

Tompkins Weekly

Tompkins Cortland Community College seeks feedback on strategic plan

Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) is seeking feedback as it transitions in the coming months from the 2019-25 strategic plan to a plan for 2025-28.



The college is providing a strategic planning external stakeholder input form that takes about 5 to 10 minutes to complete, according to a release. Access to the short survey is available at tc3.edu/community. The form is open until early April.

The new strategic plan focuses on four directions, including accountability and transparency, innovation and excellence, career and transfer and identity and belonging.

“The TC3 strategic plan details the college’s institutional priorities, which will guide the college over the next three years,” said Michelle R. Nightingale, TC3’s dean of organizational development and institutional effectiveness. “To formulate the plan, we are gathering input from campus and community stakeholders.”

The survey, Nightingale said, asks some basic background questions and seeks input on the participant’s perception of TC3.

“Those taking the survey also have the option to answer several open-ended questions about TC3’s strengths, the challenges facing our community and how the college can more effectively serve our community partners,” she added.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and confidential, the release noted.

The release continued: “The survey does not collect any personally identifiable information. All responses and feedback will be analyzed and used to develop the final plan.”

Nightingale noted that during the strategic planning process in 2019, TC3 received close to 600 responses.

“Like last time, we hope to have strong participation from the community for the [2025] survey,” Nightingale added.

Nightingale said that once community feedback is analyzed, TC3

Local housing market remains active despite tight inventory and rising prices



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

This home on South Street in Dryden is located in the Tompkins County school district with the lowest market average. The average selling price for a home within the Dryden Central School District was about \$260,000 in 2024, compared to the county average of \$384,000.

By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

Despite challenges, the local spring housing market has been active in Tompkins County, with buyers eager to purchase and slightly more new listings than usual, according to data from Warren Real Estate.

“If the house is priced right, in good to great condition and in the ‘right’ location, it gets multiple offers with minimal or no contingencies or conditions in the offer,” Lindsay Hart, licensed real estate broker with Hart & Homes Real Estate Team at RE/MAX In Motion, said. “Sellers could expect to get list price or slightly under in this market, unless of course, the home or property is in a very desirable location, is in excellent condition, is a property type that is in high demand and is priced appropriately or aggressively. Then it can expect to get multiple offers, probably 10-15% over list price.”

Though the highest number of homes are sold in the second quarter, from April to June, Warren Real Estate reported that sales activity has been spreading later in the year in the past few years. There is no longer really a true “off season.”

However, inventory remains tight. New residential listings in Tompkins

County have declined 32% since 2020, dropping from 1,144 in that year to 782 in 2024.

What stood out about 2024 to Richard Patterson, co-manager and licensed associate real estate broker with Howard Hanna Real Estate Services in Ithaca, was the continued relatively high rate of appreciation. “The median sales price of residential property sold through the Ithaca Board of Realtors MLS in Tompkins County increased 10.7% in 2024 over 2023,” he said.

“Less inventory means higher prices, days on market have declined, and there’s also no new construction in our area.”

TAM WARREN
Vice President, Warren Real Estate

“Interestingly enough, the numbers tell us that 2023 saw more properties sell in Tompkins County than in 2024, and I think that is purely a supply and demand issue,” said Hart.

Tam Warren, Warren Real Estate’s vice president, predicts that this year’s market will likely be very similar to the last four years. This year, the first quarter appears to be holding steady com-

pared to last year’s historic low, with 172 new listings already recorded—just above the 169 listings seen for the full first quarter of 2023.

“Because of the active winter market in 2024 into 2025, the market is steady and stable,” Hart said.

At Howard Hanna, year to date, the number of accepted offers has increased 7%, and the dollar volume on those offers has increased 27% for 2025, compared to the same period in 2024, according to Patterson.

“The number of listings taken decreased 10%,” Patterson added. “There continues to be a shortage of inventory.”

This year will be marked by the uncertainty created around the administration of President Donald Trump, said Kate Seaman, New York state licensed real estate broker and team lead at Warren Real Estate.

“The Trump administration is changing our economic outlook, with the cutbacks at Cornell and hiring freeze,” Seaman said. “But the fact of the matter is that prices in our market are continuing to rise, and we’re not seeing prices dropping.”

Data shows that nationwide mortgage rates have held relatively steady over the last 12 months. The national average for a 30-year fixed rate mortgage for the last



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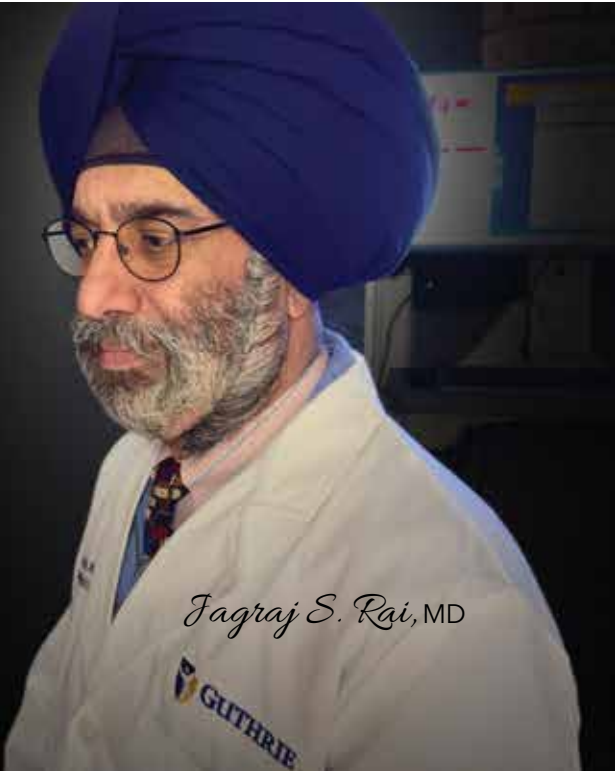
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Our question, your answers

Street Beat

By Jaime Cone Hughes

What do you like most about the spring weather?



The sunshine.
Morgan, Cortland



The warmth.
Ed, Locke



Everything starting to bloom.
Justin, Danby



Watching the beautiful shoots coming out from the desiccated ground. Marty, Lansing



Rebirth. There's hope in the air.
Judy, Ithaca

Diana Riesman: Creative and determined

Diana Riesman, executive director and co-founder at Wharton Studio Museum and president of the Friends of Stewart Park, is the latest recipient of Tompkins Weekly's Hometown Hero award for her dedication to the local arts, outdoor spaces and preservation of history.

By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

Riesman fell in love with public parks – and one in particular – early in life.

In World War II, Riesman's mother's family was deported from Krakow, Poland, to a labor camp in Siberia. When the war ended, they returned briefly to Poland and then went to Paris. In 1950, the family emigrated to Canada, settling in Montreal, in part because they already spoke French. Many European Jews moved to Montreal at this time. There, Riesman's mother met her father, an American from Boston, and Riesman was born in Montreal in 1960.

"I am so grateful to have been born in Montreal," Riesman said. She grew up in a downtown apartment in an area that was then referred to as Embassy Row.

"It was an amazing place to grow up," Riesman said. "Very safe. Very multicultural." On the weekends, her family would visit Mount Royal Park. "It was a lovely place to explore," Riesman said.

They sailed toy boats, cross-country skied and took walks and horse-and-buggy rides through the park, which was especially nice in the winter, Riesman said. "They put these big blankets on you," she recalled. "I learned early on, in my teens and 20s, how important parks are, and green spaces, to urban settings." She said this is largely due to the influence of her father, Eugene Riesman, who was an urban planner.

Riesman moved to the United States to attend Yale University, where she received her degree in History. She also studied languages.

"I moved to New York after college, completely unsure of what I wanted to do," she said. She lived in New York City from 1982 to 1985 and then moved to Los Angeles with her now-husband, Fred Cowett, to pursue a career in the arts and culture world.

She worked for KCRW, a National Public Radio affiliate, for six years. Her son, Theo, was born in LA in 1999. Two years later, when she was pregnant with her daughter, Nora, the family moved to Ithaca because Cowett had been accepted to the Cornell University landscape architecture program.

Riesman helped found the daycare center The Nest, located at the First Congregational Church, out of a need for child care for her daughter. It was close enough to her home that she could pull her daughter there on a sled in the winter.

When Riesman started The Nest with Beth Gerrard, they had already been friends for about a year, and they have maintained their friendship over the two decades that followed. Gerrard said Riesman asked her to be a member of the Friends of Stewart Park, something Gerrard probably would not have been inclined to do without her friend's encouragement.

"I'm just not the kind of person who is necessarily going to join a board or go to large community events," Gerrard said. "She brings me into contact with



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Diana Riesman, president of the Friends of Stewart Park and executive director and co-founder at Wharton Studio Museum, stands in front of an informational sign on the outside of the Wharton building at Stewart Park in Ithaca.

other people and into activities I might not otherwise participate in."

Gerrard added that it is a unique sort of person who uses their natural extraversion to benefit the greater good.

"It seems to me that extraversion and curiosity often get rewarded in, sort of, private enterprise," she said. "That kind of personality does well in settings where they find career success. It just seems to me what's special about Diana is she has those characteristics, yet directs that energy toward things that are benefiting the community at large."

While Riesman was busy getting acclimated to the area and meeting parents through her children's daycare and school, she also became aware of the interesting, but little-known, film history in Ithaca through one of her husband's professors, Rick Manning.

"She's a decision-maker, and she does it in the community spirit of everyone."

Susan Holland, Grants and Partnerships Manager
USC BUILDS

Manning, who is the founder of the Friends of Stewart Park, told Cowett that his wife might be interested to know that silent films were made in a building still standing at the park.

"I became aware of the fact that this building was an actual studio — that this galvanizing piece, this structure — was still standing by the lake," Riesman said.

Riesman eventually became a trustee in the village of Cayuga Heights in 2008, a role she held until 2014.

She also held her first motion picture project at the park with Constance Bruce in 2008, and after many meetings with people around Ithaca, she helped form the nonprofit Ithaca Motion Picture Project in 2009. It was renamed Wharton Studio Museum in 2013.

Wharton Studio Museum preserves and celebrates Ithaca's role in early American filmmaking and is working to develop Stewart Park's historic Wharton Studio building into Wharton Studio & Café, with exhibits and installations about film history and the history of the park.

"[Riesman] is one of my dearest friends for sure, but I would say her amazing attributes are her energy and her ability to connect with a lot of different entities, and she raises money like no one I've ever known," said Susan Holland, who met Riesman through her work at the Tompkins Center for History and Culture. (Holland recently retired from her role as executive director of Historic Ithaca and is currently grants and partnerships manager for USC Builds.)

"She's always looking at all the details," Holland added. "She's a decision-maker, and she does it in the community spirit of everyone."

Throughout the years, Wharton Studio and Friends of Stewart Park have remained in partnership. Manning said he is impressed by how long Riesman has worked toward achieving her vision for the Wharton Studio and "just sticking with it, despite how ridiculously long everything takes," Manning said. "It's coming along, and we have just actually just got all the development designs and we're going through all the drafts, so that's good news. ... Wharton, they do amazing work, and the quality of work is outstanding."

"She's just determined and creative and gets the big picture," Manning added.

After years of hard work, Riesman hopes that her dream of a café, visitors' center and museum at the old silent movie studio at Stewart Park will become a reality. She said it is looking like the project may begin construction in 2026.

"The beauty of the whole thing is that the collaboration between the organizations has been fantastic and so beneficial to both organizations," Riesman said.

"I'm a big believer in tenacity," she added. "If you believe in something and just stick with it, you can make it happen."

The Friends of Stewart Park, with Riesman as president, continues to make strides in the renovation and improvement of the park, including a new, accessible playground and the installation of new public restrooms and a splash pad last year.

Riesman has also been involved in Open Doors English, an organization dedicated to empowering adult English

See RIESMAN on pg 9

Newfield school district partners with Cornell for community outreach

The Newfield Central School District (CSD) is partnering with Cornell University on a research project that “aims to help school districts and communities develop stronger bonds and mutually beneficial programs,” according to a release.



By Kevin L. Smith
Newfield CSD is asking the community to fill out a survey before March 31 in order to collect data for the project. “This research program will lead to a greater understanding of the assets and needs of a school-community, which in turn should enable more strategic and holistic policy and administrative de-

cisions,” said Perry Gorgen, Newfield CSD’s business administrator. The survey is Newfield CSD’s first since 2009, when the district conducted a parent and community survey. “The focus [of the previous survey] was largely on internal school operations, as opposed to how the school programming meshes with the needs of the community,” Gorgen said. The School-Community Framework Research Program is anchored by researchers from Cornell University, Skidmore College and Harvard University. “[These researchers] have been working with rural school districts in New York and Indiana to collect data on how school leaders can work collab-

oratively with their community for the mutual benefit of their students and their broader community and society,” Gorgen said. “Schools and communities depend on and influence each other in a complex set of ways.” An explanation on how to take the survey is as follows: “In this survey, we ask you to answer questions based on your view of how your school and community currently interact. There are no right answers or wrong answers. Instead, the goal of this survey is to better understand the role of your school in your community and to start conversations for how everyone can work together to benefit the students in your schools and the residents in your larger community.”

Gorgen said that survey participants can expect a 5-to-10 minute questionnaire asking them about “what areas of strength, and areas for growth, our neighbors see between our schools and our community.” Newfield CSD finds itself in a transitional period, Gorgen said, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. “There are changing demographics and declining enrollment [that] have deeply affected our community and our schools,” Gorgen said. “Our goal is to keep the school and the community strong — and to do that, we believe we need to get more and deeper perspec-

See SCHOOL on pg 9

Assessor overviews exemptions at Lansing Town Board meeting

Tax season is here, and the town of Lansing offers different exemptions for veterans, low-income seniors and volunteer first responders. Jay Franklin, director of the Tompkins County’s Office of Assessment, was on hand at the Lansing Town Board meeting on March 19 to brief board members on these exemptions, as well as other exemptions that the town could opt into. The town offers the following exemptions:



- By Eddie Velazquez
- RPTL 458/ 458a / 458b, Veterans Exemption: This provides a 15% reduction in assessed value for honorably discharged veterans who served during a period of conflict. An additional reduction is available if they served in the combat theater or if they were disabled as a result of their service. The town of Lansing offers both the Alternative Veterans (for veterans who served during a period of conflict) and the Cold War Veterans (for veterans who served during the Cold War).
 - RPTL 459-c, Low-Income Disabled

Individual Exemption: Must opt-in to be applicable. Provides for a 5% to 50% reduction in assessment (based on income) for a property owner who has been declared disabled by the Social Security Administration (and a few other instances, too). The state maximum for a 50% reduction is \$50,000.

