

Welsh's Cagers Shoot For Division 3 Title

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Last Week's Weather

	Hi	Lo	Pcp
Wed.	40	32	0
Thurs.	41	27	0
Fri.	42	27	0
Sat.	42	32	0.3rn.
Sun.	32	20	trsn
Mon.	21	10	trsn
Tues.	22	6	trsn

Courier and Freeman



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20 CENTS

Taxes Will Go Back To Towns In '80

CANTON — The county legislature, after an hour-long debate and three amendments, the first of which completely wiped out the original resolution, voted unanimously to give tax credits in 1980 equaling a total of \$150,000.

The credits will give back to the taxpayers the amount of money they were taxed in 1979 to cover a \$150,000 addition to the county tax levy for uncollectable taxes.

The resolution, as amended, states in part, "Whereas the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators voted unanimously to adopt the 1979 budget as presented, believing that such action would result in a decrease in the county tax rate to all residents of the county, and Whereas unintentionally contributed to an increase in the county tax rate to all towns and villages in the county except Massena, outside the village and Morrisstown, inside the village.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the clerk of the board is hereby directed to give tax credits in the following amounts per \$1,000 assessed valuation when extending the 1980 taxes in order to return to the taxpayers the aforementioned amount levied against them in the 1979 tax rolls."

The resolution was approved on the condition that William Collins, clerk of the board and budget officer, check the figures used for the individual communities and the county attorney, Charles Palm, also review it from a legal standpoint.

Greco Introduces Resolution
The original debate started with Ralph Greco, chairman of the finance committee, introduced a resolution which was entitled, "Providing for the minimum necessary tax levy in the budget."

Ogdensburg legislator Allen Rische questioned why Greco's resolution hadn't been presented to the finance committee at its last meeting. Greco in response, said "I guessed wrong who would ask that question." Rische continued, questioning various parts of Greco's resolution.

Rische said that in his opinion it was fiscally unsound to say that all surplus should go to reduce taxes. "We must allow for a problem if it arises. It's especially wrong in an election year because the taxpayers get the impression that you're reducing it in the election year," but watch out the following year.

Potsdam legislator Bill Healey said that he was surprised at the Greco resolution because Mr. Greco once said that it was the best budget he had ever seen.

Offers Amendment
Healey then offered an amendment to the Greco resolution. The amendment as presented, completely replaced the Greco proposal. Rische seconded the amendment for discussion, but later offered his own amendment to the amendment, in which he toned down what he termed pretty strong wording.

The Healey amendment referred to violations of the budget procedure and said that the \$150,000 had been illegally added to the tax levy.

The Rische amendment satisfied both Greco and Healey, but Morrisstown legislator William Hess offered a minor amendment to the working which made it acceptable to everyone.

Legislator Donald Livingston, Town of Oswegatchie, said that he had no intention of voting in favor of the resolution until he was certain that the figures used were correct and that the resolution was legally proper. Livingston did vote for it when approval was made contingent upon Collins checking the figures and county attorney Charles Palm checking the legality of the resolution.

\$165 Denied
CANTON — A resolution introduced under suspension of the rules, which would have allowed the county planning director to pay one half of the air fare for a South Dakota woman to come to St. Lawrence County for a job interview, was defeated 12-7 Monday night.

Legislator Robert Thompson, Lisbon, chairman of the board's planning committee, asked for the suspension of the rules to introduce the resolution. Thompson, and county planner, Richard Grover both supported the resolution before the legislature. Potsdam Legislator Francis (Bill) Healey also spoke in favor of it.

LaBaff Strongly Opposed
The most vocal support against it came from legislator Ernie LaBaff, Potsdam, who said that residents of St. Lawrence County go all over the country looking for jobs at their own expense. Grover insisted that the \$17,000 offered for the position was not high for a professional position and that they had to compete against tough competition to get good people. You might look at this as "incentive payment," Grover said. "The \$165 would have paid for the woman's air fare to Canton. She would pay for the return fare herself, Thompson told the board.



