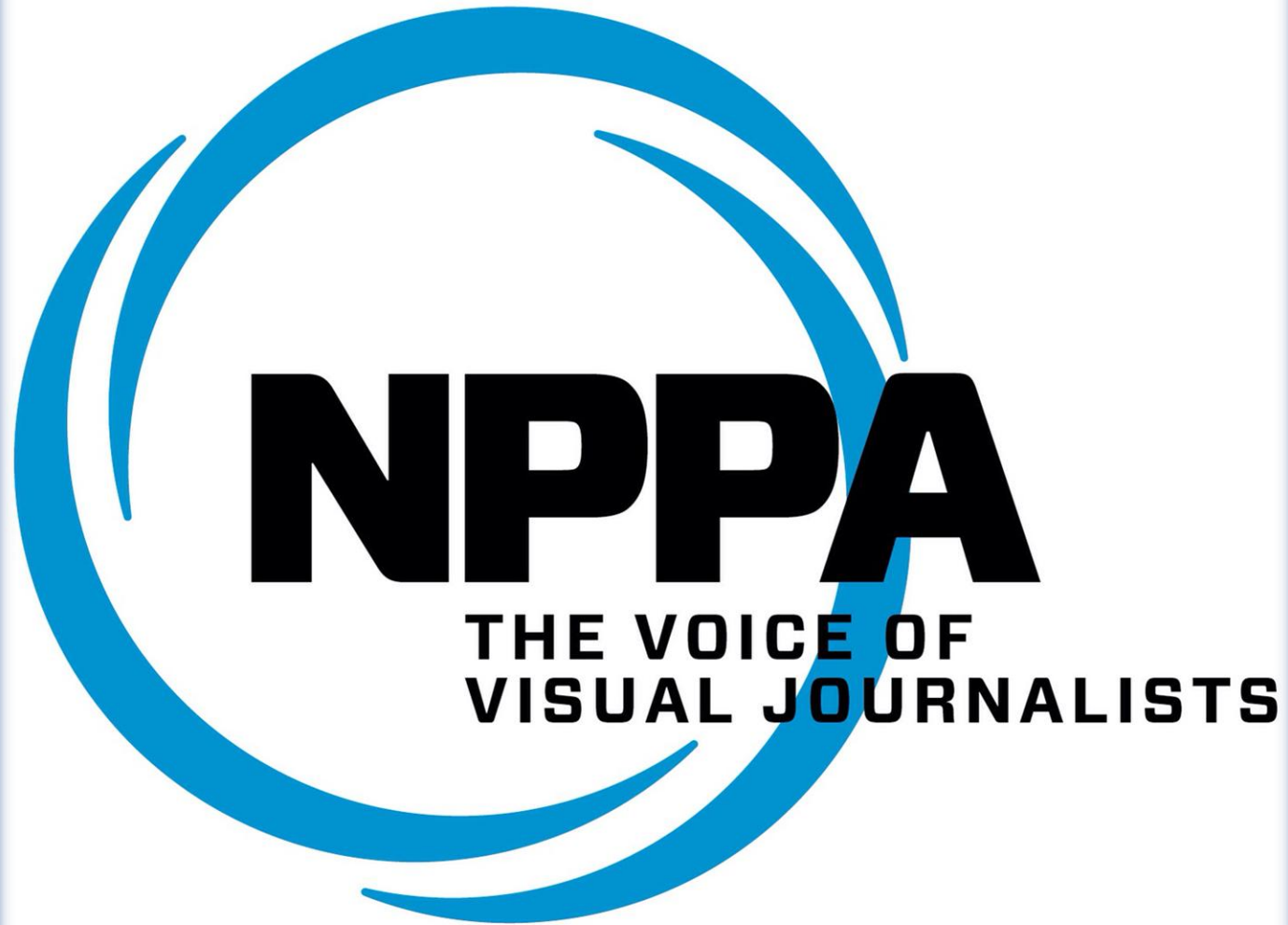




NPPA CODE OF ETHICS

Mickey H. Osterreicher

General Counsel

National Press Photographers Association (NPPA)

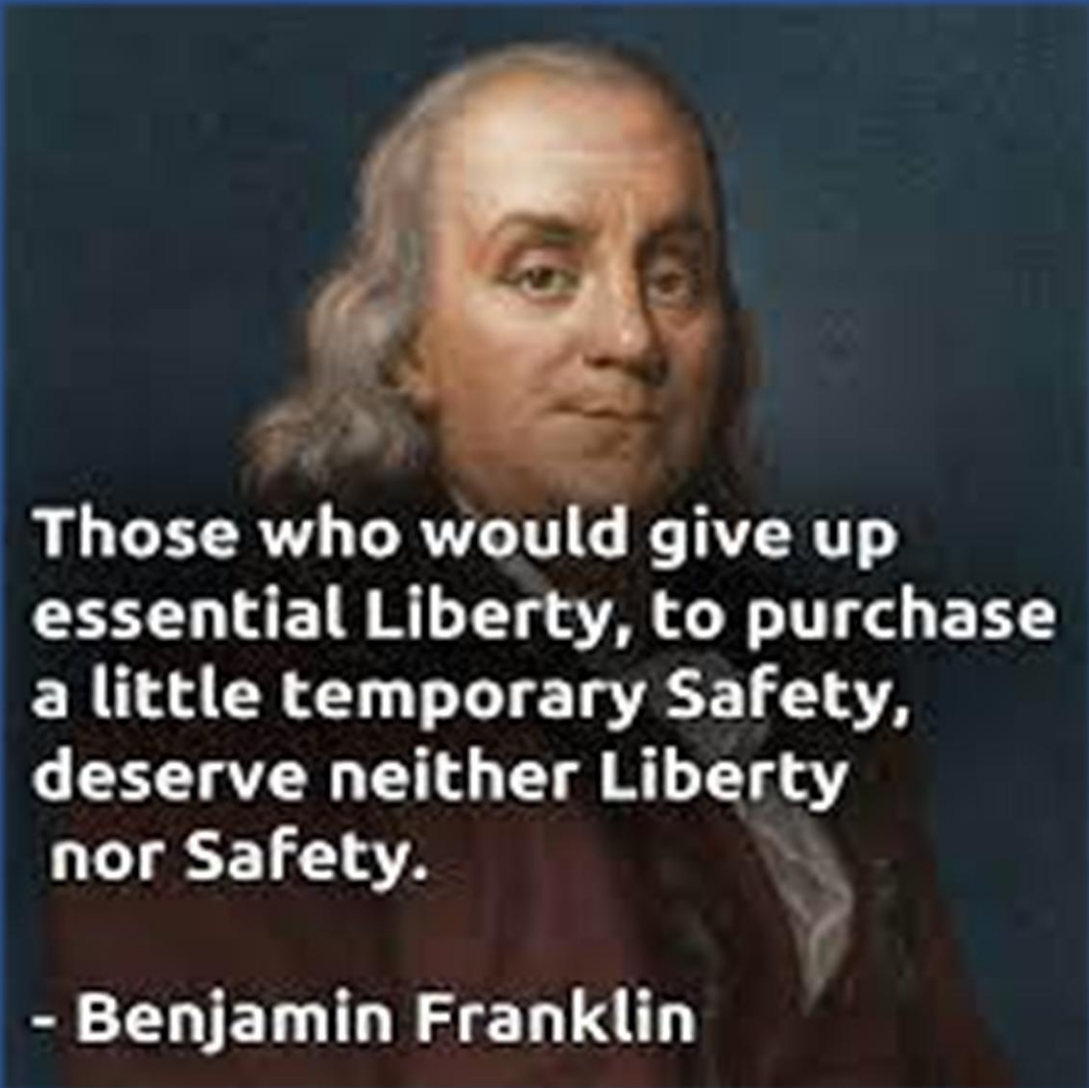
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Cathaleen Curtiss

Director of Photography

Buffalo News

© 2024

A portrait of Benjamin Franklin, an older man with long, wavy, light-colored hair, wearing a dark coat over a white shirt. The portrait is set against a dark background and is partially overlaid by text.

**Those who would give up
essential Liberty, to purchase
a little temporary Safety,
deserve neither Liberty
nor Safety.**

- Benjamin Franklin

NPPA Code of Ethics

Preamble

The NPPA, a professional society that promotes the highest standards in visual journalism, acknowledges concern for every person's need both to be fully informed about public events and to be recognized as part of the world in which we live.

Preamble

Visual journalists operate as trustees of the public.

Our primary role is to report visually on
the significant events and varied viewpoints
in our common world.

Our primary goal is the faithful and comprehensive depiction
of the subject at hand.

As visual journalists, we have the responsibility
to document society and
to preserve its history through images.

Preamble

Photographic and video images
can reveal great truths,
expose wrongdoing and neglect,
inspire hope and understanding and
connect people around the globe
through the language of visual understanding.

Photographs can also cause great harm
if they are callously intrusive or are manipulated.

Preamble

This code is intended to promote
the highest quality in all forms of visual journalism
and to strengthen public confidence in the profession.
It is also meant to serve as an educational tool
both for those who practice and
for those who appreciate photojournalism.
To that end, The National Press Photographers Association
sets forth the following.

Code of Ethics

Visual journalists and those who manage visual news productions are accountable for upholding the following standards in their daily work:

1. Be accurate and comprehensive in the representation of subjects.
2. Resist being manipulated by staged photo opportunities.
3. Be complete and provide context when photographing or recording subjects. Avoid stereotyping individuals and groups. Recognize and work to avoid presenting one's own biases in the work.

Code of Ethics

4. Treat all subjects with respect and dignity. Give special consideration to vulnerable subjects and compassion to victims of crime or tragedy. Intrude on private moments of grief only when the public has an overriding and justifiable need to see.
5. While photographing subjects do not intentionally contribute to, alter, or seek to alter or influence events.
6. Editing should maintain the integrity of the photographic images' content and context. Do not manipulate images or add or alter sound in any way that can mislead viewers or misrepresent subjects.

Code of Ethics

7. Do not pay sources or subjects or reward them materially for information or participation.
8. Do not accept gifts, favors, or compensation from those who might seek to influence coverage.
9. Do not intentionally sabotage the efforts of other journalists.
10. Do not engage in harassing behavior of colleagues, subordinates or subjects and maintain the highest standards of behavior in all professional interactions.

Code of Ethics

Ideally, visual journalists should:

1. Strive to ensure that the public's business is conducted in public.
Defend the rights of access for all journalists.
2. Think proactively, as a student of psychology, sociology, politics and art to develop a unique vision and presentation. Work with a voracious appetite for current events and contemporary visual media.
3. Strive for total and unrestricted access to subjects, recommend alternatives to shallow or rushed opportunities, seek a diversity of viewpoints, and work to show unpopular or unnoticed points of view.

Code of Ethics

4. Avoid political, civic and business involvements or other employment that compromise or give the appearance of compromising one's own journalistic independence.
5. Strive to be unobtrusive and humble in dealing with subjects.
6. Respect the integrity of the photographic moment.
7. Strive by example and influence to maintain the spirit and high standards expressed in this code. When confronted with situations in which the proper action is not clear, seek the counsel of those who exhibit the highest standards of the profession. Visual journalists should continuously study their craft and the ethics that guide it.



PORTRAITS OF WNY

Portraits of WNY

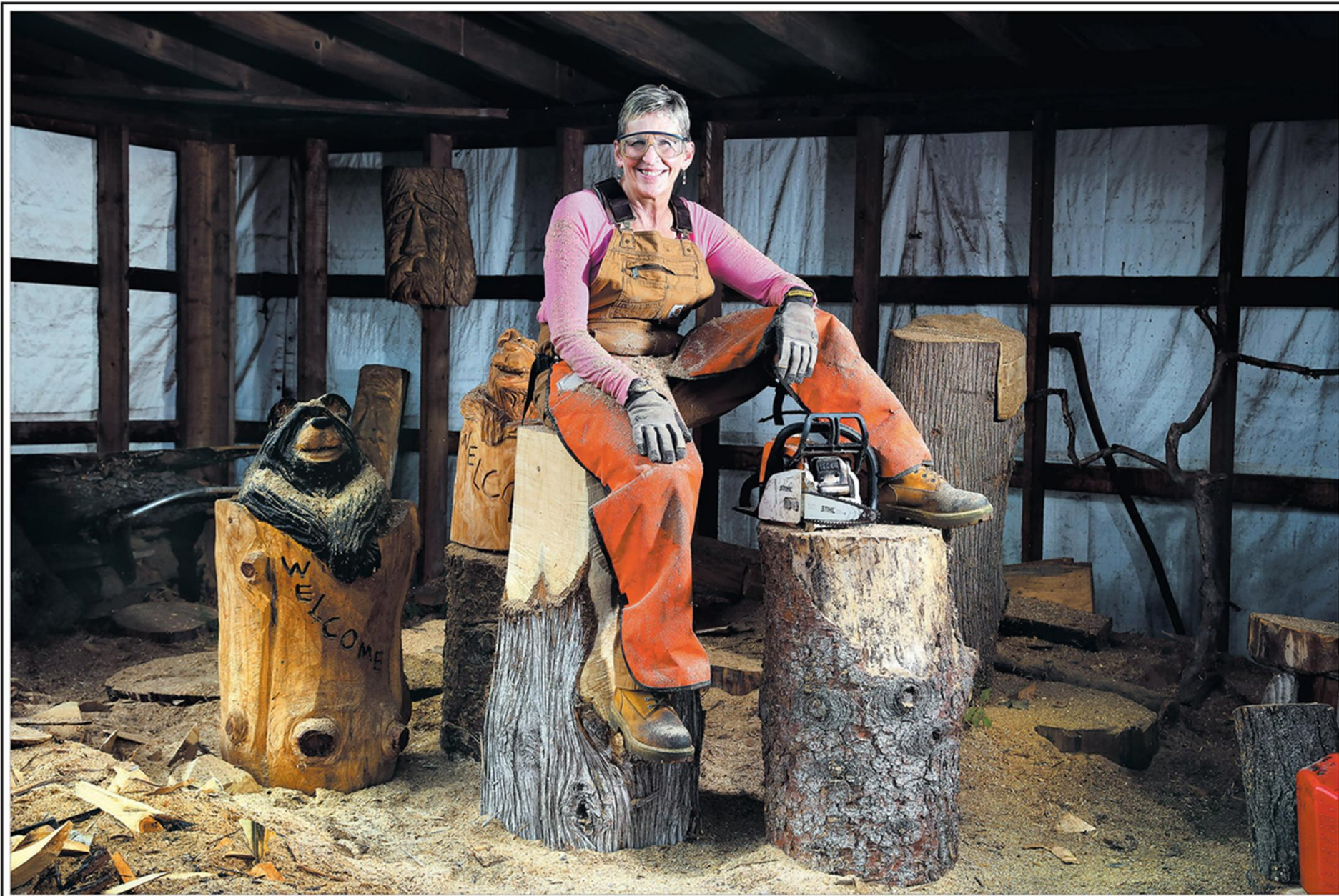
A CUT ABOVE THE REST

Retired after teaching art for 40 years, Catherine Ward was encouraged by her husband, who trims and removes trees, to try chainsaw carving. "I was reluctant at first," she said, but she eventually fell in love with the new medium. "I like to say that sawdust is my glitter!"



PHOTOGRAPH
BY JAMES P. McCOY
BUFFALO NEWS

To view more portraits, go to
www.BuffaloNews.com/portraits



Portraits of WNY

CAMERA READY

Mercedes Wilson is proud of her local roots. The host of "The Mercedes Wilson Show" on WBBZ is a Medina native who was raised in Lockport and lives in Tonawanda. "Not only does Western New York have incredibly talented people, but we have people that give."



PHOTOGRAPH
BY JAMES P. McCOY
BUFFALO NEWS

To view more portraits, go to
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Portraits of WNY

TOOLS OF THE TRADES

Bruce Howard dug graves during college before attending SUNY Geneseo. He met many Buffalo people, including Bobby Finan, who helped his career at Tommyrotter Distillery. "The people I have met here exemplify Buffalo's slogan. It really is the 'City of Good Neighbors.'"



PHOTOGRAPH
BY JAMES P. McCOY
BUFFALO NEWS

To view more portraits, go to
www.BuffaloNews.com/portraits



Portraits of WNY

A FAMILY TRADITION

Even if you've never heard of Joey Todaro, you've probably heard of his family's business: La Nova Wings. He's the fourth generation of the Todaro family to work there. "I'm a diehard Bills and Sabres fan, so you know I have patience for the ever changing food scene!"



PHOTOGRAPH
BY JAMES P. MCCOY
BUFFALO NEWS

To view more portraits, go to
www.BuffaloNews.com/portraits



Portraits of WNY

A BOATER YEAR-ROUND

Tom Gruenauer, of Lancaster, has been restoring wooden power boats as a hobby since 1983. He is now working on a 1928 Chris Craft triple cockpit runabout. He plans to name it "Forever 1928" because his daughter told him he was taking forever to finish the project in his garage.



PHOTOGRAPH
BY JAMES P. McCOY
BUFFALO NEWS

To view more portraits, go to
www.BuffaloNews.com/portraits



Portraits of WNY

BULLISH ON THE BANDITS

Brett Swenson is on the bowling and unified basketball teams at Clarence High School. He also loves to play lacrosse with his friends and is a history buff, too. His dad, Chris, is the announcer at Buffalo Bandits games, and Brett has been a Bandits ball boy since 2009.



PHOTOGRAPH
BY JAMES P. MCCOY
BUFFALO NEWS

To view more portraits, go to
www.BuffaloNews.com/portraits



Portraits of WNY

A PILLAR OF COMMUNITY

Paul Billoni, a WNY native who owns Colvin Cleaners, says, "Nothing makes me prouder than to be involved in our 'Gowns for Prom' and 'Coats for Kids' programs. We truly are the City of Good Neighbors. ... Our community always steps up to help people in need."



PHOTOGRAPH
BY JAMES P. McCOY
BUFFALO NEWS

To view more portraits, go to
www.BuffaloNews.com/portraits



DRONE IMAGES

THE PICTURE PAGE

Sailor's delight

Blue skies inspired many local mariners to set sail – or fire up the outboard motor – on Wednesday, and made for a picture-perfect day on the water at the Outer Harbor, where the docked boats at Sun Life Marina Buffalo Harbor beckon in a view from above. For more photos, go to buffalonews.com/gallery

PHOTO BY
DEREK GEE
BUFFALO NEWS



Look: SCAN THIS CODE
ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE
TO SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM
BUFFALO NEWS STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS





THE PICTURE PAGE

Winter's peak



Barren trees punctuate a snowy landscape in Soldiers Circle between Frederick Law Olmsted's Bidwell Parkway, left, and Chapin Parkway, right, on Tuesday.

PHOTO BY DEREK GEE / BUFFALO NEWS

Liberty rises

Lady Liberty holds her torch high above the City of Buffalo in this still frame from Flying Buffalo, the aerial video by Derek Gee. You can watch the entire video, captured by drone, at BuffaloNews.com.

PHOTO BY DEREK GEE / BUFFALO NEWS

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Watchful eye

Statues on the bell tower of Old County Hall in the light of the sun setting over Lake Erie. See this and other unique images at BuffaloNews.com/bndrone.

PHOTO BY DEREK GEE / BUFFALO NEWS



Pivot point

Wilkeson Point has been called "the pearl" of the Outer Harbor. Situated on land extending from Fuhrmann Boulevard into Lake Erie, the jewel shines from above.

PHOTO BY DEREK GEE / BUFFALO NEWS

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our town
towneauto.com

Liberty rises

Lady Liberty holds her torch high above the City of Buffalo in this still frame from Flying Buffalo, the aerial video by Derek Gee. You can watch the entire video, captured by drone, at BuffaloNews.com.

PHOTO BY DEREK GEE / BUFFALO NEWS

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SURVIVORS

HENRY BAWNIK
ROSA BER
EVA BLUM
JULIUS DIAMOND
GERHARD FALK
URSULA FALK
RITA WILLINGER FERSZTMAN
EUGENE FINTON
BERTHA FRANK
LARRY GOTTLIEB
BRITTA HAUSMANN
ERNEST HAUSMANN
RENEE JOFFE
RUTH LANSING
K. NICHOLAS LEIBOVIC
VERA COPPARD-LEIBOVIC
BETH LEWIN
MARTIN LEWIN
STEPHAN H. LEWY
SOL MESSINGER
BERNARD REDLICH
LOUIS ROGERS
GRIGORY SHERSHNEVSKY
MARK SOLARZ
HERMAN STONE
WOLF TOMBAK
KARLA WISEMAN
HENRY ZEVE



The survivors

Some endured schoolhouse beatings. Others watched fellow Jews hanged in concentration camps. Many learned their parents had been executed. But their experiences varied widely. Many were lucky enough to avoid the death camps. Some remembered little. Meet Western New York's Holocaust-era survivors – mostly in their 80s and 90s – through the lens of News photographer Mark Mulville and in stories by reporters Gene Warner and Mark Sommer.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS

LARRY GOTTLIEB

Larry Gottlieb was 10 when he witnessed a showdown between the U.S. and Nazis. Hundreds of Jewish lives, including his own, were at stake. Gottlieb and his parents had fled their home in Bavaria and boarded a ship in Portugal that was bound for New Jersey.

"The year was 1941, and it was almost impossible for Jews to get out of Germany or Europe," Gottlieb said. Before the ship departed, a Nazi truck convoy pulled up and ordered the captain to turn the Jews over to them. The captain talked to a Nazi officer on the gangplank.

"At one point, the American captain gave a signal, and I saw guns stick out of the porthole windows," Gottlieb said. "There was more talking on the gangplank, and finally the convoy gave up.

