

SGF tops Amsterdam

Lady Bulldogs pull out 19-8 victory over Lady Rams

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Desperate Mom

Felicity Huffman pleads guilty in college admissions scheme.

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John Purcell/Recorder staff

Amsterdam officials are looking to purchase five new flagpoles to line this walkway in Veterans Park.

PATRIOTIC PLAN

City eyes new flagpoles for Veterans Park

By JOHN PURCELL
Recorder News Staff

Though five flagpoles used to line a walkway leading to a memorial in Amsterdam's Veterans Park, just two are currently standing. City officials are planning to replace all five before winter.

Amsterdam Mayor Michael Villa last week asked Common Council members to consider purchasing five new flagpoles for Veterans Park. The flagpoles would line a walkway that leads to a memorial honoring all city veterans.

A few years ago, the Polish American Veterans in Amsterdam donated five flagpoles to the city to be placed in the park, but the poles were not commercial grade, according to city Recreation Director Robert Spagnola. He said the donated poles are not able to withstand the normal wear and tear associated with the public site.

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John Purcell/Recorder staff

Amsterdam Recreation Director Robert Spagnola talks to the Amsterdam Common Council about purchasing new flagpoles for Veterans Park.

Escalating trade war between US and China sends stocks plunging

By DAMIAN J. TROISE and ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writers

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged more than 600 points Monday as investors sought shelter from an escalating trade war between the U.S. and China.

The selling was widespread and heavy, handing the benchmark S&P 500 index its biggest loss since January. The sell-off extended the market's slide into a second week. The losses so far in May have now erased the market's gains from April.

Technology companies, which do a lot of business with China, led the way lower. Chipmakers were among the biggest decliners. Apple also took heavy losses, tumbling 5.8%. Farming equipment maker Deere drove losses in the industrial sector.

The world's two largest economies had seemed to be on track to resolve the ongoing trade dispute that has raised prices for consumers and pinched corporate profit margins. Hopes for a resolution had helped push the market to its best yearly start in decades.

Those hopes are now replaced by concerns that a full-blown trade war could crimp what is otherwise a mostly healthy economy.

"The larger issue with the tariffs isn't the specific amounts of tariffs at any given time, but the uncertainty that's surrounding these tariffs and the 'what's-next?' of an escalating trade war," said Willie Delwiche, investment strategist at Baird. "That weighs on the global economy and could then weigh on the U.S. economy."

The Dow dove 617.38 points, or 2.4%, to 25,324.99. Earlier, it was down 719 points. Apple and Boeing were the Dow's biggest decliners. Both companies get a significant amount of revenue from China and stand to lose heavily if the trade war drags on. Boeing slid 4.9%.

The broader S&P 500 index fell 69.53 points, or 2.4%, to 2,811.87. The index is coming off its worst week since January, though it's still up sharply for the year. The Nasdaq, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, slid 269.92 points, or 3.4%, to 7,647.02, its worst drop of the year.

The Russell 2000 index of small company stocks lost 49.99 points, or 3.2%, to 1,523.

Trade talks between the U.S. and China concluded Friday with

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The Associated Press

In this March 5 file photo, cargo containers are staged near cranes at the Port of Tacoma, in Tacoma, Wash. China has announced tariff hikes on \$60 billion of U.S. goods in retaliation for President Donald Trump's escalation of a fight over technology and other trade disputes.

Fonda to partner with land bank to fight blight

By WINNIE BLACKWOOD
Recorder News Staff

FONDA — The Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank and the village of Fonda will work together in a partnership to better the community and fight blight in the village, officials said.

Fonda's Board of Trustees passed two

resolutions Monday related to the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank, which is currently working to demolish a portion of a property found within the village.

The first resolution passed by the board showed their support for the land bank by entering into a partnership through an intergovernmental agreement.

According to the document for the first

resolution, the land bank is "eager" to work with Fonda to better understand their needs regarding "difficult properties." The partnership is dependent upon if the village chooses and will allow for the redevelopment of blighted properties by returning them to productive use to strengthen local economy, improve quality of life and improve Fonda's financial con-

dition. Their support of the land bank will also allow for conversations between the two parties to discover mutually beneficial elements of collaboration.

