

# Adirondack Daily Enterprise

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## INSIDE

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## Tupper Laker killed in Syracuse

By AARON CERBONE  
Staff Writer

TUPPER LAKE — A Tupper Lake resident was killed in Syracuse on May 27, and the man who shot him has been charged with first-degree murder and first-degree robbery.

Corey Hober, 35, grew up in Kokomo, Indiana, but was living in Tupper Lake.

Onondaga County Chief Assistant District Attorney Joseph Coolican said Hober had traveled to Syracuse with a friend to buy drugs. Hober's family members said he has struggled with addiction for years. They said on social media that they were heartbroken by his death, that they loved him and that he has a son.

According to court documents, Hober was allegedly killed by Lazear Coker-Hawkins, 22, of Syracuse, who robbed the two in an apartment complex. Coker-Hawkins carried a loaded gun, and in the course of committing or attempting to commit the robbery, he shot Hober in the head, killing him.

"Coker-Hawkins, pointed a firearm at the victim and demanded money," says the felony complaint against Coker-Hawkins, filed with the Syracuse city court. "After a verbal exchange, the defendant, Lazear Coker-Hawkins, shot the victim (1) time in the head which caused his death."

Several witnesses saw the robbery and shooting, and identified Coker-Hawkins to police.

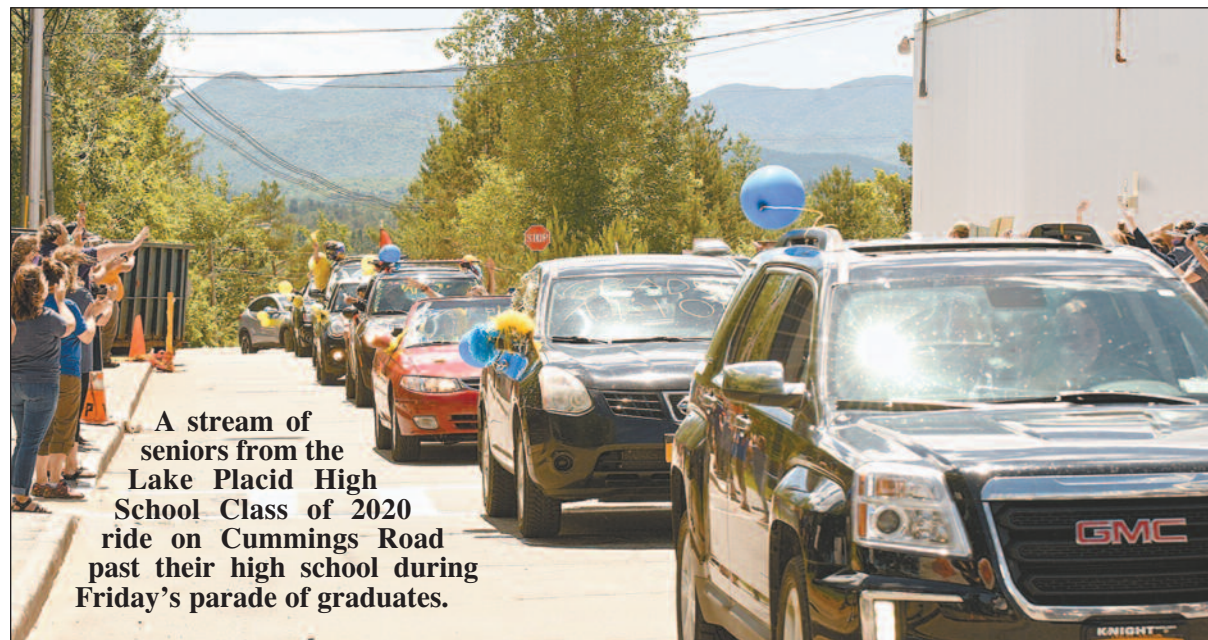
Hober's sister Brooke wrote on Facebook, "Never thought I would wake up to a call saying my brother was dead. Words can't express how I feel right now."

Coker-Hawkins is being held at the Onondaga County Justice Center without bail.



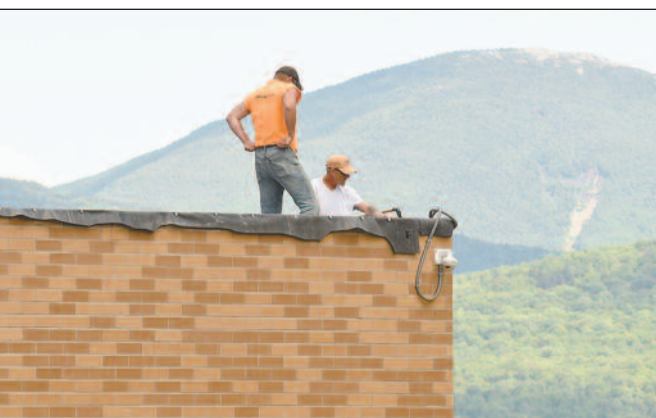
Lake Placid High School seniors Elise Pierson, front passenger seat, and Laura Martinez Delgado ride with fellow grads on Main Street Friday afternoon during the Class of 2020's parade through the village.

(Enterprise photos — Lou Reuter)



A stream of seniors from the Lake Placid High School Class of 2020 ride on Cummings Road past their high school during Friday's parade of graduates.

