Delmar Dem seeks 46th seat

One Delmar Democrat thinks it's time for a new hometown senator to represent the 46th District, which encompasses Albany County, in the New York Senate.

Political newcomer Charlie Voelker is one of two challengers six-term incumbent Sen. Neil Breslin, D-Delmar, will be facing in the primary.

See story on Page 24.

Take 'em out of the polybag

When Chuck Brouilette was a kid in Albany, he went down to a local store and gave the comic book rack a spin.

"Something he saw changed his life."

See story on Page 28.

Remembering Bellizzi

When you hear Bob Bellizzi's name, perhaps the first words that come to mind are compassionate, mentor, teacher, and of course, baseball.

See story on Page 40.

Citizen Budget Group member wants more participation

By CHARLES WIFF

Spotlight Newspapers

wiff@spotlightnews.com

Although the Bethlehem Central School District has passed its budget, public forums for the next year's budget process are already being discussed by school officials.

The district set up a Citizens Budget Group two years ago made up of community members, school officials, volunteers and students, in order to get a head start on the budget process and have an objective point of view on school deficits.

Although the school's board of education has taxed the citizens group as both beneficial and practical, at least one member of the group thinks the district should make its salary negotiations more public.

John Giordano, of Delmar, served on the Citizens Budget Group both years and plans on continuing next year, but feels that the group is left out of the biggest portion of the school budget salary negotiations.

"It really isn't an area that the school district wants to engage regular citizens on," Giordano said. "About 85 percent of the budget is current and past salaries of the staff. I discovered that there was a 15 percent drop in the last 12 percent of the budget."

Board of Education President John B. Potter, of Delmar, said members of the board take their fiduciary responsibility to the community seriously and point to the roughly 60 percent of voters who adopted next year's budget as community support for their work.

Lytle did acknowledge that about 40 percent of the voters had rejected the budget.

"We realize that 40 percent, and,"

BC maintains salary negotiation procedures

By JARRETT CARROLL

Spotlight Newspapers

carroll@spotlightnews.com

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"We realize that 40 percent, and,"

Town says zoning code ‘too severe’

Change comes amid litigation with restaurant owner

By JARRETT CARROLL

Spotlight Newspapers

carroll@spotlightnews.com

Saying he was "fighting to just survive," Glennmont Alteri's owner Harvey Quinn went to trial over what he called unjust regulations preventing him from having a banner at his business. If he lost the case, he said, he could be facing six months to a year-and-a-half in jail.

Although he could still lose the case, which is currently under litigation, the maximum jail penalty has been lowered to 15 days. However, Quinn retained Albany attorney William Ryan, who had conference with the town justice and a town attorney and "got a concession on record of the court that Quinn will receive no jail time.

As a result of the case, the town board voted unanimously, during its meeting Wednesday, June 11, to amend the fees portion of Section 128 of the Bethlehem zoning code and reduce its maximum penalty from monthly jail time to 15 days in jail and/or a $350 fine per violation.

The reason the town decided to change the code, according to Town Attorney James Potter, is because Quinn's trial brought the staff plenty of attention.

"There is one current enforcement proceeding that brought it to our attention and based on that, we thought it was too severe," Potter told the Town Board after Councilman John Hennessee asked about the change.

After the meeting, Potter confirmed to Spotlight Newspapers that the "enforcement proceeding" was Quinn's current zoning trial.

"You want zoning [code] to have teeth," Potter said. "But ours takes a bite out.""Continuing, Potter said the town has described the current jail sentence as "severe and beyond what the town ever wants to see." But the 15-day jail sentence "per violation," and that successive sentences could be "stacked on each other.

Potter is not trying Quinn's case

"You want zoning [code] to have teeth," Potter said. "But ours takes a bite out."
Two arrested in shoplifting ring

One suspect still at large

Bethlehem police have charged two men with stealing merchandise from area stores, but said an alleged female accomplice who was spotted at the scene has not been taken into custody.

Edwardo A. Carrera, 37, of Glenmont, and Dwight Anderson, 48, of Albany, were both arrested Friday, May 23.

Carrera was charged with fifth-degree criminal possession of stolen property; fifth-degree conspiracy; criminal possession larceny.

Anderson was charged with fifth-degree criminal possession of stolen property; sixth-degree conspiracy; possession of burglary tools; and possession of anti-security devices.

Bethlehem police said they received a call from a department store on Peura Bush Road regarding a shoplifter inside the store, and asking for police assistance.

Upon arrival, the caller, who identified himself as a security officer, was seen waving down the patrol car and told police that he was chasing a shoplifter, according to the arrest reports.

Police were told the suspect was last seen running from McDonald's and across Route 9W to a gas station before heading east.

Initial reports said that two other suspects were spotted running toward a gray convertible.

Police said they eventually stopped a vehicle matching the description of the car in the parking lot of Towne Center Plaza, with Anderson driving and Carrera as the front-seat passenger.

The security officer identified Carrera and Anderson as the two men from the store, but said a third person, a woman, was concealing merchandise in the store, according to the arrest report.

"Upon being confronted ... the suspects dropped the bag and fled," the report states.

Police said the bag was found to be "lined with foil to prevent security alarms," and that merchandise was recovered from more than one store once Carrera and Anderson were apprehended.

A K9 unit was dispatched to find the third suspect, according to the report, but she was not apprehended.

Carrera and Anderson were arraigned by Bethlehem Town Justice Ryan Donovan and sent to Albany County jail on a $2,000 cash bail or $2,000 bond, and they were scheduled to appear in town court on June 16.

Other arrests

- Benjamin L. Meyers, 67, was arrested on fraud charges Tuesday, June 3, by Bethlehem police and the state insurance department.

Meyers, who runs the Meyers Funeral Home on Delaware Avenue, was arrested for allegedly submitting fake claims to his insurance carrier. He is accused of trying to get paid for expenses from having to close down his business, which he said were caused by a leaking roof.

Meyers is alleged to have sent false evidence of payments when making the claim with Harleysville Insurance, according to police.

Investigator Philip D'Angelo of the state insurance department worked with Detective Adam Hornick of the Bethlehem police on the case.

- John L. Weidow, 39, of Cohoes was arrested on May 29 on a warrant from Otsego County.

Bethlehem Police said Weidow was wanted by the Otsego County Sheriff's Department on felony falsifying business records and petty larceny charges and a warrant was signed by Town Justice Bruce Smith in Oneonta.

Weidow was transported back to Otsego County, according to the arrest report.

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State officials blast abuse investigations

Family’s claims mishandled, report says

By JARRETT CARROLL
Spotlight News/spotlightnewspapers.com

The state’s Inspector General released a scathing 244-page report last week, criticizing the way the state’s Office of Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities and the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities handled claims of abuse involving Jonathan Carey.

Klein, who was autistic, died while in the care of O.D. Heck center employees in 2007. He was 12. His death ultimately led to an investigation called “Jonathan’s Law,” which opens up records regarding the disabled who were previously withheld from family members.

His parents, Michael and Lisa Carey of Bethlehem, have been outspoken proponents of the law after reporting signs of abuse to the state in 2006. When Jonathan attended the Anderson School in Dutchess County, and then died in 2010, his body was found in the Niskayuna facility’s care.

The Anderson School is state-licensed but privately run.

Inspector General Joseph Fisch released the report at the state-run agencies on Weedsfield Road. Fisch titled it, “A Critical Examination of State Agency Investigations into Allegations of Abuse of Jonathan Carey.”

The report focuses on how the CQC and OMRDD handled the two teenagers, according to the report. It includes two counts of felony second-degree rape, one count of misdemeanor third-degree criminal sexual assault; three counts of misdemeanor endangering the welfare of a child; one count of misdemeanor third-degree attempted criminal sexual assault; and one count of misdemeanor third-degree sexual abuse, according to District Attorney David Soares’ office.

Heather Orth, a spokeswoman for Soares’ office, said Clevenstine was found guilty of repeatedly abusing the two teenagers, beginning between January 2006 and August 2007.

He was convicted in front of Albany County Court Judge Michael Herrick and originally arrested on Aug. 19, by state police officers, according to Orth.

“Clevenstine engaged in sexual and oral intercourse with both girls,” according to a release. “He directed both girls to masturbate and instructed them how, and also engaged in sexually explicit dialogue by way of instant messages with both girls.”

Orr said that Clevenstine “befriended the family. She was a trusted member of the family and then engaged in a grooming process with both girls in order to ensure the confidence in committing the crimes.”

“Clevenstine faces up to 26 years in prison during his sentencing in July and Assistant District Attorney Christina Calabrese and Shannon Swolfs handled the prosecution of the case.”

JARRETT CARROLL
short notice to handle Rachel's hair.

"We're supposed to be there at 4:30," said Rachel. "That's not happening," I said.

"Well, we need to be there by 4:45 at the latest," she said.

Then we should be OK," I told her. I had to get to the roadwork to cause delays.

"Yes, we're going to make it," Rachel announced. "Let's not be negative.

"Let's not be negative? Was that my daughter shrinking? Doesn't my child learn sometimes actually listen to me?"

We got to the theater at 4:40 and dashed up to the dressing room.

Several of Rachel's costumes had not yet arrived.

I breathed a sigh of relief.

My daughter got into her costume and applied her own lipstick. "Oh, mom, this don't look right." I grabbed a tissue and got rid of the excess red. Then she headed down to the stage with her classmates, and I scooted out to the seating area to watch the rehearsal.

The next afternoon it was a variation on the same theme.

I left work early, feeling relatively relaxed and confident that the evening would proceed smoothly. Rachel came home from school mid afternoon, hungry, and had something to eat, and we took an inventory of her costume parts and other items (socks, deck of cards, etc.) that she would need backstage. Leslie was meeting us at the theater since she was going early to do her sister Samantha's hair. We needed to do so and wait for my husband to finish work. We were all set.

