# TompkinsWeekly

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### Megan Conaway becomes the superintendent of Trumansburg school district

Trumansburg Central School District (TCSD) welcomed its new district superintendent, Megan Conaway, at



By Eddie Velazquez

the Jan. 14 board of education meeting, ushering in a new era for TCSD.

Conaway, who was handpicked by the board and community members through a meticulous and in-

volved search that went on for months last fall, resigned her post as the principal of Trumansburg's Charles O. Dickerson High School and was sworn in as TCSD's new top administrator by District Clerk Tina Lincoln. Lincoln is also the superintendent's office's administrative assistant.

"I am beyond excited and ready to take the next step as superintendent of Trumansburg Central School District," Conaway said in a news release issued last month. "I am proud of my tenure at Trumansburg, and I look forward to strengthening partnerships to ensure our students receive the best education in a safe and vibrant community."

Conaway called Trumansburg "a truly special place."

"And I am honored to fully support and commit my energy to all students and staff," she added.

One of Conaway's first moves as superintendent was to recommend a revised comprehensive student attendance policy. The changes include new verbiage that is inclusive of nontraditional parental relationships.

"Essentially, we want to align this policy with the student handbook across all three buildings on campus," Conaway said.

The revised policy also adds language that explicitly states the district developed a comprehensive student attendance policy that is "in alignment with district goals incorporating recommendations from stakeholder group input including but not limited to representation from the Board of Education, administrators, teachers, students, person(s) in parental relation and the community."

Additionally, the policy highlights that obtaining a learner's permit or driver's license as an excusable absence with appropriate documentation. The revamped policy also states that 180 minutes of weekly class time per credit is required for students to

### Previewing the county's upcoming festival scene Get out and celebrate in 2025



Photo by Allison Usavage/Visit Ithaca

Downtown Ithaca during a past Apple Harvest Festival. The event returns with more cider, performances, vendors, food trucks and, of course, lots of apple cider donuts on Sept. 26 to 28.

By Jaime Cone Hughes *Managing Editor* 

From local bands and winter weather to apples and dairy farmers, Tompkins County will celebrate everything the area has to offer with a plethora of events in 2025.

"We are lucky to have so many amazing festivals in Tompkins County, from the local community celebrations to the larger ones that take place in downtown Ithaca," said Rob Montana, communications manager for Visit Ithaca. "One of the things that amazes me so much is how the people who live here find ways to celebrate so vividly, and a few of the festivals I'd like to highlight are a few ones that feel unique to Tompkins County."

"I'm just excited to have the vibrancy downtown, regardless whatever the activity might be," said Nan Rohrer, chief executive officer of Downtown Ithaca Alliance. "Whether it is Apple Fest or Ithaca or Pride, there's something for everyone to enjoy throughout the year." Festival of Fire and Ice

The Festival of Fire and Ice will encourage families to brave the cold Feb. 8 from 3 to 6 p.m. for a puppet parade, a hot chocolate cauldron and other winter fun.

Perry Ground, storyteller and cultural educator, will return this year to tell his "talking turtle" stories.

"He really cares about our mission and wants to bring his storytelling to the local community," said Kelsey Brewer, Ithaca Children's Garden educator. "It is very normal for him to be telling his stories to children, so it's very fun and engaging."

"Storytelling is a great pastime for

the winter months; getting around the fire and hearing the stories of the past is a great reminder of storytelling and staying close," she added.

## "Bundle up, and get out and be a part of the community again."

#### **KELSEY BREWER**

#### **Educator, Ithaca Children's Garden**

Toward the end of the event, LilySilly Puppet Theater will have an Arctic Puppet Parade from the Gaia turtle sculpture to the area where fire dancers will perform.

"Everybody knows that if you're local, we stay in our homes and warm and cozy, as we should, but there are opportunities to play outside and enjoy the weather," Brewer said. "Bundle up, and get out and be a part of the community again."

Volunteers to help out with the event are always welcome, and those who are interested can reach out through the Ithaca Children's Garden website: ithacachildrensgarden.org.

**Newfield Old Home Days**, an event that has been around for over half a decade, will return **July 25 and 26**.

"We have some oldies but goodies already lined up," said Vicki Cody, cochair of the Newfield Old Home Days Committee.

The old carnival games such as "High Strike" will be back, and some of the live music is already lined up. There will be fireworks on Friday evening again this year.

"The fireworks are great," said Cody. "That's one of my favorite parts."

The parade on Saturday morning

is always the big draw, and Old Home Days is the event of the year for those who grew up in the small town. "It's what they look forward to," Cody

said. "You bump into people you haven't seen in a long time because it tends to draw people from decades past."

Those who are interested in helping

to organize the event or who would like to participate as a vendor can contact Cody at newfieldoldhomedays@gmail.com.

You do not have to commit to being a member of the committee or attend every meeting in order to volunteer.

"[People] can come to a meeting to find out how they could fit in and find their passion," she said, adding that if someone wanted to take care of just one aspect of the event, that would be a huge help to the committee.

For more information, visit facebook. com/NewfieldOldHomeDays.

### Ithaca and Trumansburg Porchfests

Both Ithaca and Trumansburg host Porchfests in the summer or early fall, and both events have become staples in their communities.

**In Trumansburg,** the event will take place **June 8** and doubles as a way to bring people into the restaurants and shops in the village.

"We want to celebrate our community and celebrate it with others," said Nana Potenza, member of the Trumansburg Chamber Board of Directors, "and to generate money for Trumansburg local businesses."

Both Trumansburg WinterFest and Trumansburg Porchfest end relatively early in the day. "They end around 5 or 6 p.m., so people can get a bite to eat and enjoy what Trumansburg has to offer,"







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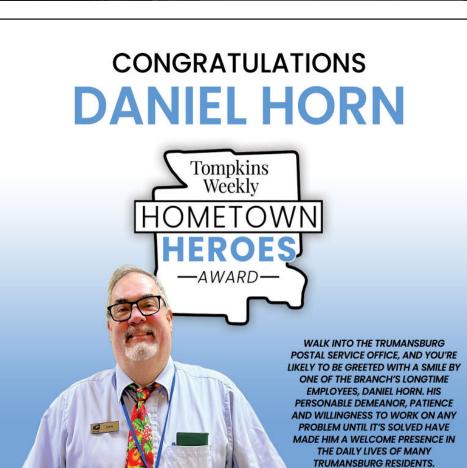
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Our question, your answers

# Street Beat

By Jaime Cone Hughes

What is your favorite local festival?



Apple Fest, because it means fall's coming, and I like that time of year. **Marty, Ithaca** 



[Ithaca] Porchfest. I like seeing all the musicians and the different kinds of music they play. **Jo. Ithaca** 



Rootstock. It's organized by youth entrepreneurs, and all the vendors and performers are youths. It's a great way to provide an opportunity for them.

Scott. Ithaca



Apple Festival. The weather's great, and people always seem to have a tremendous attitude.

John, Lansing



Porchfest [in Ithaca]. **Ivan, Ithaca** 

# Jhakeem Haltom: Helping 'new roots' to take hold and thrive

Jhakeem Haltom, dean of students at New Roots Charter School, does not like to refer to his career as his purpose or pas-



By Jaime Cone Hughes Managing Editor

sion. He said he found himself where he is to-day by simply leaning into his skill set and strengths. He continued to work hard over the years to improve his methods for the betterment of the school, to the great advantage of its students.

"It's not about always enjoying it or coming to work with this feeling of like, "This is my life purpose," Haltom said. "It's a professional skill that I've learned through experience and being on the front lines of teenage mental health."

He said that his 15 years of being dean at New Roots has allowed him to slowly improve his abilities.

"Each year, I learn more. I use that experience to just get more and more detailed into the intricacies of it," he added. "I imagine if someone was a cook or a chef, you can cook the same dish thousands of times, but the more that you do it, the more there's a subtle temperature change, the amount of salt. There's subtle things you can do to improve your recipe. Being dean of students has allowed me to improve my professional capacity."

"Jhakeem was an employee in youth sports or child development at the Ithaca YMCA," said Frank Towner, nominator of Haltom and a fellow Hometown Hero. This was how Towner met Haltom, working at the YMCA together.

"I was struck by his drive, positive attitude, self-motivation — and that smile," Towner said.

Colleague Dave Streib, New Roots science teacher and coordinator for curriculum and instruction, said Haltom's contributions to the school have been invaluable.

"I think really, really highly of him," Streib said. "It's really obvious how much he cares – how hard he works to not give up on people or situations."

Haltom said that although he has made mistakes, he has used them as opportunities to improve, a philosophy he has handed down to his students.

"Those mistakes are things that I've learned from, and grown from," Haltom said. "I think because of that growth and ability to self-reflect and self-improve, the kids have benefited from that. ... I like to help the kids learn how to self-assess."

His strategy is to avoid dwelling on mistakes with emotional attachment, guilt or shame; instead, he encourages the teens to evaluate their actions with a more detached stance. "I like to build that skill set of looking in and saying, 'Okay, here's where I get stronger. Here's where I can improve," he said.

He has a unique strategy for conflict resolution and discipline.

"We've created this atmosphere in disciplined schools that's based upon punishment," Haltom said.

"I'm not saying there's not conditions in which I have to lean on a suspension or something," he said, but he added that if he can, he tries to take a different route by using mediation instead. This is a tactic he learned from the Traditional Cayuga People, who taught him how they have resolved conflict in the past.

"[They] began to teach me about how



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Jhakeem Haltom, dean of students at New Roots Charter School for 15 years, is our latest Hometown Hero.

they resolved conflict when they were upset about being colonized, or how they resolve conflict in their internal communities," Haltom said. "Those skill sets that they taught me from their own traditions gave me the insight that I needed to help run mediations more effectively. That has been a really, really effective part of me being a decent dean at this level."

"I coach [students], and I work with them to have the desire to have that mediation," he added. "That's really important — to facilitate the desire for both people to be there. Once you facilitate the desire, you ask each of them to bring a gift."

"It's really obvious how much he cares – how hard he works to not give up on people or situations."

Dave Streib, Science Teacher and Coordinator for Curriculum and Instruction

**NEW ROOTS CHARTER SCHOOL** 

The gift is actually an admission from both people involved in the conflict that there were things they could have done better in the situation.

"Once they both offer each other that gift and they receive that gift, then you start to explore the intricacies of the conflict," Haltom said. "But the intricacies of the conflict have been colored with the thing that they both acknowledge that they could have done better, which really ultimately leads to this path that's natural and beautiful."

Haltom said that New Roots enriches its students' education and nurtures their personal growth with a wetlands project at Cass Park, where the school has been working to return the area back to its healthy, natural state.

"I would say for some students, it's been life-changing in terms of helping them identify the path they want to take with their careers or with their work lives," said Streib, who helped start up the wetlands project with Haltom in 2016.

"I think having the example has been powerful," Streib said. "I'm recalling numerous times where I'm working with students in a class setting and we're learning about the history of native people in this area, and some of the perspectives that they would have."

As a teen growing up in Ithaca, Haltom had the life changing experience of moving to Mississippi to attend boarding school.

He said that attending the school gave him a very different perspective, especially as a person of color who was raised in upstate New York. He wanted to remain in Ithaca as an adult to lend that perspective to students who might be experiencing racism and/or marginalization, just as he did when he was a struggling high school student.

"In the past five years, we've graduated 90% of our Black males. That's not a lot of students because we have a small population. But that speaks of the gap here in New York state," he said, adding that, unlike Piney Woods, the school he attended in Mississippi, which graduated its predominately Black student population at a high rate, at most public schools in upstate New York the graduation rates for people of color are much lower.

"In our particular terrain, it is a very marginalized group of people," Haltom said. There is potential to view that as an opportunity to exceed expectations.

"I'm not injured by [that view]," he said. "I've chosen to allow that to make me stronger."

He applies that philosophy to New Roots, as well.

