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Dryden village secures \$4.5 million NY Forward grant

The Village of Dryden has applied to the NY Forward grant program three times in the hopes of receiving much-needed funding for improvements to downtown.

Officials and community members convened to submit the village's name for funding consideration the past couple of years, but fell short to other municipalities.

Finally, after two attempts, the third time was the charm. The village was awarded \$4.5 million in grant funding through the third round of the NY Forward program.

"We are incredibly excited and grateful to announce that the Village of Dryden has been awarded (grant funding)," Mayor Mike Murphy said. "This achievement represents the culmination of a collaborative effort between the village board (of trustees), our dedicated staff, the Dryden Business Association and passionate community members."

Spearheaded by Gov. Kathy Hochul, the NY Forward program was created "to invigorate and enliven downtowns in New York's smaller and rural communities, the type of downtowns found in villages, hamlets and other small, neighborhood-scale municipal centers," according to the state's website.

NY Forward was formed from the success of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). Both programs have brought the total amount of funding allocated to \$1.2 billion.

Dryden is one of three municipalities within the Southern Tier region to receive grant funding. The Village of Bath also was awarded \$4.5 million in NY Forward funding, while the City of Binghamton is getting \$10 million from the DRI program.

"By investing in the future of these Southern Tier communities, this funding will revitalize their downtown areas by building vibrant and thriving destinations where businesses, families and visitors can flourish," Gov. Hochul said in a release. "With our Pro-Housing Communities initiative, we're giving local leaders the tools to transform their cities, towns and villages into hubs of opportunity, culture and affordable living. This is how we build stronger, more connected communities that work for everyone across New York."

Village officials provided a collected statement after being selected for grant funding:

"In 2022, we actively sought input from our residents, gathering over 100 responses through questionnaires and hosting a



By Kevin L. Smith

Ithaca's retail future: Experts give insights and lay out challenges



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Photographer Jennifer Byrd Rubacky (left) and fiber artist Veronica Guiry, who are one of many co-owners of Handwork as members of the store's co-op, said they appreciate the support of the arts that they have seen over the years. Retail expert Michael Berne said in a recent presentation that efforts should be made to capitalize on Ithaca's reputation as an arts hub.

By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

"You can't sugarcoat things and expect them to get better."

Those were the words of Nan Rohrer following a presentation about Ithaca's retail market by Michael Berne of MJB Consulting. Rohrer, CEO of Downtown Ithaca Alliance (DIA), said she appreciated Berne's candor. "You want those valid opinions and those very straightforward truths."

In a study commissioned by the DIA and the city of Ithaca, Berne took a comprehensive look at local retail with the goal of developing recommendations for retail traction and small business development. Berne and his colleague David Milder, a downtown revitalization specialist from DANTH, Inc., presented their findings Feb. 25.

Berne said there will be a follow-up presentation in April that will provide the city and DIA with actionable steps they can take to help local retail thrive. "Today is not about what to do or who does it," Berne said. "Rather, it is about ... how it might be possible to steer the trajectory in desirable ways. The next and final phase will be the implementation plan."

"We first started thinking about the need for a retail study and strategy back in 2022, thinking in terms of economic recovery from COVID and realizing that the retail sector was one of the sectors that was most heavily impacted by the pandemic," said Thomas Knipe, Deputy Director for Economic Development at the City of Ithaca's Department of Planning & Development.

Between the efforts being made toward COVID-19 economic recovery and the general need to understand the longterm effects of COVID, such as e-commerce, changes in buying patterns, and fewer office workers downtown, the city identified the need for a study, which was supported by city of Ithaca American Rescue Plan Act federal relief funds.

Storefronts account for 41% of the overall retail mix downtown. "That's a pretty high percentage today," Berne said, adding that, historically, visitors have accounted for more than half of downtown retail sales.

But, major retailers looking to determine if an area is a good bet are going to spot some "black eyes" — some retailers that left the market, closed the store, and did not relocate within it, most notably Urban Outfitters," Berne said. Ithaca is

not an outlier in this regard — the clothing store has closed downtown college town stores in other locations — but Ithaca has also lost DSW, American Eagle and a few others, Berne pointed out.

"At the same time, there's been some wins," Berne added. "Trader Joe's and REI, two retailers that normally open in much larger markets, have opened here which, again, speaks to other large national brands."

"The businesses on the Commons have to be perfect. They have very little margin for error."

MICHAEL BERNE
Principal, MJB Consulting

"They are pack animals," he said, "and they notice these things."

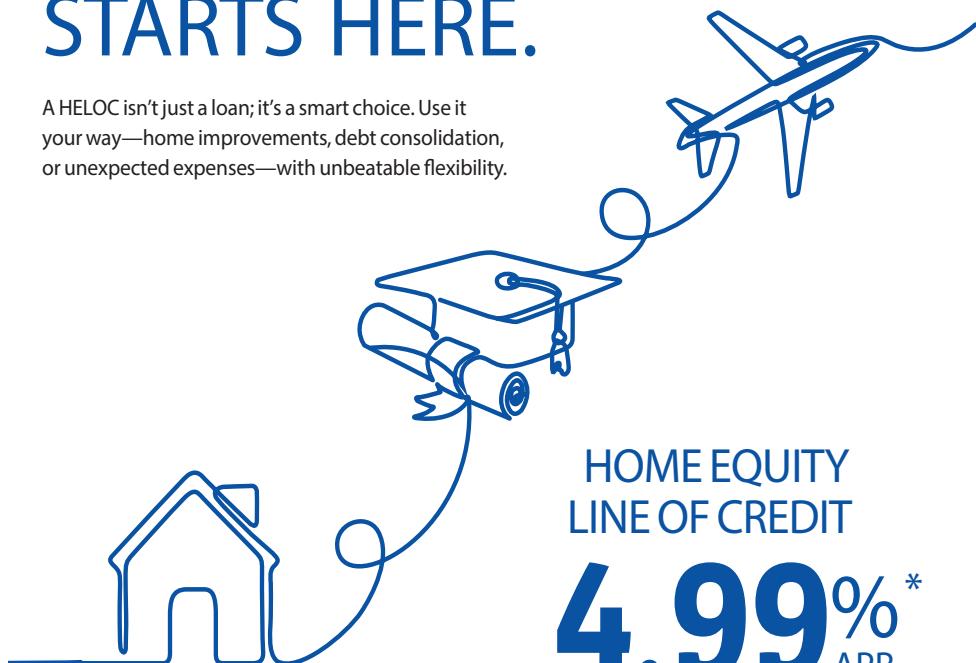
A strong base with untapped potential

Ithaca performs well overall, Berne said.

"It's a strong and relatively stable economy," he said, "but at the same time, it's a relatively small trade area."

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Our question, your answers

Street Beat

By Jaime Cone Hughes

In honor of March being Women's History Month, who is a woman that inspires you?



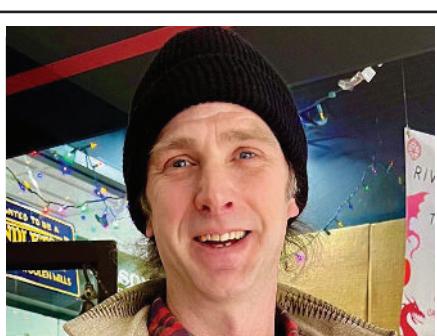
My wife and daughters.
Moses, Merida, Venezuela



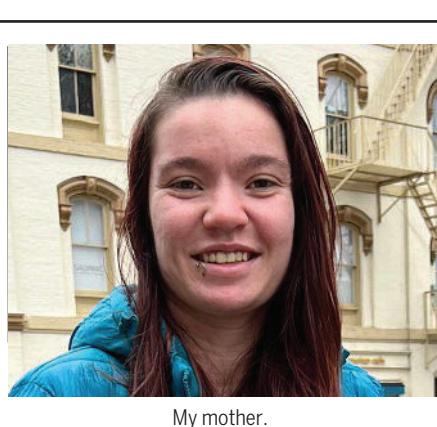
Lydia, a friend of mine.
She's a teacher and a hard worker.
Dino, Ithaca



RBG. She had a lot more to say and a lot more to do right before she passed.
Mason, Ithaca



My mom, because she was part of the first nurses' union, in Los Angeles.
Todd, Ithaca



My mother.
Kimberly, Ithaca

Area native proposes a flag for the city of Ithaca

A Dryden High School graduate who is now a junior at Clarkson University has a passion for flags and an idea for a design that could unify locals under one familiar symbol.

By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

Benjamin Anderson, 20, who grew up in Dryden, spent a lot of time in Ithaca during his childhood, including trips into the city for rehearsals for Running to Places Theatre Company, known as R2P.

"I first got interested in making flags about a year ago," Anderson said.

"If you type Ithaca, NY, into Google, the first thing you see is an image of a waterfall," Anderson said. "It's a neutral symbol, and the other thing about the waterfall is it makes the shape of an 'I' for Ithaca. So, I wanted to explore that a little bit, and explore putting [the letter I] on its side."

He developed eight similar designs, six of which feature a waterfall that is blue and white. This was an intentional choice.

"The reason for the blue and white stripes was that Ithaca is named after a Greek island, so it parallels the Greek flag," he explained.

Confident that he had a design that was both visually appealing and full of meaning, Anderson



Photo provided

Benjamin Anderson (left) and Nicole Wing hold the proposed city of Ithaca flag that Anderson designed and Wing sewed. Anderson has designed several different options and hopes the city will adopt one as its official flag.

Ithaca Common Council meeting.

Since that initial meeting with Cantelmo the project has not gained much further traction, and Anderson said he would like to jumpstart the campaign again.

To this end, Anderson has launched an Instagram: @flagforithacany, a short informative video: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/HoBSN3gEg4g>, and a peti-

Ithaca Journal in 1892. Though debatable, this is thought to be the first mention of the ice cream dish. "What a way would it be for Ithaca



Photo provided

Benjamin Anderson (right) and Ithaca City Mayor Robert Cantelmo during a meeting last year where they discussed the possibility of adopting a city flag.

to stand its ground on its claim to the cherry sundae by putting it on its flag!" Anderson writes in his proposal.

"It's a neutral symbol, and the other thing about the waterfall is it makes the shape of an 'I' for Ithaca."

**Benjamin Anderson, Designer
PROPOSED CITY OF ITHACA FLAG**

Gold is for the Voyager golden record, dark blue represents Cayuga Lake, azure is the shade of blue on the Greek flag, and ice blue stands for the Pleistocene ice sheet.

"As many people know, the Finger Lakes were sculpted by glaciers which came down from the north and stopped right where Ithaca is located at the Valley Heads Moraine," Anderson's proposal states. "This is why our soil is so rocky and perfect for growing grapes. With-

Vertical Waterfall Ithaca City Flags

Created by Benjamin M. Anderson

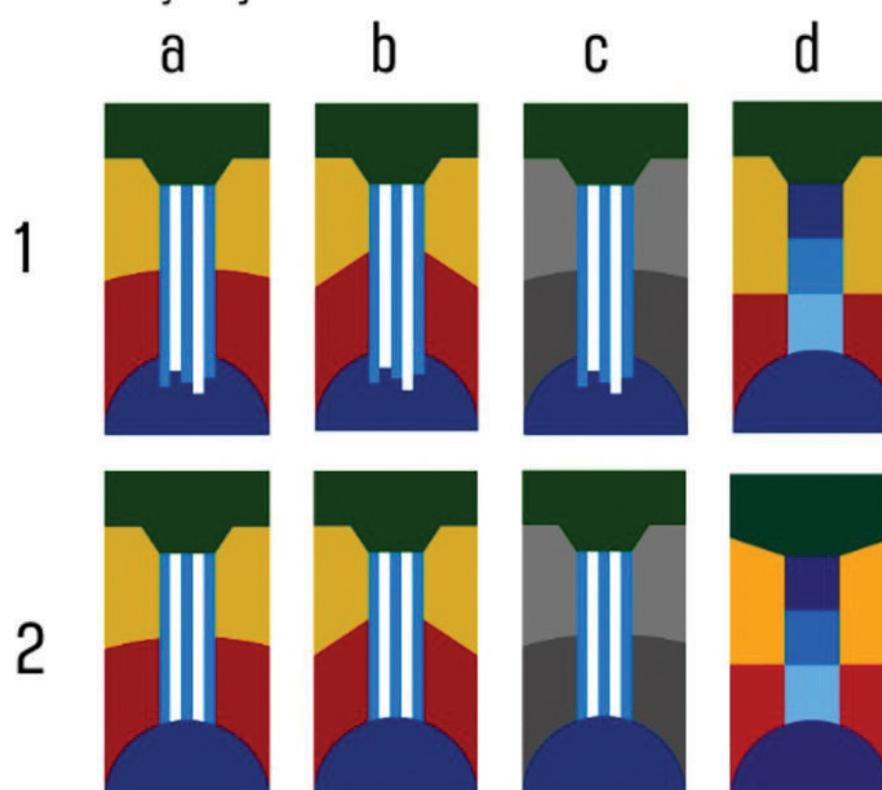


Photo provided

These various flag designs by Benjamin Anderson depict a waterfall that forms an "I" for Ithaca.

wrote a proposal and submitted it last May to Ithaca City Mayor Robert Cantelmo, who met with the young proponent of civic pride.

