Athletics won't see cuts

By CHARLES WIFF

The Bethlehem Central School District will be keeping its athletics budget flat in the coming year.

The school board at a Wednesday, March 16, budget workshop tentatively approved keeping athletics at about $307,000 in the 2011-12 budget, though some members said that could be revisited should the district fall short of closing a $4 million budget gap.

Another $120,000 would be scheduled for athletics transportation. Co-curricular activities (clubs, theater groups, etc.) would also not have their funding cut.

Cuts to these programs were controversial in last year's budget process, when a proposal to cut the indoor track program and several clubs brought a steady stream of protestors to board meetings.

Administrators said the value of sports and their worth outweigh the costs associated with eliminating them, especially given that these programs as a whole constitute just under 1 percent of the total.

Cuts Page 26

Speak softly and carry a camera

Altamont writer releases second book on the natural world

By CHARLES WIFF

Bill Danielson is a lucky man. His favorite place for his favorite hobby is just steps away: his own backyard. There are no hassles, no flowers seem flourishing and burgeoning to the biggest mouse.

That hobby has also brought Danielson 13 years of success writing a “Speaking of Nature,” a column for The Recorder of Greenfield, Massachusetts that was also picked up a few years ago by the Times Union. Now he's releasing his second book, "Still Speaking of Nature: Further Explorations in the Natural World," through SUNY, Press, a decade after his first self-published book.

Like his first book, readers will find a selection of Danielson's most popular columns, mixed in with his own favorites. They're sectioned off by season, so the reader starts in the spring and ends in the winter, and are accompanied by many of his own pictures.

"This is almost a carbon copy of the format of the first book," Danielson said. See Page 25.

New flags fly at bank

A new set of flags is flying at TD Bank on Delaware Avenue in Delmar, replacing the ripped American and tattered New York state flags that were previously hung. The switch was made shortly after The Spotlight spoke to a TD representative about the state of the flags, but members of the community said they'd been complaining for weeks.

Charles Wiff/Spotlight
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League was founded in 1974 by a group of Capital District artists to foster the advancement of visual arts in the area. The league has a membership of over 200 artists working in a wide variety of two-dimensional media.

Church to hold big breakfast
The Men's Association at St. Matthew's Church on Mountainview Street in Voorheesville is sponsoring a big breakfast Sunday, March 27, from 7:30 a.m. to noon in the social hall.

Menu items include pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, home fries, toast, juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Take-outs are also available. The cost is $5 for adults and $3 for children.

The Slingerlands Fraternal Order of Eagles, 11, will hold its 7th annual Blue Friday. Country radio station 107.7 WSNM FM holds the event to honor the officers killed in the line of duty and those still serving. They raised more than $5,000 this year. This year, Blue Friday was dedicated to, and all benefits of the day went to, the family of John Falcone of the Poughkeepsie Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty. Falcone was posthumously promoted to detective by the Poughkeepsie chief of police.

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IN BRIEF
Slingerlands fifth-graders to perform
The Slingerlands Elementary School fifth-grade choir will present "The 1890 Music Hall Revue" by Ruth Roberts, and Bill Kitz, at 7:30 p.m. on April 7 and 8, in the Slingerlands Elementary Auditorium, 25 Union Ave. "This production has everything," said Director Sarah Platcak, "from barbershop harmonies, New Orleans jazz and Ragtime. It's a musical trip through the good old days of the last decade of the 1800s."

In its 41st year, the musical is a longstanding tradition at Slingerlands that caps off the fifth grade year.

Limited tickets will be available for sale at the door for $3 the evening of the performance. Show proceeds will support fifth grade programs. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Pruyne House, Art League to hold show
The Colonie Art League and the Friends of Pruyne House are co-sponsoring an art exhibit at Pruyne House, 207 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, from April 8 to May 3. "Monday Through Friday," from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is a juried show featuring forty selected paintings by members of the Colonie Art League. Many paintings are for sale. Admission is free.

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Slander pairs with local eateries
March is National Meals On Wheels month and Senior Services of Albany has partnered with local restaurants to raise funds for this nutrition program. Central Greek, Grappa '72 or Phoenicians will donate a portion of sales to Senior Services of Albany on Wednesday, March 30.

For information, visit seniorservicesalbany.com or call 455-3322.

AARP to meet at library
Colonie AARP Chapter 2873 will meet on Monday, April 11, at 1 p.m. at William K. Sanford Town Library, Colonie. Janelle Lane from General Eye, Nose, Throat & Allergy Services will speak. Call 459-3400 for info.

Detective Robert Markel of the Bethlehem Police Department hands out a blue carnation to a supporter at DeNooyer Chevrolet on Friday, March 11, as part of the Capital District's 7th annual Blue Friday. Country radio station 107.7 WSNM FM holds the event to honor the officers killed in the line of duty and those still serving. They raised more than $5,000 this year. This year, Blue Friday was dedicated to, and all benefits of the day went to, the family of John Falcone of the Poughkeepsie Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty. Falcone was posthumously promoted to detective by the Poughkeepsie chief of police.

TON HEFFERNAN/SPOTLIGHT

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TON HEFFERNAN/SPOTLIGHT
Most of the trouble I get into as a parent, I think, has to do with the fact that I'm a big kid. I'm not much of a pranster, perse, but I do have to admit that I enjoy a good prank, and I think the tulip organizers feel the same way. I think it goes back to when I was in grade school and started reading comic books.

Just as wonderful as the mutans, superheroes and monsters that populated the front pages of a comic were the gadgets, ice cubes with garlic flavor and sneezing powder that were on sale in the back. This was the Black Market of the elementary school set, the seedy underbelly of every Fantastic Four and Justice League book managed to get my hands on.

There was one problem: I couldn't afford any of it, not even "Why the hell would you want vanilla pudding, your brain is so caustic, you give them a nice, friendly pat on the back and they have a white spot on their hand."

"Then, when you come up to one of your friends," she said with an evil grin, "you give them an eyepiece of a pair of binoculars and told me to get a snack."

I did that one April and no one spoke to me for the rest of the year, not even the teacher, who's back I could not reach and managed to get talcum powder on her backside. At first she just thought I was a fledgling pervert and admonished me to pull off and wouldn't make me recapitulate any dietary requirements?"

"Bacon makes me dance," she said. "Now, down to recapitulate here, I say: If you eat vanilla pudding, your brain would still be able to knit your skull and then your heart will blow up... Is there anything else I should know about your dietary requirements?"

"You'll poison somebody. I'm friends to eat this," she told me."

"You're killing people, I'm sure that too much garlic makes you want to wait until you were old enough to get my hands on it and then patiently wait sixty-eight weeks for delivery."
Man charged with swiping purse

The Bethlehem Police Department on Saturday, March 12, arrested Jose Ramon Baez Jr., 39, of 39 Sloan St., Albany, and charged him with grand larceny in the fourth degree, a felony.

Police received a call from a woman who reported she had left her purse in a shopping cart at Wal-Mart in Glenmont after loading her groceries into her car. She put the cart in a return rack and left, realizing she had left her purse upon returning home, according to police reports.

Police reviewed security tape footage from the store and allegedly saw Baez load items into his car, take choked the victim and displayed other signs of intoxication, police said. She allegedly told police she had been at the Leukemia Kick Off in Albany and had not been drinking. She allegedly told police she had been lost in the hours since the event ended.

Krawchuk admitted to taking the purse. A court date was set for April 5.

Other arrests
- The Bethlehem Police Department on Friday, March 11, arrested Jeffrey Richard LaFontain, 18, of Corinth, and charged him with strangulation in the second degree, a felony.
- Police received a call reporting an unconscious person at Job Corps, at 822 River Road, Glenmont, and arrived to find a victim who had allegedly been "choked out" by LaFontain. The victim was treated by Albany County Paramedics and Bethlehem EMS, and was transported to Albany Medical Center for treatment. Several witnesses said LaFontain had choked the victim and upon regaining consciousness the victim wanted to press charges, according to arrest reports.
- LaFontain was arraigned and given a bail of $5,000, with a preliminary hearing scheduled for March 14.
- The Bethlehem Police Department on Saturday, March 12, arrested Kristina Marie Krawchuk, 40, of 54 Silver Creek Road, Selkirk, and charged her with DWI.
- Police said at about 3 a.m. a call was received from the Coeymans Police Department to be on the lookout for a gray Nissan with front end damage on Route 9W. Shortly thereafter, a patrol on 9W was flagged down by a person who reported seeing a Nissan Versa driving on three wheels and an exposed rim in the area of Wemple Road. Police found tire gouges in the road there, and followed them to Silver Creek Road and Krawchuk's residence, where she was standing in the driveway surveying the damage to her car, according to police.
- Krawchuk had the odor of alcohol on her breath and displayed other signs of intoxication, police said. She allegedly told police she had been at the Leukemia Lymphoma Kick Off in Albany and had not been drinking. She allegedly told police she had been lost in the hours since the event ended.

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Guilderland fire

On Wednesday, March 16, at 7:15 a.m., the Westmore Fire Department responded to a suspected electrical fire at 9 York Road in Guilderland. Firefighters were able to get the blaze under control within 20 minutes after the arrival of the first units. The fire was primarily contained to a first-floor bedroom with associated smoke, water and related damage to other areas of the home. One fire fighter was transported to an area hospital for unspecified injuries. The cause and origin of the fire is currently under investigation. Firefighters from Guilderland, McKownville, North Bethlehem and Fort Hunter fire departments assisted.

www.Spotlightnews.com

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For the latest news in your community, visit www.Spotlightnews.com
An open letter to parents of disabled children... 

by KIMBERLY TAYLOR

The author is a Selkirk resident and a parent of a special needs child.

Reading a previous article about autism made me think about my son — who has Down syndrome and autism. His name is Nicholas. Nicholas is 9 years old and non-verbal. We are very lucky that he attends Wildwood School. The staff who work there are very patient and special people who put forth a great effort to help our disabled children.

While most people would probably categorize Nicholas as "low-functioning," I prefer to have a more optimistic attitude. For such labeling can result in a child being a self-fulfilling prophecy. Low expectations yield... well, low expectations.

As a parent of a special needs child, I feel it is important to remember other parents and caregivers of children with similar functions as well. It is important to have a "little engine that could" attitude in regards to disabled children. If you think your child will never do something, be she or he most certainly will never accomplish that task. If you think your child "may" do something, at least the child has a chance. Remember, the "little engine that could," repeatedly said "I think I can." That positive attitude is key, for hope springs eternal. I may be an optimist, but as far as my son goes I would certainly rather look at the glass of life being half full rather than half empty.

My son is not potty trained yet, but I am working on it. If I didn't give my son my opportunities to succeed, he won't. I know it is frustrating and embarrassing when you have a disabled child as it may seem that failures abound, and success can seem elusive. But for those of us with disabled children, we have to put the pace and take little steps.

Those little steps can actually be a gift and allow us to appreciate life in a way many others cannot. For example, having a disabled child, I greatly value the health and successes of my other son, who is not disabled, in a way many others may just take for granted.

Thanks to the staff at Wildwood School, Nicholas has been exposed to recreational activities, such as swimming, tricycle riding, roller skating, and bowling. While he requires a great deal of assistance to attempt such tasks, I am grateful that he is given the opportunity to try different things. Thank goodness the people at Wildwood School have the "I think I can" attitude.

