



Culture Corner

A list of the coming week's concerts, festivals and plays appears in the Culture Corner on Page 15.

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The ladder of truth

Joe Green of Waterloo climbs the Ladder of Truth yesterday as part of the Renaissance Festival at Rotary Camp Onseyawa in Ovid. Actors from the Renaissance Fair in Sterling helped with the day's activities. (Times photo by Dale Duchesne)



Third defeat brings austerity in Newark

By PAUL BURKHARDT

NEWARK — The Newark school district will go to an austerity budget — at least temporarily — after voters yesterday defeated a 1986-87 budget proposal for the third time.

"There are still a number of people who have economic concerns about any large tax increases," said school board president Frank Russell. The budget was voted down 1,019 to 983.

"They've told us 'no' three times now. How many times do they have to tell us before we get the message?" he asked.

Russell said he would not have put a budget up for a third vote if the board had not approved the action unanimously last month.

The proposed \$13.6-million budget called for a tax levy of \$4,865,826 — \$140,100 less than the budget defeated May 7 (973 to 833) and June 25 (1,926 to 1,137).

The estimated tax rate for town of Arcadia residents was expected to increase by \$1.35 to \$18.68 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The original budget carried a tax hike of \$1.75 per \$1,000, or \$19.08.

Under an austerity plan, about \$242,114 will be cut from the \$5,005,926 tax levy called for in the first budget proposal. The tax rate will decrease about 83 cents per

\$1,000 from the proposed \$1.75 per \$1,000 estimate.

The board will meet at 8 p.m. Monday at the high school to discuss its next move.

Superintendent Dr. Willard Rock said no matter what the board decides, there is not enough time to have another vote before classes resume, so the district will automatically go to an austerity budget.

The first item that will be hurt by the austerity budget will be interscholastic sports. Rock said practice for fall sports was due to begin Aug. 20. The purchase of library materials and other equipment and supplies will also be eliminated and transportation of some students to school will be reduced.

Rock said residents can petition for referendums to restore any items cut in the austerity budget. About 100 signatures — which is 5 percent of the number of people who cast ballots in the last vote — are needed on the petitions.

Orville Martin, a new elected board member who belongs to the Citizens Tax League of Newark and Wayne County, said he will recommend more cuts rather than going to an austerity budget. The tax league, which opposes large tax hikes, supported the most recent budget proposal.

Supervisors who voted against the bid award last night were Martin Burns, Canandaigua City; Patrick Crowley, East Bloomfield; John Maljy, Seneca; Paul Iannopollo, Geneva City; Brian Kolb, Richmond; Edward Strapp, West

By CAROLYN SHERIDAN

CANANDAIGUA — After weeks of delay, the \$6.8-million restoration of the 129-year-old domed Ontario County Court House last night received the go-ahead. Work could start as early as the end of August.

Following nearly three hours of wrangling, the Ontario County Board of Supervisors last night hired the fourth lowest bidder, Frank J. Marianacci of Holcomb, at \$3,674,000, as general contractor on the job.

The board's Capital Projects Committee recommended hiring Marianacci because the firm was the lowest bidder who met the bid qualifications requiring experience in historical restoration work.

"I'm a firm supporter of hiring a contractor familiar with the work that we want to do," said Hopewell Supervisor Philip Oestreich, a committee member.

Naples Supervisor Janice Robinson said last night that she wouldn't support the project — which has jumped from \$3.9 million to \$6.8 million — because she can't justify the expense to her constituents.

"The best thing I've heard tonight is to give it up. The last thing I want to be remembered for is approving a project to build a monument. I cannot defend a project of this scale to the poor, elderly people I represent," said Mrs. Robinson.

Supervisors who voted against the bid award last night were Martin Burns, Canandaigua City; Patrick Crowley, East Bloomfield; John Maljy, Seneca; Paul Iannopollo, Geneva City; Brian Kolb, Richmond; Edward Strapp, West

Bloomfield, and Mrs. Robinson.

A Rochester carpenters' union representative last night reiterated his objections to going with the fourth-lowest bidder.

"As responsible representatives of the taxpayers, you have the duty to award (the bid) to the lowest bidder," said Ronald Pettengill, general agent for Rochester Carpenters Local Union 85.

A decision on the restoration project had been delayed at three previous meetings over the past two weeks when supervisors failed to get approval for a bonding resolution to pay for the project. Without the financing in place, the board couldn't consider the bid awards.

When the bonding resolution failed to win the necessary two-thirds vote at a special meeting Friday, the Capital Projects Committee asked seven of the contractors — including the four lowest bidders for general contracting — to honor their bid figures until Aug. 30.

All of the contractors except Dominick P. Massa & Sons of Geneva, the lowest bidder for general contracting at \$3,314,000, agreed to extend their bids.

Supervisors last night defeated a final effort by Canandaigua City Supervisor Martin Burns to award the bid to the V.J. Gautieri Inc. of Batavia, at \$3,359,450, the current lowest bidder.

Burns, along with other Democrats, argued that Gautieri is qualified to do the work at about \$300,000 less than Marianacci's price.

"Don't needlessly reject so-

meone who may be a qualified bidder. I believe the lowest bidder is qualified. To me, \$300,000 is a very substantial amount of money," said Burns.

In a letter sent to committee members this week, Burns suggested they scale back the project and re-evaluate the criteria used to determine whether contractors were qualified.

Last night, County Attorney John Park said if the board chose to scale back the project "to any degree," he would suggest the board rebid the project, in fairness to the contractors.

