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# Maloney

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truck driver, whose name has not been released, is cooperating with the investigation.

Authorities asked anyone with information about the incident to call West Elmira Police Dispatch at 607-735-8600.

## 'Like a public figure in Elmira'

Born in Elmira and a lifelong member of the local community, Maloney was active in numerous social, environmental and charitable causes, according to an obituary published in the Star-Gazette.

A vital member of St. Mary's parish, Maloney was involved with work and groups passionate about elevating the role of women in the church.

"Everybody loved her across town,"

said Spaziani, 72. "Because of her personality and the way she was outgoing and met everybody and knew everybody, she was kind of like a public figure in Elmira."

Although both Maloney and Spaziani were 1968 graduates of Southside High School, they did not know each other at that time. They met about 15 years ago.

"We dated and then got married in 2010," Spaziani said. "It was like we finally found each other. We have been really happy ever since. It's been a

shock because I never had enough time with her."

In addition to Spaziani, Maloney is survived by four siblings, numerous nieces and nephews and four step-children

Family and friends are invited to McInerney Funeral Home, 502 W. Water St., Elmira, on Friday, Feb. 3, from 4 to 7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Mary's Church, 224 Franklin St., Elmira, on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at 12:30 p.m.

# Astronauts

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and launched by the private sector."

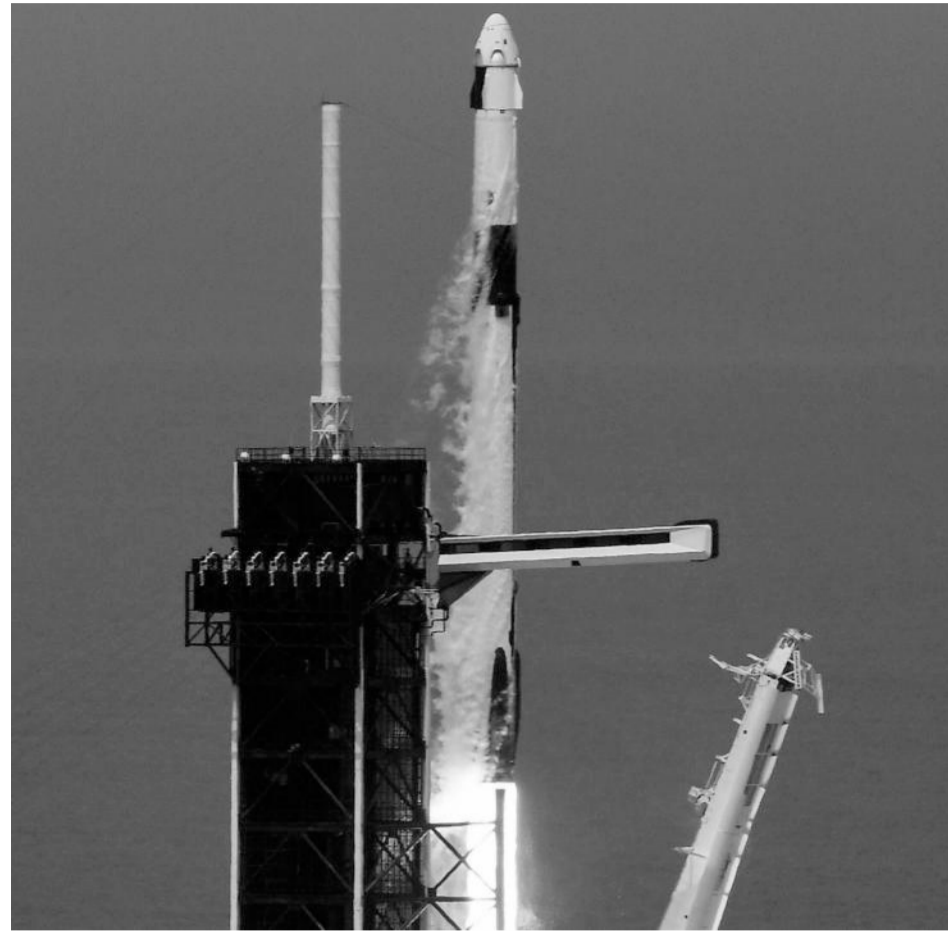
Both veteran astronauts joined NASA in 2000, having each separately flown two space shuttle missions and once aboard SpaceX's Crew Dragon together. Throughout their NASA careers, each accumulated a total of 93 days in space.

