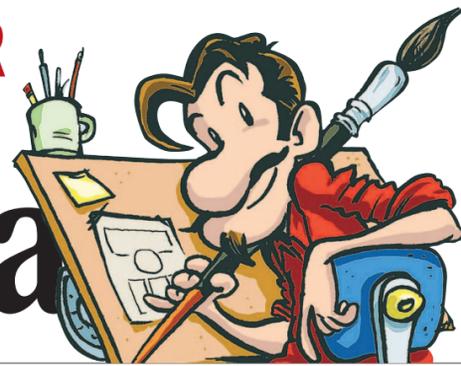


# The Post-Standard

© 2008 The Post-Standard



**HOMETOWN HERO**



Frank Ordoñez / The Post-Standard

**RAYMOND JONES, 3**, drives a miniature jeep with a home-made model of the Super Bowl trophy and a SU football helmet while leading the parade Saturday in Waterloo to honor New York Giants Coach Tom Coughlin, who was born and raised in Waterloo.

**Murcer 'a born Yankee'**

**Bobby Murcer**, a five-time All-Star outfielder who spent nearly four decades with the New York Yankees as a player, executive and announcer, died. He was 62. "Bobby Murcer was a born Yankee, a great guy, very well-liked," owner George Steinbrenner said.

SPORTS, C-1

**Snow succumbs to cancer**

**Tony Snow**, the conservative columnist and television commentator who relished sparring with reporters during a 17-month stint as President Bush's press secretary, died on Saturday, the White House said. He was 53.

NATION, A-7

**The farm of the future**

**SUNY ESF**, Morrisville State and O'Brien & Gere have teamed up to build a self-powered greenhouse. The plan: Use waste products from one process to augment the next, thus increasing efficiency and reducing pollution.

BUSINESS, D-1

**Meet the new boss**

Republican Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos says his top priorities are getting a handle on the state's high property taxes and revitalizing Upstate's economy. Not bad for a guy from Long Island.

OPINION, E-1

**Syracuse tot dies in crash**

A 2-year-old Syracuse girl died Saturday when the car she was riding in went off Interstate 81 near Preble and rolled over several times, state police said.

LOCAL, B-1

**Corrections**

Call 470-2240 to discuss a correction on a news story. Subscription questions? Call 470-NEWS (470-6397).

**NOISY SKY**

Thunderstorms are expected this afternoon and evening. The storms might be heavy at times. Monday will be sunnier and cooler.

Complete forecast, B-8

HIGH: 83 LOW: 62

**Index**

Anniversaries ... I-6	Obituaries ..... B-4
Auto ..... G-1	Opinion ..... E-1
Births ..... I-7	Politics ..... A-8, 9
Business ..... D-1	Real Estate ..... H-1
Classified ..... F-1	Sports ..... C-1
CNY ..... I-1	State ..... A-15, 16
Editorials ..... E-2	Washington ..... A-7
Engagements ... I-5	Weddings ..... I-5
Local ..... B-1	World ..... A-14
Nation ..... A-4	TV WEEK

THE POST-STANDARD

3 1 2 7 7



0 964047 4



## WHAT MAKES A 'COOL' DOWNTOWN?



Jennifer Meyers/The Post-Standard

People dine outdoors on a Saturday evening along Walton Street in downtown Syracuse.

By Greg Munno  
Civic engagement editor

Study after study have identified downtown Syracuse as a key to the vitality of all of Central New York. It's clear we all have a stake in the future of downtown, whether we live in Syracuse, in the suburbs or in the region.

Want to keep young people in Central New York? You need a cool downtown.

Want to stop sprawl and congestion in the suburbs, to keep farmland as farmland and open space as open space? You need an economically vibrant downtown.

Want to create a regional identity, pride in our community and a brand we can sell to the rest of the world? Yep, you got it; it all starts downtown.

With your help, we hope to discover what we want downtown Syracuse to be, and to make that vision a reality.

The Post-Standard, Syracuse.com and Syracuse University's Maxwell School are teaming up to launch a regionwide dialogue with the citizens of Central New York. We are calling this endeavor CNYSpeaks. It will include discussions, both online and in person, with hundreds, hopefully thousands, of citizens. We'll also use reporting and research to help illuminate the issues raised during these conversations.

We believe, through this communication, that we can provide our political leadership with the information and impetus to make the best possible decisions for our communities.

Timing and momentum are on our side. A "cool" downtown is a priority for the new county executive. City government has increasingly focused grant money on improving the city center. Private developer interest in downtown is as high as it has been in decades. And the energy and vitality of University Hill have begun seeping toward the downtown core.

Now what we need is you, your voice, your ideas and, ultimately, your political clout, as a voter, taxpayer and citizen of this community.

