

Cooperstown Independent

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Boehlert Wins

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In short:

NSDAR promotes Constitution Week

COOPERSTOWN - Two hundred and nine years ago, the United States Constitution was signed by the delegates representing the states to the Constitutional Convention on Sept. 17, 1787. This date has become a focal point for Otsego Chapter, National Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution and Mrs. Fred McGowan, regent, has appointed a Constitution Week Committee, namely Mrs. Alfred Page and Mrs. Henry Ludlam. They are placing an appropriate display in Ellsworth and Sill's window along with the Proclamation from Mayor Wendell Tripp. There will also be a similar display in the Cooperstown Central School Library. The CCS calendar has also designated the week Sept. 17-23 Constitution Week.

Festival tomorrow

MILFORD - Rock 'n' roll, bluegrass, Cajun dance music and beer hall polkas are all on the bill for the second annual Brewery Music Festival this Saturday from 2-11 p.m. on the grounds of the Cooperstown Brewing Company in Milford. In addition to music, there will be activities for children throughout the afternoon, brewery tours and a selection of food will be available.

The festival will be held rain or shine. For more information, call (607) 432-2070.

Tourism meet set

ONEONTA - The Otsego County Chamber of Commerce will host a cooperative marketing meeting in the auditorium

See BRIEFS on Page 13

Congratulations ...

... to David and Pamela Charney of Cooperstown, parents of newborn Daniel Scott Maurice.

SLA hears pro, con

By HADYN SPENCER
Contributor

COOPERSTOWN - On Monday night, Sept. 9, the New York State Liquor Authority held a public hearing at the county courthouse to gather information for use in making their upcoming decision on earlier bar closings. SLA Deputy Council Stephen Kalinsky served as hearing officer.

Gathering at the hearing was a well represented cross-section of interested parties, including average citizens, clergy, past and present elected officials, realtors, abuse specialists, restaurant/tavern owners (and their representatives) along with those from hospitality and tourism associations.

Currently, Otsego County bars must close at 2 a.m. on weekdays and 3 a.m. on weekends. The county sponsored plan would have bars close at 1 a.m. on weekdays and 2 a.m. on weekends.

Support for the plan seemed overwhelming (3 to 1) and clearly, Oneonta residents were a majority of the attendees, indicating that the "center" of the problem appears to lie in that city. If speakers at the hearing can be used as a barometer of support, it leans heavily in favor of the proposed plan.

It is also clear that both sides of the issue are confident that their position is the correct one and there are several points that both agree on. Most importantly, there is a problem and more needs to be done. How to proceed, is the catch.

Appearing at the hearing, past four-term Oneonta mayor James Lettis, representing "Save Our City, Save Our County" and instrumental in organizing the move to change the hours, told the SLA that he has never "seen such support for any measure."

Many speakers, both pro and con, believe the situation basically belongs to Oneonta. Jim Truex of Schuylar Lake, says the problem exists in Oneonta and steps to correct it should be taken locally and not include the rest of the county. He also pointed out that when the colleges (and Oneonta) pushed for expansion of the schools, they knew full well that there would be more students and more problems. He said that they "failed to act on it."

Time and again, speakers from Oneonta related tales that have caused them to rally to the support of the hours change. Many indicated that Oneonta's reputation has suffered badly, now being known as "party town" across the region, state and beyond.

Grace Smith, an Oneonta realtor and board member of the Otsego County Board of Realtors, stated that the reputation of Oneonta is reducing

“A buckshot approach won't solve the problem.”

Dan Murphy, president
MVSTHA

property values of the center city and that it is becoming more difficult relocating people to the area.

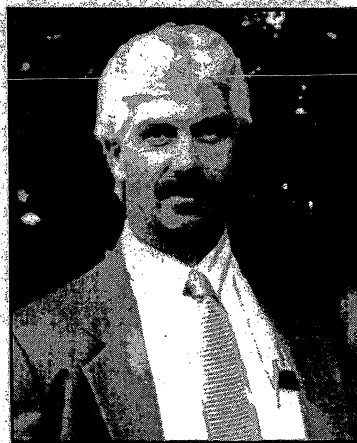
"Closing the bars early will send a message," said Duncan Smith, a Hartwick educator. He explained that the colleges are having difficulty in recruiting good students and even more trouble retaining them, due to the "party atmosphere."

Many of the speakers supporting the early-closing plan said that they recognize that closing the bars early is not a panacea but it is a necessary first step to solving the problem. Betsy Hayes, director of LEAF council on Alcoholism/Addictions and Elizabeth Currier, executive director of LEAF pointed out that there must be changes in the environment and climate surrounding alcoholism to achieve a solution to the problem.

"Times are changing," according to Dorothy Shedlock, of Oneonta. Behavior that once was okay no longer is, she said, pointing to organizations like MADD and DARE that are helping to bring change.

Many stories were related illustrating the rowdiness,

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Brian Millen has been named the new director of Gallery 53 Artworks.

New Director for Gallery 53

COOPERSTOWN - Brian Millen, recently appointed director of Gallery 53 Artworks, comes to his new position with a firm grounding in the Cooperstown scene.

"Prior to moving to here," Millen explained, "we weren't that far away in Margaretville that I couldn't keep abreast of the activities that were going on in Cooperstown through the various media. I didn't come in blind, that's for sure. I actually fell in love with the area and the more I learned about it, the more I liked it."

Millen was selected by the Gallery's search committee for his diverse background and his experience in business revitalization and development. Most recently, he was the owner and president of "Catskill Offerings," in Margaretville. The gallery and retail business represented over 150 regional artists from the Catskill Mountains.

"I've always been on the gallery side of it," Millen said. "I've always admired the talent

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“Closing the bars early will send a message.”

Duncan Smith
Hartwick educator

COOPERSTOWN



10-933-7823



Photos by Homer Osterhout

Cap'n Ken and Friends

Captain Ken's Marionettes performed on Sunday, Sept. 1 at the First Baptist Church in Cooperstown.