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The Sunday Post-Journal

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JAMESTOWN, N.Y.

DECEMBER 7, 2014
VOL 188 NO. 202

"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 Tranam,

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 problem," Tranam 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?"

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

City Council (doing anything) 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 of New York State Sen. Cathy Young's top priorities when she and her Republican colleagues return to Albany in January. While the Republican Party reclaimed majority in the Senate in November, Young said the win "stopped a major catastrophe" for the state. "If 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 people and workforce training — issues pertaining to her district. District 57 includes all of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties, 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 help.

See GOALS, Page A3

See GOALS, Page A3

See GOALS, Page A3

See GOALS, Page A3

See GOALS, Page A3



CATHY YOUNG

"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."



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 time.

"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 Razzler's Jazzers.

See SANTA, Page A3

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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)

A - LOCAL

Deaths A2
Opinion A4-A5

B - REGION

Chamber B4
In Years Past B8

Plus Living and Classified Sections

C - SPORTS

Outdoors C6
NFL C7-C8

D - BUSINESS

Stocks D6-D7



Sunny, 35°
Forecast, Page B8

