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CAPITAL REGION

Flag Day salute

A Flag Day ceremony will be 3 p.m. today at the town of Colonie gazebo, Route 9, Newtonville. The History of the Flag will be performed by officers of the Colonie Elks Lodge, with a color guard from VFW Weininger Post and Boy Scout Troop 279.

Cruising with oldies



A summer car cruise will be held from 4 to 9 p.m. Monday at Guptill's Arena, Route 9, Latham, presented by the Capital District Cruisers Car Club. Bring a nonperishable food item.

Prep for triathlon

Learn the basics of running a triathlon — training, getting started and finding out where to race — at a clinic at 7 p.m. Tuesday at EMS, Stuyvesant Plaza, 1475 Western Ave., Guilderland. The class is free. Call 482-0088 for more information.

Calendar **B2**
Weather **B2**

EXECUTIVE CITY EDITOR
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B

ALBANY, NEW YORK

TIMES UNION

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2008

Democrats still need Hillary

Come home, Hillary, it's over.

Sure, it's got to hurt that what once seemed a sure thing gradually slipped away. From you, and those of us who supported you. But there's no shame in going all out as you did, but still coming up short. That's life, that's politics. Bitterly disappointing, no doubt, but no shame. You'll get over it, we'll get over it.



FRED LeBRUN
COMMENTARY

Once the dust settles, being left to thunder through the halls of the Capitol as the junior United States senator from New York isn't exactly chopped liver. Although I have a hunch we haven't heard the last of Hillary Clinton in the 2008 election sweepstakes.

Her exit Saturday from the race for the presidency offers a sobering moment of reflection for New Yorkers, and for Democrats nationally.

Have Democrats just lost their best chance to gain the Oval Office?

I'm afraid so. Even at this late juncture, I've seen nothing to dissuade me from what I've thought all along, that nationally, Hillary was and is by far the most electable Democratic candidate in the field — for all the baggage and negatives she purportedly carries.

This was borne out by the broad spectrum of middle Americans who consistently supported her in the excruciating primary process in state after state, a constituency Sen. Barack Obama missed just as consistently.

A constituency arguably critical for success in the general election.

If anything, Hillary gained admirers and respect for her gritty final sprint against all odds.

Yet she lost, which is mystifying in a way, even with the obvious tactical errors. Why that is remains less fruitful, however, than what happens now.

Obama has the right to pick a running mate with whom he feels comfortable. There is every indication he is not particularly comfortable with Hillary Clinton. That said, Obama may not have the luxury of picking whom he wants, rather than who will do him the most good.

Because Barack Obama is in trouble. The polls may not reflect it yet, and he may choose to deny it anyway. After all, the primary process has shown him to have a bit of political tone deafness as well, as his various embarrassing affiliations and slow renunciations with crackpot clerics have demonstrated.

Conventional wisdom has it that Hillary supporters will switch in droves to Barack Obama. I wonder. Certainly many of us will, but those working-class Democrats, independents and disaffected moderate Republicans Hillary spoke so well to may not. Will they pull the lever for the Republican John McCain instead? Maybe, or simply not vote at all.

My guess is that bigotry will be the Please see **LeBRUN B6** ▶



LORI VAN BUREN/TIMES UNION

Man dies after leap from plane

Schenectady man hits house in jump without parachute

By IRENE JAY LIU
Staff writer

DUANESBURG — A Schenectady man was killed after jumping without a parachute from a small sky diving plane Saturday afternoon over Duanesburg,

A DUANESBURG house shows damage where a man landed after a 10,000-foot plunge.

State Police said.

Sloan Carafello, 29, of State Street, struck a house at 7951 Duanesburg Road just before 2 p.m., damaging the roof and splitting his body in two.

A tenant was inside at the time and called to inform the landlord, who does not live in the house. No one else was hurt. The landlord declined comment.

Bob Rawlins, the pilot and owner of the Duanesburg Skydiving Club, said he was flying the single-engine Cessna 182 with Carafello, an instructor, a student and a videographer.

