

Tompkins Weekly

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Dryden officials get approval to seek bridge project bids

The Town of Dryden officials announced that they have reached the final step in constructing a bridge over Route 13.

The New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) gave the town its official approval to seek bids for construction and installation of a bridge that will connect two sides of the Dryden Rail Trail.

The bid deadline is May 8, which means that the bridge could be constructed this year, according to a release.

The bridge, which will be located near the intersection with Route 366, is projected to cost more than \$3.5 million. The project includes a partnership between town officials, Erdman Anthony consultants and a half-dozen DOT employees.

The DOT is overseeing the project, due to Route 13 being a state road.

Dan Lamb, the town's deputy supervisor, called the bridge over Route 13 a "linchpin of the Dryden Rail Trail."

"Beyond recreation and transportation alternatives — the basis for several grants — we expect the trail to encourage smart growth, improve access to affordable housing and attract new businesses and tourism," Lamb added.

When bridge construction is complete, the rail trail will span 14.4 miles and connect the eastern boundary of Dryden through the Jim Schug trail section and the villages of Dryden and Freeville, to Etna, Varna and the western boundary at Game Farm Road, finally linking to the East Ithaca Recreation Way to Cornell and Ithaca.

The trail, which can be used for recreational and commuting purposes, will reclaim the decommissioned Lehigh Valley Railroad corridor for walkers, bicyclists, equestrians, nature lovers and more.

The town owns the Jim Schug section of the trail, the release noted, while also securing easements on 42 of 48 pieces of land required to complete the trail. The six pending easements are currently under negotiations.

The bridge project is being covered by \$1.5 million from the DOT's Transportation Alternative Program, \$105,000 in grants from other entities, \$700,000 from United States Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Chuck Schumer and other sources.

See BRIDGE on pg 20



Photo provided

911 Telecommunicator Patrick Harris receives the award for 2024 Dispatcher of the Year from Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response Director Michael Stitley.

Awards spotlight heroism of 911 dispatchers during Lansing wildfires

By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

The third week of April was National Public Safety Telecommunication Week, and as members of the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response (DoER) marked the occasion with their fourth annual recognition and awards ceremony, they reflected on one of the biggest calls of 2024: the Lansing brush fire that scorched acres of land along East Shore Drive in November.

"That was a really quick start to a call," said Patrick Harris, 911 telecommunicator for DoER. "It was one of those situations where you see the entire screen light up and you know it's a big incident, with everyone doing their part to answer lines."

Harris was the lead fire dispatcher on call. "In my case, it was one of those incidents where it was nonstop," he said. "There was a significant amount of time where we couldn't take a breath."

"It was very much a team effort to get through everything," said Michael Collins, the dispatch supervisor on duty that day. "Patrick Harris did an amazing job keeping up with the radio traffic. I assisted him the best I could with that, and everybody kind of pulls together to do what is needed."

At the awards, those who embody the strong work ethic and ability to stay calm under pressure that is necessary to succeed as a 911 operator were honored for their service to DoER.

For the first time, Team Citations were presented to two groups of individuals: the team that provided assistance during a power outage at the Emergency Communications Center on June 8 of last year and those who

coordinated, responded and assisted during the Lansing brush fire.

Director Michael Stitley also presented Distinguished Service Awards to a number of emergency services dispatchers. Two employees were honored with Years of Service pins. Chris Saxon was recognized for his 20 years with the team, and Eldon Stevens celebrated 10 years.

"Chris and Eldon, any issues that come up, they are quick to help and find solutions," said Josy Castillo, DoER communications training officer. "Also, they're total goofballs; they make us laugh. They're just silly guys."

"But they're very intelligent, though," Castillo added. "They're so good at finding solutions for things, even things not in their job skills. They are a wealth of knowledge."

John Halaychik, DoER assistant director for 911, read a letter from the American Red Cross acknowledging the actions of Tompkins County ECC staff in helping to control and mitigate the brush fire and exemplifying the Red Cross mission of "preventing and alleviating suffering in times of emergency."

The department's highest honor, Dispatcher of the Year, was presented to Harris for the dedication and professionalism he brings to his job every day, and for his work on a number of major incidents throughout the course of 2024.

Harris named dispatcher of the year

Harris has been a 911 dispatcher with the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response for six years. He transferred to his current role after getting his start as a dispatcher in Cor-

neland County.

"I kind of found my home over here," Harris said. "It's a great group of people, and I fit in from day one and appreciate everyone around me."

