

\*\*\* Proof of Publication \*\*\*

State of New York  
Cayuga County, City of Auburn

Jennifer N. Cooper of the City of Auburn, in Cayuga County, being  
duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she is the Classified Associate of Lee Publications, Inc.,  
publishers of The Citizen, public newspapers printed and published  
daily and weekly, respectively, in the City of Auburn, Cayuga County,  
State of New York, and duly authorized to make this affidavit, and  
regarding

Public Notice of Rate Change

of which annexed is a printed copy, was published in said paper  
4 time(s) namely on the PUBLISHED ON date(s) listed below.

ROCHESTER GAS & ELECTRIC  
C/O: SMITH MARKETING SVCS, LLC  
3 BURGETT DRIVE  
HOMER NY 13077

ORDER NUMBER 68732

Signed [Signature]

Sworn to before me, this 26 day of April, 2022.

[Signature]  
Notary Public

DRIAN J. CUMMCHAN  
Notary Public - State of New York  
No. 01CO6133976  
Qualified in Saratoga County  
My Commission Expires September 19, 2025

Section: Main  
Category: Retail - Default  
PUBLISHED ON: 04/05/2022

FILED ON: 4/26/2022

Copy of affidavit is attached.

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Notary Public - State of New York  
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Signed *M. C. C.*

Sworn to before me, this 26 day of April, 2022

*[Signature]*  
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Copy of affidavit is attached.

ELECTIONS 2022

# Area Dem drops out of NY22 race, joins NY24

**ROBERT HARDING**  
robert.harding@lee.net

Instead of continuing in a crowded primary, one Syracuse-area Democrat is dropping out of one race for Congress to become the party's designee in a neighboring district.

Steven Holden, of Camillus, told The Citizen Monday he is now running in the 24th Congressional District, a 14-county district that stretches from the Buffalo area to the North Country. All or parts of eight towns in Cayuga County are part of the 24th.

Holden launched his congressional campaign in June 2021 with the goal of unseating U.S. Rep. John Katko, a four-term Republican congressman. At the time, the district was comprised of Cayuga,

Onondaga and Wayne counties, plus western Oswego County.

Two other Democrats — Francis Conole and Sarah Klee Hood — entered the race last year. But there was increased interest after the state Legislature redrew New York's congressional districts and created a Democratic-friendly district, the 22nd. The new district covers all of Onondaga and Tompkins counties, along with parts of Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Ontario, Schuyler and Seneca counties. Democrats outnumber Republicans by 50,000 voters.

With the new district lines, four more Democrats — Vanessa Fajans-Turner, Chol Majok, Josh Riley and Sam Roberts — announced their candidacies, creating the possibility of a seven-way June

28 primary election. To qualify for the primary, candidates must collect 1,250 valid signatures. Petitions must be filed this week.

As Holden circulated petitions, he was asked by Democrats in Ontario County if he would run in the neighboring 24th district. The party had difficulty finding a candidate to run in the new district, where Republicans have a 75,000-voter advantage.

"My candidate profile works better in that district," he said, noting his rural background — he grew up on a dairy farm in Oklahoma — and his U.S. Army service give him "crossover appeal." The North Country portion of the district includes Fort Drum, home of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Democratic leaders have coalesced behind Holden in the 24th district. He was told Sunday night that the party agreed to make him the candidate.

He won't need to circulate petitions in the new district. Democrats collected signatures for a placeholder candidate and will file those petitions this week. When the placeholder declines the nomination, the party will formally select Holden to fill the vacancy on the ballot.

Despite the registration numbers that favor Republicans, Holden thinks it's a winnable race for a Democrat, in part, because there is a Republican "civil war" in the district.

U.S. Rep. Chris Jacobs, a Republican, is the incumbent in the

redrawn district. But three other Republicans — Mario Fratto, Andrew McCarthy and John Murtari — are challenging him for the nomination.

"We think we can pull this one out, even if it's a red district," Holden said. "It's happened before and it can surely happen again with the right type of person. I can do that."

Holden does not live in the 24th district — members of Congress are not required to live in the districts they represent. But if he wins the election, he is considering a move to Oswego County.

Politics reporter Robert Harding can be reached at (315) 282-2220 or robert.harding@lee.net. Follow him on Twitter @robertharding.