“That should encourage people to take part in those activities, and we will help them out in their taxes,”

JOSEPH WETMORE
Deputy Town Supervisor, Town of Lansing

- RPTL 466-a, Volunteer FF/Ambulance Worker Exemption: Provides an exemption for volunteers who live in the service area where they volunteer. Exemption is limited to 10% of the assessed value for a volunteer who meets the service requirements to be considered an active volunteer. There is no cap on this exemption, and renters do not receive a benefit. Eligible people can claim only this exemption or the \$200 income



Photo by Eddie Velazquez

The town of Lansing offers exemptions for veterans, low-income seniors and others, and Jay Franklin, director of Tompkins County’s Office of Assessment, spoke about the various exemptions available at a recent meeting of the Lansing Town Board.

tax credit already provided by New York state. Only the town of Lansing offers this; the Lansing Fire District does not offer it.

- RPTL 467, Low-Income Senior Exemption: Provides for a 5% to 50% reduction in assessment (based on

income) for a property owner who is over 65 years of age and whose income is limited. The state maximum for a 50% reduction is \$50,000.

- RPTL 469, Living Quarters for Par-

See EXEMPTIONS on pg 9

TompkinsWeekly

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Graphic artist Minna Resnick shows personal pieces at Ulysses library

Minna Resnick, a multit talented graphic artist whose work has been featured in museums all over the United States and in several countries in Europe, has been pondering through the decades: what does it mean to be a woman both in public and with the self?



By Eddie Velazquez

A new art exhibit at Ulysses Philomathic Library, running through April 26, seeks to explore that question through personal pieces that tackle societal expectations, reality and the tensions between the two in the ideal and the quotidian. For this, Resnick selected about 20 pieces of her work.

“Since a library serves as an information center for both current and historical knowledge, I thought this would be the perfect setting to view ‘my personal history’ on these walls, and my continuous dialogue between past and present,” Resnick says in her artist statement.

With about five decades of active studio practice experience, Resnick has had time to develop these themes in her art. She likes to include imagery incorporating information both inspired and provoked by text and images found in early and mid-20th century publications on themes such as home management and decoration, health, education, home repair and fashion.

“I think a lot about the content of my work, and it takes a long time to draw, so I’m slow and steady,” Resnick said. “Over the course of 50 years, obviously my work has changed, and my concerns have modified over the years as I’ve gotten older and generations change. But I thought that the work was still consistent enough to have a brief overview.”

Resnick’s consistency developed almost as soon as she started working as a graphic artist.

“I needed to find my voice, and I am a woman, and so from the very beginning, my focus has always been on the personal and the societal debates that go on when women have to confront themselves in society,” Resnick said.

That focus has allowed Resnick to be able to observe and note societal changes and adapt those observations to her work.

“I grew up differently than my mom, who grew up during The Great Depression. I grew up in the heyday of the 1960s and the women’s empowerment movement,” she said. “Obviously what I really wanted to talk about, which I have always felt is just a big internal wheel for me, is that you’re born, and you grow up a product of your gender and the time you live in.”

Something she learned growing up in America, she said, is the importance of her own internal voice.

“Growing up a woman in the United States, you have your own internal voice, but you have all

these [societal] expectations about how you should behave, how you should speak, what kind of work you should do, and I felt those were pretty artificial and insufficient,” Resnick said. “I wanted to talk about that so that the viewer would be aware that there’s always a conflict between, at least in my world, how I felt as a woman and how I was supposed to act outside of that feeling, and so that’s always really what propelled my work, even now.”

“I grew up in the heyday of the 1960s and the women’s empowerment movement. Obviously what I really wanted to talk about, which I have always felt is just a big internal wheel for me, is that you’re born, and you grow up a product of your gender and the time you live in.”

MINNA RESNICK

Graphic Artist, Ithaca

Resnick said she has found that there has been a change in how women feel about this internal interplay of expectation versus reality as they age.

“Most women I know my age are more vocal now than they’ve ever been in their lives,” she said. “And I think that’s fun for me. I think we’ve put up with decades of being polite. As a woman, you’re really brought up to try to smooth things out. I don’t think men grow up like that. I think finally, enough women I know at my stage in life have been there, done that, and they’re being more vocal about setting boundaries that are more comfortable for them.”

Ulysses Connection appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Send story ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com. Contact Eddie Velazquez at edvel37@gmail.com or on X (formerly Twitter) @ezvelazquez.

In brief:

New York’s burn ban is now in effect. It will run until May 14. Open burning is prohibited in New York state during this time except for:

- Camp fires or any other outdoor fires less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in length, width or diameter.
- Small cooking fires.
- Ceremonial or celebratory bonfires and disposal of flags or religious items in a small-sized fire is allowed, if it is not otherwise prohibited by law or regulation.
- Only charcoal or dry, clean, untreated or unpainted wood can be burned. Fires cannot be left unattended and must be fully extinguished.

For more information, interested parties can visit <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/air-quality/open-burning>.



Photo provided

Artist Minna Resnick stands with fellow artist Don Ellis at a new art exhibit at Ulysses Philomathic Library, running through April 26, for which she selected about 20 pieces of her work.

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Groton's Barbara Case garners award for exceptional leadership

In early March, the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) held its Winter Institute & Lobby Day, at which Groton native, Groton High School (GHS) 1987 alumna, and former GHS principal, Barbara Case, was presented with NYCOSS' annual appreciation award.



By Linda Competillo

The award is given in recognition of a NYCOSS member's efforts on behalf of the council and its initiatives. Case was cited as having "demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to NYSCOSS and LEAF, Inc. [Leadership Educational Achievement Foundation], and consistently gone above and beyond to contribute her time, energy, and expertise while serving on several committees, and being a pivotal leader in the Women's Initiative — breaking barriers and setting a standard for equity and excellence in school leadership."

Case is currently the superintendent of Spencer-Van Etten Central School District, but her Groton roots run deep. The daughter of Frank and Pauline Satterly, she was born and raised in Groton, along with her brothers, Mark and Eric.

"This is my 30th year in education, and I feel like I'm leaving a legacy — like I really did make a difference."

BARBARA CASE

Superintendent of Spencer-Van Etten Central School District

At GHS, Barbara was a cheerleader, a member of Student Council, a statistician for varsity baseball, and a member of the chorus, but possibly her greatest achievement was meeting and marrying her high school sweetheart, Rick Case. They were married in January, 1992 and added their children, Allison (GHS alumna 2011) and Charlie (GHS alumnus 2017), along the way.

"I knew I planned to study political science when I was in high school," Barbara said. "I wanted to be a lobbyist on Capitol Hill. My mom kept telling me to be a teacher — probably because she taught at Groton Elementary for over 40 years!"

Eventually, Barbara did become a teacher, but not before she had a bit of immersion in her political aspirations. She attended SUNY Cortland to study political science, and while there, she served as an intern for Congressman Sherwood Boehlert at his office in Washington, D.C.

"Congressman Boehlert taught me how democracy works, and I got so much from that experience," Barbara said. "I drafted letters for him to write back to high school students who wrote to him, and I also led all the Capitol tours for student and teacher groups. It all clicked for me then!"

When Barbara went back to SUNY Cortland to resume classes, she added education to her class load and left in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in political science and secondary education in social studies.

"I worked at Cargill Salt in Lansing in customer service until 1995 before I got my first teaching job," Barbara explained. "I worked at Mohawk Central School teaching seventh through 12th grade social studies for a year, then Binghamton High School for two years. But in 1998, I was able to come back to Groton as a reading teacher in the middle school."

Barbara said that her "dream job" opened for her in 2000 at GHS, and she spent the next five years teaching social studies in collaboration with another teacher, Cathy Spallone, until an opportunity arose to become the director of adult education and GED principal at the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES. She remained there until 2009.

"I was able to return to Groton again and was the high school principal until 2012," Barbara said. "But then, I tried something new



Photo provided

Groton native, Groton High School (GHS) 1987 alumna, and former GHS principal, Barbara Case, was recently awarded the New York State Council of School Superintendent's (NYSCOSS) 2025 appreciation award. Pictured here at the Council's 2025 Winter Institute & Lobby Day: (left) Lars Clemensen, superintendent of Hampton Bays CSD and president of NYSCOSS, Barbara Case, superintendent of Spencer-Van Etten CSD, Lorna Lewis, superintendent of Mulverne Union Free School District and NYSCOSS past-president, and Chuck Dedrick, executive director of NYSCOSS.

as the data coordinator for the Onondaga-Cayuga-Madison BOCES. I learned a lot that has since helped me as a superintendent, but I really missed the kids, so I went to George Junior Republic (GJR) as its principal in 2014."

GJR was Barbara's final stint as a principal. She became the superintendent at General Brown School District in Watertown in January 2018, before heading to Spencer-Van

Etten in August 2022, where she remains as superintendent today.

Barbara said that she was truly shocked when she received the phone call from Chuck Dedrick, the executive director of NYCOSS, letting her know that she was chosen for the annual award.

"When I asked why I was chosen,"

See CASE on pg 7

HISTORY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY



Workers at the Reed and Montgomery Bindery in Ithaca are pictured here from this early 20th century image. By the turn of the 20th century, it was possible to see women workers at small manufacturing enterprises such as this.

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TC3
Continued from pg 1

will draft the 2025-28 plan in April and May. By June, the goal is for the college to have the plan completed and voted upon by TC3’s board of trustees.

If approved, the new strategic plan will go into effect by July 1.

“TC3 president [Amy] Kremenek highly values the input from our community partners as critical to informing this strategic plan,” Nightingale said. “TC3 aims to continue serving our local community by providing skilled graduates, high-quality education and meeting the needs of the community. We can’t do that without hearing from the people we serve.”

The 2019-25 strategic plan can be viewed at tompkincortland.edu/college-info/strategic-plan-2019.

For more information, questions or comments on the strategic planning process, email Nightingale at MRN@tc3.edu or Malvika Talwar (TC3’s vice president of institutional effectiveness) at MT056@tc3.edu.

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

In brief:
Results from village elections

The results are in from the elections held on March 18 in the villages of Dryden and Freeville.

In the Dryden mayoral race, Democratic incumbent Mike Murphy was elected to a fifth term. Murphy beat Republican opponent Tom Co-rey by a 159-to-54 margin.

Incumbent Jason “Lou” Dickinson and newly elected Allison Buck, both Democrats, respectively received 156 and 170 votes in the Dryden board of trustees election. Republic candidate David Bravo-Cullen received 53 votes.

Stephanie Ortolano was reelected to the Freeville board of trustees

with a total of 48 votes. Newcomer William Olson received 45 votes to be elected to the village board.

Dryden organizations to host ‘Community Connections’ event on March 29

Various organizations in Dryden will host a “Community Connections” event on Saturday, March 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dryden Fire Department at 26 North St.

“Those taking the survey also have the option to answer several open-ended questions about TC3’s strengths, the challenges facing our community and how the college can more effectively serve our community partners.”

MICHELLE R. NIGHTINGALE
Dean of Organizational Development and Institutional Effectiveness,
Tompkins Cortland Community College

The event is “an opportunity for community members to connect with local nonprofits, service organizations, town groups, and sports teams, as participants or as volunteers,” according to a description.

The event description continued: “Many people are seeking meaningful relationships and to participate in their community, yet they are struggling to find activities that match their interests. At the same time, many organizations are experiencing low membership. By bringing people together, we hope to strengthen local groups, foster engagement, and help others find fulfilling ways to contribute.”

The event gives community members a chance to connect with organizations and causes to:

- Experience the joy of rewarding volunteer opportunities
- Form new friendships through social events



Photo by Joe Scaglione

Tompkins Cortland Community College is seeking feedback on its next strategic plan, providing a strategic planning external stakeholder input form available at tc3.edu/community. The form is open until early April.

- Make a lasting impact in your life and community
- Inspire the next generation through youth programs

Confirmed organizations attending the event include American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Cub Scouts Pack 24, Dryden/Groton Girl Scouts, Dryden Fiber, Dryden Fire Department, Dryden Kitchen Cupboard, Dryden Rotary Club, Dryden Sports Boosters, Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund (DYOF), Family Reading Partnership, Foodnet Meals on Wheels, Freeville Fire Department, Kiwanis Club of Dryden, Love Living at Home, McLean Fire Department, McLean Food, the Southworth Library Association, Tompkins County 4-H with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tompkins County Amateur Radio Association, Tompkins County Office for the Aging, Town of Dryden Historical Society, Dryden Rail Trail, Troop 24 (Scouting America) and the Varna Fire Department.

Food at the event will be available for purchase from Locos Tacos between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The food truck will re-



Photo provided

Michelle Nightingale, Tompkins Cortland Community College’s Dean of Organizational Development & Institutional Effectiveness.

main open for an hour after the event concludes.

CASE
Continued from pg 6

Barbara explained, “[Dedrick] said, ‘You are a leader who is very humble and always willing to do whatever is asked of you. You go above and beyond without expecting recognition, and that lack of expectation is the main reason you were chosen.’”

Reflecting on the whole experience, Barbara said that her lasting impression after the award ceremony was about how many people stopped to tell her about situations or times they had worked with her, or to say that she had helped them

with something education-related — letting her know how they had carried her words or actions with them and had never forgotten them.

“That was pretty powerful for me,” Barbara said. “This is my 30th year in education, and I feel like I’m leaving a legacy — like I really did make a difference.”

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:
Groton FFA Adironduck Race
The Groton FFA (Future Farmers

of America) is selling ducks to race in its “Adironduck Race” to raise funds to help FFA students attend Camp Oswegatchie. The race will be held at the camp at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 27. Those wishing to purchase ducks may do so at <https://www.adironduckrace.com/groton-ffa.html>. Please choose “Groton” at checkout!

Learn about cancer with free lunch

The Groton Public Library will offer a free lunch-and-learn at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 3. Jen Harris from the Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes will share

information about skin cancer. Pre-registration is required. Contact director@grotonpubliclibrary.org to sign up or ask questions.

