

Knickerbocker Ledger

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June 22 – June 28, 2011

Top Story > Local Metal Band Signs Off After Six Years



After opening for major acts, local metal band **Amalgama** to end six year run with show at Valentine's on Friday

BY LEDGER STAFF

In many ways, the music won't end – but it will in live, unabashed metal form.

Amalgama, an Albany-based metal band that has opened up for national touring acts as well as played several local and regional venues, will be performing for the last time on Friday, June 24th at Valentine's. The band – who performed last fall on ATV's After Hours with Joe Bonilla and recently (also as of last Fall) released the video (directed by Brian DeFrees) for "Forsaken Soldiers" – has been performing for six years.

"Valentine's has always been like a second home to us," said Amalgama lead vocalist John Salka. "After playing what seems like an countless number of shows both upstairs and downstairs, having our farewell gig here just feels right," Salka continued.

Opening for Amalgama will be Bishop, who will be performing tracks off their as-of-yet unnamed upcoming album.

Bishop has released three albums in 2001 ("Centipede"), 2005 ("Rock On"), and the latest in 2007 with "Steel Gods." The band's toured nationally promoting each album.

"We've been close with the Amalgama boys since they first formed back in late 2005, so when they asked us to be a part of their last show it was a no-brainer," said Bishop bassist Vinny Padula.

"The first bill we shared together with Amalgama was at Valentine's back in January of 2007, so it's a little bittersweet to return here as a reunion of sorts but also as a send off for these guys," Bishop drummer Rocky Semeraro said.

The show begins at 9:00 p.m. – \$10 at the door (\$12 under 21 years of age). Valentine's is located at 17 New Scotland Avenue in Albany.

For more information about the event, visit www.facebook.com/amalgamamusic. • KL

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

Libations – Graney's Stout

LedgerLife – Movie Schedule + Event Listings

Your Choice 2011 – Marriage Equality Supporters Urge McCoy to sign Clenahan's Marriage Equality Pledge

Lifestyle > Glamour in Saratoga Springs in Twilight Whitney Gala canceled, future uncertain



BY LEDGER STAFF

This August, the "Queen of Saratoga" will not be holding court.

For the third time in its history (and the third time in the last five years), Saratoga Springs socialite Marylou Whitney, 85, has canceled this August's Whitney Gala, arguably the city's highlight affair which draws Hollywood stars, politicians, and other notable celebrities. Whitney's husband, John Hendrickson, stated that the couple would like to focus their efforts to support backstretch workers at the Saratoga Race Course.

The gala – created in 1960 at the behest of Whitney's husband at the time, C.V. Whitney, to bring glamour back to the Spa City – saw its first cancellation in 2006 when Whitney suffered from a stroke. The event was canceled in 2009 in response to holding a high-luxury event amid a downward economy. The gala is typically held the night before the Whitney Stakes take place (Whitney and Hendrickson will host a smaller, private party to honor New York Racing Association Chairman Steven Duncker).

The Whitney name is still revered in horse racing; as the couple still operates Marylou Whitney Stables that bred 2004 Belmont Stakes winner Birdstone (Whitney's thoroughbred dashed then-Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Smarty Jones). The couple also owns the venerable Cady Hill estate in Saratoga Springs in addition to homes in the Adirondacks, New York City, Florida, and Kentucky.

According to Hendrickson, the event hasn't been permanently canceled, but would not offer details regarding a return in 2012. • KL

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Your Choice 2011 > Presidential Visit Obama to visit Fort Drum



BY LEDGER STAFF

President Barack Obama will meet with troops for the 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum in Northern New York Thursday, according to the White House.

Obama's visit will come after a prime time announcement tonight reportedly regarding the withdrawal of 10,000 troops from Afghanistan within the next year and 23,000 the following year. Fort Drum, located near Watertown, N.Y. and the Canadian border, hosted Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. last year.

This will be Obama's second visit of the year to the northern parts of New York. This past January, Obama promoted energy innovation and the economic potential of technology at General Electric's Schenectady, N.Y. plant.

The troop reduction will total 33,000 – more than what Pentagon officials were aiming for. This will leave 70,000 troops on the ground in Afghanistan.

Military analysts have raised the issue that once U.S. forces leave various parts of the country, they will fall back into the grasp of Taliban fighters.

