

# HAWKS PRIMED FOR STAG CONFERENCE RUN

SPORTS, B1



# ORLANDO'S FIRST PRO BOWL RATED A SUCCESS BY PLAYERS

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Complete forecast, A2

Fisher discusses working under Jackson.  
SPORTS, B1



# The LEADER

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## STATE

### SUNY: International students should put travel plans on hold

ALBANY (AP) — The State University of New York is advising students and faculty to put off making trips to any of the seven Muslim-majority nations included in President Donald Trump's travel ban for immigrants from those countries.

SUNY's top officials issued a statement Sunday recommending suspension of travel plans to the countries included in Trump's executive order blocking immigrants from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

SUNY officials say the nation's largest public university system currently has 320 enrolled students who come from those countries. The officials say they're working to determine the potential impact Trump's order could have on students, faculty and staff who are abroad or at home on the system's 64 campuses.

There are more than 22,000 international students from 180 countries enrolled at SUNY colleges and universities.

### Presidential tax return bill gaining steam

ALBANY (AP) — A New York lawmaker says his idea to require presidential candidates to release their tax returns is catching on in other states. State Sen. Brad Hoylman says lawmakers in more than a dozen other states are working on similar proposals.

The Manhattan Democrat says it's appropriate for state lawmakers to set the rules for ballot eligibility and that voters have a right to know whether a candidate has possible financial conflicts of interest before making their decisions.

Hoylman crafted the legislation after President Donald Trump chose not to release his returns during the campaign.

Hoylman says versions of the legislation have been introduced in Massachusetts, California, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Virginia and that lawmakers in several other states have vowed to follow suit.

### Blaze at former carpet factory in Yonkers, New York

YONKERS (AP) — Suburban New York firefighters have been battling a blaze in a former carpet factory that now houses artists' lofts and other businesses.

No injuries were reported in the fire, which occurred early Monday in Yonkers.

Mayor Mike Spano tells the Journal News he does not believe anyone lives in the building, which is used by the YOHOarts community.

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## CLAYTON MURDER TRIAL

# Close friend gives testimony

By James Post  
Special to The Leader

BATH — A "very close" friend of Kelley Stage Clayton testified Monday about two conversations she had with Thomas Clayton after his wife's murder.



Clayton

Thomas Clayton is accused of hiring another

man, Michael Beard, to kill his wife in September 2015.

Beard was convicted of first-degree murder-for-hire and two counts of second-degree murder in November 2015. His sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 27.

Clayton is charged with one count of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder.

Monday afternoon, Abbe Tipton, who worked with Kelley Clayton at the

Woodhouse Stadium Grill and said the two were good friends, took the stand.

She said on Feb. 22, 2016, she received a call from Thomas Clayton, who asked how she was doing.

Tipton said she replied by asking, "If he didn't do it, why would Mike Beard do it?"

She told the jury Clayton responded that Beard had called him that day seeking money.

According to Tipton, he

said he told Beard he didn't have any money on him, that it was all at his home, and that he wouldn't be home that evening.

She said he went on to say that he could never have killed his wife, saying he "doted on her" and talking about all the money he had spent on her.

Tipton said later in the year, she attended a concert in Buffalo, and afterward went to a nearby bar with a friend, who was another

friend of Kelley.

She said the two found themselves face-to-face with Thomas Clayton and a group of people with him. While she said she tried to avoid a confrontation, at one point, Clayton leaned over to her and told her that Kelley had a boyfriend.

Tipton said after that she pushed him away and avoided him completely.

Defense attorney Ray

SEE TRIAL, A4

## FARM TO FOOD BANK

# O'Mara, Senate colleagues renew effort



Last November, Senators Tom O'Mara, R-Big Flats and Fred Akshar, R-Binghamton, visited the Food Bank of the Southern Tier to urge Cuomo to sign the measure into law. Food Bank President Natasha R. Thompson also supports the "Farm to Food Bank" legislation. PROVIDED/THE LEADER

By Jeffery Smith  
jsmith@the-leader.com

ALBANY — The State Senate unanimously approved legislation Monday to provide a tax credit of up to \$5,000 to farmers who donate fresh produce to food banks and other emergency food providers, commonly known as the "Farm to Food Bank" legislation.

