

Knickerbocker Ledger

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Top Story > Emerging Band Kicks Off 2011 Alive at Five in Albany



From “Love & Live” to “Grind” Innovative Music Defines Alive at Five Special Guest **MIRK**

BY LEDGER STAFF

Thursday, June 2 marks the beginning of Albany's annual summer concert series, Alive at Five (now in its 20th year). This year's series includes artists such as Kansas, Martha Reeves & the Vandellas, and Vertical Horizon (the headliner for Thursday).

Local alternative hip hop/soulful pop band MIRK will be opening the series. The band - comprised of lead singer Joshua "Mirk" Mirsky, guitarist Mike Thornton, drummer Steve Struss, bassist Kate Sgroi, saxophonist Chris Russell, keyboardist Andy O'Brien and vocalist Tara Merritt - has been a staple on the Capital Region music scene since early 2009.

What separates MIRK from other artists and bands in the Capital Region is their original sound; no doubt spawned by Mirsky's background in musical engineering (Mirsky received music headlines in late 2009 for selling a beat to Jay-Z for "Crispy Benjamins"). In the past 18 months, the band has been a special guest for Third Eye Blind and Badfish.

In addition to their debut albums "Love" and "Love/Live a 2 pt. Trilogy," the band will be releasing its sophomore album release, "Grind," later this summer.

"It'll be pretty cool, it'll be big - considering it's the first. We're all very excited by it. The weather will be nice - it'll be a blast," said Mirsky, when asked about the opportunity to open at the first Alive at Five. On the prospect of opening up for Vertical Horizon, Mirsky responded jokingly that the band will finally complete its two yearlong "tour" of "late 1990s/early 2000s bands."

"We play all sorts of venues and we (expletive) rock. We're not an old enough band, we're still a new project," said Mirsky, in reference to the propensity of MIRK to play venues that range from the size of Justin's (a jazz-lounge restaurant on Lark Street) to the SEFCU Arena (the University at Albany's 4,538-seat facility).

Check mirkmusic.com (their brand new website) for upcoming shows in Albany. And for horse racing fans - on July 23rd, the band will open up the 2011 Saratoga Racing season at Putnam's Den in Saratoga Springs at 8:00 p.m. **KL**

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Education > Research Foundation Scandal O'Connor resigns from Research Foundation

BY LEDGER STAFF

The end of the road came for John J. O' Connor on Friday as the Board of Trustees for the State University of New York (SUNY) voted to accept his resignation as Senior Vice Chancellor and CEO of the SUNY Research Foundation Friday afternoon.

The resolution came after more than two hours in executive session.

O' Connor has been the focus of an investigation by the New York State Comptroller stemming from the appointment of Susan Bruno, the daughter of former New York State Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno, to a \$70,000+ paying job where Bruno didn't show. **KL**

Capital Region > Troy

Hit and Run Suspect Turns Himself In, A City Mourns



BY LEDGER STAFF

The suspect in Monday's horrific hit and run of six year old Jahvion Perez-Rosario turned himself in Wednesday morning.

Roy Sanders, 21, under pressure – according to Troy Police Captain John Cooney – from his mother, turned himself in to authorities after a two-day manhunt. Sanders had recently been released from Rensselaer County Jail from a December 2010 shooting outside a Troy Stewart's, in which it took Troy Police nearly three months to apprehend him.

Sanders was charged Friday afternoon with third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and leaving the scene of a personal injury without reporting it. **KL**

The latest news can be found at KnickLedger.com

Your Choice 2011 > Colonie Former Commissioner of NYS DEC to challenge Mahan in Colonie

BY LEDGER STAFF

Former N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Denise Sheehan has announced she will run for the GOP nomination to challenge Democratic incumbent Paula Mahan this fall.

Sheehan, 47, who served as NYS DEC Commissioner for two years from 2005 to 2007 under Governor George E. Pataki, has received the endorsement from the Colonie



Republican Committee. As Commissioner, Sheehan oversaw a \$950 million dollar departmental budget, which is nearly ten times the size of the town's annual budget.

