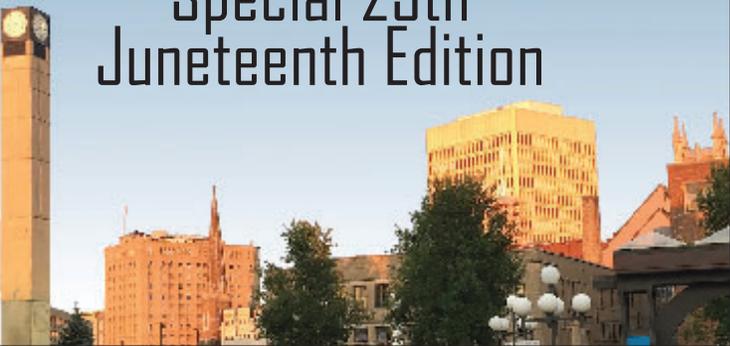


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An Independent Newsmagazine



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Letters To the Editor Page

Letter to the Editor
We should be thankful

Today on the 4th of July as I was feeling concerned and uncertain about the future of our country, a friend shared a picture of his parents posing with the Lincoln Memorial. They immigrated to America in the 1960's searching for the dream promised in the ideas; freedom and equality. They lived good lives, raised two children, now lawyers. They gave back more than we gave to them.

Don't be tricked into believing the misinformation our NYS Congressional Reps are spewing. There is no crisis at the border. There may be refugees hoping for a better, safer life and a piece of the American Dream. No one desires to leave their home. Facing untenable living conditions and persecution for themselves and their children they are left with few choices.

Skewed numbers and distorted facts, no matter how many times repeated, don't change the fact that America is a nation of immigrants searching for a better life.

We as a nation must be thankful for these brave people. They and their children will make us a better county, as my friends, their parents and others like them have. We should live the words engraved on the Statue of Liberty.

Regina Sbaraglia Kekis
Rome NY

The New York Health Act: Imagining a Better Health Care System

The Coronavirus pandemic has shown us many of the shortcomings of our current health care system. When health insurance is connected to employment, people who lose their jobs lose their health insurance. New York State lost one million jobs during the pandemic--10 percent of its total workforce. Because many of these people were unable to find a new job immediately, they could not get appropriate health care during a very vulnerable time of their lives, in the middle of a horrible pandemic.

If we had a universal single payer health care system, people who lost their jobs would still have financial difficulties, but they would at least be taken care of if they or their families had health issues. When we get our health care through different insurance companies, our community health care becomes fragmented. Some of us get better care than others and we all are limited to whatever our insurance company offers or even go without any health care at all. This profit-based system does not negotiate the prices of the health services and medicines we get.

The New York Health Act provides a better, more efficient, and more affordable health care system that will provide all New Yorkers with the safest possible health care. We all deserve this.

Nesecan Balkan
Clinton, NY 13323

Buttenschon joins State Comptroller to Host Unclaimed Funds Event

July 9, 2021 – Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon (D-Utica/Rome) has partnered with New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli to host an unclaimed funds event on Wednesday, June 14 in the City of Utica and Rome.

“On July 14, NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli will be visiting Utica and Rome to distribute unclaimed funds to local organizations and community members. I would like to take the opportunity to encourage all of our residents to attend this free event to see if they have unclaimed money,” Assemblywoman Buttenschon stated. “Unclaimed funds come from inactive bank accounts, uncollected insurance policies or refunds, amounts due for undelivered goods or services, abandoned stocks, uncashed checks and more. In distributing these funds to local businesses and charities, we ensure that the money will be put back into the economy. These events will bring our communities together for an uplifting occasion and provide us with an opportunity to greet and mingle with our friends and neighbors.”

New York State currently has \$17 billion in unclaimed money. Last year the Office of the NYS Comptroller was able to answer 570,000 claims, which resulted in a total of \$400 million worth of funds returned to owners. To better assist Mohawk Valley constituents looking to reclaim their lost finances, Buttenschon and NYS Comptroller DiNapoli have teamed up to create a free community search for unclaimed funds, in both Utica and Rome, which they're inviting the public to attend.

Assemblywoman Buttenschon is also urging those who cannot attend the in-person search to visit the unclaimed funds site online at www.osc.state.ny.us/unclaimed-funds or to call 1-800-221-9311.

When: Wednesday, July 14th

Where: Utica City Hall from 10am-12pm; Rome City Hall from 12pm-2pm



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Your Asian Neighbor: Quiet, Unsung Heroism

By Dr. Emmie Pizarro



Tuyen Hoa Truong was a young nurse when she met Col. Bevis Wilton Ingram in Vietnam. She was the eldest of ten children and her parents worked hard for her to go to nursing school. She graduated from St. Paul de Chartres school. The Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres is a French congregation focused on teaching, nursing, visiting the poor and taking care of orphans. Nurse Hoa imbibed all of those teachings and, because all the classes were taught in French, she became fluent



in the language.

The handsome Col. Ingram was in Vietnam as part of the International

Commission for Supervision and Control, a commission which was formed to oversee the implementation of the Geneva Accords. That treaty that was supposed to form a body that will supervise the removal of Vietnam from the French Empire. The first action of the commission was to separate Vietnam, after years of rebellion, into two zones, one controlled by the People's Army of Vietnam (North) and the other controlled by the French Union (South). A monumental task.

In the midst of all this, the colonel and the nurse fell in love, were married, and in 1967, they had a daughter. They named her Trinh. Their bliss would last only seven years, as it became apparent that the logistical nightmare of moving people, and the fact that there were two radically different ideological groups who have been at war with each other for years, proved too much for the commission to handle. The two zones became closer and closer to their respective patrons and supporters: the North to the Soviet Union, and the South to the United States. After two years of shaky peace, war broke out again.

In the chaos of impending doom, Col. Ingram arranged to leave and take his wife and child with him and fly them to safety. He had all the documents ready. However, Hoa, being the dutiful eldest daughter, thought she would be safe at home. Besides, she did not have the heart to leave her parents, who worked so hard to send her through nursing school, to take care of her nine siblings. She promised her husband she would make arrangements and follow him later. They wrote to each other regularly. Until they could not.

The Communist party won the war and they screened all incoming mail. Through it all, Hoa kept her child and her family safe. She worked and pro-

vided for all their needs. She helped the sisters of St. Paul take care of the sick and the orphans. And she never forgot her beloved Colonel. She thought her Bevis has probably remarried and had children of his own. Their daughter was by now 18 and had grown to be an Amerasian beauty. She wanted to meet her father but Hoa said "I didn't want to make trouble for him."

Meanwhile, in Utica, New York, Rosemarie Batista, the director of the Refugee



Center, was hard at work in her mission to help bring Amerasian children to the United States. She had four children of her own and had already adopted refugee children. Hoa and Trinh were on that list. And in 1988, they arrived in Utica. Without missing a beat, Hoa set out to find a job and assist the Refugee Center in whatever way she can. "I did not want to be a burden to anybody!" She worked at St. Joseph's nursing home and in her free time assisted the refugees coming in.

She translated for them, took them to their doctors, helped them in whatever way she can. Then the Haitian refugees came, and because she spoke French fluently, she was called on to help them as

well. Hoa has helped countless refugee families get settled in their strange, new home. She became auntie, grandma, and friend to so many. When going through her old photos there was found one with her holding up a plaque with a big smile on her place. I asked her what it was for. She said "I can't remember. There were so many!"

