

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF New York) COUNTY OF Schenectady
CITY OF Schenectady)

I, Dawn Behuniak, being duly sworn on oath now and during all times herein stated, have been the publisher and designated agent of the publication known as, The Daily Gazette, Schenectady, NY ("Publication") and have full knowledge of the facts herein stated as follows:

The ads for New York State Electric & Gas Corp (NYS) ("Ad/Advertiser") with Insertion Order No. 14511 was distributed to the Publication's full circulation on

the 7th day of April, 2021;

the 14th day of April, 2021;

the 21st day of April, 2021;

the 28th day of April, 2021

By:

Dawn Behuniak

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of April, 2021

Notary Seal:

Paula A Opel

PAULA A. OPEL
COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

07/22/2021

NRA exec sheltered on yacht after mass shootings

Schenectady native Wayne LaPierre makes revelation in deposition

BY JAKE BLEIBERG
The Associated Press

DALLAS — After school shootings that left dozens dead in recent years, National Rifle Association leader Wayne LaPierre said the resulting outrage put him in such danger that he sought shelter aboard a borrowed 108-foot yacht.

During a deposition, the head of the powerful gun-rights group's acknowledged sailing in The Bahamas with his family as a "security retreat" in the summers following a 2012 school shootings in Connecticut and a 2018 massacre in Florida.

"I was basically under presidential threat without presidential security in terms of the number of

threats I was getting," LaPierre said, according to a transcript of the deposition filed in court over the weekend. "And this was the one place that I hope could feel safe, where I remember getting there going, 'Thank God I'm safe, nobody can get me here.'"

The testimony emerged in a federal bankruptcy trail over whether the NRA should be allowed to incorporate in Texas instead of New York, where a state lawsuit is trying to put it out of business. LaPierre is scheduled to take the witness stand in the case, which is being conducted virtually before a court in Dallas, this week.

The NRA declared bankruptcy in January, months after New York

Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, sued seeking the group's dissolution over claims that top executives illegally diverted tens of millions of dollars for lavish personal trips, no-show contracts for associates and other questionable expenditures.

The allegations include that LaPierre repeatedly sailed in The Bahamas on the yacht of Hollywood producer Stanton McKenzie, whose company has done business with the NRA, but did not mention the trips on financial disclosures. McKenzie is not named in the suit but both it and LaPierre's deposition include the name of his yacht: Illusions.

In the deposition, LaPierre said he did not pay to use McKenzie's yacht, which came with a cook, a motor boat and a pair of Sea-Doo personal watercraft. He said he did not think using the vessel violated the NRA's conflict-of-interest pol-



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

National Rifle Association Executive Vice President and CEO Wayne LaPierre speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC 2020. After school shootings that left dozens dead in recent years, LaPierre said the resulting outrage put him in such danger that he sought shelter aboard a friend's 108-foot yacht.

icity because the summer sailing trips were for security. Nonetheless, LaPierre said he stopped using it in 2019 as part of the NRA's "self-correction."

The shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut left 20 first graders and

six educators dead in December 2012. The February 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida killed 17 people.

The NRA did not immediately respond to a request for comment on LaPierre's testimony.

Arkansas lawmakers enact transgender youth treatment ban

Governor's veto is overruled

BY ANDREW DEMILLO
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas lawmakers on Tuesday made the state the first to ban gender confirming treatments and surgery for transgender youth, enacting the prohibition over the governor's objections.

The Republican-controlled House and Senate voted to override GOP Gov. Asa Hutchinson's veto of the measure, which prohibits doctors from providing gender confirming hormone treatment, puberty blockers or surgery to anyone under 18 years old, or from referring

them to other providers for the treatment.

Opponents of the measure have vowed to sue to block the ban before it takes effect this summer.

Hutchinson vetoed the bill Monday following pleas from pediatricians, social workers and the parents of transgender youth who said the measure would harm a community already at risk for depression and suicide. The ban was opposed by several medical and child welfare groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics.

"This legislation perpetuates the very things we know are harmful to trans youth," Dr. Robert Garofalo, division head of adolescent and young adult medicine at Lurie Children's Hospital in

'This legislation perpetuates the very things we know are harmful to trans youth.'

DR. ROBERT GAROFALO
Division head of adolescent and young adult medicine at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago

Chicago, told reporters on a press conference call held by the Human Rights Campaign. "They're not just anti-trans. They're anti-science. They're anti-public health."

The bill's sponsor dismissed opposition from medical groups and compared the restriction to other limits the state places on minors, such as prohibiting them from drinking.

"They need to get to be

18 before they make those decisions," Republican Rep. Robin Lundstrum said.

The Family Council, a conservative group that backed the measure, praised lawmakers for enacting "historic legislation."

Hutchinson said the measure went too far in interfering with parents and physicians, and noted that it will cut off care for transgender youth already receiving

treatment. He said he would have signed the bill if it had focused only on gender confirming surgery, which currently isn't performed on minors in the state.

"I do hope my veto will cause my Republican colleagues across the country to resist the temptation to put the state in the middle of every decision made by parents and health care professionals," Hutchinson said in a statement after the vote.

The law will take effect in late July at the earliest. The American Civil Liberties Union said it planned to challenge the measure before then.

"This is a sad day for Arkansas, but this fight is not over — and we're in it for the long haul," Holly Dickson,

ACLU of Arkansas' executive director, said in a statement.

The override, which needed only a simple majority, passed easily in both chambers, with House voting 72-25 in favor and the Senate 25-8.

The ban was enacted during a year in which bills targeting transgender people have advanced easily in Arkansas and other states. Hutchinson recently signed legislation banning transgender women and girls from competing on teams consistent with their gender identity, a prohibition that also has been enacted in Tennessee and Mississippi this year.

Hutchinson also recently signed legislation that allows doctors to refuse to treat someone because of moral or religious objections.

