

## From dirt to turf

Pitchers adjusting to new synthetic mound at Shuttleworth Park.

• Page B1



## SCHWARTZ LAW FIRM

General Practice and Civil Litigation Law Firm

- Wills/Trusts • Matrimonial • Estate Administration
- Real Estate • Personal Injury

Free initial consultations for any of our legal services

236 State Hwy 67 | Amsterdam, New York 12010 | Telephone: (518) 770-1588



# The Recorder

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1832

WEEKEND

April 20-21, 2019

AMSTERDAM, N.Y.

VOL. 138, NO. 208

\$1.50

## Biden set to launch presidential campaign

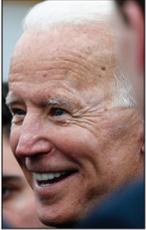
WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Vice President Joe Biden is expected to join the crowded 2020 Democratic presidential field next week.

The decision answers one of the most significant outstanding questions of the early presidential primary season, which has already seen announcements from 18 other Democrats. Biden, 76, would be the most experienced politician in the race, and the second oldest, after 77-year-old Bernie Sanders.

His plans were confirmed by three people with knowledge of them. They were not authorized to discuss the plans publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The announcement is expected as early as Wednesday and would cap months of deliberation over his political future.

Already, supportive donors have begun trying to raise money on his behalf.

Please see BIDEN, Page A6



BIDEN



Submitted photo

Foothills Arts Council member Judith Prest captured this photograph of blossomed crocus bulbs.

## Arts council blossoming

AMSTERDAM-BASED GROUP ROLLS OUT PROGRAMMING

By JOHN PURCELL  
Recorder News Staff

An Amsterdam-based not-for-profit organization formed two years ago to foster and support the arts has planned a host of activities and events for this year.

The Foothills Arts Council has announced programs stretching through October for poetry and spoken word, acting classes and theater production, and finding artistic inspiration through collage.

A fundraiser dinner to help support the Foothills Arts Council's operations and programs will be held Monday, May 20, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Parillo's Armory Grill, 67 Bridge St., in Amsterdam. Sister Harmony, an area duo, and poet Judith Prest will provide entertainment that evening, which is also planned to include raffles and a silent auction.

A ticket for the fundraiser dinner is \$25. For tickets or information about the event, call 518-496-2707.

Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

"The fact that this involves a buffet dinner, entertainment and a silent auction, it's really a good deal," FAC Board Vice President Cheryl Charbonneau said.

More than two years ago, FAC Board President Jay Towne, an Amsterdam resident, spearheaded the organization that was incorporated in April 2017. It secured its tax-exempt designation as a public charity in September 2017.

Towne had said his idea to form the group centered around the difficulty to secure funding for an artistic endeavor. The vision and scope of the organization's mission eventually broadened to include more artistic ventures and educational opportunities.

Some FAC Board members have departed over the past year, but Towne, who stepped up to serve as president again, said only one board seat remains open.

Please see ARTS, Page A4

## High-speed chase roars through Amsterdam

By JOHN PURCELL  
Recorder News Staff

A motorcycle rider led authorities through Amsterdam, reportedly reaching up to 140 mph while approaching the city, after failing to comply with a trooper's attempt to stop them in Schenectady County.

New York State Police attempted to stop the unidentified motorcyclist on Route 5 in the Town of Glenville, but the rider reportedly spurred a high-speed chase after fleeing west to Amsterdam, according to city Detective Joseph Spencer.

Please see CHASE, Page A4

## Legislators hear update on land bank

By WINNIE BLACKWOOD  
Recorder News Staff

FONDA — A representative with the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank updated Montgomery County legislators on the work done on several properties conveyed to the organization and what parcels are potentially being eyed in the 2019 tax foreclosure auction.

Tolga Morawski, executive director of the land bank, presented to the Montgomery County legislators during the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting Tuesday on properties that were conveyed to the organization in August 2018.

The legislature passed a resolution during their August 2018 meeting to convey nine properties to the land bank that were a part of the county's tax foreclosure auction for the tax year of 2017.

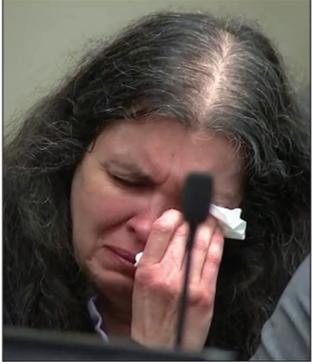
"To date we have invested \$192,000 as of today, since acquisition, overall, not on any one particular property," Morawski said.

