

Knickerbocker Ledger



KnickLedger.com Albany's Fastest Growing **FREE** News Source – Vol. 1, Issue 23 Oct. 26 – Nov. 1, 2011

Top Story > Sheehan fundraiser speculation for possible higher office



More than two years away, Treasurer Kathy Sheehan raising funds for re-election amid speculation of possibly running for higher office

BY LEDGER NEWSROOM, Staff Reports
ALBANY, N.Y.
info@knickledger.com

On Monday – a rainy October evening – a group of approximately 75 Albany residents and politicians gathered at the Point restaurant and bar in Pine Hills for an event hosted by Albany City Treasurer Katherine M. Sheehan, entitled “Albany’s Economic Climate and Financial Future.” Sheehan’s event was billed as “an opportunity to continue the productive dialogue the realities and opportunities facing our city that we began back in 2009 and this program will once again surely remind us of why we worked so hard to get her elected.”

Sheehan, who defeated longtime treasurer Betty Barnette in 2009 and garnered the most votes of any city-wide candidate during that cycle, is running for re-election as the city’s chief financial officer. However, speculation has arisen over why Sheehan would raise money more than 24 months away from the 2013 general election where no serious challenger has speculated running against her. Some believe Sheehan may be jockeying for a 2013 primary challenge to incumbent Mayor Gerald D. Jennings, with fellow elected Carolyn McLaughlin (Common Council President), Michael Connors (County Comptroller), Corey Ellis (former Common Council member), and Richard Conti (Common Council President Pro Tempore).

Unlike other current officials, Sheehan has remained largely off the political radar since coming into office in January 2010 – focusing on fixing the city’s financial problems that went unanswered under Barnette’s tenure. Sheehan pointed out the changes in property tax payments from taking as long as one or two weeks to process to a virtually real-time system of tracking payments, cautioning homeowners not to think they have additional check processing time.

“When you mail the check, you better have the money in your account,” Sheehan noted.

The topic of the city’s overall financial picture, noted by Sheehan as a looming challenge amid entitlement commitments and borrowing to cover gaps caused by a number of Albany-specific concerns (state-owned property, land fill payments, etc.).

“I figured the management of the city isn’t under your control, as it should be,” said one attendee. His sentiment garnered significant applause from the packed room in the back of the Madison Avenue restaurant. The event aimed on raising money for Sheehan’s re-election campaign (Conti also has an event on November 1 at the University Club, with the same mantra of re-election).

Sheehan’s remarks come just under a month after Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced a \$4.4 billion investment, including \$400 million in state aid, by nanotechnology companies including Intel – a majority of which would be designated to the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) at the University at Albany. This would add to the reduced tax base problem that the City of Albany faces, as a home of higher education, government, and health care. According to Sheehan, more than \$4 billion of assessed real estate in the city remains off the tax rolls due to hosting such facilities, including CNSE.

“(CNSE) is creating jobs; they’re not paying any (property) taxes,” said Sheehan.

Sheehan also added to the Albany Convention Center debate, which has lingered for years as the Albany Convention Center Authority piecemeal purchases parcels of property between the Albany Bus Station and KeyBank Tower that currently exists as parking for Downtown workers. (cont Pg 2)

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

- Your Choice** – Sheehan fundraiser raises eyebrows
- Albany** – Occupy Albany survives Cuomo threats
- Sports** – NHL in spotlight as NBA lockout continues
- Business** – Apple plans on launching new TV set
- Cartoon** – SMALLBANY

Albany > Occupy Albany Occupy Albany survives Cuomo breakup attempts, continues onward



BY LEDGER NEWSROOM, Staff Reports
ALBANY, N.Y.
info@knickledger.com

Occupy Albany will enter its second week this Friday, after a weekend of potential break up attempts reportedly called by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and Albany Mayor Gerald D. Jennings.

The protest – located across the street from both Albany City Hall and the New York State Capitol at Academy Park – has garnered national attention as Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares was interviewed by Current TV anchor Keith Olbermann on Monday night.

There has only been one incident reported from Saturday night that did not involve any Occupy Albany protestor directly.

Roughly 75-100 individuals are on site at any given time, with their general assembly convening at 5:30 p.m. daily. Several elected officials – especially on the progressive front – have stopped by the site of the protest, which is just outside Albany City School District headquarters.

The movement has garnered a sizeable following, as nearly 5,000 Facebook users follow the group and low thousands on Twitter. • KL

HUDSON RIVER COFFEE HOUSE
LIVE MUSIC, GREAT COFFEE, GOOD TIMES. 227 QUAIL STREET. HUDSONRIVERCOFFEE.COM

Reminders – we have lives.

