

Tompkins Weekly

Cell phone ban pays dividends in Newfield schools

The Newfield Central School District (CSD) is one of many school districts across the country to implement a cell phone ban.



Newfield CSD initiated the ban in September 2023. Over a year later, school officials have reported results. NCS D Director of Curriculum Sunny Miller, Middle School Principal Melissa Addy and Elementary School Principal Kym Stine gave a presentation at the Nov. 21 board of education meeting on the positive impact of the district-wide ban.

Students, staff and parents have expressed how making cell phones obsolete during the school day has provided a better outlook on schoolwork and more.

According to the presentation, the goals of the ban are to decrease discipline referrals, increase classroom engagement, strengthen social skills and foster a positive school culture.

The ban brings in the peak-end theory, which explains how people remember their experiences by focusing on two key points:

Peak: The most intense moment, whether it’s positive or negative

End: How the experience concludes

The presentation stated that “how students and staff perceive the experience of a cell phone ban can be shaped by these key moments,” which affect “their long-term acceptance and attitude.”

During the early stages of the ban, the presenters noted that students expressed frustration, resistance and the fear of missing out (FOMO).

“Some students experience a peak of negative emotion when the ban is first introduced due to withdrawal from phones,” the presentation said. “It comes with initial refusal to comply, with the feeling of losing autonomy or entertainment. [FOMO] follows with concerns over social connections, missing notifications and updates.”

The strategies that NCS D used to mitigate negative peaks were:

- Clear communication about the benefits of the ban
- Phased implementation with gradual restrictions
- Offering alternative, engaging activities to fill the gap

See PHONE BAN on pg 9

In a lackluster year for sales, local shops report vibrant holiday shopping season



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Gabs Meade, store manager of Alphabet Soup in Ithaca, stands with Alex Artis, sales associate, at the toy store early Thursday evening. Meade said sales have been strong this holiday season.

By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

Local shop owners are hoping to see strong holiday sales this gift-buying season to make up for what has been a lackluster year in terms of spending, both locally and statewide.

Tompkins County has yet to release information regarding November sales tax revenue, but two local shops are reporting a busy holiday season compared to last year at this time.

“We are having a record year,” said Diane Richards, owner of Trumansburg shop Sundrees. “We have had days that have been much bigger than last year, with a lot of people coming out from Ithaca.”

“We are buying a lot,” she added, “so in terms of profit margin, it’s not huge, but we’re doing so good. We are doing very well, but we’re buying a lot of product to keep our shelves stocked, keeping people interested in coming back. As soon as Christmas is over, it’s not like we want the shelves to be empty, come January.”

At Alphabet Soup, a toy store on The Commons in Ithaca, a mediocre start to the holiday shopping season took off with an influx of customers on Dec. 7 due to the Cookie Walk and the arrival of Santa, according to Gabs Meade, Alphabet Soup store manager.

“Our Santa week was amazing,” Meade said. “And I think a lot of people felt that way, because we were just slammed.”

“We are a lot busier than we were last year,” Meade added. “We have definitely passed our last-year numbers.”

Retailers experiencing a shaky 2024

While retail spending had been on an upward swing since the COVID-19 pandemic, this year has seen sales tax revenue dip slightly in Tompkins County compared to 2023.

“... Local shop owners are the people you’re in the grocery store line with. These are friends and neighbors dedicated to the work that they are doing and the services they are trying to provide.”

NAN ROHRER
Chief Executive Officer, Downtown Ithaca Alliance

“I can tell you that, year over year, as of this October compared to last year to date, we are down 6.93%,” said Lorrie Scarrott, Tompkins County finance director. “It’s been relatively flat — we’ve been trending just a hair below 2023.”

This was reflected in the county property tax levy increase recommended by Tompkins County Administrator Lisa Holmes earlier this year to address increased expenses and to account for sales tax revenues that appear to be stagnating.

“Sales tax revenue, which totaled \$43.2 million in 2023, has lagged in 2024 by \$2.5

million year-to-date in June,” the county reported in September, adding, “The proposed budget anticipates \$43.2 million in 2025 sales tax revenue, mirroring the actual amount raised in 2023 but \$200,000 lower than what was budgeted in 2024.”

Local sales tax collections in New York state increased by 2.3% in October compared to the same month in 2023, according to data released by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. Overall, local collections throughout the state totaled \$1.84 billion for the month, up \$41 million year over year.

“October growth in statewide sales tax collections was led by New York City, buoying monthly performance after virtually flat statewide growth in September,” DiNapoli said. “Recent volatility in sales tax collections warrants caution for local governments as they finalize their budgets for next year.”

For the month of October, New York City’s collections totaled \$842 million, an increase of 4.1%, or \$33 million, compared to the same time last year, while county and city collections in the rest of the state totaled \$884 million, an increase of 0.4%.

Over 63% (36 of 57) of counties experienced year-over-year increases for the month.

Though total annual sales tax revenue in Tompkins County has increased year over year between 2021 and 2023, revenue for the month of December has gone down, seeing a slight decrease from \$4,774,474 in 2021 to \$4,762,918 in 2022,

See SALES on pg 18



Charlie and Sam Thomas
of Trumansburg at
a Christmas **FUN**draiser

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Our question, your answers

Street Beat

By Jaime Cone Hughes

What is your favorite holiday tradition?



I grew up in a building with four apartments, and we would all gather. There were 20 people around the table sometimes.
Neil, Ithaca



We generally go skiing. We go to the closest resort to our house, Seven Springs.
Tom, Somerset, PA



Eating mac and cheese made by my mom.
Jordan, Ithaca



Getting to open one present the night before.
Brian, Groton



Spending time with my family.
Ken, McGraw

Dan Horn: Service with a smile and a story at Trumansburg’s post office

Walk into the Trumansburg United States Postal Service office, and you’re likely to be greeted with a smile by one of the branch’s longtime employees, Daniel Horn. His personable demeanor, patience and willingness to work on any problem until it’s solved have made him a welcome presence in the daily lives of many Trumansburg residents.

But it’s not just Horn’s unwavering professionalism that makes him stand out to customers, and that is why Tompkins Weekly is naming him this month’s Hometown Hero.

“He is the only postal worker I have ever known at any post office anywhere to greet every person who enters by first name,” said post office customer Vivien Rose, who nominated Horn.

“His cheerful greeting invites conversation with him, or with others in line as we wait to see him or his co-workers,” Rose said in her nomination letter. “Every day, Dan nurtures Trumansburg by recognizing customers by name.”

“I’ve been in Trumansburg my whole life, and I’m 63,” retired postmaster Timothy Gatch said, “and Dan knows more people in Trumansburg than I do. He’s easy to get along with; people are just happy to see him. He makes them smile.”

Gatch said people often assumed Horn was the one in charge. “Most people thought he was the postmaster,” he said with a chuckle.

Horn began his career at the United States Postal Service’s Trumansburg office 22 years ago. He started as a part-timer — before he was promoted to the position of full-time regular clerk, he also held a part-time position at the Trumansburg ShurSave.

“I worked two jobs in a day, oftentimes seven days a week,” he said. “But it was what was needed at the time.”

Originally from Syracuse, Horn moved to Trumansburg when he married Trumansburg native Marcia Horn in 2001.

“Her family has lived here for their entire lives,” Horn said. “We are in the house that her dad grew up in. It’s pretty cool.”

The move to Trumansburg — and the need to hold two concurrent jobs — came after Horn was downsized from two consecutive jobs in the Syracuse area. One, a private industry computer operations manager position, he had held for 15 years.

“The late ’90s through Y2K was hard for a lot of people,” Horn said. “It was very frustrating.”

Ultimately, “It worked out great,” he said of moving to Tompkins County. Initially, there was some adjusting from city living to a smaller town. “I’d lived in Syracuse for 35 years, and it’s a change. It’s a slower pace, in most cases.”

What has kept him at his busy USPS job for over two decades?

“I do like the interaction with the general public,” Horn said, “and I’ve worked way harder at other jobs for less money than I do now.”

Horn enjoys spending time with both his coworkers and his customers.

“We have about 700 P.O. [post office] boxes here, and half of [the people who have] them are in every day or every two days, so you see them all the time,” Horn said.

“He really cares about this community, and really cares about the people in this



Daniel Horn stands at the front desk of the United States Postal Service office, where he has worked for 22 years.

community as well,” Sarah Reynolds, part-time flexible clerk, said of her coworker of seven years. “He goes above and beyond.”

“He has a great personality and the best stories,” Reynolds added. She said that one day recently Horn mentioned that he and his friends used to “hop cars” when he was a 10-year-old delivering newspapers in the winter.

“They would grab the bumper and get dragged behind it,” Reynolds explained.

The children would hold on, letting their shoes skate along the slippery ground, and Horn recalled to Reynolds a time when he tried to “hop” a snow plow, and the plow salted the road. “Poor Dan got a face full of salt,” Reynolds said. “He never did that again.”

“He’s easy to get along with; people are just happy to see him. He makes them smile.”

Timothy Gatch, Former Postmaster TRUMANSBURG POST OFFICE

Reynolds, who is 34, also said that Horn is always willing to offer a quick bit of wisdom. “He’s going to give great advice, even if he’s not intending to, and it’s genuine,” she said.

Horn, Reynolds and the other nine employees at the Trumansburg office tend to wear many hats, switching between many different tasks throughout the day.

For Horn, one of the biggest challenges of the job was initially learning the ropes. “I had never done this type of work,” he said.

By far the most difficult period in the years that followed were the months during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Because it was extremely hectic,” Horn said. “I wouldn’t say stressful — just busy. We had at least two to three times the normal amount of packages and mail pieces coming into the building with the same number of working hours, same number of people [working]. You just had to go that much faster, that much more efficiently.”

Customers during the pandemic were shipping necessities like paper towels, toilet paper and cases of water to loved ones across the country.

“No one was able to see their family,” Horn added. “No one could travel, so they were sending their greetings and wishes through the mail.”

Through it all, Horn was on the frontlines.

“He was face-to-face with customers every single day,” Gatch said. “We didn’t close down or close our window services, and he was there every day. There were so many unknowns with [COVID-19]. People were dying from it, and he didn’t say, ‘I don’t want to be up there,’ and he’s the main person at the window. He had more hours clocked there than any employee there.”

Post office employees had to be six feet away from each other while sorting mail, and everyone had to wear masks.

“When you’re throwing 2,000 packages a day and you’re masked up, you get a little winded, so to speak,” Horn said. “But that’s the job we signed up for, so that’s what we had to execute. How can you prepare for something that’s unprecedented?”

A lot has changed over the years, Horn said. When it comes to navigating an ever-changing system, Horn does his best to help customers find the best options and to address any concerns about their packages.

“His patience, helpfulness and knowledge of the latest quirks of a USPS that has undergone substantial change since 2020 helps me choose the most appropriate of the dizzying array of constantly changing options for safe delivery of my packages and letters to family members at home and abroad,” Rose wrote in her letter nominating Horn.

Horn plans to retire in the next few years, and he is looking forward to the more relaxing days ahead.

“I’m a very big sports fan,” he said, “and I’ve become more of a homebody over the years, and spend a lot of time with my wife and our family.” He and his wife each have two adult children from previous marriages, and they have four grandchildren: three living in Trumansburg and one in Syracuse.

Horn said that he does not plan to move away from Trumansburg any time soon. Or ever.

“I love it,” he said. “I’m not moving away from here. I already told my wife, it’s the last stop.”

Tompkins Cortland Community College recognizes more than 100 December graduates

Tompkins Cortland Community College recognized 123 students at its 22nd annual December Graduates Recognition Ceremony on Dec. 6.



By Kevin L. Smith

The ceremony was created in 2002 as a way to “celebrate students graduating after the fall semester,” according to a release. Each graduate received either a degree or a certificate.

Kerry Curran, an English professor at TC3, was the keynote speaker. Curran began her speech with creativity, then dove into a story of how a student “with great foresight” kept a class connected during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“From that day forward, I decided to embrace the creativity my students bring to each class and to incorporate a lot more freedom in the ways they develop and deliver their work for my assessments,” Curran said. “The irony is, when invited to include that kind of creative approach to our established assignments, students often work harder and produce far better

outcomes.”

Curran spoke about how students helped her through a personal loss, and how other students impressed her with insight and growth.

“After this moment, we will continue on our own paths, pursuing our own callings. But for tonight, we share in a special moment, a moment of celebration.”