Rawlins said the instructor, student and

videographer dove, and as Rawlins began to close the plane's door, Carafello leaped out, holding a camera but no sky diving gear.

The plane was up about 10,000 feet, Rawlins said.

The videographer filmed as Carafello fell and Carafello took pictures of himself while falling through the air, according to Rawlins. Police have the video.

Upon landing, the videographer called out to bystanders, directing them to call 911, according to Kamil Wasilewski, 24, who was waiting his turn to sky dive. Please see **DEATH B6** ▶



MICHAEL P. FARRELL/TIMES UNION

IT'S A RACE AGAINST TIME for Violet Ulmer, 2, of Rensselaer, and her melting ice cream at Washington Park.

Heat stifling everything but fun

People run to the Hudson and the ice cream vendor to keep cool in 90° weather

By JIMMY VIELKIND
Staff writer

ALBANY — Still simmering from Saturday's 90° temperatures? Well, today may set a record.

According to George Maglaras of the National Weather Service in Albany, today's projected high is in the mid-90s, which means beating the record of 93°, set in 1984, is "within the realm of possibility."

"We made (93) Saturday," Maglaras said, "and we're not going to see much change Sunday."

The Capital Region is smothering beneath a quilt of warm, sticky air that blew in from the Southwest. And that isn't going anywhere just yet: Maglaras said cooler temperatures aren't expected until Tuesday afternoon at the earliest. Even then it will only cool to the low 80s.

The high heat also spawned thun-



LORI VAN BUREN/TIMES UNION

PADDLERS finish the annual 5-mile Feeder Canal Canoe and Kayak Race Saturday in Hudson Falls.

derstorms, which in turn sparked power outages. More than 1,500 people in southern Saratoga County lost service for several hours after several

Forecast for eastern Albany County

- Today: Projected highs in the mid-90s with scattered thunderstorms
- Monday: High of 93°, with a 20 percent chance of precipitation
- Tuesday: High of 87°, with a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms

Source: National Weather Service

lines were damaged around 3 p.m. Saturday.

The unofficial start of summer may have been Memorial Day and the official solstice is still two weeks off, but the heat wave and the fast-approaching end of school had people around the region spending the warmest weekend yet this year enjoying the weather as best they could.

Joggers and cyclists sweating along on the Corning Preserve trail were easily recruited by members of the Albany Rowing Center as they celebrated. Please see **HEAT B6** ▶

Diocese rules on gay unions

Albany Episcopal resolution affirms defense of traditional marriage; critics call measure divisive and discriminatory

By MARC PARRY
Staff writer

SPECULATOR — The conservative Episcopal Diocese of Albany staked out a firm defense of traditional marriage on Saturday, a move that comes as gay unions have gained new ground in California and New York.

The hundreds of clergy and lay delegates who converged for their annual convention in this lakeside Adirondack community resoundingly approved a resolution that lays down this rule: Only heterosexual marriages can be celebrated in the diocese.

Speakers who lined up at two microphones in a rustic auditorium at Camp-of-the-Woods debated the issue in often personal terms. The Rev. Brad Jones, who supported the resolution, spoke of his personal journey from a young man consumed with homosexual desire to a married father of seven with a passion for God.

"If the Episcopal Church had proclaimed to me then that God would bless my lustful passions and desires, I would likely not be standing here alive today," said Jones, rector of Christ Church in Schenectady. "I would certainly be dead in my sins."

The resolution sets down in local church canons a diocesan policy that already existed in practice. Supporters called it consistent with scripture and necessary because diocesan leadership could change in the future, as could state law.

But critics blasted it as unnecessary, discriminatory and divisive. One spoke of a gay relative's love for her partner. A rector from Saranac Lake described the "cry of anguish" of a gay parishioner who learned of the proposal.

Please see **CHURCH B6** ▶

What's promised vs. what's delivered



THE ADVOCATE
DAN HIGGINS

▶ Need help? The Advocate helps readers who are having trouble with government or businesses. The column appears Thursdays and Sundays.

