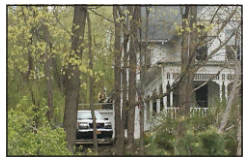




# The Daily Mail

**Mother's Day fire**  
Flames leave Athens family homeless **Inside, A3**



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TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020

Price \$1.50

**WEATHER**

TODAY	TONIGHT	WED
A cool breeze with some sun	Mainly clear and cold	Mostly sunny and cool
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>54</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>

Complete weather, A2

**SPORTS**

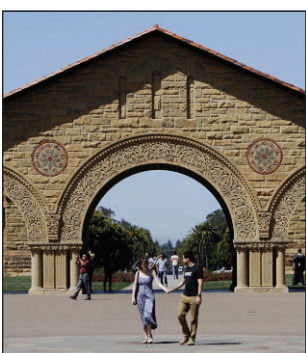


**Patron Conference MVP**

Deja Beauford signs with Plattsburgh

PAGE B1

**NATION**



**Searching for COVID medicine**

New treatment approach is hit hard — and early

PAGE A2

**LOCAL**

**Art award for local student**

Cairo-Durham's Dante DiGiovanni takes prize

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FILE PHOTO

**In this Friday, Oct. 5, 2018, file photo, Durham Town Councilwoman Joan Breslin speaks during a meeting on the town's comprehensive plan at the former Durham Elementary School. Registered Cairo-Durham school district voters will decide June 9 on donating the building to Questar III. The move is expected to save the district \$100,000 a year and bring educational programs to Greene County.**

## Former school's fate up for vote

By Sarah Trafton

Columbia-Greene Media

DURHAM — Residents in the Cairo-Durham school district will have the opportunity to vote June 9 on a proposal to donate the former Durham Elementary School to Questar III.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, voting will take place by absentee ballot. All qualified voters will receive an absentee ballot and a postage paid return envelope in the mail, according to the district.

Durham Elementary School closed in 2013 due to low enrollment, shifting all classes

from kindergarten through fifth grade to the Cairo building.

Enrollment declined 33% since 2011, according to the Durham comprehensive plan.

In 2018, Questar III BO-CES began offering a heavy

See SCHOOL A8



## Parts of upstate NY ready to reopen

COURTESY OF GOV. ANDREW CUOMO'S OFFICE  
Gov. Andrew Cuomo shares a laugh with his mother, 88-year-old Matilda Cuomo, Sunday afternoon during the governor's daily coronavirus briefing in the state Capitol. Cuomo and his three daughters wished the family matriarch a happy Mother's Day with a socially distanced video call.

By Kate Lisa

Johnson Newspaper Corp.

IRONDEQUOIT — Three regions of New York will start reopening and the state will reopen select low-risk businesses at the end of the week, such as

drive-in movie theaters, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Monday.

The Finger Lakes — which includes Rochester — the Southern Tier and Mohawk Valley regions meet the state's seven criteria regarding

an area's COVID-19 hospitalization, infection and death rates, available hospital beds, testing and tracing capacity, and can gradually restart the economy after the governor's NY On Pause order, which closed schools and

nonessential businesses and enforced social-distancing measures, expires Friday.

"We start a new chapter today in

See REOPEN A8

## Unseasonable cold new threat to farmers

By Nora Mishanec

Columbia-Greene Media

As if farmers didn't have their hands full with the effects of the coronavirus, they are braced for more icy weather as freezing temperatures threaten to damage this year's fruit crop.

Orchard owners in Greene and Columbia counties said they could see damage to the apple, peach, cherry and plum crops if temperatures fall below freezing this week, as the National Weather Service is predicting.

The potential for frost and freeze will continue into

Tuesday and Wednesday, said Dan Thompson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Albany. The National Weather Service issued a freeze watch for this area on Monday and a freeze warning for western Greene County.

With apple trees beginning to blossom around the region, fruit growers say they will be keeping a close watch on the weather and reacting accordingly.

Fruit blossoms are delicate and therefore highly sensitive to freezing temperatures, said Jake Samascott of Samascott Orchards in Kinderhook.

The flowers, which turn into fruit, turn black and die if they get too cold, Samascott said.

Like many orchards in the region, Samascott Orchards has wind machines in place to counter freezing temperatures.

If temperatures fall below 30 degrees, the wind mills activate automatically and begin pulling warmer air down to ground level. The farm has three large wind machines that work to protect about ten acres each, Samascott said.

In addition to wind

See FARMERS A8



NORA MISHANEC/COLUMBIA-GREENE MEDIA

Fruit farmers warn that freezing temperatures could affect their apple and stone fruit crops this year.

Recognizing the challenges facing each business, the Downtown Digital Group in association with the Register-Star, The Daily Mail, and HudsonValley360.com is introducing

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