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SPIRIT

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SPORTS, PAGE B1

TODAY MON TUE

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Complete forecast, A11

Steuben legislators meeting Monday
LOCAL, PAGE A5

LOCAL

Rep. Gibson to headline Lincoln Day Dinner

HORNELL — Hornell City GOP Chairman John Buckley is reminding area residents that tickets are still available for the 74th Annual Lincoln Day Dinner. The longstanding traditional dinner hosted by the Hornell City Republican Committee will be held on Feb. 5. Buckley said this year's event features a "true star" of the New York State Republican Party, three-term United States Congressman Chris Gibson (R-Kinderhook) of the Hudson Valley, who will serve as the dinner's keynote speaker. **A2**

Tuition assistance available for volunteer firefighters

CORNING — Assemblyman Phil Palmesano (R-Corning) is advising members of volunteer fire departments and the community about an opportunity to receive tuition reimbursement through the Firemen's Association of the State of New York. FASNY has developed the Higher Education Learning Plan as an incentive to recruit and retain members of volunteer fire departments. This program will provide tuition reimbursement to student-volunteers. **A3**

Snowmobilers may get \$112,000 from state

BELMONT — The Allegany County Federation of Snowmobilers may have a little over \$112,000 to work with this year in expanding and maintaining recreational snowmobile trails in the county. The county Resource Management Committee voted Wednesday to accept \$112,045 in trail development and assistance grants from the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. **A3**

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Obituaries... A8 Weather.... A11



WELLSVILLE ELECTRICAL OUTAGES



A group of Beef Haus customers waits for dinner by candlelight, courtesy of Friday night's outage. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BEEF HAUS FACEBOOK PAGE

No power? No problem

By John Anderson
Regional Editor

WELLSVILLE — What happens when you have a restaurant full of customers and the lights go out during dinner rush, the second power outage of the day? At L'Italia on North Main Street, three things saved the night:

- 1) Cooks who hunt.
- 2) A gift from Mom.
- 3) The honor system.

L'Italia was able to make a certain percent of its menu, said Peter Brown, owner of L'Italia. Brown said two of his cooks also hunt and went to their cars and



Beef Haus employees had to make the best of the outage until the lights came back on just after 7:45 p.m. Friday.

SEE ELECTRIC, A7

\$15 MINIMUM WAGE

Legislators warn of 'unintended consequences'

At Town Hall Meeting, O'Mara, Nojay back 200,000 job-loss estimate

By Jason Jordan
The Spectator

HORNELL — State representatives were invited by Hornell Deputy Mayor and 9th Ward Alderman John Buckley to present their vision for New York state in 2016 and beyond on Saturday. Their views contrasted with those outlined by Gov. Andrew Cuomo in his annual State of the State Address. This was Buckley's

20th Town Hall Meeting since being elected to the Common Council. "When I ran for the Council back in 2009, one of the things I ran on was bringing our elected officials here to Hornell so we can have an interaction and a give and take," he said. "I always felt that was important." The meeting began with firefighters extending their appreciation to Sen. Tom O'Mara for helping

to secure a \$500,000 discretionary grant to help purchase a new ladder truck for the Hornell Fire Department. "This new piece of equipment will help the citizens of this city a lot. It's state-of-the-art, it's a much safer vehicle for our guys and you will see the fruits of this in the future," said Hornell Fire Chief Dan Smith. Thirty-two members of the community gathered at the Hornell VFW to give the legislators their input on issues affecting their



Hornell Deputy Mayor John Buckley, R, (left, Assemblyman Bill Nojay, R-Pittsford (center) and and state Sen. Tom O'Mara, R-Big Flats (right), field questions from concerned citizens about the impact raising the minimum wage may have on jobs and the economy during Saturday's Town Hall Meeting hosted by Buckley at the VFW.

