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LOTTERY NUMBERS

MIDDAY: 2-0-8, Lucky Sum: 10; 7-5-1-5, Lucky Sum: 18
EVENING: 3-6-9, Lucky Sum: 18; 4-8-5-1, Lucky Sum: 18
PICK 10: 1-5-8-9-11-15-19-27-31-33

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Bison Bag looks to expand

BIGGER: Company buys 1.5-acre property, aims to add 50,000 square feet.

BY JOE OLENICK
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Bison Bag Co., Inc. is planning an expansion that would nearly double the size of its Crown Drive location and possibly add up to 10 new positions. Executives from the Town of Lockport packaging manufacturer met Thursday with the Industrial Development Agency Board of Directors. The expansion would be an investment of somewhere between \$1.5 million to

\$2 million, said company President Scott Zgoda. Following the discussion, the IDA board approved the sale of a 1.5-acre piece of IDA Park property to Bison Bag for \$30,000. The property is west of a 1.5-acre vacant lot Bison Bag owns, giving the company 3 total acres. The vacant lot is west of the plant. The expansion would add 50,000 square feet to the current 55,000-square-foot facility. "If you stay stagnant, you fall behind and it's tough to play catch up," said Chief Operating Officer James Streicher, Jr. Bison Bag is seeking a 15-year Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes agreement for

the expansion, said IDA Administrative Director David R. Kinyon. A public hearing will be set by the board when Bison Bag is ready to move forward, Kinyon said. Zgoda said the company plans on starting construction before the end of the year. While the company wants to expand, the parcel purchase could limit where Bison Bag could expand to next, Zgoda said. "We want to continue to grow the business well beyond what's here and that could hinder it," he said. Bison Bag is seeking a 15-year Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes agreement for

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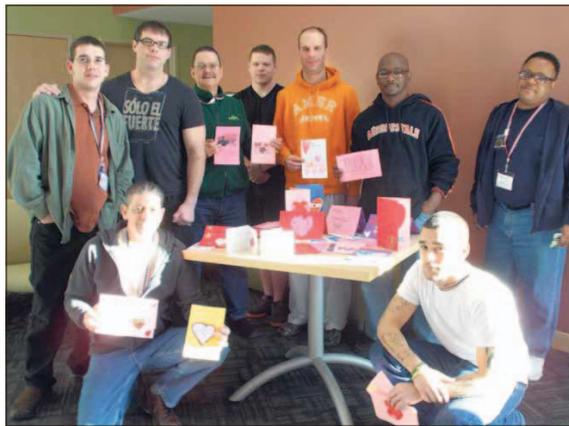
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Veterans residing at Freedom Village Veterans Treatment Center in Sanborn display the valentines they received Wednesday through the Partnership In Patriotism Coalition. The valentines were handmade by students in Pre-K through eighth-grade classes in Lockport City School District.

VALENTINES FOR VETS



Students' heartfelt greetings go across the county and the globe

STAFF REPORTS

The 17th annual Valentines For Vets Project went off without a hitch this week, as Valentine's Day cards handmade by Lockport City School District students were delivered to veterans in the area and hospitalized soldiers overseas.

The project, sponsored by the local Partnership In Patriotism Coalition, has students in the district's Pre-K through eighth-grade classes compose messages of love and thanks for America's military service personnel. In the schools, the project is coordinated by PIP Coalition liaison Heather Walton.

A package of valentines was shipped to Afghanistan on Thursday for distribution to hospitalized soldiers. More were hand-delivered by volunteers to veterans residing at the Bridget's and Odell's and Rebeah nursing facilities in Lockport, Freedom Village Veterans Treatment Center in Sanborn and the VA Hospital in Buffalo; and to veteran mentors and participants in Niagara County Veterans Court. Lockport Elks Lodge 41 took a supply



Veteran mentors volunteering with Niagara County Veterans Court show off the valentines they received Thursday. Shown seated, from left, are Lynda Pixley, Ron Bassham and Doc D'Amato; and, standing, Gary Heuck, Ed Jackson, Tim Beach, Chuck Stojak and Jim Germain.

of valentines to distribute at a veterans shelter in Buffalo.
The Partnership In Patriotism Coalition is forged to encourage youth outreach to veterans and active service personnel through projects including

the annual Veterans Day intergenerational recitation of war poetry at Outwater Park. The coalition's mission statement is "helping America's children reach out to America's children in service to our nation."
Coalition members are B.

Leo Dolan Post 410 American Legion, Barge Canal Optimist Club, Lodge 41 Benevolent & Protective Order of the Elks, Lockport City School District, the city and town of Lockport and the Union-Sun & Journal.

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