

Tompkins Weekly

Lansing asks state to reconsider Cargill permit modification

The town of Lansing has gotten behind a call from environmental advocates and ecological scientists for state authorities to reconsider their approval of a permit modification at the Cayuga Salt Mine that would allow Cargill, the mine’s operator, to store brine in a different part of the mine, which could destabilize Cayuga Lake.



By Eddie Velazquez

The town board sent a letter to state officials and environmental authorities with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), voted on at the board’s Jan. 15 meeting, asking for DEC to rescind its approval of the company’s application — often referred to as a “negative declaration.” The resolution came ahead of the Jan. 20 deadline for public comments.

The board’s resolution also calls for the DEC to require the preparation of a comprehensive and publicly accessible Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess all potential environmental risks associated with the activities proposed by the company in its permit modification.

Additionally, the town asked for a public hearing to be conducted by the DEC, to allow for community input by residents and stakeholders on the EIS.

That resolution was submitted to the DEC and the following state officials:

- Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy
- DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar
- DEC Region 8 Administrator Tim Walsh
- DEC Region 7 Administrator Dereth Glance
- DEC Region 7 Assistant Permit Administrator Jonathan Stercho
- New York State Senator Lea Webb, a Democrat representing the Senate’s 52nd District, which includes portions of Tompkins County
- New York State Assemblymember Anna Kelles, a Democrat representing the Assembly’s 125th District, which includes Tompkins County
- Cargill Mine Manager Shawn Wil-

Determining the local impact of Trump’s executive orders



Photos provided

The executive orders that marked the beginning of Donald Trump’s presidency span a wide range of issues from immigration to laws surrounding the definition of gender. From left to right: New Americans are welcomed at Tompkins County’s 2024 naturalization ceremony, President Donald Trump was sworn into his second term on Jan. 20, and Tompkins County residents celebrate and show support for LGBTQ rights during the 2024 Ithaca Pride Parade.

By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

Tompkins County residents and elected officials are attempting to predict the impacts of a large number of sweeping executive orders (EOs) that President Donald Trump began issuing immediately after he was sworn into his second term on Jan. 20.

“It’s a massive number, and they’re complex,” said Daniel Klein (D-Danby), Tompkins County Legislature chair.

While the president issued EOs on topics ranging from energy and the environment to tariffs and trade, his orders regarding immigration, gender, and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are perhaps some of the most controversial in Tompkins County, sparking debate and, in some cases, deep concern for the rights of some of the county’s most vulnerable residents.

Immigration

One executive order would effectively end birthright citizenship, stating that “no department or agency of the United States government shall issue documents recognizing United States citizenship, or accept documents issued by State, local, or other governments or authorities purporting to recognize United States citizenship, to persons when that person’s mother was unlawfully present in the United States and the person’s father was not a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident at the time of said person’s birth, or when that person’s mother’s presence in the United States

was lawful but temporary, and the person’s father was not a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident at the time of said person’s birth.”

“We will do whatever we can to defend ourselves, defend our laws and defend our residents, but without knowing what tools might be coming at us, it’s hard to know what we’re dealing with, specifically.”

DANIEL KLEIN
Chair, Tompkins County Legislature

In response, Seattle-based U.S. District Judge John Coughenour issued a temporary restraining order at the urging of Washington, Arizona, Illinois and Oregon, preventing the administration from enforcing the order, calling it “blatantly unconstitutional.”

Twenty-two states have sued to block Trump’s move to end birthright citizenship.

Trump also issued executive orders to suspend the Refugee Admissions Program “until such time as the further entry into the United States of refugees aligns with the interests of the United States,” and to declare migrant crossing along the U.S.-Mexico border a national emergency.

Since 2017, Tompkins County has had a resolution essentially declaring itself a “sanctuary city,” although the law does not use that term.

“But [the resolution] basically says we are not going to cooperate with the federal government for the purpose of enforcing immigration,” Klein said. “That is not our job. And that is still in effect. Last time I spoke with the sheriff, he said still supports that law as written.”

“This barrage of executive orders is the government making it harder for governments like ourselves to maintain that policy,” Klein said. “Will it stand, or will the federal government bring down the hammer in a way that we are forced to change our ways? I don’t know yet.”

Titled “Public Safety for All,” the county resolution states that the county is committed to “maintaining a safe, inclusive and welcoming community recognizing the inherent equity and human dignity of ALL people.”

“The establishment of a ‘registry,’ or the detention or deportation of millions of people currently living in this country, for reasons solely related to their citizenship, immigration status, race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion, runs contrary to core American values,” continues the resolution, which was the first of its kind in New York state.

The resolution states that county agencies and employees should not engage in executing a stop, questioning, interrogating, investigating or arresting an individual based solely on actual or suspected immigration or citizen status or a “civil immigration warrant.”

The resolution also states that the county may respond to federal requests for information upon presen-

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Our question, your answers

Street Beat

By Jaime Cone Hughes

What was the last movie you watched, and how many stars would you give it out of 4?



Sonic the Hedgehog 3.
100 out of 10.
Usher-Man, Ithaca



Despicable Me 4.
3 out of 4.
Cody, Half-Moon



Nosferatu.
4 stars.
Yen, Lansing



Nosferatu.
3 out of 4.
John, Ithaca



Nickel Boys.
3 out of 4.
Laurie, Ithaca

Asteri apartments receive county health violations

Asteri Ithaca, a mixed-use high-rise development on East Green Street that quickly gained a reputation as a high-crime building since it opened last summer, recently received a letter from Tompkins County’s Department of Environmental Health (TCEH) detailing living conditions that put Asteri in violation of health codes.

Asteri has 181 affordable housing units, 40 of which are subsidized through Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI). These 40 units were designed with the expectation to house those previously experiencing chronic homelessness.

The report states that an inspection found clogged trash chutes and a buildup of garbage in the trash rooms. Large items in the hallways blocked the halls and apartment doors, and staff members said they had stopped clearing away these items due to fear for their own safety.

Ultimately, the county found Asteri in violation of Article IV of the Tompkins County Sanitary Code, which requires that “on every premise there shall be adequate containers to accumulate refuse and so placed and maintained as to not create a nuisance.”

“The ESSHI residents were previously unhoused and may have unmanaged substance use or mental health conditions,” the letter from the county states.

Tompkins County Legislator Randy Brown (R-Newfield) went into the building about a month ago to donate a piece of furniture he no longer needed to one of the residents. Right away, he said he noticed the lock on the entrance next to the movie theater Cinemapolis was broken.

“We went in the elevator, and it was not pretty,” he said. “There was urine on the floor and holes in the walls. ... The apartment that this individual was in was in shambles. It was awful.”

The apartment itself was “nice,” being nearly brand new, but it was littered with so many items that you could no longer see the floor, Brown said.

He said it appeared obvious to him that the tenant had some mental health needs. “No one is watching over them,” he said of the people residing in the building.

Brown also witnessed tenants arguing in the hallway. “For a Sunday morning, I thought that was intense, but when you put people with anger issues and mental health needs together, that’s what I think you get.”

Issues with the building’s safety extend beyond the excessive and improperly disposed-of refuse. As reports of hypodermic needles in the trash and blood stains in the hallways would seem to indicate, there is evidence that shows life at Asteri can be dangerous.

As of last November, there were 492 police calls to the building since June, when residents first moved in.

In November, the Ithaca Police Department reported that one resident accused another of threatening them with an ax.

In December, Ramal Abdullah, 46, of Brooklyn, and Randall Brooks, 65, of



Photo by Joe Scaglione

Asteri Ithaca, which is located in the same building as the Ithaca Downtown Conference Center and has 181 affordable housing units, was the subject of a Tompkins County Department of Environmental Health inspection that resulted in a violation due to, among other things, an unsafe buildup of garbage in the building.

Ithaca, were arrested following a search of an Asteri apartment that stemmed from a weapon possession and drug trafficking investigation.

Asteri’s parent company, Vecino, is making efforts to rectify the situation, according to Jordan Gibson, senior vice president of organizational development at Vecino Group.

“We went in the elevator, and it was not pretty. There was urine on the floor and holes in the walls.”

Randy Brown, Legislator TOMPKINS COUNTY

One of the steps the company has taken since the report was filed is the hiring of Tammy Baker, who has held various positions working with the unhoused population in Tompkins County. Baker starts in her new position as Asteri’s community manager this week, Gibson said. She said that Baker’s experience and compassion for the residents is just what Asteri needs right now, and Vecino also plans to hire an assistant community manager, as well.

At the time of the inspection, there were two employees responsible for building maintenance. Maintenance workers were reported to be scheduled to work 5 days a week, the county report states “it is not uncommon to work 6 or 7 days, as well as addressing issues that arise some nights.”

There are currently two building maintenance staff members, with one open position, confirmed Gibson. “We are actively going through interviews right now. ... This third position’s job will be based solely on trash and cleanliness.”

When hiring is complete, “we will have the perfect full-time group,” Gibson said.

The county required Asteri to submit a plan for addressing issues within the building by Dec. 30, followed by an updated plan within two weeks of receiving comments from TCEH.

Upon approval, Asteri must implement the final plan in accordance with the approved schedule. Failure to comply with any of these requirements “may result in formal enforcement action including penalties,” the letter states, adding that “while hypodermic needles, feces, urine and blood were not observed in the stairwells and other locations in the building during this inspection, subsequent inspections may be conducted and additional enforcement including financial penalties may result if these things are observed.”

The letter, which was sent to Asteri Ithaca, LLC, on Dec. 13, stated that in response to a complaint, staff from TCEH and the City of Ithaca Code Enforcement conducted a joint inspection of Asteri Apartments on Dec. 6.

“The doors to the trash chutes in several rooms were broken and could not close, while others would not close due to refuse stuck in the entrance to the chute,” the letter states, adding that the conditions in some trash rooms created a potential fire hazard as well as potential health and safety concerns to those entering the trash rooms and handling the materials in those rooms.

TCEH reported in its letter that it has received complaints about hypodermic needles, feces, urine and blood in the stairwells and other locations in the building and that some of those complaints included photos and videos to back up the claims. None of these substances were observed during the inspection, the report states, but the inspectors did observe stains in multiple locations.

“Trash bags deposited in the trash rooms that do not fit in the chutes are currently broken down by maintenance staff in order for the refuse to fit in the trash chutes,” the report states. “When the bags are broken down, hypodermic needles and other materials of concern have been found in the trash bags. The trash chutes to the compactor are reportedly frequently clogged by the materials tenants try to put down the chutes.”

Unhoused visitors are believed to

See ASTERI on pg 8

Family raising funds for longtime Freeville fire department member

Chad Parker has had a positive impact on the Freeville community for more than 30 years.



By Kevin L. Smith
Parker, a native of the village, has been a member of the Freeville Fire Department since 1988. Since then, he's held various roles, from exterior firefighter to director and member of the W.B. Strong Fire Company board.

A graduate of Dryden High School, Parker has lived in the town of Scott in Cortland County with his family.