"The mayor seemed to like it," Anderson said. "He seemed super onboard." Anderson said he loves the idea of giving the mayor a necktie with the design to wear at an

tion, currently with 40 verified signatures (he is seeking 500): change.org/flagforithaca

Including white, there are seven colors in the proposed flag. Dark green represents nature.

Cherry red represents the "cherry Sunday" that was advertised by Platt and Colt's in the

See FLAG on pg 15

Red states sue over Lansing-supported climate change act

Attorneys general for 21 red states have sued the state of New York in federal court challenging the constitutional basis of the New York's Climate Change Superfund Act, a bill that seeks to collect around \$75 million from companies deemed responsible for greenhouse gas emissions due to their commercial activity involving the production of fossil fuels.

The lawsuit was filed Feb. 6, following the passage of the Climate Change Superfund Act, which Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Democrat, signed in December. The bill was co-sponsored in the State Senate by Sen. Lea Webb (D) who represents the Senate's 52nd District, including Lansing. Last fall, the town of Lansing also sent a letter to Gov. Hochul in support of

the bill.

The civil challenge was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York, Albany Division and is led by West Virginia. The plaintiffs include: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wyoming, The West Virginia Coal Association, Alpha Metallurgical Resources and The Gas and Oil Association of West Virginia.

When Gov. Hochul signed into law the Climate Change Superfund Act, some business leaders spoke out against it. For instance, The Business Council of New York State asked the governor to veto the bill.

Originally, the bill was part of the 2024-25 state budget that was approved last April, however, it was eventually re-

By Eddie Velazquez



Photo provided

Sen. Lea Webb, a Democrat who represents the Senate's 52nd District, including Lansing, co-sponsored the New York's Climate Change Superfund Act, which is now being challenged in a lawsuit brought by 21 states.

moved prior to the spending plan's ratification. A month later, the State Senate

and Assembly voted to approve the bill.

See CLIMATE on pg 7

Public input session scheduled for Newfield school district superintendent search

The Newfield Board of Education had a decision to make regarding the ongoing superintendent search.

The BOE members had the option to keep the superintendent hiring process confidential or allow Newfield Central School District's stakeholders to have a say in the decision.

That's when the BOE realized that they could both. This began a semi-confidential search to replace Eric Hartz, Newfield CSD's current superintendent who is set to retire at the end of the 2024-25 school year.

Instead of rushing to replace Hartz, Lily Talcott – the TST BOCES District Superintendent who is leading the search – said the district was given enough time to find a worthy candidate.

"You gave this community the gift of time, which I commend," Talcott said to Hartz at the Feb. 27 BOE meeting. "It's helping to facilitate our time on the search and really do this well."

The screening and vetting is being conducted by Talcott's staff, and the final round of interviews will be done by the BOE.

"This is a really special place. This is my home and community as well."

LILY TALCOTT
Leader, Newfield Central School District Superintendent search

"(The screenings) were about what they want to see in the next candidate and what was important to all sorts of folks – alumni, students and others," Talcott said. "It is ultimately (the BOE's) unpaid job to decide who the next superintendent will be and engage in contract negotiations."

Community members will be given an opportunity to participate in interviewing final candidates. The public session will take place on Tuesday, April 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the district campus.

Talcott provided a letter in the New-

field's March/April newsletter about how the community session will run and how people can get involved:



Photo provided

TST BOCES district superintendent Lily Talcott, pictured here speaking at an event last fall, gave an update on the ongoing superintendent search at Newfield Central School District.

field's March/April newsletter about how the community session will run and how people can get involved:

Dear Newfield Central School District Community,

We would like to share an important opportunity that helps to shape the future of the Newfield Central School District. We are seeking students, staff, families and community members to take part in a series of finalist interviews for the next superintendent. Your voice and perspective are essential to this process.

As part of this process, the board aims to ensure diverse representation across the organization and community for each of these groups. The groups will be facilitated by TST BOCES administration to ensure a smooth and productive process. Participants will be asked to prepare one interview question in advance and be ready to engage thoughtfully with the candidates.

Confidentiality is of utmost importance. All participants are expected to keep the content of the interviews private. Thank you for your commitment to the Newfield community.

Any community members interested in participating can fill out a form avail-

able in the newsletter. The deadline to submit a form is March 21.

Either Talcott or the Newfield BOE clerk will reach out to prospective community members by April 2 to provide an option to participate in the public session.

Talcott said at the Feb. 27 meeting that she expects about 40 community members to be involved in the session.

Born and raised in Enfield, Talcott said it's important to bring on someone who loves the community and the region.

"This is a really special place. This is my home and community as well," she said.

Talcott also provided results from a Newfield CSD superintendent search survey that was available to the public. The number of participants are as follows:

- Parents/family members – 123
- Community members – 68
- Staff members – 62
- Alumni – 22
- Students – 14
- Local government, business and in-

See SUPERINTENDENT on pg 5

TompkinsWeekly

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‘Busking for Good’ raises donations for World Central Kitchen

“Busking for Good” -- a special fundraising series of concerts featuring Tompkins County musicians, including acts from Trumansburg -- will focus on raising donations to provide meals to people in crisis. The concert series will run from March through June, every first Friday at Cafe DeWitt in downtown Ithaca’s DeWitt Mall.

Proceeds will support the efforts of World Central Kitchen (WCK), a non-profit organization seeking to provide hope, dignity, and a sign of care through food. WCK typically responds to humanitarian, climate, and community crises.

Locally, proceeds will also go toward Loaves and Fishes of Tompkins County, a nonprofit that also helps with food insecurity, as well as providing companionship, and advocacy for people in need.

Loaves & Fishes serves free meals Monday through Friday, 365 days of the year. It is the only community kitchen in Tompkins County.

The series of concerts will feature the following local acts. Every show will go from 5:30-7 p.m.:

- Mama Look! -- March 7
- Opus Ithaca String Quartet -- April 4
- Jayne Demakos, harp with special guests -- May 2
- Travis Knapp and Annie Sumi -- June 6

Cafe DeWitt is located at 215 N. Cayuga St. in Ithaca.

Demakos, a key organizer of “Busking for Good,” said she started the event in 2024 while reflecting on some of the hard-

ships and global tragedies unfolding last year.

“Some of us were feeling the immensity of the current global humanitarian suffering especially in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine,” she said. “‘Busking for Good’ was borne out of a need to come together as a community in a small effort towards humanitarian aid for distressed regions around the world.”

“Busking for Good’ was borne out of a need to come together as a community in a small effort towards humanitarian aid for distressed regions around the world.”

JAYNE DEMAKOS

Key Organizer, Busking for Good

Demakos said helping people in precarious situations and helping set up this fundraiser remind her of a line from a poem by American writer Wendell Berry.

“Be joyful though you’ve considered all the facts.’ We have considered the facts of such global suffering, but there is much joy in community and local music,” Demakos said, quoting a poem by Wendell Berry. “We are especially grateful for the enthusiasm of the people at Cafe DeWitt in hosting this series.”

Demakos, who plays the harp, said she hopes her music can reach a certain depth with people.

“I just like people to feel their humanness more deeply,” she said. “It’s not about flashy playing, it’s about, just really touching what it means to be human in what we share together. Whether it’s uplifting, deepening, or to get more intimate with sadness.”

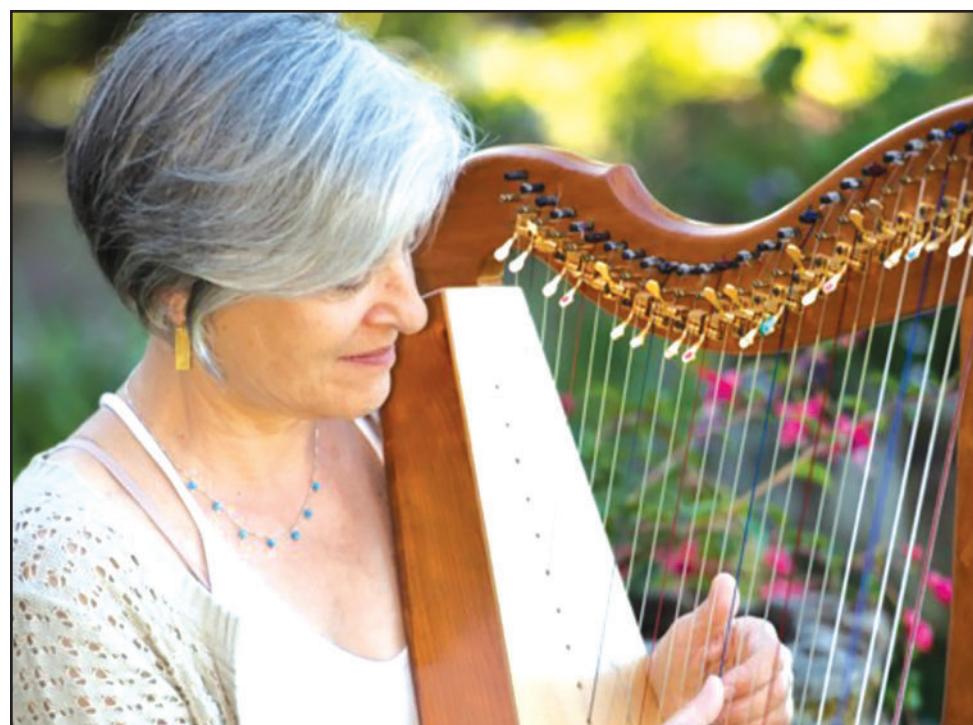


Photo by John O’Leary

Harpist Jayne Demakos helped create Busking for Good, a series of performances at DeWitt Mall in Ithaca to raise money for World Central Kitchen.

The harp, Demakos said, is extremely versatile.

“It’s a beautiful instrument that has a lot of capacity. It has so much more capacity than just to be pretty,” she said. “It can be bold. It can express just a huge range of musical expressions.

For McKenzie Jones, who plays in the Trumansburg-based band Mama Look!, music is a conduit or pathway to resistance.

“There’s a relationship that is created when performing between an artist and the audience, as well as one between artists themselves when performing together,” she said. “I think music is a way that people communicate with each other and have shared experiences, even if a song is about something totally different, the way that it can be relatable to many people

who can have a collective experience and feel empowered by that is really special. And yeah, not everything can do that.”

Jones, a musician in the county for the past 16 years, said she hopes her band’s performances connect with the audience.

“We want people to feel a little softer and more open and maybe a little bit tender,” Jones added.

In brief

The Ulysses Philomathic Library is hosting a Books for Cooks event every Tuesday at 3:30 p.m., helping area teens build their own cookbooks and make their own snacks. Each week, cooks will explore a different kitchen technique as they prepare a variety of no-bake treats.

SUPERINTENDENT

Continued from pg 4

dstry partners – six. “The responses emphasize the need for a superintendent with strong decision-making skills, fiscal responsibility, and effective communication,” Talcott noted in her presentation. “They should have a rural background, support staff and teachers, and be business-minded yet community-focused. Key traits include honesty, integrity, inclusivity and empathy. The superintendent should focus on restorative justice, support extracurricular activities, and prioritize student safety and academic excellence.”

Talcott continued, “They must be proactive, transparent, and committed to the community, with a vision for long-term growth. Experience in education, strong leadership, and the ability to collaborate and listen are also crucial.”

The survey came with key themes – including strong decision-making skills, inclusivity and fairness, community and staff support, effective communication and transparency, strong leadership and accountability, and proactive and visionary thinking.

Talcott and the BOE thanked the

Newfield community for its feedback, and will look forward to the questions for candidates in April.

A conjoined statement by Talcott and Newfield BOE said, “The board is dedicated to incorporating community insights into the search for the next superintendent and ensuring that stakeholders are kept up-to-date throughout this process.”

The anticipated appointment of a new superintendent will be sometime in the spring. Newfield CSD’s new superintendent is slated to begin July 1.

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

In brief:

Music bingo at the library on March 13

The Newfield Public Library will be holding a music bingo event on Thurs., March 13 at 6 p.m.

The event will work like regular bingo but, instead of letters and numbers, the host DJ plays one-minute clips of popular songs from the 1970s, 80s and 90s.

The participants mark the songs off on their cards.

For more information visit newfieldpubliclibrary.org, email newfieldlibrary@gmail.com or call 607-564-3594.

