

Knickerbocker Ledger

KnickLedger.com

Albany's Fastest Growing **FREE** News Source – Vol. 1, Issue 15

Aug. 31 – Sept. 6, 2011

Top Story > Earthquakes, Hurricanes, Floods, Oh My!



Floods ravage through Capital Region as Hurricane Irene's weekend visit was devastating and deadly.

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

"Oh my god," has been the reaction area residents and onlookers are giving after photos of the devastation from Hurricane Irene.

More than one million New Yorkers were out of power as emergency relief efforts are underway across the Empire State. The Associated Press is reporting that at least 35 are dead across the Northeast from Irene's wrath, including two from New York's Capital Region.

Stephen Terleckey, 72, was found dead by State Police in his Ford F-150 pick up truck in Fonda Tuesday afternoon. Terleckey was seen at 9 a.m. on Monday, driving on Route 5S in Glen into a washed out portion of the road. The truck was then disabled, followed by being tipped to the side and pulled away by the Schoharie Creek.

On Monday, New Scotland resident Sharon Stein, 68, was found dead – mangled in the trees near her home in the Albany County municipality. Stein and her husband became separated in their attempt to leave their home.

Jumpin' Jack's Drive-In, a landmark of the Schenectady area in Scotia, is completely submerged. Bombers owner Matt Baumgartner, a Union College alum who worked for General Electric in Schenectady in the past, is soliciting donations on his website, FridayPuppy.com, to help cover the cost of rebuilding.

"In the past, Friday Puppy readers have been very generous in helping other local businesses when something unfortunate happens, and I'm hoping we might be able to spare a few dollars to help out our friends at Jumpin' Jacks," said Baumgartner in the post.

On Tuesday, Jumpin' Jack's announced they would close for the rest of the season, which should come as no surprise as the waning days of summer are here.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy are surveying damage in Schoharie County on Monday.

"It was devastating. We were very lucky in New York City, not quite as lucky on Long Island, but the Catskills, mid-Hudson, this is a different story, and we're paying a terrible price," Cuomo said.

Dining by the water is taking a whole new meaning in New York's Capital Region as restaurants alongside the Mohawk and Hudson rivers remain submerged and/or water-damaged as relief and rebuilding efforts are underway.

The riverfront district of Troy, however, is a little bit more than out of reach as floods entered Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, Ryan's Wake, Jose Malone, and Brown's Brewing – all located adjacent to the Hudson River near the Green Island Bridge.

A 100-foot yacht, the "Cortina," helped deflect Dinosaur Bar-B-Que's damage as it was moored adjacent to the riverside location.

"The restaurant is still here and that's a good thing," said Brian Lomnicki, the general manager of the Troy Dinosaur Bar-B-Que. The restaurant will be closed indefinitely until the state Department of Health and Troy engineers have inspected the facility.

Brown's Brewing said they were in the midst of cleanup efforts of their patio and parking lot sections. Ryan's Wake, whose patio was submerged, is also commencing cleanup efforts.

Other communities such as Rotterdam Junction are not exactly concerned with dining, as more than 300 residents remain homeless, some with the prospect of not returning to a home at all. • KL

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

Cheer Up Albany – Community, Not Crime, Defines Arbor Hill
Libations – Barrel Saloon Rock & Roll Country Bar
The Hollywood Review – Colombiana
Your Choice – "I Want My City To Win," says Guidice
We Want You – Submit Your September 11th Story
Exclusive – SMALLBANY

Exclusive > SMALLBANY



Submitted by Joe B. - By Dana S. Owens

For more SMALLBANY cartoons from Dana Owens, visit KnickLedger.com for exclusive, digital content.

We Want To Know...

As the tenth anniversary of the September 11th attacks is coming up next month, the **Knickerbocker Ledger** wants to know your story – where were you on that fateful day in 2001?

How did you find out? Where were you? What was the impact of the event on your life then and over the past ten years? We want to know.

Send us your story to info@knickledger.com to be part of a commemorative September 11th special edition to come out with our September 7-13 issue. • KL

HUDSON RIVER COFFEE HOUSE

Your Choice > Election 2012

Obama disapproval now 55%

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

As Hurricane Irene leaves the United States, President Obama – outside of Irene relief efforts – has a larger storm in the horizon: his 2012 prospects remain grim as now 55% of Americans don't approve of his performance as the nation's chief executive, the highest so far since taking office in January of 2009.

The poll from Gallup – conducted from August 25 to 27 – continues to show Obama in a weak electoral position.

