

# HAMLIN WINS DAYTONA 500 PHOTO FINISH

SPORTS, PAGE A13



# Evening The Tribune

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 Complete forecast, A13

## LOCAL

### USPS sorry for blood-stained mail

OLEAN — The U.S. Postal Service has apologized to residents along an upstate New York mail route who received mail stained with blood. A Postal Service spokeswoman for the agency's western New York district tells the Olean Times Herald that the blood was from a mail carrier whose finger was cut after a vehicle accident Tuesday. The official says the carrier's vehicle was sideswiped, damaging the side mirror. The worker cut his finger when he tried to adjust the mirror. The official says the carrier believed the bleeding had stopped and wasn't aware blood was smudging the mail he was dropping off along a delivery route near the city of Olean.

### 'Deadpool' dominates box office again

NEW YORK — Marvel's R-rated antihero smash "Deadpool" continued to dominate movie theaters over the weekend, earning an estimated \$55 million and trouncing a trio of newcomers. After pulling in a massive \$152.2 million in its President's Day weekend four-day debut, the comic book adaptation from 20th Century Fox starring Ryan Reynolds as a foul-mouthed mercenary again topped the North American box office. **Page A5.**

### Police issue Amber alert for 1-year-old

SYRACUSE — Syracuse police have issued an Amber alert for a 1-year-old girl who they say has been taken by her father. Police say Maddox Lawrence was taken around 11 p.m. Saturday. They're looking for Ryan Lawrence, 24. The child is about 1 years old, with blond hair and brown eyes. She was last seen wearing a white shirt with a pink collar, pink pants and a blue coat. Ryan Lawrence has brown hair and brown eyes, and is about 6 feet tall. Authorities say the man has a history of mental health issues. Anyone with information is asked to call the Syracuse Police Department at 315-442-5222.



## EDUCATION REPORT

# Deck stacked against local schools

Funding gap between rich and poor districts grows under Cuomo

By Al Bruce  
The Evening Tribune

Seven area public schools are among the 100 poorest districts in New York State.

And the state has "a massive funding gap between rich and poor schools that has grown since Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo came into office in 2011," the

Alliance for Quality Education (AQE) reported last week.

The report is named "No Appetite to Educate: Stacking the Deck Against Children in Poverty." The statement said the "funding gap between rich and poor school districts (has

risen) to record levels" and the "new analysis exposes educational inequities" among public schools.

The funding gap between the average 100 richest and the average 100 poorest New York State public schools is \$9,796 per pupil or \$2.9 million annually for

a school with 300 pupils, according to Marina Marcou-O'Malley, an AQE policy director and the report's author.

Area schools on the 100-poorest list are Arkport, Addison, Bath,

SEE EDUCATION, A6

## HORNELL FIRE

# Meth explosion: 'I heard a big BOOM'

Neighbors describe minutes after alleged meth operation went wrong

By Madonna Figura Simon  
The Evening Tribune

HORNELL — It sounded like a big boom followed by a brawl.

The explosion of a suspected methamphetamine lab in an upstairs apartment at 9 Olive Place early Friday sent the downstairs family scrambling to safety only to witness even stranger events once outside.

Regina Brockway told The Evening Tribune that everyone in her family's downstairs apartment was sleeping around 3 a.m. when the explosion occurred in the bedroom right above hers.

"I heard a big boom, and then it sounded like there was either a big brawl going on up there or that the police were raiding, and you heard screaming," Brockway said.

"As we came outside, (the upstairs tenant) came around the side of the house with her baby in her arms saying, 'My house is on fire. My house is on fire,' so I called 911, and we evacuated the



With crime scene tape stretched around the structure, Regina Brockway and Jana Hall retrieve items from their downstairs apartment at 9 Olive Place. The family is waiting for clearance to return to their home following the explosion of a suspected methamphetamine lab in the upstairs apartment on Friday. MADONNA FIGURA SIMON PHOTO

house." What Brockway and partner Jana Hall witnessed next shocked them. "The other girl came out, we never saw the boyfriend of the girl that came out, but the girl had

come out, and she was on fire literally, and she was walking down the street on fire with black smoke just smoldering off of her . . . as if that was a normal thing to do," Brockway said.

