



START OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR
Jongwoo Han, principal of the Central New York Korean School, welcomes students and their parents to the school's opening ceremony Saturday at the First Baptist Church in Jamesville.
 STORY, PAGE B-7

The Post-Standard LOCAL

Veterans gather in Seneca County for cemetery groundbreaking

B2

Major political parties will be sitting out Tuesday's primary

B7

Price increases today for Sunday Post-Standard

The price of The Post-Standard on Sundays increased 25 cents to \$2 today. The price of the daily Post-Standard does not change.
 The weekly price of a Saturday/Sunday subscription is now \$2.35. A Monday-through-Sunday subscription is \$5.
 This is the first increase in the price of the Sunday Post-Standard since 1995.

State panel wants to hear ideas for reducing taxes

Members of the state Commission on Property Tax Relief want to know what you think should be done to lower property taxes in New York.
 Chairman Tom Suozzi and other commission members will hold a public hearing Nov. 12 in Syracuse to hear ideas on ways to reduce property taxes.
 The Syracuse hearing will be the last of six statewide. For more information, visit www.cptr.state.ny.us.

Syracuse Stage changes 2008-09 play schedule

Syracuse Stage is changing its 2008-09 season lineup: Stephen Sondheim's "Putting It Together" will replace "Souvenir" from Jan. 27 to Feb. 15.
 The change was made because of artistic differences with "Souvenir" playwright Stephen Temperley about casting and staging, said Timothy Bond, Stage's producing artistic director. The play is based on the life of Florence Foster Jenkins, who was talentless as a singer, but with her riches booked Carnegie Hall, and the concert sold out to a curious audience.
 "Putting It Together — A Musical Review" was conceived by composer and lyricist Sondheim and Julia McKenzie. It features 30 Sondheim songs from his musicals.
 Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj, Stage's associate artistic director, will direct.

Exhibit in trailer designed to spur election interest

An exhibit designed to generate interest in the presidential election this fall will be parked from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Monday at Liverpool First United Methodist Church, 604 Oswego St. It will be hard to miss — a 56-foot-long trailer wrapped in purple-glazed photos of monuments in Washington, D.C.
 Inside, visitors will be able to present their own mock presidential address, e-mail candidates and record a YouTube message for the next president, according to a news release from sponsors of the ChampMobile.
 The trailer is traveling the nation on behalf of Divided We Fail, a nonpartisan organization sponsored by the AARP, Business Roundtable, Service Employees Union and National Federation of Independent Business.

Talk on salt history slated for today moves to Oct. 5

A scheduled lecture today at the Onondaga Historical Association has been moved to 2 p.m. Oct. 5 in the OHA museum.
 Dennis Connors, OHA curator of history, said William Meyer, of Colgate University, had been scheduled to speak today at the opening lecture of a series on salt production in Syracuse. His talk is called The Solar Technology and Albany Politics of the 19th Century in Syracuse Salt Making.
 The next lecture in the series, sponsored by Ameriprise Financial Services, will be Sept. 14 at the museum. William Kelly, the state geologist, will talk about Onondaga's brine springs and how they spawned the industry that created the Salt City.

— Staff reports

Lomong receives gold medal welcome

Boy gives Olympic athlete medal he won in games for the physically challenged.

By Maureen Sieh
 Urban affairs editor
 Lopez Lomong didn't win a gold medal at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, but he got one Saturday in Tully from 8-year-old Joshua Blackburn.
 Joshua, who has won 18 gold medals and three silver medals in the Empire State Games for

the Physically Challenged since he began competing in 2006, became a fan of Lomong when the former Tully track and cross-country star qualified in July to represent the United States in the 15,000-meter race at the Olympic Games.
 Before a crowd of more than 2,000 people who gathered outside the Tully Elementary School on State Street, Joshua gave Lomong the medal he won in June in the 60-meter run of the Empire Games.
 Lomong thanked Joshua.

Then he gave the lad from Apulia Station a U.S. Olympic cap and autographed the picture postcard of him carrying the U.S. flag at the Olympics' Opening Ceremonies. "Joshua, you're my role model," Lomong wrote on the postcard.
 "I like Lopez because he carried the American flag," said Joshua. "It was really exciting to see Lopez. I think he's cool."
 Joshua, who was born with cerebral palsy, said he decided to



John Berry / The Post-Standard

OLYMPIAN and 2004 Tully High School graduate Lopez Lomong wears a cap presented to him Saturday during the Tully Community Fair.

LOMONG, PAGE B-6



REAL CHANGE, NOT SPARE CHANGE



Mike Greenlar / The Post-Standard

TELL US ONLINE

The conversation about downtown is already under way at blog.syracuse.com/cny-speaks. Log on and tell us what you think.

ATTEND A FORUM

We have scheduled three forums to discuss issues, identified by the citizens of Central New York, that need to be tackled for downtown to become a vibrant hub of activity. Sign up now to ensure we have a space for you by contacting Greg Munno at 470-6084 or gmunno@syracuse.com. The forums are:
 ■ 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2, at the Hotel Syracuse, 500 S. Warren St.
 ■ 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, at the Warehouse, 350 W. Fayette St.
 ■ 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7, City Hall Commons, 201 E. Washington St.