Now, at 54 years old, Parker has been dealing with lingering health issues. Greg Parker, the Freeville deputy fire chief and Chad's nephew, said that Chad has had health problems for the past decade.

"It's gotten a lot worse since September of this past year," Greg said.

Chad's situation was not disclosed, but the decline in health has forced him and his wife, Liz, to take a leave of absence from work. Greg noted that Chad is currently at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester for treatment.

A difficult time for the Parker family led to Chad's sister, Lori Hines, starting a GoFundMe to help raise money for Chad and Liz.

"He's a pivotal member of the department."

GREG PARKER
Deputy Fire Chief, Freeville Fire Department

The goal for Hines and the family is to collect \$8,000. Hines provided a message on the GoFundMe page she created:

"Our dear brother Chad Parker is dealing with some serious health issues and is currently at Strong Hospital in Rochester for testing and treatment. The last few months have been particularly difficult while trying to pinpoint what is causing his decline. As a result, Liz has been unable to work while she cares for him and is now having to take a longer term leave from work. Please help them get through this difficult time by giving what you can to assist with gas, food and other expenses that are just piling up. They need the peace of mind this help would provide so they can focus on getting him healthy and strong again. Let's help these two incredible people who have always been there for everyone else and show them the love and support they deserve. Thank you."

Greg, the family's fifth-generation member of the Freeville Fire Department, said that Chad is a fourth-generation member.

The Parker family as a staple in the department goes back to the organization's inception in 1908. Mike Parker, the current fire chief and Chad's brother, is the great-grandson of Fred Parker — a founding member of the W.B. Strong Fire Company.

According to Greg, the Freeville Fire Department is the only one in New York state to have five straight generations of family as members.

Greg said the Parker family has strived to provide the best service for the village and its surrounding areas over the years, noting that Chad especially has gone "the extra mile."

"He's given a whole lot to the people

See FUNDS on pg 7



Photo provided

Chad Parker, a longtime member of the Freeville Fire Department, is currently dealing with issues that have declined his overall health. His family are raising funds to help cover bills and living expenses while he receives treatment.

Stay Wild: Trumansburg's animal rescue and sanctuary

Stay Wild Rescue, a small nonprofit rescue organization in the village of Trumansburg, wants to make the village a better place for animals.



By Eddie Velazquez
The rescue rehabilitates orphaned or injured wildlife and domestic animals, mostly dogs, cats, squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, woodchucks, opossums and fawns. Kittens, cats, puppies and dogs are sterilized and vaccinated and available for adoption. Also available is a sanctuary for unadoptable and special needs animals.

All of this is possible through the care and appreciation that cofounder and operator of Stay Wild, Jane George, and

her dozens of volunteers have for local wildlife. Together, they partner with Cornell Wildlife Health Center to provide care to animals in need. George, an English teacher at a local high school, has been working on this project for the past decade.

"We do this out of our home," George said. "We're on five acres, and we have two barns that we kind of work out of, and have a lot of the wildlife out of those facilities."

There is also a small sanctuary component to the rescue.

"That is where we have rescued pot-bellied pigs and sheep. And we take in a lot of chickens, as well," she added. "We currently, on the property, have 28 dogs and about 12 cats."

The rescue uses a foster care system to

care for the animals.

"We don't have cages or a shelter on premise, per se," George said. "The dogs all live in our house, and most of them are very young puppies. Then, the wildlife and the sanctuary animals are obviously housed outside."

To care for some of the rest of the animals, volunteers help care for animals in need.

"We have about 12 foster families who take in kittens and puppies or dogs for us, and they're located all around the area," George said.

Christine Wallace, who volunteers hosting kittens at her home, noted that George and the volunteers drive a terrific operation as a labor of love.

"We are volunteer-run, and 100% of all donations are used for the animals' care," Wallace said in an email. "We are also a non-profit organization."

George commended Wallace's efforts to help wildlife.

"She has been fostering with us for years," George said of Wallace. "She came to us and offered to start fostering shortly after we started taking in a lot of rescue cats and kittens, and she's consistently been fostering and doing rescue work with us."

Volunteering at the rescue, George said, is a wonderful opportunity to forge bonds with community members and learn how to work with wildlife.

"My high school students often volunteer with us," George said. "I just had five students here on Sunday. We were doing a spay/neuter clinic, and I had a vet here who was doing the surgeries. [The students] were here volunteering and helping recover the puppies and the kittens and assisting the vet, and the vet

led them through a dissection of some of the tissue that had been taken out from the spay/neuter surgeries."

George said that it has been a great experience watching her volunteers grow and go on to sometimes work in the field themselves.

"We are volunteer-run, and 100% of all donations are used for the animals' care."

CHRISTINE WALLACE
Volunteer, Stay Wild Rescue

"Over the years, we've had many of our volunteers, who were former students of mine, go on to become wildlife rehabbers themselves, or go to vet school, which has been really amazing," she noted. "It has been kind of an ongoing operation here locally, bringing youth in and walking them through, and just trying to raise awareness and bring about change in our community."

Generally, Trumansburg is a very friendly place to animals, George said. But the experienced wildlife rescue operator says that there is still some work to do helping with the local stray cat population.

"It's probably better here than it is in many areas," she noted. "We have access to the Tompkins County SPCA, which has amazing animal control, but I would say that we need to make sure that people spay and neuter their cats."

Ulysses Connection appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Send story ideas to editorial@vizzellamedia.com. Contact Ed-

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

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January 29, 2025

Cooper Hewitt earns Eagle Scout rank with final project at park

The picnic pavilion in the Groton Memorial Park on Sykes Street now offers an opportunity for community fun in every season — a permanent chess board, complete with the chessmen needed to play the game!



By Linda Competillo
This unique new addition to the park is the project that completed an Eagle Scout rank for Cooper Hewitt of Groton Boy Scout Troop #77, who said he hopes that “it will be an enjoyable spot for adults to use and for kids who might enjoy chess.”

Cooper, a senior at Groton Jr./Sr. High School (GHS), has been a Boy Scout since fifth grade. He spends some time with his dad, David Hewitt, and the rest with his mom, Kristen Likel, who also happens to be one of his Scout leaders, and his sister, Claire Hewitt, who is a sophomore at GHS. Cooper said, though, that he spends almost every day after school at the Groton Public Library, where he also works part time.

“Monday through Wednesday, I play Dungeons and Dragons. Thursdays, I’m learning to cook from Justin, and on Fridays I play computer games,” Cooper said. “I also like reading. I burn through a lot of books!”

Despite his busyness at the library, Cooper has dedicated a lot of his time to scouting. He began as a Webelo in Cub Scouts and moved up to Boy Scouts in the middle of fifth grade. He then earned both his Scout rank and Tenderfoot that following summer. Over the next year, Cooper earned his Second Class and First Class ranks, then Star and Life. In seventh and eighth grades, he worked diligently

on earning merit badges. “There are 14 specific badges required to earn Eagle Scout,” Cooper explained. “They involve many levels of citizenship, personal finance, first aid and physical fitness. For that, you need to do one of swimming, hiking or cycling, but I did both hiking and swimming.”

“It takes a community. I’m appreciative of all the people who helped Cooper and the Scouts in general. It’s a lot of work.”

KRISTEN LIKEL
leader, Boy Scout Troop #77 and Cooper Hewitt’s mom

Cooper further explained that the hiking piece was a total of 50 miles. He did most of those in the Adirondack Mountains throughout his high school years, including a 10-mile hike up one of the highest peaks there.

“I learned survival skills in most environments,” Cooper said. “Some of my favorite things were going to Binghamton Rumble Ponies games and pitching a tent in their outfield, but without using stakes. I also liked snowboarding at Swain Mountain.”

By the time Cooper was ready to work on his final project for his Eagle Scout rank, he had earned a total of 21 merit badges. He also earned three additional badges in Collections, Indian Lore and Genealogy.

“I was looking a long time for what I could do for my Eagle Scout project,” Cooper said. “And then, one summer I saw a chess board painted on a table at Myers Park in Lansing. I thought



Photo by Linda Competillo

Cooper Hewitt of Boy Scout Troop #77 sits in the pavilion at Groton Memorial Park with the chessboard and 3-D printed chess pieces within a small wooden cupboard that he fabricated. Hewitt earned his Eagle Scout rank with this final project which affords the community a permanent opportunity to engage in the game of chess while spending time at the park all year round.

to myself, ‘This could be done nicer and better.’ So, I decided to do it at Sykes Park.”

Cooper worked hard to make his vision come to fruition and is grateful for all the help he received. Baker-Miller Lumber donated the base and middle boards for the chess board, and his grandfather, Fred Likel, donated the walnut and maple wood for the squares. Fred also allowed Cooper to use his basement to build the board and the wooden cabinet that holds the chess pieces. Dan Ward donated the varnish, and Rob Eckert, who is a former Eagle Scout himself, did the 3-D printing of the chess pieces.

“I found the model for the chess pieces and had T-77 printed on the bottom of each one to represent Troop #77, but Rob printed them for me,” Cooper said. “I also want to thank a lot of

other people who helped and guided me through the years. My mom and the other Scout leaders — Rae Avery, Julie Faber, Ed Brewer, Carl Coté, Joe Miller and also Rick Burt, the Troop #85 leader. I attended Scout camp with his troop, and Rick helped me a lot with my merit badges.”

“It takes a community,” Kristen added. “I’m appreciative of all the people who helped Cooper and the Scouts in general. It’s a lot of work. Cooper persevered, and he helped others, too.”

Going forward, Cooper hopes to attend either SUNY Oneonta or Rochester Institute of Technology to study computer science. He would like to pursue web development or information security as a career.

“I had to earn the Eagle Scout be-

See SCOUT on pg 7

WILD

Continued from pg 4

die Velazquez at edvel37@gmail.com or on X (formerly Twitter): @ezvelazquez.

In brief:

The Ulysses Philomathic Library hosts its weekly “Art and ‘Anime’tion” sessions every Thursday. The next ses-

sion will be Jan. 30 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

A post on the library website encourages attendees to “celebrate anime and manga every Thursday afternoon with pocky, popcorn, otaku art, and more. We watch ‘Cells at Work,’ ‘My Hero Academia,’ and ‘Bofuri’ while folding paper stars for luck, playing otaku bingo for prizes, and drawing our favorite characters. For tweens and teens.”



Photo provided

Jane George (right), Stay Wild Rescue cofounder, with her husband Dan Soboleski.



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Town’s new code enforcement officer getting acclimated

Scot Cole worked in the construction industry for more than 30 years. In need of a change, he moved on to be the code enforcement officer for the village of Watkins Glen.



By Kevin L. Smith

“I saw a need for qualified professionals to guide homeowners through the process of new construction and rehabilitation of existing structures,” Cole said. “With so many years of construction and contracting work behind me, I felt qualified and ready to fill the position [at] Watkins Glen.”

Born in Sayre, Pennsylvania, Cole was raised in Florida. He has lived in New York state for the past 30 years.