And then the phone rang. Leslie would not be going to the theater early after all. She was doing Sun's hair at their home. We drove up to her house to get done up.

I considered my options: on one hand, if we went to Leslie's house, then we would be leaving for the theater later than I wanted. On the other hand, we would also know that Rachel's hair and makeup would look great for the recital. It came down to: "great hair versus arrive early."

I decided we had to go with "arrive early." It would make for a more relaxing ride. Besides, last year I was able to see some dancer, one of the teenage girls, who took care of the French braid, but it wasn't the preferred method ("hair and makeup should be done at home"), but it was the best I could do.

And then I remembered that Rachel's aunt was meeting us at the recital, Aunt Carol, the one who can cook and sew and French braid! I quickly phoned her and explained that Rachel's hair and makeup should be done at home.

"I thought I did this all worked out," I told my sister-in-law, "but here I am scrambling again.

Carol laughed, "You were in a panic last year too."

"Yeah, I know. Why does this keep happening?"

"You're a mom," she said.

Aunt Carol arrived at the theater just minutes after we did. She had already dressed Rachel and room and Rachel sat down in a chair.

"I haven't done this in about 10 years," Carol announced. I felt my eyebrows pop up, but I stayed calm and said, "I'm sure you'll do just fine. And she did.

I pulled out my camera. "You have to take pictures of me getting my hair done!" Rachel griped.


As I took the photographs, I explained to my daughter that when she was older she'd be happy to have a record of these events.

The photographs capture only parts of the story, the parts where everything is under control. But looking at them may spark memories of the frantic morning and the hours of work. The photographs are a record of the happy event, the smile on my daughter's face, and the hair and makeup got done.
William Francis Conway Jr., MD, of Glenmont died on Wednesday, June 11.

Born in Albany, he was the eldest child of the late William F. Conway and Elaine Rose (Lawrence) Conway. Dr. Conway graduated from Vincentian Institute in 1957 and from Georgetown University College of Arts and Sciences in 1961. One year later, he married his childhood sweetheart, Barbara Butler Conway.

Dr. Conway began the pursuit of health care by following in the footsteps of his grandfather, William Francis Conway, MD, when he became a physician upon graduation from Georgetown University School of Medicine in 1966. Between 1968 and 1970, he served as a captain in the United States Air Force Medical Corps, receiving the Air Force Commendation Medal for his service as chief of internal medicine at McClellan Air Force Base in California. Following his distinguished military service, Dr. Conway continued his postgraduate training at Albany Medical Center Hospital, serving as chief resident in medicine in 1971 and 1972.

Dr. Conway served as assistant professor and assistant attending physician in infectious diseases at Albany Medical College and Albany Medical Center Hospital before engaging in the private practice of medicine between 1974 and 1985. Throughout his medical career, he held many positions of distinction and received countless honors recognizing his service to his patients and his community.

At the time of his death, Dr. Conway was chairman of the infection control committee at St. Peter's Hospital; chairman of the department of medicine at St. Peter's Hospital; a clinical professor of medicine at Albany Medical College; chairman of the board of directors of Our Lady of Mercy Life Center in Colonie, N.Y.; chairman of the board of directors of the Villa Mary Immaculate; and chief medical officer at St. Peter's Healthcare Services.

Dr. Conway was an active member of the Albany County Medical Society and the Medical Society of the State of New York.

He received the Family Practice Education Award from Albany Medical College in 1999; the New York State Police Special Appreciation Award in 2000; and was named Physician of the Year at St. Peter's Healthcare Services in 2002.

"His life here on earth was truly an inspiration and gift for all of us who knew him and who loved him," his family wrote in a tribute. "One of the greatest joys of his medical career was the opportunity to teach and try to challenge young residents. It brought him immense pleasure and satisfaction. His commitment to his profession and to the countless people whose lives he touched and made better was exceeded only by the boundless love he had for his family."

Continuing, the tribute read, "All who knew him understood that it was in his family that Dr. Bill found his greatest happiness and joy.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara; two sons, Timothy Butler Conway of Delmar, and William F. Conway IV; two grandsons; seven brothers, Gerard (Relean); John E., Edward P., Lawrence (Grace), Thomas (Kathryn), Christopher (Valentina), and Brian; five sisters, Elaine Rose Conway, Gayle (Paul) Doppe, Mary Lacy (Charles) Cook, Rita (David) Seymour, and Laurie (Richard) Conway; and several nephews and nieces.

Services were from the St. Teresa of Avila Church in Albany on Monday, June 15, and arrangements were by the McVeigh Funeral Home in Albany.

Contributions may be made to the St. Peter's Hospital Foundation, 319 S. Manning Blvd., Suite 325, Albany 12208.
Future tense

This month, thousands of students around the Capital District will graduate from high school. Spotlight Newspapers would like to congratulate them and offer some words of advice as they shake off the trappings of their carefree youth and think about what they’re going to do next.

Take your time. The only people who treat life like a race are those that want to get it done and out of the way. Those people often become as busy as bees and really boring.

To paraphrase something columnist Mary Schmich wrote in the Chicago Tribune in 1997, some of the most interesting people don’t know at 22 what they want to do with their lives; some of the most interesting 40-year-olds still don’t.

Some of the greatest things you’ll do in life will earn you no money, few accolades and a change in status that only you will recognize. Do them and do them often.

If you have to spend the majority of your time chasing the next paycheck, the next big account or the next promotion, take some time to chase butterflies through an open field. It’s more rewarding.

You can’t retrieve a spoken word, a spent arrow or a missed opportunity. Sadly, regret is unavoidable, so regret the things you did rather than the things you didn’t.

Start saving money while you’re young. You’ll most likely need it as you get older, and if you don’t, it’s most likely because you started saving when you were younger. Remember, most of the stuff you’ll pick up today will be obsolete by the time you’re old enough to fully appreciate what they do.

Do what you love and the money will follow; but get a part-time job just in case it doesn’t.

Buy a basic tool kit and familiarize yourself with it. Do the same with the jack and tire iron in the trunk of your car. A person should be able to change a tire or replace a doorknob without having to pay for it.

As you move through life, if you find that every store clerk is rude, every customer service representative is mean; if you can’t find a good florist or an honest mechanic — step back and take a long, hard look at yourself.

Whether you’re off to college, straight to work, shipping off to the military or plan on spending the rest of your life in your mother’s basement, take these words of advice with you after you’ve grabbed your diploma. Congratulations and good luck, Class of 2008.

Matters of Opinion

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This year, many of the gardens you saw at the Bethlehem Garden Tour were clustered together, making the driving easier and shorter – a practice we intend to continue next year. Savvy gardeners also shopped at the plant sale, held at the library, which did not require a ticket.

Becky Gray’s name was drawn by Mark Hennessey, town board member, as the winner of the Fine Gardening Raffle. The Spotlight is grateful to the members of the Bethlehem Garden Club for their hard work. The club has a member who diligently prepared and graciously opened their personal gardens for the enjoyment of the community: Lorraine and Sorrell Chess, Karin and Craig Donerlson, Dariele and David Van Denburg, Leri and Michael Giacone, Ginny and Dick Rossuck and Alice and Donald Wiegand. Businesses and community organizations also assisted in this effort. We are grateful for the help of Price Chopper; Ship, Coppy & More; the Bethlehem Police and Bethlehem Highway Department; the Bethlehem Library; Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce; Windsor Development Group; and Schuyler Companies.

Members of the Bethlehem Garden Club put in long hours to make this event happen – seemingly effortlessly. Neighbors of the gardens were understanding and helpful.

Attendees on the garden tour should also know that in addition to seeing beauty in our own community, their ticket money goes toward the creation and maintenance of gardens and green spaces in our town. Profits from the plant sale are used for an award given to local elementary school teachers for garden and ecological projects.

We thank you all, and look forward to seeing you again next year, June 10, 2009.

Marcy Cornell
Jan Messina
Bethlehem Garden Club

The Exceptional Situation: Not Time to Learn Lesson

Editor, The Spotlight:

On Sunday, June 1, my 9-year-old daughter was riding her bike around the neighborhood and came across an injured blue jay on Hawthorne Avenue, near the corner of Wellingdon Road. She rushed home with the bird and created a nice home for it in a shoe box with leaves and other items. She then went back to get her bike, which she had left at the scene, less than 10 minutes later and, to her dismay, her bike was gone.

We are hoping that someone innocently thought the bike was available; however, it was not. If you know anyone who has newly acquired a silver/chrome Schwinn bike from the 1970s with hand brakes, but no gears, please let them know that the bike belongs to someone else.

While we would like to teach our daughter to take care of her things, this is an exceptional situation in which she took the high road out of the concern for another living creature. This does not seem like the time for her to learn her lesson.

To add insult to injury, after our great care of the bird, including calling a wildlife rehabilitation specialist, the bird did not make it.

My daughter is saddened on both accounts.

We are hoping to right this situation for her. If you are able to help, please do.

Maureen Powers
Delmar

The Spotlight: Thank you for growing garden tour

Editor, The Spotlight:

Liz W. Wednesday evening, 330 people enjoyed a look at six beautiful gardens in Bethlehem. This year, many of the gardens were clustered together, making the driving easier and shorter – a practice we intend to continue next year. Savvy gardeners also shopped at the plant sale, held at the library, which did not require a ticket.

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We thank you all, and look forward to seeing you again next year, June 10, 2009.