KYLEIGH GOLDEN-APPLETON

President, Tompkins Cortland Community College’s Student Government Association

“When we encounter these TC3 graduates in the last days of their classes or in our strategic planning sessions or future board meetings — or even in our greater community— I am certain we will congratulate them on the academic achievements they have earned from us,” Curran said. “But perhaps those moments could be opportunities for something even better? A chance to experience what they



Photo provided

Graduates shake the hand of Tompkins Cortland Community College President Amy Kremenek at the college’s December Graduates Recognition Ceremony Dec. 6.

might be able to teach us? You just might find that, like me, you learn a lot.”

Kyleigh Golden-Appleton, president of TC3’s Student Government Associ-

ation, spoke on behalf of the students.

“We each have been led to this moment on different paths, having dif-

See TC3 on pg 11

Conaway hired to be Trumansburg schools superintendent

A months-long search for a new superintendent to lead Trumansburg Central School District (TCSD) has concluded.



By Eddie Velazquez

The TCSD Board of Education announced at its Dec. 10 meeting that the district will hire Megan Conaway as its next chief administrator. Conaway has been the longtime principal at Charles O. Dickerson High School. Her appointment caps off a search that started in late summer, when former Superintendent Kimberly Bell announced that she would retire in January.

Conaway was present at the meeting, noting that she was ecstatic to get to

work. She will start her new job on Jan. 11.

“It has been an incredible journey so far. I look forward to my next adventure, and I would like to thank the board of education, as I mentioned previously,” Conaway said. “I would not be in this place without all your support and the opportunity to work with you as your new superintendent. I cannot thank Kimberly Bell enough for your leadership and support throughout my time here. I truly wish you the best with your retirement. I will certainly be reaching out to you. I am absolutely excited and thrilled as we move forward.”

In a letter drafted by the board of education, members praised Conaway for her experience.

“Conaway brings a wealth of experi-

ence in educational leadership, equity initiatives, and community engagement,” they wrote in the letter. “Most recently, she has served as the principal of [the high school], where she strengthened community connections, prioritized college and career readiness, and provided strong instructional leadership. Over her career, Conaway has championed inclusive and equitable practices, facilitated the implementation of innovative programs, and demonstrated an unwavering commitment to student success.”

“I am absolutely excited and thrilled as we move forward.”

MEGAN CONAWAY

Incoming Superintendent, Trumansburg Central School District

Conaway’s educational background includes completion of the prestigious New York State Superintendent Development Program through SUNY Oswego, along with a Certificate of Advanced Study from SUNY Cortland in both school and district leadership, the board wrote in its note. Additionally, she holds a master’s degree in counselor education from SUNY Oneonta and has served in leadership roles ranging from dean of students to director of recreation, showcasing her versatility and lifelong dedication to learning, the board added.

In the letter, Conaway said that she is proud of her tenure at the district.

“I look forward to strengthening partnerships to ensure our students receive the best education in a safe and vibrant community,” she wrote. “Trumansburg



Photo provided

Megan Conaway, longtime principal at Charles O. Dickerson High School, was recently hired as the new superintendent of Trumansburg Central School District.

is truly a special place, and I am honored to fully support and commit my energy to all students and staff.”

Board of Education President Megan Williams said in the letter that she looks forward to working with Conaway.

See SUPERINTENDENT on pg 10

Editor’s note: This is an expanded edition of Tompkins Weekly, and we will not be putting out a Dec. 25 - Dec. 31 edition. Look for our County Year in Review in our Jan. 1 edition, which you will find at your favorite location on Dec. 31. Happy Holidays from all of us at Tompkins Weekly!

TompkinsWeekly

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Tompkins Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. They should contain no more than 450 words. Letters should be emailed to Editorial@VizellaMedia.com, or mailed to our address below. Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number; unsigned letters will not be published.

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Pinnacle Building and Reconstruction celebrates 10 years in business

When Jesse Norton asked his friend, Zane Gray, to go with him to help repair his grandmother’s home in Theresa, New York, the two could not have begun to imagine that it would be the start of a business partnership — yet here they are 10 years later, about to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Pinnacle Building and Reconstruction (PBR) in Groton.



By Linda Competillo

Jesse grew up in Theresa with his dad, Geoff, and his grandparents, Winifred and the late Carl Norton. He also spent time with his mother and stepfather, Mary and Steve Fiaschetti, and his stepbrother, Jake.

Jesse graduated from Indian River High School in 2000. While there, he played some sports, but his main focus was taking all of the technical skills classes he could, because he enjoyed working with his hands and learning about designing and building.

“My final project was designing a floor plan for the vice principal to build a home because he asked me to, and I got an A on it,” Jesse said.

In 2004, Jesse earned his bachelor’s degree in technology management with a minor in business administra-

tion from SUNY Oswego, where he was also the community service chairperson for his fraternity, Zeta Beta Tau, and its president during his senior year.

“I was also the group leader in the dining hall to help pay for my room and board,” Jesse said, “and I am very thankful for student aid. Without it, I would likely never have attended college, and I am also very grateful for my grandparents. They made me who I am.”

“The roots of the American Dream run deep in Groton. ... It’s a community filled with hardworking individuals that I am proud to be a part of.”

JESSE NORTON
co-owner of Pinnacle Building and Reconstruction

After college, Jesse became a quality technician at a local manufacturing company in Syracuse. During his five years there, he was promoted to quality manager and traveled extensively, both internationally and in the United States. By then, his mother had moved to Moravia, New York, and he wanted to live closer to family.



Photo by Linda Competillo

Jesse Norton, co-owner of Pinnacle Building and Reconstruction, has much to smile about as he and co-owner Zane Gray will celebrate their 10th year as a Groton-based business in 2025.

“I chose to move to Groton because it was so similar to my hometown,” Jesse said. “I started out on Lick Street and moved to the village in 2020, but I quit my job in 2010 because I was renovating my Lick Street home, and the travel was just too much. I finished the renovation in 2011, but in the meantime, my neighbors, [Zane’s parents] Colleen and Dan Gray, asked me to build them a porch.”

Jesse said building that porch was a catalyst for him to work for himself from then on because he enjoyed the freedom it provided.

“It was a path I was on anyway,” Jesse explained. “The job in Syracuse really diverted me. I enjoyed it, but this was my passion. I did work for many in Groton and surrounding areas, but my daughter, Bella, was born in the midst of it, and I needed more consistent work.” Bella is now in sixth grade at Groton Elementary School.

See PINNACLE on pg 11

To Our Zirbel Funeral Home Family

With the holiday season fast approaching, it can feel like a heavy and stressful time with feelings of overwhelming sadness for those who have lost a loved one. We at the Zirbel Funeral Home understand the gravity of these feelings and would like to take a moment to humbly express our gratitude to our families who have placed their trust in us and that let us be a guiding light through the storm. We want to assure you that someone will always be here for you, even if it’s simply to lend a compassionate ear. The year will soon turn, and we will step over the threshold into a new year and new beginning. We will have to adapt to making our way through life’s trials, tribulations, joys and celebrations without our loved one’s physical presence. Yet, please take comfort in the fact that they are always with you and never gone from our hearts and memories; for they stay planted, cherished, and loved there forever.

May God keep you and yours in the following year. — Art & Amos

REMEMBRANCE AND LOVE

2024

Yvonne M. Wilcox January 02	Mary Lou McCoy February 08	Marcus Gandy June 11	Cecil E. Malone July 31	Paul E. Dittman August 31	Janet Strong October 20
David Ellison January 05	Margaret Y. Tracy February 19	Edgar L. Murray June 15	Clifford Hoover August 01	Kevin L. Parker September 23	Linda E. Nobles October 24
Genie A. Hall January 14	Maria Klimaszewski February 24	Ted Cronk June 18	Roman L. Heyn August 03	Pauline “Polly” Smith September 23	Judith Ellen Verbeck October 24
Gerald L. Smith January 17	Larry Brown March 07	John Arthur MacLean June 21	Christopher Gordon August 09	Charles Tipling September 25	Craig Livingston November 01
Lynnette Diane Rounsavill January 22	Arline Parks March 17	Leland Cronk June 30	Gary Bryan August 18	Robert C. Weaver October 09	John L. Dexter November 02
Terence Johnson January 28	Stewart C. Foster May 03	Lorraine Meiden July 14	Dorothy Manley August 21	Jacob Carter October 11	Wilmer “Willie” Harvey November 14
Joan E. Newman February 01	Timmy C. Coit May 04	Linda G Bonavia July 18	Fred Rehner Jr. August 22	Christine M. Gray October 12	Elaine M. Dennis December 05
DeShana Briggs February 04	Velma M. German May 25	Daniel W. Edwards July 24	Tony D. Payne August 25	Gregory Lee Hall October 12	Oscar Saulsberry December 07
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Lansing school district to hire another nurse, some say schools need more

The Lansing Central School District (LCSD) is considering hiring a new nurse for Lansing Middle School, but some members of the community say the district could expand its capacity even further.



By Eddie Velazquez

The community member drafted a letter to the district and presented it at the LCSD Board of Education meeting on Dec. 10, requesting that the district maintain four nurses at all times. Three of them would go into the respective buildings: R.C. Buckley Elementary School, the middle school and Lansing High School. The fourth would serve as a flex nurse who could sub in if one of the nurses were unavailable. The community member who drafted the letter did not identify themselves but did claim to have coached multiple LCSD sports teams in years past.

The meeting can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndqmC_ig_P0.

In the letter, the district resident, who presumably is the parent of a student at Lansing Middle School, wrote the following:

“We submitted a letter to the board of education regarding the need for a consistent and appropriately paid full-time nurse for Lansing Middle School. As parents of a child with complex medical needs we are concerned that the child’s medical needs are not being met due to a lack of a dedicated school nurse at the middle school. While we understand from correspondence with the superintendent that the district is looking to hire a new nurse at the middle school, we believe that inadequate staffing and subpar pay for school nurses has led to a consistent problem at LCSD, regarding the ability to retain full-time school nurses.

“The letter here is a plea for help in hiring an adequately paid full-time nurse dedicated to the middle school. We strongly advocate for the district to maintain at least four school nurse positions, one for each school and one to provide support to all buildings to enhance student health continuity when a staff member is on vacation is ill or the influx of student needs and parent phone calls is too great. The combination of appropriate pay and staffing support that we believe would decrease turnover rates for school nurses at the Lansing school district and thus support our children. Superintendent [Chris] Pettograsso has assured us that LCSD nurses are paid on the higher end of the regional pay-scale, we would like to note that just because school districts use a standard of horrifically underpaying their nurses, this should not be the standard at LCSD. We would like to see an analysis of turnover rates for school nurses at Lansing compared to teacher and staff positions. The median teacher salary is \$71,000 in this region and we are looking to hire a school nurse in the \$50,000 range according to hiring materials. This sends a message that LCSD is not prioritizing the health of its students for comparison.”

“Pay is obviously contractual. Those are longstanding things you have to negotiate, so there is not a quick fix.”

CHRIS PETTOGRASSO
Superintendent, Lansing Central School District

The district, Superintendent Pettograsso said, is seeking to hire another nurse soon. Pettograsso said the district hopes that the new registered nurse can start after the winter break. She



Photo provided

The Lansing Central School District (LCSD) is considering hiring a new nurse for Lansing Middle School while feedback from the public encourages the district to maintain four nurses at all times.

acknowledged that hiring and staffing for that position can be difficult, but those pains are shared across the region and similarly across entire school departments, similar to how shortages of teachers and bus drivers have been an issue at other local districts.

Regarding allegations of low pay, Pettograsso said that salaries are bargained with unions, and the salaries shown on job postings are often not fully reflective of how much employees end up earning.

“Pay is obviously contractual. Those are longstanding things you have to negotiate, so there is not a quick fix,” Pettograsso said. “All the salaries we post are minimum, that is, the minimum pay that we can offer contractually. Some [employees] might get paid a lot more based on their credentials.”

Qualifications are sometimes part of how those salaries are bargained, she said.

“One of the differences for negotiations is that registered nurses can have a bachelor’s degree and teachers need a master’s degree,” she said. “There is a discrepancy there, not necessarily in need and all that. I am just talking about the things we talk about in the negotiations table. We get into the nitty gritty, but those are minimums.”

Typically, Pettograsso said, the district hires employees at rates well above the minimums posted.

“I think regionally we had those minimums in our contracts, but we are hiring people at much higher rates, so we’ll see that, anyway,” she said. “Registered nurses are at a shortage at every single school and [Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga]

BOCES.”
A potential solution to cover a shortage of nurses could be to delegate provision of nurses to an agency, Pettograsso said.

