'04 Year in Review

The year in review, January - June, appeared in last week's paper.

July

• The Capital Ad judgment was not done in a timely or legal manner.
• A crew found in Bethlehem in June tests positive for the West Nile Virus, the first of the season. The instances of the disease this summer is down in the Capital Region.
• The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District and its teachers agree on a five-year contract that calls for a 3.5 percent salary increase the first year, a 1 percent increase the second year and 2 percent increases each of the following years.
• The Bethlehem Central School District receives recognition for its community partnerships programs that provide didactic and support for students with disabilities.
• Mega-coffee chain Starbucks locates a store in Glenmont, in the Glenmont Price Chopper.
• Delmar resident William E. McCarthy is sworn in by Gov. George E. Pataki as Supreme Court Justice of the Third Judicial District, after Justice Thomas Keegan retires.
• A car wrecked last August, which police said had led police on a car chase through the streets of Albany on New Year's Eve, resulting in the death of a bystander, is still under investigation.
• Daniel Reed, then 32, of Woodmont Drive in Glenmont, is sentenced. Reed was awaiting sentencing for his guilty plea to operation of a motor vehicle. Reed sill face 4.5 to 11 years in prison.
• McCarthy is sworn in by Gov. George E. Pataki as Supreme Court Justice of the Third Judicial District, after Justice Thomas Keegan retires.
• A late state budget keeps school districts and other taxing entities guessing conservatively about how much state aid they will be receiving, but Voorheesville figures on a greater than-expected increase in aid. BC would eventually afford its district residents the same relief, dropping its proposed 8.5 percent tax hike to 4.72 percent.
• A decision to appoint Deborah Baron, a New Scotland town board member and the wife of Voorheesville School board president Robert Baron, to a part-time position as receiver of the town board, is narrowly approved by the school board. Robert Baron's deciding vote draws controversy from board members and district residents.
• Water improvements in Bethlehem take a step forward, as the town board approved a design concept on the $17 million upgrade project.

September

• Town and county officials warn walking, running and cycling pedestrians to stay off the beaten path of the Canadian Pacific Railroad when it removes a 9-mile stretch of track over the delay.
• A grassroots coalition of homeowners just over the New Scotland-Bethlehem town line will likely find out at tonight's zoning board of appeals meeting the fate of an appeal of a decision by Bethlehem's building inspector that paved the way for a lime stone quarry.
• Bethlehem Building Inspector Mark Platel determined in August that mining activities had occurred years before on a 4.6-acre tract of land off Old Quarry Road in Feura Bush, after owner Peter Fruh had challenged the decision in court.

By LIBBY SCHIRMER

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Baltimore, MD 21207
(410) 669-1947

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Platel visited the site in May 2004 and obtained a number of invoices and receipts that he reviewed, eventually deciding that mining had occurred before August 2004, making it an allowable use in the area, which is zoned rural not zoned.

The Fruehs, who operate a family-owned construction business, are proposing to extract rock from the mine by blasting, which would take place several times a year. At the public hearing regarding the appeal at the ZBA Oct. 20 meeting, the Fruehs said they have taken a number of materials from the ground of the 180-acre property, including clay, topsoil, and rock that includes cobble rock and lime rock. Opponents of the project fear that the activity would produce drinking wells and property values in jeopardy.

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Police make three DWI arrests

Bethlehem Police made three driving while intoxicated (DWI) arrests this week.

On Dec. 29, around 2:01 a.m., David Riedel was stopped for improper lane change and swerving between hazard markings on the Delmar bypass. Riedel, 19, of 76 Sylvan Lane in Delmar, emitted odors of alcohol and marijuana, police said. Riedel produced a bag of marijuana and a ceramic pipe to police, according to reports. He was placed under arrest for DWI. Riedel's blood alcohol content was listed at .08 percent. He was ticketed and is scheduled to appear in Town Court on Jan. 4.

Lutheran church to install new pastor

The Rev. Mark Mueller will be installed as pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Sunday, Jan. 9, at 4 p.m. at the church at 85 Elm Ave. in Delmar. A reception and dinner will follow the installation, which the public is welcome to attend.

For information, call the church office at 439-4338.

Joshua Joseph O'Brien of Troop 73 in Voorheesville recently became an Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts' highest rank. O'Brien was feted in an Eagle Scout Court of Honor at St. Matthew's Church. For his service project he planned, organized and built a 142-square-foot bluestone patio at Voorheesville Public Library. O'Brien is a junior at Clayton A. Bouton High School. He is the son of Joseph and Donna O'Brien.
After she led a packed, step aerobics class filled with hooting and hollering and sometimes singing, fitness instructor Stacy Zounes would always say goodbye to her 3-year-old and 4-year-old daughters Zoune before moving on to her next class. The girls would be happy to see their mom off, waving and sometimes hollering and sometimes just smiling, the kind of person who could light up a room. Dedicated to her family, especially her husband, Steve, and her two young daughters, friends said, she had a passion for teaching step aerobics, for friendship, for life.

"She was the kind of person that everyone had met her once, you would remember," said Collette Gallagher, who first became friends with Zounes in high school.

Because of that magnetism, Gallagher said, many of her own friends and family, who had maybe only met Zoune once, have been touched by her until today.

"It's been such a shock to so many people," she added.

That's a sentiment that Mike Mashtut, director of Delmar Health & Fitness, has also heard from many people, as well as Zounes's closest friends and family. "We just love Stacy, because Stacy was so full of life, so full of fun and often ended with Zoune getting the whole class to sing along with dance mans like Long said.

"We're so proud of you, you're on a roll," Long said, adding that everyone was also drizzling with tears.

The camaderie often continued after class as a group, including Zounes, who would always go back to Ber's restaurant and have beer and wings, Long said.

Teaching friend Brenda Fredrickson, who grew up in Westerme, said that Zounes always had that energy, an ability to make friends and an attitude for teaching. Even as a 3-year-old, she'd be the loudest kid on the playground, Fredrickson said. In elementary school, Zounes learned to sign so that she could communicate with the deaf children at the Altamont Elementary School. Several friends remembered her zany sense of humor.

"She was such a ham," Gallagher said. "She would do something goofy just to make you laugh."

"In every picture, she's smiling," Frederickson said.

Always very sociable, Oertel added, Zounes would always call many friends outside that core group of six.

Guilderland High School principal David Barbara (Halines) Newton said that of the many students she's had over the years, Zounes stood out for her friendliness and positive attitude.

Zounes's friends and mates of honor at her wedding, Stacey Snyder, remembers her as supportive and helpful. She always called Zounes "Momma.

"All that energy, you'd have to get out of there," Frederickson said.

But Stacy, Frederickson added, delighted in it all.

Others remembered Zounes for her dedication to teaching, especially to special education students and aerobics.

Rensselaer Middle High School principal John Barlow said that Stacy had that combination of patience, enthusiasm and hard work that made her an outstanding special education teacher.

"She was excellent," said Snyder. Special education teachers require the extra attention and hard work that Zounes was so easy to give, she added.

Maureen Kuhn, coordinator of the fitness class schedule at which she worked, reflected on Zounes's ability as an instructor. Zounes stood out, Kuhn said, because of the kind of person she was, including many top in the field throughout the years. Under the circumstances, the family is coping pretty well, the sad news of mourners -- a breadth from all of those who knew Stacy and were close to her are known to be grateful to Mashuta for setting up a college fund for Stacy's kids.

The fitness center also has plans to dedicate the aerobics room in Stacy's name, create a special scholarship in her name and sponsor a memorial run in Zounes's name, all suggestions that were supported by the family.

Other survivors mourning her loss include her father, Kim Miller, and her mother, Laura Miller and Troy Miller, both of Altamont; and two stepbrothers, Anthony Anetzberger and Heather Kanoza.

Contributions may be made to the Cameron and Courtyard Memorial, c/o Fredendall Funeral Home, PO Box 458, Altamont 12009.
'05 might just be the year resolutions come true

By KATHERINE McCARTHY

There I sat, furious at creating the list of New Year’s resolutions that this year, NO MATTER WHAT, I would keep.

The list looked vaguely familiar. There’s that amount of weight to lose that hasn’t changed much over the years. No yelling at the kids. Be kinder to people, and stop shutting the ones I really dislike. Get more sleep— and here’s guessing that getting a good night’s sleep might help with the yelling and kindness resolutions.

Be more conscientious in my work. Stop procrastinating. Take care of leaks and suspicious noises in the house before they become problems. Clean out the closets and organize the upstairs room that has become the catchall for all the stuff we don’t need that was meant to be the room of my dreams.

Replace the dingy room wallpaper, think about planting the wood floors in our house shine a little bit again. Paint the kitchen and bathroom ceilings that have been patched and prepped for about half a year now.