Whether you live in Armory Square or Central Square, we want you to be part of these discussions. Because everyone has something important to say, and we want to hear it.

**INSIDE: CNY SPEAKS ABOUT DOWNTOWN / PAGE A-6**  
**MONDAY: TEENS HAVE PLENTY TO SAY**

**» VIDEO ON [syracuse.com](http://syracuse.com)**

Sample the myriad sights of downtown Syracuse; go to [blog.syracuse.com/video/cnyspeaks](http://blog.syracuse.com/video/cnyspeaks)

**TELL US ONLINE**

Let's get the conversation started, right now. Take our survey and join the discussion online at [blog.syracuse.com/cny-speaks](http://blog.syracuse.com/cny-speaks)

**TELL US IN PERSON**

Look for Post-Standard Civic Engagement Editor Greg Munno and Maxwell Professor Tina Nabatchi today at the New York State Rhythm & Blues Festival. They'll be armed with tape recorders and notepads, ready to hear what you have to say about downtown Syracuse. You are welcome to contact Greg directly at 470-6084 or [gmunno@syracuse.com](mailto:gmunno@syracuse.com).

**PLAN TO ATTEND A FORUM**

We've scheduled three public forums on our first topic, downtown Syracuse. They are:

- 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2, at the Hotel Syracuse, 500 S. Warren St.
- Noon Sunday, Oct. 5, at the Warehouse, 350 W. Fayette St.
- 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7, City Hall Commons, 201 E. Washington St.

## Gamblers lay bets closer to home

For local casinos, the bad economy turns out to be very good news.

By Glenn Coin  
Staff writer

Even gamblers are sticking closer to home and pinching their pennies.

While betting at the nation's biggest gambling resort areas has dropped this year, New York's racetrack casinos, including Vernon Downs, are seeing big increases. Turning Stone casino officials say their numbers are up, too.

The reason: the bad economy. "The improvement is due to the economy because people aren't traveling to resort casinos," said Bennett Liebman, executive director of the Government Law Center at Albany Law School, who tracks the gambling industry. "What we've seen here is people aren't traveling when there's a facility close by."

And there are plenty of facilities close by in New York, including the state's eight racetrack casinos stretching from Buffalo to Yonkers. Overall revenues at the casinos were up by about 21 percent this year over last. Much of that has been driven by the increased number of machines and longer racing season at Empire Raceway in Yonkers, which accounts for slightly more than half of all racetrack casino revenues statewide.

But seven of the eight tracks have posted gains this year, including Vernon Downs. At nearly 24 percent, Vernon Downs' increase is the second-highest in the state behind Yonkers.

"We've done a better job of marketing, and we've improved our customer service," said Pete Savage, president and general manager of the company that runs Vernon Downs and Tioga Downs near Binghamton. "Just kind of the basic things you do for a property like this."

Tioga Downs saw a nearly 15 percent increase.

Last week's revenues at Vernon Downs were \$885,851, the highest since the casino's third week of operation in November 2006.

The New York Lottery is reporting a 4 percent increase in revenue this year — \$82 million — due, in part, to the video-lottery terminals at the raceway operations, according to The Associated Press.

Revenues at Turning Stone are up this year, too, said Bong Woo, director of multi-games at the Oneida Indian Nation casino. He declined to elaborate, saying the casino's financial data is confidential.

Woo attributed Turning Stone's increase to the economy. "People want to stay close to home," he said.

BUSINESS, PAGE A-10

## The story within the story of a killing in Syracuse



Gloria Wright / The Post-Standard

**EILEEN MALAY** sits on a borrowed chair in her Luddington Street apartment. The lamp at left is one of two she recently bought at a garage sale. The two lamps and a recently purchased stepladder are her only possessions.

### How a woman living near the scene of the crime was gassed and forgotten

By Douglass Dowty  
Staff writer

Eileen Malay skipped last year's St. Patrick's Parade to sweep her kitchen, swap library books and dabble on her computer.

On a lazy March Saturday, she heard a man command: "Kids, get away from the man with the gun." Rowdy neighbors often clashed down the street from her Far West Side apartment. It hadn't turned violent before.

She heard gunshots. She called her grown son and warned him to stay elsewhere that night. From the back door, she saw a police car.

Malay, 58, popped in Alfred Hitchcock's

WOMAN, PAGE A-12

**About this story**

The Syracuse Police Department, mayor's office and corporation counsel declined to comment on Eileen Malay's account. Malay and her lawyer provided city police reports and safety records, as well as portions of medical records and her sworn examination with a city attorney. On Nov. 14, 2007, Malay was questioned by Assistant Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Doherty on her experience on March 17, 2007, and its aftermath. The 69-page transcript of the examination also revealed Malay has been diagnosed with early but severe post-traumatic stress disorder.