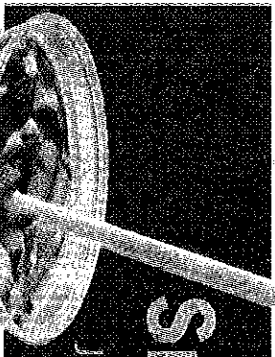
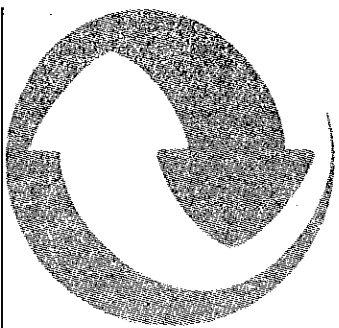


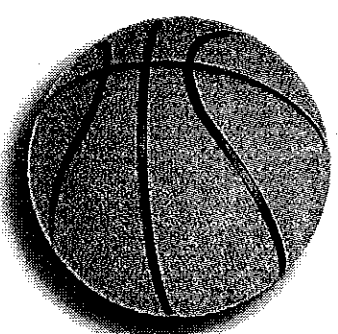
Reversed backing
Cambridge school board
extends contract **PAGE B1**



Smooth decision
Juice Bar offers healthy options **PAGE D1**



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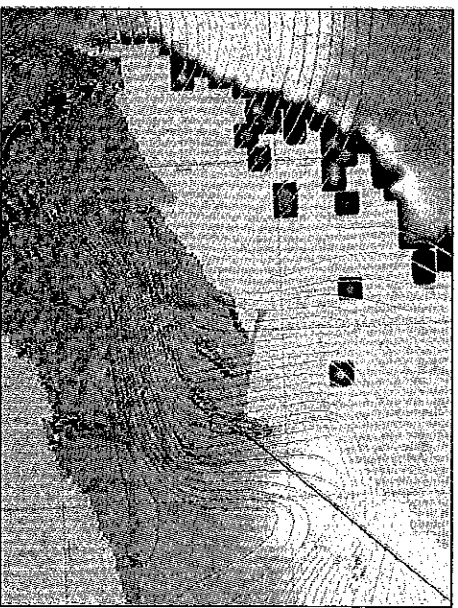
Boys basketball
North Warren takes on
Lake Luzerne **PAGE C1**