Marcy Cornell
Jan Messina
Bethlehem Garden Club

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Bethlehem Intracube Soccer Registration for Fall 2008 Season

• To Register for the fall Intracube (recreation) season, please go to http://www.sportsSignup.com/bcsconline.start
• Detail registration instructions are available at the club website www.bethlehemsoccerny.com
• Cost is $70 per player if registration is complete by July 10, 2008
• Payments may be made by check or Visa/Mastercard
• To be eligible, child must be a Town of Bethlehem resident or resident within Bethlehem Central School District. Player must be born before December 1, 2004.
• Email any questions to clean sheet_bsc@msn.com

Bethlehem Soccer Club
2009 Travel Soccer

All registration will be done online at:
www.SportsSignup.com/bcsconline.start

June 18th
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Bethlehem Public Library
Community Room
For more information contact Greg Bell
GregBell6@gmail.com
**Boycott beef production**

**Editor, The Spotlight:**

Earlier this week, more than 100,000 South Koreans demonstrated against newly elected president Lee Myung-bak, as his entire cabinet offered to resign. At the root of this massive protest was not a declaration of war against North Korea, a boycott of the Chinese summer Olympics, or even escalating oil prices, it was a treaty allowing U.S. beef imports. Beef production accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions than automobiles. Its insatiable demand for feed grains has raised world food prices to levels beyond the reach of the world’s hungry and the relief agencies that support them. Creation of beef pastures is the key cause of worldwide deforestation, including the destruction of the Amazon rainforest. A beef-based diet requires more than 20 times as much land and water as a plant-based diet with equivalent amounts of calories and protein.

Nutritionally, beef offers protein, iron and some B vitamins, but no fiber, carbohydrates, nor most vitamins and minerals. On the other hand, it is replete with saturated fat, cholesterol, pesticides and pollutants, including occasionally the princes of "mad cow" disease. We should have 100,000 demonstrators marching on Washington to protest taxpayer subsidies to the U.S. beef industry. In the meantime, each one of us can demonstrate our own outrage with beef production on our next trip to the supermarket by selecting plant-based meat alternatives in the frozen foods and produce sections.

Richard Tokarowsk, Delmar

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**Corryn is good neighbor and businessman**

**Editor, The Spotlight:**

The Capital Hudson Iris Society will be holding its annual Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale in the parklet lot at Main Square, 318 Delaware Ave., in Delmar on Sunday, June 22, from 9 a.m. to noon.

We are able to do this because of the generosity and strong dedication to the community of Dennis Corrigan, who owns Main Square. Each year, Dennis opens his space to various community groups for fundraisers such as ours. His positive attitude and cooperation with the Capital Hudson Iris Society enables us to raise money each year for free lectures and slide shows on gardening with iris and other perennials, and to sponsor bus trips to gardens around New York and other states.

Delmar is a fortunate community to have a business owner like Dennis Corrigan, who does not hesitate to enable groups such as ours to utilize his space. This is why we are publicly thanking Dennis Corrigan and Main Square for making our annual sale possible.

Esthemia Matonskas
sale coordinator

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**Hughes Opticians**

**Your Family Opticians**

**Support better Bottle Bill**

**Editor, The Spotlight:**

An updated version of the Bottle Bill (Assembly bill A8044A, Senate bill S.5350) is now before our state’s legislators. This bill would add water and non-carbonated beverage bottles to the state’s Bottle Deposit Law. It would also increase the handling fee paid to the beverage centers so they would not suffer from the additional inconvenience.

ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse strongly supports this bill and urges the citizens to contact their legislators, especially Senator Joseph Bruno (R-Brunswick), urging them to pass this bill. The time has come to clean up the litter of drink and water bottles from our state’s roadways. As anyone who has walked or bicycled the roadsides knows, the scenery is often not pretty. We can do better.

James Edwards, member, board of directors
ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse

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**Renata Lewis**

"Renata went above and beyond our expectations. She educated us along the way. What a wonderful experience!"

**Mike Walsh**

"It is such a pleasure to work with someone so professional, energetic and just so personable."

**Marge Kanuk**

"I am so happy I shared this experience with you. You were there for me 100% and I know you truly cared about me. I am so happy to become a homeowner."

**Sandra Tutshen**

"I find Sandra to be resourceful, knowledgeable, courteous and honest—Excellent qualifications."

**Margret Hazapis**

"Margret Hazapis did a great job. 2nd time I used her and again I was totally satisfied. She’s great and a credit to your organization."
Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

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and environmental benefits

New York State has been working diligently on creating cleaner, smarter, and more accessible energy solutions, and doing so with much success. Under the direction of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the New York Energy Smart® programs are a testament to the fact that investing in energy efficiency makes sense.

“We use innovation and technology to solve some of New York's most pressing energy and environmental problems,” said NYSERDA Vice President Bob Callender. “We believe that improved technology and efficient use of energy can provide financial incentives, test the results of the improvements.”

NYSERDA's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program is responsible for significantly reducing residential energy consumption and bills in New York, not to mention decreasing greenhouse gases that negatively impact the environment.

Through Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, homes of any style or size can be improved to use up to 40 percent less energy. Since the program began in 2001, nearly 8150 million worth of comprehensive energy efficiency improvements have been completed in nearly 20,000 existing New York homes. New Yorkers have reduced their energy usage by approximately 16 million kWh in electricity (enough to power 2,500 homes for a year) and saved 816 billion BTU's of oil and gas. These savings prevent an estimated 60,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions from entering the atmosphere every year, the equivalent of taking approximately 12,000 cars off the road.

“Our specially-trained contractors are accredited by the Building Performance Institute, using tried and tested building science principles to examine how the house operates as a system: testing the efficiency, as well as the health and safety of each home,” said Callender. “Contractors who participate in this program are able to provide financial incentives, and they test the home when they are finished to verify the results of the improvements.”

The Program's comprehensive home assessment applies a whole-house approach. For example, if a contractor works on the building shell of a home, that work would affect the heating system. If improvements are made to the windows, the contractor needs to check how well the home's ventilation system performs. The comprehensive home assessment allows the contractor to evaluate insulation levels, air infiltration, heating and cooling equipment efficiency, appliances, and lighting. This allows the contractor and the homeowner to identify problem areas, and use the information to develop a comprehensive approach to treat those areas. After the work is completed, testing is repeated to ensure that the work has been done correctly and that the energy savings are real.

The number of homes treated under Home Performance with ENERGY STAR has increased significantly each year since the program began. In previous years, the program averaged about 200 completions per month. In 2005, 4,141 homes participated in the program and another 4,800 were completed in 2006.

Not only is NYSERDA's program a benefit to homeowners, it has become a successful business model for the contractors who embrace it, as well as for twelve other states that have implemented their own Home Performance with ENERGY STAR programs.

Contractors all over New York are buying into Home Performance with ENERGY STAR and realizing the benefits of maximizing customer service, as well as expanding business opportunities and profits. Currently, more than 131 contracting firms throughout the New York State participate in the program, and more continue to turn to NYSERDA to learn how to join the program.

For more information, visit www.GetEnergySmart.org or call toll-free 1-877-NY-SMART (1-877-697-6278).
V'ville’s children’s librarian honored

Award named after woman who inspired a love of books

BY SEAN AHERN
Spotlight Newspapers
ahern@spotlightnews.com

The Micki Nevett Sparkler Award recipient Joyce Laiosa said she is honored to be given an award that remembers her personal friend Micki Nevett, the Westmere Elementary School librarian who died in late December at the age of 54.

“Micki Nevett was a kind, dear and generous spirit. I feel love for the Voorheesville Award recipient Joyce Laiosa — • • • •

I am honored to have received this award — Micki’s award,” Laiosa was given the award in May at the Children’s Literature Connection of New York membership banquet at the Glen Sanders Mansion.

Nevett helped to create the Children’s Literature Connection, which brought authors, illustrators and other individuals who loved children’s literature together as well as help to bring children the joy of reading as a librarian in the Guildelder School District.

The award consisted of a $1,000 personal prize for Laiosa and $5,000 donation to the Library of her choice.

Laiosa has planned on giving the donation to the Voorheesville Public Library with hopes that the money is used in the children’s area or in collection development in hopes that it will help young people into the library.

Mary Fellows, the manager of youth services for the Upper Hudson Library System, said that Laiosa is “exceptionally deserving of an award for a ‘sparkler.’” She is both a diamond of great value for the community of Voorheesville in her work at the library, and a shining star among those of us who are her colleagues!”

The Children’s Literature Connection, the organization that Nevett helped found, is looking for an individual who is “an individual in our community who is a true champion of children’s literature — a ‘sparkler’ — someone who excites and inspires others through sharing her or his own great love for reading.”

The fact that the award winner was a close friend of Nevett makes it even more special as the CLC moves on with the award in coming years to help forward the relationship between children and reading.

“We are looking for an individual in our community who is an enthusiastic reader trying to get the right book into a child’s hand. I am honored to have received this award — Micki’s award,” Laiosa was given the award in May at the Children’s Literature Connection of New York membership banquet at the Glen Sanders Mansion.

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limit per person. The $150 cost includes bus, show and gratuity for bus driver. For information, call Pat Gerutzi at 475-0385.

Village board to meet

The next meeting for the Village of Voorheesville will be held on Tuesday, June 24, at 7 p.m. in the Village Office in Voorheesville.

PTA to meet

The next meeting for the Voorheesville PTA will be held on Wednesday, June 18, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at the elementary school.

Red Cross to hold blood drive at church

There will be an American Red Cross blood drive at St. Matthew’s Church on Mountainview St. in Voorheesville on Saturday, June 21, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For information or to make an appointment, call 800-GIVE-LIFE.

The American Red Cross is also looking for blood drive sponsors, businesses, schools and community groups to participate.

To learn more about how to sponsor a blood drive, contact Sonja at 800-514-4319.

Town of New Scotland plans trip

The Town of New Scotland Recreation Committee is sponsoring a trip to New York City to see the Broadway play “Jersey Boys” on Friday, Oct. 17, for the 8 p.m. show. Tickets are on sale at New Scotland Town Hall. There will be a four ticket
Office unveils device for cancer screening

A Slingerlands dental office has added the state-of-the-art VELscope Oral Cancer Screening System to its practice. The office of doctors Wilson, Hart, Baushack and McGarry recently announced the purchase of a new screening device in March and says the technology is key to early cancer detection. Oral cancer affects three times as many victims as cervical cancer and is one of the few types of cancer that has not seen a significant reduction in incidence over the past 30 years.