Sheehan is currently executive director for the think tank, the Climate Registry. Sheehan's opponent, Paula Mahan, is seeking her third term as Town Supervisor. Mahan defeated Mary Brizzell in 2007 and fought off former Albany County Executive Michael Hoblock in 2009. **KL**

Shaquille O'Neal Retires After 19 Years

BY **BRANDON PATTERSON**
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19 years, NBA Rookie of the Year (1993), MVP (2000), 15 All-Star Games, three NBA Finals MVP Awards, four Rap Albums and four championships' later, Shaquille Rashaun O'Neal is retiring. After announcing his retirement on Twitter (@Shaq), O'Neal, 39, is leaving the game that he had left such a remarkable impact on.

After being drafted as the top overall pick in the 1992 Draft by the Orlando Magic, Shaq quickly became one the most dominate centers in league, to the likes of George Mikan in the 50's (who helped bring about the creation of the "three second rule" in the offensive paint). Shaq currently sits fifth on the All-Time scoring leader charts (and will be presumably be passed by Kobe Bryant next year), along with sitting top fifteen on the total Blocks and Rebounds list. Known for his large frame, and more caring personality, Shaq reinvented the game.

After being an actual Police Officer in Miami, Shaq has also helped pay for funerals of formerly mentioned NBA legend George Mikan and a kidnapped North Carolina child. Along with his questionable acting and rapping, the "Big Diesel" will finish his career averaging nearly 24 Points Per Game and over ten Rebounds Per. Former Mavericks Coach Don Nelson coined the term "Hack-a-Shaq" to prevent the dominate force from scoring, forcing him to go to the Free-Throw line where he was a measly .527.

Arts and Entertainment> Television

Scripted Summer Series: TV To Actually Be Excited For



BY **ROBIN ZLOTNICK**
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Did you spend Memorial Day like I did, eating lots of food in order to honor the memories of all the fantastic television that just finished, all the shows that we love that won't be back until the fall, soooooo far from now? Too many good shows have wrapped for the season and abandoned us for a few months. It's just not fair.

With the mind-melting heat of the summer comes a giant wave of reality shows, competitions – some highly entertaining, very few fulfilling our need for the creative. Summer has become a dreaded time for the fan of the scripted series. I don't mean to diminish the value of all the reality programming that takes over during the summer, however, if you so much as sit on the remote by accident, about twenty new reality shows will appear on your screen. You might have to go fishing for the scripted stuff.

So I figured I'd make it a little easier for those of us who love our scripted series and panicked big time when we were told Mad Men wouldn't return until 2012. I've formed a list of some very promising new and returning scripted summer programming that starts soon. I don't believe this list is comprehensive – just a highlight of some of the series to be excited about.

Read Robin's guide at [KnickLedger.com.KL](#)

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Opinion>Education in America Post Graduation Blues



BY **TAMMI LANDAU**
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I was looking on Facebook the other day and came across a status my friend posted about graduating college. It said something along the lines of "Just applied to my dream job! Can't wait for life to start! Graduation in 10 days!" Now as horrible as this sounds I laughed out loud from reading this. My jaded self had gotten pleasure out of how ignorant this soon to be graduate was. The next day while I was sitting at my kitchen table I tried to remember the feelings I had 3 days before I graduated college. I felt the same way he does. 'Excited to start my life!' 'Ready to get out into the real world!' 'Pumped to handle any situation life would throw at me!' I was in the zone and I was ready! What I didn't realize was life had other plans.

I graduated college a year ago with a degree in communications and rhetoric from the University at Albany. I had a good GPA, was vice president of my sorority, had a huge role in the student television organization, and during my last semester I landed myself a fantastic internship with WRGB 6, the CBS local affiliate. Life seemed to be going my way and obviously getting a media production job would be easy!

Reality set in pretty quickly after graduation day. It was mid July when I scored my first interview with VH1 to be an assistant for the Vice President of Marketing. PERFECT! Life was going according to plan! That is until three weeks went by and I never heard back from them. I was positive I did everything right in the interview. I dressed professionally, asked great questions, studied the company, arrived early. I mean the list could go on and on and I didn't get what I did wrong. What makes matters worse is that I got a rejection email a month later from the person who got the job. My heart was crushed. This was MY dream job and SOMEONE else got it? Unfortunately that was the first of MANY rejection emails I would receive during this long and tedious process.

