

The Tupper Lake Free Press

and Tupper Lake Herald

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Editorial

Tupper Lakers always help their neighbors

People in Tupper Lake- and our community's business owners in particular- have a strong reputation for helping neighbors down in their luck here.

The tragic story of 11 month old Liam, the infant son of Jeremy Graton and Kristi Drabick, has pulled hard on many heartstrings here. Liam was diagnosed with leukemia a month or so ago and has been undergoing chemotherapy in Burlington, Vt. in recent weeks. His mother Christy is at his side and can't be home to work.

People started planning fundraisers here to help the baby and his parents almost as soon as the bad news broke. Canisters asking for donations sprung up all over town within days of the news.

On Thursday Park Restaurant Owners Jeannel and Cindy Lizotte and LeRoy and Trudy Pickering opened their business doors to the community to come and dine with them at a benefit barbecue chicken dinner. Their purveyors and other businesses around the area donated many of the foodstuffs that went into the meal. The staff at the popular eatery donated their time that evening to prepare and serve the diners to help the baby and his parents.

The dinner event drew over 600 people. Over 500 dinners were served and over \$6,000 was raised by the Park Restaurant's owners, management and staff through the generous support of people who went there wanting to help.

This week two more businesses have stepped forward to help. This weekend Eric Strader and his staff at Old Northern on Cliff Ave. will host a special fundraiser featuring the band, "Threatend," to help the infant. Peggy Paiement is planning a "Stamp a Stack" event at Aaron Maddox Hall on September 19. This week's issue carries advertisements of the particulars of both events. We hope many will support these endeavors.

Many here are praying that Liam will survive his life-testing treatments ahead in his battle against the dreaded disease so he may go on to enjoy a happy and healthy childhood. -And we're not surprised in the least at the recent outpouring of support here for the tiny lad and his parents. That generosity is one of the reasons that makes Tupper Lake the remarkable place it is!

Banners can stay!

After our editorial last week about the illegality of the high school drug and alcohol awareness group's banner which has hung on the side of the Free Press building since prom time this year, we received a call from Mike Flick, the public information officer of the New York Department of Transportation's Watertown office.

Mike explained that some of the officials in his office, after reading our piece, were concerned the agency might be perceived by the public as too strict on its enforcement of federal highway regulations. "As a general rule we try not to raise issues with public services banners," he said of the DOT's enforcement of state and federal sign regulations. We try not to look too hard at signs with messages which have a definite public benefit, he added.

While the sign enforcement officer who cited us on the illegal sign on the side of our building was correct, according to federal highway laws, it seems she might have been a little overzealous on this particular issue.

Judging by our conversation with Mike, we expect there's an excellent chance that sign regulators who visit our community will look the other way a little when other school or community groups post their temporary banners on the side of our building in the future. -And it looks like "NOEL" can stay there too.

-Dan McClelland

Letter to the Editor

Vandals are in training

To the editor:

Your report a couple of weeks ago of vandalism of local school buses and other incidents in the past prompts me to share my opinion on the subject.

Vandals are in training to become domestic terrorists. Their distorted mind set knows no boundaries. They do not recognize the right of property owners. Vandals with guns are a danger to our survival and our freedom. They are a danger to society.

Should their identity be exposed?

Ella Klueck

Letters to the Editor

The great miracle

To the editor-

Some time ago, the Town of Altamont changed its name to the Town of Tupper Lake. You were told it was because of problems with mail and confusion between the Town of Altamont and a community called Altamont, downstate. Before the change, each had their own zip code. Now both the town and village share the same zip code as well as the same name and you don't think there isn't confusion now? The only reason the name change was made was to be ready when the town takes over the Village of Tupper Lake.

A motion that was introduced at a village board meeting to form a fire district was because the Town of Tupper Lake, by law, cannot run a fire department. The district would have to be created when the town takes over the Village of Tupper Lake, so why not do it in preparation for the take over?

The town says no one will lose their job. I hope this is true because if the takeover isn't done properly, the minute the Village of Tupper Lake is dissolved, all the civil service jobs in the village end. The town would have to create these positions and call for tests to fill the jobs. At that point, if anyone loses

their job, I'm sure the town would say, "it wasn't us, it was civil service that cost the people their jobs."

The following is a list of items that will be addressed and the cost or savings for the taxpayer.

"The town says no one will lose their jobs. Retirees will continue to receive their benefits. No savings there.

"Neither the village hall or town hall is big enough to handle one government and there are handicap issues. A new town hall will be built with a cost of at least \$1.5 million +. The town will sell the present two buildings and receive, maybe, \$150,000 for both. Cost to taxpayer, no savings.

"A fire district will need to be formed since state law will not allow the town to run a fire department as part of the town government. Cost to form district, \$100,000 +, cost to taxpayer, no savings.

"The fire district, which will be governed by firemen, will build a new fire hall and get some new equipment at a cost of around \$2.5 million. The town will sell the present fire hall and get, maybe, \$40,000. Cost to taxpayer, no savings.

"Legal cost will be incurred in the consolidation process of approximately

\$75,000. Cost to taxpayer, no savings.

