

AUDIT

Continued from 2A

- contract with the Bath Volunteer Fire Department to ensure the terms are carried out.
- Establish formal policies on credit card use, capital assets, investments and deposits, and collateral tracking.
- Set up internal controls over cash receipts, with duties split between more than one village or BEGWS employee.
- Analyze actual budgets every quarter.

- Ensure employees are paid for accrued vacation time according to contracts.
 - Review BEGWS management's timesheets and vacation requests.
 - Set up a secure accounting back-up system, including disaster recovery.
- Village Trustee John Stranges said he was pleased with the audit. "The village part was excellent," he said. "We were quite thrilled with the changed system."

REED

Continued from 4A

politics of the issue. Most importantly, we require new legislation to be paid for. This is a good start, but it is not enough.

I have a long list for 2012, but at the top is definitely a continued focus on job creation. During our first year, we visited dozens of businesses of all sizes and conducted two job creation forums to learn what the obstacles were to hiring more workers here in the 29th District.

We run our office like a business and improving the climate for job creation is a core theme of our mission statement. Removing excessive regulation, completing comprehensive tax reform by streamlining the tax code, and implementing an all-inclusive domestic energy plan to bring energy costs down are the primary areas we focus on.

An additional priority is making progress on our nation's debt. I'd like to see at least \$4 trillion in deficit reduction

next year.

The time to lead is now. Every day we wait the more difficult the hard decisions become. I am willing to work to find common ground with anyone who is seriously interested in getting something done.

Rather than engage in the politics of division, we must unite our country and find the solutions to our problems through an open and honest dialogue with everything on the table. Open debate is the American way. Hardworking taxpayers deserve a solution.

Finally, we will continue and expand our accessibility to you. What are your goals for the federal government next year? I hope that you will let us know at one of our offices, our website (www.Reed.house.gov) or on our Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/RepTomReed). We can only do this by listening to each other.

■ **U.S. Rep Tom Reed is a Republican congressman from Corning.**

O'MARA

Continued from 4A

information and to allow identity theft victims to obtain restitution equal to the value of the time they spend fixing the damage, which is substantial.

In fact it takes an estimated average of 14 months for an identity theft victim to discover that his or her identity has been stolen. Identity theft victims then spend at least \$800 and devote more than 175 hours of their own time to clean up their credit reports after an identity theft has occurred, according to the federal General Accounting Office.

Additionally, identity theft victims have been subject to other complications, including denial of loan applications, false

arrest and criminal records.

In short, it's costly and it's time-consuming. So the first line of defense is for every consumer to be aware of identity theft, how it's committed, and ways to protect against it. The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's lead consumer protection agency, operates a website to promote online safety. Go to www.ftc.gov (click on "Identity Theft" in the Quick Finder box located on the right hand column of the home page) to access a range of tips and information to guard against Internet fraud, better protect personal information, and secure computers.

■ **Tom O'Mara is a Republican state senator from Big Flats.**

LOTS

Continued from 3A

cities that have led the way in transforming stalled construction sites.

In Seattle, city officials are actively working with developers and neighborhoods to adopt new public projects.

The city is also trying to make use of the sites in other ways, such as a program introduced by City Council Speaker Christine Quinn that turns them into affordable housing units.

"The bottom line is that even as the economy improves, we're still going to be stuck with some stalled development that doesn't actually work with the community," Stringer said.

Carlos Little, a landscape architect and artist, is running his art studio and a gallery space in a stalled construction site on Leroy Street near the West Side Highway. The building is set to be demolished to make way for a residential building on the lot and a parking lot next door.

Little says it's a mutually beneficial situation, since he is able to keep an eye on the building and notify the owner when there's a burst pipe or a fire hazard. And in turn, he says, the building has become his muse — a pedestal of sorts for his artwork. He even uses materials from the building itself in his sculptures.

"The point is about today," he said. "Today I'm right here and I can deal with the fact that tomorrow it can go away. It helps maintain the creative cycle of creating something and destroying something."

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Death Notices

Barbara L. Calkins

WELLSBORO, PA. | Barbara L. Calkins, 62, of Skinner Hollow Road, Cowanesque, died Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011 at the Green Home.

Survivors include her husband, Raymond; three sons, Dennis Calkins of Allentown, Darcy Calkins of Kutztown and Ryan Calkins of Cowanesque; three daughters, Lisa Repard and Amy Haskins,

both of Westfield, and Michele Herron of Knoxville; and seven brothers and sisters. Calling hours are 6-8 p.m. Monday and 1-2 p.m. Tuesday at Kenyon Funeral Home, 222 W. Main St.,

Westfield. Services will be held there at the conclusion of calling hours at 2 p.m. Monday, Pastor Nettie Treat officiating. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery, Potterbrook.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Bronx Household of Faith co-pastor Robert Hall poses for a portrait in front of P.S. 15 in the Bronx borough of New York.