Recent studies have shown a strong association with human Papilloma virus (HPV), which can be sexually transmitted. For this reason, Wilson, Hart, and Baushack believe that individuals over the age of 18 should have at least an annual comprehensive oral examination, and ideally at every dental hygiene visit.

The FDA and Health Canada recently cleared the VELscope system for assisting dentists and hygienists in discovering precancerous or preneoplastic growths that may not be apparent to the naked eye, and screening with the new system traditionally adds only one or two minutes to a comprehensive examination. As many dental hygienists are quick to point out, is completely pain and discomfort free.

"With regard to oral disease, we recognize the importance of early detection and prevention," said Dr. Joseph Hart. "And this is why we feel the VELscope will help us provide the best care currently possible for our patients."

Oral cancer is typically discovered in late stages, according to Hart, when the five-year survival rate is only 22 percent, but if detected early, the five-year survival rate jumps to 80 percent or higher.

The VELscope system can also help discover abnormal growths before they become cancerous.

For information regarding the VELscope system, visit www.velscope.com, or call Wilson, Hart, Baushack and McGarry at 459-9939 with any questions.

Catch the Reading Bug
Summer Reading registration began June 16 and continues all summer. Everyone registers online; you may register from home or on a computer at the library. Visit our Web site at www.vooreesvillelibrary.org

Mark your calendars for Tuesday evening, July 1, for the family kickoff event for the Summer Reading Program. Details next week.

The Movie Corner
It's new! Our resident film lover and movie critic, Julie Stump, reviews DVDs in our collection. In the movie theatre and discusses the world of film on a new blog. You can respond with your own critiques and comments. Access it at www.wpjmlmoviecorner.blogspot.com or through the Reading Cafe on the library Web site. Some of the great new DVDs in the collection are "Air I Breathe," "Cassandra's Dream," "Grace is Gone," "PS. I Love You," "Sawmades," "June," "Br2 Dresses," "Kite Runner," "Diving Bell & Butterfly" and "Charlie Wilson's War."

Teen 'zine
The Eighth Grade Writing Club at Voorheesville high school announces the publication of its first 'zine - a collection of the poems and stories they have been writing all year under the direction of their English teacher, Susan Podgorski and VS Librarian Joyce Lalosa. Also included are illustrations by members of the group.

Philosophers to meet
Philosophers 101 meets at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18. This is a brand new group; if you are interested in getting in on the ground floor, join them. No experience necessary.

Free speakers
Lifelines Prose Writers meet on Thursday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m. and the Every Other Thursday Night Poets on Thursday, June 26, same time.

Barbara Vink
*All library programming is free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public. Voorheesville Public Library is located at 51 School Road, Voorheesville. For information, call 765-2791 or visit www.vooreesvillelibrary.org.
The Rotary Club of Delmar gratefully thanks our sponsors of the 5th annual Teeing for Charity

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Rotary Gift of Life

Rotary Pure Water for the World-Honduras
Rotary Water Buffalo Project – Pakistan

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Shelter Box, USA (disaster relief)
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Mercy House

The Rotary Club of Delmar also:

- Supports Rotary humanitarian projects for improving public health and education, fostering self-sufficiency, providing disaster relief and eradicating polio worldwide!
- Hosts International Student Exchange:
  - We are hosting Erika Kristiana from Indonesia, a Senior at BCHS for the 2007-2008 school year. Madison Lang will study in Norway and Daniel Gaily will study in Spain in 2008-2009.
  - Provides $750 vocational scholarships. Congratulations to this year’s recipients!
- Hosts a Seniors’ Luncheon, a Seniors’ Annual Picnic, and Holiday Gifts through Bethlehem Senior Services.
- Raised over $70,000 for charity in the past 12 years of our Club’s 51 year history through our Orange & Grapefruit sale and Teeing for Charity!!

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Enjoy music and a meal one last time

If you regularly attend the "Meals...Music and More!" programs, you will surely wish to participate in the last one for this spring/summer season on Wednesday, June 18. If you have never attended, you might want to give this one a try.

Lunch will be served at the First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, 38 Church Road, Selkirk (1 to 1:30 p.m.), followed by a musical performance by Ed Munger (1:30 to 2:30 p.m.). The suggested meal donation is a $2.50 for seniors and $5 for anyone under age 60. Voluntary contributions for the music program are welcome and will help expand the number of performances in the future.

Reservations are necessary by calling Bethlehem Senior Services at 439-4955, ext. 1176. Limited transportation is available, so be sure to call as soon as possible. Bethlehem Senior transportation will leave Town Hall at approximately noon with home pick-up available on a pre-arranged basis.

Join the fun and be part of this enjoyable afternoon program, which is just one of the many co-sponsored by Bethlehem Senior Services and Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. Remember that "Meals...Music and More!" will not be back for a few months, so pick up the phone and call 439-4955, ext. 1176 to reserve a spot today.

Important reminder: School classes end this week, so we will see more kids out on bikes, skateboards, scooters and just walking or running on sidewalks and streets for the remainder of the summer months. So let's be extra cautious and alert while backing out of driveways and driving through town in general. Remember, pedestrians have the right of way.

Upcoming program highlights

Saturday, June 21
- The first day of summer - hooyah!
- Tuesday, June 24
- 11:00 am to noon: "Meals...Music and More!" - lead entry for information.
- Daytime caregivers support group, Bethlehem Town Hall Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. $5 fee per class.
- Wednesday, June 25
- "Meals...Music and More!" - lead entry for information.
- Daytime caregivers support group, Bethlehem Town Hall Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. $5 fee per class.
- Senior grocery shopping for residents of Elmere, Delmar, Slingerlands, North Bethlehem and Marie Rose Manor. For reservations, call 439-5770.
- Thursday, June 26
- Senior grocery shopping

IN BRIEF

Swing dance program to be held
There will be a Capital Swing Dance on Friday, July 11, from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Albany Elks Club, 25 South Allen St., Albany.

Admission, including a 7:30 p.m. beginner lesson, is $15, $12 for members and $10 for students and seniors.

Lupus support group plans meeting
The Lupus Alliance of America, Northeastern New York Branch, support group will meet on Wednesday, June 18, at St. Mary's Hospital, 437 Guy Park Ave., Amsterdam, in the first-floor education classroom at 7 p.m.
Flowers are in full bloom at library

Once again, Ann VanDervort, her team of volunteers and our custodial staff have done themselves proud. Ann is using whites, pinks and purples for the annual plantings this year, and the perennials continue to mature beautifully. We invite you to sit on a bench with a friend and enjoy the flowers.

Summer reading

A reminder that summer reading program signup begins next Monday, June 23, and is ongoing. Sign up at the library or online at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org. Reporting begins Monday, June 30, in the library, Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to noon, 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. We’ve got lots of things going on this summer for all ages — from preschool on up.

Kids in grade K and up can maintain their personal reading logs online; preschoolers can pick up their reading record sheet at the library.

Basking in Books, our summer reading program for adults and high school students, also begins on June 30. Participants can enter a weekly drawing for CertiChecks donated by the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce.

Find out more at the information desk.

Summer concerts

Save your July Wednesdays for our annual Evenings on the Green concert series. This year’s roster: Aged in the Hills on July 9, guitarist Michael Eck on July 16, the Rumble Kings on July 23, and Skip Parsons on July 30. All concerts begin at 7 p.m. Bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Performances will move indoors if it rains.

Summer hours

Beginning Sunday, June 29, the library will be closed on summer Sundays until Sept. 7.

Outdoor bookdrops will be open, and we’re available online anytime anytime. Go to www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org to request or renew an item, see what’s coming up on our calendar, find out what’s new in books, CDs and DVDs, use our databases, and more.

Staff development day closing

A reminder that the library will be closed Friday, June 20, for a staff development day.

The outdoor book drops will be open, and no fines will be charged for that day. There will be no telephone service, but the catalog and many library services are available online all the time at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org. The library will reopen at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 21.

Teen time

Tuesday July 8, noon to 2 p.m.
DDR, Guitar Hero, Wii, snacks and more for grade 6 and up.

Water bugs: Life in a pond

Wednesday, July 9, 2 p.m.

Environmental educator George Steele will show you “who is who, what they do, how they grow and where they go!” Grade 2 and up. Call 439-9314 to sign up.

Evening on the green

Wednesday, July 9, 7 p.m.

Aged in the Hills performs country and bluegrass music.

Free. Rain or shine.

Going buggy

Thursday, July 10, 2 p.m.

Bring a plain T-shirt or pillowcase for a stamping project. Wear old clothes. Grade K. Call 439-9314 to sign up.

Opera preview

Thursday, July 10, 7 p.m.

Hannsöre Wiltt introduces Wagner’s early Italianesque opera, “Das Liebesverbot,” which will be performed later this season by the Glimmerglass Opera. Free.

Summer cinema

Fridays, July 11 to Aug. 15, 2:30 p.m.

Family movies continue this summer’s “Catch the Reading Bug” theme. Bring a blanket or pillow. Popcorn provided.

Louise Grieco
• All library programming is free and open to the public.
• The Bethlehem Public Library is located at 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar. For information, call 439-9314.

Furniture Clearance DAYS ONLY!

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Winifred H. Swann

Winifred H. Swann, 88, of Feura Bush, died Thursday, June 5, at the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Mrs. Swann was born in West Bolton to the late George Wagner and Gertrude Hils Wagner. After graduating from Cohoes High School in 1937, she was married in 1939 to Kenneth Swann and moved to Feura Bush in 1940.

