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SUNY names Dr. Mary C. Toale officer-in-charge at SUNY Oswego

OSWEGO — The State University of New York (SUNY) has appointed Dr. Mary C. Toale officer-in-charge at SUNY Oswego, effective Jan. 1, 2022.

Dr. Toale will provide continuing leadership to the college upon the retirement of long-serving President Deborah F. Stanley, who was recently appointed interim chancellor of SUNY.

Toale will serve as officer-in-charge at SUNY Oswego while the college searches for a permanent president.

Toale has been deeply involved in and advanced all high-level initiatives of the president's office. She recently partnered with Stanley and Dr. Rodmon King, the college's Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, to create the Institute for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Transformative Practice. Having served in several leadership roles, Toale has built

close relationships with faculty, administrators and staff, while remaining focused on mentoring and supporting Oswego's undergraduate and graduate students.

"I have been extremely fortunate to work closely with President Stanley, the dedicated members of our President's Council, administrators, faculty, staff and students across our campus," said Toale. "As a first-generation Pell grant recipient, I love SUNY Oswego's mission and learner-centered focus. I am looking forward to the continued partnerships as the SUNY Oswego community searches for our next president."

Stanley said, "Mary has continuously stepped in to lead areas of the college when needed and is the ideal officer-in-charge candidate. She brings a wealth of higher education leadership, knowledge and experience, and is committed to student success,

equity and opportunity. I am confident she will do a fantastic job leading the college during this time of transition."

SUNY Oswego's Presidential Search Committee, led by College Council Chair James McMahon, has already begun a national search for a permanent president for the campus and is working with SUNY and Academic Search to actively network and recruit prospective candidates.

"We look forward to Mary stepping in to lead the SUNY Oswego community," said SUNY Oswego College Council Chair James McMahon. "She will bring the necessary knowledge of our campus and track record of collaboration to this transition, as we move forward with our national search for a permanent president to succeed President Deborah F. Stanley."

Toale joined SUNY Oswego



Provided photo

Pictured above, Dr. Mary C. Toale, SUNY Oswego's incoming officer-in-charge.

in 2014 to create and launch the strategic communication graduate program. Her commitment to teaching and learning began early and led to her

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Second suspect arrested in Fulton murder

By TOM BAKER

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FULTON — A second person has been arrested in connection with the shooting of two men that left one dead and another critically injured in the early morning hours of Dec. 4 at 610 Rochester St. in Fulton, according to a state police press release.

Norman A. Newsome, 38, of Syracuse, was taken into custody on Dec. 13 in Salt Point, New York by Troops K and F of the New York State Police, according to the release.

State police said Newsome was charged with murder in the 2nd degree, a class A-1 felony; attempted murder in the 2nd degree, a class B felony; and attempted robbery in the 1st degree, a class C felony.

Newsome was arraigned in

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Oswego Hospital nurses complete sexual assault training

By DYLAN McGLYNN

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OSWEGO — Rachel Herrmann and Chrissy Smith, registered nurses at Oswego Hospital, have spent much of their time working in the maternity department. But after recently completing the SANE training program, the pair will see their duties shift slightly.

The SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners) program allows nurses to help provide specialized treatment to patients who have experienced sexual assault or abuse.

For both nurses, the decision to undergo training was a personal one. Herrmann said working in a "small-town" hospital played a major role in her entering the training process.

"Being a small-town community hospital, we have very limited resources," said Herrmann. "For me, it's a resource that needs to be there for our community."

Smith said that her daughters were the biggest factor in her decision to complete SANE training.

"I think my biggest push to do that was, I have daughters," said Smith. "I would want somebody like me to take care of them if they were assaulted, to be there for them if I couldn't be."

Herrmann also noted that the issue of sexual assault and/or abuse is "a lot more widespread than it's discussed." She cited this as another reason why she underwent SANE training, saying people may be less hesitant to come forward when they "see different faces and recognize

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Oswego's Dillabough is named county's veteran of the year

By TOM BAKER

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OSWEGO — Of all the people who thought this year's Oswego County Veteran of the Year award should go to James J. Dillabough, the recipient himself was not among them.

Chosen from a group of seven candidates, the award certificate was presented to Dillabough by the Oswego County Legislature on Dec. 9 by legislature Chairman James Weatherup and endorsed by District 16 legislator, Thomas Drumm.