After collecting years of experience in the code enforcement world, Cole noticed an open position in the town of Newfield and took a chance at it.

Cole has been the town’s code enforcement officer since last summer.

“I was looking for a change and [Newfield] had an opening, so that’s what led me to this position,” Cole said. “It’s a very laid back, comfortable community. They’re nice people to work with.”

Cole’s goal is to educate the town about what he does as much as possible.

“It’s about making sure everyone is safe and to enforce New York state codes,” Cole said. “The state’s codes are primarily designed to keep people safe. It’s the whole idea of the position I’m in right now.”

Cole said the state has “extensive regulations,” guiding a handful of aspects of buildings. That includes electrical codes, fire codes, drinking water standards and best practices in construction.

While those aspects are key in code enforcement, Cole has been dealing with an omitted aspect in the town.

According to Cole, Newfield has no zoning districts or regulations, bringing more of a challenge to his position.

“It does make things a little bit more difficult, just because there are no rules

to go by for the most part,” Cole said. “The state has its rules and sets the parameters for what you can and can’t do, but it’s a little bit easier when the town sets rules, too. Overall, it’s fine and something I can work with. I think the town and I fit together really well.”

Cole’s experience includes working alongside residents with contractors who are tasked with projects throughout the town.

“It’s a very laid back, comfortable community. They’re nice people to work with.”

SCOT COLE

Code Enforcement Officer, Newfield

“While any good contractor will be aware of these and follow [regulations], it is the responsibility of the municipality to ensure that the end product the homeowner has contracted for meets all of these regulations and standards where they apply,” Cole said. “This starts with obtaining a building permit for the project, often handled by the contractor but in some cases [permits] are left to the customer to obtain from town hall. It’s a good idea to ask your contractor if they will be taking care of obtaining any necessary permits before the job starts.”

Cole has worked for the town for about half a year. However, for over a year, Cole has invested in the Newfield community as he makes it his permanent residence.

“Newfield is a beautiful area, and I find interesting scenery almost every day,” Cole said. “I am looking forward to meeting the residents of Newfield and helping answer their questions.”

Cole is available at his office in town hall on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To contact Cole, call 607-327-1849 or send an email to codeofficer@newfield-ny.org.



Photo provided

Scot Cole was recently hired as Newfield’s code enforcement officer.

ny.org.

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

In brief:

‘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 has a suggested donation of \$10.

Library to hold Valentine’s Day bake sale

The Newfield Public Library will hold a Valentine’s Day bake sale on Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The library, located at 193 Main St. in the town, will have a variety of baked goods and treats for sale.

Participants have the option of making a do-it-yourself gift basket. Those who donate \$10 can select a treat, a book and a movie. A \$20 donation will include a bottle of wine.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the library. For more information, call 607-564-3594 or email newfieldlibrary@gmail.com.

Town meetings in February

The Newfield Town Board will meet on Feb. 13 and 27 at 7 p.m. at the town hall on 166 Main St. The public is invited to attend in public or on Zoom.

The town’s planning board is set to meet on Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. The public can attend the meeting in person or on Zoom.

Ithaca Conservation Board seeks award nominations

Ithaca Conservation Award Nominations Invited The Town of Ithaca’s Conservation Board invites nominations for their 22nd annual Richard B. Fischer Environmental Conservation Award. This award honors the late Dr. Fischer for improving Ithaca’s natural environment. A Cornell professor, nature lover, and member of our Conservation Board, he erected many bluebird houses and helped establish New York’s bottle law to reduce waste and litter.

Since 2003, the Town’s Conservation Board has honored a different individual or group each year, including Adrianna Hirtler, the Cayuga Bird Club, Primitive Pursuits, Finger Lakes ReUse, and the Friendship Donation Network. Please see <https://townithacany.gov/richard-fischer-award/> for the complete list of former winners.

Individuals or organizations who

have taken the initiative to improve Ithaca’s natural environment are eligible for nomination. Selected awardees will have their names added to a plaque in Town Hall and attached to a tree planted at a celebration in their honor in a Town park or trail. Birch, beech, maple, oak, poplar, sycamore, junberry, hemlock, hazelnut, pine and apple trees have been dedicated at 21 ceremonies celebrating the many ways Ithaca’s environment has been improved by honored winners.

Please nominate a person or a group you feel has contributed to improving and conserving our environment. Nominations for the 2024 award must be received no later than February 28, 2025.

For submission guidelines, see the Town’s website at <https://townithacany.gov/richardfischer-award/> or contact the Conservation

Board at conservationboard@town-ithacany.gov.

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CARGILL

Continued from pg 1

czynski

Along with the permit modification, Cargill is asking for a five-year renewal of its mining permit. The multinational agricultural company and its only remaining salt mine in America have found themselves in a perplexing situation since 2023, when a business news website started circulating reports that Cargill was looking to sell the mine and divest from the salt mining business altogether.

“A broad-based multi-stakeholder request to the DEC by Jan. 19th could be our final chance to hold them accountable for the long-term impacts that a subsiding salt under the lake may have on lake water quality and on shoreline properties,” advocates from the Cayuga Lake Action Network wrote in a blog post, encouraging public participation. “Cargill’s proposal to flood the abandoned S3 Zone of the mine beneath Cayuga Lake with wastewater poses significant risks to our communal resources. It is crucial that we voice our concerns to prevent potential pollution and ensure the stability of the mine and our environment.”

Specifically, the group argues that the brine Cargill proposes to store in the S3 zone is not fully treated for safe subsurface disposal. That action would be in violation of DEC’s regulations and is likely to degrade the stability of the S3 zone.

The S3 zone, the group writes, was

abandoned for mining by Cargill shortly after potential instability was identified in the area in 2011.

Officials with Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now! (CLEAN) claim that the company has conducted an incomplete study to make its case for flooding S3.

“The analysis that DEC is relying upon for its conclusion that the flooding will not destabilize the mine did not account for the presence of pore water in the rock layers above the mine and its potentially destabilizing effects,” they wrote in a blog post.

“Good environmental laws often don’t get enforced by underfunded and understaffed regulators unless local stakeholders speak up and say, ‘Hey, we’d like you to look at the situation here and enforce the rules.’”

JOHN DENIS
Cofounder, Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now!

John Denis, a founder of CLEAN, spoke at the Jan. 15 town board meeting, addressing board concerns and urging the board to pass the resolution.

“Good environmental laws often don’t get enforced by underfunded and understaffed regulators unless local stakeholders speak up and say, ‘Hey, we’d like you to look at the situation here and enforce the rules,’” Denis said.

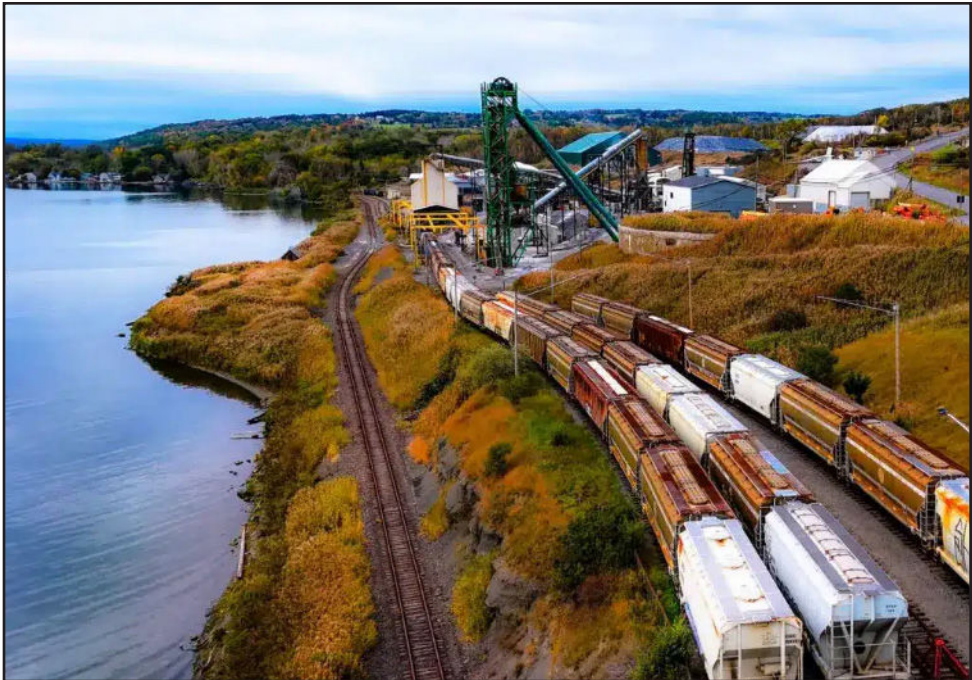


Photo by Joe Scaglione

At a recent meeting, members of the Lansing Town Board voted to send a letter to state officials asking them to rescind its approval of a permit modification for the Cayuga Salt Mine.

DEC Spokesperson Dennis Slattery said protecting water quality in Cayuga Lake is a top priority for New York state and that DEC subjects applications for environmental permits to “a transparent and rigorous review process to protect public health and the environment.”

The agency is “currently reviewing public comments on the proposed application and will closely review all input received prior to making a final decision,” Slattery said. “The modification request does not include changes to existing and approved mining operations and methods, nor does it include a proposed expansion

of the previously permitted life-of-mine area.”

At the Jan. 15 meeting, not all board members were on board with the resolution. Board member Judy Drake voted against the measure. Drake was the only “no” vote.

“I’m going to vote no for this, because the first part of the ‘resolve’ clause is to rescind the negative declaration,” Drake said. “I don’t think that is our call. DEC has a role and responsibility, and I think they have fulfilled their role and responsibility. It’s not that I don’t care about the lake. I certainly do, but I just disagree with this resolution.”

FUNDS

Continued from pg 4

and the community,” Greg said. “He’s a pivotal member of the department. He’s given lots of years for services. He’s left work to go on calls, and he’s sacrificed a lot of time with his family. It’s a big commitment.”

Greg said that if anyone has the means to donate and are willing to do so, the family would appreciate any help that they receive.

“He’s had a rough go in the past. Now, it’s him we’re trying to help out,” Greg Parker said.

To donate, search “Aid Chad and

Liz in ‘Tough Times’” at gofundme.com.

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

In brief:
Town of Dryden announces new dog control officer

The Town of Dryden recently announced that Amaretta Beardslee is the area’s new dog control officer.

Beardslee will be in the contracted position with the town. She has more than 10 years of experience working in animal husbandry and welfare. Her previous work also had a specific focus on canine behavior and care.

Those needing assistance with dog control issues can contact Beardslee at dogcontrol@dryden.ny.us or 607-882-5765.

TC3 announces more than 250 students make Dean’s List

Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) announced last Friday that 254 students made the Dean’s List, with 30 of them awarded the President’s Citation for the fall semester.

TC3’s Dean’s List recognizes students with an overall grade-point average of 3.5 or better. Selections for President’s Citation are granted to students with a GPA of 3.8 or higher.