Hurley is a Tioga County, N.Y. native and a 1984 graduate of Owego Free Academy. He was a colonel with the U.S. Marine Corps, having served as a fighter pilot and test pilot before his time with NASA. During NASA's STS-135 mission, Hurley piloted the space shuttle Atlantis home for the final time landing at Kennedy Space Center on July 21, 2011, concluding three decades of NASA's space shuttle program.

Similarly, before completing ten spacewalks during his career as an astronaut, Behnken was a colonel in the U.S. Air Force, having served as a flight test engineer.

The Congressional Space Medal of Honor authorizes the president, at the recommendation of the NASA Administrator, to recognize "any astronaut who in the performance of his duties has distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious efforts and contributions to the welfare of the Nation and of mankind," according to NASA.

The creation of the award was authorized by Congress in 1969 and first awarded by President Jimmy Carter to



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center on May 30, 2020, carrying astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley.

CRAIG BAILEY/FLORIDA TODAY

six astronauts in 1978, including Neil Armstrong, the first human to set foot on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission.

"Bob and Doug together have written the first page of a new chapter in the history of American space flight," said Harris. "Through their ingenuity and brav-

ery, they have helped rebuild America's bridge to low Earth orbit and to the International Space Station, where we conduct some of our most significant and advanced scientific research."

Hurley and Behnken join a recipient list of only 28 other astronauts, including 17 of which who received the award posthumously. The honor was last awarded in 2006 to former NASA astronaut and director of NASA's Kennedy Space Center Robert L. Crippen.

"Together, Bob, Doug, and the SpaceX team worked for years to design a new crew capsule, aptly named The Crew Dragon. Every part of the capsule, from flight controls and emergency procedures to computer displays and cockpit layout, shaped by Bob and Doug's decades of know-how," said Harris.

"Once the capsule was built, Bob and Doug spent hundreds of hours testing thousands of flight scenarios," Harris said. "They understood the stakes of their work for our nation, for our world, and, importantly, for the astronauts who would one day entrust their lives to the Dragon capsule."

Since Hurley and Behnken's Demo-2 mission, five SpaceX missions have carried 20 astronauts from NASA and other international space agencies to and from the ISS. The next, Crew-6, is set to launch aboard a Falcon 9 rocket on Sunday, February 26, from Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Jamie Groh is a space reporter for Florida Today. You can contact her at [JGroh@floridatoday.com](mailto:JGroh@floridatoday.com). Follow her on Twitter at [@AlteredJamie](https://twitter.com/AlteredJamie).

# Apartments

Continued from Page 1A

the layout of the classrooms and how well the structure had been maintained by the school district, it kind of lends itself perfectly to be converted," said Mitchell.

## What will the Booth School Apartments look like?

The bulk of the Booth School Apartments will consist of 40 one-bedroom units. The building will also house 12 studio apartments, while larger spaces in the school, like the library and music room, will be converted into six two-bedroom apartments. Part of the gymnasium will remain in place to provide tenants with a weight room and recreational area.

The development will also include space for a handful of commercial tenants. Hughes and Mitchell hope to attract businesses like a coffee shop and a bar and restaurant to the site. Combined with the provided amenities, the duo plan to offer an all-inclusive experience in the building.

"We envision this being somewhere



A plan is in place to convert the former Booth School in Elmira into 58 market rate apartment units and commercial space. JEFF MURRAY/ELMIRA STAR-GAZETTE

where our potential tenants could pull into a parking lot, come into the building and have access to everything they would need," said Mitchell.

## What's next for the project?

The sale of the building is expected to close this month. Construction will be conducted in three phases, with approximately 20 apartment units included in each phase.

Phase 1, heavy on infrastructure and mechanical work, is expected to take about a year. Hughes and Mitchell envision opening the first 20 units to tenants in the spring or summer of 2024. The next two phases will move quicker and be completed in six months apiece.

Though this is their largest project to date, Hughes and Mitchell have extensive experience in taking on challenging renovation efforts around the city.

"Together we've got about 75 units we've already invested in and revitalized," said Hughes. "The majority of the apartments we currently own were pretty dilapidated when we purchased them and now we've got great tenants in there and have seen some great growth in those neighborhoods."

