



Lakewood Holds Christmas In The Village

Region

Pg. B1





The Sunday Post-Journal

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JAMESTOWN, N.Y.

"We have two and a half times the national average of babies being born addicted in our county."

Attacking The Demand

Teresi, Council Respond To Criticism Of City's Drug Issue; County Overseas Public Health Services

By A.J. RAO

arao@post-journal.com

City leaders have recently come under fire for their seemingly tepid role in curbing the local drug epidemic.

Last month, Todd Tranum,

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce president and chief executive officer, lambasted city leadership at a public hearing, insisting that Mayor Sam Teresi and the City Council have "sat in practical silence" on the drug issue; a silence made all the more clear by a far more aggressive response by the county via drug forums and action teams.

"(The Jamestown Police Department) are (only) dealing with the symptom of the prob-lem," Tranum said. "Eradicating the drug problem at its root will be done by disabling the demand. Do (the mayor and City Council) have any plan on how to address both the causes and the symptoms?"

Diel When the symptoms?"

City Council (doing anything) besides (address) the enforcem part of it," he said. "We're not looking for money, we're look for the symptom of the sym

Rick Huber, executive director of the Mental Health Association in Jamestown, was equally critical. "I don't notice anyone in the

besides (address) the enforcement part of it," he said. "We're not looking for money, we're looking for support ... and we need the city to be proactive and recognize that we have a problem here."
See **DEMAND**, Page A3

Back In Control

Mandate Relief, Route 219 Construction Top Sen. Young's Goals For 2015

BY KATIE ATKINS katkins@post-journal.com

Balancing state spending and advancing economic growth will be two

Route

219,

would

open

up

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YOUNG

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of New York State Sen. Cathy Young's top priorities when she and her Republican colleagues return to

Albany in January. While the Republ can Party reclaimed majority in the Senate in November, Young said the win

"stopped a major catastrophe" for the state. Democrats had seized

control of the Senate as they planned, we would have had our school aid and our road and bridge funding diverted to New York City," she said. "Through the elections, we were able to stop that, and that's great news because we'll be able to maintain the balance of spending upstate and downstate.'

In her seventh two-year term representing District 57, the senator said a major focus heading into the first session of 2015 will be job growth, including career opportunities for young peo-ple and workforce training — issues pertaining to her district.

District 57 includes all of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany countaid and Allegany c ties, as well as the lower half of Livingston County.

'Employers need a trained workforce, and we've made inroads in that area but we need to continue to do more," Young said.

Recent data from the state Department of Labor shows the statewide unemployment rate in New York declined from 6.2 percent to 6 percent in October, reaching its lowest level since October 2008.

MORE FUNDING

Mandate relief is necessary for schools and local governments to reduce costs of operating, she said, while ending the state's Gap Elimination Adjustment for schools would also

See GOALS, Page A3



Santa steps off the "Santa Express" in Jamestown Saturday morning. Also pictured, to his right, are Sam Teresi, City of Jamestown mayor; St. Nicholas, from the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church; Vince Horrigan, county executive; and Mrs. Claus.

P-J photos by Jimmy McCarthy

You'd Better Be Good

Santa Claus Arrives In Jamestown Via Locomotive By JIMMY McCarthy jmmccarthy@post-journal.com Santa Claus came to town Saturday morning, but not by way of his sleigh and his highly coveted reindeer. He made his way to Jamestown via locomotive to see the children eagerly awaiting Christmas Day. Accompanied by Mrs. Claus, the two traveled the Santa Express" en route to the Jamestown Gateway Train Station. Families and their children waited anxiously as the train made its way around the bend at 11 a.m. St. Nicholas, from the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, also accompanied the two. As the express came to a halt, the children set their eyes on Santa. Lee Harkness, Jamestown Gateway Train Station general manager, said the arrival was right on "These kids are loving it," he said.
Pati Culliton, organizer of the event, said that Santa departed

from the North Pole, but Mrs. Claus and he stopped and hopped on a train between the busy workshop and Jamestown. Harkness stayed in contact with the conductor of the express throughout

the trip, making sure Santa and the fellow riders reached their destination safe and sound.

With loads of excitement and restlessness, children waited in line for a photo opportunity with Santa — on top of the chance to present their Christmas wish list. Mrs. Claus read a story to the children during her stay.

'Sometimes she's not always in the public eye," Culliton said of Mrs. Claus.

The event, which featured a number of activities for children, presented the public with a family-friendly environment. Children had the chance to write their wish lists to Santa with delivery to the North Pole. Craft stations to design ornaments and other activities including a sing-along and coloring took place throughout the day.