ELECTIONS 2022

# GOP primary likely in race to succeed Katko

**ROBERT HARDING**  
robert.harding@lee.net

Two Republicans have filed petitions to qualify for the June 28 primary election, setting the stage for a fight to succeed retiring U.S. Rep. John Katko as the GOP nominee for Congress.

Mike Sigler, a Tompkins County legislator, said Monday that he submitted more than five times the 1,250 signatures required to be eligible for the ballot.

Sigler, who was endorsed by seven of the eight Republican party organizations in the 22nd Congressional District, thanked

the volunteers who circulated petitions on behalf of his campaign. His supporters collected signatures from voters in every city and town in the district, which includes all of Onondaga and Tompkins counties, plus parts of Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Ontario, Schuyler and Seneca counties.

"Without these committees, I wouldn't be in this race," he said. "They want to retain this seat and believe I'm the person to do that."

Brandon Williams, a former U.S. Navy nuclear submarine officer who co-founded a software

company, told The Citizen that he submitted about 2,500 signatures, twice the minimum number required to be eligible for the primary ballot.

Williams, a Sennett resident, already has the state Conservative Party's endorsement, which guarantees him a ballot line for the general election in November. But a win in the GOP primary would unite the two lines. Republican congressional candidates typically run with the Conservative Party's support.

"I am so very proud of the enthusiastic supporters who have

rallied around my message and campaign to add my name on the Republican line of the primary ballot," Williams said. "As a political outsider and Navy veteran, my supporters are excited about a fresh perspective during these difficult times. I am humbled by their gratitude and encouragement to stand up for our rights and to fight against the destructive agenda of the hard left."

Barring any petition challenges, Sigler and Williams will appear on the June 28 primary ballot. The winner of the primary will be the GOP nominee in the

22nd district.

Republicans face an uphill battle in the newly drawn district, where Democrats outnumber Republicans by 50,000 voters. There are six Democratic candidates in the race.

The winner of the general election will succeed Katko, a Republican who announced in January that he will not seek reelection this year.

Politics reporter Robert Harding can be reached at (315) 282-2220 or robert.harding@lee.net. Follow him on Twitter @robertharding.

POLITICS

# Ruling against redistricting temporarily on hold

**MICHAEL HILL**  
Associated Press

ALBANY — A trial court ruling that declared New York's new congressional and legislative district maps unconstitutional was temporarily stayed Monday as lawyers prepared to argue before an appeals court.

The interim order from state Appellate Division Justice Stephen K. Lindley comes four days after a lower court judge threw the state's primary season in turmoil by ruling the state's districts were illegally gerrymandered to benefit Democrats. The temporary stay allows the state to keep on track for

June 28 primary elections.

The appeals court stay is expected to be in effect until Thursday, when oral arguments on whether to continue it are scheduled. A decision is expected later that day.

The legal challenge in New York is among a series of disputes over redistricting playing out around the country and could affect House Democrats' efforts to maintain their majority.

The disputed New York maps would give Democrats a strong majority of registered voters in 22 of the 26 congressional districts the state will have in 2023.

Republicans, who now hold eight of New York's 27 seats in Congress, would only have an advantage in the remaining four districts.

Judge Patrick McAllister's ruling on Thursday had given state officials until April 11 to submit new maps — even as candidates have begun running races based in the disputed boundaries. The decision, if upheld on appeal, could delay New York's June 28 primary elections into August.

Gov. Kathy Hochul and her fellow Democrats in charge of the Legislature promptly appealed that decision.

The mid-level appeals court in Rochester was expected to handle the case quickly, with a decision possible this month.

"We just hope the court's going to move in an expedited fashion so that we can get this thing finally determined," said George Winner, an attorney for the plaintiffs.

New York's primary timetable was being maintained in light of the court-ordered stay. The state Board of Elections posted on its website that petitions from candidates for Congress and the Legislature are still due this week, as scheduled.

# Deaths

From A1

while Onondaga (71.9%) has the highest.

