

Baseball Hall of Fame back in full swing

Fans put COVID-19 lockdown on back burner, flock to Cooperstown filling hotels, restaurants

By Rick Karlin

COLONIE — Once again, the baseball fans are back at Albany International Airport, hoping for a glimpse of and maybe some autographs from retired baseball greats like Tony Oliva, who passed through on his way to be inducted this weekend into the Baseball Hall of Fame

in Cooperstown.

And hotels, not just in Cooperstown but in Albany and Colonie, are filling up as fans descend on the area for Sunday's ceremony.

With Cooperstown a 90-minute drive from Albany, local hotels are serving as staging areas for bus tours ferrying baseball fans back and forth to

the sport's shrine.

"We are booked and we are on our way," Denise Demers, of Sports and Travel Tours, a Hatfield, Mass., sports tour company that is sending 14 busloads of fans to the Albany Marriott as well as other hotels in Albany and Oneonta.

Sunday's gathering will mark the first full-scale Hall of Fame induction ceremony since the COVID-19 pandemic took hold more than two years ago.

There was no ceremony in

2020, and 2021's celebration — more equivalent to a walk than a home run — was held on a weekday in September.

Baseball fans are roaring back to Cooperstown ahead of this Sunday's event. Business operators are hoping for some financial dingers.

"We're excited to be back to normal," said Tara Burke, executive director at the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce.

"People are back out."

Also busy this year is the

Cooperstown Dreams Park, which once again has a full slate of youth baseball tournaments. They were open last summer too, but business has picked up this year as normalcy comes back to the baseball diamond.

"This is full-on," Cooperstown village Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh said, adding that the area is once again getting 100 youth teams a week for the tournaments.

"This is bread and butter for our Main Street businesses."

Please see **HALL D2** ▶



Photos by Will Waldron / Times Union

Banking on electric future

Tom Amell, president and CEO of Pioneer Bank, right, leads a ceremonial plugging-in for the new electric vehicle charging station at the bank's Albany-Shaker Road headquarters building on Thursday in Colonie. At right is the charging station.



Chamber president to leave

News staff

TROY — Kate Manley is stepping down in the fall as president of the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce so she can concentrate more on her young family, according to a statement released this week.

"Serving as chamber president has been a remarkable honor and a wonderful experience," Manley said in the statement, "but as anyone who has ever worked for a chamber of commerce can attest, the job is extremely demanding and time-consuming. I believe it's really important to devote more time to my children. They will only be little for a short while, and I want to share as much of that time with them as I can."

Manley, who will leave the



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post after six years, and her husband, attorney Ryan Manley, have two young children.

The statement noted that under Manley's leadership, the chamber "has been remarkably stable," both in terms of membership numbers and financial position, despite the pandemic's challenges.

It won a 2020 Business Council of New York State

Rensselaer County Chamber President Kate Manley says she is stepping down to devote more time to her children.

Chamber of the Year Award and has grown its membership, which has surpassed pre-pandemic levels.

"Although I and my fellow board members are sad to lose Kate, we are very supportive of her decision and understand that she is doing what she knows is right for her family," said Chamber Board Chair

Please see **MANLEY D2** ▶

Jobless claims surge to eight-month high

By Matt Ott
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits last week rose to the highest level in more than eight months in what may be a sign that the labor market is weakening.

Applications for jobless aid for the week ending July 16 rose by 7,000 to 251,000, up from the previous week's 244,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. That's the most since

Nov. 13, 2021, when 265,000 Americans applied for benefits. Analysts surveyed by the data firm FactSet expected the number to come in at 242,000.

First-time applications generally reflect layoffs.

The four-week average for claims, which smooths out some of the week-to-week volatility, rose by 4,500 from the previous week, to 240,500.

The total number of Americans collecting jobless benefits for the week ending July 9 rose by 51,000 from the previous week, to 1,384,000. That figure has been near 50-year lows for months.

Earlier this month, the Labor Department reported that employers added 372,000 jobs in June, a surprisingly robust gain and similar to the pace of the previous two months. Economists had expected job growth to slow sharply last month given the broader signs of economic weakness.

Please see **LABOR D2** ▶

Strong profits buoy stocks

Wall Street builds on winning week, but areas of U.S. economy softening

By Stan Choe and Alex Veiga
Associated Press

Stocks on Wall Street closed higher Thursday, building on their winning week, as investors sipped through a deluge of news about the economy, interest rates and corporate profits.

The S&P 500 rose 1 percent after shaking off an early stumble, returning to its highest level in six weeks. The Dow Jones Industrial Average also recovered from a midafternoon slide to end 0.5 percent higher, while the Nasdaq composite rose 1.4 percent as Tesla and technology stocks led the market.

Much of Wall Street's focus was on Europe, where a yearlong experiment with negative interest rates came to a close. In the United States, reports suggested the economy is slowing more than expected, while a better-than-expected profit report from Tesla headlined a mixed set from the nation's biggest companies. Stocks briefly lost ground after President Joe Biden tested positive for COVID.

At the center of this year's sell-off for financial markets has been the world's punishingly high inflation, and the moves made by central banks to squash it. On Thursday, the European Central Bank surprised markets when it raised interest rates by more than expected, its first increase in 11 years.

"I was trading right when the ECB (news) came out and it actually caused long-term bonds to rally," said Jay

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