

STATE OF NEW YORK  
NIAGARA COUNTY, } SS, \_\_\_\_\_

John Brundo of said county, being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is now and during the whole time hereinafter mentioned was the Clerk of

Lockport Union-Sun & Journal – Rate Notice 2019 NYSEG

A newspaper published in the County and State aforesaid, and that the annexed printed display ad was printed and published in said paper on the following dates:

June 5, 12, 19, 26th

Jed Brink 6/27/19  
Principal Clerk

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

6-27-19

## Notary Public

**Expiration Date**

TERESA L MCCARTHY  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF NEW YORK  
Registration No. 01MC4962698  
Qualified in Niagara County  
Commission Expires February 26, 2022



Dr. Richard Goldstein, chief medical officer at the Animal Medical Center, checks on one of his patients at the hospital's clinic in New York in May 2016. When asked his feeling about declawing cats, Goldstein said that veterinarians don't like the procedure but it's better than the alternatives of housing the cat in a shelter or putting it to death.

### CATS...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

professionals," the society said in a memo opposing the legislation.

Under the bill, which easily passed the Democrat-led Senate and Assembly, veterinarians could still perform the procedure for medical reasons, such as infection or injury.

Veterinarian Michelle Brownstein stopped performing declawing operations in 2006 after she left her Rochester-area animal hospital when she said she became convinced the procedure leaves cats with lifelong problems. Some

declawed cats exhibit behavioral issues, she said, while others scratch with chronic pain at the amputation site.

"The end result is a barbaric procedure that results in the mutilation of the animal," she said. "Frankly, if you're worried about your furniture, then you shouldn't be getting a cat."

Now, when a cat owner asks about the procedure, Brownstein said she discusses alternatives, such as raising the furniture, scratching posts or covering plastic bags that can be placed over a cat's nails.

There was little vocal opposition in the Senate, which passed the bill 50-12, or in the Assembly, where

the non-voting vote was 30-0. But some lawmakers spoke out against the measure, saying declawing cases in which cat scratches could pose a hazard to owners with weakened immune systems or other medical issues.

Opponents also said they worried that more cats might be given up for adoption or euthanized because the owners' would no longer be able to get them declawed.

"It don't think government should be involved. I think we should leave it to the vets and the owners," said Sen. Robert Antonacci, R-Syracuse.



The fishing dock at Joseph Davis State Park in Lewiston is closed to the public amid Lake Ontario's high water level. The International Joint Commission announced Monday that lake levels have now exceeded the record set in 2017.

### LAKE...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

... as well as to invest in our community."

Norris said he supports Cuomo's creation of the Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development

Initiative commission, which the governor says will develop a plan for "hardening" the lake's shoreline and "strengthening" the communities of lakeshore communities.

"Further, I would like to see both the state and federal governments make

a substantial and smart investment to protect property along the lake's south shore," Norris said. "I have a list of recommended projects, such as building a seawall in Olcott, that would better protect New Yorkers in the long-term."

### LICENSE...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Party, Nick Langworthy of Erie County visited the state house Monday to criticize the measure to castigate Gov. Andrew Cuomo and others who support it.

Langworthy said if the legislation becomes law, "it is going to make New York a haven for people coming here illegally."

The bill's sponsors argue that New York roads will be safer if those now driving illegally could acquire licenses and automobile insurance, suggesting that option will increase the incentive for motorists who cause crashes to flee the scene of the accident.

Among the senators who have signaled their opposition to the measure are Jim Seward, R-Milford, Betty Little, R-Queensbury, and Rob Orr, R-North Tonawanda.

The proposal drew the surprise endorsement last week of the Business Council of New York State, an advocacy group that typically speaks out against measures that have the potential to increase taxes.

Langworthy jabbed the council as one of Cuomo's "puppets," and repeated a dig landed recently by Orr, who called the organization the "Business As Usual Council."

Some clerks, among them

immigrants to get licenses, Spitzer withdrew the proposal after it was assailed by many of his fellow Democrats.