WILLIE TARVER, of Syracuse, asks for money from Richard Laflair, of Syracuse, outside Starbucks coffee shop at Walton and Franklin streets in Armory Square in Syracuse. Laflair gives Tarver money when he can, but not to other panhandlers. He praises Tarver as "a good guy. When you tell him 'not today,' he won't ask you again."

CITIES GET CREATIVE TO DETER BEGGARS

By Greg Munno
 Civic engagement editor
Richard Laflair comes to Armory Square in downtown Syracuse so often he calls the Starbucks at South Franklin and Walton streets his "second home."
 A frequent conversation among the regulars is how to ward off the inevitable solicitations for money by beggars, Laflair said.
 "We talk about it all the time because the same guys are just nailing us again and again, asking us for money every time we pop out for a cigarette," said Laflair, 58, of Syracuse.
 Ever since Laflair gave a panhandler money a few years ago, only to see the man walk straight into a store to buy beer, he has given money to only one beggar, Willie Tarver, whom Laflair says is friendly and polite. "I'm sick and tired of the rest of them," he said.
 Laflair is not alone. A distaste, or even fear, of panhandlers has been mentioned by dozens of participants of CNYSpeaks as something

they say keeps them from visiting downtown as often as they would like. CNYSpeaks is a citizen-driven conversation aimed at finding ways to make downtown more inviting, more vibrant and more culturally and economically dynamic.
 When people talk about other problems they have with downtown, such as a fear of crime or a sense that downtown is dirty, it turns out that most of the time, when pushed, they are really talking about their discomfort with panhandling.
 And it is not just CNYSpeaks participants who are concerned.
 "When we talk to employers downtown, large and small, one of the first things they talk about is the panhandlers, about how off-putting that is for their employees," said Tim Carroll, the city's director of operations.
 Mayor Matt Driscoll put forward a bill in 2003 that would have made it easier for police to crack down on "aggressive panhandlers." But the measure ran into opposi-

Dealing with panhandlers
 Here are some tips on dealing with panhandlers, adapted from an article by Annette Wuertz, a member of the Quality of Life Task Force in St. Paul, Minn.
Just say "no." Don't engage them. Don't feel like you need to say "sorry."
If they persist, loudly say "no" several times. Panhandlers don't like to draw attention to themselves.
Walk away. If you are followed, go into the nearest business and report the incident.
Act confident. Your attitude is a powerful tool in dealing with panhandlers.
If you feel threatened by a panhandler, don't hesitate to call 911.

who complain to make sure their councilors know because that is going to be key."
 It sounds as though some councilors are starting to get the message.
 "I can't tell you how many people tell me, 'We've got to do something about the panhandlers,'" said Pat Hogan, the 2nd District councilor.
 "And it really struck me in reading the CNYSpeaks articles. What I took away from those was people love downtown, but the panhandlers detract tremendously from their enjoyment."
 Hogan said he recently started working with Bill Ryan, the council's Public Safety Committee chairman and majority leader, to introduce new legislation he hopes will help solve the problem.
 Syracuse is far from the only city with this problem, and many people who travel frequently will tell you that the number of panhandlers, and the level of their aggressiveness, is very modest in Syracuse.
 Other cities have used a

PROGRAM, PAGE B-3

Plentiful harvest of Marcellus memories

DICK CASE
 POST-STANDARD COLUMNIST



Jean Hughes told me her house was just past the water tower in the eastern half of the village of Skaneateles.
 The tank has "Home of the Lakers" splashed across it in big letters. Skaneateles High School is across the road.
 Jean is an old friend from Marcellus, where we both grew up.
 Walter Chave got the farm in the 1880s. Jean and her husband, Hugh Hughes, were only the second owners. The place originally had 27 acres; Jean sold all but one, where the farmhouse sits.
 They moved there in 1945, when the only water on the farm came from a well. Jean and Hugh fixed up the house, gutted it. There's still a neat red barn out back, next to the red chicken coop. At one time, the Hugheses had cows, pigs, chickens and turkeys.
 Hugh died 12 years ago, after 55 years of marriage.
 Jean lives in contented widowhood. These days, she sits in a big chair in the living room, watching TV, drinking ice tea and knitting. She's a Syracuse University sports and Yankees fan.
 Three baskets filled with yarn are close by. Jean says mainly she knits wool hats for the Rescue Mission. She shows me a colorful collection of "toboggan hats" on the dining room table. They're those warm caps we pull over our heads in the winter.
 "I do about 100 hats a year," she explains.
 Jean's a farmer's daughter. Her parents were wonderful neighbors of mine, Ethel and Jim Stone, who ran Sheltered Valley Farm for years.
 The farm meandered across many acres. Jean's great-grandfather, Horace Stone, bought it in 1852. It stayed in the family 134 years, until Jim's grandson,

HER FATHER, PAGE B-2



Dick Case / The Post-Standard

JEAN HUGHES shows off some of the hats she knit for the Rescue Mission at her Skaneateles home.