“Our interim could be to get an agency who sends us a nurse, who would send us a person. That is the very last thing we want, but there is someone there to care for our students,” Pettograsso said. “The New York State Education Department requires at least one registered nurse on campus. When we did have four nurses, it well exceeded our need. We do have a shared medical director who we have access to on a regular basis. One of our nurses is paid an additional stipend to oversee the health of the district, making sure we are staying consistent with school health. I do believe we have a pretty good system.”

Lansing at Large appears every week in *Tompkins Weekly*. Send story ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com. Contact Eddie Velazquez at edvel37@gmail.com or on X (formerly Twitter): [@ezvelazquez](https://twitter.com/ezvelazquez).

In brief:
The Lansing Community Library will host its January meeting of the Book Club for Adults on Jan. 21, 2025 from 7-8 p.m.

“This is an excellent opportunity to engage with fellow book enthusiasts and contribute to a shared exploration of inspiring narratives featuring remarkable individuals in a read that promotes reflection and growth,” according to a post on the library’s website. The book being discussed is “The Book of Joy” by the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and Douglas Abrams.

Obituaries

Celebrating Lives, Honoring Memories

RECENT DEATH NOTICES

Name:	Age:	Town, State:	Death Date:	Arrangements:
George Kelly Wood	67	Freeville, NY	Dec-13	Perkins Funeral Home
R. Keith Dennis	80	Ithaca, NY	Dec-12	Bangs Funeral Home
Kevin Clines	63	Ithaca, NY	Dec-11	CNY Cremation Service
Helen Mathews	74	Dryden, NY	Dec-10	CNY Cremation Service
Richard (Rick) Smith	60	Ithaca, NY	Dec-9	Perkins Funeral Home
Carl Metott	86	Dryden, NY	Dec-9	CNY Cremation Service
Marguerite Layton	90	Ithaca, NY	Dec-9	CNY Cremation Service
Philip Knell	52	Ithaca, NY	Dec-8	Perkins Funeral Home
George David Gross	83	Dryden, NY	Dec-8	Perkins Funeral Home
Alan E. Parker	77	Freeville, NY	Dec-6	Perkins Funeral Home
Delbert Meade Smith	81	Lansing, NY	Dec-5	Lansing Funeral Home
Sharon Green Wimer	64	Freeville, NY	Dec-3	Bangs Funeral Home
Helen Hammond-Ross	72	Lodi, NY	Dec-3	Bangs Funeral Home
Luke E. Sjolund	48	Ithaca, NY	Dec-3	Bangs Funeral Home
Virginia Marie Pakkala	65	Newfield, NY	Dec-2	Bangs Funeral Home

Placing an Obituary with Tompkins Weekly

Contact Us Today:

We are dedicated to publishing meaningful and lasting tributes. Contact us today with questions or send your obituary with a preferred photo and begin the process of honoring their memory.



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HISTORY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY



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St. James AME Zion Church, built in 1836, is the oldest church structure in Ithaca, and one of the oldest African American Episcopal Zion churches in the country. According to Rev. Vincent Howell, a former pastor of St. James, the church was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Both Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass visited St. James while in Ithaca.

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Who, how and what gets our votes?

Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of author Rose Garrity and are not representative of the thoughts or opinions of Tompkins Weekly.



By Rose Garrity
E p i g r a p h : "Democrats have no one to blame but themselves for another disastrous Trump win. We need a true opposition party for people, planet and peace." Jill Stein, Green Party 2024 presidential candidate

I recently came across an old quote: "If voting could change anything it would be illegal!" I know a number of folks who said as much when asked why they reject any involvement in voting and all that goes with U.S. elections.

Many of us grew up with inadequate educations on government and the systems that control our lives. We were aware of national elections when our parents were the voters; we heard the rhetoric during national elections, often with no understanding of what a political party was. Differences in candidates were and are often superficial, and people voted for the party that had been traditional in their families. We were aware, of course, that there was always a Communist candidate for president, but maybe less aware that after a split in the

Democratic Party in 1948, left-wing Democrats created the Progressive Party, with Henry Wallace as candidate, while Southern Democrats formed the segregationist States' Rights Party (these "Dixiecrats" ran Strom Thurmond as a write-in candidate).

As a child I had few discussions during elections. I was too young to have any knowledge of the issues other than the party each one represented. There was no "social media", very little television, and most parents did not talk to their children about their political beliefs. The most frequent display of political preferences were small metal pins with a tiny photograph and words such as "I like Ike", which was the one for Eisenhower. (Some of those old buttons are real collectibles today.) Fast forward to now; political banners, signs, flags on vehicles, abrasive ads on television and social media, with raw language in lawn signs and bumper stickers are all on display for months at a time. What are children learning about politics now?

This massive shouting, name-calling, profane bumper stickers and lawn signs contribute nothing to what anyone needs to know, of course, nor does it have anything to do with the reality of what any candidate may be capable of delivering. Many citizens in the U.S. do not pay attention to

the daily, weekly or even monthly activities of how rules, policies, regulations or other decisions are made. Many citizens cannot name the important Speaker of the House[i], for instance, or explain the ways any position operates within a system. It is also true that many of us have little understanding of how systems operate or affect citizens, be they political, cultural, economic, etc., or democratic, authoritarian, totalitarian or theocratic in nature. We have largely been given the most meaningless or even unreal "issues" to consider. And sadly, candidates like Jill Stein, who wish to debate real issues are barred from the debates.

Labels meant to ridicule, or disparage are attached to politicians and candidates, with noticeable deficits in awareness of political realities, such as calling President Biden a "Marxist", V.P. Harris a "communist", Jill Stein a "Kremlin lackey", etc. It is obvious that the writers don't have the slightest idea of actual meanings of their attempted 'slurs'. It is all part of the game.

I do not believe that any party, group or candidate can have an impact on the way that elections and power is set up today in the U.S. unless there is a much broader understanding and movement focused on reaching people who have been brainwashed for generations to think we have any

choice in who we are given to vote for. How many people understand or believe that there is so little difference in who the duopoly candidates are? How many think about the billions of dollars in politics, where it comes from, and how it controls everything?

In listening to the many dozens of discussions, articles, interviews and "analyses" of the election results. not one that I read or heard made the slightest mention of genocide by Israel, nor even the situation in Ukraine! This includes a long discussion on NPR. This is but one example of the ways our narratives and perceptions are manipulated and controlled. The narratives are strictly controlled in all main stream media. Only on independent sites and sources can reliable truth be discovered. Many good folks believe they are getting fully unbiased coverage on public media. Do not be so sure.

Do we have the tools, support and will to change how the structure guarantees the duopoly? In order to make progress toward what the Greens stand for, we must raise awareness and help to instill a broader sense of political and electoral systems, along with the role 'the people' should play. We can help raise awareness of capitalism as the system that denies equality, adequate wages and access

See VOTES on pg 18

There is still time to get your annual heating system maintenance done
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— ∞ —

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Joel Malina, VP for university relations, to depart Cornell

By Melanie Lefkowitz
Cornell Chronicle

Joel M. Malina, who has led Cornell’s communications and government relations efforts through leadership transitions, a global pandemic, a far-reaching reimagining of universitywide communications functions and historic financial agreements with the city and town, will depart Jan 5.

After retiring from Cornell, Malina will join the global strategic advisory firm Brunswick Group on Feb. 3 as a partner in its Washington, D.C. office.

In his 11 years as vice president for university relations – the longest tenure among current Cornell vice presidents – Malina has served as the university’s spokesperson. He has coordinated Cornell’s internal and external communications, as well as its relationships with federal, state and local (across Tompkins County and New York City) policymakers and stakeholders. He oversees the offices of Federal, State and Community relations; Brand Communications, Media Relations, News, Strategic Communications and, in partnership with Alumni Affairs and Development, Cornellians; as well as the offices of the Assemblies and Visitor Relations.

“Joel Malina has served as a trusted adviser across Cornell administrations for the past 11 years. During

that period he has worked tirelessly to advance the university’s mission,” said Interim President Michael I. Kotlikoff. “Joel has built an extremely strong communications and government affairs team, and deserves extraordinary gratitude for all that he has done for Cornell.”

“Having worked with Joel for over a decade, I have seen firsthand how he forged strong relationships with our government partners at every level: federal, state and community,” said Kraig H. Kayser, MBA ’84, chair of the Cornell Board of Trustees. “His leadership of University Relations strengthened Cornell’s voice, ensuring that our mission and values resonated far and wide during what has been a great decade of progress. He has been a valued adviser to the Board of Trustees.”

Malina said he cherished his part in advancing Cornell’s critical mission.

“I came here knowing the enormous opportunity that this job represented in terms of telling the remarkable story of Cornell and its positive impacts across the region, state, nation and the world,” he said. “I’m immensely proud of all that my team and I, and all of Cornell’s leaders, have accomplished during my time here.”

Among Malina’s achievements is the successful navigation of a period

of unexpected leadership transitions, following the 2015 retirement of President Emeritus David Skorton, who hired him, and the death of President Elizabeth Garrett in 2016. In his first three years at Cornell, Malina served five different university leaders, including acting and interim presidents. In addition to keeping the community focused on long-term goals through the upheaval, Malina co-chaired inaugurations for Garrett and President Emerita Martha E. Pollack.

“Joel was a trusted and vital strategic partner who provided me invaluable input on a range of critical communications issues throughout my presidency, including during several crises,” Pollack said. “His deep knowledge of the government, and the ways in which universities interact with the government at the local, state and federal level, had an enormous impact. He was a core part of my leadership team and a pleasure to work with, and I’m sure he’ll be incredibly successful in his new role.”

Malina was hired into a new position that combined communications and government relations “because he was clearly more than qualified to do both,” said Robert S. Harrison ’76, chair emeritus of the Cornell Board of Trustees.

“I developed tremendous respect for him in what was a very big job,”



Photo provided
Joel M. Malina, vice president for university relations at Cornell University, will depart Cornell Jan. 5 and will join the global strategic advisory firm Brunswick Group on Feb. 3 as a partner in its Washington, D.C. office.

Harrison said. “In addition to his great relationships with our legislative and executive partners, Joel was a fantastic spokesperson for the university – he was always not just protecting but enhancing the Cornell brand everywhere he went. He was an extraordinary part of the Cornell community as well as a terrific human being, and he is going to be sorely missed.”

Malina helped the university ef-

See EAST HILL on pg 10

PHONE BAN

Continued from pg 1

A plan of action from school officials led to improved engagement and enhanced social connections from students, as well as positive teacher feedback.

“Students notice they can focus better in class without distractions. It allowed opportunities for deeper face-to-face conversations and participation in group activities.”

PRESENTATION BY NEWFIELD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Curriculum Director and Principals of the Middle and Elementary School

“Students notice they can focus better in class without distractions,” the presentation said. “It allowed opportunities for deeper face-to-face conversations and participation in group activities. Teachers also reported fewer behavioral disruptions and better classroom classroom dynamics.”

The turnaround made for a successful “end experience” out of the peak-end theory, the presenters said. It allowed for the following:

- Sense of accomplishment: Reflecting on improvements in academic performance, peer relationships and school culture without cell phones

- Positive memory: If the school year ends with improved outcomes (higher engagement, less conflict), students and staff are more likely to remember the ban positively

The presenters also provided some curriculum numbers for the stretch of the ban between 2023 and 2024. Grades kindergarten through 12 showed that 75% of students will be on or above grade levels.

According to state test results, grades three through eight saw a 34% increase in math and an 18% spike in English/language arts in terms of improvement in the classroom.

As the ban continues, the presenters anticipate that students will adapt to it, especially if staff members and parents continue to support the plan.

More information on the cell phone ban report is at newfieldschools.org.

Newfield Notes appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Send story ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com.

In brief: Newfield United Methodist Church to host ‘Blue Christmas’ event

The Newfield United Methodist Church, located at 227 Main St., will host a “Blue Christmas” event on Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

The event is a service of hope for the grieving, sad or lonely during the Christmas season.

According to a description, the church’s event recognizes that “we often feel singled out by the programmed happiness of ‘the most wonderful time of the year,’ but we are not alone. If you or a loved one is experiencing



Photo by Joe Scaglione

Newfield Central School District initiated the ban on cell phones in September 2023. Over a year later, school officials reported overall positive outcomes.

stress, sadness, or loss we invite you to our service. Come as you are and experience the hope in Jesus’ birth.”

For more information, contact Shelley Yaple at shelleybell63@gmail.com.

Wreath workshop at the library on Dec. 21

The Newfield Public Library will have a wreath workshop on Dec. 21 at noon.

The workshop will be led by Carlin Wakefield. Essentials will be provided, as Wakefield shows methods for making a wreath. Decorations can be added to the wreaths.