Voters show more reluctance to get a license if the question is put to them, he said. "I think it's issued unless the applicant passes a road test and has presented identification approved by the state,

said Abdullah Younus, director of political engagement for the New York Immigration Coalition.

"This is about giving people the ability to drive safely on our roads," Younus said.

Also backing the legislation is 1199SEIU, a large healthcare workers union headquartered in New York City.

A total of 12 states now allow immigrants to apply for licenses by using documents from other nations.

Langworthy's "involvement in this issue" was easily noted, he said. The legislation could become a wedge issue in New York's 2020 legislative races, Langworthy acknowledged that putting the Senate back under GOP control

is one of his highest priorities. Lawmakers who favor the measure "will be held accountable" by voters, the GOP congresswoman said.

The legislative session is slated to conclude June 19.

Joe Mahoney covers the New York Statehouse for CNHI's newspapers and websites. Reach him at [jmahoney@cnhi.com](mailto:jmahoney@cnhi.com).

### PUBLIC NOTICE

- PSC No. 90 - Gas - Schedule for Gas Service
- PSC No. 87 - Gas - Schedule for Gas Service
- PSC No. 88 - Gas - Schedule for Gas Transportation Service
- PSC No. 119 - Electricity - Schedule for Electric Service
- PSC No. 120 - Electricity - Schedule for Electric Service
- PSC No. 121 - Electricity - Schedule for Electric Service (Street Lighting)

On May 20, 2019, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) filed with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) a plan with testimony, exhibits and proposed delivery rate changes to the above referenced tariff schedules for service.

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The PSC may approve, modify or reject any or all of the proposed tariff changes. The complete NYSEG filing may be examined on the company's website ([nyseg.com](http://nyseg.com)), or the PSC website ([dps.ny.gov](http://dps.ny.gov)).

These cases are open and public. Individuals may provide comments directly to the Secretary of the PSC or offer comments at a public statement hearing hosted by the PSC (Reference Case Nos. 19-E-0378, 19-G-0379). As the case proceeds, documents pertaining to the case are posted on the PSC website.

# Court weighs whether climate change violates rights of children

PORLAND, Ore. (AP) — In a courtroom packed with environmental activists, federal judges wrestled Tuesday with whether climate change violates the constitutional rights of young people who have sued the U.S. government over the use of fossil fuels.

A Justice Department attorney warned three judges from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that allowing the case to go to trial would be unprecedented and open the doors to more lawsuits.

"This case would have earth-shattering consequences," Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Clark said.

He called the lawsuit a direct attack on the separation of powers.

"When our great-grandchildren look back on the 21st century, they will see that government-sanc-

tioned climate destruction was the constitutional issue of this century," Olson told the judges.

The lawsuit asks the courts to declare federal energy policy that contributes to climate change unconstitutional, order the government to quickly phase out carbon dioxide emissions to a certain level by 2100 and mandate a national climate recovery plan.

The Obama and Trump administrations have tried to get the case dismissed since it was filed in Oregon in 2015.

In this case, moves forward, the judiciary would be "dealing with different branches of government and telling them what to do," said Judge Andrew Hurwitz, instead of issuing court orders telling officials to stop doing something deemed unconstitutional.

The judges seemed to find the enormity of the case, which the plaintiffs' lawyers compared in scope to the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education ruling that mandated desegregation of schools in the 1950s.

"It's just really disappointing to see the lengths that they go to — not only let us get the remedy that we're seeking, but not even let us have the chance to prove our facts or present our case at trial," said Nathan Baring, a 19-year-old from Fairbanks, Alaska, who joined the lawsuit when he was 15.

Baring said a social media campaign in early days featured the hashtag #KidsVsGov, which is

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## Falls man pleads to child porn charges

**COURTS:** Randy Colucci faces up to 20 years in U.S. prison.

Randy Colucci, a Niagara Falls man convicted in the death of his 22-month-old daughter in 2010, pleaded guilty Monday to possessing child pornography involving a prepubescent minor.

Colucci's arrest follows two years of plea negotiations and investigation.