Walk the dog every day — it will be good for her and better for me (see that weight loss resolution). Eat more fruits and vegetables — see first resolution again. Think of fruits and vegetables not as a punishment for the sins of the flesh, but as a way to guarantee that I’ll be around to enjoy my children and, please God, my grandchildren some day.

Stay ahead of the laundry, so there’s never a panicked child’s cry for clean clothes at 6:30 a.m. on a weekend, causing me to run to the basement to check the dryer for clean socks, clean underwear, clean pants, or all of the above.

Help my children in their continued quest for organization. Rattling the teacher’s obsession with organizing papers into folders to be handed in and graded. Tried to see organization as a subject matter just as important as math, social studies or English. Work more with my children on helping around the house, expanding their chores from the small bit they already do.

Great, I thought, looking at the list, by the end of the year I’ll be able to skinny sag living in an impossibly clear-headed now, and still arise with a million ideas about how to make the coming year better.

It’s funny, though, how having a family takes up all the time it takes to keep resolutions.

It’s a victory to get out for just a 20-minute walk, between my own work hours crafted around the kids’ school day, answering their needs, chauffeuring them places, or doing the breakfast dishes in the afternoon when we’re all home again, making dinner and making sure housework gets done in the evening. And hoping that Chris’ work hours will be manageable enough so that he will be home in time to help with the math homework that’s already beyond me.

Before bed, there are dishes and laundry and do to, then time to try and keep that resolution about more sleep.

Resolutions quickly take a back seat to the daily routine.

In the recent news of the devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean, though, my resolutions seem pretty inconsequential.

The magnitude of the suffering is heartbreaking. As children seek missing parents and parents seek missing children, it seems like the only important thing to do is pray for those people, and open up the checkout to relieve their suffering.

The tragedy in southeast Asia is another grim reminder that we can resolve all we want to, but we don’t always get to pick what will happen to us in our lives.

So the long list of resolutions becomes one: to not lose the precious moments we have with one another in a flurry of thinking about what we should change.

With the prayers for the people who have lost everything, I offer a tiny prayer that in the new year, we all treasure one another while we’re here on earth together.

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The Spotlight's executive editor to write just one editorial not having a thing to do with temperature living.

Go ahead, the dark forces within me urged, tell people to melt their credit cards creating a perfect Christmas for their families. Advise them to have an extra glass of spiked eggnog; gobble down the extra cookie. It’s just once a year, so what the hell, let’s live it up.

Fortunately, she didn’t write it. I read except for the extra cookies during the whole month of December. I don’t really live that way, either. Not anymore, anyway.

When we were in our 20s, Chris and I often spent New Year’s Day with whichever friends could get vertical again after the New Year’s Eve festivities, drinking Bloody Marys and watching the year in review on MTV. Then, it was easy to resolve to go to the gym every day, to read The New York Times cover to cover, to read a good book every couple of weeks, to find time to volunteer for something worthwhile, and to put in a few extra hours at work each week.

Our New Year’s Days are much more clear-headed now, and I still arise with a million ideas about how to make the coming year better. It’s funny, though, how having a family takes up all the time it takes to keep resolutions.

It’s a victory to get out for just a 20-minute walk, between my own work hours crafted around the kids’ school day, answering their needs, chauffeuring them places, or doing the breakfast dishes in the afternoon when we’re all home again, making dinner and making sure housework gets done in the evening. And hoping that Chris’ work hours will be manageable enough so that he will be home in time to help with the math homework that’s already beyond me.

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Review

(From Page 1)

retain his seat on the Independence line come November. Clyne's primary loss by more than 5,000 votes to Soares shocked media and consultants and has many talking about the end of machine politics.

The town gets its mountain lion equivalent at Loche Ness monster, after a number of was-it-or-wasn't sightings of a cat-like animal in the Fisker Boulevard subdivision. Later reported sightings of the animal and a deer carcass apparently fed upon post-mortal, brought reminders of an incident last year in which home was attacked by another animal people believed to be cat-like. No sightings have been reported recently, and area pathologists say mountain lions are extremely rare.

Former Bethlehem Supervisor Ken Ringer Jr. is appointed to the top position of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey by Gov. George E. Pataki. Ringer had previously held the top position at the Office of Central Services.

The Bethlehem town budget is unveiled, proposing a 5.4 percent tax increase. Much of the financing for the increase is a pleasant one, though Supervisor Theresa Egan expresses a desire to diversify the economy. The town Highway Department is in the most trouble, with a proposed 1 percent increase in funding.

Though few details are available, the R E school district announces that one of its bus drivers has been found to be in violation of the district's drug and alcohol policies. Citing personal reasons, the district doesn't identify the driver or provide more details, except to assure parents that children riding the buses are safe.

A controversial plan for a $100 million Central Community Hospital as a close-mouthed one. His Democratic seat in state Senate race, Brinset easily defeated Conners to retain his Democratic seat in state government.

The murder of law clerk Peter Porco and the attack on his wife, Joan, shock their neighbors on Brockley Drive and in the rest of the Delmar community. The murder mystery turns the town into a media hub, with news vans camped out behind the Bethleths Police Department as police collect evidence throughout the next two weeks while speculation about motive and suspects abound. Police remain fairly tight-lipped about the specifics of the case. Though no

no...
Helping hands

By BRUCE SARAF

The writer is professor of psychology at the State University of New York at Albany and the Director of the National Institute for Sports Reform. He is the author of a new book entitled Reforming Sports: Before the Clock Runs Out.

Unsportsmanlike and violent behavior exhibited by athletes, coaches, fans, and the media are in our face seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

The media hype that accompanies almost every level of sports is just one example of unethical and illegal behavior.

The death toll continues to rise, we hear more and more people trying to find a way to help the survivors of the undersea earthquake and tsunami in Sumatra, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India. Leaders from America and other countries have traveled to the devastated regions and will no doubt discover ways to help people who are basically without food and shelter. Still, many Americans are frustrated by a sense of helplessness brought on by such a tragedy. As time passes and things settle down, there will likely be more opportunities to help, other than digging out the checkbook.

Right now, orphaned infants and children are in danger from disease and lack of nourishment, but they eventually will need permanent homes and new families to care for them. America, for one, has a wonderful track record in terms of adopting children from other nations. We think of the naturalization ceremonies, where new young Americans and their proud families are welcomed to this nation. The smiling faces of the children and parents tell a story with a happy ending and a happy beginning for the children.

We hope some of the relief organizations help to facilitate adoptions or foster homes for the thousands of children in dire need. We also hope that the process could be expedited to get these children some immediate help.

We also hope that relief organizations are capable of getting food and supplies to people who so desperately need them.

On a news broadcast over the weekend, Secretary of State Colin Powell reminded us that all the money on earth would be given in vain if there is no mechanism in place to properly disburse food and other necessities to the victims of the horrendous disaster.

The numbers are staggering. Five million people are estimated to be homeless, so common sense and immediate need dictate that red tape must be bypassed. Let us hope that speedy relief is administered to the disaster victims. These innocents have already suffered enough trauma.

Every day that passes rings a death knell for people living under such poisonous conditions.

Locally, people can send donations to the Red Cross at www.redcross.org/donate.

For additional organizations that are helping in the relief efforts, visit www.actionagainsthunger.org, www.careusa.org/ or www.unicef.org.

The endangerment of young people has become a jock culture that fuels sportsmanship, violence, and unethical and illegal behavior. In this era of sports-only thinking, the outcome of the games is the only thing. The great scribe sharpened buckle on his helmet lacerated them during the course of the game. The buckle was purposely sharpened by the player's father because he believed that referees from a previous game had failed to penalize players for roughing up his son.

A college basketball coach chokes one of his players during a practice.

An assistant baseball coach with a youth baseball league was charged with aggravated battery when he pistol whipped an umpire and broke his jaw over a disputed call during a summer league game for top high-school-age players.

A girls high school basketball team ended in a blowout score of 115-2. The academic director of the school was left asking about the lack of sportsmanship.

An NFL hockey player purposely hits an opponent in the temple with a hockey stick and causes a severe head injury.

A high school football player's gym teacher told many of them parents of players, when the game came to an end:

A college baseball pitcher went out of his way by about 30 feet - to purposely throw at an opposing player during warm-ups. The player was standing in the on-deck circle when he was struck in the face. He suffered permanent damage to his eye and his visual capabilities.

We have gone from an era in which Grantland Rice epitomized what sports are about when he wrote: "What is the Great Scribe coming to write against your name, he marks not that you won or lost, but how you played the game?" to an era in which Vince Lombardi told us that the outcome of the game was much more important when he said: "Show me a gracious loser, and I'll show you a winner" and "Winning is not everything. It is the only thing."

