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YOUR NEWSPAPER

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BUDGET ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 percent. The projected tax levy for the 2014-15 budget year is \$8.4 million. The total is about \$7,000 less than the 2013-14 school year. Albion Central School District officials noted that budget expenditure increases have averaged less than one percent annually over the past five years, and that the tax levy this coming year is almost \$290,000 less than it was seven years ago.

School board elections coincide with school budget voting

In Albion there are three seats available and four candidates running. The two candidates with the highest vote totals will serve five-year terms, while the candidate with the third-highest total will fill a vacant one-year term. The candidates are Wendy Kirby, Kevin Doherty, David Sidari and Marie Snyder. Lyndonville's School Board has one unopposed campaign, with Susan Hrovat running

for a three-year term. In Medina, five candidates are running for four open seats. Three of them are three-year terms, while one is a one-year term. Bill Keppler, Chris Keller, and Dave Sevinski are all incumbents seeking re-election as their three-year terms are up. The one-year term was created by the resignation of Rosalind Lind. Also running are Renee Paser-Paul and former board member Virginia Nicholson. Those with the highest vote totals will get the three-year terms and the candidate with the fourth-highest will get the one-year term.

While the budget reflects the change in times relating to declining enrollment — there are 704 fewer stu-

dents and 82 fewer positions than there were 11 years ago — it also includes money for improving

technology as there is an increase of approximately \$130,000 for computer hardware and software.

LYNDONVILLE

The tax levy in the Lyndonville Central School District will remain the same in 2014-15 as it was in 2013-14. In keeping it steady, the district is using \$225,000 worth of its reserve funds.

Overall, the district budget nudged upward from \$13.1 million to \$13.2 million, representing a .72 percent hike, or \$95,000, budget-to-budget increase. Superintendent Jason Smith said the levy, set at \$4.7 million, was kept the same by using state aid, which he said was a "little

more than we anticipated."

MEDINA

The annual budget for the Medina Central School District is moving up by 1.99 percent for the 2014-15 school year, but thanks to reserve funds the effect on the tax levy will be zero. In fact, the last time the levy increased was in 2011-12, and it actually dropped in 2013-14.

The budget will be \$34.5 million, up from \$33.8 million in 2013-14.

Roughly \$500,000 will be used from the reserves to keep the levy steady.

DEBATE ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 "The DEIS was and is very thorough, and was done based on excellent science," he stated. Among the factors that have been raised as a concern by the public are the proposed quarry's proximity to the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and the impact on not only wildlife, but residents in the nearby areas. "We looked at all the factors," Albert reiterated. "We understand the concerns, and we believe the DEIS has addressed those concerns." Albert said the DEIS report covered such things as water quality, road traffic, and noise. Regarding the water quality, Albert said that if the need arises, Frontier Stone is prepared to pay for deeper residential wells or for new public water lines. The STAMP project in Genesee County was brought up as a possible issue Wednesday, and Albert said Frontier Stone is looking at that as a "new issue." With the quarry and the nanotechnology manufacturing plant just

separated by a few miles, Albert suggested, "We don't think the two are related." However, he said since it was raised as a concern, it will be researched and there will be a response given from the mining company. With so many people at the meeting it was suggested that a second public hearing be scheduled. Scott Sheely, a regional permit administrator for the Department of Environmental Conservation, said no decision on whether to hold a second hearing has been made. He, too, said there is very little information available pertaining to how Frontier Stone may or may not affect the STAMP project. "We're aware of it, but whether it has any relationship to the quarry proposal is something that remains to be determined," he said. The outpouring of public sentiment, he added, is something not uncommon. He said attendance at hearings varies based on the level of public interest. Public comments and questions may continue to

be submitted to the DEC until May 12. After that, there was no time frame given for when a decision would be made on the quarry. "Ultimately, the decision rests on the shoulders of the town," Albert said. Indeed, Shelby would have to rezone the area if a permit is granted by the DEC. Meanwhile, in the aftermath of the public hearing, one of the most outspoken Shelby residents spoke with confidence in her community. "I think it went very well," said Wendi Pencille. "I think we presented ourselves very well. We presented compelling arguments and it's up to the DEC to do the right thing." Pencille, who is the president of the Citizens for Shelby Preservation, said residents against the quarry poked holes in the DEIS by pointing out its lack of thoroughness. She also mentioned how Frontier Stone paid the firm that created the DEIS. Citing one example of "manipulation of the facts" in the DEIS, Pencille said that in several places it referenced a study that showed certain owls fre-

quent quarries. "The reference, it turns out, was about a study done on quarries that were closed," Pencille explained. "That's just one example of manipulation." Pencille also noted how there was an archeological survey needed, which supposedly was done in December "when the ground was frozen," she said. While there is no question science should be involved in determining whether Frontier Stone should set up shop in Shelby, Pencille said the science presented thus far has been "flawed." Overall, Pencille was thrilled with the turnout for the mid-week hearing. "I've never been prouder to be a member of this town," she stated. "It was incredible how everybody handled themselves ... what a group of people." Pencille added, "We were prepared, and I think we made a strong case. There were about 250 people there, including people waiting outside, so we're hoping for a second public hearing to make it fair for everyone and make sure everyone can be heard."