In April 2017, a Homeland Security agent, working undercover, discovered multiple videos and images of child pornography being shared on a peer-to-peer website. Investigators determined the address connected to the site, rated as one utilized by Colucci, 44, and executed a search warrant on Colucci's 22nd Street home the following June.

Officers recovered a laptop and hard drive containing images of children younger than 10 years old, to including children being subjected to violent sexual assault.

Colucci was arrested in April 2018 and faced off a \$15,000 signature bond, posted by his mother and sister.

Prosecutors had been failing a deadline to either indict Colucci or have the charges against him dismissed.

In an earlier court filing the Federal Public Defenders Office revealed that

"the government (had) provided an approved plea agreement" for Colucci, but the office did not reveal the proposed terms of the offer.

But after four adjournments to allow public defenders to meet with Colucci and review the evidence against him, and due to proposed plea agreement, prosecutors moved to indict him.

Last week, Colucci was indicted by a federal grand jury in Buffalo on multiple counts of receipt and possession of child pornography. As a result of his guilty plea, Colucci could face up to 20 years in federal prison and up to \$250,000 in fines.

Colucci was arrested from a residence that Colucci shared with his then-wife on March 21, 2010, after Carmen was discovered with her head lodged between a mattress and the top of a portable playpen. She died a week later from the injuries she suffered.

Detectors said that the investigation showed that Carmen was "put in a portable playpen with her 12-month-old brother, with a twin mattress on top of the playpen and a TV on top of the mattress to keep the children from getting out."

The Coluccis did not check on the two young children for 17 hours.

## Bloodhound gets credit for locating missing woman

**NIAGARA FALLS:**  
Police were led to city residence where woman was found chained in basement.

BY PHILIP GAMBINI  
philip.gambini@lockportjournal.com

**NIAGARA FALLS** — Authorities were aided by the public, a local social media outlet and an intrepid pet bloodhound in the hunt for Michael Ciskiewic.

 Michael Ciskiewic  
Efforts culminated with the capture of Ciskiewic by the U.S. Marshals Service on Monday night, just 48 hours after authorities say the suspect kidnapped and chained a female neighbor in the basement of his Monroe Avenue residence.

Ciskiewic, 25, was found in the overgrowth of a field at 24th Street and Allen Avenue, just off Buffalo Avenue, about 7:30 p.m. He is charged with first-degree kidnapping, first-degree burglary, first-degree rape, second-degree assault and second-degree manslaughter.

According to reports, Ciskiewic pleaded not guilty when he was arraigned Tuesday in Niagara Falls City Court. He is being held without bail on the charges.

Domini Saraceno, Ciskiewic's attorney, said his client was previously diagnosed with schizophrenia, according to WIVB-TV.

"The mental health community has left it up to police to deal with people who suffer from mental health," Saraceno said. "Quite frankly, police officers and prison guards aren't equipped to help people who suffer from mental health illness."

Saraceno would not say whether Ciskiewic was on any medication at the time of the incident.

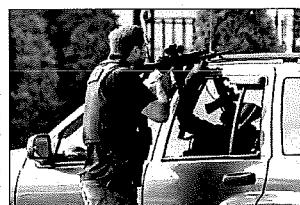
The investigation began after Niagara Falls Police were called to the 3000 block of Monroe Avenue at 1 a.m. Sunday over what was believed to be an assault. A caller told dispatchers that a man was assaulting a woman. Police Superintendent Thomas Licata said the incident was witnessed by a neighbor, who verbally confronted the suspect.

The neighbor, who was threatened by Ciskiewic, retreated to his house and was assaulting a woman. Police Superintendent Thomas Licata said the incident was witnessed by a neighbor, who verbally confronted the suspect.

The neighbor, who was threatened by Ciskiewic, retreated to his house and



A woman was transported to Erie County Medical Center on Sunday after she was found chained in the basement of a home on Monroe Avenue in Niagara Falls.