This sad transition has left us with very few role models and playing fields that are strewn with negative one that clouds athletics. The unrealistic expectations of winning sports by every team, in every city, at every level of sports.

The present emphasis on sports in our country has also produced a jock culture that needs inappropriate and often illegal and violent behavior on the part of athletes. Sports writer John Feinstein remarked, "Rules don't exist for great athletes."

Oftentimes, laws don't exist for great athletes. Rarely are they prosecuted and, when they are, regardless of how guilty they are, they usually walk away with probation or that bandage of "community service" as 'go and serve your community by winning some games.'

Brought on by the glorification of sports in our society, the jock culture is reflected in a sense of privilege and entitlement that is bestowed upon athletes from an early age.

There are multiple reasons why sportsmanship has declined so dramatically and why we see so many ugly and sometimes violent incidents of misbehavior and violence among athletes, coaches, parents, and fans.

Clearly, at all levels of athletics, the intensity and pressure of sports participation has beenatche:ed down over the many times over what it was back in the 1950s and 1960s. The unrealistic expectations of winning sports by every team, in every city, at every level of sports.

The unrealistic expectations of winning sports by every team, in every city, at every level of sports.
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Focus more on the process, less on the product

Editor, The Spotlight:
It wasn’t about the fire station.

Or about firefighters who brave smoke, or the boys, hooks, ladders, the rec room, the florist. Not even about Delaware Avenue, or wailing sirens.

One of the best pieces of advice I got as a new parent was this: Watch the process, over the poster. Admire how the product.

We damned not the product, but the lack of the democratic process meant to bring us the product. We weren’t consulted— not soon enough, not thoroughly enough. It was going to be taxation with barely any representation, a nthema to citizens since Bos ton’s tea party.

As we snaked along the conga line on the sidewalk, we talked, we neighbors. How much is it going to cost each household? I don’t know. Will they tear down Verstaging’s to build it there? — am I even supposed to vote tonight? Who knows?

And especially: What’s the hold-up in there? A two-hour wait? We don’t know. I asked this. What’s with the fast-tracking of the bond? Why the rush? No one knew.

Three weeks, no discussion.

then three hours to vote in three cranky voting machines on a frigid pre-Christmas school night. Yes or no. Three fire engines idled, motors busily burning exhaust into the night, out side. We voters idled, fuming too, inside, in their place.

The symbolism of voting in the fire station was lost on no one, and was just another place to be confused about in this voting-place-happy suburb. (I’ve been sent to vote in six different places in six years.)

Now, 3,700 residents plus 3 voting booths plus 3 hours (I always do math in my head when fuming in long lines) — well, no one else did the math. I was worried so many people jammed into such a small space was, well, a fire hazard! Still, we waited. Myself, I went there to vote not once but twice, getting as far as the stairs one time.

But I also left twice, unable to stay any longer. Damayed, disgruntled, disen chanted with town officials, firemen, conga lines. Disenfranchised. And if the outcome had been different, this letter to the editor would have been shrill, perhaps written in capital letters.

One more time now, and this time, let’s get it right. Let’s concentrate on the process— the hearings — as well as the product: a spanking new fire station.

Pg Clement Delmar

Let’s work together on new firehouse plan

Editor, The Spotlight:
As everyone knows by now, the bond issue for the proposed new Delmar Firehouse was defeated. As stood in line to vote that evening, I was struck by the commit ment of the residents of this community to be heard on this issue. Thank you to all the residents of the community who stood in line for hours, waiting to cast their ballots. I know there were dozens of voters who could not stand in line to wait.

The defeat of this proposal should not be construed as a slap in the face to our volunteers. Many people who voted “no” supported the firemen’s position that the facilities need to be upgraded.

The key problems were the scope of the proposal, the method in which it was developed and the lack of timely information provided to the voters.

A clear message was sent by the voters that community input is desired in this process.

Regardless of the fact that the firefighters are exempt from certain tax review processes, the community is seeking a voice in the next proposal. We are all part of the same community.

Can’t we work together? There is an enormous amount of fire-fighting capability in our town and some would say that our town is better equipped than most municipal fire fighting facilities.

Let’s work to identify what the town’s needs are and use that as a basis to develop the next proposal.

Mary Redmond Delmar
suspects are identified publicly, the investigation into the murder of Peter Porco moves on to a county grand jury. Still, no arrests have been made.

- Both towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland adopt budgets that include increases.
- BC's Assistant Superintendent John McGuire announces his resignation. McGuire says he will leave his post in January to become superintendent of the Greenwich Central School District in Washington County.
- Teachers also seek a raise.

December
- Joan Porco's condition continues to improve as the grand jury hears testimony surrounding the death of her husband. There is talk of her being released from Sunnyview Rehabilitation Center, where she was brought from an Albany-area hospital. Media outlets report that the grand jury hears tape testimony from her at its last meeting before the new year.
- The town of New Scotland passes a law to limit the construction of cell phone towers, requiring applicants to submit concept plans to the town's planning board and to meet all county, state and federal guidelines.
- The EPA announces its decision that Bethlehem will play host to at least a transfer station in its $500 million undertaking to rid the Hudson River of PCBs, miles away from the biggest host to at least a transfer station. The EPA's decision to host a transfer station in Bethlehem will also include plans to host a transfer station in Delmar, New York.
- Delmar Fire District residents illustrate their distaste for the way the fire district proposal is being marketed. In an appeal to residents attending the demonstration, the Delmar Fire District proposed a new facility that would be placed in the Delmar Fire District.
- Teachers in the Voorheesville School District petition the school board to come to an agreement regarding a contract that's been up since June 30. Teachers also seek a raise.

State: Get ready for tax time

The state Department of Taxation & Finance advises taxpayers to get ready to pay next year's tax season.

The office advises taxpayers to begin organizing records and receipts as well as determining whether their 2003 tax returns are validly disposed of from what they anticipate earning in 2004.

If changes are dramatic, they may need to consult the tax department's Web site at www.eystax.gov, or contact the department's customer service representatives at 1-800-CALL-TAX.

The Web site has information on how to obtain or download tax forms, determine whether they qualify for free online New York state tax preparation and e-filing.

Tax filers can also consult the department's catalogue of frequently-asked questions, which provides answers to questions regarding estate taxes, gift and prize winnings, sales and use tax, child support enforcement, technical assistant and help with other tax-related matters.

Information on the STAR school tax program, tax help for individuals serving in and in support of the Iraq War, changes to the state's individual and corporate tax forms are also available.

County to hold clinics for kids

The Albany County Department of Health holds monthly immunization clinics for children through the age of 18. The clinic is for children who are not underinsured or have no health insurance.

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Church to hold special service

Eccumenical Witnesses at Baptism is one of the most visible programs sponsored by the Capital Area Council of Churches. Witnesses of varying faiths attend baptisms to welcome the newly baptized into the family of God.

On Sunday, Jan. 9, the program will mark its 10th anniversary with a gathering of current witnesses at Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., Delmar, beginning at 2 p.m. There will be light refreshments and the Rev. Dave Corlett's presentation on baptism in the Reformed tradition.

For information, call the Baptismal Witness Coordinator, Fran Kamp, at 456-2052 or the Council office at 462-5450.
HEAP benefits available for qualified

Niagara Mohawk reminds customers that applications will be accepted for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). HEAP is a federally funded, state-administered program that helps eligible residential customers with energy costs for the heating season.

Households receiving temporary assistance (Family Assistance and Safety Net Assistance), Supplemental Security Income or food stamps are probably eligible for HEAP benefits. HEAP grants are paid directly to the home heating fuel supplier and are credited to the customer’s account.

If you are receiving some form of assistance and have questions about HEAP or your eligibility, contact your local Department of Social Services or call the HEAP hotline at 1-800-342-3008.

Households not receiving temporary assistance or food stamps may be eligible for benefits if their gross monthly household income is at or below the income guidelines for their household size. Contact your local Department of Social Services which will make final decisions about eligibility.

How to apply for benefits

If you are 59 or younger and applying for HEAP benefits for the first time, call your local Social Services Office to set up an interview.

If you are 60 or older, you can call your local Office for the Aging for an application, or call the NYS Office for the Aging hotline at 1-800-342-9871.

If you received a HEAP benefit last year and reside in the same county, you may be able to apply electronically at www.otda.state.ny.us/otda/help/default.htm. If you cannot apply in person, you may send a fax or relative. This person will need to show a note from you giving them your permission to apply for you.

To apply, you must also bring all of the necessary documents described below.

