

Cheektowaga Starbucks store to revote on union  
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# CITY & REGION

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THE BUFFALO NEWS

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

## Schumer is lobbying Biden to put federal tech hub here

By JERRY ZREMSKI  
NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

WASHINGTON — President Biden and Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer visited Buffalo together last month after the Tops Markets shooting, but the massacre that authorities say was carried out by a white supremacist wasn't the only thing on Schumer's mind. The neighborhood where it happened was, too — and he told the president so.

Schumer said Tuesday that he used his time with the president that day to lobby Biden to push the Commerce Department to choose Buffalo as one of the cities to receive up to \$100 million under the administration's "Build

Find complete coverage of the mass shooting by scanning this code with your mobile device

Back Better Challenge." Buffalo is already a finalist for that award.

The Western New York Advanced Manufacturing Cluster, developed by the five-county Western New York Regional Economic Development Council, would use the money to train more than 1,600 local workers for advanced manufacturing jobs and to clean up East Side industrial sites to attract new businesses. The Commerce

See **Schumer** on Page B2

BUFFALO NEXT: HIGHER EDUCATION  
By JANET GRAMZA

## Medaille president Macur retires; Quigley to take over for interim

Kenneth Macur, the Medaille University president since 2015 who had come under fire on a few occasions over the past two years, has retired at age 66.

The university board of trustees has named Lori V. Quigley, PhD, a former provost and senior vice president at Medaille from 2016 to 2020, as interim president, effective immediately.

"Our students, faculty, staff, alumni and long-standing supporters will be well served by Dr. Quigley's deep knowledge of the university's deep knowledge of the university from her prior role as provost, senior vice president for academic affairs and chief academic officer at Medaille," said Michael K. Walsh,



**Kenneth Macur, the president of Medaille University since 2015, has retired.**

chair of Medaille's board of trustees. "She has the full endorsement of the board of trustees, and we will support her leadership through this time of transition."

Macur notified the board of his retirement on June 20, the university said in a news release. He had come under fire most recently for his handling of a surprise dormitory room raid conducted by security guards from Vista Security Group of

See **Medaille** on Page B2

## Pretty in pink



**Look:** THE LONGEST LINE OF GARDEN FLAMINGOS. SCAN THIS CODE ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE TO SEE MORE PHOTOS

Ellen Cypolone, 26, runs amid the 4,369 plastic pink FLORningos in Front Park lined up Tuesday in an effort to set the Guinness World Record for the "longest line of garden flamingos" to honor the 500th birthday of park architect Frederick Law Olmsted. The FLORningos (a nod to Frederick Law Olmsted) and friends were successful, breaking the record. Olmsted designed Buffalo's public parks system, as well as dozens more across the United States and internationally. See more photos on the **Picture Page, B7**

## Suspect's mental health at issue in murder trial

By AARON BESECKER  
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

What was going on inside Edward T. Harris' brain one night more than three years ago took center stage Tuesday as testimony in his murder trial wrapped up in Erie County Court.

Prosecution and defense experts offered differing opinions about the Town of Tonawanda man's state of mind on the evening in March 2019 when he drove his Kia Soul at more than 80 mph into an apartment building on Delaware Avenue, a crash that killed a 94-year-old woman who lived on the first floor.

Prosecution witness Dr. Gary Horwitz testified Harris, who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder,

was triggered by a scene in a movie he was watching with his wife. The two then got in an argument and Harris drove off as his wife was preparing to take him to the psychiatric emergency room at Erie County Medical Center, he said.

Defense witness Dr. Gundu Reddy testified Harris had a psychotic episode that night, which led him to crash his vehicle into the Ken-Ton Presbyterian Village Apartments. Several risk factors contributed to the psychosis, Reddy said, including an undiagnosed condition of bipolar disorder, sleep apnea, borderline narcolepsy, not having slept in several days and a prescribed medication he was taking.

See **Trial** on Page B2

## Sara Rogers, cyclist killed Friday by car, had passion for music and helping others



**Sara Rogers, seen here giving a lesson to Olivia Carpenter at 2017's WNED-TV Kid Fest, is remembered as a caring leader.**

By LEAH CLARK  
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Sara Rogers was passionate about jazz. She sang. She wrote songs. She played gigs all around Buffalo, performing covers and her own songs. She also shared her love of music with children through music therapy.

Friday, a little before 9 p.m., she was riding a bike along South Park Avenue near the Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino when a Chrysler sedan that was traveling westbound hit her, according to Buffalo police.

