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The Recorder, Amsterdam

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Council misses budget deadline

Proposed plan to be adopted Tues.

By JESSICA MAHER
Recorder News Staff

The adoption of Amsterdam's proposed 2010-11 budget will be late again this year, after the City Charter's outlined deadline came and went on Saturday.

Instead, the preliminary adoption of a spending plan that carries a 3 percent tax increase over the current year's budget is on the agenda for Tuesday's Common Council meeting.

THANE

Mayor Ann Thane said she pushed for the rest of the Budget Review Committee to meet before Saturday's deadline, but the majority of committee members indicated that scheduling conflicts and other issues prohibited a meeting.

"It will be adopted Tuesday night," said Thane. "They felt comfortable with that."

Please see BUDGET, Page 6

INSIDE

Mostly cloudy,

BREAKING FREE

More using local services to escape from domestic violence

By MARK ROBARGE
Recorder News Staff

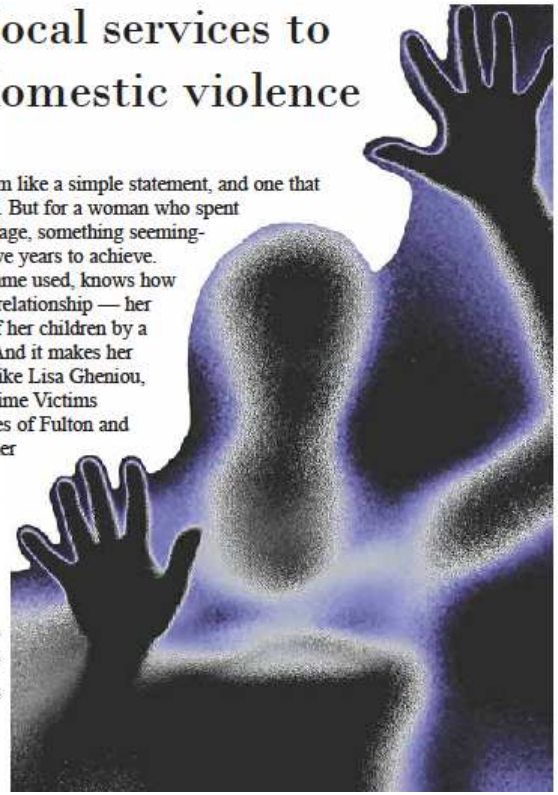
Donna is happy. That may seem like a simple statement, and one that most people take for granted. But for a woman who spent six years in an abusive marriage, something seemingly that simple has taken more than five years to achieve.

Donna, who did not want her last name used, knows how fortunate she is to have escaped that relationship — her sister was stabbed to death in front of her children by a former boyfriend several years ago. And it makes her appreciative of the efforts of people like Lisa Gheniou, director of the Domestic Violence/Crime Victims Services program at Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties, who helped her from the moment she picked up the phone and called their domestic violence hotline.

"Going through the whole process is scary, going to court, all that," Donna said. "Having somebody there next to you to help you, it just gives you an extra boost of courage."

Success stories like Donna's make the fact that the program's staff is busier than ever not necessarily bad news to Gheniou. Calls to the program's hotline nearly tripled from 2007 to 2009, but while that suggests a rise in the number of cases of physical, psychological or sexual abuse, Gheniou said she

Please see VIOLENCE,



Distinguished Column Writing
The Recorder, Amsterdam

The only thing we have to fear is Amsterdam itself

By CHARLIE KRAEBEL

This is one instance when I wish I was wrong. When the World Peace and Health Organization started making its presence known in Amsterdam, I was a little encouraged by the initial reaction from the community, which at best had a positive curiosity toward a Buddhist group that's actually been in the region for a few years.

In fact, I was hoping Amsterdam was starting to get over itself.

However, after listening to local talk radio for a few weeks, reading some of the comments that have been allowed on The Venner Vox (you wouldn't believe the comments that didn't get through) and now hearing sentiments at the most recent meeting of Amsterdam's Common Council, I can only come to one conclusion.

White people sho' is crazy.

It's bad enough that Amsterdam's Hispanic community is often referred to as "those people" or "the Spanish," which exposes the ignorance of the vocal idiots who are content to deride that section of Amsterdam's population because, oh my gracious, they don't look like us, talk like us and have weird last names.

Now, there's a group of people of Chinese descent who want to move to Amsterdam, buy homes, do business, and live their lives how they choose. But good God-amighty, this could be a problem, or as one public speaker put it at last Tuesday's Common Council meeting, "it's like they're coming in and taking over."

Or, even worse, a caller who recently left a message on my voicemail, anonymously of course, expressed concerns about the WPHO moving in because "we live in a society where we have to be judgmental."

I'm not painting all of Amsterdam with a broad brush here. Most of the people I've met in this city are friendly, welcoming and open-minded. But there's a vocal minority made up of a bunch of ignoramuses who rail against anything and anyone not like them. When I hied myself over to a news conference Friday that was hosted by the WPHO, most, if not all, of the Amsterdamians in attendance were more than gracious and welcoming of their new Chinese neighbors.

In fact, those who like to rail against people not like them are probably in the minority, but they are a very loud minority, which could give the impression to "outsiders" that Amsterdam is full of a bunch of bigots.

Part of me wonders if the Hispanic community or the city's new Chinese residents listen to local talk radio, read the blogs and mutter "jeez, those Micks, Guineas and Pollacks are at it again."

A large part of bigotry comes from the fear of something different. However, in Amsterdam, there are way too many people who not only fear the unknown, they hate the unknown.

They hate the fact that development along the Mohawk River may lead to more people moving into the city. They hate the fact that there's a large group of darker-skinned people with last names that end in -ez who have made Amsterdam their home for decades. They hate the fact that the so-called "old guard" isn't relevant any longer, and they hate the fact that the way "things used to be" doesn't necessarily apply to how "things need to be" in this day and age.

And now they hate the fact that there is a good-sized group of Chinese people who want to move into town. Should the city start replacing the "Irish need not apply" signs with "Chinese need not apply" signs?

Given the fact that Amsterdam is made up of so many European groups that used to be considered the boils on the butt of humanity, you'd think the city's "there goes the neighborhood" crowd would be more sympathetic.

A frequent commenter on the Venner Vox raised a couple of questions that are well worth addressing here. In fact, these questions should be addressed to anyone who's actually bought a home in Amsterdam in the last 10 years.

Were you expected to disclose why you wanted to move to Amsterdam? Were you expected to say what your intentions were when you actually moved into Amsterdam?

No? OK, so why should any other ethnic group be subjected to the same kind of questioning?

It wasn't too long ago that people of Irish, Polish and Italian descent were subjected to ridicule, shut out of jobs, and stereotyped in ways that are hateful and bigoted. Have these prognosticators of prejudice (and it would be a safe bet that some of them descend from the above-mentioned groups) forgotten what it's like to live in a society where if your last named ended in a vowel, a "ski" or started with a "Mc," it usually meant you were pigeon-holed into certain jobs or lifestyles just because the W.A.S.P.'s who lived around you didn't want to be bothered with you?

You'd think, based on Amsterdam's ethnic history, that the big-mouthed nincompoops of the Rug City would be more tolerant of others. You'd think, after decades of being the butt of jokes and cast aside as the undesirables, they'd be a little more sympathetic toward those who aren't like them.

Unfortunately that isn't always the case. Some of the people who spent the earlier part of the 20th century being the butt of racism and intolerance would now wear the white sheets and burn the crosses if they could get away with it.

One of the things that makes Amsterdam different than other communities along the Mohawk River is its multiculturalism. Let's face it, most communities in the region have more vanilla than what you'd find at your local ice cream stand.

Why the multiculturalism of Amsterdam isn't celebrated more publicly should be baffling, but after hearing sentiments aired online, on local airwaves and frankly at local coffee shops, it's easy to know why.

"Those people" making the noise aren't citizens of a small city with a big heart. Their Amsterdam is a small city with a black heart.

———

Charlie Kraebel is the Recorder news editor. Contact

Distinguished Sports Writing
The Recorder, Amsterdam

Amsterdam Mohawks at Glens Falls Golden Eagles, 7 p.m.

Post 168 pulls off sweep in twin bill

Staff report

Josh Nethaway singled in the winning run in the first game and Luke Nethaway belted a grand slam in the second game as St. Johnsville Post 168 swept a doubleheader over Sidney Post in American Legion action Saturday.

In the first game, Josh Nethaway had a pair of singles, including the game-winning RBI in the ninth, as Post 168 won a 2-1 extra-inning thriller. D.J. Hoagboon had a double and a single in the win.

Tyler Barhydt earned the win on the mound, tossing three shutout innings in relief of starter Blake Hart.

In the second game, Luke Nethaway was 2-for-3 with the grand slam and five RBI as Post 168 rolled to a 12-1 win that was ended after five innings due to the 10-run rule. Hart was 2-for-2 with three runs scored for Post 168 (6-2), while Jaxson Smith went 1-for-1, scored twice and stole three bases.

Kyle Hanson notched the win, scattering three hits in a complete game. Post 168 is back in action today with a doubleheader against Zaloga Post in Albany.

Mohawks' 6-game win streak snapped

Staff report

LITTLE FALLS — The only team that could end the Amsterdam Mohawks' six-game winning streak turned out to be the Mohawks themselves.

The Mohawks, after winning six games in as many days to pull into sole possession of first place in the NYCBL East Division, committed four errors Saturday contributing to four unearned runs in a 4-3 loss to the Mohawk Valley Diamond Dawgs in Amsterdam's first visit of the season to Veterans Memorial Field.

Amsterdam (7-3), fell behind for good in the bottom of the first when Mohawk Valley got three unearned runs off starter Sam Kidd. The Mohawks cut into the lead with a run in the top of the second, but another unearned run in the fourth

Dave Wojeski / For the Recorder

ABOVE LEFT: Fox Run Golf Club golf pro Rich Scott watches a drive off the 13th tee Wednesday during a round of golf with his son Noah. ABOVE RIGHT: Noah Scott watches a putt on its way to the pin.

Family Links

Scott family makes golf generational game

By ADAM SHINDER
Recorder Sports Staff

JOHNSTOWN — At 10 years old, Noah Scott is the owner of the kind of smooth, easy swing that makes golfers many years his senior turn green with envy.

That list includes Noah's father, Rich Scott, who as the club pro at Johnstown's Fox Run Golf Club, can count himself as something of an expert on the subject.

"He's a lot better than me," Rich said, watching his son tee off Thursday at Fox Run's 10th hole. "He's got a better swing than I do."

Noah's is a swing that, like so many other great swings, looks almost too effortless for the ball to jump off the club face as straight and long as it does on a frighteningly frequent basis. Perhaps it's only appropriate that Noah swings the club so purely. After all, he's had a golf club in his hands almost as long as he's been able to walk.

"I've been playing since I was 18 months old," Noah said. "I was putting when I was 18 months."

"When he was just growing up, we lived on Amsterdam Muni, and he was putting from 18 months old," Rich said. "He was just walking, and he was putting. It was great. Probably at about four years old, he was starting to develop a swing, and from there, it was just about getting his hands on the club the right way and getting him to follow through, and he did the rest himself."

The swing was on display on a cloud-streaked Wednesday afternoon at Fox Run as father and son — decked out in identical black-and-white Nike golf shirts and khakis — hit the back nine for a few after-school practice holes.

From Noah's first move on the ball off the 10th tee, it's obvious just how comfortable the youngster is on the links. Taking nary a practice swing, he hones right in on the ball and uncorks his first drive; down the right side of the fairway, bouncing slightly onto the first cut of rough.

A quick cart trip later — with Noah chauffeuring his father around, of course — and he's got an iron in his hands from a little more than 150 yards away.

Please see SCOTT, Page 29

Distinguished Sports Coverage
The Recorder, Amsterdam

places 10th in 500

Staff report

WILLIAMSVILLE — Amsterdam's Antonio Lanzi placed 10th in the 500 freestyle at the New York State Swimming and Diving Championships Saturday at Erie Community College.

Lanzi, only a sophomore, entered the second day of competition in 13th place.

"Antonio is only a sophomore and the fact that he is facing taller and stronger kids and competing with them is an impressive feat," said Amsterdam swim coach Rob Thelin. "He has that drive to succeed in the sport. That is something you don't see."

Lanzi also competed in the 200 freestyle, finishing 19th with a new school record time of 1:45.71. The previous record, also held by Lanzi, was 1:46.15 set on Friday.

Canajoharie-Fort Plain's Mark Hanifan also competed in the event and was 27th in the 200 freestyle after the first

Snedeker takes lead at Phoenix Open

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Brandt Snedeker is back to playing like the rising young PGA Tour star he was supposed to be.

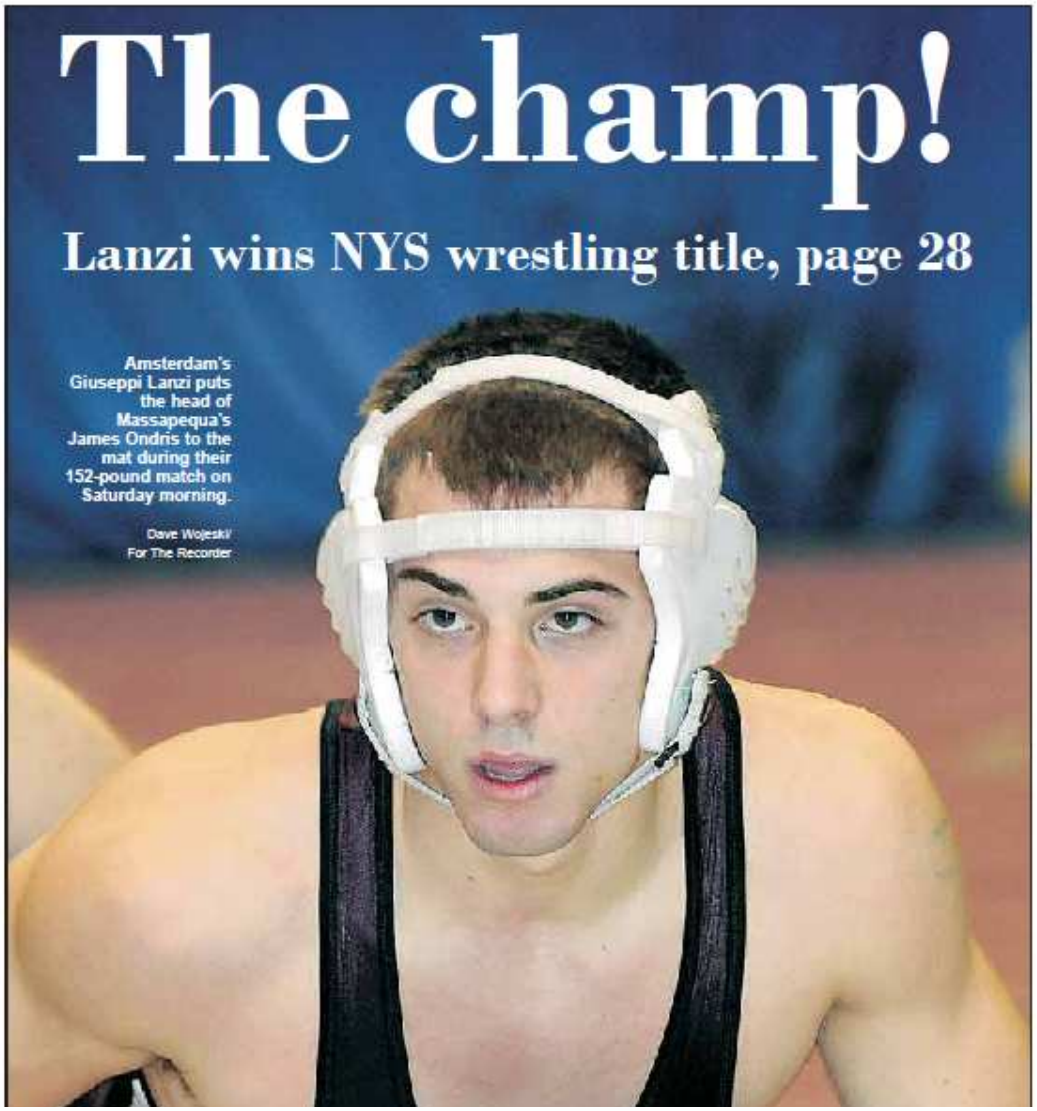
The 29-year-old Tennessean rolled in his sixth birdie of the day on No. 17 and finished at 14-under 199 for a one-shot lead over Scott Piercy in the Phoenix Open.

Snedeker shot a 66, while Piercy had a pair of eagles en route to a 65 in the third round Saturday amid a loud, rowdy crowd estimated at just over 121,000. Many were on hand for the party as much, or more than, for the tournament.

Rickie Fowler (69) and Matt Every (68) were two back at 12 under. Camilo Villegas, who shared the lead with Mark Wilson after two rounds,

The champ!

Lanzi wins NYS wrestling title, page 28



Amsterdam's Giuseppi Lanzi puts the head of Massapequa's James Ondris to the mat during their 152-pound match on Saturday morning.

Dave Wojeski/
For The Recorder

Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage

The Daily Mail, Catskill

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Thursday, March 31, 2011

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Blackthorne Resort lost to fire

By Jim Planck
Hudson-Catskill Newspapers

Published: Saturday, September 18, 2010 8:23 PM EDT

EAST DURHAM — Fun and festivity at the 13th Anniversary Catskill Mountain Thunder motorcycle celebration at Blackthorne Resort, in East Durham, turned to fire, loss, and heartbreak Saturday afternoon as the facility's main building was lost to a massive fire during the middle of the third day of the weekend long event.

The building contained Blackthorne's pub, nightclub, dining room, and lodging.

Given the nature of the incident, full details are not available at publishing time, as firefighters and emergency response personnel, including appropriate unit leaders, remained on the scene.

The skeleton of the main building was all that remained as firefighters continued to battle the blaze. (Claude Helton/Hudson-Catskill Newspapers)

The fire was apparently called in during the early afternoon, with units from East Durham Volunteer Fire Dept. and Oak Hill Volunteer Fire Dept. perhaps initially responding, but — if so — with additional manpower and equipment from Cairo Hose Co., Greenville Volunteer Fire Co.,

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Distinguished Breaking News Coverage

The Malone Telegram

The Malone Telegram
May 10, 2010

Falls teen dies after baseball injury

DARCY FARGO
The Telegram

A 13-year-old St. Regis Falls Central School student died Saturday morning, five days after he was hospitalized with a head injury sustained while playing baseball with the school's modified team.

Brady Lee Frazier died at Fletcher Allen Health Care Center in Burlington, Vt., where he had been admitted May 4. The eighth-grade pitcher was hit in the head with a line drive during a practice session.

"This was totally unexpected," said Lyndon J. Farmer, a teacher and the school's dean of students. "We had been keeping track of his condition, and we kept getting good reports, a good prognosis. We were told he was coming home. People are just stunned."

An autopsy is pending.

Farmer said Frazier, the son of Derek Peck and Maryann Frazier, was one of his students two years ago and stood out for his positive attitude.

"Everyone you talk to just remembers his smile," he said. "He had one of those infectious smiles – you could just look at him and know he's a good kid. You couldn't help but like him."

"He was a sweetheart," said school Superintendent Patricia A. Dovi. "I can't believe he's gone. Our hearts go out to the family. They must be devastated. I know our entire school community is devastated."

Mr. Farmer said school officials were notified within two to three hours of the young man's death Saturday

Distinguished Editorial Writing
Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake

Adirondack Daily Enterprise

Publisher **Catherine Moore**
phone ext. 14
Managing Editor **Peter Crowley**
phone ext. 22

Opinion

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Yes, a moratorium on the state buying land

Editorial

New York governors tend to like buying land to add to the Adirondack Forest Preserve. It feeds their egos, for one thing, but as executive legacies go, land preservation is a great one – much, much better than some silly presidential library.

We'll call it Theodore Roosevelt Syndrome. Its symptoms are big, bold statements and a deep homage to nature.

Of all the recent Empire State governors, none was so smitten with TRS as George Pataki. He made it publicly known that he wanted to preserve a million acres of Adirondack forestland, and he did it, too. His 12 years as governor were one of the state's busiest periods of land acquisition ever, and he made sure he was there to take credit for every purchase and easement. Much of the groundwork for Pataki's million, however, was laid under his predecessor, Gov. Mario Cuomo, who had a bit of TRS flowing through his veins as well.

Don't confuse this syndrome with a disease; it does a lot of good. Some people are so entrenched in fighting the environmentalists, they forget that beautiful land, kept mostly in its natural state for anyone to enjoy, is a good thing.

whole lot more beautiful tracts out there, but just like any eager buyer in a store full of goodies, at some point you have to cut yourself off. You have bills to pay first.

That's especially true if you're in the middle of a financial crisis, as our state is. It simply doesn't have enough money to pay for our current smorgasbord of government services, plus the generous wages and benefits our elected reps have committed to giving all our unionized public employees.

That's why we support a land-purchase moratorium as one of the many necessary spending cuts Gov. David Paterson included in his 2010-11 Executive Budget.

"There is no end date for the moratorium, but we expect that when state finances permit, the open space conservation program will resume," Yancy Roy, spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Conservation, told The Associated Press. That makes sense to us, but while there are nice things about returning to the glory days of buying land, we remind the state that even when the fiscal outlook brightens, it might be better to

you have?

Plus, if the state doesn't buy these desired tracts – specifically the 14,600-acre Follensby Park near Tupper Lake and a 65,000-acre chunk of the former Finch, Pruyn timberlands near Newcomb – they will still be well protected, better so than if they had campers, hikers, paddlers, mountain bikers and ATVers from the general public all over them. Those parcels are owned by The Nature Conservancy, which continues to do excellent work, not only in natural protection but also in working out easements with local governments and residents in the Adirondacks.

The down side is that we must take advantage of the Conservancy, which strained its budget in paying $110 million for Finch, Pruyn's 161,000 acres. It had hoped, but never been promised, that the state would buy some of that.

But the choice between a wealthy, healthy nonprofit group and a bleeding state with 19.5 million residents is easy. The Conservancy, a few months after it bought the Finch lands, bought Follensby Park for $16 million. That amount, if the state had it to spend, would keep the APA's Visitor Interpretive Centers open for another three

Distinguished Headline Writing
Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake

Fuming but still smoking

A smoker purchases cigarettes this week at a local convenience store.
(Enterprise photos — Jessica Collier)

Convenience stores say customers are smoking cheaper brands, grumbling more but, so far, still buying

By JESSICA COLLIER
Enterprise Staff Writer

The hefty increase in cigarette sales tax this summer isn't hurting local convenience stores as much as it may be in other areas.

A survey of local convenience stores showed that there are definitely impacts from the tax hike, but some stores aren't yet feeling a decrease in sales.

"You're in an area (the Adirondacks) where, where else are you going to go?" said Tom Mailey, spokesman for the Stewart's Shops corporation.

Well, people can go to the Akwesasne Native American reservation, but it's more than an hour's drive each way. Internet mail-order services are now illegal. The easiest way to save money is switch to a cheaper brand and use complaining — lots of complaining — as a coping mechanism. That's mostly what store clerks say they're seeing.

On July 1, New York raised its excise tax on cigarettes to $4.35, the highest rate in the U.S. Since then, some convenience stores in the Tri-Lakes area have seen a dip in sales — sometimes extending to overall sales, since cigarette customers buy other things, too.

Jenn Hanna, manager at Fuel and Fare Between in Ray Brook, said the cheapest pack of cigarettes in her store is $8.21, with the most expensive being $10.09 and the average at about $9.50. And those are the cheapest prices in the region, she insisted.

(Continued on Page 11)

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RPI shifts business incubator priorities

Closing campus facility to focus on energy, environment

By JESSICA M. PASKO
For The Saratogian

TROY — Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is making major changes to its business incubator program, eliminating its brick-and-mortar location on campus and putting a renewed focus on the energy and environment field. The 13 companies currently housed in the facility will be moving out of the space over the next several weeks.