"That marginalization is very similar to being a dean of students in New Roots Charter School," he said. "New Roots is marginalized in people's minds as an educational opportunity. ... We could be a victim of the community's judgment of us as an educational setting, or we could say, 'What doesn't kill me makes us stronger.' And New Roots has been made very, very strong."

Haltom's passions outside of New Roots include playing in the popular local band Thousands of One, which he describes as a blend of hip hop, rock and roll

His other true passion is cooking homemade pizza using homegrown ingre-

See HALTOM on pg 10

# Park Grove Realty looks to expand **East Pointe in Lansing**

Park Grove Realty, a large regional developer based in Rochester, is seeking to expand one of its housing com-

plexes in the village of Lansing.



Velazquez

Representatives of the developer and the director of development at one of Park Grove's properties in Lansing presented their project

to build another 130 housing units in the village at the Jan. 6 meeting of the village board of trustees. The development would be dubbed East Pointe II, signifying an extension of the company's East Pointe development on East Pointe Drive and south of Bomax

The 130 new units would be a part of 10 new townhomes north of Bomax Drive and would join the company's portfolio in Tompkins County, which includes more than 500 apartment units and more than 100,000 square feet of retail space spread across the county.

East Pointe II units are billed as luxury apartments, and the rent would be closely in line with the offerings at East Pointe: \$2,400 a month for a

one-bedroom apartment, \$2,800 for a two-bedroom apartment, and \$3,400 for three bedrooms.

"We've done our market research on this stuff, and very strongly, there is a demand and occupancy at the East Pointe project has been very stellar."

#### **ANDREW BODEWES** Cofounder, Park Grove

"We've done our market research on this stuff, and very strongly, there is a demand and occupancy at the East Pointe project has been very stellar," said Andrew Bodewes, a cofounder of Park Grove who was present at the meeting over Zoom. "We have had over 95% occupancy since it was constructed."

Park Grove's presentation noted that the new development would include pickleball courts, a new dog park and a pool.

"There's just a lot of things about it that people like," said Park Grove Director of Development Tim Crilly. "Each unit is very spacious and has its own driveway, the balconies and



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

A proposed new development, dubbed East Pointe II, would signify an extension of the company's East Pointe development on East Pointe Drive. The 130 new units would be located north of Bomax Drive.

patios, and the finishes inside are very high-end."

Crilly and Bodewes told the village

board of trustees that they were seek-

See EAST POINTE on pg 8

# Newfield CSD's new kitchen provides cooking experiences for visually impaired students

The Newfield Central School District (CSD) provides a kitchen that offers the experience of cooking for

visually impaired students.



By Kevin L. Smith

Jay Phillips, the district's teacher of the visually impaired (TVI) through TST BOCES, works with students on the ex-

panded core curric-

ulum of cooking in a working kitchen.

The fully functioning kitchen, Phillips said, is part of Newfield CSD's recent project of a newly refurbished classroom that includes assistive technology.

According to a December education report, the kitchen has "added new opportunities to provide our students with real life experiences of cooking for others and partnering with other classrooms."

"Our appliances have been modified with braille and tactile markers. Our classroom has a dual-media approach. We use both print and braille to label our cabinets and tools.'

#### **JAY PHILLIPS**

Teacher of the Visually Impaired, **Newfield Central School District** 

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Photo provided

The Newfield Central School District recently refurbished a classroom to include a working kitchen and assistive technology for visually-impaired students.

kitchen," Phillips said. "Our appliances have been modified with braille and tactile markers. Our classroom has a dual-media approach. We use both print and braille to label our cabinets and tools. We use tools modified for use with students that have visual impairments. These include

"We have set up a fully functional measuring utensils that are both high contrast and include tactile markers, talking scales, finger guards to use while practicing knife skills and cutting techniques and rolling pins with height adjustments."

Phillips, the lone TVI for Newfield

See COOKING on pg 8

# Sarah Lockwood: Groton Fire Department's first female fire chief

At its recent fire department meeting, the Groton Fire Department (GFD) elected its new slate of fire chiefs for



By Linda Competillo

the year. Chief Eric DeForrest was reelected for his fourth year. Three more incumbents will also remain in their roles: Deputy Chief Rob Gallinger, 1st Assistant Chief Michael Lockwood and 2nd

Assistant Chief Joshua Barron. The sole newbie in the chief ranks is 3rd Assistant Chief Sarah Lockwood.

Sarah is not new to the GFD; she and her husband, Mike, both joined in June 2018. Nor is she new to leadership, having previously moved up the ranks as 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant and Fire Police Captain of the GFD's Pioneer Hose Company last year. Taking the position as an assistant chief, though, will be new territory for Sarah, and it also makes her the GFD's first-ever female fire chief.

"I am nervous," Sarah said. "It's a big responsibility, but I am also excited! It's exhilarating and very humbling to know that you can be there for someone's worst day and be some type of nurturing helping hand."

DeForrest is grateful that Sarah stepped up to the proverbial plate, particularly given his own excitement about continuing to drive growth and promote change.

"Groton Fire has had some firsts the last few years, such as an all-women crew that pulled our Pioneer Hose cart during our Olde Home days parade," DeForrest said. "We also currently have female line officers in our companies. We continue to grow with women in leadership and important roles, both on the fire ground and behind the scenes."

Sarah is a Groton High School (GHS) Class of 2000 alumna and was a three-sport athlete (soccer, softball and basketball). She said she "always wanted to be a cop" and also had thoughts of joining the military, although neither worked out for her.

Sarah and Mike rode the school bus together when they attended school (Mike graduated in 1997), and Sarah said that Mike cared for her family's lawn, but it wasn't until later in life that they reconnected. They married in July 2004.

The Lockwoods raised their four children, Daimon, Makayla, Sharla and Madison, who all attended Groton Central School. In fact, Madison is currently a junior. While the children were growing up, Sarah ran a homebased daycare business for 10 years.

"We continue to grow with women in leadership and important roles, both on the fire ground and behind the scenes."

# CHIEF ERIC DEFORREST Groton Fire Department

After her daycare business, Sarah worked for The Shopper for eight years and First National Bank of Groton for three, until she became the head of facilities in July 2024 at Ongweoweh, a Native American-owned pallet company in Ithaca.

"I always wanted to join the fire department but was always so busy with children and activities," Sarah said. "Eric [DeForrest] coached softball and soccer with Mike and me, and he finally coerced both of us to join."

Initially, Sarah became an EMT (emergency medical technician) and then went on to take all of the classes she needed to be certified in Basic Exterior Firefighter Operations, Fire Police and Hazmat (hazardous material) Incident Command.

"We have great teamwork, and I think we all do a great job and work well with our mutual aid departments," Sarah said. "Mutual aid" refers to neighboring departments assisting each other.

"We have a lot of projects on the horizon that are still in the planning stages," DeForrest added. "I think it's important to keep our department aligned with our ever-changing society and adapting to increased call volumes. Many calls in 2024 that were once handled within a single department have leaned much more toward the need



By Linda Competillo

Sarah Lockwood has moved up the ranks since joining the Groton Fire Department (GFD) in June 2018. She was elected 3rd Assistant Chief of the department this month - making her the GFD's first-ever female fire chief.

for mutual aid from our neighboring departments to successfully negotiate calls. Continuing to foster our relationships with our mutual aid departments and learning how to work together is key, as most departments' volunteer numbers are challenged."

DeForrest explained that 2024 was a record year for calls. He said that it is imperative to stay open minded, train hard and continue to answer the call.

"Our department, in my opinion, is stronger than ever," DeForrest said. "Although our numbers are slightly on the lean side from where we would like them, we are a well-versed crew capable of any situation that comes up. I am confident that 2025 will be as successful, if not more successful, than 2024. I look forward to continuing to serve my community."

"I hope I can be a good inspiration to the community and other women who might consider joining the fire department," Sarah said. "We all work well together and always welcome more."

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:

#### Thanks to Scottland Lights!

The Groton Fire Department (GFD) is extremely grateful to John and Beth

Scott, who generously collected contributions during their fabulous musical Christmas light show to help fund the GFD's annual Junior Firefighter Camp. The Scotts were able to present the GFD with \$737, thanks to their and the community's generosity.

#### **Outstanding CTE students**

Congratulations to the following Groton students who were recognized as outstanding students of the month for December at the Tompkins-Sene-ca-Tioga BOCES Career and Technical Education Center: David Shea, Heavy Equipment, and Kayla Rooney, World of Work Food Service.

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.

#### Free personal care products

The Groton Public Library (GPL) has a variety of household/personal care products supplied by Catholic Charities for those who sign up at the GPL front desk. Requests for items are limited to one bag of five items every two months per household. The available items change over time as items are handed out and new, sometimes different, items are brought in.



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January 22, 2025 Tompkins Weekly

# New Dryden Elementary School kitchen, cafeteria in full swing

Megan Munson, food service director for the Dryden Central School District (DCSD), faced a challenge at one of the district's ele-

By Kevin L. Smith

mentary schools. Last spring, DCSD began renovation and construction of the kitchen and cafeteria at Dryden Elementary School (DES). This meant that Munson and her staff had to relocate to a temporary serving location.

The staff served meals out of the temporary location within DES and cooked meals at the Dryden middle/high school building.

Due to the sheer volume of students at DES, Munson said that her staff had to make three runs a day to the middle/high school for meals.

Munson noted that DES's new kitchen and cafeteria were slated to open in September. However, due to construction delays, Munson had to improvise for a bit longer.

DES's kitchen staff proceeded to deliver meals to 33 classrooms for a week. Munson said that each classroom would fill out a Google order form to indicate how many meals were needed, and the meals were placed in coolers staged throughout the building.

A few months later, DES's new kitchen and cafeteria are in full swing. Munson noted the kitchen is a "full-cooking kitchen with top-of-the-line equipment."

"We did that [temporary service] for a good week, then we got access to our kitchen, which is absolutely beautiful," Munson

When it comes to DES, the challenge aspect is still there. Munson noted that DES currently has 507 students in the building. In comparison, Cassavant and Freeville elementary schools have 84 and 80 students, respectively.

"It's certainly a challenge. It takes a lot of planning on our end. We have a tight grip on our production," Munson said.

The new cafeteria includes a salad bar, a bulk milk dispenser and coolers to round out the revamped space. The dispenser helps students practice using reusable cups and other items, as the district minimizes the selection of 8-ounce milk cartons.

"The dispenser really limits the use of disposable and plastic items in our facilities." Munson said.

Munson said that the students have enjoyed the salad bar, which includes a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. Other options include hummus, an item that Mun-

"[Providing some less common food choices] gives the students a chance to have an experience with their meals."

#### **MEGAN MUNSON**

Food Service Director, Dryden Central **School District** 

son said many students hadn't previously

DES kitchen staff also offers some unique items, including watermelon radishes and blood oranges.

"It gives the students a chance to have an experience with their meals," Munson said.

DES is part of a scratch-cooked district, Munson said, noting that the district follows a six-week cycle menu.

"A lot of our food is homemade, and it's coming out of our central kitchen that is at the middle/high school," Munson said. "We're running a pretty tight ship with our production, so we can minimize waste."

DES has burger day on Thursdays and pizza day on Mondays — along with a rotating meal selection of roasted and marinated chicken, calzones, baked ziti, French toast casserole and more.

Munson noted that the salad bar can be tailored to complement the meal of the day. On burger day, for example, the salad bar provides leaf lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, bacon and more.

"It allows the kids to build a bigger and more grand burger. They love customizing it and trying new foods," Munson said.

The kitchen, Munson noted, has a combined convection and steam oven.

"It has high-quality output and it's very efficient," she said. "It can cook a pizza in seven minutes, which is good because pizza Mondays are very popular."

All in all, Munson said the renovations to the kitchen and cafeteria were a "much-needed upgrade."

"We dealt with a lot of old, outdated equipment," she said. "Some of it was not



Students at Dryden Elementary School choose from the wide selection of vegetables from the new salad bar available in the cafeteria. DES's kitchen and cafeteria went through renovations for a few months last year.

operational or didn't work at 100% of its ca-

The renovations, Munson said, have assisted in the 47% spike in participation in meals within the district.