AWARD FOR THE COURIER — The Courier and Freeman has been awarded first place for best spot news photo in the New York Press Association's 1978 Better Newspaper Contest. Above, Charles W. Kelly, general manager of PotSDam Newspapers of St. Lawrence, presents the winning plaque to Courier and Freeman Editor Hal Stokes, who took the picture.

Crane Will Be Olympic Music Maker

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, 1980, the attention of the world will be focused on the nearby village of Lake Placid. On that date will be held the opening ceremonies for the XIII Olympic Winter Games.

And when those ceremonies are held, there will be 600 students and faculty from PotSDam's Crane School of Music providing the music.

The school, a part of the State University College at PotSDam, has been selected to provide the music for the XIII Winter Games. That means members of the school will perform, arrange, and in some cases compose, all of the music to be used at the games, according to Chris Orloff, a representative of the Lake Placid Olympic Committee.

Orloff made the announcement last Wednesday at a press conference held on the SUOP campus.

The chief of ceremonies and awards said that the college would be paid a fee "in the neighborhood of \$20,000" to provide the music for the games.

Following the announcement to the press, representatives of the Olympic

Committee and the Crane School broke the news to Crane students at a meeting in Hosmer Hall.

The scope of the music program will include all the works at both the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the performance of national anthems as athletes receive medals at the end of each day's competition, Orloff said.

Robert Thayer, the dean of the Crane School, disclosed that the bulk of the work on the project had been done by Dr. Robert Gibbs, a faculty member of the Crane School. Dr. Gibbs will be the coordinator for the remainder of the project, Thayer said.

The announcement was attended by several representatives of the Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee, including the Rev. Bernard Fell, president.

Terms
In addition to paying the \$20,000 fee to the college, the Olympic Committee will provide transportation daily to Lake Placid, according to Orloff, who said that the students would not have accommodations in the crowded village. Also, the Olympic Committee will

provide the students with uniforms and the necessary stage and sound system, he said.

Orloff said that equivalent musical services, if contracted privately, could cost the committee between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

The chancellor of the SUNY system, Clifton Wharton Jr., communicated that he was "personally delighted" by the selection. Wharton's statement was read at the press conference by Dr. Thayer. Dean Thomas Hegarty also transmitted SUOP President James Young's statement of congratulations.

The Music
The longest piece of music that will be performed by the Crane School will be the Parade of Nations that is played during the opening and closing ceremonies, Orloff said. That piece will be about 20 minutes long.

Other works that will be needed are fanfares, processions, the Olympic Hymn, warm-up music, a piece for the procession of the flag, and the national anthems of some 40 countries that will be represented at the Games.

Orloff said that the Crane School was chosen because of its "excellent quality." "The fact that we are neighbors is an extra bonus," he said. Others from the Olympic Committee who were at the announcement were Carolyn Hopkins, chairman of the National Committee of the Fine Arts for the Winter Games; and Jim Rogers, chairman of protocol, who was formerly a station manager at WPDW Radio Station in PotSDam.

Controversy Brews

A controversy is brewing over the selection of the Crane School of Music to provide the music for the Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid.

It centers around the use of student musicians instead of union musicians, a move that will save money for the Lake Placid Olympic Committee (LPOOC).

The chief of the LPOOC's Chief of Ceremonies and Awards, George Christopher Orloff, said last Wednesday that the LPOOC would pay the State University College at PotSDam "in the neighborhood of \$20,000" to provide all the music for the XIII Winter Games. Had the organizers worked through union musicians, the cost might have been in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 range, Orloff said at a press conference held at the college Wednesday.

But the secretary of Local 129 of the American Federation of Musicians, Theodore Firth, told the Courier and Freeman on Thursday that he had been unaware of the agreement between the LPOOC and the college.

Firth said that he planned to talk with the union headquarters in New York City to see what course of action was advised.

Meanwhile, an official with the LPOOC maintained that the union had been contacted about the arrangement. James Rogers, Chief of Protocol for the LPOOC, said Friday that the union had been contacted. He added that, to his knowledge, the union had not contacted the LPOOC in the wake of the announcement about the Crane School's participation.