Instead of having all of the program's companies under one roof, many will now be located in various spaces downtown, possibly in the Rensselaer Tech Park and other nearby areas, said Laban Coblentz, chief of staff and associate vice president for policy and planning. He said the current facilities were often limiting, and the school will try to keep the new spaces as close to the campus and the incubator offices as possible, while also finding the best space to properly suit the companies. Without space restrictions, school officials say the program will be able to expand and accept more companies at one time. The revamped program will focus heavily on development in the areas of energy and the environment.

The incubation program offers start-up companies business services including mentoring, business development, fundraising events, networking opportunities and infrastructure-based support. It's primarily geared

Higher education
Is the expense still worth it?

By PAUL POST
The Saratogian

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Mike O'Donnell took a break from filling out job applications to visit a paperback book sale at Saratoga Springs Public Library.

Nine months after graduating from Harvard University, this isn't where he expected to be.

With unemployment at more than 10 percent and the cost of higher education skyrocketing, many young people (and parents picking up at least part of the tab) can't help asking: Is college worth it?

The answer in most cases is yes. But the degree that once opened doors automatically is no longer a sure bet. Graduates might have to look longer and harder and do things they didn't expect before embarking on chosen careers.

"Very few people coming out of college right now are getting jobs," said O'Donnell, 22, of Saratoga Springs. "There are a lot of people coming back home and not sure what they're supposed to be doing."

His goal is to get an entry-level research position in Washington, D.C., focused on international relations or politics.

"But it seems like a lot of them require a graduate degree," he said.

So O'Donnell, who majored in history, is faced with another dilemma. Going back to school would cost tens of thousands more, putting him deeply in debt before landing his first job. The other problem is that graduate schools sometimes want students to obtain a few years of work experience, so they have a better idea what their specific interests are before continuing their education.

Please see COLLEGE, Page 6A

Higher Education Series

This is the first in a three-part series examining the relevance and cost of higher education today. Readers are encouraged to offer their views through letters to the editor and online at www.saratogian.com, Twitter and Facebook.

Today

- Rising costs vs. the benefit and need for a college education
- Many applications, few spots available
- Senior stress: One high school student's perspective
- Survey of local colleges (ACC, HVCC, SUNY Albany, Union, RPI, St. Rose, Sage). What is their tuition now?
- What majors are most students going to college for now and why?

Distinguished Business Reporting
The Saratogian, Saratoga Springs

The Saratogian (**saratogian.com**), Serving the Saratoga Springs, N.Y. region

News

Saratoga County dairy farmers fighting for their way of life

Thursday, June 17, 2010

By PAUL POST, The Saratogian

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series about Saratoga County's dairy industry.

CHARLTON —The Arnold family is doing everything in its power not to become part of a vanishing breed — the American dairy farmer.

For the first time in the farm's 96-year history, they're forced to borrow money not for equipment or herd expansion, but just to stay afloat.

The shocking reality is that one in six New York dairy farms is in the same predicament they are.

"We're at that point everybody else is," said Chuck Arnold, who co-owns the business with his brother, Rick. "Do we stay in business or don't we? Nobody wants to get out, but you can't stay in a business that isn't making any money. You can only do that so long. Today, if you're breaking even you're a success."

Located on Route 147, Arnoldhaven Farm was established by Chuck and Rick's grandfather, James, in 1914. They'd like to see it become a Century Farm, but four years is a long way to go if market conditions don't improve.

Most farmers today are getting paid only a little more for milk than their fathers did 35 years ago. Meanwhile, the cost of feed, fuel, fertilizer and equipment keeps escalating.

Chuck and Rick, the farm's only salaried employees, both have high school and college age children who would like to join the business. The question is, how can the farm support them?

"That's a dilemma a lot of family farms are facing now," Chuck Arnold said. "How do you encourage the next generation to get involved? We don't try to push them. There are a lot of other jobs they could make a whole lot more money at. We let them make that decision."

At present, Arnoldhaven has 70 milk cows. To generate more income, they'd have to expand the herd, driving them deeper into debt. Or, like many farms, they could diversify —develop a new source of revenue.

Distinguished State Government Coverage

The Saratogian, Saratoga Springs

The Saratogian (**saratogian.com**), Serving the Saratoga Springs, N.Y. region

News

The politics of gaming: Decision for Aqueduct falls on three sets of shoulders

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

By PAUL POST, The Saratogian

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Three people are charged with deciding which firm should get the 30-year contract to run Aqueduct Race Track's proposed racino, with 4,500 video lottery machines.

That alone might explain why a state faced with a $3 billion budget deficit still hasn't taken action on a project that could generate $1 million per day in tax revenues.

The governor's office and both houses of the state Legislature are controlled by the same party, but that's done nothing to move the selection process along. In the Senate, it may actually be slowing things down.

"If Gov. (David) Paterson is seeking re-election, he needs to be cutting a ribbon at Aqueduct next spring, not a year from now," said New York businessman Jeff Gural, a partner in one of the six groups seeking the contract.

Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, D-Manhattan, and the Senate leader are responsible for naming Aqueduct's racino operator. The decision is critical to Saratoga Race Course, because downstate gaming revenues would boost racing purses and allow for much-needed physical improvements at the aging, local track.

When 2009 began, Democrats had just taken over the Senate for the first time since the 1960s, with Majority Leader Malcolm Smith, D-Queens, at the helm. Last spring, however, Republicans and two rogue Democrats staged a coup that paralyzed state

Distinguished Community Service
The Saratogian, Saratoga Springs

News

Hidden in plain view: A look at homelessness in Saratoga Springs

Monday, November 16, 2009

By MAREESA NICOSIA, The Saratogian

Editor's note: This is part of a series examining the issue of homelessness in Saratoga Springs. Scroll to the bottom of the article for links to other pieces in the series.

Click here for a list of places to receive help.

SARATOGA SPRINGS — In a city known for health, history and horses, another "h" word is rarely uttered. Yet homelessness in Saratoga Springs persists, despite the noble efforts of many who work tirelessly to curb its growth.

Some of this city's homeless individuals refer to themselves as the "hidden population," but if you look, you'll notice them collecting stray cans or idling on benches downtown. They shuffle around corners and navigate carts along the sidewalks, among the dog-walkers and the well-heeled professionals, on their way to a temporary resting place — a warm lobby, a spare couch or a cold tent in the woods.

In the most recent official count, 231 people were found to be homeless in Saratoga County. Seventeen of them were within the city limits.

They've entered the streets from different circumstances. Some have been evicted from their homes because of job loss, while others struggle with chronic mental illness and physical disabilities. Some are victims of domestic violence who flee abusive relationships for safe houses with their children in tow. Some are transient residents in the homes of friends and family members or the county jail. Some are biding their time because they choose to live outside of "the system" or are praying for the day a higher power will take over and claim responsibility for their problems.

Often feeling unheard and unwanted, and lacking the resources or the desire to join the community, they live beneath the radar in constant search of a place to call home.

Tina and Bill's story

Tina and Bill are both 34 years old and want to get married, but they don't have money to buy a ring. Based in Saratoga Springs,

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The Saratogian, Saratoga Springs

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Spa Catholic boys excel in high school hoops. Page 1B

Local officials gather to discuss the future of our towns. Page 2A

Saratogian.com

The SARATOGIAN 75 cents

Serving Saratoga County Since 1855 • Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Higher education

Is the expense still worth it?

Staving off student debt

By EMILY DONOHUE
The Saratogian

SARATOGA SPRINGS — When he was a high school student looking at colleges, Salem resident Matt Saari thought a school with a good reputation would lead to a successful career. He graduated from St. Anselm College in Manchester, N.H., in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in history and about $60,000 in debt. The student loan bills have all come due, but the good career he planned for has been more elusive.

Saari works at the Ace Hardware distribution center in Wilton and spends about $400 a month, plus an additional $300 quarterly, to repay the student loans he took out to finance his education. His job at Ace Hardware does not require a degree.

Please see DEBT, Page 7A

Higher Education Series

This is the third in a three-part series examining the relevance and cost of higher education today. Readers are encouraged to offer their views through letters to the editor and online at www.saratogian.com, Twitter and Facebook.

Sunday

- Rising costs vs. the benefit and need for a college education
- Many applications, few spots available
- Senior stress: One high school student's perspective
- Survey of local colleges (ACC, HVCC, SUNY Albany, Union, RPI, St. Rose, Sage). What is their tuition now?
- What majors are most students going to college for now and why?
- By the numbers

Monday

- BOCES: What's the role of these programs and what are students' next step when they leave?
- Two-year schools vs. four-year schools: Is it necessary that the student start out at a four-year institution?

Today

- What jobs will be available five or 10 years from now? Will they be local or will people have to relocate? Page 6A
- The Debt: How are most kids paying for college? Are sources shrinking or drying up? How long does it take to pay back?

Saratoga Springs High School senior Meredith Farley, 17, glances over scholarship options.
ERICA MILLER/The Saratogian

Need help paying for college?

Though the cost of higher education keeps climbing higher, there are many options for students who need help financing their degree.

Laurel Logan-King, a guidance counselor at Ballston Spa High School, said there are many Web sites she recommends students visit to explore their options.

■ As early as eighth-grade, students can begin looking at ways to budget their money and save for college at http://mappingyourfuture.org. The free Web site is put together by a nonprofit group and offers helpful advice and calculator tools for students and parents.

■ New York's Higher Education Services Corp., www.hesc.org, offers students assistance in filling out financial aid forms like the FAFSA — the free application for federal student aid which most colleges recommend — and applying for New York-specific financial aid like TAP grants. New York's TAP — tuition assistance program — offers grants of up to $5,000 for students attending SUNY and CUNY schools.

■ Another well-known site, www.finaid.org, is a comprehensive search engine for loans, scholarships and other ways to save on college tuition.

Logan-King said students need to begin filling out applications for local scholarships, like those offered by the school's Parent Teacher Association, in the spring.

— By Emily Donohue

Appliance Rebate Program

Rebates have local appeal

By MAREESA NICOSIA
The Saratogian

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Four days in, the state's appliance rebate program is off to a positive start, with more than 28,000 New Yorkers applying for stimulus funds they're eligible for when purchasing high-efficiency appliances.

Late Monday evening, $12.5 million remained out of $16.8 million in stimulus funds that was made available to residents on Friday through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). People have until Sunday, Feb. 21 to fill out an online application and make their purchases, but the rebates are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, so it is possible that the money will be gone before then.

Over the weekend, customers streamed into appliance retailers throughout town, searching the aisles with rebate applications in hand.

"Our fridge is 20 years old, so we're thinking about getting a new one," said Alicia Rayome-Simpson, as she considered a $637 Maytag appliance at Sears.

"And 'cause we like cold meat," her husband, Larry Simpson, chimed in.

The Edinburg couple said they would take advantage of the rebate and either recycle their old refrigerator or donate it to a needy family through their town's recycling center.

"I hate to throw it away, because it does work, just not well," Larry Simpson said.

Mechanicville's John Hmura, 71, couldn't decide on a new clothes washer but said the $105 rebate he could receive to recycle it and replace it would be "worthwhile."

"If my wife were here, she'd just pick out the one she wanted and off we'd go," he said, still stumped between a front-loader and a top-loader.

Interest in the rebate is driving sales far higher than they were at the same time last year, managers at local stores said.

"People are coming in for the rebate, and we're up over 300 percent in appliance sales compared to last February," said Peter Hayes, operations manager at Sears. "Talk about stimulus; it's working in New York

Please see REBATE, Page 7A

Schools audit: Fortune frozen

By VALERIE BAUMAN
The Associated Press

ALBANY — A state audit found New York public schools have been socking away hundreds of millions of dollars in reserve accounts that they can't touch now in the midst of a budget crisis.

Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's office identified $615 million that school districts have been holding "unnecessarily." He said last week that the districts placed more money than they would ever need in reserve accounts for employees to receive accrued sick and leave time when they leave their jobs.

The problem is that state law designates those accounts for a specific purpose, and now the money remains largely untouchable — costing taxpayers millions at a time when the state has an $8.2 billion budget deficit and schools could face cuts.

"Many districts were putting money into those funds to help pay for the cost of health insurance coverage for retirees," said Dave Albert, a spokesman Association. "It turns out the funds cannot be used for this purpose. As a result, there are some districts that have more money in those funds than they need."

Lawmakers would have to pass legislation to give districts more freedom in how money in employee funds is used. That's exactly what DiNapoli recommends.

His idea is to create legislation allowing school districts to set aside reserves to pay for future retiree health care costs. That would get the money out of the accounts where it's currently stranded and help the schools prepare for more financial stability in the future, when the cost of retiree health coverage is expected to grow exponentially, DiNapoli said.

The comptroller said school districts across the state also have missed cost savings opportunities and made "questionable" payments.

The audit found $615 million set aside by 285 school districts and BOCES. It also turned up $285 million in missed cost

Distinguished Online Blog
The Saratogian, Saratoga Springs

Blogs > In The Biz

11.23.2009

Fueling the cupcake craze

What's the color of bubblegum, sounds like a sock hop and smells like strawberries and cream?

It's Bettie's Cakes, Saratoga's latest cupcake café to open in the Downstreet Marketplace, and it comes with a retro twist.

In the newly renovated space at 454 Broadway, customers can cure their sweet tooth in authentic-looking vinyl booths while a jukebox plays '50s tunes. Soda pop, root-beer floats, soft serve and, of course, freshly baked cupcakes are served by "Betties" — waitresses wearing saucy hairdos and colorful aprons.

Owner Lorraine Murphy is the lead "Bettie," and works alongside her husband, John, and her 13-year-old daughter, Shawnee, in the shop.

She says her purpose through the cupcake café is to "try to bring back a wholesome feel and glamour of the '50s" by appealing to families and children.

"It's about family coming together to have that quality time," she said Sunday as the café filled up with parents and their small children clamoring over their favorite flavor of frosting.

The couple said Saratoga is, to them, a prime spot for such a specialty business.

"A lot of people are addicted to cupcakes," Murphy said. "The kids can come in and virtually design their own cupcake."

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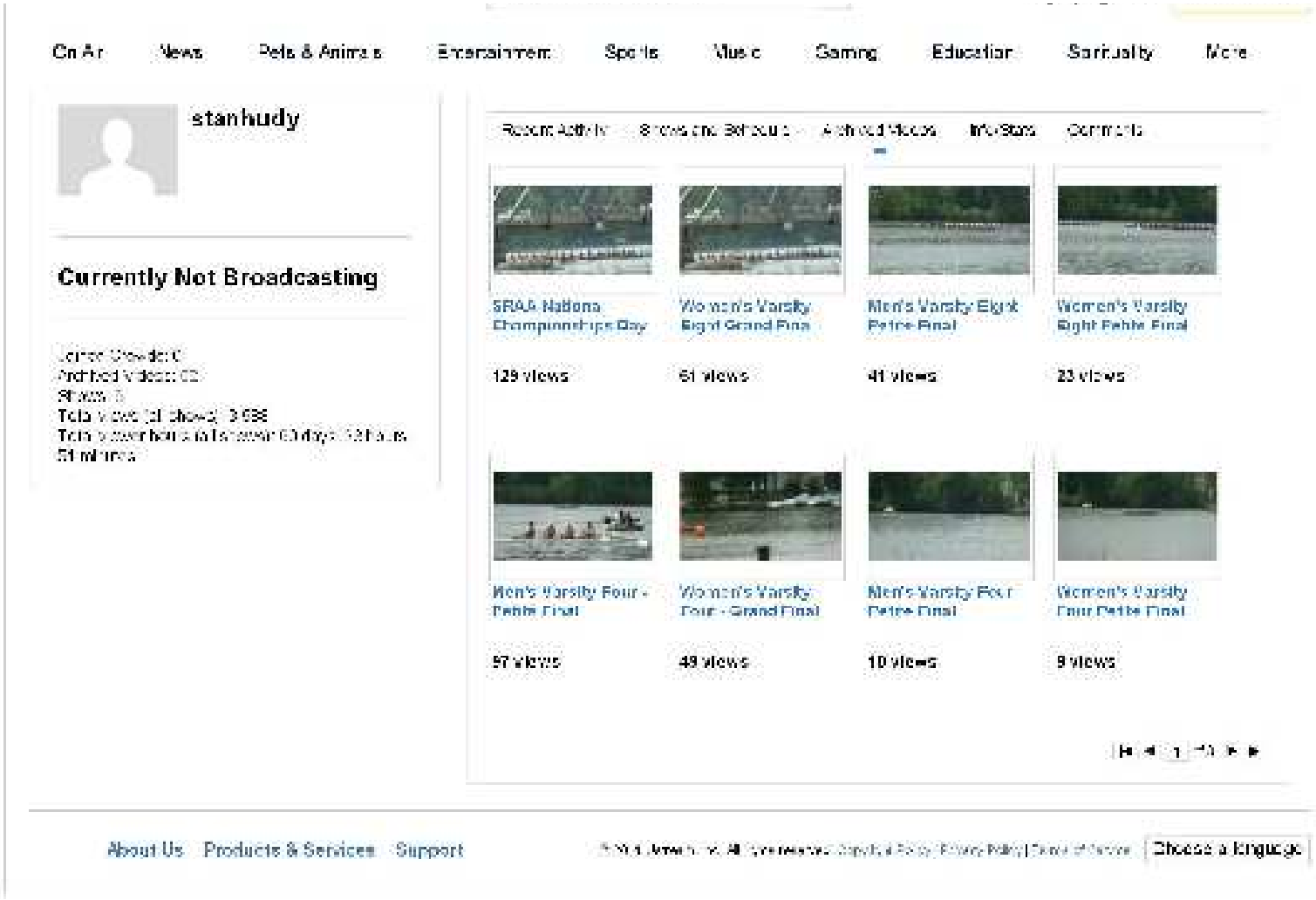
The Saratogian, Saratoga Springs



Distinguished Feature Photography

The Saratogian, Saratoga Springs

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Distinguished Sports Writing
The Citizen, Auburn

AuburnPub.com

Courage and desire

By Kristin Kowaleski-Wolford / The Citizen | Posted: Sunday, January 31, 2010 12:00 am

Everyone in the stands can see his tears.

They begin well before tipoff and remain a steady stream throughout the boys basketball game. By the end of pre-game warm-ups, Travis Snyder's face is red and blotchy from unsuccessfully using his jersey to dry his face. But his watery eyes are simply a nuisance, as the Port Byron junior prepares to start yet another game. And this one is a big one, too.

The Panthers are going up against their biggest rival, Weedsport, for the third time this season and the gym at Dana L. West High School is stuffed. It is Port Byron's first time hosting a Coaches vs. Cancer game and the crowd is a sea of purple shirts, in recognition of Hodgkin's disease, a type of cancer that has personally affected the school.

The disease is also the cause of Snyder's runny eyes. His tears aren't ones of sadness or joy, but yet another side effect of the chemotherapy he has been going through for weeks.

Snyder, 17, had been having issues with the lymph nodes in his neck for most of his life. He decided to see a doctor in the fall when a lump in his neck began to interfere with his football season.

"The only reason I went to the doctor even was because when we were lifting (weights) over the summer, it was irritating me," he said. "Then the football pads were rubbing up against it and stuff and it irritated me, so we had to go and get it checked out. That's all."

The rest of the team noticed it as well.

"He played the whole season with it," Panthers head football coach Chris Kudla said. "We used to say, 'What's that thing on your neck?' just joking around. I thought, 'no way is that cancer.'"

"He had been having lymph node problems in his neck since he was a little boy," said Sherry Snyder, Travis' mom. "But no one ever did anything. Then this lymph node got bigger and started bothering him, so they did a biopsy. First, they did a needle biopsy and it didn't show anything, then they took it out because the doctor told us that a needle biopsy isn't very accurate."

Distinguished Column Writing
The Daily Messenger, Canandaigua

MPNnow.com

Kevin Frisch: Why not take all of me?

By Kevin Frisch, columnist
Messenger Post
Posted May 05, 2010 @ 06:09 AM

Canandaigua, N.Y. — A coalition of state lawmakers and medical specialists is endorsing what may be the most symbolic piece of legislation ever offered up in the great state of New York. That's no easy task considering a full two-thirds of the bills proposed in New York are strictly symbolic — the rest either raise taxes or name heinous crimes after unfortunate victims (the latest: Lady Gaga's Law, which allows celebrities to sue wardrobe designers for playing practical jokes on them).

The group wants to revise the state's motor vehicle and health laws to automatically enroll all new applicants for driver licenses as organ donors unless they opt out. That's right: Unless you go through the extra step of filing additional paperwork — and you know how much fun that is at the DMV — your liver belongs to Albany should you meet an untimely demise. (They can have mine, but the joke would be on them.)

Now, I've never actually donated an organ (although — this is true — I have a piano in my garage waiting to be picked up by my brother). But I'm reasonably familiar with the English language, having abused it in this column for more than 20 years. And the definition of "donation" is "a gift given ... typically for charitable purposes." And that's not just the Web surfers at Wikipedia talking — the definition was pretty much the same at yourdictionary.com, where synonyms like "gift" and "contribution" were thrown around. (Don't worry; I ducked.)

Taking something from someone when they haven't offered it, or even indicated they intended to offer it, is not, as the proponents of this bill label it, "presumed consent." It is "stealing."

"The presumption is they intend to donate," said Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, the Westchester County Democrat who introduced the bill.

Why? Why would you presume that people will do the right thing of their own volition? If this were the case, we wouldn't need seat belt laws, or labor unions, or even (try not to grin at this thought) lawyers.

I mean, what if the idea of "presumed consent" got picked up by, say, the National Kidney Foundation? You run into Walmart to buy a pound of sugar and a bullhorn for your next tea party, you return to your parking space and, instead of your vehicle, you find a letter thanking you for "making your car a Kidney Car." "I didn't donate my car!" you cry. Just then, it rolls past and, from behind the wheel, the driver yells, "presumed consent!"

And let's not even consider what would happen were this concept to get into the hands of high school boys.

Distinguished Breaking News Coverage

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva

'IT'S SHOCKING'

Neighbors: Geneva mom and daughter were 'good people'

By CRAIG FOX
cfox@fltimes.com

GENEVA — Jill Polce disliked the man accused of killing her upstairs neighbors the first time she set eyes on him.

John E. Brown, 35, of 285 Route 21, Lot 42, Manchester, was charged Friday with first-degree murder in the double killing of a mother and her 12-year-old daughter in their apartment at 148 N. Main St.

Helen Buchel, 34, and Brittany Passalacqua, a seventh-grader at the Geneva Middle School, were stabbed to death between 11:30 p.m. Thursday and 12:30 a.m. Friday, officials said. At a press conference Friday night, police called it a domestic incident, describing Buchel and Brown's relationship as boyfriend and girlfriend.

Polce said she thought Brown was "a real creepy guy the first time I met him."

On Saturday morning, she stood on the porch of her apartment building with a couple friends, just feet from the yellow police tape in front of the victims' door.

She said it was too upsetting for her talk about what she had told police about the killings. But she wanted to let people know about her long friendship with Buchel — which began when they were about 5 years old — and the months preceding Friday's gruesome discovery.

"It's awful," she said.

Buchel and Brown had been dating for a just a couple months, but there were troubles from almost the beginning, Polce said. Her friend complained that he had

■ See NEIGHBORS on Page 4A

Spencer Tullis photos / *Finger Lakes Times*

Friends and relatives of Helen Buchel, 34, and her daughter, Brittany Passalacqua, a seventh-grader at Geneva Middle School, who were stabbed to death about midnight Thursday, grieve outside their apartment on North Main Street in Geneva (background) Friday night.

Police charge Manchester man with first-degree murder

By CRAIG FOX
cfox@fltimes.com

GENEVA — Despite the capture of the man accused in Friday's double killing, police say their investigation is just beginning.

John E. Brown, 34, of 285 Route 21, Lot 42, Manchester, was apprehended some three hours after the bodies of Helen Buchel and her 12-year-old daughter were found in their North Main Street apartment. He was arrested on a first-degree murder charge and a parole violation.

Brown

A source close to the investigation called the apartment a "very grisly scene."

