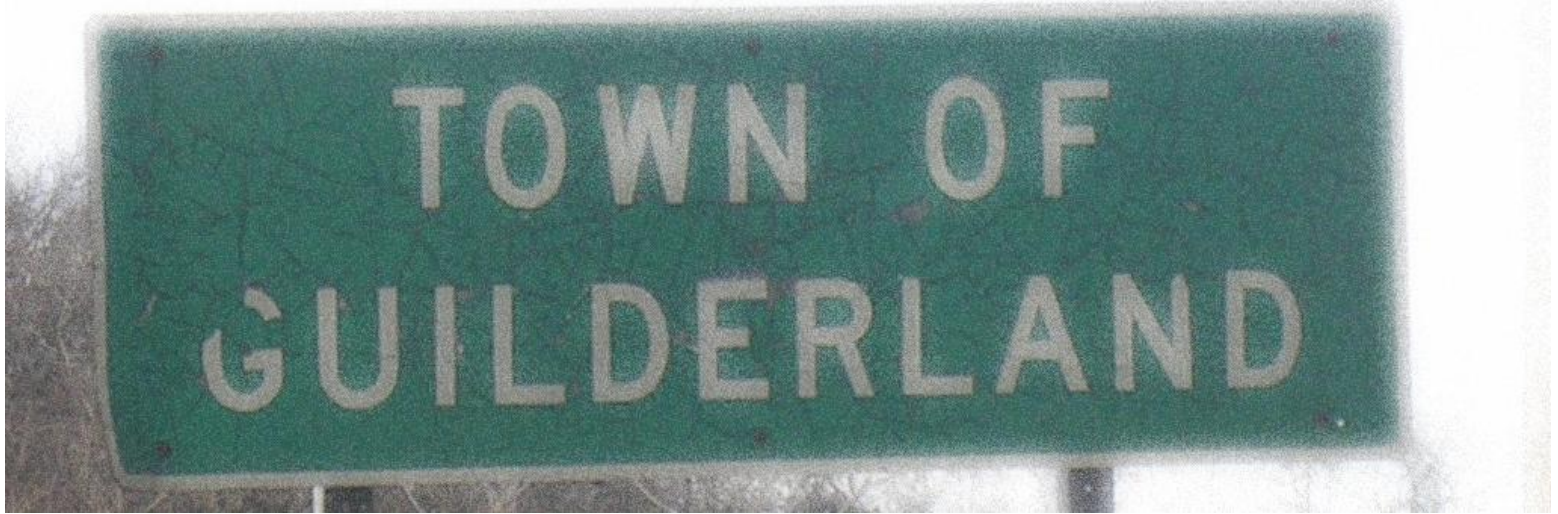


Knickerbocker Ledger

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Aug. 3 – Aug. 10, 2011

Top Story > Guilderland Republican Looks To Win County Legislature Race



Guilderland GOP nominee to break UAlbany "curse," aims on joining fellow Albany Co. Legislature alumni

BY LEDGER STAFF – ALBANY/CAPITOL BUREAU
info@knickledger.com

2011 has been rough for University at Albany alumni who have sought public office so far.

Most recently, former UAlbany Student Association President Justin Wax Jacobs (class of 2011) had been seeking an independent line to succeed Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn in Queens, only to see New York City Board of Elections reject his petitions because of a technicality. Montebello resident Alex Pena (class of 2010) had sought to become a village trustee this past March, yet dreams were dashed narrowly.

Now, Republican Bryan Best (class of 2010) seeks to join fellow UAlbany graduates Chris Higgins, Tim Nichols, Carl Zeilman, Patrice Lockhart, and Charles Dawson in the Albany County Legislature. Best, 24, is running unopposed for his party's nomination for the newly redrawn 28th District. Best is currently a staffer with the New York State Senate and serves as a trustee for the Guilderland Public Library.

"I feel extremely fortunate to have attended and graduated from the University of Albany tremendously proud of the work that I accomplished during my time there. I believe the University possesses a number of bright and successful individuals that Albany County can and should benefit from," said Best.

The two candidates seeking the Democratic nomination are Terrence P. Hurley, the chief financial officer for the Albany Port District Commission, and attorney Dennis Feeney of the firm Feeney, Centi, and Mackey. Feeney previously had been a member of the county legislature in a seat now held by Bryan Clenahan.

"I believe that Guilderland needs a strong voice at the county level. I want to increase transparency and openness in Albany. As I walk house to house, one thing remains the same; no one seems to even know the county legislature exists," Best says.