Cleaner Cleaners class

The Good Neighbor Grocery, 209 Peru Rd., will hold an adult class, “Cleaner Cleaners,” Saturday, April 5, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Looking to detoxify your home cleaning products? Learn to make several products to keep your home clean and fresh with some simple recipes and swaps. Cost is \$85 per person. Register at thegoodneighborgrocery.com.

MORE CARS! LOWER PRICES!

SIMMONS-ROCKWELL





SCAN WITH MOBILE DEVICE TO FIND YOUR NEW CAR!

Tesla dealership attacks are acts of terrorism

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.



In late February, Ithaca’s Tesla charging station off Route 13 near Trader Joe’s was vandalized with swastikas, references to Hitler, and a sticker reading “Tesla is Fascist.” This incident appears to be part of a broader, nationwide campaign targeting Tesla dealerships, charging stations, and vehicles through vandalism and arson. Some Tesla dealerships have been shot at, and a website has emerged publishing the personal details of Tesla owners, offering to remove the information only if individuals prove they have sold their vehicles. Such acts meet the definition of terrorism: the use of violence, intimidation, or threats to achieve a political or ideological goal. The intent behind this campaign seems clear—to tarnish Tesla’s brand, destabilize its stock value, and discourage vehicle ownership. Ultimately, it is a form of retribution against Elon Musk for his support of President Donald Trump and his role in the newly created Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). The shift in media coverage of Tesla and Musk is striking. In the past, the public were encouraged to buy Teslas, purchases

incentivized with government subsidies amid the looming ban of fossil fuel vehicle sales, for the sake of the environment. Celebrated as a visionary who revolutionized commercial space flight, mainstreamed electric vehicles, and contributed to carbon emissions reduction, Musk has now become a target of leftist ire. Many who previously championed his innovations now cheer on and rationalize these attacks. Is their hostility toward Musk based on genuine principles, or are they reflexively responding to media programming? This wave of anti-Tesla hostility has not occurred in isolation. Protests at Tesla dealerships and charging stations have become more frequent, largely organized by a group called Indivisible. Though presenting itself as a grassroots movement, Indivisible receives significant funding from the Soros family and other high-profile donors. In Tompkins County, this group operates under the banner of Indivisible Tompkins and has staged demonstrations at prominent locations, such as the intersection near Wegmans at Route 13 and Clinton Street. Their banners and signs condemn Trump and Musk, consistent with their broader anti-MAGA agenda. Many of these individuals have also participated in other protest movements, from Black Lives Matter to pro-Palestinian demonstrations and advocacy for Ukraine. While political activism is a fundamental right, the lack of a consistent ideological

throughline in these protests suggests a reactionary mindset rather than a principled stance. More concerning is the growing normalization of intimidation tactics. A significant number of demonstrators wear masks—not just for lingering COVID concerns, but to conceal their identities, a tactic commonly associated with extremist groups throughout history. The consequences of this campaign extend beyond Tesla. When individuals are targeted for their purchasing choices, it sets a dangerous precedent. If it is acceptable to harass and dox Tesla owners today, what group will be deemed unacceptable tomorrow? Political and ideological disagreements should be settled through debate and the democratic process, not through coercion and threats. Ironically, the average person having their vehicle vandalized is much more likely to be a Democrat than a Republican. Furthermore, while criticism of public figures and corporations is a normal part of political discourse, resorting to vandalism, arson, and violence is not. Those engaging in these acts claim to stand against fascism, yet their methods—destruction of property, threats, and silencing dissent—mirror the very authoritarian tactics they claim to oppose. The acts of violence and intimidation against Tesla and its owners warrant the kind of serious legal scrutiny that followed January 6th. If similar attacks were carried out against another business sec-

tor or demographic group, there would likely be widespread condemnation and immediate federal intervention. The lack of outrage from the left in response to these incidents suggest a troubling double standard. Beyond legal ramifications, there is also the issue of media coverage. While some outlets have reported on the scale and coordination of these attacks, there has also been widespread celebration of them. When acts of political violence are selectively ignored or praised based on the perceived ideology of the perpetrators, public trust in the media erodes. Ultimately, this campaign against Tesla is about more than just Elon Musk. It is about the broader willingness to employ mob tactics to enforce ideological conformity. Free societies are defined by open discourse and the ability of individuals to make choices without fear of retaliation. The response to these attacks will set an important precedent for how political violence is addressed moving forward. Those who genuinely believe in democracy and civil discourse must be willing to condemn all forms of political intimidation, regardless of the target. Today, it is Tesla owners who face harassment; tomorrow, it could be any group that falls out of favor with the leftist mob. If authorities fail to draw the line now, they risk normalizing a dangerous cycle of retribution that threatens the very foundations of society.

Michael Kotlikoff named Cornell University’s 15th president

The Cornell Board of Trustees today voted to appoint Michael I. Kotlikoff, who has served as interim president since July 2024, Cornell’s 15th president, effective immediately. “Over the last eight months as interim president – and his 25 years on Cornell’s faculty – Mike has demonstrated the leadership and vision that the university needs right now,” said Board of Trustees Chair Kraig Kayser, MBA ’84. “His institutional knowledge, expertise and passion for our shared mission will continue to help him

lead Cornell through a period of great uncertainty and provide much-needed continuity at a critical time.” As interim president, Kotlikoff has sought to foster connection and dialogue on campus and to highlight the unique attributes of Cornell – including its history and its ethos. “I’ve spent 25 wonderful years at Cornell, and serving this university is an honor and a privilege,” Kotlikoff said. “I’m committed to finishing my career here, leading an institution I love through these

challenging times. As higher education across the U.S. navigates difficult political, financial and societal headwinds, I hope to guide Cornell in ways that reflect our core principles as an institution committed to doing ‘the greatest good.’” A professor of molecular physiology, Kotlikoff arrived at Cornell in 2000 to build a new department in biomedical sciences at the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). He also launched and led the university’s Mammalian Genomics Life Science Initiative. He was named dean of CVM in 2007, and he became university provost in 2015. “Mike has been a dedicated advocate and champion for Cornell for decades,” said Anne Meinig Smalling ’87, chair of the Board of Trustees Executive Committee and the incoming board chair. “His values, knowledge and insights are deeply appreciated by all who know him. I and the other trustees look forward to working with Mike in the months and years ahead.”

Previously, Kotlikoff was professor and chair of the Department of Animal Biology at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his B.A. in 1973 and VMD in 1981, with a Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis, in 1984. By the time he was hired at Cornell in 2000, his research interests had expanded from studying ion channel proteins that control muscle excitability to using genetics to understand the fundamental processes that underlie and limit repair of the damaged mammalian heart. His arrival opened new opportunities for studying mouse genetics at the university. His lab’s breakthroughs included developing optogenetic signaling molecules that can be expressed in mice to explore cell function; ways to use cell therapy to treat cardiac arrhythmias in injured hearts; and an understanding of the limits of precursor cells in heart repair. He has published 152 papers



Photo provided Michael I. Kotlikoff, who has served as interim Cornell University president since July 2024, was recently appointed Cornell’s 15th president.

and his lab, which he closed in 2021, was continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since he began his research career. He has served in numerous roles at the NIH, including chairing the Board of Scientific Counselors at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and serving on the NIH Council of Councils. Kotlikoff also has the distinction of having been Cornell’s longest-serving provost and served as chief budget officer in addition to chief academic officer. As provost, he helped steward many large and complicated projects, such as the creation of the SC Johnson College of Business and the Cornell Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy; the Radical Collaboration initiative; the North Campus Residential Expansion; and the university’s COVID-19 response. His wife, Carolyn McDaniel, retired in 2024 as a professor of practice in CVM. They have two children: Phoebe, a lawyer and former submarine officer with the U.S. Navy, and Emmett ’16, who graduated from Cornell with a bachelor’s degree in computer science and currently works for Google.

Obituaries

Celebrating Lives, Honoring Memories

RECENT DEATH NOTICES				
Name:	Age:	Town, State:	Death Date:	Arrangements:
Frank Winkleblack	68	Trumansburg, NY	Mar-20	Ness-Sibley Funeral Home
Allen B. Snyder	81	Newfield, NY	Mar-20	Bangs Funeral Home
Carol Ann Carpenter	77	Trumansburg, NY	Mar-19	Ness-Sibley Funeral Home
Sandra Perreault	80	Groton, NY	Mar-18	Zirbel Funeral Home
James (Jay) Brink	49	-	Mar-18	Perkins Funeral Home
Marjorie Jane Babcock	-	Trumansburg, NY	Mar-18	Ness-Sibley Funeral Home
Gale Cynthia Park	73	Ithaca, NY	Mar-17	Bangs Funeral Home
Baby Goodson	-	-	Mar-17	Zirbel Funeral Home
Adrian Donald Loomis	53	Groton, NY	Mar-16	Perkins Funeral Home
Terena C. Blazeyk	76	Myers, NY	Mar-15	Lansing Funeral Home
Thomas Lane Bonn	86	Ithaca, NY	Mar-14	Perkins Funeral Home
David Armistead Tyler	78	Trumansburg, NY	Mar-5	Ness-Sibley Funeral Home
Marian I. Beardslee	91	Newfield, NY	Mar-4	Bangs Funeral Home
Leo Robert O'Donnell	87	-	Mar-4	Perkins Funeral Home

Placing an Obituary with Tompkins Weekly

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

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

RIESMAN

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language learners.

“Diana is an incredibly kind, thoughtful, and compassionate woman. She knows what it takes to get things done and is a practical and encouraging ally,”

SCHOOL

Continued from pg 4

tives on both entities and the connections between them.”

Newfield CSD’s goal is to receive over 200 responses to the survey, but Gorgen noted they’re hoping for more. Gorgen added that as of March 19, the district was halfway to its goal.

Once survey results have been collected, Gorgen said the data will be used for planning.

“The district will be convening a school-community working group to discuss the results and follow up with action plans — for the schools but also for the town, [Tompkins] County, non-profit and business organizations in our community,” Gorgen said.

“This research program will lead to a greater understanding of the assets and needs of a school-community, which in turn should enable more strategic and holistic policy and administrative decisions.”

PERRY GORGEN

Business Administrator, Newfield Central School District

The data collected, Gorgen added, will also be part of a larger research study within the program.

“It will enable us to compare and contrast our school-community assets and needs with other districts around the country, and network with those districts to share ideas and plans,” Gor-

Liz Sussman, co-director of Open Doors English, said. “She’s one of those special people who ‘sees the work’ and steps up – whether that be delivering a welcome address or washing the dishes. When she believes in something, she brings her whole heart. Every time I speak with her, I come away with a smile. Diana is abso-

lutely a hometown hero and leads the rest of us by example.”

Riesman is still trying new things. In 2023, she began a three-year term as a member of the board of trustees of local radio station WSKG.

Getting older has not diminished her motivation; if anything, it has fueled it.

gen said.

Anyone interested in filling out a survey can find a link to the questionnaire at newfieldschools.org.

Newfield CSD encourages participants to take the anonymous survey and share their thoughts.

“[The survey] will help to see how our school contributes to the community, what’s working well and what could be improved. The feedback will help us make decisions that benefit everyone,” according to a description.

For more information or questions, contact Gorgen at pgorgen@newfieldschools.org.

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

In brief:

Newfield CSD seeks board of education candidates

The Newfield Central School District is looking for candidates to run in this year’s board of education election on May 20.

Three seats are up for election. Incumbents Diana Griffin and Christina Ward will run for reelection. Current board member Michael Jordan is not running.

Petitions are available at the district office and must be submitted by 5 p.m. April 21.

For more information or questions, contact district clerk Perry Gorgen at pgorgen@newfieldschools.org or call 607-564-9955 ext. 4121.

Newfield library to host astronomy program

The Newfield Public Library, located

at 198 Main St., will host an astronomy program on Friday, April 18 at 5:30 p.m.

The Spacecraft Planetary Imaging Facility will present information about comets, asteroids and meteorites; a comet-making demo; and an opportunity to touch and feel some meteorites.

Event information provided details on meteorite exhibits: “Even the smallest objects in the solar system hold vast treasures of knowledge. They are both fascinating, beautiful, and a small but real threat to us. Past spacecraft missions have revealed just a few of these tiny worlds up close, while current and planned missions are ushering in a new era of study by returning pristine samples to Earth for generations of sci-

entists to examine.”

For more information, go to newfieldpubliclibrary.org, email newfield-library@gmail.com or call 607-564-3594.



Photo by Joe Scaglione

Newfield Central School District is partnering with Cornell University on a community research project, asking the community to fill out a survey before March 31 in order to collect data.

to editorial@vizellamedia.com. Contact Eddie Velazquez at edvel37@gmail.com or on X (formerly Twitter): [@ez-velazquez](https://twitter.com/ez-velazquez).

In brief:

The Lansing Community Library will host a book signing event and presentation with local author Amanda Jaros on April 9 at 7 p.m. Jaros’ new book is “In My Boots.” Below is an excerpt, representing a synopsis of the book:

“When Jaros learns about the 2,160-mile Appalachian Trail after college, she walks away from a sheltered life dominated by an angry and volatile father and does something unexpected: spends six months backpacking. Alone.

“In My Boots’ recounts a challenging physical journey following the trail from the windy balds of the south to above the tree line in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

“The journey is also emotionally transformative as this twenty-three-year-old leaves behind the compliant and scared girl she once was. With each step away from her damaged childhood, each new friend, each trail town, she comes to understand that to succeed on the trail, and in life, it turns out, the path she walks must be her own.”



TRAINS, PLANES, and AUTO-MOBILES EXHIBIT OPEN

The History Center in Tompkins County
Wed-Sat, 10am-6pm
110 N Tioga, Ithaca



EXEMPTIONS

Continued from pg 4

ent/Grandparent: Provides for an exemption for any auxiliary dwelling unit constructed for a parent/grandparent. The exemption may not exceed the lesser of the increase in assessed value resulting from construction or reconstruction of such property, 20% of the total assessed value of such property as improved or 20% of the median sale price of residential property.

- RPTL 485-b, Business Improvement Exemption: Can reduce exemption to 0%. Provides for a 10-year exemption at 50% in the first, 45% in the second, etc., for facilities used primarily for the buying, selling, storing or development of goods or services; the manufacture or assembly of goods; or the processing of raw materials. However, local taxing jurisdictions may restrict exemption to only some types of businesses in any or all of these categories. Everyone is technically in this exemption, but you can reduce the percentage of the exemption that is granted to 0%, essentially opting out of this exemption.