Republican Senator Tom O'Mara said the legislation, which the Senate is advancing for the third straight year, was vetoed for the second time late last year by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

O'Mara has been highly critical of the governor's ongoing rejection of the legislation, which the Senate and Assembly have consistently approved. Sponsors and supporters of the tax credit, including O'Mara and anti-hunger organizations like the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, are hopeful that the legislation will become law in 2017.

"I'm proud to co-sponsor and continue to strongly support this common sense 'Farm to Food Bank' legislation to support food banks and farmers, and combat hunger," O'Mara said. "It's hard to understand the governor's continued rejection of this action in the face of unanimous, bipartisan legislative support. New York State provides tax credits to encourage many worthwhile initiatives and this one would rank among the very best of them."

The tax credit would enhance and strengthen the ability of the Food Bank of the Southern Tier and their counterparts statewide to access nutritious, fresh, high quality, locally produced food.

"Our farmers already are supportive of our food banks," O'Mara said. "This additional tax credit would provide another worthwhile incentive for farmers to donate even more. Equally important, it would help provide this healthy

food for more and more children and families in need. It would be a meaningful addition to the goal of hunger-free communities. We are grateful to everyone at the Food Bank of the Southern Tier for their leadership in trying to achieve this goal and we're getting back to work today to try to convince Governor Cuomo to take a different view."

Natasha Thompson, Food Bank of the Southern Tier president, said she is hopeful Cuomo will "do the right thing" and support the Farm to Food Bank legislation.

"But again, it's up to the governor," Thompson said. "If passed it would help the food bank because it would provide an incentive for farmers to donate their surplus produce. For a lot of farmers, it's much easier to just plow the surplus produce under and start fresh. Any donation from a farm is not just pulling stuff off the shelves like you

SEE FARM, A4

## ROCKWELL MUSEUM

# Director Whisenhunt settling into new role

By Stephen Borgna  
sborgna@the-leader.com

CORNING — Brian Lee Whisenhunt is nearing the conclusion of his first month as the new director of the Rockwell Museum.



Whisenhunt

"The Rockwell is an amazing museum and an asset to Corning," Whisenhunt said in a statement. "Their exhibitions, programming and deep community connections are exemplar to the field for how cultural organizations can become a true resource for their city. I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to work with The Rockwell team and continue to build upon all of their tremendous success. I'm also excited to get to know my community and all of the great people who are a part of it."

Brought in to succeed retiring director Kristin Swain, Whisenhunt plans to oversee the Rockwell's plans to expand its programs, art-work and operations.

"One of the things we're going to be working on is growing the collection and bringing in some new acquisitions that will expand on that and connect some of the ideas of the southwest and western art to a broader sense of American art," Whisenhunt said.

"The other thing that we're working on is... we're really trying to grow and increase our membership and the connections our members have to the institution," he added, among other goals in the works.

While some of these plans aren't concrete yet, Whisenhunt mentioned that this spring, the museum will feature three lectures from Smithsonian speakers, and will be putting on special receptions afterwards for its Silver Dollar Society members.

SEE MUSEUM, A4

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TECH & AUTO FLYING CARS

# GEORGE JETSON CLOSER TO REALITY

A commuter's dream: Entrepreneurs race to develop flying car

By Joan Lowy  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even before George Jetson entranced kids with his cartoon flying car, people dreamed of soaring above traffic congestion. Inventors and entrepreneurs have long tried and failed to make the dream a reality, but that may be changing.

Nearly a dozen companies around the globe, including some with deep pockets such as European aircraft maker Airbus, are competing to be the first to develop a new kind of aircraft that will enable commuters to glide above crowded roadways. A few of the aircraft under development are cars with wings that unfold for flight, but most aren't cars at all. Typically they take off and land vertically like helicopters. Rather than a single, large main rotor, they have multiple small rotors. Each rotor is operated by a battery-powered electric motor instead of a conventional aircraft piston engine.

It's no sure bet that flying-car dreams will turn into reality. There are many obstacles, including convincing regulators that the aircraft are safe, figuring out how to handle thousands of new low-flying aircraft over cities without collisions and developing batteries that will keep them aloft long enough to be useful.

But entrepreneurs are moving forward. They see



This image provided by Joby Aviation shows the conceptual design of the Joby S2 Electric VTOL PAV aircraft. JOBY AVIATION VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

a vast potential market for "air taxis" and personally owned small aircraft to transport people from the fringes of metropolitan areas to city centers as urban areas grow more congested and people spend more time stuck in traffic. They envision tens of thousands of one or two-person flying taxis delivering passengers to the rooftops of office buildings in city centers and other landing pads during rush hours.