"He knows his stuff," Castillo said. "He's almost robotic. He doesn't even have to think about it, he is so fluid."

"He thrives under pressure," she said. "That's for sure."

Harris said that he couldn't do it alone. Teamwork is important to doing the job effectively, he said, and Castillo agreed.

"My favorite thing about the job is that I get to help people," she said, "but I feel like I'm part of something so much bigger than me. You see a lot of teamwork everywhere."

Harris explained that what most people are not aware of when they are on the phone with a 911 operator is that the operator is muting the call while consulting with teammates across the room or speaking over the radio to emergency response crews.

"A lot goes on, but we try to mask the public from that so it doesn't overwhelm them while they're working through an already stressful situation," Harris said.

What motivates him to come into work day after day?

"It's the cliché of, 'You come to work and want to help someone,'" he said. "It drives me every day to do what I do."

"It's a double-edged sword," he added. "It has a draining toll."

Harris, who works a 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift, said that he comes home from work mentally exhausted.

"At the end of the day, your brain is like a bowl of mush," he said. Often this leaves little mental space for life

See 911 on pg 10

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Our question, your answers

Street Beat

By Jaime Cone Hughes

In honor of National Bucket List Day April 24, what is at the top of your bucket list?



To retire and go to Alaska at least once.
James, Dryden

Adam and Tonya Engst, president of the Finger Lakes Runners Club and founding member of its communications team, respectively, are pillars of the running community in Ithaca and the recipients of this month's Hometown Hero award.

"They have endless enthusiasm," said club member Mia Slotnick, who nominated the couple for the award.

The Finger Lakes Runners Club boasts 17 events on its 2025 calendar, including the renowned Skunk Cabbage Classic, which was held April 6. Adam oversees all of them, with the help of many loyal volunteers, while Tonya helps promote them on a communications team she created.

Both Tonya and Adam grew up in Ithaca, and both had mothers who worked at Cornell University. They both attended Cornell, as well. In 1991, the couple moved to Seattle, returning to Ithaca 10 years later with a new appreciation for life in Tompkins County. People in Seattle would think nothing of driving an hour and a half through traffic to reach the other side of the city for dinner, Adam said; it didn't fit their lifestyle.

"We were spending our lives in the car," he said, adding that they had a small child at the time who did not appreciate long car rides.

After moving back to Ithaca, Adam and Tonya continued to work at the recently launched TidBITS, an online publishing company and tech blog they cofounded together. Tonya went on to work at Cornell, where she is digital content editor for the Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability. Adam has written numerous technical books, including the best-selling Internet Starter Kit series.

"I took over as president [of the Finger Lakes Runners Club] in 2020 and immediately had to cancel the first race [due to COVID-19]," Adam said. The club resumed racing in 2021.

In addition to her communications work in the Runners Club, Tonya is also the captain of the Finger Lakes Runners Club's Women's Cross Country Team.

Together, the pair recognized the need for a diversity and inclusion committee for the club, and they took their time gathering information and asking the opinions of others before developing an award equity policy that favors inclusivity.

"Whether you're a first-time runner or seasoned pro, they don't care, and [they] encourage everybody equally," Slotnick said. "They just want people to show up and have a good time and want to make connections with people."

Slotnick has been a member of the running club off and on for 30 years, she said. Her son, Alexander Simpson, followed in her footsteps in a major way, running with the club when he was a child and continuing his love of running into high school and, finally, Bucknell University, where he re-



By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

Mia Slotnick, who nominated the couple for the award.



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Tonya and Adam Engst, photographed here at their home in Ithaca, are this month's recipients of the Tompkins Weekly Hometown Hero Award for their dedication to the Finger Lakes Runners Club.

ceived a running scholarship.

"It's pretty much been my whole life," Simpson said. "Everything up to where I am now has been from running. I wouldn't have gone to the college I did without running." He recently graduated and now enjoys doing regular workouts with the club to stay in shape.

"I've always run their races," Simpson said. "The classic Ithaca races I've been doing for so many years, since I was little."

When Simpson went to Bucknell, he discovered that he was lucky to have grown up a runner in Ithaca.

"There's definitely a culture of bringing people's ideas to the club and allowing them to run with it."

Heather Cobb, Executive Vice President, FINGER LAKES RUNNERS CLUB

"When you talk to other people in college Division 1, you expect they will be from a similar background with a ton of opportunities to do local races," Simpson said, "and most of them didn't. They ran in high school, but before that they didn't have all these races and strong running clubs. That definitely was a huge advantage, and it was strange to me to find out that not every town has a running culture like that."

