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The Spectator

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Gillibrand sounds alarm over AFM

430 cases of paralyzing disease spark investigation

By Jason Jordan
The Spectator

WASHINGTON — Legislators are urging colleagues to head off an epidemic that is killing children across 46 states.

With an increase in cases of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM), a debilitating, polio-like disease that has been affecting children in New York and across the



country, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand called on Congress to immediately provide emergency funding for research, treatment, and prevention efforts against this disease.

AFM is a rare condition that targets the nervous system, specifically the spinal cord, and can cause serious muscle weakness or paralysis. There is

no known cause or treatment for this disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have confirmed or are investigating hundreds of suspected cases of AFM in 46 states and in DC. Ninety percent of cases have been in children under the age of 18, with the majority of patients between the ages of two and eight.

The CDC has not identified a cause or how the illness spreads.

On Nov. 13, the CDC announced the formation of a

new task force to investigate AFM. As Congress finalizes the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill, Gillibrand will call on Congressional appropriators to provide the emergency funding necessary to give the CDC the resources it needs to investigate, treat, and prevent this debilitating disease.

“As a mother and as a Senator, I am taking AFM extremely seriously. I’ve been disturbed to read reports about this debilitating disease that has been affecting children in New

York and across the country. Parents are extremely worried about what this disease means for their children, but doctors still don’t know what causes AFM or how it spreads,” said Senator Gillibrand. “I am calling on Congressional appropriators to include emergency funding to support the CDC’s efforts to learn more about AFM. I won’t stop fighting until the CDC has the support they need to keep our children healthy and safe.”

See AFM, A6

Powering jobs at Gunlocke

\$2.6 million expansion completed, adds 110 jobs



The state announced Tuesday that Wayland’s Gunlocke Company has completed a \$2.6 million expansion project. The expansion included the creation of 110 jobs. [PHOTO PROVIDED]

Staff reports

WAYLAND — The expansion of a staple business in the local economy is now complete, according to state authorities touting the \$2.6 million project to support the addition of 110 jobs at Gunlocke Company in Wayland.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced Tuesday that the commercial furniture manufacturer in the Southern Tier has completed its expansion project, bolstered by state incentives that include a low-cost power allocation from

“The Gunlocke Company’s expansion project, which is creating 110 new jobs in Wayland, has been an important piece of Steuben County’s overall job creation and preservation strategy. Many local businesses and manufacturers depend on this lower-cost energy to preserve jobs and stay competitive. ReCharge NY helps give employers like Gunlocke the long-term economic stability they need to retain and create jobs, and strengthen the state’s business climate.”

— Senator Tom O’Mara

the ReCharge NY program, administered by the New York Power Authority, and a funding award from Empire State Development. Gunlocke is also the first ReCharge NY power recipient to install

state-supported electric vehicle charging stations in its employee parking area, directly supporting the Governor’s Charge NY initiative to

See JOBS, A6



Wet weather and high water levels have impacted work on the Madison Creek Culvert Project in the Village of Wellsville. [SPECTATOR PHOTO]

Wet, wintry weather impacts local projects

23 North Main, Madison Creek culvert projects slowed

By Chris Potter
Regional Editor

WELLSVILLE — Near-daily precipitation, whether it’s in the form of rain or snow, is impacting local infrastructure and construction projects.

That was spectacularly evident Monday when a section of 23 North Main collapsed, a failure that site officials believe was due to the weight of snow on the roof. Neighboring Hamar’s Pub remained closed Tuesday as a precaution.

A notice on the building from owner Ingo Hamar read, “We have been temporarily closed by order of the Village of Wellsville Code Enforcement Officer.

The closure is expected to be short term and is the result of an additional area of collapse next door. The collapse and its impact is to be evaluated by a professional structural engineer. We hope to be open for business within the next day or two. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.”

Two Plus Four Construction Co. crews have avoided the Hamar’s Pub end of 23 North Main in the wake of the collapse. The area that collapsed had been scheduled to be removed during the rebuilding project, but that timetable will likely be moved up due to safety concerns.

The Main Street project isn’t the only one impacted by constant wet weather.

Ongoing work at the

See WEATHER, A6

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Happy Holidays

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A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!

FROM STEUBEN TRUST COMPANY

OBITUARIES

James D. Piatt

ARKPORT — James D. Piatt died peacefully on Sunday (Nov. 25, 2018) at the age of 89.

Survived by his wife of 68 years, Edith Catherine; two daughters, Cathy (Dan) Baschmann and Susan Acciari; five sons, James Jr. (Colleen), Steven (Mercedes), David (Jennifer), Robert (Anna Marie), and William (Suzanne); one brother, Dean (Carol) Piatt; thirteen grand-children; ten great-grandchildren; several step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom he dearly loves.

Preceded in death by his parents, Donovan E. and Leah (James) Piatt; two sisters, Barbara (Herbert) Jennings, Dorothy (William) Farnsworth; one brother, Bernard J. (Marguerite) Piatt; and son-in-law, Ron Acciari.

Born March 4, 1929 in Angelica, he moved to Arkport with his family in July of 1940 where he has since lived, except for his four years in the Navy serving on board a naval troop ship as a hospital corpsman. Much of his military service was spent in the Pacific during the Korean conflict. Returning home to Arkport with his wife Edith and daughter Cathy, he attended Alfred State College. Upon completing college, he began work with the New York State Department of Transportation and retired after 31 years of public service as a highway engineer.