"On the way down, the Nazi officer said to the ship's captain — I'll translate in English — 'Those damn Jews aren't worth it!'

Later, at sea, a Nazi U-boat sent a torpedo toward the ship, narrowly missing its mark.

"We never found out if that was retribution for the captain not giving up the Jews on board."



EVA BLUM

Eva Blum remembers how conspicuous Jews were made to feel after the Nazis entered Budapest in March 1944, the month she turned 7.

"We had to wear a yellow star on our jacket when we went out to the street," Blum said.

When the children eventually emerged, they found their way to an aunt who was able to place them in an orphanage for the next three months, until the Russian army freed Budapest in January 1945.

Meanwhile, Blum's mother had been sent to a concentration camp that was liberated by the U.S. Army in April 1945. In poor health, she died shortly after her return to Budapest.



SOL MESSINGER

Sol Messinger, not yet 7, was one of 877 passengers aboard the SS St. Louis, almost all of them Jews who had fled the Nazis in Europe shortly before World War II.

As the ship pulled away from the Hamburg pier on May 13, 1939, his father wept.

"Why are you crying?" the boy's mother asked. "We're leaving Germany. You should be so happy."

"I'm crying because I'm leaving all of my relatives, and who knows when we'll see them again?" he replied.

The ship was turned back in Havana two weeks later, then denied entry to the U.S. After the ship headed back to Europe, Messinger and his

parents got off in Belgium. He has told his story often: how he survived the bombing of a train platform on the France-Belgium border, was sent to a detention camp, fled with his mother and left southern France a few weeks before Jews were rounded up and sent to Auschwitz.

All those scrapes happened before he was 10. But, like other Holocaust-era survivors, he has put his childhood in perspective, suggesting that others endured much worse.

"While it was bad, what I went through," he said, "it was nothing compared to the people in the concentration camps."



ROSA BER

Rosa Ber's father saw it coming.

"I remember when the Germans invaded our town in Latvia," Ber said. "They were pointing at our house and other houses, saying, 'Jude! Jude! Jude!' which means 'Jew! My father, let him rest in peace, said, 'My God, they are going to slaughter us.'"

Two weeks later, men came to the door. "I saw my father taken away. I saw the shovel against his shoulder."

The meaning of the shovel would soon be clear to her. The next day, a fisherman said the Jewish men were taken to the beach, forced to dig their own graves and shot.

A few weeks later came another knock on the door, this time for Ber's brother.

"He was bar mitzvahed in April, and this was June," Ber said. "He was a tall kid. He embraced my mother, and said, 'Mama, I'm scared they're going to kill me.'"

Ber said her mother suffered later from delusions.

"She would say, 'Hitler is coming! Hitler is coming!'" Ber would reply. "Mama, no more Hitler, we live in the United States."

Ber is haunted by her memories. "I have nightmares. Hitler is back, and they take my children and I start screaming," Ber said. "This will never go away for me."



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS

URSULA FALK

Ursula Falk was 10 when she, her mother and siblings fled Germany to join her father in the U.S. By then, she had experienced unrelenting violence. All because she was a Jew.

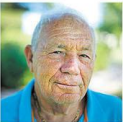
"We were constantly punished," Falk said.

The worst things happened after her father went underground in 1938, and the family had to move into an aunt's apartment. "German soldiers came one day and ripped open the furniture with knives to see if money or weapons were being hidden. They held me outside a fourth-story window, and said they would drop me if I screamed."

"Another time, I went down to the bottom of the steps, and a Nazi with a sweatshirt grabbed me," she said. "He stuffed a handkerchief in my mouth, and he raped me. I hardly felt anything, because I was struggling so hard to breathe."

Falk's father got a job in a dairy in West Virginia, and he gained the documents to reunite his family. As she felt safer, her life began to turn around. In two years, Falk learned English well enough to win a spelling bee.

"It was my proudest moment," she said.



BERNARD REDLICH

It was an unusual trade.

In 1939, Bernard Redlich's father signed over his textile shop to the junker, who — as a member of the Nazi party — was able to secure the Redlich family's safety out of Germany.

Redlich doesn't remember this, his mother was pregnant with him when the family fled to Belgium.

But Belgium wasn't safe for long, because the Nazis would take over there, too.

The junker alerted the family 24 hours in advance of a mass deportation, and the family went into hiding. However, "my father wouldn't go," Redlich said. "His brother was a hunchback,

and he said he was not going to leave his brother."

Redlich's father and other relatives were sent to the train station. Redlich later learned the trains went to France to pick up more Jews, then on to Auschwitz, where all the Redlich family members sent there were killed.

It's said that the world should "never forget" what occurred during the Holocaust. Redlich said the world already has.

"People have short memories. It's the same thing today, but on a smaller scale. Bosnia. Darfur. Sudan. People either don't want to remember, or don't want to know what's going on in the world."



HENRY ZEVE

Henry Zevé's family bought three passages to get him, his sister and cousin out of the Kovno Ghetto, where thousands of Lithuanian Jews lived behind barbed wire. The three youths left the ghetto in late 1944, covered up in a straw-filled cart.

At 10, Zevé wound up in a Catholic boys' orphanage, where he became a Catholic.

"I went to church," he said. "I went to confession. I had all the prayers down pat. I became a Catholic for a time, but I always knew I was Jewish. To this day, I really cherish the Catholic religion, because the priests and nuns saved my life."

In May 1997, Zevé and five

other Buffalo-area Holocaust survivors traveled to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington with 11 local high school students to offer first-person lessons on the Nazis' systematic murder of 6 million Jews.

The survivors also attended the annual Days of Remembrance celebration at the U.S. Capitol, where they recited the Kaddish, the Hebrew prayer for the dead.

Zevé's thoughts were with his mother, who died in a concentration camp a month before liberation.

"She lost her will to live because her children were taken away from her," Zevé recalled that day.



HERMAN STONE

Growing up in Munich, Herman Stone learned about the destruction of hundreds of synagogues and Jewish businesses throughout the German Reich.

"As far as the Germans were concerned, it was the rehearsal for what they were going to do later on a much larger scale," he said.

"As far as the Jewish population was concerned, it was a final wake-up call that there was no way this was going to get better. ... The only possibility was to try to get out."

"I was the only Jewish child in the class," Stone said. "I had no friends. There were no extracurricular activities, because those were all done by the Hitler Youth. Really, all I could do was go to school, listen to the teacher, take the tests and go back home."

Stone was 14 on the night of Kristallnacht in November 1938, when Nazi orders led to the destruction of hundreds of synagogues and Jewish businesses throughout the German Reich.

Stone's family's synagogue wasn't burned down on Kristallnacht; it had been demolished six months earlier to make room for parking.



GERHARD FALK

Gerhard Falk often thinks back to a home he saw ransacked in Hamburg, Germany, in 1939, shortly before he and his family fled the country.

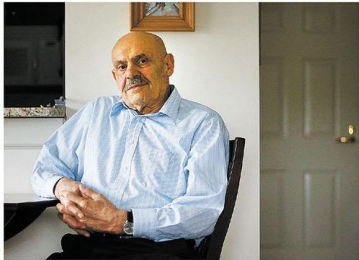
"I remember seeing the Gestapo knock on the family's door and haul them out of the apartment," said Falk, a teenager at the time. "The whole street of non-Jews ran into that family's house and stole everything left behind. They searched for money. They took furniture. The pictures off the walls. The clothes. The car in the driveway."

"After that, I could never put away the thought that in every country the German army went into, the natives enriched themselves on everything the dead Jews left behind," Falk said.

He and his wife returned to Germany in 1946, and had dinner with a baker and his family. Falk complimented them on their finely carved furniture.

"I said it must have been in the family a long time," Falk said. "After a long pause, the baker said, 'I'm sorry to have to tell you, but they belonged to a Jewish family. We just took it.'"

"Germans often say today that the Holocaust had nothing to do with them, because they were born much later," Falk said. "But I would say yes, it does, because you own what your grandparents stole."



MARK SOLARZ

Mark Solarz learned firsthand how cheap life was in Nazi labor camps, how the most minor transgression could lead to execution.

Born in a small Polish town near Krakow in 1929, Solarz was one of seven children. When the Nazis liquidated towns in 1942, his family was sent to the Krakow Ghetto. When that was liquidated, most of his family apparently was murdered in the streets or sent to concentration camps. He, one brother and three sisters survived, first being hidden by a non-Jewish

family, then being sent to a labor camp.

While working in the kitchen, his twin sisters were accused of setting a fire. They were taken out of the kitchen and shot, according to Solarz's Holocaust Resource Center video. Later sent to the Sharpsko-Kaniema labor camp, Solarz saw a friend hanged for removing a piece of leather from a bed handle or fix his shoe.

"They put him on a table and chairs and tied him up on a tree there," Solarz said.

"I still see it right now."



RUTH LANSING

Ruth Lansing was in her teens when she fled Germany for England after failing to gain asylum in the U.S. It took her 10 years to enter.

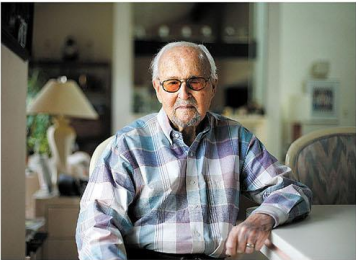
A sister and brother-in-law were accepted, but others in her family were less fortunate.

"The rest of my family tried to come, but never made it out during the Holocaust," she said.

"There were quotas in the United States. Later, I learned there was an effort to keep the Jews out ... I feel bitter, because my parents perished in Auschwitz, as did my oldest sister."

Lansing came from the same town as Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's minister of propaganda.

"The moment Hitler came to power, there was no more free press," Lansing said. "The news you received was through the mouthpiece of Joseph Goebbels. I can still hear his voice. He visited the town several times, and each time the schools closed and we had to assemble in the marketplace to hear his speech. Everybody had to stand there with their arms raised – I pretended to – for an hour."



LOUIS ROGERS

Louis Rogers witnessed one of the Nazi regime's most humiliating moments.

Born in Berlin in October 1923, he came from a well-to-do family and was able to attend one of the Nazis' greatest propaganda tools, the 1939 Olympics in Berlin. This was the international showcase that Hitler craved, to show off Germany's greatness and power to the world. So the Nazi regime toned down some of its anti-Semitic behavior as the eyes of the world focused on Berlin, according to Rogers' video on

the Holocaust Resource Center website.

But Rogers saw one of the moments that the Nazis didn't want recorded.

"I went out there several times by myself, and I remember vividly seeing the United States' Jesse Owens win his gold medal," Rogers stated. "I also remember vividly that Hitler – used to go and shake the hands of the gold-medal winners. When it came to Jesse Owens being a different color, he walked out and ignored [him] completely."



MARTIN LEWIN

As a Jew, Martin Lewin no longer could attend a public school after the Nazis seized power in 1933. So his family's congregation in Kassel, Germany, set up its own elementary school for Lewin and the other Jewish students.

"The public schools encouraged anti-Semitism and the [practice] of the students to go after the Jewish boys and girls," he said in a Holocaust Resource Center video.

"The high schools let their students out a few minutes earlier, so that they could come and lie in wait for our dismissal time in the elementary school. ... So when we got out of school, these kids were waiting for us. And they were usually bigger because they were high school students. And they threw rocks at us, and they beat us up, and we learned to run really fast. Of course you couldn't always outrun them, and so I got my share of being beaten up after school. But somehow you survived."

"And it was not a pretty period," Lewin's family was one of the fortunate ones. An American couple they had become friendly with agreed to vouch for the Lewins, to provide affidavits for the whole family, not just the children. So the family left together, sailing from Southampton, England, to New York Harbor aboard the Aquitania ocean liner.

"And as we passed the Statue of Liberty, I saw my mother cry for the first time."



BETH LEWIN

Beth Lewin didn't have a normal childhood, after being born in Augsburg, Germany, in 1932, the year before the Nazis came to power. Approaching school age, she became almost a prisoner in her family's apartment.

"I was not permitted to go to school, nor was I permitted to go anywhere," Lewin stated on a Holocaust Resource Center video.

"At the time, it didn't occur to me that I was being housebound, but to decide I was, because my parents didn't want me snatched up by the Nazis."

As the Nazi noose began to tighten around Jews' lives, Lewin was sent with her brother at age 7 to Holland – and eventually England – on the Kindertransport, two of nearly 10,000 children sent by their parents from Nazi Germany and other German-occupied countries before the start of World War II.

Lewin didn't know when she left that she would never see her parents or home again. Her parents tried to shield their children from the harsh reality of their departure.

"They said, 'Oh, goodbye. We'll see you soon.'"

It wasn't until after the war that Lewin learned the awful truth: her parents had been murdered in Auschwitz.

"I remember my mother saying we will see you sometime in the future," Lewin said. "And they wrote to me until 1942 – when the letters stopped."

PHOTOGRAPHY
BY MARK MULVILLE /
BUFFALO NEWS



ERNEST HAUSMANN

Ernest Hausmann remembers when his father was taken away to a concentration camp. It happened during Kristallnacht, the "Night of Broken Glass," in November 1938. "Two people came to our house and rang the doorbell, asking for my parents," said Hausmann, who was 9 at the time. "I said they were out and would be back in an hour. These people were very polite and waited. When my father returned, they told him he had to leave with them. He was taken to the concentration camp. They took all the Jewish adult males there."



BRITTA HAUSMANN

Many Holocaust-era survivors endured indignities and atrocities solely because they were Jewish. Even children faced shyness and beatings at school, lived in segregated ghettos or were hidden. Some went to the gas chambers. Hausmann's parents were too young to be aware of the anti-Semitism and violence all around them. Hausmann was a child in Germany before coming to the United States at age 9. She remembers very little from that time, but suffered the loss of a grandmother. "My parents couldn't persuade her to come to the United States. It was a big thrill,"



WOLF TOMBAK

In 1939, after Hitler's troops had marched into Poland, 10-year-old Wolf Tombak and a friend went into hiding. Tombak's family, meanwhile, was herded into the Bialystok Ghetto. One day while on the run, Tombak heard someone shouting "Jude! Jude!" "Somebody, maybe, turned us in," he said. "They asked us, 'What are you doing? You're supposed to report to the police.' They sent us to the ghetto." A few months later, the SS asked Tombak his age. He lied, telling them he was 16, rather than 10. The SS pushed him into a line on the right. People on that line were sent

to the camps to work. The line on the left was for those too young or too weak for hard labor. They were sent to their deaths. To this day, Tombak remembers that deadly fork in the road. "To the right was slave labor. To the left was the gas chambers." Tombak, a baker later known to Broadway Market customers as the "Yummy Yummy Man," was liberated in 1945. Not until 1981, at a world gathering of survivors, did Tombak learn that one of his younger brothers had died in the ghetto. That meant his parents and eight siblings all had died during Hitler's reign.

BERTHA FRANK

Bertha Frank was 17 and living in Munich when the "Night of Broken Glass" signaled a dramatic turn for the worse. "Once Kristallnacht happened on Nov. 9, 1938, it got really dangerous," Frank said. "I had to quit school and we couldn't go out anymore. Then we moved into an apartment with other Jews because Jewish people couldn't live in the complex where we had lived." Frank's future husband was sent to a concentration camp. Her father escaped arrest by being hidden by non-Jewish friends. Frank received a surprising offer from another non-Jew – an SS officer. "He was the brother of my best girlfriend, and he wanted to take me to South America to get me out of Germany," she said. Frank left the country in 1940. Her parents and an uncle died in concentration camps. Frank said she has shed out memories of the Holocaust. "You kind of push it in the back of your mind."



STEPHAN H. LEWY

Stephan H. Lewy experienced many Nazi indignities as a child in Berlin before escaping the Nazi regime via the Kindertransport that carried him and other Jewish kids to France in 1939. Each afternoon when he left school, two rows of Hitler Youth whipped him and his Jewish schoolmates with belts – all under the watchful eye of German police. He no longer could play with a non-Jewish friend after the Hitler Youth told the other boy's father that his son couldn't play with Lewy. On the day of his bar mitzvah, SS troopers arrested his father, just for the day. To this day, Lewy appreciates the talk they had when his father came home that evening. "He took me aside and gave me a lecture how to take care of my second mother. In case one day he didn't come home," Lewy recalled. "That was his bar mitzvah speech to me." Many Jews managed to outwit the Gestapo, and Lewy carries such a memory, one involving a simple birdcage. In late 1935, as the Nazis rounded up adult Jewish males, usually at night, his father, Arthur, would leave the family's apartment to walk the streets of Berlin. Early in the morning, his wife, Johanna, left a signal. If the Gestapo were still in the apartment waiting for her husband, she would put her parakeet's cage in the window, and the elder Lewy would keep walking. If there was no birdcage, it was safe to return.



HENRY BAWNIK

Henry Bawnik remembers it all. It started with the hunger, as a 14-year-old boy in the Lodz, Poland, ghetto, living basically on one loaf of bread a week, which he would eat on the first day. Then Bawnik watched an older boy he knew, David, beaten and kicked to death in front of him following the roundup of Jews in late 1941. That, he thought, was his future, that he couldn't get out alive. Later, Bawnik carried a dish under his arm in his first concentration camp, in case he found some soup. "Then the dish was my pillow at night." He saw the cruelty in the camps, including two young brothers executed for stealing potatoes from the field. Both were hanged in front of Bawnik and others; one brother initially survived and was shot. Bawnik survived four concentration camps, including Auschwitz. Then he really beat the odds at the end of the war, one day before the Germans' surrender in northwest Germany.

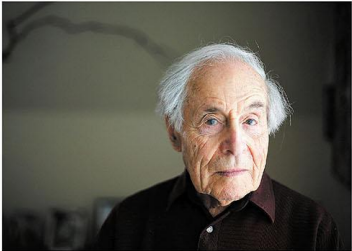
He and more than 7,000 concentration camp survivors were on three boats mistakenly bombed by British pilots. Bawnik was one of only about 250 of the 5,000 prisoners aboard the largest ship, the Cap Arcona, who survived that day, May 3, 1945. "Seven thousand people died on the last day of the war, and by mistake," Bawnik said. "How can you make sense of it? I'm bitter, but it was a miracle made during war. That's all you can say."

PHOTOGRAPHY
BY MARK MULVILLE /
BUFFALO NEWS



RITA WILLINGER FERSZTMAN

Rita Willinger Fersztman never knew her mother and father. When she was 2, and her brother was just months old, the Nazis invaded Amsterdam, Holland. It was May 1940. "My parents gave us both away. Thank God they did, or we would have met the same fate," Fersztman said. Her parents were killed shortly afterward in the Sobibor extermination camp in Poland. "I was raised by different families until the age of 10, like an orphan," Fersztman said. She moved to Milwaukee at age 13. The siblings were separated, and reunited years later, when Fersztman learned her brother was serving in the Israeli army. She was 23 when she saw him again. "I felt unconnected in Milwaukee and was trying to find where I belonged, so I went to find my brother in Israel. There, I found myself, as I didn't have to prove who I was," Fersztman likes Buffalo, but she's most at home in Israel. "That's where my comfort level is," she said. "That's my spiritual home."



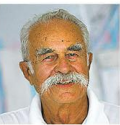
NICK LEIBOVIC

Before he was kicked out of a German school for being Jewish, Lithuania native Nick Leibovic went with his eighth-grade class on an excursion to Finland. He'll never forget the people yelling and uttering "Heil Hitler" as they welcomed the German boat that would take the students on their trip. "It made me realize that there was something threatening going on, that the world as I knew it was going to collapse," he said. Leibovic later was sent to school in England. In 1938, he returned to Lithuania on a train, where a young German man talked openly to two German women about heading to "volunteers" in Danzig, Poland. "Hitler was sending so-called volunteers to soften up Danzig, inciting demonstrations and riots to make it appear that the people of Danzig had had enough of their separation from Germany," Leibovic said. Leibovic was asked how he now views that man. "Crusky damages and hurts not only the victim, but eventually the perpetrator."



GRIGORY SHERSHINEVSKY

Grigory Shershinovsky was born in Lithuania shortly before the German occupation in 1941. His father was active in the resistance movement, so his parents knew they had to smuggle their son out of the ghetto. A family friend knew of a woman who took care of Jewish and non-Jewish children alike. The woman agreed to take him. "But how to smuggle me from the ghetto?" Shershinovsky asked. His mother cleaned offices and was allowed to leave the ghetto for those chores. "So my mother put some rag in a cleaning bucket, put me in and covered me with some rags," he stated. "Everything was agreed, so at some point, she just left the bucket on the sidewalk and continued walking, and Aleksandra Dzyrdevka, the lady who saved me, just picked up the bucket and brought [me] to her house." He was just 7 months old.



EUGENE FINTON

A native of Czechoslovakia, 8-year-old Eugene Finton was living with his family in Lwow, Poland, on that fateful day, Sept. 1, 1939. Extended family members were on the veranda when they suddenly heard what sounded like thunder. "The Germans, contrary to their promise, had invaded Poland and were bombing the city," Finton has written. "Most people ran and huddled in their cellars as the war and bombing continued for three weeks. We children fearlessly ran around the courtyard picking up bomb fragments and watching a few Polish soldiers, who were killed in our courtyard, futilely firing their old rifles at the German airplanes." Finton's family later endured what would become a 17,000-mile voyage, on trains and ships through Russia, Japan, Hawaii, San Francisco and ultimately to Buffalo. "For 31 months we ran, we moved, we suffered hunger, fright, anxiety and terror, but we were fortunate or lucky enough to have always been one step ahead of disaster," his travelogue states. But Finton, like other local Holocaust-era survivors, knows that others had it much worse. "I would never want this odyssey to be compared to the unfortunate people that were subjected to the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps. My father was astute, or maybe just very lucky, and made decisions that saved us time and time again."



