

Daytop looking to sell County Home site

ESSEX— Sandy (Salim B.) Lewis, director of Daytop Village Foundation, Inc., and co-owner of Lewis Family Farm, Inc., announced at the July 13, meeting of the Town Board of Essex, that Daytop has determined to liquidate its ownership of the former County Home building.

Purchased with assistance from the Lewis Foundation, Inc., in the summer of 1998 for \$75,000, the County Home was to have become the center of a Daytop Village facility for adolescent substance abusers from this region. As Lewis stated, however, Daytop's initiative was met with resistance from Essex in the form of an illegal moratorium aimed at Daytop, large farms, and certain water front development. As Lewis stated in the first meeting to discuss Daytop's interest, Daytop would not wish to come to Essex without substantial and warm support from the citizens of Essex.

In his announcement to the board, Lewis stated that Daytop seeks guidance from the town on the disposition and the process that will accompany disposition. Daytop has delegated Lewis to organize and direct these steps, and Lewis has asked the board of Essex to express the views of the people of the community on the purpose best used for this building. More, Lewis has asked the board to direct the process itself, giving the board a broad range of alternatives for this purpose.

Initially, Daytop would like to achieve return of its investment. This would be the simplest course. However, if no buyers emerge with that level of interest, any and all expressions of interest will be entertained. Ultimately, the building will be given to the state or the town if no buyers emerge. Daytop does not wish to own this building.

Town Board member Suzanne Perley asked if this decision means that Daytop will not come to Essex, or if Daytop would reconsider its interest to withdraw if support for its involvement were to form. Lewis responded with a statement about Daytop's charter, its willingness to help people worldwide, its founding status at the United Nations NGO on Treatment Centers, world wide, and its relationship to the US Department of State. Lewis also stated his belief that Daytop would not come to Essex without his encouragement.

Perley asked if there might be another location at which Daytop might operate in the area, and Lewis responded that anything of that nature was a bit premature, but he said that he would not wish to surprise the community, in the future, and would state only that there were other considerations that motivated liquidation of ownership of the

County Home, and that Daytop might consider a more private arrangement with a dairy farm concept, integrating same with the treatment center approach to rehab work in the young.

Lewis closed by asking the town to respond to him through one individual, and he asked those present and the town to respect his wish for privacy by directing all inquiry to the board or to the board's chosen representative on this matter.

Last, Lewis reiterated Daytop's willingness to sell to a previous buyer, ECHO, which has previously bid \$149,000 for the County Home, and which sought to break up Daytop's purchase two years ago. He stated Daytop's willingness to sell or to give the property to ECHO, under circumstances guided by the board of the town, stating that it is Daytop's wish to work in harmony with the citizens of Essex.

THE ACCU WEATHER® FORECAST

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FIVE-DAY FORECAST

WEDNESDAY

Cool with clouds and some sunshine.

High 70°

WED. NIGHT

Clear and very cool.

Low 50°

THURSDAY

Partly sunny; chance of p.m. showers, t-storms.

72°/52°

FRIDAY

Mostly cloudy; chance of showers.

72°/54°

SATURDAY

Partly sunny and breezy.

74°/54°

SUNDAY

Mostly sunny and warm.

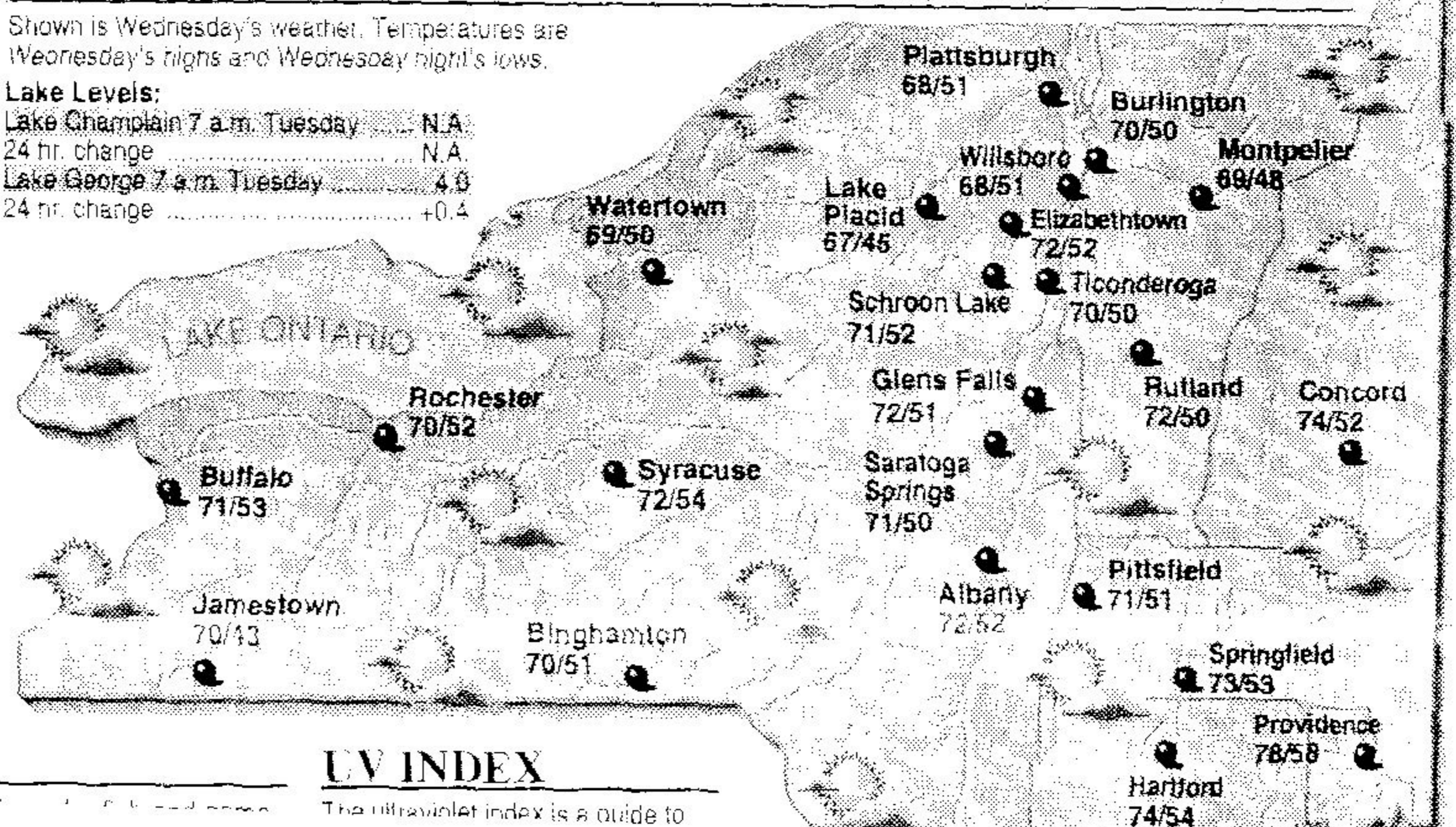
78°/54°

REGIONAL WEATHER

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Shown is Wednesday's weather. Temperatures are Wednesday's highs and Wednesday night's lows.

Lake Levels:
 Lake Champlain 7 a.m. Tuesday N.A.
 24 hr. change N.A.
 Lake George 7 a.m. Tuesday 4.0
 24 hr. change +0.4



SUN & MOON

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