

WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRI
A little a.m. rain; cloudy	Cloudy most of the time	Colder with some sun
HIGH 42	LOW 22	27

Complete weather, A2

SPORTS



Patron Conference basketball

Williams drops 22 in Panthers' victory

PAGE B1

LOCAL

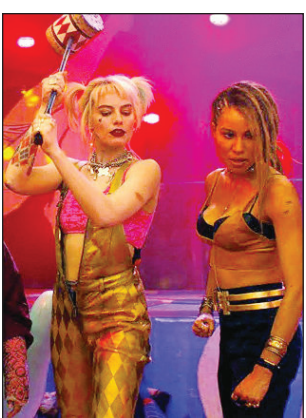


Crews repair Cocksackie main

Water-main break sends C-A students home early

PAGE A3

THE SCENE



These 'Birds' are grounded

Violence, incoherence sink Harley Quinn sequel

PAGE A7

INDEX

Region	A3
Opinion	A4
State/Nation	A5
Obituaries	A5
Sports	B1
Classified	B4-5
Comics/Advice	B7-8

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Kingston Czajkowski, 11, stands with a banner signed by fellow students congratulating him on his victory in the Capital Region Spelling Bee and his upcoming trip to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May in Washington, D.C.

SARAH TRAFTON/COLUMBIA-GREENE MEDIA

C-D 6th-grader spells his way to the top

By Sarah Trafton
Columbia-Greene Media

CAIRO — “C-z-a-j-k-o-w-s-k-i.”

Remember that name. Kingston Czajkowski, a sixth-grade student at Cairo-Durham Middle School has been honing his spelling skills his entire life. “It’s Polish,” Kingston said, referring to his speller’s-demon surname.

Kingston, 11, of Cairo, recently won the Capital Region Spelling Bee in Schenectady and will travel to Washington, D.C., in May to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Out of the 113 contestants on Feb. 4, Kingston is the only finalist going to the nationals, he said Wednesday. His winning word in the Capital Region bee was the Egyptian term “ankh.”

“It’s a symbol of life,” Kingston said.

Learning the origin or root of words is part of Kingston’s studying technique with his spelling tutor, Drew Sirago, an 11th grader.

“Different languages have different rules and you can use that to try and figure out how to spell a word,” Kingston said.

Kingston prepares by studying the Greek and Latin roots of words with flashcards and watching videos of other regional and state spelling bees on Youtube, he said.

“And I read a lot of books that are old — not written in

wouldn’t be nervous but I’m nervous every year. I’m also excited at the same time.”

Kingston’s parents, David and Ling Czajkowski, have been supportive, Kingston said.

Cairo-Durham Middle School Principal Dotan

“I’m very nervous. I’m nervous all the time. You’d think that after a few years of doing it I wouldn’t be nervous but I’m nervous every year. I’m also excited at the same time.”

— KINGSTON CZAJKOWSKI, A SIXTH-GRADE STUDENT AT CAIRO-DURHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

the past 50 years,” Kingston said.

Kingston has been competing in his school’s spelling bees since first grade.

“I didn’t win until fourth grade,” he said. “This was my third year in regionals.”

Last year Kingston placed second in the regional competition.

Despite his experience, Kingston gets a bit of stage-fright, he said.

“I’m very nervous,” he said. “I’m nervous all the time. You’d think that after a few years of doing it I

Schips said the district is incredibly proud of Kingston and his accomplishment.

Although she could not be there in person, Kingston said, his former teacher Donna Howell always “sends him positive energy through her mind the whole day,” whenever he is competing.

Kingston’s English teacher, Erin Murphy, described him as “amazingly humble.”

“He has worked incredibly hard to get to this point and we are all so excited and happy for him,” Murphy said. “I feel lucky to have been able

to watch him on this journey, which has been going on since now-retired ELA teacher, Mrs. Donna Howell, included him in the district spelling bee as a second-grader, at the encouragement of Kingston’s parents. To watch the progression has been amazing, and I am beyond excited to watch Kingston in the National Bee this year.”

Following his triumph in the regionals, Kingston went out to dinner to celebrate with his grandparents at the Hong Kong Bakery & Bistro in Colonie.

Kingston is active in extracurricular athletic activities such as soccer, basketball, tennis, swimming and baseball.

As for his future plans, Kingston said he is weighing his options.