KARLA WISEMAN

Karla Wiseman was 4 when the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia in March 1939. Within days, the Nazis began rounding up the Jewish men in Moravia Ghetto, where they lived, and her father fled to Poland, eventually followed by his family. After numerous risky situations, uncertainty and a good deal of luck, Wiseman's family endured until her father obtained a visa in June 1941 to take the family to Buffalo. The long trip that ensued included riding the Trans-Siberian Railway across Russia for 17 days, and eventual stops in Korma, Japan, Honolulu and San Francisco. But Wiseman remembers very little of that period. Nor were her parents, in later years, willing to fill in the blanks. "My parents never spoke about it," Wiseman said. "Once they came here, they just wouldn't talk about it." Wiseman does remember the end of the trip — arriving in Buffalo's Central Terminal. "When we got off the train in Buffalo, there were so many relatives there, all my father's family," Wiseman said. "They were just so happy to see us. I vaguely remember all these people hugging and kissing me, and being scared, because I didn't speak any English, and had no idea who they were."

PHOTOGRAPHY
BY MARK MULVILLE /
BUFFALO NEWS



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS

RENEE JOFFE

Renee Joffe knew how to grab the attention of schoolchildren whenever she shared the details of her Holocaust-era experiences. She told them about the gas masks she and her classmates wore to school in Paris, in case the Germans once again resorted to gas as a war tactic. She told them about the identity card she carried, with "Jew" stamped in red ink. She told them about the smuggler who helped her and her family members sneak into unoccupied parts of France. And she told them about crawling on their hands and knees across the border to unoccupied France, where their smuggler helped them get fake IDs.

Joffe also talked about returning to Paris after the war, watching hundreds of survivors return home and asking them whether they knew anything about her father. Only later did she learn he had been killed in Auschwitz.

Once she had commanded the students' attention, Joffe, a member of the local Holocaust Resource Center's speakers bureau, relayed her main message:

"There are so many bad things going on, and people cannot be bystanders. You must do something if you can. You have to let everybody know that it's not all right to abuse other people. If you see anything done wrong to a person, a child, a group, open your mouth."



VERA COPPARD-LEIBOVIC

In May 1939, 12-year-old Vera Coppard-Leibovic and her father were ushered into a room in Berlin, where 300 children were waiting to take the Kindertransport to escape the Nazi regime. In each corner, black-shirted Nazis stood guard with German shepherds. After all the names were read and two children were left, their mother became hysterical, the Nazis then unleashed their dogs on the woman.

Coppard-Leibovic never let go of that image, hearing the woman's screams and seeing the dogs tear at her clothing. Seventy years later, the sight of a German shepherd still brought back that image in vivid detail.

One of Coppard-Leibovic's last accomplishments in life was having her photo taken for this Buffalo News section. The 90-year-old

former Kindertransport rider was in failing health, so she insisted on being photographed "sooner rather than later," according to her husband, K. Nicholas Leibovic.

"That persistence was consistent with her efforts in recent years, when she spoke mostly to middle- and high school students about her own experiences as part of the local Holocaust Resource Center's Speakers Bureau.

She wanted to make sure she could contribute something to an important story," her husband said. "She believed very strongly in keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive, so people wouldn't forget how cruel one person could be to another."

Coppard-Leibovic died March 7, 22 days after the photo shoot.



JULIUS "JOE" DIAMOND

Sometimes the line between dying and surviving is a very thin one.

Joe Diamond and his family were taken from their home to Auschwitz in 1944. At age 15, he was sent to a work camp, carrying bricks for the construction of a new crematorium.

Meanwhile, his mother and 7-year-old brother were told they were being taken to a separate residential complex, that the family would be reunited on weekends.

Instead, they were led to the gas chambers. "Within 3½ hours, they were dead,"

Diamond told The News in 1997.

Living in unsanitary conditions and eating terrible food, Diamond became sick and was assigned to be gassed. "A Russian inmate picked him up, apparently at random, and helped him

hide until the group had been exterminated," the local Holocaust Resource Center website states. "When the Russian army approached the camp, the inmates were taken away by foot and by train."

In the early 1990s, Diamond returned to his Czechoslovakian hometown with his son Michael. After finding no sign of any Jewish life in the town, Diamond was directed to walk up a hill and knock on a door, his children said. The Jewish resident there had converted to Christianity decades ago, prompting Diamond to tell him: "You may not have been to a shul or synagogue for 40 or 50 years, but you are still a Jew."

Diamond died on March 19 at 88, before he could be photographed for this project.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

News reporters Mark Summer and Gene Warner compiled these stories and anecdotes from interviews with survivors and their families. Buffalo News articles and local Holocaust Resource Center videos.



ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Mark Mulville has been with The Buffalo News since 1994. He has won multiple photography awards from the Associated Press, New York News Publisher's Association and National Press Photographers Association.

TO VIEW MORE PHOTOS OF WNY'S HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS,
GO TO BUFFALONEWS.COM/SURVIVORS



ANNA POST

Anna Post witnessed unspeakable brutality and escaped death at the hands of the Nazis on more than one occasion before reaching adulthood.

The former Anna Dula, the youngest of six siblings in a religious Jewish family, lived in a small city in Poland in 1939 when the Nazis invaded the country.

The rights of Jews were stripped away with the enactment of anti-Jewish laws. Their movements were restricted, and living conditions grew harsh.

In December 1941, as a 17-year-old, she



took a train to Warsaw to smuggle food to cousins who were in desperate need. After someone recognized her, she was taken off the train by a member of the Gestapo. Her punishment for impersonating a non-Jew was death.

Post was given a shovel to dig her own grave.

"I started to dig and was thinking I was really sorry for my mother. She didn't want me to go, and I didn't listen. She's going to cry and cry," Post remembers thinking.

When darkness set in, Post was sent to a jail cell and told her execution would wait until the next day.

"We were living with death, so I wasn't really worried," Post said. "You get used to these situations. A shot only takes a second."

She woke up resigned to death. "I said goodbye to life, and goodbye to the sun," said Post, who later taught at the Kadimah School in Snyder for 30 years. "But that morning, I found out the Jewish Council had made a bribe — a pair of boots for life. How cheap life was." — Mark Sommer



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS

SOPHIA VEFFLER

Sophia Veffler's life during the Holocaust resembled Anne Frank's. Starting at age 10 or 11, Veffler moved from apartment to apartment in her native Amsterdam, Holland, hiding in 11 different homes, anything to stay one step ahead of the Nazi killing machine. Veffler ultimately survived when the Allies liberated the Bergen-Belsen camp in April 1945. Anne Frank wasn't so fortunate. In September 1944, she was taken on the last train from Holland to the Nazi concentration camps, where she died from typhoid and malnutrition.

As a key member of the local Holocaust Resource Center's Speakers Bureau, Veffler often shares her experience. She always urges young people to be "upstanders," taking a stand against injustice, rather than bystanders. "Hopefully, we can teach this generation, the next generation, the next generation and the next generation," she said. "The present generation, the young people, they are the ones who have to tell our story."

Veffler cares passionately about how that story is told. "I don't want to be a victim," she said. "I made a very good life. Most of the survivors have very rewarding lives." — Gene Warner



JUTTA LEWKOWICZ

Jutta Lewkowicz heard the glass shattering and the screaming that horrible night of Kristallnacht.

She also heard the knock on the door, as the Gestapo came to take away her father for questioning. And she took a beating from Hitler Youth kids when she was 10 years old.

But Lewkowicz also knows how lucky she was. "I am a fortunate girl, because we all survived the war," she said of her family in a video for the local Holocaust Resource Center.

Lewkowicz described life in a forced labor camp in Dornum, Germany where she spent 2½ years before being liberated in 1945.

One job was cleaning cement off bricks that would be used to rebuild bombed-out buildings. If the bricks didn't look like new, the young women were beaten.

Lewkowicz was a young teen, one of 35 women sharing one room.

"We melted snow outside when the faucets were frozen, and we took turns taking a bath," she said, 35 women all bathing from the same pail.

Like many other Holocaust-era survivors, Lewkowicz knows others had it much worse. "It was a terrible time for me ... But it was not an extermination camp." — Gene Warner



GENIA ROSSI

Even before Genia Rossi was born in Ukraine in 1934, her family had survived the imposed famine, the "death by hunger" that claimed some 3.9 million Ukrainian lives.

During World War II, the Nazis invaded Ukrainian villages, stealing valuables, burning everything and removing the men, according to the book "Genia: The Journey from Despair to America" by Rossi's daughter, Grace A. Clark.

Rossi and her mother were sent on a railroad journey into Germany. For seven years, mother and daughter worked at a farmhouse.



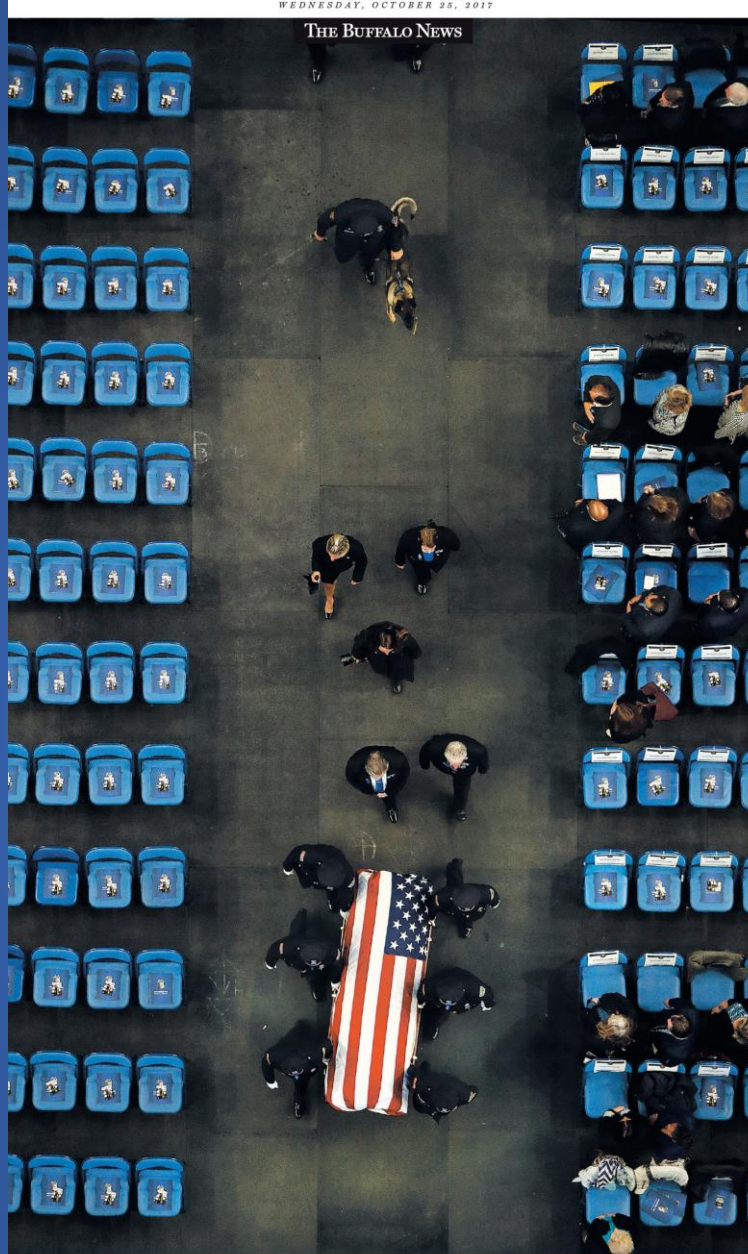
Rossi, who was deaf, received no formal education. Her mother eventually hanged herself. After the war, she spent two years in refugee camps in the American Zone of Germany. In 1948, Rossi was sponsored by the family of Robert Corrolius, former vice president of Sattler's department store, and later sent to St. Mary's School for the Deaf.

"In my mind, I never knew what had happened to my mother until she gradually let the details out when we were older," Clark said. — Gene Warner

LEHNER FUNERAL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017

THE BUFFALO NEWS



OFFICER CRAIG E. LEHNER | 1982 -2017

Buffalo Police Officer Craig Lehner did his job as a diver in a solitude few could understand. ¶ To commemorate his life and mourn his death, he was remembered today with a public outpouring of love and grief that few have ever seen. ¶ Joined by the Buffalo Police Department, the military, first responders and one singularly loyal dog, thousands saluted and celebrated their son, their friend, their hero and, in the words of one lieutenant, "our brother." ¶ Lehner's service was his gift to the community. Now, it is his legacy. ¶ Today, Western New York made sure he will never be forgotten.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS



A sea of officers pays tribute to Officer Craig Lehner outside KeyBank Center as his dog, Shield, approaches the Harley-Davidson hearse carrying Lehner's body.

BY PATRICK LAKAMP
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

The fallen officer's procession left the Hamburg funeral home at 9:35 a.m. today.

Eight miles away, Craig Lehner's brother and sister officers stood in themselves outside KeyBank Center.

Hundreds of officers lined Perry Street, at least 20 rows deep at Alumni Plaza, with K-9 officers and their dogs in the first row. At least five rows of officers stood on the other side of Perry.

Others took their places inside an arena normally a place for cheers and roars.

Sadness and pride filled the building this morning.

"What you see here today is the same great response we saw with the search detail," Erie County Sheriff Tim Howard said of the funeral gathering.

A rainbow appeared earlier in the morning, but as the procession crept along Route 5 and then Ohio Street, the sky turned gray and a light rain fell.

During the procession, Buffalo Police Department and Patriot Guard riders escorted the Harley-Davidson hearse carrying Lehner's body. Eastbound Route 5 was eerily empty of traffic. On the westbound side of the road, motorists stopped

and got out of their cars to pay respects.

The procession passed signs of tribute.

"Officer Lehner Rest in Peace," the sign read at Erie Metro Federal Credit Union on Route 5.

"Thank you Officer Lehner," another sign read at Tony's Bayview Drive-In.

Dozens of people lined up along Route 5 in Woodlawn. Many held flags.

Firefighters set up their tribute with a large American flag and two ladder trucks near the Balgo Road exit.

Woodlawn Diner owner Melissa Jenkins said the funeral procession

was the first she saw for a police officer.

"It's sad," she said.

Retired Buffalo Police Detective Mark Fitzpatrick appreciated the show of support.

"It restores your faith in the community," he said.

As the procession turned left onto Perry Street from Michigan Street, those at Milo's diner watched with heavy hearts.

"This is very emotional," said Denise Rolfe, a waitress.

The diner's staff wore Lehner's T-shirts that pictured his badge. The diner put up blue lights along a window and the roof to honor Lehner.

The diner gets its name from

the K-9 once paired with the diner's owner, Tony Presznergast, a retired K-9 officer.

"He insisted we open today," Rolfe said. "It's important to him."

"Being police officers, we think we are pretty tough," said Sgt. Scott Johnstone, of the Niagara Regional Police. "But it gets to you."

Officer Frank Niemiec of the Pittsburgh Police Department came to his hometown for the funeral.

"It hits kind of close to home," he said.

News Staff Reporters Jay Tobias, T.J. Pignataro, Barbara O'Brien and Jane Kuzislowicz contributed to this report.

Community gathers for solemn salute



Law enforcement officers from around the United States and Canada salute in unison to honor Officer Craig E. Lehner during today's funeral.

'K-9 43, rest in peace'

By MARK BECKER
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

A sea of blue mourned a lost brother this morning as thousands filled KeyBank Center for the funeral of Buffalo Police Officer Craig E. Lehner, who died during an underwater training exercise in the Niagara River.

They saluted in unison as a Harley-Davidson motorcycle pulled the hearse in front of the arena and six Buffalo police officers carried the casket inside.

"Now, we come to lay our brother to rest," Buffalo Police Chief Dennis J. Richards told law enforcement officers, firefighters, soldiers and emergency responders from across New York State and beyond who came to Buffalo in their dress uniforms and shields wrapped in black bands.

Hearts ached as Lehner's K-9 partner Shield, his tail wagging, followed behind the flag-draped casket. Lehner named him after Buffalo Police Officer James Shields, who was killed in a 2002 car crash while responding to a robbery call.

Also speaking at the funeral, believed to be the largest ever for a law enforcement officer in Western New York, were Mayor Byron W. Brown; Police Commissioner Daniel Derenda; Lt. Salvatore F. Lodi, commander of the K-9 unit; Detective Leo McGrath, commander of the Underwater Recovery Team; retired Sgt. Ma-



Photos by Harry Scull Jr., Buffalo News

A mourner pays her respects to Officer Craig E. Lehner prior to his funeral service, believed to be the largest ever for a law enforcement officer in Western New York.

Mark A. Sorrentino of the New York Army National Guard; and Police Officer Tommy Champion, Lehner's partner.

Doug Allen, who sings the National Anthem before Buffalo Sabres games, sang the "Star Spangled Banner" standing next to

Lehner's casket. A sermon was offered by the Rev. David Beutel, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in North Tonawanda.

The 1970s rock anthem "Carry On Wayward Son," Lehner's favorite song, played as a video montage showed his many sides: police officer, military policeman, a stylish man with movie star looks and a loyal friend to many.

On Oct. 13, Lehner, 34, was taking part in a training exercise in the river off the Bird Island pier at the foot of West Perry Street, where he disappeared. He was tethered to a tender cable when it got stuck. A frantic effort to rescue him followed.

"We will be here as long it takes to locate the officer," Police Lt. Jeff Rinaldo told reporters at the time.

Over the next four days, the rescue effort became a recovery mission. Hundreds of emergency responders from around the region joined in the search — a band of brothers bound by one goal: to bring Lehner home. On Oct. 12, his body was spotted in the water, a heartbreaking end to the grueling search.

Buffalo grieved. And the City of Good Neighbors bathed itself in blue. The domes of City Hall and the Electric Tower shone blue. So did the Peace Bridge; the ice at the arena and porch lights across the area. People even painted their pumpkins blue to honor Lehner.

"You will always be remembered and will forever remain part of our police family," Police Commissioner Daniel Derenda said. "May God bless you, K-9 43, rest in peace."

Lehner's death has gripped the community because it did not stem from the usual police dangers like a gunfight or ambush. ... "This involved the camaraderie of the team and a long rescue operation. It's so much different. And, he was down there alone and in the dark. It just rips you up." - FORMER SHERIFF THOMAS F. HIGGINS



Donna Gray/Bufallo News

A grief-stricken community bands together to mourn loss



Robert J. McCarthy

COMMENTARY

Ray Brown was returning from a fare to Niagara Falls on Saturday morning when he found himself turning into Buffalo's Broderick Park.

He got out of his minivan cab and slowly walked to the makeshift memorial springing up on the park's edge, just above the rushing waters of the Niagara River. He snapped a photo on his cellphone, and then he stood quietly for just a moment,

looking at the collection of flags, candles, blue pumpkins and letters with envelopes marked "Craig."

"He was serving his people, the people of Western New York," Brown said. "I just wanted to come and show my respect."

That's just one of the little stories resulting from the death of Craig Lehner, the Buffalo police diver lost to the Niagara River while training with the Underwater Recovery Team. Divers and searchers spent five days looking before finding and retrieving the body of their comrade, and the saga weighed heavy on thousands of hearts throughout the region.

Maybe that's because Lehner was just 34, with so many friends and admirers. Or maybe because he served not only as a police officer,

but as a K-9 handler and emergency diver. Or because Lehner also had been a military policeman with the National Guard in Iraq.

All these little stories converged into one great big story today when thousands — including police officers from all over the United States and Canada — converged on Key-Bank Center for Lehner's funeral.

Politicians, police officials and ordinary citizens alike said they can't remember such a collective reaction.

"This was so prolonged," Dennis J. Richards, the Buffalo Police Department's chief of detectives and protocol officer, said Saturday of the five-day search. "And it caused all kinds of people to band together to rescue him, and then, unfortunately, to recover him."

All of Lehner's first-responder roles combined to "uniquely" the tragedy, Richards added.

Police officers, K-9 handlers, dive team members and military veterans all planned to send contingents to the arena. Count the police officers from all over the United States and Canada — converged on Key-Bank Center for Lehner's funeral.

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"This was so prolonged," Dennis J. Richards, the Buffalo Police Department's chief of detectives and protocol officer, said Saturday of the five-day search. "And it caused all kinds of people to band together to rescue him, and then, unfortunately, to recover him."

handler badge.

Neighbors along the street enjoy a close association with police officers and firefighters, many of whom live on Saranac, said block club president Vincent Gregory.

"We see the officers professionally and nonprofessionally on Hertel Avenue every day," Gregory said. "They're basically part of our lives."

When neighbors called him following Lehner's death, they realized they could at least show support. Blue ribbons now adorn many of the lampposts in front of Saranac's well-kept homes.

"It's just a way of letting the police know we appreciate and understand," Gregory said.

Neighbors also are talking about establishing a local dog park

in honor of Lehner and his K-9 partner, Shikhi, he said.

Similar sentiments occurred Friday at Makowski School 99 on Jefferson Avenue. Students drew maps of the area and wrote support for the Police Department and Lehner's family.

They also crafted a special basket that was to be presented to officers Monday morning.

Then there was the blue ice at KeyBank Center on Friday night, when the Buffalo Sabres stood for a moment of silence before their game with the Vancouver Canucks.

Blue lights bathed City Hall Tower and the spire of the Peace Bridge. And blue lights flicker on at homes throughout the area.

It's a lot of little things.

"I'm here just to support the Lehner family and raise some

money," Thomas said. "I know a lot of officers of the Buffalo Police and Erie County Sheriff's Office."

