

Labor laws

State legislation aims to protect, expand workers' rights

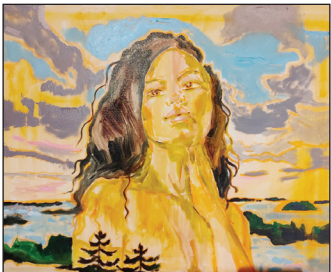
STATE, A5



'Her Geography'

Artist Alice Elisabeth Waite to present new exhibition at Cape Vincent bookstore

NORTH COUNTRY, A4



Watertown Daily Times

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A woman in Watertown with two shopping carts loaded down with belongings, including a kitchen sink, made her way over the Court Street Bridge and down Court Street in 2025. Alec Johnson/ Watertown Daily Times

City Council considers banning shopping carts in public places

By CRAIG FOX cfox@wdt.net

WATERTOWN — Councilman Benjamin P. Shoen thinks it's time to ban stolen shopping carts from city streets and public places after he recently caught someone with stolen merchandise in one.

He's tired of the eyesores that he sees almost on a daily basis. They are stolen by homeless people who keep their belongings or stolen merchandise in them, he claimed.

Shoen proposed the ban during a discussion at Tuesday night's City Council meeting. Earlier in the night, Mill Street resident Jonathan Phillips brought up the subject, mentioning two incidents in which he saw stolen merchandise in shopping carts.

"Nothing is being done," Phillips said. "I have not seen more shopping carts in the city (than) now. It's not right people are stealing."

No vote was taken, but Mayor Sarah V.C. Pierce and Councilman Douglas E. Osborne Jr. said they support Shoen's proposed ban.

Shoen first brought up the proposal last November and the former city attorney started looking at the legal aspects of banning shopping carts. The current city law firm can pick up that research, Pierce said.

See CARTS A5

Poll shows NY-21 race is close

Gendebien-commissioned poll has Democrat within 3 percentage points

By ALEX GAULT agault@wdt.net

A new poll commissioned by Blake Gendebien's campaign is showing that the Democratic candidate is trailing his Republican opponent Anthony T. Constantino by only 3 percentage points.

The poll, conducted by Impact Research, found that 44% of voters are supporting Gendebien to 47% going for Constantino, with 9% of voters still undecided.

The poll also found that while the 21st District has a Republican advantage, Gendebien is doing better with Republicans than previous Democratic candidates in the district, with 17% of Republicans saying they'd back Gendebien over Constantino.

According to the poll's data, Constantino is generally unpopular with 46% of voters reporting a negative opinion of him compared to 39% positive.

Most voters identified him primarily as a Trump

See POLL A5



Sackets Harbor native Caroline Lace McPherson, left, and Olivia Lee Ondrasik make up the duo Lace and Lee. Elizabeth Elder photography

Local stage experience pays dividends for IHC grad

Part of duo Lace and Lee, McPherson readies EP, national tour

By CHRIS BROCK cbrock@wdt.net

WATERTOWN — The stage experience Caroline Lace McPherson developed here for two decades while growing up reflects her love of theater and music. From school productions to musicals presented by Watertown Lyric

See STAGE A5



In 2014, Stage Notes members Caroline McPherson, left, and Kaeleigh Meehan, right, rehearse a number from "Les Miserables." Watertown Daily Times

Demolition of downtown building cost city \$425,000



Demolition progressed on J.B. Wise Place in Watertown in June. Alec Johnson/ Watertown Daily Times

By CRAIG FOX cfox@wdt.net

WATERTOWN — The city spent \$425,515 to demolish a building that was deemed unsafe this summer at 223 J.B. Wise Place.

The three-story building was demolished after it was observed during Memorial Day weekend that a large heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) unit was about to crash through its roof.

City staff projected that the demolition would cost \$450,000 and approved that amount in bonding to pay for the demolition.

According to a memo from code supervisor Dana Aikins, the city followed proper procedures to demolish the building after determining it was unsafe.

Three City Council members criticized city staff for the handling of the project. They did not think it warranted an emergency demolition. Councilman Douglas E. Osborne Jr. has proposed policies that would give council more of a say in similar situations.

The J.B. Wise demolition sparked outrage from council

members who expressed anger that the building's owner, Vina A. Bonner, skipped town and left the city with the responsibility of demolishing the vacant building and failed to pay a \$220,000 loan to the Watertown Local Development Corp.

"The city's Engineering department and Bureau Code, in accordance with federal, state and local regulations, determined the building was unsafe and required immediate demolition. This remaining structure was previously condemned and was determined to be unsafe after years of neglect by the property owners," according to the memo.

The city received six quotes for the demolition. These quotes included demolition and removal of the unsafe structure, trucking of all demolition materials to the Development Authority of the North Country's landfill, cleaning up the site after the demolition, reimbursement of water used during demolition, and all state and DANC permits and variances.

See DEMO A5

INSIDE

STATE, A2

NYPD transit chief says spike in subway assaults fueled by attacks on elderly commuters



LOCAL SPORTS, B1

High school roundup: Hunt, Charlebois spark Lyme to triumph against Alexandria in girls soccer



LOCAL NEWS, A4

Hopkinton Fire District receives a favorable audit from the state comptroller's office

