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NEW YORK STATE

State audit faults NYRA practices

Former adviser calls report 'another cheap shot'

By Paul Post
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SARATOGA SPRINGS » State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli says New York Racing Association is not financially viable without gaming revenue from Aqueduct Race-track's casino, despite NYRA's claim that it realized profits the

past few years. An audit DiNapoli's office released Friday faults NYRA's auditing techniques and says the firm that runs Saratoga Race Course, Belmont Park and Aqueduct has actually racked up a \$109 million deficit the past five years. But NYRA officials, in a response made April 25, defended its practices, business model and

fiscal condition. The audit finds no fault with a state-appointed Franchise Oversight Board responsible for monitoring NYRA's budget and financial practices. The report came out one day before Saturday's Belmont Stakes, the biggest day of the year on New York's racing calendar. "There are important deci-

sions being made about NYRA's future right now," comptroller's spokesman Mark Johnson said. "We wanted to provide information to help the Legislature and governor with those decisions." However, there are just four business days left in the cur-



DiNapoli

rent legislative sessions, which is scheduled to end Thursday. Johnson said it took time for DiNapoli's office to respond to the comments NYRA made six weeks ago. NYRA and Gov. Andrew Cuomo have been at the center of a firestorm of controversy since Tuesday when John Hendrickson, Cuomo's racing advisor, resigned in protest of the governor's handling of New York's thoroughbred **AUDIT » PAGE 2**

CLASS OF 2016

THE NEXT CHAPTER



A crowd of family, friends and well-wishers gather with Saratoga Central Catholic High School graduates outside St. Clement's Church after Friday's ceremonies.

Spa Catholic graduates 42 during St. Clement's ceremony

By Paul Post
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SARATOGA SPRINGS » A loud chorus cheers rose as 42 seniors moved their mortarboard tassels, formally marking their graduation from Saratoga Central Catholic High School on Friday. Hundreds of family members, friends and well-wishers turned out for ceremonies at St. Clement's Church. It was an event highlighted by hugs, smiles and tears as friends bid farewell to high school before embarking on life's journey. "There is a time for every-

thing, a season for every activity under the sun," said co-valedictorian Bridget Naughton, quoting a Bible verse. "This is a time for celebrating all we have accomplished these last four years." "Whoop! We did it," said Chloe Ethier, as a crowd gathered outside afterward in the bright early summer sunshine. Naughton, Ethier and Amelia Bielefeld shared co-valedictorian honors. In their respective speeches, each one thanked their parents, teachers and school administrators who helped them achieve goals, **GRADS » PAGE 2**



Bridget Naughton, Chloe Ethier and Amelia Bielefeld, left to right, are co-valedictorians of this year's Saratoga Central Catholic High School graduating class. Naughton is National Honor Society vice president, was twice elected class president and was volleyball team captain. Ethier, a National Honor Society member, is a scholar-athlete with 16 varsity pins who played golf, volleyball, basketball and track-and-field. Bielefeld is senior class vice president, National Honor Society treasurer and was a varsity athlete in cross-country, softball and track.

SARATOGA SPRINGS

Deputy mayor resigns

By Travis Clark
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SARATOGA SPRINGS » Shake-ups are happening within Saratoga Springs City Hall. Saratoga Springs Mayor Joanne Yespen announced Friday that Deputy Mayor Joseph Ogden is resigning. Mayor Yespen announced the resignation via a press release Friday in which she called Ogden's resignation a "great opportunity for Joe to go back to the area of economics and public finance that he really loves." Deputy Mayor Ogden has accepted the position of Director of Budget Development and Execution at the State University of New York. Ogden called being Deputy Mayor a "dream job" and was grateful for the outpouring of support within the Saratoga Springs community. "At a time when government service is too often looked upon unfavorably, our citizens should take unabashed pride in the fact that our city employees are passionate about their community, passionate about helping others and give 100 percent day-in and day-out," Ogden said. Mayor Yespen is now accepting applications for Deputy Mayor and called for someone who is "passionate about advancing a progressive and sustainable future for the City of Saratoga Springs."



Saratoga Springs Deputy Mayor Joseph Ogden, right, reads a proclamation honoring former Hungry Spot owner Steve Welles in this December 2015 photo.

COMMUNITY
Today's snapshot of what's going on locally
Turn to the Community Page today and every day for upcoming area activities and a look at local history. **PAGE A4**



OPINION
Share your thoughts with us in Sound Off
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Remembering family and friends
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