Doris Penman agreed to protect her investment in her 2000 Nissan Maxima by purchasing an extended warranty. It could pay for itself after one or two mechanical problems, she reasoned.

But so far, Penman, of Albany, has paid thousands in premiums and received nothing in return.

She read the fine print of her warranty contract, but believes the salesman who sold her the warranty over-promised what would be covered, and now she's literally paying the price for believing him.

The president of the company that sold Penman her warranty, meanwhile,



▶ To watch video of Doris Penman describing her problems with her car warranty, go to <http://timesunion.com/advocate>

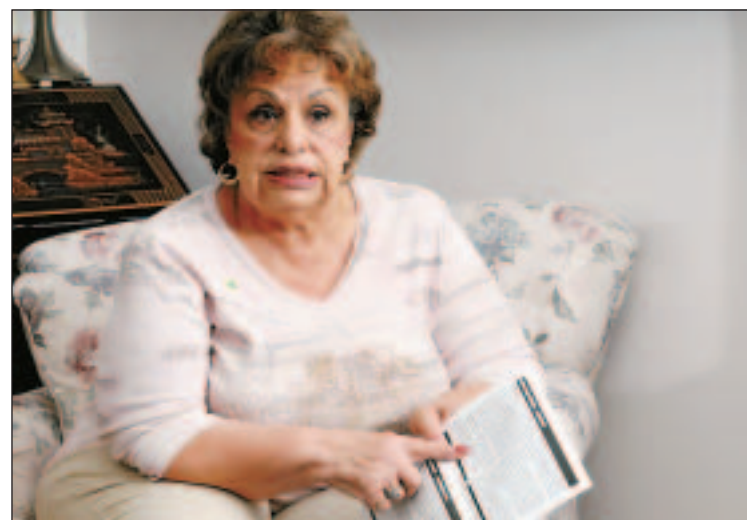
promised me he would investigate whether the widow and grandmother of seven was misled.

Penman, 73, purchased the car new from Armory Garage in Albany. Not long after, she was contacted by Metro

Marketing, which was selling warranties on behalf of American Guardian Warranty. She was offered what she believed was "bumper to bumper" protection on her vehicle.

The price for the policy was a little over \$2,000. The salesman told her, she recalled, that "everything that has anything to do with the engine" was covered, as were a host of other parts.

She first felt uneasy a year ago, when her turn signals stopped working. Her warranty agreement — on which she had never filed a claim — said "turn signals" are covered. But the warranty company Please see **ADVOCATE B6** ▶



LORI VAN BUREN/TIMES UNION

DORIS PENMAN read the fine print on her contract but what the salesman promised hasn't matched what she thought she'd get.

COLUMNS

Special weekly coverage of Capital Region newsmakers and topics:

CARING COMMUNITY, published **Tuesday**, spotlights people helping people in the Capital Region.

LAW BEAT highlights news about the legal profession, law enforcement, the court system and criminal justice issues. It is published on **Wednesday**.

CAMPUS NOTEBOOK, which publishes on **Thursday**, looks at higher education issues and events at colleges and universities in the Capital Region.

INSIDE POLITICS, published on **Friday**, goes behind the scenes for news about government, politics and people in public office.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE NEWS updates recent developments on events and issues since they were last covered in the Times Union. Read it on **Sunday**.

Construction of mosque is about to start

COLONIE — Nearly one year after the groundbreaking, construction is finally expected to begin next month on a large

FOLLOW-UP ON THE NEWS

destination for hundreds in the region's growing Muslim community.

"We are ready to embark on the building," said Khalid Bhatti, president of the board of trustees of the Muslim Community of Troy, the faith community that is establishing the Latham mosque.

The complexities of preparing the site stalled construction of the mosque, which will sit slightly west of the K-mart on Route 2. But this summer, workers will

put in the foundation and erect the steel frame.