CLOSING ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 Subscribers to the Journal-Register who paid in advance beyond the final edition and do not want to sample the Lockport paper and continue beyond the trial period will be issued a refund, Crowe said. Crowe said the four employees of the Medina paper were notified of the paper's closing. One of them will transfer to the Lockport paper to fill a vacancy there.

The closing will mark the first time since 1903 Medina has been without a home-based paper. The Daily Journal started then, followed by the rival Medina Register. They were merged in 1970 to form the Medina Journal-Register. The Journal-Register and the Lockport Union-Sun & Journal are part of the Greater Niagara Newspapers group that includes the Tonawanda News and the Niagara Gazette.

OBITUARIES



DEBORAH E. BROWN

Deborah E. Brown of Middleport, passed away on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at her home. She was born in Medina, NY on June 21, 1951 daughter of Julia (Martelli) Brown and the late Robert E. Brown.

She attended Royalton-Hartland and BOCES. She always had a smile and was so loved by many, especially friends at Darryl's Restaurant, Middleport Family Health Center, 7-Eleven and Middleport Village Hall. She loved coloring pictures and making pot holders for her family and friends.

She was predeceased by her sister, Anne Brown; and her twin brother, David Brown. Daughter of Julia A. Brown of Middleport; sister of Linda (Stephen) Walsh of Lockport, Dennis (Regina) Brown of Gasport and Kathy Coughenour of Cleveland, Ohio; aunt of Jennifer (Gerry) Perkins, Ann (Jordan) Branch, Felicia Coughenour, Richie, David and Michael Wisniewski and Michele (James) Kennedy; great-aunt of Reanna, Jordana, Zachary, Nicholas, Madelyn, Sarah and Joshua. Also survived by two aunts, Carmela Martelli of Tonawanda and Charlotte Brown of Lockport, several cousins and also a dear, sweet, family friend, Sue Campbell.

Friends may call on Sunday from 3-6 PM at the Bates, Wallace & Heath Funeral Home, 38 State St., Middleport, where funeral services will be held Monday at 11:00 AM with the Rev. Daniel J. Fawls officiating. Burial will be in Hartland Central Cemetery. Memorials to Niagara Hospice, 4675 Sunset Dr., Lockport, NY would be appreciated by the Brown family.

Visit www.bateswallace.com to sign guest register.

Dates Ahead

- March 7 - May 2 - The Middleport Masons will host a Lenten Fish Fry at the Cataract Lodge #295, 20 Main St., Middleport. Join us every Friday from 4:30-7:00pm, dine-in or take-out. Breaed Haddock, Shrimp or Chicken Finger Dinners. Choice of potato salad, macaroni salad or french fries. Served with coleslaw, applesauce, roll & butter, beverage & dessert.
May 3 - 20th Annual ARC of Orleans Co. 5K Run/Walk in memory of Terri Krieger. Registration begins at 12:30pm at the Sacred Heart Club, N. Gravel Rd., Medina. Walk starts at 1:30pm; Run begins at 2pm. Cost: \$18 in advance, \$20 day of event. Food & Drinks, Door Prizes & Cookie Awards! To register, call Case-Nic Cookies at 585-798-1676 or email: dwithey@arcforleans.org
May 3 - Knowlesville United Methodist Church Annual Chicken BBQ at the Knowlesville Fellowship Hall from 4:30pm - sold out. Dine-In or Take-Out. Tickets are \$10 (includes 1/2 chicken, salt potatoes, macaroni salad, baked beans, roll, dessert and beverage). For pre-sale tickets, call 585-798-3991.
May 3 - Annual Middleport Community-wide Yard Sale from 9am-4pm. Hundreds of yard sales throughout the Village! Be sure to stop by the Hot Dog Stand at the Middleport Methodist Church, too!
May 8 - The public is welcomed to a Beef on Weck Dinner from 4-6:30pm at Orchard Manor Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 600 Bates Rd., Medina. Dinner tickets are \$7. Take-out is available from 2-6pm. 50/50 Split Raffle. \$1 for 1 chance and \$5 for 8 chances. To benefit the Orchard Manor Resident Council. For more information, call 585-798-4100.
May 10 - Orleans County Christian School Spaghetti Dinner from 4-10pm at the Knowlesville Fellowship Hall, 3619 Knowlesville Rd. Tickets are \$8. Chinese Auction & Live Music with Special Guest - Rich Nolan.
May 17 - Chicken BBQ at the Millville United Methodist Church, 12373 Rt. 31A, Medina. Serving 4pm until sold out. Tickets are \$9 (available pre-sale or at the door) and include chicken, macaroni salad, baked beans, roll & butter, dessert and beverage. Tickets available from any member. For more info., call 585-798-1290.
June 14 - Orleans County Christian School Golf Tournament at Shelridge Country Club. Registration from 1:45-2:15pm. Shotgun start at 2:30pm. Steak Dinner following the tournament. Four-person Scramble with Awards and Contests. Tickets: \$100 per person (includes green fee, cart, dinner, on-course beverages, awards, contests, small basket of range balls). Sponsorship opportunities also available. For more info., or to register, call 585-798-2992 or 585-589-4669. Registration Deadline is May 31.