Tiny church in NYC awaits Supreme Court decision

BY JIM FITZGERALD
Associated Press

NEW YORK | A Christian congregation with just 48 members and not even a storefront is hoping the Supreme Court will overturn a ruling that says holding its Sunday service in a Bronx public school is unconstitutional.

At issue is a New York City Board of Education policy that allows community groups, including religious ones, to use its buildings, but specifically excludes worship services.

A divided federal appeals court upheld the policy in June, reversing a district judge. The Supreme Court is considering whether to review the case and could decide that on Monday. If it grants review, its eventual opinion could be a landmark decision, the church's lawyer says.

Robert Hall, co-pastor of the evangelical Bronx

Household of Faith, said last week that his little group never expected to get involved in a big-time court case that has now lasted 17 years.

"I can assure you this wasn't strategic planning on our part," the 68-year-old Minnesota native said. "Basically we just outgrew the place we were meeting," a Christian halfway house for men.

In 1994, church leaders looked at the nearby public school in its University Heights neighborhood, applied for a permit to hold its worship service there, and were denied.

That began a legal wrangle that reached the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals four times as Supreme Court decisions came down and the law evolved.

An early key moment came in 1995 when Hall, who has been with the church for 39 years, heard Alliance Defense

Fund staff attorney Jordan Lorence on the radio, discussing barriers to religious rights.

"He called me up and said, 'We're facing that issue right here,'" Lorence said.

Enter the ADF, a conservative group that says it champions "the legal defense of religious freedom, the sanctity of life, marriage and the family." It has been on the case since and is bearing the costs. Lorence is the lead attorney.

"We took the case to defend the First Amendment principle of equal access," Lorence said. "This is private religious speech and we're requesting equal access to meet in the buildings the way New York City allows all other community groups to meet."

In 2002, during a time when the city was enjoined from enforcing its policy, the Household of Faith began using

Public School 15, and it has been there ever since.

In its most recent ruling, in June, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals noted that the while city policy excludes religious worship from its buildings, it does not exclude "prayer, singing hymns, religious instruction, expression of religious devotion, or the discussion of issues from a religious point of view."

The court found the distinction reasonable, saying that when worship services are held in a school, "The place has, at least for a time, become the church."

The court said the distinction accommodated a 2001 Supreme Court decision allowing a Christian organization to use public school facilities. It also was a reasonable way for the city to avoid violating the Constitution's prohibition on government favoring any religion, the court said.

Dominican-Haitian activist dies at 48

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | Sonia Pierre, a human rights activist who bravely fought discrimination against poor Dominicans of Haitian descent since she was a child, died Sunday, according to colleagues. She was 48.

The renowned activist died outside of the municipality of Villa Altagracia while being rushed to a hospital after suffering a heart attack around noon

Sunday, said Genaro Rincon, a lawyer who works with Pierre's Dominican-Haitian Women's Movement.

Pierre's chronic heart troubles were first discovered in 2007 when she was in Washington to receive the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award honoring her work securing citizenship and education for Dominican-born ethnic Haitians.

Through the decades, her activism made her

the target of threats in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, but it earned her recognition from overseas as a fierce defender of human rights, including an award from Amnesty International in 2003.

Pierre was one of 12 children raised in a dirt-floor barrack in a Dominican migrant worker camp and was just 13 when she was first arrested and threatened with deportation for lead-

ing her fellow Dominican residents of Haitian descent in a march for cane cutters' rights.

Since then, Pierre tirelessly fought to secure citizenship and education for the beleaguered minority of Dominican-born ethnic Haitians.

"She was like a sister to me," said Edwin Paraison, executive director of the Zile Foundation, a Haitian group that tries to improve relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

OBITUARIES

STEWART EDGAR MAYS

WEBSTER, NY | Stewart Edgar Mays, age 89, of Hill Haven Nursing Home, Webster NY, passed away Friday December 2, 2011 at Hill Haven. Stewart was born May 15, 1922 in Blossburg PA, son of William and Marion Hyler Mays. He served in the US Army during WW II

and was retired from Eastman Kodak after many years as a toolmaker. His past memberships include the Masons, American Legion, and the Moose. Stewart was and excellent wood craftsman, and enjoyed hunting.

Surviving Stewart is his loving companion of 35 years, Irene Clark; children: James (Marian) Mays of Retsof NY, Joanne Marion of Kendall NY, and Randy Mays of Pittsford NY;

along with 5 grandchildren, 3 step grandchildren, and 3 great step grandchildren. Stewart was predeceased by his wife Rose.

Friends are invited to call at Fagan's Funeral Home on Wednesday

December 7, from 11 AM to 2 PM. The funeral service will follow the visitation at 2 PM, with Leonard Sutton officiating. Committal with Military Honors will follow in Hope Cemetery Campbell NY.

Fagan's Funeral Home
A family
Tribute.
Bath, New York • 607-776-2733

Happy Holidays
from
Acly-Stover
Funeral Home
936-9531
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