## How will the project impact life in the city?

The Booth School project received \$1 million in support from the state's Restore New York initiative, which encourages community development and growth through the elimination and redevelopment of blighted structures.

Elmira Mayor Dan Mandell said the area around the school "has been blighted for years" but the arrival of the nearby Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2020 has spurred additional investment. Construction of Six67 College Avenue, a new four-story, 116-unit apartment community next to the LECOM medical campus, was completed in 2022.

"Now you add this (Booth School) project, it's really starting to change that neighborhood," said Mandell. "You start building and get more people to move downtown, and then you're going to start getting businesses and the economic development part of it starts coming in. We're starting to see some restaurants popping up, and I think we'll probably get some more."

The 2020 housing study found the demand for downtown housing is being driven by growth in technology, health-care and academic institutions, "with a particular emphasis on regional hiring for professionals including physicians, RN's, engineers, scientists and educators moving to the area."

The Booth School may continue to play a role in local education by housing LECOM students and staff, but it may also someday be home to Elmira residents who attended the school in their youth. The study also determined a target market for downtown housing is "empty nesters" wishing to downsize from a single-family home to an upscale apartment in an urban setting.

"It's not just the LECOM students. We also have seniors who love to move into these apartments in the downtown area and take off during the winter months without having any maintenance worries," said Mandell. "We're starting to see that happen."

# The LEADER



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# Dispensary

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CBD store in July 2021 in tandem with an initiative to expunge the justice records of eligible Broome County residents. Cornwell said 17 people signed up on Day 1.

“Then we could go forward and actually get those folks either re-employed, retrained, or direct them to a career in cannabis if that’s what they chose,” he said.

The Urban League will continue such outreach and support programs through the Just Breathe marijuana shop.

Just Breathe received its final approvals this week. It cleared the city’s Planning Commission Tuesday night, and Cornwell said he was handed his official license after the business passed an inspection earlier in the day.

“Binghamton is leading the way on the legal cannabis industry in New York state,” said Binghamton Mayor Jared Kraham. “By proactively updating local zoning laws and working with our New York state partners, the City has positioned itself to capitalize on the opportunity to attract good careers and new community investments, while growing the industry in a responsible manner that benefits all residents. This new business is an exciting next step.”

## What to know about the Just Breathe marijuana shop

Just Breathe will sell marijuana flowers, pre-rolls and edibles, among other products like drinks, vapes, disposables and gummies. The shop will also continue to carry CBD products. Customers will be required to show a valid ID, just like alcohol sales. The legal age to purchase recreational marijuana in New York is 21 and older.

Cornwell said Just Breathe intends to



An interior view of Just Breathe, a new cannabis dispensary opening Friday at 75 Court Street in Binghamton. PROVIDED BY DAMIEN CORNWELL

offer on-site consumption once the state finalizes those regulations for retail shops. The consumption area will be staged in a separate room apart from the main showroom.

Just Breathe is sourcing its cannabis from growers across the state, stretching from the Southern Tier to Buffalo, Onondaga County and the Hudson Valley. Cornwell said the shop has already more than doubled its number of employees, with additional hires possible. After Friday’s grand opening, the shop will open at noon Saturday before establishing more regular hours.

Just Breathe intends to start offering deliveries after its first week of operation. The delivery schedule — same-day, next-day or two-day delivery — has yet to be decided, pending demand in the Binghamton market.

“Cannabis moves so fast,” said Corn-

well. “We literally make these plans month to month because there’s such a huge upside and it’s so volatile. I’ve heard of other stores getting four people a day to 1,000 people a day. In the blink of an eye it can explode. You’re just not really sure.”

Cornwell expects the business to give the Binghamton economy a bump, driving traffic to the city. Just Breathe has been receiving more than 30,000 Google searches per month, he said.

The dispensary has received support from Mayor Jared Kraham’s administration as well as Broome County Executive Jason Garnar and state Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo. Opening day customers may receive informational materials from the city highlighting local eateries and activities happening around the area.

“We’re trying to be good partners and

corporate citizens for the city at large. I think (a dispensary) is a really good thing for a town like this,” said Cornwell. “We haven’t had huge spikes in commerce and traffic really other than LU-MA and back in the industrial days when we had IBM. It’s huge. Any spike is extremely welcomed in towns like this.”

