

## HELPING OUT

NEWS STAFF

The first five recipients of the Miranda Family Fellowship at Skidmore College have been selected. The new opportunity for students aims to create access to education and long-term support to advance careers in theater, dance, music and arts administration, and help increase diversity within leadership in the entertainment industry. Skidmore students Chiara Garcia-Ugarte '25, Darren Jackson-Wilkins '25, Sophie Kelly '25, Reyn Ricafort '25, and Javier Soto '25

comprise the inaugural cohort.

Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region has received the resources to help girls explore the Capital Region and beyond for the next year, thanks to Grasshopper Heating and Cooling. As part of the partnership, the nonprofit's vans were wrapped to combine the Girls Inc. and Grasshopper Heating and Cooling. The new design was unveiled at the nonprofit's Schenectady center in Hamilton Hill.

The Ackerman Foundation of Claverack announced award winners



Girls Inc. / Contributed photo

**Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region members stand by a design on a Grasshopper Heating and Cooling van.**

in its second year of providing grants to local nonprofits for community improvement activities. Twenty-one awards were made totaling \$38,000, a significant advance from the foundation's first grant cycle in 2022 that provided \$15,000 to six organizations.

On June 29, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Commissioner of Neighborhood & Community Services Faye Andrews, and the city of Albany's Love Your Block Team members announced that 57 recipients for neighborhood projects will receive

supplies, resources and volunteers for home beautification projects and other community improvements. This is the second year of Albany's Love Your Block program, which is largely funded by a \$20,000 grant from Cities of Service and John Hopkins University.

The Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council said local artists and organizations will receive \$91,805 for programming taking place throughout Warren and Washington counties in 2023 through its Community Arts Grant program.

## Driver accused of fleeing, drug possession

NEWS STAFF

ROTTERDAM — A Schenectady County man heads to court later this month to face drug and other charges in a car chase over the weekend, State police said Tuesday.

The 34-year-old Duaneburg man was stopped around 4:30 a.m. Friday on Interstate 890 in Rotterdam for a vehicle and traffic law violation, then gave a false ID, police said. The trooper determined

the man's true identity and that there was an active warrant for his arrest issued by the Schoharie County Court, police said.

The driver allegedly refused to get out of the car and drove off, traveling to Campbell Road where he stopped the vehicle and tried to run away. He was taken into custody though he actively resisted, police said. The car allegedly contained controlled substances.

He is charged with two

counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance, fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle, resisting arrest, obstructing governmental administration, false personation, aggravated unlicensed operation and other traffic violations. He was issued an appearance ticket for Rotterdam Town Court on July 20 and turned over to the Schoharie County Probation Department for the unrelated warrant.

## Woman dies in Lake George collision

NEWS STAFF

LAKE GEORGE — A woman died after a collision Monday morning on Route 9N near the Northway's southbound Exit 21 off ramp in the town of Lake George, Warren County sheriff's deputies said.

Deputies, who responded at about 10:20 a.m. to the scene, said a Volkswagen sedan, driven by a 67-year-old Alba-

ny man, failed to stop at the stop sign at the end of the ramp and was struck by an SUV driven by a Connecticut man, 47, as he was eastbound on Route 9N.

Stenya Agranovsky, 94, no address provided, a passenger in the Volkswagen, was taken to Glens Falls Hospital where she later died from her injuries, deputies said. The two drivers and two passengers from the

SUV were taken to the hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Speed and alcohol do not appear to be a factor, deputies said. The investigation is being handled by the Sheriff's Office Traffic Safety Unit and Criminal Investigation Unit. The sheriff's office was assisted by West Glens Falls EMS, Queensbury EMS, Lake George EMS and Lake George firefighters.

## TIBBITTS

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top national sales rep for Seagram & Sons, an international liquor giant. He paid for food and housing to get orphans off the streets in Cambodia and Thailand, when he lived there. He traveled widely across Asia as a global wine consultant to Starwood Hotels and later as a private consultant.

In earlier decades, Tibbitts worked in New York City, selling frozen food and life insurance. "I was a very good salesman, but I was in search of something more interesting," he said.

