

THE JOURNAL-PRESS

Established in 1842 - Washington County's hometown newspaper

The Greenwich Journal
 The Salem Press

VOL. 158 - NO. 37

GREENWICH, NEW YORK - THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2000

ISSUE NO. 8220

60 CENTS

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Jail resolution tabled again

Dairy Princess addresses board



Washington County Dairy Princess Erin Swezey receives a copy of a congratulatory resolution from board Chairman Donald Cummings.

By Tony Basile

At the June meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors, the board once again tabled a resolution that would fix the size of the new jail at a specific number of beds. The resolution posed three options ranging from 129 beds, expandable to 159, to 149 beds, expandable to 189.

While the size of the proposed jail has been challenged in some quarters, the difference between each proposed size is only about \$500,000, a small sum when compared to the cost of future expansion, should that ever become necessary. The board, nevertheless, once again avoided the issue and voted to table the resolution, thus keeping the architects' proposals in limbo for at least another month. Most supervisors voting to table the resolution claimed that they would prefer that a site be chosen before the issue of size be undertaken again.

Efforts to find a site for the jail other than the Rexleigh road location currently receiving fire from several organizations and individuals are ongoing, with 19 other potential sites currently under consideration. Once the choice is narrowed down to two or three of the best possible locations, the supervisors expect the controversy to begin again. No matter where the jail is located, it is going to be near something and someone, and recent events indicate that it is not necessarily welcome in anyone's back yard.

The jail would have a minor positive economic impact on the community in which it is located, but issues like potential pollution of the aquifers, de-

struction of wildlife habitat and increased traffic flow are potential stumbling blocks to its being located anywhere.

Dairy Princess addresses supervisors
 Erin Swezey, the 2000 Washington County Dairy Princess, made a brief presentation to the board at Friday's meeting, discussing the value of the dairy industry to the county, and the negative economic impact of the very wet spring on the future cost of grain. Corn crops have yet to be planted in many parts of the northeast, and if the fields do not dry out shortly, the planting of alternative feed crops will have to be considered.

Swezey resides in Hartford and is a member of 4H and the Tri-county Holstein Club. She was presented with a copy of a congratulatory resolution on her appointment as Dairy Princess passed by the board at the May meeting.

Appointments and accolades
 In separate resolutions, the board appointed Claire Murphy director of the Office for the Aging, appointed Joseph LaFlura to the Warren-Washington IDA, appointed Claire Strohmeier director of Alternate Sentencing/Youth Bureau, recognized Sharon Tasker-Dalton for her past service to the bureau, appointed Brian Gilchrist director of planning for Washington County, congratulated the Argyle Girls Softball Team for winning the regional championship and entering the state finals, and congratulated the Salem Boys Baseball Team for winning the Section II Class D championship.

Potential jail sites in Easton-Greenwich area

Jail committee lists 20 locations in county

By Tony Basile

The Washington County Jail Committee has released a list of 20 potential sites on which the new jail could be located, including the original Rexleigh road site. The list is computer generated based upon certain criteria including size of lot and soil conditions, and not necessarily upon the availability of the parcel.

Four of these sites are located in the Town of Easton, in the general vicinity of the fair grounds and include the site formerly occupied by the Some Place Else restaurant. A second site is located on Route 29 between Some Place Else and the fairgrounds, and a third is on Old Schuylerville road north of the fairgrounds. A fourth Easton location is on Hogsback road, and is bisected by 115,000 volt transmission lines.

Another site is located in the Town of Greenwich on Clarks Mills road, and another in Salem, is located on Route 29 between East Greenwich and Route 22.

Two sites in the Town of Argyle are also on the list. One of these is an active gravel pit owned by the Town of Argyle, and the second one is the site of the Washington County Home.

It remains to be seen, however, if any of the locations in the southern

part of the county will be given any serious consideration, in view of the fact that they are somewhat remote from the court house in Fort Edward. Also, the Easton and Clarks Mills locations are almost as close to the Battekill as the Rexleigh road site, which may give rise to some of the same objections as the opponents of the Rexleigh road site are currently raising.