I was able to work with a friend of mine for two days in August on a television sizzle reel which gave me some experience and a resume booster but no full time job. In October of 2010 I landed an internship with an academy award winning production-company. They made it clear that they wouldn't pay for anything, not even transportation or lunch, but I put on a smile and figured "this is going to be a great learning experience". WRONG.

Read the rest of Tammi's post-grad journey at [KnickLedger.com.KL](#)

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Ad Spaces Available

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June 3 – June 10 for Albany Theaters

M – Madison Theater; R – Regal Crossgates; S – Spectrum
Parentheses = Matinee. Madison & Spectrum Open Past 6 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.

Thor (PG13)
M - 1205 220 435 700 935
Fast Five (PG13)
M - 130 400 700 930
X-Men First Class (PG13)
M - 135 405 705 935
R - (1100 1240 220) 350 530
700 840 1010 1150
The Lincoln Lawyer (R)
M - 135 405 705 935
Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG13)
M - 1200 215 430 705 920
R - (1200 240)450 550 720
940 1030 1200
Pirates of the Caribbean on Stranger Tides (PG13)
M - 130 400 700 935
R - (1050 200)520 830 1140
Water for Elephants (PG13)
S - 12:40, 6:40
Win Win (R)
S - 1245 655 (No Sun.1245)
The Conspirator (PG13)
S - 340 925

Jumping the Broom (PG13)
M - 1205 220 435 700 930
The First Grader (PG13)
S - 100 355 700 930
Incendies (R)
S - 1235 330 630 925
The Hangover Part 2 (R)
S - (1200 115 225 345 515)
640 745 935
R - (1210 1250 120 150) 300
330 400 430 540 610 640 710
820 850 920 950 1050 1130
1200
There Be Dragons (PG13)
S - 12:25, 6:45
Everything Must Go (R)
S - 400 920
Bridesmaids (R)
S - 1230 335 635 940
R - (1110 210)510 810 1110
I Am (Not Rated)
S - 405 930

Check [KnickLedger.com](#) for updated showtimes.

Opinion > Cavalcade

Being Swept Under the Economic Rug



BY **JOE BONILLA**
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How does poverty begin? Does it begin from ignorance, laziness, or doing all you can and still not getting by? There are several methods of how poverty begins, but what's important to realize is that no matter who you are, what you believe, how you walk, where you live – poverty can strike you.

And how do you define impoverished areas? Do you describe rural America, through towns in the Mississippi delta where you have some of the least educated, least earning Americans or through such formerly prosperous cities such as Detroit or Buffalo, where industry has come and gone and what's left is what made industry – the people.

The U.S. government defines the poverty line, as of 2007, to be \$10,787 if you're single and under 65. And for a family of four (including two kids) – it's a whopping \$21,027. Think about those figures, especially if you're around my age. A number of us make \$10 grand or less – but are we considered to be impoverished? A family of four, however, is an entirely different case.

On top of that, inequality of income has reached epidemic levels. You have the top 1 percent of the country holding 20 percent of the wealth, whereas the bottom 20 percent of the income bracket makes up a little less than 3.5 percent. In New York State alone, 13.7% of residents live below the poverty line as well as, according to information provided by Catholic Charities USA through their campaign to cut poverty, over 800,000 residents utilized services by the organization in some way shape or form. Out of nearly 19 million New Yorkers, 1/19th of us had to use the services of Catholic Charities to provide some sort of service that could not be provided by typical means.

The poverty line is an instrument of years past. Elected (and unelected) officials use it as a measure of progress that they use for either campaign points or a strategy – the decline of poverty has many parents, but an increase of poverty is an orphan.

You may not realize it, but every day, you will encounter one of those 58.5% of Americans who has had to live below the poverty line. Whether you are one of those Americans who had to face tough times or know someone who has, we all have the opportunity to make change, to make the country and the world a better place because you're seen in it person.

If you don't, well – I just hope you don't get swept under the rug.**KL**