

INSIDE REGION



ALFRED — A group of Alfred State College professors proved their love by donating their locks Friday. The idea was first spawned when Mark Amman, a chemistry professor in the physical and life sciences department, came back from helping victims of Hurricane Katrina. **For more, turn to 3A.**

SPORTS



WELLSVILLE — The Wellsville Lions' offensive woes continued thanks to a pitcher who channels a reliever from the 1980s. Penn Yan's submarine-style pitcher Ron Burd kept the Lions' hitters off kilter for five innings as the Mustangs beat Wellsville, 4-2, on the Lions' senior day. **For more, turn to 1B.**

PERSPECTIVE



In the Berkshires, they say they have everything — Massachusetts's highest mountain, rolling hills and ski slopes, museums and theaters, music and dance festivals, and historic houses. **For more, turn to 1C.**

OBITUARIES

- TERRI M. BAKER**
- TERESA M. (HARKENRIDER) CONGDON**
- JOAN CULLEN SR.**
- EARL HENRY THEODORE HOMBURG**
- MICHAEL E. LEHMAN**
- BARBARA MILLER**
- WILLIAM I. 'BILL' NYE**
- WILBUR A. WAGNER**
- ELIZABETH M. WOLCOTT**

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Former Hartsville deputy supervisor's home burns

Gene Garrison loses four dogs, six cats; teen injured in blaze

By ROB MONTANA
 SPECTATOR EDITOR

HARTSVILLE — A 15-year-old was injured and a number of pets perished when former Hartsville Deputy Supervisor Gene Garrison's home caught fire Saturday morning. Canisteo firefighters were called out at 8:19 a.m. Saturday for the report of a fire at

5116 Henry Jenkins Road, Garrison's 150-plus year-old home. Canisteo Fire Chief A.J. Martin said firefighters encountered a working fire when they arrived upon the scene, with fire on both the first and second floors. "At this point it's still under investigation," he said Saturday night. "It started in the



Smoke and water flows from under the roof of the home of Gene Garrison at 5116 Henry Jenkins Road in Hartsville Saturday morning. **ROB MONTANA**

Turn to 7A

Spiritual survivor

Lee Rosen recalls fleeing Europe during Holocaust

By BRIAN QUINN
 THE SPECTATOR

WELLSVILLE — Lee Rosen has been through a lot in her almost 95 years. Rosen, who is Jewish, lived in Europe during the anti-Semitism of Nazi power, lived in Israel and later moved to the United States in the 1960s. She has also dealt with cancer in the last few years. She said spiritual beliefs have gotten her through it all. Rosen — a resident of the Highland Healthcare Center for the last four months — said Yahweh, The Creator, has guided her. Rosen, who turns 95 today, also spoke frequently about the Institute of Divine Metaphysical Research (IDMR), a non-profit, non-denominational religious and scientific research organization with thousands of members across the country. "The institute has been my life," Rosen said. "The friends have been these people."



BRIAN QUINN

Friends say Rosen has a very sharp mind. She can speak several languages, including English, Polish, German, Hebrew, Russian, Yiddish and Ukrainian. Rosen said her husband, Abraham, died about 25 years ago. She said her son, David, lives in Los Angeles, Calif., and her daughter, Judith, is deceased. Rosen escaped unharmed during the Holocaust — the persecution and murder of about 6 million Jews by

the Nazi regime and its collaborators. The Nazis killed most of her family members at their home. "They died in the house. The Germans killed them," Rosen said. "My sister was not in the house. She was visiting in Russia."

Gary Leach, a history teacher at Canisteo-Greenwood Central School and fellow IDMR member, said

he met Rosen about 20 years ago when she moved from Rochester to the local area. Leach said he would ask Rosen about her past now and then. He also shared some historical perspective. "Poland didn't exist when she was born. She technically was born in Russia. Poland was created by the Versailles Treaty at

the end of World War I," he said. Leach remembered a story Rosen told him about anti-Semitism. "She was sitting in school one day. One of her Jewish classmates came in late and obviously had been beaten up. The

Turn to 7A

Two Hornell firefighters honored

Steve Foster, Dave Sexsmith helped save life of heart attack victim

By BOB CLARK
 THE SPECTATOR

HORNELL — Two Hornell paramedics have been honored for saving a heart attack victim. Hornell firefighters Steve Foster and Dave Sexsmith were honored by the Southern Tier Regional Emergency Medical Service Council Friday morning.