Obama Administration officials have stated that Afghan army and police units will – over time - be able to take control of security, with assistance from remaining U.S. troops. They note that 68,000 troops will remain after the draw-down next summer.

Obama will then be heading to New York City in the evening to at least two fundraisers – one of which held by the LGBT community. • KL

The latest news can be found at first at **KnickerbockerLedger.com**

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Outings > Libations

Libations: Graney's Stout



BY JOE BONILLA
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As summer begins to truly warm up, so does the bar and restaurant scene in Albany. In North Albany alone, two new bars have opened up to give Wolff's Biergarten some friendly competition.

Graney's Stout (904 Broadway), an Irish concept bar that's directly across the street from Wolff's, is located in the front of the Kimberly Scott building. A large, open space - Stout was opened by Mike Graney and additional business partners (Graney owns the eponymous Graney's Bar and Grill on New Scotland Avenue). Stout had a number of Irish beers on tap - from your typical Guinness and the Smithwick to additional stouts such as Murphy's, McSorley's, O'Hara's and Magner's Irish Cider. If Irish beer isn't your game, no worries - they have Sam Adams, Budweiser, Coors, and locally owned Brown's also on tap.

Customers can order from drafts from three sizes - a 12 ounce, 20 ounce, and a 32 ounce - for \$4.00, \$7.00 and \$11.00, respectively. Just like the Graney's on New Scotland, Stout also serves bar-style food at reasonable prices. Remember to bring cash - no cards accepted (ATM inside) similar to its across t

Stout's atmosphere is decidedly pub-like - instead of going full picnic table such as Wolff's or the newly opened City Beer Hall, Stout's booth seating is comfortable enough for a pint or two. Dartboards are in the back, along with an out-of-place couch that for some weird reason works where it is. Their patio is adequately sized (the only issue is if a band's playing, maneuvering could be a game of who steps where). For their performance space - definitely big enough for a good sized band, but the half-wall between the main seating area and the performance area is awkward at best (hopefully they'll take it down - it's only eight feet wide, a good simple fix).

Overall, Graney's Stout makes for a great place to head to for happy hour or to catch up with friends on the weekend.

Graney's Stout

Rating: Four 1/2 out of Five Pints
904 Broadway, Albany (phone: 518-427-8688)
Facebook: Graney's Stout • KL

Ledger Life > Featured Events

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Martha Reeves and the Vandellas featuring the New York Funk Ensemble

Alive at Five - Corning Preserve - 5:00PM
Free

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Robert F. Kennedy Democratic Club Monthly Meeting

McGeary's - North Pearl Street - 7:00PM
Free

Friday, June 24, 2011

R.I.P. Amalgama featuring Bishop

Valentine's - New Scotland Avenue - 9:00PM
\$10.00 (\$12.00 Under 21 Years of Age)

Saturday, June 25, 2011

MIRK

Elda's on Lark - Lark Street - 10:00PM
\$7.00

Sunday, June 26, 2011

S.I.N.: Service Industry Night

McGeary's - North Pearl Street - 8:30PM
Free

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Jacquelyn M. Cohen

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Your Choice 2011 > Albany County

Pressure Mounts on McCoy to sign Clenahan's Marriage Equality Proclamation



BY LEDGER STAFF
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As same-sex marriage is debated at the New York State Capitol, several county legislators in Albany have come together to support marriage equality.

One notable exception from supporting the proclamation has been current Legislature Chairman and candidate for Albany County Executive, Daniel P. McCoy.

"The Robert F. Kennedy Democratic Club will continually stand up for the equality of all citizens and will continue to call on our elected officials to do the same. Doing the right thing and doing the political thing don't always go hand in hand. We call on Dan McCoy and all our county legislators to get on board with this proclamation - now, rather than later," said Maureen O'Brien, co-chair of the Robert F. Kennedy Democratic Club in Albany.

In addition to O'Brien, other members of the Albany community have urged McCoy - via his campaign Facebook page - to sign the proclamation.

County Legislator Bryan Clenahan (D-Guilderland), along with Christopher T. Higgins (D-Albany) and Timothy Nichols (D-Colonie), presented the proclamation to Nora Yates, the executive director of the Pride Center of the Capital Region, at the Capital Pride Parade and Festival two weeks ago.