Unlike fellow GOPer Nathan Lebron, Best has received support from the Albany County GOP and the Guilderland Town Republican Committee. A potential obstacle facing Best is not having a Republican at the top of the ticket for County Executive, where Democrat Daniel P. McCoy is poised to win in November with Conservative Party support.

For decades, the Republican Party dominated the suburbs of Albany County, centralized in both the towns of Colonie and Guilderland. In the past few years, Democrats have turned the tide completely - turning Colonie into a near monopoly of Democratic control and Guilderland on the ropes with the two Republicans on the five-member town board not seeking re-election.

Economic development, taxes, and ethics appear to be tenets of Best's campaign.

Although Best stopped short of endorsing County Legislator Ryan Horstmyer's county ethics legislation, Best believes good government requires ethics. "I am a very strong proponent of all ethics based legislation. I believe that in order for there to be legitimate trust between government officials and the people they represent, ethics legislation is imperative," Best says.

Without having to go through a primary himself, Best may have enough time and energy to break "the curse." The general election is on Nov. 8. • KL

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

Business – First Niagara buys 195 HSBC branches
LedgerLife – Movie Schedule + Event Listings
The Hollywood Review – Cowboys & Aliens
Robin Zlotnick – Television Preview: Shark Week
Your Choice 2011 – Magic Johnson Coming to UAlbany?

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Music > Albany

Mike Doughty, Severe Severe, Motopony, Alex Torres Orchestra national and local acts for LarkFEST

BY LEDGER STAFF – ALBANY
info@knickledger.com

Alternative singer-songwriter Mike Doughty, local rockers Severe Severe, Alex Torres and his Latin Orchestra, and Motopony are among the musical acts announced for this year's LarkFEST this September this year.

Now in it's 30th year, LarkFEST - coordinated by the Lark Street Business Improvement District - hosted Moby, Thom Yorke from Radiohead, and Aficionado in previous years.

Doughty - who first started with Soul Coughing in the 1990s before becoming a solo act - is known for "Looking at the World from the Bottom of a Well," which was featured on the ABC show *Grey's Anatomy*. Doughty's song, "I Hear the Bells", is featured prominently in an episode of the UPN show *Veronica Mars*.

Severe Severe is an up-and-coming act that's been performing at Valentine's and the Hudson River Coffee House. Additional acts include Ben Karis-Nix, Blotto, the Landlines, Are Jeneric, Cody Beebe & the Crooks, Faces on Film, Jason Spooner, and Diego Garcia.

LarkFEST is Saturday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. • KL

RENT RETURNS AUGUST 12-14 & 19-21

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

Your Choice 2011 > Albany Magic Johnson Reportedly "Considered" for UAlbany Speaker Series

BY LEDGER STAFF – ALBANY/CAPITAL BUREAU
info@knickledger.com

Colin Powell, Karl Rove, Howard Dean, Barbara Walters, Bill Clinton... Magic Johnson?

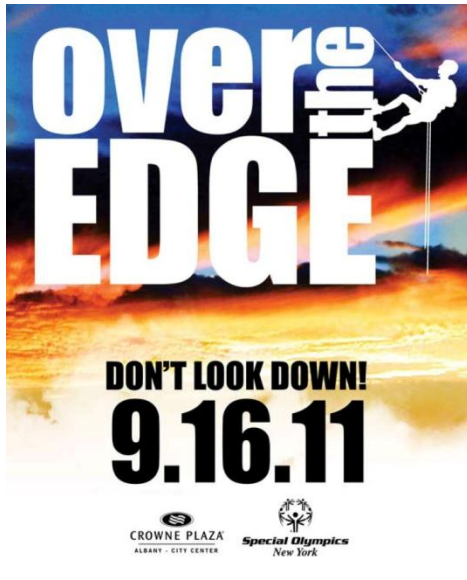
A source close to the UAlbany Student Association has confirmed that former Los Angeles Lakers superstar and business leader Magic Johnson is being "considered" to speak at the World Within Reach Speaker Series this fall at the University at Albany.

Johnson, 51, has been named one of the "50 Greatest Players in NBA History" after retiring in 1996. Since retirement, Johnson has built Magic Johnson Enterprises into a \$700 million business empire spanning franchise locations for chain restaurants and movie theaters across the country, typically in urban locations.

The World Within Reach Speaker Series - started in 2009 - has been an initiative pushed forward by the UAlbany Student Association. Last March's installment featured President Bill Clinton.

Magic Johnson Enterprises could not be reached for comment. • KL

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Business > Banking

First Niagara buys 195 HSBC
Upstate N.Y., Conn. branches



BY LEDGER STAFF - ALBANY/CAPITOL BUREAU - ALBANY
info@knickledger.com

First Niagara Bank has agreed to acquire 195 branches located in Upstate New York and Connecticut from HSBC, the latest in a string of bank mergers that have left the Albany area with fewer options for banking.