Parcels of land in the resolution were for either rehabilitation or demolition by the land bank.

The goal of the land bank is to

Please see LAND, Page A4

## Inside



### Shackled children

Parents who starved and shackled 12 of their children sentenced to life in prison.

• Page A6

## Students code, compete for college credit

By DUSTEN RADER  
Recorder News Staff

JOHNSTOWN — Foothills Pathways in Technology Early College High School student Steven Hulbert not only got to meet one of his favorite professional gamers, Camran "Vapor" Yaqoob, he also had the opportunity to scrimmage with him in preparation for an upcoming eSports tournament in which scholarship money is up for grabs.

Hulbert is one of dozens of students from 11 school districts across the region preparing to compete for at least \$5,000 in the GE Theater at Proctors in Schenectady this May.

As part of their training, students from Johnstown and

Please see GAME, Page A5



Foothills Pathways in Technology Early College High School student Bryen Belknap plays "Call of Duty" on April 17 during a scrimmage against Gaming Insomniacs staff in preparation for an upcoming eSports tournament in which scholarship money is up for grabs.

Dusten Rader/Express Editor

## Democrats subpoena Mueller report amid impeachment calls

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee issued a subpoena Friday for special counsel Robert Mueller's full report as Democrats intensified their investigation of President Donald Trump, but leaders stopped short of liberal demands for impeachment proceedings.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has insisted on a methodical, step-by-step approach to the House's oversight of the Trump administration, and she refuses to consider impeachment without public support, including from Republicans, which seems unlikely. But in light of Mueller's findings, Democratic leaders are under mounting pressure from the party's rising stars, deep-pocketed donors and even a presidential contender to seize the moment as a jumping-off point for trying to

remove Trump from office.

Speaking Friday in Belfast as Pelosi wrapped up a congressional visit to Ireland, she declined to signal action beyond Congress' role as a check and balance for the White House.

"Let me assure you that whatever the issue and challenge we face, the Congress of the United States will honor its oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States to protect our democracy," she told reporters. "We believe that the first article — Article I, the legislative branch — has the responsibility of oversight of our democracy, and we will exercise that."



PELOSI

That approach isn't enough for some liberals who see in Trump's actions not just a president unfit for office but evidence of obstruction serious enough that Mueller said he could not declare Trump exonerated.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., is now signed on to an impeachment resolution from fellow Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, bringing new energy to the effort. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., a presidential candidate, said Friday the House "should initiate impeachment proceedings against the president." And billionaire Tom Steyer, a leading advocate of impeachment, has grown impatient with the House's pace of investigations and wants televised hearings to focus Americans' attention on Trump.

Please see MUELLER, Page A6

Classifieds B9-12

Happenings A2

Lottery numbers A4

Opinion A7

Sports B1-6



Thunderstorm highs in the upper 60s

• Page B7



0 94922 05289 6

join june's for

## PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

April 20th from 11:00am to 2:00pm  
Photos with the bunny are free, parents please bring your own camera.

## JUNE'S GIFT BOUTIQUE

111 Sanford Farms Plaza, Route 30 Amsterdam, NY 12010

518.842.9220

Mon thru Sat 9-8, Sun 10-4:30

SHOP WITH US 24/7 AT  
WWW.JUNESGIFTBOUTIQUE.COM  
NEW ITEMS ADDED DAILY

**Land from page A1**

rehabilitate or stabilize neglected and abandoned houses to a productive use, or in dire situations, to demolish certain properties to help strengthen the community and fight blight.

Properties the land bank is looking to rehabilitate include 132 W. Grand St. in Palatine Bridge, 224 Main St. in Fort Plain with a lot on 215-217 Main St., 3 W. Main St. in St. Johnsville and 219 Canal St. in Fort Plain with a Canal Street lot.

Properties identified for demolition were 13 Lower Prospect St. in Fonda, 63 Center St. in Fort Plain, 39 Monroe St. in St. Johnsville and 21 Lydius St. in Fort Plain.

On most of the properties, the land bank has currently completed clean outs, the lead surveys, asbestos surveys and in some cases the asbestos mitigation, Morawski said.

The resolution also included a \$34,500 contract for 132 W. Grand St. in Palatine Bridge. In the contract, if the land bank is unable to stabilize the building within a year or if the property remains tax exempt for two years, the land bank will convey the property back to the county.

Issues with the Palatine Bridge property included several collapsed chimneys, interior water damage, heavy mold growth and replacements of the rear porch and front bump-out roofs.

