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Legislature looks to end OT loophole for Sheriff's Office

Polonczak still sees 'abuse' in holiday pay policy

News Staff Reporter
Last year was the first year that high-ranking appointees in the Erie County Sheriff's Office were prohibited - along with all other top-ranking county appointees - from receiving overtime, but most of a provision allowing them to collect overtime pay for working on holidays. More than half of them collected at least twice as much holiday pay in 2021 than in 2022.

County legislators are now deliberating a resolution to put a stop to that. The resolution directs the county personnel commission to set uniform policies regarding personal compensation for all employees, including all nonunion, salaried appointees. The resolution explicitly states that any employee not entitled to regular overtime pay is also not entitled to receive time-and-a-half for working on holidays.

Currently, Sheriff's Office appointees receive worked-holiday pay on top of their regular paid holiday time, similar to union employees.

Sheriff John Garcia said that if the County Legislature directs that his top administrators should not receive overtime for working on holidays, he'll abide by that. He also said his office has been playing by the rules from the beginning and that



Kiara Johnson kisses her son, Joseph, after helping University of Buffalo in Amherst in October. After adding 10 points to UB's score, contributing to the win.

A BASKET AND SC

Making her comeback after UB's Kiara Johnson is not you

BY RACHEL LENZI/NEWS
PHOTOS BY LIBBY MARC



Kiara Johnson leaps up to grab a rebound against Daemen University at the University of Buffalo.

IRS launches

ANN CARRIES

The IRS is rolling out a free option for filing federal tax returns this year to some residents of a dozen states.

Last month, the agency published details of its plan to test an in-house filing system, in which taxpayers submit their federal tax returns directly to the agency online at no cost. Residents of 12 states are eligible to participate if they meet certain criteria.

"This is a critical step forward for this innovative effort that will test the feasibility of providing taxpayers a new option to file their returns for free directly with the IRS," Danny Wertheim, the agency's commissioner, said in a recent statement. While the direct filing system is starting on a limited basis, it has already faced some resistance, particularly from commercial tax preparation companies.

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The area's newest patio home community brings carefree lifestyle to Hamburg



The wait is over. The model home at Mission Hills Patio Homes, Hamburg's only patiohome community, is opening this weekend. This highly anticipated brand new neighborhood offers a range of appealing features and unique benefits for residents.

Winding, tree-lined roadways great for visitors, and mature trees along the rear yards provide the perfect backdrop for this maintenance-free community. The exclusive single-story layouts feature loft options, remarkable standard features and spectacular private homesites. The neighborhood offers an exceptional location, convenient to a private



Continued on page 7

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71 private homesites now available in Hamburg's only patio home community



As an open layout and large windows, which provide abundant natural light. Quality craftsmanship and an association of the finest materials ensure a timeless and elegant living space. The home is also available in a variety of finishes and colors. Call 849-4104 to see the model home.

Program that allows you to get your own private home in the community. The program is designed to help you get the most out of your investment. Call 849-4104 to see the model home.

Come see the model and choose the perfect home for your own private home. The program is designed to help you get the most out of your investment. Call 849-4104 to see the model home.

Model light and modern, generous spaces for the kitchen, with island of custom cabinetry and stainless steel appliances. The kitchen is a chef's dream, with granite countertops and a large island. Call 849-4104 to see the model home.

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IN THE Spotlight

WILLIAMSVILLE \$449,700

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Juniper Townhomes, Lancaster, Cabin Estates, Buffalo



Heather Woods, Lacklawn, 4893 Carriage Court - Lancaster, Hamburg



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