Brown was arraigned in Geneva City Court and remanded to the Ontario County Jail without bail. He's scheduled to appear in Geneva City Court at 9 a.m. Monday.

At a Friday night press conference, Police Chief Frank Pane said a contingent of city police, Ontario County sheriff's investigators and state police apprehended the 5-foot-9-inch, 145-pound Brown in a nearby municipality.

Several unmarked police cars converged on the area where police thought Brown might be in what Pane called "a covert operation."

Pane and Ontario County District Attorney R. Michael Tantillo declined to specify how

■ See POLICE on Page 4A

Distinguished Business Reporting
Finger Lakes Times, Geneva

Geneva, N.Y. – Serving Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties www.fltimes.com $1.50

What if?

By JIM MILLER
jmiller@fltimes.com

GENEVA — Imagine that something happened 10 or 20 years ago that left the city without the entities that occupy large chunks of its tax-exempt property.

Maybe an eerily precise earthquake wiped them out. Maybe state law changed to allow the city to levy full taxes and the City Council decided to try it, forcing them out of business. Maybe the economy collapsed and they went broke.

Whatever the cause, imagine that Geneva is now without Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Finger Lakes Health and the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station.

They are numbers one, two and five on the list of entities that occupy the most tax-exempt property in the city. (Guardian Glass, which sits on Industrial Development Agency-owned land and makes payments in lieu of taxes, comes in at No. 3. The city itself holds the No. 4 slot).

In all, the Colleges, health system and station account for $222.55 million worth of

OFF THE ROLLS: Part 1

Making sense of Geneva's tax-exempt property puzzle

About this series

Nearly 60 percent of Geneva's assessed value is now exempt from property taxes. Over the next week, the Times will look at

The city of Geneva's largest tax-exempt property owners:

Not all tax-exempt land is used by its owner, and several entities hold multiple parcels across several exemption categories. Occupying the most tax-exempt land are:

Hobart and William Smith Colleges
$105,746,800

Finger Lakes Health
$71,362,400

Guardian Glass
$55,375,600*

City of Geneva
$48,302,500

NYS Agricultural Experiment Station
$45,447,500

What if Geneva had another $4 million in tax revenue? What if some of Geneva's most valuable land was available for development? What if over half of Geneva's population left? What if the city could cut the tax rate by 39 percent and still collect the same amount as it does now? What if you had to drive a half hour to reach an emergency room? What if $222 million worth of property went back on the tax roll? What if the state decided

Distinguished Editorial Writing

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva

A single Seneca Falls a good starting point

After months of discussion, debate and scrutiny, the future of Seneca Falls will be decided when village residents head to the polls Tuesday.

OUR OPINION:

Low overall taxes will retain and attract residents and businesses.

Which way the vote will go is anyone's guess, but when the dust clears, we wouldn't be disappointed if there were only one Seneca Falls.

Everyone in upstate New York complains about taxes — daily if not hourly — and this is a rare instance where a group of government and community leaders have chosen, at the very least, to give thousands of residents a say in doing something about it.

We do wish that the village and town had been able to reach a clearer and more palatable solution to the police services issue, but even with that we think the advantages of a single Seneca Falls outweigh the continuation of a system that by its very nature promotes tax inequity and the division of residents in the same greater community.

The savings may not be astronomical in the end, but the residents of Seneca Falls (both town and village) should be doing everything they can to keep the *overall* taxes as low as possible to retain and attract residents and businesses alike.

Regardless of the outcome, we congratulate everyone in the village and town who worked on this issue and hope your counterparts in surrounding communities take note. Dissolution may not be the answer, but the conversation may lead to one involving shared services. If we're to keep the Finger Lakes vibrant amid declining populations and greater economic challenges, we must find more ways to work and grow together.

In our view, Tuesday's vote should be an easy decision for village residents who believe police coverage would be adequate — or at the very least could be adjusted as needed. After all, when's the next time you're going to have the chance to vote for a 48 percent tax *decrease*?

If you want to keep police coverage exactly the same, you'll likely be voting no on dissolution and the benefits that go with it.

As for town residents, especially those on fixed incomes, who will see their taxes go up if the village is dissolved, we're not saying we're happy about that. True, any increase hurts, but we don't see this as being unfair, especially since money from the Seneca Meadows Landfill has helped keep those taxes so low for so long.

Should the village dissolve, Seneca Falls will continue to be the birthplace of women's rights and the adopted home of Bedford Falls. Seneca Meadows will continue to be right down the road, fueling both the economy and the debate. And the battle to balance a quality education with skyrocketing school costs will not be going away.

Wouldn't it be better to be in it together?

Your answer to that may depend on whether you see dissolution as the end of a village ... or as a new beginning.

Distinguished Feature Writing

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva

HAVE NO FEAR ... WORRY-X IS HERE!

Geneva boy suffering from brain tumor draws on power of own creation

By JESSICA YOUNGMAN
ftimes@ftimes.com

GENEVA — In a hospital bed, surrounded by a web of tubes and medical equipment, Max Harris invented a superhero.

He drew the character with colored pencils and named him Worry-X because, in addition to being able to do all the usual superhero stuff like fly, he can take away worry with the swoop of his net.

Worry-X has come in handy for the Harris family these past few weeks.

After a few debilitating headaches and a lot of sleepiness, Max was taken to the emergency room at Geneva General Hospital on April 15, two days before his 11th birthday. Tests revealed a devastating diagnosis — he had a

• See WORRY-X on Page 6A

Gabrielle Pluckhette / *Finger Lakes Times*

Max Harris, 11, of Geneva, laughs with his dad, Ken, while watching an episode of "Family Guy" at Strong Memorial Hospital recently. Max is wearing a T-shirt carrying an image of Worry-X, the superhero he created after being diagnosed with a rare, cancerous brain tumor in April.

Miles for Max

WHAT: Miles-for-Max, a fundraiser and rally for the family of Max Harris, a Geneva fifth-grader with a rare form of brain cancer.

WHERE: Geneva Lakefront Park, near the gazebo and Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center.

WHEN: 3 p.m. Sunday.

DETAILS: The event will feature a walk in honor of Max as well as a DJ, a band and raffles. Organizers will have a memory book on hand for visitors to share messages for Max. For more information, visit http://tinyurl.com/2an8p9r.

Distinguished Headline Writing

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva

HOOKED ON 'PONICS

Gabrielle Piacinette / *Finger Lakes Times*

Paul and Kathryn Cooley, owners of Seneca Breeze Berries in Penn Yan, stand in the hydroponic strawberry field at their home. There are over 15,000 strawberry plants growing at the farm (below).

Couple find success with unusual strawberry-growing technique

By PAULETTE LIKOUDIS

ftimes@ftimes.com

PENN YAN — As strawberry season gets started, folks are taking notice of the new look at a farm on Earl's Hill Road. Strawberries there are being grown hydroponically.

It's common for tomatoes to be grown hydroponically in greenhouses, but using the technique for strawberries is a bit unusual.

"People are stopping just to look. It's pretty impressive to see," said Paul Cooley.

•See GROWERS on Page 5A

To find out more:

Visit Seneca Breeze Farm at 1166 Earls Hill Road, Penn Yan or call 789-4679.

Distinguished Community Service

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva

114th Year — Geneva, N.Y. – Serving Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties www.flltimes.com — 75 Cents

Also inside today ...

A helping hand
Kate Ostrander, a 2007 Midlakes graduate, is heading to Africa to work at an orphanage and expand an HIV/AIDS education program.
— Page 6A

Says the Smith
Radio program "Says You!" to be recorded live at the Smith Opera House Friday.
— Page 9A

Impact statement
Scepter New York Inc. has been called upon to prepare an environmental impact statement in regards to the company's proposed monofil.
— Page 3A

Coming Thursday ...

Business
The new Isabella Spaat Belhurst is a relaxing oasis close to home.

JumpStart
Seneca Falls' Young Performers series kicks off Sunday and will continue throughout the month.

Sports
Honeoye Falls-Lima takes on Penn Yan in the Section V Class C girls lacrosse final.

The *Times* is now on Facebook. Log on to www.facebook.com/fingerlakestimes and become a 'fan' today!

TIMES POLL

The state Republican convention opened Tuesday

DeSales: We must pass fundraising test

Gabrielle Fluckinette / *Finger Lakes Times*

Kaitlyn Santora, a sophomore at DeSales High School in Geneva, takes notes during geometry class Tuesday. Below, a few of the school's 97 students make their way through a hallway between classes.

School may not reopen in fall if deficit not reduced

By DAVID L. SHAW
dshaw@flltimes.com

GENEVA — DeSales High School has produced doctors, lawyers, successful business people, civic and political leaders, teachers and others who have helped make Geneva and other communities what they are today.

Its sports teams have won more than their share of league and sectional championships.

But that proud history is in danger of ending.

There is a real chance that the doors to the 90 Pulteney St. school will not re-open this coming September. To continue operating, the school and its supporters must bring a $420,000 deficit down to a "manageable" level by mid-summer.

Retired Seneca Falls school superintendent Gerald Macaluso is in his first year as principal of DeSales.

"We want to be upfront and honest about the situation. We owe that to students, parents and staff, so they know in a reasonable time about whether we'll open in September," Macaluso said.

He said the entire deficit doesn't have to be erased by mid-summer. But enough of a dent has to be made and a plan has to be in place to eradicate the remainder over the 2010-11 school year. And there must also be enough revenue coming in to take care of normal expenses.

Macaluso said the school has again applied to renew the 21st Century program grant received in 2009. The school is seeking another $175,000 for next year. If received, Macaluso said it would go a long way toward reducing the deficit.

"We should know about the grant and other fundraising efforts by around July 15 to make a decision," Macaluso said.

▪ See DeSALES on Page 4A

To help out:

For information on contributing to DeSales, call 789-5111.

Police district plan may be DOA

By DAVID L. SHAW
dshaw@flltimes.com

SENECA FALLS — The idea of a special police protection district for the current village may already be dead on arrival.

Town Supervisor Peter Samo, speaking at Tuesday night's board meeting, said Sen. Michael Nozzolio, R-54 of Fayetta, and Assemblyman Brian Kolb, R-129 of Canandaigua, are requiring full support of the town and village boards before they will introduce the legislation to create the special district.

Samo

The Town Board voted 3-1,

▪ See POLICE on Page 5A

GOP taps ex-CIA officer to challenge Schumer

Finger Lakes Times

State Republicans yesterday nominated an author and former CIA officer to run against U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer in the fall.

"I will pursue Sen. Schumer in every town, on every street and every village," Gary Berntsen said in a press release. "I will not allow him to sit in Washington, D.C., and send out campaign notices."

Berntsen led CIA paramilitary forces in eastern Afghanistan after the Sept. 11 attacks and is the author of "Jawbreaker: The Attack on Bin Laden and al Qaeda." He has appeared on Fox News and CNN as a national security expert.

Also nominated yesterday was state comptroller candidate Harry Wilson, who received a unanimous vote. He'll run against Democratic incumbent Thomas DiNapoli.

The convention was expected to nominate a gubernatorial candidate sometime today.

Distinguished Sports Coverage

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva

Section V Boys Swimming

Class B (at Webster Aquatic Center)
Thursday: Preliminaries
Saturday: Finals
Pre-Championship Seedings

200 Medley Relay

1. Victor	1:42.49
3. Canandaigua	1:45.02
4. Newark	1:47.19
6. Geneva	1:51.13
7. Pal-Mac	1:53.00
11. Midlakes	2:08.79

200 Freestyle

1. Will Brophy, Canandaigua	1:45.29
6. Jack Timerson, Newark	1:56.27
8. Chris Bell, Midlakes	1:57.89
10. Andy Henry, Canandaigua	1:58.95
11. Lucas Reisch, Geneva	1:59.25
13. James Cross, Canandaigua	2:00.10
15. Greg Hughes, Newark	2:01.60
18. Martin Pisa, Pal-Mac	2:01.89
19. Cody Devlin, Newark	2:03.79
21. Mark Logan, Midlakes	2:04.41
23. Weschan Oliver, Canandaigua	2:05.12
26. Cody Wright, Pal-Mac	2:05.51
31. Kyle Chapman, Pal-Mac	2:12.11
32. Alex Kelly, Pal-Mac	2:13.61
37. Sean Dunn, Pal-Mac	2:17.68

200 Medley

1. Jeffery Williamson, Victor	2:03.00
3. Patrick McCormick, Canandaigua	2:09.05
4. Alex Thorn, Newark	2:09.76
5. Tyler Stagall, Canandaigua	2:13.37
8. Zack Dix, Pal-Mac	2:15.47
15. Tyler Lovickas, Midlakes	2:20.59
17. Taylor Bradford, Canandaigua	2:21.50
18. Jeffery Garnett, Newark	2:23.00
21. Jared Sharza, Canandaigua	2:26.38
23. Trevor Wendt, Pal-Mac	2:31.06
24. Hayden DeMeyers, Pal-Mac	2:31.25
27. Giorgi Bokuurd, Geneva	2:35.58
28. Zach Hemminger, Midlakes	2:36.71
29. Chris Heckman, Pal-Mac	2:36.74
31. Marty Rodrick, Newark	2:38.46

50 Freestyle

1. Doug LeClair, McQuaid	22.91
2. Kyle Gorman, Canandaigua	23.08
4. Eli Ebanks, Newark	23.12
6. Andrew Ritter, Geneva	23.57
8. Eric Harvey, Canandaigua	24.07
10. Kyle Moore, Pal-Mac	24.35
16. Michael Cioffi, Canandaigua	25.01
18. Evan Rew, Canandaigua	25.11
21. Joel Wilhelm, Newark	25.33
23. Kyle Power, Newark	25.49
24. Chris Gately, Pal-Mac	25.61
28. Daniel McGuigan, Geneva	25.91
30. Jon Nicol, Pal-Mac	26.02
31. Matthew Chase, Newark	26.06
38. Jake Nelson, Pal-Mac	26.90

100 Butterfly

1. Jeffery Williamson, Victor	54.55
2. Nicholas Ringhoff, Canandaigua	57.92
3. Zack Dix, Pal-Mac	58.10
4. Brandon Moynihan, Newark	58.15
6. Patrick McCormick, Canandaigua	58.94
7. Martin Pisa, Pal-Mac	59.54
8. Andy Henry, Canandaigua	59.77
13. Nathan Chilbert, Geneva	1:00.71
14. Evan Rew, Canandaigua	1:00.78
17. Lucas Reisch, Geneva	1:01.51
20. Hayden DeMeyers, Pal-Mac	1:02.67
24. Marty Rodrick, Newark	1:05.80
27. Jack Wendel, Newark	1:07.35
30. Giorgi Bokuurd, Geneva	1:09.49
31. Chris DePalma, Geneva	1:09.56
36. Andre Pefanhou, Midlakes	1:14.57
37. Glenn Shultes, Midlakes	1:15.64

100 Freestyle

1. Will Brophy, Canandaigua	:47.66
4. Kyle Gorman, Canandaigua	:50.76
5. Eli Ebanks, Newark	:50.98
10. Kyle Moore, Pal-Mac	:54.08

Class C (at Hawerling High School)
Thursday: Preliminaries
Saturday: Finals
Pre-Championship Seedings

200 Medley Relay

1. Avon	1:44.51
6. Marcus Whitman	1:53.28
12. North Rose-Wolcott	2:02.23
15. Sodus	2:12.06

200 Freestyle

1. Austin Mazurowski, Avon	1:53.01
14. Alex Clopyk, NR-W	2:07.31
16. Brandon Rose, Marcus Whitman	2:08.65
25. David LaClair, Marcus Whitman	2:16.74
28. Dan Murphy, Marcus Whitman	2:18.87

200 Individual Medley

1. Ben Cook, Avon	2:08.10
12. Jake Hall, NR-W	2:27.78
18. Carson Doyle, NR-W	2:33.02
20. Jeffrey Bero, Marcus Whitman	2:33.20
26. Dorian Brandt, Sodus	2:42.56
27. Andre Green, NR-W	2:42.81

50 Freestyle

1. Robbie Brown, Alexander	:22.48
4. Bobby Shaw, Marcus Whitman	:23.12
13. Cory Hacker, Marcus Whitman	:25.13
25. Travis Cavender, Marcus Whitman	:26.77
30. Dustin Robinson, Marcus Whitman	:26.78
34. Ora Rothfuss, NR-W	:27.00

100 Butterfly

1. Dan Robinson, Haverling	:56.29
3. Tyler Webster, Marcus Whitman	1:01.03
13. Jake Hall, NR-W	1:07.08
16. Lucas Hennessey, Sodus	1:07.46
18. Bobby Mason, Marcus Whitman	1:09.67
28. Alex Newton, NR-W	1:15.66

100 Freestyle

1. Robbie Brown, Alexander	:48.59
6. Bobby Shaw, Marcus Whitman	:52.75
12. Cory Hacker, Marcus Whitman	:58.39
26. JJ Bero, Marcus Whitman	1:01.87
27. Jordan Pulsifer, Sodus	1:02.00
31. Travis Cavender, Marcus Whitman	1:02.42

500 Freestyle

1. Jake Kingston, Avon	5:02.96
12. Alex Clopyk, NR-W	5:46.82
15. Brandon Rose, Marcus Whitman	5:52.88
21. Dan Murphy, Marcus Whitman	6:23.05

200 Freestyle Relay

1. Avon	1:32.92
4. Marcus Whitman	1:38.68
12. North Rose-Wolcott	1:48.59
15. Sodus	1:55.75

100 Backstroke

1. Dylan Pratt, Pembroke	:59.39
2. Tyler Webster, Marcus Whitman	1:00.16
21. Lucas Hennessey, Sodus	1:10.90
22. Carson Doyle, NR-W	1:12.10
27. Ora Rothfuss, NR-W	1:14.66
30. Bobby Mason, Marcus Whitman	1:16.22

100 Breaststroke

1. Ben Cook, Avon	1:02.69
13. Mike Chapin, NR-W	1:13.81
14. Clay Coulson, Marcus Whitman	1:14.27
20. Jeffrey Bero, Marcus Whitman	1:16.70
27. James Taylor, NR-W	1:19.56
29. Andre Green, NR-W	1:19.97
32. David LaClair, Marcus Whitman	1:20.31

400 Freestyle Relay

1. Avon	3:26.58
10. Marcus Whitman	3:54.26
11. North Rose-Wolcott	4:10.21
15. Sodus	4:41.15

Class D (at Haverling High School)
Friday: Preliminaries

Gabrielle Pluckhetta / *Finger Lakes Times*

Midlakes senior Ali Hemminger and her teammates geared up to perform at a girls basketball game earlier this week.

AN 'EASY SELL'

Midlakes senior Ali Hemminger immersed herself in high school cheerleading, and has blossomed into one of Section V's best

By JOSHUA DeSAIN
jdesain@fltimes.com

PHELPS — It's hard to miss Midlakes High School cheerleader Alessandra "Ali" Hemminger, whether it be at a competition or basketball game. The bubbly, enthusiastic 17-year-old is the one executing perfect, awe-inspiring tumbles, the ones that create a buzz.

Hemminger, a senior captain on the Screaming Eagles' varsity cheerleading squad, immersed herself in the sport as soon as she arrived at high school.

"She's really dedicated, she works primary supporting body for all of the Screaming Eagles' stunts.

"We grow together everyday, and because of them I'm confident in my uniform," Hemminger explained.

The feeling is mutual.

"She is definitely a team leader," fellow senior captain Megan McVeigh, 17, explained. "She is very inspiring because she works really hard. She is dedicated; we all know she does extra time, that she does tumbling outside of our team.

"She has amazing tumbling skills, probably the neatest I have seen in Section V," McVeigh added.

Hemminger, a lacrosse player in the spring, portrays a calm, collected athlete on the floor, though she admitted it can be stressful performing in front of family, friends and other spectators. She's learned to overcome those fears.

"Since we only have 2 minutes and 30 seconds on the floor, it's really important to put everything we have into that," Hemminger remarked. "So, when we're lined up in a circle before we go, we really just try to calm everyone down. We don't watch the teams we're against. We just relax, pray, look at each other, go over our lines and never get out of the zone.

Distinguished Sports Photography
The Leader-Herald, Gloversville

The Leader-Herald/Bill Cain

Fonda-Fultonville's Kyle Hanson (5) is knocked out of bounds by Granville's Jayson Osborne (28) during Saturday's Section II Class C quarterfinal in Fonda.

Granville drives past Fonda-Fultonville

By BILL CAIN
The Leader-Herald

goal from a foot out to maintain the lead
gain. The second was at the FFCS 49-
left in the third quarter.

Distinguished Online Blog
The Leader-Herald, Gloversville

Blog List

- Bill's Broadsides
- Fresh Ideas: Farmers Market Update
- Publisher's Point
- The Teen Vox Blog
- Under the Influence of Art

/ All Blogs / Bill's Broadsides /

Performer, venue make for worthwhile experience

Bill's Broadsides

October 12, 2009 - Bill Ackerbauer

Read comments | Post a comment SHARE

On Saturday night, I had my first opportunity to catch a show at SkyHeart Studio in downtown Gloversville. Neither the venue nor the performers failed to impress; they seemed well-suited to each other, and I don't think I was the only one in the audience who ate up the experience.

Excellent eating was involved, literally: At intermission, co-hosts Mike McAllister and Hannah Hanlon served up coffee, tea and a variety of sweets McAllister prepared from scratch, including pumpkin brownies, tiny chocolate-raspberry cakes and two types of cheesecake (apricot and vanilla-chocolate-hazelnut).

I described SkyHeart a bit in my last post, and you can read all about it at www.skyheartstudio.com, so I won't go into too much detail here. It suffices to say that between the two

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Distinguished Feature Photography

Daily Freeman, Kingston

Distinguished Investigative Reporting

Niagara Gazette

Is it a family affair at FALLS SCHOOLS?

FRIENDS AND FAMILY PLAN?

The following Niagara Falls School District employees are related or connected to upper management within the district. Their names were included in documents provided to the Niagara Gazette by the Board of Education.

Employees directly associated to former Superintendent Carmen Granto:

- Victoria Granto, NFHS English teacher, $64,668
- Lyndie Granto, teacher on special assignment at 79th Street, $64,161
- Nicole Granto-Sheehan, special education teacher at Abate, $49,273
- Paul Granto (nephew), cleaner at Gaskill, $29,402
- Marissa Granto (niece), teacher's assistant at Gaskill, $25,609
- Linda Granto, senior school monitor, hourly, salary unknown.
- Caren Stevens (daughter), fifth-grade teacher at G.J Mann $81,594
- Kutis family (friends of Granto family): Anthony Kutis, Niagara Street teacher on special assignment, $58,865; Steve Kutis, NFHS English teacher, $54,112; Stephanie Kutis, Cataract Elementary classroom associate, hourly; and Danielle Dionne (Kutis) kindergarten teacher at Kaffas, $43,806
- Ron and Christine Barstys (Granto's neighbors) Ron, teacher on special

Staff roster, recent hires suggest connections count

BY NICK MATTERA
nged@niagara-gazette.com

Art Jocoy has heard the question many times before.

During his campaign to become a member of the Niagara Falls Board of Education, Jocoy said a lot of voters asked him how many relatives he planned to get hired once he got the job.

