

Knickerbocker Ledger

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Top Story > Election results statewide show potential Democratic uneasiness for 2012



Special elections and primaries across New York State indicate possible Democratic troubles in 2012 across the board

BY LEDGER STAFF, Newsroom Reports - ALBANY info@knickledger.com

Republican Bob Turner's win over Democrat David Weprin in the September 13 special election last night not only changes the dynamic of how special elections have been going for Democrats (especially in a state where they've found success with Kathy Hochul, Bill Owens, and Scott Murphy), but the potential for greater 2012 losses, including the risk of losing the White House.

However, some are questioning whether this race - to succeed disgraced former U.S. Representative Anthony Weiner - was even worth any of the parties' time, considering that the district may be on the chopping block next year as New York State loses two seats.

The prospect of the district being eliminated by the Republican-controlled State Senate as well as was this contest a real match or the equivalent of a pre-season game makes this race a bit more layered.

"My feeling is they're (Democratic Congressional Campaign Conference) preparing for this (district) to be gone in a year," says a source close to Weprin.

The ninth congressional district included parts from two Assembly seats that also had special elections. Michael Simanowitz, the former chief of staff for retiring Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn, defeated Marco DeSena as well as Phil Goldfeder held onto the 23rd Assembly district.

Weprin, whose brother is New York City Councilmember Mark Weprin and is the son of former Assembly Speaker Saul Weprin (in which he assumed his father's seat in 1994), was plagued with Democratic discontent in a normally heavily Democratic district.

If trends continue - especially in heavy "blue" states like New York - the Democratic Party may see a further loss in seats. Presently, Republicans hold 242 House seats, in which a significant portion is held by Tea Party-endorsed policymakers.

In Albany County, first-time candidate Noelle Kinsch has defeated embattled incumbent Brian Scavo, 484 to 181, in the Democratic primary. Kinsch's race had been the focus of the progressive community this election cycle. Scavo had been plagued with sexual harassment allegations prior and during his term in office.

"Our local nightmare is almost over," said Kinsch in front of a crowd at My Linh restaurant. "This victory is not just mine, it's ours."

In attendance at the victory party was Albany County Executive Michael G. Breslin, City Treasurer Katherine M. Sheehan, City Auditor Leif Engstrom, and a number of Democratic committee members. Daniel P. McCoy, the successor to Breslin, also appeared at the event.

For Albany City Court, incumbent Helena Heath-Roland held her own against first-time challenger and Albany native Sherri Brooks. Heath-Roland had 2,719 votes against 1,886 votes for Brooks.

Virginia-Maffia Tobler defeated Sam Coleman to keep her seat in the county's third district and Merton Simpson defeated incumbent Wanda Willingham in the second county district. • KL

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Exclusive > SMALLBANY



Submitted by Dan A. - By Dana S. Owens
For more SMALLBANY cartoons from Dana Owens, visit KnickLedger.com for exclusive, digital content.

Business > Technology Flash finally coming to Apple iOS



BY LEDGER STAFF, Newsroom Reports - ALBANY info@knickledger.com

Adobe has announced it will finally support Apple's iOS mobile operating system after years of defiance.

"With Flash Media Server 4.5, media publishers can extend their already broad mobile reach via Flash-enabled devices, with the new ability to deliver video content to Apple's iPad and iPhone devices, enabling them to reach the widest audience possible," according to a release.

"Adobe has a deep heritage in providing video solutions for delivering content online and on-device. With Flash Media Server 4.5 and Flash Access 3.0, we're enabling businesses to reach more customers and more devices, helping them increase the impact of video experiences, enhance their brands and ultimately, drive business success," said Pritham Shetty, vice president of Video Solutions for Adobe.

This marks a shift from the past four years of Adobe/Apple battles over the rights of Flash applications. • KL

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Lifestyle > Libations

The Olde English Pub



BY **JOE BONILLA, Columnist - ALBANY**
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Over the past few years, a series of European-theme bars have opened up or have been reconfigured in Albany – ranging from the expansion of Savannah’s into Dublin Underground, the opening of Wolff’s Biergarten, followed by Graney’s Stout (maybe throw in Barrel Saloon as a Little America).

If there is a king of Albany’s “Little Europe” per se, his name is Matt Baumgartner.

Today marks the grand opening of the Olde English Pub (25 Quackenbush Square, Albany), located in the former location of Nicole’s Bistro, adjacent to the Albany Pump Station. Owned and developed by Baumgartner, OEP (as I’d like to start calling it) has a distinctively British quaintness to the establishment. The bar itself is a tight space and even for the few at the soft opening, it seems prime for a rubberneck situation.