Thursday, December 19, 2013

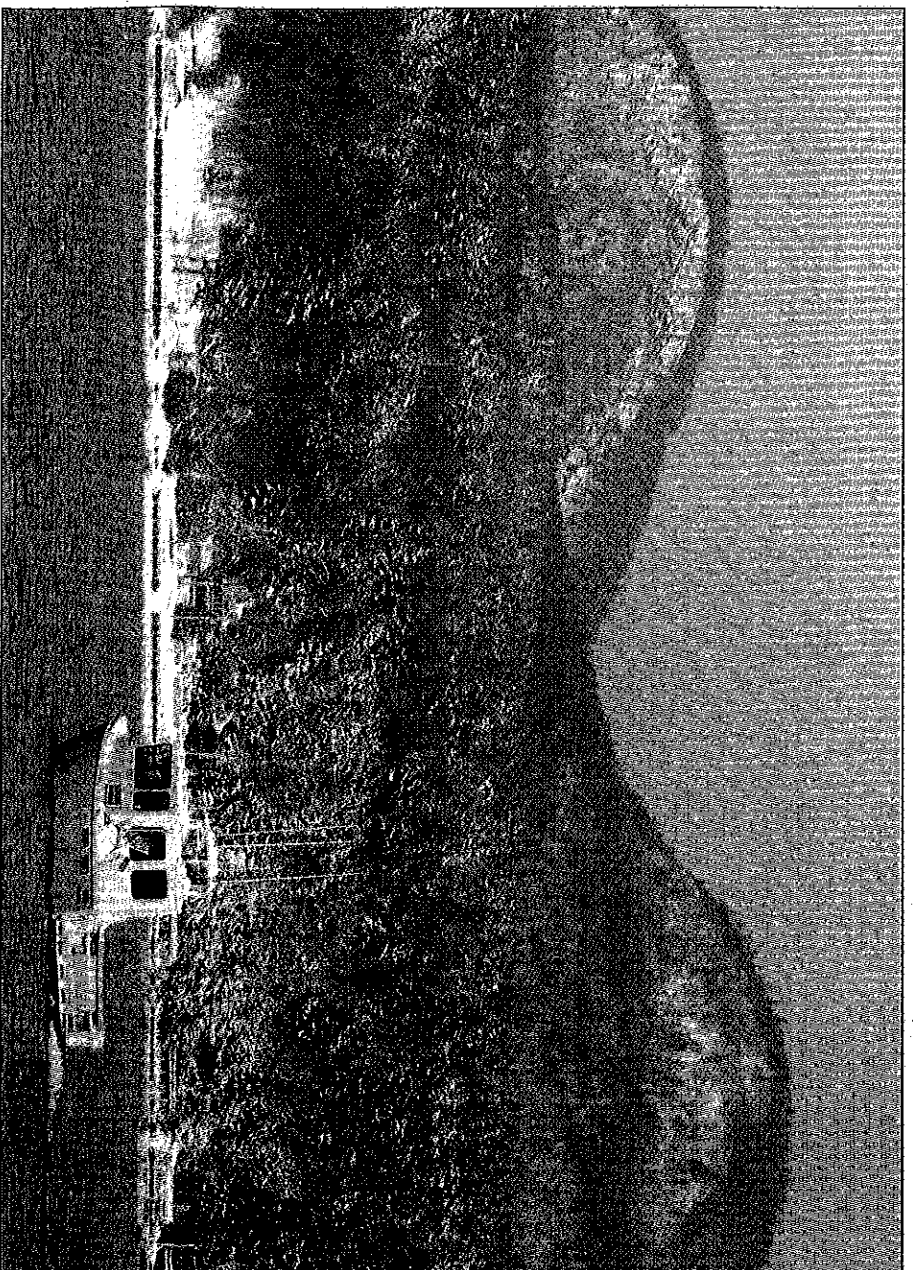
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2009 Pulitzer Prize winner

JEFFERSON PROJECT



A computer monitor aboard the survey vessel Mintaka shows the topographic features under a section of Lake George on Wednesday as data is collected for the Jefferson Project. The tan sections indicate an area that has not yet been surveyed. The red lines represent the pre-existing topographic data. The representation of the boat is located at the end of the black line starting in the top right of the frame. **TOP RIGHT:** Tom Reis, left, and Bill Jenkins navigate research vessel Mintaka on Lake George on Wednesday, as they use sonar and sophisticated software to survey the lake's topography. The project is a partnership of IBM, Fund for Lake George and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute that aims to model the circulation of the lake so scientific predictions can be made about how water and threats to the lake's health move about. **RIGHT:** The survey vessel Orion navigates Lake George on Wednesday, collecting data.



JASON MCKIBBEN PHOTOS—JMKIBBEN@POSTSTAR.COM

Beneath the surface

Teams troll Lake George for lake's scientific data

By **JAMIE MUNKS**

jmunks@poststar.com

BOLTON ♦ The teams commanding the high-tech survey vessels, Mintaka and Orion, are becoming acquainted with the bottom of Lake George, to a level of detail that includes depressions left by dropped anchors.

The two survey boats are patrolling the lake and collecting data as part of the giant Jefferson Project, which officials say will make Lake George the "smartest" lake in the world.

"This is groundbreaking; it's pioneering. It will give us the information we need to understand the lake."

ERIC SIV

executive director of Fund for Lake George, on the data collection from the lake

"This is connecting science and technology for a solution for the long-term," said Eric Siv, executive director of the Fund for Lake George. "This is groundbreaking; it's pioneering. It will give us the information we need to understand the lake."

The multimillion-dollar Jefferson

Project, a partnership of tech giant IBM, the Fund for Lake George and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute,

was announced this year, at a time when invasive species, rising salt levels, stormwater runoff and algae are threatening the lake's health and clarity.

The project will take the data com-

pleted in a three-decade water quality study of Lake George to another level with "next-generation science," Siv said, by providing data that will pinpoint how and where threats are entering the lake, and how they move and proliferate there. The funding, technology and resources being thrust into the project, expected to take three years to implement, will dwarf what has been collected over the past three decades.