There is a limit of 12 participants for the workshop. Those interested can call 607-564-3594, email newfield-library@gmail.com or stop by the library.

Yoga for beginners held on Satur-

days this month

A yoga for beginners class will be held on Saturdays at Newfield Public Library from 10 to 11 a.m.

There will be no Saturday class on Dec. 28.

Phyllis KuanYin Chi, a yoga teacher certified through Yoga Farm in Lansing, will lead the class. The instructor also has additional training in trauma-informed yoga.

The class is on the second floor of the library. It is suitable for people new to yoga or those with mobility issues. There is also an opportunity to deepen poses for those with more experience.

The class is for ages 18 and older. Participants must have their own yoga mat or blanket. The class is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$10.

SUPERINTENDENT

Continued from pg 4

“Conaway’s seven years of experience [at TCSD] has given her a strong foundation to be able to support current district goals as well as look at ways that we can move the district forward with new and innovative ideas,” Williams wrote. “The board looks forward to this new chapter in Trumansburg history and is confident in Conaway’s leadership as we continue to keep students at the forefront of all we do.”

The search was conducted with the aid of Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

Superintendent Lilly Talcott, who in the past has consulted on similar searches for other districts in the region. The process began with wide-reaching community feedback. Stakeholders across the district, including students, families, staff and community members, shared their insights into the strengths and needs of TCSD and the key characteristics desired in its next superintendent. These findings informed the board’s decision-making and helped ensure alignment with the district’s vision and goals. A semi-closed interview process followed, involving a diverse group of stakeholders who rigorously evaluated finalists and pro-

vided invaluable feedback to the board.

“You have been so connected to your mission and your vision and to the community’s feedback as to who they needed to lead this school district,” Talcott told the board at the Dec. 10 meeting “I am pretty sure we spent about 45-50 hours together.”

Talcott said the district combed through an “impressive candidate” pool to arrive at its determination. She said the community provided “fabulous input.”

Ulysses Connection appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Send story ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com. Contact Ed-die Velazquez at edvel37@gmail.com or

on X (formerly Twitter) @ezvelazquez.

In brief:

The SPCA of Tompkins County is seeking cat food donations.

SPCA officials wrote in the town of Ulysses weekly newsletter:

“How you can help:

- Drop off donations of dry cat food (any brand or size) at 1640 Hanshaw Rd. in Ithaca.
- Order from our wishlist: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2ZVUUM77Y7RBH>”

The SPCA can be reached at 607-274-6688.

EAST HILL

Continued from pg 9

fectively manage the COVID-19 pandemic – a formidable challenge that also became a model for productive town-gown relations. Cornell’s science-based response to the crisis, which included bringing students back to campus in the fall 2020 semester, was bolstered by strong partnerships with the community and the state and federal government. Improved coordination among the numerous communication offices across campuses transformed the way Cornell operates today.

“All those elements came together under Martha and Mike’s strong leadership,” Malina said. “And from a communications perspective, COVID forced us to become far more integrated, which has continued to serve the university well in the years since.”

With Rachel Dunifon, the Rebecca Q. and James C. Morgan Dean of the College of Human Ecology, Malina co-lead the university’s functional review of communications, which formalized the integration of hundreds of communications professionals

across Cornell’s colleges and units into a “One Cornell” team that has become a model for other functions at Cornell and other institutions.

In 2023 and 2024, Malina led negotiations on the university’s behalf to reach historic partnership agreements with the City of Ithaca, Town of Ithaca and Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit. Over the last year of campus unrest and global debate around the Israel-Hamas War, he facilitated difficult but important conversations with diverse university stakeholders.

“It was extremely important to me that the university navigate the raw emotions with a heavy focus on empathy and listening, while helping those not on campus to understand the campus climate and the reasons behind leadership decisions,” he said. “The work has been difficult, but critically important. I am proud to have been able to help the world understand how Cornell is approaching these challenges.”

Within University Relations, Malina conceived and spearheaded the New York State Impact Initiative, to highlight ways in which Cornell’s teaching, research and public engagement mission improves lives and

livelihoods around the state. He also co-lead the development of Cornellians, the now three-year-old digital alumni publication.

He stewarded communications around the launch of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, the Cornell Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy and the Cornell Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science, among numerous other new academic programs, as well as the 2017 opening of the Cornell Tech campus on Roosevelt Island.

“Among the Ithaca campus legacies I’m most proud of is my advocacy for a permanent memorial to the eight students and the professor who died in the 1967 Cornell Heights Residential Club fire,” Malina said. That memorial, on the grounds between Day Hall and Sage Chapel, was dedicated in 2019.

Malina serves on the boards of Cayuga Health System and Ithaca Area Economic Development, and on the advisory board of The Cherry Arts. He is a prior board president of The Kitchen Theatre Company and currently serves on the board of the Cornell Club of New York City.

He and his wife, Nancy, plan to re-

locate to Washington in summer 2025 for his new role.

“I am extremely excited about joining the Brunswick team, where I look forward to helping education, foundation and global health clients, among other sectors, navigate challenges and realize their institutional goals,” he said. “This is an incredible opportunity to continue to make a difference in the world, but I’ll miss so much about Cornell: the people, the collegiality of our exceptional leadership team, the talented professionals in University Relations, the beauty of our campuses, and this amazing community that has been our home for 11 years.

“I came here as a Yale grad and leave a lifelong Cornellian,” he said. “That’s very special.”

Kotlikoff has appointed Monica Yant Kinney, associate vice president for communications, to serve as interim vice president for university relations, effective Jan. 6, while a national search is conducted for Malina’s successor.

Tompkins Weekly has obtained permission to run this article, originally published earlier this month in the Cornell Chronicle.



YOUR Holiday Cheer HEADQUARTERS





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TC3
Continued from pg 4

ferent goals and focuses, facing different challenges and given different opportunities,” she said. “After this moment, we will continue on our own paths, pursuing our own callings. But for tonight, we share in a special moment, a moment of celebration.” Golden-Appleton talked about her own journey and how she “overcame uncertainty to thrive.” She also knows that each graduate has their own unique story. “All of our paths have been complex in their own way. We’ve all experienced challenges, internally and externally,” she said. “We’ve all felt overwhelmed and doubted ourselves at some point. But our being here tonight is a testament to our perseverance and the support around us. Just as we’ve shared in adversity, so too have we shared in gifts of connection, community, learning and transforma-

tion.” TC3 noted in its release that all December graduates are welcome to participate in the traditional commencement ceremony on May 21 of next year. *Dryden Dispatch appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Send story ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com.*

In brief:
‘Coffee with the Superintendent’ is Jan. 13
Dryden Central School District (DCSD) superintendent Josh Bacigalupi will host “Coffee with the Superintendent” on Jan. 13 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Dunkin’ Donuts at 36 North St. in the village of Dryden. The event is an opportunity to meet and have a conversation with the district superintendent. For information, contact DCSD at 607-844-8694.
Storytime at the library on Dec. 20
The Southworth Library will hold

storytime on Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. The story on Dec. 20 is “How to Catch a Reindeer.” Participants receive a free book, while supplies last. There will be no storytime on Dec. 27. For more information, go to southworthlibrary.org or call 607-844-4782.

Meetings for the month of December
The Dryden Town Board will meet on Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. The town’s broadband committee is scheduled to meet Dec. 20 at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend the town meetings in person or via Zoom. The Village of Dryden Board of Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. today, Dec. 18, at the village hall at 16 South St. The public is invited to attend.

Book club to meet Dec. 19
Books & Brew, a genre-based book club, is scheduled to meet Thursday, Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Hopshire Farm & Brewery in the village of Freeville. The theme for the month of De-

cember is the new millennium. The club encourages members to choose a book that was written between 2000 and 2010. For suggestions, books will be on display at Southworth Library in the village. For more information, contact the library at 607-844-4782.

Yoga for Life held every Wednesday in Freeville
Village of Freeville resident Michelle Dardia hosts a Yoga for Life session every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Freeville United Methodist Church at 37 Main St. The drop-in fee for the session is \$10. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Some experience is helpful but not required, as the sessions are committed to being accessible. Variations and modifications are offered, and extra mats and blocks will be available at each session. For information or questions, contact Dardia at dollysdaughter@hotmail.com or 607-279-4785.

PINNACLE
Continued from pg 4

Jesse ended up landing a job with a local contractor based in Ithaca. He said he “learned a lot about carpentry and business” from Don Wood, who worked with him. It so happened that Zane also worked with them. “It was about then [2015] that my grandmother’s house was in such disrepair that I asked Zane if I could hire him to help me up there in Theresa for about six months, and he did.” Jesse said. “We decided then to go into business together. We were literally sitting around talking and drinking Pabst Blue Ribbon beer, and that’s how we came up with our name. The ‘PBR’ of the beer became Pinnacle Building and Reconstruction.” And that brings us to the present, as

PBR will celebrate 10 years in 2025. Jesse cited that the business has allowed them to purchase properties and equipment to do remodeling, build additions and more in Groton and many surrounding areas, and to hire five additional employees and summer helpers. “We’ve done a lot of work for Chris Dempsey, recreated the library at The Benn Conger Inn from an old photo, and now we are working on the window facades in the new/old Groton Hotel,” Jesse said. Jesse has also contributed a great deal to Groton in other ways. He was asked to join the NY Forward committee (see the December 11 edition of this column for details on that) and was also asked to help restart the Groton Community and Business Association, which Jesse says is “still in the infant stages as we try to find the right recipe for Groton and how we can best serve the community.”

“The roots of the American Dream run deep in Groton,” Jesse said. “There is a strong entrepreneurial spirit, and it’s a community filled with hardworking individuals that I am proud to be a part of. I’m trying to do my part to make the community look the way it feels.” *Groton on the Inside appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Submit story ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com or text or call Linda at 607-227-4922.*

In brief:
Reminder: Groton Community Cupboard
Groton Community Cupboard will be closed Christmas week. Please plan accordingly. It will be closed Dec. 22 through 28 and will reopen Sunday, Dec. 29.
Outstanding CTE students
Congratulations to the following Groton students, who were recognized as outstanding students of the month

at the Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES Career and Technical Education Center. In October: David Shea, Heavy Equipment. In November: Madison DeGraw, Welding; Hunter Webster, Auto Technology. The outstanding students are chosen based on their character, leadership, citizenship, work ethic and attendance. They must also be compassionate, honest, trustworthy, responsible and positive role models.
First Day Hike
Groton Recreation presents the fifth annual First Day Hike from noon to 2 p.m. Jan. 1, stepping off from the Groton Memorial Park on Sykes Street. Open to all abilities, you can explore the Groton Trails with the group or strike out on your own. Meet up after your hike for treats, hot chocolate, campfire and s’mores! Email recreation@grotonny.org for more information.

Visit the Community Healing Mural on the Ithaca Commons

A collaborative project by the Community Justice Center & Southside Black Girl Alchemy Program



What does community healing mean to you?

Learn more: tcgov.co/cjcmuralvideo
Student Activity Download: tcgov.co/cjc_activity

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Tompkins Weekly

SPORTS

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KEY MATCHUPS: 12/18 Bowling: Groton vs. Newark Valley

• 12/19 Boys Swimming: Lansing vs. Watkins Glen/Odessa-Montour • 12/19 Boys Hockey: Ithaca @ Pittsford

Ithaca wrestling continues to grow under new head coach

During the 2020-21 season, the Ithaca High School wrestling team had just 10 athletes on the roster. Over the years, the Little Red have had linear progression in adding wrestler after wrestler. That trend has continued this season with a familiar face at the helm.



By Ryan Gineo
ESPN ITHACA

Josh Antoine takes over the program after being an assistant coach under Eric Parker for the past four seasons. The Brooklyn native and SUNY Cortland wrestling alum couldn't pass down the chance to keep building up the team, now as their head coach.

"Growing up, I've always wanted to be a head coach eventually, and now that the opportunity presents itself, I was pretty excited to jump at the chance."

JOSH ANTOINE

Head Coach, Ithaca High School Wrestling

"Coach Parker entrusted a lot of responsibility to me over the years, and it's been a pleasure working with the kids," Antoine said. "Growing up, I've always wanted to be a head coach eventually, and now that the opportunity presents itself, I was pretty excited to jump at the chance."

Since Antoine has been an assistant coach for a few years (and previously the modified coach for a season), it has been very beneficial in these early stages to already be familiar with most (if not all) the wrestlers on the Little Red.