"In as little as 10 years, products could be on the market that revolutionize urban travel for millions of people," said Zach Lovering, the leader of Airbus' project to develop an autonomous flying taxi called the Vahana. The name means the mount or vehicle of a Hindu deity.

Uber released a 98-page report in October making the business case for air taxis, which the company sees as the future of on-demand transportation. Uber doesn't have any plans to develop a flying car itself, but the online transportation network is advising several companies that have aircraft in the works.

"The role we want to play is as a catalyst for the entire industry," said Nikhil Goel, an Uber project manager for advanced programs.

Some of the aircraft are drones that passengers will be able to program for flight using a smartphone. Others will be operated from the ground or a command center, and some are designed for human pilots. It's unclear yet how

much the aircraft will cost, although prices are likely to vary significantly. Some of the aircraft are designed to be individually owned, while others are envisioned more for commercial use. Designers hope that if demand is high, prices can be kept affordable through economies of mass production.

Several recent developments could make these aircraft possible. Advances in computing power mean the rotors on multi-copter drones can be adjusted many times per second, making the aircraft easy to control. Drones have also benefited from advances in battery and electric motor technology. Some companies, like Chinese dronemaker EHang, are scaling-up drones so that they can carry

people.

Another aircraft under development, Santa Cruz, California-based Joby Aviation's S2, looks more like a conventional plane except that there are 12 tiltrotors spread along the wings and tail. And some, like the Vahana, a cockpit mounted on a sled and flanked by propellers in front and back, don't really look like any aircraft in the skies today.

"In terms of what you can make fly in a reliable manner, the solution speed gateway that (computer) chips have gone through recently have literally opened the door to a whole new world of flying machine possibilities," said Charles Eastlake, an Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University professor emeritus of aerospace engineering.

## At a glance

Spurred by technology advances and demand for transportation alternatives in increasingly congested cities, entrepreneurs around the globe are vying to become the first to develop a commercially viable "flying car." The designs vary greatly, and most aren't actually cars capable of driving on roads. Here are some examples:

**Vahana:** European aircraft manufacturer Airbus is working at its Silicon Valley research center on a driverless flying taxi that at first will have a pilot, but will later be autonomous. The vertical takeoff-landing, all-electric aircraft is a cockpit mounted on a sled and flanked by propellers in front and back. Airbus plans to test a prototype before the end of 2017, and to have the first Vahanas ready for production by 2020.

**Comorant:** Israeli tech firm Urban Aeronautics originally designed its people-carrying drone as an "air mule" for military use. It takes off vertically and has a standard helicopter engine, but no large main rotor. Its lift comes from two fans buried inside the fuselage.

**Lilium Jet:** German technology company Lilium Aviation is working on a two-seater aircraft that will take off vertically using 36 electric fan engines arrayed along its wings. The aircraft will hover and climb until the fans are turned backward slowly.

**AeroMobil 3.0:** The Slovakian company AeroMobil has developed a car with wings that unfold for flight. It uses regular gasoline and fits into standard parking spaces.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## TRIAL

From Page A1

Schlather, under cross examination, questioned whether she had heard his client correctly.

"Did you record that conversation?," he asked.

"No," Tipton said. Schlather suggested that

what Clayton had actually said was that police believed Kelley had a boyfriend — something that hasn't been suggested by any prosecution witness in either Clayton's or Beard's trials.

Tipton also said Clayton had told her that during the investigation, "some things (will come out) that he's not proud of."

The morning began with the completion of testimony by Inv. Daniel Armstrong from the New York State Police Troop E Forensic Identification Unit, who was on the stand throughout the afternoon Friday as well.

He noted the presence of three gas cans inside the attached garage of the home, something District Attorney Weeden Wetmore has said pointed toward a plan to kill Kelley and burn down the home afterward. Schlather suggested under cross examination that those gas cans might have been moved because the propane heating system in the detached garage was under repair and could have presented a fire hazard.

Armstrong spent much of the morning going back and forth with Schlather about what photos were and were not taken at the scene of the murder, and what leads might not have been followed up.

Later in the day, the jury heard from Nicholas Hojnoski, Dave Pierri and Bill Davis, all of whom were present at the poker game attended by Thomas Clayton the night of the murder.

The three men said there was nothing out of the

ordinary about Clayton's behavior.