"Marriage is a Constitutionally-protected fundamental right," Clenahan said. "There is no equality or justice in any state in which some people are denied a fundamental right that others enjoy every day. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender New Yorkers pay the same taxes and follow the same laws as everyone; they should be entitled to all the same rights as well. The time is now to achieve marriage equality for all New Yorkers."

"I fully support the call for marriage equality and hope the State Legislature passes it," Higgins said. "Marriage equality is about civil rights and basic fairness for all New Yorkers," Nichols stated. • KL



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Ledger Life > Movie Schedule

June 22 - June 28 for Albany Theaters

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

| | |
|--|--|
| X-Men First Class (PG13) M - 135 405 705 935 R - (1250 140 240) 310 400 450 540 620 710 800 850 930 1100 1150 | Jumping the Broom (PG13) M - 1205 220 435 700 930 |
| Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG13) M - 1200 215 430 705 920 R - (1210 150 220) 420 500 640 710 900 1120 | The First Grader (PG13) S - 355 700 Incendies (R) S - 1235 330 630 925 |
| Pirates of the Caribbean on Stranger Tides (PG13) M - 130 400 700 935 R - (110) 510 820 1140 | The Hangover Part 2 (R) S - (115 345) 640 940 R - (1240 210) 320 450 600 740 830 920 1030 1100 1210 |
| Water for Elephants (PG13) S - 1240 930 | There Be Dragons (PG13) S - 12:25, 6:45 |
| Win Win (R) S - 1245 655 | Everything Must Go (R) S - 400 920 |
| The Conspirator (PG13) S - 340 925 | Bridesmaids (R) S - 1230 335 635 940 R - (100) 350 650 950 |
| Green Lantern (PG13) M - 1205 220 435 700 930 R - 1220 150 320 440 610 730 900 1020 1140 | Midnight in Paris (PG-13) S - 1255 350 645 925 R - 130 430 720 1000 |
| The Art of Getting By (PG13) S - 340 925 | Meek's Cutoff (PG) S - 1250 405 650 935 Super 8 (PG-13) R - (1150 1220 200 230) 300 330 440 520 550 730 810 840 910 1020 1100 1030 1200 |

Your Choice 2011 > State Senate

All Eyes on Greg Ball as Marriage Equality Bill Goes To The Wire



BY LEDGER STAFF
info@knickledger.com

As the clock winds down for the New York State Senate to take action of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Marriage Equality Act, proponents of same-sex marriage have been targeting Sen. Greg Ball (R-Putnam County) as the potential 32nd vote needed for passage.

Ball, 33, a former active duty Air Force officer and previously a member of the Assembly, posted on Twitter (@ball4ny) over the weekend, "Opening up the discussion! So, if you were me, how would you vote on gay marriage? Yes or No?"

Ball previously in a memorandum concerning the bill wrote, "On one side, it is viewed as a civil rights issue, and on the other side, a direct affront on heartfelt religious beliefs. From repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to widespread equality issues, I have always been an advocate on behalf of gay rights, and to this day, would proudly support the most comprehensive civil union legislation in the nation, while placing marriage equality out to the public for a referendum and a vote. That said, on the specific issue of marriage equality, with the possibility of serious and comprehensive religious protections, I will remain undecided until I see the final bill. Without those basic religious protections, I clearly must vote no."

Cuomo's team has responded that the bill retains much of the same language proposed in previous bills in 2009 and 2010 that exempt religious institutional adherence.

Earlier last week, Sen. Roy McDonald (R-Rensselaer County) became the 31st vote, stating in response to conservative criticism of his switch, "You get to the point where you evolve in your life where everything isn't black and white, good and bad, and you try to do the right thing. You might not like that. You might be very cynical about that. Well, f**k it, I don't care what you think. I'm trying to do the right thing. I'm tired of Republican-Democrat politics. They can take the job and shove it. I come from a blue-collar background. I'm trying to do the right thing, and that's where I'm going with this."

McDonald's campaign has already used the policy change to his re-election efforts. On Friday, McDonald's Facebook page was changed to "Stand With Roy" and urged supporters to contribute to combat critics of McDonald. As of Wednesday afternoon, McDonald has over 12,500 fans, up from approximately 4,000 last Monday.

The bill's vote will be a topic of discussion further when President Obama attends a fundraiser held by the LGBT community in New York on June 23. • KL