PUBLICsafety

According to Hornell firefighter Frank Brzozowski, who is a member of the STREMS Council, the Gold Stars of Life award is given out to rescue workers and residents of the Southern Tier who either save a life with quick judgment or provide another valuable service to the rescue community.

According to Brzozowski, STREMS receives hundreds of applications a year, but only a handful are given out.

"There were other calls which I nominated (the Hornell Fire Department for), I think there were four," he said. "This was the one that was chosen."

A call came in around noon on Dec. 20, 2007, Brzozowski said, that a woman working at Dr. Byron Collins's office was having a heart attack.

Foster and Sexsmith were dispatched to the scene, fighting lunchtime traffic and arriving at the upstairs office, where nurses were performing CPR.

By using a portable automatic defibrillator, the two were able to re-establish the patient's heartbeat. Once the patient was stable, five paramedics helped move her down the stairs into a waiting ambulance.

According to Brzozowski, many factors contributed to the life saving.

"It isn't just one guy," he said. "It was a combined

Turn to 7A



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N.Y. governor pardons hip-hop pioneer 'Slick Rick' Walters

By **MICHAEL GORMLEY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ALBANY — After years of arrests, prison and threats of deportation, pioneering rapper Ricky "Slick Rick" Walters drew closer to reclaiming his life Friday after getting a full pardon from New York Gov. David Paterson.

The unconditional pardon for a 1991 attempted murder conviction aims to halt efforts to deport Walters to the United Kingdom, the country he left as

a child.

The eye patch-wearing star behind the '80s rap classic "La-Di-Da-Di" served more the five years in prison after shooting his cousin and another man. Both survived.

The Democratic governor says Walters, 43, is now a rap artist and landlord in the Bronx who has not had any other criminal problems since his release from prison in 1997 and has volunteered at youth outreach programs to counsel against violence.

"My family and I are eternally thankful to Governor Paterson, my attorneys Michael Krinsky and Craig Kaplan at Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman and to all of the people who have supported me throughout the past seven years," Walters said in a prepared statement issued through a publicist.

"This has been a long and difficult road and I am happy for this to be settled once and for all," Walters said. "I look forward to enjoying this time with

my family and friends and to continue leading an honest and productive life."

In announcing the decision, Paterson noted Walters' commitment to helping young people.

"Mr. Walters has fully served the sentence imposed upon him for his convictions, had an exemplary disciplinary record while in prison and on parole, and has been living without incident in the community for more than 10 years," Paterson said. "I urge federal immigration officials to once again grant Mr.

Walters relief from deportation, so that he is not separated from his many family members who are United States citizens, including his two teenage children."

Although he had completed probation requirements in the attempted murder case and resumed his musical career, he was arrested again in June 2002. Immigrant agents stopped him after returning to Miami from a weeklong Caribbean cruise where he was a featured performer.

Two Hornell

Continued from 1A

effort."

The award was timed with National Emergency Medical Service week and a push by the Hornell Fire Department for automatic electronic defibrillators to be installed in public places.

"Actually, we had just been in Dr. Collins's office talking about a defibrillator," Foster said, adding without equipment like that, things would have turned out differently.

"The old way of thinking was rush them (the patient) to the hospital as quick as you can," Brzozowski said. "Now, with Advanced Life Support, you bring the ER (emergency room) to them."

"You've got to have something viable to work with," he added. "It's the whole package."

Former Hartsville deputy supervisor's home burns

Continued from 1A

kitchen, but it's unknown what started it at this point."

Martin said the fire is not being classified as suspicious.

Garrison, whose birthday was Saturday, was at work at the time the fire started, but said a 15-year-old boy he serves as a sort of big brother to was at the house.

"He woke up to smoke in the house," Garrison said. "He jumped out of a second-floor

window.

"I think he hurt his back and got burned a little," he added.

The teenager was in good condition at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell Saturday night.

While the youth was able to escape with only injuries, a number of animals perished in the fire. Martin said four dogs and six cats were killed in the blaze.

Garrison had insurance on the home, Martin said, but the

house is believed to be a total loss.

"At this point, I'm going to say yeah," he said. "There was heavy fire damage to the first and second floors."

"It's totaled," Garrison said at the scene. "I just made the last payment on my roof."