"A town manager will be hired and an operations manager will be hired. Cost approximately \$150,000 a year. Cost to taxpayer, no savings.

"The village board and mayor will be abolished. Although the town board costs approximately \$31,000 a year and the village board costs approximately \$14,500 a year, there will be a savings of \$14,500 to the taxpayer."

When I add up the cost and subtract the funds received for sold property and the savings, I come up with a big cost to the taxpayer that will continue for years. The town says it will save you money but I believe that we, the residents of the Town of Tupper Lake, will witness

the greatest miracle ever performed.

I also wonder who will benefit monetarily from the consolidation and also, has someone been promised a job after the consolidation?

When the town takes over the village, the present village taxpayer will not get a tax bill in June but will receive a town tax bill in January. That January town tax bill will have, at the bottom, district charges for police, fire, sidewalk, lighting, road, sewer, water, storm drainage, plowing, etc. There will be no savings.

Residents, please research and consider the costs of the consolidation because once it has been done, it cannot be undone!

Donald Earlin

Questions photo's timing

To the editor-

I am writing in reference to the article about the tree on the house on the corner of Joseph and McFarland St. That tree has been down since June and you couldn't wait at least one more week to print that letter? Or perhaps have sent it via a personal letter?

You all knew the person was burying her dad, and was under emotional stress, so let's heap one more problem to her list! Plus the fact that it appeared in the paper the

same day as her dad's obituary!

I am a member of the so called "71" people that might be liable should someone get injured trespassing on private property so forgive me if I seem a little miffed. I don't fully understand how you arrived at that particular number and why put the suggestion out there for public scrutiny?

Trusting the problem has now been solved!

Adele Gagnier
Molinski

Family Champions receives \$3,000 from county to help its work



Franklin County Legislator Paul Maroun presented Family Champions Executive Director Karen Pioli a check for \$3,000 from money diverted from the county's Social Services state funded program revenue, to help provide support and necessities to families this winter. Flanking the legislator and Mrs. Pioli in the chamber of commerce office Monday were, at left, Family Champions Board Member Marti Mozdzier and Social Services Financial Assistance Director Ona Rushford. At right are Family Champions Board Director Mark Moeller and Social Services Commissioner Leslie Lyons.

Getting Involved is Important... Something to think about!

During the last 50 years, New York State's share of U.S. income has declined 37%, while Minnesota's remained constant, and New Hampshire's increased 67%. New York State now ranks 45th among the 50 states in population and income growth, and percent of the adult population employed. Although NYS spends the most per pupil for education, our state has the 44th lowest graduation rate. Four out of ten students do not graduate from high school in New York State. Our state has the highest per-capita tax burden of the 50 states, a burden that is 53% over the national average. Per-capita state and local government debt is 76% above the national average. Per-capita state and local government spending is 46% over the national average. State spending increased 13% this year, far faster than revenue growth, and four times the inflation rate. From 2000-2004, New York State lost over one million residents to other states, 300,000 more than any other state.

As inconvenient as it may be to vote, we must vote. As uncomfortable as it may be to cross party lines, we must consistently vote for candidates who will do the right thing and put all taxpayers first. We must get rid of special interest groups and make elected officials accountable!

Saving Taxpayers money starts at The Local Level! Hold Your Local Elected Officials Accountable Also!

Paid for by the Committee to Save Tupper Lake

Tupper Lake's Family Champions has received \$3,000 to help them provide support and necessities to families during the upcoming winter. At the request of Legislator Paul Maroun, the Franklin County Department of Social Services researched the availability of funds to help the organization serve local people in the Tri-lakes area.

"We were able to divert \$3,000 of our state funded program revenue to this group," Commissioner Leslie Lyon from Franklin County Social Services said. "This fits very nicely with a major outreach plan that our local social services temporary assistance unit has undertaken this fall."

The goal of the outreach effort is to help local residents stretch their incomes over the coming winter by helping them find alternative ways to pay for living necessities such as food and clothing, medication, gas and heating fuel.

From September 2007 until May of 2008, Family Champions has provided clothing to 3,520 people, household items to 1,120 families, and furniture to 498 families.

"The \$3,000 grant will help us with overhead and other expenses associated with maintaining our operation," Karen Pioli, founder and executive director of Family Champions said. "We have just received notification of the availability of huge amounts of donated furniture that we can redistribute. It's our intention to try and fill some of the gaps in these areas so that people can use what money they do

National treasure lies in Childwold

by Donna Amoroso

Did you know we have a national landmark right in our back yard? The Childwold Presbyterian Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places of the United States in 2001 through the efforts of Beulah Dorothy and Raymond Dumas.

There is much documented on the history of this little church in the woods that is open during the summer months but not much is documented on the people who built, maintained, and attended it through the years.

A pictorial history is planned to show those who were the lifeblood of the tiny congregation. If anyone has photos, programs, posters, or other memorabilia that we could include in this project, we would appreciate it. Please be assured that all originals will be safely copied and returned. immortalize your relatives, weddings, baptisms and church activities! Even personal memories written down are priceless to us!

Send your memories to Donna Amoroso, PO Box 14, Childwold, NY 12922 or call 359-3102.