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This striking 1911 Craftsman-style home, brimming with character inside and out, sits in Cornell Heights on the edge of Cornell Campus and Cayuga Heights. Its unique chalet-like design blends classic exterior charm with warm interior details, including exposed beam ceilings, rich wood trim, wood floors, French doors, and a cozy gathering nook with built-in seating centered on a fireplace. The family room, currently used as an office, features arched windows overlooking the wooded setting, complemented by bead board walls and ceilings. A quaint breakfast bump-out with built-in pantry shelving adds to the home’s charm, while the kitchen showcases stainless steel appliances, painted cabinets, solid surface counters, open shelving, and a tiled floor. A traditional wrap-around staircase leads to the upper level, where three inviting bedrooms accompany a stylish earth-tone tiled bathroom with a solid surface vanity. Second floor bonus space is a heated, year-round enclosed porch with vaulted bead board ceilings, painted wood floors, and a west-facing wall of glass offering an ideal office or reading nook. The recently built 24x24 two-car garage includes a walk-up second-floor storage space plus electric and cable connections for versatile use. The manageable yard is perfect for entertaining, pets, or picnics. High efficiency furnace, AC unit, water heater, air purification system and water softening system all installed in 2023. Conveniently located next to a TCAT bus stop and just blocks from campus, Sunset Park, Cayuga Heights Elementary, and scenic overlooks of the city and Fall Creek gorge, this home offers a rare blend of historic charm and modern comfort.



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Groton American Legion to recognize National Vietnam War Veterans Day

March 29, 1973 marked the day when the last combat troops left South Vietnam, and in March 2017, President Donald Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, officially recognizing March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day (NVWVD).



By Linda Competillo

For the first time in the Groton American Legion Carrington-Fuller Post 800's (the Legion) history, that day will be commemorated with ceremonies, displays, and food – all the result of extensive research and planning by 1st Vice-Commander Paul Koekebacker, Chaplain and Finance Officer Keith Randolph, and 2nd Vice-Commander Fred Youngs.

Randolph, who served as a machinist mate in the United States Navy from 1965 to 1972, spoke up at a recent Legion meeting when the NVWVD was mentioned, saying, "Why aren't we recognizing our Vietnam vets? Let's do something!"

Randolph recruited Koekebacker and Youngs to form a committee and the three began researching what had been done in the past around the nation, particularly by other Legion posts. What they came up with promises to be a poignant remembrance of all who served and a very educational experience for all who attend what they have planned for Saturday, March 29 in Groton.

Koekebacker, who served as a Spec 5 in the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970, said the detailed posters they discovered will form an amazing display all around the room at the Legion and will tell the story of how the war began and how it ended.

"The United States stepped in in 1965," Koekebacker said, "and this display will create a timeline that will show the impact of the war and what all branches of the military did, including the many service organizations and allies."

Youngs, who served as a sergeant in the United States Air Force 526th FIS (Fighter Interceptor Group) from 1965 to 1969, added that various ethnic groups, Native Americans, service women, the Riverine (known as the Brown Water Navy), chaplains, POWs (prisoners of

war), nurses, and many others will be represented.

"We'll also have videos playing of live action from the war and displays of memorabilia borrowed from Vietnam veterans and organizations," Randolph said.

"We don't want to forget this war. It started politically and ended politically, but the American military did their job."

1ST VICE-COMMANDER PAUL KOEKEBACKER
Groton American Legion Post 800

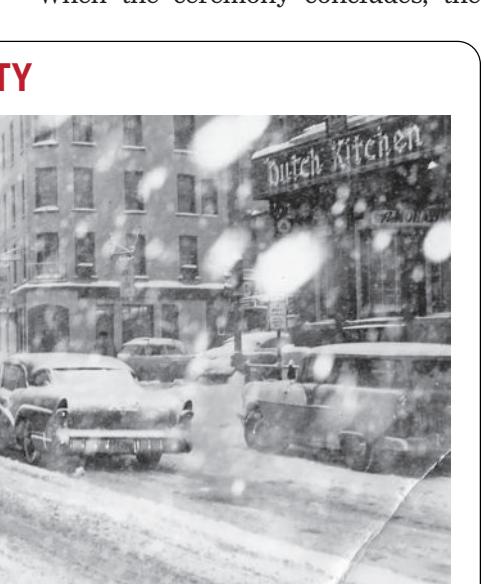
"This is all to inform the public about what took place," Koekebacker explained. "You'll learn things you haven't seen in newspapers or on TV and it will give you an idea of what it's like there. We don't want to forget this war. It started politically and ended politically, but the American military did their job."

The day will begin at 11 a.m. at the Terrence Graves Memorial on Main Street, at which Post 800 Commander Frank Heine will welcome all and recognize the dignitaries who will be present, including Groton Village Mayor Chris Neville, Tompkins County Legislator Lee Shurtleff, J.R. Clairborne, and others. Gary Watrous is scheduled to be the keynote speaker.

Watrous' remarks will be geared toward the reason for the NVWVD and a recognition of Terrance Graves – a U.S. Marine Corps Medal of Honor recipient who lived in Groton and died in February 1968 in Vietnam serving his country. Wade Landis and Thane Benson from the Moravia Veterans of Foreign Wars post will lay a wreath, followed by an honor guard 21-gun military salute.

"March 29th is a day we set aside to remember lives lost and the heroes who fought in the Vietnam war," Randolph said. "The wreath laying ceremony will give us an opportunity to thank Terrance Graves for his sacrifice, and the display will help people understand the impacts of the war and the people who fought in it."

When the ceremony concludes, the



Looking east at the 100 block of E. State Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Street in downtown Ithaca ca. 1950.

THE HISTORY CENTER
in Tompkins County



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Paul Koekebacker (left), Fred Youngs, and Keith Randall, all officers of The Groton American Legion Carrington-Fuller Post 800, are making extensive plans for a recognition of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day on Saturday, March 29, which will be open to the entire community.

Legion will be open for all to see the displays until 5 p.m. Chili, hot dogs, cookies, snacks and more will be available and all Vietnam veterans who attend will be given a commemorative lapel pin.

"People should come out and support this event," Youngs said. "Terrance Graves gave his life, and he was a member of this community, and his father was the high school principal for years. Many sons and daughters during the 60s and 70s ended up over there, and many lost their lives or came home wounded. This will be a day to remember and thank all Vietnam veterans who served in the war – even if they didn't go over there."

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 Community Cupboard Easter hams

The Groton Community Cupboard is taking orders for a limited number of Easter hams. Sign-ups begin March 2 and will conclude March 27. You must sign up in person and have utilized the pantry five times between Dec. 1, 2024

and March 15, 2025. Hams will be ready for pick-up on Monday, April 7.

Youth volleyball camp

Volleyball camp, sponsored by Groton Recreation, is designed to give young players the opportunity to improve their skills in a relaxed, fun environment. Activities include drill stations on fundamentals, games, and a variety of exciting contests. Please wear athletic clothing, knee pads, and sneakers, and bring a water bottle daily.

Camp will run weekly on Mondays from March 3 to April 7 (no sessions during spring break at Groton Jr/Sr High School gymnasium. Fifth and sixth graders meet 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., seventh and eighth graders from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Register at grotonycrecreation.com.

Trail Tune-up Day

Groton Recreation is seeking volunteers to help clean up the Groton Trail System from 9 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday, May 17. All are welcome and kids 14 and under must be accompanied by a parent. Please bring your own tools and gloves. Meet at the Groton Memorial Park pavilion on Sykes Street and stay for lunch afterward. Visit grotonycrecreation.com for details.

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GRANT

Continued from pg 1

community meeting that brought together more than 60 individuals. The insights and ideas shared during these engagements were instrumental in shaping our initial application for funding. Although we weren't selected in our first attempt, we remained determined and refused to be discouraged. In 2023, we took proactive steps by hiring Thoma Development Consultants (in Cortland) to strengthen our proposal. Our dedication paid off when we were named finalists, which motivated us to enhance our application further for 2024.

"These much-needed funds will play a key role in revitalizing the village's original business section on West Main Street, an area rich with history."

ANNA KELLES

Member, New York State Assembly

"Additionally, we secured several grants that underscore our commitment to increasing housing, improving infrastructure and fostering a vibrant downtown area. With the combined support of state and private funding, the Village

of Dryden is poised to transform into a thriving destination for new businesses and families. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Gov. Kathy Hochul for this incredible program and for recognizing the potential of the Village of Dryden. Together, we are building a brighter future for our residents and businesses."

In the announcement, the Governor's office sang the praises of Dryden, calling the village an ideal place for young families to grow and for older generations to age."

"Home to just over 2,000 residents, Dryden has developed over time as a small bedroom community to the nearby cities and universities and as an extremely high traveled and visited community," the release noted. "With median home values and rents that are affordable to all, Dryden's parks, tree-lined sidewalks and friendly neighborhoods make it a desirable small community to live in, promoting a high quality of life. Dryden seeks to reinvest in its historic downtown by continuing to support an attractive and inviting Main Street with a robust mix of shopping, dining and residential spaces to foster a high quality of life for its residents. The village will foster a welcoming and walkable downtown community where residents can live a sustainable lifestyle in friendly neighborhoods with convenient access to goods and services."

"I was thrilled to learn of this award



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

After applying two times before, the Village of Dryden recently announced that it received a NY Forward grant in the amount of \$4.5 million for improvements to downtown.

and excited for all the creative and thoughtful initiatives the Village of Dryden will invest in with this grant award," State Assemblymember Anna Kelles said. "These much-needed funds

will play a key role in revitalizing the village's original business section on West Main Street, an area rich with history. By restoring and enhancing this district, the grant will not only preserve the village's heritage, but also foster economic growth by attracting new businesses and visitors to support a vibrant walkable downtown. Additionally, these improvements will foster a strong pedestrian-friendly hub, encouraging community engagement and making Dryden an even more wel-

coming place to live, work and explore."

Details on how Dryden plans to use its state grant funding has yet to be determined.

"It is exciting to see continued investments in our downtowns, which are integral in community development," State Senator Lea Webb said. "I am thrilled to see the Village of Dryden receive this transformative funding, which will help reenergize the downtown, support long-term growth and economic prosperity."

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

CLIMATE

Continued from pg 4

"New York's law is nothing more than an unconstitutional shakedown of vital American energy industries that form the bedrock of our national economic independence. In return for keeping the lights on and fueling our manufacturing, energy producers are being targeted for destruction by the left-wing policies of New York radicals," Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican, said in a statement. "The negative impact of this unconstitutional law will extend far beyond New York, and I am proud to stand with fellow attorneys general to stop this from happening."

"I don't think it is too much to ask for corporate polluters to help pay for the damage they have caused."

LEA WEBB

Senator, New York State

New York Attorney General Letitia James, Interim New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Sean Mahar, and acting New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Commissioner Amanda Hiller are all listed as defendants in the suit.

In the lawsuit, the attorneys general and business leaders wrote that New York has set out to impose billions of dollars of liability on traditional energy producers disliked by state politicians.

"The state of New York believes it can seize control over the makeup of America's energy industry," the 76-page filing states. "These energy producers needn't operate in New York before becoming a target. And New York consumers won't bear the brunt of these crushing new costs once they're imposed. Rather, New York intends to wring funds from producers and consumers in other States to subsidize certain New-York-based 'infrastructure' projects, such as a new sewer system in New York City."

In response to the complaint, Sen. Webb said companies should pay for the impacts of their extractive and polluting actions.

"Here in the Southern Tier, we know what it is like to pay for the damage caused by historic floods and the widespread impact of the climate crisis," Webb said in a statement to Tompkins Weekly. "I don't think it is too much to ask for corporate polluters to help pay for the damage they have caused. I will be watching this court case and am confident the courts will uphold our laws here in New York."

In brief

The Lansing Town Board adopted a resolution dated Feb. 20, authorizing the use and expenditure of funds from

the town's equipment reserve fund, in an amount not to exceed \$97,500, to purchase a vacuum truck for water and

sewer purposes. The deadline to file a petition to protest the expenditure and request a referendum is March 22.

Big Shows. Intimate Venue. Unforgettable Nights.

March 5 - Adrian Vandenberg

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March 8 - Suzanne Vega

March 9 - The Travelin' McCourys

March 11 - Ana Popovic

April 3 - Popa Chubby

April 6 - CNY Songbirds: The Music of Motown

April 11 - Eilen Jewell

April 13 - The Yarbirds

April 14 - Buckethead

April 18 - EXTC - Terry Chambers & Friends

April 19 - Jethro Tull's Martin Barre

April 23 - The Aristocrats

April 25 - The Lightfoot Band



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Peggy Coleman named president and CEO of Tompkins Chamber

Peggy Coleman is taking the reins as the next president and chief executive officer of Tompkins Chamber.

The Tompkins Chamber vice president and director of Visit Ithaca for the last 8 years, Coleman had served as interim president of the organization since October 2024. Her leadership will continue to advance the Chamber's mission of fostering sustainable economic growth, advocating for its diverse membership, and enhancing quality of life in Tompkins County.

After a thorough and thoughtful search, the Tompkins Chamber Board of Directors chose Coleman from among 100 highly qualified applicants for the position.

"While we could have simply named someone to serve as the next president and chief executive officer of the Chamber, the search committee felt it was essential to live the organizational values in performing a national search for the position," said Aly Evans, Tompkins Chamber board chairperson. "The dedicated members of the committee, representing the edu-

cation, nonprofit, and large and small business sectors, through the months-long search process, ensured with the choice of Peggy, Tompkins Chamber will have a highly qualified, experienced and energetic leader."