The full list of TC3’s Dean’s List and President’s Citation nods is at tompkinscortland.edu.

Book club to meet on Feb. 20

The Books & Brew club is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Hopshire Farm and Brewery at 1771 Dryden Rd. in the village of Freeville.

The theme for books in February is to celebrate library lovers month. The club encourages reading something that includes a book, a library or a bookstore in some way.

Some suggested books are on display at the Southworth Library at 24 W. Main St. in Dryden. To register for the club, go to southworthlibrary.org.

SCOUT

Continued from pg 5

fore I turned 18,” Cooper said, “and I did it just in time. This was my last step before college, and probably the last big thing I will probably do before college.”

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:
Fire department chicken barbecue

The Groton Fire Department will hold a chicken barbecue Saturday, Feb. 8 with beans, macaroni and cheese and a dinner roll. Half-chicken will be \$8; dinners will be \$12. Available from 10 a.m. until gone.

Groton Community Cupboard hours

Just a reminder that the Groton Community Cupboard, 122 Spring St., is there for you during these frigid days. Plenty of food is in stock, and you are encouraged to reach out if you need something. Hours are Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Mondays noon to 3 p.m. and Thursdays 5 to 6 p.m.

Taco Tuesdays are back

Thursday Grill Nights at the Groton American Legion Post 800 are from 5 to 7 p.m. weekly, but if Thursdays don’t work for you, come out for Taco Tuesdays. Tacos and taco salads are offered every Tuesday beginning at 5 p.m. — eat in or take out. It’s a nice way to get out during the week and enjoy a reasonably priced meal, with all profits going to the Post.



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Trump makes good on campaign promises

Editor’s note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of author Zachary Winn and are not representative of the thoughts or opinions of Tompkins Weekly.



By Zachary Winn

As the first days of the new administration unfold, a political anomaly has occurred: President Trump appears to be making good on his campaign promises. A flurry of pardons for those railroaded by our corrupt legal system, including individuals involved in January 6th, pro-life demonstrators, and Silk Road founder Ross Ulbricht, have materialized. The CBP One app has been shut down, and appointments for migrants to be ushered into the country were canceled immediately after the inauguration. Additionally, 10,000 troops have been deployed to the border. Depending on the source, estimates suggest that between 11 million and 20 million illegal immigrants have entered the country since the beginning of the Biden administration. This represents one of the largest mass migrations in human history. To fulfill his promises, the removals of illegal immigrants under President Trump will need to be similarly unprecedented.

Immigration authorities have already arrested hundreds of criminal illegal aliens, many of whom also

have final orders of removal. However, this trickle of arrests must turn into a torrent. More than one million people presently residing in the country are subject to final orders of removal. The ease with which these arrests have occurred is telling. It proves that allowing these individuals to remain in the country has been a choice—a deliberate policy—all along. As a result, countless people have been victimized and killed. Some were murdered by gang members from MS-13 and Tren de Aragua. Others were struck by unlicensed illegal alien drunk drivers. Hundreds of thousands have overdosed on drugs sold by international criminal cartels operating with impunity. Every death caused by an illegal immigrant was preventable. Removing these individuals is precisely what people elected President Trump to do. Arresting 500 illegal immigrants per day isn’t nearly enough; the number needs to be at least 5,000 to make a significant dent. Allowing even one illegal immigrant to remain is an invitation for others to come.

Executive orders signed by the president have ranged from reaffirming the fact that there are only two genders to declassifying information regarding the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy, John F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King Jr. Other orders have instructed the Secretary of State to prioritize American inter-

ests in foreign policy decisions, eliminated DEI programs within federal agencies, and ended birthright citizenship. This last executive order has already faced a legal challenge, possibly by design, and appears destined for the Supreme Court. Birthright citizenship has fueled “birth tourism,” where pregnant women from all over the world travel to the United States to secure citizenship benefits for their children. It is an insane policy rooted in a misinterpretation of the 14th Amendment. The fact that President Trump is even attempting to dismantle it is a positive sign.

Legal immigration is as much of a problem as illegal immigration. President Trump’s position on H1-B visas and his desire to “staple green cards” to diplomas from American colleges are major causes for concern. The H1-B visa system is rife with abuse. Ostensibly, it exists to fill jobs requiring specialized knowledge and expertise that Americans cannot fill. However, an inspection of the online portal for the program reveals countless low-wage positions for cooks, landscapers, and dishwashers—jobs Americans would perform if wages were adequate. The true purpose of the program, like illegal immigrant labor, is to undercut domestic workers and drive down labor costs. This same phenomenon is occurring in the technology sector, where American workers have been forced to train

their H1-B replacements. Recent graduates find themselves unable to secure employment at all. H1-B visa holders will work for less and, like indentured servants, cannot quit or change jobs. Much of their earnings are sent back to their home countries, exiting the American economy. Furthermore, the children of H1-B visa holders gain citizenship upon birth, and at 21, they can sponsor their parents’ green card applications, granting permanent residency. This cycle has repeated endlessly for decades and must stop.

Student visas are another major avenue for abuse. Colleges cash the checks and turn a blind eye as wholesale academic fraud proliferates. Students who cannot speak English submit papers written by others, and plagiarism has become the norm. Granting green cards to every international student who graduates from an American college would be like pouring gasoline on a fire. If this policy is enacted, the annual estimated 250,000 graduates will rapidly increase. Canada serves as an example of how such a policy can spiral out of control. These individuals don’t just compete for a limited pool of jobs but also for housing and healthcare. Ceasing this influx of people is essential for the survival of the country. President Trump needs to get the message; the correct amount of immigration, legal or illegal, is zero.

ASTERI

Continued from pg 3

stay overnight in some of the units in the building, according to the letter from the county. Based on information obtained during the inspection, the volume of materials that some of these residents and overnight visitors bring into the units and subsequently discard significantly exceeds that typically generated by other apartment residents.

The report asked that by Dec. 30 Asteri submit for review and approval a plan for managing refuse that addresses the adequacy of disposal facilities, the disposal of offensive materials, hy-

podermic needles and other nuisances and the prevention and minimization of refuse, as well as plans for the staffing needed to address the conditions in the building and the safety of staff conducting the work.

Asteri has responded with a plan that details efforts to better manage the building’s garbage, including purchasing clearly labeled bins for the trash rooms located on each residential floor, which will be in place by Jan. 31, the plan states.

Gibson said that Vecino provided the right size of trash bags to the residents so that their trash would not get stuck in the chutes, as in the past residents have purchased very large trash

bags that do not fit down the chutes. “This way, they will be able to utilize the trash chutes and not get stuck,” Gibson said.

Staff members are responsible for waste collection and the cleanliness of the common areas.

Casella removes waste five times per week, and effective Dec. 16, every day a staff member is responsible for using a waste caddy to bring dumpsters to the curb for a 20-minute period, then returning the dumpsters to the dumpster room.

Asteri has contracted with J-Dog Junk Removal & Hauling for on-call removal of large items on a biweekly basis, Gibson said.

Asteri’s plan states that, effective Jan. 15, there were to be secure containers installed in the trash rooms specifically for the safe disposal of hypodermic needles. “These will be monitored regularly to prevent misuse,” the plan states.

All staff involved in waste collection and cleaning attends specialized e-training via Vecino University in handling hazardous waste and needles safely. This training includes the use of personal protective equipment, safe handling procedures and emergency response protocols.

The plan states that Asteri will partner with Tompkins Community Action (TCA), an organization dedicated to moving people out of poverty through comprehensive programming, and REACH, a nonprofit organization with the belief that all individuals deserve respectful, equitable access to compassionate healthcare, to provide seminars and workshops on waste management best practices, including how to dispose

of needles properly.

Gibson also said that Asteri plans to implement an electronic security system to help curb issues with visitors. “It is common for us, at some of our other communities, to have check-in systems for guests,” she said. “It’s important to know who is in the building, making sure people are not just walking in and entering.”

Gibson said she cannot put a timeline on the implementation of such a system but that Vecino is in the research phase of determining the best system for the property.

Residents will be required to meet their guests at the front desk and accompany them through the building.


“Guests will be required to check in with the assistant manager at that front desk,” she said, adding that the security team will be provided with a tablet so they can see if someone is walking through the building who is not accompanied by a resident.

One goal is to eliminate some of the access points to the building, including the stairwells and the parking garage.

The county’s letter stated that at the time of the inspection, security staff did not have access to the building security camera feed. Gibson said that Asteri will make sure security cameras are installed, and that if a door is opened, it will show up on the security system and staff will investigate.

“People may get creative and try to work around what we’ve implemented, but we’re prepared to pivot and make sure to address that,” Gibson said. “Having those measures and ensuring safety, knowing who is in the building ... is a lot easier with an electronic system.”

HISTORY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY



THE HISTORY CENTER

in Tompkins County

Snow covered evergreen trees can make a dramatic appearance against a winter sky. This early 20th century image was taken by Groton photographer Verne Morton.

Tompkins Weekly

SPORTS



HIGH SCHOOL MATCHUPS: 1/30 Girls Hockey: Ithaca @ Oswego

• 1/31 Boys Basketball: Newfield @ Candor • 2/4 Boys Basketball: Dryden @ Trumansburg

Ithaca indoor track & field on pace for success

The Ithaca High School indoor track and field team is by far the biggest program in Tompkins County, with 51 total athletes across the boys and girls teams. That means there's been plenty of stand-out performers as the regular season winds down.



By Ryan Gineo
ESPN ITHACA

The Little Red have broken multiple school records this season, ranging from the distance running events to the more technical events like the shot put and the pole vault. It's all come under first-year head coach Becca Lovenheim—who also coaches the cross country and outdoor track and field teams—and she's encouraged by what she's seen from her indoor athletes ahead of the postseason.

“For our athletes who weren't with us during cross country and are coming to us during indoor, it's exciting for them to be able to start doing some of the technique work,” Lovenheim said. “They've been working [on] fundamentals and conditioning—hopefully on their own during the fall—but getting in a lot of that weight room time, making sure we're getting all of our drilling in. It can be hard to be patient with wanting to just go ahead and start seeing PRs left, right and central all the time. But we're really trying to make sure they have a great foundation to be able to see some big marks during postseason indoor, and then certainly with big goals for outdoor.”

As for the athletes coming over from cross country, the terrific trio of Tsadia Bercuvitz, Riley Hubisz, and Noah Hilker have carried over their tremendous success in the fall to the winter. Bercuvitz set the school mark in the 1,500-meter run at the Quinney Invitational with a blistering time of four minutes and 37.05 seconds, good enough for second-best in the entire country.

Hubisz—a defending state and federation champion in the 3,200-meter run—also set a school record in that event at the Quinney Invitational, posting the fastest mark by a senior with a time of nine minutes and 34.52 seconds. Hilker has excelled in the 1,600-meter run, currently holding the fourth-fastest time in program history. Lovenheim attributes the trio's success to a brief break after the cross country season to help them refresh.

