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SCHEENECTADY

Quirky files for bankruptcy

Spinoff business Wink expected to stay in city

BY HALEY VICCARO
Gazette Reporter

Quirky filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and is looking to sell Wink for \$15 million, the company announced Tuesday.

New York City-based Quirky has taken action to sell all of its assets, according to a blog Quirky posted on its website.

dailygazette.com

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Schenectady officials say the local office will not be affected.

"After carefully examining the various alternatives available, the company concluded that Chapter 11 provides the most effective and efficient

process to facilitate sales of substantially all of its assets and provide potential suitors with certain advantages only available in Chapter 11, which will enhance the value of the company's assets," Quirky said in the blog.

The company's business Wink has entered into an agreement with Singapore-

based Flextronics International, known as Flex, for the sale of the connected-home platform for \$15 million.

The sale will be subject to higher or better offers, Quirky said. The company plans to conduct an auction if other bids are received and seek court approval to have the sale close within about 60 days.

See **QUIRKY**, page A8



PATRICK DODSON/GAZETTE PHOTOGRAPHER

People are reflected in the window of Quirky's Center City offices in downtown Schenectady on Tuesday.



PATRICK DODSON/GAZETTE PHOTOGRAPHER

The octagon is set up Tuesday inside the Schenectady Armory during a news conference promoting Saturday's Cage Wars at the venue. See a photo gallery at dailygazette.com.

SCHEENECTADY

Armory ready to rumble

Refurbished facility set to host city's first MMA card

BIG BY MARK MCGUIRE
Executive Sports Editor

Guy Hammond is home. And he can't wait to brawl.

"I'm excited. This is my hometown," said the one-time Schalmont football player from Schenectady who now lives in Niskayuna. "And I'm ready to kick some a--."

Hammond, 28, towers at 6-foot-3 and 264 pounds. Standing nearby, Malinda Diffeo, a 40-year-old mom from Granville, Washington County, barely tips the scales at 5-foot-1 and 105 pounds. Once mired in an abusive marriage, she took up kickboxing and then mixed martial arts for self-defense. She now fights in the octagon — but not to beat other people up.

"When you go into the cage," she said Tuesday, "you are testing yourself."

See **MMA**, page A8



Guy Hammond, at 6-foot-3 and 264 pounds, and Malinda Diffeo, at 5-foot-1, 105, will both be part of Saturday's Cage Wars card.

ALSO INSIDE

THE ARMORY'S fight night is just one of many local events scheduled for Saturday. **A8**

Pope arrives in U.S.

Francis to face polarized country in six-day visit

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
AND RACHEL ZOLL
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pope Francis arrived Tuesday on the first visit of his life to the United States, bringing his humble manner and his "church of the poor" to a rich and powerful nation polarized over economic inequality, immigration and equal justice.

According to a rare honor to the pontiff, President Barack Obama and his wife and daughters met Francis at the bottom of the stairs on the red-carpeted tarmac at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland after the pope's chartered plane touched down from Cuba. Presidents usually make important visitors come to them at the White House.

Emerging from the plane to boisterous cheers from a crowd of hundreds, the smiling 78-year-old pontiff removed his skullcap in the windy weather and made his way down the steps in his white robes.

He was welcomed by a military honor guard, chanting schoolchildren, politicians, and Roman Catholic clerics in black robes and vivid sashes of scarlet



SUSAN WALSH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope Francis arrives Tuesday at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

See **POPE**, page A8

Plenty of sunshine.
High 76/Low 51.
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