

Bee Editorial

How long can New Yorkers stay the savings course?

What is it going to take to get — and keep — Western New Yorkers in the black? That is left to be seen. But if Gov. David A. Paterson has his way, over the course of the next two years, the state could save roughly \$2.6 billion.

The governor made the announcement last week during a budget plan hearing, but he is already drawing some criticism from state lawmakers. Part of the plan calls for reducing:

- Local assistance and fund support
- Executive and Legislature programs
- Member item spending
- Medicaid
- Fund support to some educational institutes.

The problem is, the people of New York, especially the western region, are already suffering enough with high taxes, high gas prices, low income and high unemployment.

If what Paterson is asking of the state government is realized, the trickle-down effect is going to be extreme. We can say goodbye to some senior and handicapped services, shelters and women's services, educational and extracurricular programs, park maintenance and other services.

We're already giving so much, how can we give more? Without government support and without the funding coming in through private donations, these programs are sure to flounder. And if it is left to individual towns and villages to make up the difference, we can guarantee a tax hike.

It seems like a Catch 22. We need to make up for our state's huge deficit, but when the people of this state have so little to give, raising the taxes and cutting services seems like a hard pill to swallow.

Paterson said he is confident that with the

Legislature called back to session earlier this week, its members will address the fiscal crisis. We are less confident based on the actions taken by lawmakers thus far.

You would have thought that based on the current state of the state, the legislators would have hurried back to office instead of finishing out their summer recess. The rest of us don't get a break from the ever-present financial crisis we're experiencing. It would be nice to know that those making the decisions didn't get a break either.

Something's got to give, but we never want to see important state programs cut because of lack of funding. We also don't know how much the people of New York are going to be able to bear in order to get back on track. Let's hope an agreement can be made when lawmakers return to office — one that we can respect and afford.

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **MLB AND MBL** — This past Saturday, I attended my first Major League Baseball game in Pittsburgh. It was amazing — and this coming from a non-baseball fan. My boyfriend, Dan, and I drove down for the game, taking a mini-tour of the

three-rivers city beforehand. We stopped at a restaurant called The Church Brew Works. In a story very similar to Buffalo, the diocese in that area underwent a major reorganization in 1993 and closed St. John the Baptist. It was reconstructed, and in 1996 was reopened as a

massive brewery and restaurant. It's quite a sight to see. Visit online at www.churchbrew.com to check it out.

From there we went to the hotel to get ready for the game. It was a short walk from the hotel to PNC Park so we joined the eager fans walking over one of Pittsburgh's many bridges. I was lucky enough to arrange for field access, and we watched the New York Mets, Dan's favorite team, warm up during batting practice.

Mets fans invaded the ballpark, leaning over the top of the dugout hoping to get their piece of memorabilia signed. I felt very privileged to be standing on the same surface as the players they were shouting to.

We soon joined the fans, taking our seats in the stands. The first batter up, Jose Reyes, hit a home run, and two other players scored in that inning. I thought, well, I guess baseball isn't so bad, but of course the action slowed. I still had a good time, chatting with my neighbor,

who went to the University at Buffalo and often travels around the country to watch the Mets. He was gracious enough to explain the seventh-inning stretch while Dan was in line at the concession stand.

Through many conversations with my boyfriend I learned that the Mets' bullpen isn't "all that great" lately, and in the ninth inning we watched the Pirates threaten the Mets' six-run lead. This non-fan was actually getting nervous, yelling at players I had never heard of before. But, in the end, the Mets were victorious, winning 7-4.

The night ended with Skyblast Third Strike — featuring fireworks and Phil Vassar in concert. Dan said there were actually videos from past Skyblasts on YouTube because of its impressive caliber, but like many of you, I was thinking, "It's just fireworks." But I will admit, it was pretty amazing and found myself taking a video with my digital camera.

We left before the end of the lengthy

program, walking under booms of bright lights and over the river in a sea of happy Mets fans. To end a great sporting night, we turned on the TV just as Michael Phelps was finishing his amazing Olympic performance and winning his eighth gold medal.

