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**SPORTS**

Furious finish falls just short for Cadets. **/B3**



**REGION**

Bethlehem works to save historic barn. **/A6**

# TIMES UNION

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## Roundabout coming to Crossgates

As requirement for Costco construction, project slated to run April through July

By H. Rose Schneider

The Northway off-ramp to Crossgates Mall has been a magnet for traffic for decades.

Traffic jams have been plentiful, particularly when cars filled with shoppers line up at the holidays, backing up vehicles well north of the exit.

That could change soon: As a requirement for the construction of the Costco Wholesale store at the mall, a roundabout will be built where a

traffic light currently stalls traffic coming off the highway.

The project by the Capital District Transportation Authority, the town of Guelderland and Crossgates will start April 3. It is expected to wrap up by the end of July, according to CDTA. Several road and lane closures are scheduled as the project progresses.

The current intersection at Crossgates Mall Road, located in an area known for its high traffic volume, across from the JCPenney parking lot, includes a traffic light as well as an on-and-off ramp to the Northway. Over the next four months, it will be replaced by a roundabout along with

Please see **ROUNDAABOUT A14** ▶



Jim Franco / Times Union

Black Friday last year brought a full parking lot to Crossgates Mall. One intersection is scheduled to be replaced by a roundabout by late July.

## James seeks end to lawsuit

Defends handling of allegations against Khan, former chief of staff

By Brendan J. Lyons

ALBANY — State Attorney General Letitia James has asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit that was filed against her and her office in December by a woman whose sexual harassment allegations against the attorney general's former chief of staff were substantiated by an outside investigation.

A motion filed on behalf of James and her office in state Supreme Court contends the woman's forcible kissing allegations against Ibrahim Khan, who had been the attorney general's longtime chief of staff and confidant, centered on an incident that took place outside a

Brooklyn bar during a 2021 political fundraiser that had nothing to do with the attorney general or her office.

The woman, Sofia Quintanar, had previously worked as a deputy press secretary for James' office beginning in 2020. She left

that job in July 2021, about four months before she said Khan kissed her against her will while they were talking at the fundraiser. Her lawsuit seeks to hold the attorney general and her office liable for employment discrimination and civil rights violations based on Khan's alleged conduct. The civil complaint also accuses Khan, who is a defendant in the case, of interfering with her effort to get a job with James' reelection campaign about 10 months after the incident.

"The complaint does not allege that (the attorney general's office) or James knew about Khan's alleged conduct towards (Quintanar), much less condoned or participated in it," the motion filed by James' attorneys states. "Nor does the complaint allege that either was aware of or played any role in considering (Quintanar's) 'indirect and unofficial' application to the campaign."

James is being represented by Davis Polk & Wardwell, a Manhattan law firm that was hired by the state Assembly in March 2021 to lead the Judiciary Committee's impeachment investigation of sexual harassment allegations against former Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo.

The attorney general's dismissal motion argues that once the office became aware of Quintanar's allegations against Khan, an investigation was immediately launched and it led to Khan's resignation.

Please see **MOTION A3** ▶



Jim Franco / Times Union

Bernard Carabello, who spent years as a child at the Willowbrook State School, attends the premiere of a documentary about the school on Thursday at the Hart Theater in Albany. The film details the abuse of disabled children and how it changed the course of disability rights.

## Willowbrook scars live on

Ex-residents recall physical, emotional horrors as fight for disability rights continues

By Raga Justin

ALBANY — Disability rights advocate Bernard Carabello would have liked to be an attorney, something he wishes more people would ask him about. But more often than not, Carabello, 73, is peppered with questions about a much darker period in his life: the 18 years he spent as a child and young adult at the infamous Willowbrook State School, a now-defunct Staten Island institution for people with disabilities that gained notoriety for its dehumanizing treatment of residents.

**Willowbrook, as a concept, doesn't work. And we can never go back to it again."**

— Diane Buglioli, a Staten Island resident who worked at Willowbrook

Emblematic of an era of institutionalizing some of the state's most vulnerable residents, Willowbrook's death knell sounded more than 50 years ago, after a 1972 television exposé revealed to the American public how the institution routinely neglected and abused thousands of residents in overcrowded conditions. The revelations led to a statewide shake-up in the institutionalization of developmentally disabled individuals.

Carabello, who spoke in Albany last week during a documentary screening hosted in part by the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, was an integral part of that exposé. He'd been living at Willowbrook since the age of 3. When he was 21, Carabello was approached by former ABC journalist Geraldo Rivera and agreed to publicly share his experiences. Life at Willowbrook was a "disgrace," Carabello said, pointing to budget cuts under former Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller.

Willowbrook, which finally shuttered in 1987, remains one of the most glaring examples of a failed system of state accountability for the care of developmentally disabled people in New York. Its name has become synonymous

Please see **RESIDENTS A4** ▶

Lawmakers, the FBI and other agency officials continue to raise alarms that the Chinese could use TikTok against the American people, while users are concerned about the loss of their favorite app.



Dreamstime / Tribune News Service

## Congress, users divided on TikTok

By Haleluya Hadero  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — On the one side are dozens of lawmakers on Capitol Hill issuing dire warnings about security breaches and possible Chinese surveillance.

On the other are some 150 million TikTok users in the U.S. who just want to be able to keep making and watching short, fun videos offering makeup tutorials and cooking lessons, among

other things.

The disconnect illustrates the uphill battle that lawmakers from both sides of the aisle face in trying to convince the public that China could use TikTok as a weapon against the American people. Many users on the platform are more concerned about the possibility of the government taking away their favorite app.

TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew said during a nearly six-hour

congressional hearing Thursday that the platform has never turned over user data to the Chinese government, and wouldn't do so if asked.

Nevertheless, lawmakers, the FBI and officials at other agencies continue to raise alarms that Chinese law compels Chinese companies like TikTok's parent company ByteDance to fork over data to the government for whatever purposes it

Please see **TIKTOK A4** ▶

**UPCOMING**

**Chris Churchill**

Columnist Chris Churchill's view. **/SUNDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY**



**INDEX**

Classified **B13**  
Comics **B11**  
Crossword **B10,12**

Dear Abby **B12**  
Horoscope **B12**  
Obituaries **A12**  
Perspective **B1**

Scoreboard **B6**  
Sports **B3**  
State **A3**  
Television **B10**

**WEATHER**

HIGH: **50°**  
LOW: **31°**  
Get out the umbrella for afternoon rain. Details **/A2**

