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14 DAYS TO GO

14 days to go before Nov. 4 and your chance to participate in this historic election. Go to www.syracuse.com/politics/ for the latest political news and to check out our CNY Voter Guide, where you can compare local and national candidates and build your own ballot.

■ In the 119th Assembly District, nine-term incumbent Joan Christensen is facing a challenge from Christina Fitch, of Liverpool. The women have some things in common, but differ significantly on several policy questions/**Local, B-1**

■ Poll shows that John McCain's image has continued to deteriorate. An Associated Press-Yahoo News poll shows McCain has lost major ground to Barack Obama/**POLITICS, A-5**

■ Barack Obama said Monday that, if he is elected, Colin Powell will have a position in his administration. "He will have a role as one of my advisers," Obama said/**POLITICS, A-5**

■ In an ongoing AP-Yahoo News poll of likely voters, the percentage of people who think the country is moving in the right direction has plunged in recent weeks/**WASHINGTON, A-7**

SU associate dean says he was forced to quit

David Potter said he believes his position at Syracuse University was being eliminated because of his involvement in restarting a case against three SU basketball players accused of sexually assaulting a student. He made the decision to retire.

LOCAL, PAGE B-1

Could another economic boost be on the way?

President Bush said Monday that he was open to some sort of action to stimulate the economy.

WASHINGTON, PAGE A-7

Corrections

■ Farm Fresh Mobile Market program/**B-1**

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

IT'S SNOW TIME

It won't be necessary to shovel, but a few snowflakes are expected to fly through the air this evening as cooler air flows through the area. Rain showers are likely earlier in the day.

Complete forecast, B-8

HIGH: 49 LOW: 36

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TEAR DOWN

OTHER CITIES HAVE TAKEN DOWN ELEVATED HIGHWAYS TO LET THE SUN SHINE ON VALUABLE DOWNTOWN PARCELS



Photos provided by Milwaukee's Department of City Development

THE OLD Park East Freeway in Milwaukee (*photo at top*) is shown being torn down, a process that began in 2002. The elevated freeway spur was replaced with an at-grade six-lane boulevard (*above*) that is fully connected with the existing street grid. New block configurations opened up 24 acres of downtown property for redevelopment.

Milwaukee's story

Built in 1969, the Park East Freeway created a psychological and physical barrier that divided the North Side of Milwaukee from the rest of downtown.

In the 1990s, a new Riverwalk system stretching along the Milwaukee River through the entire downtown renewed interest in the riverfront and sparked a downtown housing boom. But the area around the Park East Freeway remained underutilized with surface parking lots and aging industrial parcels.

Demolition began in 2002. The teardown and construction of the replacement McKinley Boulevard cost about \$45 million, paid for through a variety of federal, state, and city sources.

Soon after the creation of the boulevard, a Fortune 500 company moved its headquarters a block from the former highway and mixed-use developments popped up along the boulevard and surrounding blocks.

Between 2001 and 2006, the average assessed land values per acre in the footprint of the Park East Freeway grew by over 180 percent, far higher than the citywide average.

Source: City of Milwaukee and the Congress for New Urbanism

By Greg Munno
Civic engagement editor

When a mid-sized American city started talking about fixing an aging highway that cut through its center, a few people said they'd rather see the road torn down.

The most common response: It can't be done.

Traffic will clog local streets, the skeptics said. No one will come downtown anymore. It will cost too much.

But developers started talking about how desirable the land beneath the highway could be. Then the price tag for fixing the elevated highway came in at a whopping \$100 million.

So the highway came down — at a cost of about \$25 million — and was replaced with a ground-level road that fit neatly into the city traffic grid — for about \$20 million more.

A Fortune 500 company moved its headquarters into the newly created landscape, sparking \$450 million in development. The value of land adjacent to the highway increased 180 percent in five years. The acute traffic congestion created at the old highway's off-ramps disappeared. It actually became easier to get around.

Welcome to Milwaukee, Wis., one of several cities that has done what Syracuse is just starting to seriously consider: removing a major elevated highway in favor of a more local road.

The Onondaga Citizens League is in the midst of a yearlong study looking at what should become of Interstate 81, which, despite opposition from Mayor Anthony Henninger, The Post-Standard and other prominent people and institutions, plowed through the center of Syracuse in the mid-1960s.

The Citizens League is specifically looking at the portion of elevated roadway

OPTIONS, PAGE A-4

Who's who in Cicero Commons fiasco

Monday, project's architect denied giving IRS false information. Will there be more indictments in failed development?

By Tom Leo
Staff writer

A federal grand jury is continuing to look into the failed Cicero Commons project to determine if there is anything criminal surrounding the unsuccessful plan to turn a 104-acre, town-owned dump into a new community.

The grand jury recently handed down its first indictment in the case, accusing an architect of lying to Internal Revenue Service auditors. Peter Arsenault, the Commons' general project manager, pleaded not guilty Monday in federal court.

Will more people be indicted?

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Olmsted only said it will be up to the jurors hearing the case.

The project to turn the tree-and-brush dump into a housing, recreational and business complex involved a number of businesses and local people, including former state Assemblyman and developer Michael Bragman.

Several people who were interviewed by the grand jury told The Post-Standard that prosecutors asked questions about several individuals' involvement, including Bragman.

Bragman said Monday he has been questioned by federal prosecutors but refused to say what they talked about.

It was Bragman who helped seed the project with state and federal money, and introduced developer Marshall Breines, president of Hillspoint Wyatt, to the Cicero Local Development Corp., a town-created authority for the project that borrowed \$16.5 million for construction.

CICERO, PAGE A-4

THE DOW

▲ 413.21

LATE-DAY SURGE: The end of trading Monday brought a rally of activity: The Dow Jones industrial average rose nearly 140 points in the last 25 minutes/**Business, B-7**

Physician assistants filling gap in doctors

As experts predict growing shortage of doctors, number of assistants in CNY grows 24 percent in four years.

By James T. Mulder
Staff Writer

The physician assistant will see you now.

But if you want to see a doctor, the wait is two weeks.

That may be the choice offered to patients in a few years if the widely predicted physician shortage comes true, according to Jean Moore, director of the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the State University at Albany.

"Access to basic health services could be an issue and physician assistants have the potential to bridge the gap," she said.

Physician assistants, like nurse practitioners, can treat illnesses, prescribe drugs and provide many of the same services doctors do under a physician's supervision. There are about three times more nurse practitioners than PAs in Central New York, according to the Center for Health Workforce Studies. But on a percentage basis, PAs are growing at a faster rate in the region.

They work in emergency rooms, primary care practices, urgent care centers, clinics, prisons, operating rooms and just about every other medical setting. Le Moyne College has the only PA training program in Central New York. It has graduated about 300 PAs, most of whom still work in the region, since the program started in 1996. SUNY Upstate

PA's, PAGE A-1



Dick Blume / The Post-Standard

JEREMY WELSH, a physician assistant, works with Susanne Baptiste, a nurse, at North Medical Urgent Care in Clay.

Welsh opted for his career over going to medical school because it allowed him to work much sooner.