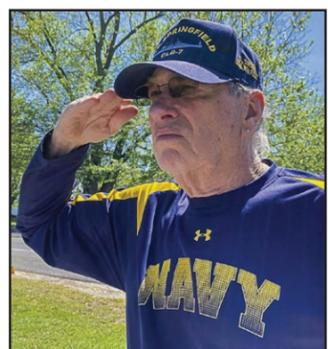
"To give it to me means they probably passed over a lot of better people," the Oswego native said, when asked what the award meant to him. "I'm just a

spoke in the wheel and there's guys out there who do more than I do and have been doing it a lot longer."

Dillabough enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1961 at age 17. His mother had to sign for him as he was not yet an adult. He said at that time that's what he and his friends believed was the right thing to do.

"Remember, we had the draft back then," Dillabough said. "If you waited for the draft you had no idea over what you could do and I decided I didn't want to sleep in a foxhole. I wanted to sleep in a rack (military bed), so I chose the Navy."

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Provided photo

Pictured above, Oswego resident and Oswego County veteran of the year, James J. Dillabough. Dillabough enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1961 at the age of 17. He was awarded the certificate by the Oswego County Legislature on Dec. 9.

New Oswego clothing store blossoming in downtown space

By GREG CASTER

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OSWEGO — For some, the obstacles to starting a new business may seem too great. But for Rachel Morgan and her family, the challenges were worth it.

Morgan, a Hannibal native, opened Blossom & Bloom Boutique — Oswego's newest fashionable women's clothing and accessories store — this month in the former Office Tavern and Restaurant located at 11 W. Seneca St.

Morgan said since the opening Dec. 7, the store has seen a steady stream of customers. Some have compared the shop to boutiques in the central New York municipality of Skaneateles — a compliment, she said.

"Everything was a challenge, but when we put that open sign on and rang out our first person, it was a good feeling to just know that we are at this part and now we want to perfect it," she said.

Throughout the past two months since announcing her intentions to operate in the former restaurant, Morgan said her life has been a never-ending whirlwind of work getting it ready.

"I would work 10 hours then



Greg Caster photo

Blossom & Bloom Boutique, located along northern West First Street in Oswego, was the embodiment of a dream several years in the making for business owner Rachel Morgan. Rachel Morgan is pictured to the left of Tina Sheldon, her mother-in-law, while helping Halle Wells last week with her purchase. The business opened earlier this month.

come here and put in another five hours until 11 p.m. sometimes, depending on what time I got here," she said. "It took us two months, and I can count two days we weren't here because we had stuff to do. Even if it was only for one or two hours, we were pushing hard to get this opened."

Prior to being one of Oswego's newest entrepreneurs, she worked as a cosmetologist in the area, as well as in radia-

tion protection at the Nine Mile Point and FitzPatrick nuclear power plants.

The creativity and uniqueness she experienced in the art of cosmetology spurred her desire to "be my own boss."

"I always wanted to be a business owner ... but didn't know what I wanted, whether it was to be when I was doing hair or even a haunted house. I

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Gov. Hochul provides COVID-19 update

OSWEGO — New York Gov. Kathy Hochul provided an update on COVID-19 data on Monday, and cases across the state are on the rise.

On Friday, Dec. 17, the seven-day average of cases in the central New York region was 67.44 per 100,000 people, according to a press release from Hochul. By Sunday, that figure rose to 68.33 per 100,000.

On a statewide level, cases have rapidly increased in recent days. The statewide average on Friday was 75.29 per 100,000 people. On Dec. 19, the statewide average had increased to 93.78 per 100,000 people, the release said.

Oswego County recorded 67 new positive cases of the virus on Sunday, giving it a total of 16,106 cases since the figures were initially tracked. Onondaga County recorded 236 new cases Sunday, the release stated, bringing it to a total of 65,494 cases. Oneida County recorded 129 new cases, and has had 36,719 cases in total.

Central New York's rate of 68.33 per 100,000 people is the sixth highest among all 10 regions in the state. It is below Sunday's statewide average of 93.78 per 100,000, the release shows.

Long Island's case rate of 112.50 per 100,000 people is currently the highest rate in New York, followed by New York City (112.35 per 100,000) and the Southern Tier (110.42 per 100,000).

While 60 new deaths were recorded on Sunday, none occurred in Oswego County. Oneida and Onondaga counties each recorded two deaths, the release stated. Suffolk County, in Long Island, recorded the most new deaths, with seven.

"The winter surge in COVID-19 cases is a reminder that we must stay vigilant in our fight against the pandemic," said Hochul. "Make sure you are using all the tools that we know work in reducing the risk of transmission and serious illness: get vaccinated if you haven't yet and get the booster if you have, mask up indoors and exercise caution when in large

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