Heavily armed Niagara Falls police stood ready during Sunday's incident on Monroe Avenue. A police negotiator was brought in to try and speak with the kidnapper suspect as the day went on.

dialed 911, Licata said. By the time police arrived, the victim and the suspect were gone.

Left behind was a splash of blood. Floodlights were set up and investigators swabbed samples as evidence. The scene attracted the attention of residents in person and on social media, Licata said.

Word got back to the victim's family that the activity was taking place near their relative's home, in part due to the scene being posted to The Action Niagara Falls, a Facebook-based news outlet operated by Samar Hamilton

that typically responds to emergency situations in the region, according to the post.

Booth was through their prep. The negotiator cleared his nose on a quick walkabout. Booth attached Flash's harness to the

Police presumed the victim and suspect could have been picked up or otherwise left in a vehicle, Licata said, but decided to call in the assistance of a bloodhound belonging to a member of the animal control unit and crisis negotiations team.

Booth, 34, and his 2-year-old bloodhound, Flash, had learned their

skills to smaller-stakes investigations in the past and jumped at the opportunity to assist in the matter, Booth said Monday. The dog is not an official member of the force, but is certified through the American Mantrailing, Police and Dog Work Association.

At the scene, Flash and Booth were through their prep. The negotiator cleared his nose on a quick walkabout. Booth attached Flash's harness to the

small splash that was first noticed to another nearby alleyway, where the trail appeared to end.

Local authorities subsequently reassembled at the crime scene, discovering periodic blood splatters stretching from the small splash that was first noticed to another nearby alleyway, where the trail appeared to end.

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CONTRIBUTED

The vehicle that crashed into a tree at 326 Chapel St. on April 18.

## Driver in April crash hit with DWI charges

A city resident is facing drunken / drugged driving charges in connection with an April car crash on Chapel Street.

On Monday, Ross A. Provenzano, 21, 11 Dayton St., was charged with first-degree driving while intoxicated, first-degree operating a motor vehicle while impaired, driving recklessly, driving without a license, driving at an imprudent speed and failure to keep right.

According to Lockport Police Department, on April 18 — his birthday — an intoxicated

Provenzano lost control of his vehicle at Chapel and Mill streets and struck a tree after his vehicle left the roadway. Provenzano's front-seat passenger, a Ransomville woman, was ejected from the vehicle.

She and Provenzano both were transported to Erie County Medical Center for treatment of injuries.

LPD received the results of chemical testing of Provenzano's blood on Monday and levied the charges. Provenzano turned himself in at police headquarters and was released on recognizance.

## No help in Cataract City shooting probe

**POLICE:** June 8 shootout info may be referred to FBI's Safe Streets Task Force.

BY PHILIP GAMBINI  
philip.gambini@lockportjournal.com

shootout outside Players Sports Bar early on June 8. Rizzo described shooters "using parked cars for cover" and firing multiple rounds.

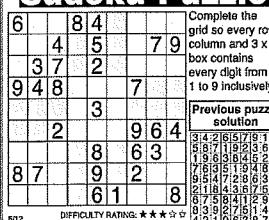
Rizzo said Tuesday that there has been no further cooperation from anybody involved in the call.

Licata said he is disappointed by the lack of assistance from the public.

"There was lot of people," he said. "Some people had to have seen or know someone who was involved."

Individuals with information about the shooting are asked to call the main line at Niagara Falls Police Department, (716) 286-4711, or the anonymous tip line at (716) 286-4581.

### UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle



Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★ ★ ★ ○ ○

6/12

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# LOCAL

NEWS FROM NEARBY

## GOT A STORY YOU WANT TO SEE?

WHIC: Regional News Editor  
Mark Scheer  
MAIL: 135 Main St., Lockport, NY 14094  
PHONE: 716-439-2231, ext. 2250  
FAX: 439-5249  
E-MAIL: markscheer@lockportjournal.com



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## LOTTERY NUMBERS

MONDAY'S PICKS

53-15-  
EVERY: NUMBERS, 8-0-3; WIN  
4, 6-6-9-1

TAKES: 5-0-0-18-35-38;  
PICK 10: 02-03-04-09-19-21-22-30-  
31-32-33-34-43-44-49-52-67-69

74-75;  
CASH/LIFE: 31-35-45-46-59, Cash  
Ball 4.

