

Knickerbocker Ledger

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Top Story > Albany County To Have New Ethics Law



Albany County's New Ethics Law Aims At Giving the Public an Assurance that "Business Is Being Done Honestly"

BY LEDGER STAFF – ALBANY/CAPITOL BUREAU
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The Albany County Legislature held a public hearing Tuesday night for a new ethics law that has a wide ranging impact on how the county handles its business.

"This will give the people an assurance that business is being done honestly, and it will protect county workers from undue suspicion," said Albany County Legislator Ryan Horstmyer, the sponsor of the law.

The legislation provides guidelines for Albany County officials, officers, and employees for public financial disclosures of any potential conflicts of interest while serving or being employed by the county.

Elected officials, candidates for public office, and others had the opportunity to speak on the issue.

"On the city level, (Richard) Conti and I will have our ethics proposals considered this fall. This is way overdue," said Anton Konev, Albany Common Council Member from the 11th Ward.

Anita Thayer, co-chair of Citizen Action, applauded Horstmyer's efforts.

"Such an improved, enforceable ethics for Albany County is overdue. We applaud the work of Ryan Horstmyer for doggedly pursuing this issue since its initial introduction in 2008. We hope the full Legislature is now on the eve of passing this historic legislation," said Thayer, who is also an executive committee member for Working Families.

Noelle Kinsch, whose running in Albany's sixth district, said that trust is needed in "good government." Kinsch is currently running against Brian Scavo.

One notable absence was current County Legislature chairman and County Executive candidate Daniel P. McCoy, who would be the first new county executive to be held to the regulations in the law. Earlier on Tuesday, the Times Union reported that McCoy has received nearly a quarter of his \$193,000 in campaign contributions from firms and individuals linked to BBL and Columbia Development Companies.

BBL was responsible for renovation of the Albany County Courthouse on Eagle Street and the construction of the Albany County Judicial Center and Albany County Family Courthouse.

The vote on the proposed law may take place on Monday, August 8. • KL

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

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Capital Region > Albany Same Sex Couples Marry At City Hall

BY SAMANTHA BUNN – ALBANY/CAPITOL BUREAU
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State Supreme Court Justice Joseph Teresi and Albany Mayor Gerald D. Jennings performed wedding ceremonies at City Hall on Sunday morning after midnight, marking the first same-sex marriages to take place in the capital.

A crowd of public supporters and reporters looked on as the ceremonies began at 12:14 a.m. on Sunday morning.

Couples were able to pick up applications for marriage licenses on Thursday, July 21, and the first ten to turn them in Friday morning at City Hall were wed.

New York is now the sixth state in the nation to legalize same-sex marriages, along with Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont and New Hampshire. • KL

Technology > Third World Innovation First, Software; Now, Toilets. Gates Wants To Revolutionize Disposal of Human Waste



BY LEDGER STAFF – BUSINESS
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Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates made billions from creating desktop software. Now, he wants to revolutionize the way the world disposes of human waste.

According to the news release, "No innovation in the past 200 years has done more to save lives and improve health than the sanitation revolution triggered by invention of the toilet," Sylvia Mathews Burwell, president of the foundation's Global Development Program, said in her speech at AfricaSan, the third African Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene, organized by AMCOW. In short, we need to reinvent the toilet."

"Disease caused by unsafe sanitation accounts for roughly half of all hospitalizations in the developing world," said Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, chair of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. • KL

RENT RETURNS AUGUST 12-14 & 19-21

Schenectady Light Opera Company (SLOC) Presents "RENT" – SLOCtheater.org – 427 Franklin Street

Your Choice 2011 > Albany County Executive Lebron: I Will Continue To Fight On



BY LEDGER STAFF – ALBANY/CAPITOL BUREAU
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Nathan Lebron, who sought for the Republican line to challenge Albany County Legislature Chairman Daniel P. McCoy for Albany County Executive, is seeking support in order to field an independent line to prevent an unchallenged election in November.

Lebron, who was the first Latino to run for Mayor of Albany in 2009, has been speaking with disaffected Democrats, Republicans, and independents to see if there is interest in forming an alternative ballot line.

"The big issue we have in Albany County is that a democratic debate on issues will not have a proper forum unless the entrenchment of special interests is defeated. It was thought that this entrenchment only affected the Democratic Party but recent events within my own party has demonstrated that it has also penetrated the GOP," said Lebron.

