

Battle of the Bands



Photo by Kathy Morris

Heather Faye Speaker bids adieu to the capacity crowd at the Haunt on Jan. 19. Her band Purple Henry was one of 11 contestants in the the four-hour, all-local "Battle of the Girl Bands." Bands had 15 minutes each to showcase their sound—from folk to punk to experimental—in the free, all-ages event sponsored by McNeil Music, Angry Mom Records and Pyramid Sound. The judges awarded the grand prize (a recording session at Pyramid and a record release with Angry Mom) to Go Ogres, and the People's Choice vote (\$300 gift certificate from McNeil's) went to Misses Bitches.

Adult Spelling Bee Announced

The public is invited to attend the Ithaca Public Education Initiative's (IPEI) 14th annual Adult Spelling Bee on Sunday, March 3, at 2 p.m. at Ithaca High School's Bliss Gym.

There is no admission charge for the event that features 24 spelling teams of three adults each competing for the championship Fuzzy Bee trophy and raising funds for the IPEI Teacher Grants program. Last year 36 teachers received Teacher Grants totaling \$41,600 for innovative classroom projects involving community partners.

There will be complimentary refreshments from local businesses and attendees can support Teacher Grants by purchasing chances to win exciting prizes. In case of

inclement weather, the Bee will occur one week later on March 10. An Ithaca teacher who knows firsthand the impact of the Teacher Grants program said: "Educators have to spend precious and often frustrating time figuring out how to make ends meet in the classroom. This concrete and meaningful assistance embodies a long-term community commitment to giving our children the best public education possible." Participating in the Bee is a great way to contribute to excellence in public education and have fun at the same time.

Entry forms are available at www.ipei.org. Contact Judy Stewart at jcs6@cornell.edu for more information, or call 256-4734.

Public Transit

Continued from page 6

To learn more about using the bus, Way2Go has how-to videos at www.Way2Go.org. For more information about getting around Tompkins County safely, affordably

and comfortably contact Way2Go at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County at 272-2292, or Staff@Way2Go.org. Stay safe this winter by taking charge of your transportation!

Jonathan Maddison is the Way2Go travel training coordinator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County.

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Street Beat

The word on the street from around Tompkins County.

By Kathy Morris

Question: What's the prettiest winter street scene in Tompkins County?



"The Commons when it's snowing and the lights are on."

- Stephanie Langer, Ithaca



"Standing at the top of Seneca and Eddy streets in Ithaca, looking down at night at the city below."

- Margaret Soultstein, Ithaca



"When I saw a friend cross-country skiing on the Commons with her three-month-old strapped to her chest."

- Onur Ince, Ithaca



"Yellow Barn Road, with the trees on the side of the road heavy laden with wet snow, forming a beautiful canopy"

- Anthony White, Ithaca

This week's question submitted by Frank Zgola. Submit your question to **Street Beat**. If we choose your question, you'll receive a gift certificate to GreenStar Natural Foods Market. Go to www.tompkinsweekly.com and click on **Street Beat** to enter.

FIRST FRIDAY Gallery Night