Myanmar forces arrest comedian, break up doctors' protest

The Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar — Authorities in Myanmar arrested the country's best-known comedian on Tuesday as they continue to crack down on people they accuse of helping incite nationwide protests against February's military coup.

The comedian Zarganar was taken from his home in Yangon by police and soldiers who arrived in two army vehicles, fellow comedian Ngepyawkyaw said on his own Facebook page. Zarganar, 60, is a sharp-tongued satirist who has been in and out of prison since he was active in a failed 1988 popular uprising against a previous military dictatorship. He is also well known for his social work, especially arranging assistance for victims of Cyclone Nargis in 2008.



Zarganar

In the past week, the junta has issued arrest warrants for about 100 people active in the fields of literature, film, theater arts, music and journalism on charges of spreading information that undermines the stability of the country and the rule of law. It was not immediately clear what Zarganar, whose real name is Maung Thura, has been charged with.

Many ordinary protesters and activists are also being arrested every day, according to numerous reports on social media.

In Mandalay, the country's second-biggest city, security forces used stun grenades and fired guns Tuesday to break up a march by medical workers who have defiantly continued to protest almost every day against the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The army's takeover set back Myanmar's gradual return to democracy after five decades of military rule.

A participant who asked

to remain anonymous for his own safety told The Associated Press that doctors, nurses and medical students were attacked as they gathered at about 5 a.m. by security forces who also used cars to run into protesters on motorbikes. The online news site The Irrawaddy reported that four doctors were arrested.

At least 570 protesters and bystanders, including 47 children, have been killed in the crackdown since the takeover, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which monitors casualties and arrests. The group says 2,728 people, including Suu Kyi, are in detention.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said U.N. officials in Myanmar are "deeply concerned" about the impact of the continuing violence on the country's health system, pointing to at least 28 attacks against hospitals and health personnel since Feb. 1. And they are also concerned at violence against the educa-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-coup protesters throw red paint on a street during a demonstration in Yangon, Myanmar, on Tuesday.

tion system, pointing to 7 attacks against schools and school personnel since the

coup, he said. "Health volunteers are attacked, and attacks against

ambulances are preventing life-saving help reaching civilians wounded by security forces," Dujarric said.

Activists have begun organizing a boycott of next week's official celebration of Thingyan, the country's traditional New Year, usually a time for family reunions and merry-making.

In leaflets and social media posts, they are imploring people not to hold any Thingyan celebrations, saying it would be disrespectful to "fallen martyrs" to enjoy the festival.

The leaders of Brunei and Malaysia announced Monday that leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will meet to discuss the situation in Myanmar.

Florida dismisses 2nd breach risk at phosphate reservoir

BY CURT ANDERSON
The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Engineers and dam safety specialists evaluating the danger of a catastrophic flood from a leaking Florida wastewater reservoir determined that the threat of a possible second breach was "unsubstantiated," the Florida Department of Environmental Protection said.

Officials had said Monday that a drone discovered a possible second breach in the reservoir, whose east wall continues to show "concentrated seepage." But by Monday evening, experts from four government agencies and outside engineers concluded that this second site was safe to continue working on, the agency announced.

Meanwhile, the agency said dozens of pumps and 10 vacuum trucks have been deployed to remove 35 million gallons of wastewater per day into the Tampa Bay estuary, where 11 different sampling operations are monitoring water quality and consider-

ing ways of minimizing algae blooms that kill marine life and make beachgoing hazardous to humans in the tourism-dependent state.

"All water quality information concludes that this water is NOT radioactive," the agency tweeted.

U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, a Republican, toured the area by helicopter Monday and said federal resources were committed to assisting the effort to control the 77-acre Piney Point reservoir in Manatee County, just south of the Tampa Bay area.

Among those are the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers, Buchanan said at a news conference.

"I think we are making some progress," Buchanan said. "This is something that has been going on too long. Now, I think everybody is focused on this."

Fears of a complete breach at an old phosphate plant led authorities to evacuate more than 300 homes, close portions of a major highway and move several hundred jail

inmates nearby to a second floor of the facility.

The primary concern is that a total breach of the reservoir would cause major flooding to nearby homes and businesses, officials said. The pumps are meant to slowly drain the water and divert it to Tampa Bay, which could lead to negative environmental consequences such as fish kills and algae blooms.

Melissa Fitzsimmons lives with her husband and 19-month-old daughter in Palmetto, Florida, on the edge of the evacuation zone. Fitzsimmons said that for the past four days she has been terrified since she found out about the leak. While her house is on a hill and may not be directly affected by the water if the leak continues to grow, Fitzsimmons said her family is preparing for the worst.

"Within 24 hours it escalated to like a catastrophic evacuation, and we really didn't know anything until we saw that there was an evacuation and then suddenly an evacuation within the block of our house," Fitzsimmons said.

Public Notice

NYSEG has filed tariff revisions November 25, 2020 with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) for new electricity and natural gas delivery rates to become effective May 1, 2021. These tariff revisions cover the second annual delivery rate increase under the terms of a three-year rate plan approved by the PSC in November 2020 and they include a \$45.6 million increase in electricity revenue and a \$3.4 million increase in natural gas revenue.

A residential electricity customer with an average use of 600 kilowatt-hours/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$1.81. A residential natural gas heating customer using 80 therms/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$0.55.

Customers may see some charges prorated on a May or June bill to take into account energy delivered before and after the new electricity and natural gas delivery rates went into effect.

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Regular Residential Customers: The electricity delivery charge will increase 0.335 cents per kilowatt-hour. The per-therm natural gas delivery charge for the 4-to-50-therms block will decrease 0.837 cents per therm and 0.197 cents for the block rate over 50 therms. The electric customer charge will increase by \$0.94, and the natural gas customer charge will increase by \$1.00.