Last week, Lebron filed roughly 900 signatures – about 1,000 short of what is required by law. Even though Lebron was short on signatures, a Loudonville woman filed a general objection to his petition. Barring an objection, the Board of Elections has the option of barring Lebron's candidacy based upon "face value." Lebron had no formal support from the Albany County GOP and had called for their chair, Don Clarey, to resign.

"As long as the independent voice of the people express an interest in having a candidate fighting on, I will continue to fight," Lebron said. • KL

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Robin Zlotnick > Film Review

Attack the Block



BY ROBIN ZLOTNICK - LOS ANGELES
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Attack the Block is director Joe Cornish's debut feature; it's lead actor, John Boyega's debut as well, and it was probably some PA's first feature too, but it hardly seems like it. It's a British kids vs. aliens movie, and I didn't see *Super 8*, but I imagine that watching *Attack the Block* is like watching *Super 8* if *Super 8* were full of English accents ... and a hundred times more awesome than it is.

It's an homage to 80's classics like *Gremlins*, *The Goonies*, and *Ghostbusters*, and it only fails them on one account: the title doesn't start with the letter "G."

It's pure fun, with just enough character stuff and well-played social commentary. The film begins with a group of racially diverse South London "delinquent" kids mugging a nice white lady who lives in their building (in their defense, they had *no idea* she lived there). Then, something falls out of the sky and smashes into a car right in front of them. A creature bolts, and the kids, who have names like Moses, Pest, and Biggz, follow, battle, and kill this nasty, monkey-like alien. This triggers a butt-load of creatures to start falling from the sky, and these South London stoner teens team up with the nice white lady they mugged earlier to valiantly fight the aliens.

So it's a nice redemption story about troublemaking teens who are usually written off by a lot of society because of their origins, their choices, etc. *And* you also get to see pitch black, hairy gorilla-like aliens with several rows of glow-in-the-dark teeth viciously rip apart several people. There's something for everyone!

I saw *Attack the Block* with a friend who was afraid of how scary it would be. I scoffed - it was a movie about kids and aliens; how frightening could it be? But not only were there enough moments to startle a weak heart into an attack, it was, like those classic movies, especially gory and blood-and-guts-filled, which was an unexpected but totally welcome surprise. It's also, at points, laugh-out-loud funny, with a perhaps underutilized Nick Frost in a guest appearance as Ron, the weed dealer.

Nevertheless, *Attack the Block* is an homage to classic monsters vs. kids films; it's a frightening and action-packed comedy; it's a gory alien movie; and it's a human story of friendship and perseverance. It just gets it. All I have to say about *Attack the Block* is BELIEVE. Which you won't understand until you see the movie, so do it. • KL

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2011 Readers Poll

*Through July 31, 2011

Ledger Life > Movie Schedule

July 29 - Aug. 4 for Albany Theaters

M - Madison Theater; X - Crossgates; C - Colonie Center
Parentheses = Matinee. Madison Open Past 6 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.

Captain America (PG13) M - (135 405) 705 935 X - (1020 1050 1120 1220 1250 120 150 220) 320 350 450 520 620 650 720 750 820 950 1050 1120 1210	Winnie the Pooh (G) X - (1140 210) 450 710 M - (1215 215 415)
Harry Potter 7 (PG13) X - (1015 1030 1110 1130 1200 1230 100 130 200 230 300) 330 400 430 500 530 600 630 700 730 800 830 900 930 1000 1015 1100 1130 1200	Horrible Bosses (R) X - (1150) 310 540 810 1040 M - (1205 215 425) 700 930
C - (1200 1250 140) 320 400 450 630 710 800 940 1020	Friends with Benefits (R) X - (1040 1240 140) 340 440 640 740 940 1020 1220
Transformers 3 (PG-13) X - (140) 410 510 840 1010 M - (100 400) 700 945 C - (1100 240) 610 945	Bad Teacher (R) M - 710 935
The Smurfs (PG) M - (1200 215 430) 700 915	Cowboys & Aliens (PG-13) M - (135 405) 705 935
	Crazy, Stupid, Love (PG-13) C - (1140 120 250) 340 4430 620 740 920 950 1040
	Friends with Benefits (R) C - (1120 210) 500 750 1045
	Zookeeper (PG) M - (1205 220 435) 710 925 X - (1210 250) 610 850 1140

Columns > Cavalcade

Should Have Been Behind The Resolute Desk



BY JOE BONILLA - ALBANY
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With debt talks now one week away from the deadline set by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner, President Obama attempted to shape the debate last night with a primetime presidential address with the goal of explaining to the American public (a) what the whole hubbub about and (b) how vital it was to raise the debt ceiling and to start working to fix the nation's debt.