And despite defense questioning, they largely stuck to the position that the game was a regular Monday night event.

"There was a poker game every Monday night," Pierri said.

Schlather said in his opening argument that it would have been impossible for his client to have planned the poker game as an alibi, because he didn't know about it until the morning of Sept. 28, the day the killing took place.

Pierri also said he'd asked Clayton to help with unloading large deer blinds on a property near the Clayton home the next morning, and that Clayton had agreed.

But he denied a suggestion by the defense that Clayton had offered other help with the work.

Schlather has contended that a call made by Clayton later that evening to Michael Beard was to ask him for help with the deer blinds.

Hojnoski and Davis, similarly, said they remembered the conversation about the blinds but don't remember any offer of other help.

Last on the stand Monday

was K-9 Trooper Thomas McDonnell, who responded to the scene the night of the killing.

He said not long after he arrived, about 1:40 a.m., he was asked by then-Under-sheriff Jim Allard to conduct a tracking operation to see if his partner, Mic, could find a trail left by a subject fleeing the home.

McDonnell said he and Mic, along with two other troopers, followed an apparent scent trail east of the house to a pond on the property, where Mic seemed to lose track of the scent in the pond.

With some encouragement, Mic seemed to find a trail and continued on, but McDonnell said eventually the trail was just lost.

"Unfortunately the success rate (of K-9 tracking) is less than 10 percent," he said. "Usually it's not the dog that screws up - usually it's the handler."

He also noted that because scents can blow around with the wind, it's never possible to know if the trail the dog is following is really where the person walked.

Under cross examination, he told Schlather that he believes Mic was definitely tracking something when

she started out at the home.

"She exhibited the behavior that leads me to believe that was a good track," he said.

But he added under redirect, "that could have been a person one hour ago or six hours ago."

The defense has questioned why police didn't do more to investigate tire tracks in a driveway near where McDonnell and Mic's tracking stopped.

McDonnell said the tire tracks were at about 50 feet from where the dog gave up, and the scent could actually have been lost well before that.

There's also the fact, seldom mentioned in Clayton's trial, that by the time evidence like the tire tracks might have been on their way to the lab to be analyzed, police already had a confession from Michael Beard.

Beard said he walked along the road when he left the home, and the place where the white Dodge pickup he was allegedly driving was left, according to his own statements, was far from where the tracks were found.

Testimony in the Clayton trial will continue at 9:30 a.m. today in Steuben County Court.

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## FARM

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do at a supermarket. Farmers have to send people out to the fields and harvest the surplus and contact the Food Bank. If a farmer is really committed, they're going to do it regardless. But this little tax incentive would open it up to even more farmers who might think it's easier to just plow the produce under. This incentive might make it worth it to some farmers to donate the surplus produce to the Food Bank and realize a tax break at the end of the year."

Last November, O'Mara and Southern Tier Senator Fred Akshar, R-Binghamton, visited the Food Bank of the

Southern Tier to urge Cuomo to sign the measure into law.

To raise awareness of the legislation's importance, on Nov. 3, 2016 O'Mara and Akshar participated in a volunteer repack activity where they packed New York State produce to be distributed to people in need through the Food Bank of the Southern Tier's 167 member agencies. They also toured the Food Bank warehouse with Food Bank staff and representatives from member foodpantries throughout the Southern Tier.

In the Southern Tier, 72,650 people live below the poverty line, including one in four children, officials said. For many people living in poverty, fresh fruits and vegetables are difficult to afford.

The Farm to Food Bank law would fill a critical need by increasing the amount of produce available to people struggling with hunger. At the same time, it supports local agriculture and reduces food waste by redistributing food that might otherwise go uneaten.

In 2015, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier distributed more than 10 million pounds of food, including 1.5 million pounds of fresh produce, throughout six counties across the region. Still, the Food Bank would need to distribute an additional 4.7 million meals to feed everyone who is hungry. The Farm to Food Bank bill would allow the Food Bank to distribute more healthy food to those in need.

## MUSEUM

From Page A1

"Those are some of the things we're working on internally," he said.

But for now, Whisenhunt said he's trying to absorb as much as possible as he acclimates himself to the new role.

Whisenhunt has previous experience as the Executive Director of the Museum of the Southwest in Midland, Texas. As director, Whisenhunt directly planned and oversaw a \$5.4 million capital project to renovate and restore the Turner Memorial Art Museum, a historic facility within the Museum of the Southwest.