The goal of the land bank is to rehabilitate or stabilize neglected and abandoned

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Apps cost too much? Court allows suit adding to Apple's woes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers can pursue a lawsuit complaining that iPhone apps cost too much, the Supreme Court ruled on Monday, adding to Apple's woes that already include falling iPhone sales and a European investigation.

The lawsuit could have major implications for the tech giant's handling of the more than 2 million apps in Apple's App Store, where users get much of the software for their smartphones. While most of those apps are free to download, some impose fees for people to use the software and subscribe to the services.

In those cases, Apple charges a commission of 30%, a practice that the lawsuit contends unfairly drives up the price for the apps. Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote the majority opinion that agreed the antitrust lawsuit can move forward in a lower court.

The court's four liberal justices joined Kavanaugh, one of President Donald Trump's two high court appointees, to reject a plea from Apple to end the lawsuit at this early stage. The decision did not involve the merits of the suit.



The Associated Press

In this May 31, 2018, file photo customers enter the Apple store in New York.

Apple argues it's merely a pipeline between app developers and consumers, and that iPhone users have no claims against Apple under antitrust law and a 1977 Supreme Court decision. Tens of thousands of developers create the software and set the price, Apple says.

"We're confident we will prevail when the

facts are presented and that the App Store is not a monopoly by any metric," Apple said in statement issued in response to Monday's ruling. The lawsuit could take years to wind to its conclusion.

But Kavanaugh stressed in his opinion that Apple's commissions also may affect consumers, as well as app developers.

"The iPhone owners purchase apps directly from the retailer Apple," he said, describing a relationship sufficient to allow the lawsuit to go forward.

Justice Neil Gorsuch, Trump's other high court pick, wrote a dissent for four conservative justices, saying that the consumers' complaint against Apple is the kind of case that a 42-year-old decision, in Illinois Brick Co. v. Illinois, was intended to prevent. The court in that case "held that an antitrust plaintiff can't sue a defendant for overcharging someone else who might (or might not) have passed on all (or some) of the overcharge to

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Spagnola said any donation is much appreciated, especially from veterans organization, but heavy duty flagpoles are needed. While Spagnola is still looking into what flagpole to purchase, he estimated a commercial grade pole would cost between \$500 to \$1,000.

"There were five poles there, and we even replaced a few of them, but we're down to two again," Spagnola told council members. "They're rather expensive, and at this time of year there's obviously not enough money to put five flagpoles up."

Spagnola said a flag for each branch of United States Armed Forces had been represented across the donated poles: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard.

Fifth Ward Alderman James Martuscello in an interview Monday said the necessary funds could be transferred from the general fund contingency this fiscal year to purchase the flagpoles. City Controller Matthew Agresta confirmed funds are available in

the contingency line for the purchases.

Villa said the PAV's donation was a great gesture, but the city needs to purchase poles better suited for the park.

"With the weather that we have and the amount of traffic that goes through there ... you have to have commercial grade aluminum to withstand the wind and kids swinging on them," Villa said in an interview. "We have brand new flags for all the poles, so the flags aren't the issue."

Spagnola said even someone leaning on the existing flagpoles could damage it.

City officials were weighing buying the flagpoles before Memorial Day, but Spagnola did not believe the poles could be purchased and installed before the holiday.

While the poles will not be installed before Memorial Day, Villa said they would be installed by Veterans Day, Nov. 11, this year.

Winnie Blackwood/Recorder staff
From left, John Mazzarella III, project manager of the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank, and Stan Waddle, Fonda's building and code fire enforcer, during Fonda's Board of Trustees meeting Monday.



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houses to a productive use, or in dire situations, to demolish certain properties to help strengthen the community and fight blight.

Fonda Mayor William Peeler said that he was in support of the land bank.

"We need the extension with the land bank," Peeler said.

The Montgomery County Legislature passed a resolution during their August meeting to convey nine properties to the land bank that were a part of the county's tax foreclosure auction for the tax year of 2017, including demolition on 13 Lower Prospect St. in Fonda.

"It's an interesting property," John Mazzarella III, project manager of the land bank, said. "It's got some issues. The barn partially collapsed...The house has got some issues too. We've done some work already. We've cleaned out the building. We've done our asbestos survey. We are currently out to bid for the demolition of the barn."

