

# LANSGING COMMUNITY NEWS



Serving the Town and Village of Lansing, Cayuga Heights, King Ferry & Genoa

"Not quite paradise, but a nice place to live."

Wednesday, May 28, 1997 ♦♦♦ Vol. II No. 22

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Photo: KENYON

## FOURTH GRADERS AT WORK

### THINK Plans High Tech Entrees for So. Cayuga Students' Educational Menu

Nearly 35 parents, teachers, school administrators and interested community members are moving ahead on a comprehensive long-range plan to integrate computers and related high technology tools into the daily curriculum throughout the Southern Cayuga School District.

The group, dubbed "THINK" (for Technology Helping Individuals Nurture Knowledge), has met on the third Tuesday of each month since February under the co-chairmanship of district superintendent David C. Smith and parent Steff McGonagle. Though the district has had an

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## Lansing Cafeteria Prices to Increase Next Year:

### Budget Passes- Tull & Howell Elected; Board Awards Construction Bids

By Matthew Shulman

Twelve hundred Lansing School District voters turned out in last Wednesday's Lansing to pass the \$14,863,253 1997-98 budget and elect Jim Tull and Don Howell to three year terms on the Board of Education.

The turnout was nearly 50% higher than last year and capped a particularly active campaign fueled by two grass roots organizations that gave their best to elect their candidates.

The budget passed with 600 voting in favor, 389 opposed and 211 abstentions. Jim Tull (supported by both community groups) led the School Board balloting with 758 votes. Don Howell polled 678 votes and Lin Davidson received 578 votes.

Davidson congratulated the winners and thanked those who voted for him. Msrs. Tull and Howell will succeed retiring Board members Barbara Bills and Kathy Miller in July.

#### Bids Awarded

Following recommendations from Garbade Construction, our Board of Education awarded four bids for the first phase of the school building, renovation and athletic facilities improvement project at a total cost of \$1.867 million. Though this figure included \$77,750 in additions to the base project, the total is still more than \$75,000 (or 3.85 percent) below budget estimates. The additions included fencing around the multi-purpose field, fencing around and ad-



Photo: STAFF

ditional drainage under softball field # 2 and the removal of the old cinder track. Four prime bids were awarded for sitework, sbestos removal, plumbing and electrical portions of the work. Lansing owned and based LRS Excavating, at \$1.3 million, was the lowest of six bidders seeking to do the sitework. Weiss Electric, at \$451 thousand, was the lower of two bidders wanting the electrical portion of the project. Northern Environmental was

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## Hamilton Named Rotary's "Person Of The Year"

By Cheryl Heary

A banquet honoring Charlene Hamilton, of Poplar Ridge, will be held at the Southern Cayuga High School Cafeteria on Saturday, May 31 at 6:30pm to mark her selection as the Aurora Rotary Club's "Person of the Year" for 1997.

Charlene has not only raised a family and helped manage a large family farm, but has left a significant mark on the community by her many years of varied service.

As an active member of the Scipio Community Church, she's visited the sick and elderly, opened her home to missionaries, helped erect a church in Haiti and served as a Deaconess.

She's also been an EMT with Poplar Ridge and Instant Aid and is presently an ambulance driver, as well as being a volunteer with the Hospice of the Fingerlakes since 1986.

To celebrate the "rest of the story" of this community role model, contact any member of the Aurora Rotary (or call 315-364-8967) to make reservations and purchase advance tickets at \$8.50 per person for this important community event.



Charlene Hamilton

# City of Salt Spreads 2300 Feet Beneath Cayuga Lake

By Matthew Shulman

As Saturday, May 17 dawned under threatening skies, the meteorological forecast was the last thing on the minds of scores of Cargill employees and guests preparing to take a double-decked elevator (called a "skip") 2300 feet to the bottom of shaft number 3, located just off Portland Point Road, into the workings of the Level 6 salt seam that extends northwards up the middle of Cayuga Lake.