What to Bring

When You Apply

You will need to bring a copy of the following items when you apply:

- A current rent, lease or mortgage receipt.
- A current utility bill, or your landlord’s statement that heat and utilities are included in your rent.
- Proof of total monthly income for all members of your household for the month in which you apply. Please bring all that you currently earn.
- Pay stubs for the four previous weeks.
- Unemployment Insurance Benefits book.
- Bankbook or statements.
- Copies of Social Security and pension checks.
- Business records, if you are self-employed.

For each person in the household, one of the following: birth, marriage, or death certificates, Social Security cards or driver’s licenses. For more information about HEAP, including income eligibility guidelines, visit Niagara Mohawk’s Web site at www.niagarahowak.com/heap.

Niagara Mohawk, a National Grid Company, provides electricity service to approximately 1.5 million customers and natural gas service to approximately 560,000 customers in upstate New York. The company is based in Syracuse. Its parent company also has electric distribution operations in New England.

Letters policy

The Spotlight welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity. All letters must include your name and address and phone number.

Write to: Letters to the Editor, The Spotlight, PO Box 1599, Lockport, New York 14094.
Library’s ‘personal trainer’ can polish your computer skills

Last week, we talked about New Year’s resolutions numbers 1 and 2. Resolution number 3 includes the library offer of a “personal trainer” to give patrons individualized help with on-line computer skills.

Reference librarian Greg Bobish can be your personal e-mail and Internet trainer. Bobish received his master’s of library science from the University at Albany and currently teaches a class there in information literacy.

He enjoys surfing the Web and

Voorheesville Public Library

Voorheesville Public Library is helping people learn new things at the library.

With his help, patrons can find out how to get a free e-mail account and learn about all the things you can do with e-mail, such as trip planning, finding out about products and ordering online, as well as communicating with friends and relatives.

Patrons can also learn the tricks of how to be a better Web searcher and how to find reliable and current information on health and consumer information.

Those interested can call Bobish at the library at 765-2791 to make an appointment. He will customize his training process to suit individual needs.

Remember, when your skills improve, so does the fun.

Food offered for fines

Patrons can return any overdue items that belong to the library during month of January and can replace each $1 of your fine with a canned good or non-perishable food item up to a maximum of $3.

This is an opportunity that benefits the New Scotland Food Pantry as well as patrons who can rid their closet, locker or car of forgotten library items.

Book programs set

Teens will meet on Friday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. to discuss Promises from No Man’s Land.

There also will be two book discussions for elementary-age children in February.

Grades 2 and 3 should pick up a copy of The Storm, by Cynthia Rylant, and grades 4 through 6 should pick up a copy of Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key, by Jack Gantos.

Signups are now being taken for the Thursday, Jan. 20, Lapest Story Time.

Caregivers are invited to bring children under age 2 for a special time of reading and sharing at 10:15 a.m.

Friends, Poets to meet

The Friends of the Library and the Thursday Night Poets will both meet on Thursday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m.

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

Ravena library sets story time schedules

Story times, both Romp & Read and Stories & Crafts for Kids, will start again during the first week of January.

There is a change of location for the Tuesday morning Romp & Read. That program will be held at the Selkirk Fire House, east of Route 9W, on Route 396.

The Romp & Read schedule is as follows: Mondays at 10 a.m. at Selkirk Fire House; Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., at A.W. Becker School, Thursday at 6:30 p.m., at Pieter B. Coeymans School; and Friday at 10 a.m. at RCS Community Library.

Stories & Crafts for Kids is Thursdays at 11 a.m. at the library. Call 756-2053.

Chester school

During vacation week, a group of nine took introductory chess lessons with Jerry Neugarten from the Coxsackie Chess Club.

The participants learned a lot in a few short lessons. And, the chess matches won’t stop, Wednesday is now the library’s scheduled chess day.

Youngsters who come in after school will get to play at least one game and probably more.

Cheese teachers needed

The library can’t offer transportation for an RCS group to travel to the Coxsackie Chess Club, so the library is looking for more experienced players to teach and challenge our after-school kids group.

If you are an experienced player who enjoys school-age kids, call Judy at 756-2053.

Family Fun Fair Jan. 18

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, the library and RCS pre-kindergarten will hold their second annual Family Fun Fair at the RCS Middle School. The fair will run from 4 to 7 p.m.

With the merger of First Niagara Financial Group and Hudson River Bancorp, Inc. The Bostwick Group will also merge with First Niagara Risk Management.

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2592 Western Avenue, Guilderland, NY (518) 357-4210
Snowshoe hike scheduled, weather permitting, at Thacher

The first snowshoe hike of the season is scheduled to be held at Thacher Park on Saturday, Jan. 6, from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants should meet at the Hop Field parking area for a guided snowshoe walk, led by Fred Schroeder. Refreshments will be available in the Hop Field warming room after the event. Guided snowshoe rental is $5 per person. For information, call 872-1237, as all hikes will depend on the weather and conditions.

Music concert set for Jan. 13

The Performing Arts Center at Voorheesville High School will host a music concert titled "The Grid," which will be held on Thursday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Teen night at middle school

Voorheesville Middle School will host its next teen night on Friday, Jan. 16, from 7 to 10 p.m.

School board schedules meeting

The next regular school board meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school commons area.

Program on stars at Five Rivers

A program on constellations of the winter season will be offered on Friday, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Five Rivers Education Center in Delmar. The program is free.

Friends of Music meeting planned

The next regular meeting for the Voorheesville Friends of Music will be held on Sunday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. at the high school in room 159.

Stories resume at library

Regular storytimes resume this week and will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:15 a.m. at the Rockefeller Center for Library. No sign up is necessary.

There is also a lapsit program on Thursday, Jan. 6, and Thursday, Jan. 13, at 10:15 a.m. Sign up is required.

Registration for preschool set

General registration for the Voorheesville Community Preschool will be held on Saturday, Jan. 22, at the First United Methodist Church, 60 Maple Ave., in Voorheesville, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. For information, call 705-9675.

Professor honored for life achievements

Last month, Joseph F. Zimmerman of Siena, a professor of political science at the Rockefeller College of the University at Albany, was presented with the Rockefeller College Lifetime Achievement Award.

Zimmerman has been a faculty member of the Graduate School of Public Affairs (now Rockefeller College) since the spring of 1960. He is the author of a number of books, including Intestate Economic Relations, which was published by the State University of New York Press in July 2004.

Zimmerman, earlier in November, presented a paper titled "The United States Federal System: A Kalodioscopic View" to the faculty, fellows and graduate students at Oxford University’s Nuffield College, St. Anne’s College and St. Anthony’s College and also participated in graduate student tutorials.

Friends of 5 Rivers board elected

The Friends of Five Rivers held its annual meeting in November and the following people were elected to the board of directors at that meeting:

For a first term:
- Richard Bader of Voorheesville
- Richard Frankel of Niskayuna
- Carol Nemore of Delmar
- Daniel Nugent of Delmar
- Susan Palmer of Albany

For a second, three-year term:
- Judith Birkhead of Delmar was chosen.

Local woman to head fund-raising board

A Slingerlands resident was recently appointed as chairwoman of the Albany Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors.

After Wenthad succeeds J. Howe, who held the position for two years.

Wenthad is the senior vice president of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce. She also participates on the advisory board of the Bethlehem Area YMCA, the school of business advisory board at Siena College and the dean’s advisory council at College of Saint Rose.
Voorheesville girls look to extend winning streak

By ROB JONAS

While other high school basketball teams played through the holiday break, the Voorheesville girls kept a low profile as they prepared for the final six weeks of the season.

The Blackbirds (43 league, 4-5 overall) entered Tuesday’s Colonial Council game with league-leading Academy of Holy Names on a three-game winning streak, but they haven’t played since beating Cobleskill-Richmond 44-39 on Dec. 21.

“We had some injuries and some illnesses to deal with,” Voorheesville coach Jon McClement said. “But, we had a nice little run going before the break to get back to 4-5.”

The biggest question the defending Section II, Class B champions faced at the start of this season was where would the offense come from following the graduation of leading scorers Jackie Markert, Michelle Nadratowski and Brittany Baron.

“People are finding their roles,” McClement said. “It’s nice to see our sophomores and juniors come in and contribute right away.”

A large percentage of Voorheesville’s offense is coming from forward Brit Gil Feeney. The junior leads the Blackbirds in scoring with an average of 10 points per game and is the team’s leading rebounder.

“The thing that hurt us in the early losses was rebounding. So, it’s nice to see her step it up and fill in,” McClement said of Feeney.

Voorheesville’s second- and third-leading scorers have connections to the Sectional and state championship squads of the recent past — junior forward Amanda Markert and junior guard Arne Nadratowski.

