

THE REGION

CALENDAR

Submissions to the Oswego County calendar may be sent to the Oswego County Editor, Syracuse Newspapers, 10 Canalview Mall, Fulton, N.Y. 13069. Notices should be typed and should include a phone number for confirmation. The notice should be submitted at least three weeks before the event.

SATURDAY, Dec. 7

Basketball trip — The Oswego City-Country Youth Bureau and the Oswego YMCA will sponsor a trip to the Carrier Classic basketball games at Syracuse University. Bus leaves the Oswego YMCA at 5 p.m. and returns at 12:30 a.m. Cost is \$10. For information call the YMCA at 343-1984.

SUNDAY, Dec. 8

Motorcyclists' meeting — The North Country Retreads, a group of motorcycle enthusiasts over 40, meets the second Sunday of each month for breakfast 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Sweet Basil restaurant, state Route 3, Fulton.

Bingo — The Bishop Cunningham High School Guild and Friends will host bingo at the school at state Route 481 and Burke Street, Oswego, at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.

MONDAY, Dec. 9

Cancer support group — The Circle of Caring cancer support group meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the training room of the Oswego County Office Complex at 70 Bunker St., Oswego. For information, call the Oswego County chapter of the American Cancer Society at 343-1421.

Duplicate bridge — The Oswego County Duplicate Bridge Club hosts games at 10:30 a.m. Mondays at the McGrobie Building, Lake Street, Oswego. Games are also at 1 p.m. on most Wednesdays and at 7 p.m. Thursdays. A partner will be provided if needed.

Bingo — The VFW Post 7325 sponsors bingo at 7:30 p.m. every Monday at the Post home on Route 49, Constantia (opposite the Mobil gas station). Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Bingo — The Parish Volunteer Fire Department will host a bingo game at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. with sales starting at 6:30 p.m. The fire department is on Church Street.

Toastmaster's — Fulton Toastmaster's International Club 1515 meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the conference room at Nestle Foods. Use the Fay Street entrance. Guests and prospective new members are welcome.

TUESDAY, Dec. 10

Singles group — The Barnabas group for never married singles meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church at county Route 4 and state Route 176 in Scriba. It is a discussion group with some activities. For information, call 343-9305.

Dance lessons — The Country Connection meets 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Three Rivers Inn in Phoenix for country and western dance lessons. No experience necessary. Donation at the door.

Post card club — The Post Card Club of Oswego County meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the McGrobie Civic Center in Oswego. For information, call 343-1049.

THURSDAY, Dec. 12

Bingo — The Mexico Lions Club sponsors bingo at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday at the Masonic Lodge, Main Street, Mexico. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Tax Hike
8.9 Percent

(TAX, from Page B-1)
The city also took \$100,000 out of its self-insurance fund, Sullivan said.

One of the few proposed increases is for council members' salaries. The budget shows an increase from \$8,468.75 a year to \$10,348. The council would have to vote separately to raise their salaries.

Oswego is in good shape compared to other cities its size, Sullivan said. Fulton, the only other city in Oswego County, laid off a third of its workers last week and is trying to make more cuts.

Part of the reason is because of Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.'s Steam Station. That power plant provides more than 80 percent of the city's tax base, Sullivan said.

The station's value is the subject of litigation between the city and Niagara Mohawk. The utility claims the city has overvalued the station.

"The people of Oswego are many times blessed when it comes to paying for city government," Sullivan said.

And the city is in good shape partially thanks to himself, Sullivan said.

"In today's climate, I think if you can construct a budget that keeps pace with inflation, I think you're doing a good job," he said.

Hunting Deaths Distress Small Village

■ The community was distraught after a hunter accidentally killed his son then committed suicide.

By DANIEL GONZALEZ
The Post-Standard

TABERG — On most mornings the mood is cheery inside the K&C Grocery Shoppe, a convenience store where local residents stop in for a cup of coffee, or to fill up the gas tank.

But on Monday news that a member of this tight-knit Oneida County village committed suicide after accidentally killing his son while deer hunting sent a cold shiver through the store and the rest of the community.

"The whole town is grieving," said Penny Prosser, the store cashier. "I've seen grown men in here with tears in their eyes. It's a double tragedy."

State police said 18-year-old Michael Bulak was shot in the head Sunday with a slug from a 12-gauge shotgun fired by his father, Gene Bulak, 41.

The Bulaks lived on Main Street in Taberg, a village in the Oneida County town of Annsville, about 50 miles northeast of Syracuse.

The older Bulak thought he was aiming at a deer, and when he discovered the slug hit his son he turned the shotgun on himself, police said. Three friends who were hunting with the Bulaks in a re-

mote section of the Otsego County woods found the Bulaks dead, police said.

Grief over the two deaths spread on Monday to the Camden Central High School where Michael Bulak graduated in June, and where his 17-year-old brother is a senior.

School officials assembled a team of guidance counselors and school psychologists to help students handle their grief.

The Bulaks "were very well-known, and very well-respected in the community. The kids are taking it very personally," said Camden High School Principal John Davis.

