

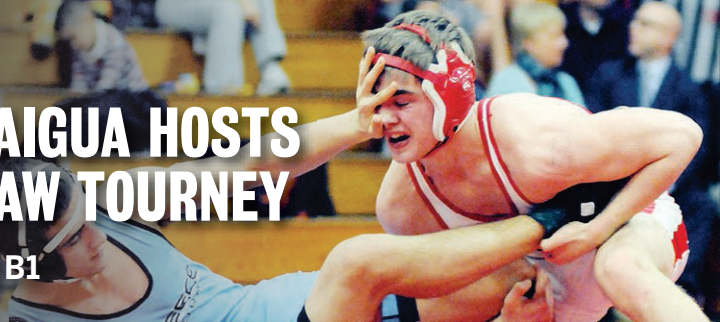
ARTIST OPENS NEW CANANDAIGUA GALLERY

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CANANDAIGUA HOSTS BRADSHAW TOURNEY

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DAILY MESSENGER



Sunday, January 12, 2014

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MORE INSIDE

Canandaigua-area citizens speak out

A New York state official hears from area residents about several state issues, from taxes to fracking, during a presentation Friday at FLCC. **A3**

Voters approve capital project

A \$14.8 million capital project for the Phelps-Clifton Springs School District passed by voters Friday. **A3**

Editorial: New York taxed out too long

Gov. Andrew Cuomo's plans to cut taxes are a good start toward changing New York's standing as a high-tax state. **A7**

Want your banner back?

Canandaigua's mayor is looking to return student artwork that once bedecked Lakeshore Drive. **C1**

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COMING IN PRINT

New and old debates begin for a new year of state budget planning, particularly regarding education.

ONLY ONLINE

From the Aisle Seat: Film critic Erich Van Dussen, whose film column appears Friday in the Messenger, posts movie reviews at www.mpnnow.com/blogs

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STATE GOVERNMENT

The SAFE Act: 1 year later



Above and below: Jim Kinsman of Farmington holds an unloaded 9mm handgun on the shooting range at Victor Rod and Gun Club. Kinsman said the answer to increased public safety is not more legislation like the SAFE Act. PHOTOS BY JACK HALEY/MESSENGER POST

As the anniversary of the law's adoption approaches, residents continue to debate its effectiveness

By Melody Burri
melody@messengerpostmedia.com

In his 2013 end-of-year report, Gov. Andrew Cuomo touts the New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act as "one of the toughest and most comprehensive gun control measures in the nation," and says its purpose is to "reduce violence and protect all New Yorkers."

"The numbers are indisputable," said Cuomo spokesperson Melissa DeRosa. "The SAFE Act has enabled the state to better protect New Yorkers."

But 300 miles northwest of the Big Apple, the most vocal upstate New Yorkers do not agree.

In Ontario, Monroe, Wayne and Yates counties, recreational shooters, gun dealers, and collectors engage in vigilant protest of what they call a flagrant violation of their Second Amendment rights. "Repeal the SAFE Act" yard signs dot the countryside.

Meanwhile, locally-owned gun manufacturers have packed up and relocated to other states, while other state manufacturers have threatened to do

SEE SAFE ACT, A9



More inside

- Shooters take aim against the SAFE Act, **A3**
- Opposing views on the SAFE Act, **A7**

POLITICS

Medical marijuana proposal just 'a test'

Cuomo's plan leaves advocates frustrated

By David B. Caruso and Jennifer Peltz
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gov. Andrew Cuomo made a political splash by introducing his medical marijuana plan in the State of the State speech, but his cautious approach has met muted cheers from pot advocates who question how meaningful it really is.

While nearly two dozen states have OK'd marijuana for medical purposes and Colorado and Washington have legalized its use for pleasure, Cuomo is tapping a 1980 state law to allow as many as 20 hospitals to dispense the drug to people with certain severe illnesses as an experimental research project.

"I'm absolutely thrilled that he's actually verbalized the words 'medical marijuana,' but he's just got to go further," said Susan Rusinko, a 52-year-old central New York resident who said a hit of pot is a "wonder drug" that relaxes immobilizing leg spasms from her multiple sclerosis. It's unclear whether she would even qualify for Cuomo's initiative or whether there would be a participating hospital near her.

While advocates are frustrated, Cuomo's limited embrace of medical marijuana may be a politically astute and scientifically sensitive move on an issue on which popular enthusiasm has outpaced a weak body of medical research, experts say.

Some doctors avidly back using cannabis to treat problems ranging from chemotherapy-related nausea to chronic pain, but other medical experts say there are good reasons for caution. While the marijuana plant holds tantalizing possibilities, they say, it's still a question mark as medicines go.

SEE MARIJUANA, A10

Take our poll

Should medical marijuana be made widely available in NY? Chime in at www.MPNnow.com.

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