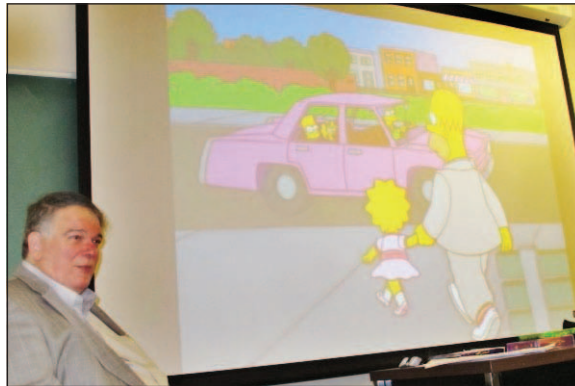


**COMMUNITY PROVIDES GENEROUSLY**

NEWS, PAGE A2



**THE SIMPSONS GO TO COLLEGE**

NEWS, PAGE A8

TODAY FRI SAT  
35°/27° 33°/21° 35°/25°  
Complete forecast, A9

**Bills focus on Raiders**  
SPORTS, PAGE B1

EVENING  
**The Tribune**

Thursday, December 18, 2014

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**NATION/WORLD**

**\$10M in stolen art recovered**

LOS ANGELES — Authorities have recovered \$10 million worth of art — including paintings by Chagall and Diego Rivera — that were stolen in one of Los Angeles' largest art heists. According to the Los Angeles Times, court documents show FBI and Los Angeles police investigators recovered nine pieces of art at a West LA hotel in October. Prosecutors allege 45-year-old Raul Espinoza tried to sell the art to undercover agents for \$700,000 cash. He pleaded not guilty to receiving stolen property and remains jailed. Messages seeking comment were left for Espinoza's public defender Wednesday.

**LOCAL**

**Border Protection launches app**

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — People entering the United States from Canada or Mexico have a new tool to avoid long waits at the border.

Customs and Border Protection Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske on Wednesday demonstrated a new border wait time app developed by the agency to help travelers better choose when and where to enter the country.

The application lets travelers locate three ports of entry closest to their location and then map the best route based on wait times and open inspection lanes.

Kerlikowske demonstrated the app at the Peace Bridge in Buffalo, the busiest passenger crossing and second busiest commercial crossing on the northern border. He says it's meant to help keep traffic flowing for the sake of the economy and security.

Users don't have to register or provide personal information.

**Bush pays visit to Sept. 11 museum**

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President George W. Bush made a surprise visit to the Sept. 11 museum in New York City over the weekend.

A museum spokesman says the man who was president at the time of the terrorist attacks arrived unannounced around 6 p.m. Sunday. He was greeted by museum President Joe Daniels and Director Alice Greenwald.

Spokesman Michael Frazier says Bush toured the museum and exhibit and "took the time to shake a lot of hands" from people who thanked him for his service.

The museum announced in September that it had gotten its millionth visitor in less than four months after opening to the public. Visitors have come from all 50 states and more than 130 countries.

HEALTH CONCERNS

**NY buries fracking hopes**

Cuomo administration provides environmentalists with major victory

By Mary Esch  
The Associated Press

ALBANY — Handing environmentalists a breakthrough victory, New York plans to prohibit fracking for natural gas because of what regulators say are its unexplored health risks and dubious economic benefits.

New York, which overlies part of the gas-rich Marcellus Shale formation that has led to a drilling boom in Pennsylvania and other nearby states, has banned shale gas development since 2008, when the state began

an environmental review of the drilling technique also known as hydraulic fracturing.

Wednesday's announcement, though not final, means a ban is all but etched in stone.

"Never before has a state with proven gas reserves banned fracking," said Deborah Goldberg, an attorney with Earthjustice, adding that the decision "will give courage to elected leaders throughout the country and world: Fracking is too dangerous and must not

SEE HOPES, A9



Acting health commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker presents the department's findings on hydraulic fracturing during a cabinet meeting at the Capitol in Albany, on Wednesday. AP PHOTO/TIM ROSKE