The first phase of construction will cost up to \$5 million. Later phases include a gym that could also accommodate large gatherings and a school. The old Troy mosque will remain open.

The new Masjid Al-Hidaya is expected to draw between 300 and 400 people to Friday prayers. Its prayer hall will be able to accommodate as many as 800 people, Bhatti said.

The Muslim Community of Troy is housed in a converted funeral home that is so small that Friday prayers — the best attended of the week — must be held at a nearby college.

People often drive significant distances to worship at the area's handful of existing mosques. The

Latham facility will ease that commute for some.

The new mosque, to be built of light brown artificial stone blocks, will have a fiberglass dome. It will not have exterior loudspeakers broadcasting the call to prayer to the neighborhood. That's common in Muslim countries, but Bhatti said it "would not be appropriate" here.

"Who would you be calling?" he asked. "If your neighbors are not Muslim, you're basically disturbing them and you're not helping them in any way."

— Marc Parry

Wildwood unit raises \$4.6M

COLONIE — The Wildwood Foundation has raised more than \$4.6 million toward its capital

campaign goal of \$5.5 million.

The public phase of the "Everyday: The Campaign for Wildwood" fundraising project began last year and has raised approximately \$1.6 million. The other \$3 million was raised during the silent phase, which began in 2006, and was boosted by \$450,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation.

The grant is part of \$45.5 million awarded to 82 nonprofit organizations across the country by the Kresge Foundation, a Troy, Mich.-based philanthropic organization.

"It's (challenge grant) a real testament to the strength and capacity of our organization and its mission," said Mark Woroby, the foundation's executive director.

Wildwood School, which was

opened in 1966 by a group of parents frustrated with the lack of services for their children with complex learning disabilities, provides comprehensive programs for more than 200 students, ages 3 to 21. The foundation also provides programs for adults, including educational, clinical and consultation services.

The campaign has already made possible an 28,000-square-foot addition and renovations to the school's facilities at 2995 Curry Road Extension. Its other goals include improvements to Camp Wildwood, the school's summer extension program; improvements to Wildwood's 15 community residences; and enhancement to institutional endowment, to attract and retain the most qualified staff.

— Jennifer Patterson

LeBRUN: Hillary still has a big role in election

▼ CONTINUED FROM B1
major silent factor in the coming election. Simply put, is America ready to elect a black man President? I have my doubts, no matter what the voters tell the pollsters.

But as for Obama himself, his oratory isn't as compelling as it once was, and his shining armor has shown a few chinks of vulnerability. His message of hope and change is a bit shopworn at this point, and sounds a little more like Elmer Gantry on a tear than it once did. Where is the meat to the message? Hope is not enough to fill the lunch bucket.

More than any time in recent memory, the presidential candidates of both major parties have crucial decisions to make in choosing their vice presidential partners. The outcome may well hang in the balance.

For John McCain, the question of his persistent problems with cancer will compel the voters to look at the second line as the possible president. McCain

also has the unpopular 600-pound monkey on his back called support for the Iraq war, so he needs to find considerable balance. If he were to choose a moderate, pro-choice individual, and not some deep conservative, that would cause considerable anxiety in the Democratic camp. Say, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a nominal Republican for sure. But then, the same has been said of John McCain.

All of which points to the wisdom of Obama waiting a respectable few weeks, then asking Hillary Clinton to be his running mate. That would be a potent and unbeatable combination.

The truth is, Barack Obama still needs Hillary to get into the White House. He can't do it on his own.

Whether he knows it or not, there's the real question.

► Fred LeBrun can be reached at 454-5453 or by e-mail at flebrun@timesunion.com.

ADVOCATE: Left uncovered by coverage

▼ CONTINUED FROM B1
said that the problem was with the "flasher," the electric relay that controls the turn signal, and that part is explicitly not covered.

"OK, if it's not covered, it's not covered, but what do I know a flasher from a turn signal? I thought it was the same thing. My mechanic thought they would consider it the same thing," Penman said.

That repair cost her \$200.