The Engsts go the extra mile to help out other groups in very practical ways. "They support a lot of other organizations that want to put on races, like a 5K, but they don't have timing equipment or know how to run a race. Adam can help them run races," Simpson said.

"The club really strives to have events that are for everybody. Not all events will be for everybody, but there is an event for somebody, regardless of age and ability or anything like that," said Heather Cobb, executive vice president of the Finger Lakes Runners Club.

Cobb started going on group runs

with the club in 2018 and joined the Finger Lakes Runners Club Board in 2020, right when COVID-19 hit and events were cancelled until 2021. She was appointed to her current position in 2023. She started a new race last year called the Parallel of Latitude, which she said was a very positive experience.

"There's definitely a culture of bringing people's ideas to the club and allowing them to run with it," Cobb said. "We started a couple initiatives last year, and this year, and Adam is always like, 'Great. If you want to head that up, that would be awesome; go ahead and do what feels best.' It allows our creativity to come out and brings the community together more." She said that Adam is so familiar with running races that the day of the Parallel of Latitude was relatively easy for her.

"Being a race director, there's a lot that needs to happen," Cobb said. "There's so much work as a first-year race director, getting it off the ground, but on the day of, I was like, 'I don't have a whole lot to do here,'" Cobb said. "Adam had the timing down, and I could just enjoy the thing that I built, which was amazing."

"Adam, being president, there's so many things that he does for the club," Cobb said. "He never asks for accolades or toots his own horn."

Adam is, on the other hand, great at recognizing other people, said Cobb. Every month at the board meeting, he opens up the gathering with the acknowledgement of notable volunteer members. "The club is entirely volunteer run, but always people step up every month and go above and beyond, and Adam makes sure they get recognized in the minutes and in an email that goes out to board members," Cobb said. "As a volunteer, you can burn out very easily, especially if you don't get the appreciation back, so to know that your efforts have been seen by the president is very rewarding."

See Hero on pg 7

Our question, your answers

Street Beat

By Jaime Cone Hughes

Groton Jr./Sr. High School welcomes National Honor Society inductees

Groton Jr./Sr. High School (GHS) held its annual National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) induction ceremonies in the GHS auditorium on April 24, with many parents, relatives and friends in attendance.

By Linda Competillo

Scott Montreuil welcomed everyone and explained the course of the evening. Montreuil is the GHS Social Studies Department chair and advisor to the NHS.

"I took over as advisor with the 2014-2015 school year and have noted over the years the growth and maturity that takes place throughout

their 10th grade year," Montreuil said. "Ninth graders are like middle schoolers, and at the beginning of 10th some of those tendencies still exist. By the time they start the application process and get inducted, they have usually really started to grow into young adults. Now that I have seniors, as well, most of them are in my class. I see them daily, and that transformation is really on display. It has made my job as advisor much easier and more about advising because I can lean on them to do a lot of the work for our various activities. The leadership and service qualities that got them into NHS in the first place are on full display."

Current and newest members of the NHS

Current members of the NHS are juniors Devyn Blasz, Isabella Brown, Ross Bush, Kadyn Casterline, Adelyn Clore, Jade Conkrite, Brett Deuel, Logan Dunn, Lauren Gallinger, Brody Jackson, Diella Niño, Caryssa Personius, Joslyn Staton, Grace Short, Riley Vliet, Bailey Vliet, and Jillian Zigenfus. The senior members are Olivia Arthur, Lena Brehm, Conor Eldred, Judson Holl, Tessa LaTray, Sean O'Brien (treasurer), Natalie Ray, Alyssa Slater (vice president) and Emily Trejo (president).

Many of the current NHS members were present and spoke about those they had nominated to induct. Those new inductees are Jackson Berry, Ethan Besler, Evan Besler, Abraham Bishop, Caleb Cute, Frank

Fish, Stella Holl, Colin O'Brien, Colson Slade, Brooklan Strange and Bryce Wilkinson.

"I enjoy helping others, getting to know new people and experiencing new things, and I'm excited for the opportunity to demonstrate leadership."

ETHAN BESLER

GHS sophomore and new member of the National Honor Society

Short, who nominated Evan Besler, said she cherishes being a member because it makes her happy to help other people, and doing

See HONOR SOCIETY on pg 7

Trumansburg voters to weigh in on \$32.1M school budget

Editor's note: This story was written on April 25, before New York state lawmakers and Gov. Kathy Hochul finalized the state's budget.

The state budget will ultimately determine how much Trumansburg Central School District (TCSD) receives in state financial aid.

