

SYRACUSE AND REGION

Political phone message irks new mayor

Liverpool's Marlene Ward says the caller was Salma's supervisor, who denies it.

By John Doherty
Staff writer

Who is Joanne and why is she calling?
Liverpool's new Republican Mayor Marlene Ward says "Joanne" works in the Salma Town Hall and is really Supervisor Mary Ann Schadt.
Democrat Schadt denies hiding behind the Joanne moniker and says Ward is wrong.

The evening of June 18, Joanne called some village residents and urged them to vote the following day for the Democratic candidates Jon Zapolla and Tom Stack.

One of Joanne's messages was recorded on a home answering machine.
"Hi, my name is Joanne and I am calling on behalf of the village Democrats," she said. "As you know, tomorrow is a very important election in the village for you people and for all the people in the village. We're

urging you strongly to take five minutes of your time. The polls are open from 12 o'clock noon to 9 o'clock in the new village town hall (sic), which used to be the old fire barn. If you do not want that Flying J and do not want your taxes increased we're urging you to get out and support Jon Zapolla and your neighbor Tom Stack."

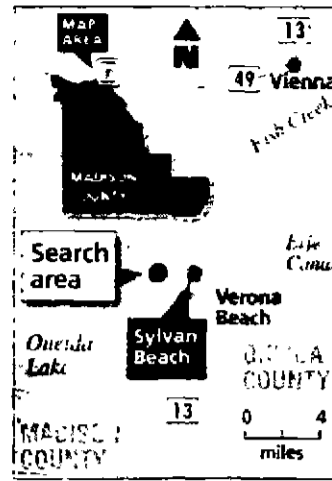
There's no doubt the woman speaking is Schadt, Ward said.
"I know that voice. It's Mary Ann. Her voice is so distinct," said Ward, who has known Schadt since they were teenagers in the village.

Ward also said the message was misleading because village taxes have not increased in four years and, other than making its opposition known, the village board has nothing to do with the proposed Flying J truck stop, which is planned for a site outside the village in the town of Salma.
"It was not me. I did not make any calls," Schadt said. "And what if I did? I'm a Democrat."
Schadt, who is seeking a fourth two-year term, said the charge is political and instigated

by the GOP.
"She is a Democrat and I am a Republican," Ward said. "If she wanted to work against me, that's fine. That's politics. When the (mayoral) election is over, we put it aside and move on. But to use another name and then deny it..."
The telephone call will not affect village and town relations, Ward said.
"We have to put it aside and move on to do what is best for the village and the town," Ward said. "On a personal level, though, it's another matter."

Missing swimmer

The search continued Thursday for a swimmer who is presumed drowned in Oneida Lake after disappearing outside the designated swimming area.



Oneida Lake is searched for man

Angel Torres of Syracuse was swimming off a boat in Sylvan Beach, deputies say.

By Glenn Coin
Staff writer

Oneida County sheriff's deputies continued to search Thursday for a Syracuse man believed to have drowned in Oneida Lake the day before.

Angel Torres, 48, of 221 Hartson St., Apt. 2, was swimming off a friend's boat about a mile from Sylvan Beach, Sheriff Daniel Middaugh said.

"The friends said he went down and he did not resurface," Middaugh said.

Torres went under about 6:30 p.m. in about 27 feet of water, Middaugh said. The spot where he disappeared was outside a designated swimming area.

The friends searched for him and called sheriff's deputies on a cellular phone. Officers arrived about 7:10 p.m., Middaugh said. A state police helicopter helped in the search.

Deputies on the county's marine patrol crisscrossed the area of the lake where Torres went under, Middaugh said.

The search went on until dark. Lt. Joe Lisi said he was not sure how many friends were on the boat. He declined to release the names of anyone with Torres.

Also Wednesday evening, sheriff's deputies responded to a drowning in Marcy.

Deputies were called about 9 p.m. to an Olin Road home where a man was found unconscious in a backyard pool.

Deputies said Jeremy M. Brown, 26, of Rome dove from the railing of a deck that overlooked an above-ground pool.



HIGH SCHOOL students take a drawing class Thursday in Syracuse University's Summer College. In the front are Rebecca Volinski (left), who just graduated from Fayetteville-Manlius, Mary Doherty of Albany and Lisa DiMaso of Collierville, Tenn.

Students Sample College Life

High schoolers get 'test run' during SU summer program

By Jennifer Jacobs
Staff writer

High school student John Flanagan is sure he will like a taste of college freedom.

"Do work when you want, sleep when you want, meet new and interesting people," said Flanagan, 17, who will begin his senior year this fall at West Genesee High School in Camillus.

