



REGION
Troy Public Library's proposal for a 30% tax increase draws controversy. **A6**



BUSINESS
Pizzeria Michelina in Albany closes doors; owner says sale pending. **B1**

SPORTS
ValleyCats reflect after Game 3 rout in Quebec. **B3**

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TIMES UNION

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DEA: Nitazenes emerging in N.Y.

Synthetic drug more potent than fentanyl is popping up during raids, officials warn

By Raga Justin
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — A powerful and potentially deadly new group of synthetic opioids known as nitazenes are infiltrating New York's drug supply, even as the state still struggles with a fentanyl-fueled addiction crisis.

During a narcotics raid in Long Island last month, investigators seized a host of illicit

-pills, including fentanyl and a new form of nitazenes. Law enforcement officials said the discovery marked one of the first instances of the dangerous nitazenes being found in the Northeast.

Nitazenes were created as pain reliever medication in the 1950s, though they have never been approved for use by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Yet as the

See NITAZENES, A3



Courtesy of the Office of the New York State Attorney General

Authorities routinely seize multiple types of narcotics and other illicit substances during drug raids. But they are now contending with a rise of a new adulterant known as nitazenes.

'Smart' meters roll out in state

National Grid customers now able to measure gas, electric usage remotely

By Larry Rulison
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — National Grid is in the process of installing so-called smart meters at the homes of its gas and electric customers.

National Grid spokesman Patrick Stella confirmed that some local customers should have recently received notices in the mail about the new meters, which the industry calls AMI, or advanced metering infrastructure meters.

The smart meters allow the utility to measure gas and electric usage remotely instead of sending out workers to read the meters, which also have other helpful features and can help some customers save money.

Customers can opt out of having the new devices installed. However, doing so will result in a monthly meter reading fee of \$17.71 to their bill if they opt out of both electric and gas meters, according to National Grid. To have a smart

See SMART METERS, A3



Larry Rulison/Times Union

A smart electric meter at a National Grid customer's home. Customers can track usage through the utility's website.



Photos by Will Waldron/Times Union

Cody Shields, right, and his partner Jessica James, left, are interviewed Sept. 8 in Greenwich following the loss of three pet dogs at a dog kennel. Twenty-one dogs died at a boarding facility in Washington County.

In wake of dogs' deaths at Argyle kennel, owners call for regulations

Unlike shelters and breeders, pet boarders not subject to oversight

By H. Rose Schneider
STAFF WRITER

Before dropping their dogs off on Aug. 23, Cody Shields and Jessica James toured the grounds of Anastasia Acres, observing the dog boarder's kennel and big, open yard.

James, 28, and Shields, 35, hadn't taken a vacation since their 2-year-old daughter, Nova, had been born — probably longer than that, Shields said. The Greenwich couple had booked a rental on Long Beach Island in New Jersey. There was just a matter of where their dogs Brutus, Brunhilda and Loki would stay.

Anastasia Acres, in nearby Argyle, was the highest-rated kennel they could find. James' grandparents had their dog stay there when her grandfather was in hospice. On its website, the

See DOGS, A4



Cody Shields holds a cellphone photo of one his three dogs who died in a boarding facility accident in Washington County.

Rubio in Israel as attacks in Gaza intensify

By Matthew Lee and Samy Magdy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio was in Israel on Sunday as its military intensified attacks on northern Gaza, flattening multiple high-rise buildings and killing at least 13 Palestinians.

Rubio said before the trip that he would seek answers from Israeli officials about their view of a path forward in Gaza, following Israel's attack on Hamas leaders in Qatar last week that upended efforts to broker an end to the conflict.

His two-day visit also represents a

See ISRAEL, A5



Rubio

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WEATHER: Times of sun and clouds.
High: **81°** / Low: **52°** / Details, **A2**



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