- A&M 305(6), Tax Ag Land at Ceiling Values for Special Districts: The governing body of a fire, fire protection or ambulance district may adopt a resolution allowing the use of agricultural assessments in the levy of taxes. This allows the taxing of agricultural properties based on the productivity of the soil, as compared to the market value of the agricultural land.

There are also a variety of exemptions not offered by the town, including exemptions for property owners making capital improvements to their one- or two-family properties, green buildings and historic properties and historic barns.

Deputy Town Supervisor and board member Joseph Wetmore said exemptions are typically adopted to encourage or to not discourage certain behavior. He used the example of volunteer firefighters and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) technicians, who receive certain tax benefits for their service.

“That should encourage people to take part in those activities, and we will help them out in their taxes,” Wetmore said.

Lansing at Large appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Send story ideas

15 years of supporting youth reading and library access continues in the Finger Lakes

For 15 years, the endowed Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund of Community Foundation has been instrumental in fostering youth reading and increasing library access throughout the Finger Lakes region. The 2025 grant cycle has distributed \$166,402 to 24 libraries within the Finger Lakes Library System, benefiting communities in Cayuga, Cortland, Tioga, Tompkins, and Seneca counties. These grants are made possible thanks to the generous bequest of nearly \$3 million from the estate of Dr. Bernard Rosen. Dr. Rosen’s vision for the fund was outlined in his will, emphasizing his commitment to “promote genuine intellectual curiosity and a lifelong love of reading and learning.” The specific purpose of

the Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund is “to promote greater and easier access by youth to local libraries.” Since its inception, the Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund has awarded more than \$2 million in grants, providing crucial support to public libraries across the region. This funding ensures that libraries remain vibrant centers of learning, offering essential resources that inspire young readers and encourage regular library use. The annual Library Grant Cycle from the Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund is open to the 33 public libraries within the Finger Lakes Library System. By investing in these institutions, the fund continues to uphold its mission of nurturing a culture of learning and

intellectual exploration among young people.

2025 GRANT AWARDS: TOMPKINS COUNTY LIBRARIES
Groton Public Library for Building Literacy (BuLit) with T(w)eens @ GPL
Lansing Community Library for Color Our World Summer Reading and Fall programming
Newfield Public Library for NPL 2025 Summer Reading Program
Newfield Public Library for NPL 2025/6 Afterschool Special
Southworth Library Association for Family Storytime
Southworth Library Association for Summer Kids’ Clubs
Tompkins County Public Library Foun-

ation for Summer Adventure
Ulysses Philomathic Library for Summer Reading Program 2025
Libraries in other neighboring counties also received grants. For more information about the Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund and its impact on local libraries, please contact George Ferrari at (607) 272-9333 or gferrari@cftompkins.org
The Community Foundation is celebrating 25 years of philanthropy in Tompkins County! Since our founding in 2000, we’ve awarded over \$33 million in grants—more than 7,500 in total—while managing assets exceeding \$27 million. Learn more about our mission, impact, and opportunities to invest in our community at www.cftompkins.org.

Right to free speech curtailed on Cornell campus

On March 10, we as members of the Ithaca community joined with Cornell students and allies to exercise our First Amendment right to protest on behalf of the Palestinians in Gaza, who are the victims of genocide at the hands of the Israeli Occupation Forces. We and multiple students were arrested on the orders of Cornell’s president, self-proclaimed 1st Amendment champion Michael Kotlikoff. His office had invited a panel comprised of war criminals and genocide enablers from the US and Israeli government, with a token former Palestinian government official who had a <25% approval rating by Palestinians, under the guise of discussing “pathways to peace”. The event was one of many events at CU designed to justify genocide. One of the panelists, Tzipi Livni, former Foreign Minister, Vice Prime Minister of Israel, was personally responsible for Operation Cast Lead, the 2008 operation in Gaza that killed 1400 Palestinians, also known as the Gaza Massacre, during which illegal white phosphorus munitions were used in this highly urbanized open-air prison on a civilian population under the illegal practice of collective punishment. She has been wanted for questioning for her war crimes in the UK and Belgium. At one point, panel moderator and former US Ambassador Ryan Crocker, (who was charged with DUI and hit and run in 2012), made the tone-deaf remark that if

he wanted, he could have a nightcap in Gaza City. Nobody is having a nightcap in Gaza City, not even a non-alcoholic one, because there are no cities left in Gaza. Israel has again resumed its illegal practice of withholding humanitarian aid, like food, electricity, and water as a weapon of war; one of many commonplace practices used by the rogue nation that are illegal under international law and rules of war. This action happened with the backdrop of Trump administration attempting to remove Columbia student organizer Mahmoud Khalil, not based on crimes -- they admit he committed none -- but based on his speech in support of Palestine. Columbia is now expelling student protesters en-masse and revoking their degrees all in the name of protecting Jewish students from supposed antisemitism. Let us be very clear, criticism of Israel’s genocidal campaign in Gaza and 80-year occupation is not antisemitism. Despite the fact that many universities are cracking down harder on protected first amendment activities, the Trump administration is withdrawing millions in funding from institutions anyway and has initiated investigations around accusations of antisemitism on campus under Title VI while simultaneously cracking down on “DEI” and programs that support diversity. All this while presiding over arguably the most antisemitic administration in US history.

As Ithacans, we are no stranger to protests at Cornell. Ithaca and the Cornell student body have a long history of solidarity in disputes with our local Ivy, from the black student takeover of Willard Straight Hall in 1969, opposition to the US war in Vietnam, the divestment campaign targeting South Africa in the 1980s, Kyoto Now and Redbud Woods in the 2000s, to the modern labor disputes with UAW local 2300. The student-led protests in support of ending the genocide in Gaza and divestment from weapons manufacturers are no different. Cornell has repeatedly breached the peace here in our beloved community and has proved again and again that they are not a good neighbor nor a trustworthy institution. They have repeatedly violated the rights of students, staff and community members, steamrolled public opinion and stymied progress all while enjoying the luxury of tax-free status. Meanwhile the highly intelligent, educated, creative and hardworking communities of Ithaca and Tompkins County continue to struggle economically, all while propping up this globalized behemoth with its \$10 billion endowment. Cornell spent over \$700K last year on slope day, meanwhile we spend exponentially more than that on car repairs because of the terrible state of our roads and streets, can’t pass a school budget to fully support our students and teachers, can’t afford to purchase a first home or stay in ones we’ve lived in our

whole lives, can’t afford basic necessities, and continue to deal with a persistent and growing crisis of homelessness. Cornell, we would like to remind you that your campus sits on stolen land that was ripped away from the Gayogghó:nq’ (Cayuga) Nation during the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign of 1779; the first genocide in a long and unbroken chain of horror that mars our history as a nation. The fact that a land acknowledgement was spoken before Monday’s panel was peak hypocrisy. The genocide in Gaza is horrible, visible and stoppable; and endemic to US government policy. It is only fitting that we should fight to end that terrible cycle here on this land. Cornell University, the Board of Trustees, and President Michael Kotlikoff, you are complicit in this carnage, and we will continue to demand that you divest from corporations that profit from arms manufacturing and genocide. We demand that you pay your fair share to Ithaca and Tompkins County. We demand that you protect 1st amendment activities on your campus. It is crucial that we as Ithacans continue to exercise our First Amendment rights, and we call on our fellow Ithacans to join us. In the streets, in the halls of power, and in our community, we will not be silent!

-Katie Church
-Danny Creamer
-Josh Dolan

I am not a parasite

11,000 of my fellow Tompkins County residents voted for President Trump in 2024. I was not one of them, but I understand why so many did. I was shocked when the price of a pound of flank steak soared over \$20. I see young family members struggle to find affordable homes to buy or rent. Many children still struggle to make up deficits caused because of the COVID shutdown. Voting for a change made sense to many, especially when the Democrats failed to craft an effective message. Two months into the President’s term, it is clear my neighbors made a bad bet. I am an everyday senior citizen who paid taxes, worked at the local

community college, and raised a family here. I rely on Social Security and Medicare. This is what members of my extended family have experienced in the past two months. Because of cuts to the VA, my purple heart recipient brother-in-law faces delays accessing health care. My nephew, a naval engineer working in a shipyard servicing a submarine class vital to national security, might lose his job. The economic turmoil spawned by tariffs decimated my retirement nest egg. I also am caregiver for my husband who has Alzheimer’s. He is happy and safe. We manage. Still, I would not wish our situation on anyone. Two weeks ago, Elon Musk and his minions

fired 10% of the staff at the NIH Blount Institute that performs innovative research on Alzheimer’s and Dementia. There is no cure for my husband, but any lag in research means that a cure for my children or grandchildren remains further in the future. This feckless action was like a dagger to my heart. Over the past few weeks I have contacted dozens of Republican congresspeople asking them to speak out against the cuts in Alzheimer’s research. I received only polite thanks. The same response greeted my request that they speak out against a new rule that all Social Security recipients register in person. Do these folks

not know what a struggle it is for many elderly and disabled people to leave their homes? What can I expect when Elon Musk, who is managing these cuts, refers to people on government programs as “parasites” on X. As for the Republican Congresspeople who blew off my calls and remain silent while Musk ravages the services we need. What do I say? I say I am a senior citizen who has done my part to make my community a better place. Millions of us observe Republicans remain silent while Musk dismantles Social Security and other services on which we depend. We are not parasites. We are citizens. And we vote.

Ann Sullivan, Ithaca

Advocating for seniors: The vital role of ombudsmen in long-term care

What does it mean to be an ombudsman? “It is an incredibly rewarding program for the people who do it,”



By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

said Kate Lyon, Region 12 Coordinator for the NYS Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at the Tompkins County Office for the Aging. “You get to do a lot of good.”

Many people probably haven’t heard of ombudsmen, but they play an important role in advocating for the older members of the community.

Ombudsmen advocate for people who live in long term care facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living and board and care homes, in order to address health, safety, and quality of life. They do this by listening to resident concerns and suggestions, receiving, investigating and resolving complaints made by or on behalf of residents, promoting the development of resident and family councils, informing government agencies, providers and the general public about issues and concerns impacting residents of long-term care facilities.

The program is a federal requirement, but it is run differently in each state, Lyon said.

“Our volunteers are absolutely amazing people.”

KATE LYON
Region 12 Coordinator, NYS Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at the Tompkins County Office for the Aging

In Region 12, the program covers 21 skilled nursing homes, assisted living facilities and family-type homes throughout Tompkins, Schuyler and Chemung Counties. In terms of the number and size of facilities, it is one of the smallest regions in the state, which Lyon said allows the staff and volunteers to give a higher level of attention to each facility than many areas are able to provide.

With the five volunteers and three staff members the program has currently, the team is able to visit every facility in the region once per week.

Ombudsmen respond to a variety of concerns about long term care including residents’ rights, environmental concerns, discharge and eviction, personal care concerns, and quality of life issues.

“We advocate for residents, but there is more to it as well,” Lyon explained. The program also provides

information and assistance, mediates conflicts and does outreach to the community.

Volunteers for the program go through a thorough training program that requires shadowing staff as they visit facilities, 36 hours of classroom training, and post-shadowing for the first few days on the job until they are comfortable.

“It’s like a fulltime job,” Lyon said. “Our volunteers are absolutely amazing people.” She said the program is always looking for more volunteers, especially those who are willing to visit facilities in Schuyler and Chemung counties.

A big part of what the volunteers do is investigating complaints and interviewing residents and family members of residents.

Lyon said she believes the COVID-19 pandemic opened people’s eyes to the importance of Ombudsman programs.

New York State has provided more funding for ombudsmen programs statewide in recent years. The program’s funding was increased by \$2.5 million from \$3.69 million in 2023 to \$6.19 million in 2024, which remained consistent in the 2025 state budget.

As a result, Ombudsman programs across the state were able to take in and work on 60 percent more complaints, Lyon said.

“Our routine visits increased by over 200 in our region from 2023 to 2024, and we had nine more staff trainings, up from just one to 10 total, with the new money, so we really put it to use.”

Locally, the funding allowed the program to hire one additional employee, and Lyon said more funding would mean the hire of another part-time staff member, who would likely handle the influx of discharge papers the Ombudsman office has been receiving since a new regulation was recently passed requiring facilities to send them to the regional coordinators.

“Every time someone goes home or to the hospital, they have to send us the notice,” Lyon said.

Reviewing them all is very time consuming, and a new part-time staff member could delve into each notice in more detail.

“It’s literally a fulltime job, but it’s so important because there’s lots of things I catch in them that we can provide advocacy on and help people with,” Lyon said. “One of the biggest problems with nursing homes is the discharge process, making sure people are going places they want to go, not because their family or the facilities say they are.”



Photo provided
Sheri Hughey, staff member of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at the Tompkins County Office for the Aging, tables at the Chemung County Community Volunteer Fair last September.

The ombudsman program is currently advocating for New York State to increase the \$50 personal needs allowance for residents. That’s the monthly amount nursing home residents can keep from their income to spend on personal items and services not covered by Medicaid. The federal minimum is set at \$30, but states can raise it as high as \$200.

“This hasn’t changed since the ‘80s,” Lyon said. She said her office did a survey that found most nursing home residents are thankful and grateful for the allowance they have, even though, at the current levels, “they can’t even send their grandson a birthday card” when other expenses are taken into account.

The number-one item that residents said they would like to purchase if they had more money to spend was restaurant take-out.

“Which makes sense,” Lyon said. “When you come home on Friday and it was a bad day and you want some comfort, what do you do? You order a pizza, watch a movie and chill.”

One of the biggest things ombudsmen do to help is to facilitate clear,

respectful communication between residents, family members, and nursing home staff, Lyon said. This includes maintaining an appreciation for all the hard work done by the people who work there.

“It is really easy to vilify the facility and the staff, and they’re all just people doing the best they can,” Lyon said. “They are doing some of the hardest but most important work in our community, and they are usually understaffed] and overworked.”

Her number-one piece of advice to family members with a loved one residing at a long-term care facility?

“Ask questions. You’re going to have a lot of information thrown at you when you move in for the first time, so if you’re not sure about something, just ask us. That’s what we’re here for. A lot of people think they shouldn’t reach out unless they have a problem.”

The program aims to empower residents and their families to speak up for themselves. “And we’ll be there if you need us,” Lyon said.