Train displays occupied the lobby of the station along with some festive music played by the band Razzer's Jazzers.

SANTA, Page A3

Thank you Mark Bataitis of Jamestown for subscribing to The Post-Journal.

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QUESTION OF THE DAY

Will you get a flu *shot this year?*

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Today's Thought

"Any frontal attack on ignorance is bound to fail because the masses are always ready to defend their most precious possession — their ignorance."

- Henrik Willem van Loon, Dutch-American journalist (1882-1944)

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AREA NEWS



Santa Claus and company board a horse-drawn carriage for a ride to the Jamestown Gateway Trâin Štation. P-J photo by Jimmy McCarthy

Santa

From Page A1

Harkness added that the train station continues to be preserved for special events like the arrival of Santa. He noted that train station like the one in Jamestown.

between Ohio and Schenectady," he said. the day.

"It's the nicest one in the whole range."

The second annual Santa Express was co-sponsored by the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad company. Culliton there are not many places around with a noted the planning committee's work in organizing the event while expressing "We've got a one-of-a-kind station thanks for volunteers helping throughout

City Man Charged With Felony DWI Following Hit-And-Run

By THE POST-JOURNAL headed editorial@ post-journal.com

of a hit-and-run traffic 50, of Jamestown. While level to be .18. Ecker was accident that occurred in speaking with Ecker, offi- charged with felony the town of Ellicott Satur- cers could smell an odor aggravated DWI and day morning at 8:30 a.m. of intoxication and had unsafe tires. Ecker was Officers were advised that him perform a series of transported to the city jail

vehicle near the intersec-A Jamestown man was tion of Chandler and DWI within the last 10 charged Saturday for driving while intoxicated folions to ped the suspected a felony DWI. lowing a reported hit-and- vehicle and spoke with the operator who was identi- chemical test and it Officers were advised fied as Steven A. Ecker, revealed his blood alcohol

towards was subsequently arrested for driving while intoxi-Officers located the cated. Officers discovered that Ecker had a prior years, making the charge

Ecker did submit to a the suspected vehicle was field sobriety tests. He pending arraignment.

AREA POLICE REPORTS

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

KIANTONE - Kortney D. Carlson, 26, of Jamestown was charged at 1:55 a.m. on Saturday with driving while intoxicated, blood alcohol content of .08 or greater, speed not reasonable and prudent, failure to maintain lane and unlawful possession of marijuana. Sheriff's patrol responded to a report of a South Avenue in the town of Kiantone. Carlson was through the T-intersection Lakewood-Busti police during the incident.

crashed into the ditch and matter. then continued driving 75 feet into a residential lawn, causing damage. Following an investigation, Carlson was found to be intoxicated and was arrested for drivthe time of her arrest, she was found to be in possession of marijuana as well. Carlson was taken to custody for processing where single-vehicle crash on she was later released.

with South Avenue and departments assisted in the

LAKEWOOD-BUSTI **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Brian T. Twardeski, 40,

of Jamestown, was charged at 10 a.m. on Dec. 4 with ing while intoxicated. At third-degree assault and second-degree harassment. Twardeski was arrested on a warrant on Dec. 4 from a domestic dispute that happened on Nov. 20 at a residence at 70 Coleman Road Carlson will answer at 8 a.m. The defendant charges in the town of allegedly slammed a door traveling south on Howard Kiantone Court on a future into the victim's head and Street when she drove date. The Jamestown and pushed her several times

Demand

said the city has never reached out to him in any significant way regarding better treatment options, and that the city's priorities may need some reexamining.

We have two and a half times the national average of our county, and yet (city authority to spearhead pub leadership) wants to make and mental health services. the city a tourist destination?" he asked. "How are the city dissolved and we going to get a Lucy museum, a comedy center and all the stuff that they want to do if you've got a reputation of being a small, rural community with a

public hearing last month, not provide a duplicative "quietly working."

Teresi similarly rebuked department, Corporation the notion that the city has Counsel and city court workbeen a passive player.

'It was a directive that I and private agencies. gave to (Jamestown Police retooled the entire operation ty's lap because we consider misinformed.'

From Page A1 with the creation of a new Huber, who describes himself a "passionate" advowithin the Jamestown Police cate for effective and more accessible drug treatment, credit goes to the City Council for standing behind me and the police department for executing on that initiative very effectively."

In terms of "attacking the

demand," Teresi described how the county government, not the city government, has babies being born addicted in the legal and jurisdictional authority to spearhead public

merged its public health department and mental health department with the county," he said. "Since then, public health and mental health offices and services tremendous drug problem?" around the state have been Greg Rabb, Jamestown the domain of county operations."