At 78, Hoa still helps refugees when they need her (even though she retired from being a medical interpreter at 75) because it is her nature. Every year, in May and October, she and her fellow Catholic Vietnamese, would hold a feast to celebrate Mary. She still sends money every month to the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, and to her parish priest and church in Vietnam. She herself took in 4 orphans, all of them with disabilities, because she knew it was going to be harder for them to be adopted. When two of those children wanted to get married she threw them a big wedding party in Vietnam. Our quiet, unsung heroine has a heart as big as all outdoors.

As for her beloved Colonel, she never did get reunited with him. Trinh persisted on her search for him and when she finally found information, it was that sadly he had died the year before they arrived in the US. Hoa said she had never seen her daughter cry so hard. Maybe that is why Hoa has devoted herself to caring for refugee children.

I would like to believe that someday, Nurse Hoa will be reunited with her Col. Ingram. And they will be together forever. As I give her a hug to say goodbye,



she said "I love you, Dr. Pizarro!". I said "I love you, Hoa!". Now, more than ever.

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The Heat Beat: Urban legends: Jay-Z & the Illuminati By Jess Szabo, Arts Writer



There are those stories that “everybody” seems to know, but few, if any of those people can prove. We all heard them from a friend of a friend. Today, we probably read them on the link from a link on the internet too. Occasionally, these stories turn out to be true. Most of the time, they are false. They are known as urban legends. Many of these legends center around popular music, including Rap.

Perhaps the most famous Rap urban legend circulating in recent years says that Rap legend Jay-Z (legal name Shawn Corey Carter) and his wife, Beyonce, are members of an elite organization known as the Illuminati, a new-age/occult group which secretly runs the world.

The legend’s roots can be found in Jay-Z’s extraordinary success in his field, including financial success. According to Forbes writer Zach O’Malley-Green-

burg’s June 3, 2019 article, Jay-Z is the first Hip-Hop artist to become a billionaire. He has also been nominated for a grammy 80 times, and won 23 as of the 63rd grammies, according to the website grammy dot com. Both of these accomplishments are especially extraordinary considering that he was born in 1969, meaning he is only fifty-one years old.

People are often suspicious of extreme accomplishment, especially when that includes extreme wealth. They don’t believe anyone could work that hard to earn that much, and look for other reasons why the person has what they have. This is completely justified, as extreme wealth is not earned, but built through a multitude of channels, few of which have anything to do with how hard a person works or how smart or talented they might be. However, Jay-Z’s immense material success simply means he took advantage of the same opportunities, ranging from tax cuts to the work of others to sound advice, that any other billionaire would have taken. This alone is not cited as evidence that Jay-Z is in the Illuminati.

The evidence, according to those who think they found some, is that Jay-Z often uses Illuminati symbols in his videos, and makes veiled references to the Illuminati in his lyrics. A website known as “The Vigilant Citizen” is dedicated to finding symbolism in everything, no matter how hard they have to work at it. On this site, the song, “Run This Town”

is alleged to refer to being in the Illuminati and taking over the world. Jay raps about extreme wealth while the visuals of the video suggest a takeover. The song and video, which also feature Kanye West and Rhianna, further show Rhianna being handed a lit torch. This torch is alleged to be a symbol of occult enlightenment. Jay-Z has also made reference to giving someone “a grip,” which can refer to a stack of money...or a secret handshake. And of course, his Rocawear clothing line features similar symbols, including obelisks, pentagrams, pyramids, and that same triangle around the all-seeing eye.

Of course, the clincher for those who allege Jay-Z is in the Illuminati is that he, and his wife, Beyonce, regularly make a gesture that involves forming a triangle with both hands on stage. “The Vigilant Citizen” and several other sites claim this to be the ultimate Illuminati symbol, as it represents the “eye of providence,” the Illuminati’s primary symbol.

Except that it isn’t. The primary fuel behind “Illuminati” rumors of any kind is... confusion.

All of the “Illuminati symbols” found in the work of Jay-Z...and anybody else tagged with the “Illuminati” rumor... are in reality, Masonic symbols. The real Illuminati were nothing more than a men’s group formed in Bavaria in the late 1700’s and faded from history.

The Masons, also a men’s group, still exist, and some of their symbols and

practices are considered quite strange. But the Masons are nothing more than a large fraternity with chapters all around the world....and pretty much all fraternities and sororities adopt weird, secret rituals at some point. Networking may indeed happen inside Masonic lodges, but they’re no more likely to take over the world than the students at the frat and sorority houses at one of the campuses of the state university of New York.

The presence of Masonic symbolism could indicate that Jay-Z is in fact a Mason, though he has denied it in the press, and there would be no need for Jay-Z to deny membership in the Masons if he were in fact a member. Masons are not required to keep their membership completely secret. They are allowed to display Masonic symbols on jewelry, vehicles, and clothing, answer ‘yes’ when asked if they are a Mason, and answer general questions about the Masons. They are just not allowed to reveal what goes on at meetings, share any Masonic secret knowledge, or talk about their membership in detail to outsiders. .

It is far more likely that Jay-Z is simply fascinated by the symbolism and speculation about the Masons, and that, as a shrewd businessman, he knows their use can generate a lot of publicity with very little effort.

Jess Szabo is an arts writer, novelist, and writing teacher from Utica. See more of her writing for and about local artists at www.artisticafeutica.com

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Just what is CRT Critical Race Theory?

by David Laguerre, Sr.



I will go over the history of critical race theory in this article. This will cover its origins, some of its major influences, and how it evolved into a theory used in the legal, social, and educational realms.

Critical race theory (CRT) is a political philosophy that emerged in the twentieth century. The basic idea is that America's long history of racial inequality, which dates to its founding and continues to affect the country today, is the result of a systemic problem that we have inherited and perpetuate as a culture, rather than the actions of a few bad individuals.

It is a set of legal theories, frameworks, and viewpoints. It is the subject of many books, law reviews, and blogs, and it is the basis for several current legal disputes. Discrimination, racism, oppression, inequality, and other issues are addressed by CRT from a variety of perspectives. It focuses on issues of racial inequality and discrimination in the United States.

Critical race theory is a field of study that has been around for more than four decades. According to the authors, racism is a social construct that is not only the result of human bias or prejudice but is also ingrained in legal systems and regulations.

The main concepts of critical race theory, or CRT, emerged from a framework for legal analysis developed by legal scholars Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw, and Richard Delgado, among others, in

the late 1970s and early 1980s. Studies show that Blacks and Latinos seeking advancement, housing, or occupations are much more likely than similarly qualified Whites to be dismissed, reg. Prison inmates are mostly brown skinned, while CEOs, specialists, and college presidents are almost all White. Regardless, destitution has a Black or Brown face: families of color have roughly one-tenth of the resources of their White counterparts.

For example, Derrick Bell wrote a divisive critique of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund's (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) desegregation legal strategy for failing to prioritize educational excellence over racial integration of students.

The CRT issue has exploded in the public sphere this spring, especially in K-12, where multiple state legislators are considering legislation prohibiting its use in the classroom.

The lines are not as distinct as they appear. The events of the last decade have increased public awareness of issues such as housing segregation, the effects of 1990s criminal justice policy and Mass Incarceration, and the enslavement legacy on Black Americans. However, there is less agreement on the government's role in making amends for past wrongs. When children and education are factored in, the situation becomes much more contentious.