While I haven't yet enrolled Nicholas in one of the local programs offered by S.T.R.I.D.E or the Town of Bethlehem's SAFE (Sports Are For Everyone) program, I applaud these programs matter because as many say "what might have been." When this happens, give yourself 30 seconds, and get over it — you have a beautiful child to raise.

Point of View

Having a disabled child, it is possible to feel sorry for yourself from time to time with thoughts of "what might have been." When this happens, give yourself 30 seconds, and get over it — you have a beautiful child to raise.

Weekly poll

The Bethlehem Central School District has chosen to maintain the funding for its extra curricular activities, claiming that, at less than 1 percent of the budget and with a majority of students participating, it's money well spent (A position we happen to agree with, see left). So our question is:

Do you think extra curricular activities are worth the investment by the district? Log on to www.spotlightnews.com to cast your vote.

Last week's poll results:

- Question: "Is your government transparent?"
  - Crystal clear: The public knows about everything they do: 17%
  - Not so much: They could stand to be a little more forthcoming: 31%
  - Black as pitch: There is so much that goes on behind closed doors, I'm surprised they even meet in public: 51%

The mission of Community Media Group LLC is to be a vibrant, responsive and indispensable voice of news connecting and strengthening our communities in the unique communities we serve. We believe in a philosophy that high quality community newspapers, specialty publications and websites are the "newspaper of the future".
Kudos to Bethlehem board for instituting smoke-free parks

Editor, The Spotlight:
The Bethlehem Town Board is to be commended for acting to protect its residents from the dangers of secondhand tobacco smoke by making town parks smoke-free.

This new policy will not only protect park patrons from secondhand smoke but send a clear message to our youth that smoking is an unhealthy habit of which they should steer clear.

Secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance; it's deadly. The State Department of Health estimates that 2,500 New Yorkers die each year from secondhand smoke. What's more, the US Surgeon General has warned that there is no safe level of exposure.

With recent reports showing that the smoking rate among New York youth has stopped falling, it's more important than ever to enact strong policies that desensitize smoking and set a positive example for the next generation.

Creating more smoke-free public spaces, as the Town of Bethlehem has done, will help drive the behavior change that will save lives.

Traci Berlin, MD
Board Chair
American Lung Association in New York, Albany

Town now a healthier place

Editor, The Spotlight:
Kudos to the Bethlehem town board for passing an ordinance creating tobacco-free town parks and playgrounds.

Bethlehem is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. In addition to its sense of community, great schools and charm, it is now a healthier place for residents to enjoy the outdoors. It is encouraging that our local government can have the foresight to protect the health and well-being of its citizens.

Thank you for stepping up.

Jeri Rosenman
Delmar

Thank you Bethlehem Highway Dept.

Editor, The Spotlight:
This has been a long, hard winter here in the Town of Bethlehem. I am reminded of one of the reasons I choose to live here in the town—the Highway Department. The Town Highway Department workers have done an admirable job plowing and clearing an incredible amount of snow. They work long hours, and should be commended for their dedication and commitment to excellence.

Please learn from the police blotter

Editor, The Spotlight:
Week after week I read with disgust and outrage about the many DWIs on the Town roads. But even the least familiar with the news is aware of the dangers of drunk driving.

Who do these drivers think they are putting in peril all of our lives and those we love, not to mention their own lives and their families? It is maddening that they don't get themselves and their cars under control.

The daughter of a dear friend, who was newly married and pregnant with the family's first grandchild, was killed by a drunk driver who had been throwing empty beer cans out the window for dozens of miles on the highway. I've seen my friend suffer enormously for 30 years.

Susan Morse
Delmar

Close Clarksonville for the sake of its students

Editor, The Spotlight:
I am a Clarksonville Elementary parent who is very saddened that our current budget crisis perhaps means closing our school.

My family has had the pleasure of working with the most amazing teachers and support staff at Clarksonville. I would, however, like the Board of Education and community to be aware of special situations at Clarksonville which must be considered and rectified if the school is to remain open.

We currently have 11 classes that are overcrowded. Next year we will have nine. A year from September we will have eight. Each year we will be forced to say goodbye to teachers whom we love. This is heartbreaking for all involved.

One of my children is in a grade made up of only 24 students. They will remain together for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. There will be no opportunity to separate behavior problems.

There will be no opportunity to make new friends. Eventually, these 24 will move on to the large middle school knowing far fewer children than other Bethlehem 6th graders.

With only eight classes in a school, we will find it increasingly harder to adequately fundraise. An event such as an author's visit will be quite a challenge to fund. We will also have far fewer families to call on to organize special events at school such as the science fair or enrichment program.

Perhaps the most unsettling is the fact that Clarksonville students will be disproportionately placed in combination classes. While these types of classes may be found in all elementary schools, they will be present far more frequently at Clarksonville.

While our teachers can certainly rise to the occasion and address the added challenges faced with such a configuration it is fair that we routinely ask them to do so? As a former elementary teacher, I can tell you preparing for state testing is challenging enough.

Now we will be asking our teachers to continually be responsible for two grades, two different sets of exams and prepare two different age groups for each.

If Clarksonville is to remain open, the above concerns will not go away. When making your decision regarding Clarksonville's future please consider addressing these pressing issues. It is not too soon to keep the school open. It must also remain viable.

May Saunder
Clarksville

Got views?

Spotlight Newspapers welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing and should be contained to 300 words.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Spotlight Newspapers reserves the right to limit the number of letters published from a single author.

Submissions can be e-mailed to news@spotlightnews.com.

The deadline for all letters is noon Friday prior to publication.

Spotlight Newspapers also welcomes longer opinion pieces for the Point of View section.

For information on submitting a Point of View, e-mail news@spotlightnews.com or call 439-4949.

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Night games back on at BC

Board reverses 2-year-old decision

Night games will once again be played next year in the Bethlehem Central School District, assuming a tentative decision by the Board of Education is upheld in the final budget.

The school board voted 6-1 on Wednesday, March 16, to reverse a controversial move made two years ago to suspend games under the lights.

On Wednesday, Superintendent Michael Tehabano said that decision was "a stupid mistake." "I think cutting the night games does have a serious impact on the community," he said.

This past season, the Bethlehem football booster club raised the money to pay the extra costs of having the homecoming game played at night.

Moving the handful of football and other sports games played under the lights was intended to save about $15,000. That money accounts not only for the cost of running the lights, but of increased chaperone and police presence at the games. Having games in the daytime has contributed to a lower turnout and decreased ticket sales, making the savings less significant.

R o a d member Laura Bierman, who cast the dissenting vote, said concerns over rowdy behavior at night events were a big part of the decision. "When we decided not to do the night games it was not just a financial reason," she said.

Since then, the district has instituted a policy that requires students under grade nine to be accompanied by an adult when attending an athletic game.

The school board is expected to finalize all its budget decisions on April 6, the 2011-12 budget adoption date.

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Land group reaches out to kids

**MHLC seeks to involve more youths through forest adoption program**

As spring approaches, a local land conservation group is hoping a new program will connect kids with the outdoors in new ways.

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) was recently awarded two grants totaling $33,600 from the state Land Trust Alliance that will hopefully allow it to greater increase the public's use of its land holdings.

One grant will be used to create access and expand possible usage of the group's 287-acre Clarksville preserve at Wolf Hill. Right now, the public can't access the property, but with the grant money, MHLC Executive Director Jill Knapp hopes to have the area open for use by the end of the year.

A second grant will expand the use of already existing conservation areas. The conservancy hopes to create an Adopt a Forest Lot program, whereby youth groups can take "ownership" of a small section of a nature preserve and thereby enjoy the whole property, as well.

"There's been an awful lot of publicity lately about how kids are not getting out into nature... so we're trying to encourage more contact with nature," Knapp said.

The conservancy hopes to target the program toward groups in the City of Albany that may not have many opportunities for outdoor recreation. To that end, the effort will be focused on the MHLC's Normanskilr preserve property and the new Schiffedeker preserve (located behind Walmart in Glenmont) due to the proximity to the city.

Allowing groups to take a 2- or 3-acre section of the preserves to maintain could help create a sense of ownership for the youths, Knapp said, and hopefully foster a respect for the importance of open space. The kids can also, of course, take advantage of all the uses the preserves already provide.

"A lot of it just might be fun, to be out there in the woods and hiking," Knapp said.

The Schiffedeker preserve is not yet open to the public; it's 23.39 acres, it holds a stream and interesting beaver activity, said Knapp, and the conservancy hopes to have it open by the end of April.

For more information of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, visit the website at http://www.mohawkhudson.org.

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Bethlehem looks to update zoning code

**The Town of Bethlehem is undergoing a process to update its zoning code.**

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) was recently awarded two grants totaling $33,600 from the state Land Trust Alliance that will hopefully allow it to greater increase the public's use of its land holdings.

One grant will be used to create access and expand possible usage of the group's 287-acre Clarksville preserve at Wolf Hill. Right now, the public can't access the property, but with the grant money, MHLC Executive Director Jill Knapp hopes to have the area open for use by the end of the year.

A second grant will expand the use of already existing conservation areas. The conservancy hopes to create an Adopt a Forest Lot program, whereby youth groups can take "ownership" of a small section of a nature preserve and thereby enjoy the whole property, as well.

"There's been an awful lot of publicity lately about how kids are not getting out into nature... so we're trying to encourage more contact with nature," Knapp said.

The conservancy hopes to target the program toward groups in the City of Albany that may not have many opportunities for outdoor recreation. To that end, the effort will be focused on the MHLC's Normanskilr preserve property and the new Schiffedeker preserve (located behind Walmart in Glenmont) due to the proximity to the city.

Allowing groups to take a 2- or 3-acre section of the preserves to maintain could help create a sense of ownership for the youths, Knapp said, and hopefully foster a respect for the importance of open space. The kids can also, of course, take advantage of all the uses the preserves already provide.

"A lot of it just might be fun, to be out there in the woods and hiking," Knapp said.

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**MHLC executive director**

**Jill Knapp**

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**Charles WijJ**

"I think cutting the night games does have a serious impact on the community," he said.

This past season, the Bethlehem football booster club raised the money to pay the extra costs of having the homecoming game played at night.

Moving the handful of football and other sports games played under the lights was intended to save about $15,000. That money accounts not only for the cost of running the lights, but of increased chaperone and police presence at the games. Having games in the daytime has contributed to a lower turnout and decreased ticket sales, making the savings less significant.

R o a d member Laura Bierman, who cast the dissenting vote, said concerns over rowdy behavior at night events were a big part of the decision. "When we decided not to do the night games it was not just a financial reason," she said.

Since then, the district has instituted a policy that requires students under grade nine to be accompanied by an adult when attending an athletic game.

The school board is expected to finalize all its budget decisions on April 6, the 2011-12 budget adoption date.

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**Jill Knapp**

MHLC executive director

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Bank plans to keep Shoe Dept building

Planning Board also mulls N. Bethlehem subdivision that would contain three housing types

By Charles Wilf

Developers looking to locate a Berkshire Bank branch at the site of the former Saratoga Shoe Dept on Delaware Avenue in Saratoga Springs have altered their plans to include preservation of the existing structure.

Columnia Development had approached the town last September with plans to level the building and build a new one containing a bank branch and two other small retail spaces.