"Our participation has skyrocketed, which I think started two years ago," she said. "I'd like to say it's because of the renovations, but [since] two years ago, everyone in the district eats for free. We're still seeing an increase as we go."

Dryden Dispatch appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Send story ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com.

#### In brief:

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.

Silent book club at the library on Jan.

Southworth Library in the village of Dryden will hold a silent book club gathering at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 27.

"We'll spend some time chatting and getting snacks, and give a preview of the give away book and then you will be free to grab a cozy seat and read in a room with other readers, no conversation required," according to a description.

The club allows people to choose a free book from the library's pile to read and take home. Participants can also bring a book to the gathering.

The club is for ages 16 and older. To register, go to southworthlibrary.org.

Celebrating Lives, Honoring Memories

RECENT DEATH NOTICES										
Name:	Age:	Town, State:	Death Date:	Arrangements:						
Dale L. Conroy	82	Trumansburg, NY	Jan-15	Ness-Sibley Funeral Home						
Joanne Edith Davenport	84	Brooktondale, NY	Jan-14	Bangs Funeral Home						
Vicki Lynn Hillyard	61	Ithaca, NY	Jan-12	Perkins Funeral Home						
Frank L. Ferrante	72	Elmira, NY	Jan-4	Bangs Funeral Home						
Ellen B. Plaisted	95	Ithaca, NY	Dec-28	Perkins 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.



Celebrating Lives, Honoring Memories (607) 533-0057 | TinaM@VizellaMedia.com | 3100 N. Triphammer Road, Suite 100, Lansing, NY 14882

### **Credit Union Branches Collecting Diapers**

(CFCU) has announced that its branches will serve as collection sites for diaper donations to benefit the CNY Diaper Bank. Donations will be accepted through the end of

The CNY Diaper Bank partners with local social service agencies to distribute free diapers to low-income families and raise awareness of the critical health need for diapers.

Since its founding in 2016, the CNY Diaper Bank has distributed more than 11 million diapers. In 2024, the organization provided over 2.1 million diapers to families through a network of 50 local partner agencies. In Syracuse, 50% of children under the age of five live in poverty and one in four lives in extreme poverty.

"We're thrilled to support the incredible work of the CNY Diaper

CFCU Community Credit Union Bank," said Lisa Whitaker, President and CEO of CFCU. "Providing families access to essential items like diapers can significantly impact their daily lives and overall well-being. Supporting our communities is at the heart of CFCU's mission and we're proud to contribute to an initiative that helps families thrive and promotes healthier, happier futures."

> "Diapers are more than a convenience, they're a necessity," said Michela Hugo, founder of CNY Diaper Bank. "When families receive diapers, it eases financial strain, allowing them to afford rent, utilities, and groceries. Most importantly, it ensures babies are clean, dry, and healthy. We're incredibly grateful for CFCU's support and the community's generosity in helping us meet the growing need for diapers."

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

**Continued from pg 1** 

be able to earn accreditation. This is a New York State Education Department requirement.

"We had a first review, and we had feedback from all building leaders on [the revised policy]," Conaway said.

At the meeting, Trumansburg Middle School teachers Seth Kotler and Lisbet Rattleborg also presented their plans for Trumansburg Summer Reading Camp.

Students are recommended by teachers for this camp, which serves to bridge a reading gap, allowing students to catch up during the summer. Other students are selected through iReady assessment scores. iReady is an online tool that helps teachers provide all students with a path to proficiency and growth in reading and mathematics.

"We were seeking to reach out to students in need of intervention to close the summer reading gap," Kotler said.

Other students were able to register openly.

"We had 32 students in summer 2024," Kotler said.

The camp, Rattlerborg added, was successful in engaging students.

"Kids really enjoyed themselves,"

Rattleborg said. "When I signed up to do summer reading camp, I wondered if this was going to be a hard sell for families, and the thing is that we set it up in a way that the kids really had a good time while learning a lot."

The teacher team who signed up for the camp also got some meaning-

"I am proud of my tenure at Trumansburg, and I look forward to strengthening partnerships to ensure our students receive the best education in a safe and vibrant community."

#### **MEGAN CONAWAY**

**Superintendent, Trumansburg Central School District** 

ful hands-on experience, Rattlerborg said.

"The thing that surprised me the most is that we had a really strong teacher team," she added. "We were able to bring them in, and they were just thrilled to be engaging and building activities and reading decodable texts, playing games to increase phonemic awareness."

Phonemic awareness is a key skill for learning to read and spell. It is the ability to identify and manipulate the individual sounds in words.

Kotler and Rattlerborg said the future of the program is in limbo.

"Unfortunately, this was funded through COVID-19 relief. This was a three-year grant, and this is its third year," Kotler said. "So, it has run its course, and we did feel like providing some reading intervention through the summer was beneficial."

A potential solution, the teachers noted, would be to partner with the Ulysses Philomathic Library, which already offers summer reading programming. Another would be to seek grant funding.

"We are just trying to provide any reading and literacy in any way we can," Kotler said.

Ulysses Connection 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.

#### In brief:

The Ulysses Philomathic Library will host a showing of bird photography by skilled photographer Ken Haas until Feb. 28.

"Through my photography, I try to inspire others to appreciate the beauty and mystery of birds as I see them," reads Haas' artist statement.



Photo provided

Megan Conaway, former principal of Trumansburg's Charles O. Dickerson High School, was handpicked by the board of education and community members.

Haas' work has been selected by the Audubon Photography Awards contest to be included in their Favorite Female Bird Photos category, and Audubon's "Top 100" out of almost 9000 submissions.

Haas' website can be found at www. kennethhaasphotos.com.

## Mezey to seek another legislature term

is seeking reelection for a second term to the Tompkins County Legislature representing District 11.

Mezey is currently Vice-Chair of the Legislature serving in District 13. With the recently redrawn district lines, Mezey's district will remain much the same: the western portion of the town of Dryden, with the only notable change being the district number from 13 to 11.

"We are at a critical juncture on the legislature with many of my colleagues not seeking re-election and two new legislators being added to the legislature, totaling 16 Legislators in 2026, a new County Administrator and many initiatives and capital proiects in the works. If reelected I plan to continue to work hard to bring these

Greg Mezey recently announced he critical projects and initiatives across the finish line," Mezey said in a statement he released Jan. 17.

> According to his recent press release, Mezey remains focused on:

- Housing Encouraging the development of a diverse local housing stock, while investing in critical infrastructure needed to realize the growth required to improve affordability for everyone in Tompkins County.
- Homeless Response Advancing the creation of a new shelter facility, collaborating and coordinating with community partners to deliver the needed services to ensure homelessness is brief and one time for our unhoused.
- · Climate Change Mitigation & Resiliency – Ensure County priorities

and capital investment remain focused on reducing our dependency on fossil fuels and ensure our community is well positioned to manage the impacts of climate change.

- Economic Development Continue to work with our local and regional economic development partners to strengthen our job training programs and support opportunities to attract and retain new businesses and industries to Tompkins County.
- · Government Operations Supporting County staff to be able to continue to provide best in class services to our community at the lowest possible cost to the taxpay-

For more information, visit Greg-Mezey.com.



Photo provided

Greg Mezey, a Democrat representing the town of Dryden on the Tompkins County Legislature, recently announced that he is running for reelection.

# **County Social Services Commissioner** Kephart announces retirement

The Commissioner of Tompkins ing (320 W. State St./MLK Jr. St. Itha-County Department of Social Services (DSS), Kit Kephart, has announced that she will retire in July of this year, after nearly eight years of dedicated service in that role and 25 years with the department.

Kephart has overseen DSS through significant changes, including managing operations during the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure that the community continued to receive needed benefits, supports and safety interventions. Additional highlights include implementing needed security upgrades to the Human Services Build-

ca) to increase building safety for the public and staff, and navigating state and local policy changes that impacted the community at the local level, such as Medicaid reductions and changes to Child Welfare approaches to increase support for families. Most recently, Kit spearheaded the development and implementation of an Emergency Code Blue warming center at a repurposed County-owned building to meet expanding homeless service needs.

Commissioner Kephart stated, "It has been an honor to serve with such a dedicated and compassionate staff. Our commitment to using a strengths-based, person focused, and trauma informed care approach creates a network of support for those in need of services, and by doing so, increases the strength and resiliency of our community."

Tompkins County Legislature Chairman Dan Klein stated, "Kit Kephart has been an incredible leader, steering the County's Social Services Department through very significant times of transition, crisis and change. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Kit for her dedication and compassionate civil service to Tompkins County for over 25 years."

Tompkins County DSS administers federal and state programs at the local level, providing critical supports for individuals and families in the community. These programs include economic benefits, homeless and housing services, heating and utility service supports, child support, adult protective services, and child welfare services.

The County will launch a nationwide search for the next Social Services Commissioner

### **EAST POINTE**

Continued from pg 4

ing an early green light, though not any board action, on the project.

"We're not asking for you to do a formal vote or anything. But before we decide to move forward, and move at a pretty fast pace, we want to know that this is something you want," Bodewes said. "We are not interested in going through the process and having it be an uphill battle with folks as to whether this makes sense. We are confident it makes sense. We think the proof is in the existing East Pointe phase one, and the other work we've done in the community."

Bodewes said he understands that going through the village board of trustees and the planning board will be a process. The planning board will have to review a site plan review application. The village board of trustees will also have to approve a zoning variance application, given the area, but noted that the company wants to be diligent in order to be able to break ground by summer.

"At least give us the nod that you find this to be the type of thing that you're looking for in this location, and we'll do all the work to vet this and provide all the due diligence and the studies and things," he noted.

Some board members generally agreed that they wanted to see more housing built in the village and that they trusted Park Grove's pedigree.

"I'm okay with it, yes, and certainly in favor of moving forward," said trustee Susan Ainslie.

Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer said that he isn't 100% on board. He noted that, as a resident who lives near East Pointe, he did not like the changes the apartment complex brought to his neighborhood.

"Let's say not necessarily 100%," he noted. "Right now, I have a lot of dog traffic in my front yard. This one here will bring even more of that. You have a lot of cars driving pretty fast through the neighborhood, coming from up there [at East Pointe]. The stop signs ... nobody stops there. So you have some issues with that, and it really changed the character of the neighborhood completely."

Bullmer noted that East Pointe was the beginning of those changes.

"Everything is already done," Bullmer said, "so whether there are 130 more apartments or not, that is probably not that that big of a deal. And I am always against destroying wetlands and forest. So, that is just my position."

Mayor Ronny Hardaway said he supports the development..

"As far as myself, I agree with the majority of the comments that the first East Pointe project worked out very well for the village," Hardaway said. "It has provided good housing for the village. I think it's very complementary to the village, as far as its atmosphere, its construction and its upkeep. I've been fairly impressed."

Hardaway said he wanted the company to consider building housing that was more affordable in the future.

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.

#### In brief:

The Lansing Community Library will host the latest version of its Educator Talk series on Feb. 12. "Pathway of Resistance: The Erie Canal & the Underground Railroad" will be presented by Derrick Pratt, director of education and public programming at the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse. The conversation will start at 7 p.m.

The library website offers the following information on the event:

"This constantly evolving talk examines the experience of African-Americans along the Erie Canal Corridor, with a particular focus on the struggle for abolition. It follows the course of enslavement and resistance in New York from colonial times to the present while emphasizing the key role the Erie Canal has played in these historic developments.

"[Pratt] is... a native of Chittenango, he received a B.A in Social Studies Education from SUNY Cortland and a M.A. in Museum Studies from Syracuse University. Prior to his job at the Erie Canal Museum, Derrick served as director of programs at Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum."

### **COOKING**

Continued from pg 4

CSD, is handling a caseload of three students at the district, with varying degrees of visual functioning.

Phillips noted that the kitchen program started at the beginning of the school year, when work was being done on the refurbished classroom. It concluded prior to Phillips' presentation on the program at the Dec. 19 board of education (BOE) meeting.

