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## 9-16 10:30 AM News Update - Pataki Proposes Nine-Point Energy Plan

### PATAKI PROPOSES NINE-POINT ENERGY PLAN



Heating-oil prices are at a record high, and Governor Pataki is offering a plan to fight them.

His move comes as Niagara Mohawk is telling its two million upstate customers they could pay 35 percent more for home heating this winter.

A company official says a typical household will pay an estimated 1,300 dollars for natural gas from November through April.

Pataki's plan includes home-energy assistance for the needy, incentives for alternative fuel production and tax credits for energy efficiency, among others.

Under the plan, New York could ask for more federal aid for heating assistance. The state also would offer tax credits to people or companies buying hybrid vehicles.

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The federal Energy Information Administration says the average price of regular gasoline in New York was 3.30 a gallon on Monday, about 69 cents more than a month earlier. (Associated Press)

**SALE EXPECTED TO CLOSE TODAY ON FORMER PAPER MILL**



The sale of the former International Paper Company mill in the southern Adirondack town of Corinth is expected to close today, with the new owners planning to turn it into an industrial park.

The mill shut down in November 2002 after a century. In the early 1990s, it employed nearly a thousand people.

The Daily Gazette of Schenectady reports that a New York City-based investment company called Phillips International is expected to pay between five and seven million dollars for the property.

Kenneth Green, president of the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation, says it will be an industrial park, but local officials didn't immediately know what types of manufacturing will follow or the jobs expected.

Last year, a company called American Ref-Fuel of Montvale, New Jersey, wanted to build a garbage incineration plant at the property. That proposal was opposed by residents. (Associated Press)

**MORMON CHURCH FOUNDER'S ARREST RECORDS REDISCOVERED**

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Records showing that Mormon Church founder Joseph Smith was arrested while living in New York have resurfaced after a three-decade absence.

The documents dating back to the late 1820s were recently handed over to the Chenango County Historical Society by a man whose mother used to be the county's historian.

The current county historian, Dale Storms, says the records pertain to Smith's arrests for "glass looking," a 19th-century term for treasure hunting. One document is a bill for two dollars, 68 cents for a judge's fees in Smith's case.

In 1830, Smith founded what became known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, ten years after he claimed to have seen a vision of God and Jesus while praying in the woods near his home in Palmyra in western New York.

Smith was killed in 1844 by an anti-Mormon mob in Illinois. (Associated Press)

### **SEN. CLINTON GETS MILITARY COALITION AWARD**



A coalition of military organizations has given Senator Hillary Clinton its highest honor for her work to expand health care access for National Guard and Reserve members and their families.

Clinton said it was an honor.

Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina also got the award.

The two worked to make sure Guard and Reserve members get benefits regardless of activation status. The Senate approved their measure in July. (Associated Press)

#### **MAN INDICTED ON MURDER CHARGE**



A Syracuse man has been indicted on an intentional-murder charge after a woman was found dead in a stairwell in April.

The indictment says 39-year-old Paul Donaldson allegedly asphyxiated 35-year-old Tina Holmes DePew.

The apartment building where DePew was found had been shut down because of drug arrests there. DePew's husband had reported her missing, and police linked DePew to Donaldson through her cell phone.

Police at first charged Donaldson only with second-degree reckless manslaughter. (Associated Press)

#### **STATES SUE FEDS OVER TREE-EATING BEETLES**



New York and three other states are suing the federal government over an unusual kind of immigrant, beetles.

Specifically, the Asian long-horned beetle, the emerald ash borer and the pine shoot beetle. New York, California, Connecticut and Illinois say the beetles stow away on overseas freighters and eat up local trees.

States say the beetles could cause extensive economic and environmental damage if they move from US cities to forests. The states want a court order to make the US Department of Agriculture find better ways to stop the insects from entering the country.

AUSDA spokeswoman says the agency is reviewing the lawsuit. (Associated Press)

### **MAN SAYS HE, FRIENDS RAPED 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL**



A Hudson Valley man has told a judge he raped a 12-year-old girl and watched two of his friends do the same.

The girl's mother also was charged in the case, but her identity is being withheld to protect the girl.

41-year-old Henry Kiernan of Fishkill pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree rape yesterday in a series of sexual assaults between August 2002 and January 2004.

He also implicated the co-defendants, 46-year-old George Mercer of Fishkill and 48-year-old Allan Willig of Stanfordville.

Prosecutors said the series of sexual assaults took place against the girl and her younger sister.

As part of the plea deal, Kiernan faces 19 years in prison.

The other defendants will be in court later this month.  
(Associated Press)

### **LAKE GEORGE, SARATOGA EVENTS BRING 18TH CENTURY TO LIFE**



The 18th century is alive and well this weekend in Warren and Saratoga counties, where two events are bringing together hundreds of military re-enactors.

The larger event is being held at Lake George. Some 700-plus French and Indian War buffs are gathering in the Adirondack village to re-enact the Battle of Lake George, fought 250 years ago this month.