Then things really started getting expensive. She recently learned she'd need to replace the engine coils on her aging car. Cost: \$900. To her frustration, she found out that wasn't covered, either.

"They told me that everything in the engine would be covered. I said, 'Is the engine coil part of the engine? I'm not a mechanic. How would I know?'"

But, despite what the salesman told her on the phone, her warranty doesn't cover engine coils, either.

So just what did her \$2,000 buy her?

The warranty Penman purchased, as with practically all extended warranties, was written to the advantage of the warranty company. These extended warranties are high markup products from which the company that writes the warranty as well as several middlemen reap profits.

Tim Verhagen, an investigator for the New York State Insur-

ance Department, said about 1 percent of his agency's annual complaints are about extended warranties for automobiles.

Unfortunately, he said, what is often the case is that the wording of the contract differed from what was promised to a customer verbally. Verhagen described what amounts to a loophole in the state Insurance Law. The companies that underwrite the warranties are often different from the companies that sell the warranties over the phone, as in Penman's case. The underwriting companies are regulated by the state. The sales companies are not.

"And if you have a situation where a consumer says something was promised verbally, you're going to have a hard time proving that's what happened," Verhagen said.

Still, consumers who feel duped by extended warranties may file a complaint through the Insurance Department Web site, <http://www.ins.state.ny.us>.

On Friday, Ariel Freud, the president of Metro Marketing, the company that sold Penman her warranty, said he would try to determine if Penman was lied to by one of his employees. He promised me that if that were the case, the company would pay up.

"We'll make good on it," he said.

I'll let you know what happens next week.

► Reach The Advocate at 454-5700, or advocate@timesunion.com. This column appears Thursdays and Sundays, and online at <http://timesunion.com/advocate>.

Man identified in river plunge

By JIMMY VIELKIND
Staff writer

TROY — Police have released the identity of a man pulled from the Hudson River Friday night.

Damon Giles, 37, was pronounced dead four minutes after police pulled him out of the river behind the Tire Warehouse in the North Central neighborhood. According to Detective Sgt. David

Dean, pathologists are waiting for toxicology test results to make an exact ruling on the cause of death.

Witnesses said Giles dove into the river around 3:40 p.m. after acting erratically. Troy firefighters lost sight of him beneath the waves a few minutes later. His death is the second apparent drowning in the Hudson River in Troy this year.

Dean said Giles' wallet was

found on the riverbank, which helped to identify him. Dean said Giles, who grew up in the Bronx, was a parolee. State prison records show he had multiple criminal convictions and was released from prison in June 2006.

Dean said the toxicology tests could take several weeks. Arrangements for Giles' burial were not immediately apparent.

COPS AND COURTS

Man who robbed Route 7 service station sought

NISKAYUNA — Police continued to search over the weekend for a man who robbed a service station on Route 7 Friday night.

Sgt. Dan McManus said the incident occurred around 9:45 p.m. when a man walked into Hari's Mobil service station near the intersection of Onondaga Road, displayed a gun and demanded money, fleeing with an undisclosed amount of cash and a carton of cigarettes.

No one was injured, McManus said.

The suspect is described as a white male between 5-foot-6 and 5-foot-9 with shoulder-length blond or light-brown hair. He was wearing a white baseball cap and orange shirt. He apparently fled west along Route 7 on foot.

McManus said no arrests were immediately made. Anyone with information is asked to call Niskayuna police at 374-3159.

— Jimmy Vielkind

West Hill fire leaves two families homeless

ALBANY — Two families are homeless after a two-alarm fire early Saturday morning in the West Hill neighborhood.

The first fire engine arrived at 241 and 243 Sherman St. minutes after receiving a call at 2:05 a.m., said Battalion Chief Mike Macie. No one was injured in the blaze, but firefighters remained on the scene for over three hours.

Exactly where and how the fire started is under investigation,

Macie said.

The American Red Cross of Northeastern New York is assisting the victims. Reports indicate the fire affected two families, representing three adults and four children, spokeswoman Siobhan Gallagher said.