"And her little Boston

Terrier was following behind her. She busted out the window of their car, put her Boston Terrier in there, and then took off" on foot.

SEE EXPLOSION, A6

## STATE POLICE

# Woman killed in crash

From staff reports

ANDOVER — An Allegany County woman was killed Saturday night in a one-vehicle accident in the Town of Andover.

Amity-based State Police said Betty K. Matison, 60, of Jackson Road, Andover, was pronounced dead at the scene shortly after the 8:41 p.m. crash on county Route 22.

An investigation determined that Matison was driving north on county Route 22 when her vehicle failed to negotiate a right hand curve. Matison's 1993 Geo Tracker exited the roadway and stuck an earth embankment causing the vehicle to roll over multiple times, ejecting Matison from the vehicle.

Matison was pronounced dead by Allegany County Coroner Maynard Baker and transported to the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy.

Amity troopers were assisted by the Andover Fire Department, Andover Ambulance and the Andover Police Department.

New York State Police Collision Reconstruction and BCI also responded to the scene and the investigation continues, authorities said.

## KALAMAZOO SHOOTINGS

# Gunman kills 6 at car dealership, restaurant, complex

By Jeff Karoub  
The Associated Press

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — A gunman who seemed to choose his victims at random opened fire outside an apartment complex, a car dealership and a restaurant



Dalton

in Michigan, killing six people in a rampage that lasted nearly seven hours, police said.

Authorities identified the shooter

as Jason Dalton, a 45-year-old Uber driver and former insurance adjuster who police said had no criminal record. They could not say what motivated him to target victims with no apparent connection to him or to each other in the

Saturday night shootings.

"How do you go and tell the families of these victims that they weren't targeted for any reason other than they were there to be a target?" Kalamazoo County Prosecutor Jeff Getting said Sunday at a news

conference.

Dalton, who was arrested in Kalamazoo following a massive manhunt, was expected to be arraigned Monday on murder charges.

Kalamazoo County

SEE SHOOTINGS, A6

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TEXAS GUNS IN SCHOOL

# Private colleges saying no to guns on campus

By Jim Vertuno  
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — When Texas' conservative Legislature passed a law requiring public universities to allow concealed guns on campus, it also gave the state's private institutions of higher learning the chance to follow suit. None has so far.

More than 20 private schools have said they won't lift their gun bans when the law takes effect this August, including the state's largest private universities that have religious affiliations and often align with the type of conservative values espoused by the politicians behind the law.

The opposition has not surprised top Texas Republicans who championed the law as a matter of constitutional rights and self-defense. But it reflects a widespread belief even among conservative university leaders that guns have no

place in the classroom.

Baylor, Texas Christian and Southern Methodist universities have all declined to allow guns on their campuses.

"My own view is that it is a very unwise public policy," Baylor President Ken Starr, a former prosecutor and judge best known for his work on the Whitewater investigation involving President Bill Clinton, said late last year. The Baptist school announced this month that guns would not be allowed on campus.

Previous law generally banned concealed handguns from Texas' public and private universities. That changed last year, when lawmakers passed the so-called "campus carry" law that requires public universities to allow concealed handgun license holders to bring their weapons into campus buildings and classrooms.

Texas will be one of at least 20 states that allow some

**'My own view is that it is a very unwise public policy.'**

— Baylor President Ken Starr, a former prosecutor and judge best known for his work on the Whitewater investigation involving President Bill Clinton

form of campus carry. But only a few make it a defined right in state law like Texas does.

The law faced strong objections from public higher education officials, law enforcement, students and faculty across the state. Opponents included University of Texas System Chancellor William McRaven, the former head of U.S. Special Operations Command who directed the raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

A notable exception was Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp, who said guns on



Protesters gather on the West Mall of the University of Texas campus Oct. 1 in Austin, Texas to oppose a new state law that expands the rights of concealed handgun license holders to carry their weapons on public college campuses. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

campus didn't trouble him.

When public schools asked for the same choice private schools have, state lawmakers said no.

The author of the law, Sen. Brian Birdwell, whose district includes Baylor, said he had to protect the public's

"God-given" right of self-defense on public property, but also private property rights. He notes private businesses can ban guns.

Private universities are "no different than Starbucks selling coffee. What they are selling is different," Birdwell

said.