“As a coaching staff, it's important to us to think about where we can build in recovery,” Lovenheim said. “And for athletes that are as motivated as the three of them are—along with many of our others—the inclination is to keep going, and our job as coaches is to make sure that we find spaces where a natural break makes the most sense and that they will be able to see some really positive benefits from that break. We always want to make sure that we're having them miss the sport just enough that they're eager to come back rather than running into burnout later on.”

“For our athletes who weren't with us during cross country and are coming to us during indoor, it's exciting for them to be able to start doing some of the technique work.”

BECCA LOVENHEIM

Head Coach,
Ithaca High School Indoor Track

As for the field events, the Little Red have impressed in the pole vault with a pair of sophomores. Zappy Moss holds the 10th grade school record with a vault of 14 feet in their opening meet of the season Ithaca Bomber Invitational. During that same meet, Maren Golden set the new indoor pole vault mark with



Photo by John Brehm

Ithaca's Zappy Moss has emerged as one of the top pole vaulters in the section. The sophomore has won the event at multiple meets this indoor track and field season.

a height of nine feet.

“They have to be really self-directed and self-motivated because it's a very specific event and we don't have the ability to do as much of that practice,” Lovenheim said. “You can't really do that in the hallways. They're definitely doing the work where we can and be as creative as we can... and they really do a good job of listening to any and all feedback they possibly can get from the coaches around them. The pole vault community is pretty cool because there's a lot of people all rooting for our Section IV athletes.”

The Little Red have also stood out in the throwing events, fittingly spearheaded by the Cornell brothers. Gavin broke the freshman school record in the weight throw and the shot put—the latter of which he now holds the overall program record—while Hayden set the junior mark in the weight throw.

“[Hayden] made it to states [last

year],” Lovenheim said. “He was definitely an athlete on the rise, kind of new to it in many ways. He had been throwing but was just sort of putting all the pieces together under Coach [Cole] Clemons' tutelage, and it's been exciting to see. Gavin did some throws at the modified level, also with Coach Clemons, and then to have both of them coming in together, it's been exciting.”

As for the other records broken so far: Avery Whittaker has the program-best time in the 800-meter run, Zine Kattari holds the freshman mark in the 1,000-meter run, and Ian Fromme also has a freshman school record in the long jump.

With the postseason beginning on February 8 with the Section IV Class A Championship at Cornell University, the Little Red hope to return to Barton Hall later on in the month with as many athletes as they can for state qualifiers and more school records set.

Groton boys basketball bounces back from slow start

By Ryan Genio
ESPN ITHACA

The Groton boys basketball team has missed out on sectionals for the last two years. It looked like that drought would be extended to three years after beginning the season 2-6. But the Red Hawks have turned things around and are back in the fight for postseason contention.

Following their 2-6 start, the Red Hawks rattled off four straight wins and are currently 6-8 heading into the final few weeks of the regular season. Third-year head coach Mike Holl is proud of the way the team has been gelling together and competing through a campaign of

ups and downs.

“I have smart players this year. They can make adjustments on the fly, and they understand the game.”

MIKE HOLL

Head Coach, Groton Boys Basketball

“It's been a fun season,” Holl said. “The guys have been great. The number one thing on our list this year was just team culture, and in my opinion, we've been smashing that goal. The guys care about each other and are carrying themselves in the right way and doing the right things. That part

of it I'm really pleased with, and I'm pleased with the way they're playing. We've been competitive in just about every game this season... I truly feel at this point, there's no team on our schedule that we can't compete with and beat.”

Apart from their two losses to Union Springs and one to Moravia, the Red Hawks have certainly been competitive throughout the year, with the other 12 games they've played being decided by 12 or fewer points. They've gone from losing close games to winning close ones, and Holl credited the team's high IQ and selflessness for helping right the ship.

“I have smart players this year,”

Holl said. “They can make adjustments on the fly, and they understand the game. Another word I would use with them is unselfish. Sometimes I have to ask them to be more selfish, not to the point where it's hurting us, though.”

One big change from last season to this one is their emphasis on defense. The Red Hawks have gone from allowed 59.2 points per game last year to 53.2 points so far this year. This included holding a state-ranked Newfield team to just 39 points, though they could only muster 37 points. While Holl would like to see a bit more on offense, he's been more than

See BASKETBALL on pg 10

BASKETBALL

Continued from pg 9

happy with their defensive effort.

“When we started out, I had a real emphasis on defense and specifically man-to-man,” Holl said. “In the past, we’ve tried different zone defenses, jump defenses, things that can work for certain situations but they’re not steady. If you look at any of the true contenders in our division, they’re generally strong man-to-man teams. So that was something we put a lot of emphasis on this year.”

That doesn’t mean the Red Hawks are devoid of talent on the offensive end. In fact Conor Eldred has impressed in that aspect as the team’s leading scorer. The senior is hoping to make his final season with Groton a special one and play in the postseason.

“I think he’s gained that confidence,” Holl said. “He’s always been a confident kid, but I think this year he realized that he’s going to have to carry the brunt of that responsibility. I needed a scorer. Last year, probably one of my biggest issues was I lost Mason [Slade] the year before. Mason was a 20-plus guy a game, and I didn’t have that guy last year. I had some guys that would pour in 12, 14, eight. I needed somebody to kind of step into that role, and he’s done a nice job of that.”

Jaiden Mitchell is another senior

who is doing everything he can to help the Red Hawks extend their season. Not only has he shown plenty of grit throughout the season, he’s also come up clutch, most notably scoring the game-winning basket in a crucial win over Tioga.

“He’s the guy that does extra,” Holl said. “He’s diving across the floor. He volunteers to guard their best player. It’s a lot of little things that don’t show up on a stat sheet. I love guys that aren’t afraid to dive after a ball and be that person who wants to win those 50-50s... He’s going to leave it on the floor. He’s not the kid that just loves to win. He truly hates to lose, and I like those competitive guys.”

Groton has six games remaining in the regular season, though Holl said he’s looking to add a couple more. With their current schedule, they have to win two more games in order to reach the magic number of a .400 winning percentage and qualify for sectionals. The Red Hawks are motivated more than ever to get back to the promised land.

“One thing is nice this year: I feel like all 10 guys want to play more basketball,” Holl said. “I’ve been on teams before where the feeling was always unanimous: ‘We’re ready for baseball season. We’re ready to not come to practice anymore,’ and just kind of relaxed. I feel like these guys all want to play more basketball, and they’re having fun. That’s important.”



Photo by Adrian Mitchell

Groton’s Conor Eldred has helped the boys basketball team turn things around. After starting out 2-6, the Red Hawks won four straight games to get their season back on track.

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WEDNESDAY 1/29



Science Together: Flower Dissection
Wednesday, January 29, 2025 , 10:30am-11:00am
Additional Dates
Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 10:30am-11:00am
Thursday, January 30, 2025, 10:30am-11:00am
Friday, January 31, 2025, 10:30am-11:00am
Practice using tools and making observations as we look at all the parts of a flower!
Science Together activities are designed for ages 0-4. Sciencenter 601 1st St Ithaca, NY

THURSDAY 1/30



Tompkins Community Bank First-Time Homebuyer Webinar
January 30 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 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>

Healthy Eating Support Community
January 30 @ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Free "Beyond New Year's Resolutions" Join the Health Eating Support Community on Jan. 30 from 4:30-5:30 (and every two weeks thereafter) to find support for your 2025 healthy eating goals, and discuss approaches for gentle lifestyle changes. Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca. cl2742@cornell.edu

FRIDAY 1/31



CCHK Salon: Music and Science Inspired by Madame Lavoisier
January 31 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Free Cornell Center for Historical Keyboards Salon with Patricia Garcia Gil: A Salon on Music and Science Inspired by Madame Lavoisier. "Nothing is Lost": The Reign of Terror may have claimed Antoine Lavoisier's life, but his revolutionary contributions to science have endured. His legacy was preserved by his closest collaborator, Marie-Anne Paulze (Madame Lavoisier), who, in a male-dominated field, created a space for herself and hosted

salons that blended science with the latest musical trends. "Nothing is Created": Inspired by these gatherings, a selection from Madame Lavoisier's music library—now housed in Cornell's Rare and Manuscript Collections—will be presented alongside cutting-edge research on spectroscopy, revealing how chemicals leave marks in light and advancing our understanding of celestial bodies like Jupiter's moon Europa. "Everything is Transformed": Much like the work of the Lavoisiers, where boundaries fluidly dissolve between disciplines, the fusion of art and science aims to offer a transformative opportunity to reflect on life beyond Earth, as well as to contemplate collaboration as a means for ideas to evolve continually. A. D. White House 27 E Ave Ithaca, 14853

SATURDAY 2/1

Family History Fair
February 1 @ 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Free Join us for lectures, workshops, and activities for families related to researching your family history. Keynote speaker is nationally known genealogist, Dr. Thomas W. Jones. Topic: "Building a Credible Lineage Despite Multiple Research Barriers." For beginners through advanced researchers. For more information: bit.ly/4doKzKD Family Search Center 114 Burleigh Dr. Ithaca,

Martin Davids, violin and David Yearsley, organ
February 1 @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Free David Yearsley and Martin Davids: "In the Cabinet of Wonders with Schop and Scheidemann." Baroque violinist Martin Davids joins organist David Yearsley to launch their new album of music for violin and organ from 17th-century Hamburg. Anabel Taylor Chapel 548 College Ave Ithaca, 14850

SUNDAY 2/2



Freedom and Struggle: A Tribute to the Legacy of Martin Luther King
February 2 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Free The Savage Club series, The Verb Takes a Walk, presents Freedom and Struggle: A Tribute to the Legacy of Martin Luther King on Sunday, February 2 from 3 to 5 pm. Join us for readings of original and found poetry and music performed, with love, in honor of Dr. King and the many inspired by him. There will be free refreshments. Find us at the Lansing Performance Hall, 1004 Auburn Rd, North Lansing.
Prior events have featured poets Janie Bibbie, Peaches Gillette, Brooke Lange, Daphne Sola, Adin Ljuca, Mike Finn, Gregory Busby, Natalie Lister, Wendy Babiak, Barbara Regenspan, Fran Markover, Kevin Basl, Eric Evans, Sam Foley, Rusty Boseman and Mark Zuss, painter Tommy Beers, and musicians Hugh McElyea, Brian Wansink, Tony Lister, Ira Kamp, Jeremy Beutel, Tony Pesco, Christopher Loy and DuWayne Perry.
Collaboration among poets, musicians, dancers and other artists is encouraged. Send poems and inquiries to poet Mark Zuss, mizuss@outlook.com, or composer Hugh McElyea, hugomac@gmail.com.
The February event will be even better with you there!
We are happy to have the support of the Community Arts Partnership



Cornell Concert Series: YAMATO The Drummers of Japan
February 2 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
YAMATO brings new life to the traditional Japanese taiko and wadaiko drums by paying respect to their rich history, and exploring contemporary drumming styles. Audiences have been exhilarated by the thunderous sounds as the performers display their remarkable physical strength and infectious energy with drums that weigh up to half a ton. Bailey Hall 30 Garden Ave Ithaca, 14850



