



Artist Kohlene Hendrickson talks about her art work to Brookley Spanbauer's art class in Groton High School.

NICK REYNOLDS / STAFF PHOTO

Groton High's art class builds buzz

Students, with the help of globally renowned artist, will create work straight from the farm

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Most of the time, when a \$4,500 painting sits in the front of a room, a crowd of people is usually doing its best to push to the front, desperate to get a glance. When it happens in the art room of Groton High School, drawing a captive audience requires a bit more effort.

"Fill some of the seats up front," Jeff Toolan, proprietor of the Groton Hotel and its resident art collective, Sun Dog, called out to the students filling the room. "You wouldn't sit in the back row of a Jay Z concert, would you?"

Toolan, a Groton High School alum, stood in art teacher Brookley Spanbauer's classroom with a purpose.

He had applied for an \$2,000 Arts Education Grant through the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization program. Though he had never applied for a grant before, his application was approved. With the sum he received, he brought Kohleen Hendrickson and her \$4,500 painting into the village.

He did so to spearhead a new educational initiative at Groton High, thanks to funding administered locally by the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County.

Hendrickson is an art teacher by trade, an artist

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NICK REYNOLDS / STAFF PHOTO

Kohlene Hendrickson shows the details in one of her paintings.

"[Kohlene] has won the top prize for her art in Florence. So when I talk about Jay Z, Kohleen is the Jay Z of encaustic painting."

PROPRIETOR OF THE GROTON HOTEL JEFF TOOLAN

Woman struck by vehicle, dies

State police said no charges are pending

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A Dryden woman died after being struck by a vehicle on Oct. 13 on state Route 13 in the Town of Dryden, according to New York State Police.

Michelle D. Drake, 47, of Dryden, was struck around 11:40 p.m. near Kirk Road by a 2011 Chevrolet Malibu driven by Mark C. O'Malley, 66, of Freeville.

Police said Drake had left her home and was attempting to walk from the west shoulder to the east shoulder of Route 13. O'Malley was southbound on Route 13.

Drake was found unconscious and severely injured in the roadway. She was transported by ambulance to Cayuga

Medical Center and then by medical helicopter to Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pennsylvania.

She died of her injuries on Oct. 16, police said.

The Bradford County coroner will perform an autopsy.

State police said no charges are pending against O'Malley.

The investigation is continuing.

County rests case vs. Cayea

Testimony mentions choking incident

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Witness testimony Monday in the trial of Benjamin Cayea revealed at least one past incident in which he choked Shannon Jones, who was found strangled to death last Thanksgiving.

The prosecution rested its case Monday afternoon after two days and testimony from a dozen witnesses. The defense's case will start and likely end Tuesday.

Benjamin Cayea, who is on trial in Tompkins County Court on a charge of second-degree murder, is expected to testify "first thing" Tuesday morning.

Prosecutors Andrew Bonavia and Diane Lama called a dozen witnesses Friday and Monday, including a 911 dispatcher, several law enforcement officers and investigators, managers at Wegmans and Tops, a psychotherapist, friends of Jones and a pathologist.

Psychotherapist Glenna Dunaway testified Monday that Jones was a client for about two years before her death. She testified that there had been several physical incidents between Cayea and Jones, including one Jones reported to Dunaway in May 2014, in which Jones said she was choked and pinned to the ground by Cayea.

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DIGITAL

See a video with this report at ithacajournal.com

New comic strip

Dear Readers,

The daily comic strip "Stone Soup" has ended as the artist, Jan Eliot, has decided after 20 years of doing the daily strip to only draw a Sunday strip. You can read more about the change at Eliot's website, www.stonesoupcartoons.com.

A new comic is now appearing in The Ithaca Journal, "WuMo." This strip by writer Mikael Wulff and illustrator Anders Morgenthaler is popular in Europe and appears in 500 U.S. papers. More about the "WuMo" strip is available at www.wumo.com.

We hope you enjoy the new strip. Your feedback is welcome.

Sincerely,

Lois Wilson

Content Editor

Contact Wilson at loiswilson@ithacajournal.com or (607) 274-9272.

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