At the Wednesday press conference, Orloff said that about 600 from the Crane School would be involved in the Olympic ceremonies.

He stressed that the decision had been based on the quality of talent at the school, and not the proximity to the Olympic region. "The fact we are neighbors is an extra bonus," he said. The LPOOC will transport the performers from PotSDam to Lake Placid daily. Accommodations in Lake Placid for the 600 would be difficult to come by during the Olympics.

Phone Operators Seek Help To Keep Their PotSDam Jobs

BY BETSY BAKER

In a last ditch effort to save their jobs, PotSDam's telephone operators have sought help from PotSDam Mayor Ruth Garner, The St. Lawrence County Legislature, and the county Industrial Development Agency.

That help would come in the form of a public meeting, to be set up by Mayor Garner, and to include area mayors, county legislators, IDA representatives, representatives from the operators, New York Telephone, area businesses, schools and colleges, emergency services such as fire, rescue, and police agencies and the Massena industrial plants.

Such a meeting has been tentatively set up for Wednesday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the PotSDam Town court at 35 Market St., according to Mayor Garner.

Three representatives of the operators met last Wednesday with the mayor, county Economic Developer William Cook, County Legislator and IDA Chairman Ernest LaBaff and several of the trustees, at the village's weekly brown bag lunch.

The operators, 48 in all, are due to lose their jobs in PotSDam when New York Telephone closes the PotSDam operator office on Nov. 17 of this year. Telephone Company officials have said that the operators are to be offered other positions with the company, but in other locations than PotSDam. The closing has been called an economy move to provide consolidation of services by Telephone Company officials.

According to operators Dixie Elek, Nancy Creighton and Irene Forbes, who were present at last Wednesday's lunch, the PotSDam operators feel that they make important contributions to the area, both economically and through the human services they perform.

The operators earn an average yearly salary of \$13,000, according to Elek.

Using a 1.9 economic multiplier factor, the 48 operators represent roughly \$1.23 million in revenue annually to this area.

Nine of the 48 operators live in the Village of PotSDam; all but two of the 48 live in the Town of PotSDam.

The operators also feel that when the PotSDam operator office closes, the benefit of their "human services" to fire and rescue agencies, to police agencies, to the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center and to many area individuals, will be lost.

Operator units are to be located in Utica and Syracuse, but the local operators say those locations are too far away to provide the level of human services they are used to providing in PotSDam.

"What if somebody calls an operator in Syracuse and says 'There's a fire in the third house on the left on the Irish Settlement Road' and then hangs up," Operator Nancy Creighton asked the officials. "That call may never get through and somebody's home will be lost."

The operators also cited instances where potential suicides had been kept on the line until help could reach them, instances where ill or injured persons had been kept on the line until a rescue squad could arrive and numerous occasions when patients at area hospitals, including the Psychiatric Center have been helped to place calls.

Elek told those present at the meeting, "I couldn't rest with myself if I didn't do everything in my power to stop this."

Elek is a member of the Executive Board of the Upstate New York Telephone Traffic Union; Creighton is that union's local representative.

The PotSDam office of New York Telephone is less than ten years old, savings to the company from closing the PotSDam operator office have been estimated at over \$100,000 per year.

Consultants Settle Amount Due With a PURA

BY BETSY BAKER

The PotSDam Urban Renewal Agency will pay \$24,326.35 to a Connecticut firm of consulting engineers to satisfy unpaid bills dating back to 1972, it was revealed at Monday night's agency meeting.

Payment has been delayed because a contract between the firm, Newman and Doll Consultants, and the then agency had been signed in 1971 by that agency, but never approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), according to present Agency Chairman Norma Thayer.

Newman and Doll had been hired by the agency in 1971 for engineering and consulting work. The contract between the firm and the agency was mutually terminated last year.

In a statement which she read to those present at the meeting, Thayer said that HUD approval of the 1971 contract, which included what she called "major contract amendments," came only three weeks ago.

