

LOOKING BACK

This week in 1973, Cohoes Mayor Virginia McDonald ordered a freeze on hiring and equipment purchases in the Model Cities program until its fate could be determined. President Richard M. Nixon said he wanted to eliminate the program by the coming July.



Bob Richey / Times Union Historic Images

100 YEARS AGO

Fleeing soldiers offense

U.S. Commissioner Lester T. Hubbard announced that Florence May Dibble — aka Schrader, Page, Roberts, Snapp and Dare — for whom he had issued a warrant in March 1922, was arrested in Pittsburgh and was to be brought to Albany to be arraigned in federal court.

It was alleged that Dibble had fleeced six soldiers, all from the Binghams area, by cashing their checks, claiming in each case that she was their wife. It was believed she had secured at least \$450 (approximately \$7,700 today) on war bureau checks, cashing them under various names. Federal officers said several divorce actions were pending related to the matter, as well as a possible bigamy charge, after the current federal case was disposed of.

—Times Union, Feb. 1, 1923

50 YEARS AGO

Guard training center nixed

Plans for a training center for state prison guards was dropped from Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller's proposed budget, his administration said. Instead, the state would continue with a 13-week course at the State Police Academy in Albany and a dormitory would be built to house the trainees. The Department of Correctional Services wanted a separate facility, capable of training up to 200 guards at a time. The department argued most guards had never received formal training, which was initiated after the Attica prison uprising in 1971. The dormitory included in the budget would house 100 guards at a time who would be trained at the State Police facility. The DCS said it was experiencing turnover of 30 guards a month, which meant there was a minimum requirement of 90 spaces for new guards in each 13-week program before the veteran ones could be given training.

—Times Union, Feb. 1, 1973

► Compiled by C.J. Lais Jr. and Azra Haqqie.



Bank robber gets 17 years to life for strangling cellmate

Court papers allege he had a history of violence in prison

By Roger Hannigan Gilson

CATSKILL — An upstate man was sentenced to 17 years to life in prison last week for strangling to death his cellmate at a state prison in Greene County.

Anthony Paradise, 44, strangled Delmus Tanner with a bedsheet in November 2018 while the two were incarcerated at Greene Correctional Facility, according to District Attorney Joe Stanzione. Tanner, who was serving a five-year sentence for attempted drug sale, died four days after the attack.

Paradise was indicted by a grand jury five months later, according to Stanzione's office. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in October 2022 as jury selection was under way for his trial in County Court.

Paradise and Tanner both arrived at the prison in October 2018 after they were transferred from a facility in Washington County, Stanzione previously said. Paradise was serving 3½ years in prison for

robbing Adirondack Trust bank in Saratoga Springs in 2017.

The murder was the third time Paradise — who previously lived in Rensselaer County and Schenectady — had allegedly tried to strangle a fellow inmate.

Court papers allege Paradise tried to "choke and smother" an inmate with his hands in January 2018 while incarcerated at the Saratoga County Jail, and, fewer than nine months later, he wrapped a shoelace around an inmate's neck at Washington Correctional Facility in an attempt to kill them.

The second incident was not prosecuted because the victim refused to cooperate, Stanzione previously said.

In two later incidents — on Jan 4, 2022, and July 19, 2022, both after the killing of Tanner — Paradise allegedly punched and tackled inmates to the floor, court papers said.

Paradise was defended by Troy-based attorney Shane Hug on the murder charge. He is eligible for parole in 17 years, and could be released in 2040, provided his behavior behind bars is good.

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COLD

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winds," he said.

The sudden drop in temperature could lead to pipes freezing or water mains breaking, Main said. With wind chills around minus 30, frostbite could occur in as little as 10 to 15 minutes.

"If you don't have to be outside, don't be outside," he said, adding that pets should be kept indoors as well. For those who do go outside, Main advised to dress as warmly as possible and

cover any exposed skin.

Temperatures will stay cold Saturday, with a high of 10 degrees and a low of 6. But the cold snap will be short, Main said, with temperatures jumping back into the 30s Sunday.

Mid-to-late January is typically the coldest point of the year, but a drop this low is unusual. Main said the air mass will be one of the coldest to hit the area since Valentine's Day of 2016. Higher than normal temperatures for much of this month could make it seem even colder, he said.

YOUR BEST SHOT



Photos provided by Teresian House



Celebrating 110

On Jan. 21, Teresian House and the family of Mary Petrosky celebrated her 110th birthday. The Very Rev. David R. LeFort, vicar general of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese, bestowed a blessing in her honor. Mayor Kathy Sheehan read a proclamation naming Jan. 21 Mary Petrosky Day in the city of Albany. The Carmelite Sisters and administrator Frank Yeboah presented her with a bouquet of roses. Several of her nieces and nephews attended. Petrosky was born in Astoria on Jan. 14, 1913. She lived in the Bronx until her husband died and she bought a house upstate in Greenville with her sister Ann. At 18, she started working at Bloomingdale's retired from there at 65; she had worked in almost every department. She loved shore fishing and camping and flowers, playing cards and drinking beer. She has been a resident of Teresian House since 2014.

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DEEDS

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Mayor Erastus Corning 2nd controlled the city schools through an appointed school board and the schools were city-owned property.

After the city's population dipped below 125,000 in the 1970 census, the city was forced by the state to switch to an elected school board.

That change was forced by former Assemblyman Raymond Skuse, a Republican reformer who introduced the legislation in 1968 during his single, two-year term, according to Paul Grondahl's biography of Corning.

During the switch to becoming an independent school district, some of the deeds to the schools were turned over. Others apparently were lost to history, or perhaps put in a filing box, never to be seen again.



Will Waldron / Times Union

Giffen Elementary School, South Pearl Street, is one of 10 parcels for which Albany's Common Council will issue quit claim deeds.

The land for which the title is unclear includes Pine Hills Elementary School, Arbor Hill Elementary School, Delaware Community School, Philip J. Schuyler Achievement Academy, William S. Hackett Middle School, the Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Tech-

nology, Giffen Memorial Elementary School, New Scotland Elementary School, the Montessori Magnet School, and the Albany School of the Humanities.

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WATER

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than the level that requires the city to take action, which is 0.015 mg/l.

The samples were taken from around the city, Wheland said. The city identifies locations to be sampled from reports filed by property owners, homes that have been identified due to their age and records that the city may possess.

The city recently received \$500,000 in funding from the state Department of Health to replace lead service lines in the city.

While the city has money for this work, the administration must have the City Council authorize the regulations to permit city crews or contractors to enter private property to make the repairs, something the council intends to do, City Council President Carmella Mantello said.

Wheland said additional funding is expected to become available to perform the replacement work. He said that eventually every municipal water system is going to have to

address the lead contamination issue under pending U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

Information on testing for lead in waterlines is available on the city website at https://www.troyny.gov/dpu/lead-service-line/.

Lead is a common metal that is known to cause serious health problems if too much builds up in the body. Drinking water is a possible source of lead exposure because before 1975 it was commonly used in plumbing materials, such as service lines and interior plumbing. It can leach into water from plumbing.

City officials are asking residents who live in homes built before 1975 to have their water service inspected for lead service lines.

"Residents should avail themselves of the inspection appointments that the city is providing," said Councilwoman Sue Steele, the county's Democratic majority leader.

The inspection is free and can be scheduled by calling 518-237-0343. The city will also be sending residents a postcard this week with more information and instructions.