## IN BRIEF

### Royalton ZBA meeting canceled

The June meeting of the Royalton Zoning Board of Appeals, previously set for June 18 and 24, has been canceled due to lack of new business, according to the Royalton Town Clerk's office.

### MDA 'Boot' campaign raised \$8,300 in city

Members of the Lockport firefighters union, IAFF Local 693, raised \$8,301 from community members during the recent, 65th annual MDA Fill the Boot campaign. The money goes to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, which helps children and adults with muscular dystrophy, ALS and other muscle-dystrophies diseases. MDA helps fund research and life-enhancing programs from support groups and care centers to summer camps.

### JFG CreateAthon beneficiaries named

Lockport CARRS and Lockport United Way of the Niagara Frontier selected organizations that will be treated to a free creative marketing blitz by J. Fitzgerald Group in July.

JFG, headquartered on West Main Street, hosts the only CreateAthon event in the Western New York region. CreateAthon is a 24-hour event during which marketing professionals devise full advertising/marketing campaigns — via brochures, digital and print advertisements, posters, TV and radio scripts, billboards, social media templates and other pieces — for selected nonprofits. The recipients of this year's CreateAthon are focused on helping underserved and underprivileged children.

The other selected organizations are: The Teacher's Desk, a Buffalo-based educational supply store that offers classroom items and materials to teachers; the Buffalo and Erie County Lakeshore Justice Center, based in South Dakota and advocating on behalf of children who have suffered severe physical or sexual abuse; and Families of FANA of WNY, a group that provides support for American families wishing to adopt children from Bogota, Columbia-based Foundation for the Assistance of Abandoned Children.

### Geriatric center at DeGraff closing

NORTH TONAWANDA — The Western New York Geriatric Center inside DeGraff Memorial Hospital will be shut down this summer. The center, which specializes in the

treatment of patients age 70 and older, confirmed Tuesday that it will cease operations effective Aug. 15.

Kaleda Health, which operates DeGraff, did not return requests for comment on the reason for the closure or the numbers of affected employees and patients. A patient of the center, Virginia Kempf, wrote a letter to the editor expressing her concern about the closure. She receives primary health care services there.

"I have come to rely on them and again for a variety of health concerns," Kempf said. "I am faced with the loss of caregivers who provide quality care and concern."

Patients of the center have also expressed frustration about the closure on Facebook. One woman posted her concern that "many seniors will have to find a new doctor," to the The Public NT Facebook Page.

### Northern border reinforcements sought

The co-chairs of the U.S.-North Border Caucus, Rep. Brian Higgins (D-Buffalo) and Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-Schuylerville) are calling for the addition of 1,200 new Customs and Border Protection officers along the northern border.

The request is contained in a letter sent by Higgins and Stefanik to House Appropriations leaders supporting the addition of 1,846 new positions within CBP, including the 1,200 new officers.

CBP employs almost 45,000 law enforcement personnel across three divisions that cover U.S. ports, borders, air, maritime and overseas operations. In their letter, the Northern Border Caucus members charge "current staffing levels fail to address the growing demands of travel and trade at our ports of entry."

Members of the bipartisan caucus have already opposed plans by the Department of Homeland Security recently to reassign 1,000 CBP officers currently stationed along the northern border and U.S. airports, to posts at the southern border.

The House Appropriations Committee 2020 Homeland Security funding bill includes \$151 million to fill 1,846 new CBP positions including \$81 million specifically for CBP officers. It represents a significant increase over the 297 new CBP positions proposed in the White House 2020 budget.

The northern border, 5,985 miles, is the longest international land boundary in the world. Approximately 400,000 people and more than \$1.6 billion in goods cross the northern border daily through more than 120 ports of entry.