— Jimmy Vielkind

Man arrested after shot heard near playground

KINDERHOOK — State Police arrested Michael Jornov, 49, of Valatie after he allegedly shot a woodchuck with a rifle Friday morning as children played 500 feet away on a playground at Martin H. Glynn Elementary School, Investigator Gary Mazzacano said.

Trooper John Gallo, the school resource officer, heard the shot and found Jornov walking back into his home carrying a rifle. No one was hurt but children were evacuated from the playground and the school was placed on administrative lockdown, Mazzacano said.

Jornov was charged with third-degree criminal possession of a weapon, a felony, second-degree reckless endangerment and shooting within 500 feet of a dwelling, both misdemeanors. He was arraigned in Valatie Village Court and released on his own recognizance, pending a later appearance.

— Jimmy Vielkind

Stabbing leaves city man in serious condition

ALBANY — Police are investigating a stabbing early

Saturday morning in the Park South neighborhood.

Officers responded to a call around 3 a.m. for a fight in the street outside 56 Dana Ave., Officer Kevin Flynn said. When they arrived, they found Anthony Hughes, 30, of Albany, bleeding on the ground.

"He was stabbed six times — four times in the back, one time in the arm, and one time in the abdomen," Flynn said.

Hughes was taken to Albany Medical Center Hospital, where he was listed in serious condition. His attacker had fled before police arrived, Flynn said, and no description of a suspect was immediately available.

— Jimmy Vielkind

Alleged burglary, ice pick attack leads to charges

GLENVILLE — A Schenectady man is in jail, charged with burglarizing a house and attacking the homeowner with an ice pick last month, town police said.

Detectives say that about 4 p.m. May 29, David Greer broke into a home on Glen Avenue and displayed an ice pick, using it to chase the homeowner down the street. The alleged attacker knows the victim, who was not hurt, said police.

Police arrested Greer, 51, in a wooded area near Lock 8, charging him with burglary, criminal possession of a weapon, criminal mischief and menacing. He was arraigned, sent to Schenectady County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 bail and is due back in court June 17.

— Paul Nelson

HEAT: Record possible

▼ CONTINUED FROM B1
brated National Learn to Row Day at the boat launch near Colonie Street. After a quick lesson, novice rowers of all ages stroked in the Hudson.

"The water's a little cooler and there's a nice breeze out there, so it's OK," Steve Knapp, ARC's head coach and program director, said. "I don't mind the heat. I've been doing this for seven years, and the first time it snowed. So, we actually prefer this."

In Maplewood, 41-year-old Don Hopkins was getting ready to hit the Hudson in a different way: on Sea-Doo. He bought the personal watercraft in Febru-

ary, and said this was the first weekend he's been able to use them.

"I don't know if I would want to go swimming in the Hudson, but this is perfect," he said. "You're half in, and you get enough spray to stay cool. And it's a riot."

Saturday was also the city-wide garage sale in Cohoes, and dozens of residents filled lawns and driveways with household miscellany. There was also a handful of vendors in Van Schaick Park at a flea market, including Bonnie Crocetta.

"It was nicer this morning, but now it's getting a little still," the 63-year-old Delmar woman said from a well-shaded spot under a tree. "It got so bad we hit up the ice cream truck when he came by. I think he did better business than anyone!"

► Jimmy Vielkind can be reached at 454-5043 or by e-mail at jvielkind@timesunion.com.

CHURCH

▼ CONTINUED FROM B1
"I do not believe homosexuality is a sin," said Nancy Stewart of the Church of the Redeemer in Rensselaer.

Homosexuality has been a flash point in the Episcopal Church since the 2003 consecration of the Rev. V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire as its first openly gay bishop, a move condemned by Albany Diocese leaders.

The issue of gay marriage is back in the national spotlight after a California Supreme Court decision allowing it. In New York, meanwhile, Gov. David Paterson has ordered state agencies to recognize out-of-state same-sex marriages.