The cutting-edge technology aims to create a model of the lake's health, enabling governmental and environmental leaders to make decisions based on science that will help stave off threats, Siv said Wednesday

Many will lose benefits in 2014

Report: Unemployment to be cut from hundreds in surrounding counties

By **SCOTT DONNELLY**
sdonnelly@poststar.com

A total of 630 people in Warren and Washington counties will lose benefits provided under the federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation program as of Jan. 1, according to a report provided to *The Post-Star* by the state Labor Department.

Another 780 in Saratoga County and 160 in Essex and Hamilton counties will also lose the extended benefits.

The emergency program was created in June 2008 to provide unemployment benefits to those who exhausted their state-provided benefits. It was extended five times — every year since it was launched — through federal budget agreements. But the new budget deal — as of Wednesday, appeared headed toward President Barack Obama's desk for approval — does not extend those benefits. Some lawmakers hinted the program could be extended retroactively in the new year, though.

About 1.3 million people nationwide are expected to run out of the benefits at the end of the year. Another 850,000 will run out of benefits in the first quarter of 2014 without an extension.

Warren County One-Stop Career Center is among the resources avail-

See **JOB**, Back Page

ESTIMATED IMPACT

Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program beneficiaries, by county:

- Washington: 290
- Saratoga: 780
- Essex: 140
- Hamilton: 20

Source: New York State Department of Labor

See **SURVEYING**, Page A3

NATION

Congress passes U.S. budget bill

◆ Across-the-board cuts will be averted in bipartisan deal

By **DAVID ESPO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON ◆ Congress sent President Barack Obama legislation Wednesday scaling back across-the-board cuts on programs ranging from the Pentagon to the national parks system, adding a late dusting of bipartisanship to a year more likely to be remembered for a partial government shutdown and near-perpetual gridlock.

Obama's signature was assured on the measure, which lawmakers in both parties and at opposite ends of the Capitol said they hoped would curb budget brinkmanship and prevent more shutdowns in the near future.

The legislation passed the Democratic-controlled Senate on a vote of 64-36, six days after clearing the Republican-run House by a similarly bipartisan margin of 332-94.

The product of intensive year-end talks, the measure met the short-term political needs of Republicans, Democrats and the White House. As a result, there was no suspense about the outcome of the vote in the Senate — only about fallout in the 2014 elections and, more immediately, its impact on future congressional disputes over spending and the nation's debt limit.

"I'm tired of the gridlock and the American people that talk to, especially from Arkansas, are tired of it as well," said Sen. Mark Pryor, a Democrat who supported the bill yet will have to defend his vote in next year's

campaign for a new term. His likely Republican rival, Rep. Tom Cotton, voted against the measure last week when it cleared the House.

The measure, negotiated by Sen. Patry Murray, D-Wash., and Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., averts \$63 billion in across-the-board spending cuts that were themselves the result of an earlier inability of lawmakers and the White House to agree on a sweeping deficit reduction plan. That represents about one-third of the cuts originally ticketed for the 2014 and 2015 budget years and known in Washington as sequestration.

Democrats expressed satisfaction that money would be restored for programs such as Head Start and education, and lawmakers in both parties and the White House cheered the cancellation of future cuts at the Pentagon.

To offset the added spending, the legislation provides about \$85 billion in savings from elsewhere in the budget. Included are increases in the airline ticket tax that helps pay for security at airports and a fee coportations pay to have pensions guaranteed by the government. Most controversial by far was a provision to curtail an annual cost of living increases in benefits that go to military retirees younger than age 62, a savings of \$6.3 billion over a decade for the government.

The party organizations lined up to oppose the legislation, arguing it would raise spending. Deficits are projected to rise slightly for three years because of the bill.

Three potential GOP presidential contenders, Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Ted Cruz of Texas, all opposed the bill.

Home operators to eye more assisted living

◆ **HOME**
Continued from A1

Hal Payne, administrator of Adirondack Tri-County, said the money will help offset the losses nursing homes incur from accepting Medicaid for patient care. Adirondack Tri-County loses \$82 a day for each Medicaid patient it houses, Payne said. Heritage Commons loses about \$100 a day on those patients.