The deaths were a topic of conversation just about everywhere in the community Monday, and the

grief seemed to touch everyone, including those who knew the Bulaks, and those who didn't.

"It's such a tragedy. This is so upsetting," said Trudy Piersall, of Rome, who never met the Bulaks.

Piersall was so upset over the circumstances surrounding the deaths she called several friends from a pay phone while washing clothes at the Westgate Plaza Laundry in Rome 10 miles east of Taberg.

"Awful. This is so awful. To think he shot his son and couldn't handle it and then shot himself and left a wife and son," Piersall said. "And the fact that it's a holiday week just intensifies it."

Gene's wife, Monika, and his son, David, did not want to talk

about the incident.

The Bulaks were devastated over the deaths, said a friend who spent the night at the Bulak's tan-colored ranch house on Main Street.

The friend, who did not want to give his name, described Gene Bulak as an avid hunter, who hunted as often as he could during his time off as a tractor-trailer driver for the Oswego Wire Co. in Williamstown, Oswego County.

The friend said Gene and Michael Bulak often went hunting together.

Gene Bulak was a member of the Taberg Volunteer Fire Department for 16 years, and in the past served as president and assistant fire chief.

Howard "Jack" Morgan, 60, sits in a secured visiting room at the Cortland County Jail Friday while a corrections officer, who is talking on a phone, keeps an eye on him through a window in the door.

Owner of Junkyards
Remains Defiant in Jail

■ Former Preble assessor refuses to comply with zoning laws.

By THOMAS FINE
The Post-Standard

PREBLE — Howard "Jack" Morgan believes zoning laws and building codes are unconstitutional, and he said he's willing to sit in jail six months to prove it.

Morgan, a former town assessor, fought a yearlong battle with Preble town officials over piles of junked cars, scrap metal, old furniture and rusted toys at his four properties on Steger and Preble roads. The town's code inspector and attorney told Morgan to clean the stuff up because it violated state fire and building codes banning unlicensed junkyards; Morgan countered that he could keep what he wanted on his property.

He lost, and, after defying a judge's order to clean up the properties, began serving a six-month jail sentence in the Cortland County Jail Nov. 7. With good behavior time, he will be released March 6.

"I never figured I'd be a jailbird," Morgan said on Friday. "I thought, if they were going to do anything, a fine would be appropriate."

Morgan's wife, Charlotte, while admitting her husband is "very stubborn," said the town's hired code inspector and lawyer "pushed him too far" and left Morgan with no option except defiance.

"He has said he will spend the full time there if that's what it takes to prove his point," she said.

Morgan's point, in his words, is this: "If I want to buy something for my property I feel I should be able to without putting it out of sight ... If I have to ask someone for permission to do everything I'd just as well be here in jail."

But to town officials' thinking, Morgan is lucky he was only sentenced to six months in jail

and fined \$500 by Harford Town Justice Lewis G. Sager. He faced up to four years in jail and \$4,000 in fines.

Sager imposed the lower fine and jail sentence after Morgan defied an order to clean up the properties, which followed a July trial. The town justice found Morgan in violation of the state code, but offered to dismiss the charges if he cleaned the properties by Sept. 10.

When the junk remained Nov. 1, Sager sentenced Morgan to jail. He said Morgan can still get out early, as soon as the junk is removed.

"The man is just being very stubborn," Sager said.

"This guy just doesn't care. He just thinks he can do what he wants to do because he's Howard Morgan and the hell with everyone else," said Douglas Staley, the town's code inspector.

He said the state code, enacted in 1984, bans "junked vehicles, equipment and material ... stored in open areas."

Morgan defended himself in Sager's court, and filed an appeal on his own behalf after he entered jail.

The appeal was struck down last week by state Supreme Court Justice Irad S. Ingraham, and Morgan acknowledged on Friday, "It's time to get a real lawyer."

Morgan's wife said the family had retained Syracuse lawyer Roger Scott, whose Skaneateles home is facing demolition because Scott violated town zoning ordinances. A secretary at Scott's office confirmed that Scott had taken the case, but Scott was unreachable Monday.

Staley said he began cracking down on illegal junkyards on residential property soon after his inspection firm was hired by the town in June 1990. By July of last year, he had filed code violation citations against Morgan and Morgan's wife.

The properties in question are Morgan's home at 6772 Steger Road, the now-empty home of Morgan's deceased parents at 6778



GENE PAGE/The Post-Standard

A sign supporting Morgan hangs in front of his parents' former home.

Steger Road, a four-apartment building Morgan owns at the corner of Preble Road and Main Street and Morgan's licensed salvage yard at 1833 Preble Road.

Staley said Morgan piled junk in and around abandoned cars at the two Steger Road houses. More abandoned vehicles were behind the apartment building, he said. And Morgan seemed unable to keep his junk in his junkyard, with some of it blocking a walking path to the hamlet's public pool, he said.

Morgan admitted that his salvage yard — he refused to call it a junkyard — exceeded its boundaries sometimes.

