

IRL | 1B
FRANCHITTI
WINS 3RD
RACE OF YEAR



BASEBALL | 1B
STEPHENS TOURNEY
LEGION TEAMS COMPETE IN TOURNAMENT



PGA | 1B
FOUR
SHOTS
OFF LEAD



The LEADER

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“... This country is doomed without Mexican labor. American people won’t work.”

Southern Tier farmer who admits to hiring illegal immigrants

Labor pains

Farmers struggle as crackdown scares off workers

BY SARAH GROSSMAN
sgrossman@the-leader.com

LODI | Federal officers began cracking down on illegal immigrants in New York state last year by conducting raids in the region.

Many of those caught worked the vegetable, fruit and dairy farms – the backbone of the upstate economy. As a result, migrant workers are afraid to work the fields regardless of their citizenship status. It’s created a labor shortage that could cause a spike in food prices, increase crop losses and cripple farming communities.

Five local vineyards sought help through a government program called H2A, which provides temporary work visas to immigrants.

The vineyards, primarily located along the east side of Seneca Lake, didn’t exactly get what they were hoping for, said John Wagner, vineyard manager, Wagner Vineyards.

Instead, they encountered an unbelievable amount of bureaucracy, delays and less workers than requested, he said.

“We applied for 13 workers to arrive in February and we got eight at the end of April,” he said.

The program is flawed because it only allows immigrants who had never been in the U.S. to apply, he said.

“If there was an avenue for people here to get into the H2A program I think that would satisfy people who are against amnesty because the workers can’t be here permanently. It is not a path to citizenship,” he said.

But hopes for a federal plan that includes a guest worker program were dashed Thursday when a bipartisan immigration bill failed to

SEE LABOR | 10A

ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER
Guest workers tie Reisling vines up to trellis wires at Wagner Vineyards.



It is estimated that more than 900 farms, \$195 million in agricultural production, and more than 200,000 acres will be lost due to the current disruption in the labor force.

Pride Ride makes 12th run



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER
Bikers participated in the annual drive for Toys for Tots on Saturday. Page 10A

Census: Residents leaving in droves

• 225,000 lost in one year; continued exodus could affect representation

BY MARY PERHAM
leaderbath@yahoo.com

ALBANY | A shift in New York’s population could have a dramatic effect locally on state and national representation.

According to new U.S. Census data, New York state lost 225,000 residents in moves to and from other states from July 2005 to July 2006. The loss amounts to more than the population of Rochester, the state’s third-largest city.

New York ranks 47th in population growth ahead of only Michigan, Rhode Island and Louisiana. Arizona and Nevada saw the largest percentage jump in population.

New York State Association of Counties officials said the most recent figures reflect 20 years of stagnant growth.

FOR MORE INFO

• The Census Bureau data is available at www.census.gov/popest/data/sets.html.

“Government leaders at all levels should work with business and academic leaders to address this apparent shift in our population,” said NYSAC Executive Director Stephen J. Acquario, in a press release. “There is a tremendous amount at stake and we face long-term consequences if these estimates hold up.”

Among those consequences is a loss in federal funding, and changes in state and federal representation, according to a NYSAC policy paper.

SEE CENSUS | 10A

Temper flare at Black Rock track

THE LEADER STAFF

DUNDEE | Six people were charged with crimes Friday night after fights at Black Rock Speedway, including one between members of competing race teams.

The Yates County Sheriff’s Office reported three different fights at the speedway Friday night.

According to police reports, deputies and state troopers responded to the speedway around 10:40 p.m. Friday for the report of an unruly crowd on the verge of a brawl. Race fans dispersed after the first deputy arrived.

Police were called back to the track after two people allegedly attacked a track official who had asked them to

leave the property.

Ralph E. Champion Jr., of Hector, and Lisa Marie Neiss, of Trumansburg, were charged with harassment after allegedly attacking the official.

As the sheriff’s units cleared the scene, track officials reported another fight, this one between members of several racing teams.

Earl R. Speicher and Raymond J. Speicher, both of Beaver Dams; Raymond Cornish, of Penn Yan; and Jack Cornish, of Dundee, were charged with disorderly conduct for their alleged roles in the pit road fight.

All six people involved were issued appearance tickets and ordered to appear in Starkey Town Court at 6 p.m. July 11.



TODAY’S LOCAL WEATHER

PARTLY SUNNY
WETM 18 Storm
Team seven-day
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