The officers posed for photos with kids, while members of the WNY Heroes organization sold blue pumpkins to raise money for Lehner's family.

Earlier this month, Thomas expressed support for National Football League players who knelt during the national anthem to protest police brutality. This was different, he said. Now he was among those who also felt they had to "be there."

"I'm showing love and support for the community like I always have," he said.

Former Sheriff Thomas F. Higgins helped organize the Police Department's Underwater Recovery Team back in 1960. He spent enough hours diving through ice

holes to know the job. Last week he visited the officers on the river as they searched for Lehner.

"I was on that team for 15 years, and it all just grabbed me," Higgins said.

Lehner's death has gripped the community because it did not stem from the usual police dangers like a gunfight or ambush, Higgins said. He also believes the public appreciates the trauma that police officers routinely face and the bond that unites the police divers.

"This involved the camaraderie of the team and a long rescue operation," Higgins said. "It's so much different. And, he was down there alone and in the dark. It just rips you up."

Anthony M. Masello knows the grief, too. He lost two police

officers, two firefighters and a sanitation worker on the job during his 12 years as mayor of Buffalo.

"There is nothing more gut-wrenching than getting that call at 4 in the morning from ECMC," he said.

Masello agreed that the funeral for Lehner may be unmatched in the city's history.

He noted the quasi-military nature of the police and fire departments, their special bond, and the link that will draw officers from across the nation.

"This one played out over many days and in the minds of the public," Masello said. "Everybody was in on this. And it's a painful reminder of how dangerous these jobs are."

Deep bond reflected in response of diver's K-9



Sean Kirst
COMMENTARY

K-9 officer says Lehner was seen as unit's future

Officer Craig Lehner brought his dog, Shield, with him on Oct. 13 when he drove to the Niagara River for training with other police divers. That was standard and vigilant behavior, said Lt. Salvatore Losi, commanding officer of the department's K-9 unit.

Dog and master were all but inseparable, and Lehner wanted Shield to be nearby if they were called to some emergency.

So Shield remained in his air conditioned kennel in the back of a police vehicle, while Lehner began his underwater exercise. Lehner was a skilled and passionate handler, Losi said, and Shield had learned to wait patiently for Lehner to return.

Yet it was Losi and several other officers in his unit, hours later, who had to open the door and allow the 65-pound German shepherd to get out.

"It was kind of spooky," Losi said. "We all got tense in our eyes and choked up a little. When we opened the door, he knocked us out of the way, myself and a couple of other handlers, and he ran down to the river and started running back and forth, searching."

The dog somehow understood, Lehner — an Army National Guard veteran of deployments to Iraq and Guantanamo Bay — disappeared into the Niagara River that Friday during a training session with other police divers.

A furious search involving local, federal, state and Canadian agencies continued the next day. As soon as he received word that Lehner was missing, Losi and his K-9 officers hurried to Broderick Park, near Niagara Street, to aid in the effort. They returned to the park at 1 a.m. Saturday, when the search resumed. Lehner earned powerful devotion from the other five members of the K-9 unit, Losi said.

"What I would say is that many of us saw near the end of our careers," said Losi, 55, "and we all looked at him as our future. The challenge now will be finding someone to live up to his standards. He already trained one dog, and he's a guy who would have trained many more dogs in his career."

As for Shield, Losi dropped the dog Saturday at a kennel often used by the K-9 unit. Police dogs are independent and strong-willed, Losi said, and it is difficult for one officer to watch another's dog, because the animals typically won't get along.

Lehner, a nine-year veteran of the department, has worked in the K-9 unit for just over a year.

"He was the No. 1 candidate in our selection process," Losi said, "and it was one of those times when you put a round peg into a round hole."

Losi described Lehner as a relentless worker who developed a powerful bond with his dog. Two weeks before, Losi said, Lehner got Shield through



Photo courtesy of Shannon Davis

"When we opened the door, the dog knocked us out of the way, myself and a couple of other handlers, and he ran down to the river and started running back and forth, searching," Lt. Salvatore Losi

some tests with Niagara Regional Police officers in Ontario, experts who handle re-certification of police dogs.

"The trainer called to say, 'Wow,'" Losi said. "This dog is amazing."

That praise, by extension, was directed at Lehner. With the K-9 unit, he found a job that seemed to fit him perfectly, Losi said. Shield was used primarily for locating narcotics, but the dog could also "find a bad guy hiding in a house."

Lehner enjoyed the job so much that he told Losi he had no other goal or ambition in the department.

"This was a guy who didn't need much supervision," Losi said.

He and Lehner often worked different shifts. The last time Losi saw him was the week before he disappeared, when they both stopped to get gasoline for their police vehicles at the department garage.

"I asked him if he needed anything," Losi said, "and he said to me: 'I'm good.'"

"You are good," Losi responded.

The officer endured personal tragedy earlier this year, Losi said, when Lehner's brother died in a construction accident. Lehner took some bereavement time, and then returned to do his work with typical excellence, Losi said.

What Losi remembers about Lehner, beyond all else, is his devotion to his dog. He said Lehner recently acquired a new home in greater Buffalo, mainly to provide more yard space for Shield, a 4-year-old dog born in the Netherlands.

That loyalty existed from the moment Lehner saw the dog for the first time. He and Losi drove together to a training center near Rochester, which raises and sells the animals.

"He was over the moon," Losi said.

Police dogs can cost \$8,000 or more, he said. When the animals are the gifts of private contributors, the Buffalo police — out of appreciation at the gift — typically names the dog in honor of the donor.

Yet Lehner was in an unusual situation. Because the department purchased the dog directly, Lehner was free to give the animal whatever name he wished.

Losi and Lehner were driving home when Lehner made his suggestion.

He asked Losi if he could call the dog "Shield" in honor of Buffalo Police Officer James Shields, who was killed in a 2002 car crash in Buffalo while responding to a robbery call.

Losi, who's been in charge of the unit for nine years, said naming dogs for fallen officers is a tradition in other departments, but it was the first time he's aware of it happening in Buffalo.

"The idea totally came from him," Losi said. Lehner read up on Shields' life, to the extent of knowing the kind of music he enjoyed. He placed Shields' family on his invitation list for a training graduation ceremony in Niagara Falls, Ont., a big moment for any officer who works with a police dog.

Janette Shields, 82, mother of James Shields, attended that ceremony. In a telephone conversation Saturday, she said Lehner's devotion has lasting resonance for the family.

"It means officers are never truly forgotten," she said Saturday.

The same thought occurred to Losi on Oct. 13, when a dog named Shield — with just one goal — ran straight to the river.

single dog," she said.

Her husband knew Lehner, who joined the force in 2008.

"I remember when he first got on the job. I was working at the Traffic Violation Bureau, and it is one of the first steps for rookies," Martin Romero said. "They learn how to testify there because it is easy-going and less formal than a courtroom and if they have any fear of speaking in public, they overcome it."

"I clearly remember that Craig did not have any such fear," he said. "He was fearless. He spoke and could make his case. I was literally amazed at how well he understood the process. Very few rookies can take the stand with such confidence."

"He was in his mid-20s and you could see that he was just beaming with joy. You knew he wanted to be a cop," he said.

Still in touch with officers on the job, Martin Romero said that they now are paying Lehner the greatest tribute they can by remembering him and "doing the best job possible they can to honor him, just like he would have done that."

As for Susan Romero, there was little time to grieve after her "mid-of-watch" call for Lehner. Somebody in the city was shooting a gun. She dispatched officers to the call.

A dispatcher's emotional last call for Officer Lehner

By Lou Michel

NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Hours after police recovered Officer Craig Lehner's body from the Niagara River on Oct. 12, Buffalo police dispatchers were given the order to call for him one last time.

It's known as the end-of-watch call. Three dispatchers were on duty, all of them distraught.

Susan Romero composed herself to make the call, knowing she would get no response.

"Radio to K-9 43," she said.

Then eight seconds of silence followed. Her voice trembling, Romero continued.

"K-9 43, we thank you for your service and may you rest in peace. Buffalo police radio 16:48."

That was the final radio transmission for the 36-year-old Lehner.

The military time of 16:48 translated to 4:48 p.m.

The broadcast of that last call has circulated widely in the past couple of days, and thousands have heard it.

"I broke at the end," Romero said Thursday. She understands police work not only from her 11 years as a dispatcher but also from her husband, Martin, who served on the city police



"Radio to K-9 43," ... K-9 43, we thank you for your service and may you rest in peace. Buffalo police radio 16:48."

— Susan Romero, Buffalo police dispatcher

force for 25 years before retiring a few years ago.

She and another dispatcher handled the initial calls for assistance on Oct. 13 when members of the Underwater Recovery Team began calling, shortly before 1 p.m. from Bird Island Pier, she said.

There was no time for emotion during those frantic moments.

"We had to work that and get as many agencies involved as we could. The Coast Guard, Air One from the Erie County Sheriff's Office and Buffalo Fire," she said.

But after her shift ended at 11 p.m. and she returned home, she shared what happened with her husband as he held her hand. She then broke down and cried.

He told her things would be OK. Yet the retired police accident investigator knew that was not entirely true. The long search would

exact more emotional stress for everyone in the Buffalo Police Department.

"All police officers, dispatchers, police garage mechanics, the cleaners at Police Headquarters, we are all part of the same family and support network," said Martin Romero, who was grateful to be there for his wife.

The Romeros spoke reluctantly to The Buffalo News, not wanting to insert themselves into news coverage. More than 10,000 mourners were expected at today's services in the KeyBank Center, she said.

Susan Romero called the end of watch radio call one of the hardest she has had to make, but also one she held great honor.

"I only knew Craig to talk to him on the radio. I know a lot of officers through the radio. I never actually got to meet them, but in a sense I feel a connection. We talk to these officers every

The Buffalo News honors the
Memory of Officer Craig Lehner.

We thank you for your service.



In memoriam

Remembering members of the Buffalo Police Department who have served with valor and made the ultimate sacrifice for the people of the Queen City

Officer CRAIG E. LEHNER, Oct. 17, 2017 • *Officer* PATRICIA A. PARETE, Feb. 2, 2013

Officer JAMES A. SHIELDS, Oct. 30, 2002 • *Officer* ROBERT J. McLELLAN, Feb. 25, 1998

Officer CHARLES E. McDOUGALD, April 9, 1997 • *Patrolman* CARL O. REESE, Feb. 1, 1977

Patrolman DAVID J. SCIME, Sept. 5, 1974 • *Patrolman* JOSEPH L. O'NEIL, Oct. 7, 1970

Patrolman ROBERT J. ARNOLD, Jan. 15, 1968 • *Patrolman* WILLIAM F. GLEISLE, Nov. 27, 1967

Patrolman THOMAS DENNIS SULLIVAN, Feb. 22, 1954 • *Patrolman* ROBERT H. GOOD, May 11, 1949

Patrolman FRED GANTER, Dec. 29, 1942 • *Patrolman* LOUIS VASTOLA, Oct. 30, 1941

Det. FRANK C. WYPIJEWSKI, March 20, 1938 • *Patrolman* CLAYTON W. CLARK, Feb. 8, 1938

Patrolman ANTHONY H. BROCK, Jan. 3, 1937 • *Patrolman* EDMOND LISIECKI, Jan. 26, 1936

Lt. GEORGE L. UHL, Aug. 31, 1934 • *Patrolman* STERLING C. FORDEN, June 23, 1934

Patrolman JOSEPH STRIEBICH, Jan. 21, 1934 • *Patrolman* RUSSELL E. GREELEY, Nov. 20, 1932

Lt. GEORGE T. MILLER, Dec. 20, 1931 • *Patrolman* JOHN C. GERMAIN, Aug. 9, 1930

Patrolman CARL L. WUNDERLICH, Feb. 4, 1930 • *Patrolman* HAROLD HALTAM, Dec. 23, 1928

Patrolman WILLIAM T. HUNT, Jan. 17, 1924 • *Lt.* EDWARD STECK, May 22, 1922

Patrolman EMIL WOELFFEL, April 15, 1922 • *Patrolman* CHARLES A. SCHMITT, Nov. 15, 1921

Patrolman WINFIELD S. WILLIS, Aug. 22, 1921 • *Patrolman* DENNIS J. HARRINGTON, Oct. 2, 1920

Patrolman NORMAN R. HAYES, Oct. 20, 1919 • *Patrolman* HERMAN A. RADEL, July 19, 1919

Patrolman FRED J. PAULEY, July 19, 1919 • *Det.* JOHN M. DUMKE, April 20, 1919

Patrolman WILLIAM J. CLOSSEY, June 13, 1913 • *Patrolman* GEORGE E. CLAUS, Nov. 19, 1912

Patrolman CHARLES E. SCHAEFFER, Sept. 6, 1911 • *Patrolman* JOHN R. OGDEN, July 25, 1911

Patrolman SIMON J. CALLINAN, Oct. 25, 1909 • *Patrolman* GEORGE W. THOMAS, Oct. 10, 1909

Patrolman NICHOLAS BERNARD SMITH, Sept. 7, 1905 • *Patrolman* LOUIS D. WANNER, April 5, 1903

Patrolman PATRICK J. CRONIN, Aug. 23, 1902 • *Patrolman* WILLIAM DREYER, Nov. 2, 1896

Sgt. FREDERICK BROWN, June 16, 1896 • *Sgt.* TIMOTHY J. CANTLIN, Jan. 12, 1896

Sgt. ALBERT A. THURSTON, Jan. 11, 1889 • *Det.* JAMES M. SHEPARD, Feb. 2, 1887

Policeman GEORGE DILL, Jan. 10, 1865



After five long days of searching, sorrow blended with relief as Officer Craig E. Lehner's body was recovered. As the city mourned, it bathed itself in blue. From the Peace Bridge to people's porches, blue lights dotted the skyline to honor Lehner, none more prominently than the dome atop City Hall.



PHOTO BY DEREK GEE / BUFFALO NEWS

MADE IN BUFFALO



Photos by Mark Matulis/Buffalo News

A bat is etched with the model number, 110, and an M for the wood type, maple. The signature being touched up is from Major Leaguer Curtis Granderson. The bats are hung to dry after getting their finish coat. Rodney Austin smooths a bat by hand to ensure proper dimension and weight, while a wood lathe forms the bat's shape from the billet.

Made in Buffalo Niagara: Superior Bat Co.

Jamestown baseball bat maker swings into season

Furniture company seizes opportunity to diversify

By MATT GLYNN
NEWS BUSINESS REPORTER

Spring is just about here, the snow will finally melt from baseball diamonds and the crack of the baseball bat will fill the air. It's an especially sweet sound for Superior Bat Co., a Jamestown company tucked away in an old factory that makes wooden baseball bats under the brand name A-Bat.

Superior started making bats in 2003. Grace Wheeler runs it as a business separate from Superior Wood Turnings, which is operated by her husband, Doug, and his business partner, Shane Goodwill. That company makes chair and table



Grace Wheeler does the final inspection of a new bat at Superior Bat Co. in Jamestown.

legs for the furniture industry, among a variety of other wood products.

Bat production started at the suggestion of one of Superior Wood Turnings' lumber sources. It was a welcome opportunity to diversify. The furniture industry took a hit in the early 2000s, with more of that production moving offshore.

"Everybody in the furniture industry was trying to figure out what else to do to keep the business rolling," Grace Wheeler said.

Before long, the factory was making 500 bats a week, including for major leaguers like Gary Sheffield, Rafael Palmeiro and Curtis Granderson. Granderson once played for the Double-A Erie SeaWolves, in nearby Erie, Pa., en route to the majors. "He always said that our bat is what got him to the big show," Wheeler said. Granderson uses a

See Superior on Page G4



Where would you like to have dinner tonight? Russell's of course!

"Be my guest, Let us do the rest"

 russell's
STEAKS • CHOPS • & MORE



 **Winner!**
March 2016

BUSINESS

SECTION | G

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THE BUFFALO NEWS

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018



Photos by Mark Mili/Dix/Buffalo News

Made in WNY: *Lactalis American Group*

SAY CHEESE – LOTS OF IT – AT LACTALIS

By MATT GLYNN / NEWS BUSINESS REPORTER

Each day, 40 to 45 milk tanker trucks rumble through Lactalis American Group's gate to make deliveries.

That's how much milk it takes to replenish the company's supply of raw material for making cheese. The milk keeps coming, and the South Buffalo plant keeps churning out mozzarella, ricotta, shredded cheese and industrial powders. ¶ The plant for years was known as Sorrento Cheese (and to some, may always be). France-based Lactalis bought Sorrento in 1992, and retired the Sorrento brand name about five years ago in favor of Galbani, which has a global identity. ¶ There's much more to Lactalis' complex than meets the eye from the outside on South Park Avenue, just north of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. For starters, 682 people work there, including 306 in the plant and 224 in its corporate offices. Buffalo serves as headquarters for Lactalis' U.S. operations, which keep growing through acquisitions.

SEE LACTALIS ON PAGE G3



Top, from left, clockwise: Mozzarella cheese is poured into a machine. Mozzarella cheese is pushed through brine in the brine room. James Burns pushes mozzarella cheese through brine. Blocks of mozzarella cheese travel up a conveyor to be shredded. Above: Blocks of mozzarella cheese are shredded and end up being bagged at the Lactalis USA plant in South Buffalo.

BUSINESS

SECTION | G

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THE BUFFALO NEWS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017



Clockwise from top left, a Perry's lab worker tests a sample for quality and safety before the shipment leaves the factory; the fruit feeder agitates peppermint flakes from ground candies before they are being mixed into the base; and Peppermint Stick lids await placement onto another batch of Perry's Ice Cream.

Made in Buffalo Niagara: Perry's Ice Cream

An ice cream dream

From its horse-and-cart beginnings, Perry's now cranks out 12 million gallons a year

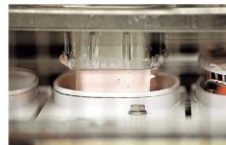
By SAMANTHA CHRISTMANN
NEWS BUSINESS REPORTER

If you're a Western New Yorker, Perry's Ice Cream likely has a very special place in your heart. The Akron-based company started as a horse-and-cart dairy in 1918, began supplying ice cream treats to school cafeterias in 1932 and started selling pints of ice cream in the 1950s. Today, it cranks out more than 12 million gallons of its ice cream flavors and frozen novelties each year. Perry's is known for signature products such as Mint Ting-a-Ling, Panda Paws and Orange Buddies. But as much as 60 percent of its business comes from ice cream it produces for other companies under non-Perry's labels, using unique recipes it helps each company develop. Perry's also handles distribution for several companies that sell around the globe. As a fourth-generation Perry's owner, Gayle Perry Denning grew up in the family's factory, first on Pearl Street then at its current location, where it moved in 1962. "When I was a kid, we'd go running out on the floor and get the ice cream fresh off the line," she said. That new facility was a major turning point for the company. No longer held back by its size or capacity, the company increased sales by 50 percent from 1981 to 1983.

ON BUFFALONEWS.COM

More photos of ice cream production at Perry's
Follow the process of making your favorite flavors at Western New York's ice cream giant as the Akron company, which started in 1918, prepares to celebrate its centennial next year.

See Perry's on Page G4



From left, the Osgood Filler machine, which packs 65 cartons per minute and puts on its safety seal and lid; large steel vats mix background base flavors, which will be blended with additional ingredients to achieve one of 500 possible varieties; and a tub of ice cream makes its way down the line for final packaging.

Exploring the pros and cons of an FHA loan
Many first-time home buyers reap benefits, but there are strict rules | PAGE G4

BUSINESS

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THE BUFFALO NEWS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020



Checkwise, from top: Leather pieces are stored on horses with wheels to prevent wrinkling and give workers easy access when the orders come in at Garrett Leather in Cheektowaga. Containers hold the hundreds of dyes that are used to custom color hides for special orders. Shipping specialist Tyler Salerno flips and inspects the hides that were specifically ordered to be the surface for seating on a private jet. Colorist Carolyn Perillo uses dyes to match leather furniture that will go into the seating and trim of an aircraft in France.

Made in WNY | Garrett Leather

Outfitting private jets and the White House



From left, Garrett Leather President Max Brown meets with Franklin Sciorino of the U.S. Small Business Administration and Richard Ball of Empire State Development.

Family-owned firm imports hides to its Cheektowaga plant

By MATT GLENN
NEWS BUSINESS REPORTER

Garrett Leather's products end up in luxurious settings, from private jets and automobiles, to hotels and even the White House. Everything traces back to a modest-looking plant in Cheektowaga, where the family-owned business moved a few years ago to accommodate its growth. Max Brown, the president, is carrying on the tradition that his father, Cameron, started when he founded the business in 1988. Garrett Leather generates annual sales of \$20 million and has 60 employees. The business has

blossomed from its humble origins, inside Cameron Brown's attic. Garrett takes its name from the old English word for attic. Max Brown said his father had been working at a leather company "that was really at the forefront of the idea that upholstery leather would be purchased by a designer or an upholsterer and shipped to a furniture manufacturer." "Before that, you had eight or 10 options when you were buying a sofa," Brown said. "The idea of having hundreds and hundreds of options of beautiful Italian leather was brand new." Garrett doesn't tan the hides at its Cheektowaga plant. Instead, the company imports hides, mainly from Northern Italy, as well as some from Germany and Brazil. The company has worked with some of the same

See Garrett on Page G2

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT KIRKHAM / BUFFALO NEWS

A CLOSER LOOK

Hate denied as motive in Amherst harassment

By STEPHEN T. WATSON
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

A relative of the Amherst man charged with harassing a Jewish acquaintance said it was a case of a falling out over a love interest and not a hate crime.

Dean Bruscia said his half brother, Christian McCaffrey, and the purported victim knew each other well from school and were good friends until the victim started dating McCaffrey's ex-girlfriend.