## Just Breathe among New York’s first upstate dispensaries

Cornwell said customers may begin lining up outside the store about an hour before the doors open at 4:20 p.m. on Friday. The time, 4:20, has become synonymous with the marijuana culture, based on slang in use for decades.

Just Breathe is expecting a crowd given the novelty of the recreational market. New York state’s first dispensary opened in Manhattan in late December, followed by a second in Greenwich Village last month. Rollout in five regions — the Finger Lakes, Western and Central New York, the Mid-Hudson and Brooklyn — remains suspended due to an ongoing injunction in a federal lawsuit.

Binghamton’s Just Breathe the first in a wave of new shops expected to open their doors in the coming weeks and months. Cornwell said the process has been “surreal.”

“The fact that there are so many folks that wanted to do it and people that labored over it, we’re really grateful to be in this position, and immensely grateful and humbled to be the first outside of the big metropolis,” said Cornwell.

“The level of detail is extraordinary, and rightfully so. Everybody wants to be sure there are no mistakes. Nobody wants an oops moment, from the state to the cultivators to the public municipalities and counties involved, not to mention all of our constituents in the community at large. You have to make sure you’ve got this thing right.”

# Date spots

Continued from Page 1A

day, Feb. 10; Tuesday, Feb. 14, and Saturday, Feb. 18. Serving 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Go:** 760 E Water St., Elmira; 607-734-0402; anthonyrestaurantelmira.com

## Bucket Bar and Grill

**What they’re offering:** Get dinner for two at Bucket Bar and Grill on Valentine’s Day for \$65. Dinner includes two shrimp cocktails, two New York strip steaks, two side salads, two mashed potatoes, and two cannoli. Reservations are highly recommended.

**Go:** 100 Church St., Odessa; 607-594-7010; facebook.com/BucketBar&Grill

## El Pulpo Mexican Restaurant and Grill

**What they’re offering:** El Pulpo Mexican Restaurant and Grill is offering specials February 10-19. They have specials for a dinner for two and for 4-6. The special dinner for two is \$49.99 and features an enchilada, burrito, stuffed peppers, tamale, cheese quesadilla, taco, chalupa, and rice and beans. It also includes two beers or margaritas and a shareable dessert.

**Go:** 1108 Upper Front St., Binghamton; 607-772-8226; elpulpomexrestaurant.com



Factory by Beer Tree Brew is located in Johnson City. PHOTO PROVIDED BY BEER TREE BREW

## Factory By Beer Tree Brew

**What they’re offering:** Get a three-course meal for two & two drinks each for \$150. Reserve your table at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/valentines-day-dinner-for-two-tickets-526489483217>

**Go:** 511 Reynolds Road, Johnson City; 607-296-2337; beertreebrew.com

## Hilltop Inn

**What they’re offering:** The Hilltop Inn is offering a Valentine’s Day brunch buffet on Sunday, Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The breakfast bar includes made-to-order omelets, corned beef hash, French toast, waffles, pancakes and eggs benedict. In addition, a carving station will serve roasted sirloin or baked ham, and potatoes au gratin, chicken marsala, a salad station and assorted desserts will be available. The



Hamlet Delights in Horseheads. TOM PASSMORE/ELMIRA STAR-GAZETTE

meal includes one mimosa or bloody mary per person.

The Hilltop Inn will also be offering a prix fix menu on Friday, Feb. 10 from 4:30-8:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11 from 4:30-8:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 14 from 4:30-8:30 p.m.

**Go:** 171 Jerusalem Hill Road, Elmira; 607-732-6728; hill-top-inn.com/valentine

## Hamlet Delights

**What they’re offering:** Ribeye and shrimp, beef Wellington, Massaman curry, red velvet cake, and champagne. Call for pricing.

**Go:** 103 Sayre Street, Horseheads; 607-739-2888; facebook.com/Hamlet-Delights

## Maple Lawn Dairy

**What they’re offering:** Maple Lawn Dairy is offering a New York strip for two char-grilled to your liking and served with two sides. Their regular menu is also available. Can be dine-in or take-out. Call for pricing.

**Go:** 3162 Lower Maple Ave., Elmira; 607-733-0519; maplelawndairy.com

## Our Country Hearts

**What they’re offering:** Our Country Hearts will be doing a reservations-only

dinner from 4-8 p.m. on Valentine’s Day. Take-out is also available. Some of the entrees being offered are crab cakes, haddock, surf and turf, shrimp scampi, chicken and biscuits, cordon bleu and beef stroganoff.