Gospel Music at Singspiration

The Barney family, a touring family gospel music ministry from Canaan, N.H., will present a concert of Gospel Music at The Open Bible Baptist Church on July 2.

Dale and Bobbi and their four children have toured all over the northeastern U.S. and Canada, appeared on TV and national radio. Recently they released their very first album, *Precious Memories*, on the New Song Records label. They minister in song and testimony and use a variety of musical styles including bluegrass/country, traditional and contemporary gospel music.

The church is located at 5 West Main Street, Cambridge. The concert starts at 6 p.m.

Auction of properties returns monies

The County of Washington held an auction of real property on Saturday, June 10. Offered were parcels and accompanying structures that had been forfeited to the county in lieu of back taxes.

One hundred fifty-four parcels were on the auction block, but that number was reduced by Saturday with seventy-eight pieces having been redeemed by the owners prior to the sale. Two other pieces were deleted from the list for legal reasons, and three were withdrawn as they were involved in bankruptcy procedures.

The total lien was \$2,930,693.74 for the properties on the delinquent list. Seventy-one parcels auctioned on Saturday brought in a total of \$554,960. Combined with the properties redeemed, the gross amount realized was \$261,266.26.

The auctioneer will receive a 5% commission on all consummated sales. Monies spent on advertising the sale will be approximately \$10,000.

The Washington County Board of Supervisors approved the sale of all the properties but one. That one, which had been inadvertently advertised with the others, had previously been designated by county Highway Superintendent Willy Grimmke for county use. When the error was discovered, the money of the highest bidder for that property was returned.

Each successful bidder had to pay 20% of his/her bid on the day of the auction. Letters will be sent to each one by certified mail to request the 80% due. Each purchaser has thirty days to remit the funds to the county. Once a parcel has been paid for in full, the county issues a bargain and sale deed to the new owner.

In some cases, a bidder may decide not to fulfill his bid contract. If that occurs, the bid is forfeited and the property is offered to the next highest bidder, if there was one. If he/she rejects the offer, the property returns to the county delinquent tax holdings.

WEATHER

"What is so rare as a day in June?" We've had a variety or rareness in weather to date - but today, it was that truly perfect, sunny, comfortable temperature day, preceded by a sunny day.

Date	Conditions	High	Low
	June		
14	Cloudy	63	59
15	Clcy, finally sunny	80	57
16	Sunny, clcy, shrs.	85	69
17	Mostly cloudy, Heavy shrs. at noon	85	75
18	Drizzle and rain	80	53
19	Sunny	72	54
20	Sunny	76	54

On President's list at Hudson Valley CC

Several area students have achieved President's list honors for the spring semester at Hudson Valley Community College.

To be named to the list, these students achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 to 4.0 during the semester.

- Argyle** - Karen Van Schaik and Ashleigh Wood.
- Greenwich** - Stephen Marchaland, Scott McDonald, Brian Lucas, and Jeremiah Shaw.
- Middle Falls** - Daniel Baldock.
- Salem** - Joshua Rogers.
- Schuylerville** - David Huber and Garry Palmater.
- Valley Falls** - Joyce Russell.

On dean's list at Hudson Valley CC

Many area students were named to the dean's list at Hudson Valley Community College for the spring semester.