With more than three decades of experience in economic development, tourism and community engagement, Coleman brings a wealth of knowledge and deep commitment to the values of Tompkins Chamber. She has been a driving force in advocating for local businesses, forging strong relationships with elected officials at all levels, and securing critical funding to support regional economic initiatives. During her tenure as director of Visit Ithaca, she oversaw significant growth, including a 93% increase in the CVB's budget and more than \$1 million secured in grant funding.

"Peggy's dedication to the Chamber's mission and her proven leadership make her the ideal choice to guide our organization forward," said Kelli Cartmill, who led the search committee and served as past chair-

person of the Chamber's Board of Directors. "She embodies our vision of an inclusive and vibrant economy and has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to collaboration, advocacy, and member engagement."

As President and CEO, Coleman will oversee the Chamber's strategic initiatives, economic development programs, and community partnerships, while ensuring the organization remains a steadfast advocate for its members. She will also lead efforts to advance the Chamber's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring that economic opportunities are accessible to all.

"I am honored to serve as President and CEO of the Tompkins Chamber and to continue working alongside our dedicated team, members, and partners," said Coleman. "Our Chamber plays a vital role in strengthening the local economy, supporting businesses of all sizes, and ensuring Tompkins County remains a dynamic and welcoming place to live, work, and visit. I look forward to championing our mis-



Photo provided
Peggy Coleman was recently named Tompkins Chamber president and CEO.

sion and driving meaningful progress for our community."

For more information about the Tompkins Chamber and its initiatives, visit tompkinschamber.org.

Ithaca Concert Band to present spring concert

Many have heard Count Basie's band play "April in Paris". The Ithaca Concert Band will give its rendition of "Paris in March" when it performs its traditional March concert at 4 p.m., Sunday, March 16, at Ford Hall on the Ithaca College campus.

Conductor Art Carichner has collaborated on a show with a Paris or France influence that will feature the performance of "Rhapsody in Blue" for the first time ever by the ICB. Carichner said, "The inspiration for this journey is that it is the 100th birthday of Rhapsody."

In 1924, the New York Tribune put forth a challenge "What is American Music", and this encouraged George Gershwin to compose this masterpiece. The first performance's audience included Jascha Heifetz, Victor Herbert, Sergei Rachmaninoff, John Philip Sousa and Igor Stravinsky, and was highly received.

"My own inspiration to conduct

Rhapsody is our fantastic band with great musicians," said the conductor. "The composition has many challenges, high extended ranges, numerous key changes, and many key tempo changes!"

Featured pianist with the band will be Marina Gorelaya, a professor at Cortland State, and a native of the Ukraine, where she received her training as a classical pianist and musicologist. She earned a Master's Degree at the Kharkiv National University of Art (Conservatory) and a Doctorate in Music at the Kyiv Conservatory. Carichner said, "Marina is an extremely talented pianist and experienced soloist. We are blessed to share the stage with such a great performer."

Other compositions throughout the concert will remind the audience of Paris with a definite French flavor.

The concert will open with the



Photo provided
Conductor Art Carichner leads the Ithaca Concert Band at Ford Hall. The band will perform at Ford Hall again on March 16.

playing of "The Stars Spangled Banner", as well as the Ukrainian national anthem, followed by "Zampa", an exciting overture to the opera of the same name, and written in Paris. This tune features the band's talent-

ed woodwind section.

Next on the program will be "March of the Belgian Paratroopers" written during World War I by

See BAND on pg 19

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ARTHUR WEBB - NYSLFD

SPORTS

KEY MATCHUPS: 3/8 Indoor Track & Field: NYSPHSAA Championships @ Ocean Breeze Track & Field Athletic Complex, Staten Island • 3/8 Boys Swimming & Diving: NYSPHSAA Championships @ Ithaca College • 3/8 Boys Hockey: Ithaca vs. Section V champion (NYS Regionals @ SUNY Broome Ice Rink)

Lansing indoor track & field gears up for states

Indoor track and field has long been a strong suit in Lansing, and that trend has continued this year with another successful season and a strong contingent of athletes heading to states.

By Ryan Gineo
ESPN ITHACA

In total, ten Bobcats will be participating in the state championships on March 8 at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex on Staten Island. It will be the icing on the cake in what's been an excellent postseason, which included both the boys and girls teams each finishing in third place at sectionals. For head coach Matt Scheffler, the key this year has been managing the team's health through a lightened workload.

"We don't do as much for workouts," Scheffler said. "About 20% of our practice for the week is workout, so one day a week is a really hard workout. The rest of it is just strength training and technique, things like that. Most people have stayed healthy. That was kind of the theme last year too is keeping everyone healthy, and when kids and athletes are healthy, they perform better."

"You go out there, do the best, just like it's any other meet and see where you end up."

MATT SCHEFFLER
Head Coach, Lansing Indoor Track & Field

While injuries have still popped up, the Bobcats have still managed to overcome that adversity and be able to be



Photo by John Brehm

Lansing's Nathaniel Ronsville (left) and Rowan Fox (right) are two of 10 athletes of the indoor track and field teams who are participating at states on March 8 on Staten Island. Ronsville will be part of the 4x200-meter relay team, while Fox will be competing in the 55-meter hurdles.

well-represented at states. In fact, two athletes who have qualified for states have bounced back from in-season setbacks.

Xavier Smith—who broke the school record in the triple jump and long jump this season—recovered from a pulled hamstring he suffered in January just in time for state qualifiers, and he only needed one attempt in the triple jump to punch his ticket to Staten Island.

Kristen Johnston—who also holds the school record in the long jump and triple jump—fought through an ankle

injury to make it back to states in the triple jump, finishing in third place at state qualifiers and surpassed the state-standard leap of 36 feet and one inch.

Speaking of jumping, Rowan Fox will make his first appearance at states in the 55-meter hurdles. The senior has excelled in the event all year long, winning at sectionals and placing second at state qualifiers.

"I think a big thing for him was cutting down one less step from his start to his first hurdle," Scheffler said. "His

start has always kind of been like his Achilles' heel of the hurdles. He was able to do that in the last two weeks before state qualifiers. I think that shaved off the amount of time he needed to get in that top-two finish."

Colin Tarbert is heading back to states in the pole vault. He finished third at state qualifiers, and his vault of 13 feet and six inches earlier in the year was enough to surpass the state standard. Scheffler is the pole vault-

See TRACK on pg 10

Ithaca High JV boys hoops undefeated season signals bright future

By Ryan Genio
ESPN ITHACA

It has been a challenging past couple of years for Ithaca High School boys basketball. Since the 2022-23 season where they captured the STAC title, the Little Red have a combined 6-34 record and have missed the playoffs both years. But there is plenty of room for optimism that the varsity team can turn things around in the future.

Over the past two years, the junior varsity team has a combined 36-4 record, and this past season was a remarkable one. The Little Red achieved a perfect 20-0 campaign, culminating in

a STAC championship. Their opponent in the final was a familiar one. The Little Red fell to Waverly in last year's final 58-55, but they exacted their revenge with a 55-43 victory this time around. Rahmel Mack has been their head coach during this period of dominance, and he revealed what went differently against the Wolverines to cap off an unforgettable campaign.

"Since I've been coaching, our team's focus has always been defense," Mack said. "Defense, defense, defense. No matter how poorly we were shooting because of being rattled and being overly excited, we just defended. By the time we came out [for the] second half and

everyone found their stride, we kept the separation and extended it. It was great."

The Little Red's intense focus on defense has been on show all season long. They allowed an average of just 41.6 points per game, and there were seven times where they held their opponents to under 40 points, which is difficult to do at any level. A big part of their stout defense was their rebounding, something that improved drastically as the season went on.

"[When] we came into the early season, they didn't understand how I emphasized rebounding," Mack said. "It's a significant part of defense. Defense

ain't over until we get a stop, until we secure the possession. We also became a rebounding team. It was great, and then it led to us getting more possessions for us to get hot. And then when you develop everybody that same way, no matter who you sub them, they came in with that same intensity. It was never a drop-off of defense for us this year."

Another strong suit of the Little Red was their depth. That will perhaps be the most encouraging part of the future for the varsity team, as everyone from top to bottom will be prepared for the next level.

See HOOPS on pg 10

HOOPS

Continued from pg 9

"The [reserves] know how to defend," Mack said. "They know how to score. They know how to run the actions. They know what they're doing now. It was a different thing. Every time I could put a starter in now against this guy and put two of these reserves in, it was no drop-off for Ithaca basketball anymore with that. Everyone was getting better. I think that's what made us real scary and helped us remain undefeated, because you need that consistency."

Ten of the 12 players on the Little Red are freshmen, and three of those ninth graders are likely to move up to varsity next year. Israel Mack is their floor general, and his composed nature will go a long way when he makes the step up.

"Defense ain't over until we get a stop, until we secure the possession."



Photo by Joyce Spears

The Ithaca junior varsity boys basketball team recently achieved an undefeated season. The Little Red went an unblemished 20-0 and captured the STAC title. Pictured (left to right): Israel Mack, Kole Charsky, Ozzy Nguyen, Cyahr Brooks, Oscar Sachs, Jasmir Robbins, Kaden Marzan, head coach Rahmel Mack, Kzyrus Hefner, Isaiah Bodie, Oliver Wilcox, James Daugherty, Jaxon Diemand.

RAHMEL MACK
Head Coach, Ithaca JV Basketball

"He calms the game down for us," Mack said. "He's one of our more poised players. He's our facilitator. He's our quarterback. He's a well-rounded player, and his patience helps us out a lot. He won't rush or make that rash decision. Israel's trying to find the right decision, the right play, make the right play for the team, and that's what makes them super, super, super helpful."

Jasmir Robbins is one of their flashier players, and Mack praised his growing confidence during his time on JV.

"His mid-range has gotten significantly better," Mack said. "He wasn't expecting to be doing that... And he's like, 'I can do it now.' Going into varsity when they tell them, 'Oh, something's standing there to take that charge on that left block,' he's going to skip around them, or he's going to stop and pull a mid-range, or they adjust to send a double to him. He's already looking to share the ball, so your double is not effective anymore."

Isaiah Bodie was a dual threat. Not

only was the forward their leading rebounder, he's also a threat from outside the arc, shooting more three-pointers than the guards on the team.

"He just needed to develop his defense," Mack said. "He's so used to having to not stress about it because he can score. But six feet, five inches ain't really nothing at the varsity level. At JV, it's awesome. But being a six-five stretch forward is great. His court vision is still pretty spotty, but he can handle the ball."

The lone sophomores on the team—Oscar Sachs and Ozzy Nguyen—are also expected to make the move up to varsity next year. Sachs was their small forward and has enhanced his reads and rebounding, while Nguyen continues to improve his confidence.

While the move up from junior varsity to varsity can be a daunting one, the JV team have undoubtedly displayed that they're ready to help turn the tides and restore the varsity team to its former glory.

TRACK

Continued from pg 9

ing expert in the area, having coached multiple national champions at Ithaca College before retiring in September, and he's helped Tarbert get back to his best after a challenging summer.

"During the summer practicing the vault, he kind of had a bad taste in his mouth," Scheffler said. "He wasn't getting off the ground as much as he should have, and I think that kind of got him down. But we just gradually worked back at the meets doing short

runs, short approaches. He was starting to have some success, and then he came out, he PR'd in it, and won sectionals. Now I think there's a little bit more fire in him on it."

The lone relay team participating on Staten Island will be the boys 4x200-meter relay team of Zayvion Davis, Nathaniel Ronsville, Colin Tarbert, and Andrew McMillen. The alternates are Rowan Fox, Diggy Smith, and Matt Matusz. No matter what combination will be out on the track, they're sure to put together a strong challenge.

"We have a group of guys that are pretty much similar on time," Scheff-

ler said. "There's not that significant difference in it. The big thing comes down to when you have that many guys that could all be in it is who actually works best together with handoffs and things like that. Some guys just don't mesh on their timing with that, despite how many times you practice it. There's a lot of factors that come into that."

Kathleen Jackson rounds out the Bobcat lineup at states, being named as an alternate in the intersectional relay. Jackson was the third Bobcat to win a sectional title, doing so in the 3,000-meter run.

The Bobcats have put in all the hard work to get to the final stage of the season, aided by Scheffler and longtime assistant coach Doug Smith. They'll be sure to leave it all out on the track and potentially come home with a state title in hand.

"It's not like a team sport where you go out and you can do something to stop your competitor from doing better than you," Scheffler said. "It's an individual thing where you go out and you're the only one out there. You can only do your best. You go out there, do the best, just like it's any other meet and see where you end up."

City of Ithaca Receives LEED for Cities Gold Certification

The City of Ithaca was awarded LEED for Cities Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, demonstrating a measurable achievement of community-wide sustainability across a variety of focus areas. This certification is proof of the hard work and leadership happening under the Ithaca Green New Deal that is creating a culture of sustainability and raising the standard of living within the city.

Expanding on the LEED for buildings rating system, LEED for Cities and Communities helps local leaders measure and manage progress in community conditions, in pursuit of a more sustainable, resilient and equitable future. Through the certification program, cities and communities create and operationalize responsible, sustainable and specific plans for natural systems, energy, water, waste, transportation, resilience, equity, and many other factors that contribute to quality of life.