With the approval of a second booster, Cayuga County has started to offer those shots at its vaccination clinics. The health department is also continuing its year-long effort to vaccinate more residents. The vaccines are offered to all eligible residents ages 5 and older and clinics are regularly held at either Fingerlakes Mall or another location within the county. In addition to the vac-

cine, Cuddy reminded residents that there are other actions they can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Mask-wearing is one option. She acknowledged there has been opposition to masks, but noted the science backs up the effectiveness of face coverings. She also advised residents to stay home when they are sick and to take a COVID test if they have symptoms.

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**The Citizen.**

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Vacation holds up to 30 days will continue to bill at regular rate while full digital access is maintained. Extended vacations of 31 days or more will not incur charges and all subscription benefits will suspend. A vacation pack (newspapers held and delivered upon return) of 14 days may be requested and will continue to bill at regular rate.

We reserve the right to change your membership rate at any time. If you are not satisfied with your membership rate or service, you may cancel your membership at any time, and receive a refund for any amounts you have prepaid beyond the date you cancel your membership.

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**WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH ADDITIONAL PREMIUM EDITIONS. IF ADDITIONAL PREMIUM EDITIONS BEYOND THOSE INCLUDED IN THE MEMBERSHIP RATE ARE PUBLISHED, THEY WILL BE CHARGED AT A RATE OF UP TO \$5.00 EACH IN ADDITION TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP RATE. THESE CHARGES WILL BE REFLECTED IN YOUR ACCOUNT AND MAY ACCELERATE THE DATE WHEN YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWS.**

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**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, 2022. These tariff revisions cover the third annual delivery rate increase under the terms of a three-year rate plan approved by the PSC in November 2020 and they include a \$36.0 million increase in electricity revenue and a \$5.3 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 \$2.42. A residential natural gas heating customer using 80 therms/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$1.20.

Customers may see some charges prorated on your 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 0.245 cents per kilowatt-hour. The per-therm natural gas delivery charge for the 4-to-50-therms block will increase 0.368 cents per therm and 0.086 cents for the block rate over 50 therms. The electric customer charge will increase by \$0.95, and the natural gas customer charge will increase by \$1.00.

Day/Night and Time-of-Use Customers: The electricity delivery charge will increase 0.281 cents per kilowatt-hour for Service Class 8 and 0.072 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 \$1.55.

Additional information about changes in residential electricity and natural gas delivery charges is available at [nyseg.com](http://nyseg.com) (click on the Account tab and select "Electric Pricing" or "Natural Gas Pricing" in the "Understand Your Bill" column).

**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](http://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](http://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), your energy supply price depends on your agreement with your ESCO.

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A residential electricity customer with an average use of 600 kilowatt-hours/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$2.26. A residential natural gas heating customer using 80 therms/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$0.83.

Customers may see some charges prorated on your 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 energy charge for delivery increased by 0.331 cents per kilowatt-hour. Decreases to the natural gas block rates are: 4 to 100 therms: 0.222 cents per therm; 101 to 500: 0.207 cents; 501 to 1,000: 0.185 cents; 1,001 to 30,000: 0.079 cents. The electric customer charge will increase by \$0.30, and the natural gas customer charge will increase by \$1.00.

Residential Time-of-Use Customers: The electricity energy charge for delivery for Service Classification 4 (Schedule I) increased by 0.084 cents per kilowatt-hour and Service Classification 4 (Schedule II) increased by 0.092 cents per kilowatt-hour. The Service Class 4 (Schedule I) customer charge will increase by \$0.30, and the Service Class 4 (Schedule II) customer charge will increase by \$0.45.

Additional information about changes in residential electricity and natural gas delivery charges is available at [rge.com](http://rge.com) (click on the Account tab and select "Pricing" in the "Understand Your Bill" column).

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NEW YORK STATE

# Arbitrator clears officers who pushed Buffalo protester

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUFFALO — An arbitrator has ruled that two Buffalo police officers didn't violate the department's use-of-force guidelines when they pushed a 75-year-old protester to the ground in June 2020 during racial injustice protests following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The episode drew national attention when a news crew captured video of Martin Gugino being shoved by officers Robert McCabe and Aaron Torgalski in downtown Buffalo, as crowd control officers in riot gear cleared demonstrators for an 8 p.m. curfew.

Gugino, pushed backward, started bleeding after hitting his head on the pavement and spent about a month in the hospital with a fractured skull and brain injury.