Town planners at the time had concerns about traffic flow through the parking lot and the fact the proposed building would be set back from the street. The Delaware Avenue Corridor Study, focuses on the importance of having buildings close to the road, without parking space between the business and Delaware, and builders in this area have been pressed to submit plans that conform to that vision.

The Shoe Dept building, still have to undergo renovations, including the addition of drive-through teller and ATM lanes on the eastern side of the building. The front facade of the building would most likely be retained, though.

"When we got over to the building, we discovered there was some pretty interesting architectural features," said project architect Jim Coleman of Montgomery when speaking of the brick arches.

The plan also eliminates an entrance from Delaware Avenue on to the property.

All traffic would enter the parking lot from Groesbeck Place.

Members of the Planning Board, when reviewing the application on Tuesday, March 15, were generally supportive of the change, mainly bringing up questions about landscaping along the sidewalk.

Chairman George Leveille said meeting the zoning requirements and corridor study goals is a difficult proposition.

"It seems to me we're creating a tradeoff between building something new or maintaining something old," he said. "It's a balancing act here, we understand that." The application was tabled.

Subdivision questioned

There was significant discussion at the March 15 meeting of the Bethlehem Planning Board about what form a proposed North Bethlehem subdivision should take.

Developer Fiske Construction wants to build a six-story, 60-unit, density-controlled, on-site, 50 percent owner-occupied, 70 percent rental, $200,000,000 subdivision, near the Indian Hills subdivision, which consists of conventional, four-bedroom home types, the new subdivision would be a multiple housing type.

Proposed are nine homes of around 2,500 square feet (such as in Indian Hills), 20 "cottage" style homes (smaller, two-bedroom units that are also commonly called bungalows) and 10 townhomes.

Francis Bossolini, of Ingalls and Associates, said the market for larger homes has fallen off in recent years.

"It gives us a little more opportunity to have a variety of housing types with potential sales," said Bossolini, also noted that many of the open space would have been undevelopable anyway since they contain steep slopes or wetlands.

"We want to make sure that the quality of the open space protection is evident," he said.

Bossolini also offered that the development could provide a good opportunity for residents in the Indian Hills area to access the town police park on the other side of Russell Road. He proposed a foot path that would follow a National Grid power line, which bisects the project area, and said this would really formalize a de facto route residents already use.

Town planners questioned whether the company would retain an easement, through.

"It don't think NiMo would be particularly receptive to putting a hike or any of those power lines," said Town Planner Jeffrey Lipinsky.

The board also questioned that, near by residents also be included in the discussion. The application was tabled.

Talk to examine NY's role in war

The Historical Society of the Town of Colonie will host Robert W. Arnold Jr.'s presentation, "Let Those Others Do the Dogs of War: New York in the American Civil War" on Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m. at the Town of Colonie Library, 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville.

New York supplied more men, money and material, in the Civil War than any other state North or South, but New Yorkers responded to the Civil War in part by organizing and funding their own victories.

Concentrating on the home front, this presentation will examine a sample of those responses. It will look at the social costs of the war as they played out in the farms and cities of the Empire State, in families, workplaces and neighborhoods and the transition that went with it from an era of reform to the Gilded Age.

Arnold is a career public historian retired from the New York State Archives. He serves as Commissioner of Historic Resources for the City of Albany and teaches history at both the College of Saint Rose and Siena College.

The event is free. For more information contact Kevin Frank at Town of Colonie historian, at 782-2593 or franklin@dco.com.

Singer Gordon Bok to perform

Old Songs will present Maine folk singer Gordon Bok in concert on Friday, April 8 at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at 32 South Main St., Voorheesville. Tickets are $20 and may be reserved by calling Old Songs at 765-2815 or online at www.oldsongs.org.

Pine Bush walk and potluck

Join the Friends of the Pine Bush Community on Sunday, April 3 at 7 p.m. for an outdoor walk to search for the American Woodcock, the aerial acrobat of the winged world. The free program is part of the Friends Annual Meeting that begins with a Pot Luck Dinner at 6 p.m. at the Discovery Center, 195 New Karner Road, Albany. Reservations are required by March 31 for the program and the optional dinner. Call the Discovery Center at 518-0555. Bring binoculars, a dish to pass and a friend. A short annual business meeting will precede the program. For more information about the Pine Bush please visit www.albanypinebush.org.

William J. Cromie, MD

Premier Sponsor:

Funds raised will benefit the newly established William J. Cromie, MD Pediatric Urology Research Fund to support educational programs and research in our region to further the care of children with urological problems.

RSVP by April 1, 2011

For event and donation information contact info@mrrfn.org or call 518.262.6748.

Scientific Symposium: 2 - 5:00pm
Place: Fort Orange Club
Dinner Event: 6:00pm
Place: Franklin Plaza Ballroom Business Attire/$150 per person

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Gourmet Dual Plated Entree
Live Music

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Your Money Has A Story is a service mark of Gary Barkman

In Brief

The Spotlight

March 23, 2011 - Page 9
Saratoga Springs will resume management and maintenance of the East and West Side Recreation Fields effective April 1 after the City Council voted to enter into a 10-year agreement with Saratoga Springs City School District at the Tuesday, March 15, meeting.

The agreement will also be voted on by the school board on March 22.

The proposed agreement, from April 1, 2011, through Dec. 31, 2020, states that the school district will pay the city annual fees for operations and capital improvements ranging from $130,000 in the first year to $150,000 in the final year, according to Johnson. That fee is an increase from the $78,000 the school district paid under the previous agreement, a number Johnson said was well below what it actually cost the city to maintain the fields.

"The city will resume its maintenance responsibilities that have been in place since at least 1978, but at a compensation level that we as a city felt was needed and more in line with what our costs actually are to provide this service," said Johnson.

The fields are owned by the school district, but were managed and maintained by the city from 1978 until January of this year, when the school district assumed the responsibility.

"Through our conversations with our own staff and with city officials, we concluded it's in the best interest of the community and the school district to enter into a long-term agreement with the city," said Janice White, superintendent of schools in a statement. "The city's leadership in recreation will continue and we are confident that the needs of the school district will be best served as a result of this agreement."

Through a detailed cost analysis, school district officials determined that the annual fees the school district will pay the city are well below what it would cost the city to maintain the fields.

"We do not appeal and let this decision stand as is, appeal to Saratoga County Supreme Court or enter into any further attempts of this or any group of not having paid the fine and said it's In the best interest of the city to go ahead and pay the note or budget, should they see to later change our form of government," said Johnson. "It would unfairly expose our city to fiscal instability in the future.".

The cost to perfect the appeal would be around $10,000 and that funding would come out of the city's general fund budget line. That number is down from the previous estimate of $100,000 effective in March, 2011.

Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Scricco announced that the city and the East and West Side fields, "The New York Conference of Mayors, a state-wide organization of prestige, voted to join with us in the appeal and also argue in support of our position that the initial filing was deficient," said Johnson. "The city is not paying any of the conference anything in exchange for their joining the appeal.".

Johnson reaffirmed his stance that not appealing would be doing a disservice to residents saying:

"We do not appeal and let this decision stand as is, appeal to Saratoga County Supreme Court or enter into any further attempts of this or any group of not having paid the fine and said it's In the best interest of the city to go ahead and pay the note or budget, should they see to later change our form of government."
Municipalities max out salt budgets

It has been a tough winter for many, but local municipalities are hurting over the amount of salt that's been used to combat the tough conditions this treacherous weather can bring.

Areas such as Colonie, Glensville and Clifton Park have had to use a significant amount of salt on the roads to protect drivers from things such as ice and packed snow after a light snowfall. Coming on top of that, Colonie Department of Public Works Commissioner Jack Cunningham said the town has used 13,000 tons of salt, which equates to 26 million pounds.

"This year, we increased the salt budget, which contains three components, primarily salt, then sand and liquid calcium," he said. "We use the salt to keep melting the ice between eight degrees Fahrenheit. It stops melting under that, which is where we use the liquid calcium."

The increase in the budget went from $550,000 for the 2009-10 fiscal year to $650,000 for the 2010-11 fiscal year. But on Monday, March 7, the town went over its budget by $38,000. "This comes after the snow plows have spread salt across town nearly 60 times, adding up to 43,000 miles of salt.

There is also some precasting done on some of the roads with not a lot of heavy traffic, which allows the town not to plow right away and clean up some of the snow more quickly. "It helps us in our snow removal effort," he said. "Cunningham said Colonie has enough salt in its barn for only two similar events to the storm on March 7.

Up north in Clifton Park, Rich Kukuk, superintendent of highways, said last year in January, the town had only used 2,000 tons of salt, less than half of the budget. This year has been a little bit different.

"This year we've gone through 4,000 tons," he said. "That's a 230 percent increase."

The department is still within its budget this year, Kukuk said, with $300,000 for salt. But there is only 10 percent left until December since it has used $270,000 worth of salt so far. If another big storm hits, he said the department will have to use some supplemental fund from other accounts in the Highway Department or from its surplus, and the board would have to pass a resolution on either of those.

Kukuk said he aims to use only 5,000 tons each year. But if it's something that depends on the weather since some storms may only require plowing. Salt is not the only thing the department spends money on. It also keeps overtime and fuel, which Kukuk said he has used up and then some.

Budgeting $80,000 for overtime, he said there has been $800,000, without being done yet. Tom Coppola, highway superintendent in Glensville, said that the department is at its max for the salt budget, but has some left in the shed to get through the year, unless another big storm happens before November and December.

"I budgeted 151,000, and have used that much salt," he said. "We put approximately 200 tons down each storm. We're right about at 2,100 tons used so far."

He said this winter has not only taken its toll on the town's salt budget, but also has led to needed repairs for some of the plows. "When the snow is heavy and wet, it causes plows to move slower on routes or sometimes causes a break down. Most of this occurs during spring snowfalls he said.

"With such a high usage of salt, Cunningham said that it has some impact on the roads, but has a bigger effect on the storm, water runoff. "If it melts or rains, it goes into the storm water system and works its way out into the drinking water system," he said. "The drinking water is treated to get stuff out, but people see impacts on the side of the road and areas not treated like the front lawn."

A bulldozer carries a winter mix used to fill pot holes in a bare, what's left of it's salt inventory for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

"This comes after the town has used 13,000 tons of salt, which is where we use the liquid calcium."
Nominating petition forms available

A reminder that nominating petition forms are available for one vacancy on the Bethlehem Public Library board of trustees. The seat is for a full term of five years. Petition forms and information packets may be obtained at the library information desk.

Petitions must contain at least 100 signatures of voters residing in Central School District No. 6 of the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland. Petitions must be filed with the District Clerk, 90 Adams Place, Delmar by 5 p.m. on April 18.

Elections will be held on Tuesday May 17 from 7am-9pm at Bethlehem Central High School.

GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library looking for two trustees

You have an opportunity to serve your community and help shape the future of the Guilderland Public Library. Two seats on the library’s governing Board of Trustees are up for election on Tuesday, May 17. Each seat is for a full, five-year term as a Library Trustee; it is the Board of Trustees that sets library policy and ensures that the library is responsive to the public’s needs.

Serving the community as a board member is an important job. As State Librarian, Janet Welch wrote in her preface to the Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State, “A good public library benefits and serves the entire community. [Trustees] make policy and fiscal decisions crucial to the life and direction of the library. Their decisions impact the lives of people and the future of their community.”

