



## Lake-effect snow returns with a vengeance

By Carson Metcalf

A busy week of weather is finally near its end here in Central New York. The first major lake-effect snow event of the season, meteorologically speaking seeing as we haven't even entered winter officially yet, is over and there are some impressive snow accumulation totals to show for it.

The snow all began back on Saturday, December 4. That day roughly three inches of snow were recorded here in Fulton. At that point we hadn't seen anything yet. As the snow became more organized and intensified rapidly through the end of the weekend and into the day on Monday, many began to wonder, students and teachers alike mind you, about having a snow day or delay.

While many schools south of Syracuse were hit hard enough Sunday night to enjoy the day off from school Monday, the band became more organized here in Oswego County that night. Energy from a low pressure system near Maine combined with moisture from the Atlantic Ocean helped to push energy back and leave us under the wrath of the lake-effect and also helped to fuel heavier, wetter snow through Monday night. This is what ultimately led to our delay-turned-snow day on Tuesday, and for a good reason.

On Tuesday alone, 16.5 inches of snow were measured here in Fulton. The snow came down at rapid rates throughout the day leading to some treacherous road conditions throughout the area. The significant snow would intermittently continue right through the day on Wednesday, before finally letting up officially on Thursday. The 6-day total for the event turned out to be 38.1 inches according to CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network).

The snow day came with much fanfare despite the somewhat nasty conditions outside. Junior Joe Medico noted, "The first snow day was a shock to me, although I was very happy for it." Junior Sentina Smith said, "The snow day was awesome. I got to sleep in, but the snow was pretty heavy and kind of dangerous to drive in." Senior Kylee Greenleaf put it imaginatively, "It's always a surprise to wake up to a world of snow, and no school!"

In terms of the historical perspective of this storm, this lake-effect event sends us way over the average snowfall for the month being not even ten days into it. The normal amount of snowfall for the entire month is 28.6 inches, so we are already about ten inches ahead, with more heavy snow sure to come for the remainder of the month. In Syracuse, where the records and averages are determined at Hancock International Airport, 14.9 inches of

snow was recorded on Wednesday alone, making it the third snowiest December day of all-time in the city.

Our winter weather season has started off with a bang and there is surely more to come in terms of extreme weather events this season, maybe even as early as this weekend.

*Information from this article was obtained from the National Weather Service and WSYR-TV.*

### Slow down! It's slippery out there

With winter setting in and the snow starting to fall, Central New Yorkers need to start thinking about getting out their shovels and sleds. The past few days have made it clear; winter is most definitely here to stay for a while. With that in mind, drivers need to realize that it is time to slow down.

After a long summer and fall, many residents of Central New York become careless in their driving. This winter has struck hard and fast, already producing a snow day for G Ray Bodley High School. Drivers must remember to take into account that the highway departments were also taken by surprise from this fast plunge into winter. They are still trying to figure out where each plow driver is supposed to plow for this year. This means that some roads may not be plowed as often as they should be, making them

treacherous.

There have been quite a few incidents already this winter where cars have gone off the road because of the snow and ice. The lack of friction between the car tires and the road are what causes the accidents. "With the lack of friction, a car will travel in a straight line path with a constant speed off of the road.," stated Physics teacher Mr. Galek. The only way to prevent this is to take your time and drive slowly on ungroomed roads. If a plow has not been there in a while, it is up to the driver of the vehicle to take it slowly and not rush. Even plowed roads can be slick, so drivers should take care. The lack of visibility and friction often has serious results. If every driver was more alert and careful, the number of accidents this winter could decrease dramatically.

*By Daniel Summerville*

### Snow day quest begins early this year

If there is one thing we really get to experience growing up in Central New York, it's winter. The snow and cold of a frigid Fulton winter is the stuff stories are made of, the kind that begin with, "When I was your age we had to...". Although, instead of ten mile treks through knee high snow-banks to and from school, we will most likely brag about our ten minutes at the bus-stop enduring sub-zero temperatures.

Regardless, the intense winter weather that is such a part of our lives here comes with both disadvantages, as well as bonuses. While the way the snow and sleet obstruct roads and impede traffic is extremely inconvenient, even aggravating, it is also a contributor to one of

the season's biggest perks: snow-days. While it is safe to say that there are just as many students who abhor the snow as those who enjoy it, not many (if any) can object to a snow-day or two (or three or four or five). An unplanned day of vacation is something we can and do look forward as soon as the first sign of snow has been seen.

