

## Bee Editorial

# Don't gamble in this year's presidential election

Did you know Barack Obama wants to increase the minimum wage as a response to the economy concerns? Or that Mike Huckabee wants to address the energy issue by letting the free market sort out what type of fuel makes sense to develop?

Did you also know that Hillary Rodham Clinton wants a strategic energy fund, to invest billions of dollars in research and development and efficiency? Or that John McCain has a plan to retrain workers who lose jobs because of increased competition?

These are just a few of the leading candidates' answers to major issues. The Web site [www.youngamericanvoters.com](http://www.youngamericanvoters.com), launched by a Williamsville South graduate, posts the candidates' statements on 34 topics. It also includes the answers of nine other candidates who have not dropped out of the race.

The 20-year-old University at Buffalo student

said he wants Americans to be educated when they vote for a president this time around. To us, the Web site is quite impressive, the result of months of work and research by three young voters. It's easy to use as well.

Too often you hear people discuss who they want for the next president, only to learn there isn't a lot of foundation to their reasoning. History has even shown that "good looking" politicians win for that reason alone or for how well they speak — not if they can turn around a recession or if they have a solid plan for alternative energy sources.

The truth is, there is no reason a voter shouldn't be ready when voting in the Feb. 5 primary or the Nov. 4 election. The information is available to you.

We were also recently informed about the Web site <http://www.vote-smart.org>, through a local ambassador, as she is called. Project Vote

Smart, is a nonpartisan voter-education system, based in Montana. The volunteer said her only goal is to have people educate themselves before going to the polls, and to mobilize people to go to the polls.

The Web site asks, "Worried about your Future? War... Economy... Health Care... Education... Environment... You Should Be!"

Just this week, stocks around the world fell, with reporters saying it is in direct relation to issues in the United States, and right in our own pockets you are losing more money every few months to rising gas prices.

This country needs the best person to work on some very serious concerns. This isn't about who looks best or who had a heartfelt speech or who can zing the other candidates. This is about changing lives — yours and your family's. Visit these Web sites, and be ready when you step into those polling places.

## Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **GREEN BELT** — I never thought I would see the day when my dad watched me take a hit to the jaw. But it happened Friday. Supporting me during my test for green belt at Mandarin Kung Fu, my dad sat and watched as I took a pretty solid hit

during the sparring portion of the test. It was actually an accident — don't get the wrong impression. But it was worth it when about an hour later, Sifu Norman Mandarino announced that I, along with my friend Sean, had been promoted to green belt. I am currently the only female

training at that level. One of the black belts commented that he thought I was the toughest woman he had seen come through the school. That made me smile, sore jaw and all.

Afterwards I said to my dad, "A lot different from the days of ballet recitals, huh?" My mom called to congratulate me from a hospital where she is finishing her schooling to become a registered nurse. I found it funny that she wasn't with me to administer some medical attention.

• **GRANDPARENTS' LOVE** — "Pancakes & Prayers," a benefit for Evan Tringali, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10 at George M. Southard Elementary School, 6385 Locust St. Extension, Lockport. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.

Evan, a second-grader at the school, was diagnosed in September with Ewing Sarcoma, a rare bone cancer. Evan has received chemotherapy at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and was scheduled to

undergo surgery Tuesday in Women and Children's Hospital to replace a portion of his left femur. He is scheduled for more chemotherapy after the surgery.

The benefit will include a pancake breakfast, a basket raffle, a silent auction and children's activities. Donations are being accepted. For tickets, contact Krista Jones at 531-3290 or Dara Lis at 523-0960. Evan's grandparents, Judy and Tom Catanzaro of Getzville, are collecting donations for the benefit as well. Call for information.

• **SEEDLING PROGRAM** — Erie County Legislator Edward A. Rath, R-15th District, said order forms for the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District Tree and Shrub Seedling Program are available. Some of the broadleaf deciduous seedlings available for purchase are black cherry, sugar maple and white oak. Conservation shrubs that may be purchased include Sargent crabapple, Red Osier dogwood,

and Streamco willow.

Evergreen/conifer seedlings include Scotch pine, blue spruce and Douglas fir. The evergreen/conifer seedlings can be obtained 10 for \$8, 30 for \$21, 100 for \$60 and 500 for \$250.