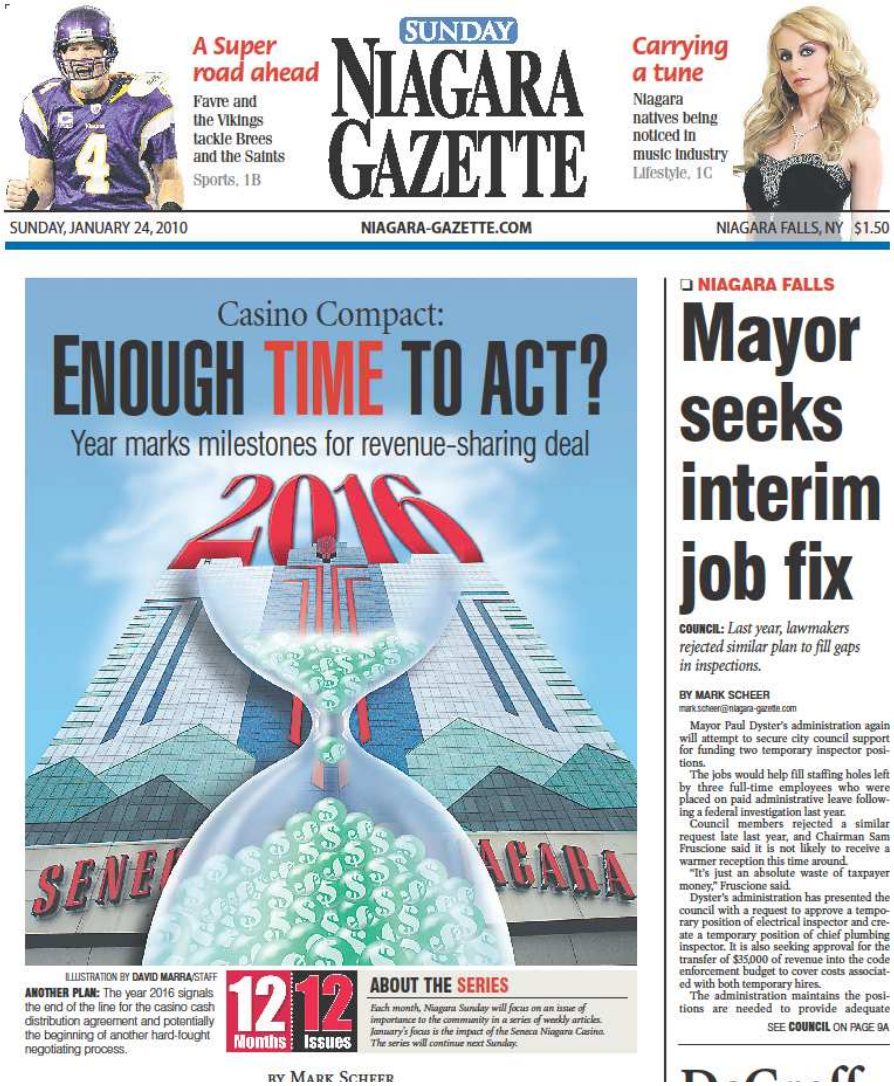
"When I was campaigning, doing the coffee shop circuit, there were

"This district is one big sociogram. The first question anyone will ask you when you tell them you're a teacher is 'Who do you know?' That's the sad truth."

— Timothy Jeffs, a two-time school board candidate and former employee who spent 15 years with the district

Distinguished Page Design/Presentation

Niagara Gazette



SUNDAY
NIAGARA GAZETTE

A Super road ahead
Favre and the Vikings tackle Brees and the Saints
Sports, 1B

Carrying a tune
Niagara natives being noticed in music industry
Lifestyle, 1C

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010 NIAGARA-GAZETTE.COM NIAGARA FALLS, NY $1.50

Casino Compact:

ENOUGH TIME TO ACT?

Year marks milestones for revenue-sharing deal

2016

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID MARRA/STAFF

ANOTHER PLAN: The year 2016 signals the end of the line for the casino cash distribution agreement and potentially the beginning of another hard-fought negotiating process.

12 Months | 12 Issues

ABOUT THE SERIES

Each month, Niagara Sunday will focus on an issue of importance to the community in a series of weekly articles. January's focus is the impact of the Seneca Niagara Casino. The series will continue next Sunday.

BY MARK SCHEER

NIAGARA FALLS

Mayor seeks interim job fix

COUNCIL: *Last year, lawmakers rejected similar plan to fill gaps in inspections.*

BY MARK SCHEER
mark.scheer@niagara-gazette.com

Mayor Paul Dyster's administration again will attempt to secure city council support for funding two temporary inspector positions.

The jobs would help fill staffing holes left by three full-time employees who were placed on paid administrative leave following a federal investigation last year.

Council members rejected a similar request late last year, and Chairman Sam Fruscione said it is not likely to receive a warmer reception this time around.

"It's just an absolute waste of taxpayer money," Fruscione said.

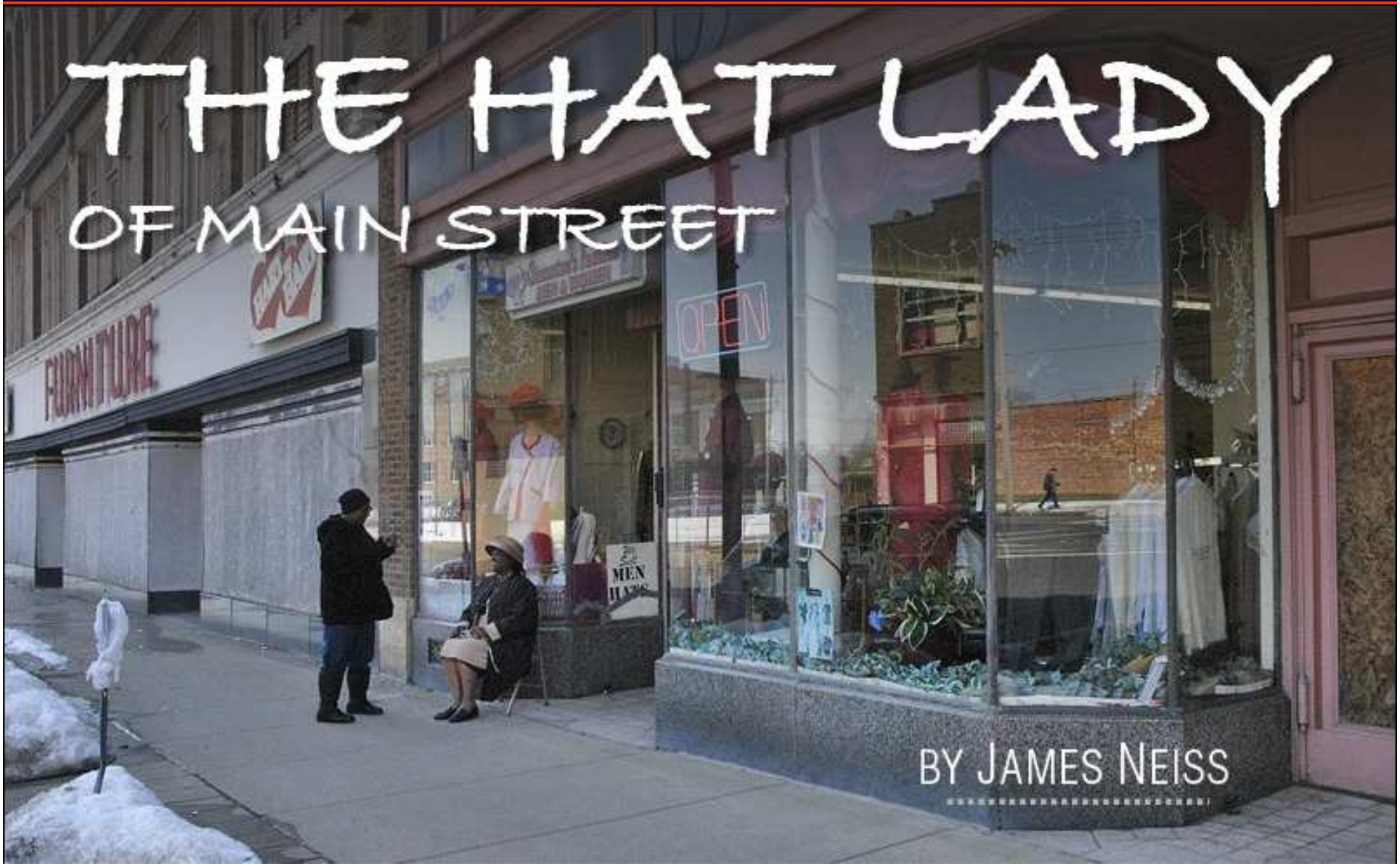
Dyster's administration has presented the council with a request to approve a temporary position of electrical inspector and create a temporary position of chief plumbing inspector. It is also seeking approval for the transfer of $35,000 of revenue into the code enforcement budget to cover costs associated with both temporary hires.

The administration maintains the positions are needed to provide adequate

SEE COUNCIL ON PAGE 9A

Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation

Niagara Gazette



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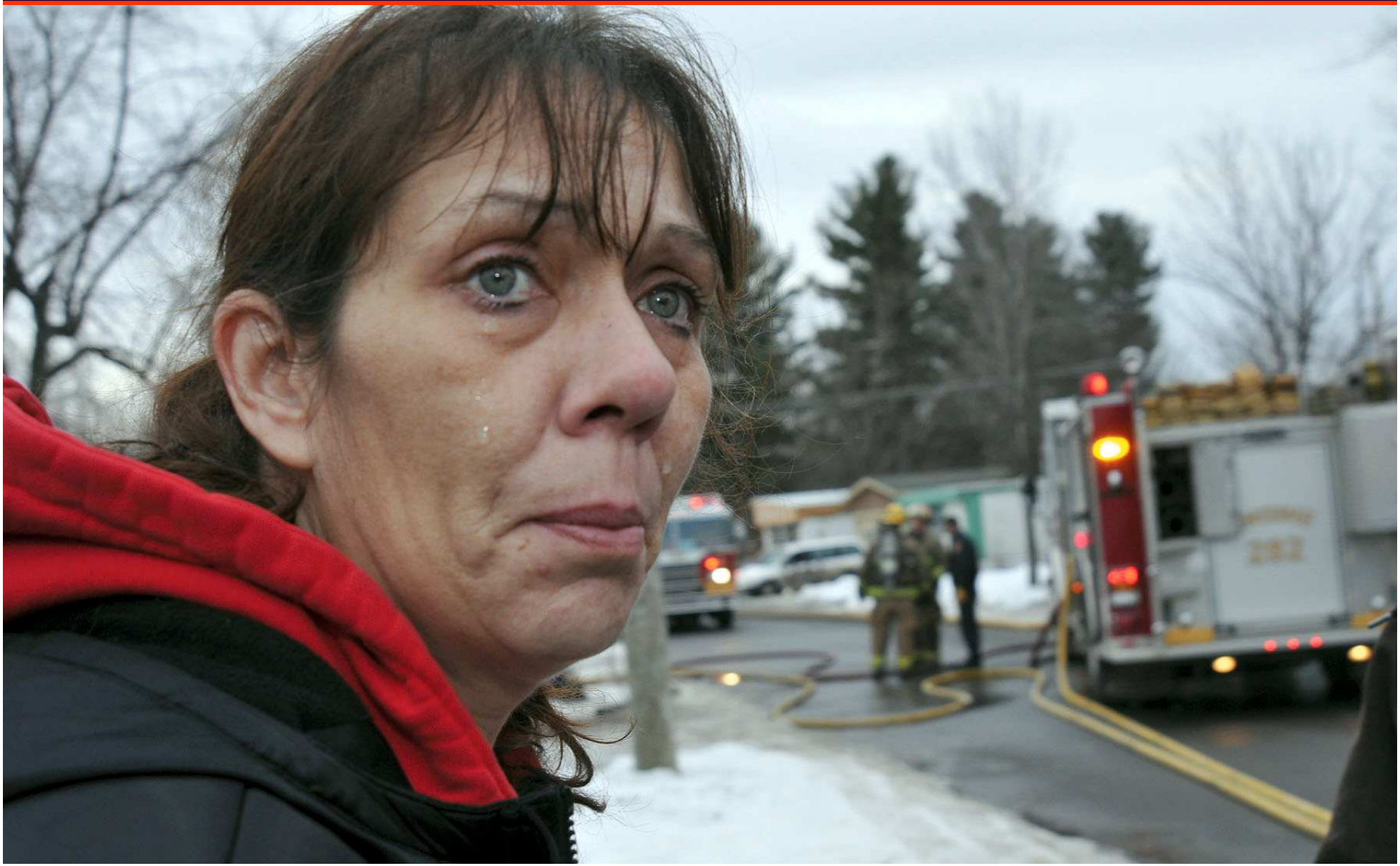
Press-Republican, Plattsburgh



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Distinguished Sports Writing
Press & Sun-Bulletin, Binghamton

54° | 37°
DETAILS 2A

PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN
pressconnects.com

THURSDAY, October 1, 2009 | Binghamton, N.Y. | Final Edition | 75 CENTS

BU PRESIDENT: 'THE FUTURE WILL BE BRIGHT AND POSITIVE'

THIRER RESIGNS

Jim Norris steps in as university's interim AD

By Doug Schneider
dschneid@gannett.com
Public Service Editor

VESTAL — Binghamton University continued to clean house Wednesday, reassigning its athletic director, tightening the leash on its basketball coach and promising an audit of the athletic department.

BU President Lois B. DeFleur vowed "the future will be bright and positive" for the university's intercollegiate athletics program, which, in the past week has been hit hard by the dismissal of six men's basketball players, including the arrest of its second-leading scorer, Emmanuel "Tiki" Mayben, who is charged with felony counts of selling and possessing cocaine.

ON THE WEB
Go to **pressconnects.com** to see statements about the case from SUNY President Nancy Zimpher, BU President Lois DeFleur and former BU athletics director Joel Thirer.

In addition, the athletic department is battling a lawsuit filed by a fundraiser, Elizabeth Williams, who claims senior athletic department officials tried to use her as a sexual "plaything" to ply money from big donors and that university officials took punitive measures against her once she reported the harassment. BU has denied the allegations.

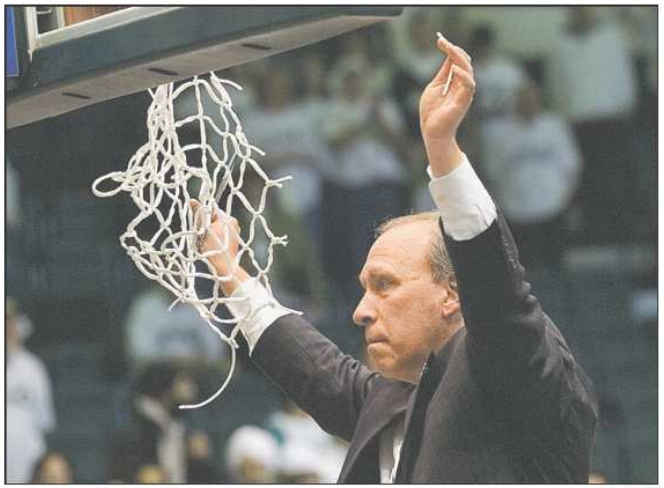
At a hastily called news conference Wednesday afternoon, DeFleur said:

▶ Joel Thirer was resigning immediately as BU's director of health, physical education and athletics, but will remain with the university in another capacity.

▶ Jim Norris, BU's senior associate athletic director and a lifelong Binghamton resident, will assume Thirer's old job on an interim basis as the school searches for a full-time replacement.

▶ Kevin Broadus, coach of the troubled men's basketball program, must provide DeFleur with "a recruitment and supervision plan" that assures

See THIRER Page 4A



File photo
Binghamton University Athletic Director Joel Thirer joined the Bearcats' celebration in March, helping to cut down the net at the Events Center after BU won the America East tournament. Just six months later, he resigned amid player dismissals and growing concern about the way the program is run.

Norris praised for integrity, administrative skills

'He really represents all that is good about athletics.'
STEVE DEINHARDT
Assistant Superintendent, Binghamton City School District

By Kevin Stevens
kstevens@gannett.com
Staff Writer

Binghamton University has passed the reins of its athletic department to a confident, highly principled and hands-on administrator, according to those who know him.

Jim Norris, a 52-year-old Binghamton native, was appointed Wednesday as interim director of health, physical education and athletics to succeed Joel Thirer.

A life-long Binghamton resident with an extensive background in basketball, Norris has been associated with BU's athletic department since 1991, when he was named an assistant to then-basketball coach Dick Baldwin.

"If someone had called me and asked who could straighten things out, he'd have been atop my list," said Kevin McManus, a world history teacher and varsity basketball coach at Union-Endicott High and former colleague of Norris with the City of Binghamton and Broome County.

"He's one of the most incredible administrators I've ever worked with. He's at the top of the field, and you won't find a more honest guy — that's a recipe of success for Binghamton University."

Norris spoke briefly at a Wednesday afternoon press conference, but reached later by telephone, he declined comment.

But others who know him well were more than eager to rave about him.

See NORRIS Page 4A

DIOGENES AGCAOILI JR. / Staff Photo
Those who know him say Jim Norris is the right man to clean up BU athletics.

Distinguished Editorial Writing
The Post-Star, Glens Falls

The Post-Star

EDITORIAL: Education matters more now than ever

Posted: Sunday, June 13, 2010 1:00 am

What do high school dropouts do in today's world?

How do they have a decent life? How do they even survive?

Nearly half the heads of all households on welfare are high school dropouts.

If they do manage to secure a job, it's likely to be in a low-paying, low-benefit service industry.

More than 82 percent of the nation's prisoners are high school dropouts.

High school dropouts are more likely than graduates to have children in their teens and to become single parents.

Unless you want to dig ditches or flip burgers for the rest of your life, you need at least a GED. It's not like the old days, where you could scratch out a decent living without that piece of paper. Many jobs that formerly required only 12 years of public education now require an associate degree, bachelor's degree or even more.

In a nation as wealthy and as devoted to education as ours, you'd think the average graduation rate would be upwards of 95 percent, with only a few stragglers unable to make it. But it's not that at all. Not even close.

Nationwide, only 68.8 percent of kids who enter school come out of it with a diploma, according to a comprehensive new report by Education Week magazine. Here in New York — where we spend more per student on public education (over $15,500 a year) than any other state — the graduation rate is higher, about 74 percent, but not impressive.

Think about it. Only three out of every four students in our state actually get through all 13 years of grade school. One quarter. In our area, as illustrated in today's front page story by education reporter Omar Aquije, there are several schools that are even below that pathetically low rate — with Fort Edward bottoming out at a frightening 59 percent.

This problem isn't just embarrassing. It's dangerous, both to the individuals affected and to our future success as a nation.

The great 19th-century British prime minister Benjamin Disraeli once said, "Upon the education of the people of this country, the fate of this country depends."

America is no longer a self-sustaining island of industry. It is one cog in a complex world economic machine. In the war of global competitiveness, we're in a virtual dead heat with emerging economic giants like Switzerland, Germany, Singapore, Japan and the Netherlands. In terms of our industrial production growth rate, we rank 64th in the world behind such economic titans as Malawi, Gambia and Tanzania. China is eighth.

Our low graduation rates aren't the cause of our slippage from power in the world economy. They're a warning sign. They're an indicator of complex, underlying problems that go far deeper than whether a kid completes his full complement of English, science, social studies and math.

Distinguished Business Reporting

The Post-Star, Glens Falls

Fate of Americade

Those who benefit from rally discuss possible relocation

By BLAKE JONES
bjones@poststar.com

As Americade prepares for its 28th year in Lake George, speculation about the massive motorcycle rally's future is brewing.

An increase in permit fees for use of state-owned Million Dollar Beach this June has prompted organizers to consider alternative set-ups for 2011. And while talks are under way with local officials about other arrangements in the village, there is no promise the event that built its name in Lake George will stay there.

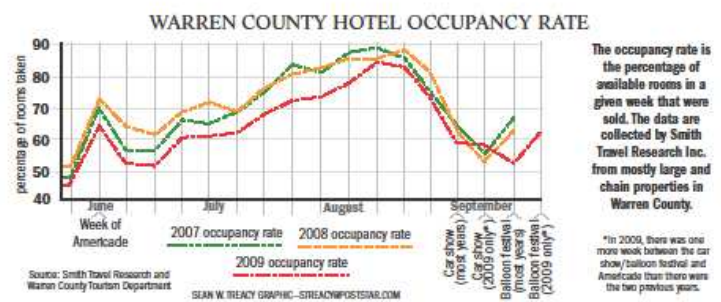
Bill Dutcher, Americade's founder, told *The Post-Star* he has scouted new venues outside New York, and has been approached by municipalities interested in hosting the event in 2011. Just last week, he met with officials from an eager community "across state lines."

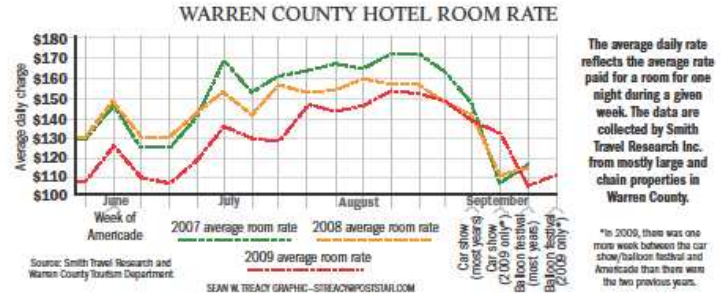
Dutcher said he plans to weigh his options between now and Americade, and that he would be smart to announce any decision about relocating during this year's rally. In the meantime, those who benefit from Americade are left to consider just how big a void its loss would leave behind.

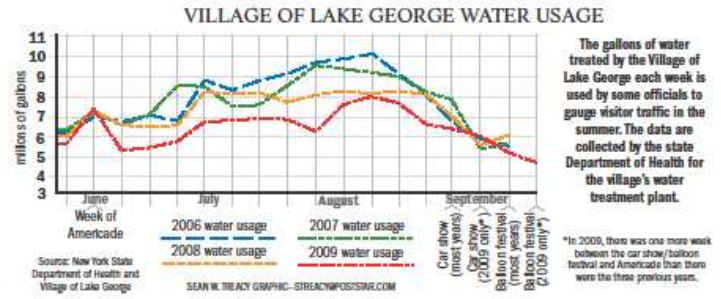
Strong week, but not county's best

Positioned just after Memorial Day, the weeklong rally is lauded by officials and business owners for attracting thousands of visitors before summer tourists have started to arrive en masse.

See **LOSS**, *Back Page*







Distinguished Column Writing
The Post-Star, Glens Falls

The Post-Star

Getting through to kids on underage drinking

Posted: Saturday, October 10, 2009 12:00 am

Two weeks ago, the Washington County Sheriff's Department busted an underage drinking party in Putnam and charged 13 young people with underage drinking.

One other 21-year-old was charged with endangering the welfare of a minor for supplying the alcohol.

In Putnam.

It was there, 17 months ago, that two 16-year-old girls were killed after climbing into a car with Dustin St. Andrews and going on a wild joy ride through the back roads.

He was sent to state prison. His parents were later prosecuted for hosting the party and also briefly sent to jail.

If ever there was a community, if ever there was a group of teens who should know better about the dangers of underage drinking, it is the kids from Putnam and Ticonderoga.

They have seen it up close. They have suffered the consequences of bad choices.

But this story only gets worse.

Kristopher Wilson, 18, of Putnam, was one of those arrested at the latest party. Wilson was in the car with St. Andrews when he took that joy ride that reached 130 miles per hour before the accident. Authorities say the only reason he is alive today is that the two girls who were killed plugged the sun roof, preventing him from being thrown from the car.

And it gets even worse.

In the latest case, William James was the young man arrested for providing the alcohol.

He is the older brother of Shannon James, one of the 16-year-old girls who was killed in the accident.

If your mouth just dropped into your cereal, I don't blame you. I'm speechless as well.

"It is very disappointing to see this happen," said Washington County District Attorney Kevin Kortright. "These kids should know better than anyone. They are the ones that cry at the funeral and now they are partying at the house."

I think Mr. Kortright is just being kind. Or maybe he is too shocked to say what he really thinks about this type of insanity.

Shannon's father, Bill James, has been very vocal about the teen drinking issue since the death of his daughter. He regularly attended

Distinguished Sports Coverage

The Post-Star, Glens Falls

THE POST-STAR

FEDERATION TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY March 26, 2010 C

NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

ONLINE
PostStar.com

To check up on the progress of the Federation Tournament of Champions, go to www.poststar.com and click on the tournament banner. We'll have live play-by-play of all games along with photos, game stories and shot charts from all games.