Mrs. Swann helped her husband deliver milk for Feura Farms and worked at John G. Myers Department Store in Albany until it closed.

She enjoyed snowmobiling, attending stock car races and spending time with her family. Survivors include her husband of 69 years, Kenneth; a daughter, Elizabeth Swann of Altamont; a son, Brian; three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; four nieces; and one nephew.

Arrangements were by the Meyers Funeral Home in Delmar, and interment took place in the Jerusalem Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to Community Hospice, 445 New Karner Road, Albany 12205 or to Good Samaritan Lutheran Health Care Center, 125 Rockefeller Road, Delmar 12054.

Patricia A. Wilson

Patricia Anne Lewis Wilson, 57, of Delmar, died Wednesday, June 4, at her residence.

Born in Troy, she was the daughter of Violet Marszeill Lewis NYS and Darrell Lewis; and several nieces and nephews. Services were from St. Augustine's Church in Troy. Arrangements were by Newcomer Family Funeral Home in Albany.

Contributions may be made to NYS Child Protective Services.

Carol H. Wolfe

Carol H. Wolfe, 67, of Coeymans Hollow, died Saturday, June 7.

Mrs. Wolfe was born in Ravena and was a lifelong resident. She was the daughter of the late James and Helen Hogan and had worked for Williams Press for 30 years.

A communicate of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Coeymans Hollow, she was also a member of the Senior Citizens Group and the United Methodist Women.

Arrangements were by Wheeler Funeral Home in Ravena.

John R. Wisner

John R. Wisner, 44, of Delmar, died on Wednesday, June 4.

Mr. Wisner was born in Syracuse and was the son of Mary Frances Hatfield and the late William B. Wisner. He grew up in Skaneatelles and Lake Placid and graduated from the State University of New York at Potsdam, where he studied English and psychology. Mr. Wisner was employed for almost 20 years on the staff of the Widwood Programs, where he helped children and adults with learning disabilities live independent lives. He was an avid reader and an accomplished golfer.

"He was an affectionate son and brother and had many friends," his family wrote in a tribute. "He will be missed."

Survivors include his mother, Mary; and his brothers, Geoff and Keith.

Arrangements were by Townley & Wheeler Funeral Home in Ballston Lake.

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STUYVESANT PLAZA
Sidewalk Sale
Saturday, June 28
9:30 am to 6:00 pm
Anna J. Tuite

Anna J. (McGraw) Tuite, 86, of Glenmont, died Thursday, June 12.


Mrs. Tuite moved to Glenmont in 1990 with her daughters, gaining an interest in gardening, feeding the birds, and continued to pursue her interests in many handicrafts.

She was the widow of John P. Tuite. Survivors include two daughters, Maryanne and Carolyn Tuie; two sisters, Madeline Berrigan and Catherine Signiman. Mrs. Tuite was also survived by several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Services were from Our Lady of Victory Church in Troy on Thursday, June 19. Arrangements were by the Doran Funeral Home in Troy.

Contributions may be made to the Regional Food Bank, 965 Albany Shaker Road, Latham 12110.

Gertrude Heinrichs

Gertrude S. Heinrichs, 90, of Glenmont, died Thursday, June 12.

She was the daughter of the late Howard and Helen Sargent of South New Berlin.

Mrs. Heinrichs graduated from Hartwick College in Oneonta with a degree in chemistry and worked for a number of years as a research assistant for Albany Medical College.

She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Selkirk Fire Department No. 2, was an avid bowler and enjoyed reading.

She was the widow of Anthony P. Heinrichs. Survivors include a brother Charles (Joan) Sargent of Baltimore, Md., two sons, Paul (Jean) Heinrichs of Sunrise, Fla., David (Donna) Heinrichs of Glenmont two daughters, Virginia (Robert) Sprague of Glenmont and Victoria (Terry) Raslon of Scotia. Heinrichs was also survived by eight grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

There were no calling hours and the funeral was private. Arrangements were by the Meyers Funeral Home in Delmar.

IN BRIEF

Summer programs, special events slated in Bethlehem

The Town of Bethlehem Parks & Recreation Department has scheduled the following programs and special events for the summer.

- Pre-school and younger: Little Darlings Play Time, Tidy Tot Swim, Start Smart (new), Toddler Splash
- Youth and teen: Basketball, Much Ado About Theater, Bowling, Musical Stars (new), Camp Adventure (new), Too-West Soccer, Field Hockey, Springboard Diving, Flag Football, T-Ball, Lacrosse, Teen Tennis, Learn To Swim, Teen Volleyball
- Adult: Aqua Jogger, Tennis Clinics, Water Works, Yoga Ashtanga, Yoga Dynamic
- Special Events: Henry Hudson Park Concert Series. Saturdays, 2 p.m. — June 28, Playin’ with Fire; July 12, Kevin Thompson; July 26, Brian Kaplan Band
- Elm Avenue Park — July 4, Family Day; July 10, Zucchini Brothers; July 18, Hair of the Dog; July 24, Youth Theater “Emperor’s New Clothes”; Aug. 1, “Dive-in” Movie at the Pool (Aug. 7); Ernie McHale’s Fun Magic

For detailed program information or to sign up, call the park office at 439-4595, ext. 3, or visit www.townofbethlehem.org.

Greenhouse contract

OK’d by RCS board

The long-discussed greenhouse for RCS High School has finally advanced beyond the budget stage and may soon flower into reality.

The Board of Education approved a $47,536 general construction contract Monday, June 2, for the creation of the facility. The contract was awarded to Budget Construction Contractors, which submitted the lowest bid for the work.

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NYSUT salutes the graduating class of 2008

New York State United Teachers represents more than 600,000 professionals in education and health care.

Richard C. Iannuzzi, President

www.nysut.org
Gift with purpose this graduation season

By ANTHONY J. Lanzillo
Senior Vice President
KeyBank

I f we could grab a gift wish list of high school and college graduates, it would probably look a little like this:

• iPhone
• Sony PlayStation 3
• New Car
• Plasma Television
• Vacation
• Cash

As gift-giving adults, we like to be more practical. Or at least we like to think we’re more practical. Instead of an iPhone, we’ll get the Motorola with extra texting. Instead of the PS3 we’d opt for Wii (it’s fun and good exercise for.us
too). And, instead of cash, gift cards, of course—after all, if kids are going to be blowing money, at least they’ll be blowing it at stores of their choosing.

However, this graduation season I challenge gift-giving adults to be really practical, to think outside the box and give your child, or the young graduate in your life, the gift of a more financially secure future. That’s right. This year, give a gift with purpose. Not sure how? Well, here are six ideas. And while they might not be as cool as a pair of designer jeans, they won’t get holes in the knees, either. They may even help graduates earn more money.

1. Money — According to surveys by the National Retail Federation and Hallmark, graduates prefer cash more than any other gift. However, instead of cash or a gift card, give them a CD that will collect interest if they leave it alone. This will teach them the basics of savings and investing. Or think more long term and open a Roth IRA for them, or offer to match any contributions they make. Whatever they earn, whatever they invest for their own future. If your gift is for a college graduate who has taken it upon himself to help your old alma mater, help them get out of the gate by paying off their first student loan payment, which has an added benefit—they’ll be able to write off the interest paid on it.
2. Education — The last thing a college graduate is thinking about is education. The one thing a high school graduate should be thinking about but probably is not thinking about is education. But financial education, at any age, is beneficial for anyone. So schedule an appointment with a financial advisor for a session with a financial advisor. It is a great way for you to help your kids get goals for their financial future, as well as a reminder that what they do with their money today will affect their life tomorrow. In fact, in a recent interview with the Xerox City Star, a young woman credits her parents’ gift of time with a financial planner for keeping her debt free, financially secure and happy. If a personal session feels too overwhelming, then there’s a financial planning seminar.
3. Health — The Beatles sang: “I don’t care too much for money, money can’t buy me love.” Well, money may not be able to buy you love, but studies show that people who earn more money are generally healthier and fitter than those who are broke. Whether it’s not any evidence that more money equates to a healthier lifestyle, or if looking fit is both an investment and an opportunity, one thing is certain—when you’re healthy, you always come out ahead. So how about you graduate look better and reduce stress by giving them the gift of a gym membership. Lower health-care costs as they get older.
4. Clothes — Whether your graduate is an incoming freshman or aspiring professional, dressing for success when opportunity presents itself is important. For many graduates, a nice suit is the way to do it in style. Stick with a dark or neutral color. For guys, go with a crisp shirt, quality tie and traditionally styled shoes. Girls should get a suit that includes a pair of pants and a skirt.
5. Travel and Entertainment — When it comes to travel, practical, a nice backpack trumps backpack packing. So consider luggage as a gift option. Both students and young professionals travel, and quality travel gear is often out of their budget. If the backpacking spirit is too hard to hold back, and it’s within your means, give the gift of a trip. It can prove to be the experience of a lifetime and it’s better than your grad putting the can’t miss trip on plastic. Tickets to concerts, sporting events and/or dining out at restaurants are other things young people often spend money on but shouldn’t. So helping them out with gift certificates and passes to events can help them enjoy a little more of life without emptying their bank.
6. Books and Magazines — Forget US Weekly and romance and mystery books. I’m talking Money Magazine and Booklist: Get a Financial Life: Personal Finance in Your Twenties and Thirties by K. Lanzillo. The simple truth is that most kids go to college unprepared to make good financial decisions, and they pay the price as a result—a more than $20,000 of combined student loan and credit card debt. The idea is to raise awareness about money, so that when your grad is faced with making financial decisions, they are equipped with the knowledge to make decisions that are in their long-term personal interests. For kids going off to college for the first time, try Young Money Magazine. It’s age-specific, with realistic, easy-to-understand advice.