SEE WAGES, A7

STATE POLICE

Two arrested for allegedly making meth

BATH — Bath-based New York State Police arrested two men they allege were involved with transporting the precursors of manufacturing methamphetamine after a traffic stop on Friday. The driver, Terry Champion, 47, residence not reported, was stopped for a Vehicle and Traffic Law violation on South Valley Road, in the Town of Urbana at around 4:10 p.m. During the course of the traffic stop, Champion was allegedly found to be under the influence of several narcotics. Champion and his passenger, Richard Huyler, 38, residence not reported, was in possession of marijuana and numerous tables of Pseudoephedrine and other precursors used in the production of methamphetamine. Also located in the vehicle was \$900 in U.S. currency. Champion and Huyler were both taken into custody and transported to the Bath State Police barracks for additional questioning. Champion was charged with first-degree driving while being impaired by drugs, a misdemeanor. Champion and Huyler were both charged with unlawful possession



Champion



Huyler

SEE ARREST, A7

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WAGES

From Page A1

day-to-day lives. Topics ranged from the politics surrounding the SAFE Act to retirement security. However, the conversation was largely dominated by the impact a \$15 per hour minimum wage would have on the availability of jobs and the state of the regional economy.

New York already ranks 49th in business climate, according to the Tax Foundation, and legislators said it would only get worse with the proposed minimum wage increase to \$15 state-wide by 2021.

“It’s going to totally disrupt the balance of the economy and small businesses in particular,” O’Mara said.

However, he wasn’t opposed to revisiting the issue in the future.

“There may be more realistic increases in minimum wage that are better handled ... To go up 67 percent would be a killer,” he said.

Nojay said that push by labor unions to increase wages won’t end at \$15 an hour.

“This isn’t the end, it’s the beginning for the people pushing this type of thing,” he said. “\$15 hasn’t even passed yet and we’ve got groups saying that it’s a good first step, but we really need \$16 or \$17.”

Nojay believes there will be a tipping point where

people will be replaced by less expensive machines.

“It will cost 200,000 jobs. There’s almost no dispute about that,” he said. “The minimum wage is zero if you don’t have a job.”

O’Mara said the increase would make it impossible to compete for business with other states.

“In the Southern Tier, we are very close to Pennsylvania where minimum wage is still \$7.25 an hour,” he pointed out.

The senator shared the personal story of one constituent devastated by just the talk of raising the minimum wage.

“I had one constituent in Watkins Glen who owns a warehouse building. He finally got some interest in leasing it from a company in Georgia, but they sent him a letter saying — because of talks of minimum wage increasing they were no longer interested,” O’Mara said.

Nojay outlined some of the hidden costs associated with a raise in minimum wage.

“If you increase someone’s wage, the workman’s comp, all of the excise tax, they all ratchet up,” he said.

The assemblyman said the cost of raising the minimum wage would cut across all businesses and organizations, including non-profit organizations and local schools.

“They’re all getting paid out of Medicaid, and that revenue isn’t gong up, but they have to pay their

aides more. It will cause a fiscal crisis like what our schools are seeing now,” Nojay said of non-profit organizations.

Hornell Superintendent Douglas Wyant Jr. agreed that his school district would incur a great cost while finding little help from the state.

“It’s not just the minimum wage earner, it’s all the other wage earners who were at \$13 or \$14 and are now at my door saying, ‘What are you going to do for us?’ or those making \$16 or \$17 who no longer have separation saying ‘Now someone walking in the door is making just a dollar less than what it took me 20 years to get to,’” said Wyant.

Lower state aid and a lower tax cap due to slowed inflation will leave no room to raise wages without cutting programs, according to Wyant.

“We have a great staff that tries to do all they can for the children, but if we don’t have that equity in foundation aid, we can’t afford to provide as many programs,” he said.

Other issues covered in the Town Hall Meeting included the cost of doing business in New York state, the disparity in spending on infrastructure needs between upstate and downstate, a focus on growing manufacturing, reforming state prisons, supporting agriculture and the impacts of illegal immigration on the state.

ELECTRIC

From Page A1

grabbed their night-vision goggles that hook on a visor and they were able to see perfectly in the kitchen despite the low light.

“We had a major power outage about five or six years ago and a full restaurant and we were not prepared, we had dishes piled up and we were here until 4 a.m.,” said Brown. “So this time, we had boxes of candles my mom had given me from Northern Lights Candles and they lit up the restaurant in no time.”

Customers continued to eat, but those paying with credit card could not pay without power.

“They all came in today and paid me,” said Brown. “If you are in a bigger town, I don’t think that would happen. It would be crazy.”

While preparing for Saturday lunch and dinner — with power — Brown recalled how enjoyable the night was.

“Everybody had a good, time, they liked the romance of the candles’ light, we were warm and comfy,” said Brown. “It’s a hassle, but what are you going to do? All the customers liked it, kicked back. They were all at ease. The attitude was, ‘We’ll have another glass of wine.’”