In a decision Friday, arbitrator Jeffrey Selchick wrote, "Upon review, there is no evidence to sustain any claim that Respondents (police officers) had any other viable options other than to move Gugino out of the way of their forward movement."

The level of force used by the officers was justified because



DEREK GEE, BUFFALO NEWS

Buffalo police walk past Martin Gugino, whom officers shoved as they began to enforce a curfew in June 2020.

Gugino refused to comply with orders to leave the scene and was acting erratically, and walked directly in front of McCabe, according to Selchick.

"The use of force employed by Respondents reflected no intent on their part to do more than to move Gugino away from them," he wrote.

McCabe and Torgalski were suspended without pay and ar-

rested within days of the incident, but last year a grand jury declined to indict them and charges were dropped.

An attorney for Gugino, who has sued the city, told the Buffalo News that the ruling has no bearing on the lawsuit.

"We are not aware of any case where this arbitrator has ruled against on-duty police officers, so his ruling here on behalf of the



Martin Gugino speaks to reporters at a protest Oct. 7, 2020.

police was not only expected by us, but was certainly expected by the union and city who selected and paid him," Melissa Wischerath told the newspaper.

Police Commissioner Joseph Gramaglia said in a statement he will reinstate the two officers to

duty on Monday, the newspaper reported.

Email messages seeking comment were left Sunday with an attorney representing the city, which argued for the disciplinary charges, and with the Buffalo police union.

NEW YORK STATE

# Fearless Girl statue will stay put opposite NYSE for now

KAREN MATTHEWS  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The 4-foot bronze Fearless Girl statue that was deposited in front of New York City's Charging Bull in 2017 will remain in its current spot opposite the New York Stock Exchange at least until early next year while city officials wrestle with a permanent disposition for the popular symbol of female empowerment, a city board decided Monday.

Members of the Public Design Commission granted an 11-month permit extension and said they would spend the next six months exploring a way for New York City to take ownership of the statue, which is currently the subject of litigation between artist Kristen Visbal and State Street Global Advisors, the Boston-based asset-management firm that commissioned it.

"We today, the Public Design Commission, can-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wall Street's Fearless Girl statue is draped with a bouquet of flowers to mark International Women's Day in 2018 in New York.

not make this a permanent piece of art," commission president Signe Nielsen said. "We can urge that steps be taken to enable this work to be considered for the public collection."

The statue of a spunky young girl was supposed to be a temporary installation when State Street commissioned it in 2017

to urge higher representation of women on corporate boards, but permits to keep it on display were extended several times once it became a major tourist attraction.

Fearless Girl was moved to its current location opposite the Stock Exchange in December 2018 and has continued to draw self-

ie-taking visitors there.

Visbal, meanwhile, began selling replicas of the statue around the world. State Street, which had an ownership contract with the artist, sued Visbal alleging the replica sales violated the agreement, and Visbal countersued, arguing that the company was infringing on her rights.

"The commission should be aware that State Street has sued me, which makes it impossible for them to act as fair agents on my behalf," Visbal told design commission members over Zoom.

She urged the city to take ownership of the piece itself. "I am convinced the only way artists' rights can be honored and acknowledged is if the city owns the work," she said.

Both Visbal and State Street indicated support for the board's vote to renew the statue's temporary permit while working toward a permanent solu-

tion.

"As the Artist and the creator of the 'Fearless Girl' statue, I am beyond grateful to New York City and the Public Design Commission for hearing my concerns," Visbal said in a statement. "I pledge to work with the City to identify a fair and reasonable solution in the coming six months."

A State Street spokesperson said in a statement: "We are appreciative the

Fearless Girl statue will

remain at her current location in front of the New York Stock Exchange. With the outcome of today's hearing with the City of New York's Public Design Commission, we will work together with the Department of Transportation, PDC and the artist regarding our desire to keep the Fearless Girl statue at her current location for an extended period."

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COMMUNITY

# Sheriffs Institute drive starts soon

THE CITIZEN STAFF

The New York State Sheriffs Institute will begin its annual honorary membership drive in Cayuga County within the next 10 days, Sheriff Brian Schenck said in a press release Monday.

The Sheriffs Institute's flagship program is the sheriffs summer camp for economically challenged children. The camp, in its 47th year of operation, is located on Keuka Lake and 840 children from across New York state attend each summer.