"The maintenance team put a lot of time and effort into getting the room ready as soon as possible," Phillips said. "There were plumbing needs, and flooring had to be installed before we were fully operational."

Kimberly Stine, principal at Newfield Elementary School, praised Phillips' efforts with the program.

"Jay's presence is felt across our school," Stine said. "He has met needs that could not be met any other way. His students are learning new skills that impact not only their time at school but also their lives at large. He is friendly, kind and is teaching all of

our students acceptance which goes beyond the classroom. Seeing him in our [pre-kindergarten] class with one of his students teaching braille is just one example of the reach of Jay's instruction. We are beyond lucky to have Jay as a part of the Newfield team."

Phillips — who expressed at the BOE meeting the importance of teaching life skills and handling assistive technology equipment while laying out an overview of what TVIs teach — said the skills bode well for students' job prospects in the future.

According to notes from the Dec. 19 BOE meeting, Phillips discussed how having job experience while in high school is "critical to visually impaired students's future employability," noting that one current high school student with visual impairment is employed

"I am grateful for the classroom Newfield has helped to put together in order that we help prepare these students for independence," Phillips said.

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

In brief:

### Presentation on Alzheimer's and dementia is Jan. 27

The Newfield Public Library, located at 198 Main St., will hold a presentation by the Alzheimer's Association on Jan. 27 from 6 to 7 p.m.

The Alzheimer's Association will present "Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia," the first of a three-part series.

The presentation will help people learn about the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, current research and treatment, resources and more.

Attendance can be virtual or in person. To register, call 607-564-3594.

For more information, visit alz.org/CRF.

### Yoga for beginners held every Saturday

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

Phyllis Kuan Yin 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.

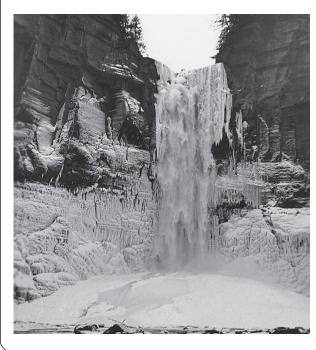
'Mind Over Body' program on Feb. 29

The Newfield Public Library will host its "Mind Over Body" program on Feb. 29.

The program, led by instructor Mitch Raymond, will take place on the second floor of the library at 6 p.m. The presentation from Raymond breaks down how to "improve the strength, flexibility, stability, balance and skill" of participants' bodies through practices that "enhance neuromuscular connection and physiologic well being," according to a description.

The library recommends bringing a yoga mat to the program, and participants will work with the library's chairs and table to assist with stability. The program will have a suggested donation of \$10.

#### **HISTORY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY**



8



Taughannock Falls is seen here with its iconic appearance truncated by ice and snow. This early 20th century image must have been taken during a severe winter.



# **TompkinsWeekly**

# SP()KIS



KEY HIGH SCHOOL MATCHUPS: 1/23 Boys Basketball: Lansing @ Dryden

• 1/25 Wrestling: IAC Championships (@ Watkins Glen) • 1/28 Boys Hockey: Ithaca vs. Cortland/Homer

## Groton indoor track savors another record-breaking season

Last season, the Groton indoor track school record." and field team broke multiple school records despite only having eight athletes



By Ryan Gineo

on the roster. With a similarly-sized team this time around with nine athletes, the Red Hawks continue to make history—in particular with one standout runner.

ESPN ITHACA Saying that Ross Bush is rewriting the record books at Groton might be putting it lightly. At this rate, he's composing an entire saga. The junior has broken four school records this season alone, all distance events: the 300-meter, 400-meter, 600-meter and 800-meter runs. Adding in the three records he has as part of relay events in previous years, that brings his career tally to an astonishing seven. Bush reflected on the impact he's continuing to make on the program.

"It means a lot," Bush said. "My name is going to be up there for quite a long time after I'm done here, so it really means a lot that my legacy will be preserved in those records. I have quite a few here, so my name will probably be up there for quite a while."

A big part of Bush's outstanding success has been the strategy he's implemented into his races. For example, he credited his head coach Scott Weeks for helping him set the 300-meter mark at the Utica Challenge on January 11.

"My coach told me to get out a lot faster than I normally do, because I'm normally a 1000-meter runner," Bush said. "So I started on a three-point start, and it really helped me get my speed early on in the race, and I just kept pushing through to the finish and got me the

Similarly, Weeks praised Bush's ability to not just retain those strategies but also be able to execute them at an exceptional level.

"He's really a fierce competitor," Weeks said. "He's got a gifted talent, and he's willing to listen to a coach that will give him guidance, who's been there and done that, who's run those races and say, 'Hey, this is what you got to do.' And he will listen. He'll do it. He's always been really good about that. When I give him advice, he takes it almost as gospel, whether it's his diet or it's a sleep routine...He's a guy as a junior that just has the confidence. He looks at that record board and goes, 'I want those records.""

#### "I've really enjoyed this group in that they really have good personalities."

#### **SCOTT WEEKS**

#### Head Coach, Groton Indoor Track

While Bush aims to break even more records this season—he already has his eye on the 1,000-meter and 1,500-meter runs—there are plenty of other success stories for the Red Hawks. David Shea is the lone thrower (and lone senior) on the team, and he has won the shot put at multiple meets. He continues to be one of the top throwers throughout the section even with an alteration in tech-

"He's changed his form up in the circle," Weeks said. "He's doing a full rotation in the circle instead of doing a part rotation. In the technical events, when

See TRACK on pg 10



Photo by John Brehm

Groton's Ross Bush is having another stellar season for the indoor track and field team. The junior has once again broken multiple school records, including the 300-meter and 600-meter runs.

## Trumansburg wrestling returns to the mat

By Ryan Genio ESPN ITHACA

Resurrecting an athletic program isn't a new concept in Trumansburg. In 2019, the football team was brought back after a five-year hiatus. They've had linear progression in the eightman scene, ultimately culminating in the program's first-ever sectional title in November. This winter, another program has been revived.

Trumansburg has a varsity wrestling team for the first time since 2012-13. The wheels got rolling on their return last year when modified wrestling returned under Chad Doolittle. Now coaching both modified and varsity this year, he's taken plenty of enjoyment in helping bring a sport with such significance throughout the county back to Trumansburg.

"I was happy to jump in and be able to coach last year, and I had a ton of fun doing it."

#### **CHAD DOOLITTLE Modified and Varsity Coach, Trumansburg Wrestling**

"I was happy to jump in and be able to coach last year, and I had a ton of fun doing it," Doolittle said. "To be honest. It was more fun than I expected to have. The kids were great, and the community of other wrestling coaches were great. It was a good experience for everybody. The confidence that gets built on the wrestling mat is unmatched in any other sport. You're out there by yourself. It's a very individual sport. There's nobody else to blame. It's just you and your opponent, and to walk out onto the mat in front of a crowd takes a lot of courage. It's a great confidence builder for the kids, so I'm just so happy that they have that ability."

Doolittle is also the head coach of the history-making football team this past fall, and there are quite a few wrestlers that also play on the gridiron. Not only is there overlap in the rosters, there's plenty of overlap between the two sports.

"We condition a lot in football, but wrestling is a whole other animal," Doolittle said. "It's the most physically exhausting sport that we offer at Trumansburg. You're on the mat, and you think a two-minute period is no big deal. But at the end of that two minutes, you're exhausted, and then you've got to kind of get back to the center and do it two more times to finish a match. There was a little bit of a head start on conditioning, but we've had to kick it up a notch. It's not exactly the same, but a lot of the techniques that we teach in terms of tackling for football resonate with takedowns in wrestling."

See WRESTLING on pg 10

January 22, 2025 Tompkins Weekly

### **WRESTLING**

**Continued from pg 9** 

It's no surprise that the Blue Raiders have an incredibly young team. Of the 17 wrestlers on the roster, only six are upperclassmen. But the lone senior on the team has been the star of the show. Dikota Hamilton has won 17 of his 20 matches, as of January 19. He spent the last two seasons wrestling at Ithaca, winning sectional titles and competing at states both times. Along with starring on the mat now for his hometown, he's also helping out the younger wrestlers, which included being the assistant modified coach last year.

"He's a great kid all the way around," Doolittle said. "He's dedicated so much time to honing his craft that he's more technical than I am in a lot of ways... He enjoyed coaching last year. A lot of those modified kids are now first-year varsity wrestlers, so he's been able to mentor them and kind of help get them up to speed."

One of those wrestlers Hamilton has mentored is Brody McLennan. The eighth grader also has a winning record at 6-3, and he's one of many examples why the future is bright for the Blue Raiders.

"Brody is the type of kid that will

take it home with him and really study," Doolittle said. "Last year he did modified as a seventh grader and did really well his first year wrestling. He really sucked it in and wanted to figure it all out, and that's something he's continued this year. He's athletic enough to pass the APP [Athletic Placement Process] and be able to wrestle varsity this year, and he's been great for us."

The season has really flown by with the IAC Championships coming up on January 25. No matter what happens during the postseason for the Blue Raiders, the fact that wrestling is back on the map is something to cherish and build upon.

"The main goal was to get the kids out there and have them experience wrestling, give them an opportunity to fall in love with it or not," Doolittle said. "We've had kids that said, 'Hey, this isn't for me. I gave a fair shake, and it didn't work out.' But by and large, most of the kids have really taken to it, and they've improved week over week. All we can really ask for at this point is going out there and taking on something that may make you a little bit uncomfortable, because that's how you get better and start to thrive in that environment of adversity, and a lot of the kids have done that."

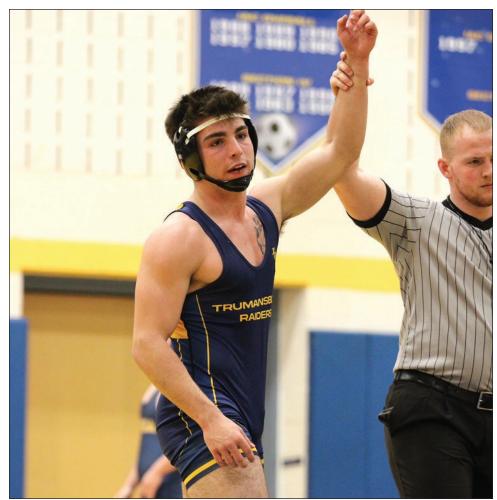


Photo by Cori Vogel-Moore (@momspics607 on Instagram)

Trumansburg's Dikota Hamilton (left) spearheads the first varsity wrestling team at the school since 2012-13. The senior previously wrestled at Ithaca while the Blue Raiders did not have a program.

### **TRACK**

**Continued from pg 9** 

you change up your technique looking for sort of the long game, oftentimes what's hard for these athletes to deal with is that your performances go down a little bit as you move into what is considered to be better technique. You're spending time mastering that better technique, and your performances get a little bit slower or not throwing as far. He's been a little bit down, but he's still throwing over 40 feet."

Along with Bush and Shea, sophomore Derran Morris is the other returner from last season. Of the six newcom-

ers, half of them have carried over from the cross country team: freshman Caleb Downing and sophomores Wesley Sturmer and Bryce Wilkinson. With Bush also on the cross country team, that means there's plenty of chemistry already built up entering this season and has spread throughout the entire roster.

"I've really enjoyed this group in that they really have good personalities," Weeks said. "They bond really well with each other. We've got a couple of new people in there, too, and what's been nice is that those four guys, including Ross, that sort of built this bond through cross country have really brought in some of these other new indoor guys into their group."

Another aspect of the Red Hawks that has stood out to Weeks is how goal-oriented they are and how dedicated they are all into achieving those ambitions. As Weeks hopes to have as many athletes qualify for states as possible with a younger team, he knows that there's plenty to be excited about for years to come.

"I think Ross and David will surely be in," Weeks said. "[If] those younger guys and girls don't quite make it in this year, I know that they're going to certainly have those goals again next year. As I really work to try to build this program, trying to get as many kids as possible into that state meet qualifier is a goal that I have for them, and it's a goal I have

for them because it's a goal they have for themselves. It's pretty exciting."



