



REGION
Iconic GE sign in Schenectady coming down for renovations. **B1**



BUSINESS
Swiftly's Pub remains shuttered as foreclosure deadline looms. **B7**

SPORTS
Siena hoop recruit recommits to play for new coach Nevada Smith. **A7**

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Cuomo declares victory in nursing home deaths case

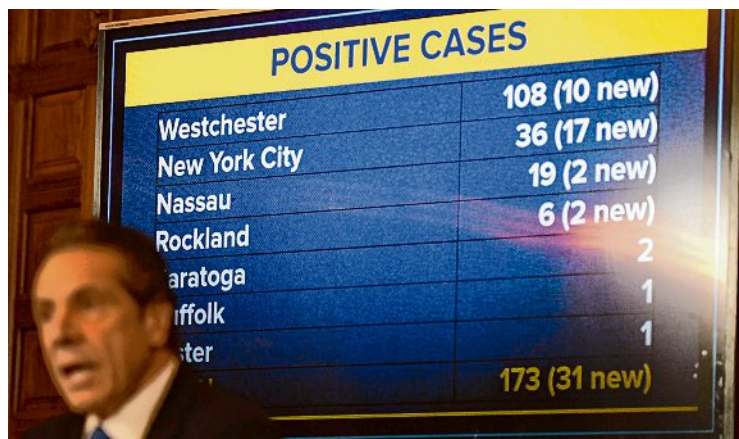
Supreme Court refuses to weigh in after Second Circuit dismissal

By **Brendan J. Lyons**
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to hear a case brought by plaintiffs who alleged former Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and his administration were responsible for the deaths of their elderly parents who had contracted COVID-19 in the wake of a 2020 directive that required nursing homes to accept residents who had tested positive for the virus. The Supreme Court's decision will leave standing an order issued in November by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the

Second Circuit that had dismissed the claims against Cuomo, former members of his administration and the Greater New York Hospital Association. An amended complaint that was filed in August 2023 in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn had alleged the nursing home directive led to violations of the rights of the plaintiffs' deceased relatives under the Federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987. That law ensures that nursing home residents have the right to be free from cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment. It also entitles them to

safe and healthy living conditions. The federal civil complaint also had alleged claims of deprivation of constitutional rights as well as wrongful death under New York law. The circuit court's dismissal of the case last fall also granted qualified immunity to Cuomo, his former secretary, Melissa DeRosa, and former state Department of Health Commissioner Howard A. Zucker. Qualified immunity shields government officials from lawsuits unless they knowingly violate a "clearly established" *See CUOMO, A3*



Will Waldron/Times Union

Then-Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo is shown in 2020. The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to hear a case in which Cuomo and his administration were accused of causing the deaths of nursing home residents who contracted COVID.

Training day



Former jockey and now trainer Robby Davis puts in an exercise lap Monday at the Oklahoma Training Track, adjacent to the Saratoga Race Course, in Saratoga Springs. The facility is now open for horses and their trainers to prepare for the summer racing season, which kicks off for the third and final time with the Belmont Festival, with racing June 3 to 7, celebrating the 158th running of the Belmont Stakes on June 6. The regular Saratoga meet follows with an expanded 10-week calendar from July 3 to Sept. 7.

SKIP DICKSTEIN/FOR THE TIMES UNION

'We carry on a conversation nonstop': Robots help older adults fight isolation

By **Kathleen Moore**
STAFF WRITER

The first thing Joan Abrams wants you to know about her ElliQ is that it isn't a robot. At least, not in her eyes. "It's my companion," she said. The technological creature does not move. But it does talk, both in an effort to encourage Abrams to respond and in its attempts to provide answers to Abrams. It is much like early generative artificial intelligence conversations — ElliQ is friendly, eager, and doesn't always understand what's going on. It was designed to provide company. New York state sends them to isolated adults, often people who can no longer drive or walk easily, have no family nearby, and whose friends have died from old age. The level of isolation those circumstances can cause is *See ROBOTS, A3*



Kathleen Moore/Times Union

Menands resident Joan Abrams adjusts her robot, ElliQ. The robot cares about her, gave her a nickname, and she speaks to it as if it were a human, she said.

Trump's message positive, unclear

President says he's not feeling pressure to end war with Iran

By **Aamer Madhani, Munir Ahmed and Russ Bynum**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump offered mixed messages Monday about the path ahead for the U.S. war against Iran, declaring that he was in no rush to end the conflict while also expressing confidence that further negotiations with Tehran will soon take place in Pakistan. With the 14-day ceasefire set to expire Wednesday, Trump whipsawed in telephone interviews and social media posts between measured optimism that a deal could soon be reached and warning that "lots of bombs" will "start going off" if there's no agreement before the ceasefire deadline. Trump indicated that he still expects to dispatch his negotiating team, led by Vice President JD Vance, to Pakistan's capital of Islamabad for a second round of talks, even as Iran insisted it would not take part until Trump dialed back his demands. Trump insisted he feels no pressure to end the war until Iran agrees to his terms. *See IRAN, A4*

Mayor claims FOIL requests costing village

By **Wendy Liberatore**
STAFF WRITER

BALLSTON SPA — The village will add another \$25,000 to next year's \$7.5 million proposed budget to hire a deputy village clerk to fulfill what Mayor Frank Rossi has described on social media as "an unusual number" of open records requests. He also wrote in a lengthy online post that at least two people seeking information using the state's Freedom of Information Law "were told by our Village Clerk of the damage they were doing to resources of the Village in their continued pursuit of FOIL requests." Rossi's 2,501-word Facebook post on April 13, most of which was a detailed list of 20 FOIL requests filed with the village, sparked anger. Some information seekers have argued in social media comments and interviews that they are not causing harm by asking for information and that the village is damaging itself by *See FOIL, A3*