Assisting Canisteo at the scene were firefighters from Alfred Station, Andover, South Hornell and Greenwood, Steuben County Sheriff's deputies, NYSEG workers,

and fire investigators from both Steuben and Allegany counties. North Hornell firefighters were on standby at the Canisteo Fire Hall.

Canisteo units were back in service around 1 p.m., but were called back out for a porch fire at 10 Riddell St. — the home of Canisteo village Trustee Mick Carretto — around 2 p.m. That fire burned the steps and some flower pots, Martin said, and Canisteo units were back in service

around 2:35 p.m.

While Canisteo firefighters were at the Garrison fire, North Hornell firefighters responded to an alarm at the Canisteo-Greenwood Junior/Senior High School, but that turned out to be a faulty smoke detector.

"The guys did a very good job, especially for the fire we had there," Martin said of the early blaze. "They all did very well."

Spiritual survivor

Continued from 1A

schoolteacher asked him, "Why are you late?" He said, "Kids beat me up because I was Jewish." She disciplined him for being late."

"She grew up in a very anti-Semitic atmosphere. That was also the time of Zionism, the movement of Jews to try to get back to their homeland, was quite strong," he added.

In preparation to leave Europe, Rosen and her sister lived in a kibbutz — a kind of commune run by the government.

"She and her sister got out before Germany invaded," he said. Leach said in the late 1930s the British, who controlled Palestine at the time, had started to turn ships back as they approached. They were sending them back to Europe under pressure from Arabs and Palestinians. Rosen apparently got there before the British started enforcing immigration quotas.

Leach said his understanding was that Rosen, once in Israel, again joined a kibbutz.

"(It was) one of the ways the Jews tackled reclaiming the land. Everybody was poor," Leach said. "Lee worked in the kitchen. She also did child care. They still have kubbitzim (the plural of kibbutz) today in Israel."

Rosen came to the United States in 1962. She remembered working in a clothing factory in Rochester for 16 years. She said while at work, she had to deal with anti-Semitic comments from coworkers.

"I was a Jew. Nobody liked the Jews," she said. Rosen said her boss found out how she was being treated and put a stop to it.

Mary and David Faulkner of Scio, both who both participate in IDMR, have known Rosen for almost 35 years. They said while living in Rochester, she first learned English from college students she met.

"Her English is apt to be the same language they used," said David Faulkner. "I just thought that it was interesting that she picked up the same language (vocabulary) they did."

Mary Faulkner said Rosen told them a lot over the years, such as stories about living in Europe and not being able to practice her religion, living in Jerusalem and visiting the Wailing Wall.

"When you've seen she's been through, she's had to be a tough old girl," Mary Faulkner said. "Her mind is sharp. You can't get anything past her."

Leach and the Faulkners all said Rosen was happy when people came to visit.

"She's been known over

the years for her generosity, opening her home up. She'd make lunch for me," Leach said. "I'm not a great soup-maker but I made some soup for her. She would sip the soup, smack her lips together and say, like a little kid, 'Mmm, this is the best soup I've ever had in my life.'"

David Faulkner said, "She'd always try to give you something — 'Take this dish or take this home.'"

Rosen has never gotten a driver's license in the 40-plus years she has been in the United States.

"She reads without glasses," Mary Faulkner said. "She said she can't see, but she reads without glasses."

Rosen said on multiple occasions, surgeons started an operation and found no cancer. This happened once at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell.

"Before they were going to do surgery, Yahweh healed me," she said.

Rosen said she has come to like living in the Highland Healthcare Center and is aware the facility won four awards this year from the New York State Health Facilities Association.

"I've been in three (homes)," she said. "This is the fourth. People are treating me like a queen."

Rosen remembered a visit to the center by a local Catholic priest. He was singing a song to the resi-

dents that included the words, "If you've got a little, you want

more. If you've got more, you want even more."

"I stand up and say, 'If you've got Yahweh, you have everything,'" she remembered.

"He sang a song in Hebrew to me with a huge guitar and then the people all around me began to clap," she said.

In fact, Rosen will be the center of attention again —

from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday when Highland Healthcare hosts a birthday party. About 70 people, including facility staff and fellow members of IDMR plan to attend. The party will include food and cake, a slide show and a chance for Rosen to talk about whatever she wants.

"They will take a microphone and they let me talk about Yahweh," she said. "He told me he was going to take care of me and he did."

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