The homes will get \$3.5 million in March to help with operating costs, and \$3.6 million in 2015.

"It's a plan for survival," said Laura Tirado, administrator of Heritage Commons. "Basically, it's funding to keep us in business long enough to explore these opportunities together."

Operators of the homes will also look at ways to increase assisted living and home health care operations in the Adirondacks, which could relieve nursing homes

during medical directors and administrators."

"We're not sure it's possible because there are so many differences, but we're hoping to work out something where we can remain independent and interdependent," Tirado said.

It's vital the homes take steps now as the region's population continues to age. The Adirondack region is expected to experience a 23 percent increase in people 65 and older between 2010 and 2020, a rate 15 percent greater than upstate New York as a whole, Payne said.

According to a 2009 regional assessment, if current population trends continue over the next 20 years, the Adirondacks will rival Florida's west coast as having the oldest population in America.

Calls to the Tupper Lake and Lake Placid homes were not returned Wednesday. The State Health Department announced the funding

Surveying planned for three more weeks

◆ **SURVEYING**
Continued from A1

morning as he rode aboard the Mintaka research boat.

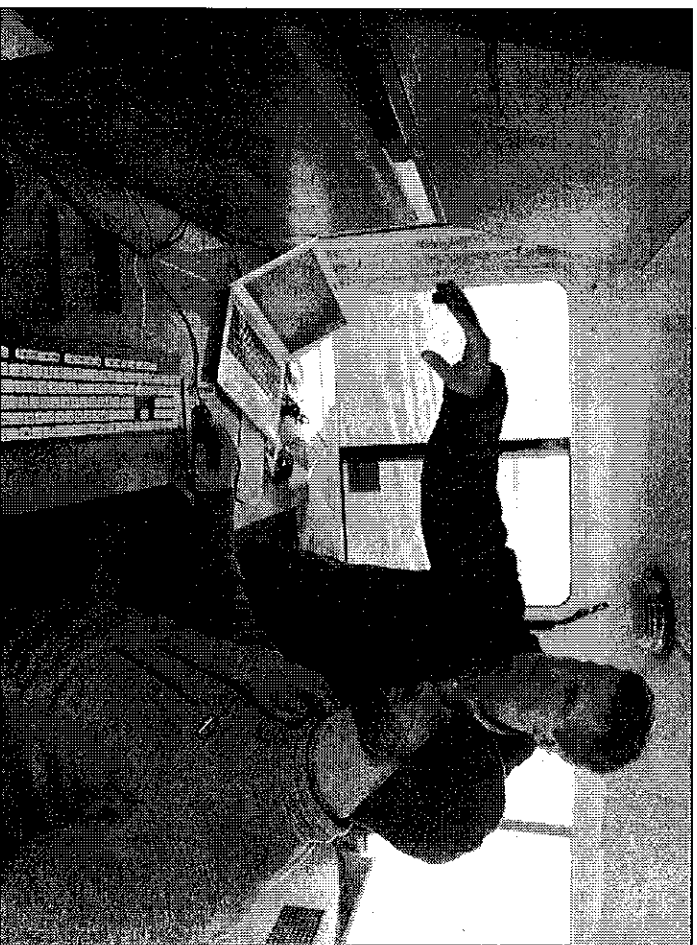
The bathymetry survey will create a highly detailed underwater map of Lake George. The surveying itself, focused the past two months at the southern end of the lake, will wrap up soon because of the weather. Boat surveying will pick back up in the spring, this time based on the east side of the lake at Huletts Landing, to survey the lake's northern end. Planes did a series of flyovers this fall, collecting data from some of the shallower areas.

When the boats stop making their passes this winter, there will be months of data processing. With IBM as a partner in the project, that process will be much faster — their computers can do in seconds what would take other computerists days, said Tom Reis, the president of Substructure, a subcontractor for the project.

Despite this week's cold snap and the sheath of ice forming in some parts of the lake, the goal is to continue surveying for another three weeks. This week, that means chopping and cutting through the ice every morning to get the boats from the state Department of Environmental Conservation docks on Green Island, near The Sagamore resort, to open water.

"We can tell you where every boat in the lake likes to anchor," said Bill Jenkins of Substructure, pointing out anchor marks at the lake's bottom on a screen mounted inside the cab of the Mintaka. "If it's in the lake, we can see it."