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PROBE ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 explain a yearslong delay between the alleged incident and Gibbons' expulsion in December. Spokesman Rick Fitzgerald says the university has been "fully cooperating." Schools on the list, for the most part, were unwilling to talk about specific incidents but said they have been working with the federal department to be more responsive to student complaints. "We are hopeful at the end of this there will be a resolution that will strengthen our internal processes and result in a safer community," said Dartmouth spokesman Justin Anderson. "There's always something we can learn and ways to get better." The Obama administration's effort to bring more attention to the issue of sexual assaults is not limited to colleges. Separately on Thursday, the Pentagon said that reports of assaults by members of the military have risen 50 percent since the beginning of a campaign to persuade more victims to come forward. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said he is ordering six initiatives to deal with sexual assaults, including efforts to get more male victims to speak up. The college investigations are done under Title IX of a U.S. law, which prohibits gender discrimination at schools that receive federal funds. It is the same law that guarantees girls and women equal access to sports, but it also regulates institutions' handling of sexual violence and increasingly is being used by victims who say their schools failed to protect them. The agency previously would confirm such Title IX investigations when asked, but students and others were often unaware of them. Duncan said there had been "lots of internal

debate" about whether to release the list but that transparency is important. "No one probably loves to have their name on that list," Duncan said during a White House briefing. "But we'll investigate; we'll go where the facts are. And where they have done everything perfectly, we'll be very loud and clear that they've done everything perfectly." The department can withhold federal funding from a school that doesn't comply with the law, but it so far has not used that power and instead has negotiated voluntary resolutions for violators. About half of all states have schools under investigation. Massachusetts has six, including Harvard College. Harvard students filed formal complaints in late March to the department saying the college did not respond promptly to reports of sexual violence, that students were subjected to a sexually hostile environment, and that in some cases assault victims were forced to live in the same residence buildings as their alleged assailants. "Harvard has taken a number of steps to foster prevention efforts and to support students who have experienced sexual misconduct," spokesman Jeff Neal said. They include appointing a Title IX officer to review policies and procedures. Pennsylvania had five schools listed. California, Colorado and New York each had four. Some investigations were prompted by complaints directly to the federal department; others were initiated by the department following compliance reviews triggered by other factors, such as news stories, the department said. Some schools wanted to note what triggered the investigation. Indiana University-Bloomington, for example, said the federal department had confirmed that

it didn't receive any complaints against the school "that would have triggered an investigation." Similarly, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst also said it was being investigated under a standard compliance review and not because of any specific complaints. At Sarah Lawrence College, a heavily female school on the list, a spokeswoman said the college has taken steps that include putting up posters advising students of what to do if they are sexually assaulted and requiring a "consent and respect online" course for new students starting this summer. While being on the list might be difficult for schools, Duncan said, it pales in comparison to the difficulty and trauma borne by sexual assault victims on American college campuses. "In terms of what's morally right there, the moral compass, whatever we can do to have fewer young women and young men having to go through these types of horrific incidents, we want to do that," Duncan said. The White House has said that as many as 1 in 5 female college students is assaulted. President Barack Obama has appointed a task force of Cabinet members to review the issue after hearing complaints about poor treatment of campus rape victims and the hidden nature of such crimes. The task force's report, released just two days

earlier, announced the creation of a website, notalone.gov, offering resources for victims and information about past enforcement actions on campuses. The task force also made a wide range of recommendations to schools, such as identifying confidential victims' advocates and conducting surveys to better gauge the frequency of sexual assault on campuses. The department publicized guidance on Title IX's sexual assault provisions in 2011, and complaints by students have since increased. Complaints, however, don't always lead to an investigation. Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., have said non-compliance under the law is "far too common." They say a lack of federal resources is partly to blame for that, and they've sought more money to ensure timely and proper investigations. In a statement Thursday, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., praised the release of the list but said the department needs to "thoroughly and rapidly" investigate the complaints. Another law that campus sexual assault cases fall under is the Clery Act, which requires colleges and universities to report crime statistics on or near their campuses. It also requires schools to develop prevention policies and ensure victims' basic rights. Investigations under this law are not included in the list that was released.

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