The deal - signed on Saturday - gives the Western N.Y.-based First Niagara control over branches across the state, going as far down as Putnam and Westchester counties. The deal includes the assumption of \$15 billion in deposit assets from HSBC customers.

First Niagara's acquisition is the most recent of bank mergers that affected New York's Capital Region, which included Fleet Bank's purchase of Norstar Bank, the merger of Cleveland, Oh.-based Society Bank and Albany-based KeyBank, HSBC's purchase of Marine Midland Bank, Charter One's purchase of Albany Savings Bank, Citizens Bank's purchase of Charter One Bank, Bank of America's purchase of FleetBoston Financial, and JPMorganChase's acquisition of Washington Mutual.

First Niagara Bank entered the Capital Region in 2004 with the purchase of Troy Savings Bank.

This now leaves area customers with Bank of America, Citizens Bank, Trustco Bank (based in Schenectady, N.Y.), NBT Bank, Key Bank, and various credit unions as alternate banking options.

New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, in a statement, lauded the deal. "Given the possible losses from the HSBC divestment in New York, this is the best possible outcome for HSBC's employees and branches across the state. In addition, this purchase is good news for New York because First Niagara is a New York company that has a record of growth and creating jobs in upstate New York and with this deal it is showing that it is poised to continue and expand this important commitment to our state and our workforce," said Cuomo.

"We are very pleased to acquire such a high-quality franchise that gives us an optimal footprint in Upstate New York and additional depth in Connecticut," said First Niagara President and Chief Executive Officer John R. Koelmel.

There will be no changes to customer accounts or branches until after the transaction is completed, and First Niagara and HSBC are already collaborating to ensure a smooth transition for the businesses and individuals they serve, according to the news release sent by First Niagara.

First Niagara expects to have approximately \$38 billion in assets, \$30 billion in deposits and 450 branches across Upstate New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, upon completion of the transaction. HSBC customers outside the acquired area will not be affected by the acquisition. • KL



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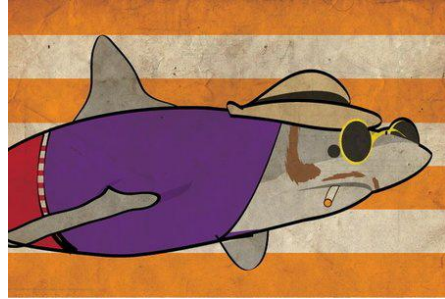
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Robin Zlotnick > Television Preview

The Thing About Shark Week



BY ROBIN ZLOTNICK - LOS ANGELES
info@knickledger.com

Shark Week begins this week on the Discovery Channel. I've already seen multiple Facebook statuses about it, ranging from, "Shark weeeeeeeeeeeek" to the more articulate, "I love Shark weeeeeeeeeeeek." It's the number one trending topic on Twitter, and so many having been tweeting about it ("Shark weeeeeeeeeeeek is the best!"). And yes, Shark Week is the best, my Facebook friends. But where did it come from? It hasn't always been quite the uniting social event that it is today. It's not that sharks don't deserve this week; in fact, it was created to educate people and give them a greater sense of respect for these often villainized creatures. And it's not that sharks aren't absolutely fascinating animals. But it wasn't always cool to admit to liking the Discovery Channel.

Shark Week has become the poster child of a fairly recent resurgence of a widespread hipster attitude toward television. Hipsters aren't the only ones who watch Shark Week; everyone does. It is just that hipster motto/mantra/way of life to "like something that's so not cool" that has infiltrated all our minds and made Shark Week a thing you have to be "up on." We all like to watch sort of silly reenactments of shark attacks; we love to see myths getting busted; and we drool when watching a rugged man named Bear barely survive truly harrowing situations, but only within the past five or seven years has it become not only kosher but actually trendy to go social media crazy about such programming, to really flaunt your Discovery or History or Science Channel or (depending on the show) Animal Planet habits (Whale Wars is my personal favorite. It's a super cool show, don't worry).

But my mother has been watching the Discovery Channel for years, and no one has handed her a solid gold 8-track (the trophy of hipster things, obv). Who decided it was cool, and when? Was it the same influential hipster who decided Planet Earth was the new Dark Side of the Moon? Or has it just been a successful marketing effort? It is a distinct possibility that it has been cool forever and I'm just incredibly slow on the uptake. Maybe, hopefully, it's due to the simple fact that everyone finally realized that Shark Week is actually totally awesome.