The institute pays the entire cost of the camp stay and transportation. Most attendees wouldn't

otherwise have an opportunity for vacation travel or a summer camp experience.

The camp program combines summer recreation with activities designed to teach an understanding of, and respect for, our laws and the men and women who enforce them. The strong camper to counselor ratio allows for individual attention with an emphasis on the development of self-esteem.

"With many sheriff's deputies from across the state working as counselors side-by-side with the kids, the camp acts as a bridge between today's youth and law enforcement to foster positive re-

lationships and help build mutual trust," Schenck said in the release. "By becoming an honorary member, you are helping us strengthen our communities and giving opportunities for kids from our community and across the state to have a wonderful summer camp experience."

In addition, the institute operates a scholarship program that provides one scholarship to each of New York state's community college criminal justice programs. This program is designed to help attract the best and the brightest to the criminal justice vocation.

The New York State Sheriffs In-

stitute was established in 1979. It is a not-for-profit corporation, tax exempt organization, and contributions to the institute are tax deductible. While the sheriff's office is a unit of county government, many of the concerns of sheriffs and other law enforcement agencies are best addressed on a statewide level. The Sheriffs Institute provides centralized training programs and services for all sheriffs offices, where those programs and services would be unavailable or impractical on a single county basis.

For more information about the summer camp and other institute programs, visit the Sheriffs Insti-

tute website, [www.sheriffsinstitute.org](http://www.sheriffsinstitute.org) or Google "Sheriff's Institute Kids" and it will be the first option.

Financial support for many of the Sheriff's Institute programs come from honorary membership dues. Invitations for honorary membership are extended on a non-partisan basis, and the invitees are selected at random. Any persons interested in supporting the efforts of the New York State Sheriffs Institute by becoming an honorary member should contact the sheriff if they do not receive an invitation in the mail or visit [www.sheriffsinstitute.org](http://www.sheriffsinstitute.org) to download an application.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

## Onondaga County Sheriff's Office receives national accreditation

THE CITIZEN STAFF

The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office has received national accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

In the country, only 91 of the more than 3,000 sheriff's departments are accredited through CALEA, the sheriff's office said in a press release Monday. In New York state, only eight of the more than 510 municipal police departments have received accreditation.

The sheriff's office said CALEA is the premier credentialing authority providing accreditation to police agencies. CALEA has developed thousands of profes-

sional standards that cover all areas of law enforcement operations, including use of force, employee conduct, internal investigations, social services, and more.

To be accredited, a law enforcement agency must meet high professional standards and demonstrate compliance in their policies, procedures, and practices on an annual basis. The agency then undergoes a rigorous site-based assessment every four years. During this on-site examination, the assessors conduct interviews, meet with the public, and observe first-hand how well the agency complies with the CALEA standards.

EDUCATION

## RIT to open performing arts school

RANDY GORBMAN  
WXXI News

Rochester Institute of Technology announced that it is creating a School of Performing Arts.

The new school will be housed within RIT's College of Liberal Arts beginning July 1, and a national search is underway for a director.

The university said that in addition to using faculty and staff already involved in performing arts at RIT, there will be new hires to expand that effort.

Anna Stenport, dean of RIT's College of Liberal Arts, said the new school will offer unique opportunities, focusing on advancing the talents of students strong in STEM fields who may not be majoring in the arts.

Stenport said that tech-

nology can be interwoven with this arts program, such as providing AR/VR performances of Shakespearean tragedies, or motion-capture dance choreography.

"Performance and music are now fully integrated with technology, from composition and audio-engineering to electronic theater sets and immersive environments," Stenport said.

RIT officials noted that the university has been investing in facilities, including a large, black-box theater, and a dance instruction and performance and musical rehearsal studios. A 750-seat performing arts theater will debut in early 2024, with a 1,500-seat orchestra hall to be added later.

RIT currently offers minors in areas such as music per-

formance and theatre arts, and officials said that future academic ventures may include enhanced emphasis on dance, interactive media, audio engineering and theater technology.

RIT President David Munson expects thousands of their students from all disciplines to be involved in performing arts within just a few years.

"More broadly, we envision an education where engineers and scientists pursue performance, techies tackle the humanities, and artists learn to code," Munson said. "This is about fostering curiosity, discovery, innovation, and teamwork. This is about maximizing talent, living a whole life, and not hiding your light under a bushel basket."