“Those kids saw their sisters win state titles, so they’ve seen what it’s like,” McClement said.

The Blackbirds have a tough schedule ahead of them this week. After Tuesday’s game against Holy Names, they host Lansingburgh Friday before traveling to rising Suburban Council power Averill Park for a non-league game Saturday.

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With the exception of two Cornell-Averill Park games, we’re playing teams we’re familiar with and that are familiar with us (the rest of the season),” McClement said. “So, it comes down to execution.”

Indians get ‘Hooked’ in tourney finals

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk girls basketball team placed second at its annual Gold Medal Tournament last week.

The Indians bounced Taconic Hills 69-23 in last Tuesday’s opening round, but they couldn’t keep pace with Red Hook Section IX in a 56-39 loss in last Wednesday’s title game.

Red Hook outscored RCS 18-12 in the second quarter to build a six-point halftime lead and pulled away in the second half behind the hot shooting of Amanda Simmons, who finished with 21 points.

Molly McGuire had 18 points, and Katelyn Matousek added seven points for the Indians (6-4).

In the boys’ portion of the Gold Medal Tournament, Ravena eased past Galway 72-24 in last Tuesday’s opening round before losing to Ichabod Crane 57-53 in double overtime last Wednesday.

Corwin Hendy scored 18 points, and Brendan Vandervest added 12 points for the Indians (6-6) in Wednesday’s loss to Ichabod Crane.
High School Varsity Sports Results for the Week of Dec. 27 to Jan. 2

Tuesday, Dec. 28

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

**Dutchmen Classic**

**Colonie 69, Bethlehem 53**

Bethlehem leaders: Kevin Stempsey 15 points, John O’Brien-Carelli 10 points.

**Gold Medal Tournament**

**Ravena 72, Galway 34**

Ravena leaders: Dan Hiffmann 12 points, Corwin Hendy 11 points.

**Girls Basketball**

**Bethlehem 53, Troy 40**

Bethlehem leaders: Liz Casline 16 points, Samantha Frainberg 12 points, Katie Rosan 11 points.

**Gold Medal Tournament**

**Ravena 69, Taconic Hills 29**

Ravena leaders: Molly McGuire 25 points, Jeanine Rakier 21 points.

**Wrestling**

**Columbia Tournament**

Team scores: Bethlehem Spa 199, Cumberland (RI) 195.5, Columbia 179, Peru 175, Ravena 157, North Babylon 145, Cohoes 104, Whitehall 79.5, Bethlehem 70, South Glens Falls 61, Lansingburgh 44, CBA 39.5, Schalmes/Middleburgh 27, Albany Academy 3.

Wednesday, Dec. 29

**Boys Basketball**

**Gold Medal Tournament**

**Red Hook 56, Ravena 39**

Ravena leader: Molly McGuire 18 points.

**Thursday, Dec. 30**

**Boys Basketball**

**Dutchmen Classic**

**Consolation game**

Guildfordland 54, Bethlehem 39

Bethlehem leaders: Craig Omer 10 points, Kevin Stempsey 10 points.

**Gymnastics**

**Bethlehem Invitational**

Team scores: Bethlehem 156.75, Shaker 143.65, Guildfordland 144.6, Roy C. Ketchum 130.6.

Top three all-around: Kendal Day (BC) 32.85, Brittany Rodgers (BC) 32.3, Amber Finc (Shaker) 31.15.

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Design your perfect wedding dress yourself

Brides & Grooms
A supplement to Spotlight Newspapers

January 5, 2006

Rides today have more choices than ever before when they are picking a wedding dress. Many of the old rules have been tossed out. Plus, today, dresses aren’t always white, they’re not always big and poufy and they don’t have to include trains that go on for miles. A bride can feel free to choose a style that fits her body type and personality.

Not sure where to start looking for romantic or racy? Will your gown be out of a fairy tale or a fashion magazine? To truly have a gown that is yours and yours alone, consider making your wedding dress yourself.

According to couture seamstress JoAnn Musso, brides should not be intimidated by the thought of making their wedding dress. “The skills needed to make a wedding dress are all ones a home sewer has used before,” she says. “Set in sleeves are set in sleeves. Don’t let the fact that we’re looking at a wedding dress make them seem more difficult than they are,” she says.

Musso, who lives and works in Dallas, makes custom wedding dresses as part of her couture business. While she firmly believes every bride should have the dress of her dreams, Musso feels it is also her duty to help a bride select a dress that will be flattering.

“The bride will have this dress for the rest of her life to remember her wedding day,” she says.

Dress silhouettes break down into four basic shapes:

- A-line, which is narrower at the top, flaring gently wider toward the bottom, works well on most figure types, and is good for disguising bottom-heavy figures.

- A sheath dress features a figure-hugging silhouette with a defined waist, and flattering, well-toned bodies. The mermaid dress is close fitting through the bodice, down through the hips and to about mid or lower calf where the skirt flares out; it is not an easy style to wear or to move in.

- Finally, a ball gown is fitted at the bodice, with a very full skirt, which can hide many figure flaws.

Visit a bridal shop and try on different styles of gowns. This will help you determine what looks best on you and will give you a feel for the latest trends.

For example, Bernina accessories feet make sewing fine fabrics easy and there are a variety available, like hemming, pintucking and edge-stitching feet that enable home sewers to add couture elements quickly and successfully.

Many fabric stores have bridal or special occasion sections with appropriate fabrics and notions. If you don’t find what you’re looking for locally, there is a wealth of fabric resources on the Internet.

Musso reminds brides that natural fabrics such as silk (a popular bridal gown choice) wrinkle easily. If that is a concern for you, consider looking at synthetic fabrics or blends.

You may want to make a muslin version of your dress for fitting purposes. This also gives you a chance to do a “dry run” on the sewing. If you have questions about the construction of the dress, you can work that out on the muslin, too.

There are many books available on sewing your own gown that can answer questions and give tips and “tricks of the trade” as you go through the process.

The variety of embellishments available to provide the finishing touch for your wedding gown is almost unlimited. Beads, crystals, lace and embroidery are just some of the elements available. (Certain restrictions apply)

A line

Hurry this is a limited time offer! You must register by Feb 28. You Can Change Your Style & Colors Later (Certain restrictions apply)

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Tips for creating one-of-a-kind wedding memories

If all brides and grooms-to-be want to have wonderful lasting memories of their big day. And one way almost every couple commemorates their wedding is with a big album full of pictures of family and friends. But what about the couple that wants a different spin on the usual wedding mementos, something that will be a truly unique — and modern — reflection of the beginning of their married life? Why not create a wedding CD? All you need are some basic computer skills, multimedia software and preprinted elements from your wedding. According to Tom Wheeler, interactive media design instructor with The Art Institute of Portland, “Your wedding day often goes by in the blink of an eye. With so many details to remember, so many things to do and so many people to see, it’s hard for you — and your guests — to get a full picture of all of the day’s events.” To create a wedding CD, Wheeler recommends:

- Talking with your photographer about taking some digital photos at the wedding. Or have a friend or family member do so as their gift to you.
- Making sure the digital photos you use are 450 — 600 pixels in dimensions to fit most people’s monitors, and 72 dots per inch (dpi) for monitor resolution.
- After the wedding, plan out how you want the CD to work. Sketch a flowchart that shows how you want to group images and information together. Do you want to group items in chronological order as they happened that day? Do you want to group items by specific events, such as one page for the rehearsal dinner, one page for the ceremony, one for the reception and so on? Using multimedia software, such as Macromedia Flash or Director, to create the CD.

This type of software allows you to easily combine text, graphics, sound and video.

- As you gather your photos, make sure you remember to properly title them within the CD. Years later when you look back on this, you will be thankful that names and dates are mentioned for the photos. You can even add special captions that truly personalize the photos and capture the emotions of those moments. Whether you have professional photographs, a mix of professional and amateur shots, or are snapping photos yourself on the big day, Dick Nosbisch, public relations director at The Art Institute of Colorado, and professional photographer, says there are a few easy steps to take to make sure your photographs look great.

“Watch what is in the foreground of the photograph, and avoid anything that is distracting such as glasses or plates on a table in front of the bride and groom,” he says.

In addition, Nosbisch recommends keeping the background simple because busy backgrounds take the eye away from the subject.

Most important, says Nosbisch, “Concentrate on your subject. Let her or him know if a hat or collar is out of place.” And don’t forget the more traditional keepsake — the wedding album.

Meryl Epstein, senior director of graphic design at The Art Institute of Phoenix, says today’s wedding albums can be wonderfully unique, evocative and surprising and very different from your mother’s or even your grandmother’s. She suggests heading to your local craft or arts supply store to purchase a plain scrapbook and customizing the cover with fabric or photos instead of choosing a more formal album your photographer may offer. It’s less expensive, and easier to personalize.