Serving on the board is greatly rewarding and sometimes challenging. If you are interested in running for one of these seats, please contact the Library Director, Barbara Nicholas Randall, at 456-2400, ext. 13. Information packets and petitions for prospective trustees are available every March at the Library or the Guilderland School District Office.

Add photos to your online genealogy

Next Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m., the Guilderland Public Library will host a demonstration of its new microfilm scanner. This device can read negatives and slides in addition to microfilm reels. Scanned images can be saved to a disk or flash drive, or printed on your printer.

This scanner was purchased with newspaper images in mind. The scanner saves work in black and white only. If you have older negatives to scan, bring them in and try it out. Also, the librarians will be on hand if you have questions about use of our genealogy databases. Bring your laptop or use one of our computers.

Call 456-2400, ext. 7 to register.

Monsters LLC

Next Friday’s Family Movie is something really different: It’s about a corporation of monsters. The movie starts at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 25. In addition to all the seats for adults, there are always mats down front so, younger moviegoers can spread out. (Of course, there will be free popcorn!)

Mark Outside

For more information on these programs, please call the library at 456-2400, or email info@gplib.org. The Guilderland Public Library is located at 2229 Western Avenue, Guilderland. Visit the Library’s website at www.gplib.org. Become Facebook Fan of the Library (Guilderland Library), follow the Library on Twitter (@GuilderlandLib), and get music information and downloads on the Library’s Freepage. It all starts at gplib.org.

For nine years, many of the public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer counties have participated in the Riverway Storytelling Festival. The weeklong festival includes more than 200 events for children, teens and families...

"A Spring Bouquet of Tales" is a special performance being held at Voorheesville Public Library on Wednesday, April 6, at 1:30 p.m. Storytellers Frank-Lee Stephing and Jack Maguire will be telling tales to delight and entertain in a program geared for adults and seniors. Join in as they laugh together, share a poignant moment or two, and surely recognize ourselves in the stories told by our masterful tellers. We look forward to the performance. It is free, no registration is required and light refreshments will be served. To see the whole event schedule, which includes "Ghost Story Night" at Guilderland and "Laughin’ Night" at Sanford (Colonie) Library, visit www.riverwaysstorytellingfestival.org.

Voorheesville Public Library

for children of every age will be free. Join us on Monday, April 11 to 14 to 4:45 p.m. April is National Letter Writing Month. Got a burning question about a book? Write letters to your favorite authors. Grade K-5.

Preschool picnic

Friday, April 8, 11 a.m.
Bring a lunch or snack and watch Pigeon movies on Pigeon’s Creek. Preschoolers and families.

Teen time

Friday, April 8, 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Guitar Hero, DDR, Wii, and games for grade 6 and up.

Tweedle, Lou Castro on dobro and bass, and Marcy Bennner and Gerald Hampton on mandolin and banjo.

Film Fest

Don’t forget the 2011 Teen Film Awards Ceremony this Saturday March 26 at 2:30pm. Contestants, families and friends can view this year’s entries in three categories: action, comedy, and experimental/animation.

Staerratedly to share tales with adults

from the library. We will show you how to search the digital bookshelves, get the software and download free books and audiobooks to your computer or portable device. Call us to sign up for Monday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Stories to share tales with adults

Movie matinee

We have scheduled Sunday, April 3, at 1:30 p.m. for a showing of the popular film The Social Network (rated PG-13). If you missed it the first time, see it now!

FOL meeting

The public is invited to the FOL Annual Meeting on Monday, May 23 at 7pm.

Trustee position

There are three upcoming vacancies on the Voorheesville Public Library Board of Trustees for the five year terms beginning July 1, 2011. Any person over the age of 18 who resides in the Voorheesville Central School District is eligible. Petitions may be picked up at the library at 51 School Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186, and returned with signatures by 5 p.m. on April 18.

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.voorheesvillelibrary.org

The Office of Dr. Lev Barats

Dr. Barats is a board-certified Internist Medicine Physician and a recipient of both the Patient’s Choice Award and The Top Hudson Valley Physician’s Awards.

Our office offers:

• Daily Urgent Care Walk-In hours
• State of the art medical equipment
• Laboratory on site

We are currently accepting New Patients

(518) 459-5273
Seniors invited to Molasses Creek show at library

Join us at the Bethlehem Public Library at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 25, for Molasses Creek in concert.

Molasses Creek is a high energy acoustic group that features captivating stage presence and performing Star Guitar, blazing instruments, and a quirky sense of humor. You can also enjoy dinner after the show at Applebee's in Glenmont, cost on your own. No reservation is needed for the free show.

Call 439-4955, ext. 1176 to make dinner reservations. Transportation will leave Town Hall at 12:30 p.m. Suggested van donation: $3.

You will also want to enjoy dinner at the ever popular Culinary Arts Restaurant of Schenectady Community College on Tuesday, March 29, at 5:30 p.m. The cost is $23, tax paid payable to Town of Bethlehem. The dinner will feature fresh spinach salad, and a choice of salmon Wellington, wrapped in puff pastry and baked with spinach, shallots and purple rice, Loin of Pork, rubbed with Dijon mustard and coated with garlic, onions, carrots and Duchesse potatoes; or vegetable pasta with roasted asparagus, chevre and lemon pest, each followed by Kentucky Derby Pie. Transportation will leave from Town Hall and home pick up is available on a prearranged basis. Suggested van donation: $5.

Call 439-4955, ext. 1176 to arrange transportation to either or both of the above programs. Home Pick up is available on a prearranged basis. Register on Friday, April 1, for the AARP $5 Alive Side Driving Course to be held on Friday, April 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Completion of this course usually results in a reduction in car insurance premiums. Reservations are first come first served in person in the Bethlehem Senior Office at Town Hall starting at 9:00 a.m. If space permits, phone reservations will be taken on Monday, April 4, starting at 9:30 a.m. at 439-4955, ext. 1176. The course fee is $12 for AARP members and $14 for non-members.

Start your spring "cleaning" with a free "Shredding Event." BethlehemSeniorProjects, Inc. is sponsoring an opportunity to safely shred your outdated taxes, bank statements and other personal documents. Document Destruction will be at the Elm Avenue Park on Saturday, April 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please consider donation for the Food Pantry at the same time. Paper towels, napkins, bath tissue and, of course, non perishable food items are always needed and will be collected at the park. If you are over 60 years of age, BethlehemSeniorTransportation may be able to help you with home pick up on that day. Call 439-4955, ext. 1176.

AARP tax counseling will be available through April 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. by appointment at the Bethlehem Town Hall. Call 439-4955, ext 1176, to make an appointment. Bring copies of your 2009 Federal and State returns, your 2010 W-2 and 1099 Forms and receipts for contributions, interest, medical bills and property/school taxes.

Program highlights

Tuesday, March 29

• Seniors in Motion - The Guilderland seniors' movie of the month for May is "Cold Mountain." It will be shown Thursday, April 28, at 10:30 a.m. in the Town Hall Courtroom.

• Starring Judie Law, Nicole Kidman, and Michael Shannon, the movie is described in an Internet review as: "In the waning days of the American Civil War, two wanderers embark on a perilous journey back home to Cold Mountain, North Carolina to rekindle their love affair..."

Call ahead to register: 356-1980, ext. 1094.

Cost: Free. Enjoy free popcorn. 

Transportation service

The Town of Guilderland provides transportation service to medical appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies, and area shopping centers such as Walmart. Bus service is also given to those who attended the Tuesday Luncheon Program, special events, and selected trips. To register, please make an appointment with the Senior Office.

Monday, April 4

Scheduled Shopping

9 a.m. Aerobics

10:30 a.m. OsteoBusters

10:30 a.m. Sr. Fitness

11:30 a.m. OsteoBusters

Tuesday, April 5

9 a.m. OsteoBusters

11:30 a.m. Luncheon: Vegetable Lasagna or Cold Plate

12:30 p.m. Bingo/Games

Wednesday, April 6

Scheduled Shopping

9 a.m. Aerobics

10:30 a.m. OsteoBusters

10:30 a.m. Sr. Fitness

11:30 a.m. OsteoBusters

Thursday, April 7

Scheduled Shopping

9 a.m. OsteoBusters

9 a.m. Aerobics

9:30 a.m. Ten Broek Mansion trip

11 a.m. Mah Jongg

3 p.m. Shopping

Friday, April 8

Scheduled Shopping

10 a.m. Painting

10 a.m. Bridge

1 p.m. Quilting

Storytimes to celebrate National Wildlife week

"Have a roaring good time!" says The Library. Come to the Storytimes during National Wildlife week. Throughout the week of March 21, they will be all about wildlife and our connection to the environment.

Friday, March 25, is a day off from school. A special storytime will replace Library Babies and Romp & Read at 10:30 a.m. for the Library's storytime.

Music Without Walls concert

Celebrating the third week of the month at the 3rd Acoustic Doorways concert. On Friday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, the Music Without Walls project will offer music "from the west of the Hudson to the west of the Jordan." Tickets price are $10 adults; $5 and $5 for senior citizens or children. Tickets may be purchased at the library or at the door the night of the concert.

• RCS Community Library

Town of Bethlehem

Senior Action

SALMON, ME (AP) - Salmon are vulnerable when they return to their natal streams to spawn. They are prime targets for anglers looking for the thrill of the catch. A new study found that the salmon population in the Ham roads River has declined by 90% since the 1950s.

\[ \text{Salmon Population} = 0.1 \times \text{Initial Population} \]

A low level fun aerobic exercise class to music. Bethlehem Town Hall auditorium, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar; 9:10 a.m. No registration is necessary. $5 fee per class.

Wednesday, March 30

• Senior grocery shopping for residents of Elsmere, Delmar, Slingerlands, North Bethlehem and Marie Rose Manor. For reservations, call 439-5770.

Thursday, March 31

• Senior grocery shopping for residents of Glenmont, Selkirk, and South Bethlehem. For reservations, call 439-5770.

• BethlehemSeniorCitizensClubmeets weekly on Thursdays for an enjoyable afternoon of games and socializing at the Bethlehem Town Hall auditorium, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar.
Former Shaker principal joins Board of Regents

Dr. James O. Jackson has served as a friend and educator to many in the Colonia area over the years, and he is well known for his extensive involvement in education. Formerly a resident of Colonie, he was nominated for the third Judicial District seat on the New York State Board of Regents on Monday, March 7. Dr. Jackson was elected to the State Board of Regents on Monday, March 14.

Del Gallo stands by pick for rec and senior programs post

Residents called for an ethics board investigation of Supervisor Frank Del Gallo following a vote to appoint him as a supervisor for the town Supervisor. The Ethics Board is determined to make sure that the town is run in a manner that is just and fair to all residents, and the Board is able to handle any complaints that may arise. Residents are encouraged to contact the Ethics Board with any concerns they may have.

Good Samaritan Health Care Center

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Conveniently located at 125 Rockefeller Road in Delmar.
Old Songs plans contra dance

Old Songs will host a contra dance Saturday, April 2.

The schedule is as follows:
6:30 p.m. Potluck
7:30 p.m. Dance instruction
8 p.m. Dance

Will Mentor will be the caller, with live music by Fennig's All-Stars. No partner is needed. Clean, soft-soled shoes are required.

Admission is $10. For more information, call 765-2815.

SSA pairs with local eateries

March is National Meals On Wheels month and Senior Services of Albany, the region's largest provider of home delivered meals, has partnered with local eateries to raise funds for this nutrition program.