Nonetheless, the furniture and paintings abound made the place feel intimate. However, some of the chairs felt like they came from a fire sale from a New England schoolhouse, which actually works for what the place is trying to achieve.

I had the Carlsberg lager, which was a nice, chill “end of the day” beer. You didn’t want to chug it down, per se, but just sit around – take in the feel of Britain, and talk amongst friends. They plan on having an array of British food – from fish and chips and more.

Upstairs, you’ll find your restrooms and additional seating – with one table a bit larger for bigger groupings. A fireplace also exists upstairs, with real wood (I checked).

Here comes the real “Libations” test – the patio. This patio is probably one of the best in the city – it’s in front, it’s open, it has enough room to sit with your fellow drinkers without knocking them every time you need to use the W.C. (restroom for you yankees).

Overall, the Olde English Pub makes for a more succinct visit to an Albany bar, especially a British-themed establishment. Do I say Matt Baumgartner has done it again? Time will tell, but I will say it’s definitely on the right track.

The Olde English Pub

Rating: Four 1/2 out of Five Pints
25 Quackenbush Square, Albany (phone: n/a)
Facebook: The Olde English Pub • **KL**

News > Albany

Golden Jerry’s Casino: Albany Mayor wants VLTs to fill gap

BY **SAMANTHA BUNN, City Editor - ALBANY**
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Albany Mayor Gerald D. Jennings was present at a hearing conducted by the state Senate which discussed state constitution laws on legalizing gambling.

Jennings, who was joined by the New York Gaming Association, has proposed the idea of installing video lottery terminals (VLTs) in Albany, a plan that he believes will raise a substantial amount of revenue for the city.

Although it poses a risk, Jennings has said he thinks the city could bring in \$140 million with this plan, as reported first by the Times Union.

However legalizing VLTs, along with expanding “racinos,” is a venture that New York Gaming Association (NYGA) president, James Featherstonhaugh, backups as “the right move.”

Saratoga County opened up their “racino” nearby the Saratoga Race Course in the past decade with mixed success.

He stated on Wednesday that if the state ended its agreement with Native American governments, such as the Senecas, that the proposed changes to the constitution will allow for a heavily positive impact on the state budget.

Jennings’ plan to bring in VLTs would take about three or four years to complete. • **KL**

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Opinion > Capital District Perspective Quarters for Revenue



BY **SEAN COLLINS, Political Director - ALBANY**
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About a month ago, Governor Cuomo hinted that he may begin pushing to amend the state’s constitution to allow “privately owned Las Vegas-style casinos in the state.” The New York Racing Association appears to be behind the idea, especially considering it would be a windfall for the association that is struggling to profit as pension costs rise. Besides the logistics of who would oversee these operations, I completely agree with amending the constitution. The idea is worth exploring and I say full steam ahead.

Gambling is an issue that is always contentious and I’ve never really understood why. Some argue it leads to crime and poverty. I think that argument holds absolutely no water and amounts to nothing more than an appeal to emotion, something to touch on those heartstrings to engender disapproval while the people that make those claims can’t back them up. That’s not to say that I’m excited at the prospect of being able to feed quarters all day into some machine or playing Blackjack, while sipping rum and cokes. It’s just that I don’t care. Much like how little I care when I’m standing in line at Stewart’s waiting for the guy to make his scratch card purchases, beyond that I would wish he would hurry up and how stupid he is for purchasing a ticket with the number 5-5-5 straight and boxed. If anything, lifting the constitutional ban would ease my coffee purchase in the morning.

There are two benefits I see that come out of allowing casinos. One is real simple, it creates consistency. There are already five casinos operating on the state’s Indian reservations, along with limited gambling at the state’s racinos and the aforementioned scratch cards sold by the New York Lottery. It doesn’t make any sense to have a ban on gambling in one aspect and then have it be illegal simply because you’re gambling over a game of cards. The second is revenue. I’m not going to argue that legalizing gambling is the solution to the state’s financial problems but to touch on the consistency issue again; we already draw in about \$684 million in revenue from the current gambling situation. Our inconsistency is costing us money, and for what? What do we gain out of not allowing gambling in some instances?

