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NEWS, PAGE A6

TODAY WED THU
81°/56° 87°/68° 84°/66°
Complete forecast, A13

Hornell man arrested twice in four days
NEWS, PAGE A3

Evening The Tribune

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

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LOCAL

Paving causes road closure

NORTH HORNELL — Seneca Road remains closed today for paving. Drivers are asked to use route 36 as a detour.

Ride inspections underway at State Fair

SYRACUSE — The New York State Departments of Labor and Agriculture and Markets announced that inspections of all rides at the Great New York State Fair are underway in advance of the Fair's opening later this week. The agencies also reminded fairgoers to follow all safety guidelines to enjoy the Fair's more than six dozen rides. The New York State Department of Labor inspects all rides at stationary parks outside of New York City at least once a year and inspects rides at traveling carnivals or fairs every time the rides are set up in a new location. A ride cannot legally operate without a permit from the Department of Labor. Last year, the Department of Labor performed nearly 1,600 inspections on more than 9,000 amusement devices and issued more than 2,900 orders to correct violations.

STATE

Police: Body of missing swimmer recovered in Cayuga Lake

LANSING, N.Y. — Authorities say they've recovered the body of a man who apparently drowned while swimming in one of the Finger Lakes over the weekend.

Officials tell the Ithaca Journal that fire crews and the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office responded to the southeastern shore of Cayuga Lake in Lansing around 3:30 p.m. after receiving a 911 call reporting a missing swimmer.

Other emergency crews joined in the search, along with divers from the New York State Police.

Authorities on Monday identified him as 58-year-old Timothy Butler of McGraw.

— The Associated Press



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

N. Hornell FD receives federal grant

New extrication equipment to be purchased

By Ryan Papaserge
The Evening Tribune

NORTH HORNELL — The North Hornell Fire Department will soon be

able to purchase updated equipment after receiving a grant from the Department of Homeland Security Monday.

Senators Chuck Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand made the announcement in a press release Monday morning. North Hornell firefighters will receive

\$63,692 in funding as part of the federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

Specifically, the grant money will be used to replace vehicle extrication equipment including hydraulic rescue tools (otherwise known as the Jaws of Life), air bags for lifting

and moving large heavy objects, vehicle stabilization jacks, and cascade air storage bottles that will allow for filling new air packs received last year.

"With this funding, the brave first responders of the North Hornell Fire Department can focus on their important work with

the confidence that they have reliable and protective equipment," Schumer said in a statement Monday. "This grant will help ensure that our local heroes can continue their life-saving work as efficiently and safely as possible."

SEE GRANT, A4

SOCIAL WELFARE

Reed hears call for affordable early education



Congressman Tom Reed visited the Early Head Start Center in Hornell on Monday. After serious conversations about needed reforms ended, Reed took some time to read books like 'Chicka-boom-boom' by Bill Martin Jr., with the children and chat about their shared love of doggies. JASON JORDAN PHOTO

Congressman visits Early Head Start in Hornell

By Jason Jordan
The Evening Tribune

HORNELL — In light of the 20th anniversary of landmark welfare reforms and the

pending reauthorization of the Head Start Program, U.S. Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, stopped at ProAction's Early Head Start Center on Main Street in Hornell to gather

direct input on its successes and ongoing needs.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 was the first social welfare policy to install

work requirements for recipients.

Adequate child care is essential to being able to work consistently,

SEE EDUCATION, A4

PUBLIC DEFENSE

Gov. Andrew Cuomo urged to sign bill

By Jeffery Smith
jsmith@the-leader.com

BATH — The Steuben County Legislature voted Monday to support a bill calling for the state to take over the costs of the public

defense system saving county taxpayers about \$1 million annually.

The plan, if approved, would force the state to take over the cost of public defense during a four-year period.

Steuben County Manager Jack Wheeler said the bill would save Steuben County about \$1 million when fully implemented.

State Sen. Tom O'Mara, R-Big Flats, also urged Gov. Andrew Cuomo to

sign into law legislation to provide important mandate relief to local counties by requiring the state to take over the cost legal defense services for the

SEE BILL, A4

ALFRED-ALMOND CENTRAL SCHOOL

Board outlines budget impact

Tax rates stand at \$23.72 per \$1,000 assessed value

By Al Bruce
The Evening Tribune

ALMOND — With a hearty "Welcome back, everyone: Let's get started," Alfred-Almond Board President Earl Pierce last week began the board of education meeting and the 2016-17 school year.