“I really like math, so maybe I’ll be a mathematician,” he said. “Or a scientist. I like all my classes. I like writing poetry too. So maybe I would write poetry on the side. There’s so many options.”

Kingston will be in Washington from May 24 to May 29 for the national spelling bee with some 400 other contestants from across the country, he said.

Cameras beef up program security

By Sarah Trafton
Columbia-Greene Media

CAIRO — The Cairo Police Department is making improvements to its Drug Take Back program, the department’s top officer said Wednesday.

Funded by a CVS Safer Communities Grant, the police department’s medication disposal bin was installed in 2017.

With the help of the local Hannaford, a \$1,000 donation allowed the department to improve the security of the program by installing surveillance cameras.

The eight-camera system was installed about two weeks ago, Officer-in-Charge and Sgt. Richard Busch said Wednesday.

“The cameras are positioned in a manner to follow the contents of the disposal bin,” Busch said. “The whole activity is recorded on camera from the bin to the storage room.”

The service remains fully confidential, Busch said.

“It is totally anonymous,” he said. “The cameras are not used to track who is disposing of medications.”

The police department has more improvements in the works for the program, Busch said.

“Within the next week the medication disposal bin will be bolted to the floor in the entrance [of the police station] so between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., people can dispose of medications even if no one is there,” Busch said.

In addition to managing the bin at the police station, the department holds Drug Take Back Days every six months, alternating between CVS and Hannaford, Busch said.

“We get such a large response to that,” Hannaford store manager Jim Purdy said Wednesday.

When the police department made a donation request to Hannaford to improve the security of the collection at the station, Hannaford was happy to help, Purdy said.

“We value our partnership with local police and our commitment to the Cairo community,” he said.

The Cairo Police Department was among 35 organizations in the Hudson Valley that Hannaford supported in 2019, Purdy said.

“We are happy to help keep the community safe,” he said. “We want to get unused drugs into a safe place.”

The Cairo Police Department has an excellent working relationship with Hannaford.

See CAMERAS A8

Greenfield tosses hat into 19th District ring

By Melanie Lekocevic
Columbia-Greene Media

Steve Greenfield, running as an independent candidate on the Green Party line, has thrown his hat into the ring for this year’s race for the 19th Congressional District.

The seat is held by Democratic U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado.

In addition to Delgado and Greenfield, four Republicans are on the ballot competing in the primary in June. They are Tony Germain, Ola Hawatmeh, Mike Roth and Kyle Van De Water, according to ballotpedia.org.

Delgado was elected in 2018 after defeating former congressman John Faso, a Republican who served one term

from 2017 to 2019. Members of Congress serve 2-year terms.

Delgado does not have a Democratic challenger in the primary race at this time.

Greenfield announced the launch of his campaign Monday. He also ran for the seat as a Green Party candidate in 2018, the year Delgado won his first term in office.

Greenfield, 58, has lived in New Paltz since 2001. He is originally from New York City. He served as a volunteer firefighter for 16 years, a two-term member of the school board in New Paltz, and he serves as a community member of the Legislative Action Committee.

He is married with three teenage children. Greenfield has a bachelor’s degree in

economics from Columbia University.

“The incumbent member of Congress in New York’s 19th District, Democrat Antonio Delgado, has voted to continue all of our non-defensive wars and occupations, which have already consumed over \$7 trillion in public funds, and killed hundreds of thousands of innocent people,” Greenfield said.

Greenfield also opposes Delgado’s voting record on federal spending.

“He has proposed nothing



Steve Greenfield

to alleviate the grinding poverty, and the large-scale crime and early death it imposes on millions of Americans every year, including here in the 19th District, where the poverty rate is higher, and household income lower, than the national average,” Greenfield added.

Delgado declined to comment on Greenfield’s announcement Tuesday.

Agriculture, climate change, renewable energy, health care, mass incarceration of minorities, public education and infrastructure are also at the top of Greenfield’s list of issues.

“These are universal human interests. They know no party or cultural boundaries, and affect everyone,” Greenfield

said.

He pledged not to accept donations “from Wall Street, from the fossil fuel industry, from war profiteers, from the private prison industry, or anyone else who profits from human suffering and environmental devastation, including their lawyers and lobbyists,” Greenfield said.

The primary election will take place June 23, and the general election is Nov. 3.

The 19th Congressional District covers 11 counties, including Greene and Columbia, as well as Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster, and parts of Broome, Dutchess, Montgomery and Rensselaer counties.