Central Steak, Grappa '72 or Phoenicians will donate a portion of sales to Senior Services of Albany on Wednesday, March 23.

For more information, visit seniorservicesalbany.com or call 665-3322.

Regal makes dean's list

Ellen Regal of Delmar was named to the dean’s list at Fairfield University for the fall 2010 semester. Regal is a senior studying in the School of Nursing.

To be selected for the dean’s list, a student must attain a grade point average of at least 3.5, of a possible 4.0.

Hayes earns master’s degree

Laura Hayes of Delmar received a master of science in occupational therapy from Boston University in January.

Hayes was one of 1,550 students to receive academic degrees.

Church to hold big breakfast

The Men’s Association of Shaker Road, Loudonville, New York supplied more men, money and material in the Civil War than any other state. Konza also read excerpts from the handbook, “The town law does not provide for a separate executive branch of town government,” said Koza reading from the handbook. “Because the supervisor occupies the leader’s position on the Town Board..."

The handbook further states the supervisor’s powers include acting as treasurer of the town, keeping an accurate account of the town’s money and material and calling meetings when required, paying fixed salaries and other claims and writing reports when required, paying fixed salaries and other claims and writing reports when required.

The Historical Society of the Town of Colonie, 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville, has partnered with the Civil War Museum of the Empire State, 115 Second Ave., to present a program on the American Civil War on Sunday, April 10, at 2 p.m. at the Town of Colonie Library.

Talk to examine state’s role in war

The Historical Society of the Town of Colonie will host Robert W. Arnold III’s presentation, “Let Loose the Dogs of War: New York in the American Civil War” on Sunday, April 10, at 2 p.m. at the Town of Colonie Library, 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville.

The event is free. For more information contact Kevin Franklin, Town of Colonie historian, at 782-2593 or franklink@colonie.org.
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Serendipity Welcomes
Pre Kindergartners
4 and 5 Year olds
Tuesdays-Wednesdays-Thursdays
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Call 765-2399 to inquire

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Ages 14-18, July 25-August 19, M-F 9 am-4 pm
Open House, Saturday, June 4, 10-11 am
Meador Little Theatre, Russell Sage College, Troy
RSVP or learn more: 518-244-4504 or theatreinstitute@sage.edu

September 2011
Serendipity Welcomes
Pre Kindergartners
4 and 5 Year olds
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Fashion meets faith

Conference teaches teens how to dress trendy and modestly

By ALYSSA JUNG
junga@spotlightnews.com

April 2. Stylist, author and motivational speaker Shari Braendel hosts an event that teaches women and girls how to dress stylishly and modestly.

"One of the things, especially for girls, is that we as Christians have assumed that our girls know what modest is, so what's happened is we say 'don't do this, don't do that' and we're teaching them what not to do," said Braendel. "They're getting advice from the world and learning how to dress from the world."

What the world is teaching girls, said Stillinger, is that the way they dress says more about them than what's inside.

"Fashion Meets Faith" is a two-day conference split into sessions titled "Modesty Rocks" and "Maximizing Beauty" on Friday, April 1, and Saturday, April 2. Stylist, author and motivational speaker Shari Braendel will host the event Fashion Meets Faith on April 1 and 2 at Abounding Grace Christian Church in Schenectady. The two-day conference teaches teen girls and women how to dress stylishly while remaining modest.
issues. That's a notion she wants the church's young congregation to get away from.

"It's so difficult to find things to wear that if you don't have a certain body type, you don't look good in it. Either it's very short or a lot of cleavage is showing and it's about body image," said Stillinger. "We want girls to understand they were created beautiful, God created them beautifully, and they need to see themselves that way."

Bob Stillinger and Braendel said that the word "modesty" is sometimes thought to be synonymous with drab, un-trendy and boring. In reality, that's not so.

"The Bible talks about modesty and a big reason for that is because when a man is looking at a woman, usually especially boys in their teen years, they're not looking at a warm personality or how caring, giving and compassionate they are," said Stillinger. "We want girls to understand you can still be dressed fashionably and modestly and let your inner beauty do the work for you." For Braendel, who spent more than 30 years working in the fashion industry, spreading the message of conquering modesty was her calling.

"It really happened when I was praying and I felt God saying I needed to take all the knowledge I have in the fashion industry and take that information to the women of the church," said Braendel. "I prayed about it for seven years... God was lining up ahead of me because I did almost 50 events that first year."

"Fashion Meets Faith," inadvertently worked off the TLC television show, "What Not To Wear" which pitted two fashion stylists against an ordinary person with no fashion sense or style. "The show had just come out and all of a sudden the whole image industry was at the forefront because so many Christians were watching that TV show, it was an open door," said Braendel.

"For Braendel no longer has a consulting firm in Florida and instead lives in North Carolina, traveling around the country every weekend for speaking engagements and conferences.

"I typically do a teen event on night and a woman's event the next day, which his more an emphasis on women helping teens to see themselves as beautiful and giving them confidence," said Braendel.

Attendees will learn how to dress for their body type, makeup tips and undergo a color analysis to find the perfect colors for their skin tone (there are 36 individual colors that look good on six different skin tones). The teen event finishes with a fashion show by local girls to spotlight the styles they learned about.

Braendel also has a book she'll have for sale called "Good Girls Don't Have to Dress Bad," a style guide with full color and non-airbrushed models.

"For women who don't have a clue, that would be the perfect place to start," said Braendel. Braendel will be at Abounding Grace on Friday, April 1, at 7 p.m. with an event for girls sixth grade and up. The Saturday, April 2, event is from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required by March 20 and registration forms can be found online at www.aboundinggrace.org by clicking on the "What to Wear" link. For more information about Braendel, visit www.fashionmeetsfaith.com.
Breaking the ice

Albany Rowing Center to hold 5K race by land and sea

By CHARLES WITT
witt@spothedtimes.com

For Capital District runners, the arrival of fair weather means racing season is officially on. But there is one upcoming 5K that's unlike any other on the schedule.

In an intriguing twist on the traditional 5K race, on Saturday, March 26, the Albany Rowing Center's Ice Breaker Challenge runners will race against ARC rowers and boats from other groups making their way down the Hudson.

It's the first time the group has done the event, but if it's successful, they hope there will be many more to both signal the start of the rowing season and raise money for the program. The rowing center has about 50 junior rowers in its program from school districts all over the area that don't have rowing teams of their own.

"Albany Rowing Center, it attracts Bethlehem, Voorheesville, Guilderland, there's a lot of kids from Columbia on the team," said Board of Directors President Kathy Johnston. "That's a nice thing because the students really get to know students from other districts.

There are also programs of varying levels for adult rowers. Though participants pay for membership in the ARC, organizers also aim to raise money a few times a year, and they hope the Ice Breaker will be a boon for the club. Already, more than 150 runners have signed up, and registration will be available up to the day of the race.

Combining running with rowing is an element that sets the race apart from other races in the area.

"It's a long-distance runner, I've run for 35 years, so I figured why not combine what I know with what the kids know," Johnston said.

There had been some worry about whether the river would be ready for boating by race day, but an abrupt break from winter weather means ARC rowers have already been on the water for more than a week now.

Victoria Morrell, whose daughter, Maggie, has been an avid rower since she was a middle schooler in Bethlehem Central, said her now-12th-grade rower is looking forward to the Ice Breaker and will actually be participating — on land.

"She's excited," Morrell said. "She's been recruiting at the high school, trying to get many of the students involved to run in the club."

Maggie Morrell was one of eight rowers (six marks up from last year) who secured the state championship last year for girls eight-person rowing. They're hoping to repeat that success later this year.

The ARC also holds a regatta, the Head of the Hudson, in September. This year's event will be a special one, as it marks the group's 25th year.

The Ice Breaker Challenge stops off at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 26, from the ARC boathouse at the Hudson River Corning Preserve, and runners will follow the bike path through the preserve. For more information and to register, visit www.albanyrowingcenter.org.

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Students face heat at SkillsUSA competitions

A number of local high school students enrolled at the Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical School (Career & Tech) in Albany (Colony) and Schenectady won events at the March 16 SkillsUSA Regional Competitions at Schenectady County Community College, bringing home eight first place trophies, eleven second place awards, seven third place awards, five 4th place awards, and SkillsUSA Statesman Award. Several students will go on to the New York State SkillsUSA competition April 13-15 in Syracuse.

Students from the region in the event were:

- Nick Guastella, Welding and Metal Fabrication, Bethlehem
- Rebecca Shook, Employment Application Process Food Services, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk
- Emily Pecora, Floral Floral Design, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk
- Nick Guastella, Welding and Metal Fabrication, Bethlehem
- Emily Pecora, Floral Floral Design, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk
- Rebecca Shook, Employment Application Process Food Services, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk
- Emily Pecora, Floral Floral Design, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk
- Nick Guastella, Welding and Metal Fabrication, Bethlehem
- Emily Pecora, Floral Floral Design, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk
- Nick Guastella, Welding and Metal Fabrication, Bethlehem

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The Albany Rowing Center is holding an "Ice Breaker" 5K Challenge March 26, in a twist on the traditional race, water- and land-based competitors will be pitted against each other as runners take to bike paths in the Corning Preserve and boats take to the waters of the Hudson.

Submitted photo
Another side of Italy

Dance museum's 'Postage Paid' exhibit
spotlights vibrant country as a prelude to spring

BY JACQUELINE M. DOMIN
DOMIN@SPOTLIGHTNEWS.COM

Ashley Turney wants to share with people the Italy she knows and loves.

Turney, a Saratoga Springs native, lived and worked in Italy for about five years. She was enamored with the slow pace of life, with the way people would stretch their meals for four or five hours, soaking in the time with friends and family.

When Turney moved back to the States, she knew she still wanted Italy to be part of her life. So she launched a company that organizes private itineraries and tours of Italy, and on Sunday, March 27, she'll be at the National Museum of Dance and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs for Italy Day.

The festival is the fourth in a series linked to the museum's exhibit, "Postage Paid: Dance Around the World," which features postage stamps from around the world, along with clothing, bags and other slices of life from numerous countries. Although the stamps emphasize dance, the exhibit is much deeper than that, as are the festivals.

"This is a cultural family day," Edwards said.

The schedule includes:

• Speaker Giuseppe Faustini, who teaches Italian at Skidmore College.
• A cooking demonstration by Fabrizio Bazzani, executive chef at Chianti II Ristorante.
• The Arthur Murray Tarantella Dance Team.
• Children's activities, dance and art in the Alfred Z. Solomon Children's Wing.
• Speaker Father Neil Draves, a third-generation Saratogian. He will recount the region's Italian neighborhoods, businesses and restaurants.

"I've known him all my life," Edwards said. "His stories will be fabulous.

As for Turney, she's coming from her home in Connecticut to take part in the event.

"Not long ago, she called Italy home, moving there after college to work," said Edwards. "She had first visited as a freshfaced, 20-year-old and she experienced something of a culture shock in a country of millions where she knew no one.

"I had never even taken public transportation," she said with a laugh.

"Turney's time in Italy was heavily influenced by two families in Florence with whom she lived. They didn't speak English, so she was able to immerse herself in the language. That wasn't the only step she took to get a taste of Italy beyond the usual tourist stops. She mingled with the local people as much as she could, loving the leisurely tempo of everyday life.