At the Wellsville Country Club, the power going out happened just as dinner was served for the first wave of customers.

“We were in the middle of pushing out entrees, so we got everyone served, the tables were lit by candles’ light and everyone had a good time,” said WCC General Manager Anna Joyce. “We bought everyone a round of drinks and customers who came in when the lights were out, we were able to make them certain foods.”

Joyce said once the power went out, the expected crowd did not come in.

“It did hurt when no one really came in, but we made the best of it and those who came in enjoyed it,” Joyce

said.

At the Beef Haus, it was a full restaurant on a Friday and the lights going out became a nightmare for staff used to programming orders by computer to the kitchen, but it was fun for the customers.

“There was a group of eight from Hornell celebrating a birthday, people were having fun,” said Beef Haus owner Bob Insley. “They actually booed when the lights came on!”

Insley said they shut down the charbroilers and fryers for the night, but the Beef Bar was not affected and they could make salads.

“The whole system is computerized so it’s kind of a headache for the workers, but the customers liked it. There was a longer happy hour at the bar waiting for tables, so the bar got pretty loud,” Insley said. “The people who were there had fun.

“Of all times, 6 to 8 on a Friday night is the worst time for this,” Insley added. “It didn’t benefit us a lot, but socially, people enjoyed it and had fun.”

unlawful manufacture of methamphetamine.

Both Champion and Huyler were arraigned in the Town of Urbana Court and remanded to

the Steuben County Jail without bail. The State Police were assisted in the investigation by the Steuben County Sheriff’s Department.

SAUDI KING SALMAN



AT LEFT: A Muslim pilgrim walks through the site where dead bodies are gathered Sept. 24, 2015, after a stampede during the annual hajj pilgrimage, in Mina, Saudi Arabia. AT RIGHT: A Bahraini protester holds up a picture Jan. 4 of Saudi Shiite cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr, who was executed by Saudi Arabia, in Dahi, the largely Shiite suburb of Bahrain's capital city, Manama. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTOS

Tumultuous 1st year for ruler’s ‘decisive’ reign

By Ana Batrawy
The Associated Press

Within hours of ascending to the Saudi throne, King Salman announced sweeping changes that would recast the kingdom’s line of succession, and rework its security and economic decision-making processes. It marked the start of what would be a tumultuous year for King Salman, who completed one year as monarch on Saturday.

His reign so far has been marked by a boldness that one Western intelligence agency labelled as “impulsive.” However, supporters and admirers of the monarch prefer to describe him as “decisive.”

Salman, believed to be in his mid-80s, inherited the throne Jan. 23, 2015, after the death of his 90-year-old half-brother King Abdullah, who had ruled Saudi Arabia for a decade. Almost immediately he dismissed two of his predecessor’s sons as governors of Riyadh

and Mecca, eliminated 12 different government committees and councils, elevated his then-29-year-old son to defense minister and placed him as a lead member on two new super-committees overseeing the country’s security and economic affairs.

Since then, Salman has led his country into an aggressive new stance confronting longtime regional rival Iran, leading a military coalition fighting Iranian-allied rebels in Yemen and unsuccessfully lobbying against Iran’s newly implemented nuclear deal with world powers. Domestically, he has urgently taken on economic reforms to counter the impact of plunging oil prices. Salman has also continued to concentrate power in the hands of his son, Defense Minister Mohammed bin Salman.

Though few of Saud Arabia’s allies have publicly critiqued Salman’s policies as king, a German intelligence analysis released by

the BND spy agency last month cited concern over the kingdom’s future as it tries to “establish itself as a leader in the Arab world.”

“The previous cautious diplomatic stance of older leaders within the royal family is being replaced by a new impulsive policy of intervention,” the German report said, adding that the kingdom is “prepared to take unprecedented military, financial and political risks.”

The intelligence report said the concentration of economic and foreign policy power in the hands of Mohammed bin Salman carried a “latent risk” with other members of the royal family, the public and allied states in the region.

In contrast to the cautious and paternal reputation Abdullah had earned, Salman’s reign has been frequently described by the Saudi government press as “decisive,” a term born out of his decision to launch the “Operation Decisive Storm” military intervention in Yemen.

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ARREST

From Page A1

of marijuana, a violation, and felony third-degree



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