"This was never a hate crime," Bruscia said Monday morning outside Amherst Town Court. "It was over a girl."

McCaffrey, 18, is charged with aggravated harassment as a hate crime and is accused of harassing the vic-

tim with menacing electronic messages and phone calls over several months, according to prosecutors.

If anything, Bruscia said following his half brother's court appearance, McCaffrey should be charged with a lesser form of harassment. He lashed out at the Erie County District Attorney's Office and news outlets for publicizing the hate crime charge.

"It was blown out of proportion," Bruscia said.

The District Attorney's Office said it cannot comment on a motive in the case nor detail exactly what McCaffrey is accused of saying to the victim while the case is pending. But District Attorney John J. Flynn has said the investigation into the case shows

Health officials urge flu vaccine as Hamburg mourns boy's death

By MATTHEW SPINA
AND BARBARA O'BRIEN
NEWS STAFF REPORTERS

Students and staff at Pinhurst Elementary School in Hamburg are grappling with the death of a fifth-grader who was the second child in New York State to die from complications of the flu this season.

"This just hits closer to home, being a wonderful fifth-grader that was always smiling, was involved in so many activities, from a wonderful family that was very well involved in the community here," said Pinhurst Central School Superintendent Richard Hughes.

Eleven-year-old Luca Calabini, who had had a flu shot, died at



John Burstein, Erie County Health Commissioner. Dr. Gale R. Burstein said we are seeing more flu this season compared with other years.

Oishi Children's Hospital after the virus attacked his heart, his mother told WKWB-TV.

The last child in Erie County to die of the flu was in 2017.

"This was a very rare case," Hughes said.

"When it gets into your system, sometimes for some people, it can be overwhelming and really stifle a person's immune response so they're not able to fight off other infections," Erie County Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein said Monday.

"We see a lot of flu in our community. Most of the time, people recover without any adverse effects," Hughes said, social workers from

See **Influenza** on Page B2



A Closer Look / State Capitol Building

Opulence in Albany

NEWS STAFF REPORT

New York State's Capitol building on Empire State Plaza in Albany is a magnificent example of 19th-century architecture. ♦ Housing the State Legislature, the building was completed in 1899 at a cost of \$31 million, making it the most expensive government building of its time. ♦ It is constructed principally of gray granite and has walls over 16 feet thick at the foundation. ♦ Three teams of architects worked on the design of the Capitol during the 32 years of its construction, Thomas Fuller (1867-1872), Leopold Eidlitz and H.H. Richardson (1875-1883), and Isaac G. Perry (1883-1899). ♦ The legislative chambers, fourth floor and roof work were all finished in Victorian-modified Romanesque that was distinctively Richardson's design. ♦ It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971, and declared a National Historic Landmark in 1975.

» See more photos on Page B8



The Million Dollar Staircase, top, is an outstanding example of American architectural stone carving excellence; above, left to right, carved stone faces adorn an archway; the vast Assembly Chamber, the single largest room in the Capitol; stained glass in the lobby features the state seal and motto, "Excelsior."

Photos by Rick Hahn/PhotoQuest

Grape Street killings were a mistake, witness says

Man told her two deaths 'shouldn't have happened'

By AARON BENESCHKE
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

A man with a similar physical description to the man on trial for the July 2018 quadruple shooting that killed a 16-month-old and his grandmother in Buffalo's Fruit Belt neighborhood was overheard later that day talking about committing the shooting and told a woman he "didn't mean for that to happen to them."

That's according to a prosecution witness who testified Monday in Kenneth E. Austin's double-murder trial.

Yvette Ervin testified in Erie County Court that she overheard a man she described as dark-skinned with sort of a strong build and dreadlocks tell another man how he had a large gun, drove past once then came back again and there "let that (expletive) go."

Ervin also testified she heard the man who looked like Austin say "the woman shouldn't have been outside with her grandbaby at that time of night."

Austin, also known as "Mama," is charged with killing Yvette Johnson, 54, and her grandson, Kyrie Johnson, and wounding two others outside a home on Grape Street just after 12:30 a.m. July 2, 2018.

Austin's bench trial, which started Thursday before Erie County Court Judge Kenneth F. Case, continued Monday with more witnesses, as well as opening statements from Austin's defense attorneys.

The trial, expected to last about two weeks, is scheduled to continue Tuesday.

Ervin, the prosecution witness, said she went to visit a friend in the area of Shawnee and Richardson avenues in Buffalo in the late afternoon or early evening of July 2, 2018, and was standing among a group of people when she heard the man with dreadlocks make statements to another man.

Ervin said she took exception to his comments that the grandmother shouldn't have been outside with her

See **Shooting** on Page B2

MORE WORKERS ARE WOMEN

For only the second time, labor figures show that the majority of persons working in the United States are women. And in a continuing trend, other data shows that of the 145,000 jobs filled in December, about 138,000 were filled by women.

Story on Page B6

PICTURE PAGE

On the web: For more photos, go to galleries.buffalonews.com

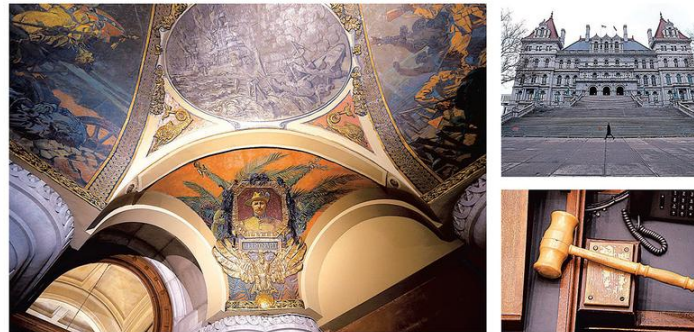


One of the lavishly carved stone staircases in the New York State Capitol building in Albany. Over 600 stone cutters and carvers were employed in their construction at various times.

A Closer Look / *State Capitol Building*

New York's nerve center

PHOTOS BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS



The ceiling of the War Room, above, includes murals of New York heroes, like Col. Theodore Roosevelt, who became the state's 33rd governor and 26th president of the United States; although the Capitol resembles a giant French chateau, top right, the five-story granite building is actually a variety of styles including Romanesque and French Renaissance; above right, the gavel in the Assembly Chambers; below, from left, a door knob embellished with the state seal; the restored Assembly staircase; the entrance to the Senate Document Room.



Ruling adds uncertainty to push for online betting

By TOM PRECIOUS
NEWS ALBANY BUREAU CHIEF

ALBANY — Legalizing online sports gambling in New York State already faced a questionable future in Albany this year.

But after last week's appeals court ruling declaring illegal the state's daily fantasy sports betting program, the legislature — and far more legislative sports gambling initiative could now face even more hardened opposition. "I think we get a little more credibility with our arguments because we won the (daily fantasy sports) case," said Corinne Murray, an Albany lawyer who has pursued a number of legal challenges over the years against prohibition of gambling programs in New York. He represented several

New York residents opposed to the fantasy sports.

Critics and supporters of online sports wagering agree the case involving daily fantasy sports, or DFS as the industry calls it, involves different legal questions than the ones surrounding mobile sports gambling.

A midlevel appeals court last week said the New York State Legislature overstepped its authority in 2016 when it declared daily fantasy sports is not a form of gambling banned by the state constitution. The court's majority wrote that the Legislature does not have "unfettered discretion" to say what is, and is not, gambling. That power is reserved to the constitutional amendment process, which

See **Betting** on Page B2

Musk says Tesla's company talk in April will be held at RiverBend

By JONATHAN D. EPSTEIN
NEWS BUSINESS REPORTER

Elon Musk is planning to showcase Tesla's Buffalo factory.

The closely watched founder and CEO of Tesla said Monday that the company will host its regular "company talk" for April from the electric car and solar panel manufacturer's South Buffalo plant — the first time the RiverBend facility will be publicly featured within the company's ranks.

In a midway tweet, announcing the event, Musk said that the company will also offer customer and media tours of the "Giga New York" facility, where he noted that the company makes "SolarGlass & several other products."

Tesla has been tight-lipped about production in Buffalo and has allowed news outlets in the factory only once and without cameras.

Musk did not elaborate, nor did he respond to several questions from Twitter followers who asked if this would be the company's "battery and powertrain investor day."

The timing of Musk's announcement coincides with a high-stakes deadline for the company to employ 1,600 people at its Buffalo factory by April 2020 — or risk owing a \$4.2 million penalty to New York State, which

built the manufacturing facility.

Tesla has been tight-lipped about production in Buffalo and has allowed news outlets in the factory only once and without cameras. The company late last month said it was "hiring hundreds" at the solar factory, but did not provide specifics about its hiring plans or how many workers are employed at the site. Tesla officials did not respond to questions on Monday about Musk's tweet.

Tesla's highly volatile stock has surged in recent months on positive earnings, glowing forecasts and renewed confidence from its leadership. Musk's announcement Monday

See **Tesla** on Page B2

Apatow team scouting in city for new comedy film

Buffalo locals sought to play extras in movie

By TOMI RUBERTO
GUEST EDITOR

A Universal Pictures romantic comedy is set to film during April in the Buffalo area.

The "Untitled Romantic Comedy" features the team of producer Judd Apatow, writer and star Billy Eichner and director Nicholas Stoller. Deadline reports that the "rom-com" will center around two men who have commitment problems and are attempting a relationship.

Buffalo Niagara Film Commissioner Tim Clark said the production company team has been in town scouting locations.

Hollywood powerhouse Apatow is known for both television ("Friends and Glee") and film comedies including "Knocked Up," "Bridesmaids," "Anchorman" and "Superbad."

Eichner is the star and creator of the Emmy-nominated "Billy on the Street" and has also starred in "American Horror Story," "Parks and Recreation" and the 2018 version of "The Last King" (voice of Timon).

Stoller is known for his popular comedies including "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and "Get Him to the Greek" (both produced by Apatow), along with "Neighbors" and "Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising."

The filmmakers also are looking for Buffalo locals to portray members of the LGBTQ community, as well as other city residents. "The casting is for street scenes, in clubs/bars and party scenes."

Those interested must register at go2lgaqalent.com. Here's what you need to do:

Select Buffalo, NY, as your employment area.

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Submit under "Untitled Romantic Comedy."

You must be lawfully able to work in the U.S.

RICH'S ACQUIRES PLANTS, FIRMS

Rich's Products has acquired more elements to expand its variety of frozen foods and desserts.

Story on Page B6



A Closer Look / Antioch Baptist Church

Turning back time

Antioch Baptist Church at 1297 Fillmore Ave. in Buffalo is a Romanesque Revival fortress that rises above the Martin Luther King Jr. Park neighborhood. Designed by architect George Setzer, it was built in 1906 as St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in the then-German neighborhood on land donated by wealthy Buffalonian George Urban, who came to Buffalo from Germany with his parents at age 15 in 1835. The church celebrated its last Mass in October 1978, a month before Antioch Baptist Church purchased the building. The congregation has lovingly preserved the church with its cream-colored terra-cotta brick facade and rose stained glass windows. ➔ See more photos on Page B6



Top, the interior of the church looking from the altar toward the choir loft and a stained glass rose window. Above left, the church features twin steeples on either side; the four conical-roofed spires surrounding each bellify are original to the building. Right, a rose window on the north side of the building depicts Mary in the center.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHARON CANTILLON / BUFFALO NEWS

PICTURE PAGE

On the web: For more photos, go to galleries.buffalonews.com



Antioch Baptist Church was built in 1906 as St. Mary Magdalene Church, which celebrated its last Mass in October 1978, a month before the Baptist congregation purchased the building. The congregation has lovingly preserved the church. Above, left to right, one of the building's two stained glass rose windows is set into the facade's cream-colored terra-cotta brick; an angel depicted in the stained glass over the front entrance; an arched doorway leads to a sitting room behind the sanctuary. Below, a stained-glass rose window adorns the balcony.



A Baptist beauty in Buffalo

PHOTOS BY SHARON CANTILLON / BUFFALO NEWS



Clockwise from top left, prisoners from Gowanda Correctional Facility painted the sanctuary; the choir's robes are stored in an armoire in the sitting room behind the sanctuary; the twin steeples on the exterior once had unique Moorish-style cupolas, which were replaced with more simply designed belltowers after a severe windstorm in 1964. The four conical-roofed spires surrounding each one remained intact; tall stained-glass windows line both sides of the church.

DAILY STORIES



A look at the brutality behind prison walls
Former inmate's memoir appeals for corrections system reforms | PAGE C1

THE BUFFALO NEWS SUNDAY

Patterson ties national record
UB back scores eight TDs, rushes for 409 yards as Bulls thrash Kent State | Page E9



NOVEMBER 29, 2020 • FINAL EDITION

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LEARNING IN THE PANDEMIC

'You have to go get this work done or your kid is going to fail.'

For the Hardys, the ups and downs of remote learning



Jasmine Hardy sits with her son James for his first class of the year on Sept. 10, while her husband, Robert, holds Janelle. James, a first-grader, started classes a day late because his school was having internet problems.

Part one of an occasional series

The News will highlight in pictures the Hardys' evolution with remote learning

BY JAY REY / NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Meet the Hardys: There's Jasmine, the mom; Robert, the dad; big sister, Briyana; James, her little brother; and baby Janelle, who is 2. ¶ For the past three months, the Hardys opened their door to Buffalo News photographer Sharon Cantillon, who captured slices of their home life as the family has had to adjust to remote instruction amid the Covid-19 pandemic. ¶ Their daily triumphs and trials of learning from home are all too familiar to families in Buffalo Public Schools, where 32,000 kids across the district have been doing the same since the new school year began in September. In many ways, their journey has been the Hardys' journey.

SEE HARDY'S ON PAGE A5

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHARON CANTILLON / BUFFALO NEWS

Biden blowout turns Erie County even bluer

Dems see big gains in certified results

By ROBERT J. MCCARTHY
NEWS POLITICAL REPORTER

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris colored Erie County an even darker shade of blue on Election Day, posting significant gains over 2016 totals in the election for president/vice president and reaffirming the

area as solid Democratic turf. According to the official, certified results of the Nov. 3 election finally released Saturday by the Erie County Board of Elections, Biden/Harris beat the Republican ticket of Donald Trump and Mike Pence 267,274 to 197,227 — or 56% to 48%. The totals mark a major step backward for Trump in Erie County, where the Republican lost to



Demir Guez/News photo

See Election on Page A7

Voters line up outside the early voting polling place at the Amherst Senior Citizens Center on Oct. 21. Early voting is credited with leading to a major increase in voting in the 2020 election.

BUFFALO NEWS WATCHDOG

Eden facility has 70% positivity rate for Covid-19

Hard-hit nursing home is one of five in area with double-digit percentages

By LOU MICHEL
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Seventy percent of the residents in Eden Rehabilitation & Nursing Center tested positive last week for Covid-19, making it one of the hardest-hit nursing homes in Erie County. A total of 28 residents in the 40-bed nursing home were infected with the coronavirus for the week ending last Saturday, according to the Erie County Health Department, which two weeks ago began releasing weekly tallies of infections at facilities where the Covid-19 positivity rate was 5% or more. The Health Department identified four other nursing homes that more than met the criteria with double-digit percentages.

• **Garden Gate Health Care Facility** in Cheektowaga, 184 beds, had 34 residents test positive, which translated into a positivity rate of 18.5%.

• **Greenfield Health & Rehabilitation Center** in Lancaster, 160 beds, 28 residents tested positive, 17.5%.

• **Autumn View Health Care Facility** in Hamburg, 230 beds, 33 residents tested

Related coverage

• **Working from home:** Many offices have been empty since March — and it's likely to stay that way for a while. Page B1

• **Hopeful signs:** Erie County recorded far fewer Covid-19 cases Friday, and the daily positive rate also fell. Page B1

positive, 14.3%.

• **Harris Hill Nursing Facility** in Lancaster, 192 beds, 27 residents tested positive, 14.1%.

Greenfield, which was one of three facilities identified in the Health Department's first list for the week ending Nov. 14, experienced an increase in cases, going from 12 residents to 28.

Autumn View, which had 31 cases in the county's initial list, decreased to 28, and Elderwood at Grand Island, which had five cases, did not meet the criteria for the list representing the week ending Nov. 21.

See Residents on Page A15

Virus deaths nearing spring record amid changing U.S. crisis

170,000 Americans test positive daily

By CAFFEYLL ROBERTSON, GUILLA McINNELL, NITO DEL RIO, JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN AND MITCH SMITH
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — On April 15, the United States reached a grim nadir in the pandemic: 2,352 people across the country were reported to have died from Covid-19 that Wednesday, more than on any day before or since.

For months, the record stood as a reminder of the pain the coronavirus was inflicting on the nation, and a warning of its deadly potential. But now, after seven desperate

months trying to contain the virus, daily deaths are rising sharply and fast approaching that dreadful count again.

How the virus kills in America, though, has changed in profound ways.

Months of suffering have provided a horrific but valuable education: Doctors and nurses know better how to treat patients who contract the virus and how to prevent severe cases from ending in fatality, and a far smaller proportion of people who catch the virus are dying from it than in the spring, experts say.

Yet the sheer breadth of the current outbreak means that the cost in lives lost every day is still climbing. More than 170,000 Americans are now

See Deaths on Page A15

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WEATHER

Mostly sunny, pleasant. High 61, low 40. Details on Page B10.



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LEARNING IN THE PANDEMIC



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHARON CANTILLON / BUFFALO NEWS



James Hardy, a first grader who has autism, is in a special needs class at Arthur O. Eve School of Distinction. He wishes he could return to school, and looks out his front window on Sept. 14 for a bus that will never come. Buffalo schools have adopted the remote-only learning model to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus among students.

Mom praises teachers, but fears kids are lagging

HARDYS • from A1

Over the next few weeks, The News will highlight in pictures the Hardys' evolution with remote learning, which they knew from the start would be a challenge.

Bryanna is a sophomore at South Park High School. She's more of a hands-on learner who gets extra support while in school, so sitting in front of a laptop at home for much of the day just doesn't work for her. Her mother does her best to help, but most of the attention is devoted to James.

James is a first-grader at Arthur O. Eve School of Distinction. He has autism, is in a special-needs class and still wakes at the crack of dawn hoping the school bus will stop to pick him up.

He has little interest in sitting still for remote instruction, even for 20 minutes at a time. Keeping his focus off video games is a constant tug of war. If he is going to learn, his mom needs to be right by his side.

"They're my kids. I've got to teach them. I understand that," said Jasmine Hardy, 37. "But my kids literally come to me every day and say they want to be back in school? Yes. Would I like them to be back in school? Yes."

At first, the family tried to maintain some structure by sitting the two kids together at the table. That lasted about a week.

"You start off your day with good intentions. OK, we're going to tackle this school day," Hardy said. "But then it's like, 'If this boy kicks this chair one more time...'"

Hardy acknowledged that re-



"THEY'RE MY KIDS. I'VE GOT TO TEACH THEM. I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT DO MY KIDS LITERALLY COME TO ME EVERY DAY AND SAY THEY WANT TO BE BACK IN SCHOOL? YES. WOULD I LIKE THEM TO BE BACK IN SCHOOL? YES."

—Jasmine Hardy, who is anxious about her children's education while they learn from home during the coronavirus pandemic.

more learning to move organized this fall and, despite ongoing glitches with Bryanna's laptop, much improved from the spring. She praised the efforts of the kids' teachers and communicates with them more now than ever. In fact, every couple of weeks, they drop off a packet of work at the house for James.

There is also a sense of relief having the kids home during the pandemic. As a parent, Hardy is nervous about the virus and prays each day no one in the family gets sick because they went for a walk or to an appointment. She doesn't know how they would even quarantine in their "box of an apartment" off East Delaware Avenue, near the Cheektowaga border.

Still, she is anxious about her children's education while they learn from home. How are they going to get what they need? How are they going to catch up?

Hardy has experience as a teacher's aide, but it's different when teaching your own kids while trying to juggle life. Her husband, Robert, 42, has been out of work since a car accident in June. She has baby Janelle to tend to. Hardy wanted to take some online classes herself, but has put those plans on hold.

Quite frankly, Hardy said, remote learning has taken the "fun out of the family."

"Everyone tells me, 'It's what you make of it.' No. It's not, because you have to get this work done or your kid is going to fail," Hardy said. "If they didn't get the work done during the day, now you're trying to get it done during the evening."

Then, Hardy said, the next day begins and the work starts all over.



Being a mom while schooling children at home during the coronavirus pandemic means being an enforcer, a caregiver and a cheerleader on a daily basis. From left to right, Jasmine Hardy scolds James for calling his older sister a bad name while younger sister Janelle stands by. When James, who has autism, becomes upset about having to eat his lunch, he gets a loving hug from his mother. Jasmine encourages James to focus during morning circle, his first-period class where students work on phonics, vocabulary, learning the month of the year and other fundamentals.



Robert Hardy sits with his son James on the first day of classes at Arthur O. Eve School of Distinction, while his daughter Bryanna plays with her little sister Janelle. The Hardy family is still adjusting to remote learning, as the Buffalo School District attempts to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Learning at home can be a challenge, especially for students who have special needs.



Robert and James Hardy greet Chrissy Janas, James' special education teacher, as she brings his school work packet and supplies shortly after the start of the school year. Janas visits weekly to deliver work packets.



Meet the Hardys

Robert and Jasmine Hardy get their children, 14-year-old Bryanna, left, a sophomore at South Park High School, 5-year-old James, a first-grader at Arthur O. Eve School of Distinction, and 2-year-old Janelle ready to take a family photo at their home in Buffalo last Tuesday.