As a precaution, the week of Thanksgiving and the week after Christmas, the Knickerbocker Ledger will not be printing editions. Our staff – as you can imagine – has lives and would like to celebrate the holiday season. No worries – we will still be reporting online and we’ll have those weeks as double issues... so double the Ledger, double the fun!

Jacquelyn M. Cohen, Managing Editor-In-Chief

CJ MEDIA SOLUTIONS
www.facebook.com/cjmediasolutions

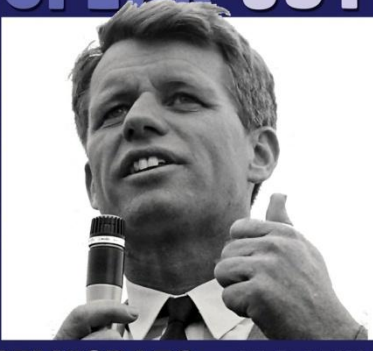
BluesPrinting.com
www.bluesprinting.com

BLUESPRINTING.COM



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

SPEAK UP SPEAK OUT



RFK DEMOCRATS ALBANY

FACEBOOK.COM/RFKDEMS. WWW.RFKDEMS.ORG

Business > Technology

iTV: Apple reportedly set to change television industry as soon as next year



BY LEDGER NEWSROOM, Staff Reports
ALBANY, N.Y.
info@knickledger.com

Since co-founder Steve Jobs return to Apple in 1997, Apple has transformed music, tablet computing, and mobile phones. Now, in the post-Steve Jobs era, the Cupertino, Calif.-based tech giant is looking to add the Apple touch to televisions, according to sources close to the Washington Post.

Jeff Robbin, who helped create both the iPod and iTunes, is being brought on manage the company's development of a television set, which would put Apple in competition with Samsung, Sharp, Sony, and Visio. According to the Post, a prototype could be debuted as early as next year, with a retail date in 2013 very possible.

Before the death of Jobs on October 5, the Apple co-founder was diligently working on the project and figured how to integrate Apple's signature easy-to-use interface with that of a television set. "It will have the simplest user interface you could imagine," Jobs told his biographer Walter Isaacson in the biography 'Steve Jobs,' released just yesterday.

Apple would have an arsenal of tools at its disposal for debuting a television set, as it controls most of the means of production for its products, from idea conception to right up to the retail point-of-sale. Apple has had moderate success in television, with its Apple TV product, but failed to catch on with consumers in the same way as the iPod, iPad, and iPhone have.

However, with Apple's tendency to place its products with a premium price tag, the continued fall off of high definition set prices, and saturation in adoption of high definition sets fairly high, can Apple break out and be the same player as it was for the iPod in 2001 and the iPhone in 2007.

Based upon Apple's success in effectively eviscerating the Sony Walkman in music players and RIM's Blackberry for smartphones, investors and Apple fans will be looking to see if the company can change televisions in the same way. • KL

MOP•CO

SUNBEAR
DESIGN + MEDIA

Knickerbocker Ledger

Since 2006. To Report, To Comment, To Cover.

Jacquelyn M. Cohen

Senior Vice President for News & Digital Content
Managing Editor-In-Chief

Sean P. Collins
Political Director

Samantha Bunn
City Editor

Contributors: Robin Zlotnick – Stephanie Zlotnick – Brandon Patterson – Ann Ren – Tony Ledrin – Jason Penner – Andrea Michelcic – Randy Rose – Critic at Large – Tom Jaklitsch – Dan Long – Katrina Cheung – Hali Ramdene – Judd Krasher – Dana Owens – Willow Burns – Kayla Galway

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

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

A BASKNICKERBOCKER INC. COMPANY. WWW.BASKNICK.COM

Your Choice > 2012 Elections / State

Former UAlbany Student Association President to run for Assembly again



BY SEAN COLLINS, Political Director
ALBANY, N.Y.
info@knickledger.com

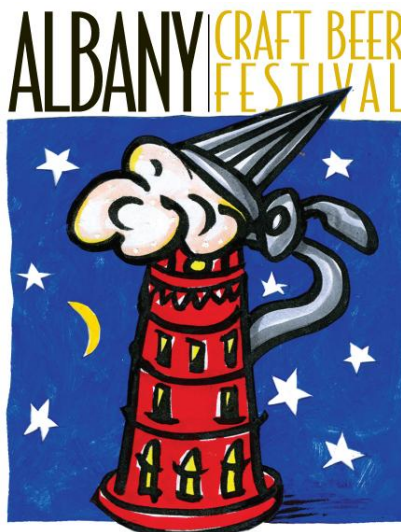
Former UAlbany Student Association President Justin Wax Jacobs is giving another go after failing to get on the ballot in the recent special election in Assembly District-27 in Queens, according to City Hall News.

He previously tried to challenge current Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz in the special election to replace former Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn earlier this year. He failed to get on the ballot after collecting the necessary amount of signatures over the most technical of technical snafus.