For six weeks, Flanagan and 225 other

high school students from 37 states and seven foreign countries are bunking in a Syracuse University residence hall, experiencing living on their own while balancing classwork with an active social life.

SU's 40th Summer College began Monday and runs through Aug. 11, creating a flourish of activity at the quiet, summer-time campus. The program is a college "test run" for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors.

"It's an unusual thing because it lets them see what college is like, then go back

to high school," director Nance Hahn said. "It can really change what they do in high school."

And this year's program is noteworthy because 37 percent of participants are students of color — 27 percentage points greater than when Hahn took over the program two years ago, and much greater than SU's 16.1 percent minority enrollment.

Summer College tends to "college-proof" students so they're more likely to earn a degree, she said.

Dancers, fans of fiddling welcome to group

DANCERS, FROM PAGE B-1

exclusively for performers, but also welcomes dancers and anyone just interested in the music.

"It's mostly older people. The kids haven't learned to appreciate it yet," Monroe said, laughing.

Some of the members travel to Florida for part of the year and hold dances there.

"We dance together all winter, some of us," Blackburn said.

Kay Dugas, the group's president, said the group has about 270 members.

"Everybody comes, and the

people are so friendly. They end up feeling like they kind of belong to a family," Dugas said.

Anyone who wants to can get up and sing or play an instrument in the group.

"It's 'Come on up and play; we'd love to have you,'" Dugas said.

"None of us are professionals. We just get up there and have a good time," said Roger Farr, a fiddle and steel guitar player from Halesboro. Farr is also a member of the Fiddlers' Hall of Fame in Osceola.

Dugas said the performers

learned by picking up the instrument and practicing until it was right.

And, she said, it's the same for the dancing.

She said she remembers when young people filled fire halls to dance instead of going to bars.

"You would just learn how to dance young," Dugas said.

"Somebody dragged us around on the first time," Blackburn said with a chuckle.

Fay Jacobson of Mexico said she's been listening to old-time music all her life. Her uncle, Claude Patchin, plays in the band.

Today at the fair

Tom Crowl will perform at 10 a.m.; 4-H Club presentations will begin at noon and continue until 4 p.m.; there is a skillet-throwing contest at 4 p.m.; and Joe Whiting performs at 8 p.m.

She smiled as she watched the crowd two-step.

"Age doesn't matter anymore," she said. "It's just something they've grown up with, and it's something that'll always be with them."

Oswego man faces sex abuse charge

By Catie O'Toole
Staff writer

A 70-year-old city of Oswego man has been arrested on a charge that he had sexual contact with a 4-year-old girl, Oswego police reports said.

Robert E. Norsen of 96 Hamilton St., Apt. 100, was charged Monday night with first-degree sexual abuse, a felony, and endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor.

Norsen is accused of having sexual contact with a city of Oswego girl Monday morning, Oswego police Capt. Matthew Coffey said. The girl told her mother Norsen had touched her. Coffey said. After listening to her daughter, the mother called the Oswego Police Department.

Oswego police Youth Officer Susan Coffey interviewed the girl's parents and the 4-year-old, Matthew Coffey said. Police Sgt. Mark Knopp brought Norsen to the police department, where he was questioned. Norsen admitted abusing the girl, Coffey said.

The girl was taken to Oswego Hospital, where doctors examined her. Tuesday, police notified the Oswego County Sexual Abuse Task Force.

Monday night, Norsen was arraigned before City Judge Celia Sgroi. Sgroi remanded him to the Oswego County Correctional Facility, where he is being held, Coffey said.

DA, witness spar over time of victim's poisoning

Timothy Badger couldn't have drunk antifreeze three days before death, doctor says.

By Jim O'Hara
Staff writer

The defense in Mitzi Badger's murder trial rested Thursday after the lone witness repeatedly contended scientific evidence does not support the prosecution contention that Timothy Badger was poisoned with antifreeze while visiting the defendant two days before his hospitalization.

District Attorney William Fitzpatrick cross-examined Dr. William Sawyer for more than two hours, but the forensic toxicologist insisted Timothy Badger could not have been poisoned on Tuesday, March 2, 1999.

The cross-examination was heated at times, with Fitzpatrick occasionally demanding Sawyer answer the questions instead of delivering more lengthy explanations. Defense lawyer James McGraw frequently interrupted with objections about the ex-

changes between the prosecutor and the witness.

At one point, McGraw demanded a mistrial because Fitzpatrick made comments about a recent phone conversation with Sawyer. The defense lawyer objected that Fitzpatrick was making himself a witness without being subjected to cross-examination.

Onondaga County Judge Joseph Fahey rejected the mistrial request, but directed Fitzpatrick and Sawyer to avoid mentioning out-of-court phone conversations relating to the case.