"I have a lot of strong one-on-one



Photo by Ava Thomas

Josh Antoine is the new head coach of the Ithaca High School wrestling team. Antoine was the assistant coach for the past four seasons under Eric Parker.

relationships with a lot of the kids on the team," Antoine said. "I do a lot of offseason training work with most of them, so they've been jumping levels. It's been very helpful to have that relationship because now I get to continue to build on their confidence. I know what they feel are their weak points, and we can work together. They trust me enough to actually listen to the advice that I have. Them knowing that I wrestled and I was successful at it, they are more open to understanding what I have to say. Working with them for so long makes it a little bit more joyful to watch the development over the past couple of years."

Antoine is not the only one who has helped grow the program in recent memory. Modified coach Johnnie Akins works at both middle schools in the city, so he has been able to recruit wrestlers for his team and the JV and

varsity teams have been able to retain them when they rise up the ranks.

Antoine also gave credit to assistant coach Kate Zavuholnik—who helped establish the Cornell University Women's Freestyle Wrestling Club in 2023—for growing the team for girls wrestlers, which the Little Red currently have four of.

"She's been doing a phenomenal job helping me get more girls out and her being the face of our girls coaching side," Antoine said. "It makes it a little bit more warm for girls to actually want to come out and try the sport."

One of those wrestlers is Willow Moylan. The senior was the only girls wrestler on the team last year, but that didn't stop her from making history. She became the first female wrestler in school history to win a STAC championship and also finished in third place at sectionals. Antoine expects

great things from Moylan in her final season with the Little Red.

"She's very smart and strong and pretty athletic, so I feel like that makes her a force to be reckoned with," Antoine said. "She catches on to a technique, and she's put in a lot of work in the offseason, so I'm pretty excited to see what she can achieve."

Another wrestler who is also poised for a big year is Quentin Getzin. The junior has been consistently outstanding throughout his high school career, qualifying for the state tournament in all three years on varsity. Last season was his most successful, winning the Section IV title in the 138-pound weight class. Antoine believes he can repeat as a sectional champion and punch his ticket back to Albany for states.

See ITHACA on pg 14

Groton girls wrestling off to strong start

By Ryan Genio
ESPN ITHACA

There's no dispute that girls wrestling is the nation's fastest-growing sport across the nation. That trend has been especially evident in Groton, and it's continued to flourish early on this season.

The Red Hawks had three girls wrestlers last season. They now have seven, enough to field the first-ever girls wrestling varsity team in school history and compete in dual meets with other girls wrestling teams in Section IV. Head coach Jayme Evans is elated to see the sport expand not just in town, but throughout the entire state.

"The growth in girls is awesome,"

Evans said. "I love watching it. It's exploding every year... the girls' side is just getting big, and the opportunities are wonderful to watch. They're getting a whole bunch of opportunities, get on the mat, show what they can do."

The Red Hawks have soared out the gates to start off the season. They first took fourth place at the Larry Godrich Invitational, where three wrestlers—Carmen Bishop, Phoebe Bishop, and Leontine Evans—recorded individual victories. Those same wrestlers came out on top the following week at the Union-Endicott Tradesman Tournament. Their hot start is a testament to all the work they put in during the offseason, specifically with Crown City

Wrestling Club.

"The growth in girls is awesome. I love watching it."

JAYME EVAN

Head Coach, Groton Girls Wrestling

"Wrestling went to freestyle this year in high school for the girls' side," Evans said. "It's not folkstyle like the boys' side, so it was a really good learning curve for the summertime to get in that room and really learn the new freestyle moves. Carmen, Phoebe, Leontine and Lacy [Batzler] all put some time in over there this summer,

and it's starting to show. Kudos to that program for really getting these girls where they need to be. And then circling the girls that are brand new, they got some really, really, really good practice partners in our room right now that's helping them along the way also."

Carmen Bishop is one of the youngest wrestlers on the Red Hawks as an eighth grader. But she made a name for herself last time out as just a seventh grader by winning a sectional title in the 114-pound weight class. She's more than held her own against even older competition. Last month, she finished in third place at the Alfred State Open

See GROTON on pg 14

GROTON

Continued from pg 13

and has a 7-3 record against collegiate wrestlers. Having that level of success against such difficult opponents will no doubt set her up for success this season and for years to come.

“It’s been a crazy growth,” Evans said. “This summer, I watched her beat some nationally-ranked girls. She’s a tough cookie. Watching her place at that college open was pretty eye-opening... She’s gotten so much better over the summer. It’s gonna be fun to watch these girls go all year long, and hopefully get to that state tournament.”

Wrestling seems to be strong in the Bishop bloodline. Her younger sister Phoebe is also excelling in her seventh-grade season, winning the 94-pound weight class titles in the opening two tournaments of the year.

“Phoebe is probably one of the most technical girl wrestlers I’ve ever watched,” Evans said. “She doesn’t freak out. She doesn’t get worried. She’s smart on the mat. She knows where she is at all times. She puts in a lot of work

like all the other girls. But most of all, in our wrestling group, she’s wrestling girls 20-25 pounds heavier [than her], and that actually helps with the strength part, too.”

From the youngest wrestler on the Red Hawks to the oldest one, Leontine Evans is off to a dominant start. Across her pair of 235-pound weight class tournament victories, the senior has pinned seven of her eight opponents, with the other win occurring due to a medical forfeit. Her father and head coach wants her to savor her final season with the Red Hawks.

“Since she’s my daughter, I just want her to have fun and enjoy it,” Evans said. “It’s her senior year. No stress, nothing like that. I just want her to enjoy her senior year, have a good time and just put all that work she put in the summertime on the mat.”

This season is also historic because it will feature the first-ever full state tournament for girls wrestling, expanding upon the one-day invitational that was held last year. While Evans wants to send as many wrestlers as possible to states, the bigger picture is fostering a strong team bond.



Photo by Jim Organ

Groton’s Leontine Evans (right) wrestles Spencer-Van Etten/Candor’s Katellynn Vanetten (left) during last year’s IAC Championships. Evans has helped the Red Hawks get off to a strong start, with the team recording three individual victories at their opening two invitationals.

“As a team, we like to create the family atmosphere,” Evans said. “We like to have a family unit. All of our girls get along just perfect. It’s like a big, giant family from kindergarten all the way up

to all the seniors, one big family. They’re all in each other’s corners... That’s what we promote, and our goal is just to do our absolute best and get the kids where they need to be at the end of the year.”

ITHACA

Continued from pg 13

“He’s been there a couple years now, and he’s gotten the feel of it,” Antoine said. “He’s grown a lot, and I think he should be able to grow into his own as long as we peak at the right point

in the season and stay injury-free. I think he can go out and compete for a state title or even place in the state, either-or.”

That word ‘growth’ is not solely about adding to the 36 wrestlers currently on the team. For Antoine, it’s also about what they can learn from and improve upon as the season progresses.

“In the past couple of years, I’ve noticed some of the kids tend to get nervous based off of who they’re going to be competing against,” Antoine said. “I’m trying to get them out of that mindset and more into, ‘Go out, have some fun, and try to score some points.’ If we win, we win. If we lose,

we learn from the loss. That’s how life goes, as well. You’re not going to be successful at everything you do. You might not win all the time, but it’s about the growing. We’ve been talking a lot about having a growth mindset and no matter who we go out and face, we’re going to try to wrestle our match and wrestle tough.”

Making Waves for Recovery: 10th Annual Ithaca Chill Challenge

On January 1 at the Ithaca Yacht Club, Ithaca Community Recovery (ICR) will be hosting its 10th annual Ithaca Chill Challenge, a unique “dip-or-dodge” event to raise money for recovery-related programming in the

Ithaca area and broader community. This year, ICR aims to raise \$50,000 to support its vital services.

Participants raise money from community members, friends, loved ones, coworkers, and other donors. For

each participant, donors contribute to either “dip” the participant into the lake, or let them “dodge” and cheer from the shore. On New Year’s Day at noon, the higher total for each participant prevails. Participants

commit to doing whatever their donors decide. Regardless of who winds up in the lake and who watches from the shore, all donations go to support ICR.

People who are active in the recovery community, the people who love and support them, the people who only know of them, and everyone else will be able to come together to celebrate and to welcome in the new year.

The Chill Challenge raises money for Ithaca Community Recovery, which plays an invaluable role in helping people whose lives are affected by addiction; people who come together to practice recovery, fellowship, and service; and people who have created a vibrant and caring community of support. For the past 24 years, ICR has provided a home base at 518 West Seneca St.

Ithaca Chill Challenge registration is open now and closes on New Year’s Eve. Find out more information or donate to any registered participant at www.ithacachillchallenge.org. Then come celebrate on New Year’s Day at the Ithaca Yacht Club at 1 p.m. There will be cake, as well as prizes for the top fundraisers and for best costumes.



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a happy healthy holiday"

gorgescycles.com
607-339-0032

IBEW Local #241

"Happy holidays from
your friends and neighbors"

IBEWLocal241.com
607-535-4952

Cayuga Landscape

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A look back on 2024 in our Tompkins County towns

By Linda Competillo, Kevin L. Smith and Eddie Velazquez

From environmental fights to new businesses, 2024 was a historic year for the towns of Tompkins County.

Residents in the town of Ulysses and the village of Trumansburg experienced changes to the local school district's leadership and financial future, as well as the arrival of promising updates on the future of emergency medical services (EMS) and the fire department.

This year in Lansing was marked by a fight for the environmental conservation of Cayuga Lake's future as a source of drinking water, a grueling strike at BorgWarner, and the setting in motion of a plan to create a comprehensive trail system for town residents.

Stories out of Dryden ranged from unique businesses opening to a support system for homeless women.

From securing grants, to purchasing and memorializing historical properties, the town of Newfield had its share of standout moments this year.

And so many great things happened in Groton in 2024. It was difficult to choose which stories to highlight, but what follows are a few significant ones, for Groton as well as Lansing, Ulysses, Dryden and Newfield, chosen by our reporters and arranged in chronological order.

March
Hart: Funding for proposed Trumansburg fire, EMS facility 'monumentally' significant

In March, federal officials representing Trumansburg and Ulysses announced that they had secured about \$3.5 million in funding that would go toward the potential construction of a new fire/EMS facility or the overhauling of the existing space.

Village officials said that the Trumansburg Volunteer Fire Company and EMS both need new facilities to operate at optimal capacity as demands for these services in the re-



Christmas decorations dot the front yard of 1751 Dryden Road on a recent morning in Freeville.

By Jaime Cone Hughes

age closets, restrooms, a kitchen and a break room, a staff lounge, a conference room, private offices, radio rooms, bunk rooms, decontamination and laundry rooms and locker rooms.

Village Mayor Rordan Hart and Fire Commissioner Marcia Horn said at the time that the \$3.5 million secured by the offices of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, both Democrats from New York, and Rep. Marc Molinaro, a Republican representing the state's 19th Congressional district, is integral to relocating both services to better facilities.

"The funding is monumentally significant," Hart said.

April
Advocates: Light needs to be shed on Cayuga Salt Mine in Lansing

Environmental advocates spearheading the fight for more transparency regarding Cayuga Salt Mine circled April as an important month in their push to secure the safety of the

was looking to sell the mine, but Cargill has not yet made an official announcement.

A company spokesperson told Tompkins Weekly at the time they would not comment on the reports.

Stephanie Redmond, program manager for the Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) advocacy group, said that advocates monitored the expiration of the permit and other recent developments in the interest of preserving the lake, its public utility and other natural features.

Cayuga Lake and its watershed are the largest in the region, spanning seven counties and covering 860 square miles, with more than 140 streams that flow into the lake. The lake itself supplies drinking water for about 100,000 area residents and supports a robust tourist economy.

DEC environmental regulators eventually cleared the application for a permit modification and renewal in November, prompting a one-month public comment period that ends Dec. 20. Environmental advocates say they want to extend that timeline.

Dryden's first-ever cannabis dispensary opens

Dryden Dispensary, located at 2207 Dryden Rd. in the town of Dryden, officially opened its doors near the end of April.

Chris Diemand, owner of Diemand Properties in Ithaca, is the landlord and consults with Kevin Cossaboon and Geneva Riley as they go through the process of running the dispensary.

It's the first-ever cannabis dispensary in Dryden.

"What makes us a little different from these other places is we also have brought our head shop experience into this," Cossaboon said. "Half of the dispensary is all cannabis; the other half is a smoke shop. It has everything needed for the products available here."

May
Groton Jr./Sr. High School awarded grant for college and career readiness

In 2020, Groton Jr./Sr. High School (GHS) was awarded an Early College

High School grant of \$825,000 to enhance its college and career readiness program. It was one of eight districts in New York state to be awarded the grant that year, and GHS's first cohort of 27 students met with great success.