Reis was at the Mintaka's helm Wednesday, while Jenkins monitored two mounted screens. Reis steered the boat northeast toward the Narrows, and with a click of Jenkins' mouse, real-time data, including images of the bottom of Lake George, began



Bill Jenkins, seated, explains the details of how Jefferson Project data is collected Wednesday to Eric Sny, executive director of Fund for Lake George, aboard research vessel Mintaka on Lake George.

flowing in.

Everything from lake-bottom ledges and natural crevices to what appeared to be an anchor connected to a broken-off chain, showed up on the screen. A "massive array" of sonar equipment is suspended from the Mintaka's hull and hang down about 2 feet. When Reis is maneuvering the boat in shallower areas, the screens inside the cabin start showing red. "The mounted hardware itself doesn't move, but the skilled operators on the team frequently make adjustments inside the cabin based on the information filtering onto their screens.

"You can't put a neophyte in here," Reis said. "This is no joke."

The boat doesn't need to travel in a criss-cross pattern unless there's an issue with the data coming in. Sometimes with more difficult lake-bottom terrain, they cross back to collect data from some of the "nooks and crannies," Jenkins said.

Diamond: Officials weeks away from final plans

◆ **DIAMOND**
Continued from A1

a new sort of store the Schemachy-based chain developed for Market Center.

It features fresh foods and a limited grocery selection designed for a downtown setting where residents want to pick up items in between trips to larger full-service supermarkets.

Diamond said it has not yet been determined whether the supermarket in the Glens Falls development would be a Price Chopper Limited or some other chain, but the concept would be the same.

"That particular model has a Price Chopper," he said.

Contacted Wednesday, Mona Gohb, a Price Chopper spokeswoman, said, "We are not pursuing an opportunity there (downtown Glens Falls) at this time."

Discussion of the complex has been going on for about two years, and ideas for it were included in the city's Downtown Vision & Development Strategy, prepared in 2012.

The chances the project will be built increased when the state announced Dec. 12 that Glens Falls Industrial Development Agency will receive \$2.5 million in funding for the

On Tuesday, he said the project still is not definite, but officials are just "weeks away" from finishing their plans.

"I'm guessing in the first quarter of 2014 we will have something to talk about," he said.

Contacted Tuesday, Bonacio said Edward Bartholomew, president of EDC Warren County, is the right person to comment on the project.

"We're working with the city. I know that there's been some great movement," Bonacio said. "The key person to be talking to there is definitely Ed. Ed's the quarterback on this thing."

Bartholomew said Diamond is the right person to comment.

"I may be the running back, but the quarterback, the one calling the game plan, is Jack Diamond," Bartholomew said in an email.

"As the downtown vision plan discussed, the city would like to have additional apartments, further retail in downtown, diversity in retail and a hockey tenant for the Civic Center," he continued. "But all the pieces have to fit together — still working on the pieces."

When the equipment was mounted on the vessel, its exact location on the boat was logged into the software program so the team knows where they are in the lake at all times, within a centimeter. Throughout the survey shifts, they'll also drop a probe into the water to the lake floor, measuring temperature and salinity in different locations.

Reis thinks they've found several natural springs so far. As for boat wrecks — they've come across a couple of "far-gets," but they haven't looked closer.

"That's someone else's deal," Reis said.

The data acquisition team has 15 members. Usually, two people are staffing each of the two boats, logging 10- to 12-hour shifts. The surveying is done every day, and the team members usually rotate, with each going on the water for two weeks at a time. The surveying wraps up at 6 or 7 p.m.,

for some other commercial use, he said.

A parking garage that would be part of the project would make it easier for the city to recruit a new hockey tenant for Glens Falls Civic Center, he said.

The Adirondack Phantoms, which now make the Civic Center home ice, are expected to relocate at the end of the season to a new arena being built in Allentown, Pa.

"The people of the community would like to see a downtown market in the city of Glens Falls. We've been looking for that element. We also would like to expand our housing stock downtown. We also would like to recruit an American Hockey League team, with the idea of having a parking structure available," Diamond said. "Those are the ingredients to improving our downtown, and that's what we're working on."

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