



# Press & Sun-Bulletin



BINGHAMTON, N.Y.

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FINAL EDITION 50 CENTS

Thursday  
September 20, 2007



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## Projects to stress Union water system

But upgrades could allow for growth

By Eric Reinagel  
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Press & Sun-Bulletin

**UNION** — Multi-million dollar developments proposed in Union can't be supported by the town's existing water system, according to a preliminary water study.

But slight improvements will permit some building projects

to move forward.

In the past couple of years, the town has been rife with developers wanting to build, but the town halted major development because it was concerned about how much additional development the water system could handle. Union, which doesn't have any wells of its own, buys water from Endicott and Johnson City. In January, Stearns & Wheeler

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LLC was hired by Endicott and Union to study drinking water related to proposed developments in the Twist Run Road area of the town. Preliminary results of the study, which cost about \$25,000, indicated the system can immediately accommodate 100 new housing units, said

Richard Miller, Endicott public works coordinator.

With \$50,000 in upgrades to a pump station at Elton Drive, the town and Stearns & Wheeler estimate up to 150 additional units could be built. The estimates are based on assumptions about pumping capacity when the pumps were brand new. The town board approved an additional \$15,000 study to find out how much water the pump stations can now distribute. The study could be completed by the

end of October, said Peter A. Olevano, Union's commissioner of public works.

So who is allowed to build the initial 100 units?

"That's something that hasn't been decided yet," Olevano said Wednesday. He said developers ultimately will be responsible for paying for upgrades to the water system that benefit the proposed developments.

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## Simpson released from jail



The Associated Press

O.J. Simpson leaves the Clark County Detention Center in Las Vegas on Wednesday after he was granted bail.

## Legal experts question strength of case

By Ryan Nakashima  
The Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS** — In a scene of legal déjà vu, a grayer, heavier O.J. Simpson stood handcuffed in court Wednesday to face charges that could put him behind bars for life. The prosecutor who failed to get him a dozen years ago was there to watch, and news cameras tracked his every move as if they were covering a slow-speed chase.

But as Simpson made his \$125,000 bail on charges including kidnapping and armed robbery, legal experts were

questioning: Could a former football star who beat a double-murder rap really do hard time for a crime that sounds like a bad movie?

Police have laid out a case that makes Simpson the leader in a tense, armed holdup of sports memorabilia collectors. Some of the facts — including a curious recording of the confrontation — don't seem so clear-cut.

Legal experts say that issues such as who had rightful ownership of the goods and the reputation of witnesses in the sometimes-less-than-reputable world of memorabilia trading could cloud the

prosecution's case.

Simpson has insisted he was merely retrieving items that were stolen from him earlier.

Alfred Beardsley, one of the collectors who says he was robbed at gunpoint by Simpson and several other men, told NBC's "Today" show before Simpson's hearing that he didn't think an audiotape made at the scene was accurate. Beardsley was arrested for a parole violation on Wednesday.

The man who arranged the meeting

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## Leak in pool a mystery at Vestal High School

Officials unsure if trouble linked to refurbishment

By George Basler  
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Press & Sun-Bulletin

**VESTAL** — Vestal High School's swimming pool, recently refurbished as part of a major upgrade of district facilities, has sprung a leak, district officials said.

The leak was discovered in a crawl space area below the pool when the district refilled the pool in late August, Deputy Superintendent Keith Olivet said.

Officials have not identified the source of the leak. Two possibilities are the gutter system or the main drain and valves in the 40-year-old pool, said John Knudson, a senior partner with Bearsch Compeau Knudson Architects & Engineers, the district's architectural firm.

Olivet said the pool refurbishment, done over the summer as part of Vestal's \$54.8 million capital project, didn't include work on the gutter system or the drains, both of which engineers judged to be in satisfactory condition. Instead, the \$350,000 refurbishing work focused on repairing the pool's surface area and deck, he said.

After the leak was discovered, district officials decided to keep the pool open rather than drain it because of commitments made to students and the community that it would be open for the 2007-08 school year, Olivet said. Vestal is using the pool's water make-up system, a feed coming off the main water feed into the building, to maintain the

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## Private school to end 37-year tenure in Binghamton

By George Basler  
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Press & Sun-Bulletin

**BINGHAMTON** — The Susquehanna School, which has been part of Broome County's educational scene for close to 40 years, will close Sept. 28 because of economic conditions and steadily declining enrollment, school officials said.

But a group of parents said they are studying ways to possibly reopen the private, nonsectarian school, started in 1970 by educator Nancy Ziegenhagen as an alternative to the regimentation of public schools.

"There is a really big difference in pedagogy of the school.

**STORYCHAT**

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It's unique and not available anywhere else in the area," said Tom Egan, a parent who has a 7-year-old daughter at the school, at 75 Pennsylvania Ave. in Binghamton.

The school's board of trustees and faculty issued a press release Wednesday announcing the closing. The board also held a private meeting with parents Wednesday night.

"It's really tough for everyone. It wasn't an easy decision," said Bonnie Gross, a member of

the board and spokeswoman for the school.

She said the board, which has been monitoring the school's enrollment and finances, delayed a decision until the start of the school year hoping enrollment would be enough to keep the school financially viable.

But when the school year opened with only 17 students, compared to more than 20 enrolled in June, board members decided the number wasn't large enough to keep the school in operation, she said. At its height in the mid-1990s, the school had more than 70 students.

"As a private school, we did

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REBECCA TOWNS / Press & Sun-Bulletin

The Susquehanna School, a private school in Binghamton, will close its doors Sept. 28, the school's board of trustees has announced.

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