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## **HALTOM**

**Continued from pg 3** 

dients. He serves his 16-inch pies with sausage, peppers and mushrooms at Danby Food and Drink every first Saturday of the month. "For years, when I'd be stressed out after work, especially in the winter, I would go home and just study like I was a Ph.D.,

recipes — pizza, pizza, pizza," he said. "It became a way for me to heal from the stress of being a dean and working with teens for 12 hours a day ... but it got to be such a passion where I was like, 'Well, maybe I could make money at this. Maybe I could do this." Regardless of whether he's changing lives with his work at New Roots or with his perfect pizza recipe, Haltom said he enjoys watching a high number of New

Roots graduates find their place in Ithaca, and he takes pride in his contributions to the community where he grew up.

"After Jhakeem left the Y, I would see him and follow his career path," Towner said. "We would always embrace when we see each other, and his passion has touched the lives of many children and adults alike. A lot of people come and go in a person's life ... some you never forget."





#### **WEDNESDAY 1/22**

#### **Projects & Participation Kick-off Spring** 2025

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 7:30pm Find out your role in PMA's vibrant projects and collaborations! Mark your calendar for Projects & Participation Kick-off on Wednesday, January 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kiplinger Theatre. Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts.

Join us for a general information session where you can explore various ways to participate in PMA's live and mediated productions. Meet passionate directors and filmmakers who will share insights about their projects and casting requirements.

All students are welcome! No prior experience necessary!

Beyond the spotlight, there are numerous behind-the-scenes opportunities for involvement. PMA faculty will detail openings in the scenery/props shop, costume shop, electrics, and positions on backstage or film crews.

At PMA, there's a place for everyone to contribute and thrive. For any inquiries, feel free to reach out to us at pma@cornell.edu. We look forward to seeing you there! Cornell University 144 East Ave Ithaca, NY

#### THURSDAY 1/23

#### **JG HErtzler live at Buffalo Street Books**

Jan 23. 4pm Join us for an evening up close and personal with John G. Hertzler! JG will share stories from his long performance career, read excerpts from his latest book, Confessions of a Klingon Linebacker, and introduce his role as Ambassador Bartok in the Mysterious CHIRP sci-fi mystery podcast. Come for food and laughter, get your questions answered and your book signed!

Hertzler explores fifty years of expanding his family to include artists and actors. "So many new families," Hertzler reflects, "all fellow explorers of terra incognita, commonly known



#### **Discover Improv**

January 23 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm \$25 Come discover the joy of improv in a supportive environment. In this 2-hour class vou'll be introduced to key improv principles and we'll play games so you can experience them in action.

- \* No improv experience needed
- \* Designed for non-actors
- \* Guaranteed fun!

For ages 16 and above. At this event we'll answer questions and announce upcoming classes, workshops, open jams, and performance opportunities so if you want more improv joy in your life, you'll know where to go next. The Cherry Arts 102 Cherry St, Ithaca, NY 14850

#### **FRIDAY 1/24**

#### **Tapestry**

A tapestry is defined as a heavy cloth or canvas with designs or pictures woven into it. The January exhibit will weave together images from thirteen of our artist members. The result promises to be a colorful and diverse sampling

### UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA

An education program presented by the Alzheimer's Association® This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the New York State Department of Health



#### **ALZHEIMER'S IS NOT** NORMAL AGING.

It's a disease of the brain that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior.

Join us to learn about:

- » The impact of Alzheimer's.
- » The difference between Alzheimer's and
- » Alzheimer's disease stages and risk factors. » Current research and treatments available
- to address some symptoms.
- » Alzheimer's Association resources.

Monday, January 27 6 - 7 p.m.

**Newfield Public Library** 198 Main St Newfield, NY 14867

This program will be offered both in-person and virtually.

Registration is encouraged, call 607-564-3594

Visit alz.org/CRF to explore additional education programs online and in your area.

of paintings, photos, sculpture, and fiber arts. The show will run from January 2nd through February 2nd, 2025. Opening reception Friday, January 3rd, 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. State of the Art Gallery 120 West State Street Ithaca, NY

SATURDAY 1/25

giving attention to the complexity of humanity. This layered visual language speaks to a diverse reverence to a longing for home physically and spiritually. In response to Kitchen Theater's invitation, Wright has extended the invitation

aspiration, strength and longing are all depicted

### to various community members over the course of January and February to "run a boat" in a feast of experiences celebrating and shining a light on Jamaican culture throughout diaspora including musical performances and roundtable discussions. Kitchen Theatre Company417 W. State St./Martin Luther King Jr. St., Ithaca YOUTH INSIGHT PANEL



#### **Food Pantry**

Saturday, January 25, 2025 , 12:00pm-2:00pm GYM-Southside Community Center 305 S Plain St Ithaca, NY

#### **SUNDAY 1/26**

### **Special Event: Martin Luther King Jr. Concert**

Sunday, January 26, 2025, 4:00pm Free, open to the public



Cayuga Chamber Orchestra **Series: Mozart and Shaw** 

January 26 @ 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Delight in an afternoon of chamber music by Cayuga Chamber Orchestra string and wind musicians. The second program in CCO's Chamber Series includes works by Mozart, Purcell, Shaw and Janácek. First Unitarian Society of Ithaca 306 N Aurora Street Ithaca

#### **MONDAY 1/27**



### **Application deadline for Master Composter**

January 27 @ 12:00 am - 11:30 pm Reduce waste and improve gardens in Tompkins County as a Master Composter! Join us for 10 in-depth classes, a couple field trips and use your new skills to teach others. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from February 13th to May 1st at the cooperative extension in Ithaca. Learn more at ccetompkins.org/mc and apply by Monday, January 27th. Interested? Questions? Contact Adam Michaelides at 607-272-2292 or acm1@cornell.edu . Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County 615 Willow Ave Ithaca

### **TUESDAY 1/28**



Tompkins Community Bank First-Time **Homebuyer Webinar** 

January 28 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Join Tompkins Community Bank's team of mortgage professionals to learn about various programs available to first-time homebuyers. To attend, please register here : https://webinar. tompkinsbank.com/first-time-homebuyer-cny

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January 25 @ 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm In Jamaican patios "running a boat" refers to a social gathering where friends, family and neighbors collectively contribute to an activity such as preparing a feast or addressing a need. "Running A Boat" features a selection of work from Jamaican, American multidisciplinary artist, educator Jesse Wright whose work serves as an ongoing poetic meditation on displacement, migration and scripture. Hope,



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

# Break Time

### HOROSCOPE

Week of **January 19 to 25, 2025** 



#### **ARIES**

Although you may feel some reservations, get ready to soar to new heights. This achievement will be talked about for years, and it will boost your confidence even more.



#### **TAURUS**

Amidst taking care of your home and family, don't forget to carve out some time for yourself. You may whip up some delicious meals to nourish your loved ones who need it most.



#### **GEMINI**

Get ready for upcoming travels! Your family and friends will rely on your support and attentive ear. In return, expect to be showered with gratitude and heartfelt appreciation.



#### CANCER

You'll have love on your mind this week. If you're single, you'll meet an exceptional person who's ready to make a commitment. If you're in a relationship, big plans are on the horizon that will bring you and your partner even closer together.



#### LE0

You'll exude charisma and energy this week. You'll plan an event that will be a huge success. Your actions will have an astonishing impact on your career and other future accomplishments.



#### **VIRGO**

Get ready for non-stop action and mindblowing twists and turns! Time will become your most precious asset. A dream will start to feel within reach, even if the path ahead is still unclear.



You may feel a bit worn out after a few stressful days. Nevertheless, a surge of creativity is on its way! Prepare to be inspired and create something truly amazing that will propel you toward great success.



#### **SCORPIO**

Your time is precious; don't waste it by procrastinating on certain tasks. At work, you'll be tasked with handling urgent situations and crucial documents, which will help you advance your career.



#### **SAGITTARIUS**

You'll have to work hard to get that promotion. However, your hard work will not go unnoticed. Fortune smiles on the bold. Embrace spontaneity and plan an exciting outing or trip.



#### **CAPRICORN**

Dealing with changes in your family life may lead you to think about moving into a new place that better suits your needs. Making such a big decision requires careful consideration.



#### **AOUARIUS**

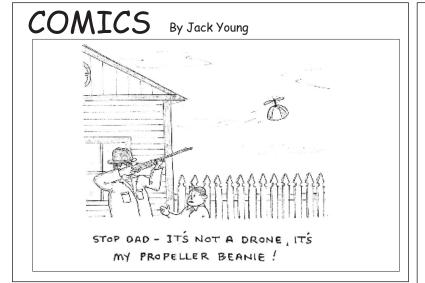
You may feel the urge to go back to school or take a training course. At work or elsewhere, you'll have to negotiate with people from different cultures and converse in a different language. You'll welcome the challenge.



#### **PISCES**

At work, you'll have to deal with a seemingly endless list of details. In health matters, you'll find the right treatment or medication to solve a problem that's been weighing on your mind.

The luckiest signs this week: SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN AND AQUARIUS



### Sudoku

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

#### 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



### **Pistachio Shortbread Cookies**

#### **INGREDIENTS (MAKES 24):**

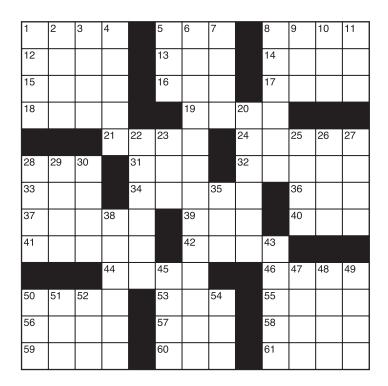
- 1 cup unsalted butter,
- softened
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract - 1/2 cup pistachios, finely
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar - 2 cups all-purpose flour
- chopped - Pinch of salt

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

- 1. Preheat Oven: Preheat oven to 325°F (163°C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- 2. Make Dough: Cream together butter and powdered sugar until light and fluffy. Add flour, vanilla, and salt, mixing until a dough forms. Stir in chopped pistachios.
- 3. Shape & Bake: Roll dough into 1-inch balls, flatten slightly with a fork, and place on the baking sheet. Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until edges are lightly golden.
- 4. Cool & Serve: Let cool on the baking sheet for a few minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

These buttery pistachio shortbread cookies are a perfect balance of crunchy and melt-in-your-mouth goodness!

## CROSSWORD



#### **ACROSS**

8. Cigar end

and rave 12.

13. Have being

14. Days of \_ 15. High flier

16. London brew

18. Not busy

19. Complainer

21.18-wheeler

24. Scattered

28. New York player

31. Sucker

**DOWN** 

2. Train track \_ thin air Simmers

1. Bothers

Took a load off

6. Rain, e.g.7. Time measure

8. Sign 9. Part of a foot

10. Large vase

11. Fourposter

22. Landed property

23. Damage

25. Comics

1. Pupil site 32. Pond scum 5. Catch a glimpse 33. Jug handle

34. Navajo or Sioux 36. Can material

> 39. Pave 40. Farm pen 41. Page 42. Chip in chips

44. Direction left of north 46. Rebel against 50. Stop, to Dobbin

53. Hurt 55. Festive party

26. Give forth 27. Disclaim

28. Untidiness 29.To \_\_\_\_ his own 30. Actual

35. Outlaw 38. Word of warning

43. Approached 45. Epic 47. Roof

49. House

projection 48. Dog's hounder

surroundings

50. Which person? 51. Pig 52. "\_\_\_\_ \_Town" 54. Fate

56. Lunch period

57. Infant's sound

58. By any chance

60. Hill insect

Scrolls

59. Fairy-tale villain

# Stay active indoors this winter at the YMCA

It can be hard to stay active in the winter months, and YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County (also referred



By Jaime Cone Hughes Managing Editor

to as the Y) has new equipment and a new tai chi-based fall prevention class to keep older adults moving until spring.