Ithaca Big Band Summit
February 2 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Free Eighth Annual Ithaca Big Band Summit with the jazz ensembles of Ithaca College, Cornell, and Ithaca High School. Directors Aaron Staebell, Paul Merrill, and Michael Treat. Ithaca High School, Kulp Auditorium

MONDAY 2/3

Writers Group
Monday, February 03, 2025 Monthly Monday Night Writer's Group hosted by Rebecca of Red Frame Publishing redframepublishing.com
Join us from 5-7 for creative and supportive feedback on your writing. Bring yourself and a shorter piece or 2 to share with the group. \$5 suggested donation to the Downstairs Programming Fund. Venmo accepted-or put cash in our little red basket. (Poetry & Prose Open Mic Night to follow) Support the downstairs! Become a member or donate to the Programming Fund! thedownstairsithaca.com/membership The Downstairs is located below The Watershed at 121 West Martin Luther King Jr Street in Ithaca NY

TUESDAY 2/4

Comic Book Club Meeting on Tuesday, 2/4/2025 — "Romance Comics!"
February 4 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Free - With Valentine's Day just around the corner, drop by the meeting on Tuesday, February 4 of the Comic Book Club of Ithaca, for a look at romance comics. Yes, before streaming media, before TV soap operas, and even before Harlequin romance novels, there were romance comics! Writer-artists Jack Kirby

and Joe Simon — the same Simon and Kirby who co-created Captain America and many other action-adventure characters — also launched the entire genre of romance comic books. Drop by on 2/4/2025 and confirm that yes, comics are all about action-adventure and much more.
The Comic Book Club of Ithaca — the oldest continuously running comic book club in the country — is a registered non-profit organization. The Club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, and meetings are free and open to pop culture fans of all ages. For more information, see the Club's website at comicbookclub.org, which includes links to the Club's Facebook page, and to other events such as Ithacon, the annual comic book convention. If you like to read — books, comic books, graphic novels, on-line comics, you name it — check us out!

FUTURE DATES:

From Conflict to Collaboration- Build Stronger Teams, Achieve Bigger Goals
February 5 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
\$70 This workshop with Erica Marx is part 1 of the 4 part HSC Workshop Series: Leadership Toolkit.
Teams today face tough challenges—shifts in leadership, competing priorities, or unresolved tensions. These moments often surface important questions and conflicts, signaling opportunities for deeper alignment and stronger collaboration.
This workshop gives you tools to embrace those moments: to build trust, open up conversations, and focus on what really matters. Through a series of activities, you'll surface what's most important in your team, build trust, and align for better collaboration. Whether you're a leader or team member, you'll leave with tools and insights to create lasting impact within your organization.
Bring a specific goal or challenge you're facing to this session. Through activities, group discussions, and skill-building exercises, you'll leave with fresh ideas, practical tools, and renewed confidence in what your team can achieve together.
By the end of this workshop, you will:
-Map your team's dynamics using Amy Edmondson's psychological safety framework to understand where your team stands and identify shifts needed for better performance.
-Build trust and connection with activities that reveal strengths, foster openness, and create a sense of shared purpose you can bring back to your team.
-Explore challenges as opportunities by separating people from content. Surface the underlying issues driving tensions and practice strategies for productive, shared problem-solving.
-Unlock fresh perspectives through processes that amplify creativity and integrate diverse viewpoints. Learn how to navigate differences and turn them into strengths.
-Clarify actionable steps by applying these tools to a real challenge or goal. Leave with practical strategies to help your team move forward with alignment and focus.
Tompkins County Public Library, Schwartz Jacobsen Room 101 East Green Street Ithaca, 14850



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

Break Time

HOROSCOPE

Week of
January 26 to February 1, 2025



ARIES

You may be offered a big promotion at work. Before making a decision, however, you should talk to your partner and loved ones to prevent any misunderstandings.



TAURUS

The winter blues are starting to get you down. This may prompt you to seriously consider planning a sunny vacation. Just thinking about it fills you with joy and enthusiasm!



GEMINI

Your senses will be on high alert, and your emotions could play tricks on you. You'll untangle the threads of a scandalous affair, be it in your workplace or within your family circle. The chaos will soon fade away.



CANCER

Get ready to sharpen your negotiation skills, whether at work or in your personal life. You've got what it takes to secure solid agreements that will pave the way for career success.



LEO

You'll be in the spotlight this week, which will make you happy. You may also be rewarded. A celebration for your career advancement could be on the horizon.



VIRGO

If you're not feeling your best physically, take it easy. Every hour of rest will work wonders, giving you the energy boost you need to accomplish amazing things.



LIBRA

After the festivities, your home may still be a bit of a mess. You'll be in a hurry to put everything back in order. This is the perfect opportunity to declutter and refresh your space to help you feel lighter and more energized.



SCORPIO

You'll speak freely, saying aloud what others keep to themselves. You may even write a poem or a powerful phrase that earns you global recognition.



SAGITTARIUS

Your finances will be top of mind this week. A small mistake like receiving a bill in the wrong name could create some worry. However, once the mix-up has been resolved, you'll feel much more at ease.



CAPRICORN

Adventure awaits! Those around you will be eager to include you in all sorts of activities, pulling you out of your slump. You'll be encouraged to join group training, at least with your close friends by your side.



AQUARIUS

You'll need a second cup of coffee to clear your head and stop procrastinating. Boosting your efficiency will be the key to completing new projects and reaching your goals.



PISCES

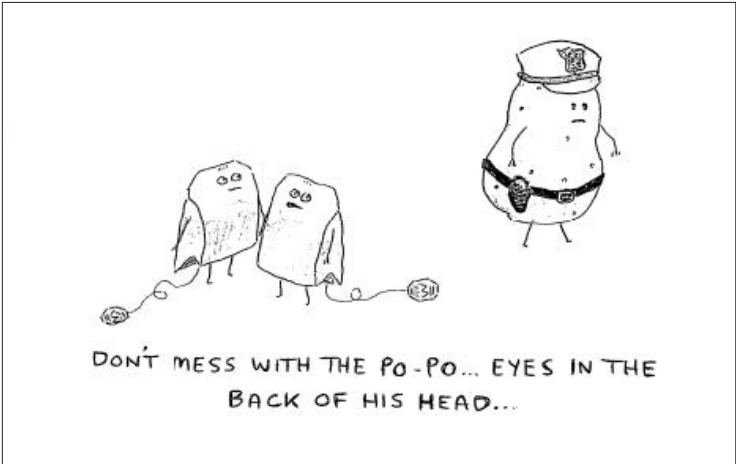
It's not always easy to find your way in a crowd. At work, juggling the demands of your boss, customers and colleagues may feel like an uphill battle.

The luckiest signs this week:
ARIES, TAURUS AND GEMINI



COMICS

By Jack Young



Sudoku

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

How to play:

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

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

RECIPE
of the week



Lasagna Soup

INGREDIENTS (SERVES 6):

- 1 lb ground beef or Italian sausage (optional)
- 1 small onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups chicken or beef broth
- 1 can (28 oz) crushed tomatoes
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 8 lasagna noodles, broken into pieces
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Fresh parsley or basil for garnish

DIRECTIONS:

1. Cook Meat: In a large pot, cook ground beef or sausage over medium heat until browned. Add onion and garlic, cooking until softened.
2. Build the Soup: Stir in broth, crushed tomatoes, tomato paste, oregano, basil, red pepper flakes, salt, and pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer.
3. Add Noodles: Add broken lasagna noodles and cook until tender, about 8-10 minutes.
4. Prepare Cheese Mixture: In a small bowl, mix ricotta, mozzarella, and Parmesan cheese.
5. Serve: Ladle soup into bowls, top with a dollop of the cheese mixture, and garnish with parsley or basil.

This comforting lasagna soup is packed with classic Italian flavors and is perfect for a cozy meal!

ACROSS

1. Jump
4. Choice word
8. Hit sharply
12. Hot temper
13. Harness strap
14. Clock cycle
15. Ocean's shoreline
17. Small bit
18. Kooky
19. Give a job to
21. Signal
24. Half of a bikini
25. Not theirs
26. Restoration
31. Appoint
32. Covered up
33. No part
34. Cleaning utensil
36. Be stuck (on)
37. Seeded loaf
38. Autumn beverage
39. Place of learning
43. Devotee
44. Skinny
45. Necessitate
50. British title
51. Weather word
52. Christmas drink
53. Hunted animal
54. Memo error
55. Kennel occupant

DOWN

1. Towel monogram
2. Valuable dirt
3. ____ soup (dense fog)
4. Wear down
5. Clue
6. Family member, for short
7. Enrolled
8. Transport
9. Fleece
10. Car
11. Cafeteria item
16. Old-time girdle
20. Game piece
21. Affectionate
22. Hawaiian gala
23. "A Farewell to ____"
24. Pickling solution
27. Finale
28. Knock on ____
29. Contribute a share
30. Look suggestively
32. Barn area
35. Major-leaguer
38. Egyptian capital
39. Phase
40. Blacken
41. "Spenser: For ____"
42. Lone
43. Somersault
46. Small gulf
47. Abbott ____ Costello
48. Moreover
49. Easter edible

Republicans Unmasked

When Republicans say they want to “Make America Great Again,” they are speaking code to each other. What they mean is “Make America Weak Again.” Republicans who won’t wear a mask for the common good have been masking actions under words meaning the exact opposite for years. They now claim a margin of victory of 1.6%, gain of 4 Senate seats, and LOSS of 1 House seat leaving a 5 vote Republican majority, is a “landslide” and “mandate.” Their actions speak louder than words, unmasking them for all to see.

Saying they are for “law and order,” they direct federal agencies to seek the death penalty for murder of police offi-

cers while pardoning convicted criminals for attacks on 140 officers. Saying they want “merit” in public service, they nominate billionaires with no relevant experience, fire qualified women from senior posts, and order instant top security clearances for staff. They call the first and only domestic attack on the US Capitol and Congress in US history to block certification of election results a “lovefest” while decrying “revisionist history.” They castigate “unelected activist judges”--unless they are loose Cannons or Supreme Court judges who forgot they swore under oath that precedent is settled law. They say they want “transparent

elections” while refusing to certify Democrat wins. They kill a bi-partisan immigration bill, then declare a “national emergency” and order military massing at Mexico’s border in a year with less border crossings than in Trump’s last year in office. They say only the “original” meaning of the US Constitution matters, then amend it with a Sharpie. They say the Justice Department was unfairly “weaponized” against them while the same act by any other actor at any other facility would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. They sell out the American public by selling off America’s natural resources to the lowest bidder.

Trump’s Republicans have yet to equal Biden’s 4.45% victory margin, let alone earn anything like a real landslide victory, as in 1932 when Democrats gained 97 House seats, 12 Senate seats, and the presidency by a margin of more than 17% after 12 years of Republican rule and 3 years of economic misery. The 1932 election WAS a mandate for changes that made America great for generations.