"It was such a departure from the life I had known," she said. "They really emphasized the importance of slowing things down and spending time with friends and family.

"Turney cherishes the time she spent in Italy, but she also missed friends and family back home, especially when a lot of her friends were getting married and having other milestones, and she was a continent away.

So, Turney eventually came back to the States. But the pull of Italy was still strong, resulting in the creation of her business. She sometimes travels to Italy with her clients, and she sometimes sends them with another leader. Amore recent option has Turney creating itineraries for travelers who go it alone.

A typical Turney tour might visit the central market in Florence, with plenty of time built in to browse and talk to the vendors. There will be a stop at a private villa for a cooking class and meal at Osteria Aurelia's restaurants."

"I try to slow things down so people can just sit and enjoy a glass of wine and watch the world go by," she said:

After all, those are some of her fondest memories. She's thrilled to share them not only through her business, but through events like Italy Day.

"I feel very strongly about showing people that side of Italy that I want them to see," she said.

The museum will host Italy Day from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Admission is $5 for the public and free for museum members. For more information, visit www.dancemuseum.org

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"Good Girls Don't Have to Dress Bad"

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Modesty Rocks

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On Friday, April 1st at 7:00PM

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Saturday, April 2nd • 10:00AM — 2:30PM

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Conference Highlights:

• God Made Each of Us Beautiful — Letting His Beauty Shine Through Us
• Clothing Styles to Fit Your Body Type
• Giving Grace — Melting Away Guilt
• Laun& $10 (not included in registration fee)

Bring a poetically written poem to donate and be entered to win a special drawing (Women's Conference only)

Prizes: Modesty Rocks $15 — Maximizing Beauty $25 — Combination Ticket $35

Regulations is easy, download and print a registration form at www.aboundinggraceCC.org

Prices: Modesty Rocks $15 — Maximizing Beauty $25 — Combination Ticket $35

Prices available at the door.

Registration is easy, download and print a registration form at www.aboundinggraceCC.org

Please contact the office for further information at (518) 355-HOPE (469) or (518) 538-5050. — Registration Deadline: March 22nd

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Learn to be your own best friend

Redefine beauty

Get your flowers in the garden

Esther/Ekaterina Wold/Rebecca, 16/10-30/12 — Registration Deadline: March 22nd

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**Theater**

ARIES AND OLD LACE

BILL W. AND DR. BOB
Regional premier of the film based on Alcoholics Anonymous’ founders, presented by Capitol Civic Theater, 711 Providence Rd., Latham, through March 15, shows Thursday through Sunday. $30, Information, 957-7272.

CROWNS
Reggie Taylor plays a young woman who returns to the south and learns about her culture and history, presented by Schenectady Civic Players, Civic Center Plaza Playhouse, 12 South Church St., Schenectady, March 22-27, $18 Information, 382-5100.

WELCOME TO THE MOON AND OTHER PLAYS
John Patrick Shanley’s series of short plays, centering around lone, presented by Third Prime Theater, Saratoga Arts Center, 30 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, 2 p.m. March 25 and April 2, adults $15, students/seniors $10. Information, 505-5933.

**Music**

MUSIC
Mike Harrison
Playing your favorite tunes, March 24, 8 p.m., Moreau Hall, 115 South Ferry St., Saratoga Springs, Information, 380-1548.

Dylan Storr
Carolina music with the toasted Pine and the Hunting Ground, March 25, 7 p.m., Moreau Riverworks, 115 South Ferry St., Saratoga Springs. Information, 380-1548.

**Visual Arts**

**New York State Museum**


**Albany Institute of Art**


**State of Mind**

Jazz at the Schenectady Jazz Club, 30 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, Information, 505-5933.

**Jay Ungar & Molly Mason**

Adults, with special guest Peter Wragge, March 23, 7:30 p.m., Cafe Lena, 27 Phila St., Saratoga Springs, Information, 505-5933.

**Peppeh Diagostico**

Acrobatic clown group, presented by Alive!, Thursday, March 2, 7 p.m., Cafe Lena, 27 Phila St., Saratoga Springs, Information, 505-5933.

**Hot Club of Cowntown**

Western swing and hot club band, March 24, 8 p.m., WAMC, 475 Congress Ave., Albany. Information, 450-5253, ext. 4.

**Call for Artists**

**Malta League of Arts**

Looking for accomplished artists who would like to see Albany become a center for artists and art students, glass works and more June 16-20 or the Malta Train Station, Malta. Information, 281-2639.

**Earth Week Recycled Art Show**

Looking for artists to participate in April 15-17 show at Hudson Crossing Place, Taylor Park, Schenectady. Information, 520-7630.

**The Choraliers**

Musical group looking for singers of all abilities, performance concerts at Christmas and in the spring, premises are familiar and free to use. Independent practice sessions are 5-6 p.m. Wednesday at Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church, 135 Clinton Street, Schenectady.

**Syracuse Park Community Center**

Opening reception for winter concert series, presented by Syracuse Park Community Center, CitiCenter Park, Citi Center, for auditions required. Information, 391-7701.

**Capitol CREATION**

Opening reception for winter concert series, presented by Capitol CREATION, 112 Central Ave., Albany, Information, 450-5255.

**Downtown Community House**

Openings for all art forms for women 12 and under, ages 7-12, Thursdays at New Covenant Church, Route 146, Guilderland. Information, 695-9441.

**New Earth Gallery**


**Arts and Entertainment**

**Mardi Gras**

Big orange group under Boulters-Ohale, 53 Clear.

**Golf**

55 Fields Fowls 56 Gridiron pitchout 60 Unsigned works 62 Marked by thin lines 63 Prosproe 64 Arlo, to Woody 65 Charge 66 Evergreen

**DOWN**

1 Icelandic epic 2 Ransack 3 Controlling gp. 4 Belfry 5 Sunshine line 6 Exclamations of surprise 7 Edge of Emery 8 Speak nonsense 9 Comediene Allen 10 Dress shape 11 Tourist Ruul 12 Author of "Waiting for Lefly" 13 Debacle

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**Weekly Crossword**

**SUDOKU**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9 x 9 grid, broken down into nine 3 x 3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!
Car dealer questions former Planning Board Chairman's relationship with applicants

ANDREW BEAM
beam@spotlightnews.com

A Colonie car dealer is crying foul after hearing about the relationship between former Planning Board Chairman C.J. O'Rourke and a local developer.

Nathaniel Bette, son of Kevin Bette, president of First Columbia, hired O'Rourke for general contracting work on a project in Loudonville worth over $1 million, raising Mark Nemeth's suspicion, he said.

"I always felt there was a conflict of interest or something very much out of line with what would be proper because of the way certain things occurred," Nemeth said. "It does answer, at least in my mind, an awful lot of questions about things that happen when you compare the timeline of the decisions to the timelines of both Mr. Bette's approvals and ours.

Nemeth has a contractual agreement with Wal-Mart, allowing them to build a supercenter on Joe Jill Drive, where's former Neneth Volvo car dealership was located. With that, the proposal was submitted in 2008, allowed by more than a year of traffic mitigation studies. In September, the planning board shot down the conceptual plan after O'Rourke raised concerns about the project. When Nemeth requested a meeting with O-Rourke, the sitting member of the Planning Board, was critical of the project based on the waivers requested by Wal-Mart. Also present at the meeting was Kevin Bette, who claimed that Wal-Mart had gone back on agreements regarding the use of Auto Park Drive.

"The Vanguard Show House, located at 10 Stafford Road, takes month of preparation, and that O'Rourke was financially tied to the Bettises on this project before the Wal-Mart decision was made."

"They knew who the contractor was going to be, months before," he said. "It's very suspect and very hard to believe." O'Rourke said that the Bette project had not even come up during the Wal-Mart project and that Wal-Mart didn't start work on the project until November when he was contacted by Nathaniel Bette.

"Nathaniel is not an attorney, doesn't hold any position at First Columbia, he said. "So there is no conflict of interest." He continued to say that he has no record of the meeting, "I'm about good governance and full transparency," he said. "Nobody told me to go to the ethics board.

In September of 2010, the Colonie Planning Board unanimously voted down the conceptual plan to build a Wal-Mart at the Route 32 corridor. O'Rourke, then serving as chair of the Planning Board, was very critical of the project based on the waivers requested by Wal-Mart. Also present at the meeting was Kevin Bette, who claimed that they knew what was going to be done because they had signed a letter with Wal-Mart's Chairman C.J. O'Rourke in 2009, and not to the family's residence at 12 Stafford Street. On Oct. 20, the Town Building Department approved the addition to the house, according to the building permit.

"I live in Loudonville, and I do 10 percent of my business in Loudonville," he said. "I find it weird for somebody to be doing something I have a project in Loudonville." Nathaniel Bette, said the project was completely independent of his father, except for some advice given to him, as well as a loan to pay for the project.

While O'Rourke said he was approached by Nathaniel, the younger Bette said O'Rourke had come up to the house and gave him his card when asking if there was anything he could do on the house.

"He came over to the house during the week, gave me his card and asked if there was any work that needed to be done because things had slowed down for him." Nathaniel said "We had really good numbers and came in as the lowest bidder, so we brought him on to do stuff."" When later asked to sign a card when he first made contact with Nathaniel Bette, O'Rourke said he didn't know for sure.

"I'm not into semantics," he said. "Parente said that while there may have been a decision by the ethics board and that there was full disclosure to the town, he has no clue of this ever made public.

"I have difficulty with that when the real disclosure should have been to the public," he said. "Not simply by an internal organization."

When asked if there was going to be any legal action taken by Nemeth, Parente said the main goal is to have their project looked at objectively and fairly. "Anything that we can do to move this process along, we will do, but that's as far as I'll go on that," he said. "We want our project to be reviewed in a fair and impartial manner. If we think it wasn't then, we're going to have to bring that up." Parente also said it is up to Wal-Mart's attorneys on whether they would want to proceed with any legal action. One of Wal-Mart's attorneys, Bob Sweeney, has not returned phone calls made and the other, Victor Caponera, is currently out of the country.

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James C. Crabtree

James C. Crabtree, formerly of Delmar, passed away on February 19, 2011 at Saratoga Family Hospice in Reading, MA, at the age of 90.

The son of Dr. E. Granville Crabtree and Edith Reese Crabtree, he grew up in Brookline, MA, and spent summers in Jaffrey, NH.

Jim graduated from Yale in 1942, and served with U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. He received a Master's in English Education in 1948 from Boston University, and pursued graduate studies in American Civilization, English, and Theater.

In 1950, he married Mary MacIver of Pittsfield, MA.

For fifteen years, he taught secondary school English, Social Studies, and Drama, first in New Hampshire and Vermont, then later in Syracuse, NY. There he led a program in play and television production, in the early days of live television. He later became a school principal, and in 1965, the family moved to Delmar, where he worked for the New York State Education Department in Albany.

Upon retirement in 1984, Jim returned to the Monadnock region, settling in Greenfield, NH, where he and Mary were active in church and community affairs.

From 1984 to 1994, Jim was education coordinator at the Peterborough, NH Historical Society, organizing programs for school and Elderhostel groups and developing several exhibits.

Moving to Bedford, NH in 2001, he volunteered at the Manchester Historical Association's Millaard Museum and later at Elliot Hospital.