Take your favorite photos or mementos (invitations, newspaper announcements), and head to your local copy shop to make color copies. Make copies of the backgrounds you want to use as well — whether it’s the newspaper from the day you were married, a collage of cards or congratulatory telegrams, or a simple fabric or printed paper. Using copies of originals as well as backgrounds will give all the visuals you use a uniform look.

Epstein says if you have a flatbed scanner, you can scan mementos or photos yourself. Once you have the background placed, text — whether it’s a poem, caption, song lyrics or your vows — can be dropped on top of it. Get creative — add glitter, jewels or ribbons to add interest and texture. But perhaps the best advice of all, says Epstein, is to have fun, trust your creative voice, and enjoy the process.
If you or your sweetheart just gazed upon the question, your mind is probably racing with exciting plans. But amid those thoughts of gowns, gifts, rings, and receptions, make sure that insurance doesn’t slip your mind.

Adding insurance to your wedding checklist will help protect you from whatever bumps may lie ahead on your journey together.

Renters coverage
If you rent, it’s important to have renters insurance to cover your belongings in case of fire, theft, or catastrophic weather, and it is usually reasonably priced.

A 2003 poll conducted by the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America found 64 percent of respondents living in rental properties had no insurance. You may think that you don’t own much, but consider the cost of your computer, TV, DVD player, stereo equipment, clothing and CDs. These items add up fast.

Plus, if you’re merging households with your new spouse, you suddenly have twice as many belongings. And, that’s not to mention your wedding gown and all of the wedding gifts that may soon be coming.

The ring
In addition to all of your smaller possessions, you now have one big one that should be insured — the engagement ring.

Most carriers consider this a gift, so it should be insured under the woman’s policy (or joint policy, if you have one). Check the limits of your homeowners or renters policy because, most likely, your ring won’t be fully covered with your other property. Your agent can help you determine if you should add an endorsement to insure the ring.

Combining policies
When combining your insurance policies, it’s a good idea to get your auto and homeowners or renters insurance from the same company. Many insurance carriers give a discount for auto policies with more than one vehicle and another discount for purchasing homeowners or renters coverage with their company.

“When it comes to insurance, two definitely can live cheaper than one,” says Dan Kovac, assistant vice president at General Casualty Insurance Companies.

For example, General Casualty policyholders receive up to a 5 percent discount for multiple policies with the same company and up to a 15 percent discount for multiple policies insured by different carriers. It is important to combine your insurance policies.

Homeowners or renters insurance policies, it’s a good idea to get your auto insurance into your monthly budget — it’s significantly more expensive than renters coverage.

When you’re married, you may find that you have more assets than you did as a single person, which also means you have more to lose if someone gets hurt on your property or you’re involved in a serious car accident.

For additional protection, you may want to consider an umbrella policy, which offers higher liability coverage limits and more peace of mind.

General Casualty
However, Kovac warns that if you or your fiancé has a poor driving record, don’t automatically combine your policies without doing your homework. It may be worth it to keep the poor driver’s rates up. Your insurance agent can help you decide what’s best for your situation.

Homes, kids and dogs
There are several other considerations, too. Here are a few to keep in mind: If you purchase a house together, make sure your coverage limits are high enough so you could recover in case of a total loss. Figure homeowners insurance into your monthly budget — it’s significantly more expensive than renters coverage.

When you’re married, you may find that you have more assets than you did as a single person, which also means you have more to lose if someone gets hurt on your property or you’re involved in a serious car accident.

For additional protection, you may want to consider an umbrella policy, which offers higher liability coverage limits and more peace of mind.
Laura and Paul were divorced when the initial search for a family-oriented wedding ceremony proved fruitless. They were concerned that Nathan, who was old enough to understand what was going on, that he wasn’t just marrying Laura, I was making a commitment to be there for him and his sister. I could see from the way his eyes lit up that he understood. I will never forget it.

The family medallion is the family service—can easily be integrated into any religious or civil wedding ceremony. After the newlyweds exchange rings, their children join them for a special service (focusing on the family nature of remarriage). Each child is given a gold or silver medallion (known as the family medallion) with three interlocking circles, a symbol that represents family. The Family Medallion is available in a variety of forms, including pendant, ring, charm bracelet or lapel pin, to accommodate the preferences of male and female children of all ages. The Knotes say they will never forget the moment during their wedding when Nathan and Allison were summoned to their sides to participate in the family wedding service.

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The family wedding concept is an idea whose time has come now that at least one-third of all new marriages in the United States involve divorced or widowed parents with children under 18 living in the home, according to the Department of Justice. An increasing number of family-oriented weddings is no easy task.

"Although I have many books on wedding ceremonies, one of them contains a wedding ritual that recognizes children from previous marriages," says C. Fred Werhan, the Baptist minister who officiated at the Clemmer-Kotz wedding.

"That was five years ago, but things have changed dramatically since then. Today, in half the couples that I marry, at least one spouse has been married before."

The family service—along with the family medallion—was developed more than 15 years ago by Roger Cohen, co-founder of Pilgrim Chapel in Kansas City, Mo.

"A marriage with pre-existing children is a lot more than simply the union of a man and a woman," he says. "It is a merging of two separate families. Every day I see how divorce creates a sense of failure and hopelessness in children. The family ceremony is a sign of hope and an important step in rebuilding the devastation of the family."

Today, about 15,000 couples a year use the Family Mediation ceremony to help cement the bond between parents, step-parents and children.

"It really works," says Werhan, who has adopted Coleman’s family service for many weddings. "A family-oriented wedding that includes giving a wedding ring between step-parents and children is a tangible symbol of love like the family medallion is a great way to make children feel a blended family feel secure."

Sharon Stobes Barry, the editorial director of Your Stepfamily magazine, agrees. In fact, she used the Family Mediation service to re-emphasize her marriage plans, and her daughter when she remarried a few years ago.

"The family-oriented wedding is much more than just a nice thing to do," she insists. "You are pledging to your kids and his kids that you are going to make a commitment to them on their journey through life."

Nathan Clemmer, now a kindergarten teacher, knows a lot about little league than about long journeys. But he treasures the family service—like the ring, the step-dad gave him when Laura and Paul Kotz married last year.

His mother says that Nathan sometimes clips the lapel pin from his chest of drawers to snatch the lapel pin from the box where it is stored for safetykeeping.

"I like to wear it," he announces proudly. "It means I’m part of this family."
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PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Livin' on Easy Street, Malta – $224,900
This charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath colonial sits on a well-manicured lot of almost an acre. Living room, dining room, family room with built-in bookcases and a finished playroom in the basement finish off this gem. Off Northway Exit 11, Shaker/Mohawk schools.

Loudonville Ranch – $279,900
3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, hardwood floors, fireplace, detached garage.
Lakerfront, Rensselaer County – $439,000
56 Acres – dock/boat Lake. Property has over 1200 feet of lakefront with an overhead cable rental business.
Quaint, no maintenance left, ideal for development. East Greenbush Schools.

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Dutchmen & MORE!

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FREE ADMISSION

Jan. 6th-19th THURSDAY-SATURDAY 10-9 SUNDAY 10-6
**Patricia Longtin**

Patricia Carr Longtin, 69, of New Scotland Road in Slingerlands, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, at the Community Hospice Inn at St. Peter’s Hospital in Albany.

Mrs. Longtin was born in Binghamton.

She and her husband owned and operated New Scotland Pharmacy from 1963 to 1982. She also worked for the state Department of Health.

She was a member of the New Scotland Presbyterian Church and the New Scotland Historical Society, as well as being the recording secretary for the New Scotland Planning and Zoning Board.

She was the widow of Thomas F. Longtin.

Survivors include two sons, Stephen Longtin of Nassau and Keith Longtin of Slingerlands; two daughters, Kathleen Frinbee of Reston, Va., and Deborah Longtin of Feura Bush; two sisters, Margaret Rose Frederickson of Sudbury, Mass., and Arlene Herrng of Slingerlands; and four grandchildren.

Services were from New Scotland Presbyterian Church in Slingerlands.

**Margaret Dillon**

Margaret M. “ Peggy” Lent Dillon, 76, of Clifton Park, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, at St. Mary’s Hospital.

Mrs. Dillon was born in Ravena and was educated in the Ravena School System.

Survivors include two daughters, Diane Herrington of Norwich and Donna A. Barbour of Clifton Park; a sister, Elizabeth Dorrant of Ballston Lake; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Services were from Fitzgerald Funeral Home and St. Bernard’s Church, both in Cohoes. Burial was in St. Agnes Cemetery in Cohoes.