Last year, however, as many may recall resentfully, the first and only snow-day didn't happen until well into the season, when the winter weather had already made itself at home. That's why the early, almost immediate, arrival of our first snow-day on Tuesday was extremely well received by students, many

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## Opinion

# Rudolph: the story behind the legend

By Kayla Distin

As December continues and Christmas draws nearer, stores are noticeably decorating their aisles with the famous holiday icons. The legendary pair of Santa Claus and Rudolf are displayed on the shelves and posters. To many, it seems as though Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer has always been a natural sidekick to Mr. Clause, eternally guiding him through foggy Christmas eves year after year. However, the character of Rudolf is not as classic as many would think.

A product of the twentieth-century, Rudolf was created by a man named Robert L. May. May was employed as a copywriter by a chain of department stores called Montgomery Ward. Known for his talent for limericks and children's books, the company asked him to create a new Christmas story, to be sold during the holiday as a promotional gimmick. May created a children's book about a misfit who was ostracized by his fellow reindeer due to his physical differences. His bright red nose made him an easy target for reindeer bullies.

Frequently separated from and picked on by his classmates as a child because of his small stature, May was able to relate to his character, and deliver his ideas in the form of many clever couplets. While searching for an appropriate name for his reindeer, May considered Rollo and Reginald before his daughter helped him settle on the title of Rudolf.

Upon its publishing in 1939, Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer became a huge hit among spirited children. A huge success, the book provided a Christmas miracle for May himself, allowing him to pay off the entire costs of his wife's medical expenses, as she was very sick, and passed away shortly before the book came out. Rudolf had off the chart sales, and inspired May's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, to create a song telling Rudolf's story. After the song was released by Gene Autry in 1949, there was simply no stopping Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer from becoming part of everyone's holiday tradition as it sold two million copies in the first year alone and later went on to become the second biggest selling Christmas song of all time.

Today, Rudolf is a Christmas icon almost as popular as St. Nicholas himself thanks to the 1964 television special featuring narrator Burl Ives. Johnny Marks predicted in his song that Rudolf the Red-Nosed

Reindeer would "go down in history" after his infamous flight that fateful Christmas Eve, and it seems as though this statement proved very true indeed.

## What is WikiLeaks?

Most people are aware of the existence of the website "WikiLeaks" and have heard a few news stories here and there. But some people are probably wondering, "All in all, what is it?" Essentially WikiLeaks is a way for independent information sources to anonymously leak their stories to the public. WikiLeaks is able to get important news and information to the public while keeping the sources anonymous. People might wonder, "What kind of information?" The answer ranges from secret government documents to videos of military personnel "murdering" civilians. Time Magazine lauds WikiLeaks with praise, saying that it, "Could be as important a journalistic tool as the Freedom of Information Act"

The site has come across some trouble with groups striving to remove it from the Internet. It has been forced offline several times, however it is currently running with the URL <http://213.251.145.96/>. Even if the main site goes offline though, there are over 1500 mirror sites, hosting the same information. Mirror sites are created by downloading copies of an entire website to a computer for offline browsing. However this can also be used to host the original website from a different URL. This being the case, it seems that the information currently on WikiLeaks will remain on the Internet indefinitely, since mirror sites can be created with ease.

"So what has the site leaked?" one may ask. On November 28, WikiLeaks began publishing over 250,000 leaked US embassy cables. On October 22, the site released nearly 400,000 military reports, dubbed "The Iraq War Logs" documenting the war from January 2004 to December 2009 including things like friendly fire incidents. Video from an Apache helicopter shows members of the US military shooting and killing a civilian group in New Baghdad, including two Reuters news staff. This video was released on April 5.

Should this information be made public? People argue that they have the right to know these things. Some people may not want to know the things that are being released. Whatever your viewpoint is, WikiLeaks is clearly an interesting website. As if the site wasn't controversial enough, WikiLeaks' spokesperson, Julian Assange, has been jailed without bail in a sex-crimes investigation. *By Tyler Crandell*



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## Third installment of Narnia series hits the screens



Step aside Harry Potter! The latest installment of *The Chronicles of Narnia* is finally here, just in time for the holidays.

In what looms as a big weekend for new movies, the popular franchise is up against big names actors Johnny Depp, Angelina Jolie and Mark Wahlberg to provide something for everyone.

*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* - Upon

returning to Narnia to join Prince Caspian for a voyage on the majestic royal vessel known as The Dawn Treader, Lucy, Edmond and their cousin Eustace encounter merfolk, dragons, dwarves and a wandering band of lost warriors. As the edge of the world draws near, their remarkable adventure at sea sails toward an exciting, yet uncertain conclusion.

This is the third movie in the series, inspired by C.S. Lewis' famed books, following in the footsteps of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Prince Caspian*.

### Bizarre News of the Day

Researchers at the Wolong Giant Panda Research Centre in China have been dressing up in panda outfits in an effort to fool a four-month old panda cub. Its mother abandoned the cub, but the zoo-workers want to reintroduce the cub back into the wild.

