



## SpaceX could take humans to Mars in 2030s

NEWS, 6A

# Poughkeepsie Journal

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Robert Veeder, addiction specialist, in his office in Fairport on May 13. Veeder runs A Better High Personalized Addiction Recovery Services. PHOTOS BY SHAWN DOWD/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

## From killer of 6 to counselor

NY musician turns DWI tragedy into mission to save lives

Gary Craig Rochester Democrat and Chronicle | USA TODAY NETWORK

It’s when morning comes, after a restless night cocooned on a two-inch foam pad upon a concrete floor, that Larry Robert Veeder realizes his paralyzing sadness likely saved him from a jailhouse beating. • A man only feet from him on the floor was pummeled during the night. Veeder knew the beating was coming when he heard tennis shoes squeaking across the floor. • Veeder tried to shut out the sobs and wails, to escape into the mental closet he’d constructed during his days of solitary suicide watch, but the man’s agony was too profound, and simply too damn loud to ignore. • Veeder pretended to sleep, wondering if he would be next. He was well known by his fellow incarcerated men; his face had been on TV for days, as had the faces of the six people he’d killed. See **COUNSELOR**, Page 5A



Robert Veeder, Penfield, talks to the students in the Health 2 class at Penfield High School on March 26, 2024. Veeder killed six people in a DWI crash in North Carolina. He uses his life story as a warning against drinking and addiction.

## Ukrainian marine’s journey highlights toll of war

Wounded in fighting, amputee travels to U.S. to rebuild life

Michael Collins and Stephen J. Beard  
USA TODAY

NEW YORK – Yuri Saiko heard the whistling sound from his hospital bed and took cover under his blanket. A split second later, the window in his room exploded, spraying glass in every direction. An air bomb had hit the hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine, where the young marine was recovering from surgery to amputate his left leg. Saiko and his comrades came under fire on March 10, 2022, after delivering baby formula, food, clothing and other supplies to three patients who had given birth in a hospital bunker. Russian soldiers pounded them with artillery fire as they headed back to their positions near the Illich Iron and Steel Works plant. Back at the plant, Saiko waited until the shelling stopped, then went to check the condition of their vehicle. Another shell landed near him and exploded. He fell to the ground as shrapnel tore through his chest, nose and the back of his head. His left leg, almost ripped from his body, was held in place only by thin tissue. Now, in the hospital, he was under attack again. Beneath the covers, Saiko removed the wires and

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## Amtrak’s NextGen Acela trains will debut this week

Thomas C. Zambito  
New York State Team | USA TODAY NETWORK

Amtrak debuts five of its NextGen Acela trains on the Northeast Corridor this week with more seats and slightly faster trains between Washington, D.C., New York City and Boston. The rollout begins Thursday, Aug. 28, and continues through 2027, when 28 NextGen trains will be on the rails. The NextGen fleet, manufactured at Alstom’s facility in Hornell, Steuben County, will have 27% more seats than the current fleet and will be outfitted with a tilt feature that allows for a smoother ride along curves. Amenities include a café, free Wi-Fi and power outlets at each seat. The NextGen train can reach a top speed of 160 mph, about 10 mph faster than the current train. “NextGen Acela is more than a new train – it’s an evolution of travel,” said Amtrak President Roger Harris.

Building on ridership gains

Amtrak has been busy modernizing its fleet as it tries to build on the ridership gains it’s made in recent

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