COURT

## Judge eyes shorter sentence for ex-NYC jails union boss

LARRY NEUMEISTER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The former union boss for the nation's largest correction officers' union might have gotten too harsh a prison sentence when he was ordered to spend nearly five years behind bars for corruption convictions, a judge said.

U.S. District Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein, who

sentenced Seabrook to four years and 10 months in prison in early 2019, said in a ruling Friday that the length of Norman Seabrook's prison term deserves a second look. He noted disparities in the sentence given to Seabrook, who is Black, and co-conspirators who are white.

But he also said in a written ruling that the former

head of the New York City Correction Officers' Benevolent Association did not deserve a new trial after his 2018 conviction on conspiracy and honest service wire fraud charges.

Prosecutors said he accepted \$60,000 in bribes in 2014 to funnel \$20 million in union funds to a risky hedge fund. All but \$1 million was lost. Seabrook has said there was no evidence

he ever intended to "lose a dime" of union members' money.

Seabrook, 62, is scheduled for a July 2025 release from the Beckley Correctional Center in Beckley, West Virginia. He was arrested in June 2016 after he'd been a powerbroker in New York City for more than two decades, representing guards in the city's 10,000-inmate jail system.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

# Auburn motorcycle crash sends two to hospital

THE CITIZEN STAFF

Auburn police are investigating a Sunday afternoon crash involving a car and a motorcycle that resulted in two people being transported to a regional hospital, including one by helicopter.

The crash happened around 12:45 p.m. on Arterial West near the intersection with State Street, police said. A motorcycle driven by Gary L. Allnutt, 66, of Central Square, appeared to have changed lanes in front of a

vehicle operated by Michelle A. White, 55, of Auburn. A collision then occurred.

Allnutt and a passenger on his motorcycle, Lorraine Allnutt, 59, were injured. Gary Allnutt was taken by Auburn Ambulance to

Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse with a hand injury, while Lorraine Allnutt was transported by helicopter by LifeNet 7-12 as a precaution, police said. Information about their conditions was not available on Monday.

White was not injured. Auburn Fire Department also assisted at the scene.

No charges or tickets were issued by APD as of Monday morning, and the investigation was continuing, police said.

NEW YORK STATE

# Court: Albany diocese must release priest treatment files

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY — A recent court ruling has opened the door to the release of psychological treatment records of priests in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany accused of child sexual abuse.

The Albany Times-Union reported the ruling came in a lawsuit by an alleged abuse victim from the 1980s who sought

records detailing the treatment received by the Rev. Edward Pratt and other priests.

The diocese had argued that the records were subject to patient-physician privilege, but the appeals court wrote last Thursday that the privilege was waived because the priests' records had been shared with then-Bishop Howard J. Hubbard.

The appellate court also upheld a lower court judge's decision that ordered the diocese to turn over personnel records of dozens of priests determined to have been credibly accused of child sexual abuse from the 1940s through the 1990s, as well as notes of investigators hired by the diocese to look into sexual abuse allegations, the newspaper reported.

"The claims of the victims-survivors remain the highest priority of the diocese. The guidance and orders provided by the courts are respected and followed with compliance," the diocese said Thursday in a statement, the Times-Union reported.

Last month, the same lower court judge ordered the release of a deposition taken last year in

which Hubbard acknowledged covering up allegations of sexual abuse against children by priests.

Hundreds of people have sued the Albany diocese over sexual abuse they say they endured as children, sometimes decades ago. In his testimony, Hubbard said part of the reason he didn't report allegations of sexual abuse was to avoid scandal and protect the reputation of the diocese.

NEW YORK STATE

# Hochul defends stadium deal while touting new budget

ROBERT J. MCCARTHY  
The Buffalo News

When Gov. Kathy Hochul highlighted the state's role in financing a new \$1.4 billion Buffalo Bills stadium Monday at Kleinhans Music Hall, she received a loud and long standing ovation from the several hundred hand-picked guests attending.

But the reaction around the rest of the state is nowhere near as enthusiastic, according to a new Siena College poll. Its latest state-wide survey issued Monday shows

63% of New Yorkers oppose the state's \$600 million contribution to the project, with only 24% approving.