For the stone lodge on West Grand Street, work completed thus far includes stabilizing the interior and exterior and disassembling three of its chimneys in preparation of putting them back together in a secure manner.

"We've taken out all the stain glass windows and the curved windows that were at risk of being damaged while we are doing work," Morawski said. "We have went out to bid for the masonry repairs. We have yet to select the successful bidder for that."

The land bank worked in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHIPO) for the Palatine Bridge property to put together bid packages to repair its masonry.



Winnie Blackwood/Recorder Staff

**Montgomery County passed a resolution in 2018 to convey 13 Lower Prospect St. to the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank for demolition.**

District 3 Legislator Roy Dimond asked if the stone lodge's fireplace will be able to be saved and rehabilitated. Morawski said they plan to save the fireplace, which has been braced on the inside to keep it from further damaging the house.

Morawski said 224 Main St. in Fort Plain with a lot on 215-217 Main St. will be a sale with scope. A parking design plan is also in the works for the lot.

New St. Johnsville Mayor Charles Straney has been working with the land bank on 3 W. Main St. in St. Johnsville, along with former Mayor Bernard Barnes, to transform the property into a business incubator for the village's downtown, Morawski said. The building's roof has also been stabilized to prevent further collapse.

Work with the neighbors of the 219 Canal St. property in Fort Plain that comes with a Canal Street lot has been completed and the lot's three parcels have been sold, Morawski said. He added all three parties were content with their parcel.

"They are going to add to their properties to address issues that they had with their driveway or property line," Morawski said. "That's all been completed. The building has been cleaned out. We've stabilized the roof."

Chairman of the Economic Development and Planning Committee and District 9 Legislator Robert Purtell thanked Morawski for his work on the Canal Street project and said he knew it was a "cumbersome" project.

Morawski said 63 Center St. in

Fort Plain, which is on the list for demolition, was occupied until recently and the family has been relocated.

"It took a lot longer than anticipated, but we are now moving forward to get the surveys done to move towards demolition," Morawski said.

The land bank is still considering the possibility of moving 21 Lydius St. in Fort Plain off the demolition list to be rehabilitated because it was found to have more of a sound interior structure, Morawski said.

Morawski also discussed with legislators the six properties the land bank is looking to have conveyed to them this year from the 2019 foreclosure auction. The list includes 3 Ann St. in Fultonville and 37 Monroe St. in St. Johnsville for rehabilitation. Properties eyed for demolition are 15 Center St. in St. Johnsville and 71 W. Grand St. in Palatine Bridge.

According to Morawski, 37 Monroe St. is neighbors with 39 Monroe St., which is on the list for demolition currently.

"There are three buildings on a really, really tight lot in a corner and they have to go through the 37 Monroe lot, so we would really like to recombine 39 and 37 and then put that out as one unit with the house," Morawski said.

The land bank is also eyeing two properties for stabilization and to apply for additional funding for the projects. The properties are 42-50 Canal St. in Fort Plain and 51 Mohawk St. in Fort Plain.

**Arts from page A1**

"Small not-for-profits anywhere that don't have a paid board have a hard time retaining people," Towne said. "We've had our share of that but now we have 10 directors and officers, so we're pretty full."

Charbonneau, who was elected vice president after Towne moved up to be president, said she was attracted to the variety of the council's programming.

"One of the things I really like about this organization is the many fields that they're promoting," Charbonneau said. "We're not just any one thing. We're touching base on all of the arts, and that's one of the things that has me most excited about being involved with this organization."

Charbonneau, a Scotia resident, said many opportunities are available for people to become involved with the organization.

"We're really looking for volunteers," Charbonneau said. "If anybody is interested in any aspect at all of the arts, we'll welcome them with open arms."

A poetry open-mic night at the Dorn Space in Gloversville is the first event coming up for FAC. The free event is co-sponsored by the arts and entertainment center, located at 99 North Main St. in the city, which features two speakers from Albany Poets: Terese Broderick and Thom Francis.

FAC member Judith Prest will

host "Unlocking Creativity with Collage," a two-hour class co-sponsored by the Amsterdam Free Library. Prest, who is an author and mixed media artist, will host the free course that uses collage and writing to inspire artistic expression. The class will be held at the library, 28 Church St. in the city, starting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 9.

Jon South, a professional actor and singer who has taught acting since 1995, will teach a six-week workshop series, Acting for the Stage, from May 21 through June 18. The classes will be held on Tuesdays at The Century Club of Amsterdam, 130 Guy Park Ave., and cost \$100 per person for the series.