Tibbitts pays \$750 a month rent for a rooming house off New Scotland Avenue. His small bedroom is crammed with shelves of books on astrophysics, psychology, history and world religions. Above a single bed, he has taped flags of seven chakras and lined the headboard with a dozen toy owls, his totem animal.

He commutes by CDTA bus on a free student pass, including to summer courses at Hudson Valley Community College.

I've gotten to know Tibbitts as a voracious reader who attends our Writers Institute author talks. I have to admit that I sometimes take a wide berth around his table if in a hurry. A talk with Tibbitts does not heed temporal dimensions. Engage him in conversation and you feel like you've just driven down a steep moun-



Paul Grondahl / Special to the Times Union

**Married four times, with eight children and stepchildren, Fred Tibbitts Jr. has returned to study at the University at Albany after a hiatus of one-half century, after he dropped out in 1971.**

tain road, full of hairpin turns and multiple detours. He is a raconteur with no sense of direction, which he attributes to being diagnosed with dyslexia as a child and early-onset dementia as a senior.

"I have to work a lot harder in class than these 19-year-olds. I get through it by sheer determination," he said.

The highest praise a teacher ever bestowed on Tibbitts came in 1969 at the University of Tampa, where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics. Noted psychology professor Mildred B. Mitchell told him: "You are not the brightest student I ever had, but you are the hardest worker."

His father, Frederick Tib-

bitts Sr., was a second-generation proprietor of a family wholesale food distributorship, Tri-City Produce Company. His grandfather established it in 1929 on Tivoli Street in downtown Albany. They later relocated to Railroad Avenue in Colonie. Tibbitts grew up in a stately red brick colonial home on Western Avenue. He attended Albany Acade-

my, like his father, and had a membership at Albany Country Club.

"It was a privileged life of Cadillacs, fur coats and country club meals," he recalled. "I wanted to do something else."

His dyslexia required him to repeat seventh grade at Albany Academy. His parents sent him to a remedial reading program at Sa-

lisbury, a prep school in Vermont, for a year. Tibbitts finished at Albany High and proudly pointed out his yearbook picture, which noted he was president of the Philologian Literary Society.

On Monday afternoon, as I met him in an empty Campus Center to drive him to his house, he was engaged in conversation with a young woman at his table. She seemed distressed and said she struggles with mental health issues, which caused her to drop out of college. She spoke over FaceTime with her mother, who lives in Queens. Her mother urged her daughter to get a prescription filled at a local pharmacy and to rest back at her apartment. She told her mom she had no money for a bus or an Uber.

"Paul has a car," Tibbitts piped up, which is how I found myself driving the elder statesman and the troubled 20-something woman to two stops in Albany. Tibbitts told a story, with twists and turns, and soon had her giggling.

"Just try to find one simple thing today that gives you joy," he said. "Can you do that for me?"

She nodded.

Always be a student, always be a teacher.

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## FESTIVAL

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ceeding with the festival as planned would have impacted the overall event quality and the guest experience, and producing a suboptimal event for concertgoers and artists alike was not an option," the statement said.

In late April, Windham Mountain announced two hospitality groups were buying into the resort: the Beall family, which founded the restaurant Ruby Tuesday, and Kemmons Wilson Hospitality Partners, the hospitality arm of Kemmons Wilson Companies, known as the founding enterprise behind the Holiday Inn hotel chain.

With the new partners, improvements to



John Carl D'Annibale

**Condos and ski slopes at Windham Mountain Resorts Thursday in Windham, N.Y. A music festival planned at the destination featuring the band Weezer was cancelled last week.**

Windham Mountain were announced intending to make the resort, primarily a skiing mountain, a four-season destination. Improvements include skiing with minimal lift lines, construction of additional townhouses and lots for land development, enhanced membership offerings, expansion of the existing 18-hole golf course and improved amenities, including swimming, racket sports, family activities and all-season adventure activities. Food and beverage programs will also be redeveloped, according to a news release by Windham.

A spokeswoman for Windham Mountain could not immediately supply the expected completion date for the improvements.