During the battle, an inexperienced army of provincial troops from New York and New England and Mohawk warriors defeated French troops and their Indian allies. It was the first British victory in a war that was mainly fought in upstate New York.

In Saratoga County, the town of Stillwater is the site of two separate American Revolution encampments. The Saratoga National Historical Park is hosting an encampment to commemorate the 228th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga.

The Village of Stillwater will host an encampment of re-enactors displaying uniforms and weapons used by an Albany County militia during the American Revolution. (Associated Press)

### **FUGITIVE SURRENDERS IN 1993 LAS VEGAS ARMORED CAR HEIST**



A woman who says she's a Seneca Indian from Buffalo appeared in court yesterday for her role in a multimillion dollar Las Vegas Strip armored car heist.

33-year-old Heather Catherine Tallchief had surrendered to authorities in Las Vegas. She admitted she drove an armored van loaded with cash away from the Circus Circus hotel-casino in 1993.

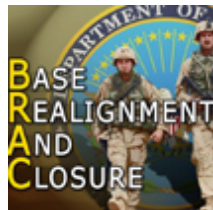
Federal charges say the van contained two-point-five million dollars.

Before turning herself in, Tallchief lived in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Her lawyer says she was an impressionable 21-year-old who was brainwashed by a persuasive older boyfriend and ex-convict.

The boyfriend, Roberto Solis, is now 60 and still a fugitive. (Associated Press)

### **BUSH APPROVES BASE-CLOSING PLAN**



President Bush endorsed a plan for closing 22 major military bases and reconfiguring 33 others. Now the plan goes to Congress.

The plan keeps the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station open and adds about 600 jobs to a military accounting office in Rome.

The plan will become final in 45 days unless Congress acts to reject it in full.

Lawmakers have never done so in previous base-closing rounds.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission said its recommendations would mean annual savings of 4.2 billion dollars.

Military analysts have said this may be the last chance the White House and Pentagon have to save money by closing bases. (Associated Press)

### **LAWSUIT ACCUSING PATAKI OF PATRONAGE PRESSURE TO BE WITHDRAWN**



The lawyer for the former head of the State Bridge Authority says the lawsuit claiming Governor Pataki and his aides pressured him to replace workers with Republicans and to steer contracts to Pataki campaign contributors will be dropped today.

Jack Gaffney filed the civil suit Wednesday in US District Court in Manhattan seeking unspecified payment.

Gaffney's attorney, Jonathan Lovett, said Gaffney wouldn't let him say why the lawsuit will be withdrawn.

The suit also named Pataki's chief of staff, John Cahill, and Thomas Doherty, the governor's former patronage dispenser, as defendants.

Pataki spokesman David Catalfamo said the allegations were false.

Catalfamo said no out-of-court settlement was reached and that no negotiations for a settlement are

now taking place.

Among other things, Gaffney had charged that Doherty told him to nullify a 30 million dollar repaving contract and instead award it to a company that, quote, "made generous campaign contributions to Pataki."

Gaffney resigned from the authority in May 2003. (Associated Press)

#### **POLICE IDENTIFY BODY FOUND UNDER PORCH**



Schenectady police have identified the body found under the porch of a vacant house last week.

The body of 36-year-old Marshyne Merritt-Merced of Schenectady was found by a city maintenance crew.

Police said an autopsy could not determine the cause of her death, and there were no signs of trauma.

Police said Merritt-Merced was homeless at the time of her death in late August. (Associated Press)

#### **HINCHEY: WIDEN PROBE INTO LEAK OF CIA OPERATIVE'S IDENTITY**



A New York congressman is calling for the expansion of a federal probe into the public disclosure of a CIA operative's identity.

Maurice Hinchey, an Ulster County Democrat, said

he and 40 House colleagues have written to US Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald seeking a thorough investigation into the motives behind the leaking of Valerie Plame's identity.

Fitzgerald is the special prosecutor investigating the leak.

Hinchey said he's concerned Plame's identity was leaked by Bush administration officials. Plame's husband, ambassador Joseph Wilson, had publicly challenged US claims that Iraq had sought uranium for a nuclear weapon.

Western New York congresswoman Louise Slaughter also signed Hinchey's letter. (Associated Press)

#### **OPERA DIRECTOR TO STEP DOWN AFTER 2006-2007 SEASON**



The artistic director of the Cooperstown-based Glimmerglass Opera says he will retire at the end of the 2006 summer season.

Paul Kellogg also will leave as general and artistic director of the New York City Opera in June 2007.

The 68-year-old Kellogg said running two opera companies and his age were factors in his decision.

Kellogg spent eleven years with the City Opera. He joined the Glimmerglass Opera in 1979 as general director and continued as artistic director after he joined the City Opera.

His association with both companies resulted in 30 shared productions over the last ten years, and another three are in the works. (Associated Press)