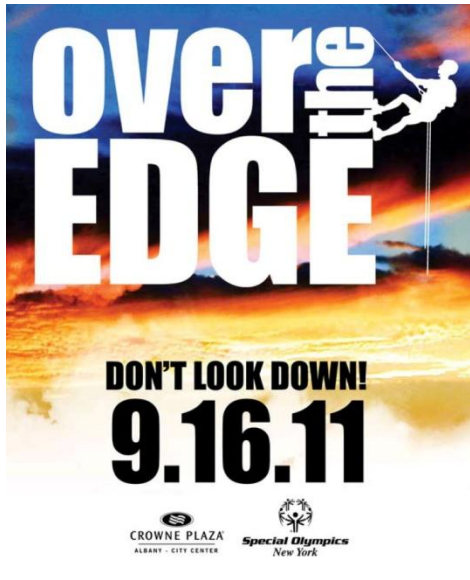
Obama, who cut his Martha's Vineyard vacation short in order to return to Washington to coordinate disaster relief efforts alongside Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, remains in a mediocre position against GOP candidates due to the public's perception of the President's handling of the economy, in which only 26% of Americans approve of Obama's economic performance (Gallup Poll, Aug. 12-14).

GOP contenders Rick Perry and Mitt Romney have tied the President in recent polling done by Gallup and the Associated Press. • KL



SCREENPRINTING AND EMBROIDERY – PRINTZANDPATTERNZ.COM

KnickLedger.com
The Fastest Sources for News.



Opinion > Cheer Up Albany Community, Not Crime, Defines Arbor Hill



BY JUDD KRASHER - ALBANY
info@knickledger.com

Outside, and even inside, Albany, Arbor Hill is tantamount to a boogeyman. When people unfamiliar with Arbor Hill talk about the place, it's almost always with feelings of fear and sometimes disgust. In reality, Arbor Hill is one of Albany's greatest assets. Call me crazy, but it's absolutely true.

This week, I participated in Albany 2030's Arbor Hill Walkshop. A walkshop is a walking tour of a neighborhood in Albany to get an on-the-ground understanding of how a neighborhood fits into Albany's comprehensive plan and what's going on to revitalize the neighborhood. This was my first time exploring Arbor Hill, so the only information I had about it was all the negativity I had heard; mostly that it's dangerous and dirty! My sense was that Arbor Hill is so crime ridden and filled with abandoned and dilapidated buildings, there is no sense of community.

What I noticed first were the people who live in Arbor Hill. Like most people elsewhere in the city, they are lovely. Friendly, welcoming and charming were the themes of the evening. Did we spot some riff-raff? We did. But the idea that Arbor Hill is a cesspool of criminals is false. In fact, one of its best features is its strong sense of community. It was easy to see that folks care about their neighborhood and their neighbors. The architecture in Arbor Hill is stunning, too. I can see how this area of town was posh long ago.

For me, it was love at first sight when I laid eyes on Arbor Hill. However, I shouldn't be naively infatuated. It's not all sunshine and roses. Crime, abandoned buildings and poverty are some of the problems people who live here face. Therein lies why Arbor Hill is one of Albany's greatest assets: potential. Already, there are a lot of exciting projects going on in the neighborhood. St. Joseph's Academy is being turned into a spectacular arts facility, vacant lots are being beautified through the use of community gardens, and run-down buildings are being brought back to life as affordable housing. The future of Arbor Hill is looking very bright.

With that said, when we demean Arbor Hill by perpetuating the glaringly false stereotypes about it, we are helping to construct a barrier that blocks progress. I believe that part of the problem Albany, and many other "forgotten" cities face, is psychological. When you think something is beyond repair and hopeless, that's the end of the conversation. Any will, current or future, to make things better is crushed. This begins an ugly cycle.

I encourage you to look around Albany, open your minds, and see the wonderful and unique characteristics of the city. Take a moment to learn about the people who live in a neighborhood unfamiliar to you. It won't take long for you to realize that there's a lot to fight for in Albany. • KL

Knickerbocker Ledger

Jacquelyn M. Cohen
Senior Vice President for News & Digital Content

MAIL: P.O. Box 3083, Albany, NY 12203
E-MAIL: info@knickledger.com
TIPS: tips@knickledger.com

ADVERTISE: Advertise with the Knickerbocker Ledger, either in print or online. Call (518) 227-0404 for details or e-mail Rich at r.fazio@basknick.com.

A BASKNICKERBOCKER INC. COMPANY. WWW.BASKNICK.COM

Your Choice > Albany Progressive Community to Political Leaders: I Want My City to Win



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

"I want to see my city win," said Michael Guidice at the RFK Democratic Club meeting on Tuesday at McGeary's in Downtown Albany. Guidice has been the focal point of the Albany chicken battle that pushed Mayor Gerald D. Jennings to use the first veto of his 18 years in office.

At this meeting, politicians, activists, students, business owners, and more have come together to speak about issues that affect their community - be it chickens or electoral politics. About 40 or so - a little less than previous meetings but fairly strong considering Labor Day weekend is approaching - showed up to hear Guidice, Citizen Action of New York executive director Karen Scharff, and others talk about ways to improve the community, especially through "citizen" action (no pun intended).

In just over two years, Democratic Albany voters will be choosing their primary candidates for Mayor and all fifteen Common Council seats. As the Tea Party has faded nationally, the progressive community - almost a silent majority - has been simmering for quite some time now. Whereas they believed, as Scharff stated, that Barack Obama and other Democratic leaders would be able to usher in a new wave of progressive political power in the nation, such has been dismayed by forces from the right.