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HOUSING

Continued from pg 1

week of March, 2024, was 6.79%, according to Freddie Mac. It dipped to a 2024 low of 6.08% in October, then went back up the current average rate of 6.67%.

At the same time, in Tompkins County, property values continue to rise.

“We’re trying to teach that to the buyers,” Seaman said. “If you were buying last year, you would have gotten a better deal.”

Homes continue to sell quickly. The average number of days on the market was 23 in 2023, consistent with the prior year. This follows a rapid acceleration at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the average days on market dropped from 51 before the pandemic to 29 in 2021. Multiple offers are common in our market and seem to be the new normal for highly desirable homes that are priced well.

Average residential sales prices have increased across all school districts, with the most expensive being the Cayuga Heights district, which had an average sale price of \$603,260 in 2024. The Dryden Central School District had the lowest 2024 market average at \$260,037, according to information gathered by Warren Real Estate from a variety of multiple listing services.

In 2024, the Ithaca Board of Realtors Multiple Listing Service (MLS) data showed that in Ithaca the average sale price was \$373,700, with 758 listings sold.

In Tompkins County, the average list-to-sell ratio (the final sale price divided by the last list price) in 2024 was 100%, down slightly from 102% in 2023 and 104% in 2022.

The average selling price in Tompkins County was \$380,450 last year, according to MLS data.

The market is showing early signs of positive shifts as mortgage rates begin to level off, with a slight increase in the number of houses going on the market, but it has largely remained about the same since the pandemic, Warren said.

“The real estate market has been really spotlighted in the press,” said Warren. “Everyone has been talking about real estate and the market, so I think that people maybe think that it’s worse than it is, but the reality is Tompkins County always experienced a lack of inventory.”

Tompkins County has become increasingly unaffordable for many buyers, she said, driven by a number of key factors, the first being a declining number of

homes available for purchase.

Increased mortgage interest rates, higher property and school taxes due to rising assessments and the lack of new housing development — coupled with homeowners holding onto historically low mortgage rates of 2% to 4%, rather than moving into mortgages above 6% — have severely limited the housing supply.

A healthy real estate market will have six months of inventory, and that would be a situation that was neither a buyer’s nor a seller’s market, Warren said. This would mean that it would take about six months to sell all of the homes on the market at their current selling prices.

“Right now, we have one month of inventory, and that makes it a seller’s market,” Warren said. “We’ve always experienced less homes than we have buyers, and the pandemic just accelerated that. We’re not really a first-time homebuyer market, but in 2020 prices surged and inventory went down, and in the last four years it’s held steady.”

“Let’s say that in Ithaca, in the northeast, a really desirable neighborhood, it’s not uncommon that multiple buyers are trying to bid on that house,” Warren explained. “Less inventory means higher prices, days on market have declined, and there’s also no new construction in our area.”

In other, bigger cities, new homes are being built. “We don’t have that in our area,” Warren said. “We need more construction, and we need more houses to sell.”

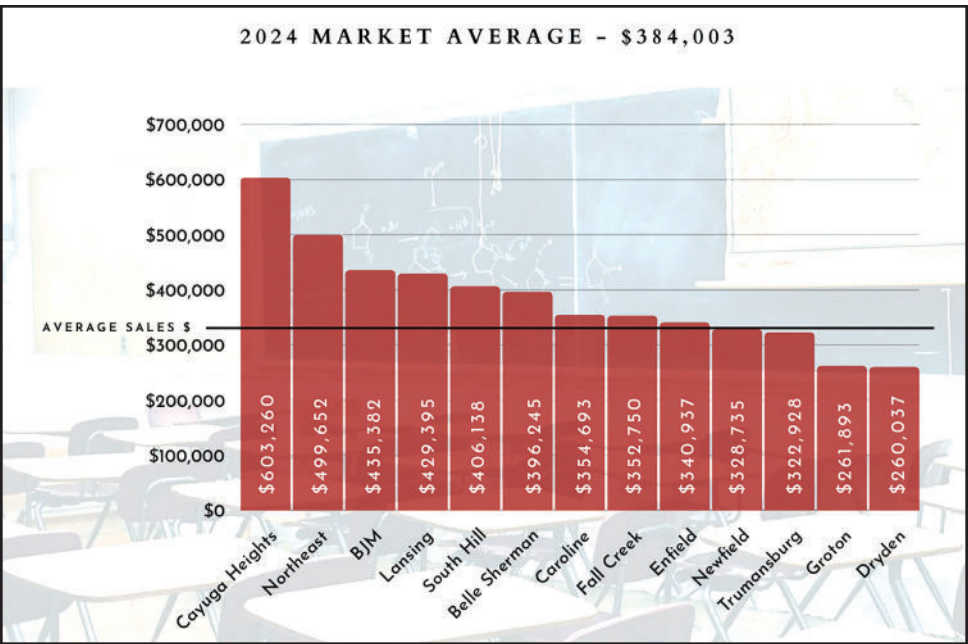
Barriers to construction in the region include infrastructure limitations (the need for expanded utilities, roads and public services can be a hurdle) and zoning and land-use regulations (zoning laws and land-use policies sometimes limit the availability of buildable land).

High development costs, including rising construction costs, labor shortages and supply chain disruptions, have increased the overall expense of building new homes.

Community opposition is also a factor, Warren said. Some proposed developments face resistance from locals’ concerns about density, traffic and preserving the character of existing neighborhoods.

For those who might have considered selling their home and purchasing a new one, an increase in the average interest rate on a mortgage can be a prohibitive factor.

“They don’t want to buy another house unless they really have a reason



Source: A variety of multiple listing services as compiled in the 2025 Warren Real Estate Market Report.

This graph shows the average sale price for homes in Tompkins County, broken down by school district.

to move and get locked into a higher interest rate,” Warren said.

Prices for homes are going up. The ongoing inventory shortage has contributed to rising home prices. The average sale price in Tompkins County has surged 35% since 2020. In the past year alone, prices rose another 9%.

This trend is not unique to Tompkins County, Warren said. Neighboring counties are experiencing similar declines in available residential properties, with their combined average sales prices increasing by 41% to \$209,700 since 2020. Over the past year, the region saw an additional 8% increase in home prices, according to MLS data for the counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Schuyler, Seneca and Tioga.

Starting last year, one of the biggest shifts in real estate business practices has been the requirement for buyers to sign a Buyer Representation Agreement. This change, part of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) settlement, ensures clarity in the relationship between buyers and their agents. Buyers should expect to sign this agreement when working with a real estate professional.

“Now more than ever, it is crucial to work with an experienced agent backed by a trusted brokerage to navigate the complexities of today’s real estate market,” Warren said.

Recent assessment hikes across the county have led to concern from homeowners who have, as a result, seen a sharp increase in their property taxes. According to published reports, Jay Franklin, Tompkins County assessor,

plans to put a freeze on assessments for most residential properties for at least 2025, and possibly longer, which Warren believes will be a positive thing for homeowners.

“It gives homeowners some predictability,” she said. In recent years, some homes were reassessed multiple times, significantly raising the homeowner’s property taxes.

“Your mortgage rate stays the same, but your taxes just doubled overnight,” Warren said. Many homeowners do not know that their home was reassessed, which she said can lead to confusion, though she added that all current property value assessments can be found on the Tompkins County Department of Assessment website, tompkinscountyny.gov/government-resources/assessment, where the 2025 preliminary assessment roll can currently be viewed.

Seaman’s advice for sellers is that they should invest some time and money into staging their home before putting it on the market. She suggests cleaning it with great attention to detail so it is “spotless” for potential buyers.

“You want your first impression to be good,” she said. “You get one shot.”

She has observed that, generally, people are not currently interested in fixer-uppers, and haven’t been for some time. They are much more likely to pay the asking price, or more, for a house that is completely move-in ready.

“Buyers are tired and fatigued and don’t want projects,” Seaman said. “In our society today, our most precious asset is time. And you can’t buy time.”

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SPORTS



KEY MATCHUPS: 3/31 Girls Lacrosse: Ithaca vs. Union-Endicott

• 3/31 Boys Lacrosse: Dryden vs. Whitney Point • 4/1 Baseball: Newfield @ Southern Cayuga

Ithaca indoor track & field stars at states, nationals

It's no secret that Ithaca has been the premier powerhouse when it comes to track and field in the area.



By Ryan Gineo
ESPN ITHACA

That has especially rung true during this indoor season, where many Little Red athletes shined on the state and national stages.

The brightest star for the Little Red has undoubtedly been Tsadia Bercuvitz. The sophomore was the state and federation runner-up in the 3,000-meter with a time of nine minutes and 23.18, which set the school and Section IV record. Then at nationals, she one-upped herself by being named an All-American in two events. Bercuvitz placed third in the two-mile run and sixth in the one-mile run, breaking more school and sectional records in the process. Head coach Becca Lovenheim was particularly proud of the performance at nationals and being able to excel in multiple races on the grand stage.

"Multi-day big events are really exhausting," Lovenheim said. "She did such a great job of navigating travel and recovery in between and celebrating a success while also knowing she was setting up for the next thing. The races were two very different kinds of races. The two mile was super tactical. And then in the one mile, we knew that she was coming from this lower heat, and we wanted to see if she could break into the All-American podium. She was going to have to really set the tone, so she ran super fierce."

Bercuvitz wasn't the only athlete to have a record-breaking outing at nationals. In fact, a quartet of athletes were able to make their mark in the history books. The boys 4x800-meter relay team of Noah Hilker (senior), Riley Hubisz (senior), Zoltan Nadasdy (junior) and Everett Shaw (senior) helped set a new school mark with a time of eight minutes and four seconds, good for 13th place overall. They've already established a strong chemistry from being together on the

"They have found an awesome balance of pushing each other, holding each other accountable but also understanding that they all have many things that they're balancing, and they really respect each other."

BECCA LOVENHEIM

Head Coach, Ithaca Indoor Track & Field

cross country team during the fall, and that's been one of many reasons why they've dazzled this year.

"They have found an awesome balance of pushing each other, holding each other accountable but also understanding that they all have many things that they're balancing, and they really respect each other," Lovenheim said. "My philosophy as a coach regarding relays is that a relay is four assigned people and then the four alternates. I think that both keeps us working to keep our spot, but it also reminds us that this is part of, 'What kind of legacy do I want to leave?' And



Photos by John Brehm

Ithaca's Tsadia Bercuvitz (left) and Noah Hilker (right) are two of the many standouts athletes on the indoor track and field team who excelled in the postseason. Bercuvitz finished runner-up at states in the 3,000-meter run and was an All-American in two events at nationals, while Hilker set a new school and Section IV record in the 1,600-meter run at states.

for our seniors, we say, 'What's the legacy you want to leave behind?' I perceive it as they're writing a story that they would like for other people to be a part of."

Hilker continued to make his

tory at states. The senior set the school and Section IV record in the 1,600-meter run with a time of four minutes and 17.05 seconds, which

See TRACK on pg 14

Groton's Riley Lockwood wins state powerlifting championship

By Ryan Genio
ESPN ITHACA

Powerlifting is very much a niche sport that has flown under the radar. Not only is it not an Olympic sport, it is also not a sport recognized by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. But there will certainly be more attention on powerlifting after one local athlete made a name for herself on the state-wide stage.

Groton's Riley Lockwood won the Women's Teen II 58-kilogram division title at the 2025 New York State

USA Powerlifting Championships on March 15. The senior certainly felt appreciated by the community for her outstanding outing in Albany.

"They really supported me a lot," Lockwood said. "They posted [about] it. I went to talk to the athletic director about this, and even kids I didn't even know in the hallway were telling me congratulations."

A major part of her victory was the deadlift, which is the final of the three lifts in powerlifting along with the squat and bench press. Lockwood set a Teen II state record with

a deadlift of 259 pounds to seal the deal.

"You get three attempts for each lift," Lockwood said. "You do your first one, and then after that you tell the people working there what your next lift is going to be. I was waiting to do my last one and I was trying to think of the number, and I was like, 'I wonder what the record is because I want to try and do it.' And so I looked it up, and then I found out that I was going to do it. I had a lot of caffeine that day."

If it wasn't already evident enough, the deadlift is Lockwood's

favorite of the three lifts. She's been able to excel at part of the sport even with an unorthodox method in terms of grabbing onto the weight.

"I'm good at it for some reason," Lockwood said. "I barely have to try them. I also deadlift kind of weird. On the bar, there's a grip part. I don't put my hand there. I put it in the middle where it's harder. That's just natural. My coach trained me and he just told me to try and do this the first time. That's what I did, and that's what I kept doing."

See POWERLIFTING on pg 14

POWERLIFTING

Continued from pg 13

What makes this feat even more remarkable is that this is only her fourth year powerlifting. From freshman year to senior year, she's put in a lot of work in the gym to become a state champion.

"I feel like actually doing powerlifting probably isn't harder than most sports, but I honestly think it takes the most dedication because it's not just a sport," Lockwood said. "There's not an offseason or in-season. It's your life. You have to worry about your food, your training all year, every day, five to seven days a week. It's a lot."

"I feel like actually doing powerlifting probably isn't harder than most sports, but I honestly think it takes the most dedication because it's not just a sport. There's not an offseason or in-season. It's your life."

RILEY LOCKWOOD
New York State USA Powerlifting
Champion, Groton High School

Powerlifting is obviously an incredibly physical sport. But equally as important to Lockwood is the mental side. She credits listening to music—in her words, 'anything loud' with Nickelback being a favorite—to help her lock in and be in the right mindset.

"Especially in the deadlift, I feel

like it's barely any strength to me," Lockwood said. "You just have to be in the right mindset. It's so mental, especially because you take a few minutes in between sets, you just sit there and think about it. If you're on the bench [press] and you have a spotter, then you're thinking, 'Oh, well, since they're there, I don't know if I'm gonna get it. Maybe they'll just take it.' It's crazy. There's a lot that goes on in your head while you're powerlifting."

Lockwood first got into the sport through the high school's lifting club. She initially was lifting on and off, but she wanted to be more committed to her craft. That's when she sought out Mick LeVick, an assistant coach on the football team who also used to train other girls to powerlift. LeVick needed Lockwood to be all in, and it's safe to say her dedication has paid off tremendously.

"He has such a crazy role," Lockwood said. "I can't thank anyone else besides him. He's taught me so much, not even just power lifting [but also] just in life. He's always there for me, and he's taught me so much."