The debate at Saturday's convention highlighted the sometimes awkward position of the Albany Diocese.

It remains in the Episcopal Church, even as some within the Albany diocese feel the national church has gone astray when it

comes to the authority of scripture, and when other conservative Episcopalians are breaking away.

Clergy and lay deputies on Saturday also approved a resolution mandating that only a person who is in a heterosexual marriage or celibate and abstinent can be eligible for ordination as a priest or consecration as a bishop.

In a brief interview after convention business wrapped up, Albany Bishop William Love said the resolutions were "not intended to be divisive."

"The main reasons the resolutions were presented were to provide clarity during a time of great confusion both within the church and society at large," Love said.

"The important thing that everyone needs to know is that God loves all people, regardless of where they might be in their life. That doesn't necessarily mean he approves of all of our behaviors."

► Marc Parry can be reached at 454-5057 or by e-mail at mparry@timesunion.com.

TIMES UNION
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Film and performance news and events.

Sundays

Times Union (Albany, N.Y.)

6. Man dies after leap from plane Schenectady man hits house in jump without parachute

Date: Sunday, June 8, 2008

Section: Capital Region

Edition: 1

Page: B1

Illustration: Photo

Caption: LORI VAN BUREN/TIMES UNION A DUANESBURG house shows damage where a man landed after a 10,000-foot plunge.

By **IRENE JAY LIU**

Staff Writer

DUANESBURG - A Schenectady man was killed after jumping without a parachute from a small sky diving plane Saturday afternoon over Duanesburg, State Police said.

Sloan Carafello, 29, of State Street, struck a house at 7951 Duanesburg Road just before 2 p.m., damaging the roof and splitting his body in two. A tenant was inside at the time and called to inform the landlord, who does not live in the house. No one else was hurt. The landlord declined comment.

Bob Rawlins, the pilot and owner of the Duanesburg Skydiving Club, said he was flying the single-engine Cessna 182 with Carafello, an instructor, a student and a videographer.

Rawlins said the instructor, student and videographer dove, and as Rawlins began to close the plane's door, Carafello leaped out, holding a camera but no sky diving gear.

The plane was up about 10,000 feet, Rawlins said.

The videographer filmed as Carafello fell and Carafello took pictures of himself while falling through the air, according to Rawlins. Police have the video.

Upon landing, the videographer called out to bystanders, directing them to call 911, according to Kamil Wasilewski, 24, who was waiting his turn to sky dive. Wasilewski had taken his cousin to sky dive as a "best-man surprise." His cousin, who is to be married in two weeks, was the student in the plane with Carafello.

According to Wasilewski, his cousin wasn't aware of what had happened until he and the instructor touched ground.

Wasilewski said Carafello didn't appear particularly agitated before the flight but he was wearing a stained white T-shirt. When he walked by, "I got an air, a weird vibe, but I didn't think twice about it," Wasilewski said.

Rawlins said Carafello had called the office about a week ago inquiring about going up and said he wanted to take aerial photos for a school project.

The sky diving club regularly allows customers to fly in the plane as observers. They stay buckled into their seats and take pictures through the window or out the door, said Rawlins, who said Carafello's seat belt was fastened when the plane took off.

While customers seeking to jump are required to fill out paperwork and show identification, Carafello was not asked for his ID.

"Why would I ask for his ID?" asked Rawlins. "He wasn't sky diving. I'm not sure he put his real name on the paperwork when he signed in."

Rawlins noted the man listed "General Schwarzenegger" as his emergency contact.

Rawlins, who has been in the business for 37 years, said he has never seen anything like this before.

"People get hurt from time to time, we try to regulate and keep them safe," he said. "I just felt horror."

The incident comes almost exactly 10 years after a sky diving club member died after his parachute collapsed and he plummeted between 50 and 100 feet to the ground, police said. That victim, Terrance Bishop, 21, of Westerlo, was described as an experienced diver.

Irene Jay Liu can be reached at 454-5081 or by e-mail at iliu@timesunion.com.