**WNY decries the ban on hydrofracking**

By John Anderson  
Regional Editor

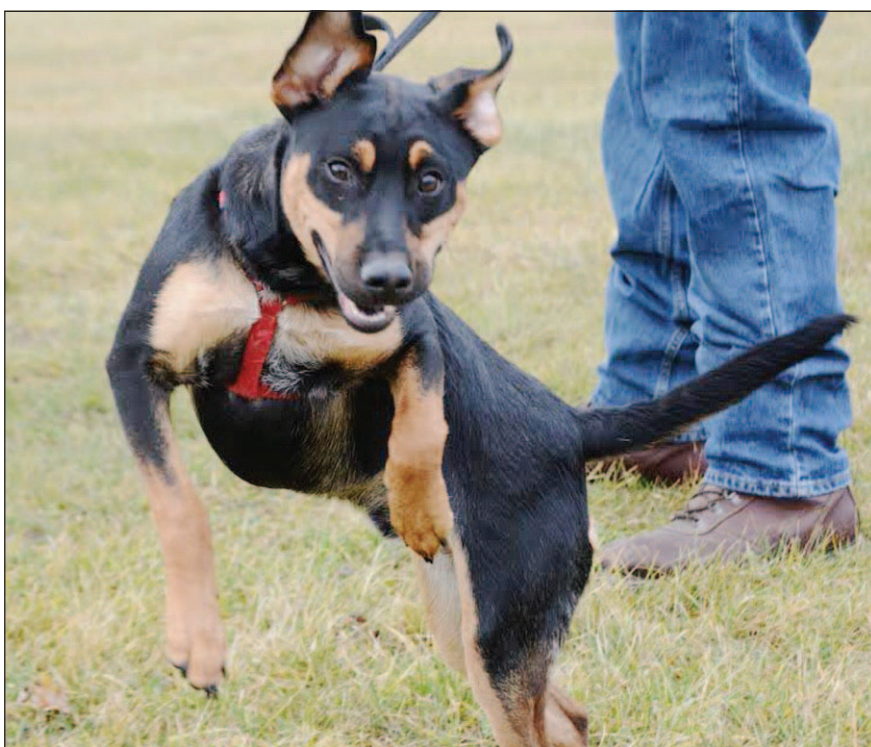
When the news of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's ban against fracking came down, both sides on the issue locally weighed in on the decision.

The issue came up at legislative committee meetings in Belmont and the newspaper was contacted by Chefs for the Marcellus, a Bronx group with a Boston phone

SEE BAN, A7

HORNELL

**'A place where a dog can be a dog'**



Milo, a 6-month-old dog residing at the Hornell Area Humane Society can't wait for the completion of the Jillian Andolina Dog Park in early spring. PHOTOS BY JASON JORDAN

**Humane Society breaks ground on new dog Park**

By Jason Jordan  
The Evening Tribune

HORNELL — Work hard, play hard isn't just the credo of wayward young professionals trying to make it in the world. It's how our pets live as well. There are few living things that can match the playful and rambunctious nature of a young puppy. Fortunately for their owners, dogs who call the Canis-teo Valley home will soon have an appropriate place to work off all their excess energy.

The Hornell Area Humane Society, located on Industrial Park Road, broke ground on a new dog park on Wednesday. The dog park will be adjacent to the Humane Society's building on Industrial Park Road.

"We'd been talking



(From left) Sandra Rapp, Kelly Granger, Andy Towner, Dr. Richard Andolina, Molly Andolina, Mitch Andolina, Barbara Parrot, Joshua Farnham and Milo the dog celebrate the start of construction of the Jillian Andolina Dog Park on Wednesday.

about it for years, that there is no place for people to be able to take their dogs off leash and play," said Sandra Rapp, Treasurer and key organizer for the project. "We have a small dog yard here for our dogs, but we were looking for something much larger."

The park will be dedicated to the memory of Jillian Andolina, a former Arkport resident, avid animal lover and life-long friend to the Humane Society who passed away in 2013 at the age of 26 after a courageous battle

SEE PARK, A9

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON



Rachel Haines sings "O Holy Night" with pianist Ellen Mason during a rehearsal Wednesday at the Hornell YMCA. The YMCA will hold its annual Christmas concert Friday at 7 p.m. in Christ Church Episcopal. RYAN PAPASERGE/THE EVENING TRIBUNE

**Christmas concert scheduled for Friday**

By Ryan Papaserge  
The Evening Tribune

HORNELL — Community members haven't missed out on an opportunity to hear holiday music sung by the best the area has to offer this year.

