

Section 2: Autumn Bridal!

Taste: 40 restaurants aboard ▶ 5



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Next: Couples & Families in Biz

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John Irion: State champ grid coach is a barefoot contrarian

By Gordon Woodworth
Chronicle News Editor

John Irion rarely wears shoes during football practice.

"If man was meant to wear shoes, he would have hooves," he said before his defending state champion Queensbury football team started practice.

"Walking in the earth is good for your body," he continued. "It's healthy." Up to a point.

"I stop once the goose droppings start to oozing up through my toes," he said, laughing. "Then I go to my 'Chucks,' Chuck Taylors. They don't have much

He & wife Patty buy Hartford spread, segue into garden, animals, a farm



Retirement plan: Queensbury football coach John Irion and his wife Patty last year bought a 16-acre hilltop property in Washington County. Now they have a huge garden, raise chickens and guinea hens, and soon will have beef cattle, pigs and goats.

sole. That's about as close to going barefoot as you can get."

Irion, in his 18th season coaching the Spartans and having led them to the New York State Class A championship last season, likes feeling the earth under his feet and between his fingers.

A year ago, he and his wife Patty bought a 16-acre spread on top of a hill in Hartford, where they now have a bountiful garden, 15 chickens, six guinea

hens, several apple trees, stone fences, English walnuts, two dogs and amazing views.

"I studied Animal Science at Utah State, and I knew some day I'd like to get into farming," John said. "I love genetics. I'm kind of a science nerd...and I've always been interested in living off the land.

"The hobby farming I am doing now is something I had always hoped I would do. It's a

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Cuomo is our Putin

By Mark Frost
Chronicle Editor

I'm not suggesting that he's about to send the State Police across the Hudson to annex the Meadowlands in New Jersey, but am I the only person who sees the obvious parallels between New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and Russian President Vladimir Putin?

Both of them understand and exercise raw power.

Gov. Cuomo couldn't care less what the namby pamby *New York Times* and other editorialists say about his refusal to debate or even acknowledge the existence of his primary opponent Zephyr Teachout, in the same way that

Opinion/analysis

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Major show opens Sept. 18
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