

OF INTEREST

**Counselors group to meet Oct. 19**

PLATTSBURGH — Northeastern New York Counseling and Development Association will meet Thursday, Oct. 19, at 11 a.m. at BOCES Instructional Services Center at the Clinton County Industrial Park.

The group will talk about new programs available in this community. The Executive Committee meets at 10 a.m. The meetings is open to all.

**75th Anniversary of 19th Amendment celebrated**

PLATTSBURGH — On Thursday, Oct. 19, at 6:30 p.m. the League of Women Voters of the Greater Plattsburgh Area will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the 19th Amendment at Anthony's Restaurant with dinner and presentation by Monica McGaughey.

She will portray Belya Lockwood, the first woman to run for president (1884 and 1888), throughout the evening. For more information and to make a dinner reservation, contact Hannah Hanford 643-9058. The event is open to all.

**Community School Organization to meet Thursday**

PLATTSBURGH — The Plattsburgh High School Community School Organization (CSO) will hold a meeting Thursday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. in the high school library.

The agenda includes selection of a parent representative to the School Improvement Planning Committee. Any parent who is interested in this position should attend.

An update of the Hall of Fame Golf Tournament, plans for Fright Night and other upcoming events will also be discussed. All who are interested are encouraged to attend.

**Garrow is guest speaker at Morrisonville meeting**

MORRISONVILLE — The Morrisonville Family School Organization meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Guest speaker Larry Garrow will discuss the integration of technology in our school's curriculum. The meeting is open to all.

**Cumberland Head School PTO to meet Wednesday**

PLATTSBURGH — The PTO meeting for Cumberland Head School will be held Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. All are welcome.

**Shared decision making meets Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.**

BEEKMANTOWN — Beekmantown Central School District shared decision making meeting will meet Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. in the Cumberland Head Elementary Building.

**Turkey raffle at Morrisonville K of C Nov. 4**

MORRISONVILLE — The Knights of Columbus Council 6067 from Morrisonville will be hosting its annual turkey raffle on Saturday, Nov. 4, at St. Alexander's School on Route 22B in Morrisonville across from the Clinton County Fairgrounds.

The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. "Early Bird" cash spins start at 7 p.m. The main event with over 125 chances to win cash and prizes beginning at 7:30 p.m. At the conclusion of the evening, a complimentary spaghetti dinner will be served.

Everyone in attendance prior to the 7:30 p.m. main events starting time will receive one chance toward the color TV door prize giveaway. (You must be present to win).

**Haunted House planned at Champlain Centres South**

PLATTSBURGH — Volunteer firefighters of Fire Prevention Unit (District No. 3, Cumberland Head and Beekmantown Fire Departments) will host the annual Haunted House at Champlain Centres South.

This tradition was started by Plattsburgh Air Force Base and is now continued by the Fire Prevention Unit. The price is \$3 per person.

Dates are Friday, Oct. 27, 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 28, 6 to 10 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 29, 2 to 7 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 10 p.m.; and Tuesday, Oct. 31, 6 to 10 p.m.

Skull 'literally crushed'

Scientist: Gebo died of blows from blunt object

By MITCH ROSENQUIST  
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — The fractures in Leo Gebo's skull were caused by repeated blows with one or more rods or other blunt objects, a scientist testified Monday.

"There is absolutely no possibility" the many fractures and indentations in Gebo's skull were caused by falling and hitting his head on a rock, Dr. William Maples testified Monday in the murder trial of Gerald Burdo.

The skeleton of Gebo, a 79-year-old Altona man who disappeared June 13, 1993, was found April 23, 1994, in a wooded area off Alder Bend Road.

Burdo, 45, and Francis Burdo, 21, are each charged with second-degree murder, first-degree kidnapping and first-degree robbery in connection with Gebo's death.

Monday's testimony of the nationally-renowned forensic anthropologist was the first time in court an expert definitively ruled out the possibility of Gebo dying by accident.

Dr. Maples, who regularly reconstructs skeletal remains as part of police investigations, said the only way Gebo's skull could have been so severely fractured by falling is if "he fell from a sixth-story window and landed on concrete."