The idea, of course, is to give with purpose—to encourage and empower the graduate in your life with the knowledge and discipline to build a strong financial foundation. However, financial education doesn’t have to wait until your graduate heads off to camp and gown. Banking basics, such as savings, budgeting, charitable gift giving and managing money (in those instances when you should begin working with your children on an early age, and it should continue throughout your young adults, at least through college. Because if you don’t, they’ll be too busy to manage money wisely, it is the gift that keeps giving, and it will thank you for it for the rest of their lives.

About the author: Anthony Lanzillo is senior vice president of KeyBank and heads the Capital Region Retail Banking team. He can be reached at 518-527-8598 or anthony_lanzillo@keybank.com.

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Graduation Gifts by the Numbers

According to a survey by the National Retail Federation and Hallmark, here are some gift-giving statistics this year will

• 56.8 — The percentage of shoppers who will give cash as a gift. About 32 percent will give gift cards.

• $52 — How much Americans shopping for graduation gifts this year will spend on each present. One-third of Americans will buy at least one gift. The average graduation gift shopper will buy two.

• 20.6 — The percentage of shoppers who said they will give cash to graduates, not gift cards.

• 17 — How many cards the average high school graduate will receive.

• 4.5 — Amount in billions that Americans spent on graduation gifts in 2007.

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Restaurants brace for lean times

Local eateries stay positive in flagging economy

By CHARLES WIF
Spotlight Newspapers

If there's one business that's feeling the pinch of inflationary times we now inhabit, it just might be the restaurant industry. Food prices are soaring due to shipping costs soaring and consumer behavior becoming more cost-conscious. Many of those enterprises that rely on all three to turn a profit would be feeling it now.

While to declare the restaur-

ant industry on the verge of col-

lapse is reactionary, it has defi-

nitely seen decline. According to the Restaurant Performance Index — a monthly report compi-

led by the National Restau-

rant Association — the industry as a whole actually had a slight improvement in April, the most recent month in which figures are available. It was only a 0.4 percentage point gain from March, how-

ever, when the index reached a record low.

Restaurant owners have also reported negative same-

store sales for the fifth time in six months, and cited the economy and inflation as their top concerns.

The point is that operating an eatery is a very busi-

ness, at least on a national scale.

However, some local restaur-

ant owners are resting easy despite the slowdown.

Despite Kalleigh, who has owned and operated Good Times Restaurant in Ballston Lake for 24 years, says that while there has been a change in consumer behavior, business must simply learn to adapt.

"I change my menu from day to day sometimes if I find the menu isn't what they're looking for," said Kalleigh. "I change constantly.

One of those changes is the introduction of pizza to Good Times, which the restaurant hasn't seen in 20 years.

"People are tending to order cheaper dishes, have fewer drinks and tip worse," said Rebecca Schroetel, a manager at the Pump Station Restaurant in Albany, says that she has noticed changes in her cli-

entele.

"People are tending to or-

der cheaper dishes, have fewer drinks and tip worse," said Schroetel.

The restaurant has been see-

ing more customers, however, making their sales on par with last year.

The Pump Station has changed their menu recently, cutting out a lot of bread-based dishes due to the escalating price of flour. Schroetel also said they are considering switching from using increas-

ingly expensive Styrofoam containers, to cardboard and biodegradable options.

Concert series

Here are just some of the free summer concert series in the Capital District.

At Cohoes: Alive at Five: Held at the Albany Riverfront Park at the Corning Preserve. Performances are at 6:30 p.m. Check www.albanyevents.org for a full schedule.

• Wednesdays through Satu-


• Fridays — Upbeat on the Roof: Held on the roof of the Tang Museum at Skidmore Col-

lege in Saratoga Springs. Shows begin at 7 p.m. Check www.tangmuseum.org for more in-

formation on both events.

The consensus among local eaters is that people will still be eating out, and they'll want a more unique experience than that afforded by chain restaur-

ants.

"I don't think we're reading in the newspapers af-

fecting us here in the northeast area," said Michael Bauer, owner of Flower City Thai in Malta. He says that while the cost of food and fuel has gone up, he hasn't raised prices and is still seeing plenty of customers.

"People still do look to go out to dinner or go to a nice eat out occasion," said Bauer. "Instead of taking a vacation, they'll be going out to eat."

Kalleigh said she's seeing a lot more repeat customers these days. "People are willing to take the drive locally," she said. "I'm not seeing as many people coming off the Northway, where I have taken signs up. That business is almost obsolete."

Consumers definitely want an equal experience for less money these days, and that will affect what they're ordering out to eat.

Bret Daniel, owner of the Union Inn in Schenectady, says that "we're seeing a lot of coupons. Business on our spe-

cial nights has increased."

The Union Inn's menu sim-

ply consists of burgers and other "bar fare," and though he recently increased his prices food first time since his business opened, Daniel says people are still look-

ing for a good place to eat.

"Instead of a $20 restaurant, people are looking out for the cheaper options," he said.

The Spotlight
Voelker challenges Breslin on the Democratic ticket

By JARRETT CARROLL
Spotlight Newspapers Carrol@spotlightnews.com

One Delmar Democrat thinks it's time for a new senator to represent the 46th District, which encompasses Albany County, in the New York Senate.

Political newcomer Charlie Voelker is one of two challengers six-term incumbent Sen. Neil Breslin, D-Delmar, will be facing in the primary. The other knows just how tough it will be facing in the primary.

Voelker, who has lived in Delmar for nearly a decade and in Albany for 25 years before that, knows his hometown is on Long Island, Albany for 25 years before that, knows his hometown is on Long Island.

He says he's up to the task of making it his main priority.

"I'm not knocking Sen. Breslin, I believe I can be a more objective person in the state Senate when it comes to Albany County decisions. Sometimes it seems like family decisions are being made."

Running on a campaign of "Democrat Breslin" is the current three-term senator, Voelker said he is running as an "average guy" who knows the issues facing the constituents of the district.

"I’m not knocking Sen. Breslin. I believe I can be a more objective person in the state Senate when it comes to Albany County decisions. Sometimes it seems like family decisions are being made."

Referring to Breslin’s two brothers, Albany County Executive Michael Breslin and Albany County Judge Thomas Breslin, Voelker said, "I believe I can be a more objective person in the state Senate when it comes to Albany County decisions."

Sometimes it seems like family decisions are being made.

On a campaign of "Democrat Breslin," Voelker said he plans to be the 46th District’s full-time senator if he is elected.

"I believe we deserve a full-time state senator," Voelker said. "Sen. Breslin works for a law firm, and that’s fine ... but I’d like to make it my main priority."

Having worked in corporate development for 25 years, Voelker said New York needs to raise more revenue without turning to taxes. Quickly pointing out that he’s "not a pie-in-the-sky optimist," Voelker said he knows the solutions won’t happen overnight.

"Our number one problem in New York is not a tax base," Voelker said, adding that when it comes to financial needs, “We throw a tax at it and think it will go away.”

Voelker proposes having more private-public partnership in order to increase state revenue.

Living and working with the residents of Albany County, Voelker said he is running as an "average guy" who knows the issues facing the constituents of the district.

"I’m not knocking Sen. Breslin, I believe I can be a more objective person in the state Senate when it comes to Albany County decisions. Sometimes it seems like family decisions are being made."

Voelker responded by saying Voelker has every right to run but that having the full support of the Albany County Democratic Committee speaks for itself. The senator said he is comfortable in his re-election bid and that he welcomes the challenge.

Voelker said he did not seek the Democratic Committee’s support; because he didn’t want to force people to take a public stand against the Breslin family when many committee members are state and county workers.

As for Voelker’s suggestion that he wasn’t a full-time senator, Breslin said, “I’m a little part-time lawyer, but I put in 100 hours on Washington alone.”

Breslin’s last primary was in 1998 when Anthony S. Esposito ran against Kim but dropped out of the race before Primary Day.

The senator to represent the 46th District in a primary.

He says he’s up to the task of making it his main priority.

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Honor Roll Spotlight

Bethlehem High School announces honor, merit rolls

Editor's Note: The following students have earned honor- and merit-rolls status as indicated for third-quarter studies at Bethlehem Central High School. Names of students in grades 10 to 12 who achieved merit-rolls status will be published next week.

Grade 9 honor roll


Editor's Note: The following students have earned merit-roll status as indicated for third-quarter studies at Bethlehem Central High School. Names of students in grades 10 to 12 who achieved merit-roll status will be published next week.

Grade 10 honor roll


Grade 11 honor roll

Sree L Adlapalli, Anastasia Alex, Sarah B Ayers, Neal E Auclair, A Barnett, Thomas M Bell, Andrew Bettinger, John W Bossung, Hannah L Braddock, Megan L Brodick, Esther M Buff, Andrew G Cahill, Jessica A Carroll, Mary E Carwell, Margaret L Chu, Lindsay M Coo, Michael J Costello, Marcela G Demesinen, Caitlin J Dole, Michael J Dymond, Elisa G Ebersold, Anne A Fest, Katherine F Fiore, Lindsey A Fitzpatrick, Jeffrey M Fossett.

Also, Philipp J Giarrusso, Jennifer M Griffith, Spencer R Gropy, Molly R Hassett, Rebecca R Himmelbach, Jesse A Hoffman, David A Bunzel, Granados, Olivia Junco, Marie B Kroll.

Page 26 Roll Page
Dear Travel Guy: I was a proud father of the bride last month as we married off my youngest daughter. My wife and I were very involved in the wedding planning and had planned a weekend getaway, having our daughter graduate from junior high without nostril jewelry for two, flat screen TVs and huge balconies. Giant beamed ceilings add to the excitement of a week away. We are thinking of getting away for a romantic weekend, and a beach wedding is an option. We are also considering a beach wedding. We are thinking about getting away for a romantic weekend.

Dear FOB: Congratulations! In today's world, having your daughter graduate from junior high with a ring on her finger is a big accomplishment. And to have enough money left after the unexpected expenses and some thinking have accomplished.