The five board members then spoke not a word but went straight to their work, to coin a phrase.

First measures discussed were the \$13,070,964 budget that residents approved in May for the 2016-17 school year and the tax warrant or levy from the tax rolls of \$4,927,450. The strength of all finances is in the details and, in the legal language of board meetings, "be it hereby directed" that the "rolls authorizing the collection of said taxes to begin Sept. 1, 2016, and end Oct. 31, 2017."

"Delinquent tax penalties shall be fixed... first month free period, second month interest of two percent added."

True tax rates were listed as \$23.72 per \$1,000 assessed value for Alfred village and town, Almond village and town in Allegany County; and Ward, West Almond, Hornellsville, and Hartsville in Steuben County.

Total assessed value of the towns, village and

SEE BUDGET, A4

Member FDIC



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GRANT

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“These federal funds will allow our fire departments to purchase the up-to-date equipment they need to do their jobs effectively and stay safe while they are protecting our communities,” Gillibrand added. “We need to do everything we can to protect the men and women who risk their lives every day in the face of danger, and I will always fight in the Senate to make sure that our fire departments are funded and equipped.”

According to North Hornell Fire Chief Mike Robbins, the grant will greatly expedite a process that could’ve taken “seven years or more” to complete.

“We are very grateful to have received this grant so that we can update our outdated equipment much quicker than possibly seven years,” Robbins said in a statement. “By being able to purchase this new equipment we are better equipping our firefighters to do the job that they are trained to do in a more efficient manner, the new equipment is significantly lighter and less bulky than the equipment we currently have therefore the firefighters will not get fatigued as quick as they do now.”

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency alongside its United States Fire Administration. The grants are awarded on a competitive basis to the applicants that most closely address the program’s priorities and demonstrate financial need.

Funding is allocated to strengthen the overall level of preparedness and ability to respond to fire and related hazards. For more information on the program visit fema.gov/firegrants.

Monday’s announcement marked the second year in a row in which the North Hornell Fire Department received the Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

Last year, the department received a \$129,000 grant that went towards self-contained breathing apparatuses and face masks.

“We’re pretty lucky to have received one for another year in a row now,” Robbins told The Evening Tribune. “We’ll definitely be able to update our extrication equipment so that we’re not doing stuff that’s old and antiquated.”

It’s rare for the department to receive a grant at all let alone two in a row, Robbins noted. Prior to last year, the North Hornell Fire Department hadn’t received a grant since 2004.

“I was pretty surprised that we got one two years in a row and that’s great that we did,” Robbins said.

The fire department used the same grant writer — former Victor Fire Chief Joe Murphy — for both of the federal applications. Murphy worked with Robbins to make sure the information included in the application was correct.

“We’re not sure yet,” Robbins said. “We’re looking at possibly a new compressor for our Cascade system where we fill out our air bottles and that was another part of this grant — we actually got larger capacity Cascade bottles to fill our new air packs that we received in the grant last year.”

The fire chief thanked Mayor John Falci and the Village Board as well as Murphy, whose grant-writing skills he felt were a major factor in recent success.

“If we hadn’t been put on to him I don’t know if we’d have gotten these grants,” Robbins said. “He’s really helped us to obtain the money that we needed to get these grants, to purchase this equipment that we needed to upgrade. He’s done an excellent job. That’s not taking away anything away from any other grant writers that we’ve used in the past.”

EXPEDITION

Soldiers in UK’s Scottish unit plan 340-mile US canoe trip

By Chris Carola
The Associated Press

ALBANY — Two-and-a-half centuries after their military ancestors fought and died in two 18th century North American wars, members of the British army’s Scottish regiment will embark on a 340-mile canoe trip that will trace the water route many of

their forbearers traveled. Sixteen soldiers in the Royal Regiment of Scotland are scheduled to leave Montreal on Aug. 30 and travel south via Quebec’s Richelieu River, Lake Champlain, Lake George and the Hudson River. They plan to arrive in Manhattan on Sept. 10, in time for ceremonies marking the 15th anniversary of

the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Along the way they’ll camp at New York historic sites where Scottish soldiers serving alongside the British fought during the American Revolution and the French and Indian War, part of the Seven Years’ War.

Maj. Scotty Menzies, the officer leading the expedition, told The Associated

Press the 340-mile journey will be part training exercise, part history lesson.

“It’s a way we can take a soldier from a known environment and expose him to the unknown, take them out of their comfort zone, and educate them on the history of the regiment,” said Menzies, a member of the regiment’s

Glasgow-based battalion.