Day/Night and Time-of-Use Customers: The electricity delivery charge will increase 0.347 cents per kilowatt-hour for Service Class 8 and 0.107 cents per kilowatt-hour for Service Class 12. The Service Class 8 customer charge will increase by \$1.10, and the Service Class 12 customer charge will increase by \$1.49.

Additional information about changes in residential electricity and natural gas delivery charges is available at nyseg.com (click on "For Suppliers and Partners, then on "Pricing and Tariffs" and then on "PSC Filings").

NONRESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Information about changes in nonresidential electricity customer charges, electricity demand and energy charges (where applicable), natural gas minimum charges and natural gas therm charges is available at nyseg.com.

Changes are also in effect for standby, street lighting and economic development rates. Please check page 2 of your bill for bill messages and nyseg.com for detailed information.

Regarding energy supply: If you purchase energy supply from NYSEG, your price will continue to be based on market prices; if you purchase your energy supply from a supplier other than NYSEG (also known as an energy services company or ESCO), what you pay for energy supply depends on your agreement with your ESCO.

GLOVERSVILLE

Fire chief: Electrical problem caused house fire

213 S. Main St. set to be demolished Thursday

BY JASON SUBIK
The Daily Gazette

City Fire Chief Thomas Groff described the results of the early morning house fire at 213 S. Main that has displaced 10 people as a “total loss,” during his report to the Common Council Tuesday night.

“I’ve been at that all day today,” Groff told the council. “It was a little bit of a challenge. We did determine the cause to be an electrical

issue in the house. There were several issues of that nature in the house. It was a two-family house. It had a lot of electrical outlets.”

Firefighters were called to 213 S. Main St. just after 1 a.m. for a fire at the residence. Fire officials said they arrived to find the rear of the home well-involved with fire and the fire then extended into the first-floor apartment and rear stairwell and eventually into the second-floor apartment and attic.

In a news release Tuesday fire officials said there were 10 people living in the building, all present at the time of the fire, three who lived downstairs and seven upstairs.

Gloversville firefighter Zach Angus and Johnstown Captain Brian Miller conducted the primary search at the scene, while Captain Joe Gillis and Firefighter Brandon Paul attempted to knock down the main fire in the rear of the building.

All ten escaped injury, all ten were also being assisted with lodging provided by the Red Cross, according to fire officials.

“The building sustained extension damage,” Groff said. “It’s in really rough shape. The building was probably questionable before the fire, but with all the damage it sustained it should be torn down.”

Groff said he took action Tuesday to start the demolition process of the building.

“I moved to get some bids, to get some contractors in this afternoon,” he told the

council. “I got four contractors to come in and look at it this afternoon.”

Groff said the lowest qualified bidder was a company called “Jackson Demolition.” He said because the removal of the debris from the scene is considered an emergency by the Fulton County landfill, the \$100 per ton tipping fee for debris from the site will be waived.

Mayor DeSantis asked Groff if the owner of the building had insurance.

“There’s significant insurance, and we should pursue that when we can, but will

we have to be aggressive, if we can,” Groff said. “The building is in rough shape. I think you all know where it is down there on South Main. The building is severely damaged. The owner doesn’t agree with me, but I think he would agree that no matter what it’s not salvageable.”

Groff said state inspectors will be doing asbestos monitoring at the site Wednesday and Jackson Demolition will take down the building on Thursday.

Gazette Reporter Steve Cook contributed to this story.

NYC police unions drop suit challenging discipline records

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City police, fire and corrections unions on Tuesday dropped their challenge to the public release of disciplinary records.

The request to dismiss the litigation was praised by Communities United for Police Reform, which, in a release, called on Mayor Bill de Blasio and the New York City Police Department to expand the release of police misconduct and discipline records.

“This is a big win against police unions’ baseless fear-mongering, definitively closing the door on their attempt to use the courts to overturn the will of New Yorkers after

last summer’s repeal of New York’s infamous police secrecy law,” said Joo-Hyun Kang, the group’s director.

The city put up some records last month after a federal appeals court in February approved of the release of disciplinary records while public safety unions sued to block the city from posting them online.

New York City’s law office and lawyers for unions and the city did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The unions sued after state lawmakers last June reversed a law that kept disciplinary records secret for decades.

Unions had opposed a new transparency law on grounds that it would unfairly taint

the reputations of police officers, endangering them and affecting their future employment.

The city’s police watchdog agency, the Civilian Complaint Review Board, has posted a database of complaints it’s received about officers.

But the NYPD has been criticized for limiting its disclosures to matters that resulted in a guilty finding by the police commissioner, meaning most misconduct and discipline records remained offline.

NYPD officials have said the public database would only include cases resulting in a finding or plea of guilty, involving active officers, dating initially to 2014.

COMMUNITY NOTES

ROTARY MEETING

NISKAYUNA — The Niskayuna Rotary Club will host a Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. on April 19. This is an open topic meeting to discuss ongoing projects and to introduce new ideas relating to the environment, poverty, empowering youth, promote peace and improve our community. The public is invited to participate. For the Zoom link email Nisky-Rotary@gmail.com.

HISTORICAL PRESENTATION

BALLSTON SPA — The Saratoga County Historical Society will host a Zoom presentation as part of their “Expert Next Door” series at 7 p.m. on April 22. Guest speaker Amy Catania, Executive Director of Historic Saranac Lake, will present “Curing in the Mountains” Saranac Lake’s role in the research and treatment of tuberculosis, and how it relates to today’s fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. She will share tales of Saranac Lake’s history. The event is free to SCHC members and \$5 for non-members. Registration is available through www.brooksidemuseum.org. For information contact Isobel Connell at isobel@brooksidemuseum.org.

