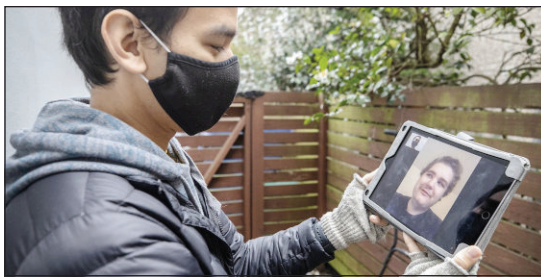


'Always there'

COVID-19 won't break the bond between this teen and his Big Brother

TIMES FOR KIDS, A12



Hall of Fame voters pitch a shutout as character questions muddle Cooperstown debate

SPORTS, B1

Watertown Daily Times

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 2021

www.nny360.com \$2.00

Nursing home practices questioned

CARTHAGE: Families say communication about COVID lacking

By RACHEL BURT
rburt@wdt.net

CARTHAGE — Following what families of residents are saying is a lack of communication from Carthage Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing,

the nursing home is attempting to quell rising frustrations. But families are still disappointed.

Carthage Center, 1045 West St., has now experienced 58 positive cases of COVID-19 among the resident population, and 35 staff members have also tested positive to date. Staff members who test positive are quarantining at

■ One death, 156 new COVID-19 cases reported in tri-county region Tuesday. A9

home, while residents of the 90-bed facility who have tested positive are in a dedicated wing for COVID-only residents.

The center does not allow visitation at this time, and due to this, families wishing to

receive updates on residents say there's been no communication from the facility.

Jefferson County Board of Legislators Chairman Scott A. Gray said Carthage Center has recorded seven deaths due to COVID-19 as of Tuesday — far more than the one reflected on the facility's website. Four of the deaths, including Mr. Gray's uncle, occurred

Monday.

Following the small spike in COVID-related deaths, and after weeks of continued disappointment and frustration from family members, the facility issued a statement Tuesday addressing the communication issues.

The statement reads, in part, that since there's been an uptick in COVID cases, clinical

staff aren't always available by phone in real time to take questions due to the volume of work trying to keep residents from contracting COVID-19.

To help resolve the communication issues and concerns, Carthage Center has created "Carthage Center Is Here For You," which has designated staff who would be out of the

See HOME A9

SOLEMN PROCESSION

2 Guardsmen's remains brought to Watertown

By SYDNEY SCHAEFER
sschaefer@wdt.net

WATERTOWN — The remains of two of three National Guardsmen killed in a Western New York helicopter crash last week were escorted Tuesday to a funeral home on South Massey Street where they'll be prepared for burial.

As heavy snow fell on a small group of state troopers and National Guard members outside Hart & Bruce Funeral Home, two hearses, each carrying a fallen hero, sat parked to the right of the home. Everyone was silent as six Guardsmen removed the bodies of Chief Warrant Officer 5 Steven Skoda and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Daniel Prial from the vehicles and into the funeral home.

Each casket was wrapped in a United States flag as a symbol of their service to the country.

A procession, led by state police, departed from the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office at about 11 a.m. and arrived in the city just before 2 p.m. Tuesday.

Chief Warrant Officers Skoda, 54, of Rochester, and Prial, 30,

See GUARD A10

“These soldiers were a part of our National Guard family and we mourn their loss, alongside their family members and loved ones.”

COL. RICHARD GOLDENBERG
New York National Guard
public affairs officer



The remains of two of three National Guardsmen killed in a Western New York helicopter crash last week are removed from a hearse Tuesday at Hart & Bruce Funeral Home on South Massey Street where they'll be prepared for burial. Sydney Schaefer/Watertown Daily Times



Planners review Chick-fil-A proposal

WATERTOWN: Site plans call for construction to start this fall, with fall 2022 opening

By CRAIG FOX
cfox@wdt.net

WATERTOWN — You'll have to wait until fall 2022 before you can get one of those chicken sandwiches and special dipping sauce from the Chick-fil-A proposed at the City Center plaza.

Jefferson County planners learned Tuesday from a company representative that construction of 5,000-square-foot Chick-fil-A restaurant won't begin until the fall. The drive-thru restaurant won't open until a year later.

The county's Planning Board reviewed the project's site plans Tuesday. The city's Planning Board will get a first look at the plans Feb. 2.

The Chick-fil-A would be built at the site of the now-closed Ruby Tuesday restaurant in the sprawling plaza at Arsenal Street and Interstate 81. Ruby Tuesday would be demolished to make way for the Chick-fil-A.

The restaurant would have seating for 104 inside, 28 seats outside and a 61-space parking lot.

Rumors first circulated that Chick-fil-A was coming to that exact location before the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Tuesday, much of the Planning Board's discussion revolved around potential traffic congestion that could be caused by the

See CHICK-FIL-A A9

Lawmakers push highway, bridge repairs

PUBLIC HEARING: Many question state DOT about flat CHIPS funding

By KATE LISA
Johnson Newspaper Corp.

ALBANY — State lawmakers questioned leading transportation officials Tuesday in the first of several hearings about the proposed 2021-22 budget after requests from localities for years to increase state funding to improve local streets and highways.

The joint state Legislature commenced 13 days of bi-cameral hearings Tuesday on the state's proposed \$192.9 billion 2021-22 spending plan.

State officials project a \$39 billion revenue loss over four years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, including losses of \$11.5 billion in Fiscal Year 2021 and \$9.8 billion in FY 2022. New York's revenue shortfall will mount to \$39 billion over four years.

See FUNDS A10

Some sun today with a high around 27.

DETAILS, A10



On the Web
www.nny360.com



Facebook
Browse to
fb.me/nny360



Twitter
Follow:
@WDTnews



Find it Inside

Advice B10 Comics B10-11 Nation/World A5 Sports B1
Calendar A2 Currents A7 Obituaries A11 TV B9
Classified B6 Editorials A4 Puzzles B11 Weather A10



©2021, Watertown Daily Times, 161st year, No. 230