**William Wolfe**


Mr. Wolfe was raised in Coeymans.

He was a Marine Corps veteran of World War II.

He worked and retired from BASF Corp. He also worked as a hall monitor for the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School for several years.

Survivors include a daughter, Carol Abbie Fuhrman of Hannacroix; a son, David W. Wolfe of Ravena; a sister, Nancy Bueno of Coeymans; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services were from Babcock Funeral Home in Ravena and the Reformed Church of Coeymans.

Contributions may be made to the Reformed Church of Coeymans, Coeymans 12045; St. Patrick’s Church, 21 Main St., Ravena 12143; or to Congregational Christian Church, 175 Main St., Ravena 12143.

**DELMAR DENTAL MEDICINE**

THOMAS H. ABELS, D.M.D.

GEORFFREY B. EDMUNDS, D.D.S.

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MONDAY-THURSDAY 8-5
FRIDAY 8-3

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**The Spotlight**
The Beverwyck Elder, a daughter of James E. Lamprecht, donated contributions to the Alzheimer's Gift Program of Albany Medical College. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Louise Loew
Louise Loew, 80, formerly of Slingerlands, died Sunday, Dec. 26, at Elkins Park Hospital near Philadelphia.

Marcia Rukwid Birr
Marcia Rukwid Birr, 90, of Delmar, died Friday, Dec. 24, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Vernice Swanson
Vernice Swanson died Sunday, Dec. 26, at Albany as an instructor at Albany as an instructor assistant professor in American Civil War history and master's degree in American Civilization also from the University of Wisconsin.

She worked as a mail carrier for 19 years and worked in the circulation department. She was also a longtime resident of the Beverwyck Retirement Community in Slingerlands.

She was the widow of Theodore Loew.

Survivors include a son, Jerome M. Loew of Wilmette, Ill.; a daughter, Ruth Loew of Melrose Park, Pa.; and five grandchildren.

Services were from Congregation Gates of Heaven in Schenectady.

Loew's service was held at a later date.

Marilyn Grace of Saratoga Springs; and a sister, Anne Gullo of Albany.

She was a sister, Rebecca man Griffiths of Rochester; a son, James E. Lamprecht Wetzell of Charlestown; a daughter, Cynthia Lamprecht Nutter of Glenmont, died Monday, Dec. 20, at Childs Hospital and many social choirs, played piano and gave piano lessons. She was a secretary and then as a teacher of report writing to Army Air Forces cadets.

She was a member of First Methodist Church of Bethlehem. She remained as honorary member of the Senior Lifetime Achievement Ceremony.

She was the widow of Judith Lamprecht, and five grandchildren.

Services were from the Mount Hope Reformed Church, several Delmar Progress Club, Delmar Reformed Church, from the Mount Hope Reformed Church and Slingerlands Methodist Church.

Mr. Birr was born in Wheaton, Ill.

He was an Army veteran of World War II.

He received a degree in electrical engineering from Michigan State, a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Cornell College, a master's degree in U.S. History from the University of Wisconsin and a PhD in American Civilization also from the University of Wisconsin.


Mr. Birr received several honors including Collins Fellow, University at Albany 1985 and Citizen of the University 1993. He was of the Lutheran faith.

He was married to the late Marcia Rul Ud Birr.

Survivors include a son, Christopher T. Birr of Schodack; a brother Robert Birr; and three grandchildren.

Relations and friends are invited to attend a memorial service at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, 57 Hurstbt St., Albany.

Judith Lamprecht
Judith "Judy" Heitmann Lamprecht, 88, of Delmar, died Friday, Dec. 24, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Vernice Healey
Vernice V. Healey, 87, formerly of Delmar, died Saturday, Dec. 25, in Mount Laurel, N.J.

Ms. Swanson was born in New York.

She was a full charge bookkeeper and retired from King Kullen in Long Island. She later worked as a volunteer tax preparer.

She was a founding member and president of the Westminster Garden Manor and remained as honorary member of the board of directors. She was a member of the Methodist Church of Westbury, and later First United Methodist Church of Delmar.

Mrs. Swanson was born in New York City.

She was a full charge bookkeeper and retired from King Kullen in Long Island. She later worked as a volunteer tax preparer.

She was a founding member and president of the Westminster Garden Manor and remained as honorary member of the board of directors. She was a member of the Methodist Church of Westbury, and later First United Methodist Church of Delmar.

Mrs. Swanson was honored by a proclamation by the Town of North Hempstead in 1978 as Outstanding Senior Citizen and she received a Distinguished Service Award for Senior Citizens of Long Island in 1978. In 2006, she was recognized at the Capital District Senior Issues Forum at the Senior Lifetime Achievement Ceremony.

She was the widow of C. Walter Swanson.

Survivors include four sons, Carl Jr. Swanson of Ropewell, N.J., Ralph Swanson of Maple Glen, Pa., Roger Swanson of Slingerlands and Sam Swanson of South Burlington, Vt.; a brother, Michael J. Landry of New Hyde Park; a sister, Rose Magovern of Garden City; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Services were from Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery in Niskayuna.

Contributions may be made to First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, Building Fund, Route 4W, Selkirk 12158.

Stanley Klett
Stanley L. Klett of Delmar died Monday, Dec. 27.

He worked as a captain in the Army Dental Corps in England for three years during World War II.

He worked in the Albany area as a member of the Alzheimer's Association or Slingerlands Methodist Church.

Lottie Swanson
Lottie Lassell Swanson, 88, of Delmar, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, at Good Samaritan Lutheran Health Center.

Mrs. Swanson was born in New York City.

She was a member of the Slingerlands Methodist Church and Nathaniel Adams American Legion Post, Delmar and Elks Lodge.

Burial will be in Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville in the spring.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or Slingerlands Methodist Church.

James M. Healey of Clifton Park; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

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Services were from Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery in Niskayuna.

Contributions may be made to Good Samaritan Lutheran H.C.C., Activities Dept., 125 Rockefeller Road, Delmar 12054 or Community Hospice of Albany County, 445 New Karner Road Colchooky 12055.
Discovering dance

eba introduces kids as well as adults to world of creative movement

Baum said no experience is needed for classes at the beginner level. She advised adults who are taking dance for the first time to try many introductory level classes to find out which one they are most comfortable with.

"They should find a teacher they enjoy," she said.

Baum added that 90 percent of the learning experience for adults is centered around finding a compatible instructor.

Reminiscence for Seniors also will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday mornings.

The program, sponsored by Albany County Department for Aging, is free for seniors who live in the county. There is a $5 charge per class for seniors who reside outside the county.

Lella Dabby is a long-time dancer who participates in the Reminiscence program for people over 50. As a young lady, Dabby was a professional ballet dancer. She then worked for 15 years as a middle eastern dancer. Today, Dabby suffers from MS and is lacking cartilage in her knee. She finds the senior class improves her quality of life, strengthening her muscles and increasing her flexibility.

"We concentrate on what we can do, not what we can't," she said.

Dabby also said seniors or people suffering from physical ailments can find a home in the regular classes.

"The teachers are all so supportive," she said. "If something isn't physically possible, you work around it. If you can't step right, so what. Then step on your left."

Discounts available

Semester tuition for children is $185 for a 45-minute class and $260 for a one-hour class. Adults pay $95 for an 11-week, 45-minute class and $121 for a one-hour class. An hour and a half runs for $159. Adults who take two classes get 10 percent off their lowest priced class, 15 percent off the lowest if they have three, and 20 percent if they have four. Adults can also pay $777 for open session enrollment that allows them access to all classes on their level for 11 weeks. Carte Blanca is a full-year enrollment, giving access to all fitness classes for 22 weeks.

eba also offers a family tuition plan, where family tuition is treated the same as an individual who is taking more than one class. Ten percent is also deducted for each "new recruit" a student brings to eba.

eba does offer full and partial scholarships for adults and children. Baum said one or two adults and three to four children are on scholarship each session. A letter from the applicant must be submitted to eba's scholarship fund explaining why they would like to attend classes. If a child can't write, a parent may write a child's dictated letter. Scholarship letters should be sent to 351 Hudson Ave, Albany 12202.

A limited number of work-study programs are also available. The work generally includes office or secretarial duties. Five to 10 work-studies are awarded each session.

Class registration for January is open now. Eba will accept new students until the third week of class, but many will fill before then. All classes have 8 to 25 students.