Those 27 students collectively earned over 1,700 college credits through Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3), and 21 earned an associate degree from TC3, graduating in May at no cost to them. All 27 graduated from GHS in June, with 23 going on to attend college.

Trumansburg voters approve school district budget, ballot propositions

Trumansburg Central School District (TCSD) residents approved the \$31.1 million budget for the 2024-25 school year in May, as well as a host of other ballot propositions. Voters also weighed in on two board of education positions that were up for grabs.

Due to declining revenues stemming from weaker enrollment and uncertainty around state funding, administrators implemented cost-cutting measures into the budget, including downsizing staff. The budget passed with 235 "yes" votes and 74 "nos."

Jon Koeng, then the TCSD business administrator, said at a May 7 public hearing that the biggest increases to the budget were around \$2 million in salaries, health insurance, retirement and special education costs.

To plug financial gaps in the budget and plan for potential future financial hardships, the district implemented numerous cost-saving measures, including slashing around 16 staff positions.

June
Groton's Doeing, Milliman, Shurtleff and Whitaker receive emergency response award

The Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response presented its second annual EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Awards as part of the 50th anniversary of National EMS Week in May.

Among those honored were Joe Doeing, Joe Milliman, Lee Shurtleff and Matt Whitaker of Groton Fire & Ambulance, who were named the EMS Crew of the Year for their quick actions when a patient, Mike Elster of Groton, went into cardiac arrest.

Elster was transported to Cayuga Medical Center, where he was in the intensive care unit for three days. After his release, he had to complete 12 weeks of cardio rehab. His heart sustained so much damage that it will never be back to normal, but thanks to the professionalism of these four EMS providers, Elster's life returned to being as normal as possible.

Friends remember Bob Beck of Dryden

Robert "Bob" Beck passed away on June 14 following a brief illness.

From 2015 to this year, Beck anchored the Dryden Rail Trail project and led the task force that came along with it.

Dan Lamb, Dryden town deputy supervisor, said the rail trail project — a 14-mile, multi-use trail that runs through Dryden and connects to the East Ithaca Recreation Way —



Holiday lights decorate the First National Bank of Groton.

By Linda Competillo

gion continue to grow. At the time, they said it could cost up to \$6 million to build out a new facility that would add more garage bays for 10 EMS vehicles, as well as new accommodations for growing staff and new equipment. Additionally, the project could include new utilities, access roads and general site improvements, as well as a 22,000-square-foot building that includes garage bays, stor-

mine and Cayuga Lake.

Cargill, the multinational company that owns and operates the mine, had a mining permit with the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) that expired April 23. The expiration of the permit came at a time when the company reportedly looked to exit the salt mining business. In 2023, The Deal, a business news site, reported that Cargill

will “go on for decades” due to Beck’s leadership.

“Bob had deep roots in the Dryden community, and he knew every inch of the rail trail corridor,” said Alice Green, a close friend. “He has given us the groundwork and the example, and we are dedicated to making a reality of his vision to complete the trail across Dryden, truly connecting communities.”

July
Town board move to explore ‘Lansing Greenway’ multi-use trail project

Lansing and its 2024 Parks, Recreation, and Trails Working Group set in motion in July the creation of a multi-use trail dubbed the Lansing Greenway. The project, town officials say, will connect some of the staples of family life in the town, as well as encourage residents to enjoy the town’s scenic nature views.

The trail would be located away from major roadways in the town to encourage residents of all ages to safely navigate largely rural Lansing. The Greenway would also encourage residents to bike and walk along the trail on their way to landmarks like the town’s center, the Lansing Central School District campus, Myers Park and Salt Point.

Steve Lauzun, the working group’s chair, presented plans for the potential Greenway trail at the town board’s June 26 meeting. Lauzun said that the trail could strengthen the town’s commitment to being a family-friendly place.

“They just have a lot of benefits,” Lauzun said of the Greenway and similar trails. “They promote physical activity; they get people moving, getting out of their cars. They are a much safer way to move around, especially on bikes.”

August
‘1883 Barn’ purchased by local developer



In August, Seth Adams, owner and manager of Warner’s Way Real Property Services, LLC in the town of Enfield, shared with the public that he purchased the barn at 2981 Elmira Rd. in Newfield, which was previously in the Tompkins County tax foreclosure auction in June.

Known as the “1883 Barn,” the structure was originally constructed that year as a hay barn in the farmland of Pony Hollow by farmer Isaac Osmun. It was worked on by John Smartwood, a master carpenter from Horseheads.

Adams has three possible options for the barn:

- Adaptive reuse as mixed-use
- Restore the barn using New York State barn credit, which allows for agricultural use only
- Relocate and reconstruct the barn on a “more suitable site”

Adams’ next steps for the barn will be determined soon.

Newfield school district superintendent to retire

In August, Eric Hartz, an educator for more than 30 years, announced he is set to retire as the Newfield Central School District (CSD) superintendent following the 2024-25 school year.

“It’s just time,” Hartz said. “Newfield has been amazing, and it’s been great to work here. It’s my choice to go, and that’s the way it should be.”

In October 2017, Hartz was hired as the middle school principal at Newfield CSD. Hartz stepped into the superintendent role in 2020. He is currently in his fifth year at the helm.

“I wanted to see kids be successful,” Hartz said. “It’s fun, especially when you’ve been in a district for a long time.”



Tortoise finds his way home

One of the most heartwarming stories of the year was about Joy Foster’s 15-year-old pet African spurred tortoise, Ishkibble (Ish). He escaped from his home on July 3.

The Fosters walked for hours looking for him. They got the word out on social media for help, and they employed both a professional rescue searcher with a bloodhound and a thermal drone, but it was a distant neighbor who spotted Ish one month to the day later, on Aug. 4. Ish was very dirty and covered with mud but had not a mark on him and no injuries, and Foster was thrilled.

September
Union members at BorgWarner enter second week of strike in the village of Lansing

In September, union workers at BorgWarner in Lansing organized a multi-week strike, hoping to gain economic concessions from the auto parts manufacturer and overall better working conditions. The strike ended on Sept. 22 after the workers, represented by Teamsters Local 317, and the company reached a collective bargaining agreement.

Teamsters representatives, who represent the 700 workers at the Lansing plant, said that they wanted the company to show workers due respect, following years of concessions made by workers during bargaining that yielded insufficient long-term gains for the rank and file.

The strike came after the previous contract lapsed on Sept. 8. After that, the company and union negotiators presented membership with two different temporary agreements. Twice, workers soundly rejected the potential new contract. After a contract was approved by workers on Sept. 21, the strike ended the next day.

At the time, John Cometti, a business agent with Local 317, said that workers hoped to secure better wages and better control over their paid time off and to restore other time-off

benefits largely axed in company proposals. He noted that workers were at a breaking point, especially because the company announced last year it would be looking to cut 300 jobs by 2026.

Local resident opens yarn shop in the village

Chris Cushman, who’s lived in Dryden since 2021 with her husband, Matthew, and their three children, opened Connected Stitches Yarn & Fiber Shop on Sept. 14.

The shop offers a wide variety of yarns — crochet cotton, chunky and bulky wools made locally and even wool socks curated in the Finger Lakes region. The shop also provides needle felting supplies, pottery, jewelry and a variety of gift items.

“The community response has been super positive, so it’s all about getting my sea legs with running a business,” Cushman said. “It’s always about learning to navigate all the moving parts of a small business.”

Cushman explained the reason behind the shop’s name, “Connected Stitches.”

“Our tagline is to ‘connect with your local fiber community.’ I believe fiber arts can connect people,” Cushman said.

Trumansburg school district continues superintendent search

TCSD moved forward with its search for a new superintendent.

The search came after Superintendent Kimberly Bell announced in September that she was retiring. Her last day will be Jan. 10, 2025.

“After 13 years of the honor and privilege to lead and serve this district alongside you, I have made the difficult decision to transition into retirement,” Bell wrote in a letter to district parents. “While I truly love the work, the people, and this wonderful community, my family is embarking on new life adventures that I deeply wish to be part of.”

The district’s board of education accepted Bell’s retirement at its Sept. 17 meeting.

“We would like to congratulate [Bell] on her upcoming plans for retirement and appreciate the 30 years of service she has given to New York State public education,” the board wrote in a letter to parents. “We are grateful for the work she has done for Trumansburg over the last 13 years. Her dedication, leadership and vision will have a lasting impact on our students and school community. We wish her well as she transitions into retirement and all of her future endeavors. We look forward to continuing to work with [Bell] over the coming months as we search for her replacement.”

To conduct the search for a new superintendent, TCSD enlisted the help of Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga (TST) BOCES District Superintendent and CEO Lily Talcott as a consultant.

On Dec. 10, the district announced that Charles O. Dickerson High School Principal Megan Conaway had been appointed TCSD superintendent. Conaway will begin her new position on Jan. 11, 2025.

November
Town receives grant for water district upgrades

After six long years, in November the town of Newfield finally received a \$4.2 million Water Infrastruc-

ture Improvement Act (WIIA) grant through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) to upgrade the water district.

The grant funding will allow the town to replace two pumps and the pipes connected to the water district located at Pine Circle. Town Supervisor Mike Allinger said that the facility hasn’t had major improvements since the water district was built in the early 1970s.

Based on experience and timing, Allinger hopes the water district project will get underway in spring 2027.

“We know it’s going to be a long process, but we are very excited to be moving forward,” Allinger said.

Historical marker unveiled at preserved schoolhouse

Also in November, the Kellogg’s Corners schoolhouse, located on the front lawn of the Newfield CSD on Main Street, has officially been memorialized by a historical marker — thanks to grant funding from William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

The schoolhouse, originally located at the corner of Vankirk Road and Kellogg’s Corners in Newfield, is the third structure that was built between the early 1800s and around 1883. Construction of the current schoolhouse was completed in 1887.

The schoolhouse was one of 21 schoolhouses in town in the 1800s. The current schoolhouse, which closed in 1939, was a prominent piece of the town for 52 years.

New owner to restore Groton Hotel

Christine (Chris) Clare Brennan became the new owner of the Groton Hotel (GH) when she purchased it at auction on June 24, and it’s hard to say whether she or the Groton community is more thrilled about it! Brennan was part of a group of people who restarted the Groton Community and Business Association and a member of the New York Forward grant committee. In both groups, there was a focus on what was going to happen to the GH, and Brennan is delighted to be restoring it to its former glory. Many in the community have been speculating on just when the GH will be open for business. Brennan said that the plan is to open the bar and restaurant first. It will be called Eddy Brennan’s Tavern, named after Chris’ late husband.

Groton on the Inside appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Submit story ideas to editorial@vize-lamedia.com or text or call Linda at 607-227-4922.

December
Second Wind opens Dryden House for Women

Second Wind Cottages, a nonprofit organization currently operating 18 cottages in Newfield for formerly homeless men, officially opened the Dryden House for Women.

The Dryden House, located at 35 W. Main St. in the village of Dryden, will provide the same support for homeless women. It also gives women a chance to reunite with children they’ve lost due to homelessness.

“It’s so exciting,” said Deb Wilke, a Second Wind board member and the homeless crisis alleviation coordinator. “It’s something that’s so needed in Tompkins County, especially for women who do have their children.”

Continued from pg 1

Many national retail giants are also feeling the pinch this holiday shopping season, particularly Target, which has a location in Lansing. Reuters recently reported that consumers are turning to the deeper savings found in sales offered by rival retailers, including Walmart.

A busy end-of-year season for local stores

“Black Friday was a little slow, but it was like that for everyone,” said Meade of foot traffic in Alphabet Soup.

"I was not in town until late Saturday night," she explained. "People told me that Friday was really good, but Saturday was not as good."

This desire to shop local and to purchase a lot of gifts in one trip was noticed by Richards at Sundrees, as well.

Richards said she believes the calm atmosphere and ample free parking in Trumansburg makes the village a welcoming shopping destination.

Richards added that the Grain Bin Vintage Holiday Market, held in Trumansburg on Nov. 23 and 24, brought in many customers. The holiday market had a line out the door, she said.

As part of its downtown December festivities, DIA has introduced a new promotion designed to bring shoppers downtown. The Comfort Food Trail began Dec. 7 and will run until Dec. 21. As the event's website explains, the Comfort Food Trail invites people to visit ithaca.brighttrtravel.com/s/passport/comfort-food-trail and join downtown businesses for two weeks of "good eats, festive drinks, and some friendly competition." Participants can earn entry into the grand prize of a \$250 downtown Ithaca gift card.

The initiative is being offered as an alternative to the Chowder Cook-off, which took place in early December for the last 13 years but did not return this year; the DIA decided it was too taxing on the local restaurants during one of the busiest times of the year.