The driver of the Chrysler also



**Ms. Sara Ann Rogers**

hit two other bicyclists, a 27-year-old Getzville woman and a 32-year-old woman, near South Park and Columbia Street. The Chrysler then hit a parked vehicle, causing that vehicle to hit another parked vehicle, before it finally stopped nearby, according to police.

Ms. Rogers was taken to Buffalo General Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. She was 29. The two other bicyclists were taken to Erie County Medical Center.

Police said the driver may

See **Crash** on Page B2

## CITY &amp; REGION

# GObike Buffalo to hold memorial this afternoon at crash site

**CRASH** - from B1

have experienced a medical emergency before the crashes.

Born in 1969, Ms. Rogers grew up in Buffalo with a passion for music. She participated in band, jazz ensemble and choral at Williamsville East High School, where she graduated in 2011. While still a student, she composed pieces, including one for the Williamsville East choral, according to former Williamsville East band director Stephen Shewan.

"When she first began, I don't know if she knew how much she loved music, but by the end of her sophomore year, she had a true passion," Shewan said.

Ms. Rogers' passion led her to

studying music theory, psychology, and jazz studies at Nazareth College in Rochester, where she received a Bachelor of Music degree in 2015. She was recognized in 2015 by the college for the Music Therapy Award and the Raymond Shiner Jazz Award.

After moving back to Buffalo, she began providing music therapy services, specializing in people diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, aphasia, Alzheimer's disease and post-stroke symptoms.

She was a faculty member at Villa Maria College, where she taught psychology of music, expressive arts therapy and performance psychology.

Ms. Rogers also worked with various organizations, such as Our Lady of Victory Human Services, the Community Music School of Buffalo, Lib-

erty POST and Buffalo Niagara Music Therapy Services. At OLV Human Services, she worked with children and teenagers with disabilities, as well as behavioral and mental health issues. Ms. Rogers taught clients in songwriting, choir and music classes. She also invited them to participate in showcases like Christmas concerts.

Group sessions hosted by Ms. Rogers were popular for her ability to raise self-esteem and "always be genuine," according to Sonia Polak of OLV Human Services.

"Sara was always trying to improve our music therapy services," Polak said. "She would get instruments and computers for our clients, and was there for what they wanted and needed."

Ms. Rogers' sudden passing has

left the local music, therapy and education communities in mourning.

"She was everything we need in this world, so when we heard it was (her), it was like, 'No, not Sara,'" Shewan said. "She was wonderful ... she even went down to Tops to offer music therapy services to those affected."

Tributes are in the works by local music groups. JazzBuffalo, another local nonprofit organization, plans to honor Ms. Rogers on July 28 during

Jazz at Chandlerville. On Aug. 26, the Peace Garden Stage at the Northwest Jazz Festival in Lewiston will be renamed the Sara Rogers Peace Garden Stage. Both events had Ms. Rogers' band *Girl Crush* scheduled to perform on those dates.

"Sara really embodied the next generation of musicians and artists that are helping to revitalize Buffalo. I admired her indie spirit, and she was a natural born leader," said Tony Zambito, founder and executive director of JazzBuffalo.

Ms. Rogers is survived by her longtime partner, Nelson Rivera; her mother, Lisa Rogers; and her sister, Leah Rogers. A prayer service will be held at Lombardo Funeral Home (Synder Chapel), 4614 Main St., at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 25.



After a racist gunman murdered 10 people at Tops, officials including, from left, Gov. Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, President Biden and first lady Jill Biden made pilgrimages to the Jefferson Avenue site.

## 'Decades of underinvestment' on East Side need to be rectified

**SCHUMER** - from B1

Department's Economic Development Administration is expected to announce the 20 to 30 winners of those awards later this year.

"I spoke directly to the president on the transformational impact this major federal investment from the EDA's Regional Challenge would have on improving the lives of the people of the East Side," Schumer, a New York Democrat, said in a statement.

"One of the best ways to uplift the community is to rectify decades of underinvestment in these neighborhoods by bringing good-paying jobs, new businesses and workforce training to create new economic opportunity for the East Side's families and residents," he said.

In response, Biden said he

was aware of Buffalo's application and that he understood Schumer's point of view, the senator said.

"Buffalo's East Side needs robust investment to heal and build for the future," Schumer added. "This funding would make sure that the East Side community and Western New York workers are the ones who secure training and good-paying jobs and bring manufacturing back to America to build our nation's future."

If Buffalo were to receive the grant, the federal money would flow to the city over three years. The program aims to develop a more diverse, highly skilled workforce to help bring new jobs to the East Side.

Schumer said that he told Biden that the project would help the Buffalo region become a national hub in industries such as vaccine pro-

duction, utility infrastructure components, industrial gases and precision motion control.