The Hornell YMCA will hold its fourth annual Christmas concert Friday night at 7 p.m. in Christ Church Episcopal next door to the facility.

The evening will feature 24 YMCA fiddlers including Randal Rummel on guitar; pianists Quinn Liberto, Ellen Mason, and Grace Weyand; singers Amanda Clark, Natalie Crosby, Amanda Gardner, Rachel Haines, and Rebecca Weaver Hamm; duets by Jo Barnard and Lisa Sanford; banjo music by Maria Graziano with Gennaro Picco on guitar; YMCA guitarists; and the New Horizons Band.

The performances will include a collection of 40 instructors, members, and music students, all with varying amounts of rehearsal time prior to the event.

Hamm, who serves as the YMCA's music and arts director, said some have been preparing since August, while college students such as Haines, a 2014 Arkport Central

School graduate who currently attends the College of Wooster, started rehearsing two weeks ago after coming home for break.

"College students have just come back so we've really been sneaking in a lot of rehearsals this week to try and get everybody on the same page because they weren't here," Hamm said.

Friday's concert will feature a mixture of holiday classics such as "O Holy Night," "Silver Bells," and "I'll Be Home for Christmas," alongside songs by John Jacob Niles, an American composer and folk singer.

Hamm noted that a measuring stick for both the program and the event's growth over the past four years could be the fiddler corps in that time period.

"In our first Christmas concert, we had three fiddlers from our very first class," Hamm said. "They had been playing for two months. They had not played the violin before. Three of them played that night and to be perfectly honest, it was kind of like going to see your kindergarten's first-ever recital except that they played in tune and they sounded really awesome."

"They were nervous

SEE CONCERT, A9

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**BAN**

From Page A1

number.

A majority of those in Western New York and the Southern Tier were against the decision.

"I am extremely disappointed in today's announcement from Governor Cuomo which bans hydraulic fracturing. This move effectively blocks the development of natural gas and oil resources in New York state," said Southern Tier Congressman Tom Reed, R-Corning. "This is devastating news for the Southern Tier economy and its residents, who are struggling every day. This decision makes it even more difficult to replace the good jobs that have already left due to New York's unfriendly business climate. Once again, Albany shows that it wants to enact an extreme liberal agenda rather than care about individual property rights and job opportunities."

Charles P. Joyce, president of Otis Eastern Service of Wellsville, said his pipeline company is working in nine states currently and he was "disappointed, but not surprised at all," by the decision.

"This is the only place in the country that feels that way. He (Cuomo) finally got the right people appointed to commissions to say what he wanted them to say," said Joyce. "I don't think it ends here. Certainly the property owners who had their property rights taken away will respond. It's a good thing that they will respond."

Joyce pointed out former New York State Health Commissioner Dr. Nirav Shah stepped down in April and Cuomo appointed Dr. Howard A. Zucker of the Bronx as the interim director. They made the decision on fracking after the election.

"It was not exactly a scientific decision-making process," said Joyce. "Our local leaders truly understand the issues in this area and the need for development. Since Governor Cuomo only truly governs 16 out of 62 counties (his challenger in November, Rob Astorino, won 45 counties) he represents a small portion of the state."

As for safety of drilling, Joyce said of his company, "Our track record is hundreds of miles of pipeline and we transport gas all over the country, cleanly and safely."

According to state and national environmental records going back to 1997, there were no drilling violations against Otis Eastern Service.

While Otis Eastern does most of its work outside of New York, if the state will not allow it to work here, it may move.

"Our business is someplace else. If there is no business here, we would certainly look somewhere else for our headquarters," Joyce said.

During testimony, Zucker said, "We cannot afford to make a mistake. The potential risks are too great. In fact, they are not even fully known." He also said he would not live near drilling.

When asked if he would live next to drilling, Joyce said, "Absolutely."

BerlinRosen Public Affairs of New York City sent out a press release

praising the decision on behalf of "Save the Southern Tier." The release said, "We've seen this first-hand for years, as town boards have been plagued by conflicts of interest and susceptible to big oil and gas industry influence, even to the point of passing pro-fracking resolutions in the dark of night with no public awareness or participation."

Joyce counters, "Certainly that is insulting to the intelligence of people and speaks to the intelligence of people who make comments like that. If you look at the data and science, you would see the technique is proven and safe. Instead, they rely on misinformation and hysteria."