"At certain times of the year, people want you to haul their stuff away. Sometimes you can't put it away fast enough," he said.

As for the Steger Road houses, "they're not junkyards in my estimation," he said.

Morgan's son, Dennis, described his father as "a pack rat." He said Morgan's joy in life is accumulating second-hand things and cars on their last go-around, which Morgan restores and sells for a few hundred dollars apiece.

Cayuga Judge's Son Implicated by Convict

■ Testimony disputed in Auburn murder case appeal.

By SHAWN CAREY
The Post-Standard

AUBURN — A convicted drug dealer testified Thursday that he overheard a jailhouse conversation that named the son of a Cayuga County Court judge as the murderer of Auburn teen-ager Julie Monson.

The testimony came in a hearing in Cayuga County Court to determine if Monson's convicted killer, Thomas Bianco, deserves a new trial.

Ricky Lee Winters, 26, an inmate of Franklin Correctional Facility in Malone, testified that, in June of 1985, he overheard Thomas Bianco tell another man that Calessibetta, John Corning and

James Vasile had kidnapped, raped and murdered Monson in 1981. Monson, 18, disappeared after leaving a bar in Auburn. Her decomposed body was found nearly two years later.

John Corning is the son of Cayuga County Court Judge Peter E. Corning, who disqualified himself from hearing Bianco's case.

Winters, Calessibetta and the man Calessibetta was talking to, Mark Sweeting, were all inmates at the Cayuga County Jail at the time. Winters, who was called to the stand Thursday as a witness for Bianco's defense, was serving a sentence for perjury at the time he claims he overheard the conversation between Calessibetta and Sweeting.

Cayuga County District Attorney Paul Carbonaro claimed Win-

ters was lying again Thursday.

"It's pure, unadulterated garbage," Carbonaro said. "But it's what I would expect from a low-life like Ricky Winters."

Carbonaro said Winters was seeking revenge against Judge Corning and the district attorney's office.

In July 1990, Corning sentenced Winters to serve 4 to 12 years in prison for selling cocaine.

Carbonaro said Winters never told anyone about the conversation between Calessibetta and Sweeting, until he was sitting in a state prison cell last spring.

Winters denied that, saying he went to authorities in 1985 and expected to be called to testify when the grand jury heard the case against Bianco, but never was.

Bianco, 29, was convicted in

1986 of murder and kidnapping. He is serving a sentence of 25 years to life and is currently incarcerated at Wende Correctional Facility in Buffalo.

On the advice of his attorneys, Bianco was not present for the hearing before Judge Patrick D. Monserrate.

Bianco's lawyers say their client's convictions should be overturned based on new evidence such as that presented by Winters. The defense attorneys also contend that Cayuga County prosecutors did not turn over all exculpatory evidence and certain witnesses' statements as required under the law.

Winters and four other defense witnesses were called to the stand Monday, and about twice as many are expected to be called by attorneys for the two sides.

Pretrial
Hearing
Closed

■ The judge agreed publicity would hurt the defendants.

By DAVID L. SHAW
The Post-Standard

WATERLOO — Agreeing that publicity is likely to deny the defendants a fair trial, acting Seneca County Judge W. Patrick Falvey Monday closed pretrial hearings in the Bruce Kellogg murder case to the press and public.

Kellogg, a former Cayuga County resident, was shot to death while sleeping on the porch of his Romulus cottage last June 9.

His wife, Laurie L. Kellogg, and four teen-age companions have been charged in connection with the murder.

The Kelloggs and the teenagers are from suburban Harrisburg, Pa.

Falvey agreed with two defense attorneys who sought to have the pretrial hearings closed to the press and public.

"There is substantial probability that statements made by the defendants will be subjects of the hearing and repeated other places," Falvey said.

"This is an extraordinary case for a county this size. This information would be hard to keep from a potential juror in a county this size," Falvey said.

Even if jurors are questioned very carefully during the selection process, Falvey said that would not provide sufficient protection against possible prejudice.

"There is a definite, significantly good probability of prejudice if the statements of the defendants are made public at a hearing," he said.

Falvey said there are "no reasonable alternatives" to closing the hearings to protect the defendants' right to a fair trial.

Dump Sites
At Depot
Studied

■ The inactive sites are on the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund list.

By DAVID L. SHAW
The Post-Standard

ROMULUS — Two contaminated waste sites at the Seneca Army Depot are being investigated by a Massachusetts firm.

The investigation of an inactive ash landfill and the open burning grounds by C.T. Main Inc. of Boston began Oct. 1 and is expected to take one to two years to complete.

The two sites were placed on the federal Environmental Protection Agency's hazardous waste site cleanup list in July 1989.

According to a statement from the depot, the investigations will determine the nature and extent of hazardous and toxic contamination at each area.

That will be followed by a study on the feasibility of remedial steps and the actual cleanup.

The Army has awarded two contracts to the Boston firm for the work.

One is for \$945,000 for the ash landfill area and the other is \$992,000 for the open burning ground area.