While her high school chapter of powerlifting has come to a close, there are plenty more opportunities for Lockwood to continue a passion that she has fully embraced.

"I'm definitely gonna keep powerlifting," Lockwood said. "I'm going to Alfred State. I'm not sure if they have a powerlifting team, but if they don't, maybe I'll make one. But I want to really break other records in the next age division Teen III, which is 18 to 19. That's what I want to do."



Photo by Kevin Drury Photography
Groton's Riley Lockwood is a state champion and record-holder in powerlifting. The senior won the Women's Teen II 58-kilogram division at the 2025 New York State USA Powerlifting Championships on March 15 in Albany and set the state's Teen II deadlifting record at 259 pounds.

TRACK

Continued from pg 13

led to a fourth-place finish. After a phenomenal cross country season, Hilker is making sure his final year with the Little Red is his best one.

"He's really trying to lock in on some of the fine tuning, so really making sure that he's getting in the mileage where he wants to, making sure that he's getting in the work in the weight room" Lovenheim said. "We're trying to make sure we're getting technique as tight as it can

be so that he's getting the most out of every bit of power he's putting on that track. And his mindset's been really good... It was an awesome race to just see him put it all out there."

Returning to nationals, a pair of freshmen emerged with some outstanding performances. Avery Whittaker placed eighth in the freshman girls one-mile run with a time of five minutes and 13.27 seconds, her personal-best mark by seven seconds. Her first indoor season has clearly been a resounding success.

"I am so impressed with how

Avery has evolved as an athlete," Lovenheim said. "We didn't bring her up last year for indoor, and so all of this was new. She is super kind. She will tend towards being quiet. She's got a ton of personality, but she will definitely tend towards being quiet. What we've really encouraged her to do is to remember that she is an incredible runner in her own right. She's just doing some incredible things. She and Tsadia together have basically populated our record books at this time in terms of top 10s as freshmen and sophomores."

Ian Fromme also impressed in

the long jump. The freshman finished in 11th place with a leap of 5.54 meters.

"He has such a fantastic attitude as an athlete," Lovenheim said. "He wants to learn. He's positive. He totally has a growth mindset naturally, and is excited to experience everything, and super grateful for it."

With all of these athletes (and many more) ramping up for the outdoor season, expect more of the same dominance out of Ithaca this spring. The Little Red opens their campaign on April 2 with a home meet against Windsor and Corning.



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WEDNESDAY 3/26

CU Music: Midday Music for Organ with David Yearsley

March 26 @ 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Free
Midday Music for Organ: David Yearsley. “Annual Bach Birthday Bash.” Includes the Trio Sonata in D Minor, BWV 527 and the Toccata and Fugue in F Major, BWV 540. Anabel Taylor Chapel 548 College Ave Ithaca, 14850

Author Visit with Amanda Jaros Champion

March 26 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Free
Local writer and editor Amanda Jaros Champion will be at the Newfield Public Library to discuss her new book In My Boots: A Memoir of Five Million Steps along the Appalachian Trail. Newfield Public Library 198 Main St Newfield, NY, 14867

CU Music: USAF Heritage of America Band Concert

March 26 @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Free
For nearly eighty years, the USAF Heritage of America Concert Band has entertained, educated and inspired millions across the east coast. The band has performed at thousands of high-profile community outreach and military events, produced over 55 highly-acclaimed recordings and collaborated with many world-renowned artists. The band is often featured on television, radio and social media, conveying the Air Force core values of integrity, service and excellence.
The Concert Band is comprised of 45 professional Airmen who captivate audiences by telling the Air Force story, and also performing numerous renditions of great symphonic classics, marches, Broadway hits, jazz standards, movie music and patriotic favorites. In addition to performing standard repertoire, the Band is also a champion of new music, embodying the spirit of innovation that is inherent in today's Air Force.
Bailey Hall 230 Garden Ave Ithaca, 14850

THURSDAY 3/27

Puzzle Contest

March 27 @ 10:30 am - 2:30 pm Free
Come participate in a puzzle contest at the Newfield Public Library! Each group of puzzle-lovers will work on the same 550 piece puzzle, provided by the library, and the group to finish first or the group with the fewest pieces left at the end wins! The winning prize is a 500 piece puzzle featuring a photo of the Newfield Covered Bridge! Food provided mid-day by the Library.

CU Music: Panel Discussion and Preview Performance of da biltoon meena

March 27 @ 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Free
In preparation for a full-scale production of a newly composed opera titled da biltoon meena (“the love of loss”), DMA Composer Seare Farhat will be joined by CALS Professor Karim Aly Kassam, soprano Anika Kildegaard, visual artist Elina Ansary, DMA pianist Jack Yarborough, violinist Asher Wulfman, and cellist Hannah Soren for a panel discussion on art and activism, climate and cultural memory, responsibility and stewardship of land, and diasporic knowledge. The discussion will be interspersed with performances of excerpts from the opera-in-process, as well as demonstrations of technology to be implemented in the final performance. The panel discussion and performance are generously supported by the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music, Cornell Council for the Arts, the Cornell Center for Historical Keyboards, and the Cornell Depart Barnes Hall 129 Ho Plaza Ithaca, 14853 ment of Music.

FRIDAY 3/28

‘Symbiosis: The Art of Living Together’ Art Exhibition

Friday, March 28, 2025 , 9:00am-6:00pm
Science and art are brought together in this exciting show that features art from over 30 members of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators – Finger Lakes Chapter (gnsi-fingerlakes.com).
The natural world has evolved over billions of years by developing extraordinary relationships between different species and populations. These symbiotic relationships, both cooperative and destructive, demonstrate the importance of long-term partnerships for a healthy ecosystem.
Tompkins County Public Library 101 East Green Street Ithaca, NY

SATURDAY 3/29

Open House – King Montessori Academy Preschool & Family Daycare

March 29 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Welcoming parents with children 0 to 6 years to learn how an affordable, authentic Montessori pedagogy led by a certified Montessori teacher will meet and nurture your child’s full potential to thrive as a confident, self-directed, lifelong lover of learning! King Montessori Academy Preschool and Family Daycare 320 E. King Rd Ithaca, 14850

The Gallery at South Hill, “Considered Forms”

March 29 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Free
Artists’ Talk for “Considered Forms”. Working in ceramics, printmaking, sculpture, wall pieces, and installation, Considered Forms is a group exhibit of artists creating sculptural works. Either developing new pieces for this exhibit or going into their archives for older series of selected works, Considered Forms brings together a variety of mediums and methods by artists Julia Dean, Pamela Drix, Christie Goodfellow, Tricia Owlett, Kari Zelson Robertson, Liz Stratton, and Evan D. Williams. The Gallery at South Hill 950 Danby Road Ithaca, 14850

“Sea of Green” film premiere

March 29 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
SEA OF GREEN features the inspiring story of Newfield High School’s longtime commitment to establishing a legacy and bringing home the title. This file tells the story of the Newfield High School Champions – the history and legacy, the community, the coaches, the players, the boosters, and the sea of green – (the fans that truly believe). Newfield High School Auditorium 247 Main Street Newfield, 14867

SUNDAY 3/30

Open House – King Montessori Academy Preschool & Family Daycare

March 30 @ 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Welcoming parents with children 0 to 6 years to learn how an affordable, authentic Montessori pedagogy led by a certified Montessori teacher will meet and nurture your child’s full potential to thrive as a confident, self-directed, lifelong lover of learning! King Montessori Academy Preschool and Family Daycare 320 E. King Rd Ithaca, 14850

“Sea of Green” Sunday Showing

March 30 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
SEA OF GREEN features the inspiring story of Newfield High School’s longtime commitment to establishing a legacy and bringing home the title. This film tells the story of the Newfield High School Champions – the history and legacy, the community, the coaches, the players, the

boosters, and the sea of green – (the fans that truly believe). Newfield High School Auditorium 247 Main Street Newfield, 14867



Arthur Sullivan’s “The Prodigal Son” (March 30)

March 30 @ 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Free
Savoyards Ithaca will perform Arthur Sullivan’s oratorio on mercy and forgiveness at the First Congregational Church of Ithaca (FCCI), based on the Gospel of Luke. Bill Cowdery leads the Savoyards’ four soloists Andi Dietrich, Lisa Balaski Frank, Charles Burch, and Geof Royall. The chorus includes other members of the Gilbert and Sullivan company as well as the church choir. Admission is free but donations are welcome on-site or online at <https://fccithaca.org>. First Congregational Church of Ithaca (FCCI) 309 Highland Road Cayuga Heights (Ithaca), 14850

MONDAY 3/31

Open House – King Montessori Academy Preschool & Family Daycare

March 31 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Welcoming parents with children 0 to 6 years to learn how an affordable, authentic Montessori pedagogy led by a certified Montessori teacher will meet and nurture your child’s full potential to thrive as a confident, self-directed, lifelong lover of learning! King Montessori Academy Preschool and Family Daycare 320 E. King Rd Ithaca, 14850

Alzheimer’s Association- The Empowered Caregiver

March 31 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Free
Join Stephanie D’Amico from the Alzheimer’s Association for the final program of our 3-part series on Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia. We will discuss the complexities of caring for someone with dementia, effective communication, supporting independence, care services, and more! Supported in part by a grant from the NYS Department of Health. Newfield Public Library 198 Main St Newfield, NY, 14867

TUESDAY 4/1

Discover Improv

April 1 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm \$25
Come discover the joy of improv in a supportive environment. No experience needed and you don’t need to be funny. In fact, it’s better if you’re not! The joy of improv is how the

group creates the environment where humor emerges in the unexpected moments. In this 2-hour class you’ll be introduced to key improv principles and we’ll play games so you can experience them in action.

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

For ages 16 and above.
Tuesday, April 1 2025
6 – 8 PM
The Cherry Artspace
102 Cherry St, Ithaca, NY 14850, USA Ithaca, 14850



Food Preservation Workshop: Jams and Jellies

April 1 @ 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm \$35
Canning jams and jellies is an easy, fast, and fun way to preserve fruit. In this workshop, we’ll go over some of the basics of canning including equipment and food safety, and then learn how to make jams and jellies. Participants will have the opportunity to practice these skills with hands-on demonstrations and will be able to take home some of the items that they make! Due to the hands-on nature of this topic, it will only be offered in person and attendance will be limited to 16.
Instructor Aly Trombitas is the Agriculture & Horticulture Educator at CCE Tompkins. She has completed the statewide Master Food Preserver training and started formally (and enthusiastically) teaching food preservation in 2023. She has many years of experience teaching all ages about food, environment, and agriculture. Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County 615 Willow Ave Ithaca, 14850

Comic Book Club Meeting on Tuesday, 4/1/2025 — “ITHACON 48 Preview!” 7-8 PM, at the Tompkins County Public Library, at the Schwarz Jacobson Room

April 1 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free
The meeting on April 1, 2025, of the Comic Book Club of Ithaca, is mere days before this year’s Ithacon, the local comic book convention. Really! Not an April Fool’s joke! Ithacon is the second-longest running comic book convention in the country, second only to the much bigger convention in San Diego, and this year’s show, ITHACON 48, is scheduled for April 5 & 6, 2025. Mark your calendars! And in the meantime, drop by the meeting on 4/1/2025 for a preview of the guest artists and writers who are scheduled to appear, and for a look at cosplay workshops, panel discussion topics, and other convention activities.
Tompkins County Public Library, Schwartz Jacobsen Room 101 East Green Street Ithaca, 14850



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TOMPKINS WEEKLY

March 26, 2025

Home IMPROVEMENT EDITION

“My houseplants always die!”

Natural plants can bring life to any room. Do the plants you buy tend to die within a few months—or even weeks? You might be making some common mistakes. Here’s what you need to know.

COMMON CAUSES

Most problems affecting indoor plants are caused by the following factors:

- Both insufficient and excessive watering can harm your plants. Check the moisture level by gently sticking your finger into the soil about 2.5 centimetres deep. If the soil feels dry, it’s time to water.
- Different plants have different light requirements. Some thrive in bright sunlight, while others prefer cooler, shadier spots. Make sure you know what your plants need.
- Dust can collect on leaves, blocking sunlight and preventing photosynthesis. Gently clean your plant’s leaves regularly to keep them healthy.
- If the pot is too small, the plant may become root-bound and struggle to grow. Periodically repot your plants to promote growth.



- Ordinary potting soil may not provide enough nutrients for long-term health. Fertilizing your plants is necessary to ensure they thrive.
- Always inspect new plants for pests and diseases. Keep them isolated from your other plants for a few weeks to prevent spreading.

Consult an expert at your local greenhouse or garden centre for more advice on caring for your houseplants or to learn which species are most resilient.

Furnishing a small living room: expert tips

Does your living room feel cramped? Try these expert decorating tips to make your small space both functional and esthetically pleasing:

- **Choose light colours.** Light shades help create a sense of space by reflecting light. Colours like off-white, beige and pearl grey are perfect for creating a light atmosphere.
- **Pick your furniture wisely.** Look for small or multi-functional pieces of furniture, such as nesting tables and storage ottomans. Avoid bulky items that take up too much space.
- **Decorate sparingly.** Leave as much free space as possible to avoid overcrowding the space. Instead, stick to a few

carefully selected pictures or accessories to add character.

- **Provide multiple light sources.** Use subtle, indirect lighting and accent lamps to compensate for a lack of natural light, which can make the living room feel even smaller. Wall-mounted fixtures are particularly effective because they free up floor space for a more streamlined appearance.
- **Play with mirrors.** Mirrors reflect light and create the illusion of depth. Place a mirror opposite a window to maximize natural light and create a feeling of openness.

Visit your local shops to find everything you need to create a living room you love.

Laminate countertops: an attractive option

Are you in the process of renovating your kitchen or bathroom and trying to choose a countertop material? Laminate could be an excellent choice. Here’s a short guide to help you familiarize yourself with this material.

MANUFACTURING

The manufacturing process for laminate is relatively straightforward. It consists of several layers of kraft paper coated with resin and then heat-cured. These layers are compressed and bonded together to create the final product.

ADVANTAGES

One of the primary advantages of laminate countertops is their affordability. They typically cost between \$10 and \$40 per square foot. They’re also versatile, as they can be cut to fit the dimensions required for your project and are available in various colours and finishes.