"Is there anything that can be changed in the Mayor's mind, or does he need to be replaced," said an older gentleman in the audience in response to Guidice's comments. The man's question was retorted with rumblings, not necessarily in the negative. Jennings, 63, has been in office since the early half of Bill Clinton's first term. A councilmember from the 11th ward, Jennings has been a proponent of environmental protection of the Pine Bush, something he has been mute on since assuming office with the expansion of the Rapp Road landfill (it's worth to note that Jennings was critical of fellow Democrat, Colonie Town Supervisor Paula Mahan, of her deal to privatize the Colonie landfill). In about twenty-four months, Jennings may decide to run for a sixth term (the second longest in Albany history) or be challenged in a Democratic primary by a number of candidates that include names such as Albany Common Council President Carolyn McLaughlin, former Common Council member Corey Ellis, and City Treasurer Katherine M. Sheehan.

Dan Egan, the Albany City Board of Education president, talked on the merits of progressive thought in public schools. Egan spoke about whereas his fellow school board presidents and their superintendents across the state were solving their budget issues by slashing teacher pay, laying off staff, and "fighting the unions." Albany had gotten an agreement by working with the school unions in a way that benefits not only students, but the district financially.

"Why would unions want to get in the 21st century. It hasn't been all that good for them," said Egan.

Although the discussion ended last night, the group - as well as affiliated citizens - are sure to play in impact this fall. RFK Democrats took the liberty of endorsing Noelle Kinsch, who's running in Albany County's sixth district, against incumbent Brian Scavo. The general sentiment at the meeting was this is only the beginning of what could change Albany - the city - for the future.

• KL

Lifestyle > Libations

Barrel Saloon Rock & Roll Country Bar

BY JOE BONILLA - ALBANY
jbonilla@knickledger.com



The fury of the "Old Lady" Irene allows one big weekend left - Labor Day weekend, nonetheless - for having a great time out. North Albany has been putting its best foot forward in turning this sleepy warehouse district into Albany's equivalent of the Meatpacking District.

While two other bars (Wolff's Biergarten and Graney's Stout - don't worry, Thatcher Street Pub, I didn't forget you here) on Broadway dominate headlines, the Barrel Saloon Rock & Roll Country Bar (942 Broadway) takes a decidedly more American approach compared to its German and Irish compatriots.

The Barrel Saloon is inside what was a bank building from long ago. Its owners, Pearl Street Pub co-owner Chris Pratt and pharmacist Alessio Depoli, have decorated their establishment with wood planks and metallic accoutrements.

The saloon also features a sizable performance space with a good view from where you'd like to drink. On draft, they feature Coors Light, Coors Original, Bud Light, Budweiser, Genesee, Pabst's Blue Ribbon, Blue Moon, and Samuel Adams Boston Lager in addition to a wide array of whiskies, bourbons, and well drinks.

Patio? You bet. Not as open as its Broadway cousins, but the privacy and size are big pluses here. Free Wi-Fi also.

And because you can't have enough to drink on your birthday in Albany, the Barrel Saloon gives you a fishbowl of "dirty swamp water" - a vitrolic mix of liquors - to drown away your birthday sorrows. And like City Beer Hall, the saloon also features a mechanical bull.

Overall, a well done concept bar that is truly at the farthest reaches of town that's worth the cab ride.

Barrel Saloon Rock & Roll Country Bar

Rating: Three 3/4 out of Five Pints
942 Broadway, Albany (phone: 518-694-0670)
Facebook: The Barrel Saloon Rock & Roll Country Bar • KL

Lifestyle > The Hollywood Review

Colombiana



BY CRITIC AT LARGE - GUILDERLAND
info@knickledger.com

In a world of Colombian drug lords and their soldiers, a little girl, Cataleya (Zoe Saldana), suddenly finds herself an orphan when her parents are murdered. Next on the "Hit List" she follows the escape plan her father had prepared for her. Racing across the rooftops of Colombia in a similar fashion to the chase in Brazil in "Fast Five" she moves forward toward her goal, reaching her uncle. So begins the action in "Colombiana", the latest action, vengeance/revenge film.

What makes this film a little different is the way it focuses on choices and consequences. When Cataleya decides she wants to be a killer she asks her uncle to teach her. He eventually tells her to choose between a gun and getting an education. To kill is easy, to kill smartly requires an education. A smart assassin needs to be like a smart chess player - many moves ahead of their opponent. Choose.

The grown up Cataleya carries out assignments booked by her uncle. But she has a hidden agenda to find and kill those responsible for her parents' death.

Moving toward what at times seems to be obvious conclusions this film has few real surprises and a bit of drama amid the action. Worth seeing, especially since this one didn't stoop to 3D. Imagine an action movie with only one format choice and no special glasses. The PG-13 rating is warranted for violence, however, the gore, extreme violence, and nudity that usually make this kind of film R rated has been avoided leading to a stronger story line.

Rated PG-13 • KL