You can also find information on the state tournament's official Web site: www.nysbasketball.com

SCHEDULE

(All games at Civic Center)

Friday's Games

Girls Class B Semifinals
St. Mary's of Lancaster vs. Goldstein, 10 a.m.
Long Island Lutheran vs. Irvington, 11:45 a.m.
Girls Class A Semifinal
Medgar Evers College Prep vs. Averill Park, 1:30 p.m.
Boys Class B Semifinals
Westhill vs. Queens High School for Teaching, 3:15 p.m.
Collegiate vs. St. Mary's of Lancaster, 5 p.m.
Boys Class A Semifinals
Jamesville-DeWitt vs. Bedford Academy, 6:45 p.m.
Nichols of Buffalo vs. Long Island Lutheran, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Girls Class B Final
Semifinal winners, 10:30 a.m.
Girls Class A Final
St. Anthony's of South Huntington vs. Friday's winner, 12:15 p.m.
Girls Class AA Semifinal
Murry Bergtraum vs. Christ The King, 2 p.m.
Boys Class AA Semifinal
CBA of Albany vs. Christ The King, 3:45 p.m.
Boys Class B Final
Semifinal winners, 5:45 p.m.
Boys Class A Final
Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Girls Class AA Final
Sachem East vs. Saturday's winner, 1 p.m.
Boys Class AA Final
Boys and Girls of Brooklyn vs. Saturday's winner, 3 p.m.

TICKETS

Tickets for the Federation Tournament of Champions are $10 each and may be purchased at the Glens Falls Civic Center Box Office, or through Ticketmaster. All seating is general admission. One ticket is good for the entire day.

BREAKDOWN

Four organizations supply teams to this tournament:
PSAL: Public Schools Athletic League – Public schools in New York City.
NYSPHSAA: The New York State Public High School Athletic Association – public schools in upstate New York and Long Island.
CHSAA: The Catholic High School Athletic Association – An organization of Catholic schools.
AISAA: Association of Independent Schools Athletic Association – An organization of independent schools.

The boys Schenectady High School team played in the 2001 Federation Tournament of Champions and brought along a large cheering squad, which helped to boost the attendance to a record number.

Murry Bergtraum players celebrate their Class AA final win over St. John's at the Glens Falls Civic Center in 2008.

SWAN SONG

As the Fed tourney kicks off its last year in Glens Falls, people share their memories

Staff Reports

Late Sunday afternoon, one of the Class AA boys teams will walk out to center court and accept the champion's plaque.

The teams will walk off the floor, tables and chairs will be folded up, and 30 years of Federation basketball at the Glens Falls Civic Center will come to an end. Next year, the Federation Tournament of Champions begins a three-year run in Albany.

Lots of memories will leave with the tournament. Hundreds of teams and thousand of players have come through Glens Falls.

So on the eve of the tournament's departure, we offer a collection of memories – some from the people who came to Glens Falls, others from those who were at the Civic Center year after year.

ED GREZINSKY
Murry Bergtraum girls coach

For 12 years, Ed Grezinsky has made the trek to Glens Falls and every year he's struck by the beauty of the area – particularly in Lake Luzerne.

It's been the same routine for the Murry Bergtraum head coach and his team; arrive at the hotel, get dressed and head to Hadley-Luzerne for practice. Their host pulls out all the stops and provide "red-carpet treatment," as Grezinsky likes to call it. Bergtraum is treated to orange slices, pizza and at the end of the day, both teams exchange T-shirts.

"It's just beautiful, it's very picturesque," Grezinsky said. "When you think of New York, you think of buildings and subways. You don't think of country, mountains, rolling hills and lakes. It's really different. A lot of these (players) come up here and it's another world."

Despite playing championship games at Madison Square Garden, the veteran coach said he appreciates the smaller, more intimate atmosphere of the Glens Falls Civic Center.

"Sorry to see it leave," he said. "It's like an end of an era. Nice to have it at a small environment. When you have it in a big city, it takes something away from it."

DENNIS FLETCHER
Crowd management, Civic Center

Fletcher has been at the state tournament for

See MEMORIES, *Page C9*

For some, Christ The King teams created some lasting memories with players like Sue Bird on the court.

Both Mount Vernon and Rice high schools have played in their fair share of Federation Tournaments over the years.

Lauren Martinez, left, of Our Lady of Lourdes is guarded by Elizabeth Frare of St. Francis during the 2000 Federation Tournament of Champions at the Glens Falls Civic Center.

Jamesville-DeWitt head coach Bob McKearney celebrates his team's 2008 Class A final win against East Hampton High School at the Glens Falls Civic Center.

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LOCAL CARS

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Blog updates are now on twitter

« Speak up: Boards required to make comments audible

Glens Falls posts City Charter and City Code online in easily searchable form »

Your Right to Know
With Mark Mahoney

South Glens Falls school board president holds back on release of superintendent contract, salary

South Glens Falls taxpayers have a new school superintendent, and they're paying him a hefty new salary. The school board approved the new deal last night.

Yet the board, which has a reputation for thumbing their noses at the public's right to know, refused to release either a copy of the final contract or even state the salary they were paying new Superintendent Michael Piccirillo.

When asked for the new superintendent's salary after the board approved the contract, Board President Jeffrey Riggi told our reporter no. When our reporter asked for a copy of the contract

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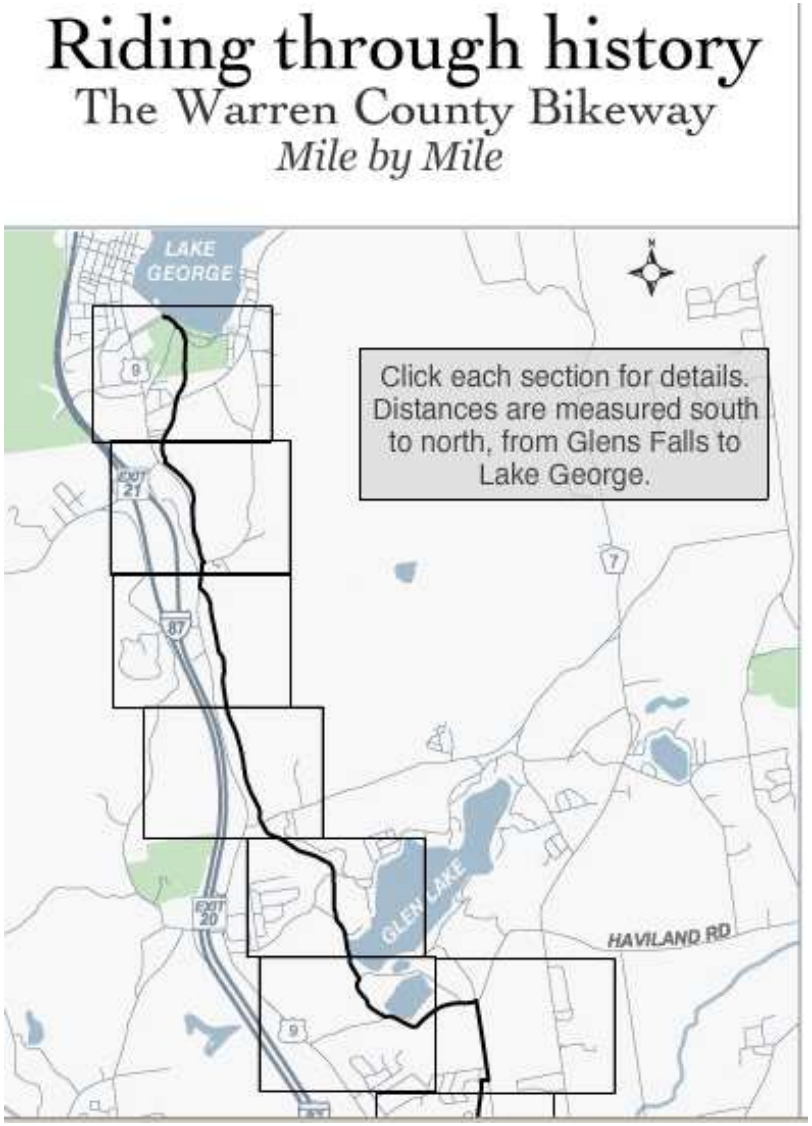
The Post-Star, Glens Falls



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Poughkeepsie Journal

5 PAGES OF COVERAGE INSIDE

» Parents, students react, 3A » See images from the crisis, 4A
» Local districts get warning from a variety of sources, 5A
» EDITORIAL: Community is fortunate Stissing incident wasn't worse, 12A

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» View more photos in the online galleries
» Watch video coverage, interviews from the scene
» Check back throughout today for updates

STANDOFF AT STISSING

POLICE GET GUNMAN TO SET HOSTAGE FREE; SUSPECT ARRAIGNED, CITES DEPRESSION

« Suspect: Christopher Craft of Stanfordville

Clergy, Red Cross to offer counseling to students, parents

Journal staff

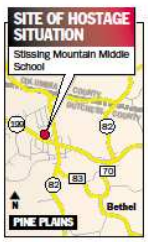
PINE PLAINS — Parents, students and teachers are breathing a collective sigh of relief after a hostage situation involving a lone gunman at Stissing Mountain Middle School ended without incident Tuesday.

Pine Plains Schools Superintendent Linda Kaumeyer said the American Red Cross of Dutchess County is coordinating with local clergy to make counseling services available to any students or parents who need them Wednesday.

Rob Rolison from the American Red Cross said the Red Cross and Dutchess County Mental Hygiene will reach out to the community Wednesday to see if there were individuals who need counseling services.

Hudson Valley districts are closed Wednesday in observance of Veterans Day.

The middle school, which shares space with Stissing Mountain High School, will offer counseling Thursday to anyone in need after Tuesday's harrowing standoff.



Christopher Craft of Stanfordville surrendered about 10 a.m. Tuesday. He is accused of holding Stissing Mountain Middle School Principal Robert Hess hostage at gunpoint in the school.

Craft's reason for being at the school and motive for the incident remain unclear. He does not have any children enrolled in the school.

During his arraignment before Pine Plains Town Justice Louis Imperato, Craft, 42, blamed depression and mental illness.

"Jail's not the place for me," Craft said. "I need to be in a psychiatric center. I'm supposed to get medication ... treatment for depression."

Suspect to return to court Dec. 2

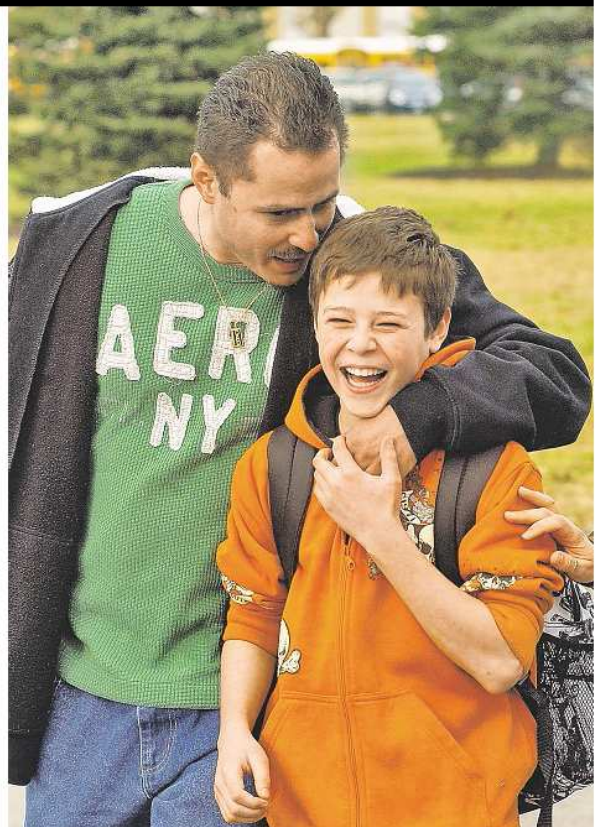
Craft was arraigned on the top count of kidnapping in the first degree, a Class A-1 felony. By statute, no bail is set on an A-1 felony. Craft was being held in the Dutchess County Jail.

Craft also is charged with third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and first-degree criminal trespass, both Class D felonies.

Imperato set a tentative date of Dec. 2, at 3 p.m., for Craft to return to court.

Craft was not represented by a lawyer and when Imperato asked if he could afford one, he said not at this time.

The judge told him he would be treated medically for his



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PART OF AN OCCASIONAL SERIES

COMING MONDAY: The Journal takes a look at the lack of competition in the Dutchess County trash pickup market.

POUGHKEEPSIEJOURNAL.COM: Read other reports in this series; go online and click on "Special Reports."

NO LICENSE? NO PROBLEM FOR TRASH HAULERS

County enforcement lax; agency hires unlicensed firm

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This article is part of an occasional series on trash issues in Dutchess County. In three previous installments, the Poughkeepsie Journal has reported:

- The Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency has the highest per-ton processing cost of 14 trash-burning plants in the region, 46 percent higher than the average. The plant's county subsidy has soared to a projected $6.3 million this year, compared to $1.1 million in 2001.
- The $53 million plant, built in the early 1980s, still has $49 million in debt that will not be retired until 2027, years after all other plants in the area.
- Millions of dollars in agency contracts were awarded without competitive bidding in

Karl Rabe/Poughkeepsie Journal

Above, Nieco Container Corp. in Marlboro has waited more than four years for a Dutchess County trash-hauling license. Christopher Larkin, president, who operates under a temporary permit, called the licensing process — which cost him $70,000 in legal bills — "exhausting." He is shown with his wife, Jennifer, the company's bookkeeper. County officials said there were "concerns" with Larkin's application.

Mary Beth Pfeiffer
Poughkeepsie Journal

For the last 21 months, 18-wheel tractor-trailers have regularly left Dutchess County's trash-burning plant in the Town of Poughkeepsie filled with thousands of tons of ash hauled by a company without a county license to carry waste.

The case of the trucker, Riccelli Enterprises, is perhaps the most dramatic example of a Dutchess County waste

Distinguished Feature Writing

Poughkeepsie Journal

A JOURNAL INVESTIGATION: PART THREE

BIRTH BY SURGERY

THE SKYROCKETING CESAREAN RATE

ABOUT THIS INSTALLMENT

Fear of lawsuits is driving doctors toward more cesarean section births, which accounted for 36.4 percent of upstate deliveries in 2008. But the trend comes with a price: Women undergo surgeries that can cause serious complications, or, with maternal mortality rates soaring, can lead to death.

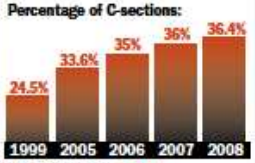
Lee Ferris/Poughkeepsie Journal

Kerrie Baldwin, 31, of Woodstock underwent a cesarean section nine months ago to deliver twins, Clara, left, and Amelia, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. She is shown also with son, Henry, 3, at Marbletown Park in Stone Ridge, Ulster County.

Cesareans on the rise

The proportion of births by cesarean section continued to rise among upstate women in 2008, according to a Poughkeepsie Journal analysis of 498,000 births.

Percentage of C-sections:



Change in rate 1999-2008: 49%

Trend in births upstate by the numbers

The number of births declined by nearly 1 percent but C-sections rose by 7.5 percent upstate from 2005 to 2008.

Method of delivery	Change 2005-2008
Vaginal	-4.9%
Vaginal birth after previous C-section	-2.0%
Cesarean section	7.5%
Total*	-0.8%

*There were 123,378 births in 2008; 353 were listed as unknown method

About this series

This is the third in a series of articles about the escalating rate of cesarean section births locally and across New York state. In previous reports, the Poughkeepsie Journal detailed the facts and implications of a cesarean section birth rate in New York that went up by 45 percent from 1999 to 2008. More than 1 in 3 babies is

C-SECTION RATES TICK UPWARD AS DOCTORS FEAR BEING SUED

FIGURES SHOW MORE SURGERIES RESULT IN INCREASE IN MATERNAL DEATHS, COMPLICATIONS

whole until the moment of his birth, when he spent several devastating minutes lodged in a frantic and asphyxiating tug between the womb and the world.

In those few minutes, his brain and his life were forever changed. And so, five months ago, in a courtroom in Westchester County, a jury put a

Nearly $5 million was for wages he would never earn.

And $30 million was for the calculated cost of medical maintenance, therapy and custodial care.

"If you knew what it costs to care for a child with these disabilities and then to know the pain and exquisite agony he suffers every day as his lungs

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MONEY PIT MONEYMAKER DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS AND THE MEDICAID MATCH

JOURNAL EXCLUSIVE REPORT

$4G PER PERSON PER DAY: N.Y. DISABLED CARE NO. 1 IN NATION

FEES TO WASSAIC, OTHER CENTERS FAR EXCEED PATIENT-CARE COSTS

Mary Beth Pfeiffer
Poughkeepsie Journal

Call it the Rolls-Royce of institutions for the mentally disabled. Call it the pot of gold at the end of the Medicaid rainbow. Call it anything, but don't call it cheap.

Because the state and federal government pay $4,556 per day for each of 152 residents at the former Wassaic Developmental Center in eastern Dutchess County, as well as for the 1,265 residents of eight other aging and inefficient campuses around the state. That's $1.7 million a year per person — the highest Medicaid rate in the nation by one university study and four times the next-highest facility cost.

State officials admit the actual cost of care is about one-third of the rate and that the hundreds of millions in leftover cash underwrite other state programs for the developmentally disabled. That Medicaid largesse, they say, has turned a system that was plagued by scandal in the 1970s into perhaps the best in the country today.

Few dispute that New York has a superior system — and an expensive one. But a Poughkeepsie Journal investigation of developmental-center rates also found:

- The closing of the nine state institutions, once a certainty, has been delayed for a decade as reimbursement rates have soared; closing would shut off a gushing faucet of cash in a state dogged by deficits.
- There has been little

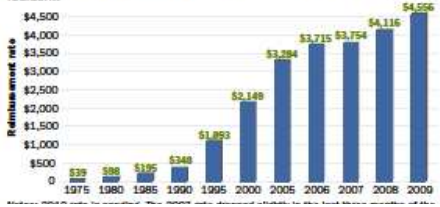
SEE WASSAIC, 2A

Spencer Ainsley/Poughkeepsie Journal

The old hospital, which houses a dental clinic and pharmacy, appears at the center of this aerial photograph of the Wassaic campus of the Taconic Developmental Disabilities Service Organization, home to 152 developmentally disabled adults. The campus once housed 4,500. **Below left,** The campus power plant, which received a $7.1 million rehabilitation in 2006, among $36 million in upgrades since 2000.

Cadillac care

The state and federal government share the cost equally of care for mentally disabled adults at nine state developmental center campuses, including one in Wassaic. Below, a history of the per-day, per-person reimbursement rate, which is now $4,556 — or $1.7 million a year per resident.



TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH: A WASSAIC TALE

Mary Beth Pfeiffer
Poughkeepsie Journal

Marion Bright is a petite lady of 81 with a wiry silver bun, slender, hooked hands and palsied legs that have never walked. Though she suffers limitations and longs for a family she has never

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Staten Island Advance

Her car's from Saturn, her ticket's from Mars

New Dorp woman miffed that she's slapped with $65 fine for violating obscure license plate law

Published March 1, 2010

MAURA YATES

Desperate times, dubious tickets.

A New Dorp woman got slapped with a $65 ticket recently as her car sat parked outside her home at 2 a.m.

Her crime? The black plastic "Saturn of Staten Island" frame, which has been around Ellen Varga's license plate since she bought her car from the dealership 15 years ago, which according to the city's vehicle traffic law is an obstruction on her plate and a summonsable offense.

The law states that license plates must be kept clean and easily readable, and they may not be covered by glass, plastic, or any covering or coating that conceals or obscures the plate number, or distorts a recorded image or photo taken of the plate by a red light camera, for example.

"The view of such number plates shall not be obstructed by any part of the vehicle or by anything carried thereon," the law states, with the exception of E-ZPass transponders that

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Observer-Dispatch, Utica

OBSERVER-DISPATCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2010 ■ BREAKING NEWS AT UTICAOD.COM ■ WEATHER: HIGH 46, LOW 36 ■ $1.50

The river's threat

Experts say it's just a matter of time until the Mohawk River floods its banks as it did in 2006. Yet, despite that disaster that cost a village its factory, flood-control steps haven't been taken.

COMING MONDAY

Can small towns such as German Flatts, which experiences chronic flooding each year, afford to tackle the problem themselves? Find out how one town is handling the situation.

By JENNIFER BOGDAN
Observer-Dispatch
jbogdan@uticaod.com

At first, Canajoharie butcher John Peruzzi said he doesn't think the region would ever see another flood as devastating as the one in June 2006 along the Mohawk River. But then he talked about how he's done things a little differently at his Church Street store – Peruzzi's Meat Market – that's been a fixture on the street for more than a decade.

He got rid of his five employees and now runs his combined butcher shop and antique store with only his wife. And he buys just what the store needs for a few weeks, because much of the $45,000 he lost in the flood represented surplus stock.

"OK, maybe part of me – just being human – wonders if it could happen again," Peruzzi said later on. "Actually, there's probably not a day that goes by since that flood that I don't

Observer-Dispatch archive photos

TOP: Chris Blakeslee, left, and

hit communities.
What we found:

This Associated Press

From left, Reps. Dennis Cardoza, D-Calif., Michael Arcuri, D-Utica, and Ed Perlmutter, D-Colo., during the House Rules committee meeting to discuss the health care legislation March 20 on Capitol Hill in Washington. Arcuri's vote against the bill last week pleased Republicans and angered progressives.

Arcuri's 'no' alters political expectations

Liberals fume over health bill vote

By BRYON ACKERMAN
Observer-Dispatch
backerman@uticaod.com

▶ Pressure on Destito to avoid Arcuri fundraiser – 4A

One vote could decide an election. But how?

When U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri, D-Utica, decided to vote "no" last week on the health care reform bill, it sent shockwaves through the political landscape of the 11-county 24th Congressional District.

The vote simultaneously pleased some Republicans who opposed the bill and cost Arcuri his backing from some progressive groups who supported it and are talking about running a more liberal candidate against him.

What those shockwaves will mean in November as they ripple through the election year remains unclear. Reactions and predictions are all over the board.

"I would think that the Republicans are more than pleased with the way Congressman Arcuri voted," Chenango County Republican Committee Chairman Thomas Morrone said. "He was voting the way his constituents were begging him to vote."

Please see ARCURI'S, 4A

Utica's shrinking tax base tied to lagging economy

Fewer properties to pick up the tab

By DAN MINER
Observer-Dispatch
dminer@uticaod.com

UTICA – The amount of tax-producing property in Utica dropped at the highest rate in at least a decade last year, part of the reason the city's 2010-11 budget

50,000 – 175,000

Distinguished Sports Photography

Times Union, Albany

Distinguished Breaking News Coverage
Times Herald-Record, Middletown

PATERSON FLIP-FLOP | Governor now says he won't run. **PAGE 2**

SERVING THE HUDSON VALLEY AND THE CATSKILLS

TIMES HERALD-RECORD

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010 | RECORDONLINE.COM | ORANGE NORTH EDITION | $1.00

FULL WEATHER COVERAGE, PAGES 3-8; UPDATES AT RECORDONLINE.COM

ENDLESS STORM

Hundreds stranded on highways; 175,000 without power

Truck driver Ron Wolfenhaut of Middletown was among the scores of people who spent a snowy, windy night stranded on westbound I-84. He took this photo after being stopped at Exit 15 (Lime Kiln Road) on Thursday. He finally got home to Middletown at 1 p.m. Friday after spending 16 hours on the highway. Read his story on PAGE 5

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Times Herald-Record, Middletown

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TIMES HERALD-RECORD

SERVING THE CATSKILLS AND HUDSON VALLEY

Husband: 'Dying' bride's tale a lie

Doctor's office confirms former local woman was never a patient. PAGES 4-5

JEFF GOULDING/Times Herald-Record

Jessica Vega tries on her donated wedding gown in April at a Newburgh shop as a friend holds Vega's daughter, Ava. Strangers helped offer a dream wedding after Vega said she had terminal leukemia. Her husband, Michael O'Connell, now says Vega made up the story.