The City of Ithaca achieved LEED certification for implementing practical and measurable strategies and solutions aimed at improving sustainability

and the standard of living for residents. LEED is designed to help buildings, communities and cities achieve high performance in key areas of social, economic and environmental sustainability.

City of Ithaca Mayor Robert Cantelmo said, "the City of Ithaca has been a leader in sustainability for many years, and this award is proof that our community's hard work and innovative approaches are paying off. We are proud to be a LEED Gold certified city."

According to the LEED metrics, the City performed best in the Energy & GHG Emissions category and received high marks in the Transportation & Land Use and Water Efficiency categories. According to City Manager Deb Mohlenhoff, "this program is an excellent example of how the City performs as an organization and as a system of networks, while also highlighting areas

for improvement in the future. We are excited to keep working towards a more sustainable future in our city. Kudos to our staff and partners for their work to achieve this certification and make our city healthier and greener."

"The work of cities and communities such as the City of Ithaca is a driving force in ensuring a more sustainable future for all," said Peter Templeton, president and CEO, USGBC. "Local governments that achieve LEED certification are lowering carbon emissions, creating a healthier environment and striving to improve the quality of life for their residents. Ithaca is setting a standard for what it means to be a high performer, and their efforts and achievements should be an example for all."

The City of Ithaca joins a global network of more than 300 certified cities and communities.

WEDNESDAY 3/5

Lansing High School musical "Grease"

March 5 @ 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm \$5
Lansing High School Musical Theater Club will perform the musical "Grease" on March 5th thru March 8th in the Lansing Middle School Auditorium. Performances are at 6:30pm March 5th and 6th and 7:00pm March 7th and 8th. Tickets are \$5 March 5th and \$10 March 6th thru 8th. Tickets can be purchased in advance at <https://ltapa.ticketleap.com/grease/> only from 10AM February 25th until 8PM March 4th (+service fee). Starting March 5th ALL tickets must be purchased in the lobby of the middle school auditorium in the evenings of the performances. Email any questions to LTAPA@lcisd.k12.ny.us. Come and enjoy an evening of great singing, dancing and acting by these very talented high school students.

Lansing Middle School Auditorium 6 Ludlowville Rd Lansing, 14882



Midday Music in Lincoln: "Human and Machine"

March 6 @ 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Free
Midday Music in Lincoln: "Human and Machine," featuring works by Marianthi Papalexandri-Alexandri, performed by guest percussionist Aiyun Huang, followed by a talk with the composer. Lincoln Hall 256 Feeney Wy Ithaca, 14853

THURSDAY 3/6



2025 Invitational Exhibit

March 6 @ 12:00 pm - March 31 @ 5:00 pm Free
The State of the Art Gallery is honored to present the 2025 Invitational Exhibit, showcasing the work of SIX artists: Michael Bogin, Nicholas Daniluk, Fernando Llosa, Lin Price, Steven Skopik, Jacob Van Langeveld. Media include drawing, painting, printmaking, and photography.

The show will run from March 6-30. An opening reception will be held on Friday, March 7, 5-8 pm. Work will be viewable at the gallery and as well as online.

Regular hours Thursday-Sunday 12-5 pm. 120 W State St. Curbside parking and ADA accessibility. 607-277-1626. Made possible in part with funds from the NYS Council on the Arts, administered by the Community Arts Partnership.

State of the Art Gallery Ithaca, NY
120 W State St #2 Ithaca, 14850



Brian V. Sengdala, baritone and Ariel Mo, piano

March 6 @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Free
Brian V. Sengdala, baritone & Ariel Mo, piano, in recital. Whither the wanderer's call? Wherefore their journey? Consider these questions through the telling of a vagabond's romantic tale of loves and dreams with two song cycles: Robert Schumann's Liederkreis Op. 24, with text by Heinrich Heine, and Ralph Vaughan Williams' Songs of Travel, with text by Robert Louis Stevenson. Sage Chapel 147 Ho Plaza Ithaca, 14853

FRIDAY 3/7



Classic Movie Night: Casablanca!

March 7 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Free
Come to the Newfield Public Library for a free classic movie and popcorn! Academy Award winners Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman light up the screen in one of the most enduring romances in movie history—Casablanca. Rick Blaine (Bogart) owns a nightclub in Vichy-controlled Casablanca, frequented by refugees desperate to escape German domination. Despite the ever-present human misery, Rick manages to remain uninvolved in World War II now raging across Europe and Northern Africa. But all that changes when Ilsa Lund (Bergman) walks through the front door of Rick's club—Rick must now choose between a life with the woman he loves and becoming the hero that both she and the world need. Rated PG for mild violence

Newfield Public Library
198 Main St Newfield, NY, 14867



Ithaca Shakespeare Company's "The Winter's Tale"

March 7 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
The Ithaca Shakespeare Company will perform Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale at the Kitchen Theatre March 7-16, 2025. The Winter's Tale is one of Shakespeare's late masterpieces, blending comedy, tragedy, pastoral, and romance into a richly layered whole. A jealous king believes he has been betrayed by his wife and his oldest friend. His actions set off a chain of events that unfold over sixteen years and two countries. There is a trial, a striking moment of "magic," music and dance, the voice of Time itself, and the most (in) famous stage direction in all of Shakespeare.

The Winter's Tale will be performed March 7-8 and 12-15, 2025 at 7 pm, and March 9 and 16 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20-30 for regular performances and \$15 for discount night on Wednesday, March 12. Seating is limited. Tickets are available at <https://ithacashakespeare.ludus.com/>. Don't miss ISC's return to winter theatre and the next play in our Completing the Canon project!

Kitchen Theatre Company
417 W. State / W. MLK, Jr. Street Ithaca, NY, 14850

SATURDAY 3/8



NEWFIELD LIONS CLUB BREAKFAST

SATURDAY – MARCH 8, 2025
7:30 – 10:00 am

ALL YOU CAN EAT

Newfield Fire Hall
77 Main Street
Newfield

Breakfast Includes:

Scrambled Eggs
Pancakes

French Toast
Sausage

Home Fries

Toast

Coffee/Teas/ Juices/Milk

Prices:
Adults: \$11.00



Community Seed Swap

March 8 @ 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Free
Join us for a community seed swap and dream about your spring garden. Whether you're new to growing or an experienced gardener looking for new varieties, you're sure to find something that fits your planting needs. We'll also have activities and information about gardening, starting seeds, and how to plan your garden. All ages are welcome! To participate in the seed swap, please bring viable seeds to add to our bounty. Viable seeds are generally no more than 5 years old.

Suggested donation of \$5/person if you do not bring seeds. No registration needed.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County 615 Willow Ave Ithaca, 14850



Cornell Chorus' Empowerment Through Music Festival

March 8 @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Free
Join the Cornell University Chorus for their annual Empowerment through Music festival. This year, we are thrilled to welcome Dr. Erica Washburn, Director of Choral Activities at the New England Conservatory of Music, who will lead a masterclass in conducting. Five talented student conductors will take the podium, with the Chorus serving as the lab choir for this engaging session on gesture, rehearsal technique, vocal pedagogy, and more. The masterclass will run from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

in Lincoln B20. Later, at 7:30 p.m., don't miss a special concert at Sage Chapel, showcasing the work of the student conductors. Both events are free and open to the public.

Sage Chapel 147 Ho Plaza Ithaca, 14853

SUNDAY 3/9



Cornell Chamber Orchestra Concert

March 9 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Free
Dance and folk traditions are at the heart of this vibrant concert by the Cornell Chamber Orchestra. The program showcases Bartók's Romanian Folk Dances, Vivian Fung's Pizzicato, and Vaughan Williams' Concerto Grosso, performed in collaboration with the Ithaca High School Chamber Orchestra. Ethan Wolff, this year's concerto competition winner in the Chamber Orchestra category, takes the spotlight as soloist in Lars-Erik Larsson's lyrical and spirited Trombone Concertino.

Bailey Hall 230 Garden Ave Ithaca, 14850

OJI:SDA' Sustainable Indigenous Futures – Volunteer Medicinal Tea Blending (Plant Care Program)

March 9 @ 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm Free
OJI:SDA' Sustainable Indigenous Futures will be hosting tea blending sessions on the Sundays of March 9th and March 16th, 4pm-6:30pm, at the Ithaca Soil Factory! We will be creating emotional support tea mixes, to be shared with Indigenous communities in need and support the OJI:SDA' Indigenous Plant Care Fellow program, which promotes the re-establishment of ancestral relationships with plant medicine. Those who join will have the opportunity to learn more about our Plant Care Program and the medicinal plants we use. Register for the tea blending session using the event website link (not required, but appreciated)!

Ithaca Soil Factory
142 Ithaca Beer Dr, Ithaca, NY 14850 Ithaca, 14850

TUESDAY 3/11



Annette Richards, organ recital

March 11 @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Free
Annette Richards, organ recital. "Rrrrrrrr" Mauricio Kagel's Rrrrrr suite, plus Radek Reincken, and other Baroque "rrrrr's".

Anabel Taylor Chapel
548 College Ave Ithaca, 14850



To submit your own event visit:
[tompkinsweekly.com/
event-submission/](http://tompkinsweekly.com/event-submission/)

Activities

HOROSCOPE

Week of
March 2 to 8, 2025

ARIES

You'll come up with great ideas and innovative proposals this week. Your plans may change a few times based on your mood. This could irritate some people around you.

TAURUS

Amid a chaotic situation, brilliant ideas often emerge. If you're feeling overwhelmed, a second cup of coffee might be just the boost of energy you need to accomplish great things.

GEMINI

After a particularly stressful period, taking a step back and indulging in some well-deserved rest is important. This break will help you recharge your batteries and feel refreshed.

CANCER

You'll put in a considerable amount of overtime at work this week. You'll also enjoy relaxing moments with family and friends and participate in enriching activities together.

LEO

A trip or a romantic getaway will lift your spirits. You'll fully embrace this blissful experience. The idea of moving abroad or going on an adventure will take shape in your mind.

VIRGO

Change will come naturally to you this week. Choose your friends wisely to reduce stress in your life. You'll take a more spiritual approach to life, which will improve your well-being and help you feel more aligned with your deepest desires.

LIBRA

You'll have strong emotions this week. Be mindful about putting yourself in a position where you're forced to make a big decision all alone. This could lead to tough criticism that may be hard to handle.

SCORPIO

You'll use your strong sense of determination to carve out your own place in the professional world. This approach could open the door to exciting opportunities for travel and cultural experiences.

SAGITTARIUS

You'll stand out among your friends and colleagues. These individuals will be ready to support the big changes you're making, including those in your personal life.

CAPRICORN

For some people, spring break means relaxation. However, if a crowd of visitors arrives at your home, they may take liberties and leave you feeling solely responsible for putting things back in order. Fortunately, you'll still have a great time.

AQUARIUS

Trust your instincts—they're your best guide! Don't let yourself be influenced by those who think they know everything. Believe in your own abilities. Someone close to you might inadvertently hold you back.

PISCES

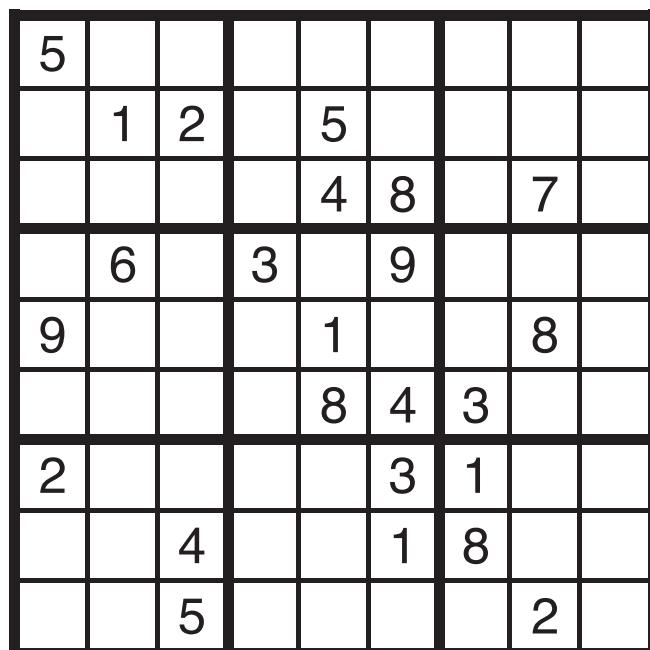
Your work will provide you with stability, financial independence and travel opportunities. Be careful not to exceed the speed limit when driving this week.