British units conduct similar exercises elsewhere, but it will be the first held in North America, Menzies said.

Unlike the redcoats who had to haul canoes and boats over rugged terrain between waterways, the Scots will use vehicles to portage their canoes and gear.



Congressman Tom Reed listens attentively to the needs of program directors of Hornell’s Early Head Start Center in Hornell on Wednesday. The input will be used to help shape the reauthorization of the program in Congress this fall. JASON JORDAN PHOTO

EDUCATION

From Page A1

according to Reed, who met with directors and support staff to talk about what can be done in Washington to ease the day-to-day operations of centers like the one in Hornell as reauthorization of the program is considered.

“There’s a misconception out there that people using Head Start are all on public assistance, but it’s mostly working families that we serve,” said Marsha Patrick, Head Start Director.

With the needs of children evolving, policy must change with the times.

“Children and families are different than they were 30 years ago,” Patrick said, suggesting that they face more environmental challenges than ever before.

While incremental changes are coming, it’s too little, and too slow.

Change is “trickling up” slowly, Patrick described. “But we know it’s time consuming and money related.”

Program heads pointed to expensive, often duplicated licensing as a major problem.

“Daycare licensing makes no sense in a school setting,” said Patrick.

Reed proposed an exemption for those daycare facilities already operating in a school partnership or setting.

“We’re paying thousands of dollars to have someone do those inspections rather than giving those resources to teachers who can have an impact,” herecognized.

Head Start programs also face a services gap.

“Birth to 5-year-old programs are so critical,” Patrick said.

However, because they partner with the local school district and are considered a “full day” program they cannot access funding exclusively for “part day” programs to expand access to 3-year-olds transitioning from the early to regular Head Start Program.

“We haven’t had an increase in state aid since we started collecting it in 1998,” Patrick said.

In the meantime they’ve been hit by increases in minimum wage and federal labor laws that require more and more training of teachers and aides.

“Our teachers are New

York State certified teachers, and they make half as much as a teacher can earn in the school district,” said Paula Detar, Education Staff Development Manager.

That fact has created a revolving door that is a drain on talent and training resources for the organization.

“I want them to stay,” Detar said passionately.

Their complaints struck a sympathetic chord with the congressman.

“It’s almost a perverse response from the government. You found the solution on your own, and you get penalized for finding that solution,” he said. “We need to turn that upside-down.”

Perspective on the importance of Head Start Programing was also provided by Rebecca Smith, a working mother whose son Tatum is in the program.

“If he didn’t have this I would have to work more to pay for expensive babysitters who can’t put him in the right surroundings,” said Rebecca Smith, whose son Tatum is in the Head Start Program.

She disclosed that private daycare operations were charging as much as \$200 a week. That reality can have ripple effects for a family’s ability to manage time and money.

“It wouldn’t make sense to work just to keep your son in daycare,” Reed agreed.

Smith also expressed the importance of individualized attention and teaching in her son’s life, thanks to planning by Head Start that takes into account unique circumstances that school districts often cannot.

“It’s more like a family here,” she said.

Eliminating those worries for parents so they can lead productive lives and care for their families is a major goal of the Head Start Program.

“Not having to worry about whether your child is in a safe, nurturing environment allows them to put that energy and effort back into work, where they can have more opportunities,” said Amey Rusak, Employment and Training Director and 30-year program veteran.

For that reason, being able to offer a total package that includes care, transportation and other concerns is vital to the program.

Keeping the program

viable is essential in helping restore the hope of people who are struggling economically and have children.

“That gets into your self-worth and dignity as well as your finances,” Reed said. “We can’t just say you’re on your own to people who are in that window where they’re not making enough to get ahead. We want to stand with them.”

Reed pointed out that advocates in Washington are calling for school districts to completely run Head Start Programs.

“District to district is very different, so it might work well in some, but it might be a horrible disaster in others,” said ProAction Director Laura Rossmann. “There has to be a lot of work done before anything like that happens.”

Reed agreed that the status quo can’t stand, and goes against the virtues of giving a hand up to working parents.

“Taking this away from the working class is essentially penalizing a mom who wants to go to work, and that’s what we should be incentivizing, not penalizing,” he said. “That’s why we’re trying to change the metrics all around.”

However, resources are limited and congress is up against powerful stakeholders, according to Reed.