James served the community as a Scoutmaster, PTA President, volunteer fireman, Chairman of the Board of Assessment



Review, member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Sunday School Superintendent, and various church boards as a member of the Arkport Presbyterian Church. He was also a member of the Arkport American Legion, Arkport Exchange Club, and the Arkport Cemetery Association.

Among his loves was camping with his family, bowling, square dancing with the Buds and Blossoms, round dancing, and golf. He also very much enjoyed any excuse to gather his family together.

Calling hours will be held on Tuesday (Dec. 4, 2018) at the Bishop & Johnson Funeral Home, Inc., 285 Main St., Hornell from noon to 3 p.m. followed by a Celebration of Jim’s Life at 4 p.m. at the Arkport Presbyterian Church in Arkport.

Jim’s family would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support and prayers.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Arkport Presbyterian Church, 15 Main St., P.O. Box 6, Arkport, N.Y. 14807 or to a charity of donor’s choice.

Online condolences or remembrances of Jim are welcomed on the Facebook page of Bishop & Johnson Funeral Home, Inc. or at www.bishopandjohnsonfuneralhome.com.



Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for five years. We live in the same town as my in-laws, and for the most part, we get along great. However, my mother-in-law does something that makes me uneasy. She uses an app to track my husband. She pressured him into installing it right before our wedding and has tracked him ever since.

She'll often text or call him to ask why he's going to the store, or what he was doing when he was late to work, etc. Once he tried to remove the app, but she quickly noticed and confronted him. Abby, I have never seen her so angry! My husband caved and reinstalled it. Since then, he says it doesn't really bother him that she tracks him.

Part of me feels that

if he wants to let his mother track him, that's his business. But another part of me feels this is an invasion of my privacy as well, since we are together much of the time. It also worries me that he's so quick to cave to his mother's demands, and that he isn't bothered by such an obvious invasion of privacy.

Am I wrong to be upset about this? What can I do to get my mother-in-law to give us some privacy? — UNEASY IN KANSAS

DEAR UNEASY: You're not wrong. Your husband should revoke the location permission on the app on his phone or delete it altogether.

What his mother is doing is sick. She is using the tracker as a substitute for the umbilical cord that should have been severed when her son was born. It's a huge invasion of your and your husband's privacy.

He is so used to caving in to his mother that he doesn't have the strength to assert himself. I do not think you should take your mother-in-law on

by yourself. Enlist the help of a licensed marriage and family therapist for suggestions about how to create some separation, because that process may be somewhat complicated.

DEAR ABBY: My relationship with my boyfriend has been wonderful, except for one issue. He wants us to have a three-way with another woman. Even after I let him know I'm not bisexual, he has suggested it multiple times. Some of my previous partners have suggested this as well, and it has left me feeling as though I will never be enough. I consider it cheating, although they might disagree because I would be involved.

I find this extremely hurtful. I love my boyfriend and don't want to end the relationship, but I'm afraid I must because I don't want to be with someone I can never satisfy (he has mentioned he plans to propose).

What do you think? I wish he had never asked

me to do this because it feels horrible. If any male readers have insight, I'd love to hear from them as well. — NOT ENOUGH

DEAR NOT ENOUGH: What your boyfriend has suggested is a common male fantasy. I can only wonder if he would react the same way you have if you suggested a threesome with him and another man.

Because this isn't your cup of tea, you are right to have refused. What concerns me is what you think is going to happen if the two of you should marry, because this issue will not go away once the "I do's" are over. As you requested, I will let male readers weigh in on this one, but personally, I think the time has come to resume your search for Mr. Right.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Tax Department highlights ‘Quick Pay’ option

Staff reports

ALBANY — The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance today announced more than 62,000 payments worth more than \$46.6 million have been made through its convenient

Quick Pay application since the beginning of 2018.

This free service provides individuals a way to promptly pay a tax bill or debt owed from an audit or collection case, or as part of an installment payment agreement.

The Quick Pay application, launched in March of 2017, provides individuals the option to pay directly from their bank account.

“This simple and convenient payment option has been a huge success,” said Acting Commissioner Nonie Manion. “Taxpayers can access the online

application on their schedule 24/7 and not spend time arranging the transaction over the phone or through the mail.”

Those who use the Quick Pay application need the number associated with the tax bill, audit or collection case, installment payment agreement, or income execution, along with: first and last name; taxpayer Social Security or ID number (and spouse’s number, if applicable); filing status; mailing ZIP code; and bank routing and account numbers.

Taxpayers can access the new application

anytime at the NYS Tax Department’s Pay a bill or notice webpage.

On the same page, they’ll also have the option to: create an Online Services account, which offers a wider menu of free services, such as the ability to receive email alerts and respond to department notices; or access a link to request an Installment Payment Agreement if they can’t pay a bill in full.

For more information, please visit the Department of Taxation and Finance Bills & Notices webpage.

Melania Trump, Karen Pence assemble kits



First lady Melania Trump greets other volunteers Tuesday at the Red Cross in Washington as she pitches in to assemble military comfort kits that are provided to members of the military as they prepare for deployment. [CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Melania Trump and Karen Pence are helping to assemble military comfort kits for troops deployed overseas at the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Trump said Tuesday the packs are “one small way that we can say thank

you and honor the sacrifices that members of the military make year-round.”

The first lady adds, “Our prayers remain with all those serving overseas and for the families who wait for them to come home.”

Mrs. Trump then joined Mrs. Pence, cabinet secretaries’ spouses, military families, Elizabeth Dole and

other volunteers to assembling the packages.

The packages contain snacks such as popcorn and peanuts, playing cards and toiletries including bottles of hand soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and tissues. They will be sent to troops deployed in Iraq, Poland, Djibouti and Kuwait.

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