

# Down and dirty

WORM COMPOSTING HAS SURPRISING BENEFITS  
LIFESTYLE/1C

# LOCKPORT Union-Sun & Journal SUNDAY



TRIPLE CROWN  
HOPES DASHED  
SPORTS/1B

## Preakness

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### HOPKINS

Columnist wonders who's fooling who with governor's deal with Oneidas.  
OPINION, 6A

### 3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TODAY

**1** An elderly driver plowed into dozens of hikers marching in a Saturday parade in a small Virginia mountain town and investigators were looking into whether he suffered a medical emergency.

**2** Authorities say a police officer's bullet killed a New York college student during the response to a home invasion at an off-campus home.

**3** The commuter train derailment and collision that left dozens injured outside New York City was not the result of foul play, officials said Saturday, but a fractured section of rail.



### TOMORROW BIRDS ON THE BRAIN

Walmart believes its making progress in its battle with sea gulls.

### WHERE TO TURN

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AREA OBITUARIES  
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BILL WOLCOTT/STAFF

**WHAT'S COOKING:** Students for Orleans/Niagara BOCES serve lunch to leaders of organizations who are joining the drive for a transitional home for veterans. Chef Terrence Ridgeway, back row center, was joined by Mike Haas, Lance Bradley, Franklin "Frankie" Spicola, Joshua Michel and Dustin Cumbie.

# BOOKS, COOKS & VETS

Drive for veterans home picks up steam, sponsors

BY BILL WOLCOTT  
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A children's book, read by grade-school kids, is triggering a major production in Lockport — a potential transition house for veterans.

The blossoming project in eastern Niagara County includes a food drive for homeless veterans that goes until July 1 and features a fundraiser at the Elks Lodge on July 6. The family festivities begin at 11 a.m. on North Canal Road.

The objective of the fundraiser is to provide the first transitional housing in the city for disabled and homeless veterans. There's a long way to go, but baby steps have led to big forward steps and organizers are on their way.

The project started modestly at St. Mary's of Swormville. That's where Jennifer D'Andrea helped begin a Battle of the Books program with Kim Krug of the "Monkey See Monkey Do" bookstore in Clarence.

"It started out very, very small and it's grown to this big, huge event," D'Andrea said. "I grew up on a Marine Corps base, so a lot of (veterans) things are personal to me. My goal is to take those experiences and help other people."

In Niagara County there are 19,044 veterans and nearly 2,000 of them are disabled and/or homeless. Assistance is offered only at facilities outside the county. For many veterans, traveling to Buffalo isn't an option.

"There's a big need," said Al Lynch, commander of the Lockport VFW. "A lot are disabled and can't work and are homeless. Jen came to our meeting and, over a period of time, it's growing. More feedback is coming."

D'Andrea, who moved to



**CATALYST:** Jennifer D'Andrea-Terreri cooked up the idea of having a drive to build a transitional veterans home in Lockport. A city resident, she is bringing groups and sponsors together to hold a fundraiser on July 6 at the Elks Lodge. There is also a food drive.

Lockport with her husband four years ago, has four children and is involved in many activities. She works as a Millennium Settlements Consultant and is the founder and director of the Kids Breaking Free Foundation at 80 Park Ave. The non-profit encourages children to develop self-expression through literature and build confidence that can change the course of their entire life, according to D'Andrea.

One of the books assigned to the young St. Mary's readers was "December Stillness." The children read about a sensitive 15-year-old girl who befriends a down-and-out Vietnam veteran. He is unemployed and homeless.

The children in D'Andrea's class often have projects linked to the books they read. The students asked, "Why are veterans homeless? They fought for our country. Why does nobody take

care of them?"

A project was born. The students decided to have a food drive in their own school.

While the kids were reading books and collecting food for the vets, another group was looking for a community project.

BOCES Continuing Education offers cooking classes at Christ Community Church on Genesee Street. The men, who are working toward their GED or receiving remediation help, learn to cook and prepare meals. A cooking workshop was started last fall.

"The men eat lunch together," D'Andrea said. "They wanted to give back to the community... These guys have been great."

A veteran, who was in the class, suggested the men cook for homeless veterans.

SEE **VETS** ON PAGE 8A

## It's good grandkids do that

There are few things more important than "Jolcott," my fantasy football league team. They are my grandchildren: Kirsten and Kaitlyn Nelson and Robert Gerald Hoffman IV.

I didn't get married until my mid 30s and reasoned I was no longer eligible for grandfatherhood. Then, inside of 19 months, I had three, from March, 2011 to September, 2013.



BILL Wolcott

Kirsten made everything I ever heard great about grandkids true. Now, it's tripled by Katie Anne and Robbie.

I marveled at my own kids and hoped they'd never change. Then I marveled at every change. After awhile, however, they grow up. I continue to love them, of course, but they'll never be as lovable as when they were growing.

Kirsten is now 2-plus, but not a terrible two. Let's say, impish.

I leave it for mom and dad to correct her. I'm inclined to say, "It's good you do that." That's a line from a 1961 Twilight Zone show. When little Anthony does something bad in "It's a Good Life," everyone around him says, "It's good you

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## Jamboree to include firefighter challenge

**SPCA:** Skills competition tied to nationwide challenge will be held in June.

### STAFF REPORTS

The SPCA of Niagara has announced plans to host a firefighter combat challenge next month.

The event, dubbed the Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge, will be held June 22 and 23 at The Summit mall, 6929 Williams Road.

Firefighters competing in the challenge will be taking part in a five-evolution event, which includes a five-story tower climb with high-rise pack, hose hoist, forcible entry, hose advance and victim rescue.

SEE **SPCA** ON PAGE 5A

# Cuomo taking a tough stance on casinos

**SHOWDOWN:** Breaks with past practice of governors treading carefully with Indian tribes.

### THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY — Gov. Andrew Cuomo's tough talk about Indian casinos breaks with the past practice of governors treading carefully with tribes sharply protective of their sovereign rights.

Cuomo's explanation is simple: Money disputes between the state and the tribes have simmered for

years. Now he is proposing three casinos in yet-to-be disclosed locations in upstate New York. And he wants voters to decide on an amendment to the state constitution this year that would allow full casinos off of Indian land.

It's time to make decisions.

"I would imagine he's moving down his agenda and he needs some more money, maybe this is a good time to take it on," said Jeffrey Stonecash, who teaches political science at Syracuse University's Maxwell School. "I would imagine most of the people in the

state are sympathetic to the state squeezing the Indian nations."

Cuomo was already in negotiations with the Oneida Indian Nation on May 9 when he warned that the state would consider allowing casinos near existing operations run by tribes that were not in good standing with the state. The talks bore fruit Thursday with an agreement that would provide exclusive territory for the Oneida's Turning Stone casino in central New York. The state would get a cut of casino revenue, and local tax and land disputes would

SEE **CUOMO** ON PAGE 5A



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BETTING ON APPROACH:** New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo speaks during a news conference on casino gaming in the Red Room at the Capitol on May 9 in Albany.