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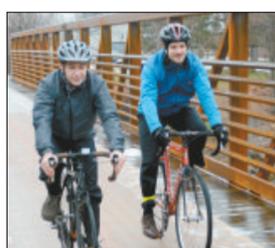
ESTABLISHED AUG. 30, 1887, GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN, N.Y.

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New bridge

Span reopens in Fort Plain

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B-P falls

South Glens Falls wins bowling match

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Trial

Testimony given in manslaughter case

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Property may serve as arts center

Lexington Foundation seeks Tetra Tech site

By MICHAEL ANICH
The Leader-Herald

MAYFIELD — The proposed Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts and Transitions may have a home at the former Tetra Tech Construction property on Route 30 in the town, Lexington Center officials announced.

The Lexington Foundation has signed a contract and intends to buy what Lexington officials say is 66 “picturesque acres.” The property, which includes a 32,000-square-foot building, used to be owned by Delaney Construction Corp. but was sold to Tetra Tech in 2007.

Wally Hart, Lexington’s division director of business and community development, said there is a purchase agree-

ment, but the deal isn’t done yet.

“We’re trying to get approval,” Hart said. “I cannot address any information about Tetra Tech or the price until we complete the purchase.”

Lexington officials told county supervisors in June an arts center project could cost about \$2.5 million.

Tetra Tech corporate spokeswoman Charlie MacPherson said today the company has no comment on the property sale at this time.

“I know we’re exploring our options,” she said.

Nigra was the longtime executive director of Lexington Center, which serves the developmentally disabled in the

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The Leader-Herald/Bill Trojan

The Lexington Foundation wants to buy the former Tetra Tech property on Route 30 in Mayfield, above, and turn it into an arts center.



Protests erupt after decision in man’s death

NEW YORK (AP) — The cell phone video of the last moments of Eric Garner’s life was watched millions of times on the Internet, clearly showing a white police officer holding the unarmed black man in a chokehold, even as he repeatedly gasped, “I can’t breathe.”

But despite that visual evidence, and a medical examiner’s ruling that the chokehold contributed to the death, a Staten Island grand jury decided Wednesday not to bring any charges against the officer involved, prompting protests across the country and sending thousands onto New York’s streets, where they marched, chanted and blocked traffic into the next morning.

While legal experts note it’s impossible to know how the grand jurors reached their conclusion, they say the Garner case, like Michael Brown’s death in Ferguson, Missouri, once again raised concerns about the influence local prosecutors have over the process of charging the police officers they work with on a daily basis.

“The video speaks for itself,” said Jeffrey Fagan, a professor at Columbia Law School. “It appears to show negligence. But if we learned anything from the Brown case, it’s the power of prosecutors to construct and manage a narrative in a way that can shape the outcome.”

Ekow N. Yankah, a professor at Cardozo School of Law, agreed that, “It is hard to understand how a jury doesn’t see any probable cause that a crime has been committed or is being committed when looking at that video, especially.”

Another observer, James A. Cohen, who teaches at Fordham University Law School, went further, saying, “Logic doesn’t play a role in this process.”

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Above, protesters march through the streets in response to the grand jury’s decision in the Eric Garner case in Times Square in New York on Wednesday.

At left, protesters block traffic in Times Square during a march in response to the grand jury’s decision.

Photos by
The Associated Press

Military sex-assault reports up 8%, officials say

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of sexual assaults reported by military service members rose again this year, with an increase of 8 percent, officials told The Associated Press.

Details set for release today and a new anonymous survey suggests victims are becoming far more willing to file complaints than in years past, they said.

The officials said there were nearly 6,000 victims of reported assaults in 2014, compared with just over 5,500 last year. The Pentagon changed its

method of accounting for the assaults this year, and now each victim counts for one report.

Using last year’s accounting methods, there were roughly 5,400 sexual assaults reported as of the end of the 2014 fiscal year on Sept. 30, compared with a little more than 5,000 last year. That increase comes on the heels of an unprecedented 50 percent spike in reporting in the previous year.

Based on those numbers, and the anonymous survey conducted by the

Rand Corp., officials said that about 1 in every 4 victims filed a report this year, in sharp contrast to 2012, when only about 1 in every 10 military victims came forward.

Two years ago, the anonymous survey conducted by the Defense Department found that about 26,000 services members said they had been the victim of unwanted sexual contact — a number that stunned officials and outraged lawmakers, triggering a barrage of congressional hearings and

legislative changes.

This year, that number dropped to about 19,000 — including about 10,500 men and 8,500 women — which officials said suggested that there was a trend of sexual assaults declining.

Officials discussed the latest reports on condition of anonymity because the survey results and sexual assault statistics have not been publicly released. Many of the numbers are preliminary and could change a bit as the reports

are finalized.

Officials said the decision to change the accounting system to have a report for every victim, rather than one report for an incident that could have multiple victims, would provide greater accuracy. Using that system, there were 3,604 victims in 2012, 5,518 in 2013, and 5,983 in 2014.

Defense officials discussed the results with the White House on Tuesday and were expected to release the reports publicly today.

Battles leave 19 dead in Chechnya

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Gun battles early today in the capital of Russia’s North Caucasus republic of Chechnya left 10 police officers and at least nine militants’ dead after two buildings were stormed, including a school, authorities said.

The fighting, which punctured the patina of stability ensured by years of heavy-handed rule by the Kremlin-appointed leader, broke out hours before Russian President Vladimir Putin gave his annual state of the nation address in Moscow.

In his address, Putin said he was confident that local

Chechen forces were capable of dealing with the “rebels,” who he suggested were receiving support from abroad.

Security officials said militants traveling in three cars entered the republic’s capital, Grozny, at 1 a.m. local time, killing three traffic police at a checkpoint.

The National Anti-Terrorist Committee, a federal agency, said the militants then occupied the 10-story Press House in central Grozny. It was later destroyed by fire, killing six gunmen.

The agency said more gunmen were found in a nearby school and security forces were sent to “liquidate” them.



Firefighters and emergency workers examine the burned market pavilions in downtown Grozny, Russia, today, after violence broke out there.

Photo by
The Associated Press



Friday’s Forecast

Snow

High: 33

Low: 30



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