COMICS

By Jack Young



Sudoku



RECIPE OF THE WEEK



CRISPY BUTTERMILK CHICKEN TENDERS

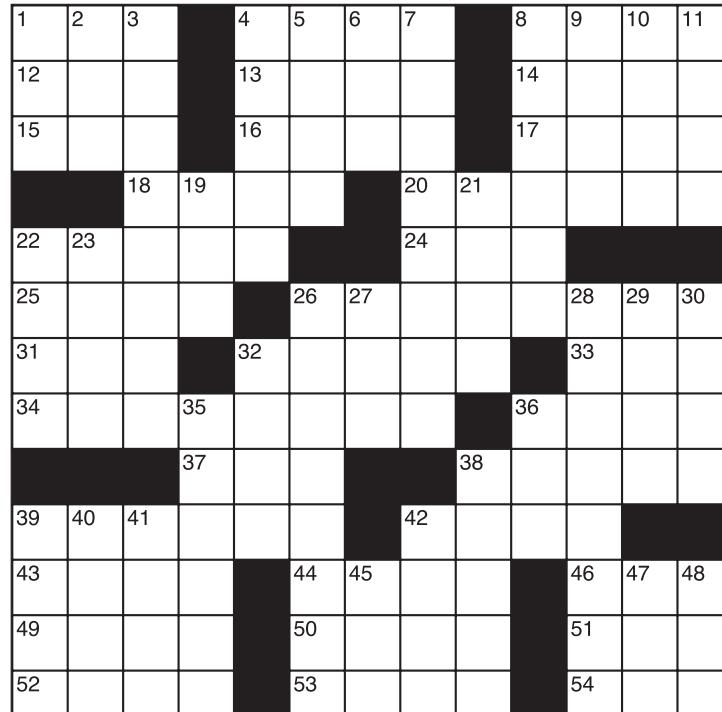
Ingredients:

- 1 lb chicken tenders
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper (optional)
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp onion powder
- Vegetable oil for frying
- 1 tsp paprika

Directions:

1. Marinate the Chicken: Soak chicken tenders in buttermilk for at least 30 minutes (or overnight for extra tenderness).
2. Prepare Coating: In one bowl, whisk the egg. In another, mix flour, panko, garlic powder, onion powder, paprika, salt, pepper, and cayenne.
3. Coat the Tenders: Remove chicken from buttermilk, dip in egg, then coat evenly in the flour mixture.
4. Fry to Perfection: Heat oil in a deep pan to 350°F. Fry tenders for 3-4 minutes per side until golden brown and cooked through.
5. Serve: Drain on paper towels and serve hot with your favorite dipping sauces!

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Boring tool
- 26. Climbing flower: 2 wds.
- 4. Store
- 31. "____ the season..."
- 8. Little devils
- 32. Celestial bodies
- 12. Asian sauce source
- 33. Film critic Reed
- 13. Perceive sound
- 34. Height above sea level
- 14. Capture
- 36. Bridge charge
- 15. Feminine pronoun
- 37. Rouge color
- 16. Feed the pot
- 38. Old hat
- 17. Penalty
- 39. Salary
- 18. Ailments
- 40. Canvas cover
- 20. Whimpered
- 43. Colorful sign
- 22. Transfer sticker
- 44. Lunch hour
- 24. Small hotel
- 46. Easter edible
- 25. Anxious

DOWN

- 1. Fire residue
- 22. Computer input
- 2. Suffering
- 23. Sermon topic
- 3. Ira Gershwin, famously
- 26. Pupils
- 4. "____ We Dance?"
- 27. Bundle of bills
- 5. Chicks' mothers
- 28. Possibility
- 6. Grain
- 29. Snaky swimmers
- 7. Movie opening
- 30. Automobile part
- 8. Baby
- 32. Derive
- 9. Leading
- 35. Did a laundry chore
- 10. Yearn for intensely
- 36. Sticky roofing material
- 11. Winter coaster
- 38. Violet variety
- 19. Young fellow
- 39. Ancient Peruvian
- 21. Change for a five

MORE CARS! LOWER PRICES! SIMMONS-ROCKWELL



SCAN WITH MOBILE DEVICE
TO FIND YOUR NEW CAR!

Judith Hubbard announces bid for county legislature - District 5

Ithaca local Dr. Judith Hubbard recently announced her campaign for Tompkins County Legislature - District 5, which encompasses parts of Fall Creek, Cornell Heights, and Cornell's campus. Hubbard, a Democrat, would fill one of two new seats that were added to the county legislature during the redistricting process in 2022 to be adopted in 2026.

Hubbard is jumping into the race as Tompkins County faces historic cuts to resources and programs and brazen attacks against the values the community holds dear. She is ready to provide strong leadership to protect the people and institutions here - including immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, our schools, nonprofits, and social services.

"Many Tompkins County residents are dealing with unprecedent uncertainty about their lives and livelihoods," said Hubbard. "The increasingly unpredictable political environment will have real impacts for many people who live and work here. We need proactive leadership to help ensure that our community stays resilient and can even thrive during trying times."

Hubbard brings a data-focused approach to problem solving. For example, she has proposed studying the county's property assessment strategy to ensure it does not systematically shift the tax burden onto those who can least afford it. She says that as a county legislator, she would work to ensure that the property assessment process is both transparent and fair, and that the ultimate impacts of the process are clear.

Said Hubbard, "As families and governments face new financial stresses, we need to ensure that funding for our critical services is resilient, dependable, and fair. People deserve to know whether they are picking up more of the bill than they were before - and why."

As an Earth scientist, Hubbard understands the implications of climate change for the future of Tompkins County. She is committed to supporting common-sense solutions that balance environmental protection and climate impacts with the needs of local communities.

"Our beautiful natural environment is one of Tompkins County's greatest assets, and we need to work

carefully to steward it for future generations," said Hubbard. "While we can certainly reduce our contributions to global change, we also need to be increasingly vigilant about local environmental issues like invasive species, pollution, and the impacts of development. We can also look for new opportunities for economic growth that align with our environmental values."

Hubbard attended Ithaca City Schools from K-12 before earning a BS at Caltech and a PhD in geology from Harvard. She then spent ten years as an Assistant Professor at the Earth Observatory of Singapore, where she studied the earthquakes and related hazards that impact vulnerable populations across Southeast Asia. She now lives on University Avenue with her husband and three children. Hubbard and her husband together write the popular Substack *Earthquake Insights*, which is aimed at helping people around the world understand the power, beauty, and danger of the Earth beneath their feet. When Hubbard is not writing about earthquakes, you might find her at the Fall Creek playground with



Photo provided

Judith Hubbard has announced that she is running for Tompkins County Legislature in District 5.

her children, browsing the shelves at the public library, or hiking with her family in one of Tompkins County's many natural areas.

The Democratic Primary Election is on June 24, 2025. The General Election will be held on November 4, 2025.

Tom Knipe announces campaign for Ulysses Town Board

Longtime county resident and local planning and economic development professional Tom Knipe has announced that he is running in the June 24th Democratic primary for Ulysses Town Board.

Knipe states: "My wife Mary Grover and I and our three kids planted our roots on the Black Diamond Trail in the Town of Ulysses in 2023. I'm running for Ulysses Town Board because I love this community and I want to give back. There are important issues and opportunities facing Ulysses and I think my experience in planning, economic development, and public service prepares me to make meaningful contributions in a policy-making role for the Town."

Knipe has spent the past 14 years in local government and economic

development as the County tourism program director from 2011 to 2018 and as economic development director for the City of Ithaca for the past seven years. He has helped build many local programs and institutions, from co-founding Bike Walk Tompkins, Shared Kitchen Ithaca, and the Ithaca Downtown Conference Center, to many active transportation, arts and culture, tourism, and economic development initiatives.

Knipe's community involvement includes service on local boards, including as the past chair of the Susan Christopherson Center for Community Planning and Tompkins County parks and trails network.

Knipe says he is ready to serve Ulysses with a focus on:

- Transparent community-driven decision making and responsible budgeting
- Smart growth, housing, and preservation of character
- Support for community treasures (library, recreation, parks and trails, etc)
- Environmental stewardship and thoughtful economic development
- Collaboration and robust community partnerships
- Inclusive community

Tom enjoys hiking and biking and is an Adirondack winter 46er, musician, writer, gardener and educator. His diverse professional experiences include work as a high school English teacher in Japan and as a not-for-profit director in Portland, Oregon.



Photo provided

Tom Knipe, local planning and economic development professional, has announced that he is running in the June 24th Democratic primary for Ulysses Town Board.

Planning professor assumes role as TCAT's newest board member

The TCAT Board of Directors this recently welcomed a new board member, Nicholas Klein, a Fall Creek resident, and Cornell University city and regional planning professor with vast expertise in public transportation.

Klein was nominated to the nine-member TCAT Board by Ithaca Mayor Robert Cantelmo in January and later recommended to the board by the Ithaca Common Council on Feb. 5. The city is a TCAT local funder along with Tompkins County and Cornell University, each of which are entitled to recommend three people to the board. TCAT directors, in turn, must then elect nominees to the board as they did with Klein in a unanimous vote during a special meeting earlier this week.

"I am excited and honored to be able to serve the City of Ithaca on the TCAT Board of Directors. As a longtime rider and Ithaca resident, I look forward

to working with the other board members and TCAT staff to help improve public transportation in Tompkins County and increase ridership," Klein said today before serving at his first regularly scheduled board meeting.

No stranger to TCAT, Klein's scholarly research has delved deeply into public transportation issues on a national scale, but he has also paid close attention to his local transit agency both to the benefit of TCAT staff and his students. During his past eight years as a Cornell faculty member, Klein has frequently engaged with TCAT service planners on various projects and has brought his students to TCAT for tours and meetings with staff to help them understand the practical concerns of a transit agency.

Before becoming a professor, Klein was also in Ithaca more than a quarter of a century ago as a student at Cornell, where in 2001 he earned a

Bachelor of Science degree in operations, research, and industrial engineering. He then went on to earn a master's in urban spatial analytics at the University of Pennsylvania, and a Ph.D. in urban planning and public policy at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Klein also served as a visiting professor at the Pratt Institute, Rutgers, and Temple and Columbia universities.

The TCAT board reorganized at the end of 2024, which included the retirement of longtime transportation advocate Jennifer Dotson. Dotson had served on the board at the recommendation of the city for 17 years and was in rotation to become its 2025 chair. Former Ithaca Mayor Laura Lewis served on the TCAT board since 2019, also at the recommendation of the city, with her most recent term expiring at the end of 2024. During the reorganization, Lewis assumed Dotson's re-



Photo provided

Nicholas Klein was recently welcomed to the TCAT Board of Directors.

maining one-year term and took over the role as chairperson, thus leaving a full-term vacancy open for a city recommendation.

Cover story

He said Milder crunched the numbers, and Ithaca's trade area, which is meant to define where the city gets most of its retail sales, is about 133,000 people.

"Not large," Berne said. As a basis of comparison, Syracuse's metro area is about 663,000, and Binghamton's is 248,000.

In addition to the lack of freeway access, Ithaca lives in the shadow of one of the largest malls in the United States, Destiny USA, and Berne said this means a retailer looking to open a store in central New York would have to choose Ithaca over the mall. "From the perspective of this retailer, their choice is rather predictable," he said.

Finally, Berne said, Ithaca holds a reputation as a liberal college town when it comes to large national brands. "That implies certain political complications that they wouldn't necessarily have to deal with elsewhere," Berne said. "I'm not saying that's good or bad. I'm just saying that's how they would see it."

The Commons: a set of challenges to overcome

"It's vulnerable, put bluntly," Berne said of Ithaca's pedestrian plaza.

The Commons has much potential but does face some challenges, Berne told Tompkins Weekly after the presentation.

"It does underwhelm," he said, "and can be especially grim in the winter months, but that can be a function of the weather, obviously."

Berne's research shows that the average number of visits per day to the Commons is about 4,400. "It's not nothing, but it's modest," he said. "It varies monthly in a feast or famine fashion."

Pedestrian malls were built all across the country during the same era when the Commons was constructed in 1974, opening in 1975, to varying levels of success.

"There wasn't much that was working in cities and downtowns at that time, and the pedestrian mall was asked to do something that was too steep of a climb," said Berne.

There is potential in Ithaca's huge visitor and student population. "It can be overcome, theoretically," he said of the Commons lack of visibility from a major thoroughway, "but you have to do everything else right. Even in the best of circumstances, it's not easy."

"It really puts a lot of the onus on the merchant, who has to be capable of building the Commons as a destination," Berne said, adding that right now, the Commons is due for a change.

"One stakeholder described it as having no funk," Berne said during his presentation. "That's quite an insult to a community like this, which values funk."

"It's poorly programmed and activated," he said. "There's really not much to do or watch other people do."

Downtown Ithaca also suffers from a lack of dilution to tone down its perceived negative aspects, Berne said.

"There are some social issues that have come up, but in a lot of places, those same social issues exist," he said. "It's just that here they're not diluted by other things existing."

"There are districts with the same amount if not more loitering, but you don't notice it much because your attention is distracted by more things that are interesting," Berne explained after the presentation. "When less going on, those social issues are going to leap out at you a lot more."

"Putting the supportive housing in Asteri was an odd choice, I'll be blunt, because that's just adding, not diluting," Berne said of the new housing units for previously unhoused people in Asteri, the new apartment building located next to the Ithaca Downtown Conference Center.

But, he added, most visitors don't view the Commons in a negative light; that is, at least not until they talk to people who live in the area.

"Local Ithacans are downtown's worst ambassadors," Berne said. "When your locals are trashing the Commons and you're a visitor, it certainly tears away any of the luster it might have had."