ORANGE SOUTH

BUSINESS

NJ Transit seeks millions for new train bridge PAGE 34

SPORTS

Varsity 845

We recap week's top players. PAGE 57

Distinguished Sports Writing
Times Herald-Record, Middletown

SURVIVING THE STREETS

More than a game:

NFA eyes second straight state title

BY KEVIN GLEASON
Times Herald-Record

A man walked across the parking lot of St. Mary's Church in Newburgh while a commotion sounded from North Miller Street 40 yards away. He shook his head. "I hope they ain't fighting. If they're fighting, I'm turning right back around. ... I'm serious."

Newburgh's Mike McLeod reaches for a rebound.

It's 1:40 p.m. on a spring-like Monday, less than four days after two men were shot dead in suspected gang-related violence within a 24-hour span in the city. The Rev. Bill Scafidi, affiliated with St. Mary's for 14 years as pastor and recently named its administrator, looked onto South Street from the front of the church.

"Here's a good example," he said, watching four men across the street at the corner of North Miller and South. He figured they are up to no good. "I've been here 14 years," said Father Bill, as he's known around here. "This goes on 365 days a year."

A makeshift memorial for one of the dead, John "Tarzan" Maldonado, has been set up on the opposite side of the street where the men stand. "And yet it's business as usual," Scafidi said. "What are you going to do?"

Back in the parking lot is the entrance to St. Mary's basketball gym. It is here, amid a city ridden with poverty and some of the worst per-capita gang violence in the country, where the best public high school basketball team in the state was constructed.

Destined for greatness

Newburgh Free Academy has earned the label as the defending Class AA state champion. The Goldbacks, two wins from another title, will play in the semifinals on Saturday at the Glens Falls Civic Center.

That's where Newburgh made its remarkable run last year after reaching the final four with the miracle shot of all miracle shots, Will Bouton's 55-footer at the buzzer to beat mighty Mount Vernon.

"Most of these kids live right in the belly of the beast. For some of them, they are walking through a war zone."

JIM GAGLIANO
FBI agent with the Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task Force

Bouton's among the entire starting five who honed his craft at St. Mary's. Most of them arrived at ages 11 or younger and played for the church's vaunted AAU team, the Newburgh Zion Lions.

"It's just amazing to watch them play," said Harold Rayford, who has developed St. Mary's blossoming hoops program that includes 400 summer-league players and 100 AAU players on seven travel teams. "I knew eventually they were going to be a great team."

Some of these kids are raised in poverty and lack a father figure or sound parental influence. They face the constant pull of the streets, the temptation to do drugs or make money illegally, or do both as gang members. But no matter what path they choose, figuratively and literally, the potential for danger looms.

"It's easy for them to walk out their front door and get caught by a stray bullet," said Jim Gagliano, an FBI agent spearheading the Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task Force designed to attack gang activity. "Most of these kids live right in the belly of the beast. For some of them, they are walking through a war zone."

Heart-rending problems

There are roughly 29,000 people in the city, including about 7,000 kids. There are a half-dozen gangs with national affiliations, Bloods and Latin Kings the two largest, and a smattering of smaller gangs such as the Unique Soldiers and Ave. World.

Newburgh players, from left, Marcus Henderson, Patrick Johnson, Michael McLeod, Will Bouton, Damon Cousar, and Davon McMillan, squatting, Thursday on Prospect Avenue in the City of Newburgh. Newburgh will face Christian Brothers Academy of Albany in the state Class AA semifinal game on Saturday in Glens Falls.

The city led the state in per-capita homicides with eight in 2008. At least half of the 14 homicides in the city since 2008 were directly or indirectly related to gangs.

About a mile away, NFA warms up for the start of practice. "I can't be out at 10:30 at night without worrying about something happening to me," starting point guard Marcus Henderson said. He said he was 11 when he last spoke to his dad, 3 or 4 when he last saw him.

But Henderson has done the right thing, he said, thanks to the supportive presence of mom, Lydia, a disabled veteran.

"I'm nothing without her," Henderson says. "All I want to do is put a smile on her face. The hard part for me is seeing my mom have her struggles and not being able to help her because I'm always in school and playing basketball."

NFA coach Frank Dinnocenzio tries to balance the line between caring for his

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Times Herald-Record, Middletown

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Times Herald-Record, Middletown

Record story highlighted at D.C. journalism workshop - 1/6/2010

WASHINGTON — For an example of how good journalism can right wrongs, look to a Times Herald-Record story that helped win a prisoner his freedom, federal officials were told Wednesday.

Lebrew Jones -- WNBC story - 1/6/2010

Lead story on WNBC's 6pm broadcast on Nov. 19, 2009, (missing the anchor lead in.)

About This Report

After more than two decades behind bars for a murder he's always maintained he did not commit, Lebrew Jones was released on parole on November 19, 2009. Jones had no criminal record when he was sentenced in 1989 to 22 years to life for the brutal slaying of Michaelanne Hall, a young New York City prostitute. His conviction has been under review by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office since 2007, when a Times Herald-Record investigation raised doubts about his guilt.

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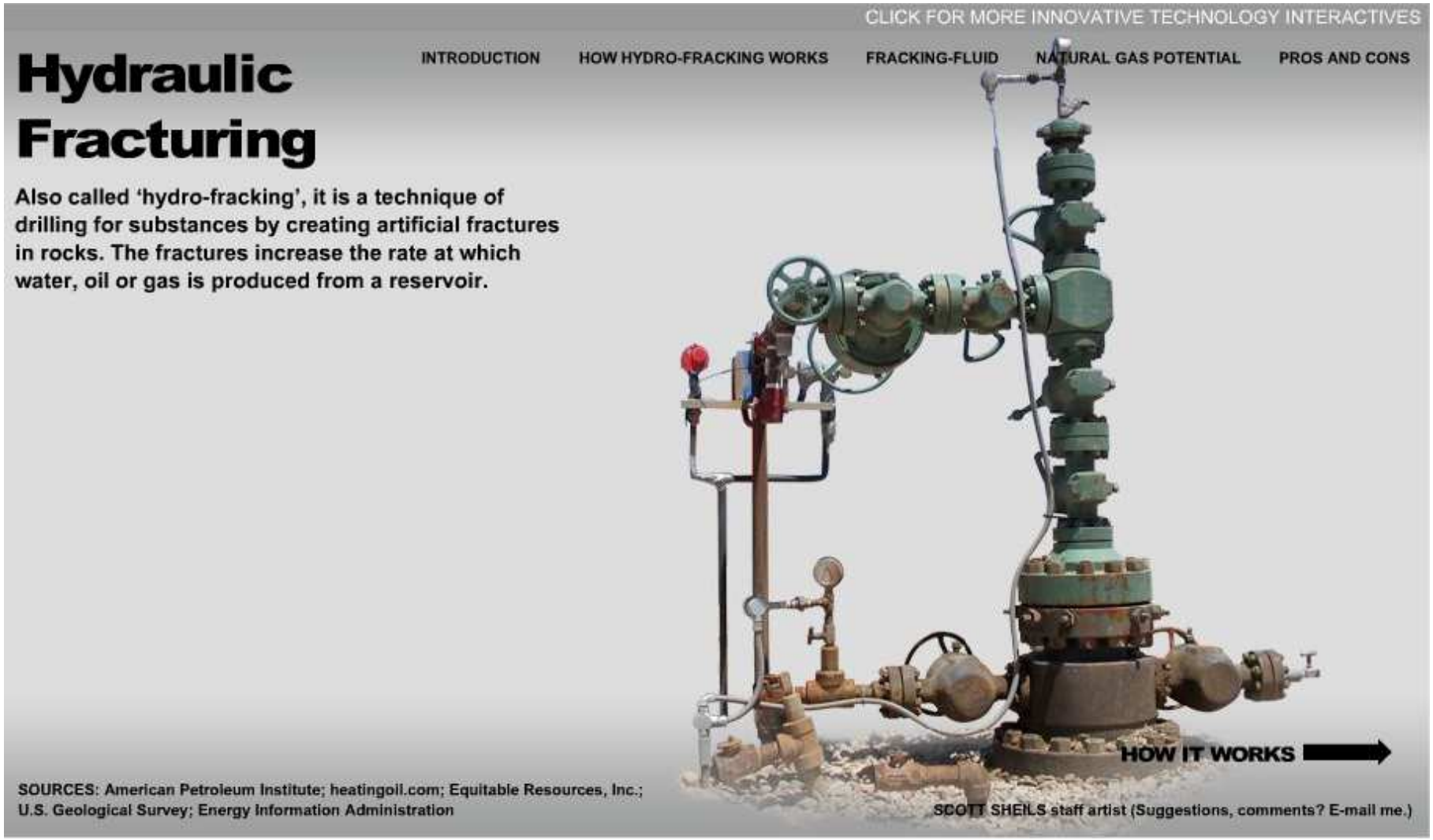
Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester



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The Post-Standard, Syracuse

ONONDAGA COUNTY

IRON MEN OF OVERTIME BREAK THE BANK

TWO DEPUTIES' TIME SHEETS SHOW THAT ALL WORK AND NO PLAY MAXIMIZED THEIR PAY

By Michelle Breidenbach and John O'Brien
Staff writers

Onondaga County sheriff's Sgt. Michael Asmolik started his day as coordinator of the Central New York Police Academy at 6 a.m. Jan. 2, 2008, and clocked out 11 hours later.

The next day, he worked 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The next day, his shift stretched from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Asmolik worked like this without a day off for 32 days — racking up 180 hours of straight time and 291.5 hours of overtime, an average of 15 hours per day, according to his time sheets.

By the end of the year, Asmolik had worked 1,328 hours of sheriff's overtime and another 568 hours of part-time pay at the academy. That's equal to an extra 47 weeks of full-time work.

Asmolik, 53, more than doubled his base pay — from about $60,000 to $134,852 in the fiscal year that ended March 31, according to records from the state pension system. That made him the fourth-highest-paid worker in Onondaga County government. He made more money than his boss, Sheriff Kevin Walsh, and County Executive Joanie Mahoney.

Sgt. Richard Flanagan Jr. joined Asmolik in the overtime shifts at the police academy at Onondaga Community College. Flanagan, whose father is director of the training center, worked a regular shift as an inspections sergeant and reported to the academy to teach driving courses.

Some days, Asmolik and Flanagan took just eight hours off overnight, then returned to work at 4 a.m. to teach inexperienced cops the high-speed driving techniques they need to chase bad guys. On those days, they worked every available minute allowed by sheriff's policy, which limits hours to 16 per day.

The job is not all classroom work. Previous instructors have wound up in surgery after being knocked around in the car, according to a supervisor.

"It takes a toll, physically," Flanagan

OVERTIME, PAGE A-12

THEY MADE MORE THAN THEIR BOSSES

Based on New York State Comptroller's Office records covering April 2008 through March 2009

$134,852
SGT. MICHAEL ASMOLIK
SHERIFF'S DEPT.

$133,538
WILLIAM FITZPATRICK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

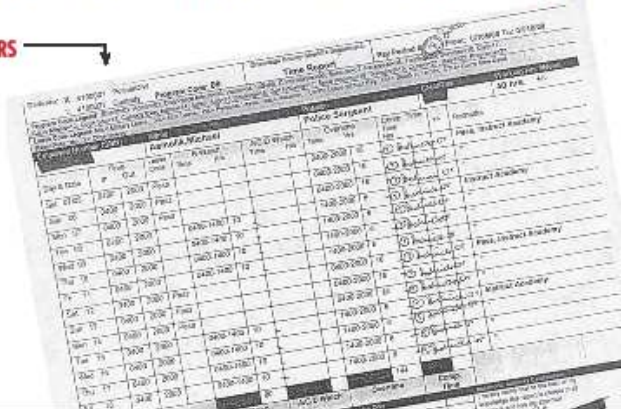
$123,266
SGT. RICHARD FLANAGAN JR.
SHERIFF'S DEPT.

$122,413
JOANIE MAHONEY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

$106,611
KEVIN WALSH
SHERIFF

WORKING 224 HOURS IN TWO WEEKS

Sgt. Michael Asmolik worked an especially demanding two weeks in July 2008. He was scheduled for four 10-hour days. He worked all 14 days and added 144 hours of overtime, including six days of 16 hours of overtime.



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The Post-Standard, Syracuse

OUR OPINION

Budget Justice

School cuts are necessary, but must be fair

The budget approved by the Syracuse school board Tuesday night could be devastating to city children. The board voted to close a school and cut 221 jobs, or 5 percent of the district's staff. Those and other cuts could easily wipe out the tentative achievement gains the district has been able to post over the past few years.

David Lassman / The Post-Standard

THIRD GRADERS Jyair Crouch *(left)* and Brayden Brisson read about Martin Luther King Jr. at Van Duyn Elementary School in January.

Syracuse is hardly alone. Across the region, proposed cuts in state aid are squeezing school districts unmercifully. Liverpool plans to close an elementary school and cut

little pain.

What can be done? Elizabeth Lynam and Selma Mustovic of the New York City-based Citizens Budget Commission have proposed cutting the state aid given to the

Distinguished Page Design/Presentation

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

CITY HALL

AFTER 50 MEN, A WOMAN IS MAYOR

THE HISTORY OF SYRACUSE TAKES A TURN TODAY WITH STEPHANIE MINER'S FIRST DAY IN OFFICE

From beards and bow ties to clean faces and neckties, from one-year terms to eight-year limits, there has been one constant in the municipal leadership of Syracuse since 1848 — all of the mayors have been men. Today, the first woman elected mayor officially joins their ranks.

Who were these men and what did they accomplish? An interactive graphic at syracuse.com provides a glimpse at their places in history.

Today, Stephanie Miner becomes Syracuse's 53rd mayor. Here are the mayors and when they served. Two of them served twice, Elias Leavenworth (2nd and 11th), and Charles Andrews (13th and 17th).

53. Stephanie Miner

SYRACUSE MAYORS

Mayors were elected to one-year terms until 1886 when they were elected to two-year terms. After 1930, the term was for four years. Two-term limits were enacted after 1986.
Photographs courtesy of Onondaga Historical Association Museum & Research Center and The Post-Standard

Distinguished Business Reporting

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

RUSH ORDER FOR INNOVATION SAVES COMBAT LIVES

SYRACUSE COMPANY'S INVENTORS MEET THE ARMY'S CHALLENGE TO CUSTOMIZE ANTI-MORTAR RADAR

Frank Ordoñez / The Post-Standard

"WE'RE A WAR-ON-TERROR factory," says Tom Wilson (*left*), SRC vice president and chief strategy officer. Wilson and Mark Condolora, director of radar programs, stand next to their small, portable radar device, known as the Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar, inside a radar-testing chamber where every surface is covered with energy-absorbing foam spikes.

By Dave Tobin
Staff writer

Mortars are a problem in warfare. Cheap, lightweight and deadly, they can be fired and then easily moved before defenders can strike back.

For decades, the Army tried to see flying mortars using truck-sized radars. Big and unwieldy, they could "see" in only one direction. They missed a lot.

The Army wanted something smaller and better, and sent out a request. The country's big defense companies weren't interested. Too far-fetched.

So the Army asked smaller defense research companies. Only one tried — Syracuse Research Corp.

In a matter of three years, engineers there came up with a lightweight radar that was named an Army top-10 invention of the year.

At nearly the same time, company engineers devised an electronic jammer that disables radio-controlled roadside bombs. The two inventions have saved countless lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their sales have transformed the company.

The confluence of the company's know-how and global turmoil have turned what for decades was a little-known, wonkish, nonprofit organization into a defense contractor that is possibly Central New York's fastest-growing business.

Since 2001, employment at the company, which now goes by SRC Inc., has soared from 425 to 1,050. During that period, sales exceeded $2.3 billion — most from these two devices.

In a time when manufacturers are leaving New York and the United States, SRC spun off a for-profit business to run a new manufacturing plant.

Every day in a Cicero strip mall, next to offices for Best Buy and the state Department of Motor Vehicles, workers build some of the most advanced military equipment in the world.

IED FIGHTER, TOO

Since SRC's beginnings in the late 1950s, defense research and invention were the company's chief purpose.

SRC invented a new radar every year in the 1980s, specializing in radar that saw incoming artillery. It didn't manufacture them. Its radar prototypes were the defense industry's version of a Detroit concept car — futuristic designs that would one day change the way people did things.

By the late 1990s, SRC was looking to expand into manufacturing.

Along came the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the U.S. response. And SRC's intellectual pipeline just happened to have the

SRC'S, PAGE A-8

Distinguished Column Writing

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

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SEAN KIRST | POST-STANDARD COLUMNIST

Michelle Gabel / The Post-Standard

MIKE McCONNELL, of Camillus *(facing camera)* embraces Bob O'Leary at Burnet Park during a visit to the softball field Sunday. They were brought together in grief over the loss of a friend and a brother.

THEY PLAYED 'LIKE IT'S OUR LAST' GAME

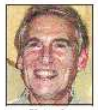
Just before 5 p.m. last Tuesday, Bill Skvarch Jr. died. The Nibsy's softball team that he captained for years was scheduled to play about two hours later in the Syracuse city league. His teammates showed up, even as word spread among the spectators at Burnet Park. An umpire approached Bob O'Leary, a Nibsy's infielder, and asked:

''How can you play?''

''How can we not play?'' Bob replied.

Skvarch died at 62, following a massive stroke. Since the mid-1980s, he had kept his softball team together. He was the guy who brought the bases to the field and collected money for the umpires. It was Skvarch who always managed to assemble a roster in the spring, even when longtime friends needed a season off for reasons of family or work.

Bob O'Leary, 42, joined the team to play with his brother Joe, nine years his elder. Joe had been there for the glory years of the 1990s, when the team — sponsored at that time by the Change of Pace tavern — was a divisional powerhouse. Joe



Skvarch

O'Leary

stuck around as he and his buddies began to gray, as softball became less a matter of winning and losing than of friendship and resilience.

In high school, Joe had been a record-setting sprinter at Central Square. At 51, in the city league, his skills and intensity still earned him respect. Last week, after Skvarch died, Joe unofficially assumed the role of team captain. As the players milled around before the first pitch — tightening cleats, stretching out, toying with their gloves — Joe offered one terse reminder of their loss.

''Let's play this one,'' he said, ''like it's our last.''

His teammates answered the challenge. The game had a wild back-and-forth intensity. Usually Joe pitches, delivering the ball to Mike Donohue, 50, another longtime teammate of both Skvarch and Joe. As Donohue prepared to catch in Tuesday's game, he found it hard to accept that Skvarch was not at first base, a position his friend had played for many years.

Joe O'Leary decided to play outfield. Nibsy's was up against a team called the Yankees, a team loaded with young sluggers. Joe spent the game on the run. He made catch after catch of long fly balls — at one point, Bob called out to him, ''Who are you, and what have you done with my brother?'' — but as the game went into the sixth inning, Nibsy's trailed by five runs.

The team wasn't finished. Joe got up and stroked a triple, then scored on a single. In the dugout, the players shouted and slapped hands, channeling the energy that comes with a great battle.

Joe, still breathless from his triple, walked toward his brother at one end of the bench. Bob heard him say, ''I feel faint,'' then Joe collapsed in a pile. Bob, knowing Joe, thought for an instant it was a joke, until Donohue dropped to the ground and began to frantically push on his friend's chest. Emergency crews arrived. Donohue gave way to let them do their work. As he rose to his feet, he looked at the hillside surrounding the little field at Burnet Park.

Everyone was silent. The Yankees were on their knees. So were the players from other teams awaiting the next game, and almost every man, woman and child who had come out to watch.

Joe O'Leary was pronounced dead at the hospital of a heart attack, leaving his teammates to cope with an incomprehensible loss. Their captains had both seemed to be in fine health. They were dedicated fathers and husbands. Bob keeps thinking of how his big brother helped him learn to hit when they were boys, how Joe would lean across Bob's shoulders and show him where to put his hands on the bat.

''It was baseball forever,'' Bob said, and he takes a sliver of consolation in knowing that Joe tripled and scored just before he died.

''He was going hard, he was having

TEAM, PAGE A-5

sexual abuse and obesity

3. Altmar village could become a thing of the past

SPORTS

1. Central boys basketball courting gold at Empire State Games
2. Basketball recruit Anthony Davis keeps SU on his short list
3. Team USA defeats Canada 12-10 for lacrosse championship

ENTERTAINMENT

1. Links: Pooping pigeons shut down Kings of Leon concert
2. Sarah Palin goes camping with Kate Gosselin and her children
3. Husband: Zsa Zsa Gabor in critical condition

PEOPLE, ETC.

SCHWIMMER FILM 'TRUST' TO DEBUT IN TORONTO

David Schwimmer's latest directorial effort, "Trust," will premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in September.

The movie was shot last year in Michigan and marks the former "Friends" star's second time directing a feature film.

It's about the fallout from an attack by an online sexual predator and stars Clive Owen, Catherine Keener and Viola Davis.

The film is set in the Chicago suburbs but was largely filmed in Michigan.

'INCEPTION' BEATS 'SALT' WITH $43.5M WEEKEND

Leonardo DiCaprio's "Inception" has won a battle of superstar action thrillers over Angelina Jolie's "Salt" at the weekend box office.

"Inception" remained the No. 1 movie for the second-straight weekend with $43.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Warner Bros. thriller featuring DiCaprio as leader of a team that sneaks into people's dreams raised its 10-day total to $143.7 million.

Sony's spy caper "Salt" debuted a solid No. 2 with $36.5 million.

1. "Inception," $43.5 million.
2. "Salt," $36.5 million.
3. "Despicable Me," $24.1 million.
4. "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," $9.7 million.
5. "Toy Story 3," $9 million.
6. "Ramona and Beezus," $8 million.
7. "Grown Ups," $7.6 million.
8. "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse," $7 million.
9. "The Last Airbender," $4.2 million.
10. "Predators," $2.9 million.

— The Associated Press

Distinguished Community Service

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

OFFENSIVE ONLINE COMMENTS HAUNT CANDIDATE FOR SHERIFF

JOSEPH PRICE CLAIMS SOMEONE ELSE USED HIS COMPUTER TO POST COMMENTS

By John O'Brien
Staff writer

Internet comments with racist, sexist and homophobic overtones appeared last year on Syracuse.com under a user name of the Democratic candidate for Onondaga County sheriff.

Deputy Joe Price, who defeated the party's designated candidate in last week's primary, said the comments were posted under his user name: modman97.

But Price said someone else posted the most inflammatory comments under his user name. He counted at least 60 such comments, which are the harshest among the 673 comments under that user name.

Someone must have stolen his password or sat at his computer at work or home while he was still logged on, then written under his user name without his knowledge, he said. He called the postings "obviously disturbing."

"I'm not a racist," Price said. "I think I'm a standup guy."

Price, 43, a jail deputy for 17 years, said he knew nothing of the most offensive postings until April, when county Democratic Chairwoman Diane Dwire confronted him with a printout of them. The party was about to decide whether to designate Price or sheriff's Sgt. Toby Shelley to run against Sheriff Kevin Walsh.

Price told Dwire he didn't write any of the offensive comments. Price said someone at the website told him to stop using the account after he inquired, and he did. The Democratic committee endorsed Shelley.

Gary Walts/The Post-Standard

JOSEPH PRICE, Democratic candidate for Onondaga County sheriff, attends a party function in May at the Valley American Legion Hall, in Syracuse. The county's Democratic committee endorsed Sgt. Toby Shelley as its candidate for sheriff, but Price won a primary Sept. 15 to oppose Republican incumbent Kevin Walsh.

In interviews with The Post-Standard over the past two weeks, Price said he wrote most of the comments that appear under the user name modman97. Many deal with sports, but two others that he takes responsibility for included complaints about affirmative action.

One was in response to an online story about Black History Month. He complains in a Feb. 1, 2009, post that said, "When I went to college (SUNY system) they had clubs for Blacks, Jews, and Hispanics ... Their were NO exclusive clubs for my race." Then he was denied a job as a state trooper because of affirmative action policies, he wrote.

"I had a dream, too, but it was squashed because I was WHITE!" Price's post said.