Several Critical Race Theorists were mobilized in the 1980s as a result of hate speech incidents on college campuses and elsewhere. They produced assessments of the harm caused to students of color who were victims of such incidents, as well as criticisms of the university's current First Amendment/freedom of speech policy. They claimed that words cause harm. They worked hard to create rules for restricting college speech and defended those rules in court against First Amendment arguments from theorists and litigants alike.

They argued that hate speech restrictions would be like existing defamation and obscenity laws, as well as principles prohibiting fighting words and threats from receiving First Amendment protection. They claimed that the bill, along with the First Amendment, could be used to combat subordination. They also claimed that legal protection for hate speech undermines rather than supports the First Amendment ideals of self-fulfillment, knowledge, and participation.

Even though no court upheld hate speech laws despite First Amendment challenges, Critical Race Theorists' efforts shifted the debate's terms and educated many people about the types of harms that can be tolerated in the name of the First Amendment.

In the last year, many Americans have advocated for an investigation into institutional racism, partly through education, such as The New York Times' 1619 Project, which is being taught in schools. The Pulitzer Prize-winning project reframes American history in August 1619, when the first slave ship arrived on American shores. Conservatives have accused the theory of contaminating conversations about race, which has been criticized by critics.

President Trump opposed the 1619 Project being taught in schools and barred government agencies from conducting racial sensitivity training based on Critical Race Theory. His administration called it "divisive, anti-American propaganda."

President Joe Biden overturned his predecessor's ban on federal agencies and contractors using diversity training materials that addressed systemic racism, White privilege, and other racial and gender bias issues on January 26th.

"In the coming weeks, I will reaffirm the federal government's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, building on the work that President Obama and Vice President Biden started. That is why, in remarks delivered on Tuesday, I overturned the previous

administration's discriminatory ban on diversity and sensitivity training. "Truth and understanding must come first, not deception and lies, if we are to achieve unity and healing."

The conflict stems from differing perspectives on racism. As a result, CRT focuses on outcomes rather than individual beliefs, and it encourages people to examine and correct these outcomes. There are many differences of opinion among lawyers, teachers, policymakers, and the general public about how to accomplish these goals and how much race should be mentioned.

Here is an illustration to help you grasp the concept. The landmark case that started the U.S. legal system was the subject of a U.S. study. "The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race," Justice John Roberts said in the Supreme Court's long-running examination of how race can be a factor in K-12 school assignments.

All these ideas are the result of a decades-long debate. Postmodernist thought, which is skeptical of universal values, objective knowledge, individual merit, Enlightenment rationalism, and liberalism—beliefs shared by conservatives—spawned critical race theory.

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New faces seek to fill the void left by Anthony Brindisi



Mikayla Ridley

Hal Stewart

Elyssa Bolt

On Thursday, June 24th, Syracuse.com broke the news that former United States Congressman Anthony Brindisi would not be running to recapture the seat representing New York's 22nd Congressional district in Congress. He lost the seat to Claudia Tenney in the 2020 election by a razor-thin and hotly disputed margin. Dave Wasserman, the House of Representatives editor for the Cook Political reporter and NBC News contributor, described it as a "setback for Dems in Upstate (New York)," but said that it would still be possible to "oust Rep. Tenney."

The three people who have expressed interest in doing that "ousting" are a unique bunch, two of whom, Elyssa Bolt and Mikayla Ridley, represent a significant step forward for local politics where the Democrats are often as conservative as the Republicans. Bolt is transgender, Ridley is bisexual, and the third candidate Hal Stewart is a Navy vet who describes himself on Twitter as a "standup comedian" and insists he will accept neither party support nor donations.

Mikayla Ridley is a 27-year old Admissions Counselor at Binghamton University. On her website (RidleyForCongress.com), she cites her work in the educational field as the primary motivator behind her candidacy, describing how education, which can be "the great equalizer," is rife with systematic problems primarily due to cost. She is concerned that the "national conversation transform[ed] from 'what kind of education do you want?' to 'what kind of education can you afford?'"

She considered this just one of many issues-along with "skyrocketing" healthcare and housing costs and "systematic injustice"- that politicians view as "hypothetical[s]."

Ridley has Gorlin Syndrome, which is a rare genetic condition also known as Nevoid basal-cell carcinoma syndrome. It is a chronic condition that can affect the nervous and endocrine system and the eyes and bones. Most often, and in her case, it results in an increased risk of skin cancers.

She believes the experience dealing with a chronic illness along with com-

ing out as bisexual while she was in high school has given her the sort of deep experiential understanding of having "deal[t] with those hardships."

"It doesn't just change what I will do with my seat at the table," she insists. "It changes how I will walk into the room." Ridley describes herself as a "staunch advocate for the social, political, and economic changes." She contrasts herself with the current officeholder by insisting that she (Ridley) looks forward to "in-depth conversations and public debates" and opportunities to have discussions and listen to constituents, all of which she says Rep. Tenney eschews. In Ridley's opinion, "Claudia Tenney has built most of her past campaigns on fearmongering about progressive policies."

Another candidate for New York's 22nd Congressional District, Elyssa Bolt, describes herself as an activist, educator, and social services coordinator. Her website (Elyssabolt.com) declares that she is the right candidate to represent the district because "she knows intimately the pressing issues that define the reality of Utica's working class and is the only candidate in the race actively working to alleviate poverty in the district. On her Twitter page (@ElyssaBolt), she describes herself as a "progressive activist."

Elyssa Bolt is a transgender woman who takes personally Claudia Tenney's voting against the Equality Act, which would extend civil rights protections based on gender identity, as well as sexual orientation to Americans in all fifty states. Bolt takes that as a "clear sign that 'Tenney does not see the well-being of the LGBTQ community in general as a priority."

If Bolt is elected she promises that her priorities as a Congresswoman will be to institute universal healthcare, pass the Green New Deal, "defund the Israeli occupation of Palestine", and to end mandatory minimum sentences for people convicted of nonviolent offenses.

Bolt herself was arrested last fall at a Black Lives Matter protest in Rome. In an interview on the website MediaSanc-

Continued on page 14

Legal Myths & Reality

By Judge Joan Shkane



This is a continuing discussion of Legal Myths and Reality, because those informed are always the most successful.

MYTH: Once you have paid your fine or served your time on a major or minor offense, you are free of related obligations.

REALITY: In New York State, if you have ever had as little as a traffic ticket and were convicted of the charge, or a lesser charge, or as much as a major criminal conviction, then you know that you will be penalized in some fashion. In addition, you must then pay a court surcharge and fee.

You may also know that there are minimum fines for traffic offenses a court must impose, regardless of the circumstances.

You can also be put in jail if you do not pay your fine or court fee, and a warrant can be issued for your arrest to make sure that you pay.

If you are in jail, you can have a small account to use in the jail commissary for personal items. The jail can take that money to pay your fines and surcharges. Some law makers believe that these laws hurt and punish poor defendants and inmates more than the well-to-do. They believe it is a system that criminalizes poverty. If you are poor, sometimes you can barely pay the sentence, much less pay the surcharge. The court must impose a surcharge regardless of your circumstances. If you cannot pay the surcharge, you can be arrested and put in jail. There is no relief from the surcharge and fees. Some lawmakers now are urging a bill called the End Predatory Court Fees Act. It would give the court more discretion in handing out fines; end surcharges and fees; make it illegal to put someone in jail or to arrest that person for not paying a fine or court fee; prohibit use of an inmate's small amount of cash for personal items in order to pay fines and surcharges; and would require a court to inquire about a person's ability to pay a fine before it is imposed.