City Council president, addressed this criticism at a matching beat in a last with the domain of county operations."

Teresi said the city does around the state have been Teresi said the city does

insisting the City Council has not been silent, but rather an at supportive role to the county, with its police

"I don't want it to come Chief Harry Snellings) two across that we're just pushyears ago that effectively ing the issue into the coun-

ing closely with state, county

with the creation of a new ourselves a very important ally and partner with the county on something that they have lead responsibility for under the law," he said. "Also, by consolidating and streamlining services, you don't have multiple agencies stepping on each other's toes and creating a redundancy problem.'

Teresi said he did not understand why some people carry a perception that the city is disengaged with the drug issue, citing the success of the police department and the city's drug court, which he described as one of the first, effective alternative drug courts in New York

"I don't know whether it's an issue of understanding or disseminating information, but I can tell you that this is a primary concern of the City Council and a primary concern of mine," he said.
"We're not looking for credit; we're looking for results. We decided several years ago that we were not going to simply turn our heads and ignore the problem or deny that there was a problem. We're going to confront this issue head-on ... regardless of who may be uninformed or

Goals.

From Page A1 Implemented in the

2010-11 fiscal year, the Gap Elimination Adjustment aimed to help close New York's budget deficit by dividing the state's funding shortfall among all school districts. In turn, state aid to each district was reduced.

"The Gap Elimination Adjustment has been a disaster for school districts, and it was implemented when the entire state legislature was controlled by New York City," Young said. "We'll be working to fully eliminate it next year to get school funding back on

HEROIN

In terms of other issues, she said she is hopeful to continue to serve on the Senate's Joint Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction. 'We continue to see a cri-

sis across the state where there are so many instances of heroin overdoses. We want to take as much of a proactive action as we possibly can, because it has become such a compelling issue," she said.

The Senate majority took steps in response to the epidemic in the 2014-15 state budget, with \$2.45 million designated for initiatives to provide prevention, treatment and addiction services for heroin and opioid abuse.

In March, legislation was passed to allow authorized health care professionals to increase public access to narcan/naloxone which, if administered timely, can prevent overdose deaths.

"The only way we're going to be able to tackle it effectively is to tackle it together," Young said, refer-ring to state legislature colleagues, those in law

officials statewide.

BUDGET

Young said much of the first session of 2015 will entail budget deliberations.

We're aiming for another on-time budget, and it takes up an awful lot of time. Once that's put to bed, we really start to put a heavy focus on policy and legislation from April through June," she said. While Gov. Andrew

Cuomo announced a \$5 billion state budget surplus in November, it is unclear as to how the funds will be spent. Young said much of the

"one-shot funding" should be designated for the state's

enforcement and community infrastructure needs, particularly Route 219.

In 2007, a construction project began on Route 219, extending the Southern Expressway from state Route 39 in the village of Springville to a new interchange at Peters Road in the town of Ashford. However, Young said much work still needs to be done to make the roadway safer, and that it would create a major northsouth route to connect the region with new markets.

If we were able to finish Route 219, it would open up economic opportunities to our entire region, and I think we should set money aside for that," she said.





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The Post Journal

(USPS 603-640)

Published by The Post-Journal, 15 West Second Street, Jamestown, New York 14701. Published daily. Periodicals postage paid at Jamestown, N.Y. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Post-Journal, 15, W. Second St., Jamestown, N.Y. 14701.

N.Y., 14701.

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The Post-Journal

 $\overline{\mathbf{2}^{\scriptscriptstyle{ND}}}\,\overline{\mathbf{SUND}}\!\mathbf{AY}\,\mathbf{OF}\,\mathbf{ADVENT}$

Read Hebrews 12:1-4

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith - 1 Corinthians 13:3 (NIV

During our son's junior year, his high-school basketball team was in the state championship game. His dad and I sat in the stands, watching as our son went to the free throw line time after time after being fouled. Everyone in the arena had their eyes on him as he effortlessly made each shot. His team not only won the championship, but our son was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

The fans may have thought our son was just lucky to be able to make those difficult shots under so much pressure, but we knew the truth. For the last three years, he had spent hours in the gym -almost daily and often alone- standing at the free throw line, practicing these important shots.

Watching my son's diligent practice and subsequent success was a reminder of how my daily practice of Bible reading and prayer has helped me prepare for the challenges of pain, despair, anger, temptation, sickness and impatience. Just as my son would not have made those shots during the game without having practiced, my spiritual practice helps me to grow in my faith and face

life's problems with greater trust in God. Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to delight in spending time with you every day. Amen

PRAYER FOCUS: YOUNG ATHLETESThis message has been brought to you by-

Deanne Ruedemann (Texas)



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