

# Community briefs

## Police nab B&L Jewelry thief

On Nov. 26, New Paltz police arrested Waldimir Maldonado, 35 of Poughkeepsie, and charged him with grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property, felonies; and three misdemeanors. Maldonado allegedly walked into B&L Jewelers in New Paltz about 3:40 p.m. last Tuesday, saying he wanted to buy a diamond. As the store owner showed him diamond jewelry, police said Maldonado grabbed several pieces and fled.

Officers patrolling the area observed a male matching the suspect's description on Church Street in the area of Briarwood Court apartments. When an officer approached the man, he fled on foot and the officer pursued. The subject resisted officers, but was eventually taken into custody.

Maldonado initially gave them a fake name and address, police said, but they were able to determine his real identity and discovered that Maldonado allegedly committed similar larcenies in the area, as well as in New Jersey and Connecticut. He was indicted in Franklin Borough, NJ earlier this year for allegedly stealing over \$250,000 worth of jewelry. The New Paltz Police Department is working with several agencies and additional charges are anticipated.

Maldonado was arraigned by New Paltz town justice Jim Bacon and sent to Ulster County Jail without bail.

## Armed robbery in Modena

Detectives from the Ulster County Sheriff's Office are investigating an armed robbery at the Citgo gas station in Modena.

Police responded to a report last Sunday at 11 p.m. that two people allegedly robbed the gas station clerk of cash and property. A handgun was displayed by one of the perpetrators. No injuries were reported.

Preliminary investigation suggests one suspect was male and one female. Further descriptions were not immediately available; they were last seen running from the Citgo station across Route 32 in Modena.

The investigation remains underway and anyone with information is asked to call 338-3640 or e-mail amak@co.ulster.ny.us.

## Silent auction benefit for the Mehalak family

A silent auction benefit for the Mehalak family will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the High Falls Café.

John Mehalak was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis as an infant and he has required frequent hospital-



Richard Winters.

## SUNY New Paltz names new community and government relations associate

**R**ICHARD WINTERS HAS joined the president's office as the new community and government relations associate at SUNY New Paltz.

In this role, Winters, a SUNY New Paltz alumnus, will support and assist with the work of the president and the chief of staff/associate vice president for communication with key institutional initiatives outlined in the college's strategic plan. Winters will use previous advocacy experience as a district representative for former Congressman John Hall to serve as a liaison between the president's office and government officials, chambers of commerce and other key business and community organizations. In addition, he will provide support for the college's participation in Governor Andrew Cuomo's new Start-Up NY initiative.

izations, daily medical treatments and eventually a double lung transplant. He continues to recover from the transplant at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. His wife, Laura, remains with him in Pennsylvania, while their son, John IV, continues his schooling locally.

The proceeds from the benefit will go directly to establishing a travel fund for the family to aid them with the expenses involved in living in another state and traveling back and forth to visit their son.

The musical lineup at the benefit includes Soulia and The Sultans at 7:30 p.m., Mister Oh! at 8:30 p.m. and iS will take the stage at 10:30 p.m.

A sampling of some of the silent auction items include: Three Dojo sessions at Fighting Spirit Karate Studio in New Paltz, a night at Bluestone Cottage Bed & Breakfast in High Falls, an acupuncture session from Creekside Acupuncture, a Chamilia bracelet, a Bacardi gift basket and locally-made artisanry -- jewelry, holiday décor and woodcrafts.

The High Falls Café is located at 12 Stone Dock Road in High Falls.

## Press release guidelines

The **New Paltz Times** welcomes press releases from its readers. They should be submitted by noon on Monday to increase the chance that they will be printed in the following week's paper. Please e-mail them to Deb Alexa at [newpaltztimes@ulsterpublishing.com](mailto:newpaltztimes@ulsterpublishing.com).

## CRREO to host "Water at SUNY New Paltz" symposium

This past year the Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO) at SUNY New Paltz undertook a wide-ranging project to improve watershed resiliency in the Saw Mill Brook, a tributary of the Wallkill River in the Hudson River estuary watershed. SUNY New Paltz students, faculty and staff from a variety of disciplines and departments will present their work related to this project on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in Lecture Center 100.

For more information, visit <http://blogs.cornell.edu/estuaryresilience/>.

## Copeland Funeral Home to host fourth annual holiday remembrance service

Copeland Funeral Home will hold a holiday remembrance service on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5 p.m.

"In preparation for the upcoming holidays, we again wish to welcome families who have suffered a loss," said Tim Copeland, owner of Copeland Funeral Home. "Our services that have been held the last three years were extremely well received by the community and we heard a lot of positive feedback. Individuals gain strength when supported by others who share similar feelings and we look forward to opening our doors in an effort to bring folks together."

This program is free of charge and open to all individuals who have experienced a loss. It will take place at Copeland Funeral Home, located at South Putt Corners Road in New Paltz. Please RSVP to 255-1212. Light refreshments will follow.

## Historic Preservation Commission to hold special meeting on Dec. 16

The Historic Preservation Commission of the Village of New Paltz will hold a special meeting on Monday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. to consider an application for certificate of appropriateness and other business. The meeting, which will include a public hearing, will take place at the New Paltz Village Hall.

For more information, please contact the commission secretary at [hpc@villageofnewpaltz.org](mailto:hpc@villageofnewpaltz.org) or call the Village of New Paltz Building Department at 255-3055.

## Fukushima and you

Experts, advocates and officials will engage area residents in a community dialogue at SUNY New Paltz on the immediate and long-term impact of the Fukushima disaster on our environment. The event will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Coykendall Science Building on the SUNY New Paltz campus. It is free and open to the public.

Panelists include: Mike Boms, of the SUNY New Paltz biology department; Rose Marie Williams of the local Climate Action Coalition; Dutchess County legislator Joel Tyner; Chris Ruhe, host of WVKR's "Blue Planet" radio show; environmental activist and musician Pete Seeger; Youko Yamamoto, owner of Gomen-Kudusai Restaurant in New Paltz; and skyped-in nuclear researcher Harvey Wasserman.

Panelists will describe and discuss the ongoing danger of the widespread radiation from Fukushima's destroyed reactors which, since the March 2011 tsunami and disaster, continue to leak radiation into the air and water worldwide. There will be updates on what's happening in Japan today to decommission damaged reactors and how what has happened is affecting us locally, across the USA and around the world.

The dialogue is sponsored by the Cancer Awareness Coalition and Occupy New Paltz.

## Fundraiser spaghetti dinner for Scott DiLeo

The New Paltz Elks will host a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. All proceeds will



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