Whatever Republicans say, no mandate exists to shred those changes, weaken the nation, or line private pockets at public expense.

- Vivien Rose, Trumansburg

History center opens new exhibit: “Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: Buses, Boats, Bikes”

The History Center in Tompkins County is excited to announce its upcoming major exhibit, “Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: Buses, Boats, Bikes”, opening Friday, February 7th, 2025, at the Tompkins Center for History and Culture on the Ithaca Commons.

This exhibit invites visitors to explore the impact of transportation innovations on the history and community of Tompkins County. From horse-drawn carriages to the arrival of trains and planes, the exhibit delves into the fascinating evolution of movement that shaped the region’s landscape, economy, and culture.

Highlights of the exhibit include:

- **Miniature Railway Models:** A handcrafted recreation of historical Ithaca train routes.
- **Vintage Vehicles and Ephemera:** Featuring artifacts such as early bicycles, trolley tickets, and original road maps.
- **Interactive Displays:** Experience the soundscape of bygone trans-

portation methods and explore how these innovations connected communities.

Grand Opening Schedule – February 7, 2025:

- 10:00 AM – Exhibit opens to the public.
- 5:00-8:00 PM – Gallery Night in Downtown Ithaca.
- 6:15 PM – Public Reception with Musical Living History Performance

“Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: Buses, Boats, Bikes” will run through December 2025. Stay tuned for special events, including expert-led tours and workshops on transportation innovation in the region. Find more about the exhibit at thehistorycenter.net/2025-exhibit

This exhibit helps celebrate the 200th anniversary of the completion of the Erie Canal. It is made possible with financial support to The History Center in Tompkins County from the Triad Foundation and NYSCA. Special thanks to our exhibit collab-



orators including local historians, model builders, and transportation enthusiasts; specific thanks for collaborations with Rochester Museum and Science Center, Wharton Studio Museum, Leonard’s Vacuum and Hobby Shop, Department of Public Works for the Village of Dryden, and the Highway Department for the Town of Dryden.

‘Valentine’s Day Cards for Seniors’ initiative seeks submissions

State Senator Lea Webb (SD 52) has announced her 2nd Annual “Valentine’s Day Cards for Seniors” initiative, inviting community involvement in creating Valentine’s cards for nursing home and adult care residents in the Southern Tier.

This initiative invites schools, families, and individuals to participate by creating handmade Valentine’s Day cards as an expression of care and connection, aimed at reducing the feelings of isolation that many seniors experience. The collected cards will be safely distributed by Senator Webb and her team to various nursing homes and adult care residents in the region by Valentine’s Day.

“Last year, we saw the power of community come to life through my 1st Annual Valentine’s Day Cards for Seniors initiative, and I’m thrilled to bring it back for a second year,” said Senator Lea Webb. “This

is about more than just sending a card – it’s about showing our seniors that they are valued and remembered.”

Participants are encouraged to drop off cards by 5 p.m., Feb. 6, at the following locations:

- Senator Webb’s Binghamton Office: 44 Hawley Street, Suite 1607, Binghamton, NY 13901
- Broome County Public Library (Children’s Desk): 185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY 13901
- George F. Johnson Memorial Library: 1001 Park Street, Endicott, NY 13760
- Senator Webb’s Ithaca Office: 217 North Aurora Street, Suite 110, Ithaca, NY 14850
- Southworth Library: 24 W Main Street Dryden, NY 13053
- Cortland Free Library: 32 Church Street, Cortland, NY 13045
- Cortland Youth Bureau: 35 Port Watson Street, Cortland,

NY 13045

For more information, partici-

pants can contact Senator Webb’s office at 607-773-8771.

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TRUMP

Continued from pg 1

tation of a judicial warrant, but absent that warrant it will not disclose certain nonpublic, sensitive information about an individual.

The city of Ithaca also passed a sanctuary city law in 2017, and the extent to which the president’s executive orders may have an impact on local government is still unclear.

Last week, it was widely reported that in a memo Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove told Justice Department staff that state and local authorities must cooperate with the immigration crackdown and federal prosecutors “shall investigate incidents involving any such misconduct for potential prosecution.”

At the Jan. 22 meeting of the City of Ithaca Common Council, the council briefly discussed a draft resolution stating that City of Ithaca code prohibits discrimination against individuals under a variety of bases. The ordinance would recognize the importance of fostering a city that is welcoming and inclusive for all individuals, regardless of nationality or citizenship.

The council voted unanimously to put the resolution on the consent agenda for its Feb. 5 meeting.

The resolution would reaffirm the city’s commitment to these values, wrapping up its renewed stance on immigration with other human rights issues that were the subject of Trump’s executive orders. The resolution would include the sanctuary city language as well as language supporting gender-affirming care and recognizing the importance of reproductive health care.

Klein said that he personally does not wish to reopen the issue in front of the county legislature at this time.

“I personally don’t think that it’s worth the time,” he said. “The law from 2017 is in effect, so why would we use our time to say what we already said?”

Klein said he believes that Trump’s executive orders contain a conflation of immigration and crime and that the county’s policy does not conflate the two. “If someone commits a crime, then they are going to be subject to our public safety system, just like anybody else,” Klein said. “It has nothing to do with immigration status.”

Legislator Deborah Dawson (D-Lansing) said that she is concerned about the programs the government provides to children in the areas of health care, foster care and students with disabilities. One potential ramification of the EO, Dawson said, is that it could require local governments to ascertain the birthright citizenship of every child so that the government can then refuse to provide those services.

Klein said that he is wary of retaliation by the federal government, but he believes there is little the county can do at this early juncture.

“They are very concerning threats, and we will keep an eye on them, but until actual action is taken by the government, it’s hard to react,” he said. “We will do whatever we can to defend ourselves, defend our laws and defend our residents, but without knowing what tools might be coming at us, it’s hard to know what we’re dealing with, specifically.”

Diversity, equity and inclusion

The president also issued an executive order titled, “Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing.”

“The Biden Administration forced illegal and immoral discrimination programs, going by the name ‘diversity, equity, and inclusion’ (DEI), into virtually all aspects of the Federal Government, in areas ranging from airline safety to the military,” asserts the executive order, which calls for “the termination of all discriminatory programs, including illegal DEI and ‘diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility’ (DEIA) mandates, policies, programs, preferences, and activities in the Federal Government, under whatever name they appear.”

Klein condemned the president’s actions to remove all DEI measures from the federal government, saying they go against Tompkins County’s values.

“There are policies and other issues that are legitimate to debate, but to make a blanket elimination of all attempts to balance inequities and even basically talk about the subject is shameful,” Klein said.

“Life is easier for the government and the people when we are in alignment with the other governments and the general values that other governments have, and when we are not in alignment it certainly makes it harder for everyone,” Klein added. “I think it affects everyone’s mental

health, and that matters. To a lot of us, it feels like we are under attack by our own federal government, and that is not a healthy environment to operate in.”

Tompkins County Legislator Randy Brown (R-Newfield) said he supports the county’s DEI initiatives, including the existence of a chief equity and diversity officer, a role held by Charlene Holmes.

“I think it’s important for the county to have Charlene Holmes,” Brown said, adding that he believes one of the main goals of the county should be to hire more minority employees, and to develop effective strategies to do so.

“Everyone has a full shot here,” Brown said. “We want diversity.”

The county’s DEI policies do more than just inform the actions of the government, said Brown. “I think it’s a communication of values, and I think it’s really important for morale,” he said.

“My biggest issue with the racial divide is the divide,” he added. “We’re in it together. On the political side they try to divide us, and I think that’s not a great place to be. I think Biden went too far left and shoved it down people’s throats, and it took away from the job they had to do.”

Gender

In an order titled “Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government,” Trump declares that it is now the policy of the United States to recognize two sexes: male and female.

The order goes on to define “man” and “woman” and “male” and “female.” Chan Tov McNamarah, visiting assistant professor at Cornell Law School, said they find it concerning that male and female, as defined by the order, are determined at the time of conception, rather than birth. He said this language could be viewed as a “Trojan horse,” setting the stage for future pro-life legislation.

McNamarah said that in terms of rolling out language that supports the concept of fetal personhood, “it’s all there.”

“I think it’s incredibly transparent, how it’s laid out,” they said.

McNamarah added they find it “incredibly telling” that May Mailman, who McNamarah said has been advocating against abortion rights for decades, was one of the individuals who authored the order.

“It’s planting seeds of an idea, an ideology,” McNamarah said. “The sooner that personhood begins vis-à-vis conception, the sooner the government has the moral right to step in to protect that life. Very few of the laws we have recognize life at conception, and this is now pinning the time that someone is sexed at conception; it edges us ever so closely to a situation where we recognize fetal rights.”

The order goes on to state that the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management will implement changes to require that government-issued identification documents, including passports, visas and Global Entry cards, “accurately reflect the holder’s sex.”

“It’s too early for us to know all of the full implications, but one is that these orders — all of them are generating a lot of fear and uncertainty, and they are making people afraid in some cases to go out in public or to travel,” said Kate McCullough, interim director of LGBT studies at Cornell University. “I do have one friend who is trans who said they were receiving a lot of very obvious stares in the grocery store, and who has lived in this community for a number of years and said that had not been the case.”

“I am increasingly worried about emboldening transphobia,” she added. “I have felt generally welcomed in this community as a lesbian, but one of the impacts of Trump’s first term is making it okay to say horrible things in public. ... I’m worried more about the atmosphere of the policies, more than the policy changes.”

McNamarah said that the order is not retroactive. “So, you are able to have your passport,” they assured those who have an X marker for gender on their passport. “For any Tompkins County residents, I’d be careful leaving the country if you have an X gender marker on your passport,” they advised.

McNamarah added that many of the president’s orders will likely be tied up in court for some time. Contradictory case law long precedes the executive orders around the use of pronouns and removing transgender women from federal prisons, for example. “I don’t think it’s as cut and dry as people think the EO is,” they said. “It’s not going to be signed today and hashed out tomorrow. It’s a little bit more complicated than that.”

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Sciarabba Walker & Co. announces new co-managing partner, tax department, and outsourced accounting department heads



Photo provided
Dave Iles, co-managing partner for Sciarabba Walker

Sciarabba Walker is pleased to announce the appointment of David Iles, CPA, and Chris Hart, CPA, as Co-Managing Partners, effective January 1, 2025. This marks a new chapter in the firm’s leadership structure, with Dave and Chris working together through June 30, 2026, to guide the firm into its next phase of growth and success.

Dave Iles, who has been with the firm since 1988 and has served as Managing Partner since July 1999, will continue to provide leadership, staff mentoring, and client service as a partner following the transition. Chris Hart, who joined the firm in 2008, was promoted to partner in 2021, and has served as the head of the Tax Department in recent years, will serve as Co-Managing Partner alongside Dave. Beginning July 1, 2026, Chris will assume the role of Managing Partner.



