

BRIEFLY

Area Musician To Play At Vespers

Steve Swanson, area singer, songwriter, pianist and music teacher, will perform original compositions as well as his arrangements of a variety of Gospel tunes during this week's Jazz Vespers at 5 p.m. Saturday in Darrah Hall at Christ First United Methodist Church, 663 Lakeview Ave., Jamestown. Swanson, who is also organist and choir director at Kidder Memorial United Methodist Church, is a noted entertainer and band leader with two CDs, *Somethin's Cooking and Live at the Stone*. He has performed with legendary acts such as Smokey Robinson and Ben E. King. Jazz Vespers is a weekly music and performance-based worship service offered by Christ First United Methodist Church. The service is open to the public. For more information, call 664-5803.

Library Story Hour To Focus On Stars

SINCLAIRVILLE — "Stars" with Tina Nelson, the Nature Lady, is the theme for this Friday's Story Hour offered from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Sinclairville Free Library. Ms. Nelson serves as the outdoor program manager for Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center. The activity is open to children ages 3 through pre-kindergarten and is free of charge. Children must be accompanied by a parent or adult. It includes several stories along with craft activities. For more information, call 962-5885.

School Board Plans To Meet

FREWSBURG — The Frewsburg Central School Board of Education will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the middle/high school library.

Council Changes Meeting Time

SALAMANCA — The Salamanca Common Council has changed the time of its regular meetings to 7 p.m. beginning tonight. The meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the courtroom at the City Municipal Building. For more information, call 945-4620.

Ashville Fire Dept. Group Sets Party

ASHVILLE — The Ashville Fire Department Auxiliary will hold a ham and steak party Saturday at the Ashville Training Center, Magnolia Street, Ashville. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the party starts at 7 p.m. Ham, steaks, shrimp and more will be available, along with free refreshments and door prizes. For more information, call 763-1931.

Benefit Scheduled For Injured Man

A spaghetti dinner to benefit Ashville native Chris Johnson, who was seriously injured in a snowmobile accident in January, will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday in the parlors of First Lutheran Church, 120 Chandler St., Jamestown. Tickets are \$5 per person, \$3 for children under 12.

Ministry Slates Performance

FREWSBURG — A Measure of Faith, a praise and worship ministry dedicated to serving Jesus Christ through music, will perform in concert on Sunday, March 13, in the Wheeler Hill Methodist Church. A potluck supper will be at 6 p.m. followed by the concert at 7 p.m. There is no charge to attend, but a free will offering will be taken.

Leon Begins Dog Census

LEON — John Bromley, Leon dog warden, will conduct a door-to-door dog census during March. Diane Ellis, town clerk, said she believes it may have been more than 10 years since the list was updated. Residents found with unlicensed dogs will need to obtain a license and pay an additional fee of \$5 required by New York state. Residents failing to obtain a license will find themselves in court.

City Progresses On Urban Design Plan

By JOHN WHITTAKER

A pair of pending grant applications could help the city move forward with its Urban Design Plan and help define Brownfield areas that need to be rehabilitated.

Both applications were submitted in 2004, according to Steve Centi, city development director.

The city has already secured \$115,000 from the Gebbie Foundation, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation and Lenna Foundation for the urban design plan to be combined with \$49,000 in Quality Communities funding.

Centi said work on the Urban Design Plan could begin by mid-2005.

"We've narrowed it down to four different firms," Centi said. "We've invited them back to do presentations and look forward at some point in the near future designating one of those four firms to do our urban design plan."

The city has also applied for \$69,610 for a vehicular and pedestrian traffic plan

"We've narrowed it down to four different firms. We've invited them back to do presentations and look forward at some point in the near future designating one of those four firms to do our urban design plan."

— Steven Centi, city development director

to support the Urban Design Plan. Centi said the city needs to assess the impact of one-way traffic flow patterns and the feasibility of converting the city to two-way traffic.