"Now it's up to the marketplace of free enterprise ... to make a market decision," about guns on campus, Birdwell said. "My duty was to preserve their ability to make that choice."

## SHOOTINGS

From Page A1

Undersheriff Paul Matyas described a terrifying series of attacks that began about 6 p.m. Saturday outside the Meadows apartment complex on the eastern edge of Kalamazoo County, where a woman was shot multiple times. She was expected to survive.

A little more than four hours later and 15 miles away, a father and his 17-year-old son were fatally shot while looking at cars at the dealership. Fifteen minutes after that, five people were gunned down in the parking lot of a Cracker Barrel restaurant, Matyas said. Four of them died.

Dalton was arrested without incident about 12:40 a.m. Sunday after a deputy spotted his vehicle driving through downtown Kalamazoo after leaving a bar parking lot, authorities said.

Matyas declined to disclose anything found in the vehicle except for a semi-automatic handgun.

By midday, authorities were investigating a Facebook post that indicated the suspect was driving for Uber during the manhunt and had taken at least one fare, Getting said.

A spokeswoman for Uber



Flowers lie near a makeshift memorial outside a Cracker Barrel restaurant Sunday in Kalamazoo, Mich. According to police a man drove around Kalamazoo fatally shooting several people at multiple locations on Saturday, including the parking lot of the restaurant. Authorities identified the shooter as Jason Dalton. ANDRAYA CROFT/DETROIT FREE PRESS VIA AP

confirmed that Dalton had driven for the company in the past, but she declined to say whether he was driving Saturday night.

Uber prohibits both passengers and drivers from possessing guns of any kind in a vehicle. Anyone found to be in violation of the policy may be prohibited from using or driving for the service.

A man who knows Dalton said he was a married father of two who never showed any signs of violence.

Gary Pardo Jr., whose parents live across the street from Dalton in Kalamazoo Township, described him as

a family man who seemed fixated on cars and often worked on them.

"He would go a month without mowing his lawn but was very meticulous with his cars," Pardo said, explaining that Dalton, at times, owned a Chevrolet Camaro and two Hummer SUVs.

Progressive Insurance confirmed that he once worked for the company before leaving in 2011.

Dalton was an insurance adjuster who did auto-body estimates and once taught an auto-body repair class at an area community college, said James Block, who has lived next door to him for 17 years.

## EXPLOSION

From Page A1

As the upstairs tenants fled the explosion and ensuing fire, Brockway and Hall evacuated their "terrified" 2-year old son, Brockway's mother, and their pets, putting everyone in a friend's car as first responders arrived.

Jana Hall had one thought going through her mind at that moment: "It's crazy."

"Yeah. That it's crazy and that we all could have died, straight up," Brockway echoed.

Steuben County district attorney Brooks Baker concurred, calling the suspected meth lab fire a "worst case scenario," especially in the Olive Place neighborhood where houses are very close together.

"If that house went up, really, really bad things could've happened," Baker said at the fire scene on Friday.

Hornell Fire Chief Dan Smith stated that firefighters found "batteries, muriatic acid, Coleman fuel, different containers that they converted to manufacture methamphetamine."

The chemical evidence is no surprise to Brockway and Hall. They say they seldom saw their upstairs neighbor,

29-year old Samantha R. Beyea, who has now been charged with second-degree criminal manufacturing of meth, three counts of first-degree reckless endangerment, and endangering the welfare of a child.

"Ever since she had moved those two people in, we would smell this weird smell, and also a smell that was like paint thinner smell. We had called our landlord and told our landlord that we suspected something was going on up there, so he did an eviction notice. They were in the process of being evicted anyway, but it was a little too late," Brockway said.

The New York State Police Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team spent much of Friday on scene, and Hornell fire equipment had to be decontaminated.

For the displaced family, the situation is more tenuous. Brockway and Hall spent Saturday retrieving a few possessions and important documents like their son's birth certificate from their apartment. They are waiting for clearance from the city's codes department before smoke and water damage can be remediated.

"Our landlord has a restoration crew already set up. As soon as they get the

go ahead, he's going to have them come in so we can get back in if that's allowed," Brockway said as she and Hall loaded items into their vehicle. They are staying with a friend in Hornell.