Holding up the reconstructed skull for jurors to see, Maples showed where at least two or more impacts on the side of Gebo's head caused fractures to spider out over much of the cranium. Those impacts could have been caused by most any blunt object, Maples said.

But there were other impact points as well, where the instrument used left a cylindrical impression in the bone, as if a metal rod or pipe had been used.

"Probably more than one weapon was used, but one that left an impression was about three-quarters of an inch in diameter," he said.

However, Maples said the impression left on the skull was still too ill-defined to pinpoint what the murder weapon was.

District Attorney Penelope Clute showed Maples a metal



Photo Editor/Dave Paczak

Forensic anthropologist Dr. William Maples of the University of Florida explains to the jury how several blows shattered Leo Gebo's skull. He reconstructed the skull from about 40 fragments.

rod, a tire iron and a metal pipe collected as evidence, and Maples said the tire iron or pipe could have been used to strike Gebo.

However, under cross-examination by defense attorney Evan Bracy, Maples said he could not say for sure it was either of those items, nor could he exclude them.

But Maples said Gebo was either alive or very recently dead when his skull was fractured. Had Gebo been dead for more than a few days before being struck, the fractures would have been different, he said.

"This skull could not have been fragmented by some simple process like falling and hitting the head on a rock," Maples said. And although there was a rock

near where Gebo's body was found, "even if he had the neck of a giraffe," the rock was too far away.

"This was a case where the man's head was literally crushed," Maples said.

Clute rested her case after Maples' testimony and Bracy began his defense.

Although Burdo during the police investigation had allegedly confessed to killing Gebo, several witnesses said Monday Burdo was with family members all day and night when Gebo disappeared.

Glen Cayea, Burdo's nephew who was 15 when Gebo disappeared, said Burdo played horse shoes with him at his Alder Bend home that afternoon. About 4:30,

he, Burdo and two other family members went to Ellenburg Center where Burdo lived with his mother, Evalina Burdo.

Burdo left his truck at Cayea's house because he was too drunk to drive, Cayea said, and when they got to Burdo's home, he fell asleep first at the kitchen table and then on the living room couch. He slept there all night, Cayea said.

Meanwhile, Evalina Burdo left about 4:30 p.m. to go dancing in Rouses Point and returned about 9:45 p.m. She said Burdo was asleep on the couch, Cayea was there, and Burdo's truck was not in the driveway.

More witnesses are scheduled to testify on Burdo's behalf beginning 10 a.m. today.

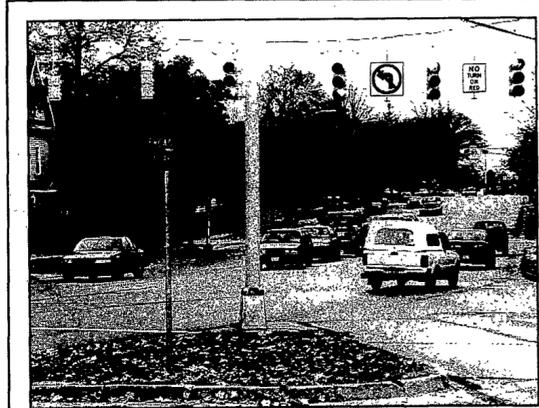


Photo Editor/Dave Paczak

The intersection of Rugar and Broad streets in Plattsburgh now is sporting new traffic signals that operate on regular cycles all day. Previously, there were periods during the day when east-bound traffic on Broad Street had only a flashing caution light. There also is no turn on red permitted for traffic stopped for the light on Rugar Street.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION ROUNDUP

Here's a look at major road construction around the North Country this week:

**Clinton County**

- Route 442, from Peru to Route 9. Expect delays.
- Route 22 from West Chazy to Mooers; expect minor delays.
- Old Route 191 in Chazy near exit 41 of I-87.
- Work on the Arthur Road Bridge between Keeseville and Peru. Possible detour.

**City of Plattsburgh**

- Major work being done on Miller Street near Post Office. Local traffic only, and no parking on street. Post Office traffic detoured.

**Essex County**

- Southbound bridge on I-87 being replaced over the AuSable River south of exit 34 near Keeseville. Some delays possible.
- Culvert replacement project three miles north of Port Henry on Route 9N and Route 22 between Westport and Port Henry. Traffic light regulating one-way traffic. Expect delays.
- Work on Route 9N in Westport.