• **MBL: MYRTLE BEACH LOUNGING** — I am extremely happy to report that I am on vacation next week. I will be out of the office Aug. 25-29 and will be on the sand in Myrtle Beach.

My college friends and I are renting a house. I see it as our last youthful summer. Several of them are already married, and most have caught "the baby bug" and are planning to start their families soon. I am looking forward to getting away from real life for a week and reuniting on the beach.

If you are in need of assistance before I return, please contact Managing Editor Dave Sherman at 204-4905 or e-mail dsherman@beenews.com.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago Aug. 23, 1883

Last Saturday morning, there was mourning in the family of Mrs. David Metz, caused by the death of an aged horse named "Prince" who had been with them ever since his birth. "Prince" was nearly thirty years old and never sick a day.

It is with pleasure that we make mention of the handsome decorations and fine work that has been done on the interior of the Christian Church.

The farmers are presently engaged in harvesting their oats. The crop is heavy, straw is of unusual length and not diseased by rust.

E.A. Hofheins, carriage trimmer at Seneca and Chicago streets in Buffalo, advertises rattlers throttles, curry combs, brushes and harness oils of all kinds.

"The worst thing that can befall a boy is to have liberty to stay out at night. The boys who are permitted the freedom of the public streets at all hours of the night are the boys that fill our penitentiaries and work houses and bring sorrow upon their relatives and friends."

"When a man does not get up with a lark in the morning, the presumption is that he was out on a swallow the night previous."

"When a lady living in Chelsea sent to London for a doctor, she apologized for asking him to come such a distance. 'Don't speak of it,' said the M.D.; 'I happen to have another patient in the neighborhood and thus can kill two birds with one stone.'"

100 Years Ago Aug. 20, 1908

John Wooster has completed a deal by which he gains possession of the Tayntor farm, east of Williamsville, in exchange for the residence on Mill Street occupied by C.S. Burkhardt, and \$400. The Tayntor farm includes ten acres and a beautiful home.

The Palace Hotel, Main and Transit, will host a clambake for Aug. 30, and R. Schifferle, the proprietor, invites the public to attend.

75 Years Ago Aug. 24, 1933

On Saturday evening, thieves broke into the Standard gas station at the corner of Sheridan Drive and Millersport Highway. A.C. Moyer, the attendant, estimates the value of the stolen articles at about \$60.

Screams of 8-year-old Donald Scherer attracted the neighbors last Monday about 2 p.m. when a whirlwind lifted a basketful of dry washing from the lawn, near which he was standing, and hurled it over buildings and carried part of it into the neighbors' fields.

The largest crowd that Swormville ever had assembled was the annual church picnic last Wednesday, according to Rev. Charles T. Kraehn.

At the Glen Theatre: Rin Tin Tin Jr. and J. Farrell McDonald in "Pride of the Legion."

50 Years Ago Aug. 21, 1958

The George J. Diefenbach home at 1749 Millersport Highway has been sold to the Bethel Baptist Church of Buffalo. A church building may be erected on the site in the near future.

Richard J. Klemp was appointed a member of the Amherst police force at this past Monday's meeting of the Town Board.

A public hearing on the reconstruction of Transit Road from Main Street to Sheridan Drive, including the overpass at the latter intersection, will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 26 at the State Office Building, 65 Court Street, Buffalo. Notice of the hearing was issued by Elmer G.H. Youngmann, district engineer, State Department of Public Works.

Mr. Patrick McSherry, custodian at St. Leo's School, observed his birthday August 12 at his home on Elm Road.

25 Years Ago Aug. 17, 1983

By approving a rezoning application, the Amherst Town Board on Monday night paved the way for construction of a \$1.7 million high-technology office park on Wilson Road.

Lou Martini is ready to begin his fourth decade as a high school football coach, but his attitude hasn't changed a bit since 1953. "Win every game and try aggressively to achieve it," he said.