The explosion has shaken the couple's sense of security. Brockway was asked if she feels safe returning to the apartment where they have lived for the past three years.

"At this moment? No. No. Still very shaken up, like never been through anything like this ever. Never seen anything like this ever," she said. "Just because you're in the same building does not mean you have any idea what's going on in the other apartments. You know what I'm saying? It's just ridiculous."

The Hornell Area Humane Society is sheltering pets from the fire including Brockway and Hall's rabbit and dogs. The fire killed their fish. They put their three cats up for adoption, but on Saturday, they were tending to a white cat crated on the sidewalk in front of their home. The cat, who belongs to the upstairs tenant, had been overlooked in Friday's chaos. Hall paused to provide the cat with fresh water and give it a comforting scratch behind its ears.

## EDUCATION

From Page A1

Canaseraga, Canisteo-Greenwood, Hornell and Jasper-Troupsburg.

Near-by Hammondsport Central ironically is one of the 100 wealthiest districts, AQE reported.

The AQE report ranked schools according to their combined wealth ratios or CWR, a measure of income and property wealth compared with a statewide average of 1.000.

The report also measured per pupil expenses at individual districts.

CWRs and per-pupil expenses for each area school are Arkport 0.466, \$20,252; Addison 0.397, \$24,613; Bath 0.438, \$21,367; Canaseraga 0.482, \$28,491; Canisteo-Greenwood 0.420, \$22,965; Hornell 0.354, \$20,461, and Jasper-Troupsburg 0.395, \$22,005, according to the report.

The lower the CWR, the lower the ranking in the poorest-schools category. The higher the CWR, the

higher the ranking in the 100-wealthiest-schools category.

The Hammondsport Central CWR was 1.634 and per-pupil expenses \$25,618, the report said.

The wealthiest school was Fire Island, a small district on the Long Island south shore, with a CWR of 52.844 and per-pupil expenses of \$184,547, according to the report.

Differences in graduation rates "are as dramatic as the funding rates," the report continued.

"High-spending wealthy

districts have (an average) graduation rate of 92 percent" while "under-funded poorer communities graduate (an average) 62 percent of their students," the report said.

The funding rate is also tied to advanced educational opportunities: Half of the graduating classes in the wealthier districts leave with "highly-coveted Advanced Regents diplomas" while only 20 percent of students graduating from "underfunded schools" earn the advanced diploma, the report said.

The average spending gap between the 100 wealthiest and the 100 poorer schools has grown since Gov. Cuomo took office in 2011, the report said.

The gap of \$9,796 per pupil is now at the highest level ever; the gap of \$8,024 increased \$1,772 in his first

three years in office," the report said.

The gap "has almost certainly continued to grow since then," according to the report.

All statistics in the report are from the 2013-14 school year, the latest available from the State Education Department.

The funding impact is dramatic: "Having an extra \$2.9 million for a school of 300 students allows wealthier districts to provide smaller class sizes, better equipment and books, more arts and music plus more access to higher level electives and Advanced Placement courses," the report said.

This funding corresponds "to substantially better outcomes" for students, the report continued.

"Gov. Cuomo frequently cites the fact that New York State spends more per student than other states," the report said. "But this is a statewide average, a meaningless amount" for students in poorer schools. "The fact wealthier schools spend almost \$10,000 more per student" than poorer schools does not help students in "poor communities but it does drive up the statewide average," the report said.

School board members and superintendents from the 2-school membership

of the Greater Southern Tier Board of Cooperative Educational Services (GST BOCES) are meeting with elected state senators and assemblymen tonight in Corning to discuss schools funding.

When asked what she would ask the elected officials, Marcou-O'Malley noted that Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie recommended a small tax increase that could raise about \$1.2 billion, she said.

That proposal would "cut taxes for the middle class and increase taxes only slightly for millionaires" while increasing funds available for schools, she said.

That would "go a long way toward helping New York State meet its constitutional obligation to support New York State public schools," she said.

Heastie is a Democrat and the Senate Majority leader a Republican.

Area school leaders are aware of the challenge of poverty on classroom achievement. GST BOCES sponsored an all-day poverty simulation for educators and school board members last July.

Other area schools, including Canaseraga and Canisteo-Greenwood, have since sponsored comparable simulations.

# Funeral Home Directory

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