BOOK DISCUSSION

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Albany-Saratoga Spiritual Adventures will host a Consciousness-Raising spiritual book discussion via Zoom at 6 p.m. on April 25. Participants will discuss “Treat Yourself to Life” by Raymond Charles Barker. All are welcome whether or not they’ve read the book. Call or use the Contact us form at www.newthoughtnewyork.org for meeting ID and discussion questions. For information visit our meetup.com group, Albany-Saratoga Spiritual Adventures or call 518-366-9918.

HAM DINNER

DELANSON — Our Lady of Fatima Knights of Columbus will hold a Drive Thru-only Ham Dinner from noon until sold out on April 24 in the parking lot at 1735 Alexander Road. The cost is \$8.

FARMERS MARKET

BALLSTON SPA — The Ballston Spa Farmers Market, sponsored by the Ballston Spa Business and Professional Association (BSBPA), will run from June 12 through September 30. The markets are held on Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.

to 1 p.m. at a new location on the grounds of Brookside Museum, 6 Charlton St. The market features 100% locally grown produce, farm fresh agricultural products, prepared food, baked goods and more. It will operate under the current COVID-19 guidelines and directives issued by NYS Ag & Markets. Masks will be required for vendors and customers and social distancing will be implemented. Customers are encouraged to shop individually. The market is now accepting vendors for the 2021 season. New and returning vendors can apply online at www.ballston.org/category/farmers-market/. Admission is free. For information visit www.ballston.org.

MONTHLY DIALOGUE

SCHENECTADY — The Schenectady Interfaith Community will hold its monthly dialogue program via Zoom at 7 p.m. on April 21. Schenectady artist, poet and Hamilton Hill coordinator Miki Conn will discuss her new book “Integrating Delmar, a Story of Friendship.” The event is free and open to the public. For information, the Zoom link or to join email schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com by noon on April 20.

Man arraigned in shooting that killed baby, injured 2 girls

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE — A 23-year-old man was arraigned Tuesday in connection with a drive-by shooting that killed a baby and injured two other young girls as they rode in a car with their mothers.

Chavez Ocasio was being held in the Onondaga County jail on charges of murder, tampering with evidence, weapons possession and a parole violation, according to inmate records.

Syracuse Police referred questions about Ocasio’s arrest and alleged role in the shooting to the county district attorney’s office, which declined to discuss the case.

During an appearance Tuesday in City Court, prosecutor Melinda McGunnigle was granted her request that

Ocasio’s court record be sealed to avoid jeopardizing the ongoing investigation, The Post-Standard reported.

The three children were struck by gunfire shortly before 7 p.m. Sunday when someone opened fire from another car, Syracuse police said Monday. An 11-month-old girl was killed and two sisters, ages 3 and 8, were injured.

The baby’s mother and the mother of the other two girls also were in the car. They were not hurt.

Authorities have not released the names of the victims or commented on a possible motive for the shooting.

Ocasio’s attorney, William Sullivan, could not be reached by phone or email for comment after the arraignment. He entered a

not guilty plea on Ocasio’s behalf.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Friday.

Ocasio is a student at Onondaga Community College and has been featured in campus news stories discussing his experiences in college after being incarcerated as a teenager.

State records show he was sentenced to five years in prison for burglary at the age of 17. He was released in September 2019 after serving four years.

He worked as a fast food manager, a college news story said.

“Our thoughts are with the victims and their families,” Onondaga Community College said in an emailed statement Tuesday.

ONE Source
Limitless Visual
Possibilities



SARATOGA
BANK & TRUST COMPANY
NATIONAL

Part of the Arrow Family of Companies

545

From Monument Signs, Vehicle Graphics to
Dimensional Letters & Logoslook to
image360 Schenectady.







image360[®]
Graphics > Signage > Displays
Schenectady

image360.com/schenectadyny | 518-395-3121
info@image360schenectady.com

Public Notice

NYSEG has filed tariff revisions November 25, 2020 with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) for new electricity and natural gas delivery rates to become effective May 1, 2021. These tariff revisions cover the second annual delivery rate increase under the terms of a three-year rate plan approved by the PSC in November 2020 and they include a \$45.6 million increase in electricity revenue and a \$3.4 million increase in natural gas revenue.

A residential electricity customer with an average use of 600 kilowatt-hours/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$1.81. A residential natural gas heating customer using 80 therms/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$0.55.

Customers may see some charges prorated on a May or June bill to take into account energy delivered before and after the new electricity and natural gas delivery rates went into effect.

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Regular Residential Customers: The electricity delivery charge will increase 0.335 cents per kilowatt-hour. The per-therm natural gas delivery charge for the 4-to-50-therms block will decrease 0.837 cents per therm and 0.197 cents for the block rate over 50 therms. The electric customer charge will increase by \$0.94, and the natural gas customer charge will increase by \$1.00.

Day/Night and Time-of-Use Customers: The electricity delivery charge will increase 0.347 cents per kilowatt-hour for Service Class 8 and 0.107 cents per kilowatt-hour for Service Class 12. The Service Class 8 customer charge will increase by \$1.10, and the Service Class 12 customer charge will increase by \$1.49.

Additional information about changes in residential electricity and natural gas delivery charges is available at nyseg.com (click on “For Suppliers and Partners, then on “Pricing and Tariffs” and then on “PSC Filings”).

NONRESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Information about changes in nonresidential electricity customer charges, electricity demand and energy charges (where applicable), natural gas minimum charges and natural gas therm charges is available at nyseg.com.

Changes are also in effect for standby, street lighting and economic development rates. Please check page 2 of your bill for bill messages and nyseg.com for detailed information.

Regarding energy supply: If you purchase energy supply from NYSEG, your price will continue to be based on market prices; if you purchase your energy supply from a supplier other than NYSEG (also known as an energy services company or ESCO), what you pay for energy supply depends on your agreement with your ESCO.