## LOCKPORT Union-Sun & Journal

WWW.LOCKPORTJOURNAL.COM

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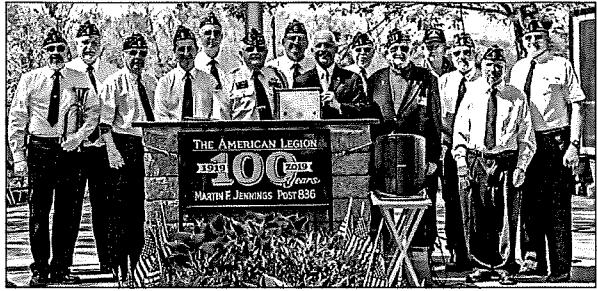
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## MILESTONE



CONTRIBUTED

On behalf of Martin F. Jennings Post 836, American Legion, Commander Gary S. Pettit receives a 100-year certificate of recognition from Niagara County Clerk Joe Jastrzemski at Greenwood Veterans Memorial Park, in Wilson, on Memorial Day.

## POLICE REPORTS

### NT man gets 3 1/2 years for slashing dad

Cory J. Ochterski of North Tonawanda was sentenced Monday to 3 1/2 years in prison for stabbing his father in the eye in Pendleton on June 13, 2018.

Cory Ochterski, 41, attacked his father, Dennis Ochterski, while riding in the elder man's car on Creek Road. Cory Ochterski fled on foot after the attack, while Dennis Ochterski drove himself to DeGraff Memorial Hospital.

The request is contained in a letter sent by Higgins and Stefanik to House Appropriations leaders supporting the addition of 1,846 new positions within CBP, including the 1,200 new officers.

Cory Ochterski said he was under the influence of alcohol when he attacked his father. Dennis Ochterski said that he and strained relationships, including with his father, contributed to his state of mind before he faced his father with his knife.

The walls were closing in on the day of his event," Cory Ochterski said.

Niagara County Judge Matthew J. Murphy III, who noted the irony in sentencing taking place after Father's Day, also ordered Cory Ochterski to have no further contact with his father.

City of Lockport

UNLICENSED: Scott A. Willis, 60, 193 Washburn St., apt. 1, was charged with seventh-degree aggravated unlicensed

motor vehicle operation and equipment violation June 17, after a 5:15 p.m. traffic stop on South Transit Street.

Willis' driver's license is suspended, according to the Lockport Police Department. Willis got a ticket.

ENDANGERMENT: Julia E. Reeb, 16, 401 Walnut St., lower, was charged with second-degree reckless endangerment and reckless driving June 16. Reeb was driving her car toward the sidewalk on Olentz Street, where people were standing. Reeb got a ticket.

IMPERSONATION: Brandon L. Oliver, 26, 152 College St., apt. 5, was charged with second-degree harassment and fourth-degree criminal mischief.

On June 14, after a 4:45 a.m. traffic stop on Beattie Avenue, Oliver was charged with second-degree assault with intent to cause physical injury June 16. Buddenbogen is accused of striking a woman at an East Avenue residence, according to LPD. Buddenbogen was kept in custody pending a court appearance.

DWI: Jerome M. Kimmons, 39, 411 Washburn St., was charged with driving while intoxicated, driving alcohol to a motor vehicle on the highway and refusing a breath test. Kimmons was fined \$200 and given a 12-month probation.

POSSESSION: Christina L. Harris, 45, 375 Michigan St., was charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance

of seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, two counts of possession of a controlled substance in a non-original container, one count of fourth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and operating a vehicle with suspended registration June 17, after a 5:15 p.m. incident on South Transit Street, according to New York State Police. Harris got a ticket.

ASSAULT: Alexander T. Wolfe, 25, 67 Ontario St., Lockport, was charged with driving while intoxicated June 15, after a 1 a.m. traffic stop on Beattie Avenue. In breath testing, Wolfe's blood alcohol content was .18%, according to the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. Wolfe was detained for \$250 police bail.

UNLICENSED: Diane L. Johnson, 55, 3 O'Connell Island, Wilson, was charged with third-degree aggravated unlicensed motor vehicle operation June 14, after a 2 a.m. traffic stop on Old Niagara Road. Johnson's driver's license is suspended, according to the sheriff's office.