Simanowitz was the establishment candidate and had previously served as Mayersohn's chief of staff for over a decade until she retired at 85.

Wax Jacobs is a recent UAlbany graduate, graduating Magna Cum Laude. He is a lifelong resident of Queens, residing in the Briarwood neighborhood. • KL

One Night, One Hundred Awesome Beers.



November 5, 2011 at 4 p.m.
Albanybeerfest.com

All the news you need to know.

In five or so minutes.

And before lunch.

Every weekday at 11:30 a.m.
Exclusively on knickledger.com

By Sean Collins

Tidbits.

Sports > Hockey

NHL in Spotlight as NBA Lockout Continues

BY TOM JAKLITSCH, Staff Writer
ALBANY, N.Y.
info@knickledger.com

With the first two weeks of the NBA season already cancelled, basketball fans everywhere are coming to grips with the idea that there may not be a 2011 NBA season. Sports may only be games and entertainment to some, but for others they are an important part of their lives. They give people a reason to get together, to have small talk with someone at work, to taunt your friends after a big loss; it even gives people fantasy sports. With the baseball season ending next week, the only major American sports that are left on TV will be football and hockey, and the NFL is only on two days a week. Can America embrace the NHL in the absence of the NBA?

The lockout couldn't have come at a worse time. Instead of capitalizing on one of the most successful, exciting and memorable NBA playoffs since the Jordan era, we are faced with the possibility of having no games at all. In the past year, the drama of the NBA has rivaled a daytime soap opera. The once beloved and uber charismatic LeBron James disrespected his home town city and fans by "taking his talents" to the Miami Heat where he was obnoxiously confident that he would win multiple championships with his new all-star teammates Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh. The one time hero overnight became the biggest villain in the NBA who everyone loved to hate. I don't know if there has ever been a championship series as satisfying as last years. The overwhelming favorite Miami Heat lost to the Dallas Mavericks, a team of veterans built around their longtime underappreciated star Dirk Nowitzki. It seemed like every playoff series and ever game was falling right into place. The NBA hadn't been that good in a long time, and now we don't have it... but we do have hockey.

The NHL is also coming off of one of its most exciting and heavily watched seasons since its own lockout of the 2004-2005 season. Since that lockout, the NHL has had a hard time getting casual sports fans back into hockey, possibly because you can't watch it on ESPN2 anymore. But now with the two superstars in Alexander Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby, the NHL has become more and more exciting and casual viewer friendly. Last year the Boston Bruins won the Stanley Cup in one of the best Stanley Cup Playoffs in years. The NBA would normally dominate the NHL in ratings, but now the NHL has a real opportunity to keep the momentum going from last year and push the hockey back into the spotlight.

The NHL season just started so it's not too late to catch up. The Bruins may have a rough season ahead defending their cup against some tough teams in the Eastern Conference. The Pittsburgh Penguins are a fast pace high scoring team that will be getting their superstar Crosby back from injury soon, and the Washington Capitals are a yearly playoff team led by their toothless fighting hero Ovechkin. The Western Conference looks to have a few strong teams early in the year with the always-powerful Detroit Red Wings and the Colorado Avalanche who seem poised to bounce back from their poor 2010 season.

It's going to be a good season, so start watching now if you haven't yet. You can catch the New York Rangers, New York Islanders and Buffalo Sabres games on MSG, MSG Plus and MSG Buffalo. Other match ups can be seen on Versus, which will be known as the NBC Sports Channel come January 2012. • KL

FRONT PAGE: Sheehan Fundraiser (cont.)

"The convention center; great - more nontaxable property. But we need to have a way for making it worthwhile for Albany hosting it."

Sheehan also remarked on Albany's need to maintain "safe and livable" neighborhoods. "If our neighborhoods aren't safe and continually labeled as dangerous, it makes it harder for us to market the city," said Sheehan. Sheehan also pointed to the city's property tax burden - a situation that affects business owners more so than homeowners.

Under next year's budget according to Sheehan, business owners will see a five to six percent increase in property taxes, with homeowners see no difference in their tax bill. This equates - for an assessed property value of \$200,000 - to be about \$8,400 for commercial property owners and \$6,745 for homeowners. Sheehan also noted that her own property taxes have gone up 71 percent since 2002.

Attendees included Albany County Executive Michael G. Breslin (who introduced Sheehan), former City Comptroller Thomas Nitido, State Assembly Majority Leader Ronald Canestrari, Common Council Members Barbara Smith and Cathy Fahey, RFK Democratic Club co-chair Matthew Peter, and noted Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government Deputy Director Robert Ward, an expert on state activities and municipal fiduciary health - an area of focus that Sheehan kept in the conversation throughout the evening. • KL