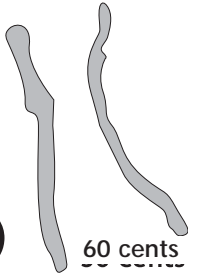




The Reveille

# Between the Lakes



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## Light Side

**A** young boy brought a pie to an elderly neighbor. She was delighted by the gift she had received and said warmly, "At church tomorrow, I'll be sure to thank your mother for this lovely pie." The boy suggested nervously, "If you don't mind, ma'am, would you thank her for two pies."

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### Bringing home the gold

Students at the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Midlakes Education Center (MEC) held their own version of the Olympic torch lighting ceremony last week in the halls of the intermediate school to celebrate the opening ceremony and learn about the Winter Olympics. Although the students were not asked to brave the cold outdoor weather today, they did carry their handmade tissue paper torch through the halls of their school and passed it from student to student. Functional Skills Development Teacher Gail Loveland coordinated the Mini Olympic Opening Ceremony Celebration and said hands-on projects like this one help her students understand what's going on in the world around them. According to Loveland, her students have been fascinated by the Winter Olympics and have created Olympic trivia questions, studied the winter games on the Internet and plan on watching highlights of some events on TV. MEC student torchbearers include (standing in back) Timmy Bump, Mariah Wheeler from Waterloo and Alan Eisenhauer. Luis Ortiz (seated) carried the torch during the final leg of the MEC relay and got to light the school's ceremonial Olympic "flame."

### Public hearing scheduled March 1

## Counties file trust opposition

Seneca and Cayuga county officials say taxpayers could lose millions of dollars and be prevented from enforcing laws that protect the public if the Cayuga Indian Nation of New York is allowed to put its lands in a federal trust.

The counties made that argument to the federal government in a report submitted Friday (Feb. 10) opposing the Cayugas' application. The Cayu-

gas are attempting to have its properties in the two counties placed in trust with the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to avoid state and local taxes and regulations.

According to the report, which was prepared for both counties by the Pittsford law firm Harris Beach, if the Cayugas' application is granted, the counties and its towns stand to lose more than

### Over a half million dollars

## County attorney recovers funds

The Seneca County board of supervisors were treated to some sweet news Tuesday night. While giving his annual report, County Attorney Steven Getman reported his office collected nearly \$570,000 on its own and in cooperation with other agencies. during 2005.

According to the report, the office collected \$356,397.08 in public assistance and welfare fraud lawsuits, \$90,462.65 in outstanding planning and development loans and \$123,100 through institution of foreclosure proceedings on back property taxes.

Getman's efforts were applauded by board members, noting the total county cost for the County Attorney's Office was only \$118,249 according to the county's 2005 budget.

In addition, the report noted, Getman's office handled nearly 4,000 cases for the county in various courts, including Family Court, New York State Supreme Court and the Village Justice Courts.

AS COUNTY ATTORNEY, Getman is the legal advisor to the board of supervisors and every officer whose compensation is paid from county funds in all matters involving an official act of a civil nature. The County Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution and defense of all civil actions and proceedings brought by or against the county, the board of supervisors and any officer whose compensation is paid from county funds for any official act, except as otherwise provided by law. The County At-

orney's Office also serves as the prosecuting agency in Family Court, bringing action against juvenile delinquents, deadbeat parents and those who would abuse or neglect their children.

In addition to Getman, the County Attorney's Office consists of Deputy County Attorney Frank Fisher, Confidential Secretary Barbara Carr, Clerk Carol Cunningham and Paralegal Carmina Russo.

Getman was first appointed county attorney in 2002. Prior to that, he served as the county's social services attorney, and, before that, its public defender. He re-sides with his wife, Joan, in Covert

INDIAN LAND CLAIM Committee Chair David Dresser updated the full board on activity of the committee and others over the past three weeks. Paramount, of course, was the county's response to the Cayugas' land into trust application, which was filed Friday. The response, joined by Cayuga County and municipalities in both counties, was filed by Harris Beach and included strong legal arguments supported by thorough studies of economic and environmental impacts by expert witnesses retained by the state. The *Reveille/Between the Lakes* is beginning a multi-part series excerpting the response this week. The first installment is on page 7.

Dresser noted a county contingent met with Congressman Sherwood Boehlert in Utica Jan. 27 and attended the legislative

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\$85,000 in property tax revenue in a single year. Seneca County would initially lose \$21,631.27 and Cayuga County would initially lose \$64,905.48, the report says.

These tax losses could continue indefinitely into the future, officials note.

THE REPORT ESTIMATES future losses in Seneca County to range

from a low of \$550,513.18 to high of \$3,751,160.56, depending on future tax rate growth. Similarly, in Cayuga County, the value of removing the Nation's parcels from the tax rolls ranges from a low of \$1,651,836.53 to a high of \$11,255,505.48 in the future. The combined high for both counties would be more than 15 mil-

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