Thayer also said that the figure of \$24,326.35 represented a "compromise" figure, arrived at after a recent meeting between agency officials, representatives of Newman and Doll and attorneys for the agency in Syracuse.

The agency has also received "verbal confirmation" from HUD that some \$40,000 in payments to Newman and Doll, listed as "questioned" in a 1975 HUD audit of agency practices, has been

reinstated.

The reinstatement means that the Village of PotSDam will not have to repay the \$40,000 to the agency. Originally, the 1975 audit listed a total of \$80,172.96 in questioned payments to Newman and Doll. That total was cut in half when HUD resolved the Newman and Doll audit finding (finding 13) in 1976.

During the spring of 1978, the agency requested that HUD reopen Finding 13 to allow the agency to provide additional documentation on the matter. HUD's verbal confirmation of the \$40,000 reinstated again resolves Finding 13.

The fact that the Newman and Doll-Urban Renewal Agency contract had never been approved by HUD came to light in 1977, according to Thayer, when an engineer from the consulting firm came to Thayer and Mayor Ruth Garner to request payment of unpaid bills, some dating back to 1972.

Although work on getting approval of the amended contract began in 1977, Thayer said that delays were caused by the move of HUD offices from New York City to Buffalo. That move took place last spring.

Payment of the \$24,326.35 was approved conditionally by the agency, based on the receipt of additional documentation from Newman and Doll. Thayer's statement on the matter follows in full:

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Lovers' Lawsuit Ends

A local lawsuit between two former lovers ended Friday in PotSDam Town Court with the six-member jury finding no cause for action on the part of either party.

The case had been compared to the Lee Marvin-Michelle Marvin case currently drawing national headlines in California.

The couple had lived together in PotSDam and the woman, Anne E. Murphy (now Mrs. Dennis Jay), had worked two jobs to help support the man, Neil Crumb, through college.

On Friday, the jury found no cause for action in Crumb's suit to recover \$1,250 from Mrs. Jay on the basis of a promissory note she signed when they broke up.

The jury also found no cause for action in her countersuit seeking \$3,000 in compensation for the services she provided him when they lived together at 127 1/2 Maple Street.

It took the two women and four men on the jury about 15 minutes to reach the verdicts.

Crumb had sued Mrs. Jay for the amount still outstanding on a promissory note for \$5,000 that she signed when they broke up. That total was allegedly for debts they had mutually incurred when they lived together.

Mrs. Jay had filed a countersuit based on specific services she had performed during the time the couple lived together. That included things like

washing the dishes and cleaning the house daily, doing the laundry twice a week, washing the car once a week, and cooking dinner and thoroughly cleaning the house once each week on her day off.

Mrs. Jay was represented by Norwood Attorney Robert Sassone. Crumb was represented by PotSDam Attorney Verner Ingram Jr.

PURA Invests Money

Some \$234,000 received by the PotSDam Urban Renewal Agency as progress payments from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been invested in 30-day certificates of deposit at 9.75 percent interest, according to Agency Chairman Norma Thayer.

A total of \$244,000 in progress payments had been received from HUD early this year, Thayer said.

At Monday night's meeting of the agency, Thayer also noted that village Department of Public Works crews will fill in a large hole near the Main Street sidewalk of Parcel 3. The hole is over water lines laid last fall, and is caused by earth settling, Thayer said. A motorist had complained about the hole, according to Thayer.

In other business the agency voted to: —accept the audit from Jan. 10-Febr. 12 in the amount of \$235,705.95; —accept the audit from Feb. 13-March 12 in the amount of \$10,327.54;



OLYMPIC SPIRIT — Crane School student Mike Brown holds aloft a facsimile of the Olympic torch that will be used in the Winter Games and he wears the outfit that will be supplied to Crane students when they perform the music for the Games. In Lake Placid, volunteers wearing the powder blue Japanese-made warmup suits have been referring to themselves as "the clones." (Hal Stokes photo)