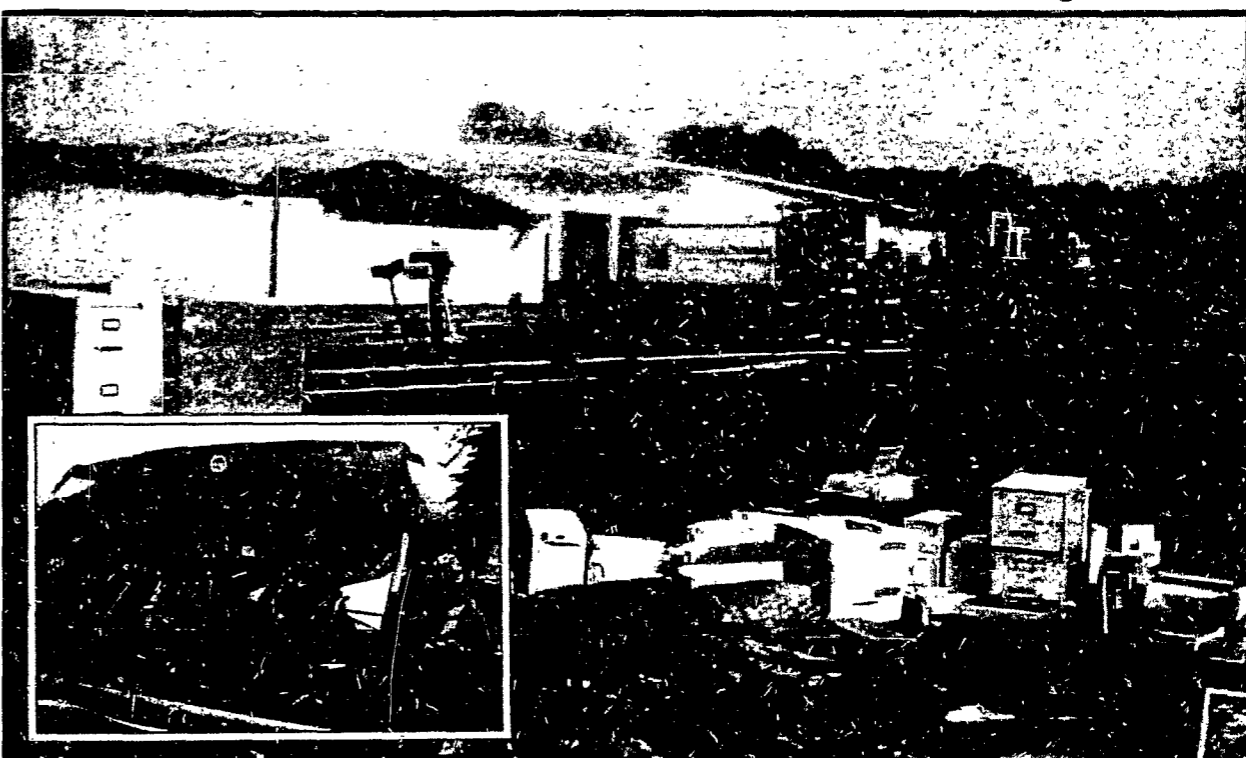
To achieve the honor, these students maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 to 3.5 during the semester.

- Argyle** - Gabriele Rothbart.
- Cambridge** - Donna Barron, Craig Heuser, and Katie Woodworth.
- Greenwich** - Jennifer Bruneau and Matthew Hebert.
- Salem** - Justin McCauliffe and John Steele.
- Schaghticoke** - Jesse Biscaglia, Lisa Boyce, Philip Coraldi, Rachel Jones, and Patricia Regan.
- Schuylerville** - Jennifer Bodnar, Anna Ryan, Jessica Ryan, and Johanna Theisen.
- Valley Falls** - Jeremy Chapko, Kyle Holbriter, Jason Mahm, Dana Pearce, and Wendy Thilking.

A salute to The Class of 2000

See page 7

White Creek business destroyed



Fire, which broke out at Pro-Pak on Owlkill Road in the town of White Creek at about 2 a.m. Wednesday morning largely destroyed the cardboard packaging products plant. A mutual alarm brought eighteen fire companies from this area and adjacent Vermont to the blaze. Pictured above, behind some of the plant's office equipment rescued from the fire, are members of the Salem Fire Department who were still at the scene mid-morning. Heavy equipment had been brought in to knock down a portion of the structure in which the blaze continued to smolder and occasionally flare up. The inset photograph shows some of the rubble that remained of the front portion of the manufacturing plant.

Elks' celebration of Independence Day

The Greenwich Elks will be having an Independence Day Celebration on Friday, June 30. The events start at 5:30 p.m. with a Softball Tournament featuring local teams. There will be entertainment by "Happy Days Again DJ Service". The evening will end with fireworks at dark.