DISADVANTAGES

However, laminate countertops have some drawbacks. Laminate tends to wear out more quickly than other materials and is only moderately heat resistant. This means that it’s susceptible to warping and scratching. Once damaged, laminate can be difficult to repair.

Despite these shortcomings, laminate countertops remain a viable option for many projects. Visit a local specialist retailer to learn more.



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Home IMPROVEMENT

Adding longevity and preserving the integrity of your home and property

By Jaime Cone Hughes

Those considering what projects to tackle this spring might consider putting their time and efforts toward improvements that will help their home stand the test of time, and four local companies are willing to offer their expert advice.

LINING YOUR DRIVEWAY WITH NEW STONE

Stone driveways are something that need to be tended to on a regular basis in order to preserve their integrity, Pinney said. “Once you have that foundation built with an existing driveway, every few years you need to add to it to keep it strong so the potholes don’t form, especially with the kind of weather we’ve been getting,” said Tracy Pinney, president of O’Tooles Stone & Gravel, a full-service gravel company based in Moravia that mines and sells gravel.

Though many of O’Tooles’ clients are contractors, municipalities and farms, the company also delivers to homeowners in need of stone or gravel for their driveway or for building, drainage or landscaping projects.

She said that 95% of what O’Tooles sells for driveways is crusher run, which is a mix of coarse and fine aggregate.

“The reason for that is that it’s various sizes of stone,” she explained. “They start at one inch and go all the way down to sand, so it compacts. If they were all two-inch stones, they would kick out onto grass. If you have the various sizing, it allows it to pack in over time and it keeps it in place.”

O’Tooles’ website, ootoolesgravel.com, has examples of the different types of material the company offers, but Pinney said that any customer needing advice should not hesitate to ask; she enjoys helping out her customers. “There are no stupid questions,” she said.

REPAINTING YOUR HOME’S EXTERIOR

The busy season is just starting for Joseph Rivers Painting, a company of 21 employees that serves a radius of roughly 50 miles from its base in Homer.

Those whose thoughts are turning to warm weather projects may consider repainting their homes’ exterior. Regular maintenance will pay off in the long-run, said Rivers.

“If you don’t paint it, the paint that’s there will break down, and the wood will be exposed to the natural elements,” he explained. “Painting it every 8 to 10 years is key to keeping up.”

“If you don’t repaint it, you’re just going to have to reside it, and that’s going to cost three to four times as much,” he added. Regular repainting can mean the difference between having your

wood siding last 40 to 50 years or only 20, he said.

How do you know when to reside versus when to paint?

“If your siding is starting to crack or curl or get divots in it from being too hot in the sun, at that point you might as well get it resided,” Rivers said, “because paint can only do so much... We’d rather not repaint something that’s not going to last.”

He recommended going “somewhere in the middle” in terms of the shade – not too light, and not too dark.

“If you go too light, it could get dirtier quicker,” he said. “Too dark, and the heat will beat up the siding quicker.”

The best bet? “A medium gray color, or brown or tan. Something neutral is probably best,” Rivers advised.

For those looking for more information about painting their home, the Joseph Rivers Painting website, josephriverpainting.com, has an extensive guide to all the services the company offers.



STRENGTHENING YOUR HOMES’ FOUNDATION

For those with old foundations that are crumbling, gunite can be a very practical solution. The sprayed concrete is a fast but long-lasting fix, said Ashley Frisbie of the service that her company, Fixing Finger Lakes Foundation, provides. She specializes in filling in stone foundations with gunite, a type of sprayed concrete.

“It comes out of a hose with air, and it comes out spraying concrete at a very high speed,” Frisbie explained. “It’s messy but great. It’s pretty cool. Instead of putting your house on stilts and pulling the foundation out, we can spray gunite to lock all those stones together, and it’s very structurally strong.”



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It can also be used to fill in a hole left by an unwanted window that was taken out. “If you build a deck, for example, and there’s no purpose to having that window there, we can reinforce it and fill it in,” Frisbie explained. “It’s just more efficient than having to stack blocks in there.”

“It gives them a little bit more relief, and it’s really just a quick, easy fix,” Frisbie.

For those with an older home, using gunite to repair the gaps and cracks in a foundation is much easier and less time consuming than almost any alternative method, Frisbie said.

“We’re there one day and gone the next, and it’s done,” she said.

“I like being able to keep the old-fashioned stones,” she added. “I like those old kinds of historical features, which you can still keep by just patching holes structurally.”

For more information, visit fixingfingerlakesfoundations.com.



GET UP-TO-DATE WITH ALL YOUR REGULAR MAINTENANCE

Steven Schapiro of CSP Management, a full-service property maintenance company that has recently extended its services to the general public, said that regular upkeep is key.

“Preventative maintenance is something that we do quite often for our managed properties,” Schapiro said. While there are certain things homeowners can do themselves, other kinds of work is sometimes better left to the professionals, Schapiro said.

It can be especially important to make sure there is someone knowledgeable who can take care of crucial but often overlooked tasks if a homeowner is going to be away for an extended period of time, whether it’s changing thermostat batteries to make sure a home doesn’t get too cold and cause burst pipes while homeowners are gone or changing the filters to the many appliances that need them changed out regularly,

“The list goes on and on,” Schapiro said. Some of the things CSP does for its customers that many homeowners may not think of until it is too late: changing water and air filters, regular servicing of HVAC systems, checking ceilings for stains, checking for running toilets and dripping faucets, checking energy usage numbers on bills and comparing them to previous uses, putting clean tabs through the washing machine and dishwasher, making sure the windows close properly, and oiling door hinges.

Schapiro said it is also important to make sure water around the exterior of the home is draining properly; cleaning gutters and making sure water flows away from the house will prevent erosion from occurring over time.

For more information, visit cspmanagement.com.



IMPROVING CURB APPEAL

A new driveway of fresh stone is great for curb appeal, said Pinney. “Every few years you need to spruce it up,” she said.

O’Tooles carries stones of all colors, which are a nice update for gardens and an effective way to cut down on weeding time, Pinney said. “It is aesthetically pretty and it’s something different,” Pinney said. “It adds a different touch.”

Another popular product sold by O’Tooles, which serves all of Tompkins and Cayuga County, is topsoil, the demand for which has increased in recent years, according to Pinney.

“Topsoil is really trending,” she said. “There has been an uptick in gardening, for sure.” She believes this might be an ongoing trend that started during the pandemic. “People started improving the outside of their house, and adding garden areas and trees and whatnot,” she said.

“Fresh topsoil with new plantings and that kind of thing is always good for home improvement,” she said.

A new coat of paint in almost any color is a noticeable improvement in most cases. “Any paint job is going to boost the value of your house,” Rivers said. “If a house is freshly painted, it’s going to sell a lot quicker than if it’s not.”

Black, while trendy, is not advised by Rivers (even though he said it looks great in his portfolio). “We do get some pretty hot days, and black is not good for the exterior, but it looks good,” he said.

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Home IMPROVEMENT

3 types of flooring for kitchens

When building or renovating a kitchen, choosing the right flooring is essential. The flooring must complement your decor while also being durable. Here are three materials to consider for your kitchen floor:

1. BAMBOO

Bamboo is easy to maintain and moisture resistant, which helps prevent warping and cracking. It provides a warm, natural look that blends well with various styles. Additionally, bamboo grows fast, making it a renewable resource. It's often a more environmentally friendly option than many popular wood species.

2. CORK

If you're on a tight budget, cork flooring might be an ideal choice, as it tends to be quite affordable. It's softer underfoot than wood and tile, and it's slip-resistant. Although cork flooring is relatively easy to install, it must be re-sealed periodically to prevent premature wear.

3. CONCRETE

Concrete has become increasingly popular in modern-style kitchens. It's one of the most durable flooring materials on the market. You can also customize it by staining, polishing or waxing it. However, remember that concrete can feel cold on your feet, especially in winter.

Visit a flooring retailer near you to learn more about these and other floor coverings on the market.



When should you call a plumber?

It's often quite easy to DIY basic plumbing issues, like a dripping faucet or clogged toilet, with a few tools and products from your local hardware store. However, more complex situations require the services of a professional plumber.

HIDDEN WATER LEAK

Call a professional if you suspect a leak behind your walls or under your floor. They have specialized equipment, such as inspection cameras, to locate these types of leaks.

WATER HEATER ISSUES

Diagnosing and repairing a faulty water heater requires a skilled plumber. They'll ensure the repair is done safely and complies with local regulations.

BLOCKED SEWER LINE

Deep blockages in sewer lines or pipes require advanced tools like electric augers and high-pressure cleaners, which are typically only available to qualified plumbers.

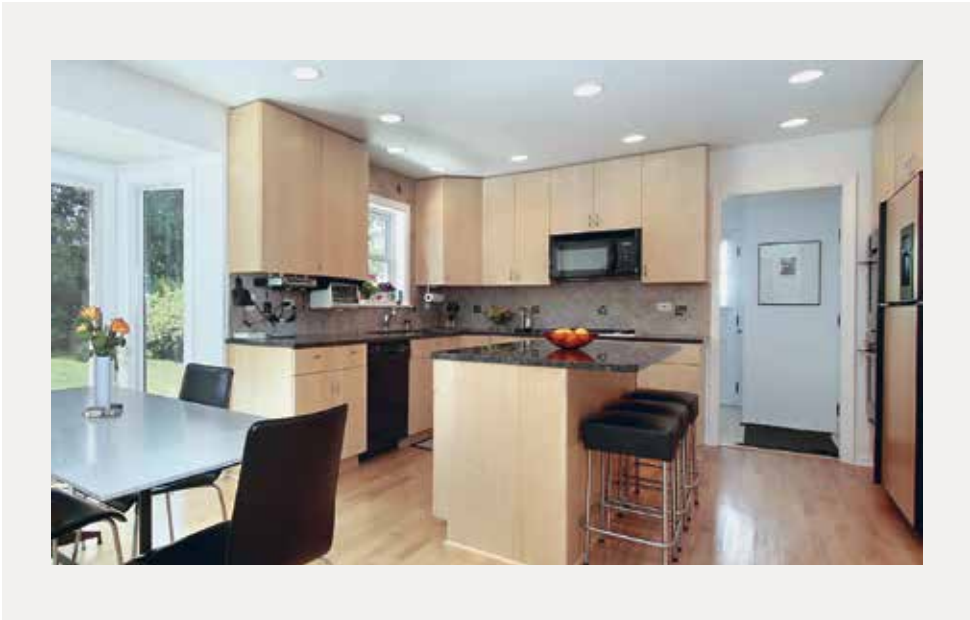
FROZEN OR BURST PIPES

If your pipes freeze or burst, contact an expert immediately to prevent further damage. They'll make the necessary repairs without worsening the issue.

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When renovations call for modification or replacement of existing plumbing, a plumber will ensure everything is carried out according to the required standards.

Do you have a plumbing problem? Contact a qualified plumber in your area today.



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HOROSCOPE

Week of
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ARIES
You'll be invited to participate in various activities, each more original than the last. If you're single, your suitors could be particularly creative in their attempts to capture your attention and win your heart.



TAURUS
You'll dive into a project that will ignite your passion and enthusiasm. You thrive on tackling new challenges. When the going gets tough, lean on your family for unwavering support.



GEMINI
Seasonal fatigue, especially on dreary days, could weigh down your mood. This will make you want to research the possibility of going on a trip or spontaneous getaway to recharge your batteries.



CANCER
This week, you'll find the motivation to tackle all the tasks you've been putting off. Evaluate your friendships. Stick to calm environments and steer clear of large gatherings.



LEO
A promotion is on the horizon! You may be given big responsibilities right from the start. Perseverance will be the key to your success. On the emotional front, expect your partner to make a grand gesture.



VIRGO
Welcome the changes in your professional life with open arms. Although this may require you to learn better time management skills, you'll gain a deep sense of pride by facing the challenge head-on.



LIBRA
As lease renewal season approaches, now is the time to consider moving or even purchasing a property. This is your chance to turn a long-held dream into reality.



SCORPIO
Choose your words wisely this week, as they could be misinterpreted. If you feel restless, deep-clean your home or give it a fresh coat of paint, if only to clear your head.



SAGITTARIUS
Stores are already offering discounts on their spring collections. Step into the season with a new wardrobe. Don't think of it as an expense but as an investment in yourself. Embrace the opportunity to refresh your style.



CAPRICORN
This week, you'll feel an urge to conquer new challenges and embark on thrilling adventures. Your mind will be brimming with ingenious ideas. You'll come up with excellent initiatives in both your personal and professional life.



AQUARIUS
This week will get off to a rather chaotic start, and your mind seems to be elsewhere. However, the arrival of spring will inspire you to act. Break free from the monotony of everyday life by planning some outdoor activities.



PISCES
You may feel weighed down by fatigue this week. Treat yourself to some well-deserved pampering from your loved ones, especially your significant other. You deserve to be spoiled by the people who love you.

COMICS By Jack Young



Sudoku

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

RECIPE OF THE WEEK



CHOCOLATE
TURTLE COOKIES

Ingredients:

- 1 cup butter, softened
 - 1 cup brown sugar
 - 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 tsp vanilla extract
 - 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder
 - 1 tsp baking soda
 - 1/2 tsp salt
 - 1 cup chopped pecans
 - 1 cup chocolate chips
 - 12 soft caramels, melted

Directions:

1. Preheat Oven: Set to 350°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Make Dough: Cream butter and sugars, then mix in eggs and vanilla. Stir in flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt. Fold in pecans and chocolate chips.
3. Shape & Bake: Scoop dough into balls, place on a baking sheet, and bake for 10–12 minutes.
4. Add Caramel: Drizzle melted caramel over warm cookies.
5. Cool & Enjoy! Let set for a few minutes before serving.