On the web:

SEE MORE OF BUFFALO NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER SHARON CANTILLON'S IMAGES OF THE HARDY FAMILY



About the series
The News will highlight in pictures the Hardys' evolution with remote learning.

Clockwise, from top left: Bryanna Hardy is frustrated when a computer battery dies shortly after she begins her global history class at South Park High School. Jasmine Hardy cheers as Bryanna logs into her Junior ROTC class. Jasmine has some questions for Bryanna's student support teacher, Jennifer Beedine. And Bryanna is not happy when James enters her room while she is attending a virtual class.

LEARNING IN THE PANDEMIC

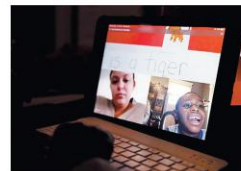
On the web: For more photos, go to buffalonews.com/gallery



It's a constant challenge to get first-grader James to sit for his classes now. While his teachers say he is, for the most part, an "angel" in school, Jasmine Brady has difficulty keeping him in front of the computer. He has become increasingly less cooperative about doing his schoolwork and at one point this fall was three weeks behind. Janelle, 2, seems happier to play the role of student.



Above, Briyana misses her friends at school, but stress learning from home, she's found a new classmate in Janelle. Janelle likes to copy up to and copy Briyana while big sister is in her online classes. Meanwhile, Jasmine has her hands full with James, who is never happy when told to put down the phone to do his schoolwork. Jasmine said she is "just trying to make it through the day."



Clockwise from top left: James gets some one-on-one time online with teacher Chrissy Janas and aide Anna Cruz. But when the first-grader needs a break, he finds Briyana and interrupts her during English class for an impromptu pillow fight – with Janelle never far behind. Helping James and Briyana with their schooling makes it hard for Jasmine to keep track of her toddler, like this time, when Janelle was caught writing on her face. Fortunately, it's with washable markers.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHARON CANTILLON / BUFFALO NEWS

LEARNING IN THE PANDEMIC

On the web: For more photos, go to buffalonews.com/gallery



As time goes on, Bryana is steadily losing interest in her studies and misses the social interaction with friends. James, meanwhile, used to get up early, excited to get on the school bus, but now he doesn't like to get up at all. The day starts out rough when James wakes up in a bad mood and Jasmine tries to comfort him when nothing else will.



Jasmine is responsible for teaching the kids, but when she falls ill and ends up in the hospital for four days, Robert is left in charge of the household. He doesn't have much patience for schooling. Jasmine calls from her hospital room and video chats with the family for about an hour: "I miss them so much," Jasmine said. "They're my babies."



Clockwise from top left, Jasmine tries to coax James into getting ready for a trip to the library, but instead he is looking out for a peanut butter and jelly sandwich; a walk along East Delaware Avenue to the library on an unusually warm and sunny October day is just what the family needed to perk them up, but at the library, Jasmine still can't seem to get everything accomplished.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHARON CANTILLON / BUFFALO NEWS

Cuomo cancels State Fair; no decision yet on schools

By KEITH MCSHILA

NEWS STAFF REPORTER

It's one of the most pressing questions on the minds of people across New York State: Will children return to school in the fall?

On Monday, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo gave a familiar answer: I don't know yet.

During a briefing on the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the governor reaffirmed that no decision has been made regarding the 2020-21 school year.

Cuomo reiterated that while the state has asked all of its 200-plus school districts for a plan to reopen this fall, and that the state would like to reopen schools, the decision had not yet been made. He announced no timetable regarding when a decision

would be made.

"We want kids back in school for a number of reasons, but we're not going to say children will be back in school until we know it's safe," Cuomo said. "We don't know yet if we're going to reopen."

Cuomo's clarification came after New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio said last week that the city's schools would reopen in the fall and following the release of an unscientific survey last week that found most parents were eager for the children to return to the classroom.

Cuomo's answer was more definitive, and expected, when it came to the question of whether the State Fair would be held this summer. No.

"This is a really tough one," the

See **Cuomo** on Page C2

Hospitalization trend remains mostly flat despite recent uptick

By SANDRA TAN

NEWS STAFF REPORTER

The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations through July 4 showed a slight uptick in Erie County, and the number in intensive care units reached the highest level in nine days.

The overall trend line for virus hospitalizations, however, has remained relatively level for more than a week. Erie County had recorded a long, downward trend of hospitalizations before the phase three and phase four reopenings, which led to more gatherings in public spaces.

The number of hospitalized patients rose from 31 on Wednesday to 35 on Saturday. Similarly, ICU cases doubled from five on Wednesday to

10 on Saturday.

Hospital admissions for COVID-19, including patients already hospitalized for other reasons but later found to have COVID-19, have exceeded discharges for five of the past six days for which data is available.

State data for Western New York shows new hospitalizations per 100,000 residents have climbed two days in a row, from 0.52 on Friday to 0.61 on Monday, based on a seven-day rolling average. That increase backs a trend of relatively flat hospitalization levels over the prior 10 days.

It is too early to know whether the recent increases mark the beginning of a new rise in cases or if they are part of the natural fluctu-

See **Virus** on Page C2

Covid-19 in WNY*
Number of confirmed cases
9,606
Number of deaths
805

Cases by county	
• Erie County	7,424
• Niagara	1,295
• Orleans	267
• Genesee	228
• Chautauque	137
• Cattaraugus	97
• Wyoming	90
• Allegany	68

* Updated on Monday

Bird banding at Beaver Meadow



Volunteer ornithologists with the Buffalo Audubon Society take part in an ongoing study that monitors breeding birds across North America. Several volunteers spent a morning last week at Beaver Meadow banding birds. At top, Gavin Leighton examines a blue-winged warbler; second row from left, birds caught in netting wait to be examined; Tom Kerr measures an Eastern Towhee for a leg band; Tom Kerr bands a song sparrow; above left, a chestnut-sided warbler; ornithologist Gavin Leighton selects a leg band for a gray catbird. *More photos on the Action Page C2.*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HARRY SCULL JR. / BUFFALO NEWS

Zoom panel of experts shares ideas on racism

Meeting featured leaders from Buffalo, Germany

By ROBERT J. MCCARTHY

NEWS STAFF REPORTER

A new recognition of racism as a worldwide scourge led to the convening of a panel of trans-Atlantic experts Monday for a Zoom discussion from Buffalo and Germany featuring calls for education, changes in attitude and diversity in government hiring as outlined by Mayor Byron W. Brown.

The two-hour virtual meeting, organized by SUNY Buffalo State graduate student Daniel Scanlon, featured politicians, activists, educators and journalists from Buffalo and its longtime sister city of Dortmund. Along with the mayor, Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner participated, as did local community activists Brenda Brown and Ron Dixon. German television reporters also joined.

Several panelists hailed the new awareness resulting from the May death of George Floyd, a Black man, at the hands of a white police officer in Minneapolis. Others see the problem as too ingrained in the United States 400 years after the institution of slavery, or in Germany where post-war adjustments following the Holocaust may be withering in the face of recent waves of immigration from Africa and other parts of the world.

Claf Sundermeyer of RFB News said an "unwritten contract" guided German society against past racial attitudes, but it all changed around 2015 with the arrival of migrants fleeing other countries.

"Now this attitude of racism is not necessarily higher by percentage," he said, "but is showing up much more in our public and political discourse. The unwritten contract is broken."

Even as movements such as "Black Lives Matter" make inroads among many Americans in recent weeks, not all of those involved in community affairs remain optimistic. Crystal Rodriguez, Buffalo State's chief diversity officer, said even the election of Barack Obama as the nation's first African-American president cannot erase centuries of racism.

But Brown — Buffalo's first Black mayor — presented concrete suggestions even while acknowledging "institutional racism" that is perpetuated by some social and mainstream media. If

See **Racism** on Page C2



Mayor Byron W. Brown presented concrete suggestions.

PICTURE PAGE

On the web: For more photos, go to galleries.buffalonews.com



From left, volunteer ornithologist Tom Kerr from the Buffalo Audubon Society holds a gray catbird that was captured and banded last week at Beaver Meadow in Java Center; a common yellowthroat; a blue-winged banded warbler. Below, Erin Karnatz, a volunteer ornithologist, releases a Eastern Towhee caught on Wednesday.



Keeping close tabs

Volunteer ornithologists with the Buffalo Audubon Society take part in an ongoing study that monitors breeding birds across North America. Several volunteers spent the morning at Beaver Meadow in Java Center last week banding birds. They do this seven times during the breeding season, capturing between 20 and 30 birds each time. The most common birds captured are catbirds, but they also track warblers, sparrows and other songbirds that are either living or migrating through the area.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HARRY SCULL JR. / BUFFALO NEWS



Above left, Arlis Kazinski, a volunteer ornithologist, looks at birds through binoculars at Beaver Meadow on Wednesday. Top right, a sign on a table of bird banding equipment warns visitors to steer clear. At right, ornithologist Tom Kerr wears a bag around his neck containing a female magnolia warbler caught in safety netting and waiting to be banded.

BUFFALO NEXT: HIGHER EDUCATION
By JANET GRAMZA

UB training students to dispel myths about Covid

Pilot program tackles vaccine misinformation

In an exam room at the University at Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Hannah Bucholz angrily lectured two job-coated students on the safety of the Covid-19 vaccine.

"These vaccines have a lot of toxins in them, and before you push them on an unsuspecting public, you need to know what's going on!" Bucholz scolded. "Big Pharma is pushing this because they are making tons of money off it, and the government is behind it!"

The students tried to explain how the vaccine works, but Bucholz kept arguing. Finally, they thanked her for her time and ended the "consultation."

But Bucholz wasn't a real patient. She was portraying one in a simulation as part of a pilot program at UB aimed at training medical and health students to deal with the rise of medical misinformation about vaccinations and other treatments that are injecting mistrust into provider-patient relationships.

Misinformation has long been a problem for health care professionals who often struggle to convince skeptical patients about the safety of vaccines and the effectiveness of certain treatments.

But Covid-19 made it worse. A lot worse.

"This is the scenario that throws students the most — where the patient is trying to educate the provider," said Alison Vergovich, a professor of behavioral medicine at UB's Jacobs School of Medicine who watched the simulation with Bucholz on camera from another room.

"It's a case of knowing when to stop beating your head against the wall, that this person is not ready to change and you don't want to argue with them. It's a totally different conversation than we are used to having in our usual practice."

See **Misinformation** on Page A6

How a school beat the odds on teaching math to kids

By SARAH MEYERSON
NAN YOUNG TIMES

MIDDLEBURN, ORE. — It's just after lunchtime, and Don Montano's fifth grade math class is running on a firm schedule.

In one corner of the classroom, Montano huddles with a small group of students, working through a lesson about place value. It's 23.4 or 2.34, the bigger number? Nearby, other students collaborate to solve a "math mystery." All the while, Montano watches the time.

At 1:22 p.m., she presses a buzzer, sending students chattering: "Tallies and grade-man, switch places!"

This is what pandemic recovery looks like at Benjamin Franklin Elementary in Meriden, where students are showing promising progress in math, a subject that was hit hard during the shift to remote learning, even more so than reading.

See **Math** on Page A11

After a delayed deal for lake property, some in Angola question the asking price

Former local official paid price agreed to in 2005

By MATTHEW SPINA

NEWS STAFF REPORTER

The village of Angola this summer sold a piece of Lake Erie beachfront at a discount to a well-known businessman who served as an elected official in the surrounding town of Evans and remains politically active. Evans tax officials were valuing the 1.2 acres at around \$450,000. But Angola trustees sold the land to Karen Connors Erickson



The former Village of Angola water treatment plant at the edge of Bennett Beach.

for \$186,000 — a price agreed to 17 years earlier, before real estate prices took off in Erie County and markets nationwide.

Days after the closing, Erickson offered the land for sale again, at almost \$600,000 — more than Angola collects in property taxes from all its landowners in a year.

"My response is, good for her," said Mayor Thomas M. Whelan, who was first elected to his post last year after serving as a trustee. Whelan wasn't in office for the entire 17 years of twists and turns but was glad to get rid of the property.

See **Pared on** Page A4



Nolan Scales lives near Kensington Expressway and can remember a time before six lanes of fast, loud traffic tore a wound through his neighborhood. "I know how Humboldt Parkway was because when I was a kid, I saw it," Scales said.

Construction of Route 33 split apart communities in historic Black areas of Buffalo. Now, a proposal to undo some of that damage draws split opinions from residents.

By MARK SOMMER

NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Two comfortable rocking chairs sit on Nolan and Valencia Scales' porch — but it's been years since anyone used them.

"You can't sit on your porch because there's so much noise," Nolan Scales said.

The noise, six-lane Kensington Expressway (Route 33) runs in front of their house, where Humboldt Parkway once connected Delaware and Martin Luther King parks. "You hear the sound of cars and motorcycles, especially the motorcycles, at all hours of the night. It's hard to block it out."

Scales, 63, remembers the tree-lined parkway from his youth. Four rows of stately elm and sparrow maple stretched across the 300-foot-wide green median between chainways and buildings paved the way for the expressway over a half century ago.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LIBBY MARCH / BUFFALO NEWS

Proposals now being studied seek to re-create a portion of Humboldt Parkway and reconnect streets and neighborhoods long separated by the expressway.

The most likely option calls for constructing a deck over the expressway for three-fourths of a mile between East Ferry and Dodge streets, by M.E. Park, with the project area extending south to West Street. A tunnel would be built for the roughly 25,000 motorists who drive on the expressway each day, allowing open space and improvements above ground for the benefit of those like the Scaleses.

"I know how Humboldt Parkway was because when I was a kid, I saw it," Nolan Scales said. "What they're proposing would be a start, but I think they could go further than that. I think we should have it done all the way because they named it so when they put the highway there."

But restoring Humboldt Parkway

See **Route 33** on Page A8

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WEATHER
Cloudy, some sun. High 62, low 44. Details on Page C20



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ROUTE 33: A neighborhood divided



Houses painted in silhouette along the wall of the sunken Kensington Expressway were once connected by walkable city streets before the roadway separated Humboldt Parkway.

Humboldt Parkway was once a vibrant, tree-lined thoroughfare

ROUTE 33 • from A1

between the parcels is not an option being studied by the state Department of Transportation. That would require filling in the sunken expressway and diverting all the cars and trucks onto city streets.

The News found strong differences of opinion among homeowners and renters who live within a block on either side of the expressway between East Ferry and Dodge.

Scates said he just wants something — anything — to happen.

"For years they've been talking about covering this expressway," said Scates, adding that neighborhood residents have "waited long enough."

Others, like Edward Bell, want either full restoration of Humboldt or nothing at all. Bell, 76, who lives on the east side of Winslow Avenue, remembers walking down the parkway to Delaware Park to the Buffalo Museum of Science.

"We used to play football there, too," Bell said. "It was like an island in the middle, nothing but trees and grass."

"I don't see the sense of having it from Dodge to East Ferry," he said.



From the porch of their home, Nolan and Valencia Scates say Route 33 has an inescapable and detrimental effect on the quality of life. "You hear the sound of cars and motorcycles, especially the motorcycles, at all hours of the night," Nolan Scates said. "It's hard to block it out."

Others don't see the sense of pursuing the estimated \$1 billion Kensington Expressway tunnel and related roadwork at all.

Building the highway was a mistake, but all that money should be spent on more pressing needs, said Woodlawn Avenue resident Akron Heston.

There are so many things you could do around the city," Heston said. "This won't do anything for the City of Buffalo but put a band-aid over it."

'Connect the parks'

Some residents hold out hope for Humboldt Parkway's full restoration.

Ten times Robinson, who looks out on the highway from his front door on Humboldt, is one of them.

Sydney Williams, who has lived in the same home on the west side of East Ferry for 40 years, also would like to see Humboldt restored.

"It was gorgeous," Williams said. "They moved it up. They need to go back to the planning board and take into consideration some way of getting farther."

Count resident Joseph Bonds among those who are skeptical of any project not restoring the length of Humboldt.

The whole thing is to get to

"holistically" in terms of the whole transportation network. That includes changes now being considered to the Sagawada Expressway and potentially the portion of Humboldt Parkway closest to Delaware Park.

"It was up to me, I would just bury the highway, re-orient Humboldt Parkway and connect the parks," Robinson said.

"Ferry to Best doesn't cut it. This is said 20th-century auto-centric planning that isn't even going to be viable in 15, 20 years."

But he understands the impatience of others to see something happen.

"We've been hearing this and that for at least 20 years about redoing it," Robinson said. "I understand why people will accept anything."

Sydney Williams, who has lived in the same home on the west side of East Ferry for 40 years, also would like to see Humboldt restored.

"It was gorgeous," Williams said. "They moved it up. They need to go back to the planning board and take into consideration some way of getting farther."

Count resident Joseph Bonds among those who are skeptical of any project not restoring the length of Humboldt.

The whole thing is to get to

Delaware Park," Bonds said. Without that, the project isn't worth pursuing, he said.

The tall trees will never happen again," he said. "The beauty of it is gone, and they cannot replace what's gone."

Arthur Jordan wonders if the changes being considered are part of a plot to promote gentrification and push Black residents out.

"Why are they doing it?" he said. "There are fewer Black folks over here, and they're moving white people in."

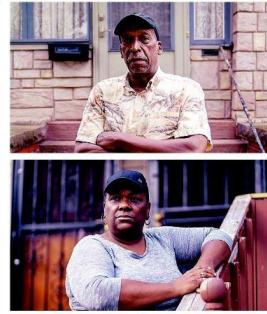
'More livable' with deck

Some see closing the sunken portion of the expressway as a crucial step toward helping a part of the city long left apart.

Assembly Majority Leader Capital Peoples-Stokes and Rep. Brian Higgins, key supporters of the project, have said starting the project could make it easier to get future funding to extend the project further toward Delaware Park, even with the high cost and political challenges.

Chardene Cave Miller, who has lived on Winslow since 1964, favors the state's plan.

"I think it's a great idea to reconnect neighborhoods," said Miller, adding that it would reverse the 1950s and 1960s expressway project that "erased"



Terence Robinson, top, believes the Ferry-to-Best proposal is "mid-20th-century auto-centric planning." Anita Johnson said spending \$1 billion on a highway is wasteful, and would be better spent on programs for children and public transportation.

Might because families moved and businesses left."

The expressway separates families, too, she said. Family members are forced to walk blocks out of their way, crossing bridges to see loved ones who had been a block or two up the street before the expressway project removed portions of the street between them.

The expressway also brought air pollution and health threats, she said.

Charles Hammonds, also on Winslow, likes the idea of a deck.

"I think it would be nice for the community," Hammonds said. "It will make the East Side more livable. It would be a new change and a new outlook."

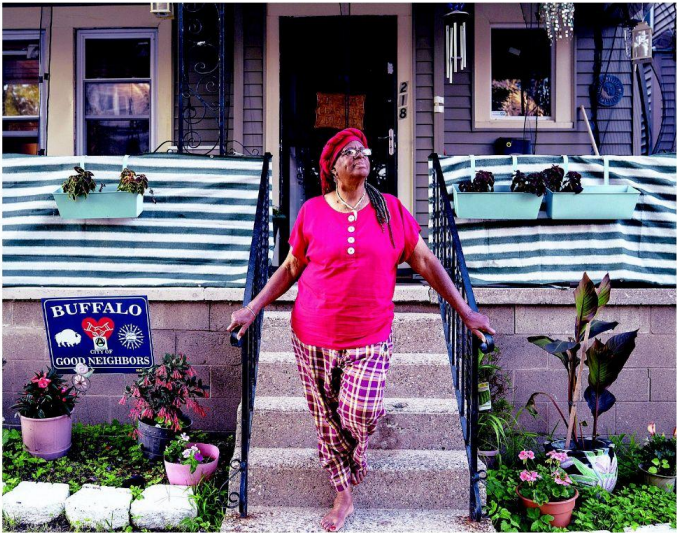
Carlton Styles, who lives on Woodlawn west of the highway, and Donald Clark, a Woodlawn resident who lives on Woodlawn east of the highway, both remember Humboldt Parkway fondly as children. They want to see a deck to lessen the traffic noise.

"You can't hardly sleep for the sirens and the speeding," Clark said. "They think it's a race track. I hope they do it."

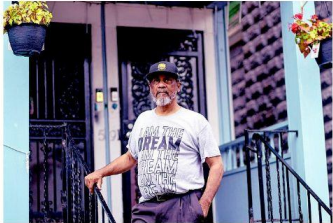
Akron Thompson, who lives on Humboldt and also remembers the tree-lined parkway, said

See Route 33 on Page A10

ROUTE 33: A neighborhood divided



Charlene Cacer Miller, above, has lived on Winslow Avenue since 1964 and supports a plan to cover portions of Route 33 and reverse the exodus of families and businesses caused by the expressway's construction. Below left, Dominique Benefield, 28, with her son, Savion Benjamin, 7, isn't as convinced. "They might as well just leave it," Benefield said. "That would just create more accidents. It's like a drag race down here." Below right, Joseph Bonds thinks the state "cannot replace what's gone."



Some feel decking proposal is inadequate

ROUTE 33 • from Page A9

putting a deck over the expressway would dampen the area's charm.

"This is one of the most picturesque areas in terms of the quality of the houses in the African American community," Thompson said. "I think this would bring some of that back."

Since Roundtree, who lives on the east side of Woodlawn, wants the two sides of the expressway reunited again.

"It would bring the west to the east back together, where Humboldt would be one again," Roundtree said.

More pressing needs

Some residents see better ways to spend the estimated \$1 billion price tag for the project.

East Ferry resident Anita Johnson questioned the state's priorities.

"It would probably help beautify the area, but nothing ever goes back the way it used to be," Johnson said, adding the proposed project "would be a waste of money."

