceeding many of the teams preseason goals.

"We are very pleased with the season," he said. "A lot of people thought we would be down this year after who we lost last year. This team came together very early, and finishing with 17 wins is probably beyond most people's expectations."

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"We are very pleased with the season," he said. "A lot of people thought we would be down this year after who we lost last year. This team came together very early, and finishing with 17 wins is probably beyond most people's expectations."
Survivors include her husband, Howard Clayton; two daughters, Sally Cobb and Polly Bradley; a son, Sam Clayton; two brothers, David Hartzell and Howard Hartzell; two sisters, Mary Boutelle and Sally Smith; and four grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the family residence.

Contributions may be made to St. Peter’s Community Hospice or the Bethlehem Public Library for a park bench in her honor, located along the library’s walkway.

Phyllis Flandreau
Phyllis “Phyl” Champlin Flandreau, 89, of Delmar, died Sunday, Nov. 7.

Mrs. Flandreau was born in Buffalo.

She was a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and William Smith College.

She taught at Skidmore College and worked as a medical technician in the 1940s. She also was a member of First United Methodist Church of Delmar and attended Slingerlands Methodist Church and Stillman’s Episcopal Church.

She was the widow of John Howard Flandreau, who died in 2010.

Survivors include two daughters, Suzanne Flandreau of Chicago and Judith Dievendorf of Slingerlands; a son, Sam Flandreau of New Canaan, Conn.; and two grandchildren.

In Memoriam, and Cards of Thanks will also be printed for $25.

Susan Boutelle and Sally Smith; Howard Hartzell; two sisters, Marin Dowling and Polly Zander; a son, Sam Hartzell; two brothers, David Hartzell and Louis Fleming; and five grandchildren.

Survivors include her two daughters, Melissa Miller and Sarah Fleming; her husband, Howard Hartzell; two sisters, Marin Dowling and Polly Zander; a son, Sam Hartzell; two brothers, David Hartzell and Louis Fleming; and five grandchildren.

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Renwick, Carlson married

Whitney Vreeland Renwick, daughter of John and Meryl Renwick III of Katonah, Westchester County, and Michael Christopher Carlson, son of Paul and Lynne Carlson of Delmar, were married Sept. 25.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Terence Elsberry at St. Matthew's Church in Bedford, Westchester County. A reception followed at the Bedford Golf and Tennis Club.

The matron of honor was Victoria Woodruff. Bridesmaids were Kelly Renwick, Kara Carlson, Jennifer L. Carlson and Jennifer T. Carlson.

The best man was Jonathan Carlson. Groomsmen were Timothy Conway, John Filippone, Michael Wickert, John Renwick IV, Nicolas Renwick and Matthew Renwick.

The bride is a graduate of the University of Vermont. She is corporate purchasing manager for Quebecor World. The groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School. He is a software consultant for Intranets.com in Woburn, Mass.

After a wedding trip to Costa Rica, the couple lives in Charlestown, Mass.

Engels, Kelly engaged

Amanda Kelly, daughter of Jim and Barbara Kelly of Delmar and Robert Engels, son of Doug and Ellen Engels of Saratoga Springs, are engaged to be married.

She is a medical claims representative for Progressive Insurance in Albany.

The future groom is a graduate of Guilderland High School and Siena College.

He is an analyst for Axiom Capital in Albany.

The couple is planning a June 18 wedding.

Send your weddings, engagements, anniversaries

The Spotlight would like to publish your engagement, wedding or anniversary announcement and photo.

There is no charge for this community service for people who are living or have lived in Bethlehem, New York.

Low-quality computer-generated photos are not acceptable. Digital photo files may be e-mailed to spotlightnews.com.

For information and submission forms call 439-4946.

Cynthia Tomich and Brian SanLorenzo

Tomich, SanLorenzo plan May wedding

Cynthia Tomich, daughter of John and Kathleen Tomich of Delmar, and Brian SanLorenzo, son of Lewis and Elizabeth SanLorenzo of Lake Waccapuc, N.J., are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the Academy of the Holy Names and Ithaca College. She is a sales representative for Wright Medical in New Jersey. The future groom is a graduate of Bergen Community College.

He is the information systems manager for Magodnia Spas in Millburn, N.J.

The couple is planning a May 2005 wedding.

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Guthrie concert, EMS exhibit debut highlight State museum weekend

By DEV TOBIN

The New York State Museum is planning a big day Saturday — a unique concert with Arlo Guthrie and the Klezmatics and the debut of a new exhibit on Emergency Medical Services.

The concert, "Holy Ground: The Jewish and Spiritual Songs of Woody Guthrie," is a fund-raiser to support the renovation of the museum's "Bitter Hope" exhibit, which tells the stories of the 982 Jewish refugees from Hitler who lived for 18 months at Fort Ontario in Oswego, before being allowed out after the war. They were the only Jews who escaped the Holocaust and came to America during World War II.

The connection is relevant and a real New York story, since Woody Guthrie learned about Jewish culture from his mother-in-law while living in Coney Island in the 1940s and 1950s. He wrote scores of related songs, on themes from the Holocaust to the Hanukkah to the Holocaust, most of which have never been performed. His son and the New York City-based Klezmatics will perform them Saturday in the kickoff to a national tour.

"Holy Ground" is the latest in a series of concerts the museum has offered in conjunction with its exhibits, according to Museum Director Clifford Siegfried.

"The concerts are a great use for the museum's Clark Auditorium, a smaller, more intimate venue than others in the area, which allows for a closer bond between the audience and performers," Siegfried said. "Musicals can be intimidating to some and these concerts have proven to be a great way to attract and build trust with new audiences. These new visitors tour the related exhibitions while they are here and will hopefully want to return again.