Registration for summer camps also are being taken. For more information, contact eba at www.eba-art.org or call 465-9915.
**Visual Arts**

**NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM**
Permanent collections on all 9 floors. New York State's history and geography. Empire State Plaza, Albany 518. Information: 457-6800

**THE CLARK**

**ALBANY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GALLERY**
New Year showing. 111. A show about magic. Feb. 2. 10:00 a.m. Free solicitation. Information: 242-2241

**LOCAL COLOR ART GALLERY**
Holiday exhibit. 161. Top-Schomcheny Road, Latham, through Jan. 31. Information: 766-6657

**ALBANY INSTITUTE OF ART**
The Greatest Generation Goes to War. Through Feb. 15. plus exhibits on Madison Avenue, Latham, through Feb. 20. Information: 877-7529

**Schenectady Museum**
Extensive collection of American treasures; Egypt and the history of Schenectady. 95-659 Washington Ave. Information: 457-4478

**HELEN CHICOTTE MUSEUM**
Special exhibitions, collection highlights and changing temporary exhibitions. Terrace heights. Information: 587-7890

**Call for Artists**
**DELMAR COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA**
Opening in the string section, selected over the last few weeks. Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at the delmar. Albany Public Library, 161 Washington. Information: 434-5414

**ALBANY TULIP FESTIVAL ARTISTS**
Calling all artists for an exhibition at the 35th Tulip Festival. May 7 & 8. Deadlines for applications March 4, 2005. Contact Mayor's Office Special Events, Arts Exhibition, Hall 3 Hall Roof, Albany. 2027 phone 584-5416.

**FRIENDSHIP SINGERS**
Opening in women's singing group, looking for two finalists and hopeful amateurs. Tuesday mornings at Community United Methodist Church 1405 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands. Information, 450-2380.

**A CAPPELLA**
Now, initial, a cappella group in design, for adults and teens 16 on down. Information, 434-0310.

**Barrel of Monkeys**
Calling all artists for an exhibition at the Albany Institute of History and Art, Washington Avenue, Albany. Information, 434-0310

**MYSTIC MUSEUM**
Preparation celebration for the 911 recovery effort. New York State's history and geography. Empire State Plaza, Albany 518. Information: 457-6800

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**SUBURBAN SOURCES COMMUNITY CHURCH**
Church in a local church, choral. Sundays at 7 p.m. at Lyleford Presbyterian Church, Route 164, Guilderland. Information: 457-4039

**SIEBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**
Rehearsals. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. for orchestra, Wednesdays at 6 p.m. for choir, Siena College, Route 6, Loudonville, Information: 732-2325

**The ORCHESTRA ON THE COMMON**
Openings in the string section, rehearsals Friday at 10 a.m., Shaker Museum Center. Clifton Commons, Clifton Park. Information: 730-5145

**ELECTRIC CITY CHORUS**
Mobile group, open, preparing, rehearsals at Faith United Methodist Church, Grandview Avenue and Eastern Parkway, Schenectady, Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Information, 725-4807

**RIVER VALLEY CHORUS**
School/Community group, based in Schoharie. Rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. School, Route 9, Latham, Information, 450-6492.

**LA MANCHA**
Auditions for 8th Place, spring production. Jan. 23 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Jan. 24 from 7 to 10 a.m., Mother's Wine Emporium, basement of the 8th Place.

**Happy New Year**
**BETHLEHEM**

**DELMA ROTARY** Norman Community Church, 7:30 p.m., Information, 745-2800.

**MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPs)** Christian Fellowship group for mothers of preschool children, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 389 Delaware Ave., nursery care provided, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Information, call Jennifer at 439-6025 or e-mail, info@drchurch.org.

**OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED** Board meetings first Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m., open to public, Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 6:30 p.m.

**BETHLEHEM BUSINESS WOMEN Norman Community Church, Sanctuary, Friday, 6:30 p.m.; dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program and meeting to follow (donation $10).

**SOLAR ROCK CHURCH** every Tuesday and Bible study, 1 Kensington Ave., 7 p.m., Information, 451-0176.

**Village Hall, Information, Temple, Information, 439-7098.**

**Onesquethaw** 439-2512.

**THE SPOTLIGHT** Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7:30 to 9 p.m., program and meeting to follow info@drchurch.org.

**ORRER O.F**

**Tues., Jan. 14**

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 58** Cairanne-Camp CSTY Clubhouse, Elementary School, 247 between 7th and 8th Sts., 7:30 to 9 p.m.

**DELMAR FIRE COMMISSION** Delmar, 7pm, 3:45-5pm, Information, 439-3951.

**TESTIMONY MEETING** First Church of Christ, Scientist, 155 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m., Information, 439-2571.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** Bethlehem Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m., Information, 439-0453.

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 58**

**NEW YORK**

**V.O.]'EMISSIONS LIMITS** 2231 Broadway, at South River Rd., Delmar, 7:30 p.m., Information, 767-3986.

**TESTIMONY MEETING** First Church of Christ, Scientist, 355 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m., Information, 439-2571.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** Bethlehem Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m., Information, 439-0453.

**RINGO** Blankenship Avenue Mill, Post 16, Post 16, Post 7:30 p.m., Information, 439-8919.

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 58** Eason Elemetary School, 247, Delmar, 7:30 p.m., Information, 439-0453.

**BC SCHOOL BOARD** district office, 90 Adams Ave., 8 p.m, Information, 439-9088.

**ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR** Creepshale Masonic Temple, 429, Delmar, 7:30 p.m., Information, 439-2711.

**NEW YORK**

**V.O.]'EMISSIONS LIMITS** Village Hall, 29 Voorheesville Ave., 7 p.m., Information, 785-2062.

**NEW YORK SENIORS** Wogan Community Center, New, 7 p.m., call for information, 785-2069.

**PRAYER MEETING** evening prayer meeting and Bible study, United Reformed Church, 600 Greenfield Rd., Route 9W, Route 7A, 7:S0 p.m., Information, 439-0595.

**FAITH TEMPLE** Bethel Park, 7th St., 7:30 p.m., Information, 796-3870.

**AA MEETING** First United Methodist Church of Bethlehem, Route 9W, Route 155, 7:30 p.m., Information, 439-4779.

**BETHLEHEM**

**BETHLEHEM**

**BETHLEHEM SENIOR CITIZENS** Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 12:30 p.m., Information, 439-6559.

**NEW YORK**

**Thurs., Jan. 14**

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 58**

**NEW YORK**

**Thurs., Jan. 14**

**BETHLEHEM**

**BETHLEHEM DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES** 331 Route 9W, Suite 200, Guilderland Center, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Information, 518-0750.

**NEW YORK**

**Thurs., Jan. 14**

**BETHLEHEM**

**BETHLEHEM DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES** 331 Route 9W, Suite 200, Guilderland Center, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Information, 518-0750.

**NEW YORK**

**Fri, Jan. 14**

**CHILDREN’S WRITING WORKSHOP** Kabler-Bush Library, 15 Rockefeller Rd., Route 439, Delmar, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Information, 439-3951.

**AA MEETING** First Presbyterian Church, Route 439, Delmar, 7:30 p.m., Information, 439-3951.

**CHURCH CENTER** Friday afternoons, board and exhibits at central, 101 Elm Avenue, Information, 439-5510.

**NEW YORK**

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

THE SPOTLIGHT

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The name of the LLC is Direct Consulting Services, LLP. The Articles of Organization filed with the New York Secretary of State on November 19, 2004. Office Address: 1301 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Pursuant to ssNY, SSNY shall mail a copy of this notice and the Articles of Organization to: Patricia Lane, Albany, N.Y. 12206. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The name of the LLC is SHF Ironborn Finserv, LLC. The Articles of Organization filed with the New York Secretary of State on May 10, 2005. Office Address: 113 12th Ave., New York, NY 10001. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Pursuant to ssNY, SSNY shall mail a copy of this notice and the Articles of Organization to: SHF Ironborn Finserv, LLC, 113 12th Ave., New York, NY 10001. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The name of the LLC is Arts District Properties, LLC. The Articles of Organization filed with the New York Secretary of State on October 21, 2004. Office Address: 280 State St., Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Pursuant to ssNY, SSNY shall mail a copy of this notice and the Articles of Organization to: Arts District Properties, LLC, 280 State St., Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The name of the LLC is Autonomous Motors, LLC. The Articles of Organization filed with the New York Secretary of State on June 13, 2006. Office Address: 222 White St., New York, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Pursuant to ssNY, SSNY shall mail a copy of this notice and the Articles of Organization to: Autonomous Motors, LLC, 222 White St., New York, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY


Pursuant to ssNY, SSNY shall mail a copy of this notice and the Articles of Organization to: ALBANY, LLC, 2001 Washington Ave Ext, Albany, NY 12203. Purpose: Any lawful activity.
Notice of Qualification of the Secretary of State (SSNY) to serve as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Corporation Service Co., 97 State St., Albany, NY 12207.

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Finishing Touch Hair & Body wishes you a happy & safe New Year

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