My only objection would be to what I foresee as being heavy lobbying from Albany mayor Jerry Jennings in support of reform. It’s not that I think he is wrong on the issue, I just think his tone is flawed. Going before the powers-that-be saying that if they do this, they will never see him again – though undoubtedly a bit of hyperbole on his part—is not the tone I want from the mayor. The state provides the city of Albany a revenue problem of its own by taking up a large swaths of land for office complexes (the Plaza, the Capitol, Harriman campus, etc.), which then takes it off the tax rolls and the city loses out on that. Yes, lobby for this initiative and hope it passes, but absolutely do not stop pressuring the State Legislature to support the Capital City. Don’t even pretend to hint at such a thing. • **KL**

Sports > NFL

N.Y. Jets show three faces of doom – offense, defense, special teams



BY **TONY LEDRIN, Sports Columnist - ALBANY**
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The New York Jets opened the 2011 NFL season in a very emotional September 11th game. There were ceremonies before the game and during halftime honoring those who were affected by the events that occurred 10 years ago. But once the Jets entered the field the emotions of that tragic day was put aside for a moment and football was played in hopes that it may help a little for those who are still affected by the September 11th attacks.

The opening drive for the Jets showed a lot of rust in their defense as the Dallas Cowboys had their way with the Jets defense eventually scoring on a Tony Romo pass to Dez Bryant. So before the Jets offensive even had a chance to get on the field they were already down 7-0. The Jets offensive also showed signs of rust as they went 3 and out on their first drive of the season. The score remained the same until late in the second quarter when the Cowboys managed to kick a field taking a 10-0 lead heading into the half. But the never-say-die Jets marched up the field with little time left in the first half and posted seven points on the board as Mark Sanchez found Dustin Keller for a 4-yard touchdown pass. Making the score at the half 10-7.

After the halftime ceremonies, the Jets came with their first possession of the second half and went 3 and out again, just like they had done in their first possession of the first half. The Cowboys countered with another touchdown pass from Romo to Miles Austin for a 36-yard touchdown. The score was 17-7 and the Jets started to look like this game was getting away from them. They mustered up a field goal prior to the end of the third quarter making the score 17-10 going into the fourth and final quarter.

In the fourth, the Cowboys wasted no time putting points on the board as Felix Jones ran for a 1-yard touchdown to help the cowboys take a 2-touchdown, 24-10 lead. At this point the Jets needed to make something happen and fast as time was running out to do so. It doesn’t happen too often that team comes back and wins a game from 14 points down in the fourth quarter, but the never-say-die Jets cut the lead in half the very next drive as Sanchez found newly acquired Plaxico Burress for a 26-yard touchdown pass cutting the score to 24-17.

With exactly five minutes left in the game and the score still holding at 24-17, the Cowboys punted the ball from their own 41 yard line, in which the Jets blocked the punt and Isaiah Trufant of the Jets ran back the blocked punt for a touchdown tying the score at 24-24.

With a tied score and less than 5 minutes left in the game, it was time for one of the teams to step up and show why they deserved to win this game and pro-bowler Darrelle Revis, showing why he is the best cornerback in the league, intercepted a pass from Romo with less than a minute left in the game to set up a 50-yard field goal attempt from Nick Folk.

This was Nick Folk’s longest field goal attempt of the season, as it was only his second attempt of the year and as the ball was snapped there was an indescribable feeling in the air. As the football flew in the air, it almost looked as if it was moved, a movement that at first looked to pull it out of the range of the goal post, but as that football crossed in between the field goal posts, eruption occurred. The Jets were now leading the game 27-24 and on the way to their first victory of the season.

As the final seconds of the game counted down, the Jets celebrated in victory as there was now proof of why they are Super Bowl favorites, who was a game away from reaching the Super Bowl last season.

The Jets showed why they are a team to fear to play, as their three faces of doom all played a huge factor in the result of this game. Their offense was productive, their defense came through when needed and special teams helped seal the deal to earn this win for the New York Jets. The only question in this game was the Jets running game, who only managed 45 yards on the ground, a very low number for a team who usually needs a productive run game to win.

All in all, the New York Jets came through at the most crucial of times something that may be a foreshadowing of the rest of the season. Similar to last season, the Jets played comeback in a lot of their victories. The Cowboys are now in the Jets past and it is time to look forward to week 2, as the Jets have another home game against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The Jets should cruise to another victory next week, but if their run game doesn’t show up again, they may need a lot of support from their special teams and defensive as they have had in their first game.

My Prediction for Week 2:

Jaguars – 10
Jets – 34 • **KL**