The results put the campaign mode governor a bit on the defensive in a meeting with reporters after the Kleinhans event, even if she remains as committed to the state role as ever.

"Wherever I go upstate, people are excited," Hochul said, noting the 43% state contribution to the project cost ranks favorably with other small market stadium proj-

ects and that substantial economic development will result.

"People tend to like what's in their area, not what's outside their area," she added. "I feel it's a good deal for the taxpayers."

And in the end, she said, the NFL franchise will remain in Buffalo and 10,000 union construction jobs will result from what she labeled the biggest project in Western New York history.

It is a theme the governor is likely to face often over the next two months as she starts to cam-

paign in earnest for the Democratic nomination to be decided in the June 28 primary. Already, her party rivals — Rep. Thomas R. Suozzi of Nassau County and New York City Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams — are criticizing the deal as subsidizing the team's billionaire owners. Her eventual Republican opponent is also likely to question her approval of the state role.

But Hochul got a taste of what to expect Monday as she was questioned about the poll following a session in which she touted the

myriad benefits she sees stemming from the state's new \$220 billion budget. And she said that a poll of New York City residents would probably report approval of improvements slated for Penn Station or transportation projects on Long Island.

"We have a large state with a lot of different interests, and I know this is important to the identity of Western New York," she said. "It's a small market team, and it's really hard to keep a team ... here, and we got the job done."

NEW YORK CITY

# Dozens of teachers accused of faking vaccination cards

KAREN MATTHEWS  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Several dozen New York City teachers and other school employees who officials said submitted fraudulent proof of COVID-19 vaccination were placed on leave as of Monday.

The United Federation of Teachers is challenging the disciplinary action, which it says violates its collective bargaining agreement. The employees in question were placed on leave

after investigators determined that they had provided false vaccine cards, a spokesperson for the city Department of Education said.

"Fraudulent vaccination cards are not only illegal, they also undermine the best line of protection our schools have against COVID-19 — universal adult vaccination," the spokesperson, Nathaniel Styer, said in a statement. "We immediately moved to put these employees — fewer than 100 — on leave without

pay." A COVID-19 vaccination mandate took effect for New York City school employees last fall and was later expanded to include all city employees.

The school vaccination rule was a key component of the city's policy of opening all classrooms to in-person learning this academic year, rather than offering a remote option as some school districts did.

The UFT said in a notice of claim filed Friday that about

82 of its members — including teachers, school psychologists and others — were notified last week that they were being placed on unpaid leave because they had provided false proof of vaccination.

The union said in the notice, a first step toward filing a lawsuit, that the employees should not have been disciplined without a due process hearing and that the action violates the collective bargaining agreement between the city and the union.

The union called the suspension of its members without pay "arbitrary, capricious" and "an abuse of discretion."

Department of Education officials did not describe the evidence that led authorities to determine that some employees had falsified their vaccine cards, but said the matter was under investigation.

The workers who were placed on leave are a tiny fraction of the public school system's approximately 142,000 employees.

**The Citizen.**

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EZ Pay is a convenient electronic payment method that automatically renews your Digital Only or news membership service (your "membership"). If you register for EZ Pay or debit banking (ACH) payments, your membership will continue unless you contact our customer care center to cancel your membership. On the last day of your current term (your "Renewal Date"), your plan will automatically renew for the same term unless you choose to cancel more than twenty-one (21) days before your Renewal Date (your "Cancellation Date").

**IF YOU DO NOT AFFIRMATIVELY CANCEL YOUR MEMBERSHIP BEFORE YOUR CANCELLATION DATE, YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR AN ADDITIONAL TERM FOR THE PLAN YOU INITIALLY SELECTED AT THE RATES IN EFFECT AT THE TIME OF RENEWAL. YOU MAY CANCEL YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT ANY TIME BY CALLING 1-866-589-5105.**

If you have provided us with a valid credit card number or an alternate payment method saved in your account and you have not cancelled by your Cancellation Date, your membership will be automatically processed up to fourteen (14) days in advance of your Renewal Date and the payment method you provided to us at or after the time of your initial membership purchase will be charged.