Some say states should set pot policy by its potency

BY JENNIFER PELTZ
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As marijuana legalization spreads across U.S. states, so does a debate over whether to set pot policy by potency.

Under a law signed last month, New York will tax recreational marijuana based on its amount of THC, the main intoxicating chemical in cannabis. Illinois imposed a potency-related tax when recreational pot sales began last year. Vermont is limiting THC content when its legal market opens as soon as next year, and limits or taxes have been broached in some other states and the U.S. Senate's drug-control caucus.

Supporters say such measures will protect public health by roping off, or at least discouraging, what they view as dangerously concentrated cannabis.

"This is not your Woodstock weed," says Kevin Sabet, the president of Smart

Approaches to Marijuana, an anti-legalization group that has been pressing for potency caps. "We need to put some limitations on the products being sold."

Opponents argue that THC limits could drive people to buy illegally, and amount to beginning to ban pot again over a concern that critics see as overblown.

"It's prohibitionism 2.0," said Cristina Buccola, a cannabis business lawyer in New York. "Once they start putting caps on that, what don't they put caps on?"

THC levels have been increasing in recent decades — from 4% in 1995 to 12% in 2014 in marijuana seized by federal agents, for example. Cannabis concentrates sold in Colorado's legal market average about 69% THC, and some top 90%, according to state reports.

A sweeping 2017 examination of cannabis and health by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and

Medicine listed increasing potency among factors that "create the potential for an increased risk of adverse health effects."

Some studies have linked high-THC pot, especially when used daily, with the likelihood of psychosis and certain other mental health problems. But there is debate over whether one causes the other.

Dr. Rachel Knox, an Oregon physician who counsels patients on using cannabis for various conditions, says she doesn't see an increased risk of psychosis for people using such products under medical oversight. She opposes capping potency but suggests that products containing over 70% THC should be reserved for medical users while research continues.

But Colorado pediatrician and state Rep. Dr. Yadira Caraveo says she has seen the dangers of high-THC cannabis.



JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The THC percentages of recreational marijuana are visible on the product packaging sitting on a counter top in Mamaroneck on Monday. A debate about whether to set marijuana policy based on potency is spreading as more states legalize cannabis.

One of her adolescent patients who used high-potency pot daily was repeatedly hospitalized with severe vomiting linked to heavy marijuana use, and another

needed psychiatric hospitalization after the drug exacerbated his mental health problems, said Caraveo. She's thinking about proposing a potency cap.

Various states have regulated how many milligrams of THC can be in a single serving, package or retail sale, at least for some products. Vermont took a different approach, limiting the percentage of the chemical in any amount of recreational pot — 30% for flower-form marijuana and 60% for concentrates.

Legalization supporters say caps will backfire.

"Consumer demand for these products is not going to go away, and re-criminalizing them will only push this consumer base to seek out similar products in the unregulated illicit market," Paul Armentano, the deputy director of NORML, wrote in a recent op-ed in the Denver newspaper Westword.

Teen's death puts focus on split-second police decisions

BY LINDSAY WHITEHURST
The Associated Press

It happened in less than a second.

Thirteen-year-old Adam Toledo dropped the gun he'd been holding, turned and began raising his hands just as the officer had commanded. Then the cop fired a single shot, killing the boy in the dark Chicago alley.

The graphic video that became the latest tragic touchstone in the nation's reckoning with race and policing puts a microscope on those split-second decisions with far-reaching and grave consequences. Investigators are still sorting through exactly what happened, but the shooting has raised difficult questions about why the boy wasn't given more time to comply and whether the deadly encounter could have been prevented in the first place.

The white officer, Eric Stillman, was responding to reports of shots fired in Lit-



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This image from Chicago Police Department body cam video shows the moment before Chicago police Officer Eric Stillman fatally shot Adam Toledo, 13, on March 29 in Chicago.

tle Village, a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood of the city's southwest side, around 3 a.m. on March 29. Stillman's jumpy, nighttime bodycam footage shows him chasing Toledo, who was Latino, on foot down an alley for several seconds and yelling.

As the teen slows down, Stillman yells: "Hands! Hands! Show me your (expletive) hands!" Toledo then turns toward the camera, Stillman yells, "Drop it!" and midway between repeating that command, he fires and

Toledo falls. Police found a gun next to a fence a short distance away after the shooting. Prosecutors have previously said a 21-year-old man with Toledo fired the rounds that originally drew the officer's attention.

The Cook County state's attorney's office will decide whether Stillman, who has been placed on administrative leave for 30 days, should face charges. But it's been rare to charge police with crimes in the death of civilians, and winning a conviction is hard-

er in part because jurors are reluctant to second-guess an officer when the officer has been faced with a split-second decision in a life-or-death situation.

The U.S. Supreme Court has said an officer's fear for their life in the heat of the moment matters, even if in hindsight it turns out they weren't in danger. Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote in a 1989 ruling that shaped the legal landscape that the "calculus must embody an allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force necessary in a particular situation."

It takes the brain about three-fourths of a second to react to a perceived threat, said Chris Burbank, a former police chief in Salt Lake City who is now with the Center for Policing Equity. Most police can then draw a gun and fire two accurate rounds in 1.5 seconds, so the pivotal

portion of a confrontation can be over in less than three seconds.

The decisions made in that tiny period can influenced by a host of factors, including training, immediate surroundings and structural biases like racism, he said. A growing body of research shows Black teenagers, for example, are often wrongly perceived as older and more threatening than white teenagers.

And it can be hard for officers to say after the fact exactly what made them shoot, said Eugene O'Donnell, a former New York City police officer and longtime professor of police studies at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

The often-used "show me your hands!" command can unintentionally accelerate a confrontation. The motions of a person trying to obey can appear at first like the moves someone makes to start an attack, said Von Kliem, a former

police officer and director of consulting division for the Force Science Institute. Some in law enforcement-training circles have had concerns about how the phrase affects a situation since the mid-1990s, though it's still often used without causing serious problems.