'We have a whole plethora of classes geared toward active older adults in our community," Gunnar

Madison, senior director of operations & development at the YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County, said.

Madison said that classes and activities that focus on building strength are some of the most popular at the Y, including a chair-based strength and conditioning class that is focused on everything from building muscle to balance and flexibility.

Aqua classes are very popular as well, Madison added. "We have a whole host of them," he said. "Aqua Zumba classes, particularly our Monday morning one, have a really good following of older adults that go to specifically those classes."

Aqua classes are good for mobility and arthritis. "Water is really great for chronic conditions and any mobility impairment," Madison said, and classes are included with a YMCA member-

For those who do not have a membership to the Y and want to try it out, there are day passes available. Seniors can obtain a day pass at a discounted rate of \$5 instead of \$12 every Thursday, which is Senior Discount Day.

"That's our biggest programming day," Madison said. "We have pastries and treats and coffee and tea, so they can socialize. External organizations come in and table as well during Senior Savings Day, providing information about resources for older adults in our community. It's a very big day for us to be focused on our older adults and making sure they feel welcome."

The parking lot is always packed on Thursday mornings, said Madison.

"It's a great opportunity to come try a class," he said. "We just got a brandnew fitness center, equipment and functional training room, so you can come walk on a treadmill or lift some weights."

Those over the age of 60 qualify for a senior membership at a discounted rate of \$60. Members of Lifelong in Ithaca or Love Living at Home receive a further 25% discount.

Pickleball is also a huge draw. "We're one of the few places in the county that has pickleball, especially indoors," Madison said. The Y offers drop-in pickleball every weekday from 8 a.m. to noon. "We normally have three courts set up ... drop-in pickleball is free to members and to those with day passes."

"A lot of adults really love pickleball," Madison said. "It's a relatively easy-to-learn sport, you can do it inside, and people come and form a community. It's a social thing, where not only are they exercising but connecting with one another. It's great, and it can be done individually and in doubles with a partner."

"It's a very inclusive pickleball group," he added. "If you've never played and want to stop by, there's always people who are willing to teach the rules, and racquets to borrow, and they can see if it's right for them."

There are classes for beginners and leagues that people can pay to join at the Y as well.

The Y also offers evidence-based



Photo provided

Instructor Hilary Schilling leads an aquatic Zumba class at the YMCA of Ithaca and **Tompkins County.** 

health intervention programs.

"That's something I'm passionate about: community health, social needs, and bettering the health of our community," Madison said. The Y has a blood pressure self-monitoring program, "Walk With Ease," a walking program aimed at helping people with arthritis, and a fall prevention program, as well as a Live Strong cancer survivor program.

"And we've just started offering another fall prevention class—a tai chibased, moving for better balance program," Madison added.

Madison comes from a public and community health background, and he said he has a keen interest in helping reduce the prevalence of chronic diseases in Tompkins County — though he said that the older population generally suffers less from those diseases here than in other parts of the state.

"We're lucky here," he said, "and I think that's really a testament to how

healthy and active our community is. But, those chronic diseases are the most expensive healthcare costs people really face, so helping people prevent or manage those conditions helps people lower their healthcare costs ... We are really looking at preventative medicine, so managing the syndrome versus the symptom."

The Y also has a neighborhood food hub where anyone can pick up items such as fresh produce, dairy products and meat every Monday and Friday from 11:30 to 5:30.

"It's not exclusive to seniors," Madison said, "but we do see a high population of seniors utilizing the food pantry here on site."

The pantry is one of the largest in the area, serving 6,000 individuals and giving away 70 tons of food last year.

For more information about the YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County, visit ithacaymca.com or call (607) 257-0101.

### The Cherry Arts to receive grant from National Endowment for the Arts

The Cherry Arts is pleased to announce it has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for a Grants for Arts Projects award. This grant will support the world première production of Ithaca Fever by Saviana Stanescu.

The NEA will award 1,127 Grants for Arts Projects awards nationwide totaling more than \$31.8 million as part of the recent announcement of fiscal year 2025 grants. "The NEA is proud to continue our nearly 60 years of supporting the efforts of organizations and artists

Ithaca Fever."

that help to shape our country's vibrant arts sector and communities of all types across our nation," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "It is inspiring to see the wide range of creative projects taking place, including The Cherry Arts

"The Cherry is particularly proud that Ithaca Fever is a big-scale, brand new project that brings together multiple Ithaca organizations, including the History Center in Tompkins County and our friends at the Kitchen Theater," says Samuel Buggeln, Artistic and Executive Director of The Cherry Arts. "The play uncovers a fascinating history of our own community, and we expect that it will attract new audiences we can welcome into the Cherry family."

Ben Sandberg, Executive Director of the History Center in Tompkins County, says, "The History Center is thrilled to support the Cherry's important artistic work in our community. Artistic mediums like live theater are a profoundly important vehicle to a deeper understanding of our shared past. We're excited that Saviana Stanescu and the team at the Cherry are grounding this innovative production in the many pieces of history preserved in our archives and



Photo provided

The world premiere production of Ithaca Fever by Saviana Stanescu will be funded by a National Endowment for the Arts grant.

collections."

Ithaca Fever tells the story of Clara, a Romanian visiting scholar at Cornell University in 2020, who lives in an apartment in what was once the city's grand Treman Mansion. As Clara's Covid-19 fever breaks over a ten-day quarantine, time folds and introduces her to the powerful Treman family during the deadly waterborne typhoid fever epidemic of 1903. What responsibility did the Treman family bear? And how do politics and power shape our responses to pandemics to this day?

Cherry Collective playwright Saviana Stanescu is an Ithaca-based Romanian artist and winner of New York Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Play and the UNITER Award for Best Romanian Play.

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### **FESTIVALS**

Continued from pg 1

Potenza said.

"Trumansburg is so walkable and has such nice neighborhoods, it lent itself to that event," Potenza said, "and we have so many musicians and bands in our area."

Tburgporchfest.com will offer an interactive map and information about each band closer to time of the event.

"You might not know the bands ... but go out and listen," Potenza advised. "Find something you like that you wouldn't have otherwise."

New relationships are made when porches and bands find each other. "It's kind of fun to watch that happen," Potenza said.

Ithaca Porchfest will return this September, and more information will be made available on the event's website, porchfest.org, as the event approaches.

Ithaca Apple Harvest Festival will return Sept. 26 to 28 with an expanded footprint in downtown Ithaca. Downtown Ithaca Alliance received much positive feedback about the new layout of the festival, which spanned different streets and was expanded into Press Bay Alley last year, Rohrer said.

For more information, visit downtownithaca.com/apple-harvest-festival, which will be updated with 2025 details as the event approaches.

A listing of festivals that are coming up this year:

Winter Tap and Craft Festival Feb. 15 from 3 to 7 p.m.

The Hotel Ithaca, 222 South Cayuga St., Ithaca

Sample 20-plus craft breweries, distilleries, cideries and wineries. Teachers receive \$5 off the ticket price. VIP ticket: \$50 (pre-sale only). General session: \$40 (\$48 day of if available). Designated driver ticket price: \$10 (includes bottle of water). To find out more, visit tapandcraft.com.



Photo provided

Attendees of Dryden Dairy Day say hello to a local dairy cow. The event returns this summer, June 14.

"It's a celebration of community and Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off music, and it's really great to see so many friendly faces around town," said Kerry Anne Buckman, Ithaca Porchfest volunteer coordinator.

She said the event needs many volunteers on the day-of to make it run smoothly.

"It's a great way to make new friends and give back to the community that we're all a part of," Buckman said. "This community is so great because of what we put into it. And we give some freebies to people who volunteer, so that's a motivation, too,"

### March 1 from 12 to 4 p.m. **Downtown Ithaca**

Warm up your winter with the 27th Annual Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off, Downtown Ithaca's signature event in the heart of the Commons. To find out more, visit downtownithaca.com/ event/27th-annual-downtown-ithacachili-cook-off.

**Spring Fairy Fest** March 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. **Downtown Ithaca** 

For the fourth time, fairy magic is coming to downtown Ithaca! Dress as



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**ARTHUR WEBB - NYSLFD** 



Photo provided

Statler Hotel employees serve up the restaurant's award-winning chili at the Downtown Chili Cook-off 2024. The event returns March 1 from 12 to 4 in downtown Ithaca.

your favorite fairy, elf, imp or magical creature and come enjoy a day of crafts and family fun inside your favorite downtown businesses. All ages are welcome. If you'd like to be a part of Fairy Fest 2025, please reach out to Greta at Alphabet Soup, 607-272-6885.

The Spring Writes Literary Festival Live events May 8 to 11, Zoom events still being scheduled

Tompkins Center for History and Culture, 110 N. Tioga St.

"I love that our community celebrates writing in this way, bringing in more than 100 writers to participate in panels, readings, workshops, performances and other literary-themed events," Montana said. "It's nice to showcase so many different genres and access points to writing, exposing people to writers or ideas that might be new to them."

Rootstock

**May 27** 

**Bernie Milton Pavilion** 

New Roots Charter School and Grassroots Festival of Music & Dance are excited to be co-producing their fifth annual Rootstock, a one-day community celebration of youth artists in the Finger Lakes region.

Ithaca Laughs May 29 to 31

**Downtown Ithaca** 

Running concurrently with the Ithaca Festival, this event is a standout celebration of humor, bringing together an exceptional lineup of stand-up talents to ignite various iconic venues across the city. For more information, visit comedyonthecommons.com.

**Ithaca Festival 2025** May 29 to June 1 **Downtown Ithaca** 

This free festival includes 70 performances taking place on stages throughout the city of Ithaca, as well as a parade. This year's theme is "Enchanted Ithaca!" For more information, visit ithacafestival.org.

Ithaca Pride Festival Date to be announced **Downtown Ithaca** 

Last year's Pride Festival, held June 8 to 9, included an all-ages dance party and the inaugural Pride in the Park, a day of activities and performances in Dewitt Park.

**Dryden Dairy Day** June 14

Montgomery Park, Dryden

This event brings together local farmers, businesses and organizations through their sponsorship, involvement and cooperation. Dryden Dairy Day celebrates the many contributions of dairy farmers with food, vendors, live music and an opportunity to meet live animals. For more information, visit drydendairyday.org.

Ithaca Reggae Fest **June 20 and 21** Stewart Park, Ithaca

Ithaca Reggae Fest is dedicated to the protection of Cayuga Lake through a conscious celebration of Ithaca's legendary reggae community and its history. "They bring out some amazing reggae performers and really want to connect people to the music. This is also a very family-friendly atmosphere, and they have lots of activities for youth with a real interest in helping them find a space they feel like they belong and a community with which they can connect," Montana said. For more information, visit ithacareggaefest.com.

Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival of Music & Dance

**July 17 to 20** 

Trumansburg Fairgrounds, 2150 Trumansburg Rd.

The 33rd annual Grassroots Festival will return this summer. Last year, this music festival's lineup included Donna the Buffalo, Old Crow Medicine Show and Mavis Staples. For more information, visit grassrootsfest.org.

**Groton Olde Home Days** August - date yet to be determined **Downtown Groton** 

Last year's festivities at this threeday-long event included a Playland Amusements Carnival at the Speedway Lot on Main Street, a car show, a tractor show, a parade, a magic show, live music and food vendors. For more information, visit grotonny.org/groton-olde-home-days.

Ithaca Is Books Festival September 11-14

This event for book lovers of all ages has story times and readings all around town, with 19 locations throughout Ithaca. For more information, visit ithacaisbooks.org.

**Trumansburg Winterfest** Dec. 6

**Downtown Trumansburg** 

All are welcome at Trumansburg WinterFest. Many organizations and businesses offer festive foods for free including soup, popcorn, cookies, hot chocolate, hot cider and more. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, who arrive by fire truck, and take your own photo. Plus, the fire truck will stay onsite for families to check out. For more information, visit facebook.com/Tburg-WinterFest.

Winter Holiday Bash Dec. 6

**Downtown Ithaca** 

Ithaca's annual holiday celebration will return with its Cookie Walk and an opportunity to usher in the holiday season with a visit from Santa. Visit visitithaca.com/holiday-events for more details.