Town of Lockport

POSSSESSION: Tajah R. Harris, 24, of Lockport, was charged with four counts of

strawberries!

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PSC No. 90 — Gas — Schedule for Gas Service

PSC No. 87 — Gas — Schedule for Gas Service

PSC No. 88 — Gas — Schedule for Gas Transportation Service

PSC No. 119 — Electricity — Schedule for Electric Service

PSC No. 120 — Electricity — Schedule for Electric Service

PSC No. 121 — Electricity — Schedule for Electric Service (Street Lighting)

On May 20, 2019, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) filed with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) a plan with testimony, exhibits and proposed delivery rate changes to the above referenced tariff schedules for service.

The changes contained in that filing would increase annual delivery revenues by approximately \$156.7 million (20.4% Delivery/10.4% Total) from NYSEG's electric operations and by approximately \$6.2 million (3.0% Delivery/1.4% Total) from the company's natural gas operations, to become effective April 2020.

The PSC may approve, modify or reject any or all of the proposed tariff changes. The complete NYSEG filing may be examined on the company's website (nyseg.com), or the PSC website (dps.ny.gov).

These cases are open and public. Individuals may provide comments directly to the Secretary of the PSC or offer comments at a public statement hearing hosted by the PSC (Reference Case Nos. 19-E-0378, 19-G-0379). As the case proceeds, documents pertaining to the case are posted on the PSC website.

# David Bellavia receives highest military honor

BY KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday awarded the nation's highest military honor to an Iraq War veteran who took on an insurgent stronghold and allowed members of his platoon to move to safety during heavy fighting in Fallujah.

The president presented the Medal of Honor to former Army Staff Sgt. David G. Bellavia of Lyndonne, New York. He is the first living Iraq War veteran to receive the honor.

Bellavia was leading a squad in support of Operation Phantom Fury in Fallujah in November 2004. The White House said that after Bellavia helped his platoon escape fire, he entered a house and killed at least four insurgents who were firing rocket-propelled grenades.

Bellavia, who left the Army in 2009, has been awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross.

During the ceremony, Trump recounted the events



ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump awards the Medal of Honor to Army Staff Sgt. David Bellavia in the East Room of the White House on Tuesday, for conspicuous gallantry while serving in support of Operation Phantom Fury in Fallujah, Iraq.

that led to Bellavia's recognition. Trump said his squad house, insurgents opened suppressive fire, while his

was tasked with clearing fire, wounding multiple

own life. Only when his men were all out did David exit the building. But the fighting was far from over.

Trump said Bellavia reentered the building, killing four and seriously wounding a fifth.

"Bleeding and badly wounded, David single-handedly defeated the forces who had attacked his unit and would have killed them all had it not been for the bravery of David," Trump said.

Bellavia ran for Congress in 2018 but lost to Chris Collins in the Republican primary, and was voted out as a potential successor to Collins when Collins temporarily suspended his reelection campaign last summer after being indicted on insider trading charges. Bellavia's name is in play again as Collins, whose trial is pending, considers whether to run in 2020.

This is the ninth Medal of Honor that Trump has presented. The honor goes to members of the Armed Forces who distinguish themselves by gallantry above and beyond the call of duty.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

An inflatable Baby Trump balloon towers over protesters during a rally June 18 in Orlando, Fla. A large group was protesting against President Donald Trump near where Trump was announcing his re-election campaign.

## 'Baby Trump' blimp now a world traveler

BY KEVIN FREKING AND MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — He was born in a London pub and now his clones are floating all over the U.S. — quite literally.

President Donald Trump is increasingly being called and trailed by an angry diaper-clad caricature armed with a cell phone. He's Baby Trump, the blimp who has become synonymous with resistance to the American president.

The origins story for Baby Trump began ahead of the president's visit to London last week. A group of activists gathered at a local pub to brainstorm ideas for a protest statement sure to get under Trump's skin.