"They need to put \$1 billion in some programs for these kids," Johnson said. "That's why I think there's so much crime. There's nothing."

Leveling in public transportation would be a better idea, she said.

"They need to expand the subway to go to the airport, and different places, to make it easier for people to get around," she said.

Dominique Benefield, a 28-year-old mother on Woodlawn, said addressing environmental concerns such as lead pipes in old neighborhood houses is more



As a federal environmental study progresses and New York State officials have thrown significant support behind the project, some action on a new one of the Kensington Expressway could begin as soon as 2024.

ON BUFFALONEWS.COM



Route 33 residents share their views on project

Decades after a devastating blow to some of Buffalo's Black neighborhoods, Gov. Kathy Hochul is leading a \$1 billion proposal to address the legacy of the Kensington Expressway — but not everyone agrees on the right path.

important.

"It's not necessary to spend this money when we have real-life situations going on," she said.

Benefield also fears traffic would get worse by decking the highway, while a parkway would be unsafe for neighborhood children playing outdoors.

"They might as well just leave it," Benefield said. "I know this area. There are a lot of accidents over here at Ferry and Humboldt and that would just create more accidents. It's like a drag race down here."

Many of the residents The News approached were unaware that Gov. Kathy Hochul in January proposed the project, which would be one of the most expensive ever undertaken in Buffalo.

A federally required environmental study for the project is in its 10th month, with a final decision and then the start of construction projected in 2024. But there has been little public engagement since the governor's announcement.

The state Department of Transportation hosted the June public event to date on June 30, with 27 people attending afternoon and evening sessions to explain the proposals under consideration. The state agency also has received 75 comments.

The next announced public session is the fall of 2023. DOT spokesman Joseph Morrissey called the June meeting "one of many meetings the department will hold and attend as the project progresses."

The department is also in the process of hiring a community liaison in an office on the East Side later this fall, "where the public will have the opportunity to learn more about the project, ask questions and provide feedback," Morrissey said.



FACES ON THE FRONT LINE

Row 1: Darlene Stefan, RN at Buffalo General Medical Center; Richard Zawolai, RN at Catholic Health Covid-19 Facility at St. Joseph Campus in Cheektowaga; Leigh Mortha, paramedic for Mercy EMS, Holly Nardone, RN at St. Joseph Campus in Cheektowaga; Veronica Marmorek, RN at St. Joseph Campus. **Row 2:** Bill Evans, nurse assistant at St. Joseph Campus; Sandra Archibald, certified medical assistant in the ER at Buffalo General Medical Center; Jeanne Traversa, RN at St. Joseph Campus; Sheila Douglas, physician assistant in the ER at Buffalo General Medical Center; Yaghinosa Ballantyne, environmental services at St. Joseph Campus. **Row 3:** Dr. Jack McConth, physician who is working with Covid-19 patients at Buffalo General Medical Center; Kadeigh Wagner, RN doing critical care at St. Joseph Campus; Dr. Lauren Dube, resident physician at Buffalo General Medical Center; Emily Glasgow, RN doing critical care at St. Joseph Campus; Kendi Platts, advanced EMT who works for Mercy EMS. **Row 4:** Hillary Shanon, RN at St. Joseph Campus; Erin Dejesus-Parker works in the ER at Buffalo General Medical Center; Michelle Marczewski, RN at St. Joseph Campus; Barbara Badgley, nurse practitioner in the ER at Buffalo General Medical Center; Tina Krutz, RN doing critical care at St. Joseph Campus. **Row 5:** Michele Lambert-Pacheco, RN at St. Joseph Campus; Erin Monaghan, nurse practitioner at St. Joseph Campus; Ryan Oughel, RN at Buffalo General Medical Center; Dr. Jeffrey Holick, physician at St. Joseph Campus; Tishana Sankarowski, nurse assistant at St. Joseph Campus. **Row 6:** Samantha Qudus is an X-ray technician at Buffalo General Medical Center; Kathleen Henninger respiratory therapist at St. Joseph Campus; Wendy Canning, respiratory therapist at St. Joseph Campus; Cassandra Griffith, RN, nurse manager of the ER at Buffalo General Medical Center; Elizabeth Powers works in the ER at Buffalo General Medical Center. **Row 7:** Candice Kravitz, nurse assistant at St. Joseph Campus; Justin Mulloney, CRNA (nurse anesthetist) at St. Joseph Campus; Chandra Gott, RN at St. Joseph Campus; Alison Eldridge, RN in the ER who is working with Covid-19 patients at Buffalo General Medical Center; Matthew Peller, RN at St. Joseph Campus. **Row 8:** Dr. David Mirisch, attending physician in the ER at Buffalo General Medical Center; Jessica Visser, RN and VP of patient care services at St. Joseph Campus; Chuck Bush, RN at St. Joseph Campus; Diane Lee, RN at St. Joseph Campus; Connie Mohlok, RN at St. Joseph Campus.



Portraits by SHARON CANTILLON / Buffalo News

BUFFALONEWS.COM

See a photo gallery from Simpson's days as a Buffalo Bill, on the field, in the community and enjoying the nightlife around the city.

INTERVIEW • from A1

son said, between sips of his McCafe coffee. "I didn't watch it because I knew they were all haters, and people will say things that are just not true, and there's nobody there

maybe even as hapless Detective

A 1990 Sports Illustrated cover story about contemporary tailbacks asked: "Why can't they run like O.J.?" Generations know him better as the subject of true-crime tales and maybe even as hapless Detective

Mickey H. Osterreicher

that Simpson was rendered irrelevant. He was reborn three seasons

"I always thought that '75 was

"Buffalo was a different franchise

"Me, being a 22-year-old kid, I had never heard anybody in ath-

But Simpson's first impression

Simpson began to accumulate

like my first three years. I'll have a chance. We're back to rebuilding.

See Interview on Page A10

See **Interview** on Page A10

See Interview on Page A10

See Interview on Page A10

BOY HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO RAISE A BLUE-RIBBON PIG



From left, 11-year-old Trever Beats tries to keep up with Gordy as the pig gets a burst of energy and sprints into a full gallop across a field at the family's home in Marilla. While other kids his age are playing video games or frolicking in their pools, Trever routinely "mucks" Gordy's pen, disposing of manure several times a day, insisting on the cleanest and safest environment for his buddy as he dreams about bringing home a blue ribbon. Trever offers Gordy a drink of water and some relief from the heat on a hot and humid day in July. Trever loads Gordy into the family's livestock trailer before transporting the pig to the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT KIRKHAM / BUFFALO NEWS

THIS LITTLE PIGGY

A 259-pound pig, a blue ribbon and lots of hustle

BY ANNY KIM
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Trever Beats is not your average kid attached to his phone. His source of attachment is a pig named Gordy.

The 11-year-old boy from Marilla spent the summer mastering the skills of nurturing a pig, from twice-a-day feedings to evening walks to nighttime baths.

The bond between Trever and Gordy began in April, with an 80-pound pig and a commitment to the 4-H swine program, and

ended at the Erie County Fair this month with a 259-pound animal, a blue ribbon and correspondence with the president of the United States. For a time this summer, Trever and Gordy named after the talking pig in the 1994 movie of the same name, seemed inseparable.

"Gordy knows he belongs to me," Trever said as the two arrived at the Erie County Fair last week. He scrubbed down his pig with a loofah sponge and massaged it with a coat of body lotion to give it a healthy shine in preparation for the 4-H Swine Show.

The program, presented by the 4-H Youth Development Program and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County, is a learning experience for adolescents to develop leadership and responsibility.

In the Swine Show, pigs are judged on



Trever gives Gordy, his prize-winning pig, a drink from a garden hose.

appearance and showmanship. So it was wasn't exactly faith that brought Trever and Gordy together, but the pig's strong physical build, said Debbie Beats, Trever's grandmother. "You want the pig to grow up with a broad chest and a big behind," she said. "Not a fashion-model-looking pig."

Raising a pig requires a routine of responsibilities, such as keeping track of Gordy's feed and weighing it regularly. It also included training two or three hours a day.

The show, Debbie Beats said, is essentially a test of how well the owner is in control. "It's about keeping your eye contact with the judge, when driving your pig at a steady pace and keeping its head up from the ground," she said.

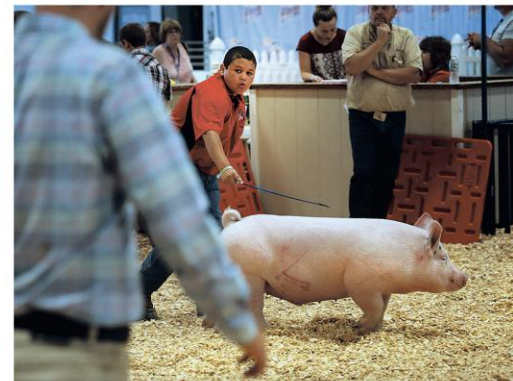
Trever's first year in the competition earned him a blue championship ribbon for

showmanship in the novice division. It also netted him about \$1,600 after the 259-pound pig was sold at auction for \$6.25 a pound — well above market price.

Learning to creatively sell a pig is part of the experience, Debbie Beats said, and children are encouraged to reach out to potential buyers. Trever had a creative idea for a potential buyer: President Trump's son Barron, who is 12.

Trever wrote him a letter, inviting him to the auction. He didn't make the sale — but he did receive a letter from the president thanking him for the invitation.

The summer, Trever said, was a time-consuming experience, but taught him persistence. "I just had to keep hustling," Trever said. "There wasn't a single day where I didn't take care of the pig."



Trever and Gordy try to get the judge's attention in the Erie County Fair Showplex exhibition area as they compete in the 4-H Novice Showman competition. They went on to earn a blue ribbon in his group and ultimately won the championship ribbon in the novice category. Between competitions, Trever takes a quick nap on some bales of wood shavings in the nearby sheep barn.



The long road comes to an emotional end as Trever spends one final moment with Gordy in his stall at the Erie County Fair's Swine Barn before being required by 4-H rules to leave the building during the pig load-out session for his trip to the butcher.

INSIDE WESTERN NEW YORK'S NURSING HOMES



Left, Henry Kostreza drinks juice offered by his sister at ECMC on July 24; below, Roberta Novack reads a list of rehab facilities that may have a bed for Kostreza. At right, Kostreza, is moved into Buffalo Center for Rehabilitation & Nursing on July 28 as Novack hugs Kostreza's daughter Bailly Donahue. Far right, Henry and Bailly Donahue get their dad settled into his room at Buffalo Center for Rehabilitation & Nursing.



Roberta Novack grimaces after her brother's nurse John Rizzo informs her the transportation team is going to be later than anticipated, delaying a rendezvous with family July 28 at his new rehab facility.



Roberta Novack updates family on Aug. 4 that her brother will be admitted to the ICU at ECMC. He was put on a ventilator and given a feeding tube and remained at ECMC until Oct. 16, when he was discharged to Schofield Residence in Town of Tonawanda.

How to select a quality nursing home

How can you find out if a nursing home in New York State is good or bad? There is a lot of information on the websites of the state Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The federal site is medicare.gov/NursingHomeCompare. Each website provides details on how nursing homes rank in delivering care, perform in annual health inspections and staffing levels.

Tony Szecigaj, a retired University at Buffalo Law School professor who specialized in elder law, recommended taking these additional steps:

- Work with a hospital discharge planner so individuals and relatives have an active role in determining what nursing home is selected.
- If there is enough time, relatives should visit each of the nursing homes to conduct a "smell test." Szecigaj says that is a way of measuring staff attention to the basic needs of residents. During a visit, visual observation of what residents are doing — such as if they are just sitting in wheelchairs without activities or staff

interaction — can be another indicator.

- Consult with individuals who are more familiar with nursing home quality of care, such as the Erie County Department of Senior Services.

Under the best of circumstances, families should take these steps long before a loved one is in need of a nursing home, according to Rosanne Sorensen, owner of Elder Care Solutions.

Nursing homes, she said, review several factors when deciding whether to admit a resident: Are there complex medical needs, dementia or mental illness? What types of medication is the person prescribed? Age of the individual?

Having savings can also work to an individual's advantage in gaining admission to a nursing home with a high ranking. A person with more than \$50,000, Sorensen said, can use the savings to negotiate admission. Those without assets also have the chance of being admitted to a highly rated nursing home, if their "Medicaid pending" application is in order, she added.

— Lou Michel

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT KIRKHAM / BUFFALO NEWS

Lacking choices, Novack picked 'best of the worst'

HOMES • from A1

a hip replacement surgery. Kostreza and his sister faced the same scramble as many other families. The sudden switch from a hospital to a nursing home is common, but often takes those involved by surprise. In as little as 24 hours, loved ones who often have no experience with nursing homes must pick one, according to Rosanne Sorensen, the owner of Elder Care Solutions in Amherst, which assists families in finding care.

"It is complex, not cut and dried. You can't pick a name out of the hat and place the person there," Sorensen said.

The key for families to avoid an emotional and uninformed decision is to take action ahead of time, when a relative's health starts to decline, she said.

"There is nothing worse than being blindsided and told that your mother is going to a nursing home and you have no options," Sorensen said.

When Kostreza left ECMC in July, his sister was told there were just three choices. Two had the lowest ratings in the federal government's assessment. The other had the second lowest.

"I picked the best of the worst," Novack said.

'It's so confusing'

There are 47 nursing homes in Erie and Niagara counties. State and federal reports show they differ greatly in the quality of care they provide. Staffing levels, health inspections and whether a facility has been fined for conditions that could harm residents are all public information and easily accessible through the federal

ed nursing homes in Erie and Niagara counties. None of them offered Kostreza a bed.

Novack looked up the ratings for the three nursing homes willing to take her brother. "The highest one had a two-star rating," Novack said.

On July 26, four days after Novack got the call, Kostreza was admitted to the Buffalo Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing, a facility whose overall rating has since dropped to one star.

Plan ahead

Elder care advocates say there are steps families can take to make a decision easier. They recommend planning well before the decision becomes pressing. "We're in the mentality that it is not going to happen to me. But take a moment and look and educate yourself," Sorensen said.

Visiting nursing homes ahead of time to check if they are clean, provide activities for residents and have adequate staff are some of the advance steps families can take.

Having financial resources is also helpful, Sorensen said. Individuals with more than \$50,000, she said, can use that as a bargaining chip.

Under state and federal rules, nursing homes are not allowed to discriminate based on payment source. But The News couldn't determine if the regulation is enforced by the state Health Department. When asked for examples of enforcement, Health Department spokesman Jeff Hammond issued a statement but no examples. "The New York State Department of Health prohibits discrimination based on a nursing home resident's diagnosis, severity of condition, or payment source."

Nursing Home Compare website that rates nursing homes. But many families don't have the information at the very moment they need it most.

For Novack, the sudden decision in July was overwhelming.

A few weeks earlier, she had called 911 requesting an ambulance to remove her brother from Niagara Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Niagara Falls. He had been there for about nine months, following hip replacement surgery. The stay at Niagara Rehabilitation was supposed to have been short, but he got a bone infection in his spine and his weight dropped from 235 pounds to 135 pounds.

At ECMC, Novack pined over paperwork. Her brother's once-strong legs were frail. She helped him sip juice through a straw and adjusted his blankets. She had arrived at ECMC right after she finished work July 24.

"I can't take off from work to meet with the hospital during work hours," said Novack. "It's so confusing."

She said she was afraid he'd wind up in another nursing home that provided a low quality of care.

"The hospital discharge planner said they had notified nursing homes of his planned discharge and some of the homes that thought they might take him came in and looked at him," Novack said. "He was rejected because he was on Medicaid insurance and they had also looked at his physical condition."

Kostreza had no savings and little negotiating power. Despite her brother having spent nine months at Niagara Rehabilitation, Novack said she had not been aware there was a nursing home rating system.

Novack learned of it when, in desperation, she called the regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program for her negotiating power. Despite her brother having spent nine months at Niagara Rehabilitation, Novack said she had not been aware there was a nursing home rating system.

At Erie County Medical Center, where two-thirds of its patients are insured through Medicaid or Medicare, officials say it can be challenging to place those individuals.

"If the nursing home has a lot of open beds, they will open up the criteria for taking patients," said Becky DelPrince, the hospital's vice president of systems and integrated care. "If they don't have a lot of open beds, they tighten the criteria and it could take months to place someone, especially if there are behavioral issues, expensive medications or medical needs."

Nursing homes, she said, are under no obligation to explain why they do not accept certain patients.

"We are at the mercy of the nursing homes," DelPrince said.

A long stay

Kostreza said it was important to have his sister as his advocate. He credited her with saving his life by calling 911 when his infection worsened during his first nursing home stay. He also expressed his hope to regain his health and lead a normal life.

"I want to go home and be able to take my dog Precious for a walk," he said. To date, that has not happened.

On Aug. 4, Kostreza was readmitted to ECMC because of difficulty breathing, swelling to his back and an infection. He was placed on a ventilator and a feeding tube was inserted, his sister said. On Oct. 16, he was discharged to Schofield Residence, a nursing home with an overall four-star rating, or "above average."

Novack credits her brother's admission into a better-rated nursing home to the hard stance she took.

"I refused to take anything but a five-star or maybe a four-star home. He'd been in the worst ones and I was not going to let that happen again," Novack said. She also credited Fenster from the Ombudsman Program for encouraging her to be persistent.

"Henry is still a mess," Novack said, "but I think he is at it better than the other ones."



After bouncing around to "too many" facilities, Henry Kostreza is finally able to sit in a wheelchair Dec. 7 at Schofield Residence in the Town of Tonawanda. His journey is far from over, though. His goal is to be home within six months.

There are 25 five- or four-star rated

SENIORS

Their moment to shine

School closures and distance-learning were hallmarks of a nontraditional ending to the Class of 2020's high school career. Graduates traded a walk across a stage in a cap and gown for virtual or socially distanced ceremonies. Buffalo News photographer Mark Mulville drove more than 2,000 miles over three weeks to make up for moments the coronavirus stole from them. See more of his photos starting in Tuesday's Buffalo News and check out the entire Salute to Seniors gallery on [BuffaloNews.com/classof2020](https://buffalonews.com/classof2020)



Gavin Lyness / *Starpoint High School*

What's next for you? I will be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point. After my time at the Academy I will serve in the United States Army.
What did you love? I loved the books I turned through my classes, band, and most importantly, my sports. The people I met have helped me to become the person that I am today. I will miss being able to see my friends every day.



Rae Sansone / *Amherst High School*

What's next for you? I plan to attend SUNY Canton to major in veterinarian medicine, with a minor in biological studies, in hopes to attend vet school and become a small animal veterinarian. In my future, I've considered opening my own private practice, starting a family, and balancing a work and family life.



Benjamin Mekimulov
Amherst High School
"I loved being in an orchestra and the teacher interaction even if it got me in trouble sometimes."



Nia Nephew / *Silver Creek High School*

What's next for you? I will be going to Syracuse University and majoring in accounting. I eventually want to become a forensic accountant.
What did you love? I loved all the friendships I've made over the years with my peers, teachers, and advisers. I'm going to miss seeing everyone on a daily basis."



Connor Raine / *Grand Island High School*

What's next for you? I will be attending school at St. Bonaventure University majoring in sports media and plan to pursue a career in the sports field.
What did you love? Interacting with the students and teachers. I will miss being a part of the Grand Island student section at sporting events.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS



Alissandra Alvira
Cheektowaga High School

What's next for you? I will be attending SUNY Geneseo in the fall and running track and field there.
What did you love? I loved all the friendships and memories that I made in high school. Cheektowaga was a place where pride filled the hallways and every faculty member wanted the best for every student. It was a place where having love for one another and good character was always encouraged, and that is so important to me.



Juan Brown
Charter School for Applied Technologies High School

What's next for you? Going to college, starting a new chapter in my life.
What will you miss the most? Being involved in clubs and extracurricular activities and being part of a team.



Rabsa Sikder / *JFK High School*

What's next for you? I am going to attend Harvard University in fall, where I plan on majoring in molecular and cellular biology with a secondary in global health and health policy.
What will you miss the most? Along with the people and wonderful memories I made in school, I will miss not knowing how March 13, 2020 - my last day as a high school student - was really like since I am unable to recall what occurred on that Friday.



Aque'iah Douglas / *Cleveland Hill High School*

What did you love? I loved my teachers! At our school it is a family environment all around. I will miss my sports for sure. Especially track and basketball, including my coaches.
What's next for you? In the fall, I will be attending Niagara University to study sports management to become a sports agent.



John Orogun
Park School

What's next for you? Prep school then college. I see myself being a successful businessman and making money doing what I love (basketball).
What did you love? I love that we are all one big family. I have made some good connections with the Park family and I wouldn't be where I am today without them.



Daniel Reif
St. Marie's High School

What will you miss the most? I am going to miss all my friends and teachers since everyone is going in their own direction and choosing their paths for college.
What's next for you? I will be attending Erie Community College to become an electrician.

SALUTE TO SENIORS: Graduating Class of 2020



Gavin Smith / Lockport High School

What's next for you? I am currently enlisting into the Air National Guard, with plans to major in criminal justice at Brockport.

What did you love? I loved how every morning, no matter what happened the previous day, I was always greeted with a smile and a "Good morning!" I will definitely miss my fellow classmates and teachers.



Souleymane Diallo / Kenmore East High School

What's next for you? This coming fall, I am planning to go to Clarkson University and major in aeronautical engineering.

What did you love? I love the extracurricular activities, sports and seeing lot of students together. And I miss seeing my friends including all the laughter we do together. And having classes with teachers.



Hawa Saleh

Hatch-Tech High School

What's next for you? I am going to Cazenovia and plan to major in the sciences.