Instead of asking restaurants to cook extra chowder and lend their staff to stand on The Commons for the cook-off, the Comfort Food Trail lets restaurants highlight items that they already have on the menu.

“They already sell mac and cheese



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Customers walk in and out of the busy Lansing location of Target on a recent weekday afternoon. Target sales have been lagging behind its competitors this holiday season, Reuters reports, but the box store giant hopes to finish the holiday season strong by offering more sales in the later part of December.

— let us not make this harder for you [restaurant owners], where you have to make something special or offer a deal where you would potentially lose money on it,” Rohrer said. “We’re here to give exposure to what you’re doing and give it some buzz.”

There are a number of strategic reasons why DIA hosts events, and one of them is to cultivate a feeling of goodwill for downtown, said Rohrer.

“We’re hoping that it leaves [people] feeling positively about downtown,” she said. Events draw people to the area where the storefronts exist, exposing them to everything Ithaca has to offer, Rohrer said, adding that even if they don’t set foot in a single store while they are there for the event, they are much more likely to visit the downtown area in the future.

A post-pandemic world puts vibrant downtowns in a positive position because people are craving experiences and connections with other humans, said Rohrer. People are eager to have an in-person exchange outside of the world of social media.

“So much of our life now takes place in that little box,” Rohrer said, referring to smart phones. “For downtown, there

is that opportunity to capitalize on that desire to not just live in a cookie cutter, big box store world.”

“We hope to strive in downtown for something unique and different,” she added.

This year, DIA put out a guide that highlights the different holiday gift ideas available at the local stores, working with retailers and merchants to provide readers of the guide with a sampling of different things in the stores. The items are sorted into categories, such as ideas of outdoor enthusiasts and gifts for staying warm and cozy at home. The guide can be found in locations throughout Ithaca, and a link to the virtual version can be found at downtownithaca.com/holidaysindowntown.

“First and foremost, we always want to reiterate that it shows they value the local economy and their fellow community members when people shop locally,” Rohrer said. “We try to keep reminding folks that these are people your kids go to school with, or that local shop owners are the people you’re in the grocery store line with. These are friends and neighbors dedicated to the work that they are doing and the services they are trying to provide.”

Continued from pg 8

to all life essentials to so many of us. It is said that over fifty percent of the adult population in the U.S. read at a sixth- grade level or less. What impact does this have on all that we work for and care about?

National elections are largely based upon shallow ideas of the issues voters care about, sometimes the issues they are told to question or care about. Looking back at this year's political

ads, discussion and voter information can give us plenty of useful examples with which to begin to build tools to open discussion and better options. Activists and interested voters can be urged to run for local offices, perhaps starting with a school board position. Other local activist work can also be helpful such as working on committees organizing and advocating for projects that serve the community. Many of us have participated in these activities without further thought about running for political positions. One activity that would serve all of us

is advocating for ranked choice voting. We have written about this here before and you may want to research this topic and build community awareness to work toward pressuring the local and regional structures to this option so that a third, or even fourth or fifth party can give us a real choice.

One last point: if you do not know where to find news, analyses and information that is not censored, controlled or manipulated, many of us can share that information. Let's think together about how we can better organize, change minds and share

what is or should be most important to everyone.

A dear friend made this comment to me recently: “I tell people that if every American voter had read Jill Stein’s platform, PEOPLE, PLANET, PEACE, and if she had been allowed on the ballot in more than half the states, she would have won in a landslide.”

Rose Garrity is a retired Executive Director of a domestic violence program that she founded, and is a life-long activist for social justice. Her email address is eddyeb@aol.com.

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Break Time

HOROSCOPE

WEEK OF
DECEMBER 15 TO 21, 2024

THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
VIRGO, LIBRA AND SCORPIO

- ♈

ARIES
Your family may be counting on you to handle all the holiday preparations. Consider delegating some tasks to distribute responsibilities more evenly this year.
- ♉

TAURUS
You'll have plenty to talk about this week! You'll start wrapping your Christmas presents, adding your personal touch to impress your loved ones and delight the kids, even if it takes some time.
- ♊

GEMINI
You'll find yourself in the spotlight as you work on a special project. You may bring the family together for an impromptu trip or a special holiday activity.
- ♋

CANCER
You'll receive many invitations, which you may initially want to decline. However, you may change your mind at the last minute, especially when it comes to participating in the festivities.
- ♌

LEO
You may find sticking to your budget to be a bit of a struggle, as you might be inclined to choose more expensive gifts than planned. You may also give certain loved ones preferential treatment.
- ♍

VIRGO
Your credit card will get a workout this season! You'll have to choose whether to buy Christmas presents, participate in social activities or go on a family trip. You must dig deep as you consider your options over the next few days.
- ♎

LIBRA
Your home will be bustling with activity even before the festivities begin. Your children will turn your abode into a base camp with their friends before the holidays officially start, adding to your responsibilities.
- ♏

SCORPIO
You'll be carried away by the magic of Christmas, even if you thought you could escape it this year. You'll dedicate time to charitable causes, bringing joy to the people who need it most.
- ♐

SAGITTARIUS
You'll embrace the excitement of Christmas this year, feeling cheerful and excited to participate in the celebrations. You'll eagerly visit bustling shopping malls to enjoy yourself and join in on the fun.
- ♑

CAPRICORN
The thought of taking a trip or going on a getaway may cross your mind, a sign of your desire for adventure and new experiences. You might consider working abroad for a change of scenery.
- ♒

AQUARIUS
Depending on your situation, going back to school could considerably improve your life. A great opportunity may arise, bringing significant material gain and providing relief from your financial stress.
- ♓

PISCES
It may be time to re-evaluate your personal and social media connections. You don't need toxic influences in your life sowing discord and harming your relationships.

COMICS

By Jack Young



SUDOKU

		3		8			2	5
4			2	3	1		6	
9	6			7		3		
			3		2	6	5	4
		5		6	7	2	8	
1			5					9
2	7			5	6		9	
	3							
	8			2	3			6

HOW TO PLAY :

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
		18	19						20			
21	22						23	24				
25						26				27	28	29
30				31	32					33		
34				35				36	37			
			38				39					
40	41	42			43	44						
45					46					47	48	49
50					51					52		
53					54					55		

ACROSS

- Scoundrel
- Came out on top
- Rooster, e.g.
- Work by Shelley
- Scorch
- Yoked beasts
- Word of agreement
- Pulled apart
- Crack a book
- Dangers
- Totals
- Shudder

DOWN

- Affectedly shy
- Grape drink
- Hated
- Jolie et al.
- Singing group
- Nobleman
- Chest of drawers
- Wiggly fish
- Chopped
- Foremost
- Football linemen
- Adam's mate
- Average: hyph.

- Eye ailment
- Desert springs
- Steeped beverage
- Uneven
- Bring legal action
- Masts
- Struggle (for)
- Antique
- Misspeak
- Subject

- Lug
- Tacky
- Surfacing material
- Extra large
- Ten cents
- Elk
- Win out
- Beret, e.g.
- Aggravated
- Scorches
- Entanglements
- Gather
- And
- Skin problem
- Pigeon's cry

- Take advantage of
- Carrier
- Cover
- Safes
- Snaky fishes
- Yard unit
- Slick
- Foundation
- Rustic hotels
- Animal park
- Glimpse
- Fewer
- Age

- Mate of hither

RECIPE

of the week



Savory Hand Pies

INGREDIENTS (MAKES 24):

- 1 package (14 oz) refrigerated pie crusts
- 1 lb ground beef or chicken
- 1/2 onion, diced
- 1/2 cup frozen peas and carrots
- 1/4 cup beef or chicken broth
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 egg (for egg wash)

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat Oven: Preheat to 375°F (190°C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Cook the Filling: In a skillet, cook ground meat with onions until browned. Add peas, carrots, broth, garlic powder, thyme, salt, and pepper. Simmer until vegetables are tender and the mixture thickens.
- Prepare the Hand Pies: Roll out the pie crusts and cut into 8 rounds. Spoon filling onto one half of each round, then fold over and crimp edges to seal.
- Bake: Brush tops with beaten egg and bake for 20-25 minutes until golden brown.

These savory hand pies are perfect for a quick meal or snack, filled with flavorful meat and veggies in a flaky crust!



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NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Top Knot Tree Care LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/30/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 9 Stormy View, Ithaca, 14850. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 11/13, 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18/2024.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Atelier Atelyang LLC Art. Of Org. filed with New York Secretary of State (SSNY) on 05/10/24. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 106 W. Malloryville Rd. Freeville, NY 13068. Purpose: any lawful activity. 11/13, 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18/2024.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Stately Apartments Sub-Master Tenant LLC (the “LLC”) filed Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State of New York (“SSNY”) on 11/07/2024. LLC office location: Tompkins County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served to LLC, c/o Visum Development Group LLC, 226 Cecil Malone Drive, Suite 3, Ithaca NY, 14850. Purpose: any lawful activity. 11/13, 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18/2024.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Stately Apartments Master Tenant LLC (the “LLC”) filed Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State of New York (“SSNY”) on 11/07/2024. LLC office location: Tompkins County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served to LLC, c/o Rockabill Development LLC, 80 River Street, Suite 3C, Hoboken, NJ 07030. Purpose: any lawful activity. 11/13, 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18/2024.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Harrington Donnelly & Associates, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/06/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 132 Bundy Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Moonbow Magic, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/06/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 502 N. Albany St., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4,

12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Advanced Mower R&S LLC filed Art. Of Org with New York Secretary of State (SSNY) on 10/14/24. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 27 Dutcher Rd. Freeville, NY 13068. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Village Heritage Apartments, LLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 08/22/2024. Office location: Tompkins County. Secretary of State of New York designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. Secretary of State of New York shall mail process to 203 East Cortland Street, Groton, New York 13073 which is the principal office of the limited liability company. The limited liability company was formed for any lawful business purpose. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BARKER HILL RD LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/1/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BLUE RIVER DEVELOPMENT LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/1/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

GORGES REAL ESTATE, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/23/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

HIGH ABOVE PROPERTIES, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/12/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served

and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

JAMOONYOU LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/5/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 151 Lake Rd., Dryden, NY 13053. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NEIGHBORHOOD GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS LLC filed Cert. of Auth. with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/04/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 921 Snyder Hill Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

RAMONA’S DOMESTIC SERVICES LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/13/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

SYNBIOTIC DAIRY FOODS, LLC filed Cert. of Auth. with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/5/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 210 Summerhill Drive Apt. 1, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

TDB PROPERTIES 1520 LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/19/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LAW OFFICE of JOHN A. FITZGERALD, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of State of NY (SSNY) on October 28, 2024. Location: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as

agent for service of process on PLLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to John A. Fitzgerald, PO BOX 426 Ithaca NY, 14851. Purpose: Law. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

John-Paul Mead, M.D., PLLC (“PLLC”) filed Articles of Organization with the NY Sec. of State (“SSNY”) on 8/28/24. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY is designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to 103 W Seneca St, Suite 302, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: to practice the profession medicine. 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Bookwork Solutions LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/10/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 47 Whig Street, Trumansburg, NY 14886. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

DVM Detective LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/28/2023. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 205 Columbia Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/27, 12/04, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08/2024

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BAYLEA & CO LLC Articles of Organization filed Secretary of State of NY (“SSNY”) 11/22/2024. Office location: Chemung County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 2219 Doolittle Rd., Lockwood, NY 14859, USA. Purpose: any lawful purpose. 12/04, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 01/15/2024

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Heron Hale Holdings LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/14/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 131 Cambridge Place, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 12/04, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/14/2024

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Articles of Organization filed with NYS SOS on December 5, 2024.

La Colmena Ink LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 04/24/2024. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail process to 117 Winston Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activated permitted under NYS laws. 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Rockabill Properties LLC (the “LLC”) filed Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State of New York (“SSNY”) on 11/12/2024. LLC office location: Tompkins County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served to Rockabill Properties LLC, 80 River St, Suite 3C, Hoboken, NJ 07030. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Stately Apartments Member LLC (the “LLC”) filed Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State of New York (“SSNY”) on 11/12/2024. LLC office location: Tompkins County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served to LLC, c/o Rockabill Development LLC, 80 River St., Suite 3C, Hoboken, NJ 07030. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Conifer Healthcare Solutions LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 11/22/2024. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to 3105 N. Triphammer Rd. Suite 7, Lansing, NY 14882. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22/2025.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

PURSUANT TO SECTION 206 OF THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

Name: GEHRING FARM LLC

Articles of Organization filed with NYS SOS on December 5, 2024.