**Go:** 2007 State Rte 26, Endicott; 607-786-9712 extension 2; ourcountryhearts.com

## The Starlite Room

**What they’re offering:** Have dinner for two for \$80. Meals include the choice of surf and turf, lobster dinner, filet mignon, chicken parm, haddock or chicken alfredo. Piano music by Jose Gomez. Reservations suggested.

**Go:** 3018 Lake Rd, Elmira; 607-733-3333; starliteroomelmira.com

## Traditions Hotel and Spa

**What they’re offering:** Traditions offers a Valentine’s Day menu from 5-9 p.m. on Valentine’s Day. Appetizers include chicken potstickers, spinach artichoke dip, coconut shrimp, and brie en croute. Dinner options include ribeye, strip steak, pesto chicken, almond-crusted scallops, firecracker tuna, and furikake salmon. Call for pricing.

**Go:** 4101 Watson Blvd., Johnson City; 607-797-2381; traditionshotelandspa.com

## NEW YORK STATE GAS & ELECTRIC CORPORATION (NYSEG)

### Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program

On January 27, 2023, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation filed tariff amendments, to become effective on a temporary basis February 1, 2023, with the New York State Public Service Commission to implement the Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program in compliance with the [Order Authorizing Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program](#) issued in Case Nos. 14-M-0565 and 20-M-0266. Under the Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program, residential customers and small-commercial customers that had arrears as of May 1, 2022, may be eligible for a one-time bill credit. The costs for this program will be recovered through the existing Arrears Relief Program Surcharge.



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# Buffalo

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The judge had harsh words for Gendron, telling him he would never see the light of day as a free man ever again.

“There is no place for you or your ignorant hateful ideologies in this civilized society,” Eagan said. “There can be no mercy for you, no understanding, no second chances. The damage you have caused has been too great, and the people that you hurt are too valuable to this community.”

Gendron made a brief statement during the proceedings, standing in his orange prison jumpsuit with his hands and feet shackled as he apologized for the pain that he forced the victims and their families to suffer through.

“I did a terrible thing that day. I shot and killed people because they were Black. Looking back now, I can’t believe I actually did it,” Gendron said. “I believed what I read online and acted out of hate. I know I can’t take it back but I wish I could, and I don’t want anyone to be inspired by me and what I did.”

After court had finished, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown dismissed Gendron’s showing of remorse as too little, too late.

“The time to be remorseful was when the thought came into his mind to kill innocent people, when he was driving hundreds of miles to get to this community,” Brown said.

Erie County District Attorney John Flynn said that swift justice was done in this case.

“This defendant needed to be removed from society, taken off the streets, and put behind bars for the rest of his life, and he was,” Flynn told reporters. “And that gives me some satisfaction.”

Gendron will be held in federal custody while the U.S. Justice Department decides whether to pursue additional charges against him.

## Proceedings disrupted by distraught spectator

Gendron had to be hustled out of the courtroom Wednesday after someone in the audience rushed at him and was restrained by a court officer.

His sentencing in the attack, which was fueled by racist conspiracy theories he encountered online, resumed shortly after the disruption. The in-

cident happened as Barbara Massey Mapps excoriated him for killing her 72-year-old sister, Katherine Massey. As Mapps shouted and pointed at Gendron, a person in the audience took a few steps toward him before being held back.

“You don’t know what we’re going through,” the man shouted as he was led away by court officers. For several minutes thereafter, family members hugged and calmed each other as order was restored.

Judge Eagan ordered Gendron back in and let the proceeding resume after about 10 minutes, admonishing everyone to “conduct ourselves appropriately.”

“I understand that emotion, and I understand the anger, but we cannot have that in the courtroom,” she said.

Gendron pleaded guilty in November to charges including murder and domestic terrorism motivated by hate. The terrorism charge carried an automatic life sentence. According to Erie County District Attorney John Flynn, it was the first time someone has been convicted of the domestic terrorism charge in New York state.

## Victims’ families speak out

The sentencing was a chance for loved ones of the dead, as well as people wounded in the attack last spring, to pour out their loss, anguish and ire.

Some, like Massey Mapps, angrily condemned him; others quoted from the Bible or said they were praying for him. Several condemned him for his deliberate attack on a Black community far from his nearly all-white hometown.