"Bitter Hope" opened in 1982 and the years have taken their toll, Siegfried said. So the museum is looking to raise $165,000 for restoration and for improving and updating related curricular materials.

The concert is at 7:30 p.m. in the museum's Clark Auditorium. Tickets are $45 in advance and $50 at the door. (It is a fund-raiser; a $250 ticket includes a post-concert reception.) For information, call 488-1033.

The EMS exhibit, "Help Is Here," sheds a fascinating light on the evolution of emergency medical services, from the vehicles to the lifesaving tools of the trade, from horse-and-buggy days to the present.

Geoffrey Stein, senior historian and curator of the exhibit, said the idea came from a friend of his who was impressed by the museum's permanent exhibit of fire apparatus and suggested an ambulance exhibit.

Stein, a Clarksville resident who is a volunteer with the Onesquethaw Volunteer Fire Co.'s rescue squad, said he tried to convince museum higher-ups to do the exhibit for years, without much luck.

Until 9/11, which brought "a new appreciation of emergency services workers," he said. Indeed, there is a 9/11 ambulance with a story in the exhibit. The two-man crew responded to the World Trade Center from Astoria, Queens, and one,

Arlo Guthrie (above) and the Klezmatics (left) will perform on Saturday at the State Museum there while the other looked for a place to park.

The ambulance itself survived, went back into service and was driven to Albany for the exhibit.

New appreciation, indeed.

Among the 15 ambulances in the exhibit are a 1911 Cunningham buggy; a 1918 Dodge used by the National League for Women's Service, which brought World War I wounded from ship to hospital in New York City; a recently repainted 1940 LaSalle, which had done double duty as an ambulance and a hearse, a common practice through most of the 20th century; a 1959 Dodge from Cobleskill, owned by a man whose father and grandfather rode in it; and several Cadillacs from the 1940s to 1960s and several Ford truck/vans of more recent vintage.

Stein said his friend who suggested the exhibit, Myron Gittel, helped locate most of the ambulances, which are largely owned by fire departments and used in parades these days.

The exhibit also includes a room full of equipment that was inside ambulances, from radios to an early defibrillator, and many historical photographs of EMS people in action.

And a scanner will be on, reporting on real-time emergencies in the Capital District and reminding visitors that EMS work is 24/7.

The exhibit received financial support from the state Health Department's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, in part to help encourage more volunteers for local EMS squads.

"Help Is Here" will be at the State Museum through Sept. 11. Its opening reception will be on Nov. 30.
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come growing youth populations, and everyone needs a place to play.

Cirillo worked on projects that expanded the scope of the Parks and Recreation Department, including playgrounds, soccer fields and tennis courts.

In his years with the town, Cirillo not only saw changes in the way the town gets construction done, but also in the philosophical way the town approaches new construction projects.

The comprehensive plan, being worked on through a year-long residential moratorium, is a testament to that. When it’s completed and adopted early next year, the town will have a 20- to 30-year vision of future development in town.

The Four Corners area is serving as a prototype for the development values residents and town officials seem to prefer: a walkable, character-driven area of mixed zoning that gives residents a sense of community and belonging.

A big part of the character of the Four Corners was established via the clock project that Cirillo worked on with many others.

"Some of the projects just flash back at me, worthwhile projects, like the clock at the Four Corners I was involved in the surveying, but there was a lot of individual and multiple efforts that made that project worthwhile," Cirillo said.

What Cirillo is most proud of is keeping up with the times in a smart and fiscally responsible way.

"I'm kind of proud of helping promote Geographical Informational Systems," Cirillo said.

"I promoted it and the town approved it," he said, noting that GIS implements the first phases of getting records in construction projects.

Cirillo said GIS has been around for about 20 years and because of software and technology advancements, more municipalities have picked it up.

"The county has digitized tax maps, it's becoming more commonplace," Cirillo said. "I believe a community our size should have technology like that."

But Cirillo said what made his years working with the town most memorable was the engineering staff he worked with day in, day out, on hundreds of projects from road to utility projects.

"The engineering department has an excellent staff," Cirillo said.

Indeed, Cirillo said, much more goes into a worthwhile career than the work. "It's not the building, it's the people you work with."

Retires

(From Page 1)

It was a smorgasbord of small projects, loose ends and good reports at the Nov. 8 Voorheesville school board meeting.

Leading off, Superintendent Alan McCartney praised fellow board members, for their dedication and contributions to the community. In observance of school board recognition week, he presented them each with a coffee mug.

Following that formality, McCartney announced that the school district is looking to build a new bathroom and storage facility on the satellite athletic fields across the street. He also announced the school district plans to construct a rain shelter there as well. McCartney said he hopes to begin construction within the next month.

Michael Goyer, the district's transportation manager, reported progress with aesthetic issues and delays with paving.

Goyer said the elementary school hallways will get a face lift as new paint is added giving a brighter upbeat look.

Goyer also discussed approaching the Clean Buses for Kids Program in hopes of obtaining funds to retrofit buses with new emission controls. The cost for these upgrades he said would run between $6,500 to $7,500. He told the board he would keep them posted on his progress. Goyer also said he is looking for more substitute bus drivers.

In other news, school business official, Sarita Winchell reported that the district has collected 95.5 percent of its school taxes and that Albany County will pay the school district the remaining portion. The county will then pursue those property owners who still owe in arrears.

Finally, Principal Kenneth Lenf said that his school placed ninth out of 44 elementary schools in Albany County in the state's math exam. Because Voorheesville has only one elementary school, this standing translates to Voorheesville, as a school district, ranking second place in the county. Eighth-graders fared no worse. High School Principal Mark Diefendorf reported that these pupils earned an average score of 747, the second highest score in the Capital District. North Colonie ranked first with a score of 752.