Since 2006, Jim was a resident of Longwood Place of Reading, MA, appropriately housed in a former school building, where he enjoyed making new friends and pursuing his lifelong interest in gardening.

Jim was predeceased by his wife, Mary, and his brother Edward. He is survived by his sister Charlotte Eberhard of Phoenix, AZ; son Alan Crabtree of Delmar, NY; son John, daughter-in-law Catherine and grandson William Crabtree, all of Lexington, MA, and granddaughter Rebecca Belts of Arlington, MA.

A memorial service will be held April 16, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 21 Church Street, Winchester, MA.

Contributions in Jim's memory may be made to Caring Canines, Sue Hartman, Treasurer, P.O. Box 452, Schoolhouse Road, Andover, MA 01810 (www.caringcanines.org) or to the Peterborough Historical Society, PO. Box 58; 19 Grove St., Peterborough, NH 03458 (www.peterboroughhistory.org).

IN BRIEF

Five Rivers plans workshop

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center will hold a teacher workshop on the award-winning curriculum-enrichment program Project WILD on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Center staff will lead a participatory training in Project WILD (Wildlife in Learning Design), an initiative that integrates wildlife themes into the core reading, writing and arithmetic disciplines. Participants will receive a free Project WILD environmental guide full of stimulating activities, correlated to the state learning standards, for students in grades K-12.

The workshop is open to teachers and youth leaders free of charge. Call Five Rivers at 473-0291 by Wednesday, April 13 to register for the workshop.

Church states post dinner

Trinity United Methodist Church, Route 143, Coeymans Hollow, will hold a post dinner Saturday, March 26, from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Tickets are available. For more information, call Ismay at 756-6551 or Marion 756-3292 or day of 756-2001.

BHA to look at Civil War

"For its annual summer display, the Bethlehem Historical Association will focus on the impact the Civil War had on our community.

"Commencing June 19 and continuing throughout the summer, BHA will use-personal anecdotes and local correspondence as the basis for its presentation of the events of the war on the daily lives of residents in the Capitol Region and, of course, the Town of Bethlehem.

"The association seeks help from the community in gathering information, artifacts and ephemera. If you have any items and would be willing to share them, contact Bob Mulligan at 439 3802.

Pre-Arrangement: An Act of Love

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OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CEMETERY

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A Tradition of Faith

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"It's like Groundhog's Day in the movie. We've had this conversation over and over again."

Councilman Kyle Kotary

Argonaut Insurance, but two are still unhappy with the situation and say they will seek more compensation.

John Hotchin, whose 2004 Toyota Prius was written up as a total loss, said the $1,750 offer from Trinitd won't cover his low-mileage car, which also had a package of extra options.

He said the town's response thus far has been "cavalier," and if he doesn't receive $15,000 from the town, Trinitd, or a combination thereof, he plans to take legal action against the town.

"I think the town is really responsible to make up the difference," he said.

Trinitd has offered to repair Anna Colonna Carroll's Toyota Matrix. She said she plans to keep her car when the parapet fell on it — said his recession acceptable resolution and wants a new vehicle.

The opinion of Town Attorney James Potter remains unchanged, however. He had advised the Town Board that making a payment of any kind to the vehicle owners would violate the state constitution as a prohibited gift. (By a 5-2 split.)

The board is in an inquiry to the state comptroller.

They have been conversations among the Town Board on how to handle the situation that Hennessey rested his support for an additional compensation for the vehicle owners.

"I remain committed to the idea that the people who were impacted by the parapet get a fair deal," he said. "We are exploring every possible option. there's a need for review and creativity."

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"Still Speaking of Nature: Further Explorations in the Natural World," by Allamont resident Bill Danielewski, will be on sale shortly in the Capitol District. The collection of some of the longtime columnist's best work is a follow up to his 2001 book, "Speaking of Nature." He'll be signing books at The Book House in Shuy还不特森 on Sunday, March 26, at 3 p.m.

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Cuts
(From Page 1)
district budget.
Booster clubs and parents already take a great deal of the cost burden off the district, said Superintendent Michael Tebano at the budget meeting.
"It became quite apparent," he said, "there's an awful lot of fundraising that goes on in all these groups," he said. "I would just as soon we look at other things."
School board President James Deringsaid after tentatively, authorized hitting the park. Tradeoff to the school consolidated. Kramer, director of the office of Membersliip numbers fluctuate a great deal of the cost facing the special costs. For students and would save we've heard from a lot of Halfmoon able to afford a membership before,
"\textquoteright; said Myla Kramer, director of the office of parks, recreation and community affairs of the budget for special positions, 'two positions, 'two education, and
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"\textquoteright; the Shenendehowa School District will increase because we're hoping.
"\textquoteright; "Those are those costs us money,\" she said. "Every one of those costs us money.
Administrators said the average student ride time now is 34 minutes and for the vast majority of students it would not change. Only a handful would approach the hour limit they said.
The next budget workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 20, in the Middle School auditorium, at 7 p.m. That evening will cover the K-12 instructional program, and a decision on the possible closure of an elementary school is also scheduled to be made.
Any budget decisions the board makes tentative until the board adopts a budget, Kramer said, is scheduled for April 6.
Parks director says pricing puts facility in line with other town amenities

\textbf{CP skate park lowers rates}

\textbf{"We're hoping that our revenue will increase because we're hoping to bring in members who weren't able to afford a membership before, who now would be able to.\"}

\textbf{- Myla Kramer, director of the office of parks, recreation and community affairs}

but Kramer said she's actually anticipating the opposite.
"We're hoping that our revenue will increase because we're hoping to bring in members who weren't able to afford a membership before, who now would be able to,\" said Kramer.
Membership numbers fluctuate from year to year, but Kramer said it usually sits somewhere between 120 and 220 kids, and she cited weather as a big factor in that.
"Skating or rollerblading at the Clifton Park Action Park is a great way for kids and adults to stay active and healthy,\" said Councilman Tom Paolucci. "I encourage residents to enjoy this popular recreation facility and spread the word about our new low rates."

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\textbf{Burt ANTHONY ASSOCIATES}

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Hayes earns degree
Boston University awarded academic degrees to 1,550 students in January 2011. Among the graduates was Laura Hayes, who received a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (Two Year Program). Boston University is the fourth largest independent university in the United States, with an enrollment of over 20,000 students in its 17 schools and colleges. The university offers an exceptional grounding in the liberal arts, a broad range of programs in the arts, sciences, engineering, and professional areas, and state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and research.

Germain earns degree from Binghamton
Cody B. Germain, of Glenmont, has earned a master’s degree in Accounting from Binghamton University, State University of New York.

Binghamton University is one of the four university centers of the State University of New York. Known for the excellence of its students, faculty, staff, and programs, Binghamton enrolls close to 15,000 students in programs leading to bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees. Its curriculum, grounded in the liberal arts, has expanded to include selected professional and graduate programs.

Students named to Binghamton Dean’s List
Samantha P. Shragar, of Slingerlands, and Emma Elizabeth Taylor, of Glenmont, are on the Dean’s List for their outstanding academic achievement. The Fall 2010 semester was from the College of Community and Public Affairs at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

Valley Community College and Mildred Ely.

For more information, contact Sylvia Jimison at 518-587-3061 or jimison@stcc.edu, or Box St. John’s / St. Ann’s Center at 518-472-9091 / Ext. 13.

Bartkwiaik to be honored
Stephanie L. Bartkwiaik of Teal, Becker & Chiaramonte, CPAs (FBC) has been named to the Business Review’s 40 Under Forty Class of 2011.

The award honors forty Capital Region professionals under 40 years of age for their business accomplishments and community contributions. Bartkwiaik is TBC’s first employee to receive this accolade since the award program’s inception 11 years ago.

This year’s class of 40 Under Forty honorees was selected from more than 300 nominations. As one of the 40 honorees selected by an advisory committee of business leaders, she will be honored at a luncheon on May 12 at the Crowne Plaza Albany Hotel.

Alessi named to Dean’s List
Laura C. Alessi, a resident of Slingerlands, has recently been named to the Dean’s List at Boston University for the Fall semester. Boston University is the fourth largest independent university in the United States, with an enrollment of more than 20,000 students in its 17 schools and colleges.

The university offers an exceptional grounding in the liberal arts, a broad range of programs in the arts, sciences, engineering, and professional areas; and state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and research.

VCFS sponsors spring gala
The Northeastern Community and School Foundation (VCFS) will sponsor its 8th Annual Spring Gala Saturday, April 2, from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Albany Country Club to help raise funds for cultural and educational projects throughout New Scotland. Program activities will include dinner, plus hors d’oeuvres, dessert and an open bar, as well as dancing to the music of the Karen Lewand Band.

Gifts from business sponsors are sought for both live and silent auctions. Business sponsors interested in offering gifts to be auctioned, or anyone in the community who wants to make a donation or seek more information, should contact Patricia Conway, gala chairperson, at: gala@vcsf.org. Gala admission is $75 per person.

Checks should be made payable to: Voorheesville Community and School Foundation. Supporters are encouraged to respond by March 10 to receive complimentary admission at: PO. Box 523, Voorheesville, NY 12186 or on-line at: www.vfcfoundation.org.

Empire State Book Festival and Gala scheduled
The Second Annual Empire State Book Festival and Gala is scheduled for April 1-2 in Albany.

The two-day event kicks off on Friday, April 1 at 6 p.m. with the Empire State Book Festival Gala at the State Room in downtown Albany that features the NYS Writers Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Author Paula Fox, winner of the Newbery Medal and Hans Christian Andersen Medal and Pulitzer-Prize winning poet John Ashbery will be inducted into the Hall of Fame, along with past literary luminaries including Willa Cather, Julia DeBorgnis, Ralph Ellison, Lorraine Hansberry, Madeleine L’Engle, Dorothy Parker and Herman Melville.

Members of the Melville and L’Engle families have confirmed attendance with Cather and Parker families pending. The evening will also include the presentation of the Empire State Book Award to Seymour Lachman and Robert Polner, author of The Man Who Saved New York and recognition of the 12 students who are finalists in the letters About Literature contest.

The Book Festival begins on Saturday, April 2 at 10 a.m. in Meeting Rooms 1-7 in the Empire State Plaza with keynote speaker Ann Martin, author of the popular series The Baby-Sitters Club.

The opening address is followed by 20 workshops and panel discussions, with topics such as book collecting, pets, authors’ hair get published, and graphic novels. Children can come and meet Library Crown, Baked Beadling and Dog and their favorite authors in the Read Aloud Room. Authors will be doing a book-signing throughout the day.

The Festival closes with an author panel and a gala in the Capital Club at 3:45 p.m. Tickets to the event are $50 and invitations can be downloaded from the event page on the Empire State Book Festival website, http://www.empiresetatebookfestival.org.

Auxiliary hosts’ annual ‘spoon dinner’
The Onequestar Volunteer Fire Company of Voorheesville will be having their annual ‘Spoon Dinner’ on Saturday, April 2, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Elks’ Firehouse, 2178 Tarrytown Road, Clarksville. The dinner will include Sausage & Peppers, Meatballs in Sauce, Baked Macaroni & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salads, Desserts and much more.

For more information call 768-2250 or 768-2004.

Dropkin named to Dean’s List
Benjamin Dropkin, of Delmar, has been named to the Dean’s List at Boston University for the Fall 2010 semester. To make the Dean’s List at Hamilton students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5.