“You’ve been brainwashed,” Wayne Jones Sr., the only child of victim Celestine Chaney, said as sobs rose from the audience. “You don’t even know Black people that much to hate them. You learned this on the internet, and it was a big mistake.”

“I hope you find it in your heart to apologize to these people, man. You did wrong for no reason,” Jones said.

Kimberly Salter, the widow of security guard Aaron Salter, explained that she and her family were wearing “red for the blood that he shed for his family and for his community, and black because we are still grieving.”

Christopher Braden, a



Simone Crowley, the granddaughter of Tops Friendly Market shooting victim Ruth Whitfield, looks up as she makes a statement to the court during the sentencing of Payton Gendron before Erie County Court Judge Susan Eagan on Wednesday. PHOTOS BY DEREK GEE/THE BUFFALO NEWS VIA AP, POOL



Erie County Court Judge Susan Eagan sentences Tops Friendly Market gunman Payton Gendron to life in prison without parole.

Tops Friendly Market employee who was shot in the leg, said he was haunted by seeing the victims where they lay as he was carried out of the store.

“The visions haunt me in my sleep and every day,” he said.

At one point, Gendron began crying himself.

## ‘Forgiveness is a part of the healing process’

For years, Duane Price, pastor at Buffalo’s Cornerstone Church Ministries, worked at a radio station with the mother of Tops security guard Aaron Salter Jr., who fought Gendron before being gunned down.

Price said the sentencing day was welcome, but weighted with emotion.

“A lot of times in situations like this, you tend to lose hope, because of how things happened in the past,” Price said. “But it’s amazing to see that

day finally come. It’s something that we’ve all been looking for and waiting for it to happen.”

Price, the pastor, turned to scripture to put the day in context, even the moment when a man charged at Gendron, forcing officers to hurry him out and to clear the courtroom.

“Scripture says: ‘Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord,’” Price said. “When we are hurting and angry, we tend to try to take care of the situation or the circumstances ourselves. Instead of allowing the Lord to do what he’s supposed to do. And it’s not easy. It’s very hard. Which is why all hell broke loose. The emotions are high, the pain is great, and you want to take care of it. You want to pay that tax yourselves because it gives you some sort of satisfaction.”

Some family members spoke of forgiveness. Others did not. Price offered a thought on that, as well.

“Forgiveness is a part of the healing process, but forgiveness is a hard

thing to do because we equate forgetting with forgiving. When you are done wrong, you will never forget it. But when you forgive them, you will get to the place where it no longer hurts you.”

## Racist attack shook community

Gendron, now 19, wore bullet-resistant armor and a helmet equipped with a live-streaming camera as he carried out the May 14 attack. He killed his victims with a semiautomatic rifle, purchased legally but then modified so he could load it with high-capacity ammunition magazines that are illegal in New York.

There were only three survivors after he shot 13 people, specifically seeking out Black shoppers and workers.

His victims at Tops Friendly Market included a church deacon, the grocery store’s guard, a neighborhood activist, a man shopping for a birthday cake, a grandmother of nine and the mother of a former Buffalo fire com-

missioner. The victims ranged in age from 32 to 86.

In documents posted online, Gendron said he hoped the attack would help preserve white power in the U.S. He wrote that he picked the Tops grocery store, about a three-hour drive from his home in Conklin, New York, because it was in a predominantly Black neighborhood.

## Gendron could still face federal charges

Gendron also faces separate federal charges that could carry a death sentence if the U.S. Justice Department chooses to seek it. New York state does not have the death penalty.

Gendron’s admission of guilt on the state charges is seen as a potential help in avoiding a death sentence in the penalty phase of any federal trial. In a December hearing, defense attorney Sonya Zoghlin said Gendron is prepared to enter a guilty plea in federal court in exchange for a life sentence.

The mass shooting in Buffalo, and another less than two weeks later that killed 19 students and two teachers at a Texas elementary school, amplified calls for stronger gun controls, including from victims’ relatives who traveled to Washington, D.C. to testify before lawmakers.

New York legislators quickly passed a law banning semiautomatic rifle sales to most people under age 21. The state also banned sales of some types of body armor.

President Joe Biden signed a compromise gun violence bill in June intended to toughen background checks, keep firearms from more domestic violence offenders and help states put in place red flag laws making it easier for authorities to take weapons from people adjudged to be dangerous.