Pre-registration required for the workshop series and the payment deadline is May 10. For more information about registering, e-mail foothillsarts@yahoo.com or call 518-496-2707.

South studied at the Empire State Institute for the Performing Arts and the Herbert Berghof Studio in New York City. He has performed in more than 60 stage productions at area theatres, along with films, radio and television.

From Aug. 19 to 24, the FAC and Amsterdam Free Library are sponsoring a theater camp at the library geared for 8 to 14 year olds. The camp aims to teach children how to better express and create through immersion in techniques of theater production.

Study areas will include: Set construction, playwriting, and acting.

Participants are planned to put on a play at the end of camp.

Towne said the council is still planning to host a play by John Cariani, "Almost, Maine," at Pawling Hall in Haganam, with shows on September 27 to 29.

The Haganam Historical Society is taking over on the care of Pawling Hall after the village moved its Clerk's Office from the historic 86 N. Pawling St. building to a new location on William Street, according to Mayor Robert Krom. Pawling Hall was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

Towne said "Almost, Maine" is play based in the northern province of Maine with a story revolving around the various forms of love. He said Charbonneau previously directed the production at other locations. Tickets will be \$10 per person.

A poetry open mic night will be held Thursday, Sept. 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Meadowbrook Saloon, with a \$5 admission to be charged.

An annual spoken word program, "Creative Harvest," is planned to return in October. The Amsterdam Free Library co-sponsor the event with FAC, which features poets and speakers from across the region. A wide range of topics is expected to be showcased.

Updated information about the Foothills Arts Council's planned activities and programs are posted to its website, foothillsartsny.com. The organization also has a Facebook page — Foothills Arts Council, Inc. — where information is shared.

**Chase from page A1**

"Being that it's a motorcycle and speeds were in excess of 100 miles per hour, our officers were directed to keep a safe distance from the motorcycle," Spencer said. "You want to keep a distance from it because there's a high risk of a crash."

Amsterdam patrol officers were placed near the city line along Route 5, and the fleeing biker did continue

along the road into the city, Spencer said. The high-performance motorcycle eventually was spotted on Main Street, with the rider reportedly turning onto lower Market Street and continuing down Route 5 west.

Spencer said the biker exited the city through the Village of Fort Johnson. The suspect eventually crossed over the Mohawk River, with the rider returning to the city on Route 5S. Law enforcement patrols were staged near the city line when the motorcyclist passed the parked

vehicles.

Amsterdam police, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and State Police continued the chase along Route 5S, which extended into Rotterdam Junction.

Spencer said authorities continued the pursuit in Schenectady County, but the chase was eventually called off after police lost sight of the motorcyclist. Law enforcement reportedly did not obtain the license plate information for the motorcycle nor identity of the rider.

**OBITUARIES****Mary Ann Vidulich**

April 18, 2019

Mary Ann Vidulich, 73, formerly of Progress Road, Gloversville, NY; passed away Thursday morning April 18, 2019 at River Ridge Living Center in Amsterdam, NY.

Born in Amsterdam on May 15, 1945, she was the daughter of the late Lawrence and Eileen Nethaway Luke.

Mary Ann was educated in the Amsterdam school system and retired from St. Mary's Hospital in Amsterdam.

Mary Ann was married to Nicholas F. Vidulich on October 19, 1968. Nick passed away December 22, 2010. She is survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins, great nieces and nephews, sister-in-law, Karen Nethaway and close friends.

Mary Ann was also predeceased by her brother, Robert Nethaway.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday April 24, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Riley Mortuary, Inc., 110 Division Street; Amsterdam, NY 12010.

Interment will follow at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, NY.

To send online expressions of sympathy, visit [www.rileymortuary-inc.com](http://www.rileymortuary-inc.com).

**Michael Joseph Leo Kowalczyk**

April 15, 2019

Michael Joseph Leo Kowalczyk, 68, of Perth, N.Y., entered eternal peace on Monday, April 15th, 2019 with his loving family by his side.

Born on November 11th, 1950 in Amsterdam, N.Y., he was the son of Joseph and the late Irma (Stuart) Kowalczyk. Michael graduated from the former Perth Central School District Class of 1968. Michael was a proud Vietnam Veteran.

He bravely served our country as part of the United States Army, enlisting in 1969. In 1971 he was granted an early release from the draft after serving most of his time in a war zone. Before being drafted into the Army Michael worked for P.C Grocery Store in Amsterdam. After serving his country Michael worked for General Electric, and the Town of Perth Highway Department.