Photo provided
Christopher Hart, co-managing partner for Sciarabba Walker

Effective January 1, 2025, Tom D’Alessandro, CPA, will assume the role of head of the Tax Department, taking over from Chris Hart. Tom, who joined the firm in December 2023, brings with him extensive experience, having spent eight years at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). Chris and Tom will collaborate closely to prepare the firm for the 2025 tax season, ensuring seamless leadership and exceptional client service.

“We’re excited to have Chris lead our firm during this time of accelerated change in our profession,” said Dave Iles. “The firm’s success has always been founded in our commitment to our community, proactive client service, employee development, and embracing change. Chris’s strong relationship skills and community roots will be tremendous resources as



Photo provided
Kathleen Torello, outsourced accounting manager for Sciarabba Walker

we focus on our strategic priorities.”

“I am excited to take on the role of Co-Managing Partner and look forward to leading this firm forward in an ever-changing profession,” said new Co-Managing Partner, Chris Hart. “I have been with the firm for over 16 years because of my respect for the firm’s leadership and culture. I immensely enjoyed my time leading the Tax Department, and I believe Tom will bring a fresh energy and perspective to the position.”

“Stepping into the role of Head of the Tax Department is both a privilege and an exciting challenge,” said Tom D’Alessandro. “I’m eager to collaborate with our talented team to navigate challenges and seize opportunities. Together, we’ll continue to raise the bar in delivering lasting value to our clients.”



Photo provided
Tom D’Alessandro, head of the tax department for Sciarabba Walker

Also effective January 1, 2025, Kathleen Torello, CPA, will assume the role of Outsourced Accounting Manager. Kathleen joined the firm in 2014 after a career in private and public accounting and was promoted to Manager in 2024 and Department Manager in 2025.

“I’m honored to be promoted to Outsourced Accounting Manager and follow in the footsteps of wonderful leaders,” said Kathleen Torello. “I am excited to work with my team to continue to provide top-notch financial services to our clients throughout the country, and I look forward to introducing ourselves and our services to potential clients throughout Upstate New York and beyond.”

For more information about Sciarabba Walker, please visit swcllp.com or email info@swcllp.com.



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The Cherry Arts presents ‘Signal Flow’

The Cherry Arts is thrilled to kick off 2025 with Signal Flow, a collection of curious machines by Norm Scott, opening Friday, Jan. 31, at the Cherry Gallery.

Signal Flow is an assortment of devices that create unusual experiences for the spectator through interactive audio, smell, and even fortune-telling. Ithaca artist Scott invites visitors to operate many of the remixed vintage mechanisms, engaging all the senses of the audience with playful explorations of music-making,

storytelling, and—yes—imagineering. Inventor, sound designer, and video editor Norm Scott builds wacky contraptions and audio-visual installations. His penchant for documenting family and friends with a tape recorder has yielded a career in audio recording and production and a handful of albums. He currently divides his time between PhotoSynthesis Productions, Cornell University, and his own venture Scott Mediaworks. Signal Flow is made possible, in part, with SOS grant funding from the Commu-

nity Arts Partnership of Tompkins County.

The opening reception for Signal Flow will take place Jan. 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Cherry Gallery (130 Cherry Street, Ithaca). At 6 p.m., an electromagnetic chrono-seance will be conducted. The reception is free and open to the public.

The Cherry Gallery will be open Thursdays and Fridays from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, visit thecherry.org/signal-flow/.



Friends of the Ithaca Farmers Market receives funding for new shared-use commercial kitchen

U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer recently announced \$109,255 in federal funding for Friends of the Ithaca Farmers Market to build a new shared commercial-use kitchen for use by small food entrepreneurs seeking to grow their businesses and sell at places like the Ithaca Farmers Market. With this grant, the project plans to help nearly 20 vendors, giving them access to equipment and technical expertise they would not otherwise be able to afford.

“The gorges Ithaca Farmers Market along the scenic Cayuga Lake is a staple in Tompkins County, a food mecca for food enthusiasts and small businesses. But too few small food entrepreneurs have the resources to scale their operations to the level they aspire. I’m proud to deliver \$109,255 in federal funding to Friends of the Ithaca Farmers Market to build a shared-use commercial kitchen so new food vendors have the resources they need to develop and sell their products and grow their businesses,” said Senator Schumer. “I boosted funding for the Appalachian Region Commission in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Law I led to passage in the Senate with investments like this in mind to support the success and growth of Upstate NY’s small businesses. I’m proud that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Law is continuing to deliver for Ithaca and the Southern Tier.”

The Friends of the Ithaca Farmers Market’s Shared Kitchen-Ithaca project will create a licensed shared-use commercial kitchen to support increased demand from food product businesses

looking to sell at places like the Ithaca Farmers Market.

The shared kitchen will have equipment and space for small food businesses. Previous feasibility studies have shown that building an affordable commercial kitchen space will support the growth of local food entrepreneurs. The project also aims to provide technical business assistance to food entrepreneurs and organize networking events to strengthen business-to-business connections among entrepreneurs, suppliers, and buyers.

The federal dollars will be matched \$85,149 from individual donors in the community as well as \$25,000 from the Park Foundation and \$17,000 from the City of Ithaca. The location for the shared-use kitchen will be at 700 W. Buffalo St. at the site of the former Greenstar Central Kitchen in Ithaca.

“The City of Ithaca is grateful for the support for the Shared Kitchen Ithaca project from Leader Schumer, New York Department of State, ST8 and the Appalachian Regional Commission,” said Robert Cantelmo, Mayor of Ithaca. “The City is proud to have played a direct role in bringing this transformation project to fruition through the creative leadership of Deputy Director for Economic Development Tom Knipe, as well as a small City grant to support start-up costs and a grant from the Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency (IURA) to provide reduced kitchen rent to low-to-moderate income microenterprises. Food manufacturing has emerged as a growth sector for Ithaca and Tompkins County over the past several years and has

one of the highest rates of women and minority business owners and the lowest thresholds to entry. As a result, in addition to creating more successful local food businesses, jobs, and economic activity by plugging a gap in the local food economy, this project holds promise to create wealth for diverse business owners, help address food insecurity, and shepherd a renaissance of specialty foods for Ithaca and the broader Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions.”

“The shared commercial kitchen will significantly enhance the food ecosystem in the region and boost the prospects of numerous entrepreneurs who would otherwise have no access to the kind of resources that we will provide,” said Chuck Schwerin, Shared Kitchen Ithaca Board of Directors. “Among the grants we got was a generous one from the Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency to defray 50% of the rent for businesses that could not otherwise afford the facility. We are grateful, as well, for a \$150,000 grant from the Tompkins County Development Corporation to support our initial startup and equipment costs. We are working, as well, with food insecurity



ty groups in the community to facilitate the processing and distribution of food in the community for those in need.”

The funding comes from the Appalachian Regional Commission, which Schumer boosted funding for in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Law he led to passage in the Senate by \$1 billion over 5 years, increasing the budget to \$200 million per year through 2026. The Appalachian Regional Commission provides support for economic development, infrastructure, and workforce development programs to improve the quality of life and create new business growth and job opportunities across the Southern Tier.



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

New York Attorney General Letitia James recently 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 organizations.

“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 prey 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 your credit card number in response to an email solicitation unless you 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 permission 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 wary if these costs outweigh the amount spent on relief.
 - **Look Into Newly Formed Organizations 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.

Obituaries

Celebrating Lives, Honoring Memories

RECENT DEATH NOTICES				
Name:	Age:	Town, State:	Death Date:	Arrangements:
Barbara J. Ellis	89	Lansing, NY	Jan-26	Lansing Funeral Home
Antonia Demas	72	Trumansburg, NY	Jan-23	CNY Cremation Service
David C. Hart	70	Brooktondale, NY	Jan-23	Perkins Funeral Home
Benjamin Widom	97	Ithaca, NY	Jan-23	CNY Cremation Service
Herman Owens	-	Ithaca, NY	Jan-22	Zirbel Funeral Home
Jeffrey L. Menzies	58	Ithaca, NY	Jan-21	Perkins Funeral Home
Anthony Lucatelli	65	Ithaca, NY	Jan-21	Bangs Funeral Home
Ronnie L. Crump	71	Ithaca, NY	Jan-20	Bangs Funeral Home
Bruce Allen Newhart	82	Interlaken NY	Jan-20	Ness-Sibley Funeral Home
Loretta L. Emmons	61	Trumansburg, NY	Jan-19	Ness-Sibley Funeral Home
Lisa M. Colby	67	Groton, NY	Jan-19	Zirbel Funeral Home
Howard C. Haskins	80	Trumansburg, NY	Jan-19	Ness-Sibley Funeral Home
Stanley Biskup	85	West Danby, NY	Jan-19	Bangs Funeral Home
James W. Ike	79	Interlaken NY	Jan-17	Ness-Sibley Funeral Home
Kristin Lee DiPronio	66	Ithaca, NY	Jan-16	Lansing Funeral Home
John Holmes	-	Ithaca, NY	Jan-14	CNY Cremation Service
Mary Gloster	82	Groton, NY	Jan-13	Zirbel Funeral Home
Richard L. Cogger	83	Ithaca, NY	Jan-10	Bangs Funeral Home

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Celebrating Lives, Honoring Memories

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Howard C. Haskins

Howard C. Haskins of Trumansburg, formerly of Gouverneur, passed away on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at the age of 80.

Howard was born on October 17, 1944, a son of the late Henry and Beatrice (Hull) Haskins. Known to many as Howie, a trusting, fun-loving and storytelling guy, who could talk to anyone; he spent much of his time outdoors, enjoying hunting, fishing, playing games and barbecuing with family and friends. His younger years were full of many shenanigans with his friends, including a 50-miler hike he spoke so often about. His fishing stories were endless and seemed to be too good to be true. His love for the outdoors passed on to all of his children. Whether it was taking car rides to see the sites, stopping to look at every deer, squirrel, bear, aw heck, all wild life, going on hikes or fishing in secret places, he always made time to enjoy each day. His competitive nature kept him playing games and challenging anyone to whatever game was around. Howie played an active role in his children’s and grandchildren’s



lives; loving his step-children as his own and supporting all of them in their endeavors by reaching out to them, attending their events and celebrating them. He was a true romantic; his love and devotion for his wife, Bev, was evident every day.

Howard is survived by his wife of 41 years, Beverly Haskins; children, Shawn (Meg Wirt) Haskins, Shelley Haskins, Hope (Aaron) Lewis, and Jamie (Jeff) Karim; grandchildren, Karli Wirt, Samantha Stephenson, and Elisabeth and Allison Lewis; as well as several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Howard was preceded in death by a sister, Maureen Holcomb; and two brothers, Henry Haskins and Richard Lovely.

In keeping with Howard’s wishes, a celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

The family asks those that would like to make a contribution in Howard’s memory to kindly consider Trumansburg Volunteer Fire, EMS, PO Box 418, Trumansburg, NY 14886.

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