Like Joyce, state Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb asks, what's next?

"Although 35 states have created jobs and revenue from natural gas fracking, the Cuomo Administration chose not to explore this industry. So, what now?" said Kolb, R-Canandaigua. "Upstate New York desperately needs sustainable, job-creating businesses and new industries. With natural gas fracking now taken off the table, what is the solution? What are the options? Facilitating true economic recovery in upstate communities must be among our highest priorities in the upcoming budget discussions and legislative session - especially in light of today's announcement. Our economic well-being should not depend on the success of blackjack tables and slot machines."

Astorino, the Westchester County executive, issued a statement that said "Governor Cuomo to the Southern Tier: Drop Dead."

Astorino said, "New York's future just got bleaker with Governor Cuomo's decision to ban natural gas exploration in this state. For more than two years, the governor has played politics with the economic futures of thousands of New Yorkers who are losing hope in a state with the highest taxes and worst economic outlook in the nation."

"Natural gas exploration is being done safely in 35 other states under both Democrat and Republican governors. It's supported by President Obama and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, through guidelines already outlined by the EPA and other regulatory agencies. This 'study' is nothing more than a political document," he said.

Astorino said thousands of jobs could have been created.

"It also would provide cleaner, cheaper energy, and independence from foreign oil. New York is blessed to have an abundance of this natural resource. It's a shame Governor Cuomo won't exhibit the leadership to do anything with it," Astorino said.

Amid committee meetings Wednesday some Allegany County Legislators were saying they'd heard about the governor's announcement.

Board of Legislators Chairman Curt Crandall talked about a letter he sent to Cuomo in 2012, asking why Allegany County wasn't

included on a list of counties the state was considering for limited hydrofracking permits. Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Steuben and Tioga counties were being considered at the time, he noted.

"I just think there should be a push to be included in whatever is going on and move that forward. If there's going to be any kind of a push along the Southern Tier, Allegany County should be looked at as well," he said.

"If I understand the decision today, this (idea of limited fracking permits) is going nowhere. The governor has taken the position that the acting (health) commissioner's word is last.

"I think, looking at it now and having the door closed to this exploration is not what we would want to see for Allegany County," Crandall said. "Obviously, there are pockets of support (for hydrofracking) and pockets of opposition.

"There's a lot of potential and, in my opinion, the potential is still there," he said. "My question would be, 'Is there going to be any further look at this at the state level? Is the door closed and if so, is it indefinitely?'"

County Legislator Karl Graves said with the ban, Cuomo is returning the favor to those who voted him into office.

"It's certainly not the (feeling of) the majority of the people upstate," he said.

"I think we have an over-paranoid fear that they have of something happening to the Delaware watershed. That's where they get their water from," Graves said. "They're so terrified that something's going to happen to that watershed that that's what drives them down there. It hasn't happened in 100 years that we've been hydrofracking. We've been drilling up here. It hasn't happened. It's not going to happen. But you can't convince those people down there."

"He (Cuomo) certainly wasn't re-elected to office by the people of Allegany County. He was re-elected by the five boroughs of New York, Long Island, by the people to the extreme liberal left in downstate New York. All we're getting is the boot," Graves said. "He could do his job as governor by making sure we had jobs and was concerned about the people of the Southern Tier and Western New York."

"We need, desperately, some relief from these high taxes. We need to put people to work, get them off the welfare rolls," Graves said. "It just boggles my mind that the governor could be that callous to Western New York and to the only chance we have of really moving ahead. We're still in an economic slump."

Asked about the Burns Town Board's recent vote to ban hydrofracking, Graves said, "Burns has the right to self government. If they don't want fracking over there, they have an absolute right to do what they did. I'm sure that there are oil interests over there. There may be a suit brought by them against the town of

Burns. I would encourage the other 28 towns in Allegany County to keep an open mind and be receptive to the economic impetus that would give us," he said.

Graves said the country has to cut the "umbilical cord" tying it to the Middle East.

"It's proven right now that we've done that," he said. "Gas prices are falling. Their economies are in shambles over there because they don't have our revenue coming in. Those folks over there need to conduct their own business. They don't need us. We can do it on our own," he said. "When you have decisions like this, made by the governor, that we're not going to hydrofrack in New York state, we're the birthplace. Just a few short miles from here, (there are) the Seneca Oil Springs. Oil was discovered here and he's turning his back on that rich heritage and the jobs, the economic input that it could mean to, not only Allegany County, but all of Western New York and the oil-bearing strata that we have in New York state."

