**Editorial.**

Proposed minimum wage increase will result in cost hikes, job losses.

In the coming months, New Yorkers can expect to pay more for their daily take-out coffee and restaurant meals. The reason is simple: The state has announced an increase in the minimum wage from $5.75 to $6.50 per hour.

This increase, which is scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2002, will have a significant impact on businesses, particularly small businesses.

While the increase may seem like a good idea at first, New York State is not alone in raising the minimum wage. Several other states have already increased their minimum wage, and many others are considering similar increases.

In many cases, these increases have resulted in higher prices for consumers, as businesses try to offset the increased labor costs. This is particularly true for small businesses, which may have limited ability to absorb the higher wages.

For example, some restaurants in New York City have already announced that they will increase their prices to offset the higher minimum wage. This is not surprising, as restaurants are already facing increased costs due to rising food prices and utility bills.

The increase in the minimum wage is likely to have a similar effect on other industries, as well. For instance, some retail stores may raise their prices in order to cover the higher wages they are paying their employees.

However, such increases may also lead to job losses, as businesses try to offset the higher labor costs. In some cases, businesses may choose to reduce their workforce or reduce their hours in order to avoid paying the higher wages.

In conclusion, the increase in the minimum wage is likely to have a significant impact on New York State's economy. While the increase may seem like a good idea at first, it is important to consider the potential drawbacks, such as higher prices for consumers and job losses for businesses.

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**Letter to the editor.**

*Steve Burke steps down as chair of county Dems.*

By Nancy Glenn-McConnell

The former Gouverneur Volunteer Fire Department is now the home of some of the finest firefighters in the area. These firefighters are dedicated to serving our community and protecting our lives. Their hard work and dedication are truly inspiring.

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**Answers come from county on Kilkarny Road work in Fowler.**

by Robin Jarake

The Town of Fowler’s project to repair the Kilkarny Road culvert and ditch is now complete, and the residents of Fowler are grateful for the work that was done.

The project involved the replacement of the old culvert and the construction of a new one. The new culvert is designed to provide better drainage and prevent flooding in the area.

The town manager, David Brown, said that the project was necessary due to the age and condition of the old culvert. The old culvert was leaking and causing flooding, which was a safety concern for the residents.

The new culvert was built to last and is designed to handle the water flow for years to come. The town manager said that he was pleased with the outcome of the project and that the residents were satisfied with the work that was done.

The town manager also thanked the workers and the contractors who worked on the project. He said that without their help, the project would not have been possible.

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