Some advocates of this bill say that Duante Wright, shot and killed by police

during a traffic stop in Minnesota because there was an arrest warrant against him for unpaid fines and fees, would still be alive under the proposed bill. They hope the current legislative session does not end without consideration of this bill.

MYTH: If you are a victim of sex abuse at any age, you cannot get justice.

REALITY: In 2019, the New York State Legislature made a law called the Child Victims Act. This act extended the time period (statute of limitations) in which a childhood sexual abuse victim could sue the person who abused them. The law applied to those abused when they were under 18 years old. It permitted a lawsuit, and the lawsuit had to be sued before the expiration of a year. The year started in 2019. More than 6000 people filed claims under this law. The law was extended last year, and expires in August, 2021. The law does not guarantee an outcome, and the abuse must still be proven in court. However, it does give an alleged victim the opportunity to sue. The bill left out those who were 18 years old and older when abused.

Now the New York State Assembly is considering another law that has been called the Adult Survivors Act. The New York State Senate already has passed the law. It is modeled on the Child Victims Act and recognizes that sometimes it takes years for a victim to come to terms with the acts of abuse, and to seek justice. It applies to those who did not come forward at the time of the acts, and to those who did come forward but were not believed and therefore not given justice. It will give those adult victims a period of a year in which to sue, and could be extended later.

An interesting twist is that if it is passed by both branches of the Legislature, the Senate and the Assembly, then it must be signed by Governor Cuomo before it can become law. The Governor is currently the alleged perpetrator of the very sort of crime that is addressed in the Adult Survivors Act.

MYTH: New York State legislators do little except to work for their own reelection.

REALITY: This session of the legislature has been busy. Two bills of interest have been passed that require only the Governor's signature to become law. The first bill makes it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to marry. New York has long had a scheme whereby the age of the child wishing to marry is critical. At some ages marrying would require a parent's written consent. Four years ago the age to marry was raised from 14 to 18 years of age, reserving the option for a 17 year old to marry with. Now the bill

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By Ted Rajchel

Voices of Polonia

General Casimir Pulaski, George Washington's Cavalry Commander



Background

Many brave men have come to the aid of America independence. Many had to leave their homelands in search of new freedoms. One of these men became a great American Revolutionary War hero—Casimir Pulaski. He was born March 4, 1747 in Poland of noble blood. He received an excellent education and a complete military training as an infantry and cavalry soldier. While Pulaski was in Poland, he fought for Polish independence unsuccessfully and was banned from Poland and his estates confiscated. The Russians wanted to hang him. In 1772 he fled to Turkey and later arrived in Paris where he met Benjamin Franklin. Franklin wrote Washington trying to obtain a commission in the American army for Pulaski. Pulaski realized that America was a new land where he could justify with his sword the rights of man, for which he had fought hopelessly in Poland.

Pulaski arrived in Boston in July, 1777. The following month he met General Washington. Washington knew that Pulaski was an experienced cavalry officer. Washington realized the importance of an organized cavalry for the support of the infantry and victory in battles. Washington recommended to Congress, Pulaski's appointment as commander of all the cavalry. While Pulaski was in Poland, he commanded over 40,000 troops, was a national hero, and celebrated all over Europe. His name was a terror to the Russians, and they seldom ventured to attack him, except with overwhelming numbers, and in order to secure a battle.

He often assumed the name of another commander. Eventually Pulaski's forces were crushed by the powers of Austria, Prussia, and Russia. Then Poland was partitioned in 1772. Pulaski was banned from Poland and a price put on his head. While waiting for his appointment, Pulaski was invited by Washington to serve on his staff as a volunteer officer. During this time the Battle of Brandywine was taking place, and Pulaski here saw his first service and exposed himself to great danger by riding close to British lines and making a preliminary survey for military operations.



At a critical time with Washington's permission, Pulaski gathered together Washington's bodyguard of about thirty men and made an unexpected charge on the British. Pulaski stopped their advance. He was also the first to detect the approach of the British army in great force as a threat to Washington's army. General Washington moved his army to meet the advance. Pulaski's action prevented General Washington from being captured by the British and the American army surrounded.

As a result of Pulaski's conduct at the Battle of Brandywine, Congress awarded him a commission as Brigadier General in command of the Cavalry of the American Forces on September 15, 1777. Pulaski had no problem recruiting men to join his now famous "Pulaski Legion" Cavalry with three companies of horses, armed with lances and three companies of infantry with many being black soldiers who distinguished themselves with much valor and bravery, a total of 330 men.

He is called "The Father of the American Cavalry". Pulaski trained and disciplined his legion into a highly organized unit of fighting men. Men were eager to serve under this distinguished Polish commander and left the regular Maryland line to join Pulaski. General Smallwood protested and Washington ordered Pulaski to send back these men. Robert Pula wrote in his article about Pulaski,

"The new soldiers were impressed with the handsome 30 year old general, who contributed to their morale by galloping at full speed on his horse, firing his pistol into the air, throwing the pistol ahead of the horse, swinging out of the saddle with one foot in the stirrup and picking up the pistol before it touched the ground."

Light-Horse Harry Lee

One of the Americans who served in the Pulaski Legion was Light-Horse Harry Lee, father of Robert E. Lee, the commander of the Confederate Army. Many Poles served in the Pulaski Legion and were officers. These men were highly trained soldiers who also fought for Polish independence.

Pulaski also Paid Out of His Own Funds

He paid out of his own funds at least \$50,000 without any expectation of repayment. He used this money for equipment and sustenance of his "Pulaski Legion". That is one reason he was called "The Father of the American Cavalry."

Pulaski Legion Distinguished Itself in Many Battles

During the encounter with the enemy on Lancaster Road near Philadelphia and in the Battle of Germantown, Pulaski distinguished himself and gained the confidence of General Washington. Then Pulaski and his cavalry were sent to Trenton to find a supply of food. In February, 1778, Pulaski joined General

Wayne in an attempt to gather food and to keep the enemy from gathering food for their army. The enemy was threatening the country around Philadelphia. Their combined forces defeated the British at Haddonfield, near Camden, New Jersey. Then Pulaski again joined the main army at Valley Forge.

Pulaski Ordered to Join General Lincoln

On February 2, 1779, Pulaski was ordered to join General Lincoln, who was in command of the Southern Army stationed in Georgia and South Carolina. The British had captured Savannah and now threatened Charleston, South Carolina and Augusta Georgia. Pulaski was on his way southward with the hope of capturing Charleston, May 11, 1779. He demanded that the city of Charleston surrender to his cavalry. He pushed the enemy back with great disorder, displaying bravery and thereby saving Charleston. Pulaski headed next for Savannah, Georgia. While pushing towards Savannah, during the four days it took him to get there, he was engaged in taking a survey of military operations and attacking their outposts. Here the American and French armies met. The French and American cavalry were both under Pulaski's command. Pulaski was wounded here and died a hero's death on October 11, 1779. He died with a sword in hand in the battle of Savannah, defending the freedom of America, thus becoming one of America's great Revolutionary War heroes.

A Great Loss For the Americans

His death was a great loss for the Americans. Washington, himself, was deeply saddened. Congress recognized the greatness of the man and what he did for American independence. Pulaski was the most romantic and professionally, the most extraordinary officer in the American War of Independence. America should never forget great men like Pulaski, who sometimes are only slightly mentioned. One has to read the life of Pulaski to realize where his place in American history is. It should be among the greatest of all Americans. Great men like this have made America the cradle

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Utica Celebrates Juneteenth in a Big Way!