“There’s silos of power, and kingdoms that have been built in the educational industrial complex, people have made money off this for generations. If you come in and try to change that, the stakeholders do not respond well,” he said. “I’ve seen trillions of dollars spent and not move the needle.”

Reed offered the services of his legislative director to help draft a legislative plan based on the meeting and promised to push the conversation forward.

“When you talk to a mom, or Amey, who has 30 years of knowing this inside and out, that’s the input you need, not the bureaucratic outlook at it like a lot of guys in Washington D.C. get. They look at a book and say, ‘if it works in Hornell then it’s obviously going to work in Los Angeles.’ We need to give the flexibility to programs like Head Start to deliver a major difference in the lives of kids in our communities,” Reed hailed the value of his meeting.

BUDGET

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counties: \$201,509,568.

Publication of tax rolls follow a curious schedule: Public schools throughout New York State estimate tax levies before state-mandated budget votes each May. Counties across the state announce actual assessed valuations, the foundation of tax levies for each municipality, in August, about 90 days after budget votes. The system has been skewed thus for decades.

At the meeting, Alfred-Almond board members also approved free and reduced-price meals or free milk for the 41 percent of the students who live near or under the poverty level. Calkins said

five years ago only 34 percent of the students were eligible for the subsidized meals.

Board members also approved participation in the cooperative electricity that the Board of Cooperative Educational Services for Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties coordinate.

The board also approved sale of a surplus 2007 Dodge caravan.

Calkins told board members that Alfred University student teacher Victory Ryan will work with elementary art teacher Amy Powers.

The next Alfred-Almond board of education work session will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6, the next regular meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14.

BILL

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poor, commonly known as “indigent criminal defense.”

“When the tax cap was first enacted five years ago, Cuomo promised that it would go hand in hand with rolling back the heavy burden of unfunded state mandates on local governments and school districts,” O’Mara said. “While there have been some important mandate relief actions since then, including long-term pension reform and the takeover of the growth in local Medicaid costs, not nearly enough has been done to ensure a future of long-term property tax reductions for local property taxpayers. We need a future defined by property

tax cuts, not smaller property tax increases.”

The legislation will phase in a state takeover of the full cost of indigent defense by 2022, O’Mara said. It was approved by both houses of the Legislature in June and will soon be delivered to Cuomo for final action.

O’Mara said he hopes the governor will sign it into law.

“This legislation to get county governments and local property taxpayers out from under this unfunded state mandate marks a significant mandate relief action,” he said. “We need to take actions like this one if we’re ever going to truly transform the state-local partnership and lead the way to a future of property tax cuts for our local taxpayers.”

STATE BRIEFS

2 teens shot while walking on Rochester’s northwest side

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Police in Rochester are investigating after two teenagers were shot while walking together in the city’s northwest side.

Officials say the victims, both males ages 17 and 18, were walking along Dewey Avenue when they were shot just before 11 p.m. Sunday near Aquinas Institute.

Police say the teens were struck in the lower body. They were transported to Strong Memorial Hospital for treatment of their wounds. They are both in stable condition and are expected to survive.

No suspects are in custody at this time.

Cops: 2 weekend shootings in Buffalo leave 2 dead, 1 wounded

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Police in Buffalo are investigating two shootings that left a woman and a man dead and another man wounded over the weekend.

Detectives say a 25-year-old Buffalo woman was hit by gunfire around 2:30 a.m. Saturday on Shumway-Fillmore district. She was taken to Buffalo General Hospital, where she later died.

Police say the shooting occurred during a street party.

The second shooting

occurred around 4:30 a.m. Sunday on Schreck Avenue, where police say two men were hit by gunfire.

Officials say a 39-year-old man was taken to Erie County Medical Center, where he later died. A 32-year-old man suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

No arrests have been reported in either shooting.

Cops: Man, 37, fatally stabbed at upstate NY housing complex

MONTICELLO, N.Y. — Authorities say they’re investigating the fatal stabbing of a 37-year-old man during a domestic conflict at an upstate New York housing complex.

Police in the Sullivan County village of Monticello say officers responded around 11 p.m. Friday to a report of a man having been stabbed inside a residence at the Evergreen Drive complex.

When officers arrived they found a man with stab wounds. He was airlifted to Orange Regional Medical Center, where he later died from his injuries during surgery.

Officials say the man was stabbed during a domestic dispute and there is no threat to the public.

The man’s name isn’t being released yet pending notification of relatives.

No arrests have been announced.

— The Associated Press