Dropkin is a member of the class of 2011.

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E-MAIL: classified@spotlightnews.com

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BUILDINGS FOR SALE
Delmar, furnished, 4.4 mi. $1500 plus util. 1 BR. No smoking/pets. Near Busline. Lease: April 1. 339-2004

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
5100 sq. ft. warehouse. 696 Route 9, Latham. -412, kitcher/overhead door. Jeff 858-2251

CONDO FOR SALE
Rottmam. Condo for sale. 518-210-1441

GARAGE WANTED
Garage wanted to rent- small/midsize area. 439-1839

HOUSING WANTED
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LEGAL NOTICE


(10/15/10)
LEGAL NOTICE

1. The name of the limited liability company is The Light of the Universe.

2. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the Secretary of State on March 23, 2011.

3. The county in which the principal place of business of the LLC is located is Albany County, State of New York.

4. The Secretary of State has designated as agent for service of process the Office of the Secretary of State, c/o National Registered Process Server, P.O. Box 540, Troy, New York 12181.

5. The name, address, of the registered agent is:

   Name: Apple Acres
   Address: 123 Main St., PO Box 456, Albany, NY 12203

6. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the Secretary of State on March 23, 2011.

7. The county in which the principal place of business of the LLC is located is Albany County, State of New York.

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   Address: 123 Main St., PO Box 456, Albany, NY 12203

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The 2011 Ravena Youth Basketball Program's 6th Grade Boys team recently became the program's first Youth Champion. Front row: Austin Finklins, Chad Zeoli, Jack Kerrigan, Matt Ferriero. Middle row: Liam Mooney, Scott Trobridge, Reggie Rebeor, Malachi Bowman, Frank Rock, back row, Assistant Coach Conner Zeoli, Head Coach Check Zeoli, and Assistant Coach Kyle Winear.

"Congratulations, Ravena Indians. We are proud," he said.

The Spotlight
defense for keeping them in the game and forcing overtime.

CBA unraveled once it was in the extra period, the Red Raiders took a quick four-point lead and made its foul shots in the final minute to pull out the five-point victory. The Red Raiders also limited the Brothers to one shot in the final minute, center by Krong that got CBA within three points with less than 20 seconds left.

So in the end, the Brothers were a very good team that got to the state semis for the second year in a row. That is an accomplishment to be proud of, even if they couldn't repeat as state champions.

But with Cancer and Weaver graduating this spring, one has to wonder if CBA can get that far next year. If you go by tradition (CBA has been to four state tournaments in the last eight years), then the answer is yes. However, in basketball, you never know what will happen when you lose key players to graduation.

* As expected, the Union hockey team is in the NCAA Tournament as a No. 2 seed. The Dutchmen could get some easy first-round draw and reached the regional final - guaranteeing that only one of the ECAC’s top two teams will reach the “Frozen Four” in St. Paul, Minn. If Union was in another regional, I think we would have had the Dutchmen and Yale could get through their brackets, which would only enhance the ECAC’s image as a re-emerging power conference.

Meanwhile, RPI got the NCAA’s version of SASC’s “Lucky Dog” pass, as the Engineers received the No. 4 seed in the Green Bay regional over third-place Dartmouth and Cornell and Princeton, who tied for fourth. RPI can thank its 9.3-3 non-conference record and the computer system the NCAA Tournament committee used to seed the team. Hold for that.

How far will RPI go? Well, I’d love to say that the Engineers will beat North Dakota in the opening round and then go on to run into Wisconsin, the Frozen Four, but two things are working against them on that front - they’re traveling to Wisconsin to face North Dakota, which is the No. 1 seed in the country, and they have won only three of their last 10 games. RPI did get two weeks off thanks to its opening-round loss to Colgate, but that might have been enough time to work out all the problems they had over the final month of the season.

Hopefully, one of our local hockey teams will find its way in this year. While all bids didn’t come down the pike like this every year (RPI’s last bid was 1995, and Union has never qualified at the Division I level before this season),

* I’ll close this weekend, maybe. Jimmer Fredette can save us from total sports boredom by leading BYU into the Final Four.

The Cougars could very well make it to Houston but they have to get past a red hot Florida team in the Southeast Regional semifinal Thursday. Jimmerson 37 points on Florida in last year’s opening-round victory over the Gators, and he is capable of doing that again. And it’s likely that he will need to do that if BYU wants to make it to the Final Four.

Should the Cougars get past Florida, their path to the Final Four looks very good in the regional final now that we can’t forget to remember them! In the Round of 32 Saturday, a regional final matchup with either Butler or Wisconsin seems more winnable for than Florida, and the Gophers.

No matter what, having Jimmer in the NCAA Tournament makes it more interesting for people in this region to watch.

I only believe in the power of the "super moon." It did nothing to end the nuclear reactor problems in Japan or the unrest in the Middle East. It looked nice, though.

McCullough earns SUNYAC honor

Bethlehem Central High School graduate Alex McCullough was named a third-team All-SUNYAC women’s basketball player for the 2010-11 season.

McCullough, a sophomore at SUNY-New Paltz, was one of the top defenders in the league this season. She ranked second among all SUNYAC players in blocked shots with a 1.93 average. She also netted 22 shots this season, which raised her career total to 77.

McCullough also averaged 8.9 points per game and reached double digits in scoring 12 times. Her high point was a 20-point effort against Oneonta Jan. 21.

In addition to her athletic achievements, McCullough was named to the New Paltz Dean’s List for the fall semester.

**Birds**

(From Page 36)

...a redshirted 1-2-2 press, the Panthers finished the opening quarter on a 25-4 run. Gananda brought to a 37-17 halftime lead, while Voorheesville turned the game over in the first quarter.

*Senior Shugon Mcguinness, celebrating her birthday, led the Panthers to the lead at the intermission, with 22 of her 33 points, and 11 of her team-high 18 rebounds. "I like them (Gananda) get some easy baskets," Madsen said. "We had a lot of turnovers and gave them quality shots every possession. We just weren't playing our game." "Responding to Baron's request, the Blackbirds fought hard for the final two periods.

* A field-goal and four free-throws by Anna Feller trimmed Gananda's lead 51-33 with 13.7 left in the third quarter.

* I was delightedly looking to pick the team up," Feller said. "At that point every shot was a two-point shot and every free-throw counted, but we couldn't keep up the pace and catch them." While Voorheesville got the lead down to nine points in the fourth quarter, Gananda shut the door on any possibility of a Blackbirds comeback.

* "We were just trying to force it (the ball) a bit too much in the second half," Feller said. "We were turning the ball over and letting them score. We needed to stop fighting amongst ourselves and settle down and play the way we usually do." Melissa Reeves chipped in with 19 points and 13 rebounds for Gananda.

Madden finished with 17 points and Feller 11. Brosius defeated the rest of only two seniors for Voorheesville, scored 14 points.

**BC**

(From Page 36)

without funding from the school district. The hockey booster club has raised the money the team has needed for ice time at the Bethlehem Area YMCA and also assisted in its efforts.

Asking all of Bethlehem's booster clubs to foot part of the bill in the future is something DeMeo won’t do, though.

"It's usually up to each booster to decide if they want to pitch in, but you’re asking a lot of time and effort to hold fundraisers," said DeMeo.

Instead, DeMeo said he will do his best to address the needs of all his interscholastic sports programs.

"I understand the difficulty, and we're trying to trim costs in the least impactful way for our student-athletes and still maintain their safety," said DeMeo.

With the budget remaining the same as last year, tough for any programs, though that is something he may have to do. But if he has to make more cuts he has to make.

"Obviously, we’d have to see who the rest of the league [the Suburban Council] is doing because we wouldn’t want to see an across-the-board thing," he said. DeMeo would have to do that if BYU wants to make it to the Final Four.

But with Cancer and Weaver graduating this spring, one has to wonder if CBA can get that far next year. If you go by tradition (CBA has been to four state tournaments in the last eight years), then the answer is yes. However, in basketball, you never know what will happen when you lose key players to graduation.

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You’re Invited

**Sycamore Men’s Senior Golf League**

**March 7-8, 2011**

The Sycamore Men’s Senior Golf League is celebrating its 35th year this year. The league begins play the weekend of March 7-8 at Larned’s South Course. The entry fee is $32 per player. The league kicks off with a scramble and there will be prizes for top handicap, gross and net winners. There are no limits on handicap. You must be a member of the United States Golf Association and have a handicap of 36 or better. The league runs each weekend through June. For more information, call Jerry T. Perrine at 756-6101 or Gary Vanderzee at 767-9236.
Schools of stories about athletic directors are dealing with budgets to keep the athletic programs alive. Bethlehem athletic director John DeMeo didn't know how much more could trim off of our belts. On the other hand, his interscholastic sports budget proposal was restored for gymnastics and cheerleading, but dropped for athletics, because, as he said, "To save cheerleading, we moved it to a different department to save money (in the sports budget)."

Budget cuts had been a part of DeMeo's life the last four years. Over that time period, the district cut funding to its hockey, gymnastics and cheerleading programs and ended its practice of holding night home games for its football, soccer, field hockey and lacrosse teams. Funding was restored for gymnastics and cheerleading, but athletics had to cut.

Night games returned last October when the football and soccer booster clubs raised the money to hold Senior Night games. Bethlehem Pop Warner also helped by using its connections with National Grid to fix the lights at the football field. Night games will be included in the 2011-12 sports schedule. Meanwhile, the hockey team has soldiered on.

Bethlehem's hockey program has been funded by fund-raising efforts from its booster club for the past two years after the school district cut funding for it in 2009.

**BC: ‘No more notches left’**

**Funding plateaus after years of cuts**

By ROB JONAS
jonas@spotlightnews.com

This is the first in a series of stories about what area athletic directors are doing with what they formulate their budget proposals to their school boards this spring.

It got to the point where Bethlehem athletic director John DeMeo didn't know how much more he can trim off of his interscholastic sports budget proposal.

"We've been tightening our belt the last few years and I don't know if our belts have any more notches left," said DeMeo.

DeMeo won't have to worry about making any cuts this year. Last week, the school board approved a plan to keep the athletic budget at the same rate as last year.

Budget cuts had been a part of DeMeo's life the last four years. Over that time period, the district cut funding to its hockey, gymnastics and cheerleading programs and ended its practice of holding night home games for its football, soccer, field hockey and lacrosse teams. Funding was restored for gymnastics and cheerleading, but athletics had to cut.

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**Birds fight to the end**

**Gananda builds big lead to beat Voorheesville**

By MAUREEN KELLY
news@spotlightnews.com

The Voorheesville girls' basketball team fell behind quickly, but never gave up in dropping a 66-52 decision to Gananda (Section II) of Franklin Academy in the state Class C semifinal game at Hudson Valley Community College Saturday.

The Blackbirds (16-8) with just two seniors, had little to hang their heads over after giving an all-out effort in attempts to make a comeback to the top-seeded undefeated Panthers, who started four seniors.

"They (Gananda) came out firing and we were in deep trouble from the beginning," Voorheesville coach Bob Baron said. "To get in that big of a hole and try to come back was too much. The only thing I asked the girls to do at halftime was to continue to compete. It would have been easy for them to run and hide, but they didn't. They didn't quit and I was very proud of them."

Sarah Madden made Voorheesville's first basket of the game to tie the score at two. That would be the last tie of the game. Full text...