On June 19, 2021 at Chancellor Park in Utica a unique celebration occurred and culminated a more than weeklong series of events. A celebration that has been honored for the last 17 years, Robbie Dancy, a Utica native and respected Elder in Utica's Black Community, was responsible for organizing this event, Juneteenth and African American Heritage Day. "This is the last time I'm doing it," she says when asked about the future of these successful gatherings that have become more than just a celebration; but an opportunity for Black Entrepreneurs in The Mohawk Valley to introduce their service and products to the community at large.

Dancy was not alone in the planning this year. "I had a lot of help this year" Dancy admitted. For The Good Inc. brought the support of their influential Black Media platform that includes radio, internet and print mediums. "Jill Voss has been absolutely fantastic and I don't know what I would have done without her" she added.

Robbie Dancy's service and dedication played out in the midst of sea change of energy and recognition that began in Utica 25 years ago on South Street: Juneteenth.

Many people in Mohawk Valley have no idea what Juneteenth is. This year was extra special due to the recent legislation that recognizes Juneteenth as a National Holiday. For the first time America acknowledged an important day in Black American History. The bittersweet details define our journey, as a people, in a nation where we have often been treated as foreigners or even enemies.

For those that don't know: Juneteenth is a Black American Holiday commemorating the end of legal slavery in The United States. Abraham Lincoln declared all enslaved people in Confederate states will now and forever be free after Jan. 1, 1863. What makes Juneteenth bittersweet is the fact that The Enslaved People of Texas were not informed until 1865; a full two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was ratified.

Obviously a lot has changed since then. But our appreciation of freedom and love for our neighbors make these annual events something to look forward to every year. This is like the Black St. Patty's Day. This is a day when all Americans can be Black.

This year Utica's participation grew to unprecedented levels of enthusiasm throughout the community. A new group

of organizers calling themselves "Motivated Minds" put together an outstanding, first time, Pre-Juneteenth event at Kemble Park on June 12 which went on from 11AM – 6PM. Organizers Vanessa, Katrina and Cameron included Patrick Johnson's ever popular Hoops and Dreams 3 on 3 Tournament which drew huge afternoon crowds. The most impressive aspect of this event was the massive response of vendors which lined the entire park where hundreds of people swelled the entire afternoon. Dr. Duss, of 95.5FM The Heat maintained a musical groove throughout the day including queuing up tracks for the various performers who brought their talents to the people including 95.5FM's own J Easy who performed his Hip Hop hit classic, Black Lives Matter.

On June the 18th, preceding the traditional Juneteenth outdoor festival event, For The Good presented it's second Juneteenth TV Musical, Songs of Freedom. It was an hour long showcase of local musical talent intended to inspire and motivate viewers. Musicians Doc Woods, John Kelsey, Ed Crowder and Steve Falvo, singers T.K. Howard, DJ J Easy, Rev. George Clark, Astena Smith, Tracy Bowens, Delmarshia Curry and Cassan-

dra Harris-Lockwood performed music celebrating racial equality, freedom, and justice in our nation, and for uniting people of all backgrounds at this time of social change. There was a special message from Sister Elder Robbie Dancy, of MUNPC. The event followed last year's Covid ridden celebration just in time to drive home the horror of George Floyd's murder and the world wide response to America's ongoing damning racial discrimination and brutality.

Additionally, on Friday June 18, The Oneida County Freedom Trail Underground Railroad and Abolition group held a free Walking Tour on Friday 6:00-7:00PM.

At Chancellor Park on June 19th, The band Trumptight 315 held forth under the cover of the gazebo and pleased the crowd of hundreds and hundreds of people which coursed through the park during the afternoon. There were scores of vendors and presenters who gathered under the protection of the trees with gratitude for the shelter from the sun. For The Good's Juneteenth performers brought forth the live version of the previous evening's show for the crowd. A special appearance by 95.5FM Hip Hop Gospel DJ of the Church in the Hood, Lady JAM LaDana Clark wowed the



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crowd with her energy charged performances. On June 20th, the Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute capped off the more the weeklong event with the opening of the Emma Amos Color Odyssey for their offering of Juneteenth Week-end Celebration. The opening included an impressive performance by The Ladies of Soul and their Gentlemen in the Sculpture Court. In a perfect world we would not have to choose between celebrating The Fourth of July and celebrating Juneteenth in the name of Freedom. To many in the Black community, it is difficult to trust or forgive our White neighbors because of the current social climate regarding race, police brutality, and huge economic disparities like wage gaps, educational opportunities and real estate appraisals where it is suggested the Black commu-

nity loses billions annually for no other reason than being Black. It's the epitome of systemic racism. Utica is leading in a cultural shift that will occur all over the country as we start to unearth the real history of America and come to terms with our past by singing dancing and sharing our experience with the rest of America. Juneteenth is new to White Americans. Just like the Tulsa Massacre, it was hidden from them. Buried by a policy of omission that has blinded the white community. How else could a moral, well meaning group of people commit so many despicable acts in the name of freedom? They were fooled and continue to be fooled into being scared by things like CRT. Juneteenth isn't about blame. It's about gratitude. Next year make sure you are there. Folks will be glad to break bread with you.

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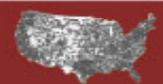
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At the Movies

Review - 'A Quiet Place Part 2'

"Johnny Cournoyer, Paramount Pictures 2019."



Grade: A-

John Krasinski had a large mantle to top in "A Quiet Place Part II," most notably the horror masterpiece he created with the first film. The most remarkable thing about "Part II," however, is that Krasinski didn't try to top it, nor turn "A Quiet Place" into a 'universe' like so many Marvel films or even the "Cloverfield" series. What he has done, aptly, is to create a film that is definitely a sequel, and one that will please fans of the original while also welcoming others in. The film is not a standalone, but does the "Quiet Place" world justice. And with some new themes, but a familiar tone, the film is a success in every right.

This is a direct sequel. Evelyn Abbott (Emily Blunt) is left holding the same shotgun she has fired to end the first movie, with her two children (Noah Jupe, Millicent Simmonds) standing scared besides here. A lot has happened in their lives. They have lost their brother, now their father (Director John Krasinski), and Simmonds' Regan has discovered how deep her father's love for her went, which she once doubted. With no options, the four (Evelyn carries a newborn, cleverly concealed and kept alive with oxygen so the creatures can't hear) set out to find other survivors and perhaps a way to move forward.

There are several high points of "A Quiet Place Part II." Firstly, the story is allowed to evolve. If the first was about family and togetherness, the second is about growth and humanity. The addition of a long-lost neighbor, Emmett (an excellent Cillian Murphy) adds subtlety to the plot. Evelyn and family have spent time getting here, and gained hope after learning how to fight back. But Emmett is quick to dispatch their hopes fully: "The people that are left," he says, "they're not the kind of people worth

saving." We quickly see he is right, as a gang of survivors attacks Regan later in the film. However, "A Quiet Place Part II" is about lessons, and we learn that even Emmett's views can be challenged later on in the film.