But for the baby panda to be reintroduced successfully, the cub's environment must have absolutely no human influence. This is where the panda outfits come in. Much like the ape costumes you see at Halloween, the panda costume covers the workers' body in order to make the young panda believe the workers are its mother. Researchers from the center wear the furry panda outfits to hide their human shape when checking the cub's progress.

*By Morgan Firenze*

### Quote of the day:

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak,  
but their echoes are truly endless."

*Mother Teresa*

*The Tourist* - Johnny Depp stars as an American tourist whose curiosity and playfulness leads to a web of intrigue, romance and danger in "The Tourist." During a trip to Europe to mend a broken heart, Frank (Depp) encounters himself in a flirtatious encounter with Elise (Angelina Jolie), an extraordinary woman who deliberately crosses his path. Against the breathtaking backdrop of Paris and Venice, their romance quickly turns into a deadly game of cat and mouse.

*The Fighter* - Mark Wahlberg stars in Paramount pictures inspirational docudrama exploring the remarkable rise of the Massachusetts-born lightweight title winner "Irish" Micky Ward. A determined boxer who is accompanied by his loyal half brother, Dicky (Christian Bale), a hard-living boxer whose career turned to training because of crime and drugs. This is a great story of an underdog who rebounded from a series of defeats to win the WBU Intercontinental Lightweight title.

As always, check your local theater for movie times and availability, and enjoy a great weekend of new movies!

### Snow day quest

(from page 1)

of whom had been holding their breath for at least a couple weeks now.

It has also spurred excitement and lots of anticipation for the next spontaneous school closing. Now, especially with prediction of a nor'easter barraging CNY at the end of this weekend, students are crossing their fingers more than ever.

**DID YOU KNOW...** That fifty percent of all teen deaths occur on Friday, Saturday or Sunday between 3 p.m. and midnight. Whether this is caused by being over-tired, drugs, alcohol or unsafe driving conditions - Be smart! Stay home! This message was brought to you by the SADD Club.

**Seniors! Stay in touch with your class!**  
Check out the new website  
for the senior class at  
<http://grbclass2011.blogspot.com/>

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## Sports

## Tough opener for Raider hoopsters

It was a tough opening draw for first year varsity coach Matt Kimpland and the Raider basketball team on Thursday when three-time defending state champion Jamesville-Dewitt brought their show to town. Add by the time it was over, the Rams had put on another command performance with a 92-41 victory.

Junior standout Dajuan Coleman led the way with 29 points and Demetrius Mitchell added 14 for the winners, who ran out to a 22-12 first quarter lead and never looked back. Tyler French scored 12 to pace the Raiders, who also picked up seven point efforts from Zach Loura, Don Bort and Hunter Gorton.

Things won't get any easier for the Raiders next week as they host CBA on Tuesday and travel to Fowler on Thursday.

The varsity boys swim team also had a tough opening night, falling 98-81 against Weedsport.. Scott Bullard won the 50 and 100 freestyl events and Steven Hanczyk placed first in diving while the 400 freestyle relay four-some of Dave Tallents, Steve Gilliland, Jacob Strauss and Ross Gardner also scored first place points for the Raiders.

## Raider Sports

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Defending state champion Jamesville-Dewitt put on a clinic on Thursday night while running to a 92-41 victory in the season opener for both teams. Fulton's Tyler French, left, and Kyle Parker, right (in white) battle J-D star Dejuan Coleman for a rebound in the top photo while Nate Hudson dribbles toward the Red Ram basket in the bottom photo. The Raiders face another tough foe on Tuesday when they play host to CBA. (James Ireland photos)

**School of Thought** compiled by Nick Mattie & Brett Williams

## *How much do you plan to spend on Christmas presents?*



"None."

*Jesse Ives*



"\$100."

*Sammi Stowell*



"\$60."

*Nick Muckey*



"More than i would like to."

*Mrs. House*

# Meteorology and you

by Carson Metcalf



### Today:



Cloudy with a few snow showers. High in the low -30s.

Record high-70 (1966)  
Avg. high-38

### Tonight:



Cloudy with a few snow showers. Low in the mid-20s.

Record low: -1 (1982)  
Avg. low-23

### Tomorrow:

Mostly cloudy. High in the low-30s, lows remain stationary in the mid-30s.

Record high/low-63/7 (1979/1977) Avg.-37/22

### Sunday:

Snow and sleet. High in the upper-30s, low in the low-20s.

Record high/low-61/-10 (1979/1988) Avg.-37/22

*GRB junior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ [www.centralnewyorkweather.com](http://www.centralnewyorkweather.com) Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.*