The senator's talk with Biden was just part of his lobbying effort to help Buffalo land the award. He previously spoke with Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo about the region's application, and this spring visited the Northland Workforce Training Center to discuss what winning the award would mean for the city.

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## Judge to render verdict next week

**TRIAL** - from B1

Prosecutors allege Harris, 36, was impaired by marijuana at the time of the crash, at about 7:30 p.m. March 26, 2019.

Lida Almatine, who was buried under debris inside her apartment when Harris' car hit the exterior wall, died four days later.

Harris is on trial on charges of second-degree murder and vehicular manslaughter. His non-jury trial began April 7 and continued the following day before being paused until Tuesday when there were three witnesses called - Harris' wife and the two experts. Judge James Bargnesi plans to deliver his verdict Monday morning.

Harris had been using medical marijuana for about two years, having been prescribed it for pain, Robin Harris, his wife, testified. Her husband suffered back, knee and foot pain and was deemed a "100% disabled veteran," she said.

He had previously been treated for mental health is-

ses, and his mental health had been deteriorating for months leading up to the crash, she said.

That night, as he ate dinner and they watched "Anne of Green Gables," Edward Harris threw his plate against a wall and started saying things that didn't make sense, she said.

"It was like a switch flipped," she testified.

She said her husband had been discharged from the Marines with diagnoses of depression and PTSD. He had gotten sober before being discharged, after dealing with alcohol abuse issues, she said.

The prescription medication Edward Harris was taking, known as modafinil, a stimulant that is used to treat people with sleep-related problems, can cause psychosis, and anyone taking it should be closely supervised, said Reddy, the defense expert.

Marijuana played no role in the crash, defense attorney Frank LoTempio III said in his closing statement Tuesday. He contended prosecutors failed to deliver their burden of proof on both charges.

In April, Erie County's for-

mer chief toxicologist testified levels of THC, the main psychoactive component of marijuana, that were found in Harris' blood showed he was driving while impaired the night of the crash.

There is no level of THC in a person's blood that automatically makes them considered impaired under New York State law.

Herwitz, the prosecution's expert witness, said he believes Harris suffered a concussion in the crash, which, he said, would explain the symptoms of the expert's expert concluded was psychosis.

Herwitz told the judge that Harris exaggerated his mental health issues to another doctor and told the defense expert things Harris previously said in an interview with him that he couldn't remember.

In his closing statement, Assistant District Attorney Paul Glascoff said Harris exhibited "total disregard" for others when he drove straight down a residential street and across a busy street without swerving or braking.

"He just didn't care," Glascoff said.

## Dorm room raids sparked protest

**MEDAILLE** - from B1

Amherst on Feb. 12 and 13.

Medaille contracted with Vista for campus security services starting in mid-January without informing students of the change. The weekend of the raids, guards wearing hoodies instead of uniforms used keys to open dorm room doors late at night while some students were asleep or in the shower. Ostensibly, the guards were looking for alcohol. Students expressed anger, fear and trauma in the wake of the intrusion, which Macur admitted was a violation of the university's privacy policies.

About 100 students walked out of class and held a protest on March 25 calling for Macur to step down. Almost 500 protesters said the raids shouldn't have happened and that five security guards who participated had been removed from campus. But he refused to blame the firm for the intrusion, saying it was a matter of people behaving badly or take responsibility for the incidents.

Also, in May 2020, the faculty voted 63-1 that it had no confidence in Macur and accepted his resignation as president of the university. Faculty also criticized him for using the Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse to give himself emergency powers to cut staff at will. That July, Medaille had laid off two dozen employees and announced that 18 others



Lori Quigley will take over as Medaille's president.

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"She was everything we need in this world, so when we heard it was (her), it was like, 'No, not Sara,'" Shewan said. "She was wonderful ... she even went down to Tops to offer music therapy services to those affected."

Tributes are in the works by local music groups. JazzBuffalo, another local nonprofit organization, plans to honor Ms. Rogers on July 28 during

chair of the board of directors for Seneca Gaming Corp. A member of the Seneca Nation, Quigley has a long resume in higher education. Prior to joining Seneca Gaming, whose president and CEO report directly to her, she was assistant to the provost for Graduate Programs at Niagara University.

Before that, she was provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs and chief academic officer at Medaille from July 2016 to April 2020. She previously served as dean and as a professor of library education at the Sage Colleges in Troy and Albany, as associate dean in the School of Education at SUNY Buffalo State and on the teaching faculty at Buffalo State and St. Bonaventure University, where she obtained her bachelor's degree. She holds a master's degree in communications and a doctorate in philosophy from Fordham University in New York City.