John Krasinski once stated in "The Big Picture Podcast" that he didn't want to be openly involved in the writing, before ultimately taking on the mantle for the film. But it seems during that transition the script transformed, allowing the Abbott children to take front and center this time around. Blunt performs aptly, but takes a back seat as Simmonds and Jupe fill out roles that overshadowed by parents last time around. Marcus (Jupe) plays a role well designed around fear for the first part (along with pain—one scene he undergoes is kind of gut-wrenching), which will ultimately lead toward empowerment and growth. And Simmonds—who was astounding in "Part I"—is allowed to transform even further. She has a lofty goal to help take back the world in a quest involving her hearing aid, and shows courage and bravery seemingly unchecked by danger. The biggest surprise to me was the authenticity of Cillian Murphy. When casting house names like his for a sequel to a much-anticipated film, you often run the



risk of actors overtaking the film. But Murphy does none of that; he fits into this world seamlessly, both in the foreboding present and flashbacks involving 'Day 1,' where the creatures decimate the small town in a horrific scene. His acting is subtle, stolid, and filled with growth. I was reminded of his power and emotion of the mesmerizing "The Wind that Shakes the Barley" here, not of bigger blockbusters that line his resume. He has his scenes: one, where he warns the Abbotts of the types of people left in this world, and another with Regan later on that is the stuff great movies are made of.

But the second most welcome surprise here is simply Krasinski's filmmaking.

With Mark Ziobro

It's evident now that "Part I" was not a one-off, as the director knows how to make an engaging horror film that defies the genre and becomes something more. The set-pieces are part of it: he re-uses the same theme music, to nice effect, along with haunting follow-cameras and POV shots/sound of deaf Regan aptly. However, it's nice to see that Krasinski still avoids convention like the plague. There are parts of his film where you can see an easy set-up for tired horror tropes—and then Krasinski side-steps them entirely. There's just story here, no needless homages, unnecessary twists, or cheap scares. Krasinski fully trusts his audience...and it shows.

"A Quiet Place Part II" is a great movie. Everyone will have their favorite of the pair. For me, "Part I" holds a dear place in my heart, but "Part II" follows nicely and becomes a great sequel. Many have told me "Part II" trumped Part I for them, so it will likely be up to the viewer to decide. At any rate, Krasinski and team have made a solid sequel that is a smart horror film that rewards viewers for their patience and should be seen by all. The film opened in the theaters with

a message from Krasinski thanking audiences for taking the chance to see his film (only released in theaters) while Covid is still a risk. When a director cares that much about his audience, the quality of the project is destined to follow suit.



Mark is a New York based film critic and founder and Managing Editor of *The Movie Buff*. He has contributed film reviews to websites such as *Movie-Blogger* and *Filmotomy*, as well as local, independent print news medium. He is a lifelong lover of cinema, his favorite genres being drama, horror, and independent. Mark is also a former editor for the *Utica Phoenix*.

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General Casmir Pulaski

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of democracy for all Americans. Pulaski also helped to continue America's destiny for all times. He died before the British were driven away. In October, 1779, he led the cavalry assault to save the important southern port of Savannah, Georgia, was wounded, and taken aboard the American ship USS Wasp. He died at sea two days later. He wrote a letter to General George Washington with the declaration: "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it and to live or die for it." In 1858 in Savannah, a monument was erected to his although the cornerstone had been laid by Lafayette as early as 1825. In 1910, a statue was erected to him memory in Washington. Currently, there is hardly a state in the union that does not have a county or town, street or square, monument, school, or highway named in grateful memory of General Casmir Pulaski. Fort Pulaski in Georgia has 5,364 acres of land in his honor. A monument to General Pulaski stands at the Parkway in Utica, New York in his memory. This statue on the Utica Memorial Parkway was designed by Joseph Pollio of New York City and was unveiled October 11, 1930--Pulaski Day. General Pulaski, hero of two continents, who came to America to defend her struggle for freedom, ended his brilliant career at the young age of thirty-two. Young Casmir Pulaski plunged into the futile struggle as a commander of the cavalry by the time he was twenty-one. He was a national hero having won several battles against Russian troops. He was exiled from Poland for being a leader of the unsuccessful insurrection against Russia.

Legal Myths & Reality

continued from page 6

will permit only 18 year olds to marry, regardless of a parent's or a judge's consent.

The second bill of interest would require a judge in a divorce case to consider the best interests of any pets the parties own. If signed into law by the Governor, pets will no longer be treated as property, like a sofa or refrigerator. Now they will be considered as living members of the family, like a child. The pets would go with the party who has shown that that party can provide the best care. The pet can ultimately be the subject of a Family Court case. Those who oppose say that

this proposed law is not serving an actual need, and is only meant to make more money for lawyers.

Giving attention to legal myths is not wrong. It can be a starting point for developing an interest in the law. However, if specific legal issues are important in your life, for instance, regarding custody of children or money payable for any reason, it is wise to consult a lawyer who can advise you on the truth of legal myths. This discussion is not intended to render legal advice on specific cases or to express an opinion on any specific case.

Pulaski fled to Paris where he met Benjamin Franklin. Franklin liked this enthusiastic, courageous young officer and recruited him to the American cause with which Pulaski was already sympathetic. In 1929 Congress declared October 11 to be Pulaski Day in the United States, a largely forgotten holiday in much of the country. America honors the memory of this soldier of liberty, who sacrificed his life for the cause of our independence. In October, a parade is held in New York City in his honor. Recently, the United States named one of its atomic submarines in his memory--USS Casmir Pulaski, a ballistic missile submarine whose length is 425 feet. This was the second ship of the US Navy to be named for him, a Polish General who served in the American Revolutionary War. Then 230 years after the Polish nobleman died fighting for American freedom and independence, Pulaski became an honorary United States citizen. President Barack Obama signed a joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives that made Pulaski an honorary American citizen.

References:

1. Casmir Pulaski, Polish Patriot and United States Army Officer
2. From George Washington to Brigadier General Casmir Pulaski
3. Fort Pulaski--Casmir Pulaski
4. Casmir Pulaski in Georgia
5. Brigadier General Casmir Pulaski
6. Revolution Army War Hero Pulaski Becomes Honorary US Citizen, Utica, OD, November 7, 2004

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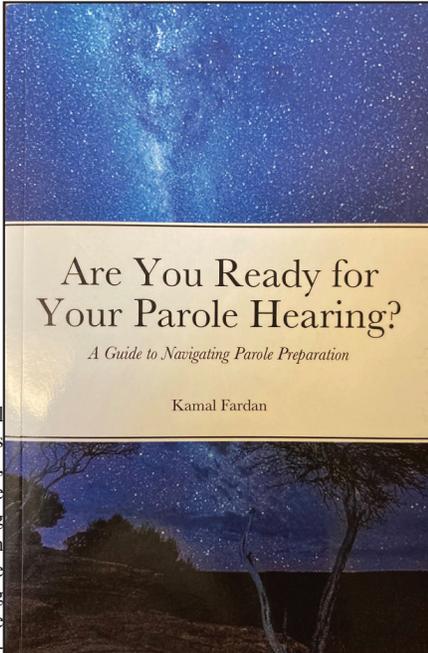
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Local Launches Book Publishing



Porosity Press presents local Author Kamal Fardan; who was formerly incarcerated. His book, *Are you Ready For Your Parole Hearing? A Guide to Navigating Parole Preparation* was written with the intent of helping people prepare for a very tough hearing which will determine the release of those appearing before a Parole Board. The book is tentatively scheduled for release in mid-August. If interested, you can go to the website for Porosity Press. This book is free for prisoners! However, families and friends will have to pay for it, the cost is \$15. Also, you may be interested in *The Forgotten Population*, a group on Facebook.