I think Route 73 on the way to Lake Placid might be the most spectacular road in Upstate New York – babbling brook on the right, tumbling waterfalls, the slight scent of clean fresh pine filling the air. On your left, as the road climbs, are sheer rock walls and the reflections of white birch trees on small calm lakes. Bring your camera.

The Lake Placid area is always a little cooler than the Capital District so you can till your days with hiking in the shade of tall trees, padding the cool lakes, golfing or visiting the Olympic venues. For something special try a scenic flight over the mountains or — my favorite — just chilling out at the lake listening to the rhythm of the small waves greeting the shorelines during the day, or the sounds of the loons echoing across the moonlit lake at night. This is a very special place.

At first glance, the Adirondack lodges — some former great camps — seem masculine with hard, cold natural stone and hefty local logs mixed with the intricate woodworking of local craftsmen. But cushioned, pillows and rich oriental runners and rugs soften the feel, and the beds are so comfortable you'll be tempted to cuddle in an extra hour or more in the cool mornings.

But how can you with so many activities and fun things to do just outside your door? Stay in the Mirror Lake Inn Lake Cottage Signature rooms and you'll go to sleep hearing the water lap up on shore and wake to views of the shore and mountains. The feeling of seclusion and views of high peaks are world class.

Ask the Travel Guy

Bill Gering

Enjoy the view from the dock at the Mirror Lake Inn and Resort in Lake Placid.

Just up the street is their newer Colonial House with spectacular spacious lakefront rooms offering amenities like soaking tubs for two, flat screen TVs and huge balconies. Giant beamed ceilings add to the sense of space. Call 523-2544 or visit www.mirrorlakeinn.com for information.

Private cabins on the lake at the Lake Placid Lodge are cozy and comfortable, perfect for a romantic getaway. They are rebuilding the main lodge, which should be completed by this fall. See www.lakeplacidlodge.com.

The Whiteface Lodge may be the best example of modern Adirondack architecture in the northeast with 85 suites ranging from 500 to 4,000 square feet. Each is jam-packed with originality from local artists. Call 800-903-4045 or visit www.thewhitefacelodge.com to learn more.

If you want to try a private estate for a future family gathering, take a look at Camp Bearberry, which is just a short walk from the Lake Placid Lodge. It has six and a half bedrooms, with one of the friendliest great rooms on the lake. With a small beach, your own boat and dock, staying at Camp Bearberry makes everything more alive and fun. Learn more at www.campbearberry.com or call 448-6585.

If you are looking to spend a perfect day with your mate, try waking a little early in the clean crisp air and take a relaxing walk around Mirror Lake. It's just a tad under 3 miles and about a 45-minute walk. End at the cottage for a casual and leisurely breakfast.

Find time to book a massage at the Mirror Lake Inn Spa or the spa at the Whiteface Lodge. Both have unique treatments that will make the day more sensual and relaxed. Find in the rest of your day on or near the lake shopping at the Adirondack Store (www.theadirondackstore.com) or the Adirondacks Arts and Craft store on Main Street in downtown.

Then plan a romantic dinner at Charlie's Restaurant in downtown with a bottle of wine from their extensive list. Other memorable dining experiences can be found at the Interlaken Inn, Veranda, The Fireside Steakhouse or check out www.lakeplacid.com for a complete list of things to do.

It's hard to do something wrong in Lake Placid, whether it's your honeymoon or just a romantic weekend. Restful evenings in magical rooms are always the highlight in the Adirondacks.

Ask the Travel Guy is a light-hearted look at travel questions. Send your questions to askthetravelguy@spotlightnews.com.
Entertainment in the Spotlight

By JACQUELINE M. DOMIN
domin@spotlightnews.com

When Chuck Brouillette was a kid in Albany, he went down to a local store and gave the comic book rack a spin.

Something he saw changed his life.

Brouillette, who had read a few Disney and Archie comics to that point, was transfixed by the cover of a comic depicting "The Flash." The superhero's red outfit with a yellow flash stood in stark contrast to the white paper it was printed on, and Brouillette had to have it.

"I just fell in love," he said.

In the roughly 30 years since, comics have played a huge role in Brouillette's life. Their influence will be on display Saturday, June 21, at the Saratoga Springs City Center, where Brouillette and his brother, Ed, will host their second comics and art convention.

Brouillette is quick to point out, though, that people need not be comic-book aficionados like him to enjoy the show. There will be art of all kinds on display, along with a vintage Batmobile and Star Wars characters, including a fully functional R2-D2.

"If you want to be surprised or delighted by any kind of art form, you should come," Brouillette said.

For years, Chuck and Ed had dreamed of having this kind of convention locally that they could attend (Brouillette, 46, used to pass his comic books down to his brother, who is five years younger and became an avid collector in his own right). Albany used to host conventions at the Egg, but it's been more than a decade since the Capital District really had a big comic show, Chuck said.

So he and his brother decided last year to stage their own. Their credentials extend beyond just collecting comics; Chuck is an artist and used to manage the Warner Brothers store in Colonial Center, where he oversaw a gallery for the company's vintage comic book drawings (or cells).

The stereotype of a comic book collector is "a guy who lives in his parents' basement," Brouillette said. In truth, comics are a sophisticated art whose stories are a little like America's own breed of mythology, he said.

Given his reverence for comics, he and Ed didn't want to take a traditional approach to their convention, stocking it with just comic book vendors or artists.

"I wanted it to be an art expo," Brouillette said. So alongside the people selling comics were people drawing calligraphy and showing off kind of artistic talent.

Brouillette, who lives in Saratoga, figured it was a good location for the convention because it's close to Montreal, New England and New York City. Even so, he and Ed were surprised at just how many people turned out for the inaugural convention.

"It was a big success," Brouillette said.

"We had at least 600 people there," he said. This year's show, he said, will be even bigger and better. There will be a slew of guest artists, such as Rob Granito, an artist/illustrator who has worked for Warner Brothers, DC comics, Disney, NBC and VH1 and designed the one-day special-issue Batman postage stamp for the United States Postal Service.

Sid Couche, who worked on the Harvey Comics character Richie Rich, Little Lotta and Little Dot, will be on hand, along with Fred Hembeck, whose work has been published by both DC and Marvel Comics.

Several local comic book stores will have booths at the convention. The Brouillettes regularly shop at Spa City Comics on Phila Street in Saratoga Springs, and owner Shaun Belisto will bring books, toys and other merchandise to the show. Darren Carrara, who owns The Comic Depot in Greenfield Center, returns, and this year will host a Magic the Gathering card gaming event.

Carrara, who's heard customers complain about the big comic conventions Albany used to hold that inspired the Brouillette brothers, said the lure of the convention is about more than selling merchandise.

"It's fun to socialize all day with people who are into that stuff," he said.

The convention runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the city center. Admission is $5, or $3 for those under 10. For information, visit http://sscomiccon.blogspot.com.
2.30 p.m. Sunday, June 29, presented by students/seniors, and Troy, between New York and Albany, $15. Information, 465-3823.

DOUG RUSH, blues/rock singer, with special guest Stan Rowe, June 5, 6 p.m., Riverfront Park. $10. Information, part of city Arts at Free concert series. Information, 465-2143.

JOAN O'BRIEN, blues/rock singer, with special guest Stan Rowe, June 5, 6 p.m., Riverfront Park. $10. Information, part of city Arts at Free concert series. Information, 465-2143.


KINETIC GALLERY: "Chi-Cha-Burn," through June 17, 711 Fourth Street, Troy, Information, 272-1968.


KINETIC GALLERY: "Chi-Cha-Burn," through June 17, 711 Fourth Street, Troy, Information, 272-1968.


Wednesday, June 18

BETHLEHEM

DELMAR ROTARY
Nassauville Country Club, 7:30 p.m. Information, 767-2935.

ALHIMED'S SUPPORT GROUP
Northwest NY Alzheimer's Association meetings for families, caregivers, and friends. First Presbyterian Church, 585 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 314-7824.

PLAYGROUP MEETING
First United Methodist Church playgroups meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Information, 765-2109.

NEW SCOTLAND

FAITH TEMPLE
Ave. study group, 7-9 p.m. Information, 765-2050.

PRAYER MEETING
evening prayer meeting and Bible study, Mountain Evangelical Free Church, Route 155, 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-2900.

NEW SCOTLAND SCHOOLS
Supervisors call for time Information, 765-2105.

Saturday, June 21

NEW SCOTLAND

PIONEER CLUBS
ForIEEE chapter 1 through high school, Mountain View Evangelical Free Church, Route 155, 3:45 - 5 p.m. Information, 765-2900.

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS
United Presbyterian Church, Route 85, New Scotland, 7 p.m. Information, 765-4218.

Tuesday, June 24

DELMAR

WEIGHT WATCHER MEETING
Delmar United Methodist Church, 36-405 Broadway, 6:30 p.m. Information, 314-4309.

FARMERS MARKET (SPRING, SUMMER, FALL)
Market and Children's activities, 2-5 p.m. on market day. First United Methodist Church, 425 Kenwood Ave.

TREASURE COVE THRIFT SHOP
First United Methodist Church, 425 Kenwood Ave., 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Family friendly clothing and accessories at low prices.

BETHLEHEM LIONS CLUB
Vanadium Country Club, Delmar, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4857.

ALHIMED'S SUPPORT GROUP
Northwest NY Alzheimer's Association meetings for families, caregivers, and friends. First Presbyterian Church, 585 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 314-7824.

CHILDREN'S PRACTICE AND RECREATION
Using the Schoolhouse of Compassion, at the KTC Buddhist Centre, Doune School, Route 7A, 9:30 a.m. Information, 314-7826.

ZONE BOARD OF APPEALS
Delmar Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 3:30 p.m. Information, 314-4314.