The retailers on the Commons that are most likely to survive and thrive are the ones that can expand their skills beyond their traditional brick and mortar retail space.

Rohrer said retailers that do really well over time are the ones that are constantly able to pivot.

"They're reading the trends of what's going on," she said, citing Megan Vidler, owner of Home Green Home, as an example.

"There are only so many environmentally friendly mattresses you can sell; they are made to last a long time," said Rohrer. Given that challenge, Vidler pivoted to another product, and Rohrer said it has been a success.

"Their exotic plants business is going gangbusters," she said.

Collegetown underperforms

As a college town, Ithaca underperforms in terms of retail, Berne said, particularly in the area of specialty shopping.

"Yes, it has the big and the medium boxes like Target and Old Navy. I'm not talking about those," Berne said. "I'm talking about smaller apparel, variety stores that you often find in university town settings, even ones with far fewer students."

And that suggests opportunity, Berne said.

A prominent population of "yupsters"

Of the 61,000 people in the central greater Ithaca area, 14,000 are aged 55 and over, which is about 45% of the non-students.

"That's one of the reasons you see pricey gourmet restaurants in downtown," Berne said. He calls this demographic "yupsters," which are "highly educated, well-off, baby boomers and Gen Xers who celebrate the artist and cerebral life, at least in certain manifestations."

They enjoy traditional fine dining, wine bars, bookstores, and arts and crafts retailers.

"They might shop, if they have money," and enjoy reading the New Yorker and shopping the clothing brand Eileen Fisher, Berne said.

"Better exploiting these sorts of psychographic features can enable us to transcend some of the limitations I described before," Berne said.

More artsy than locals may think

"Ithaca is much more of an arts town than it's marketed to be," Berne said.

It was ranked the second-most vibrant arts town amongst medium-sized communities in the country, according to SMU DataArts rankings, only below Santa Fé, New Mexico, based on the number of independent artists, the number of arts businesses, and other

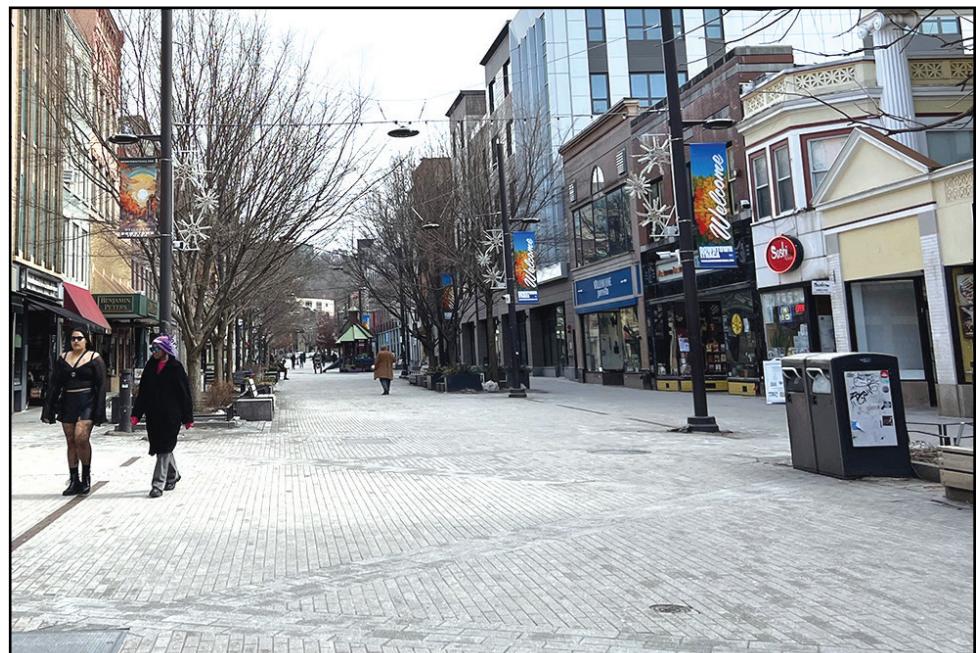


Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

The Commons in downtown Ithaca on a recent weekday morning.

criteria.

"They form what David [Milder] is describing as an arts archipelago," Berne said. "It's not concentrated in any one neighborhood or district, but rather in clusters of art production and sales that are arrayed around the region, like a group of islands, each with its own strengths or roles as part of a larger ecosystem."

Even though Ithaca has the Ithaca Farmers Market, gallery night, artists co-ops and multiple downtown art shops, it is not being aggressively marketed as a hub for art, according to.

"We see that as an opportunity," Berne said. "It is there to be tapped."

One point that Berne said he often comes back to again and again when giving presentations is that niches, like the Ithaca art niche, tend to grow exponentially.

"If you invest more in them, you get more than an equal return," he said. "That's because the presence of, say, the arts, is a magnet to attract more artists to live, work and sell in Ithaca. It reinforces Ithaca as a worthy arts destination. If you have something already in certain categories, you want to double down on it because the more selection there is, the more variety there is within that niche, the reach grows disproportionately."

At Handwork one recent morning, photographer Jennifer Byrd Rubacky and fiber artist Veronica Guiry were working behind the counter as part of their membership to the artists' co-op that owns the longstanding art store on State Street across from the Commons.

"I feel like I've gotten a lot of exposure.

It's been welcoming," said Rubacky, who started showing her work on consignment in 2022 and became a member in 2023.

"I've learned a lot by being around other artists and members," she said.

Guiry, who has been a member of Handwork since 2007, said she estimates that the majority of sales are generated by people from out of town. "Student weekends are a lot of fun," as are alumni weekends, she said.

David Kingsbury of Turtle Island Pottery, who has been selling his wares at Handwork for 40 years, said the community has been very supportive of artists. He said that if there is one simple thing that downtown merchants could do to improve the downtown retail scene, it would be to stay open later, an idea that he tried to generate interest in among the storeowners about 20 years ago that never gained traction.

"I vacation in small towns in Massachusetts, and they are just crawling with tourists in the evening," Kingsbury said. "What do people do after their dinner? Considering how the tourist industry is growing in this area, I don't know why more merchants don't take advantage of it."

Vintage and consignment shops are two types of stores that long ago shed their stigma as a retail category and very much fit with the sensibilities of Ithacans, he added. "Again," he said, "they thrive on scale."

Regardless of the type of store, retailers downtown need to be of a high caliber to succeed long term, said Berne.

"The businesses on the Commons have to be perfect," he said. "They have very little margin for error."

SMALL BUSINESS & HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE

BAILEY PLACE INSURANCE

Ithaca - Dryden - Cortland

BaileyPlace.com
607-319-0094

FL FINGER LAKES FIRE & CASUALTY COMPANY INSURERS SINCE 1876

Measles outbreaks happen and will likely happen again

The staff of Whole Health of Tompkins County is grieved by the death of a child from measles in Texas which was reported on Feb. 26. Unfortunately, it is unlikely to be the last.

Besides being among the most contagious diseases in the world it is amongst the most dangerous. For ev-

ery 100 persons infected in Texas, (and at this date about 124 are known to be) more than 20 will be hospitalized for serious complications. If one is under 5 years old, that number rises to more than 40 for every 100 infected.

From recent experience we know that three to four persons die for every

100 infected. Sadly, the child who died recently is likely to be joined by several others.

Measles is eminently preventable. The vaccine is highly effective and safe. It is available from your practitioner, or from your local health department if you are unable to obtain it

elsewhere.

If you are unprotected, don't take the risk. Measles travels as fast as an infected traveler can fly on a plane. It has happened in the past and will again.

-William Klepack, MD, Medical Director for Public Health for Tompkins County Whole Health

Russia v. USA

I think this is a good time to explore some of the positive advantages America has over Russia.

Russia has a cruel dictator who kills and imprisons his opponents.

America has a democracy. We have (or had) an independent justice department and rule of law to prevent one person from taking power.

Our Presidents have never been allowed to fire all the military brass that might not yield to illegal orders to execute opponents.

Russia has state media. It is difficult to spread opposing views to Putin's.

America has (or had) a free press. Trump pushes hard against any media that disagrees with him and no longer allows AP and Reuters in the press pool. This is a form of blackmail to force them to comply with him. Though Russian State media is welcome into the oval office.

Russian citizens have no guarantees of civil or individual rights.

Americans have a Constitution that guarantees freedoms and equality. We have a system of checks and balances. Though these rights only exist if someone enforces them. For that we would

need an independent judiciary, a Congress willing to stand up for the rule of law and an independent justice department. Already we see attacks on individual rights, equal treatment, and the right of a woman to bodily autonomy.

In Russia the chosen oligarchs pay Putin and Putin rewards them with contracts and business.

In America we had established a system to prevent elected officials from enriching themselves. Companies bid for contracts and business with the government. Except, Musk just cancelled a contract with Verizon and

gave it to his own company.

The only people who prosper in Russia are oligarchs and crime mobs.

We see in America the uber rich giving themselves tax breaks and advantages at the expense of the poor and middle class. They are cutting medicare, medicaid, social security, and SNAP.

Trump wants to be a Putin and turn America into Russia. He is well on his way to doing this. The question is will Americans let him.

-Lori Gardner, Groton

FLAG

Continued from pg 3

out these glaciers we wouldn't have these beautiful lakes, and Ithaca's geological history deserves to be represented on the flag."

"If somebody comes along with a way better design, let's use that one," Anderson said. "I want to

be an activist for this, just get the word out that Ithaca doesn't have a flag, and we need one."

The civic engineering major made a large version of the flag with help from fellow Clarkson student Nicole Wing, who lent her sewing skills to the project in exchange for keeping any extra fabric.

Anderson pointed out that Rochester has a flag – a crane above

three crescents with blue, gold and white stripes. Syracuse also boasts a city flag. In fact, it recently changed its flag from its city seal to an orange six-pointed star that symbolizes the Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee and the six historical names by which Syracuse has officially been known. The Syracuse Common Council adopted the new design in 2023.

Among the concerns Anderson identified in his proposal are that Trumansburg residents might not like to see Taughannock Falls

co-opted for the symbol of Ithaca.

Another foreseen criticism: That the design is too simple. "Flags are meant to be simplistic. Having too much detail prevents the flag from being easily drawable from memory," Anderson said in defense of his design, adding, "If necessary, more details could be added to the flag if deemed too simple."

In the end, Anderson hopes that his grassroots campaign will result in a symbol all Ithacans can be proud of, as "a great city deserves a great flag."

Obituaries

Celebrating Lives, Honoring Memories

RECENT DEATH NOTICES

| Name: | Age: | Town, State: | Death Date: | Arrangements: |
|-------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Frederick Engelmann | 76 | - | Mar-1 | Zirbel Funeral Home |
| Douglas C Hislop | 88 | - | Mar-1 | Perkins Funeral Home |
| Kimberly Anne Sutfin | 60 | Freeville, NY | Feb-28 | Perkins Funeral Home |
| Aiden (Ehlert) Payne | 90 | Dryden, NY | Feb-28 | Perkins Funeral Home |
| Scott Fairbank | 53 | Dryden, NY | Feb-27 | CNY Cremation Service |
| Sharon Lee Thompson | 84 | Ovid & Odessa, NY | Feb-27 | Ness-Sibley Funeral Home |
| Jean Leader | 89 | - | Feb-27 | CNY Cremation Service |
| Lillian Robbins | 101 | Brooktondale, NY | Feb-27 | Perkins Funeral Home |
| Joe Burns | 83 | - | Feb-26 | Bangs Funeral Home |
| Timothy D. Grove | 72 | Trumansburg, NY | Feb-24 | Ness-Sibley Funeral Home |
| Charles L. Mason | 80 | Odessa, NY | Feb-24 | Lansing Funeral Home |
| William W. (Bill) Melfi | 94 | Groton, NY | Feb-24 | Perkins Funeral Home |
| Jeanne Asher Dorward | 71 | Trumansburg, NY | Feb-21 | Ness-Sibley Funeral Home |
| Viola L. Storie | 90 | Virgil, NY | Feb-21 | Perkins Funeral Home |
| Nancy (Hinger) Hare | 84 | Ithaca, NY | Feb-19 | Bangs Funeral Home |
| WCharles Julian Guttman | 76 | Ithaca, NY | Feb-17 | Perkins Funeral Home |
| Ralph Anton Westwig | 88 | Ithaca, NY | Jan-25 | Bangs Funeral Home |
| Claire Rickard | 67 | Ithaca, NY | Jan-24 | Bangs Funeral Home |
| Anthony Neal Imani | 28 | Ithaca, NY | Jul-25 | Bangs Funeral Home |
| Solomon Sundquist | | | | |

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Taste of the Finger Lakes set to return in June

The highly anticipated Taste of the Finger Lakes is set to return Tuesday, June 10, 2025, bringing together the best food and beverage purveyors in the area for an evening of culinary excellence—all in support of vital food security initiatives.

The tasting event showcases the Finger Lakes' diverse food and beverage scene, featuring 60-plus local restaurants, wineries, breweries, cideries, distilleries, and producers. Attendees can savor an array of flavors while directly contributing to the well-being of our community.

