



Bills' Jackson is embracing change

Bigger and stronger lineman welcomes team's shift to a new defensive scheme | PAGE C1

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Randolph Schools leader eyes Amish for budget defeat

Veterinarian and farmer says he did not 'flood the vote'

BEN TSUJIMOTO
News Staff Reporter

Less than a week since voters rejected Randolph Schools' budget, tensions in the Cattaraugus County community remain high.

John Inkley believes he was the target of comments made by Randolph Schools Superintendent Kaine Kelly, who pinned the budget's downfall on a few residents who opposed a high tax increase and who rallied the surrounding Amish population – who live within the district but typically do not send their children to Randolph schools – to “flood the vote.”

Inkley, a veterinarian who works less than a mile from the school and runs a cattle farm a few miles outside of town, called The Buffalo News on Thursday to share his perspective on the district's failed budget proposal, which featured a 19% spending increase over the current budget and a 40% increase in the tax levy. Inkley said he wanted to address accusations that his actions led to the budget defeat that has divided the community.

“How can these people even be proud of being in Randolph, where their kids go to sports, and we're all one big community?” Inkley said, summarizing the prevailing sentiment. “Well, yeah, because I have a farm and I pay more taxes than what you guys do, and I think it's fiscally irresponsible to take any budget up 40%.”

The morning after the budget was voted down 313-191, Kelly said he did not believe the outcome reflected the

feelings of most people directly involved in the day-to-day operations of the school district.

Still, the 504 voters were far above the district's average turnout. From 2023 to 2025, the district averaged 208 voters, and all three budgets passed.

Kelly said he worked hard to show district residents that, even with the projected increase, tax rates would remain below pre-pandemic levels and keep the district's rates among the lowest in the region.

Residents paid about \$6.30 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2025-26, and for this proposed budget would see that amount rise to \$8.80 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Kelly and finance administrator Charles Shevlin said taxpayers paid between \$10 and \$13 per \$1,000 assessed value from 2010-20.

Kelly called upon Randolph residents to invest more in their students because of two other key factors: a reassessment of state park land five years ago that has reduced the district's state aid and the rising costs of transportation and electricity. An increase of \$2.3 million in debt payment due on capital projects did not help, either.

Kelly is confident that, with more attention on a June budget revote and the proposed cuts that would accompany a contingency budget if the revote fails, his school community will rise to the occasion.

“We, as a community, need to step up and pay our fair share for the education of these kids,” the superintendent said.

Inkley, however, wondered

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Police: Man who stabbed officer spoke of self-harm

AARON BESECKER AND JUSTIN SONDEL
News Staff Reporters

A man accused of stabbing a Buffalo police officer, who was then shot by the officer Saturday afternoon had cut himself and expressed a desire to take his own life during the encounter with police, a Buffalo police official said.

Deputy Police Commissioner Craig Macy described the injuries to both the man and the officer – during what was the third shooting by a Buffalo officer in the last three months – as non-life-threatening.

The latest incident happened at about 4:40 p.m. Saturday near the intersection of Broadway and Liddell Street.

The man shot by the officer had a box cutter and a pair of scissors and stabbed the officer in the back,

Macy said Saturday night during a news conference near the scene of the altercation.

Macy said he had watched the officers' body-worn camera footage, but no footage has yet been released to the public.

The investigation remains internal, as the man who was shot twice – once in the hip and once in the torso – was undergoing surgery at Erie County Medical Center, but is expected to live. The man also had self-inflicted lacerations to his neck and chest, Macy said.

“During the interaction, the subject was cutting himself, saying that he was going to kill himself,” he said.

The encounter began after officers were flagged down by a woman on Broadway and officers tried to speak to the man. The incident occurred about a

half-block between where officers were flagged down and where they interacted with the man.

“They did give verbal commands,” Macy said. “They attempted to have an interaction with this male subject.”

Police have withheld the names of the man and the officers involved.

Macy said police could not say at this point why the woman flagged the officers down or what was said between the woman and the officers.

The officers fought with the man over the weapons at several points in the encounter.

An officer deployed a Taser after his partner was stabbed. Another altercation ensued, Macy said, and the man lost one of his weapons.

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Hitting the streets

JOSHUA BESSEX PHOTOS, BUFFALO NEWS



Runners take off from the starting line of the Buffalo Marathon on Sunday.

Trump won't rush Iran deal and keep blockade in place

HUMEYRA PAMUK AND ASIF SHAHZAD
Reuters

WASHINGTON/ISLAM-ABAD/JERUSALEM – President Trump said on Sunday he had told his representatives not to rush into any deal with Iran, as his administration played down hopes of an imminent breakthrough in the three-month-old war that had been raised a day earlier.

The U.S. blockade on Iranian ships in the Strait of Hormuz would “remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed,” Trump wrote on Truth Social. “Both sides must take their time and get it right,” he added.

There was no immediate response from Iran's government. But Tasnim news agency, which is linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards, said the U.S. was still obstructing parts of a potential deal, including Tehran's demand for the release of frozen funds.

A day earlier, Trump said Washington and Iran had

“largely negotiated” a memorandum of understanding on a peace deal that would reopen the strait, which before the conflict carried one-fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments.

The two sides remain at odds on several difficult issues, such as Iran's nuclear ambitions, Israel's war in Lebanon with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militia and Tehran's demands for the lifting of sanctions and the release of tens of billions of dollars of Iranian oil revenues frozen in foreign banks.

Working out details

A senior Trump administration official told reporters an agreement would not be signed on Sunday, saying that the Iranian system did not move fast enough. But he outlined what he said were the latest contours of what was being negotiated.

The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Iran had agreed “in

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Thousands of runners on Sunday took to the streets of Buffalo for the 25th Buffalo Marathon and Half-Marathon. Joseph Whelan, who grew up in Hamburg, set a new course record with a time of 2:13:28.4, breaking the previous record by more than 2½ minutes. Kathryn Librock finished first among women with a time of 2:58:26.9.

VIEW: To see more photos from Sunday's event at BuffaloNews.com, click on the QR code with your mobile device. **NEWSVU**



Joseph Whelan races down Erie Street on his way to setting a new course record.



Runners in are reflected in a large puddle as they race along Pearl Street.



Kathryn Librock stands with the finish line tape after taking first place among women.

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