Includes reporting from Gannett reporter Peter Kramer and the Associated Press.

Contact reporter Sean Lahman at [slahman@gannett.com](mailto:slahman@gannett.com). Follow him on Twitter @seanlahman.

## NEW YORK STATE GAS & ELECTRIC CORPORATION (NYSEG)

### Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program

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# Biden

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The president's comments came as he wrapped up a whirlwind, four-day visit to Poland and Ukraine with talks with leaders from the Bucharest Nine, a collection of nations in the most eastern parts of the NATO alliance that came together in response to Putin's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. He departed Poland Wednesday evening to return to Washington ahead of Friday's anniversary of the war's breakout.

The Bucharest Nine countries' anxieties have remained heightened as the Ukraine war drags on, with many worrying that Putin could move to take military action against them next if he's successful in Ukraine. The alliance includes Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

"You're the frontlines of our collective defense," Biden said Wednesday of the group. "And you know, better than anyone, what's at stake in this conflict? Not just for Ukraine, but for the freedom of democracies throughout Europe and around the world."

He pledged that NATO's mutual-defense pact is "sacred" and that "we will defend literally every inch of NATO."

A day earlier at the foot of Warsaw's Royal Castle to mark the somber milestone of the year-old Russian invasion, Biden warned that Russian aggression, if unchecked, wouldn't stop at Ukraine's borders. "Appetites of the autocrat cannot be appeased," he said. "They must



President Joe Biden poses with children Tuesday after his speech at the Royal Castle in Warsaw, Poland. MICHAL DYJUK/AP

be opposed."

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, the right-wing populist leader who argued last week that the European Union is partly to blame for prolonging Russia's war in Ukraine, has balked at sanctions on Moscow and arming Kyiv. Orban was skipping the meeting with Biden, and President Katalin Novák was attending in his stead.

Still, Klaus Iohannis, the president of Romania, insisted that "The B9 is stronger than ever."

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who was attending the meeting, said, "We don't know when the war will end, but when it does, we need to ensure that history does not repeat itself."

Pointing to past Russian actions in Georgia and Ukraine, he added, "We cannot allow Russia to continue to chip away at European security. We must break the cycle of Russian aggression."

Biden met Tuesday in Warsaw with Moldovan President Maia Sandu, who last week claimed Moscow was behind a plot to overthrow her country's government using external saboteurs.

Sandwiched between Ukraine and Romania and one of Europe's poorest countries, the Eastern European nation has had historic ties to Russia but wants to join the 27-nation European Union. Biden in his remarks endorsed Moldova's bid to join the EU.

"I'm proud to stand with you and the freedom-loving people of Moldova," Bi-

den said of Sandu and her country in his Tuesday address.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine nearly a year ago, Moldova, a former Soviet republic of about 2.6 million people, has sought to forge closer ties with its Western partners. Last June, it was granted EU candidate status, the same day as Ukraine.

Sandu spoke out last week about a Russian plot "to overthrow the constitutional order." She spoke out after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country had intercepted plans by Russian secret services to destroy Moldova. Those claims were later confirmed by Moldovan intelligence officials.

Biden's speech on the Ukraine war came one day after he made a surprise visit to Kyiv, a grand gesture of solidarity with Ukraine. The address was part affirmation of Europe's role in helping Ukraine repel Russia's ongoing invasion and part sharply worded warning to Putin that the U.S. won't abide Moscow defeating Ukraine.

The White House has praised several eastern flank countries, including Lithuania, Poland and Romania, over the last year for stepping up efforts to back Ukraine with weapons and economic aid and taking in refugees.

Biden has given particular attention to Poland's efforts. The country is hosting about 1.5 million Ukrainian refugees and has committed \$3.8 billion in military and economic assistance to Kyiv.

"The truth of the matter is: The United States needs Poland and NATO as much as NATO needs the United States," Biden said during talks with Polish President Andrzej Duda.

# Footage

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"It is not lost on anyone that the one person that the speaker decides to give hours and hours of sensitive secret surveillance footage is the person who peddled a bogus documentary trying to debunk responsibility for the Jan. 6 riot from Donald Trump onto others," Goldman said.

"Kevin McCarthy has turned over the security of the Capitol to Tucker Carlson and that's a scary thought."



McCarthy

McCarthy's office declined to confirm the arrangement, first reported by Axios, despite repeated requests for comment.