Food and ice cold beverages will be available all day and evening. Great family fun.

Fair ride tickets now available

Advance ride tickets are now available for purchase for the 2000 Washington County Fair. For ride tickets please contact one of the following: The Washington County Fair Office; Cornell Cooperative Extension Office, 415 Lower Main Street, Hudson Falls, NY 12839; or area 4-H members.

Summer intern at Extension office

Jennifer Valla will be the 4-H intern this summer at the Washington County Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Hudson Falls.

Originally from Saratoga Springs, she belonged to the Saratoga County 4-H for twelve years.

She is a student at Cornell University, where she is majoring in Human Development in the school of Human Ecology. In the fall, she will start her junior year.

On campus, she has worked at the State Cooperative Extension office doing marketing and public relations work. Her work there includes designing fun displays and brochures. She serves on the Director's Advisory Council and was on the External Review Team for 4-H youth development in February.

Jennifer is a Resident Advisor in one of the dorms and through Human Ecology, is involved in several organizations.

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Soldiers salute soldiers of old



The members of the Champlain Rifles, a group of Civil War Reenactors, encamped at Dorr Park, and the Second Continental Artillery Regiment, encamped at Memorial Park during the Whipple City Festival weekend, marched to the Civil War Monument at Washington Square and Salem Street on Sunday, June 18, at 12:30 p.m.

The soldier in command read off the names of servicemen and a soldier reported each one dead.

Alternating, the Civil War soldiers, then the Revolutionary soldiers, each fired three salvos in salute.

In attendance, was a group of three women, two boys and a girl, dressed in Civil War era clothing. One of the ladies placed a bouquet of flowers at the base of the monument, the flags were furled and the two contingents marched back to their respective camps.

A few rain drops did not hamper this lovely ceremony.

Pataki seeks disaster aid for New York farmers

Governor George E. Pataki has requested the Clinton Administration to provide emergency disaster aid to farm families in 30 New York counties who have suffered devastating fruit crop losses from hail storms and other crop losses from continual heavy rains.

A major hailstorm May 18, which according to one observer lasted nine minutes, and another hailstorm June 2, have devastated apple crops in the Hudson Valley. Saturating rains statewide have made it impossible for other farmers to plant crops due to muddy fields.

"Our Hudson Valley apple growers have been hard hit by hail and high winds and other farmers across New York are struggling with heavy rains making it impossible to plant," Governor Pataki said. "We're hopeful we'll see dry weather soon, allowing planting to move forward. In the meantime, like always, we will do everything we can to make assistance available to our farm families, especially our fruit growers in the Hudson Valley."

In most instances the loss to the farmers is in excessive rain, though high winds, hail, freezing temperatures and snow and flooding are cited for several counties.

Farmers have not been able to plant crops in flooded or rain saturated ground nor have they been able to cut and store their hay. Seedlings and pre-plant fertilizers have been washed away. Freezing temperatures and snow in April caused other problems.

The wet season on top of the drought last year, forage inventory is low. With the probability of a corn crop that may be only 50 percent of normal this year, means that farmers may suffer a major feed shortage for their herds. Delayed hay cutting reduces the nutrients in the hay which results in less milk production.

Fruit crops were in the formative stages in counties in the lower Hudson River Valley when hail, high winds, and heavy rains hit the orchards in May. The fruit farmers may lose 75 percent or more of their harvest. Damaged apple crops will be downgraded and sold for juice processing and other byproducts at much lower prices.

Rensselaer, Saratoga and Washington Counties are included in the Governor's request for federal aid.

Both Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties have suffered freezing temperatures and snow on April 9 and excessive rain in May and continuing. Washington County has suffered excessive rain since April 1 on.

While complete damage estimates may not be known until after harvest, the Governor's request to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Daniel Glickman represents the first step in getting federal assistance to these growers. Should USDA grant the Governor's request, growers in primary disaster counties and contiguous counties would be eligible for emergency low-interest loans of up to \$500,000.