**Franklin County**

- County 24 from Malone toward Brainerdsville.
- Village of Tupper Lake, work on Little Wolf Pond Bridge. Temporary detour, one-way traffic.
- Wawbeek-Lake Clear Junction, Route 30.

RICHARD C. TEN WOLDE  
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — Vivian Papson's apple butter made mouths water for years before her friends and family convinced her to start her own business. That was five years ago, and last year she sold 15,000 jars.

Her small company, Thank The Trees Adirondack Apple Butters, again is experiencing growing pains and is a potential client of the Small Business Development Center, which plans to bring area food producers together to share a 1,200-square-foot kitchen on the Champlain Valley International TradePARC property.

"I'm getting to the point where I need a bigger kitchen," said Papson, who works out of her kitchen in Saranac.

The Development Center is weeks away from finishing a study, which will determine the feasibility of starting the cooperative cooking facility near the runway.

The Adirondack Kitchen, as it's tentively named, already is outfitted with oversized equipment used in preparing large quantities of food.

The kitchen would allow small business owners to purchase food containers, shipping materials, equipment and ingredients in bulk, thus increasing their purchasing power and reducing overhead.

"I think it will help me to cut costs, and that's important to any small business," said Papson.

If the \$10,000 study says there is a need for a cooperative kitchen, the center will hold a con-



Staff Photo/Richard C. ten Wolde

Vivian Papson with a display of her product, apple butters produced under the label "Thank The Trees Adirondack Apple Butters."

ference in November to develop a plan based on the study's results.

The SBDC will then seek state, federal and private money to start up the facility.

SBDC Regional Director Merry Gwynn said the center will work with business owners to develop

business plans and marketing strategies as they fine-tune their recipes for mass production.

The kitchen will focus on the area's "tradition of food products and agricultural assets," Gwynn added.

Maple syrup, baked goods and

apple butter are some of the local products that could be introduced into the quickly-growing specialty foods industry, according to "Farming Alternatives," a newsletter published by Cornell University.

The kitchen will serve as an incubator, where small businesses can launch before moving to their own sites.

"You give them the opportunity to grow and make expansion a possibility, then they go out on their own," said Norman Horwitz, Clinton Community College's associate dean for business and industry.

In Morristown, Vt., and Poughkeepsie, similar facilities are being set up to meet the needs of food producers.

"For a lot of (entrepreneurs), there's no time left in the day to worry about expansion," said Connie Stanley-Little, the executive director of the Economic Development Council in northern Vermont. "They like the idea of networking, making business connections, working together and ordering supplies in bulk."

Construction will begin soon on Morristown's Vermont Food Venture Center, funded by a \$200,000 federal grant.

If Plattsburgh's Adirondack Kitchen does become a reality, Vivian Papson intends to develop new savory products.

"Everyone keeps asking me when I'm going to start making Pumpkin Butter," she said. "It would be really nice to have a bigger line (of products)."

Anyone interested in participating in the study's survey can contact the Development Center at 562-4260.

Friday blanket DWI patrol nets 62 infractions

PLATTSBURGH — More than 650 vehicles were stopped Friday for Clinton County's participation in New York's statewide DWI blanket patrol.

Locally coordinated by Sgt. James Parker of the State Police and the Clinton County STOP-DWI patrol, 10 local agencies participated, including the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, SUNY Plattsburgh Public Safety, New York State Park Police, Plattsburgh City Police, the Rouses Point

Police Department, the Champlain Police Department, the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation Law Enforcement agency, and the Clinton County Probation Department.

In Clinton County, nine DWI-related arrests and two drug-related arrests were made. Forty-five vehicle and traffic violations were cited and six tickets were written for failure to wear a seat belt.

Sobriety checkpoints and saturation

patrols were used in the blanket patrol and about 33 designated drivers were found.

Clinton County Probation participated in the patrol by making random home visits to DWI probationers who are prohibited from purchasing, possessing or consuming alcohol.

Katja Kellett and Mark Jaggi visited 16 homes and found six probationers in violation of their probation due to a presence of alcohol.