Mr. Fardan is striving to bring family, friends and anyone interested in this important issue together on this platform. The Facebook Group will explore methods to help families become more educated about prison life and share ideas as to how to better support their loved ones while incarcerated.



Hear ye! Hear ye!
Let it be known that: The Community Foundation, Inc. has blacklisted and black balled For The Good, Inc. because the CEO has criticized them for their failure over the past 20 years to support, sustain, maintain or develop a Black led CBO in the City of Utica. Let it further be known that their \$10 million Racial Justice and Equity Fund developed year ago has failed to distribute any monies to the Black community though it continues to raise monies under the pretense of racial justice. As Utica's Black underserved community continues to languish in poverty and Black led CBO's remain severely underfunded and understaffed with deteriorating physical plants the Community Foundation perpetrates the fraud of their claimed mission and is a clear case of institutional racial bias & philanthropic racism at its worst.



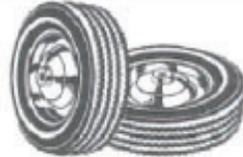
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New faces seek to fill the void left by Anthony Brindisi

tuary.org. Bolt talks about being “brutalized and arrested” during a protest against police brutality. She told News-channel2 that she was “attack[ed] violently with excessive force.”

When asked if that would be a liability to her candidacy, she replied, “I think it depends on what the new district looks like. In the existing NY-22, it might be, but even here, it could also mobilize progressives who haven’t had a candidate to be enthusiastic about and whose numbers might be underestimated.”

Whether the ideological progressiveness of these two candidates will prove to be attractive to voters in their district is mainly dependent on what the district will look like after boundaries are redrawn as a result of the 2020 Census.

Mitch Ford, the Oneida County Democratic Party chair, describes a potential 22nd congressional district as a “rainbow” with “pockets of progressives and conservatives” but thinks it would be impossible to assess any candidate’s viability until those district boundaries are drawn.

Regarding the viability of a transgender person or openly bisexual candidate, he argues that “thirty-five years ago no one ever thought we’d have a Black President,” and that before John F. Kennedy was elected. It seemed equally unlikely that there would ever be a Catholic President. Regardless of how the eventual Democratic candidate identifies, they will face a Republican with a “leg up” since the Independence line has been stricken from the ballot due to the 2020 election. While most Republicans also appear on the Conservative party line, Democrats will have to decide whether to seek the Working Family Party endorsement, which, according to Ford, “does well in the cities, but not in the towns.”

According to Wikipedia, the NY22 district is currently about 57% urban and 43% rural, but this could change dramatically due to redistricting due to the 2020 Census. A non-partisan commission will propose how to divide the state into twenty-six, rather than the current twenty-seven, Congressional districts. The Democratically controlled state legislature can amend that commission’s recommendation only after twice rejecting them. Politics, therefore, may very well play a part in the reconfiguration. Dave Wasserman, analyst for the Cook Political Report, is considered a foremost expert on redistricting. He has tweeted out two possible redistricting scenarios, both of which represent dramatic redrawing of the lines. In one, the Northern portion of NY-22 is subsumed into a vast Adirondack district controlled by Republican Elise Stefanik. Another

has NY-22 centralized into an upstate urban district that includes Utica, Cortland, and Syracuse.

Either of these scenarios would dramatically alter the district’s political composition, and the latter would cut Mikalya Ridley out of the district entirely. It would do the same for a third candidate, Hal Stewart, an Independent who, like Ridley, lives in Endicott, a village only 10 miles north of the Pennsylvania border.

Stewart describes himself as “a true independent” with “no parties or donors to answer to.” He does not plan to seek any major or third-party endorsement and will only appear on the ballot under “unaffiliated.”

According to his website, his position on several hot button issues makes him significantly less “progressive” than Ridley or Bolt. For example, he argues for completing the Border Wall with Mexico because “it will help maintain order and safety.” While he favors a path to legal immigration and citizenship for “honest, hardworking people,” he has a paragraph in which he expresses concern with “criminal illegal aliens” whom he believes should be in jail for a minimum of twenty-five years.

Stewart’s website acknowledges that student loan forgiveness would be a “huge shot in the arm to our economy.” Still, he blames the problem on colleges and universities, calling them “profit engines.” Stewart’s site states that an “English degree” has the “ridiculous price tag [of] \$70,000 a year.”

This claim is belied by United States Department of Education data (CollegeScorecard.ed.gov) that shows local college costs ranging from \$25,160 per year on the high end (for Hamilton College) to \$7,429 for Mohawk Valley Community College. According to the U.S. Dept. of Ed. website, those figures include tuition, living costs, books, and supplies minus the average grants and scholarships for federal financial aid recipients. When pressed on this issue, Stewart replied that he “Googled the most expensive schools in the United States,” but that his “goal was to make a point about the cost of education and the student loan program. Not to call out any specific school or schools.”

None of the three candidates have ever run for political office. At this stage, it is understandable that they may lack the polish expected in a race where \$27 million was spent on the last election. Stewart insists that his refusal to accept financial support is an asset because it allows him to “run solely on my message and my ideas,” which he says “helps with the credibility factor.”

Stewart believes that current Representative Claudia Tenney “wants to do a good job, and she believes she is doing what is right.” His primary objection is that “everything she does and says are the Republican talking points or is calculated for votes. There’s not much to say when an entire campaign isn’t built around your accomplishments, but rather, that you’ll support President Trump.”

Claudia Tenney may be doubling down on her connection to the former President in anticipation of redistricting. NY-22 could end up so geographically altered that she will be pitted in a Republican primary against far right Rep. Elise Stefanik in Northern New York or moderate Rep. John Katko in Syracuse. While Tenney stakes her claim as the MAGA candidate, according to Stewart, constituents in the Southern Tier “don’t hear from her unless it’s campaign season.”

He describes her as “extremely beatable” because “people see through her phoniness.” Like Ridley and Bolt, his campaign seeks to present a general sense of “straightforwardness” characterized by a lack of “doublespeak.” All three see their lack of experience as a refreshing alternative in a race where the same two candidates have battled each other for two consecutive elections.

Utica College Professor of Political Science, Luke Perry says that since these three candidates lack governing experience and name recognition, it makes sense for them to have declared their interest this early in the cycle to seek media attention and potential supporters. This is likely not the case with more experienced candidates who are probably waiting to see redistricting results.

It will likely be that redistricting, rather than any individual candidate, shaping the next Congressional election. In a process sure to be steered by Democratic elected officials, Bill Thickstun, the town’s chair for the Oneida County Democratic Committee, says that Brindisi withdrawing from the race obviates a need to preserve the district. The question is whether inexperience, however refreshing it may seem a year and a half away from the election, be enough for any of these candidates to run a competitive race even at the primary level.

“These are multi-million dollar races,” Thickstun says. “The party is going to do everything it can to maximize its chances of winning.”

Primary competition between Ridley, Bolt, and candidates yet to come forward in the Democratic party, and the even more seismic potential clashes in the Republican party between Tenney and Stefanik, or Tenney and Katko will

shake things up in both parties.