Did you know this year's Shark Week is hosted by Andy Samberg? I definitely did. (Translation: I had no idea Shark Week had a host). So have fun, watch some sharks, and don't worry about how fashionable it makes you (hint: it's much more fashionable than those shark tooth necklaces boys wore in middle school and you inexplicably wanted to buy every time you left the aquarium). • KL



Ledger Life > Movie Schedule

Aug. 5 - Aug. 11 for Albany Theaters

M - Madison Theater; X - Crossgates; C - Colonie; S - Spectrum
Parentheses = Matinee. Matinees end at 3 p.m. X, C; 6 p.m. at M, S

- Rise / Planet of the Apes** (PG13)
M - (1200 215 430) 705 930
X - (1230 110 150 230) 310
350 430 510 550 630 710 750
830 910 950 1030 1110 1150
C - (1140 1230 120 230) 420
520 630 710 810 950 1050
- The Change-Up** (R)
X - (1210 130 250) 410 530
650 810 940 1100
C - (1120 210) 500 750 1040
- Captain America** (PG13)
M - (135 405) 705 935
X - (200) 415 500 800 1015 1100
- Harry Potter 7** (PG13)
X - (1150 100 240) 400 600
700 900 1000 1145
S - (1200 330) 645 935
C - (1210 300) 340 650 940 1010
- Transformers 3** (PG-13)
X - (1145 300) 615 945
M - (100 400) 700
C - (1130) 610
- The Smurfs** (PG)
M - (1200 215 430) 700 915
X - (1145 1250 210) 330 440
610 720 940
C - (1110 150) 440 730 1015
- The Tree of Life** (PG-13)
S - (1220) 630
- Midnight in Paris** (PG-13)
S - (1225 350) 655 925
- The Double Hour** (NR)
S - (405) 705
- Winnie the Pooh** (G)
M - (1215 215 415)
- Horrible Bosses** (R)
X - (1150) 310 540 810 1040
M - 700 930
C - (110) 740
- Friends with Benefits** (R)
X - (150) 450 730 1010
- Bad Teacher** (R)
M - 710 935
- Cowboys & Aliens** (PG13)
M - (135 405) 705 935
X - (120 220) 320 420 520 620
720 820 920 1020 1120
C - (1200 130) 320 410 450
620 800 920 1030 1100
- Crazy, Stupid, Love** (PG-13)
C - (1220) 320 640 930
X - (1240 140) 340 640 740 930
S - (1240 335) 640 940
- Friends with Benefits** (R)
C - (140) 430 720 1020
S - (1245 340) 645 945
- Zookeeper** (PG)
M - (1205 220 435)
- X - (1200)
C - (1100)
- Snow Flower/Secret Fan** (PG-13)
S - (1250 400) 700 935
- Beginners** (R)
S - (1230) 930
- Buck** (PG)
S - (355) 930
- The Trip** (NR)
S - (1215 345) 650 925



Lifestyle > The Hollywood Review

Cowboys and Aliens



BY CRITIC AT LARGE - GUILDERLAND
info@knickledger.com

Rated PG-13

What makes a good western? An outsider, a man with no name? A cattle baron who thinks he owns the town and the sheriff? His idiot son who terrorizes the townspeople? Perhaps it's bandits turning on each other or Indians on the warpath. Then there are the obligatory chases on horseback. Throw in a tough as nails Daniel Craig as the man with no name and Harrison Ford as the cattle baron. Apply liberally across scenic vistas. Have everyone in the pursuit of gold. At this point you have a fairly good 1800's western pulling elements from the classics of John Ford, Sergio Leone and John Huston. This makes for a mostly enjoyable western movie.

But something is missing... I know... Let's throw in some non-anachronistic space aliens seeking gold who have no regard for the indigenous people. Talk about an ultimate western antagonist. Cowboys & Aliens manages to pull off being a decent Saturday afternoon type western with an extraterrestrial bent. Aliens don't make for a better western, but they do make for one that is out of this world. Don't expect too much. Just go and have fun with it. • KL

Ledger Life > Featured Events in Albany

Thursday, August 4, 2011

Live's Ed Kowalczyk with Mission Hill

Alive at Five - Corning Preserve - 5 p.m.
Free

Friday, August 5, 2011

Helderberg Theatre Festival

Indian Ladder Farms - New Scotland Road - 8 p.m.
Free

Friday, August 5, 2011

Many of One Festival

Lee's Playground - Saratoga Lake - 11 a.m.
\$30 / day pass

Saturday, August 6, 2011

The Producers

Park Playhouse - Washington Park - 8 p.m.
Free