Michael not only loved to cook, but he did it very well. He rarely passed up the opportunity to cook for his entire family. A cabbage dish would consist of 8 heads of cabbage. He truly enjoyed Sunday picnics at the pond. Michael cared deeply for his family.

Michael is survived by his sisters, Patricia (Gary) Weaver, and Rebecca (David) Dopp; and his brother Joseph (Robin) Kowalczyk. Several Nieces and Nephews, as well as many great nieces and nephews also survive. Michael is predeceased by his brother Peter (Val) Kowalczyk and his sister Judy (Richard) Hoyt.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10am on Monday, April 22nd, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church, 7 North St., Broadalbin, NY 12095. A burial with Military Honors will immediately follow at Pine Grove Cemetery, Tribes Hill, NY 12177. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Betz, Rossi, & Bellinger Family Funeral Home, 171 Guy Park Avenue, Amsterdam, NY 12010. In lieu of flowers a Memorial contribution may be made to: Robert Lee Walsh Post 337 American Legion, 11 Broad St. Broadalbin, NY 12025. Those wishing to express their condolences to the family may do so by signing our online memorial at [www.brbsfuneral.com](http://www.brbsfuneral.com).



KOWALCZYK

**BETZ, ROSSI & BELLINGER**  
FAMILY FUNERAL HOME  
171 Guy Park Avenue, Amsterdam, NY 12010  
518-843-1920 • [www.brbsfuneral.com](http://www.brbsfuneral.com)

**Joanne (Jenny) Hall**

April 15, 2019

Joanne (Jenny) Hall, 90, of Johnstown, passed away on Monday, April 15, 2019 with her loving family by her side.

She was born on May 28, 1928 in Amsterdam, the daughter of the late Alfred and Pauline Coluni DiCaprio.

She attended Amsterdam schools and was employed for many years at Garfalls in Johnstown. She later worked as a Seamstress for Robison & Smith until her retirement.

She is survived by her daughter Margaret Harpp of Gloversville, granddaughters Teresa (fiancée John Crogan) and Rose Mason of Gloversville, Stacy (James) Williams of Boonville. Sister Mary Donato and brother Alfred (Mary Doris) DiCaprio, Sister in-law Terry DiCaprio of Amsterdam, Great grandchildren Andrea, Abigail, Alison, Austin, Sophi, Ryan and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

On October 22, 1949 Joanne married Ernest H. Hall and he predeceased her on June 25, 1977. She was also predeceased by her brothers Peter, Nicholas, John and Joseph and sisters Julia Martini, Jean D'Alessandro, Nancy Gentile and Madeline Gentile.

Visitation for family and friends will be on Monday, April 22 from 10 to 11:00 a.m. at the Barter & Donnan Funeral Home, 1 N. Melcher Street, Johnstown. Funeral services will follow at 11 a.m. with Deacon Dick Solar officiating.

Interment will be in Fern Dale Cemetery, Johnstown immediately following services.

Condolences to the family may be made online by visiting our website at [www.barterdonnan.com](http://www.barterdonnan.com).

**In Memoriam**

In Loving Memory of  
**Richard "Dick" Hartig**  
5 Years - 4/20/14

You were a Dad who was so special

And who was loved so very much,

And brought so much happiness  
To the many hearts you touched.

Love you Always,  
Tami and Rick

In memory of our Father  
**Ralph S. Iannotti**  
who passed away April 12, 2001

No longer in our lives to share,  
but, in our hearts

you're always there.  
Love and miss you,  
Your Children

**Lottery numbers**

ALBANY (AP) — Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the New York State Lottery:

MIDDAY DAILY: 0-4-8

LUCKY SUM: 12

MIDDAY WINFOUR: 6-3-6-1

LUCKY SUM: 16

EVENING DAILY: 3-9-0

LUCKY SUM: 12

EVENING WINFOUR: 7-9-8-0

LUCKY SUM: 24

PICK 10: 1-5-6-7-14-18-29-33-34-36-37-46-48-51-52-54-59-61-62-75

POWERBALL: Estimated jackpot: \$136 million

*Cherish the memory of your loved ones with*

**In Memoriam**

*In Memoriam is the perfect way to honor the memories of family and friends who are no longer with us for only \$1.50 a line. In order to offer you this low rate, we require payment when you place your memoriam. Copy deadline is two business days prior to publication date. To help you say what is in your heart. Please ask to see our selection of prewritten memoriam verses.*

*The Recorder, Customer Service*  
1 Venner Rd., Amsterdam, NY 12010  
518-843-1100  
No Phone Orders Accepted