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## Alabama gathering

Sixty people, mostly seniors, who at one time lived in the town of Alabama met for the annual homecoming picnic, which included a presentation on Indian artifacts. *Senior Page, A-10*



# THE DAILY NEWS

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# Genesee budget crimped by Albany

By Paul Mrozek  
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Genesee County is waiting on the state and federal governments to make more than \$5 million in overdue payments, the lack of which is putting a crimp in the county budget.

That's what county lawmakers were told this week by County Manager Jay Gsell and Legislature Chairman Mary Pat Hancock.

Gsell said the problem is caused by the

2010-11 state budget deadlock. State agencies are not obligated to distribute funds until the full spending plan is enacted.

"Technically there is no adopted state budget. Once again the state is unable to move," Gsell said.

The 2010-11 budget is 2½ months late. New York's fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31.

The piecemeal budget extenders approved by Albany in the past several months do not qualify as a completed

spending plan, Gsell said.

The turnaround time on state payments and reimbursements in years past was usually 30-to-60 days.

"In many cases it would be on a monthly basis," Gsell said.

In 2009-10 the payment and reimbursement timeline has extended out to 90-to-120 days.

"We still have to operate the county," Hancock said at Wednesday's Legislature meeting.

The chairman said the state budget outlook for the 2011-12 fiscal year is even bleaker than this year.

"We just have to plan even better, more carefully; 2011 is going to be a difficult budget year," Hancock said.

The glacier-like flow of cash from Albany has also affected non-profit groups that rely on state funds, such as Great Lakes Community Care Network, the county Mental Health Association and

See Crimped — page A-2



**ALL LINED UP:** Batavia Youth Football kicked off its summer football camp Thursday night at Kibbe Park with more than 100 participants. Coach Andrew Young looks on as he gets his group into the three-point stance.

## GRIDIRON GYRATIONS



**HIGH IMPACT:** Zack Anderson, 8, of Batavia gets his game face on as he gets ready to hit the heavy bag.



**AGILITY TEST:** Below, Levi Bluhm, 8, of Batavia runs through a drill as instructor Matt Dellapenna observes.

# Castile farm grows friends on Facebook

By Tom Rivers  
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Every week Table Rock Farm "friends" get an update on a field of corn at the Castile farm. They have watched since May 3, when Table Rock prepared the field, dragging tillage equipment across the soil. The crop had a late start due to a cold snap in early May, but by July 4 it was booming, well past "knee high by the Fourth of July," according to Table Rock's Facebook page.

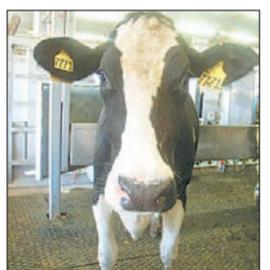
A photo posted on July 13 shows the corn beginning to tassel. "This is the male flower of corn, which will release pollen when mature," farm partner Meghan Hauser writes on Facebook.

She introduces Facebook friends to staff, and explains what employees are doing when they care for calves and cows, fix machinery, raise crops and do many other farm chores. She also highlights when employees reach milestone anniversaries on the farm.

Hauser will discuss how the farm uses Facebook and other neighbor outreach programs on Aug. 11 at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls. Hauser will be one of five panelists for a symposium about "Help-



**SHARING:** This photo posted on Facebook July 13 shows corn beginning to tassel. "This is the male flower of corn, which will release pollen when mature," farm partner Meghan Hauser wrote.



**CLOSEUP:** This photo of a cow at Table Rock Farm was posted with the caption: "7771 has just finished milking."

ing the Food Chain Understand Agriculture."

Table Rock had 129 Facebook "friends" on Thursday. Many of those are neighbors of the farm, Table Rock employees or their family members. Hauser said the social networking site is easy to use, and is effective in letting

See Castile — page A-2

# Legislator questions 'the power of one'

Puzzled that single taxpayer's suggestion could prompt referendum

By Paul Mrozek  
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Genesee County Legislator Annie Lawrence said Wednesday she's puzzled why a request from one taxpayer has led her colleagues to propose changes to their terms of office.

"I don't understand," she said at the Legislature's July meeting, at which lawmakers set a date for a public hearing on the requested amendments to legislative terms.

Lawrence said that other than one taxpayer's idea, there were no petitions circulated and no other support

from the community.

Lawrence, R-Darien/Pembroke, was referring to the efforts of Darien Town Councilman Stephen J. Ferry Jr., although she did not mention him by name. Ferry has pushed to increase terms of office from two years to four years and limit lawmakers to a maximum of three consecutive terms.

Ferry attended Wednesday's Legislature meeting.

The proposed 2010 local law under discussion would also stagger terms of office so all nine legislative seats are not up for election in the same year. Lawmakers plan to put the pro-

posal up for referendum in November but they first have to enact a local statute.

Ferry made his request for changes at an April 2009 meeting of the Ways & Means Committee. He is a Democrat who's been on the Darien Town Council for nine years.

He said in April 2009 that most county lawmakers run without opposition. Four-year terms would encourage more candidates to seek the office.

Ferry said it was "ridiculous" to

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# Dairy showcase will include local voices

SENECA FALLS — Organizers of dairy profit seminars during Empire Farm Days are turning to some local farmers, a Cornell Cooperative Extension specialist and a veterinarian for insights in the industry.

The Aug. 10-12 Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls features symposiums about the dairy industry. Farmers on Aug. 10 will discuss strategies and innovations to improving calf health and performance. The discussion will be moderated by Jerry Boltoldo, a dairy specialist with the Cornell Cooperative Extension based in Batavia.

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Thank you SAM BARONE of BATAVIA for subscribing to The Daily News.



## Opinion

Pit bulls! And Grizzlies!

Kathleen Parker, A-4

## Tomorrow

There is never a dull day — or a quiet one, for that matter, — at the Genesee County Animal Shelter.

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