All the other disputed posts were probably the result of someone joking around either at the jail where Price works, or at home, Price said at first.

In an interview, Price initially denied writing a post that made fun of kids who played in the school band and that made a homophobic joke about them.

"Come on, now," Price said in an interview. "Are we being serious here?"

COMMENTS, PAGE A-14

Distinguished Sports Coverage

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

INSIDE THE

STRASBURG SPECTACLE

THE BIGGEST CELEBRITY IN TOWN IS A 21-YEAR-OLD KID WITH A $15 MILLION ARM

Nicholas List / The Post-Standard

PITCHER STEPHEN STRASBURG prepares to start the game against the Toledo Mud Hens Tuesday at Alliance Bank Stadium. He's expected to pitch his last game in Syracuse today.

GAME TODAY: 7 P.M. VS. SCRANTON-WILKES BARRE YANKEES

Why should baseball fans think about arriving early for a seat at tonight's Syracuse Chiefs game at Alliance Bank Stadium?

1. A pleasant Saturday evening usually draws a good crowd.

2. Pitching sensation Stephen Strasburg is most likely starting his final game in Syracuse before being called up to the major leagues.

3. Close to 20,000 free tickets for general admission have been distributed to Little Leaguers. The stadium capacity is listed at 11,071.

Parking lots open at 4:30 and gates open at 5:30 for the 7 p.m. game. B-1

Mike Greenlar / The Post Standard

WILL MEYER, 7, of Baldwinsville, *(left)* and Cameron Colabufo, 5, of Tully, watch a game at Alliance Bank Stadium.

By Dave Tobin
Staff writer

Hours before Stephen Strasburg sets foot in Alliance Bank Stadium, autograph seekers start their vigil.

They, more than most in Central New York, recognize the 21-year-old without his uniform. They know, sort of, his white Lexus. Some are on their second or third day of this.

For nearly everyone else here, Strasburg is a test-market Wheaties star, about whom only the barest essentials are known.

San Diego State All-American. Only amateur selected for U.S. Olympic team in Beijing. First pick of the major league draft. $15 million contract. Enjoys golf.

Player/coach/manager descriptions are all strikingly consistent and brief: Humble. Down-to-earth. Disciplined. Focused. Quiet.

The Washington Nationals protect Strasburg like a thoroughbred. During spring training, they hired a media consultant to advise the team how to talk about him. In Syracuse, they hired a private security company to guard his space. He hasn't pitched more than six innings in a game.

With the Chiefs, no one-on-one news interviews. After games he pitches, reporters get eight

STRASBURG, PAGE A-12

Distinguished Feature Photography

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

Distinguished Online Blog
The Post-Standard, Syracuse

'Considerable greatness:' The cop behind the bench

Published: Friday, December 04, 2009, 6:10 AM Updated: Friday, December 04, 2009, 12:55 PM

By Sean Kirst / The Post-Standard
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John Berry/The Post-Standard

Major Grant Williams of the Syracuse University Department of Public Safety, while the national anthem played during a 2004 game at the Carrier Dome.

Did college cop realize how many lives he changed?

The Post-Standard
Dec, 4, 2009
Sean Kirst, Post-Standard columnist

Andrew Manns studied at Syracuse University in the early 1970s. Those were confusing and rebellious times, especially if you were black in a nation still coming to grips with integration.

Amid the turbulence, Manns got to know a campus safety officer who patrolled at night outside the dormitories. The officer was black. He always had a police dog on a leash. Yet he offered a memorable smile whenever he saw Manns, and those casual hellos soon turned into midnight talks that involved lessons of utter, beautiful

Distinguished Headline Writing

The Journal News, White Plains

The Journal News

FRIDAY, January 29, 2010 | Breaking news 24/7 at LoHud.com | 75 cents

Nudity, smell used in exhibit on power

Performance artist Tania Bruguera's show opens at Neuberger

Gary Stern
gstern@lohud.com

PURCHASE — The first thing that visitors to the new exhibition at the Neuberger Museum of Art are likely to notice is the stench.

The pungent smell of thousands of used tea bags gives way to the oddly sweet stink of rotting sugarcane husks

D.A.: Hot date is cold cheat

Greenburgh man, 57, swindled women out of $140G, prosecutors say

Shawn Cohen
and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon
scohen@lohud.com

WHITE PLAINS — Solomon Jesus Nasser may have been the ultimate Internet dating Lothario.

Solomon Nasser

Authorities said he romanced women on various social networking sites with tales that he was a multimillionaire, a Department of Defense official, a confidant of former President George W. Bush's and a Navy admiral who commanded armed forces in Iraq.

It was enough to persuade established professional women whom he found online to "loan" him nearly $140,000, prosecutors said, but the 57-year-old Greenburgh resident later admitted that he was broke and unemployed.

On Thursday, Nasser was arraigned on a five-count indictment charging him with grand larceny and fraud, among other charges.

"Soon after meeting the women, he would explain to them that he was currently in a dire financial state and that he and his ex-wife were in a contentious battle over child support or he had been sued" and that "either way, the court had frozen all his assets and he did not have money to live day-to-day," Westchester District Attorney Janet DiFiore said.

Nasser is alleged to have scammed the women over a nearly three-year period, from July 2005 to

SEE CHEAT, 4A

After a snowy ambush, a big freeze

Distinguished State Government Coverage

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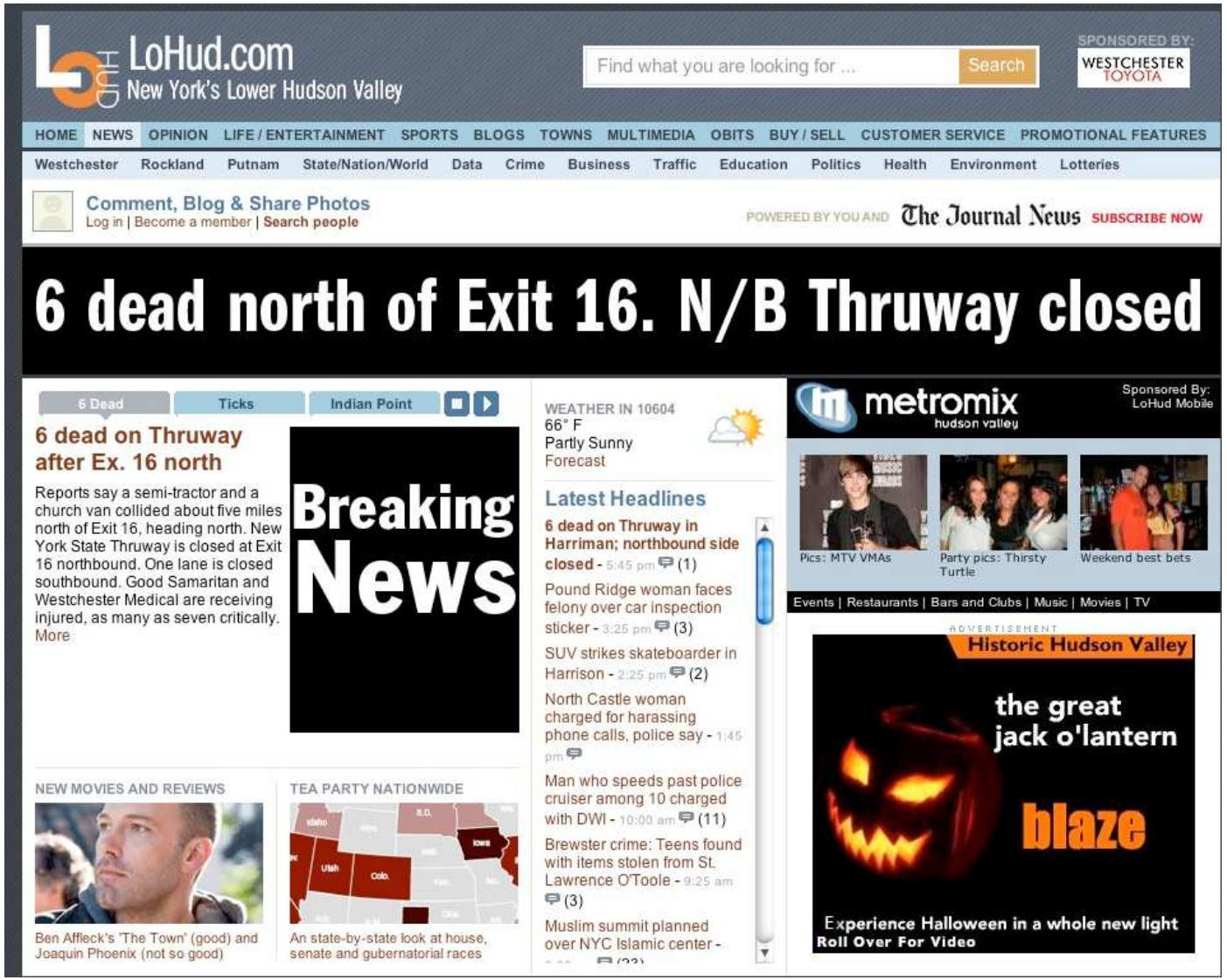

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Distinguished Editorial Writing

The Buffalo News

BUFFALO NEWS EDITORIAL

Region deserves an iconic bridge

Summer will bring decision on the shape of the future here

This is no time to be timid.

Even though it may seem we've been planning forever for the needed new span between Buffalo and Fort Erie, we will only have one shot at building it. What we get for our pains, our tolls and our tax money should not be something we settle for, something we can live with. It should be something we can be proud of, can be inspired by, not only now, but for the decades to come.

A city with a history built on building and on building with excellence — canals, grain elevators, unique buildings and grand parks — not only deserves but has the right to demand that the most important public improvement project of our generation be a worthy successor to that inheritance. It is necessary for not just our commercial needs but also our civic pride, the engines that will inspire and equip us to face our other problems.

As the late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan exhorted the Common Council, in the early days of bridge planning: "Think of the glory!"

It now falls to the Bridge Authority, the binational governing body that operates the crossing, to overcome any sense that the long design and approval process should result in something like architectural exhaustion.

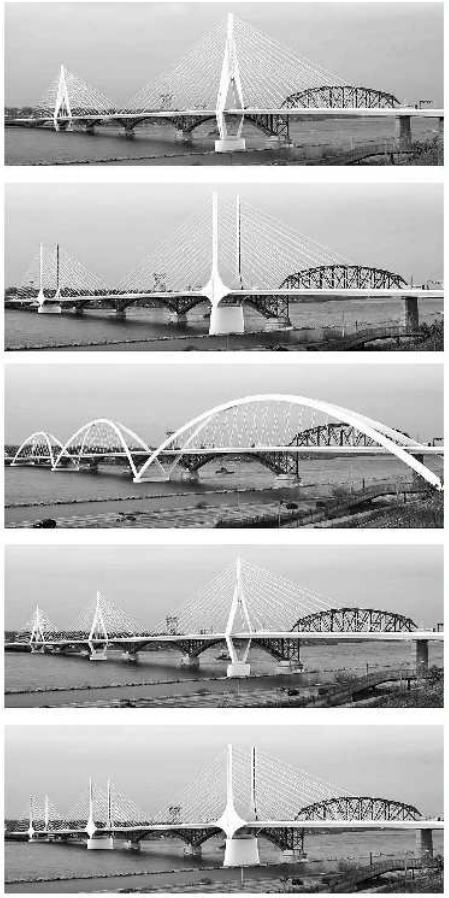
Of the five design alternatives presented to the public in the last round of public comments, the one bridge that does not fully measure up is the arch style. The rest, all signature towers, are acceptable and the clear favorite in our corner is the two-tower diamond design. It is a bold image that would provide both beauty to the eye and a symbolic "gateway" gesture of welcome to visitors and merchants sojourning back and forth between the United States and Canada.

As a busy link between two of the world's greatest democracies and most intertwined economies, the Niagara River crossing between Buffalo in New York and Fort Erie in Ontario should not be treated as just any old bridge. It deserves something that towers above the water, that conquers the barrier between our nations, that strives to carry our mood and our ambitions upward along with it.

A design that deserves the name Signature Bridge, the two-tower, diamond-portal concept would fit in with the family of recent bridges erected in Boston, Tampa and elsewhere, but is unique enough not to be dismissed as a mere aping of others' work. And it would follow in the grand tradition of soaring bridges, from the one that leads to New York's Brooklyn to the one that spans California's Golden Gate.

An earlier tower design for the bridge, one that rose as high as 567 feet, was rejected almost two years ago by federal officials who said it would be excessively disruptive of the natural world, specifically the migrating fish of the river and the birds of the flyway. That bridge also had won public approval, and was selected by a design jury.

As disappointing as that ruling was to the many people who had come to adopt the design as their own after a lengthy review process, it did not dissuade the Bridge Authority from sending their designers back to the imagining boards and coming up with plans that strike a welcome compromise between the needs of wildlife and the needs of human souls.



Five finalists, all cable-stayed and all environmentally acceptable, were chosen for the Peace Bridge expansion. At top, two-tower configurations feature both "diamond" and needle towers; at center is a three-arch bridge; below, three-tower designs in "diamond" and needle versions.

All five of the designs that were publicized, posted on the Internet and explained in a series of public meetings have been held environmentally responsible enough to suit the relevant officials. With that important concern rightly addressed, and with all in varying degrees meeting a "green" standard that also considers the number of piers in the water, it seems clear that the most inspiring design is the one that should be adopted.

It was thus a disappointment when the most recent public review process showed a clear preference — among the relatively few people, 600 in the entire region, who weighed in before the public comment period closed — for the lower-profile option featuring three arches.

All public comments are important and must be weighed, but the survey was hardly scientific and 600 responses in a region of 1.2 million people is a small, and not necessarily representative sample, as even critics of the overall bridge project have pointed out.

The arch design, rising no more than 226 feet, was dubbed the most environmentally friendly of the remaining options. Viewers noted it complements the existing Peace Bridge — although it will be the crossing long after that aging bridge is gone. But when all of the options have taken environmental needs into account, the one selected should be the one that is the most beautiful, not the most apologetic.

And, although the final figures are not yet in, Peace Bridge Authority officials say it appears to be the most costly — at a time when there is a funding gap yet to be filled in what has become a $700 million overall project, of which $175 million to $225 million will be for the bridge itself.

Public input is, by law and by right, an important factor going into the process of selecting a design. But the formal meetings and the Internet surveys are not, and are not represented as being, a scientific or complete sounding of the whole public's opinion. And that input is just one factor, along with cost, construction and other considerations, required to be included in a decision process expected to end this summer.

That decision must be reached now, and the project must proceed. Actually getting a new bridge built is critically important to this region, because of the importance to industry and to residents of an efficient crossing — and because of the continued aging of the Peace Bridge, which may last years longer but will not last forever. Traffic volume may be down now, in a poor economy, but bridges aren't built just for today. They're built for decades of tomorrows.

The Bridge Authority has a duty to all of the people of Buffalo and Fort Erie, not just the few hundred who wrote in before the deadline or showed up to speak in the recent round of public comments, and not just the people who live here today.

The authority also has a duty to all who are here now, and to all those who will come after us, those who will see the architectural gems of the 19th and 20th centuries, including the restoration of Front Park that is part of the Peace Bridge project, and expect a shining example of early 21st century design to complement it all.

We should settle for no less.

Distinguished Column Writing

The Buffalo News

Stanley Evans, Deputy Managing Editor
849-4444 • sevans@buffnews.com

Donn Esmonde

COMMENTARY

A 'monster' unleashed on Albany elites

They deserve it.

They deserve every bit of what they are about to get.

The I-got-mine politicians and life-term Albany legislators may not yet realize what it means when Carl Paladino catches your scent, gnaws on your leg and snarls in your face.

They are about to find out — to the delight of everyone afflicted by Albany's tax-inflating, job-killing ways.

The pit bull of Buffalo's civic landscape officially broke his leash Monday night. Friends, family, employees and "tea party" types filled his own Ellicott Square to hear Paladino launch a snarl-and-a-prayer Republican candidacy for

Distinguished Headline Writing

The Buffalo News

THE VANCOUVER OLYMPICS... MORE COVERAGE BEGINS ON PAGE D1

ONE MIRACLE SHORT

Getty Images

Led by goalie Ryan Miller, who had a spectacular tournament, Team USA flies off the ice with its silver medals after Canada's 3-2 overtime win.

As Miller, Ruff reunite on the ice, Canada keeps gold at home after an overtime game for the ages

Bucky Gleason

AT THE OLYMPICS

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Lindy Ruff shook his hand last after it was all over Sunday and the two teams began going their separate ways. He met Ryan Miller near center ice, put his left arm around his shoulder, patted him on the back and whispered in his ear, the Sabres coach and his goaltender reunited again.

"You had a hell of a tournament," Ruff told Miller. "You did a great job."

Miller nodded and thanked Ruff. The compliment sounded hollow under the circumstances, but Miller will be fine over time. He introduced himself to the rest of the world in the 2010 Winter Olympics and took his place among the best goalies on the planet. One shot from Sidney Crosby for the gold medal in overtime changes nothing.

But he wasn't thinking about how well he played to get the Americans into the medal round, into the gold medal game, into overtime or Ruff's consoling tone. The time for that will eventually come. At that moment, Canada's 3-2 vic-

See **Hockey** on Page A2

Distinguished Community Service

The Buffalo News

SPECIAL REPORT

"They simply do not have the flying skills for the position."

JEFFREY SKILES, CO-PILOT OF MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON, TALKING ABOUT MANY REGIONAL PILOTS HIRED IN RECENT YEARS

Delta Connection Acade

Training for pilots varies widely, especially for regional airlines. One airline, Delta, offers its own program to train pilots for the industry.

WHO'S FLYING YOUR AIRPLANE?

Training on the job, and not training in some areas at all, has become the norm for some regional airlines, a Buffalo News investigation reveals

Editor's note: *This has been the safest decade in U.S. aviation history — but Buffalo learned the hard way that there's at least one gaping hole in that safety record, at the regional airlines. Since the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407 claimed 50 lives in Clarence in February, News Albany Bureau chief Tom Precious and Washington Bureau chief Jerry Zremski have been investigating the training and experience levels of regional airline pilots.*

FIRST OF FOUR PARTS

BY TOM PRECIOUS AND JERRY ZREMSKI

NEWS STAFF REPORTERS

You are sitting in a 50-seat propeller plane heading home to Buffalo, and out the window you see ice on the wings. Ten rows in front of you, someone else also may be encountering midair icing for the first time: Your co-pilot.

Your flight attendant tells you what to do in the event of a water landing — but odds are that the pilot never had to practice landing on water.

And in the rare chance that your plane flips upside down or falls into a spin, it's quite likely that your pilot never practiced in a plane how to regain control.

Those are just some of the findings of a months-long Buffalo News investigation into a basic question: Whether airline pilots receive all the training they need, especially to come out alive from an emergency situation.

The answer is no, according to an analysis of federal safety data and interviews with dozens of pilots and other aviation experts.

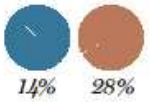
Regional airlines — which operate com-

See **Pilots** Page A8

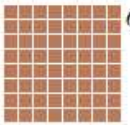
PILOT ERROR 2004 — 08

Major airlines Regional airlines

Percent of aviation safety incidents attributed to pilots



Deaths linked to pilot error



Source: Buffalo News analysis of National Transportation Safety Board data
Errors do not include pilot errors while taxiing on runway

THE SERIES:

Today: Who is flying your airplane?
Monday: Are they automatons or aviators?
Tuesday: Military pilot experience vs. training at "pilot mills
Wednesday: How Washington has delayed reform.

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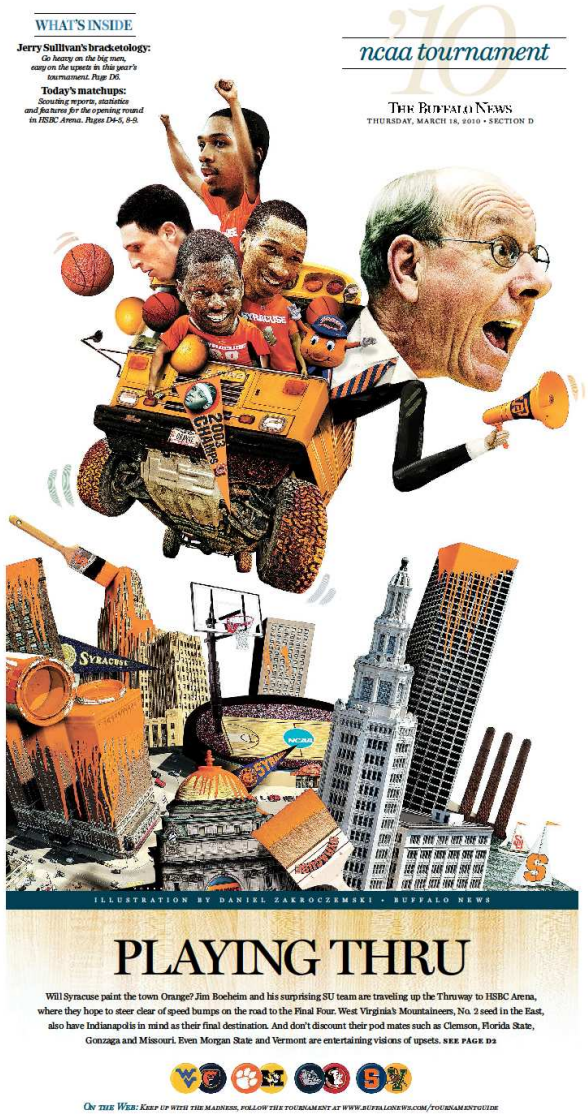
The Buffalo News



WHAT'S INSIDE

Jerry Sullivan's bracketology: *Go heavy on the big men, easy on the upsets in this year's tournament. Page D6.*

Today's matchups: *Scouting reports, statistics and features for the opening round in HSBC Arena. Pages D4-5, 8-9.*

'10 ncaa tournament

THE BUFFALO NEWS
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010 • SECTION D

ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL ZAKROCZEMSKI • BUFFALO NEWS

PLAYING THRU

Will Syracuse paint the town Orange? Jim Boeheim and his surprising SU team are traveling up the Thruway to HSBC Arena, where they hope to steer clear of speed bumps on the road to the Final Four. West Virginia's Mountaineers, No. 2 seed in the East, also have Indianapolis in mind as their final destination. And don't discount their pod mates such as Clemson, Florida State, Gonzaga and Missouri. Even Morgan State and Vermont are entertaining visions of upsets. SEE PAGE D2