Mitzi Badger, 37, of Baldwinsville, is charged with second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter in the March 1999 death of her estranged husband, Timothy. She is accused of poisoning him with a lethal dose of antifreeze, and the prosecution is contending she slipped the antifreeze into coffee served to the victim when he visited the defendant and their sons.

A co-worker took the victim to the doctor two days later and

then to Crouse Hospital, where Badger died the following day.

On direct testimony under questioning by McGraw, Sawyer told jurors Thursday that if Timothy Badger had ingested 4 to 6 ounces of antifreeze that Tuesday evening — followed by 7 to 8 ounces of Jack Daniel's — he would not have been able to function at work Wednesday. The witness contended the victim would have shown the telltale signs of apparent inebriation symptomatic of ethylene glycol poisoning.

There was no evidence of that until Thursday, March 4, Sawyer said, testifying that indicated the poisoning occurred either Thursday morning or Wednesday evening.

The witness also contended that if Timothy Badger had drunk 4 to 6 ounces of antifreeze Tuesday night, the amount of ethylene glycol in his blood when he went to the hospital Thursday would have been one-third the level found when the victim was hospitalized.

"It presents a toxicologic impossibility," Sawyer said in ruling out a Tuesday poisoning.

Fitzpatrick tried to undermine Sawyer's conclusions by attacking his method of evaluating the evidence. The prosecutor noted a preliminary report Sawyer gave McGraw June 28 indicated the toxicologist had started with the amount of ethylene glycol found in the victim's system at the hospital and worked back in time to conclude that the victim would have had to ingest about 22 ounces of antifreeze.

That's where Fitzpatrick and Sawyer spent much of the day sparring.

Sawyer repeatedly noted he had changed his methodology for his trial testimony to start with a hypothetical ingestion of 4 to 6 ounces of antifreeze on Tuesday and worked forward in time to determine what symptoms the victim should have been showing on Wednesday and Thursday.

Sawyer also told the jurors he poured 2 ounces of antifreeze into 4 ounces of hot double-

strength coffee, stuck his finger in the brew and licked his finger to see what it would taste like. He said there was an immediate sweet taste followed quickly by a bitter, burning sensation.

When Fitzpatrick noted most studies only mention the sweet flavor, he suggested maybe the witness had sampled a bad cup of coffee to get the burning sensation.

Sawyer was the only defense witness called to testify. But McGraw also entered into evidence a report from Dr. Jeanne Beano, the chief forensic toxicologist from the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office, who reached a similar conclusion about the unlikelihood of a Tuesday poisoning.

"This quite simply is pharmacokinetically impossible," Beano concluded in the report Fahey read to the jurors.

Fahey told the jurors Thursday to expect closing arguments and legal instructions Monday, when they are likely to begin deliberations.

Young victim 'very special'

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near the pier, but officials said warnings are often ignored.

His sisters were able to reach the pier and pull themselves out of the water, but D.J. could not.

Zufelt said she yelled to Bocyck, her boyfriend, who jumped off the hood of his car, gave Zufelt his glasses and said, "I'll be right back." He then dove into the choppy water to rescue the boy.

"I know in my heart, Mike truly believed he could get D.J.," Shattell said.

At one point, those on the pier were able to grab Bocyck, but they could not hang on to him, investigators said. Zufelt said she saw her brother, then her boyfriend, float lifelessly in the water before disappearing.

Crews began searching for the pair that night. When search-and-rescue crews were unable to recover the bodies, they presumed the pair dead.

D.J. Kingsley, of 8 Tallman St., Oswego, had recently completed sixth grade at Kingsford Park Elementary School in Oswego, principal Mary Ninemire said. In September, the red-haired, freckle-faced teen was planning to attend Oswego Middle School, she said.

"D.J. was a very special young man," Ninemire said. "He was so looking forward to going to middle school."

Bocyck is survived by his three children, B.J., 22; Rebecca, 24; and Joey, 6, who is Bocyck and Zufelt's son. Bocyck, who also has five sisters and a brother, dated Zufelt for nearly 10 years, Shattell said.

"He has always been very laid back, playful, joking, fun-loving," Shattell said. "He loved to roll around on the floor with his nieces and nephews. He was a typical overgrown kid."

Bocyck was a mechanic at Larry & Son Automotive Repair in Syracuse for more than 15 years. He also loved to race cars, his sister said.

Bocyck spent the Saturday with Kingsley and Kingsley's father, R.J. Kingsley, at the Oswego Speedway. Bocyck had one of his best days, finishing 22nd and qualifying for the next race, his sister said.

"He loved his family and friends," Shattell said. "He would do anything for anyone at any time. And that's exactly what he did."