The tour was organized by mine manager Bob Supko to recognize the 230-odd employees' 3 year safety record without a lost time accident. This marked only the second time that the mine was opened for family tours. "We wanted to give friends and families of our employees an opportunity to better understand the underground work environment," said Supko. Ordinarily, not even Cargill employees are allowed into the galleries unless their business requires it.

Salt mining operations at Portland Point began in July, 1920 at the 1400 foot level under the ownership of William Wilkinson and Frank Bolton. (William's sister, Lucy, was married to Frank Bolton). It was called Cayuga Rock Salt and produced about 250,000 tons of rock salt a year. From the mid-1940s, mining was done at Level 4, about 1900 feet below the surface.

When Cargill purchased the mine in 1969, annual production was at 600,000 tons per year. Cargill developed Level 6, at a depth of 2300 feet and installed shaft # 3 in 1976 as the primary access for personnel, equipment and fresh air ventilation intake.

Level 6 extends for about 1 mile in a southwesterly direction from the base of shaft # 3 to a point directly under the middle of Cayuga Lake. From there, the main pas-



Photo: STAFF

**BOLTING THE CEILING** - The old adage, "Safety is no accident," takes on special meaning 2300 feet below ground where production miners stabilize ceilings with 5 foot long bolts as soon as salt "muck" is removed. The bolting technique prevents slabs of salt from "scaling" free and is one of many safety-oriented practices that's prevented any lost-time accidents at the Lansing mine for over three years.

sageway takes a "dog leg" to the right and heads due north up the center of the lake roughly as far as the Taughannock delta. Though the salt vein runs down into Pennsylvania and out to Ohio, the Lansing mine's extraction rights at Level 6 are bounded under the lake. Production capacity has doubled again in the past 5 years and is now about 2,000,000 tons annually.

Before allowing the accompanied visi-

tors into the mine, Supko issued basic safety equipment and provided instruction so the visitors could use the escapeways, if the unlikely need arose. "There are hazards associated with working underground," said Supko as he took pride in Lansing's safety procedures and on-going record of more than 3 1/2 million hours of safe operation.

As about 30 employees and guests climbed into the "skip," production super-

visor Otto Busse and several other miners switched on their cap lamps. "Once we begin the descent, you won't be able to see your hand in front of your face," he said.

The "skip" dropped smoothly on its cable at 10 feet per second for about four minutes towards Level 6. "Don't be concerned," said one of the production miners as he cleared his ears in the semidarkness. "Even the 'skip' is equipped with safety features." Were something to happen to the cable, emergency car brakes, called "dogs," would bring the car to a halt.

The car slowed; then stopped. To a cacophony of signal bells indicating to the cable operator above that we'd safely arrived, miners and guests stepped off the "skip" into a world of salt floors, salt walls and salt ceilings.

After all the late night movies portraying narrow coal mines where you'd have to crouch to move forward, the reality of Lansing's mine is striking. Nobody here risks getting excessive sunburn, but there are plenty of lights illuminating 30 foot wide passageways. The 10 foot high ceilings are low, but not oppressively so.

We walked over to an assortment of roofless diesel pickups. The roofs were removed to make it easier to winch the vehicles down shaft 3; diesel or electricity are the only power sources underground as combustible gasoline and gas are prohibited in this environment.

As we drove southwesterly towards the center of the lake, production miner Mike Sundquist pointed out that the main passageway ceilings were all covered with a wire mesh. It's just another safety precaution to be certain that even if a piece of salt ceiling

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## Help Support Lansing Head Start BENEFIT CHICKEN BBQ @ Lori's Place

SATURDAY, MAY 31 Noon 'Til Gone (Eat In & Carry Out)

\$5.50 Per Person For A Full Dinner ♦ \$4.00 1/2 Chicken

Have a Heart & Help our Kids !!

340 Ridge Road (across from the Lansing Middle School) 533-4143

