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NEWS

Former inmate sues Albany County over alleged groping, sexual harassment by guard



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The correction officer, Michael Snyder, has been suspended without pay since last March, when he was arrested on charges of raping and sexually abusing other female inmates.

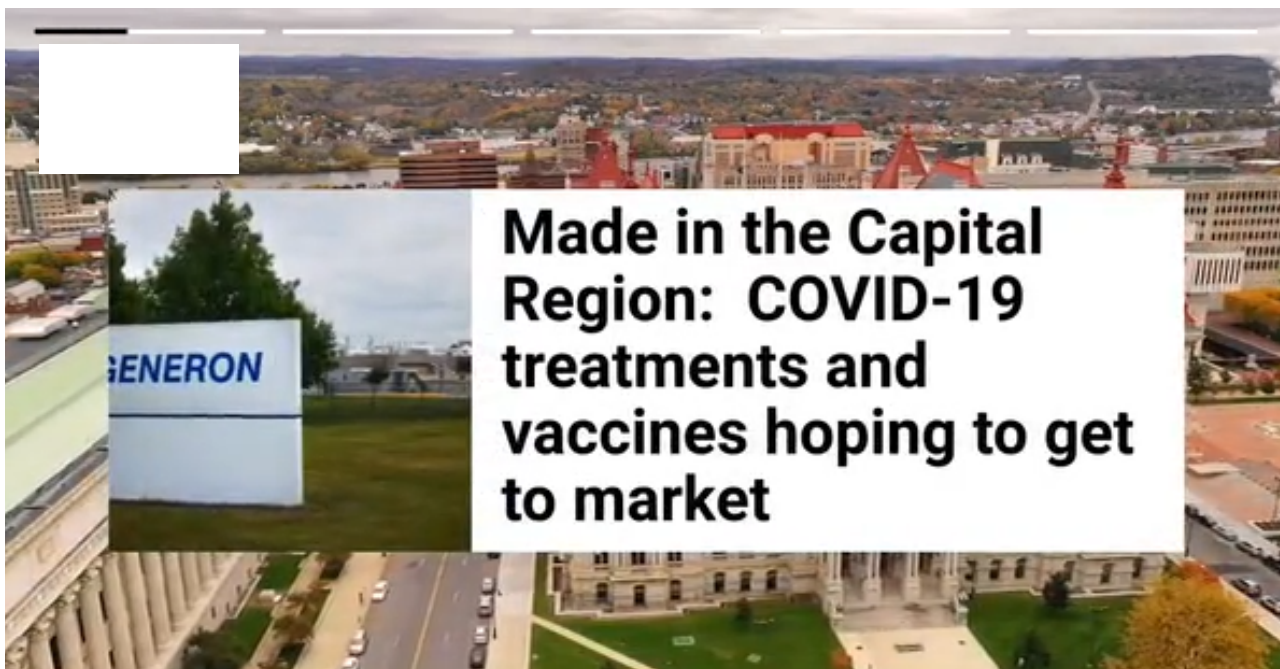
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In the lawsuit filed this week in U.S. District Court, the woman – whom the Times Union is not naming because she is a victim of an alleged sex crime – said Snyder, between December 2018 and March, repeatedly subjected her to “unwanted sexual groping, touching, sexual verbal advances and sexual harassment” while she was in custody there serving a 14-month sentence.

The woman, 24, was in jail after pleading guilty to a child endangerment charge for her role in the 2017 death of her son in Troy.

The woman accuses Snyder of giving her a job to clean the tier where she was being held and providing her with food that was intended for employees of the facility. She said he repeatedly touched and groped her and made sexually suggestive comments.





"Snyder invited plaintiff to live with him at his home when she was released from the jail," the lawsuit states. "Snyder told plaintiff that he had a large home and that he treated his women well."

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Snyder, of Rensselaerville, was arraigned last April on a 13-count indictment, including three counts of felony rape, two counts of felony criminal sex act and eight counts of misdemeanor sexual abuse. His case is pending in Albany County Court, where he is awaiting trial.

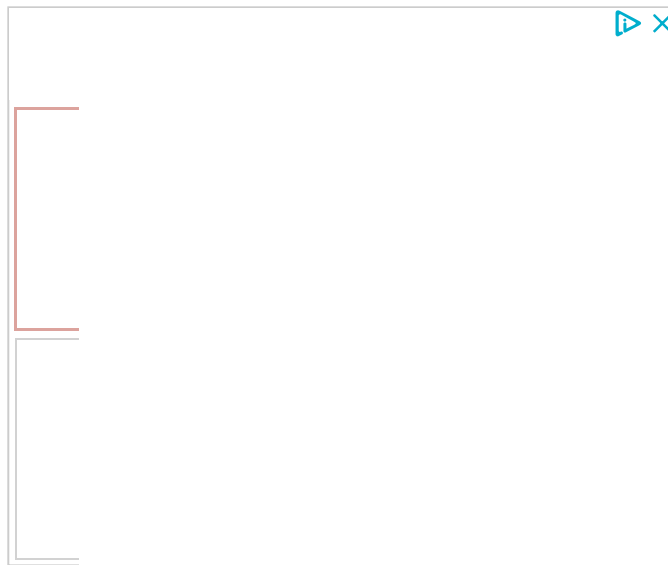
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Last year, in the case that led to Snyder’s arrest, Sheriff Craig Apple said a female inmate had filed a complaint alleging she’d been assaulted by Snyder three times.

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Amanda Fries covers the Capitol in Albany and state government for the Times Union, focusing on the state workforce, housing, budget issues, homelessness and other forms of economic distress.