Vacation holds up to 30 days will continue to bill at regular rate while full digital access is maintained. Extended vacations of 31 days or more will not incur charges and all subscription benefits will suspend. A vacation pack (newspapers held and delivered upon return) of 14 days may be requested and will continue to bill at regular rate.

We reserve the right to change your membership rate at any time. If you are not satisfied with your membership rate or service, you may cancel your membership at any time, and receive a refund for any amounts you have prepaid beyond the date you cancel your membership.

**MEMBERSHIPS**  
Members get the benefit of newspaper home delivery and digital access. Therefore, if you register for a membership plan, you are subject to the Auto-Renewal, Cancellation and Refund Policy described above, as well as the additional terms and conditions set forth below.

**PREMIUM PUBLICATIONS, INCLUDING THE THANKSGIVING DAY NEWSPAPER AND NEWSPAPERS WITH PREMIUM SECTIONS, ARE INCLUDED IN THE MEMBERSHIP RATE.**

**WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH ADDITIONAL PREMIUM EDITIONS. IF ADDITIONAL PREMIUM EDITIONS BEYOND THOSE INCLUDED IN THE MEMBERSHIP RATE ARE PUBLISHED, THEY WILL BE CHARGED AT A RATE OF UP TO \$5.00 EACH IN ADDITION TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP RATE. THESE CHARGES WILL BE REFLECTED IN YOUR ACCOUNT AND MAY ACCELERATE THE DATE WHEN YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWS.**

**IN ADDITION TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP RATE, NEW MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED A ONETIME NONREFUNDABLE ACCOUNT SET UP FEE OF \$6.99.**

Membership rates are for carrier and mail delivery only. All memberships include unlimited digital access. To access these benefits, you must first provide your email address, register with [auburnpub.com/services](http://auburnpub.com/services), and activate your account online. To activate your digital account visit [www.auburnpub.com/activate](http://www.auburnpub.com/activate).

**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, 2022. These tariff revisions cover the third annual delivery rate increase under the terms of a three-year rate plan approved by the PSC in November 2020 and they include a \$36.0 million increase in electricity revenue and a \$5.3 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 \$2.42. A residential natural gas heating customer using 80 therms/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$1.20.

Customers may see some charges prorated on your 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 0.245 cents per kilowatt-hour. The per-therm natural gas delivery charge for the 4-to-50-therms block will increase 0.368 cents per therm and 0.086 cents for the block rate over 50 therms. The electric customer charge will increase by \$0.95, and the natural gas customer charge will increase by \$1.00.

Day/Night and Time-of-Use Customers: The electricity delivery charge will increase 0.281 cents per kilowatt-hour for Service Class 8 and 0.072 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 \$1.55.

Additional information about changes in residential electricity and natural gas delivery charges is available at [nyseg.com](http://nyseg.com) (click on the Account tab and select "Electric Pricing" or "Natural Gas Pricing" in the "Understand Your Bill" column).

**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](http://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](http://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), your energy supply price depends on your agreement with your ESCO.

**Public Notice**

RG&E 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, 2022. These tariff revisions cover the third annual delivery rate increase under the terms of a three-year rate plan approved by the PSC in November 2020 and they include a \$15.8 million increase in electricity revenue and a \$3.8 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 \$2.26. A residential natural gas heating customer using 80 therms/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$0.83.

Customers may see some charges prorated on your 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 energy charge for delivery increased by 0.331 cents per kilowatt-hour. Decreases to the natural gas block rates are: 4 to 100 therms: 0.222 cents per therm; 101 to 500: 0.207 cents; 501 to 1,000: 0.185 cents; 1,001 to 30,000: 0.079 cents. The electric customer charge will increase by \$0.30, and the natural gas customer charge will increase by \$1.00.

Residential Time-of-Use Customers: The electricity energy charge for delivery for Service Classification 4 (Schedule I) increased by 0.084 cents per kilowatt-hour and Service Classification 4 (Schedule II) increased by 0.092 cents per kilowatt-hour. The Service Class 4 (Schedule I) customer charge will increase by \$0.30, and the Service Class 4 (Schedule II) customer charge will increase by \$0.45.

Additional information about changes in residential electricity and natural gas delivery charges is available at [rge.com](http://rge.com) (click on the Account tab and select "Pricing" in the "Understand Your Bill" column).

**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 [rge.com](http://rge.com).

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

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