One slight PR problem though - Obama should have used the Resolute Desk.

The desk, the one in the Oval Office, has been used by Presidents to display the gravity and graveness of a situation. Carter used it for his "Crisis of Confidence" speech. Reagan used it for the Challenger disaster. George W. Bush used it for September 11th. Clinton used it for explaining NATO's intervention in Kosovo.

Obama himself used it to talk about last summer's Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Considering the amount of time on media outlets - from newspapers and television stations that remain fixated on this, no place in the White House would have been better for this.

Presidential speeches are iconic. White House aides take careful steps to plan how the President (1) addresses the situation at hand, (2) the speech itself, and (3) the location of the speech. This ranges from when the Super Bowl champions come to the White House, visiting heads of state, a national emergency - everything the President needs to speak to the world audience about. The location means everything: if its an executive appointment - the Rose Garden. The Prime Minister of India has come to Washington? The Cross Hall. Young professionals visiting the White House for a summit? The Entrance Hall. National emergency? The Oval Office.

Considering how a downgrade in the credit rating of America would impact everything from Social Security checks, bond payments, interest payments, and consumer credit. It affects everything.

Yes - the Cross Hall exhibits the power of the American presidency. Obama was just there not too long ago to announce Osama bin Laden's death by Navy SEALs. However, considering the potential devastating to the nation's economy and world markets, having the President behind the desk - seated to show a calm yet stern demeanor - would have allowed the Obama administration to place the blame on why this hasn't been resolved back to the Republicans.

Instead, the President looked like a lonely man, standing - looking professorial - attempting to be an adult in a room filled with a Republican Party that looks like more like the Bumpuses from "A Christmas Story" than the party of Lincoln and Eisenhower. • KL



Lifestyle > The Hollywood Review

Captain America: The First Avenger



BY CRITIC AT LARGE - GUILDERLAND
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The latest film in the Marvel franchise buildup to the 2012 release of *The Avengers* falls short of the mark. Perhaps it is fatigue from so many comic book films made in recent years.

For those of you concerned with spoilers I will start by saying one aspect of this film must be spoiled. This film breaks from the MARVEL tradition of an extra scene appearing after the credits. Fans were disappointed when the only thing after the credits was a statement about the main character returning in "The Avengers" in 2012. Hardly worth waiting for when most fans knew this before entering the theater. For the few who didn't, my apologies.

Apparently the director thought it was better to make this a time-slip movie that begins in the current day with the discovery of a wrecked ship in what appears to be arctic ice. As a team explores the ship they come across a familiar red, white and blue shield. Then we are transported to 1941 and the saga of a young man who keeps trying to join the army to fight Germany in World War II. The story continues with a secret project to create a super-soldier which results in the creation of Captain America. The core of the movie is mostly a good WWII picture about a comic book hero fighting HYDRA and Red Skull. A few scenes drag on. The core of the movie ends with a search team in route. This is where the movie should have ended without the lingering question posed by the opening sequence.

Unfortunately we are transported back to current day. What followed would have made a good extra scene after the credits. Without the modern day footage, Captain America is a good comic book adaptation that is entertaining akin to the old Saturday matinee serials. With the footage the movie becomes a two hour and four minute commercial for next summer's release.

For those who are cost conscience, see the regular version of the film. The extra price for the rendered 3-D is not warranted. The 3-D benefits only a few scenes and has a layered cartoon feel to it. • KL

Ledger Life > Featured Events in Albany

Friday, July 29, 2011

Helderberg Theatre Festival

Indian Ladder Farms - New Scotland Road - 8:00PM
Free

Saturday, July 30, 2011

Cage Wars 10

Northern Lights - Clifton Park - 7:00PM
Check Facebook: Cage Wars for Ticket Information



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