The results of the analysis will be used to make decisions about the most effective street network for vehicles and pedestrians.

Centi said the Brownfield Opportunity Grant was submitted for the pre-nomination study in June 2004 with help from Tammy Fleeger, the Gebbie Foundation

grant writer. If the city's application is approved, the state would pay up to 90 percent of the cost for Brownfields investigations and land-use redevelopment plans in the city's industrial corridor.

Possible affected areas include Chadakoyn Park, the downtown business district, parts of federal Renewal Community census tracts, Greater Jamestown Empire Zone, Weed and Seed program target area, several Community Development Block Grant target areas and the city's industrial corridor.



Sophomore Jen Decker, Eisenhower Middle-Senior High School's Star Spangled Banner Girl, salutes the troops in the final scene of the school's musical, *1940s Radio Hour*, to be presented at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the school's auditorium. She is backed up by singers in the World War II broadcast.

P-J photo by Jack Berger

Musical Gives Glimpse Into '40s Era

By JACK BERGER

RUSSELL — When performers know their parts and have fun at the same time one, can be sure that Eisenhower's Middle-Senior High School musical *1940s Radio Show* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the school's auditorium will be a fun thing for the audience too.

The unique musical gives young people an insight to early radio entertainment with performers reading their scripts, show managers point their finger indicating "on-the-nose" timing to a skilled sound effects man giving reality to performers actions by slamming doors, ringing bells to personal moans and groans.

For the older generation, the performance will visually remind them once sitting in their living room around the big Zenith with its big rotating pointer on the round black dial to the *Fibber McGee and Molly* broadcast and its famous sound effects when Fibber opened the door to his overflowing closet.

The 26-member cast will sing mellow 1940 ballads that were popular before they were born — "Kalamazoo," "Boogie-Woogie Bugle

Contrary to dramatic performances, Eisenhower performers cleverly ignore their audience, except for the big applause sign flashing at appropriate spots in the show. When that sign comes on the audience surprisingly becomes a part of the broadcast.

Boy." "That Old Black Magic," "Love Is Here To Stay" and many other World War II hits.

They come pretty close to sounding like Glenn Miller's Modernaires, the Andrew Sisters and, of course, Frank Sinatra, played by Dan Landon.

An integral part of the show is the Eisenhower Jazz Band, backing up the singers and playing flowing segues between acts. The stage band is directed by Toots Doubleman, played by Rene Foster, with the school's band director, Mark Napolitan, hidden among the band's 15 members playing his trombone.

Authenticating the show are occasional break-away advertisements of the 1940s — called commercials

today — between songs and comedy routines.

A dramatic first segment of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* ends with the traditional mind-taunting "To be continued next week."

Contrary to dramatic performances, Eisenhower performers cleverly ignore their audience, except for the big applause sign flashing at appropriate spots in the show. When that sign comes on the audience surprisingly becomes a part of the broadcast.

Mary Passinger is director-producer with Sue Spencer, co-director and choreographer, and musical duties handled by Michele Sandberg, choral director, and Mark Napolitan, band conductor.

Two Plead Guilty To Arsons In City, Stockton

By SABRINA BLANCO

MAYVILLE — Two men scheduled to be in Chautauqua County Court on arson charges Tuesday pleaded guilty to arsons in Jamestown and Stockton.

Matthew Cassatt, 28, of Sinclairville was convicted on felony third-degree arson and felony second-degree insurance fraud after pleading guilty on Monday.

The arson occurred May 23, 2001, in the town of Stockton, when he burned his house down. The home was located on Route 380.

Cassatt also pleaded guilty on Monday to two counts of felony second-degree grand larceny and one count of felony third-degree grand larceny for an incident on Jan. 18, 2004, when he stole cattle from the Merle Elderkin Farm in Stockton.

In addition, he pleaded guilty to felony third-degree grand larceny and fourth-degree criminal possession of

stolen property regarding the theft of an automobile in Stockton.