The bid for the demolition will close on May 30, Mazzarella said.

The second resolution by the Board of Trustees allows for the land bank to receive half of the real property tax on properties in Fonda purchased from

the organization under the New York State Land Bank Act of the New York State Nonprofit Law. The tax allocation will begin on the first taxable year following the date of property conveyance and will continue for a five year period.

"It allows us to share the cost and help us close that value gap because every single rehab, every single demo we lose," Mazzarella said. "We lose big on demos. The second thing is it allows us to leverage our grant funds because our grant funds have a stipulation, which we are required to leverage our funding, so it helps us achieve those goals."

Peeler said when he first saw the land bank was looking to take 50 percent, he thought it was a lot of money to give the organization, but then realized that the property value should increase with its improvements. He added the land bank needs money to be able to continue to help communities affected by blight.

Fonda Clerk Christine Kearns told Peeler the taxes currently for the Lower Prospect Street property are \$483.58.

"It gives us the opportunity to turn it back into useable property," Board of Trustee Walter Boyd said. "I'm all for going for it."

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him," Gorsuch wrote. "Yet today the court lets a pass-on case proceed."

The ruling threatens to throw another monkey wrench in Apple's efforts to increase the revenue generated from its app store at a time that its iPhone sales have plunged into their deepest slump since that revolutionary product hit the market 12 years ago.

To counter the iPhone sales drop, Apple is trying to make more money from selling services such as its music subscription service, as well as a forthcoming Netflix-like video service while also taking a cut from the subscriptions and other transactions done on apps downloaded on iPhones and iPads.

The effort has been largely

successful, helping to transform the Apple services division that includes the app store into the fastest growing part of the company. Apple's most recent quarter highlight the ongoing transition revenue surged 16% percent from the previous year to \$11.5 billion while iPhone sales plunged 17% to \$31 billion.

Meanwhile, Apple is under scrutiny in Europe because of claims of unfair business practices. The Dutch anti-trust agency opened an investigation in April into allegations by companies including the Sweden-based online music service Spotify over commissions and other issues.

The Financial Times reported

this month that the European Commission planned to begin a formal probe based on a separate complaint from Spotify.

Even before Spotify filed its complaint in Europe, Netflix magnified the attention on the issue late last year when it decided to stop accepting new subscribers through Apple's app store.

Now the Supreme Court decision raises the specter of the legal dominoes falling in a way that could require Apple to slash its commissions or even abandon them.

The commissions are unlikely to disappear completely because it's reasonable for apps to pay a fee for distributing their software just as manufacturers pay brick-and-mortar retailers to get the products on store shelves, said Danielle Levitas, executive vice president of market insights for App Annie, a firm that tracks the app market.

But even a reduction in the commission rate could deliver a financial blow that would even damage a company as profitable as Apple.

If Apple can maintain the current commissions in its app store at its recent rate of growth, it will produce revenue of about \$17 billion in 2020, estimates Macquarie Securities analyst Ben Schachter. But if the average commission rate were to fall to 12 percent, the projected revenue from the app store would shrivel to \$7.6 billion next year, Schachter predicts.

OBITUARIES

Evelyn B. Lindley

April 11, 2019

Mrs. Evelyn B. Lindley, 90, formerly of Darrow Road, Sprakers, New York passed away on April 11, 2019 at Palatine Nursing Home. A spring interment graveside service will be held Friday, May 17, 2019 at Maple Avenue Cemetery in Fultonville, NY.



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Edward W. Overbaugh



OVERBAUGH

Edward W. Overbaugh passed on at Bourne Nursing Home, Cape Cod, MA, with his loving wife and best friend at his side. He lost his 20 year battle with Parkinson's Disease and accompanying dementia.

Ed's quiet presence, quick wit, along with his sweet smile touched all he met.

Born in March 23, 1938 at home to his parents Daniel Overbaugh and Margaret (Kendle) Overbaugh. Ed was a country boy who attended a one room school in Minaville, NY. He graduated from Wilbur Lynch High School then enlisted in the Marine Corp where he was deployed to Lebanon, serving as a guard at their embassy in Beirut. He attained the rank of Lance Corporal.