“It’s not necessarily about winning; it’s about fighting for what’s right, both for the short and long term,” says Patrick Madden, an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Binghamton University. Madden briefly entered the race as a Democratic candidate for the seat in 2017. He withdrew after Anthony Brindisi announced his intention to seek the nomination. Madden explained that his values aligned with Brindisi, whom he believes “[stood] up for everyone in the district.” At the time of his withdrawal, WIBX also quoted Madden as saying (on Facebook) that another reason was Brindisi’s “considerable establishment backing.”

Meanwhile, Hal Stewart simply has to convince voters that he can win as an independent.

“I’m as worri[ed] as a cloudy day,” he says. “People are ready for a change in our district. They just need to see there is a real third option.”

Whether Ridley and Bolt can make a successful case to Democratic primary voters that a progressive can defeat Claudia Tenney (or Elise Stefanik or John Katko) remains to be seen. Patrick Madden believes they can.

“Underdogs can win,” he insists. “There was zero chance that Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez would win her primary against Joseph Crowley. Until she did.”



Like Ron Klopfanstein at Facebook.com/ReadRonKlopfanstein and follow him at Twitter.com/RonKlopfanstein. Follow Ethan Pavlus at Twitter.com/EthanPavlus

Mohawk Valley Almanac July 2021 Edition

By Roger Chambers

If early and mid-June is any indication, we may be in for a long, hot summer. If possible, on the hottest days over 90°F, take the usual precautions of avoiding strenuous outdoor activity from 10 A.M. to late afternoon, stay hydrated, limit sun exposure, and use sunscreen when outside.

As the corona virus pandemic slowly winds down, this summer presents with several unique situations. Many large village or city wide festivals have been postponed or canceled due to the uncertainty of what state guidelines may be. Examples include Utica's Boiler Maker 15 Kilometer Road Race now set for October, Rome's Honor America Days in late July to mid August and September's Remsen's Barn Festival of the Arts.

As different state and local mandates may vary from situation to situation, now is not the time to be complacent. While those fully vaccinated are at low risk, masks may still be mandated at some activities and in some shopping or service situations. Please be patient where masks are encouraged, and use common sense in attending crowded maskless activities. And most importantly, if not vaccinated, become informed and get the recommended vaccine(s) unless your doctor recommends against it.

Holidays and Observances for July

July 1 Canada Day
July 4 Independence Day, usually called the "Fourth of July"
July 13 Nathan Bedford Forrest's Birthday, Tennessee
July 24 Pioneer Day, Utah; National Day of the Cowboy
July 25 Constitution Day, Puerto Rico
July 27 José Celso Barbosa's Birthday, Puerto Rico

At the time of this writing, this summer seems to be about half way open. Many of the usual activities, fairs, festivals, and large sporting events may be on hold or with modified, somewhat limited attendance allowed. Check with the sponsor of particular large events to find out the limitations if the event is not canceled.

There may also still be limitations on travel, particularly foreign travel. Many if not most cruises remain closed or on hold until the fall. While Europe may open up soon, it would not be wise to yet plan unnecessary travel to much of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean where the Covid 19 pandemic is getting worse this late spring. As of this writing it still remains unclear on just when the Candian-U.S. border will open up.

If traveling out of state, be aware of

much higher car rental fees, slower lines at airports, likely continued mask requirements in some circumstances and pent up demand raising prices for restaurants and hotels / accommodations.

For many, it may be another summer of staying close to home, with perhaps occasional day visits to nearby village, city or state parks. We are gradually coming out of a most difficult time but should realize that this is not yet quite over. Continue patience and common sense are strongly encouraged as we get back to something considered near normal over the next few months.

In the Night Skies

The Sun is at aphelion, or its annual farthest point from the Earth on July 5th and is 7% dimmer at noon than it was in January.

The Crescent Moon is to the right of Venus and Mars on July 11th. The two planets remain quite close (though the Moon has shifted) on the 12th and 13th. Mars is rather dim at magnitude 1.84, and best viewed with binoculars.

A day after the Full Buck Moon, a triangle is formed by Saturn to the left of the Moon and Jupiter to the right on the

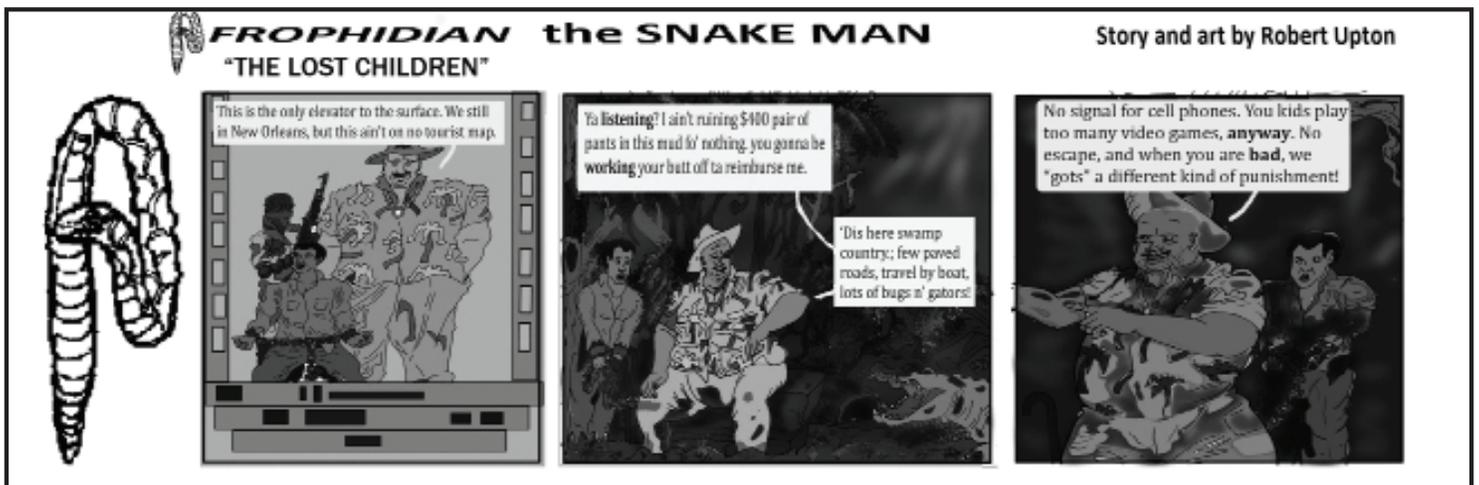
24th, Jupiter shifting to below the Moon on the 25th.

Rising and Setting Times of the Sun, Moon, and Visible Planets on Wednesday July 21, 2021

Sunrise 5:41 A.M. Sunset 8:33 P.M.
Moonrise 6:47 P.M., SE, Waxing Gibbous
Moonset 2:42 A.M., SW
Mercury Rises 5:38 A.M., northeast
Sets 7:54 P.M., northwest
Venus Sets 10:04 P.M., west
Mars Sets 9:50 P.M., west
Jupiter rises Rises 9:57 P.M., east
Saturn rises Rises 9:04 P.M., southeast
Sets 6:50 A.M., southwest

Phases of the Moon for July 2021

Last Quarter July 1
New Moon July 9
First Quarter July 17
Full Buck Moon July 23
Last Quarter July 31



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Emma Amos (American, 1917-2016): Color Odyssey (detail), 1993, acrylic on canvas with African fabric borders, 60 inches (152.4 cm) high, courtesy PMA LLC Gallery

emmaamos.com/color-odyssey is organized by the Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, and it is supported in part by the national endowment for the arts and the wilson center for the visual arts and the arts university of georgia.