Cassatt is scheduled to be in County Court on May 19 for sentencing on all of the above charges, according to John Gullo, defense attorney.

Randy L. Smith, 42, of Jamestown also pleaded guilty to third-degree arson on Monday. He was originally charged on June 13, 2004, after attempting to burn down a garage at 406 W. Sixth St.

According to a witness, Smith started a fire next to the building. The fire burned a garage door but was put out before any major damage was caused. Smith then fled the scene on a bicycle but was caught quickly.

He was also wanted on outstanding warrants for failing to appear in court for driving while ability impaired and violation of probation for second-degree aggravated unlicensed operation.

Lucy's Childhood Home May Open To Public

By The Post-Journal staff

CELORON — Lucille Ball's childhood home will likely be available for tours sometime in the future after its new owners closed the purchase Tuesday.

Lucille Ball was born in Jamestown, but her parents moved the family into a small two-story house in Celoron when she was 8 years old. William Rapaport of Buffalo was in Jamestown on Tuesday to complete the purchase.

Rapaport said he wants to restore the home to its condition in the 1920s, when Lucille Ball and her mother, brother, grandparents, aunt and cousin lived in the home.

"Lucy's childhood home is so important to this community and to the story of this wonderful woman," Rapaport said. "It had to be saved. When the restoration is complete we would like to make the home available for use by the Lucy-Desi Center."

Rapaport, a former Jamestown resident, said his wife is a longtime Lucille Ball fan. The Rapaports are lifetime members of the Lucy-Desi

Museum and Mary Rapaport is the newest member of the Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Center board that manages the museum.

Ric Wyman, the center's executive director, expressed his gratitude about the Rapaports' decision to buy the home.

"On behalf of Lucille Ball's admirers worldwide, I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the Rapaports for recognizing the significance of this historic house and guaranteeing that future generations will have the opportunity to see the place Lucy called 'home,'" Wyman said.

For information about the Lucy-Desi Museum, visit the Web site at www.lucy-desi.com or call 484-0800 (toll-free: 1-877-LUCY-FAN). The museum is located at 212 Pine St. in Jamestown and the gift shop is at 300 N. Main St.

Winter hours for the Lucy-Desi Museum are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays and other times by appointment. The Lucy-Desi Museum Gift Shop is open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.



William J. Rapaport stands in front of Lucille Ball's childhood home in Celoron. Rapaport and his wife, Mary, both lifetime members of the Lucy-Desi Museum in Jamestown, are the new owners of the historic home.

Maple Queen, Princess Competition Set For April

By MANLEY ANDERSON

The third-annual Chautauqua County Maple Queen and first Maple Princess competitions are set for the evening of April 15 at the Jamestown Holiday Inn, 150 W. Fourth St., sponsored by Family Service of the Chautauqua Region.

The events are open to single girls and women ages 13 to 24 and are an opportunity for them to perfect skills in public speaking, organization, working with younger children, poise, people skills and knowledge of the county's maple history.

Contestants will participate in a private interview with the judges, model a formal or semi-formal gown, make a speech about some aspect of the maple products industry and respond to spontaneous on-stage questions.

They will be accompanied by an escort.

Serving as the county maple queen or princess is an opportunity to learn more about the maple industry, represent the county at the state level and develop public speaking skills.

The winners will make appearances throughout the year as spokespeople for the county's maple producers and will represent the county in the New York State Maple Queen and Princess Pageant on May 21 in Croghan, N.Y.

They also will learn and participate in maple industry marketing, advertising, public speaking and working with people.

For a contestant applications, calling Family Service, 488-1971, or Connie Gustafson of Maple Country USA, 665-6373. Application deadline is March 18.

Tickets for the event are \$20; contact Family Service, 332 E. Fourth St., Jamestown.

Serving as the county maple queen or princess is an opportunity to learn more about the maple industry, represent the county at the state level and develop public speaking skills.