Growing up in a rural farming community, he was involved in agriculture most of his life including milking cows at the McClumpha Farm, bailing hay, picking rocks and driving tractor in field preparations. Ed was employed at Florida Implement, Jack Miller's Tractor and Truck in Schoharie, as well as Nabisco as a route salesman, prior to Anderson Instrument in Glen from which he retired in 2000 where he was on the maintenance team.

During his working years Ed enrolled in BOCES classes on Electrical Instrumentation. Also at BOCES, he took classes on auto body repair, preparing him to rehabilitate an old tractor he had purchased. Later in years he built and sold heavy duty picnic tables along with two miniature barns. The first was a scale model of his friend's barn that included interior stalls and tiny hay bales he created by devising a machine to create them. But railroads were his most critical interest, always searching for trains running in view of the highway.

After moving to Orleans, on Cape Cod MA, in 2016, Ed spent many happy hours at The Day Center in the Orleans Senior Center which he attended over the last two years of his life. He made friends and especially enjoyed the home made lunches. A warm thank you for all the tender care their staff gave to Ed especially Ann, Laird and Maria. It was there that he was awarded with a Citation by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, The House of Representatives, in recognition of his courageous leadership and dedicated service to our country by Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker of the House, and Sarah K. Peake, State Representative, on November 7th, 2018 at the State House, Boston, Massachusetts.

Ed is survived by his wife of 28 years Heidi Mayo-Overbaugh of Orleans, MA, his stepson Matthew (Midiam) of Cypress, CO, their children Alex and Kelly, and his grandson Aric McNamara of Amsterdam, NY. Also surviving are his brother and sister-in-law, Ken (Penny) Mayo and their daughter Amanda of Little River, SC.

Nieces: Heidi (Scott) Bieg of Averill Park, NY, Jennifer Rieken of Amsterdam, NY, Angel (Robert) of Palmdale, CA, and Christine Maston (Mike) of Greenville, SC. Nephews: Daniel (Sherry) of Perth NY, Ben of Phoenix, AZ, and Michael (Yvonne) Mayo of Saudi Arabia. Missing Ed every day is Calico Rose, his dog, as he was her protector in inclement weather.

Ed was preceded in death by his son Edward W Overbaugh Jr. in 2011, brothers, Raymond in 1989 and Allen in 2017.

A graveside service will be held at Chictanunda Cemetery, Minaville, NY on Friday, May 17 at 11 a.m., where family and friends are welcome to share in a celebration of his life. Military Honors will be rendered on Friday at the cemetery. Local arrangements are under the direction of the Betz, Rossi & Bellinger Family Funeral Home, 171 Guy Park Ave., Amsterdam, NY 12010. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Habitat for Humanity International Org., 322 W Lamar Street, Americus, Georgia 31709-3543.



BETZ, ROSSI & BELLINGER
FAMILY FUNERAL HOME
171 Guy Park Avenue, Amsterdam, NY 12010
518-843-1920 • www.brbsfuneral.com

John T. Scaffidi

May 12, 2019

John T. Scaffidi, 90, of Amsterdam, died Friday, May 12, 2019, at the Schenectady Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing. Arrangements are by De Stefano Funeral Home and will be announced.

De Stefano

FUNERAL HOME
RT. 9-S, Amsterdam, • 843-2755

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no agreement and with the U.S. increasing import tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods to 25% from 10%. Officials also said they were preparing to expand tariffs to cover another \$300 billion of goods.

China on Monday announced tariff increases on \$60 billion of U.S. imports, particularly farm products like soybeans. The price of soybeans slid 0.8% to \$8.04 a bushel. They were trading around \$9 a bushel last month and are now at their lowest price since December 2008. The falling price has put pressure on U.S. farmers.

Analysts have said investors should prepare for a more volatile stock market while the trade dispute deepens. Many are still confident that both sides will eventually reach a deal.

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In loving Memory of
Robert T. Pawlak
May 14, 2018
"Happy Bob"

Although you are no longer here on earth with me, you are still in my heart and thought of everyday. I am so lucky to have all the wonderful memories of our life together. You are forever with me day and night.

Love and miss you so very much.
Your Wife, Theresa