



# Aging as an art

Renowned South Carolina painter, at age 90, has no plans to slow down



Peyton Manning set to retire after 18 seasons in the NFL

# Watertown Daily Times

## NNY hospitals get \$54m from state

By ELI ANDERSON  
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WATERTOWN — Several north country hospitals were recently awarded more than \$54 million in grants from the state Department of Health.

On Friday, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced the funding, which is part of a \$1.5 billion financial boost

made possible by the state's Capital Restructuring Financing Program and its Essential Health Care Provider Support Program.

Both programs were created by the governor to support the goals of the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment program, which will reinvest \$7.3 billion in Medicaid savings to New York's hospitals and health

care providers based on their ability to meet five-year goals.

"We have a responsibility to continue to make critical capital and infrastructure improvements that transform our health-care system into one of sustainability with a deep focus on improving patient care and delivery of vital services," Gov. Cuomo said in a news release. "This fund-

ing allows them to do just that and is yet another example of how New York is leading the nation in adapting to meet 21st century health care needs."

In Jefferson County, Carthage Area Hospital and River Hospital, of Alexandria Bay, both received funds for debt restructuring and financial stabilization projects.

River Hospital was allocated \$2,747,973 and Carthage Area Hospital received \$3,053,185.

"Community hospitals in rural areas like ours are important for the delivery of health care," Jefferson County Board of Legislators Chairman Scott A. Gray said. "The fund-

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ALAN RIZZO ■ WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES

Goodwin G. Gardner made violins until a tremor in his hands got in the way. Now the 85-year-old crafts furniture in his DeKalb Junction home.

## Retired carpenter not slowing down

By ALAN RIZZO  
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DEKALB JUNCTION — Though he doesn't boast about his work, it's clear that retired carpenter Goodwin G. Gardner knows his way around the woodshop, and is still very much at work despite a neurological condition.

The DeKalb Junction native, who will be 86 in June, said he

had to stop making violins — a hobby he picked up after retiring from building houses — because he developed essential tremor in his hands, a nervous system disorder that causes involuntary rhythmic shaking in parts of the body such as the hands and voice, according to the Mayo Clinic.

But Mr. Gardner is not letting the condition stop him from

working with wood.

Instead, he's moved on to crafting vintage furniture, which doesn't demand such a steady hand, having created two pieces in the past two years from a workshop which fills the basement of his house on Risley Road. He said he's still creating wood pieces, like a chest of drawers he finished last year, because it's an outlet for his cu-

riosity, and because he'd rather spend the rest of his days on his feet, rather than in a rocking chair.

"It just needed to be done, so I did it," he said of the chest of drawers. "I just can't imagine setting in a retirement home. As long as you can do something, for heaven's sake, do it."

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## Hospitals urge state to fund wage hike

ADVOCACY DAY: Industry leaders meet with lawmakers to explain how policies impact health care

By ELI ANDERSON  
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WATERTOWN — Health system leaders from the north country and across the state are urging lawmakers to ensure any minimum wage increase proposed by state officials is fully funded before it is enacted.

On Wednesday, as part of the Healthcare Association of New York State's annual "Healthcare Advocacy Day," hospital representatives from across the state met with legislative leaders and local elected officials to explain how current policies are affecting their organizations and communities.

In addition to concerns over potential minimum wage hikes, HANYS called on lawmakers to address the urgent need for capital funding and to establish a guaranty fund for unpaid Health Republic claims.

"New York's hospitals and health systems need the state to invest in the health-care system to ensure continued access to care in every community," HANYS President Dennis Whalen said in a news release. "The proposed budget did not address the significant financial challenges our providers are facing as they lead innovation and transform care to create the health care delivery system of tomorrow."

Many hospitals in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties have expressed concern with Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's \$15 minimum wage proposal, claiming it would cost millions to implement over the next several years.

In January, Carthage Area Hospital CEO Richard A. Duvall told the Times that imple-

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## Pro baseball lease up for council vote

DUFFY FAIRGROUNDS: City eyes deal with Bucks

By CRAIG FOX  
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WATERTOWN — City Council will decide tonight whether professional baseball will return to the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds this season.

Council members are expected to vote on a one-year lease agreement with the Watertown Bucks in the new Empire Baseball League — formerly the North Country Baseball League — to play at the city-owned ballpark.

The North Country Base-

ball League folded after one season when owner Bruce Zicari lost about six-figures and he decided he could not make a go of it for a second season.

This winter, owner Eddie Gonzalez approached the city about bringing baseball and the Watertown Bucks back to the fairgrounds with a new configuration of the North Country Baseball League. Mr. Gonzalez, who has six years experience as a player and two

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## Nancy Reagan dies at age 94

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president — and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease — has died. She was 94.

The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio said.

Her best-known project as first lady was the "Just Say No" campaign to help kids and teens stay off drugs.

When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress partial to designer gowns and pricey china was widely dismissed as a pre-feminist throwback, concerned only with fashion, deco-

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

First lady Nancy Reagan holds the Reagans' dog, Rex, as she and then-President Ronald Reagan walk on the White House South Lawn in 1986.