They succeeded beyond their wildest expectations, with a 20-foot blimp that flew near Parliament during the protests surrounding Trump's first visit to the United Kingdom and made a return appearance this summer with the president for a state visit.

Their mission: exposing Trump "for what he is — an incredibly dangerous man-child," says organizer Kevin Smith.

Now, the Trump baby (cloned multiples times over) has become a world traveler and something of a celebrity for opponents of the president. He's also emerged as a rallying point for some supporters of the president, who see the blimp as a reflection of just how over-the-top the opposition has become.

Baby Trump is booked for an upcoming appearance near the National Mall on July 4, when the president is due to speak at an Independence Day event. He went west for the Los Angeles women's march in January; he's been to the U.S.-Mexico border in support of migrants; he made his way to Orlando, Florida, this week to participate in the president's 2019 campaign kickoff rally; and he's something of a regular outside Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort, when the president visits Palm Beach County. The original (currently in a suitcase in the U.K.) has flown in Scotland, Ireland, France and Argentina.

The orange blimp depicting the president features yellow hair, a snarling face and outstretched arms, one of them equipped with a cell phone for tweeting. When he first declined to comment on the phenomenon, went out of his way to keep Trump from coming into contact with the blimp during his visit to the U.K. earlier this month, when Trump moved around mostly by helicopter to avoid protesters.

Many of the president's supporters don't find the blimp even a bit funny. Invenio Mire, 21, wanted in a black-shirted line to hear the blimp in Orlando last week, called it disrespectful. "I should not be like that," Mire said. "You should respect the president, no matter what."

People are using "Trump Baby" as a means of trolling Trump, Smith said. "We're good with that."

In New Jersey, Girvan's group, People's Motorcycles Inc., allows applicants to "adopt" a Baby Trump for protests and other events. Some Babes are lonely and in need of good pals and will show them off," said the group's website.

Applicants pay for the costs of permits, transportation and set-up, and it's not cheap.

Mark Offerman, "adoptive parent" of the Baby Trump in Florida, said it requires about \$1,500 worth of tools to inflate it. Cold air can be used instead to cut costs, but the image may not be as dramatic as when Baby Trump takes flight.

## SpaceX launches hefty rocket with 24 satellites, experiments

BY MARIA DUNN

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX launched its heaviest rocket with 24 research satellites Tuesday, a middle-of-the-night ride-share featuring a deep space atomic clock, solar sail, a clean and green rocket fuel testbed, and even human ashes.

It was the third flight of a Falcon Heavy rocket, but the first orbited by the military.

The Defense Department mission is expected to provide data to certify the Falcon Heavy — and reused boosters — for future national security launches. It marked the military's first ride on a recycled rocket.

Both side boosters landed back at Cape Canaveral minutes after lift-off, just as they did after launching in April. But the nose cone remained on an ocean platform, not unexpected for this especially difficult mission, SpaceX noted.

"It was a long shot," tweeted SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk.

SpaceX did manage for

the first time to catch the fairing, or nose cone, in a giant net on an offshore boat. The California-based company is trying to recover and reuse as many rocket parts as possible — rather than letting the pieces sink in the ocean — to drive down launch costs.

SpaceX signed up for a spot on this Falcon Heavy, along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Research, the Planetary Society and Celestis Inc., which offers memorial flights into space.

An astronaut who flew on NASA's first space station back in the 1970s, Skylab's Bill Pogue, had a bit of his ashes on board, along with more than 150 other deceased people.

Pogue died in 2014.

Musk said it was "our

team's first rocket launch

from the pad."

It will be released next week from its temporary perch on a spacecraft and opened a week later.

"Our LightSail 2 is up and on its way," tweeted Bill Nye, the society's chief executive officer.

It's the society's third

crack at solar sailing. The first was lost in a Russian rocket failure in 2005,

while the second had a

successful test flight in 2015.

The Air Force Research

Laboratory had space

weather experiments

aboard, while NOAA had

six small atmospheric

experimental satellites for

weather forecasting.

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