But focusing solely on split-second heated moments can miss the larger systemic questions raised by a community mourning a child, said Nathan Morris, an attorney for a 13-year-old shot by police in Utah. That boy, Linden Cameron, has autism and his mother had called police to help handle a breakdown last year. Cameron was unarmed. He survived the shots that were fired after a chase by officers.

"Are we doing the right thing by putting our officers in situations that require a split-second decision?" Morris said. "Should they even be chasing a 13-year-old child down?"

EU agency links J&J shot to rare clots

The Associated Press

LONDON — The European Union's drug regulatory agency said Tuesday that it found a "possible link" between Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine and extremely rare blood clots and recommended a warning be added to the label. But experts at the agency reiterated that the vaccine's benefits outweigh the risks.

The European Medicines Agency made its determina-

tion after examining a small number of clot cases in people vaccinated in the U.S. It said these problems should be considered "very rare side effects of the vaccine."

J&J immediately announced it will revise its label as requested and resume vaccine shipments to the EU, Norway and Iceland. In a statement, it said: "The safety and well-being of the people who use our products is our number one priority."

In March, the EMA, which

oversees the use of pharmaceutical products in 27 countries across the continent with a combined population of about 448 million, likewise recommended a label change for AstraZeneca's vaccine after finding a link between it and rare blood clots.

In both cases, the agency said the benefits of being immunized against COVID-19 outweigh the very small risks of developing the unusual clots.

CALL NOW AND YOU CAN
SAVE UP TO 84% OFF YOUR
NEXT PRESCRIPTION WITH US!

Drug Name:	Qty	Price*
Cialis 5mg	90	\$74.99
Viagra 100mg	16	\$30.99
Cialis 20mg	16	\$34.99
Viagra 50mg	16	\$29.99
Stendra 200mg	16	\$284.99
Levitra 20mg	30	\$154.99
Eliquis 5mg	180	\$619.99
Xarelto 20mg	90	\$478.99
Symbicort Inhaler 160mcg/4.5mcg	360 ds	\$239.99
Vagifem 10mcg	24	\$69.99
Januvia 100mg	84	\$284.99
Spiriva Handihaler 18mcg	90 ds	\$214.99
Premarin 0.625mg	84	\$79.99
Advair Diskus 250mcg/50mcg	180 ds	\$229.99
Flovent HFA 110mcg	360 ds	\$174.99
Estring 7.5mcg/24hr	1 ring	\$144.99
Premarin Vaginal Cream 0.625mg/g	42g	\$124.99
Colcrys 0.6mg	100	\$134.99
Jardiance 25mg	90	\$439.99
Synthroid 100mcg	90	\$35.99
Combivent Respimat 20mcg/100mcg	360 ds	\$174.99
Restasis 0.05%	90 ds	\$249.99
Spiriva Respimat 2.5mcg	180 ds	\$259.99
Xifaxan 550mg	200	\$349.99

Toll-Free Phone:
1-833-807-6980
Toll-Free Fax:
1-800-563-3822

TotalCareMart.com
Savings made easy
All pricing in U.S. dollars and subject to change without notice. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Electronic Checking, Personal Check or International Money Order. *Prices shown are for the equivalent generic drug if available.

Mailing Address: TotalCareMart.com PO Box 121 STN L
Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3H 0Z4

CODE: QM72

Public Notice

NYSEG has filed tariff revisions November 25, 2020 with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) for new electricity and natural gas delivery rates to become effective May 1, 2021. These tariff revisions cover the second annual delivery rate increase under the terms of a three-year rate plan approved by the PSC in November 2020 and they include a \$45.6 million increase in electricity revenue and a \$3.4 million increase in natural gas revenue.

A residential electricity customer with an average use of 600 kilowatt-hours/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$1.81. A residential natural gas heating customer using 80 therms/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$0.55.

Customers may see some charges prorated on a May or June bill to take into account energy delivered before and after the new electricity and natural gas delivery rates went into effect.

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Regular Residential Customers: The electricity delivery charge will increase 0.335 cents per kilowatt-hour. The per-therm natural gas delivery charge for the 4-to-50-therms block will decrease 0.837 cents per therm and 0.197 cents for the block rate over 50 therms. The electric customer charge will increase by \$0.94, and the natural gas customer charge will increase by \$1.00.

Day/Night and Time-of-Use Customers: The electricity delivery charge will increase 0.347 cents per kilowatt-hour for Service Class 8 and 0.107 cents per kilowatt-hour for Service Class 12. The Service Class 8 customer charge will increase by \$1.10, and the Service Class 12 customer charge will increase by \$1.49.

Additional information about changes in residential electricity and natural gas delivery charges is available at nyseg.com (click on "For Suppliers and Partners, then on "Pricing and Tariffs" and then on "PSC Filings").

NONRESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Information about changes in nonresidential electricity customer charges, electricity demand and energy charges (where applicable), natural gas minimum charges and natural gas therm charges is available at nyseg.com.

Changes are also in effect for standby, street lighting and economic development rates. Please check page 2 of your bill for bill messages and nyseg.com for detailed information.

Regarding energy supply: If you purchase energy supply from NYSEG, your price will continue to be based on market prices; if you purchase your energy supply from a supplier other than NYSEG (also known as an energy services company or ESCO), what you pay for energy supply depends on your agreement with your ESCO.

Seat

Continued from page A1

gressional District and has made a number of appearances on national conservative talk-television, raised more than \$1.2 million in the first quarter, while 19th District U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado, D-Kinderhook, has also raised more than \$1 million, though more quietly.

“Stefanik’s district is massive,” said Skidmore College political science professor Robert Turner. “It’s always really hard, in that there’s not like a single TV market, so it makes it really hard to campaign. If you’re a challenger, to get name recognition you have to be in three different TV markets.”