Margaret McCandlish, a resource teacher in the Lake Placid Central School District, retired from her position this week. One of her last memories on the job was attending Friday's parade honoring the graduating Class of 2020.



Workers make progress on the roof above the gymnasium at Lake Placid Middle-High School on Friday afternoon. Cascade Mountain is in the background.

## Officials worry about border being closed longer

By PETER CROWLEY  
Managing Editor

News that U.S. and Canadian officials are leaning toward extending the closure of their border to "non-essential" travel through the end of July drew worried comments from North Country officials.

Canadian tourism is massively important to the northern New York economy, especially in the summer season. James McKenna, head of the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism based in Lake Placid, commented on that Thursday.

"The impact of Canadian leisure travel on the Adirondacks is significant," he said. "Many businesses report that 20% of their visitors are from Canada. We must prepare for a summer that will be quite different than what we are accustomed to."

Reuters news agency reported this week that Canada and the U.S.

expect to extend the closure of their shared border until late July, citing three anonymous sources who said that while the governments had not yet made a final decision, "a further extension was highly likely." The closure, which began in March, is currently scheduled to expire June 21.

U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-Schuylerville, who represents northern New York in Congress, penned a letter along with Rep. Brian Higgins, D-Buffalo, to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Canadian minister of public safety on Friday, asking for "nuanced and particularized guidance" for when and how to reopen the border. They said the current "one-size-fits-all approach ... has the impact of keeping communities apart."

Stefanik and Higgins are co-chairs of the House of Representatives Northern Border Caucus.

"There must be bi-national coordination to develop a plan to safely allow for reasonable travel taking into account public health considerations but acknowledging our unique interconnected economies," they wrote.

Garry Douglass, head of the North Country Chamber of Commerce in Plattsburgh, called Stefanik and Higgins' letter a "strong statement." In a prepared statement Friday, he mourned the extended border closure in a more emotional vein.

"The current interruption of personal travel across our shared border is profoundly sad," Douglas wrote. "It is increasingly tearing at a unique and special social fabric, and the longer it continues the more we will be at risk of having normalized the extremely abnormal."

"The limitation of travel in the face of the pandemic has been understandable, but the process of

periodic extensions to date seems driven by fear and feelings, and calls out for enunciation of a process instead based on facts with a clearer commitment to finding ways to eventual normalcy. That could involve metrics and possibly agreed phases, all in recognition that enormous economic and, most importantly, social damage is now being done."

Earlier this week, Canada announced that it would loosen restrictions to let in people reuniting with spouses, parents and dependent children, but they have to be under quarantine for 14 days after entering Canada.

The border closure does not block what is considered "essential travel," which includes trade, medical travel, people going to work or educational institutions they attend, people returning to their home countries, emergency response crews and military.

## Senate OKs full board for APA

By AARON CERBONE  
Staff Writer

The state Adirondack Park Agency now has a full board for the first time in a while, after the state Senate approved seven nominations — four new and three returning — from Gov. Andrew Cuomo Wednesday.

The new board members are Zoe Smith of Saranac Lake, assistant director of the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College; Andrea Hogan, supervisor of the town of Johnsbury in Warren County; Mark Hall, former supervisor of the town of Fine in St. Lawrence County; and Kenneth Lynch of Onondaga County, a recently retired attorney and Central New York regional director with the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

The three incumbents given new terms are Art Lussi of Lake Placid, a hotel owner and developer; Daniel Wilt, former Lake Pleasant town supervisor and business owner in Hamilton County; and John Ernst of Manhattan and Elk Lake, owner of the Elk Lake Lodge and an environmental philanthropist.

The board has been operating with no chairperson, three vacant seats and four board members serving on expired terms. Other than the three designees of the state departments of Environmental Conservation, State and Economic Development, the only board member serving on a current term is Chad Dawson of Onondaga County, author and retired professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, although his term expires June 30.

The nominations were divisive among local environmental groups. Earlier this week, the Adirondack Council praised the return of a full board, and the Adirondack Mountain Club described these nominees as an improvement over last year's rejected slate. But Protect the Adirondacks voiced displeasure with the nominations, saying the people chosen will not make real change within the agency.

Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve weighed in later this week, taking an overall negative view. The group approved of three nominees but said others are antithetical to the APA's mission.

David Gibson, managing partner of this environmental advocacy group, said this slate of nominees "stands the APA's legislated mission on its very head" and that the APA "is at its weakest point in more than 30 years of observation." He said more board members should have backgrounds, interests or achievements in protecting natural resources.

"While local government and economic development interests should be represented on the APA, they should not dominate the APA board," Gibson wrote in a press release.

He approved of Smith and Ernst, and said Hogan was "a logical replacement for the retiring Mr. Bill Thomas (both of whom have been Town Supervisors in Johnsbury)." But he added, "Based on our knowledge and experience, Mr. Hall, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Lussi and Mr. Wilt do not possess the qualities that all

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**WEATHER** For more, see Page A3

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Today: Mostly cloudy  
Tonight: Mostly cloudy  
Sunday: Partly sunny

Police/fire .....A3  
Opinion .....A4  
Columns .....A5  
Take-out and delivery ....A7  
TV listings .....A8-9

Religious Directory .....A10  
Puzzles/advice .....A11  
Comics .....A12, C  
Classified ads .....A13  
Sports .....A14