

4 of 5 Valenza family members to Middle East for military service

By Gordon Woodworth
 Chronicle News Editor

Three members of Queensbury's Valenza family are National Guard members now headed to the Middle East as part of the 42nd Infantry Division's deployment. A fourth family member is already there.

Major Julie Valenza, her husband Sergeant First Class Will Valenza and their young-

Camille, 22, in National Guard, now helms the household



The Valenza family at West Point grad Mitchell's Army Ranger School graduation in April 2019. **From left:** Will, Camille, Mitchell, Andrew and Julie. *Photo provided by family*

est son Andrew, 21, shipped out Saturday for their training at Fort Hood (Texas) before deploying to the Middle East.

Older son First Lieutenant Mitchell Valenza, 24, is already in Afghanistan serving as a platoon leader and infantry officer. He graduated from West Point

in 2018 and from Army Ranger School in 2019.

That leaves only Camille, 22, at home. The 2019 Siena College graduate is a second lieutenant and field artillery officer with the New York Army National Guard. She works for the Na-

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Mike Benway with his step-mother Debbie Dawe-Benway

Chronicle photo/Gordon Woodworth

Donates kidney to save her step-son

By Gordon Woodworth
 Chronicle News Editor

Mike Benway was dying. The 1993 Queensbury High School graduate was living in Seattle, working for a health insurance company, when he started getting headaches in the summer of 2015. "In September and October I was run down," he said, "and in late November, I started getting swelling in my lower legs and blood in my urine."

Right before Christmas, his condition worsened. Mike went to the University of Washington Medical Center, where he was diagnosed with hypertension caused by kidney damage.

"I was in end-stage renal dis-

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Rock Hill Cafe completes its move, goes full vegan

By Cathy DeDe
 Chronicle Managing Editor

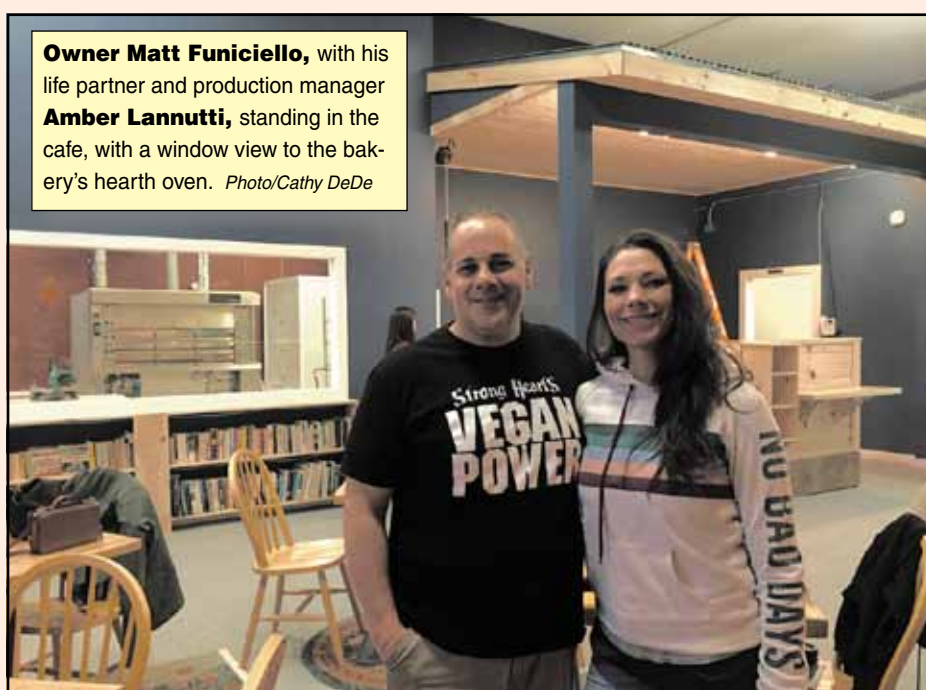
After a year of preparation, Matt Funicello's Rock Hill Bakehouse Cafe reopens this week at 18 Curran Lane in Glens Falls behind and next-door to the Shirt Factory. Both buildings are owned by Eric Unkauf.

The bakery moved from its long-time home in a shopping plaza in Moreau north of Northway Exit 17.

Mr. Funicello's new 28-seat cafe will be entirely vegan.

The cafe is the successor to

Consolidates bakery & cafe in building behind GF Shirt Factory



Owner Matt Funicello, with his life partner and production manager **Amber Lannutti**, standing in the cafe, with a window view to the bakery's hearth oven. *Photo/Cathy DeDe*

Mr. Funicello's original cafe on Exchange Street, which continues to operate as The Exchange Street Cafe under new owners Sara and Chris Patten.

On Sunday, Mr. Funicello walked *The Chronicle* through Rock Hill's new, roughly 6,100-square-foot space, encom-

passing its cafe and retail store, kitchen, bakery, offices and packaging and storage rooms.

They planned to move the bakery on Tuesday, their no-baking day, and open the cafe and retail on Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Mr. Funicello said they'll start right away selling breads, bis-

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