CROSSWORD

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		42		43				44		45	46	47
48	49			50		51	52		53			
54				55					56			
57				58					59			

ACROSS

- 1. Bathing-suit tops
 - 5. White House staffer
 - 9. Boring instrument
 - 12. Every individual
 - 13. Trickle
 - 14. Feathery stole
 - 15. In any way
 - 16. Teamster's rig
 - 17. Soak
 - 18. Bowler's button
 - 20. Bouncing sound
 - 22. Slender traces
 - 25. Other
- 28. Summer quencher: 2 wds.
 - 31. Nearer the facts
 - 32. Prom wear
 - 33. Fastener
 - 35. Road covering
 - 36. Rub out
 - 38. Girdles
 - 40. Notation
 - 41. Yell
 - 42. Resting
 - 44. Twirler's need
 - 48. Five-and-____-cent store
 - 50. Dunces
- 53. Choir wear
 - 54. Very small
 - 55. Broad expanse
 - 56. Frosty's material
 - 57. Advanced in years
 - 58. Changed the color of
 - 59. Observes

DOWN

- 1. Milwaukee product
 - 2. Acclaim
 - 3. Expert fliers
 - 4. Clever
 - 5. Classified notices
 - 6. Outrage
 - 7. Small coins
 - 8. Long heroic poem
 - 9. Definite
 - 10. Seek the love of
 - 11. Lick at
 - 19. Book name
 - 21. "Tell ____ About It"
 - 23. Neptune's domain
- 24. Cloth emblem
 - 26. Chair
 - 27. Missteps
 - 28. Thing
 - 29. Preserve
 - 30. Inspected
 - 31. Ache
 - 34. Murmur fondly
 - 37. Turf unit
 - 39. Thin
 - 41. Exhausted
 - 43. Weight
 - 45. Actor Danza
 - 46. Certain woodwind
- 47. "Broadcast ____"
 - 48. Pair
 - 49. Moray, e.g.
 - 51. Cost
 - 52. Heavy-hearted

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Real Estate Transactions

CAROLINE

- Thad Demulder bought from Margaret J. Jones at 626 Valley Rd, Caroline, NY 14817 on 02/25/25 for \$160,000.

DANBY

- Jean E. Mint & Raymond Mint bought from Hilary Mallar & Garrett Drapala on S Danby Rd, Danby, NY 13053 on 02/25/25 for \$55,000.
- Joshua H. Wilcox & Amanda J. Washburn bought from William A. Wilcox & Karen Wilcox at 2687 Danby Rd, Danby, NY 13053 on 02/27/25 for \$230,000.

DRYDEN

- William E. Begeal & Elizabeth Rechtin bought from Christopher D. Martin & Bari Doeffinger at 88 German Cross Rd, Dryden, NY 14850 on 02/27/25 for \$800.
- Michael Enyeart bought from Christopher Willett & Richard Willett at 775 Snyder Hill Rd, Dryden, NY 13053 on 02/27/25 for \$50,000.
- Ruth Hanly bought from Minda L. Brown & Donald P. Brown at 334 W Dryden Rd, Dryden, NY 13053 on 02/21/25 for \$110,000.

- Molly A. Parker bought from Laura J. Diedrickson at 8 Tannery Cir, Dryden, NY 13053 on 02/26/25 for \$125,000.

GROTON

- Justin Carpenter bought from Terry B. Haines at 243 Mclean-Cortland Rd, Groton, NY 13073 on 02/25/25 for \$169,000.

ITHACA

- Bronson Adams bought from State St of Ithaca LLC in Ithaca, NY 14851 on 02/24/25 for \$560,000.
- Ahir-Ithaca 13 LLC bought from Alfred C. Eddy in Ithaca,

NY 14851 on 02/27/25 for \$250,000.

- Vicki Gayle & Karen V. Comstock bought from Ruth Talley at 218 Annabel Rd, Ithaca, NY 14851 on 02/26/25 for \$375,000.

- Clayton L. Lemons & Heather R. Lemons bought from Virginia Lemons & Randall Lemons at 1439 Trumansburg Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 02/27/25 for \$555,000.
- Leslie Miller bought from Richard A. Kuhar & Donna L. Kuhar at 712 Tioga St N, Ithaca, NY 14851 on 02/25/25 for \$275,000.

LANSING

- Jonathan Goldberg & Lisa Goldberg bought from Cardamone Hm Bldrs Inc at Woodland Park, Lansing, NY 13068 on 02/24/25 for \$750,000.

NEWFIELD

- Jaden J. Demarest bought from Scott H. Cutter & Christine Cutter at 398 Newfield Depot Rd, Newfield, NY 14867 on 02/24/25 for \$165,000.
- Joseph Lavetsky & Karen Lavetsky bought from Carol L. Riker at 8 Briarwood

Ln, Newfield, NY 14867 on 02/21/25 for \$240,000.

TRUMANSBURG

- Jocelyn L. Lutter bought from Angel M. Vargas-Hernandez at 11 Halsey St, Trumansburg, NY 14886 on 02/21/25 for \$115,000.

ULYSSES

- Elijah Beltz & Suzanne R. Beltz bought from Stephen G. Gulyas Estate & Shireen L. Batterson at 1468 Taughannock Blvd, Ulysses, NY 14850 on 02/24/25 for \$215,000.

Classifieds

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Solutions to Puzzles on Page 21

S	E	E	D	E	D	O	L	O	
W	O	N	S	A	V	E	A	W	E
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6	1	2	4	3	9	8	7	5	

22

TOMPKINS WEEKLY

March 26, 2025

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

FLX Real Estate Management Group, LLC filed Articles of Organization with NYS on 2/6/2025. Its principal office is in Tompkins County, NY. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and a copy of any process will be mailed to the LLC, 15 Thornwood Drive, PO Box 4860, Ithaca, NY 14852-4860. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

E & G Hartz Brothers, LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 2/10/2025. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to 49 Blackchin, Blvd, Ithaca NY 14850. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2/25.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Recovery is a Practice LLC; Articles of Organization filed with the State of New York on 3/3/25; County Office: Tompkins County; SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC at 526 Spencer Rd, Ithaca, New York 14850. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16/25.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Fernando Nava Enterprises, LLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 03/12/2025. Office location: Cortland County. Secretary of State of New York designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. Secretary of State of New York shall mail process to 4160 Kinney Gulf Road, Cortland, New York 13045 which is the principal office of the limited liability company. The limited liability company was formed for any lawful business purpose. 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Finch Family Farmstead LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was February 13, 2025. Office location: Cortland County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to 1490 McGraw Marathon Rd, Marathon, NY 13803. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

JEP Contracting Services, LLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 03/07/2025. Office location: Tompkins County. Secretary of State of New York designated as agent of the limited

liability company upon whom process against it may be served. Secretary of State of New York shall mail process to 44 Hilltop Road, Ithaca, New York 14850 which is the principal office of the limited liability company. The limited liability company was formed for any lawful business purpose. 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

unoriginalGeese Stationery LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 9/29/2024. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 586 Stevens Road Freeville, NY 13068. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

ATTHE RIGHT PLACE LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was January 20, 2025. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC at 4023 Cold Springs Rd., Trumansburg, NY 14886. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

IBUYSELL LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03-10-2025. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail service of process to IBUYSELL LLC at 3 COVENTRY WALK, ITHACA, NY, UNITED STATES, 14850. Company is organized for any lawful purpose. 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

AHIR - Ithaca 13, LLC. Filed 1/13/25. Cty: Tompkins. SSNY design. for process & shall mail 638 Elmira Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purp: any lawful. 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Yarak Management LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 03/03/2025. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to 823 Van Ostrand Rd, Groton, NY 13073. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

CLYTE LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was

08/29/24. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to 46 Penny Ln, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Davis Concrete Construction LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 03/12/2025. Office location: Cortland County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to 4821 Dutch Hill Rd Spur Cincinnati, NY 13040. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Flow Being Wellness LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 3/2/25. Office: Tompkins County, New York. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Emily Dunuwila at 2 Pebble Drive, Dryden, NY 13053, the registered agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30/2025.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Among The Branches LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/17/25. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 64 Sweazey Rd., Lansing, NY 14886. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30/2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 6050719 for beer and cider has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer and cider at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 1843 Danby Rd in Danby NY, Tompkins County for on premises consumption. Danby Food and Drink, LLC. 3/26, 4/2/2025

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

MMO Creations LLC. Articles of Organization files with NYS Department of State (SSNY) on 2/19/2025. Office Location: Tompkins County at 42 Reach Run, Ithaca, NY 14850. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 42 Reach Run, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful purpose. 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30/2025.

REFEREE’S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE
SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF TOMPKINS

TOMPKINS COMMUNITY BANK F/K/A TOMPKINS TRUST COMPANY, Plaintiff - against - ITHACA B&T ASSOCIATES, LLC, et al Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on January 27, 2025. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Tompkins County Courthouse, 320 North Tioga Street, Ithaca on the 29th day of April, 2025 at 12:00 PM a leasehold interest in the mortgaged property as follows: All that tract or parcel of land, situate in the Village and Town of Lansing, County of Tompkins and State of New York.

Premises known as:

Parcel 1 – 9 and 19 Brown Road Tax Map Nos.: 45.1-1-55.9 and 45.1-1-55.22

Parcel 2 – 20 Thornwood Drive Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-55.11

Parcel 3 – 35 Thornwood Drive Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-55.21

Parcel 4 – 10 Brown Road Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-52.22

Parcel 5 – 36 Thornwood Drive Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-55.20

Parcel 6 – 22 Thornwood Drive Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-55.18

Parcel 7 – 30 Brown Road Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-52.21

Parcel 8 – 15 Thornwood Drive Tax Map: 45.1-1-55.17

Parcel 9 – 53 Brown Road Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-55.13

Parcel 10 – 22 Thornwood Drive Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-55.15

Parcel 11 – 8 Brentwood Drive Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-57.6

Parcel 12 – 10 Brentwood Drive Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-57.51

Parcel 13 – 20 Arrowwood Drive Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-57.4

Parcel 14 – 22 Arrowwood Drive Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-57.52

Parcel 15 – 16 Brentwood Drive Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-59.2

Parcel 16 – 33 Thornwood Drive Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-55.12

Parcel 17 – 61 Brown Road Tax Map No.: 45.1-1-55.3

Village/Town of Lansing, Tompkins County, New York.

Approximate amount of lien \$75,945,004.99 plus interest and costs.

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.

Index No. EF2024-0019. Carl J. Depalma, Esq., Referee.

Harris Beach Murtha Cullina PLLC

Attorney(s) for Plaintiff

333 West Washington Street, Suite 200

Syracuse, NY 13202

Tel. 315-423-7100

Dated: February 26, 2025

During the COVID-19 health emergency, bidders are required to comply with all governmental health requirements in effect at the time of sale including but not limited to, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing (at least 6-feet apart) during the auction, while tendering deposit and at any subsequent closing. Bidders are also required to comply with the Foreclosure Auction Rules and COVID-19 Health Emergency Rules issued by the Supreme Court of this County in addition to the conditions set forth in the Terms of Sale.

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When you’re comparing plans ...

- ▶ Look for coverage that helps pay for major services. Some plans may limit the number of procedures – or pay for preventive care only.
- ▶ Look for coverage with no deductibles. Some plans may require you to pay hundreds out of pocket before benefits are paid.
- ▶ Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits. Some plans have annual maximums of \$1,000.

Medicare doesn’t pay for dental care.¹

That’s right. As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. That means if you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

Early detection can prevent small problems from becoming expensive ones.

The best way to prevent large dental bills is preventive care. The American Dental Association recommends checkups twice a year.

Previous dental work can wear out.

Even if you’ve had quality dental work in the past, you shouldn’t take your dental health for granted. In fact, your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.²

Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.

Consider these national average costs of treatment ... \$222 for a checkup ... \$190 for a filling ... \$1,213 for a crown.³ Unexpected bills like this can be a real burden, especially if you’re on a fixed income.

¹ "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2025. ² "Aging changes in teeth and gums", medlineplus.gov, 4/17/2022. ³ American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2020 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2020, American Dental Association.

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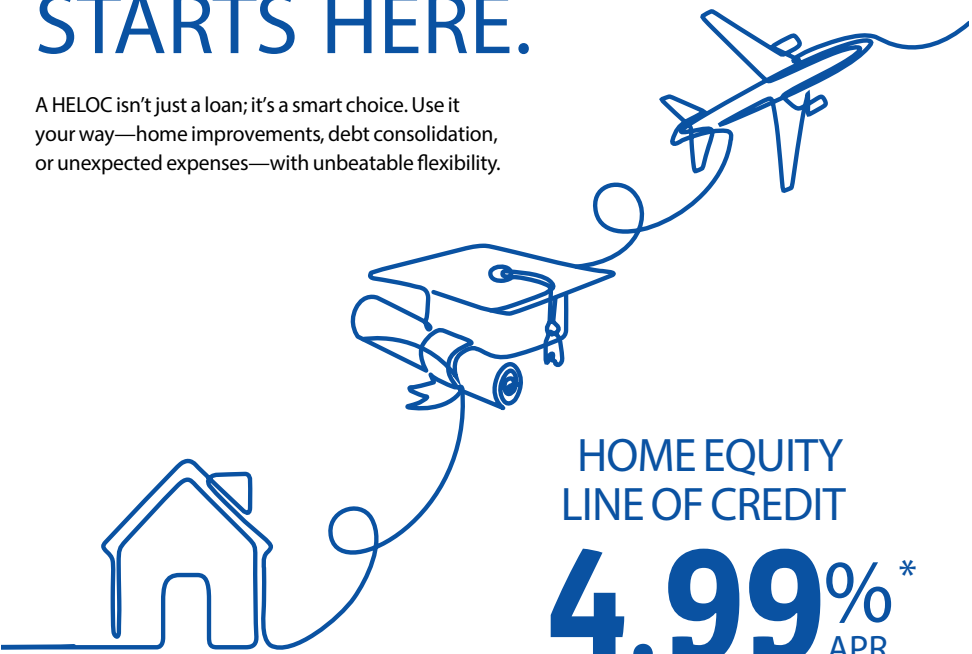
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*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Minimum line of \$10,000 required. The APR will be 4.99% for the first 12 months from the closing date of the line. After 12 months, the APR will adjust to the highest Prime Rate published in the Wall Street Journal on the last business day of the prior month. Assuming no change in the current Prime Rate as of January 22, 2025, the APR after 12 months would be 7.50%. The lifetime cap for the line of credit is guaranteed not to exceed 16.00% APR, with a floor of 4.00% APR. You will be required to reimburse the Bank certain fees paid to third parties if the line is terminated within three years of the opening date. These can be as low as \$1,068.29 for a \$10,000 credit line or as high as \$2,968.29 for a \$200,000 credit line. Collateral mortgage required to be filed. Promotional period ends April 30, 2025. Consult your tax adviser for more information regarding the potential deductibility of interest and fees. Equal Housing Lender • Member FDIC



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