Courthouse architect John Waite said that rebidding the project could result in another two-month delay and cost the county an additional 8- to 10-percent over the current bids.

"It (if they chose to rebid) could cost Ontario County an additional

\$420,000 to \$500,000 for the same amount of work," said Waite, adding the delay could also mean they would lose the winter work season because the courthouse roof has to be replaced before interior work can begin. Waite later said renovation should begin by the end of the month.

Supervisors won the two-thirds necessary vote last night on the bonding resolution, but only after Republicans and Democrats criticized each other for the way they dealt with the project.

"(Your) issue repeatedly has been the \$350,000. We delay this project and that \$350,000 is pennies. . . I question your motives; if it's dollars, then prove it," said Victor Supervisor Kenneth Wilson, a committee member, to the project's opponents, largely Democrats.

Water tests

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. (AP) — The New York State Department of Health, concerned about the possibility of contamination of public drinking water by dioxins and furans, is conducting tests of 20 statewide water systems for the presence of those toxins, according to state officials.

The survey is needed to get data on the two pollutants to see if they are in filtered drinking water of representative municipal supplies fed by surface water, said Faith Schottenfeld, a department spokeswoman. The health depart-

ment laboratory in Albany will report back in March, she said.

The department has developed the technology to detect furans and dioxins at minute levels, she said. The substances are extremely toxic chemicals associated with herbicides and disinfectants, as well as the burning of plastics, and are among pollutants of concern in the emissions of garbage incinerators.

The health department tests are partly in response to the discovery of dioxins in fish and other wildlife in certain waters of the state, officials said.

BOCES support staff at impasse in talks

By BRENDA PITTMAN

FLINT — BOCES officials yesterday declared an impasse in bargaining talks with the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Support Service Personnel after a day-long bargaining session failed to resolve the remaining contract issues.

Cathy King, president of the Wayne-Finger Lakes Support Service Personnel, yesterday said talks broke off with no date set to resume negotiations.

Mrs. King said the remaining issues include salary and benefit items as well as leaves, transfers, overtime, and some personnel who work with the swimming program for severely handicapped students.

BOCES Assistant Superintendent Tom Scudamore said the support personnel will tell the Public Employment Relations Board of the impasse and request the assistance of a mediator.

The bargaining unit represents about 160 employees who work in the BOCES clerical, maintenance, data processing, and educational support units. Support personnel

have been working without a contract since June 30, when their three-year contract expired. Contract negotiations began in March.

"I am disappointed that more progress was not made and hope that the assistance of a state mediator will help both parties in reaching an agreement," Mrs. King said.

"I concur with her (Mrs. King's) statement — we are disappointed too," said Scudamore.

"They could assign a mediator/fact finder who would be responsible for attempting to get the parties together to mediate," Scudamore continued. "And if no progress were made in the mediation process, he could then perform the fact-finding function and collect data from the two parties and issue a recommendation for settlement on each of the issues," he said.

Scudamore said BOCES has about 400 employees at various locations in Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties.

Domestic violence task force begins work

By ANNE HARVEY

LYONS — A four-county task force met for the first time yesterday to begin working for programs to aid victims of domestic violence.

Wayne County Social Services Commissioner Rita Otterbein invited 14 representatives from agencies in Wayne, Ontario, Yates and Seneca counties to her office discuss programs for victims of domestic abuse and their families.

The meeting came in the wake of outcry over the beating death in July of a 25-year-old Williamson woman, Tammy Otero. Her husband, Nicolas Otero, has been charged with second-degree manslaughter in the death. After Mrs. Otero's body was found by state police July 27, about 50 women demonstrated outside the Social Services office. They claimed that Mrs. Otero would not have died if the Battered Women's Shelter of the Finger Lakes in I-

had not closed last Jan. 1.

Miss Otterbein said "One thing we all agreed upon is the past is past, that we won't achieve anything determining who's at fault. It's better that our energies be devoted to developing programs."

The groups represented on the task force are the four counties' social services agencies, Family Counseling of the Finger Lakes, the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministries, Wayne County Community Counseling Center, United Way of Wayne and Ontario counties, Clifton Springs Hospital and Clinic, the Finger Lakes Alcoholism Counseling and Referral Agency, Peer Counselors for Battered Women and the Battered Women's Shelter.

Providing a 24-hour local telephone hotline in each county and counseling services are two priorities Miss Otterbein said

"everyone agreed on."

"We want to look at the whole issue of domestic violence — shelter, hotline, counseling for women and men, assistance helping women through the legal system, dealing with children and alcoholism," she said.

Although the agencies represented on the task force are free to pursue their own programs, Miss Otterbein said "we'd like to put it all together to see what the four counties can do." They may have a better chance of obtaining state funds for regional programs, she noted.

Liz Indick, a peer counselor who's been named to the task force, said, "It's a good idea. I think with a unified approach we should not have the same problems that led to the Battered Women's Shelter closing."

She said communication and finances were two problems that

plagued not only the shelter, but also other programs for women. "One hand didn't know what the other was doing. There was a lot of duplicated effort. And it will help with fund-raising and grant-writing. . . It's too bad we didn't talk together before," she said.

The task force has agreed to form steering committees composed of representatives from other agencies within each of the counties. Ms. Indick has set a tentative date of Sept. 10 for meeting with anyone in Wayne County interested in domestic violence issues.

The task force itself will meet again Sept. 11. By that time, Miss Otterbein said, she hopes several agencies — Family Counseling of the Finger Lakes, the Office of Social Ministries and United Way — will have a grant proposal ready to submit to the state.