What did you love? The unconditional love in the school's atmosphere. It is parting with the feeling of belonging that makes me sad to leave.

Senior spirit captured

School closures and distance learning were hallmarks of a nontraditional ending to the Class of 2020's high school career. Graduates traded a walk across a stage in a cap and gowns for virtual or socially distanced ceremonies. Buffalo News photographer Mark Mulville drove more than 2,000 miles over three weeks to make up for moments the coronavirus stole from them. See more of his photos each day this week and check out the entire Salute to Seniors gallery on [BuffaloNews.com/classof2020](https://buffalonews.com/classof2020)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS



Kate Heffernan

Eden High School

What's next for you? I am thrilled to say that I will be attending Nazareth College in Rochester to study a BFA in musical theater with a minor in dance this fall.

What did you love? The thing I loved about high school was performing with some of my best friends. No matter what, my musical family was always there to give me love and support.



Devontae Halter / Kenmore West High School

What's next for you? I plan on attending college this fall to further my education so that I may be able to help people in the future.

What did you love? I am thankful for the people that I met and I will value all the sport memories that I had with so many people.



Elizabeth Humphrey

Wilson High School

What's next for you? I will be attending Nazareth College for music therapy with a minor in honors.

What did you love? All the opportunities available to me at Wilson. I could be a musician, a scholar, and an athlete, and feel entirely supported by my teachers and friends while doing so.

SALUTE TO SENIORS: Graduating Class of 2020

**Samantha Hare** / Mount St. Mary's Academy

What's next for you? I will be attending Niagara University and continuing my softball career at the Division I level. I plan on majoring in bio/biochemistry and mathematics, with plans to possibly go to graduate school for something in the health care field.

**Manny McClain** / Bishop Timon High School

What's next for you? Hilbert College to play baseball and study digital media.

What did you love? Timon basketball games, the atmosphere.

20
20**Aliah Hodges**

Sweet Home High School

What's next for you? I look forward to receiving my master's to become a speech pathologist.

What did you love? I loved the togetherness. I will miss the culture of high school.



Senior spirit captured

School closures and distance learning were hallmarks of a nontraditional ending to the Class of 2020's high school career.

Graduates traded a walk across a stage in a cap and gown for virtual or socially distanced ceremonies. Buffalo News photographer

Mark Mulville drove more than 2,000 miles over three weeks to make up for moments the coronavirus stole from them.

See more of his photos each day this week and check out the entire Salute to Seniors gallery on [BuffaloNews.com/classof2020](https://buffaloNews.com/classof2020)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS

**Sierra Shepherd**

Wilson High School

What's next for you? I plan to attend Five Towns College in Long Island for a BFA in musical theatre.

What did you love? I loved being able to be a part of so many activities. I played field hockey and tennis and I was an active member of the music department and I spent a lot of my free time volunteering.

**Alex Wagner** / North Tonawanda Senior High School

What's next for you? I am attending Boston University for biomedical engineering.

What did you love? I loved being able to see my friends every day in high school. I will miss playing hockey for my school.

**Max Dargavel**

Immaculate High School

What's next for you? I will be attending SUNY Geneseo and hope to work in the health and wellness field.

What did you love? I love how connected the students are. I miss seeing some of my favorite teachers every day.

SALUTE TO SENIORS: Graduating Class of 2020



Lola Villamonte-Stein / Park School

What's next for you?: Pursuing a law degree in political science at the University at Buffalo. **What did you love?:** All of the leadership opportunities and events that brought me out of my shell and made me more comfortable to speak in front of others about what I feel is important.



JD Brown III / Middle Early College High School

What's next for you?: I see myself bringing people closer together and encouraging them to lead better lives for themselves and their families. **What did you love?:** Performing at the talent show every year, it gave me an outlet to express myself and it made me closer to other classmates.

20
20Zayvon Sewell
Niagara Falls High School

What's next for you?: I plan on going to college to get a degree in building and trades.

What will you miss?: Chess club and competing in chess tournaments, my teachers and my friends.



Senior spirit captured

School closures and distance learning were hallmarks of a nontraditional ending to the Class of 2020's high school career. Graduates traded a walk across a stage in a cap and gown for virtual or socially distanced ceremonies, Buffalo News photographer Mark Mulville drove more than 2,000 miles over three weeks to make up for moments the coronavirus stole from them. See more of his photos each day this week and check out the entire Salute to Seniors gallery on BuffaloNews.com/classof2020

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS

Jordan Smith
Southeastern
High School

What's next for you?: I'm joining the United States Air Force to be a Fire Protection Specialist (Firefighter).

What will you miss?: The friendships I made. I made lifelong friends just by being in classes with them. I will definitely miss the events that showed school pride. I feel it made me feel closer to my school and everyone in it.

Stephen Weiss
Cardinal O'Hara
High School

What's next for you?: I am going to Carleton College.

What will you miss?: My school is like a second home to me. I knew each and every student. They are like a family to me!

Anastasia Bryant
Cheektowaga
High School

What's next for you?: I will be attending St. Bonaventure University for Childhood Education.

What will you miss?: My favorite sport, track and field, seeing classmates and teachers who inspired me the most.

SALUTE TO SENIORS: *Graduating Class of 2020***Rosa Vu** / *Maryvale High School*

What's next for you? I'm going to UB for music performance but I hope I get to perform all over the world in the future.
What did you love? I got to find myself and I will miss my friends and the music program.

**Nay Thaw** / *Lafayette International High School*

What's next for you? I will go to college at ECC first and then I want to transfer to UB for engineering.
What did you love? I love everything about high school! I will miss my classmates and teachers!

20
20**Jordan Prusiecki**
Frontier High School

What's next for you? I will be attending Kent State University to study psychology with a focus on childhood and adolescent development.
What did you love? I loved the people I have met through school. I definitely will miss my friends and teachers and being able to perform on the Frontier stage.

Senior spirit captured

School closures and distance learning were hallmarks of a nontraditional ending to the Class of 2020's high school career. Graduates traded a walk across a stage in a cap and gown for virtual or socially distanced ceremonies. Buffalo News photographer Mark Mulville drove more than 2,000 miles over three weeks to make up for moments the coronavirus stole from them. See more of his photos each day this week and check out the entire Salute to Seniors gallery on [BuffaloNews.com/classof2020](https://buffalo.news.com/classof2020)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS

Sapphire Houdi-Sunardi
Lackawanna High School

What's next for you? I plan on attending Trocaire College in the Fall to continue my FTCH HOPE program in radiological technology.

What will you miss? My friends, classmates, and teachers. I always enjoyed myself throughout high school because I knew I would miss it so much. I have spent so much time at the school due to sports and clubs.

**Calvin Brown**
Charter School for Applied Technologies

What's next for you? Going to college to become an electrical engineer.

What will you miss? The friends that I met from kindergarten to those that I have just met this year.

**Brendan Murty**
St. Mary's High School

What's next for you? I'm going to Syracuse University where I am going to study aerospace engineering.

What will you miss? I will truly miss the friends, teachers, and any other people who are part of the St. Mary's family.

SALUTE TO SENIORS: Graduating Class of 2020

**Destiny Tisdale** / Cardinal O'Hara High School

What's next for you? In the future I see myself as an advocate for change that needs to be done in my community.
What did you love? That my school was more like a home away from home. I will miss that family feeling.

**Simon Miazgas** / Bishop Timon High School

What's next for you? I plan on studying criminal justice law enforcement and becoming a police officer.
What did you love? The brotherhood at Timon and seeing all your best friends every day.

**Hunter Deland**

Brocton High School

What's next for you? I plan to go to college, be a DJ, meet a girl & get married, work at a restaurant, watch movies, listen to music, hang out with family & my BFF Robert. I will miss Mr. Pajaro, all my sides, classmates, classmates, & friends!

Senior spirit captured

School closures and distance learning were hallmarks of a nontraditional ending to the Class of 2020's high school career. Graduates traded a walk across a stage in a cap and gown for virtual or socially distanced ceremonies. Buffalo News photographer Mark Mulville drove more than 2,000 miles over three weeks to make up for moments the coronavirus stole from them. See more of his photos each day this week and check out the entire Salute to Seniors gallery on [BuffaloNews.com/classof2020](https://buffaloNews.com/classof2020)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS

Cabe Robare

Nichols School

What's next for you? Next year I'm going to Princeton, where I'll be majoring in history with minors in journalism, creative writing, and humanistic studies. If my future contains an article published in The New Yorker, I'll be happy.

What did you love? My friends - and they're who I'll miss just the same.

**McKenzie Gilmore**

Niagara Falls

What's next for you? I will be attending SUNY Fredonia. I will be majoring in their BFA Acting program and hopefully minoring in education. I plan to be on Broadway as I grow through my career; that is a promise, not a dream.

**Lauren Stevens**

Sharpshoot

High School

What's next for you? I will be attending Penn State University Park in the fall to major in forensic science.

What will you miss? Being able to participate in all of the school spirit activities with my friends.

AS WE SEE IT



Dolphins loaded up early, often in draft
Offense, defensive picks make them more competitive in AFC | PAGE C1

THE BUFFALO NEWS

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FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021

Serving Western New York since 1880

FINAL EDITION

New schools chief hailed as right for Williamsville

By MARY B. PASCIAK
AND HAROLD McNEIL
NEWS STAFF REPORTERS

Darren Brown-Hall, the No. 2 administrator in the Buffalo Public Schools, was officially hired Thursday as the next superintendent in the Williamsville School District. The Williamsville School Board voted unanimously to appoint him. Williamsville School Board President Teresa Leatherbarrow described Brown-Hall as the right man at the



Darren Brown-Hall

right time for the job. "Dr. Brown-Hall's experience and achievements in the Buffalo Public Schools has prepared him to adapt and effectively lead the Williamsville Central School District into the future," Leatherbarrow said shortly after the vote. He will be the first Black suburban school superintendent in Erie and Niagara counties and the first openly gay superintendent in the two counties.

See **Schools** on Page A7

BUFFALO BUSINESS: ECONOMY

Manufacturers, eager to produce, struggling to find enough workers

By MATT GLENN
NEWS BUSINESS REPORTER

Business is booming at Bestar-Bush's Jamestown factory. But finding workers to help meet the demand for its products is another matter. The company, which specializes in ready-to-assemble office furniture, is looking to hire about 50 employees for manufacturing jobs, and another

20 people for office positions.

"On the factory side, we're just not finding them," said Angie Turner, the human resources director. It's a common refrain among many area manufacturers: the demand for what they make is robust, but finding workers to hire is difficult.

That was the case before the pandemic, but the issue hasn't gone away, even with higher unemployment now.

The local jobless rate was 7.3% in March, compared to 5.2% in March 2020, when the pandemic started to take hold.

Manufacturers and other employers are trying different ways to hire and keep employees. Some are offering signing bonuses, expanding their recruitment efforts, or paying greater attention to retaining the

See **Jobs** on Page A10

As We See It / Erie Basin Marina observation tower



James F. McCoy/ Buffalo News

Buffalo is many things to many people, and those people often have different perspectives based on their own experiences. "As We See It," a new series by the Buffalo News photography staff, will take a fresh look at local landmarks with each of our photographers offering their own unique perspective. First up: the observation tower at the Erie Basin Marina. The marina and its observation tower are benchmarks of the city's waterfront revitalization, the starting point for almost 50 years of development along the downtown shoreline. See additional photos of the tower on Page B2.

For longtime fan, 'a dream come true'

John Gangloff never gave up hope, not even when the Buffalo Bisons made their ill-fated move in 1961 from Offermann Stadium to the Rockpile, or — hardest of all — when the International League Bisons of 1970 left Buffalo entirely to play in Winnipeg.

Gangloff, now 73, believed someday, somehow, Major League Baseball would return for the first time since 1915 to his hometown. He remembers the communal joy at



Sean Kirst

COMMENTARY

the 1988 April opening of the downtown ballpark known then as Pilot Field, and the thrilled reaction of the crowd to a mystical sense that something even bigger was finally within reach.

"Tommy Prince," Gangloff said, a name that to any Buffalo baseball devotee conjures an immediate association: Prince was the then-Bisons catcher whose home

See **Kirst** on Page A7



Robert Kirkham/ Buffalo News
John Gangloff displays two of his favorite sentimental tickets from historic times in Bisons history.

Companies face dilemma on requiring vaccinations

By GILLIAN FRIEDMAN
AND LAUREN HIRSCH
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — As American companies prepare to bring large numbers of workers back to the office in the coming months, executives are facing one of their most delicate pandemic-related decisions: Should they require employees to be vaccinated? Take the case of United Air-

lines. In January, CEO Scott Kirby indicated at a company town hall that he wanted to require all of his roughly 95,000 employees to get coronavirus vaccines once they became widely available.

"I think it's the right thing to do," Kirby said, before urging other corporations to follow suit.

It has been four months. No major airlines have made a similar

See **Vaccines** on Page A5

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WEATHER

Partly sunny, thunderstorm.
High 46, low 36. Details, B10



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PICTURE PAGE



Sharon Castillon/Buffalo News



Robert Kirkham/Buffalo News



Derek Goss/Buffalo News

Above, whether it's evening, sunset or the middle of the day, the observation tower is a photogenic star at the Erie Basin Marina. Designed by James Renaldo and engineered by Norman DiDonato of DiDonato Renaldo Associates of Buffalo, the tower is visible to boaters from five miles out in Lake Erie and has become a well-known Buffalo waterfront icon.



Harry Swell Jr./Buffalo News

As We See It | Erie Basin Marina observation tower

Towering waterfront favorite

The focal point of the Erie Basin Marina is its famous 76-foot tower. At the top of the tower's 83 steps, viewers get a panoramic view of the downtown skyline on one hand and a vista of Lake Erie on the other.



Robert Kirkham/Buffalo News



Mark Mohr/Buffalo News

Above left, tourist Ed Vazquez of Hackettstown, N.J., descends the winding staircase at the Erie Basin Marina observation tower. Above right, people enjoy a stunning vista of Lake Erie from the tower, making the trip up the staircase worth the steep climb. Below left, the observation tower is another fine example of Buffalo's brutalist architecture, a style that was popular from the 1950s into the late 1970s. Below right, Buffalo's skyline and marina below make for a dramatic photographic target as visitors enjoy the scenic view from the tower.



John Hickey/Buffalo News



Robert Kirkham/Buffalo News

PICTURE PAGE

On the web: For more photos, go to go.buffalonews.com/uscesecit



The setting sun creates a glow on Erie County Hall and neighboring buildings in Buffalo earlier this year.

Robert Kirkham/Buffalo News

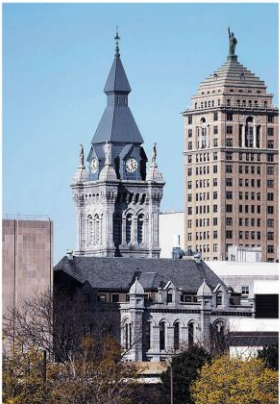
As We See It / Erie County Hall

A hallmark of history

President Grover Cleveland began his political career here. President William McKinley's body laid in state here and his assassin was tried and convicted here. County Hall is now home to the offices of the Legislature.



Sharon Castiblanco/Buffalo News



Sharon Castiblanco/Buffalo News



John McKinley/Buffalo News

Clockwise from top left, the initials of Erie County adorn ironwork at the entrance to the surrogate court area on the second floor at Erie County Hall; the building is a monumental granite structure designed by Rochester architect Andrew Jackson Warner and constructed between 1871 and 1875. A statue of George Washington stands out front; the cornerstones of Erie County Hall was laid on June 24, 1872; the building has four floors and features a 270-foot-high clock tower, with 16-foot-tall granite statues at each corner representing Justice, Mechanical Arts, Agriculture and Commerce. Originally, the building served as City Hall and a courthouse until Buffalo's current City Hall was built in 1931.



James P. McCoy/Buffalo News



Keith Gray/Buffalo News

PICTURE PAGE

On the web: For more photos, go to buffalonews.com/gallery



Harry Scull Jr./Buffalo News



Harry Scull Jr./Buffalo News

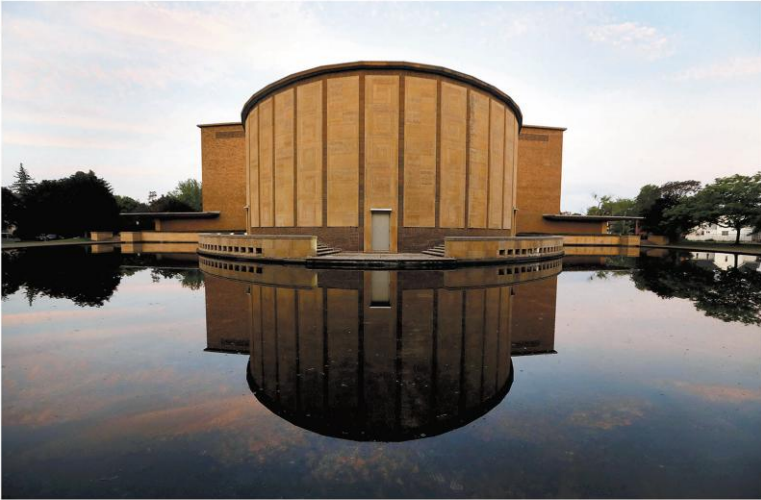


James P. McCoy/Buffalo News



Robert Kirkham/Buffalo News

From left: A below-the-floor view of brackets that hold rows of seats together in Kleinhans Music Hall. The main auditorium has seating for 2,444 people. Kleinhans, which has an international reputation as one of the finest concert halls in the world, is the home of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. Rows of empty chairs are lined up waiting to be occupied in the Mary Seaton Room. Below: The reflecting pool was redesigned in 2001 as part of a larger restoration project. The pool is 3 inches deep with a concave floor that gives the appearance of a much greater depth.



Sharon Cantillon/Buffalo News



Mark Mahillon/Buffalo News

As We See It / *Kleinhans Music Hall*

AN ACOUSTIC MASTERPIECE

PHOTOS BY BUFFALO NEWS STAFF

Kleinhans Music Hall was designed by the father-and-son team of Eiel and Eero Saarinen, along with architects F.J. and W.A. Kidd. It officially opened on Oct. 12, 1940. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989 and is still considered one of the most acoustically perfect halls in the world. * Kleinhans Music Hall was built thanks to the vision of Edward and Mary Seaton Kleinhans and the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. The Kleinhans, who owned a clothing store, were music lovers and specified their money be used "to erect a suitable music hall ... for the use, enjoyment and benefit of the people of the City of Buffalo."



Derek Gay/Buffalo News

The renowned Kleinhans Music Hall is located at 3 Symphony Circle in Buffalo.



Mark Mahillon/Buffalo News

The bust of Italian opera composer Giuseppe Verdi stands outside of Kleinhans.



Buffalo News photographers provide unique perspectives on area landmarks

"As We See It," a series by The Buffalo News photography staff, will take a fresh look at local landmarks. Each of our photographers will provide their unique perspective. See all of the collections for this feature online by going to go.buffalonews.com/aweseeit.

#EVERYDAYAPhoto



THE PICTURE PAGE

Cruising along



Toni, a 7-month-old California sea lion, is the new darling at the Buffalo Zoo. The pup can hold her breath for up to 10 minutes. For more photos, go to galleries.buffalonews.com

PHOTO BY SHARON CANTILLON / BUFFALO NEWS

THE PICTURE PAGE

Night lights



Light trails from passing cars are reflected in the wet pavement Wednesday on Court Street in a view looking west on Court Street toward Niagara Square. For more photos, go to galleries.buffalonews.com

PHOTO BY DEREK GEE / BUFFALO NEWS





THE PICTURE PAGE

Old-time jail



The Hamburg Village Lockup, right, used from 1896 though 1915, on the campus of the Hamburg Historical Museum. For more photos, go to buffalonews.com/gallery

PHOTO BY ROBERT KIRKHAM / BUFFALO NEWS

THE PICTURE PAGE

A brand new bag



Reenactor Wallace McElheney crafts a bag out of leather and fur in the officers quarters at Old Fort Niagara in Youngstown on Saturday. For more photos, go to buffalonews.com/gallery

PHOTO BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS





The Buffalo News/Tuesday, September 28, 2021

THE PICTURE PAGE

Sunset silhouette

A car appears to be heading into the setting sun on
Armor Duells Road in Orchard Park Friday night.
For more photos, go to buffalonews.com/gallery



PHOTO BY SHARON CANTILLON / BUFFALO NEWS

BRED IN
BUFFALO

CELEBRATE THE
HOLIDAY
SEASON

THE PICTURE PAGE

Open-air shopping



Shoppers look for gifts at the Loaded Lumber holiday market in Buffalo.. For more photos, go to buffalonews.com/gallery

MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS





THE PICTURE PAGE

LET'S GO!



Niagara Wheatfield cheerleaders perform during the Section VI Championships on Sunday at Starpoint High School.

PHOTO BY HARRY SCULL JR. / BUFFALO NEWS



THE PICTURE PAGE

A path to follow

Javon Linwood participates in an individual graduation ceremony at the International Preparatory School at Grover Cleveland in Buffalo. For more senior photos, go to galleries.buffalonews.com



PHOTOS BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS



THE PICTURE PAGE

Wings on the water



A seagull takes flight Tuesday over Hamburg Beach Town Park as its brethren stick to the sand below. For more photos, go to galleries.buffalonews.com

PHOTO BY MARK MULVILLE / BUFFALO NEWS



THE PICTURE PAGE

Lunar liberty



Sunday's full moon, known as the Worm Moon, aligns behind one of the statues atop the Liberty Building in downtown Buffalo. For more photos, go to galleries.buffalonews.com

PHOTO BY DEREK GEE / BUFFALO NEWS

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