



SHARING THE FUN

ATHLETES AND COACHES FROM 70 SECTION III BOYS AND GIRLS INDOOR TRACK TEAMS EXCHANGED GREETINGS AND DISCUSSED TOPICS AT THE SYRACUSE.COM MEDIA DAY. **B1**

OSWEGO COUNTY

More than 80 firefighters battle large fire at Novelis aluminum plant



More than 80 firefighters from 20 departments battled a large five-alarm fire for hours Thursday at the Novelis aluminum plant in Oswego County. Crews fought the blaze from inside the plant's hot mill section and also extended at least four ladder trucks high into the air to spray water on the roof. Firefighters from Oswego and Onondaga counties responded to the fire at the Scriba plant, according to Terry Bennett, the emergency services program coordinator in Oswego County. The fire was mostly knocked down by 12:20 p.m., Bennett said. Some crews were starting to depart the facility at 2:15 p.m. *Jon Moss and Finn Lincoln, Staff writers; Photos by N.Scott Trimble, strimble@syracuse.com*



SYRACUSE

Officials say ignore NY-Alert transaction messages

A phishing scam hit about 163,000 phones.

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The state's NY-Alert app was hacked last week, sending a message about a bogus transaction to the phones of tens of thousands of people signed up to get emergency notifications, state officials confirmed. The phishing notice pinged 163,000 phones, or 87% of the accounts signed up for the state's emergency notices, according to Scott Reif, spokesperson for the state Office of Information Technology Services. The state is warning people to ignore any notice from NY-Alert that asks the recipient to inquire about a fake bank transaction. "We are aware of a text message sent in

error to some members of the public," Reif said. "Do not reply to the text message or call the phone number. This text message was not sent by New York state." NY-Alert is the state's mass notification system. It's used to keep residents informed on the topics they select when they sign up, including notifications for weather emergencies, road closures and deadlines to file state taxes. The messages came through Mobile Commons, the company that handles alert system text messages for the state. One of the hacked messages viewed by The Post-Standard arrived the evening of Nov. 10: "B OF A: Transaction of \$723.42 was declined. Confirm if this was you: (888) 836-4437. Reply YES to confirm." Mobile Commons sent out another text to subscribers Nov. 11, warning of the phish-

ing attempts: "The previous message was sent in error and not on behalf of New York State. Do not reply to this message or call the phone number." Mobile Commons CEO Jed Alpert said in an emailed statement that an "unauthorized third-party" gained access to the platform for four hours before the scam was detected and stopped. He said the company blocked a second attack Nov. 13. "During these incidents, multiple attempts were made to send spam messages through our system," Alpert said. "A limited number of these messages reached subscribers." Alpert said the company is taking steps to make the system more secure and said they have "locked down messaging" on its platform until the "company is confident that the platform is secure."

CLAY

More than 150 pack hearing to fight Micron project eviction

The county promised Azalia King 20 years ago she should live out her life in the house.

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More than 150 people packed the Clay Town Hall Thursday to fight back against Onondaga County's efforts to evict a 91-year-old widow from her home to make way for Micron Technology. The Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency is trying to use eminent domain to evict Azalia King from the house on Caughdenoy Road, where the agency promised in writing she could spend the rest of her life. More than 30 people spoke at a public hearing about the eviction, all but one of them in support of letting King stay in her home. Most of the speakers blasted the county's move as cruel and unnecessary. "It's absolutely insidious that you want to toss a 91-year-old woman out of the only home she has known for 60 years," said Janice Luce, who grew up in Clay. "I stand here to support Mrs. King." The final speaker, who gave his name only as "Taylor," became so loud and emotional as he paced in front of the crowd that two sheriff's deputies subdued him. A pepper spray canister went off during the altercation. The two-hour hearing focused on OCIDA's proposed use of eminent domain to get King out of the house to make way for Micron Technology's massive chipmaking complex planned at Route 31 and Caughdenoy Road. OCIDA bought the land from Glenn and Azalia King in 2005 but agreed in writing to allow the couple to live in their family home until the last of them died. Glenn died in 2015. OCIDA filed an eviction notice against King Sept. 4, then earlier this month turned up the heat with the eminent domain proceeding. Azalia King, through her daughter-in-law who has power of attorney, filed a lawsuit Tuesday against OCIDA over the eviction notice. Glenn King was a member of the Clay Fire Department for 70 years. Azalia worked in the Clay post office. At the hearing, family members and friends held handmade signs. One featured a photo of a smiling Azalia King with two of her great-grandsons. Above the photo were the words: "Let Azalia Stay." One of King's grandchildren, Jason Brown, stood at the microphone holding his 4-year-old son Miles. "We chose to live there long before this was ever talked about," Brown said, his voice breaking at times. "And it's terrifying that you guys can just rip through someone's home."

SYRACUSE

Gingerbread!

The Erie Canal Museum Gingerbread Gallery opens today for its 40th year with nearly 50 creations crafted by professionals and home bakers. **A2**

NATION

Agency in turmoil

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated its website to make false claims about a connection between vaccines and autism. **A4**