State Sen. Catharine Young, R-Olean, said the decision was a "punch in the gut to the Southern Tier" and said Cuomo has a moral obligation to explain what he going to do to alleviate poverty.

"Families desperately need jobs and economic opportunity, not government handouts. Our young people are leaving in droves because they feel they don't have a future here. Our rural communities are dying a slow, painful, poverty-stricken death and hope is scarce," said Young. "Recovering our abundant natural resources would have brought an economic boom not seen for more than 100 years. It would have brought good-paying jobs, relief for our overburdened local taxpayers, tax revenue to improve our schools, funds to fix our local roads and bridges, and income for struggling farmers. I am already hearing from numerous local officials who are deeply upset by the governor's decision. With three of the counties I represent ranking among the 12 poorest in our state, today's announcement only serves to highlight our continued economic struggle."

"Thirty-two states across the nation, including California, Pennsylvania

and Illinois are all safely conducting hydraulic fracturing," Young continued. "Recent court decisions would have allowed local control with communities deciding for themselves whether to allow drilling, which is how it should be. Safeguards could have been put in place to protect water resources and people's health. This truly is an opportunity lost."

Erie County Congressman Chris Collins, R-27th District, said, "Governor Cuomo has just denied the people of New York a tremendous economic opportunity in order to appease far left environmentalists for his own political gain. The governor continues to hide behind Albany bureaucrats and controversial scientific studies to stand against hardworking New Yorkers who deserve the job opportunities and economic growth fracking has clearly produced in other states, including neighboring Pennsylvania. This is a sad day for the future of the economy in Upstate New York."

Meanwhile, Howie Hawkins, the Green Party candidate who opposes fracking, said, "Together, we have won more than just a ban - today, we have a strong movement that must now use our people power to win the transition to 100 percent renewable energy for New York by 2030 in order to fight climate change."

State Sen. Tom O'Mara, R-Big Flats, said, "Today's decision by the Cuomo administration to say no to high-volume hydrofracking in the Marcellus Shale eviscerates the hope of so many Southern Tier farmers, landowners, businesses and potential jobs in the natural gas industry. As the United States stands on the cusp of energy independence, Governor Cuomo today said no. Governor Cuomo says no to a source for low-cost and cleaner electrical generation which is critical to our state economy as a whole. Governor Cuomo's decision tells 35 other states and the federal government that they are wrong. This country was built on exploration and innovation, but Governor Cuomo today closed the door on both for us here in the Southern Tier and New York state by saying no shale gas exploration. New York is once again last."

State Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, R-Corning, said, "This is distressing news for the struggling families of the Southern Tier region. The natural gas industry would have energized our economy the same way that it has for the 35 other states that are benefiting from regulated hydrofracking. Our school districts and municipalities desperately needed the tax revenue that would have been generated by the natural gas industry. Landowners, farmers and job-seekers desperately trying to provide for their families count this is a disappointing blow."

"As ranking Republican member of the Committee on Energy, I understand the importance of developing low-cost, reliable energy sources for our families, small businesses, job creators and manufacturers. Today, Governor Cuomo said 'no' to a plan that would have created jobs and fostered energy independence. What is even more disheartening is that he failed to outline an alternative agenda to achieve these important goals."

Palmesano also noted Cuomo's lack of visits to the Southern Tier.

There is much more to Upstate New York than just those communities surrounding the thruway corridor," Palmesano said. "Maybe it's time the governor visited the Southern Tier to meet with area leaders and listen to their concerns and tell them what his plan is now to help improve the Southern Tier economy. This decision is certainly no way to start up New York like he has professed he wants to do."

State Republican Chairman Ed Cox said, "This study was a political charade from the start. Andrew Cuomo has given into the radical environmental Luddites in his own party to leave New York as the only one of the 35 states with extractable natural gas to be missing out on the hydrofracking boom."

"While unemployment in New York's shale-rich Southern Tier remains high, safely-regulated natural gas development has led to the creation of a quarter of a million new jobs across the border in Pennsylvania. To New Yorkers across Upstate struggling for economic growth: New York's governor has failed you," Cox added.

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