Quigley did not return a phone call from The Buffalo News. Medaille provided the following comment from her in its release: "As interim president, I pledge to lead with integrity in acknowledging and valuing the contributions that each member of the faculty and staff provide in ensuring the academic success of the students we serve. I remain grateful to the Medaille board of trustees for the confidence they have placed in me during this transition period."

## Reporters' Notebook / Bits and pieces of news ...

**OLAF FUB SEZ:** Advice columnist and interior designer **Bill Blass**, born on this date in 1922: "When in doubt, wear red."

**STOCK UP:** Thousands of items are offered as the Friends of the Aurora Town Public Library hold their annual used book sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the First Presbyterian Church, 9 Paine St., East Aurora. Members pre-sale from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, memberships available at the door. Everything half price Saturday.

**TRUE LIFE TALE:** Actor, casting director and Buffalo native **Frank Ross** will introduce his new book, "Victims of Circumstance," Saturday in the North Park Theatre, 1428 Hertel Ave. It's the story of **Nick Harris** and his father, convicted killer **Raymond Matt**.

It begins at 11:30 a.m. with news highlights of Matt's arrest and the manhunt after his 2015 prison escape. Then there's a reading from the book and a question session with Ross and Harris' mother, **Lee Harris**. Admission is free.

**ANIMAL ADOPTION:** A Cow Day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at Asha's Farm Sanctuary, 2969 Coomer Road, Newfane, gives visitors a chance to talk to turkeys, rub a pig's belly and meet a variety of rescued farm animals. There also will be food, live country music,

dancing and children's activities. Tickets are \$10, \$5 seniors and kids 12 and under. For more info, visit [ashasfarm.org](http://ashasfarm.org).

**WINNERS WANTED:** Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 537 Genesee St., Bowmansville, holds a basket raffle this weekend with special Super Premium items. Tickets \$5 a sheet, Super Premiums \$10 a sheet. Hours are 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon Sunday. Drawing at 12:30 p.m. Sunday. Winners need not be present.

**READY TO EAT:** Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, 6208 Broadway, Lancaster, holds a drive-through chicken barbecue starting at 4 p.m. today. Dinners are \$13.

St. David's Episcopal Church, 3051 Seneca St., West Seneca, hosts a drive-through BW's ribs barbecue from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday. Dinners \$12. Sabien's hot dogs top the menu at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3512 Clinton St. at Union Road, West Seneca, holds its free monthly community dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Nathan Gies, Marshall Davis, Domingue Felder Morris, Tracy Quinn, Timmy Quinn, Laura Haggerty, Michele Edwards-Sheehan, Anne Meinzer Kuczkowski, Brian Gwitt, Alexis Patterson, Laci Buczak, Chichi Hoelscher, Allison Mueller, Meghan Pusepinto, Deborah Zuscher, Brianna Hoehn, Anthony Romano Jr. and Tammy

Empfield.

**AND THURSDAY:** Larry Playfair, Steve Watson, Adam Yelley, Larry Lillis, Rodney Chamberlain, Sandi Engard, Emma Kilian McGrath, Mark Crehan, Eamonn Pastwick, Sharon Ruth Schwedt, Stephanie Everett, Ava Everett, Billy Hill, Jennifer Pirttano, Patricia A. Schmidt, Beverly Ann Ballantyne, David Lalomia Sr., Lisa Thompson, Laurie Wolfe, Aubrey LeZarion, Jim Lichon, Michael Golden, April West and Jayden Mae.

**Lottery Picks /**  
Winning numbers for Tuesday

**N.Y. Evening Number:** 230  
**N.Y. Midday Number:** 451  
**Win Four Evening:** 8285  
**Win Four Midday:** 1986  
**Cash4Life:** 22 25 43 48 59  
**CashBall:** 2

**Table Five:** 6 17 29 31 33

**Pick 10:**  
7 15 16 26 27 34 41 43 49 50  
51 54 55 57 59 63 68 71 77 78

**Mega Millions:** 8 13 18 32 42  
**Mega Ball:** 20  
**Mega Multiplier:** X3

**Pick 3 Evening:** 680  
**Pick 3 Day:** 123  
**Pick 4 Evening:** 8049  
**Pick 4 Day:** 6058

**Lottery picks for Monday**

**Table Five:** 2 13 17 20 30

These numbers are unofficial. For official New York Lottery results go to [buffalobuffalo.com/lottery](http://buffalobuffalo.com/lottery) or your lottery retailer.