Gripping images and videos from the Capitol attack by Trump supporters have been widely circulated by documentarians, news organizations and the rioters themselves. But officials have held back much of the surveillance video from hundreds of security cameras stationed in and around the Capitol that offer a detailed view of the grisly scene and the brutal beatings of police as they tried to stop the rioters.

The House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack went through a painstaking process to work closely with the U.S. Capitol Police to review and ultimately release approved segments of the surveillance footage as part of its public hearings last year.

The chief of the U.S. Capitol Police, Tom Manger, issued a terse statement when asked about the new release of footage: "When Congressional Leadership or Congressional Oversight Committees ask for things like this, we must give it to them."



Fox News personality Tucker Carlson, left, previously produced a documentary suggesting the federal government used the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack by former President Donald Trump's supporters as a pretext to persecute conservatives. SETH WENIG/AP FILE

House Democrats planned to convene Wednesday for a private caucus call to hear from Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., who was chairman of the Jan. 6 committee, and others. House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries called McCarthy's decision an "egregious security breach" that threatens the safety of those who work at the Capitol.

"Unfortunately, the apparent disclosure of sensitive video material is yet another example of the grave threat to the security of the American people represented by the extreme MAGA Republican majority," Jeffries, D-N.Y., said in a letter to House colleagues.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., the former chairwoman of the House Administra-

tion Committee and a member of the committee that investigated Jan. 6, said: "It's really a road map to people who might want to attack the Capitol again. It would be of huge assistance to them."

Carlson, who previously produced a documentary suggesting the federal government used the Capitol attack by Trump's supporters as a pretext to persecute conservatives, confirmed that his team was reviewing the footage ahead of a possible airing.

"We believe we have secured the right to see whatever we want to see," Carlson, who is the network's most-watched prime-time host, said on his show Monday night.

It's not clear what protocols Carlson and his team are using to view the material, but he said that "access is unfettered."

The House committee investigating Jan. 6 underwent an often intense process to review the tens of thousands of hours of footage as it documented its findings.

Over the nearly two-year probe, the panel, which was disbanded once Republicans took control of the House, created a secure room in their Capitol Hill offices for staff to comb through the more than 14,000 hours of footage. The process took months, according to a person familiar with the investigation who requested anonymity to discuss the private machinations.

Any clip of footage the committee wanted to use for their series of public hearings or for the final report had to be

approved by Capitol Police to avoid any security breaches, the person said. If police had an objection, the committee would engage in negotiations to redact any content that could potentially endanger the force or the mechanisms they use to protect the Capitol and lawmakers.

"Throughout our entire review on the committee, we worked with U.S. Capitol Police, one, to get the footage and review it through secure channels, and then we also worked with them again before we released anything," said Marcus Childress, who was the panel's investigative counsel and now is in private practice. "The purpose of that was to make sure that we weren't releasing any sensitive surveillance footage."

Anxiety over security is running high after Capitol Police reported an uptick in threats. The number of possible threats against members of Congress rose from about 4,000 in 2017 to more than 9,600 in 2021, then declined last year to 7,501.

Key Republicans welcomed McCarthy's decision as part of his commitment to create a more transparent House and engage in oversight, as Republicans launch a far-reaching series of investigations and probes touching many aspects of government.

"I support Speaker McCarthy's decision," said Rep. Bryan Steil, R-Wis., the chairman of the House Administration Committee.

Hard-right figures cheered the move. "For all of you that doubted we would release the tapes. Here you go!" tweeted Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., a right-flank firebrand who has become close to McCarthy.

Former Rep. Rodney Davis, R-Ill., said if House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's daughter, the documentary filmmaker Alexandra Pelosi, was able to film that day and release her footage, McCarthy should be able to grant Carlson access.

But others said the two situations are not comparable – countless hours of footage have been released from many sources that captured what happened that deadly day. A mob of Trump supporters battled Capitol Police, in often violent scenes, breaking into the building. Five people died in the riot and its aftermath.

"I think we should remember that the Jan. 6 attack happened in broad daylight," said Sandeep Prasanna, a former investigative counsel on the Jan. 6 committee now in private practice.

"My concern is that I don't see how releasing thousands of hours of footage to one handpicked controversial media figure could ever produce the same factual and careful analysis that the committee produced over that year and a half," he said.

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