Office of the company located in Tompkins County.

The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the company upon whom process against it may be served, and the post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process so served is Gehring Farm LLC 1208 Trumbulls Corners Road, Newfield, New York 14867.

Purpose: any lawful business.

2/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Farber Imports, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/4/24. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 6 Sunset West Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Ellison Property Group, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/5/24. Office: Chemung County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 219 M. Elston Rd., Van Etten, NY 14889. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

AnyBody & Everybody LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/30/24. Office: County of Tompkins. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 241 Cherry St., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Red Bird Tile LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was May 19, 2023. Office Location: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to 2197 Ellis Hollow Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29/2025.



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TinaM@ VizellaMedia.com

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Solutions to Puzzles on Page 19

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Real Estate Transactions

CAYUGA HEIGHTS

- Katherine Spencer & Joseph Adorno bought from Robert L. Wirth Estate & Eric R. Wirth at 115 Simsbury Dr, Cayuga Heights, NY 14850 on 11/12/24 for \$515,000.

DANBY

- Lindsey H. Snyder & Douglas R. Snyder bought from Frances T. Snyder Estate & Daryl C. Snyder in Danby, NY 13053 on 11/08/24 for \$275,000.

GROTON

- Millbrook Associates LLC bought from Geraldine W. Aiken at 1350 Elm St Ext, Groton, NY 13073 on 11/13/24 for \$85,000.

ITHACA

- Blue Riv Dev LLC bought from Southpointe Assoc at 680 Warren Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/13/24 for \$655,000.
- Rachel A. Chamberlin & Hugo C. Ikehara-Tsukayama bought from Lisa Richards & Jeremy Richards at 92 Besemer

Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/13/24 for \$450,000.
- Shion Donahue & Shawn Donahue bought from Matthew R. Gorney & Dawn Pierce at 1425 Trumansburg Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/13/24 for \$366,500.
- Troy Legg & Alena Fast bought from Shawn Boynton at 726 Five Mile Dr, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/13/24 for \$539,000.
- Annette Levine bought from Persephone Doliner at 202 Utica St, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/08/24

for \$359,000.
- Mindy J. Lewis bought from Smith Roganne K Estate & Bradford L. Smith at 311 Warren Pl, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/13/24 for \$399,999.
- Modular Heating Systems LLC bought from Lerak Enterprises LLC at 1285 Dryden Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/14/24 for \$67,000.
- Valeri A. Reynolds bought from Seth G. Sanders & Penny Sanders at 80-82 Teeter Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850 on

11/13/24 for \$1,249,000.
- Jacob Todd bought from W Elsie Todd Estate & Mahlon R. Perkins at 847 Davis Rd, Ithaca, NY 14851 on 11/14/24 for \$965,580.
- Robert Zielinski & Tong Li bought from Vincent Mulcahy & Cynthia J. Livermore at 201 Highland Ave, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/13/24 for \$810,000.

NEWFIELD

- Justin Fox bought from Frank Ferrara & Joseph

Ferrara at 66 Main St, Newfield, NY 14867 on 11/08/24 for \$150,000.
- Upstate Cabins LLC bought from Daniel Wed & Holly Weed at 1425 W Danby Rd, Newfield, NY 14867 on 11/08/24 for \$5,500.

TRUMANSBURG

- Michael Naylor & Margaret Heath bought from Jerome H. Kraus & Lori J. D-Kraus at 108 Seneca Rd, Trumansburg, NY 14886 on 11/08/24 for \$400,000.

Classifieds

ATTORNEY

- Divorce \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable. Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. 518-274-0380.

CAR DONATION FOR CHARITY

- Got an unwanted car? Your car donation to Patriotic Hearts helps veterans find work or start their own business. Fast, free pick-up. Running or not! Call 24/7: 1-888-251-3135.

HEALTH

- Attention oxygen therapy users! Discover oxygen therapy that moves with you with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. Free information kit. Call 1-855-399-2719.
- Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not just a discount plan. Do not wait! Get your free Dental

Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-434-9221 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/44).
- Attention: Viagra and Cialis users! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. Call now: 1-855-399-2582.

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- Aging Roof? New homeowner? Got storm damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091.
- Water damage cleanup: A small amount of water can cause major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out wet areas & repair to protect your family & your home value! Call 24/7: 1-888-

872-2809. Have zip code!

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MISCELLANEOUS

- Donate your car to veterans today! Help and support our veterans. Fast, free pick-up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398.
- Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-948-6176 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.
- Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off entire purchase. 10% senior & military discounts. Call 1-833-610-1936.
- Bath & shower updates in as little as 1 day! Affordable prices - no payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & military discounts available. 1-877-543-9189.
- Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit dorranceinfo.com/ads.
- Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime

warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off- limited time! Financing available. 1-855-417-1306.
- Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971.
- DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB games! Choice package \$89.99/month for 12 months. Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 months (with Choice package or higher). No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-866-859-0405.
- Replace your roof with the best looking & longest lasting material, steel, from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited time offer up to 50% off install + additional 10% off install (military, health & 1st responders). 1-833-370-1234.
- Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer

ends 12/29/24.) Call 1-844-501-3208.
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22 Tompkins Weekly

December 18 - December 31, 2024

Wednesday 12/18

A Special Assembly Screening of New Film Project A Tale of Two Journeys
Free—Suggested donation to the filmmaker. A Assembly Fundraising Film Presentation of A Tale of Two Journeys . A film presentation of the exodus of African Americans from the South to Central and Western NY in two different centuries. Southside Community Center 305 South Plain St Ithaca, NY 6072734190 Wednesday, December 18, 2024 , 7:00pm-9:00pm

Thursday 12/19



Story + Craft
Story + Craft is our weekly reading + creating event for children! Join us for a read-aloud, followed by art-making or a guided craft. Best for children 5 and up, but younger are welcome with an adult to assist. **No program 10/10, 10/24, 11/28 & 12/5 3:30pm-4:30pm Tompkins County Public Library 101 East Green Street Ithaca, NY

Third Thursday Artist Alley Open Studios
Join us for a monthly outing every third thursday from 4-7:30pm at Artist Alley’s Open Studio Night! Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of creativity as local artists open their studio doors to share their works and creative processes. Enjoy live art demonstrations, engage with the artists, and discover unique pieces for your collection. Whether you’re an art aficionado or just curious, this is the perfect opportunity to experience the dynamic energy of the art community. Don’t miss out on this chance to connect with artists and explore their creative spaces in a relaxed, inspiring setting!



2024 Annual December Juried Show
The State of the Art Gallery is excited to announce the 2024 Annual December Juried Show, presenting sixty-eight 2-D and 3-D artworks in a wide variety of genres and media. This year 108 artists submitted over 300 pieces, from which the jury members made their choices. \$1000 in prizes will be awarded by prize judge Dara Engler, Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Art, Art History, and Architecture at Ithaca College. Prizes will be announced on Friday December 6. The show will run from December 5th through December 28th, 2024. There will be an opening reception Friday, December 6, 5–8pm. Regular hours Thursday-Sunday 12-5 pm. 120 W State St. Curbside parking and ADA accessibility. 607-277-1626. Made possible in part with funds from the NYS Council on the Arts, administered by the Community Arts Partnership. Images: Arthur BucknorBrick House Date: December 5, 2024, 12:00 pm-December 28, 2024, 5:00 pm Address: 120 W State St Suite 7 Ithaca New York 14850

Friday 12/20

“A Christmas Carol” Staged Reading
Get into the holiday spirit and join us for a staged



reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Ticket proceeds will help the bookstore reach our fundraising goal! Please click here to purchase your tickets! Tickets are priced at \$10 for individuals and \$20 for groups of 3. Friday, December 20, 2024 , 7:00pm Buffalo Street Books 215 North Cayuga Street Ithaca, NY

Ted Walsh Family & Friends Holiday Show
Friday, December 20, 2024 , 6:00pm-8:00pm Join us for a night of live music! The Walsh Family and Friends Holiday Show has become a tradition at Hopshire in the week before Christmas. Hosted by Madd Daddy (Maddy Walsh and her father, Ted Walsh) , the program features a number of Walsh siblings, cousins, in-laws and friends singing separately and together. Some of the songs are seasonal, and some are not, but all feature strong voices, “blood harmonies” and a general family feeling. This is one show you will want to catch. Food available for purchase. Hopshire Farm & Brewery 1771 Dryden Rd. Freeville, NY



Saturday 12/21

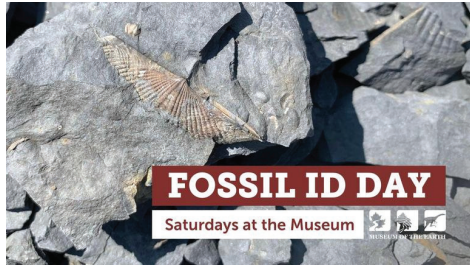


Holiday Open Farm Days at Shepherds Creek Alpacas
The alpacas at Shepherds Creek Alpacas will be welcoming holiday visitors from 10 'til 4 on Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Saturdays until Christmas, posing for photos and hoping for treats! Visit our Alpaca Shop for unique and beautiful alpaca items. Located just across the road from Hunt’s Tree Farm where you can enjoy more holiday fun and shop for Christmas Trees and Wreaths!

Saturday, December 21, 2024, 10:00am-4:00pm
Address: 5797 Stilwell Rd Trumansburg New York 14886



Winter Solstice Celebration!
Join us at our Stone Circle (on Turkey Hill Road near the corner with Ellis Hollow Road) at noon on December 21st , for a Winter Solstice ceremony! We'll gather at 12:00 sharp on Saturday, 12/21/24 with a bright fire amid the Stones. Peter Fortunato will lead a meditation and tell tales to celebrate the longest night and the return of the light. Afterwards, in the Hibbard Corners Schoolhouse, we'll have some festive seasonal fun, musical entertainment, and refreshments. —Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather. —You might want to bring a chair with you to the Stone Circle. —Holiday treats to share are most welcome! Cost: This event is free and open to the general public. The Foundation of Light is in the midst of a membership and fundraising drive, so please consider joining or making a financial donation. Parking: Parking is available in the lot of the main building and along Turkey Hill Road. You can walk to the Stone Circle from there. Please do not park in the small lot at the schoolhouse.



Sunday 12/22



Join local science experts with hands-on activities and demonstrations. December 22 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Sciencenter 601 1st Street Ithaca, NY 14850

King Montessori Academy Preschool & Family Day Care Open House
Sunday, December 22, 2024 , 12:00pm-4:00pm King Montessori Academy Preschool and Family Day Care Open House for parents and kids 18 months to 6 years of age. Learn how an authentic and affordable Montessori preschool education enriches your child’s learning development towards promoting self-esteem and becoming a self-directed, lifelong learner. Led by a certified Montessori Primary Teacher. If you cannot attend, then please call for a private tour. Thank you. King Montessori Academy Preschool & Family Day Care 320 E. King Rd Ithaca, NY

Monday 12/23

SIT! STAY! READ!
Children are invited to practice their reading skills by sharing a story with a truly non-judgmental listener -- a dog! Reading sessions will be held Mondays from 3-4 p.m. Children who attend 6 sessions will earn a FREE book of their choice! Tompkins County Public Library 101 East Green Street Ithaca, NY

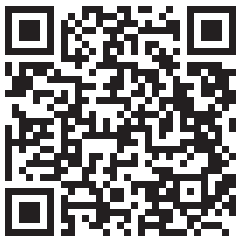
Tuesday 12/24

Christmas Eve Services at First Congregational Church
The Christmas Eve worship at 5:00 pm is a fun and family-friendly service of pageantry and carols for all ages. We close singing Silent Night by candlelight. At 7:30 pm FCCI offers Christmas Eve Service of Lessons, Carols and Candles with Christmas carols and seasonal scripture readings, and a brief homily and prayers. We close singing Silent Night by candlelight. First Congregational Church of Ithaca 309 Highland Road Ithaca, NY

Christmas Eve Service
Come join us in celebration of the season this Christmas Eve with service starting at 6:00 p.m. Varna United Methodist Church 965 Dryden Rd./ Rte. 366 Varna, NY

Future Dates:

SolstiChristmakwaanzakah
Join us for a potluck dinner at 2 pm on December 25 with music, laughter and good food. All are welcome Wednesday, December 25, 2024 , 2:00pm-5:00pm The Foundation of Light 391 Turkey Hill Rd Ithaca, NY 607-391-0245



To submit your own event visit:
tompkinsweekly.com/event-submission/

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\$14⁴⁹
/2 LBS

13/15 Raw Peeled Shrimp
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/2 LBS

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