Taste of the Finger Lakes is a fundraiser with 100% of ticket sales going to not-for-profit organizations that address food insecurity in our community, ensuring that everyone has access to fresh, healthy food.

Grant Applications Now Open for Local Not-for-Profits

Organizations working to combat food insecurity in Tompkins, Schuyler, and/or Seneca Counties are invited to apply for grant funding. Grants are awarded to not-for-profits that are making a tangible impact improving food security, whether through food distribution, nutrition education, sustainable agriculture, or other community-driven initiatives.

The deadline to submit a grant application is March 14, 2025. Eligible organizations can find detailed application in-

formation and requirements at tasteofthefingerlakes.com/grant-application.

Sponsorship & Silent Auction Donations

Taste of the Finger Lakes is made possible by the generosity of local businesses and individuals who believe in supporting food security in our community. Sponsorship opportunities are available for those looking to align their brand with this impactful event while reaching an engaged audience of food and beverage enthusiasts.

Additionally, we are seeking donations for our silent auction, which helps raise additional funds for local food security initiatives. Whether it's a gift certificate, a unique experience, artwork, or specialty items, your contribution will directly support the mission of this event.

For more information about sponsorships or to donate to the silent auction, please contact Event Director, Emma Hewitt, at director@tasteofthefingerlakes.com.

Vendor Opportunities

Food and beverage vendors are at the heart of the event, generously donating their wares for attendees to sample and enjoy. Participants include restaurants, food trucks, caterers, bakers, brewers, wine makers, coffee roasters, cider makers, dairies, and more. Each vendor is assigned a booth at the Ithaca Farm-



Photo provided

Taste of Finger Lakes is looking for sponsors, not-for-profits and vendors for the event in June.

ers Market pavilion, where they serve tastings and engage with hundreds of guests—all in support of a great cause.

Vendor applications open March 3rd with limited space for up to 60 vendors, accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until spots are filled. For more information, please contact Vendor Coordinator, Emma Hewitt, at vendors@tasteofthefingerlakes.com

Key Dates to Remember:

- Vendor Application Opens: March 3,

2025 – Local food and beverage businesses are encouraged to apply.

- Grant Applications Due: March 14, 2025 – Not-for-profits focused on food security are encouraged to apply.
- Tickets On Sale: April 1, 2025 – Limited tickets will be available, so mark your calendar to secure your spot at this one-of-a-kind fundraising event.

For more information, grant applications, or to purchase tickets starting April 1, visit tasteofthefingerlakes.com.

'Prodigal Son' coming to First Congregational Church

Savoyards Ithaca will perform Arthur Sullivan's oratorio The Prodigal Son at the First Congregational Church of Ithaca (FCCI): 4 p.m. Sunday, March 30. Admission is free but donations are welcome on-site or online at <https://fccithaca.org>.

Bill Cowdery, FCCI's music director and organist, leads the Sa-

voyards' four soloists: Andi Dietrich (soprano), Lisa Banlaki Frank (alto), Charles Burch (tenor), and Geof Royall (bass). The chorus includes other members of the Gilbert and Sullivan company as well as the church choir.

This special performance celebrates Laetare Sunday (the Fourth

Sunday in Lent): a foretaste of Easter in the middle of a season of penance. Sullivan's oratorio, based on a parable in the Gospel of Luke, is a joyful sermon on grace and forgiveness. Its uplifting message of radical acceptance reflects FCCI's mission to welcome and affirm all.

First Congregational Church of

Ithaca is located at 309 Highland Road in Cayuga Heights. Ample parking is available. The building is also wheelchair-accessible. Enter through the main front entrance and use the simple lift. For more information, please call (607) 257-6033 during staff hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Ithaca Pride Alliance Clothing Swap March 8

Saturday, March 8, marks the 2nd Annual All Y'all Clothing Swap, presented by Ithaca Pride Alliance (IPA). The spring event will be held at the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) on the 3rd floor from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with an access hour from 10 to 11 a.m.

This event is for all ages. During setup and the event, all volunteers with IPA will remain masked.

The first hour of the event, designated an "Access Hour," will have no amplified sound, and all attendees will be required to wear masks. Earplugs, N95 masks, and a quiet room will be available throughout the event.

All indoor IPA events are fragrance free. IPA is also still seeking sponsors for the event. Community organizations interested are encouraged to

contact fundraising@ithacapridealliance.org for further information. Those interested in tabling at the event can email member@ithacapridealliance.org or visit the IPA website.

"This is a great opportunity for folks to play with their personal style and that is really important for the queer and trans community," Andrew Scheldorf, IPA Chair, said. "It's also a kind of community building that is important for us to support."

The Ithaca Pride Alliance is still looking for event volunteers. Those interested should fill out the All Y'all Volunteer Form at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C-0B4AA5A72DA7F5CE9-54847192-ally-all#/> to be contacted with further information.



Photo provided

Ithaca Pride Alliance will hold the 2nd Annual All Y'all Clothing Swap at the Community School of Music and Arts March 8.

Those interested in year-round volunteer opportunities can visit the volunteer form on the IPA website at

ithacapridealliance.org. Information on clothing donations and drop off locations is forthcoming.

Become a member of the Tompkins County Ethics Advisory Board

The Tompkins County Legislature seeks individuals with a strong interest in supporting public confidence in local government conduct to join the Tompkins County Ethics Advisory Board (TCEAB). The TCEAB has two vacancies and invites interested county residents to apply. This is a volunteer opportunity with a 4-year term. The vacancies cannot be filled by an elected or appointed official of Tompkins County. The Board meets at least once annually or within 30 days after receipt of a written complaint.

Section 808 of the General Municipal Law governs the boards of ethics es-

tablished by the respective counties in the State of New York. The statute provides that the board shall render advisory opinions to officers and employees of municipalities within the county. In accordance with the General Municipal Law § 808(4), Tompkins County established the Tompkins County Ethics Advisory Board (TCEAB) in 1997. Under the Tompkins County Ethics Code, the TCEAB consists of five people appointed by the Tompkins County Legislature, one being a member of the County Legislature.

Legislator Rich John, Chair of TCEAB, states, "Participation on the

Tompkins County Ethics Advisory Board is a great opportunity to help us maintain best ethical practices in local government."

Applicants must complete an Advisory Board Application form to indicate interest in serving on the TCEAB. The form may be obtained from the County Legislature office, located at the Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building (Old Court House), 121 E. Court Street, Ithaca. The entrance is on the Dewitt Park side of the building. You can also download an electronic application form and find more information about Advisory Boards

on our website. After the application is submitted, candidates may be interviewed prior to recommendation, and they must be approved by the County Legislature. Minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are strongly encouraged to apply.

Please call the County Legislature office with any questions at (607) 274-5434.



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THINK PINK!



Photo by Sam Fink

The cast has been hard at work rehearsing for the Lansing High School production of Grease that will take place in the Lansing Middle School auditorium March 5 and 6 at 6:30 p.m. and March 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 (Wednesday only) and \$10 Thursday through Saturday. Pre-order tickets at Itapa.ticketleap.com/grease or get them at the door the day of the show. Clockwise, starting at bottom left: Lily Socha (Pink Lady), Jocelyn Hsu (Betty), Emma Buck (Pink Lady), Valerie Wansink (Marty), Kendra Geesey (Pink Lady), Delia Chernoff (Frenchy), Sawyer Makowsky (Jan), Norah Howell (Pink Lady).

Knock, Knock: Candidate Petition Time!

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



By Ann Reichlin

Believe it or not it's election season again. No, not the national one. Rather, it's the local one. How could this be? After all, didn't we just go through an election? Do we really need to even think about this? And the answer is: yes, we do need to think about this because local elections matter in ways that greatly impact our daily

lives.

There are 16 open seats for Tompkins County Legislature and five open seats for the Ithaca City Council. Additionally, in the towns of Caroline, Danby, Dryden, Enfield, Groton, Ithaca, Lansing, Newfield and Ulysses there are numerous open seats for Supervisor, Town Clerk, judge, or Highway Superintendent. Some of these races will have primaries, some will have incumbents, and some will have new candidates throwing their hat into the ring for the first time.

To ensure a fair election process, New York State election law is very particular about what candidates need to do to earn a place on the ballot. In

the petition process, every candidate must gather and submit a representative number of signatures of registered democrats from their municipality. If a person is running within a specific ward or town, only someone who lives within the jurisdiction can sign the petition. New York State law requires that the person signing the petition sign it in the presence of a witness. There are no shortcuts.

Democratic candidates and members of the Tompkins County Democratic Committee will be gathering signatures by knocking on doors of registered Democratic voters during the month of March. Knocking on doors and gathering signatures is the un-

glamorous part of the democratic process. And yet it is what makes it possible for candidates' names to appear on the ballot. When you hear a knock on the door from that earnest democratic candidate or volunteer, please open your door. By doing so, you too, are participating in the important work of making democracy happen. Thank you so much in advance.

Bio

Ann Reichlin is a practicing sculptor and a member of the Tompkins County Democratic Committee. She has lived in Ithaca since 1997 and served on the Ithaca City School District Board of Education between 2015-2021.

Orchestra presents 'Translations'

The Cayuga Chamber Orchestra concludes its 2024-25 Orchestral Series with Translations, on Saturday, March 22 at 7:30 pm at Ithaca College's Ford Hall.

Join the CCO for the Season Finale, and see and hear how art over the ages translates, impresses and inspires. The program begins with a world premiere CCO commission by Afghani-American composer, Seare Farhat, then explores the vibrant interplay between Judith Weir's music and Paul Klee's dynamic brush strokes, and offers Thomas Ada's 21st Century take on the Baroque.

The evening culminates with Beethoven's mighty Eroica Symphony, promising an unforgettable conclusion to the season. Maestro Guillaume Pirard will conduct the orchestra and offer a free Pre-concert Chat with Mr. Farhat an hour prior to the performance. Composer Seare Ahmad Farhat shares, "I am so thrilled for this upcoming premiere performance of shadows rising soundless as night by the inim-

itable CCO! The piece is a quiet rumination on Derek Walcott's poem A Season of Phantasmal Peace that explores the sounds of twilight and choruses of birds -- a piece that is at once delicate and anxiously bubbling to the surface."

Farhat strives to create music that connects a listener to the visceral imagination, energy, and transformation within narrative forms. Starting out his musical endeavors in Afghan folk music, he later built on these valued experiences in the western classical tradition combined with other interests, such as mathematics.

Seare has received commissions from the JACK and Flux Quartets, IU New Music Ensemble, Metropolitan Youth Symphony, Quintessence Wind Quintet, and the Oberlin Sinfonietta, and served as the young composer-in-residence of the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings in 2019. Seare has also held residencies at Avaloch Farm Music Institute, Banff Evolution: String Quartet, and with the Gabriela



Photo provided

The Cayuga Chamber Orchestra will conclude its latest orchestral series with a performance March 22 at Ithaca College's Ford Hall.

Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music as a Balhous Eeble Composer Fellow for the 2021-23 cycle.

He has also received prestigious awards such as the Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a BMI Composer Award. Seare holds a B.M. in Composition and B.A. in Mathematics from Oberlin College and Conservatory, a master's

degree from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he held the position of Assistant Director of the New Music Ensemble, and is currently pursuing a D.M.A. at Cornell University studying with Elizabeth Ogonek, Kevin Ernst, and Marianthi Papalexandri-Alexandri. The CCO's 2024-25 Chamber Series continues with Fauré and Britten on Sunday, April 6.

Spring grant applications due April 1 for Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund

The Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund (DYOF) is now accepting applications for its spring grant cycle.

Grant funds are awarded twice each year for the long-term benefit of Dryden area youth through innovative and creative programs and activities that go beyond the basic requirements of public education.

Projects should focus on cultural enrichment, academic achievement, and general youth development.

These funds may be used to supplement educational and extra-curricular activities generally funded by school budgets but are not intended to replace them.

Any group sponsored by a not-for-profit organization that serves Dryden youth is eligible to apply for grant funds.

Applications will be reviewed by the DYOF board of community volunteers in April.

For more information, or to download a grant application form, go to:

www.dyof.org or write: DYOF, P.O. Box 1076, Dryden, NY 13053.

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BAND

Continued from pg 8

Pierre Leemans, and recognized as one of the greatest marches of ICB's repertoire. Keeping with the French theme, the band will play Gershwin's "An American in Paris", arranged by the great Charles Brooker. This is always a real audience pleaser.

An enjoyable rendition of "Can Can" is another concert goer's favorite, and ICB's rendition was ar-

ranged by the band's own talented Phil Krasicky, a Cornell professor, who is a member of the outstanding flute section.

The concert will conclude with "Illumination" composed by David Maslanka in 2013, referring to the band's theme of Paris, a City of Light! It promises to leave the audience with a great memory of the bright evening.

This concert is free and open to the public. Donations are always welcome, and can be deposited in the

drums at the entrance of Ford Hall. There will be a reception following the concert with cider and cookies being served.

The concert is made possible in part with funding from the Triad Foundation and the Community Foundation of Tompkins County - Ridenour-Shady Family Fund, and in part with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, administered by the Community Arts Partnership.

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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.

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

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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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