The population breakdowns needed to actually set new district boundaries

won’t be available until September, but there’s already speculation that the Democrats, who control the state Legislature, could use redistricting to their advantage. For example, The Legislature could place Stefanik and 22nd Congressional District Rep. Claudia Tenney in the same district. Both are outspoken conservative women.

Stefanik, who is considering a run for governor, issued a statement blaming the loss of the seat on Cuomo. “The fact that Governor Cuomo’s slow walked the census resources in the state is an abomination as we fell 89 individuals short of not losing a congressional seat,” she said. “Sadly, New Yorkers continue to flee our state due to his draconian leadership, high taxes, exorbitant cost of living and rampant crime. I will continue to be a strong voice for my constituents in the North Country and New York who value freedom and

feel forgotten by Cuomo and his Far-Left cesspool in Albany.”

The non-partisan Cook Report’s Dave Wasserman said up to five of the eight seats now held by Republicans could be in jeopardy if Democrats redistrict aggressively.

In recent decades, the state Senate was under Republican control, which forced compromise — or, as in 2010, a deadlock that forced a federal court monitor to draw the lines. This time, the reapportionment is going to be done by a 10-member independent commission, but the commission’s work will be subject to approval by the Legislature.

“The question is, to what extent do the New York Democrats decide to play the kind of political hardball the Republicans have played in places like Texas or North Carolina?” Skidmore’s Turner said.

Previous Census Bureau

estimates would indicate the state’s population loss is concentrated north and west of the Capital Region. An analysis by New York Public Interest Research Group found that the Capital Region grew marginally, at just under 1.1 million people — although there remains little question Saratoga County has continued to grow, as it has since World War II.

“All indications are that New York’s upstate region is likely to see some reduction in its congressional representation,” NYPIRG Executive Director Blair Horner said.

E.J. McMahon of the Empire Center for Public Policy also believes what growth occurred was in New York City and counties within commuting distance of the city. “If that’s the case, the census data will translate into a net shift of five to seven Assembly seats and two to three state Senate seats to the downstate region,” he pre-

dicted in a written analysis.

The state’s population actually increased 4.2% — 19.4 million people to 20.2 million — but other states grew more quickly, Census Bureau officials said.

New York’s loss of a congressional seat fits into a long-term pattern of losing influence to other parts of the country. In 2020, it fell from the third to the fourth most populous state in the country, behind California, Texas and Florida.

In 1940, New York state had 45 congressional seats and had the largest population in the country, at 13.5 million. But New York’s percentage of the country’s population has slid downward every decade since, and will drop by another seat — to 26 — with the results of the 2020 census that were announced on Monday.

But the news is better than some observers expected, and better than the state has

performed in the last few census counts: It lost two seats in 2000 and 1990, three seats in 1980, and a whopping five seats — from 39 seats to 34 seats — in 1970, as California, Texas and Florida all gained population at the expense of New York and other Northeastern states.

When the results were announced, Republicans wasted no time in trying to pin the loss of a congressional seat on Democrats.

“New York leads the nation in outmigration of residents with 126,000 people leaving last year and over one million in the past decade and the state is ranked 50th in the nation for Tax Freedom Day, when residents symbolically pay off all of their federal, state and local tax obligations and start keeping the money they earn,” said state Sen. Jim Tedisco, R-Glenville.

Fear, lack of funding may have hurt census in Sun Belt

BY ACACIA CORONADO, NICHOLAS RICCARDI AND MIKE SCHNEIDER
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — According to the new census, the booming Sun Belt isn’t booming quite like the experts thought.

Population counts released Monday came as a shock to many demographers and politicians who expected to see growth that could add numerous congressional seats to a region that’s apparently been gaining people rapidly all decade. Instead, the census found more modest growth that added only three seats total in Florida and Texas. Arizona, the second-fastest growing state in 2010, didn’t add a seat at all.

The questions that advocacy groups and officials are now asking are whether all the new subdivisions and shopping centers are a mirage; whether those states erred in not investing more in encouraging residents to fill out census forms — and whether Latinos in particular were reluctant to trust the

Trump administration with their information.

Many demographers caution it’s too early to conclude that the nation’s once-a-decade count missed any specific population groups. That won’t be known until more local data is released later this year and the Census Bureau has completed an independent survey measuring the accuracy of the 2020 head count.

But one thing is indisputable — when compared to the most recent population estimates, the three Sun Belt states underperformed during the count used for determining how many congressional seats and Electoral College votes each state gets. Texas got two extra seats instead of three; Florida added only a single new seat instead of two, and Arizona failed to gain the seat it was expecting to add.

All three states are led by Republican governors who devoted less resources than other states to encouraging participation in the 2020 census. And in all three states, Hispanics have accounted

for about half of the population growth over the decade, according to American Community Survey data.

In Arizona, activists blamed Gov. Doug Ducey for supporting the Trump administration’s failed effort to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census questionnaire. Those efforts intimidated Latinos and kept them from fully participating in the census, they said.

“What we saw from the government, Ducey and the Trump administration, was intimidation from Day 1 on the census,” said Eduardo Sainz, national field director for Mi Familia Vota, a political advocacy group. “Because of this narrative of fear, and this narrative of not funding, we lost that seat.”

The Ducey administration released a statement from the state demographer saying that more data is needed to determine why the count fell short of estimates of Arizona’s growth.

During outreach efforts to get people to fill out their census forms, Hispanic residents would ask Adonias

Arevalo about Trump’s push on citizenship. Arevalo, state director for Poder Latinx in Phoenix, said, “Despite the fact that we said a citizenship question will not be present, folks didn’t trust the Trump administration.”

He said Arizona’s undercount is partly the legacy of Republican leaders, including former Sheriff Joe Arpaio, and anti-immigration laws.

