



# The Chronicle

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## GF Hospital's new Crisis Unit aims to better serve mental health patients young & adult

By Cathy DeDe

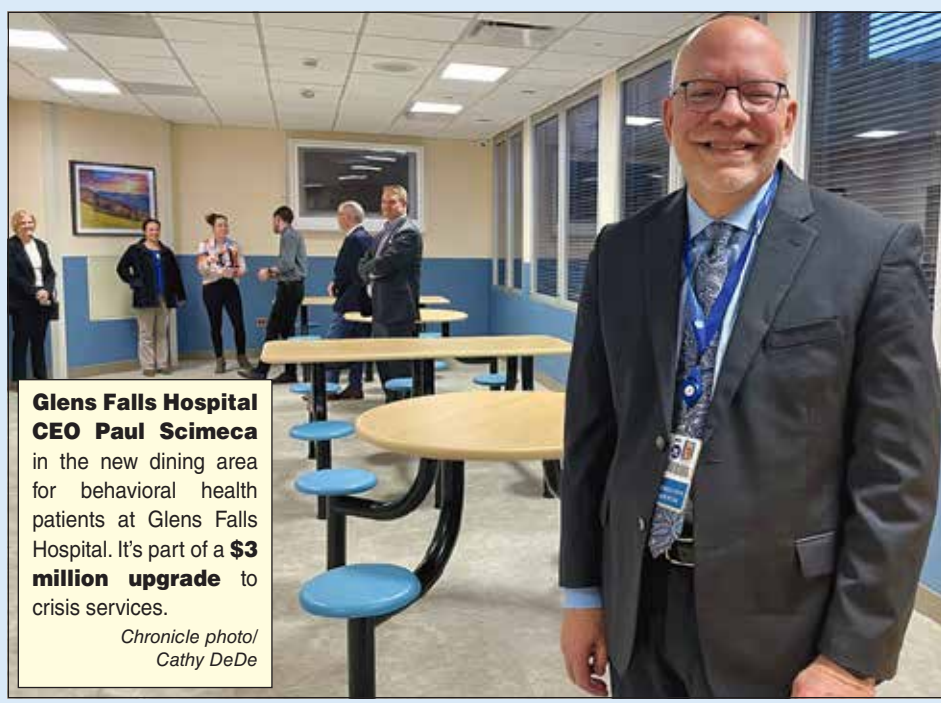
Chronicle Managing Editor

We've heard the stories, especially since COVID, of patients in mental health crisis languishing for weeks in the Emergency Department at Glens Falls Hospital — especially young people, even children, who had nowhere else to go for treatment.

The former Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), may have had private rooms, not just curtains between beds, but offered limited care, the Hospital decided.

**One young patient awaiting a residential treatment program spent 117 days** in the Emergency Department, *The Chronicle* was told. That's close to four months, kept safe and being fed, but with little if any therapeutic service.

Glens Falls Hospital last week debuted its new Crisis Stabi-



**Glens Falls Hospital CEO Paul Scimeca** in the new dining area for behavioral health patients at Glens Falls Hospital. It's part of a \$3 million upgrade to crisis services.

Chronicle photo/Cathy DeDe

lization Unit, or CSU, the part of the Emergency Department that serves people who are experiencing mental health crisis.

This **expanded area will function more as a preliminary treatment provider** than simply a "holding area," especially for adolescents and children who cannot transition to or be treated in the hospital's adult-only Behavioral Health Unit.

Quick note: The Emergency Department is an "ER" no longer. It's more than a room, and hospital staff refer to the suite

in shorthand as the "ED" — though in talking, they do slip back to the old "ER."

Michell Kilmer, RN, is nursing director of the Emergency Department and Behavioral Health at GFH. She led *The Chronicle* and others on a tour last Wednesday of the new Crisis Unit, a day before it was to open for its first patients.

The space was carved from offices and a meeting room behind the current ED. Rather than "an island" of isolated rooms, it's connected on its far

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## 'Stop vaping at the Wood'

**A restroom vaping incident** that set off a fire alarm at the Charles R. Wood Theater forcing an evacuation that interrupted a show **prompted the theater to post a note on Facebook:**

**The Wood Theater wrote:**

As disappointed as we are to have to continue to address this issue, we feel it imperative to communicate the details of a recent incident and an ongoing pattern that continues to disrupt performances at the Wood Theater.

**Theater restroom incident set off fire alarm, forced audience into the cold**

On Saturday February 22nd at 9:14PM, just moments before RENT was to start Act 2, the fire alarm was triggered in a 2nd floor restroom. Thus, **the entire sold out crowd, crew, and cast were forced to evacuate into 20 degree weather** until the fire department could

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## She faults downtown's 'treacherous sidewalks'; touts Madeline 1982, LG

To the Editor:

Last weekend I visited Glens Falls to attend the memorial for Catherine Gericke, who had been a good friend of my mother's.

While I was impressed with the GFCT's "Rent" performance on Friday night, I was so disappointed in the state of the sidewalks in downtown to get to the theater and a local restaurant for dinner. I thought that store owners

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## 48th South High Marathon Dance

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Gus Carayannis/SHHD Photo Crew

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