Wildflower seed mixes are available as well, and all orders are due by March 20 and are to be picked up on April 19 at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg.

This program is available to all Erie County residents, schools, homeowner groups, civic organizations and not-for-profit groups. There are more than 40 varieties of trees, shrubs and wildflower seed mixes available.

"This is an excellent way to promote conservation and increase tree growth. It enhances our community," Rath said.

Order forms may be obtained at Rath's district office at 5500 Main St., Suite 1, Williamsville. Enter from the parking lot. Call before coming to the office. The telephone number is 633-0617, or e-mail [rathe@erie.gov](mailto:rathe@erie.gov).

## Out of the Past

### 125 Years Ago Jan. 25, 1883

That was a jolly crowd of coasters which made the neighborhood of Messrs. John and Peter Grove on Cayuga Street resonant with shouts and laughter, Friday night last. The crowd consisted of some of the staid and steady gentlemen and demurely demeaned ladies of this village; also a number of the younger lads and lassies.

Our ice men in the village gathered their crop too soon. Had they waited, they could have secured a superior article.

Dealers predict a drop in the price of coal.

The wheat fields are exposed to the blasts of winter, the mantle of snow which protected them during the fore part of winter having disappeared during the late thaw.

E.A. Hofheins, corner Seneca and Chicago streets, Buffalo, advertises fine road and track harnesses. Buggy tops made to order.

Lake Erie abounds in blue pike, weighing from one to two pounds, which are easily taken in the winter through the ice. They do not come very near shore, so that it takes a cold winter to make the fishing good.

"You're a pig," said a father to his son, age 5. "Do you know what a pig is?" "Yes sir — a pig is a hog's little boy," he replied.

"You would be truly happy, my dear," said one New York woman to another, "if you neither eyes nor ears when your husband comes home late from the club." "Yes, I know," answered the other, wearily, "but what am I to do with my nose?"

### 100 Years Ago Jan. 23, 1908

Word was received that Oliver Deazley died just as the newspaper was going to press.

The annual donation of the Methodist Episcopal Church netted \$44.55.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Hedstrom entertained the choir of the Delaware Avenue Baptist Church at their home in Snyder.

### 75 Years Ago Jan. 26, 1933

Supervisor A.F. Beiter left town Monday morning to attend a conference meeting of town heads at Long Island. Mr. Beiter motored, and traveling with him were Supervisor Brockett and Attorney Frank B. Moore of Tonawanda.

Deep regret is felt throughout the community at the report that four local boys, between the ages of 15 and 16, were arrested for numerous thefts committed here in recent weeks. Property stolen from the high school and the Chalmers residence has been found in the possession of one of the boys. It is hoped this will be their last offense.

A Dutch noodle supper will be served in the Christian church today by the Women's Association. Adults, 35 cents, children, 20 cents.

**Lost and Found:** "White gold framed eyeglasses in Buffalo Optical Co. case, between Herman's Barber Shop and Glen Theater. Finder please leave at B. Miller store."

### 50 Years Ago Jan. 23, 1958

Rabbi Daniel Kerman of Kilgore, Texas, has been appointed spiritual leader of the Suburban congregation of Reform Judaism, which meets in the Amherst community Church.

Paul Thuman of Transit Road has returned to his place of employment at Bell Aircraft Corporation following a heart attack in September.

Hal Abercrombie netted 25 points last Friday night as Williamsville High School won its fifth straight Division I game by defeating host Cleveland Hill, 84-56.

### 25 Years Ago Jan. 19, 1983

Amherst's population of elderly persons (age 60 and older) has increased by 51 percent since 1970, according to a newly-prepared report from the Town Department of Planning.

Students too young to remember the placements of the cornerstones — both of them — in the old Sweet Home Elementary School looked on in awe Friday morning as time capsules from 1936 and 1951 were opened at Willow Ridge Elementary.

Timothy Grady and Anne Schiferle recently received \$200 college scholarships from the Niagara Frontier Recreation and Parks Society.

Former Amherst Central coach Nan Harvey has been appointed women's varsity softball coach for 1983 at the State University at Buffalo.