# Pulitzer Prize-Winning author Jonathan Eig to speak at Tompkins County Public Library

Tompkins County Public Library is excited to announce that author Jonathan Eig will speak at the Library on Monday, Feb. 10, about, "King: A Life," the Pulitzer Prizes states. "In this revelatory new portrait of the preacher and activist who shook the world, the bestselling biographer gives us an intimate view of the courageous and of-

The program, which is free to the public, will run from 6 to 8 p.m. and include a Q&A session as well as a book signing in conjunction with Odyssey Bookstore. The event is made possible by support from the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation.

"I am thrilled to welcome Jonathan Eig to TCPL and am grateful to the TCPL Foundation for their partnership in bringing him to Ithaca!" Tompkins County Public Library Director Leslie Tabor said.

The Pulitzer Prizes praised "King: A Life" as "a landmark biography [that] gives us an MLK for our times."

"Vividly written and exhaustively researched, Jonathan Eig's King: A Life is the first major biography in decades of the civil rights icon Martin clude recently declassified FBI files," the Pulitzer Prizes states. "In this revelatory new portrait of the preacher and activist who shook the world, the bestselling biographer gives us an intimate view of the courageous and often emotionally troubled human being who demanded peaceful protest for his movement but was rarely at peace with himself. He casts fresh light on the King family's origins as well as MLK's complex relationships with his wife, father, and fellow activists. King reveals a minister wrestling with his own human frailties and dark moods, a citizen hunted by his own government, and a man determined to fight for justice even if it proved to be a fight to the death."

Eig, a New York native, has written three other New York Times best sellers: "Ali: A Life," "Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season," and "Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig."

"My husband loved his biography

of Muhammad Ali, and I loved reading 'Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig,' and we look forward to reading 'King: A Life'," Director Tabor said. "Public libraries are committed to racial and social justice and biographies like Eig's help us build empathy and compassion for stories different than our own. Hosting Jonathan is exciting and TCPL looks forward to welcoming everyone to this special event on February 10." The presentation will be given in TCPL's BorgWarner Community Room, at its location at 101 East Green Street. Overflow seating will also be available.

For more information on the event please contact the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation at foundationinfo@tcplfoundation.org. The Tompkins County Public Library Foundation supports Tompkins County Public Library through community engagement and fundraising. For information on media coverage, please contact TCPL Communications Manager Brian Sasser at bsasser@tcpl.org.



Photo provided

Jonathan Eig will speak at the Tompkins County Public Library on Monday, Feb. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m.

# Announcing Songs of Love, a fundraising event for the CCO

Back for its second year, Songs of Love returns, featuring performers Steven Stull, John White and the Ithaca College Vocal Ensemble. Guests will be treated to live music, hearty hors d'oeuvres by Serendipity, a cash bar, and desserts by Sinfully Sweet. Join in the sing-a-longs, mingle with friends, and take a chance on CCO raffle baskets for some added fun Friday, Feb. 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Museum of the Earth.

What people who attended last year's event are saying: "This is a

lovely event and music to adore. Our wish is to share it with all," said Jim Johnston and Linda Mack.

of music making in New York state. Established in the 1970s by the late David Riley, distinguished professor

"What a great way to celebrate, enjoy yummy food and beverages, hear superb music from local talent, visit with CCO friends (Last year people who have never been to the CCO even attended!) We look forward to this year's event!" said Margot and Fred Schoeps.

The Ithaca College Jazz Vocal Ensemble (JVE), directed by John W. White, has a long and rich history

of music making in New York state. Established in the 1970s by the late David Riley, distinguished professor of Music Education, the group has included many students who went on to establish successful careers in the music profession, including three founding members of the Grammy Award winning New York Voices. Repertoire spans many styles within the jazz tradition, including a cappella and accompanied works in swing, Latin, contemporary, and funk styles, among others.

John White teaches in the Department of Theory, History, and Composition at Ithaca College and has has maintained an active life as a professional jazz and commercial musician, specializing in stylistic diversity, and has performed with such artists as free improviser Rhiannon and instrumentalists Wycliffe Gordon, Tony Baker, and Paul Hanson, among many others. In 2016 White

became the Director of the IC Jazz Vocal Ensemble.

Steven Stull has lived and performed in Ithaca since 1986 and appears regularly in the area with the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, the Society for New Music, Arts at Grace and Triphammer Arts. He has been a soloist in sixty performances with Symphoria and Syracuse Symphony including nine productions with the Syracuse Opera. He is a frequent performer with the Rochester Philharmonic, the Society for New Music in Syracuse, and Arts Grace in Cortland, the West Virginia Symphony, Glimmerglass Opera, The Tri-Cites Opear, and many, many more.

A graduate of the Eastman School of Music and Oberlin College Conservatory, Steven is also an actor, producer, director, composer, painter and photographer. His numerous recordings are available from operacowpokes.com

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Photo provided

Songs of Love will take place Feb. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Museum of the Earth.



January 22, 2025 Tompkins Weekly

### Attorney General James reminds New Yorkers to be cautious in charitable giving for Los Angeles wildfire relief

New York Attorney General Letitia James today provided guidance to New Yorkers looking to support relief efforts as wildfires continue to burn across the greater Los Angeles area. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) warns that New Yorkers should be wary of sham charities attempting to take advantage of their concern and encourages everyone to take steps to ensure they are giving to legitimate charitable organiza-

"In the midst of terrible natural disasters such as the wildfires impacting the greater Los Angeles area, scammers often take advantage of generous acts in exchange for personal gain," said Attorney General James. "While it is inspiring to see so many New Yorkers eager to help. I encourage them to be cautious of sham charities that prev on people's generosity and ensure that they are giving to trustworthy organizations and groups. We will continue to do everything we can to support victims of this terrible tragedy and I urge anyone who experiences any issues when donating to contact my office."

Fraudulent organizations can try to take advantage of New Yorkers' good intentions, especially following natural disasters. Given the significant impact of wildfires, it is essential for New Yorkers to be informed as they seek to help. The OAG offers the following tips to ensure donations are safe and effective:

- · Solicited by Email? Find Out Who Is Soliciting. If you receive a solicitation by email, find out who is behind that email address. Contact the charity whose name is in the email or visit its website to find out if the email is really from the charity. Do not give personal information or vour credit card number in response to an email solicitation unless vou have checked out the charity.
- · Be Careful When Giving Through Social Media or Other Fundraising Sites. Before giving through social media or fundraising sites, research the identity of the organizer of the fundraising efforts and ask the same questions you would of a charity. Online platforms that host groups and individuals soliciting for causes may not thoroughly vet those who use their service. Donors should only give to campaigns conducted by people whom they know. Donors also should take a close look at the site's FAQs and Terms and Conditions to see what fees will be charged. Also, don't assume that charities recommended on social media sites, blogs, or other websites have already been vetted. Research the charity yourself to confirm that the charity is aware of the campaign and has given its approved permis-
- sion for the use of its name or logo. If available, sign up for updates from the campaign organizer to keep abreast of how contributions to the campaign are being spent.
- · Check Before Giving. Donate to charities you are familiar with and carefully review information about the charity before you give. Check a website like https://disasterphilanthropy.org/ to find out which charities are at the aid forefront. Most charities are required to register and file financial reports with OAG's Charities Bureau if they solicit contributions from New Yorkers. Check OAG's website for financial reports of charities or ask the charity directly for its reports.
- · Ask How Your Donation Will **Be Used.** Find out how the charity plans to use your donation, including the services and individuals your donation will support. Find out more than just the cause. Find out what organization or entity will receive the money and what programs it conducts or what services it provides. Find out how much of the organization's budget supports its mission. All charities have administrative expenses, but be warv if these costs outweigh the amount spent on relief.
- · Look Into Newly Formed Orga-

nizations Carefully. Often, in the aftermath of tragedies, new organizations emerge to meet community needs. While most of these organizations are well-intentioned, and some may provide innovative forms of assistance, some may not have the experience or infrastructure to follow through on their promises, and some may turn out to be scams.

- Exercise Caution Before You Text a Contribution. Check the charity's website or call the charity to confirm it has authorized contributions to be made via text message.
- Don't Give Cash. Give directly to the charity either by check made payable to the organization or through the charity's website.
- · Be Careful About Personal Information. Be cautious before giving credit card or personal information over the phone, by text message, or via the internet. In all cases, make sure you are familiar with the organization to which you give such information and check to see that the fundraising campaign is legitimate.
- Report **Suspicious** Organizations. If you believe an organization is misrepresenting its work or that a fundraising or charitable scam is taking place, please file a complaint with the Charities Bureau, or call 212-416-8401.

## Weekend intensive teaching with Namgyal's Geshe Ngawang Gyatso

Topic: Taking Refuge in the Three ma and Sangha is considered an es-

**Date:** Jan. 24 to 26, 2025

16

Cost: \$100 through Zoom meeting. **Description:** 

Taking refuge in the Buddha, Dhar-

sential part of daily Buddhist practice. While we may all recite the words daily, connecting to a deeper understanding of Buddha, Dharma and Sangha and taking refuge in these Three Jewels strengthens our sense of meaning in this practice and energizes all our other practices throughout the day. During this weekend intensive, Geshe-la will gives extensive explanation of the Three Jewels of Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, the reasons why we take refuge in the first place and how connecting more deeply to the Three Jewels during recitation of refuge prayers increase our capacity for joy and continued spiritual growth in our daily lives.

This is an excellent opportunity for those new to Namgyal to receive teachings on this important aspect of Buddhist practice and for more experienced students to deepen their understanding of refuge, re-strengthen their vows and re-vitalize this practice.

#### Biograpny:

Geshe Ngawang Gyatso joined Sera Je Monastery in India in 1993. He studied for twenty two years on five major Buddhist Philosophical texts. He received his doctorate in Buddhist Philosophy in the year 2013 and Tantrayana Degree from Gyudmed Trantric monastery. He was a Buddhist Philosophy teacher for two years in Serjhi Jamyang Choehorling Monastery in Arunachal Pradesh.

He attended a special Buddhist Philosophy teacher's training organized by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama office at Central institute of higher Tibetan Studies and received two years courses in English at Bangalore.

At present he is faculty at Namgyal Monastery-Tantric College in Dharamsa-la, India, and Geshe Ngawang Gyatso will be the main teacher at Namgyal Mon-astery Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ithaca, NY.

#### **Schedule:**

Friday - Introductory Talk: January 24, 2025 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

#### Saturday:

9:00-10:15: Morning Session 10:15-10:30 Break 12:00-2:00LunchBreak

2:00-3:15 Afternoon Session

3:15 - 3:30 Break

3:30-5:00PMAfternoonSession

#### **Sunday:**

9:00 - 10-15 Morning Session 10:15 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - 12:00 Last Session

Note: To register please send an email to office@namgyal.org. Please register by noon of the Friday of the weekend intensive start date. This is necessary so there is time to send the Zoom invitation. Payment can be made through the website, www.namgyal.org. Click - Donation page and make payment or send a check to Namgyal Monastery, 201 Tibet Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850



Photo provided by Brad Loperfido, Revette Studio A view of the Great Hall of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama Library and Learning Center in Ithaca, which opened with a ceremony Sept. 8.



CALL 607.407.7686

### Legal Notices

# NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

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 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

**Apartments** Stately 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

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.

# NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LLC. Downey Farm Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/13/2024. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: ZenBusiness Inc., 41 State Street, Suite 112, Albany, NY 12207, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5/2025.

# NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Warren Refrigeration, LLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 12/18/2024. Office location: Cortland 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 2045 Maxfield Road, Cortland, New York 13045 which is the principal office of the limited liability company. The limited liability company was formed for any lawful business purpose. 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5/2025.

# NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Sprint Alumni Engagement, LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 11/29/2024. 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 the LLC, 856 Snyder Hill Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS law. 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5/2025.

# NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Herman Handyworks LLC was filed with the New York State Department of State on October 15, 2024. The LLC is located in Tompkins County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12231. The LLC is formed for any purpose.01/01, lawful 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5/2025.

# NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Mecenas Holdings LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/7/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it

To Advertise
Classified, Legal, or
LLC, Contact: Tina
Mallinson (607)
591-0249
TinaM@ VizellaMedia.com
TompkinsWeekly.
com

may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, PO Box 81, Ithaca, NY 14851. Purpose: any lawful act. 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22,1/29,2/5/2025.

# NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

ROWAN'S RENOVATIONS, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/17/24. 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, 46 Drake Road, Lansing, NY 14882. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5/2025.

# NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Mandeville & Son, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/19/24. 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, 894 Ithaca Rd., Spencer, NY, 14883. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12/2025.

# NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Mandeville Property Group, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/19/24. 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, 894 Ithaca Rd., Spencer, NY, 14883. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12/2025.

# NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Articles of Organization for TRIPHAMMER PARTNERS LLC ("LLC") were filed with the Secretary of New York ("SSNY") on January 2, 2025. Office Location: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC, 202 East State Street, Suite 403, Ithaca, New York 14850. Purpose: To engage in any lawful activity. 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19/2025.

# NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

GMR Auto Sales, LLC --Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on Office 01/10/2025. location: Cortland 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 230 Port Watson Street, Cortland, New York 13045 which is the principal office of the limited liability company. limited liability The formed company was for any lawful business purpose. 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26/2025.

# NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

McNeil Fabrication, LLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 01/13/2025. Office location: Cortland 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 PO Box 213, Homer, New York 13077 which is the principal office of the limited liability company. The limited liability company was formed for any lawful business purpose. 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26/2025.

### **Solutions to Puzzles on Page 12**

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January 22, 2025

### Real Estate Transactions

#### CAROLINE

- Haley L. Collins bought from Alessio Balada at 1937 Coddington Rd, Caroline, NY 14817 on 12/24/24 for \$212,000.
- Jaden G. Wright bought from Ryan P. Obriant at 511 White Church Rd, Caroline, NY 14817 on 12/23/24 for \$107,000.

#### DRYDEN

- Rachel M. Madsen bought from Julie W. Levine at 47 Hollister Rd, Dryden, NY 13068 on 12/24/24 for \$500.000.
- Cameron Stanton & Hannah Stanton bought from Andrew Danner at 49 Gulf Hill Rd,

for \$300,000.

#### **GROTON**

- Damon Cowell & Karen Cowell bought from Cameron Stanton & Hannah Stanton in Groton, NY 13073 on 12/23/24 for \$40,000.

- Farmer Browns Market LLC bought from Richard B. Gamel & Rebecca M. Gamel in Groton, NY 13073 on 12/20/24 for \$285,000.

#### **ITHACA**

- Jessica R. Cooper bought from Lynn M. Andersen at 214 1st St, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 12/26/24 for \$440,000.
- Dolores Hart bought from Dryden, NY 13068 on 12/20/24 Andrea Volckmar at 418 Court St

for \$345,000.

- Bryan Henderson bought from 118 King Road West LLC at 118 King Rd W, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 12/24/24 for \$425,000.
- Rita Kanaar & Nicholas Kanaar bought from Nicholas Boyar at 840 Aurora St N, Ithaca, NY 14851 on 12/26/24 for \$390.000.
- Matthew J. Karp & Melinda M. Karp bought from Wiggins Walter J Estate & Scott D. Wiggins at 969 Taughannock Blvd, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 12/24/24 for \$460,000.
- Matthew J. Karp & Melinda M. Karp bought from Scott D. Wiggins & Kash Iraggi-Wiggins

USERS! A cheaper alternative

to high drugstore prices! 50

W, Ithaca, NY 14851 on 12/24/24 at 967 Taughannock Blvd, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 12/24/24 for \$659,000.

- Priscila Navarro & Marcos Navarro bought from Rachel M. Madsen at 205 Eastern Heights Dr, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 12/24/24 for \$340,000.
- Frederick D. Randall & Genevieve L. Randall bought from Skidmore College at 120 Cayuga Park Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 12/23/24 for \$820,000.
- Matthew Zellner & Antora Delong bought from Daniel Spatt at 713 Plain St S, Ithaca, NY 14851 on 12/23/24 for \$245,000.

#### LANSING

- Rebecca Collins bought from Analytical Sciences M LLC at 846 Davis Rd, Lansing, NY 14882 on 12/23/24 for \$335,000.
- Eli Kinigstein & Giulia Guidi bought from Glenn B. Munro at 40 Forest Acres Dr, Lansing, NY 14850 on 12/26/24 for \$625,000.
- Alexander Ophir & Angela Chang bought from David W. Gludish at Blackchin Blvd, Lansing, NY 13068 on 12/23/24 for \$276,000.
- Fnu Seemant & Meenakshi Mann bought from Frederick M. Vansickle & Susan T. Vansickle at 25 Janivar Dr, Lansing, NY 13068 on 12/24/24 for \$440,000.

- Dean E. Shea & Leann C. Shea bought from John F. Young & Susan M. Barnett at Collins Rd #A, Lansing, NY 13068 or 12/20/24 for \$4,100.

#### **NEWFIELD**

- G. M. Allinger & Sylvia P. Allinger bought from Allen Matthew James Estate & Ardell Allen ir Newfield, NY 14867 on 12/23/24 for \$18,000.

#### **ULYSSES**

- Shaun Gendrue & Miranda Gendrue bought from Mark Dresser & Linda Dresser at 6080 Iradell Rd, Ulysses, NY 14886 or 12/23/24 for \$230,000.

### Classifieds

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Happy 90th Birthday to Mary Borden Jamison!**

Her children and grandchildren happily celebrate this milestone with her. We are so inspired by her loving dedication to her family, her friends, her church and her community. May her years ahead be filled with peace, love and joy.

We love you, Mom/Grandma/Great Grandma/Mary! Chris, Dan, Margie, Amy, Pete, Kurt, Mary, Jeff, Chuck, Wendy, Avery, Maddison, Hillary, Yuga, Matthew, Christopher, Hannah, Emma, Josie and little Ren!

#### ATTORNEY:

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to major cash settlements. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-888-454-4717. Be ready with your zip code to connect with the closest provider.

#### **AUTO DONATIONS:**

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their own business. Fast free pickup. Running or not! Call 24/7: 1-888-251-3135.

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WE BUY 8,000 CARS A WEEK. Sell your old, busted, or junk car with no hoops, haggles, or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three-step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-403-3374.

#### **BUYING / SELLING:**

18

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1000 slats of wood, 13 wood pallets, 7 welded steel fence rolls, Motor fan, Compressor, 15 pounds of scrap plastic, 15 kindling bundles of firewood, 6 corrugated cardboard wine boxes. Call (607) 592-7198

#### **HEALTH:**

HEARING AIDS!! High-quality rechargeable, powerful Audien hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Tiny and NEARLY INVISIBLE! 45-day money-back guarantee! Call 855-819-7060.

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Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-782-4069.

Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators Industry-leading available. comprehensive warranty - 7 years (\$849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-888-605-1496.

Do you know what's in your water? Leaf Home Water Solutions offers FREE water testing and whole home water treatment systems that can be installed in as little as one day. 15% off your entire purchase. Plus 10% senior & military discounts. Restrictions apply. Schedule your FREE test today. Call 1-866-247-5728.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Consumer Cellular - The same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees, and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-919-1682.

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Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk. Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 844-329-9391.

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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.

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debt & fees canceled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971.

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#### **SERVICES:**

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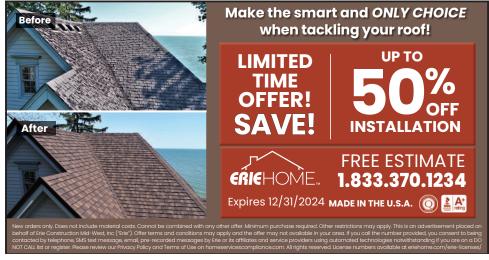
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# Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off seeks competitors, farmers and nonprofits

town Ithaca Chili Cook-Off!

Date: Saturday, March 1, 2025 **Time:** 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Registration Deadline: Sunday, February 9, 2025

The chili cook-off is thrilled to invite people to a showcase local chili-making skills, and to be part of this beloved community tradition.

"By participating, you're not only adding flavor to the Chili Cook-Off, but also helping to support the Downtown Ithaca Alliance's goal of continuing to host free and inclusive events yearround," stated a recent press release put out by the event.

#### Items to note:

This event is the only fundraiser of the year for the Downtown Ithaca Alliance, and your participation is vital to its success. Booth space is provided to you FREE of charge, and you are welcome to offer coupons or giveaways to help market your business to attendees. You are also welcome to sell pre-packaged food items, such as cornbread, chili, mac n cheese, chowder. Tickets would not be accepted for those items, you would need to utilize your existing POS.

Though the event is unable to financially reimburse you for supplies, the organizers strongly encourage you to request a donation letter for the supplies used to make your chili. Please email Corrie at corrie@downtownithaca.com if you wish to receive a donation letter. We don't require receipts or additional paperwork—simply provide the total amount spent, and we'll issue a donation letter for your tax

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Down- purposes. As this is an outdoor event, please prepare for cold weather. Keep in mind that, per the Ithaca Fire Department, heaters are not permitted. Vendors are asked to have at least two people at your booth at all times.

"We expect more people than ever to attend this year; please come prepared for big crowds," states the press release. "Thank you for being part of this cherished community tradition and for helping us make it a success! The funds raised at Chili Cook-Off help support other free programming in Downtown throughout the year."

#### **Event Details & Highlights**

- Chili Categories:
- · People's Choice
- Best Chili (Meat & Vegan/Vegetar-
- Best Chili-Inspired Item
- Awards: (winners are required to submit a W9 to receive funds)
- People's Choice: \$1,000
- Best Meat Chili: \$500
- Best Vegan/Vegetarian Chili: \$500
- Best Chili-Inspired Item: \$500

#### Judging:

- People's Choice: Determined by public vote
- · Best Chili and Best Chili-Inspired Item: Determined by an esteemed panel of judges

#### • Participant Categories:

- Chili Competitors Supply chili samples competing for the awards in the Chili Categories.
- Farmers Offer samples and sell farm-produced items.
- Beverage Producers Provide tastings and sell drinks for offsite



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Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off is seeking competitors for the event, coming up

consumption. (Do not fill out this application - Beverage Application

• Nonprofit Tabling - Promote your organization and mission. No direct fundraising or sales.

Vendor locations: They will send a map indicating your location the week before the event. Vendors with locations in the BID will be based on

their restaurant location or on the Commons. If at all possible, restaurants should plan to set up in front of their locations. The map will also include port a pot locations and loading zones.

For questions or additional details. please contact events@downtownithaca.com or (607) 273-7100.

### Sheriff announces Blue Envelope Program safety initiative

Tompkins County Sheriff Derek R. Osborne has announced the adoption of the Blue Envelope Prosupporting drivers with autism.

Osborne explained that individuals with autism may have physical or verbal responses during a traffic stop that may be misunderstood by law enforcement officers. This can sometimes lead to unfortunate incidents where the driver's actions are misinterpreted.

To mitigate such issues, the Blue Envelope Program has been introduced. It encourages drivers with autism to keep important documents such as their license, registration, and insurance in a Blue Envelope. When the officer observes the envelope, they are immediately alerted to the driver's condition and can adjust their response to the situation accordingly.

Along with clear instructions for the driver, explanatory information is printed on the envelope for the law enforcement officer, to include an emergency contact.

The New York State Sheriffs' Association is promoting this program statewide, with many sheriff's offices, including Tompkins

County, participating. Drivers can pick up the Envelopes at the Tompkins County gram, a safety initiative aimed at Sheriff's Office at 779 Warren Road, Ithaca.



Photo provided

The Blue Envelope Program, a safety initiative aimed at supporting drivers with autism, is being promoted statewide. with sheriff's many offices, including Tompkins County, participating.

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