“For years, people have distrusted the system,” Arevalo said. “People fear to participate in these processes due to years of criminalization.”

Arizona, Florida and Texas were laggards compared to other states in efforts to form statewide committees aimed at driving census participation. Arizona only named members to its committee in August 2019, and Florida set one up in January 2020, just weeks before the national head count began in a rural Alaska village. Texas never even set up a statewide committee, which some census activists attributed to Texas lawmakers not wanting to take a stand on the citizenship question by promoting the census.

Democrats slammed the GOP for those moves.

“From the very beginning, we knew our state was particularly at risk of undercounting our neighbors,” State Rep. Chris Turner, the Texas House’s Democratic Caucus Chair, said in a statement. “A concerted, organized outreach effort is essential to ensuring maximum participation in the census and getting the most accurate count,” he added in an interview.

But state demographer Lloyd Potter in an interview contended there’s little evidence that massive state spending increases census accuracy. Instead, he said, Texas has a lot of the types of people who routinely get undercounted — rural citizens and African-Americans and Latinos.

“Those are factors for all states and may have been more of a factor for Texas,” Potter said. “We have a lot of rural areas in Texas, we have a very significant and growing Latino population.”

Texas Republicans released a statement after the census count that said: “Representation in Texas must be based upon citizenship, and strategically we can ascertain why the left wants to flood Texas with thousands of illegals.”

In Florida, a spokeswoman for Gov. Ron DeSantis didn’t respond to an email inquiry.

Paul Mitchell, a redistricting expert in California, a state that spent \$187 million on census outreach, said there was a clear pattern in the numbers. States that funded major census-participation campaigns did well, while Republican-led ones, who viewed efforts like that as criticisms of then-President Donald Trump, did not, he said.

“Texas, Florida, Arizona, they didn’t do big outreach efforts to improve the count,” Mitchell said. “In Texas, particularly, it was anathema to say anything in the Legislature that could be seen as critical of Trump.”

Mitchell said the dynamic with Latinos seems clear given the populations of the underperforming states. He noted that some states that did comparatively better, like his own California, promised to protect their immigrants while low-spending GOP ones did not.

“It does just kind of stare you in the face,” Mitchell said of the pattern.

The actual population count from the 2020 census for Arizona was 3.3% short of what previous population estimates had shown. Florida and Texas were short by 0.7% and 0.5%, respectively.

On the flipside, the population counts in two states that had been expected to lose seats, Alabama and Rhode Island, exceeded their estimates by 2% or more.

During this census cycle, Rhode Island for the first time devoted \$1.5 million in public and private money on census outreach efforts. That, along with the fact that Rhode Island hosted the only test run of the census in 2018, helped keep the head count in the public eye, said John Marion, executive director of Common Cause Rhode Island.

“There was this constant drumbeat that we could lose our second seat,” Marion said.


If New York had counted 89 more residents, and all other states stayed the same, the state would have kept its seat. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday said the state was exploring its legal options.

“Because when you’re talking about 89, that could be a minor mistake in counting,” Cuomo said.

The narrow margins by which New York narrowly lost a seat, Alabama and Rhode Island hung onto theirs and the three Sun Belt states underperformed have aroused suspicions that something “doesn’t seem quite right,” said Arturo Vargas, CEO of NALEO Educational Fund, a Hispanic advocacy group.

“I smell smoke,” Vargas said. “We will have to wait a few months to see what kind of fire there is.”

ONE Source Limitless Visual Possibilities



**From Monument Signs, Vehicle Graphics to
Dimensional Letters & Logoslook to
image360 Schenectady.**








image360
Graphics > Signage > Displays
Schenectady

image360.com/schenectadyny | 518-395-3121
info@image360schenectady.com

Public Notice

NYSEG has filed tariff revisions November 25, 2020 with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) for new electricity and natural gas delivery rates to become effective May 1, 2021. These tariff revisions cover the second annual delivery rate increase under the terms of a three-year rate plan approved by the PSC in November 2020 and they include a \$45.6 million increase in electricity revenue and a \$3.4 million increase in natural gas revenue.

A residential electricity customer with an average use of 600 kilowatt-hours/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$1.81. A residential natural gas heating customer using 80 therms/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$0.55.

Customers may see some charges prorated on a May or June bill to take into account energy delivered before and after the new electricity and natural gas delivery rates went into effect.

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Regular Residential Customers: The electricity delivery charge will increase 0.335 cents per kilowatt-hour. The per-therm natural gas delivery charge for the 4-to-50-therms block will decrease 0.837 cents per therm and 0.197 cents for the block rate over 50 therms. The electric customer charge will increase by \$0.94, and the natural gas customer charge will increase by \$1.00.

Day/Night and Time-of-Use Customers: The electricity delivery charge will increase 0.347 cents per kilowatt-hour for Service Class 8 and 0.107 cents per kilowatt-hour for Service Class 12. The Service Class 8 customer charge will increase by \$1.10, and the Service Class 12 customer charge will increase by \$1.49.

Additional information about changes in residential electricity and natural gas delivery charges is available at [nyseg.com](https://www.nyseg.com) (click on "For Suppliers and Partners, then on "Pricing and Tariffs" and then on "PSC Filings").

NONRESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Information about changes in nonresidential electricity customer charges, electricity demand and energy charges (where applicable), natural gas minimum charges and natural gas therm charges is available at [nyseg.com](https://www.nyseg.com).

Changes are also in effect for standby, street lighting and economic development rates. Please check page 2 of your bill for bill messages and [nyseg.com](https://www.nyseg.com) for detailed information.

Regarding energy supply: If you purchase energy supply from NYSEG, your price will continue to be based on market prices; if you purchase your energy supply from a supplier other than NYSEG (also known as an energy services company or ESCO), what you pay for energy supply depends on your agreement with your ESCO.