BETHLEHEM ELS LODGE 2323
116 New South Road, Bennington, 7:30 p.m. Information, 314-7859.

NEW SCOTLAND

FAITH TEMPLE
Meet at Bethel Lutheran Church, 36-405 Broadway, 7 p.m. Information, 314-4308.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 58
Formed Elementary School, 247 Delaware Ave., 8-9 p.m. Information, 314-4307.

SOLID ROCK CHURCH
1 Kenwood Ave., evening prayer and Bible study, 7 p.m. Information, 439-4314.

CHILDREN'S PRACTICE AND RECREATION
Using the Schoolhouse of Compassion, at the KTC Buddhist Centre, Doune School, Route 7A, 9:30 a.m. Information, 314-7826.

HEALING TESTIMONY MEETING
First Church of Christ, Scientist, 555 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-9250.

KINGFISHER/QUILTERS (SEPTEMBER-JUNE ONLY)
Vanadium Public Library, 51 School Road, 1:30 p.m. Information, 314-7829.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
New Scotland Town Hall, Route 85, 7 p.m. Information, 314-7828.

W'VILLAGE VILLAGE BOARD
W'villag, 200 South Avenue, 6 p.m. (workshop meeting) Information, 314-7821.

Wednesday, June 25

BETHLEHEM

DELMAR ROTARY
Normansfield Country Club, 7:30 a.m. Information, 767-2935.

PLAYGROUP MEETING
First United Methodist Church playgroups meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Information, 765-2109.

PARKS AND RECREATION
Worcester, 200 South Avenue, 7 p.m. (信息服务). Information, 765-2109.

DELMAR COIN, ORCHESTRA
Rehearsal, First Presbyterian Church, 445 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-7740.

AM MEETING
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 36-405 Broadway, 8:30 p.m. Information, 765-4218.

NEW SCOTLAND

QUINTET REHEARSAL
United Presbyterian Church, 116 Old Scotland Road, 7 p.m. Information, 765-4410.

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Classified Rates
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Commercial Classifieds - Line Ads - Twelve paper combo - $20.50 for 15 words 50 cents for each additional word. Multiple insertion discounts available. Please call for information. All line ads must be pre-paid in order for placement. Ads will appear in all twelve newspapers, as well as on the internet for the number of weeks requested.

- End -
Real Estate Classifieds

Real Estate Classifieds

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on 11 acres. Town of Forestport near Buck Lake, camp in need of rehab, all wood- 

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vestment opportunity! Woods, awesome views, 6 miles to Coopertown. NY! Own with 10% down. 887-972-5283.

CAMP FOR SALE

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ned near snowmobile trail. $100,000. 518-727-3529.

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competitive salary, and a 

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mental, disabilities to/from our Day Treatment program. Cnas NY Fcense 

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train. Hours are 7-9 a.m. 

and 2:30-4:30 p.m., M- 

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Ocean City, MD near everything! 2 BR, 1BA, 2nd flr. apt. No deck. 2 1/2 blocks to fabulous beach. Mod-

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429-2312.
Bellizzi

(From Page 40)

as a counselor.

Many of his baseball players from St. Rose at his camp each summer. According to Casey O'Connor, the St. Rose baseball team’s coach, the camp employs about 10 to 12 players each summer both past and present.

It seems like once players had the chance to work with Bellizzi, they took advantage of as many opportunities as they could to continue doing so. Casey O’Connor, for instance, worked with Bellizzi as a base player on his team, a coach at the summer camp, and as a coach with him at St. Rose. O’Connor took over the team after Bellizzi’s death.

“We’re a very tight family, even to this day,” says Casey O’Connor.

“I took the job and... I was very appreciative to keep his [program going] because it was something that was so good, it seems like once players came through the baseball system and taught them about interacting on [them] having a positive and fun experience,” says Kim Bellizzi, who helps run the camp. Campers are broken up into small groups during the day, mostly by age. During the morning they work on a particular baseball skill, and then in the afternoon they eat lunch in the complex, take a dip, and return to the field for a game of baseball or a contest, which encourages light-hearted competitiveness.

After Bellizzi’s death, his family and those he worked with closely decided to keep the camp going along with the St. Rose baseball team, which he started with no baseball field and uniforms.

“He had the idea that he was going to start a team and through a lot of hard work, sweat and adversity, he did that,” says O’Connor. It seems that Bellizzi put a lot of sweat and hard work into everything he did, from starting his baseball camp at St. Rose to starting his baseball camp in Delmar. While a strong knowledge of the game of baseball and strong skills are necessary to play on the St. Rose team, anyone can participate in the camp.

“Even for the kids who weren’t so much the baseball type, they went there because their friends were going and they knew they could have a good time,” says O’Connor.

“Coach Bellizzi was such a big figure and had such a big name, (parents) often sent their kids there as more of a summer camp experience. It was a good time and it was a fun time. I wish I had the time to do it now,” says O’Connor.

Above all, Kim Bellizzi emphasized that the camp is a positive and nurturing experience for the campers—just as all of Bellizzi’s efforts were for his students and players.

For information on Bob Bellizzi’s Grand Slam Baseball Camp, call 439-0695. There’s no deadline for signing up and the camp is co-ed. Sessions run from Monday, July 7 through Sunday, Aug. 10 for players ages 6 through 16, and the cost is $225 per week.

The Bethlem Girls Basketball Camp takes place June 50 through July 5 at Bethlem Central Middle School.

The camp features fundamental skill work and instruction, individual skill instruction, skill and motivational speeches, guest speakers and daily games. All campers receive a free t-shirt.

The cost is $100 per person. Checks should be made payable to Bethlem Central High School girls basketball coach Mark Neelon and mailed to 6 Terrace Place, Troy 12180. For information, call 273-1184.

O’Connor.

He was understanding when it was appropriate (if his players made a mistake or two on or off the field), but he was direct and strict when he had to be.

Bellizzi knew baseball well and taught it well, but maybe what made the biggest impact on Bellizzi’s players was how he taught them about interacting with one another and the world. He was loyal—he always made sure the members of his team had a fair shot at their future. O’Connor tries to remember these values that Bellizzi instilled in him when working with his own players and when working on his own coaching style.

“There are 412 people who came through the baseball system and nobody has a negative thing to say about [Bellizzi],” says O’Connor.

Bellizzi used these same values when working with his campers. In the last years of Bellizzi’s life it was physically difficult for him to move around, so much the baseball type, they could have a big impact on your life... I was very appreciative to keep his [program going] because it was something that was so good, it seems like once players came through the baseball system and taught them about interacting on [them] having a positive and fun experience,” says Kim Bellizzi, who helps run the camp. Camper Rose was broken up into small groups during the day, mostly by age. During the morning they work on a particular baseball skill, and then in the afternoon they eat lunch in the complex, take a dip, and return to the field for a game of baseball or a contest, which encourages light-hearted competitiveness.

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The legacy of Bob Bellizzi

After coach's death, Grand Slam Baseball Camp carries on

Bethlehem Central High School handed out its outstanding senior athlete awards last Wednesday. Awards went to the following athletes: *Megan O'Donnell* (field hockey), *Taylor Reinhard* (field hockey), *Mary Ann Bruno* (field hockey), *Kelly Holland* (cross country), *Kathleen McCall* (cross country), *Briana Geller* (cross country), and *John Sager* (cross country).

The 2008 Bethlehem Central High School senior athlete award winners are, from left, (front) Jennifer Frangella, Christine Murphy, Katie O'Donnell, Rebecca Lee and Matt DiFrancesco; (middle) Boris Vishny, Michael Lois, Emily Barnes, Brenna Filippello, Megan O'Donnell, Brittany Howland, Mason Forando and Greg Weiss; and (back) Chris Stewart, Austin Hughes, Nick DeVries, Will DeRuve, Dan Lanchantin, Matthew McCaffrey, Nate Foley and Tom Dolfi. "Picture credits: Kelly McCaffrey, Michael Agneta, Jeanine Trussa, Corinne LeVine, Patrick Fontaine and Konstantin Stulov."

BC announces award winners


Will DeRuve (baseball), Megan O'Donnell (girls lacrosse), Matthew DiFrancesco (boys lacrosse), Christopher Stewart (boys outdoor track), Brenna Filippello (girls outdoor track), Mason Forando (boys tennis), Konstantin Stulov (boys tennis), and Alex Mccaffrey (boys volleyball) are the senior athlete award winners.

The legacy of Bob Bellizzi

After coach's death, Grand Slam Baseball Camp carries on

By JACQUE SHER

News & Notes

Soccer club states sign-ups.

The Bethlehem soccer club is holding a registration session for its fall recreation and spring 2009 travel team programs June 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Bethlehem Public Library, Delaware Avenue and Broad Street.

The fall recreation program is open to all children born prior to Dec. 1, 2001, that reside in the town of Bethlehem or attend the Bethlehem Central School District. The season begins Sept. 1, and there is a $70 registration fee.

The travel program is divided into age divisions from under 8 and up. Players wishing to participate in the travel program can play in the fall recreation league.

Representatives from both programs will be available at the registration session to answer questions.

Parents may also register their children online at www.sportsignup.com/bcsonline.

For information, visit the club’s Web site at www.bethlehemsoccer.com.

Platel places third at states

· Bethlehem Central High School junior Jake Platel earned his first state outdoor track and field medal at last weekend's state championships in Binghamton.

Platel cleared 14 feet, 9 inches in the pole vault to finish third in the event and take Division 1 large school athletes and fourth overall in the Federation—a combination of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and three New York City athletic associations.

Bethlehem junior Sam Smith was fifth in the state meet; Smith placed sixth among Division 1 athletes and seventh in the Federation in the pentathlon with 3,238 points.

Guilford’s Brian DeLotto and3rd among the Division 1 girls discuss.