ON THE WEB: KEEP UP WITH THE MADNESS, FOLLOW THE TOURNAMENT AT WWW.BUFFALONEWS.COM/TOURNAMENTGUIDE

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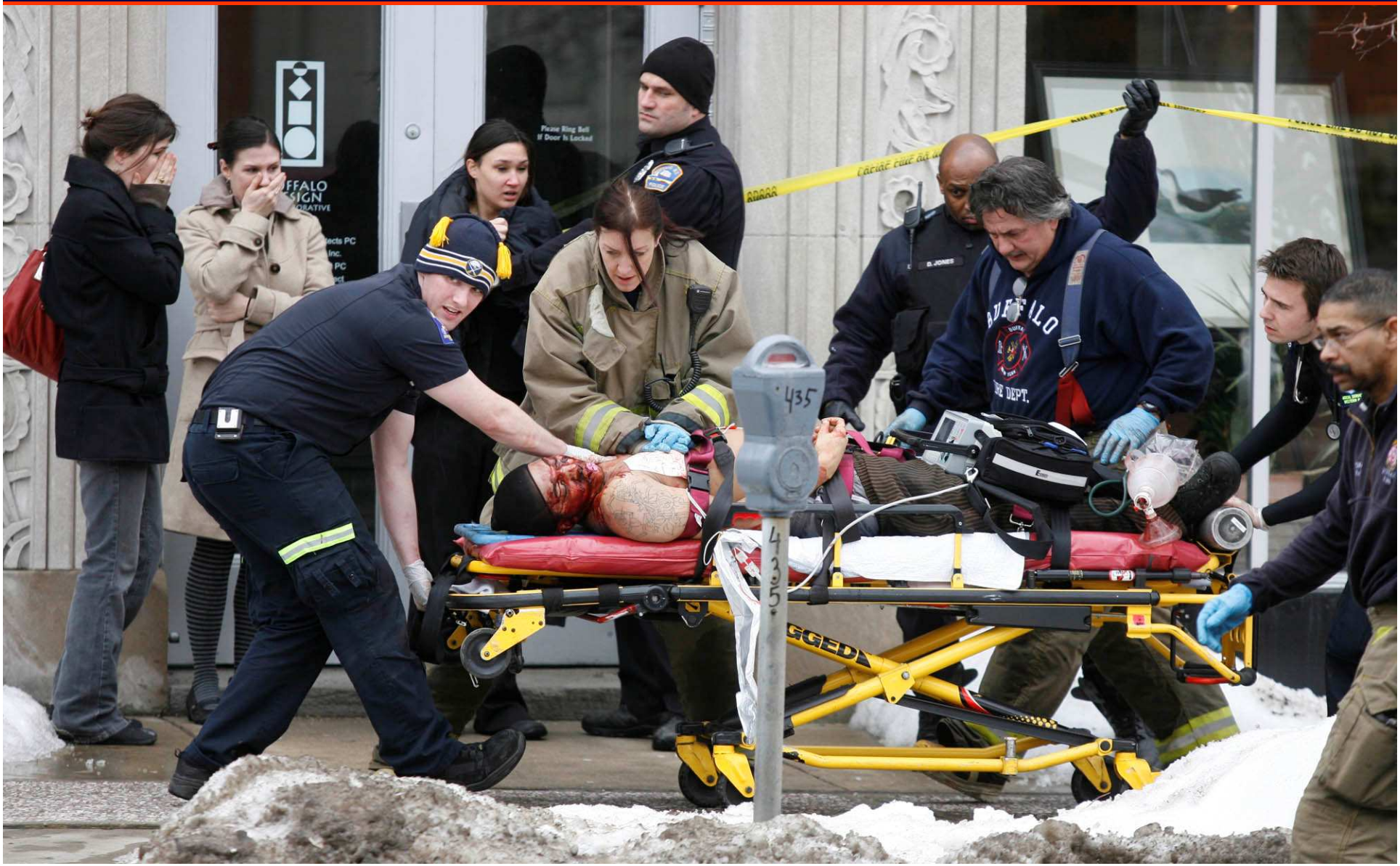

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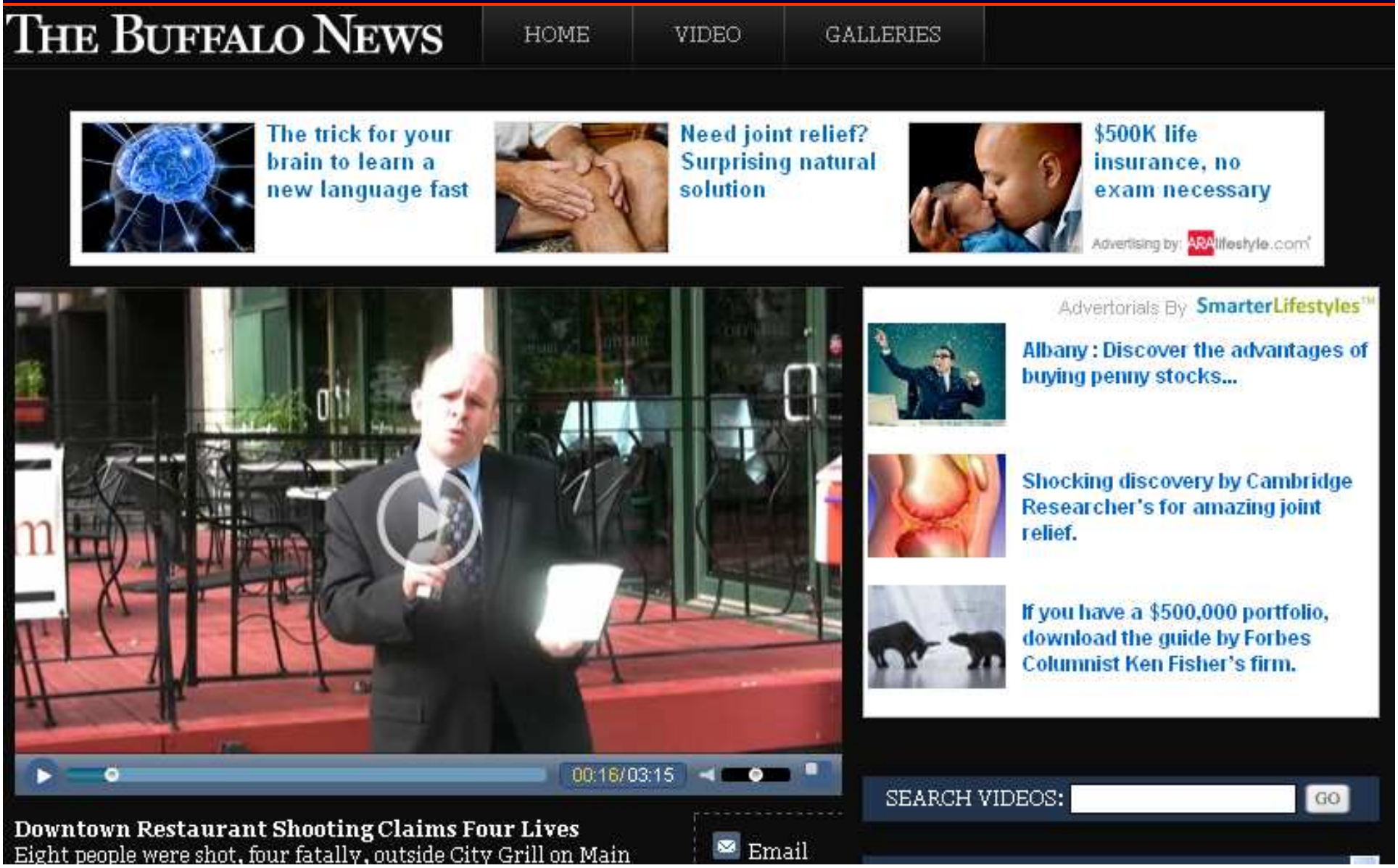

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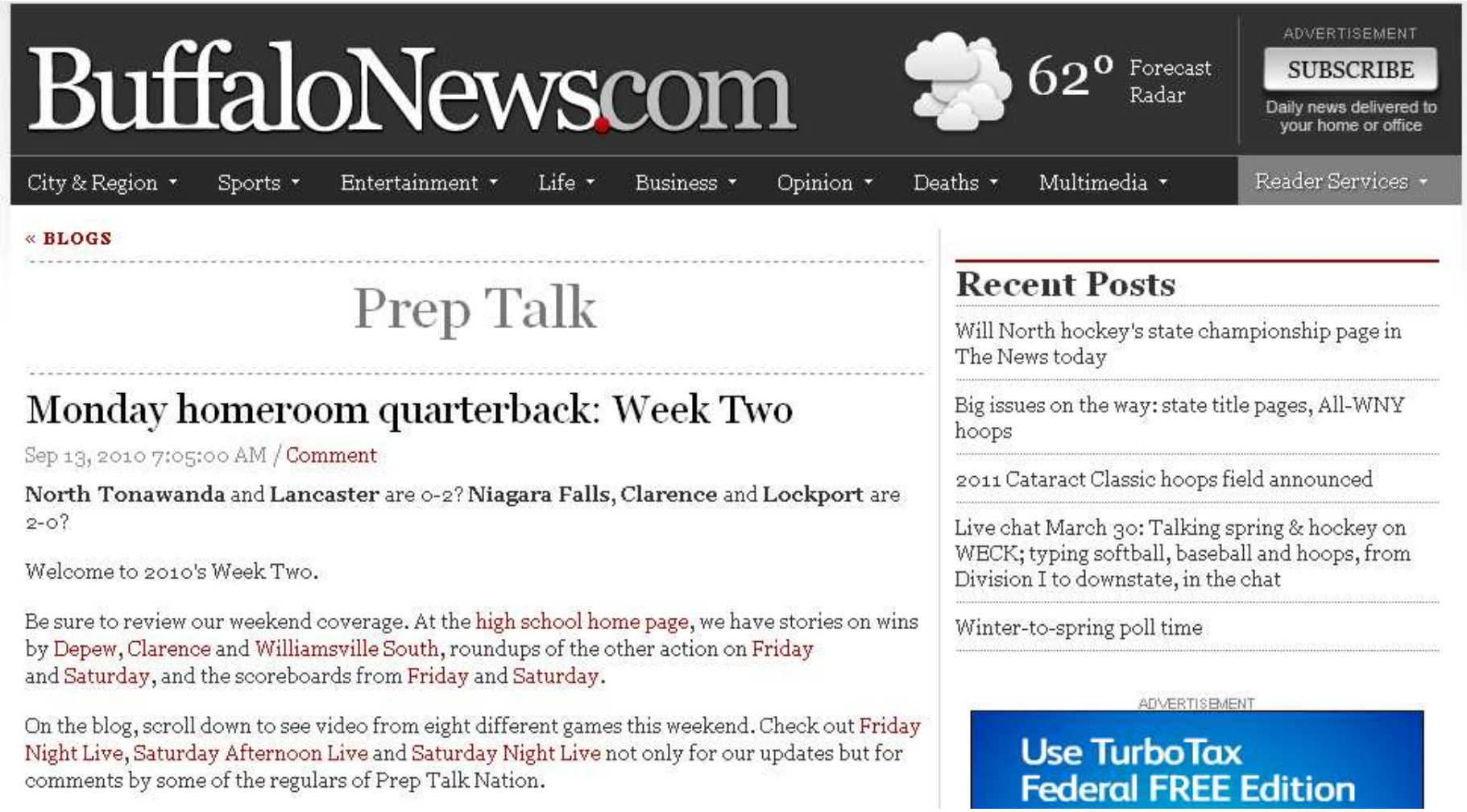

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« BLOGS

Prep Talk

Monday homeroom quarterback: Week Two

Sep 13, 2010 7:05:00 AM / Comment

North Tonawanda and **Lancaster** are 0-2? **Niagara Falls**, **Clarence** and **Lockport** are 2-0?

Welcome to 2010's Week Two.

Be sure to review our weekend coverage. At the high school home page, we have stories on wins by Depew, Clarence and Williamsville South, roundups of the other action on Friday and Saturday, and the scoreboards from Friday and Saturday.

On the blog, scroll down to see video from eight different games this weekend. Check out Friday Night Live, Saturday Afternoon Live and Saturday Night Live not only for our updates but for comments by some of the regulars of Prep Talk Nation.

Recent Posts

Will North hockey's state championship page in The News today

Big issues on the way: state title pages, All-WNY hoops

2011 Cataract Classic hoops field announced

Live chat March 30: Talking spring & hockey on WECK; typing softball, baseball and hoops, from Division I to downstate, in the chat

Winter-to-spring poll time

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CAR BOMB LEADS TO EVACUATION IN TIMES SQUARE

PRESIDENT IS BRIEFED

Propane Tanks and a Timing Device in the Back of an S.U.V.

By AL BAKER
and KARIN HENRY

The police discovered a car bomb in a smoking Nissan Pathfinder in the heart of Times Square on Saturday evening, prompting the evacuation of thousands of tourists and theatergoers from the area on a warm and busy Saturday evening.

Distinguished Feature Writing

The New York Times

Metropolitan

The New York Times

SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2010

'No Less of a Person'

Brendan Marrocco lost his arms and legs to a bomb in Iraq. A year later, he is walking, texting and joking, and is an inspiration to others wounded in America's wars. By LIZETTE ALVAREZ

WASHINGTON

BRENDAN Marrocco and his brother, Michael, were constructing a summer bucket list, to get them out and about, trying new things. A Washington Nationals game versus their beloved Yankees — sure, since they were stuck here rather than home on Staten Island. Perhaps

"Would that really be safe?" asked Brendan, a smirk crossing his lips.

The beach? "I don't do beach anymore," Brendan replied. Then what about the National Zoo, the one with the pandas? "They got pandas?" Brendan said, razzing his brother again. "Why didn't you mention that?"

Clutching a pen firmly in his oversize rubber

Distinguished State Government Coverage

The New York Times

The New York Times

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010

NATHANIEL BROOKS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

David W. Johnson, right, with Gov. David A. Paterson last February, has become increasingly important on the governor's staff.

For Paterson Confidant, Fast Rise and Questions

By DANNY HAKIM and WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM

David W. Johnson has worked for Gov. David A. Paterson for much of his adult life. He began as a young, ambitious intern from Harlem when Mr. Paterson was a state legislator. He rose to be Mr. Paterson's driver, serving as a kind of protector and scheduler.

In recent months, however, Mr. Johnson's ascent has been striking: he is now one of the most senior people in the governor's administration, paid $132,000. He is described as Mr. Paterson's closest confidant, a man with a designated room for his overnight stays in the Executive Mansion, and a broadening role in areas like campaign strategy, government initiatives and the management of the governor's staff.

A review of Mr. Johnson's rise and his history, undertaken after he emerged as perhaps the man closest to the state's chief executive, shows that he was twice arrested on felony drug charges as a teenager, including a charge of selling cocaine to an undercover officer in Harlem.

The examination of his background, based on interviews and records, shows he has at least one other arrest, for misdemeanor assault in the 1990s, although there is very little publicly available about that case.

Continued on Page A19

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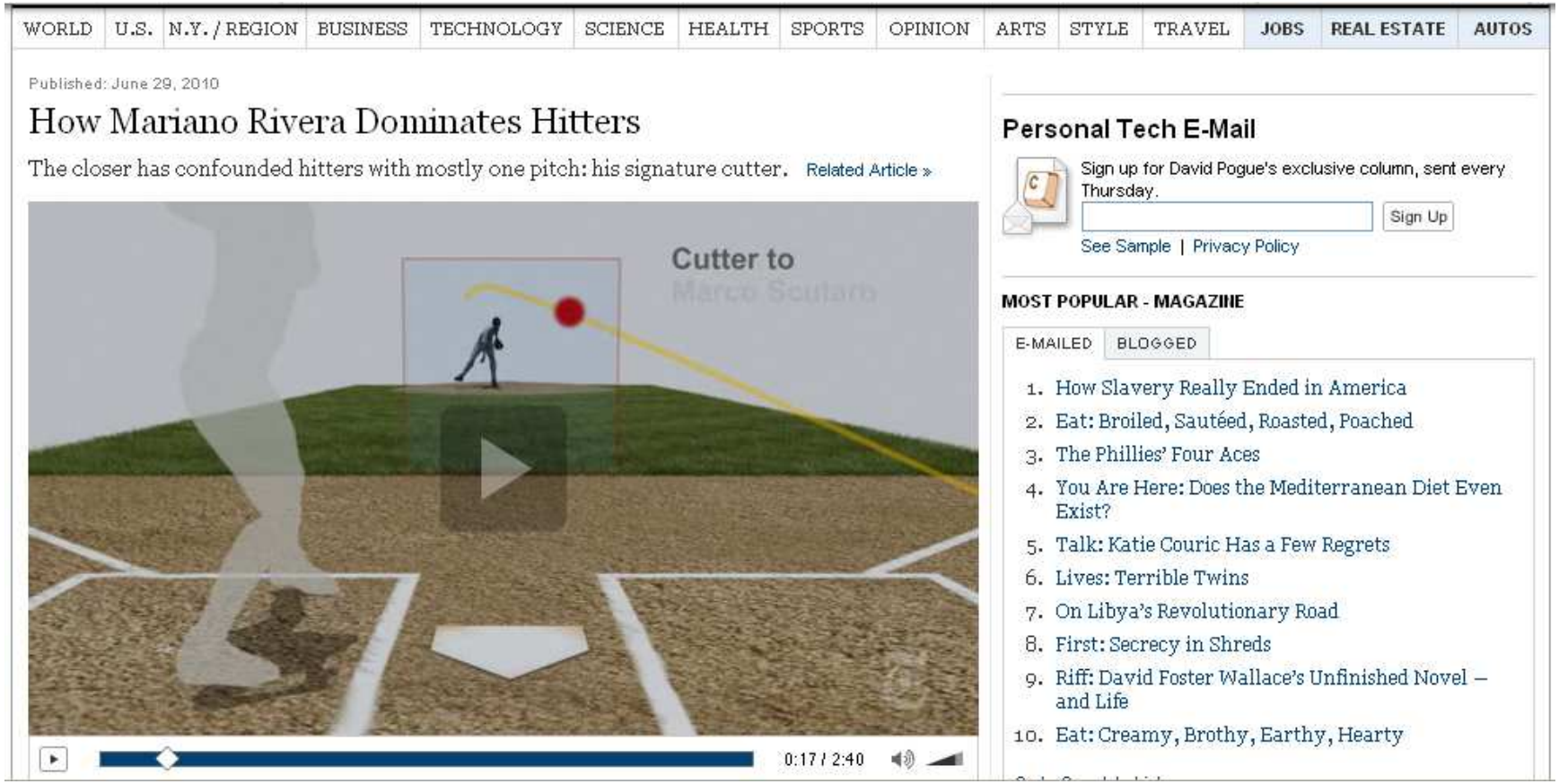
The New York Times



Distinguished Investigative Reporting
The Wall Street Journal, New York

Associated Press

The Deepwater Horizon rig was listing in the Gulf of Mexico as rescuers sought the missing. The platform, operated by a contractor for BP, is part of a deep-offshore drilling boom seen as key to future U.S. output.

Blast Jolts Oil World

Gulf Rig Explodes, 11 Missing; Potential Blow to Industry

NEW ORLEANS—A massive fire on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico left 11 workers missing and cast a pall over an offshore drilling boom that stands to dramatically lift U.S. energy output.

By Ben Casselman, Russell Gold And Angel Gonzalez

Rescuers scoured the Gulf for the unaccounted workers late Wednesday as firefighters struggled to quench a towering fire that forced all aboard to flee.

The blaze on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, which broke out around 10 p.m. central Tuesday night, thrust a geyser of flames and smoke into the sky about 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana. Seventeen people were injured, three critically, rescue officials said.

The rig is operated for oil giant BP PLC by drilling contractor Transocean Ltd., which said the search for the cause of the fire would begin after the missing had been accounted for. But Transocean said one possibility that might explain the size and ferocity of the blaze is a blowout, an uncontrolled burst of oil and natural gas from the well.

Some industry analysts said they feared the accident might temporarily damp the pace of oil development in the deepest reaches of the Gulf, which has become a significant exploration hotspot for international oil companies seeking new sources of petroleum. The industry is booming, and has been challenged by a tight supply of rigs and skilled workers.

The accident comes at a sensitive time politically for the industry. President Obama late last month proposed allowing drilling in new areas of the eastern Gulf of Mexico and off the southern Atlantic coast, where it was banned. Supporters argue the industry has become much safer. The Transocean fire could be an untimely reminder of risks.

"Is there a domino affect from this?" asked Arun Jayaram, a Credit Suisse analyst. "It seems like there would be some collateral damage."

The incident could spark calls for increased regulation, said Kevin Book, managing director of ClearView Energy Partners, a consulting firm. The American Petroleum Institute, the industry's main trade group, put out a statement Wednesday standing by its safety record.

"Every incident is both one too many and a powerful incentive to improve training, operational procedures, regulations, industry standards and technology," the statement said.

The rig, which analysts said would cost $600 million to re-

Distinguished Business Reporting

The Wall Street Journal, New York

Congress Staffers Gain From Trading In Stocks

WASHINGTON—Chris Miller nearly doubled his $3,500 stock investment in a renewable-energy firm in 2008. It was a perfectly legal bet, but he's no ordinary investor.

By Brody Mullins, Tom McGinty and Jason Zweig

Mr. Miller is the top energy policy adviser to Nevada Democrat and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who helped pass legislation that wound up benefiting the firm.

Jim Manley, a spokesman for Mr. Reid's office, initially defended Mr. Miller's purchase of shares in the company, Energy Conversion Devices Inc. He said that an aide to a Republican member of the Senate Banking Committee bought Bank of America Corp. stock before results of last year's government stress tests eased investor concerns about the health of the banking industry. A top aide to the House Speaker profited by trading shares of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae in a brokerage account with her husband two days before the government authorized emergency funding for the companies. Another aide to Republican lawmakers interested in energy issues, among other things, profited by trading in several renewable-energy firms.

The aides identified by the Journal say they didn't profit by making trades based on any information gathered in the halls of Congress. Even if they had done so, it would be legal, because insider-trading laws don't apply to Congress.

A few lawmakers proposed a bill that would prevent members and employees of Congress from trading securities based on nonpublic information they obtain. The legislation has languished since 2006.

"Congressional staff are often privy to inside information, and an unscrupulous person could profit off that knowledge," says Vincent Morris, a spokesman for Robert Baker, a senior Senate aide, in the early 1960s. Mr. Baker was accused of using his Senate office for personal gain, partly involving the operation of a network of vending machines. He was eventually convicted of income tax evasion and spent 16 months in prison.

The scandal led to a Senate rule in 1968 that required lawmakers and aides to disclose information about their finances. The House of Representatives imposed similar requirements about the same time.

The rules require all members of Congress and about 1,700 of the highest-paid congressional aides to disclose information once a year on their finances, such as their assets, debts, spouse's employment and other sources of income they earn, including capital gains from trading securities. Some 15,000 lower-paid Congressional staffers aren't covered by the disclosure rule.

Unlike many Executive Branch employees, lawmakers and aides don't have restrictions on their stock holdings and ownership interests in companies they oversee. Congressional rules say that requiring employees to do so could "insulate a legislator from the personal and economic interests that his or her constituency, or society in general, has in gov-

The Journal's analysis comes at a time of close government involvement in U.S. business. Much of the trading was in industries dependent on government help, such as the financial-services and renewable-energy industries.

A number of aides invested in financial stocks. Karen Brown, an aide to Sen. Mike Crapo (R., Idaho), a Senate Banking Committee member, traded Bank of America stock on seven occasions in 2009, according to filings. She bought a total of between $3,003 and $45,000 of the bank's shares in three trades on April 17 and April 27 and sold between $51,002 and $115,000 in September. Her minimum gain during that period would have been 42%.

At the time of the purchases, Bank of America was discussing with the government the findings of "stress tests" used to gauge the safety of U.S. banks. On May 7, 2009, BofA shares surged when the stress test results were made public, easing investor fears.

After it was contacted by the Journal, Mr. Crapo's office said the trades were made by Mrs. Brown's husband, "independent of any direction from Mrs.

Distinguished Sports Writing
The Wall Street Journal, New York

The Unsettling Sight of a Tiger Tamed

Woods's Career-Worst Score Furthers a Kind of Harsh Correction on a Career That Had Been All Irrational Exuberance

By Jason Gay

Remember when golf was going to save Tiger Woods?

That was the dubious pop-psych theory last winter, as Mr. Woods unwisely emerged from a self-imposed shame hibernation following a conga line of messy allegations about his private life.

The Couch

Saying "sorry" wasn't Mr. Woods's métier. His apologies were scripted and wooden, at times strangely defiant. A blue-curtained press conference in Florida appeared transmitted from Planet Awkward. A Nike commercial featuring his late father's disembodied voice bordered on macabre.

Just let him play golf, his defenders said. That's when you'll see the real Tiger. That's when the healing and absolution will begin. An opportunistic brigade of armchair therapists were quick to prescribe 18 holes—or perhaps, a 15th major—as a remedy for acute off-the-course trouble.

It was foolish medicine, more hair of the dog for a hangover. Who knew what Tiger Woods needed? Surely Mr. Woods didn't, not as he watched his pristine, sponsor-burnished reputation circle a very expensive drain.

We shouldn't have masked our selfishness. Mr. Woods's tabloid saga was tawdry and tedious; everyone longed to see him swing

Tiger Woods tips his cap to the gallery as he walks to the 18th green during Sunday's final round of the Bridgestone Invitational, where he finished with a score of 18-over-par.

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