The biggest increases in the budget are found in the district's "program component." The program component is one of three — the other two components are administrative and capital. From the 2024-25 school year to the upcoming 2025-26 term, the district expects to spend an extra \$1.5 million, approximately, in its program offerings. The upcoming year's program component will total almost \$23.9 million.

The administrative component also increased by almost \$100,000 in the upcoming year. The district expects to reduce its capital component expenditures by almost \$500,000 in the ensuing school year.

This year's budget, Verba said, should be one that brings stability to the district. Last year, business officials, administrators and board of education leaders grappled with a difficult budget that saw reductions in staff and forecasted grim financial times ahead.

"We do know that last year there were some really difficult conversa-

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Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Voters will decide on Trumansburg Central School District's \$32.1 million budget on May 20. The new budget plan signifies an increase in spending of about 3.2%.

tions and difficult decisions that had to be made around planning; it was really driven around enrollment," Verba said. "We want to make sure

this year ... to stabilize the experience for our staff and young people,

See SCHOOL on pg 7



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Newfield school board discusses proposals for 2025-26 budget

The Newfield Board of Education (BOE), along with officials from the Newfield Central School District (CSD), discussed the proposals for the 2025-26 budget at a meeting on April 23.



By Kevin L. Smith

According to a presentation by Perry Gorgen, Newfield CSD's business administrator, the district's 2025-26 budget is currently projected at \$26,492,408.

The total number is an increase of \$1,122,080, or 4.26%, from the 2024-25 budget (\$25,411,093).

The proposed tax levy increase is 2.5%, or \$180,015, for the 2025-26 school year. This puts the tax levy from \$7,360,602 for 2024-25 to \$7,544,617 for 2025-26.

"We don't have a final number, and we won't get one before the statutory deadline for districts to propose [2025-26] budgets. Until then, we will be operating somewhat in the dark."

PERRY GORGEN
Business Administrator, Newfield Board of Education

Gorgen noted that Newfield CSD's proposed tax levy increase is "nowhere near" the New York state-mandated tax levy limit of 3.9%.

The state aid, Gorgen added, is currently uncertain for the district's 2025-26 budget. With the state budget not yet finalized, Gorgen noted that the state department of education cannot provide an official figure of what Newfield CSD will receive in aid.

Gorgen mentioned that two-thirds of the district's budget is typically state funding.

"We don't have a final number, and we won't get one before the statutory deadline for districts to propose [2025-26] budgets," Gorgen said. "Until then, we will be operating somewhat in the dark."

Gorgen mentioned that the state has been late on projections for the past four years, with last year's revealed

numbers "down to the wire."

Newfield CSD received \$16,644,688 in state aid for the 2024-25 budget. The district is projected to receive \$16,751,988 for 2025-26, but Gorgen noted that projection is part of Gov. Kathy Hochul's budget proposal.

Gorgen said that decisions on state educational aid "have been made and agreed upon" between Hochul and legislators. He added that there's been no indication of a disagreement.

"But it's all part of one big piece of legislation," he added. "Until that legislation passes, it can't reveal final numbers."

Gorgen mentioned that \$335,338 from the district's fund balance account will be used for the special classroom in an integrated setting (SCIS), which is set to begin next school year.

Ben Mueller, Newfield CSD's Section 504 coordinator, noted in the past that the special education program is aimed at preschoolers and students just going into kindergarten who are between the ages of three and five.

"Some programs start with 4 to 5 year olds, with the largest starting at kindergarten," he said.

The district's projected 2025-26 budget in its entirety was made available to the public on April 28.

Newfield BOE will hold a budget hearing on May 6, and the budget vote and school elections are scheduled for May 20.

Update provided on Newfield CSD's superintendent search

Lily Talcott, district superintendent at TST BOCES, provided an update on the superintendent search for the Newfield Central School District.

Talcott noted in a letter that the Newfield Board of Education "remains on track" to appoint a new school superintendent on Thursday, May 1.

The appointment will replace current superintendent Eric Hartz, who is retiring at the end of this school year.

Newfield's new superintendent will begin on July 1 of this year, Talcott's letter said.

Talcott noted the following in her letter:

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Lansing Town Board opposes Trump immigration policies

The Lansing Town Board passed two resolutions opposing elements of President Donald Trump's agenda at its April 16 meeting.



By Eddie Velazquez

The first resolution was an appeal to state and federal elected representatives of the town of Lansing in Albany and Washington to defend the U.S. Constitution and constitutional rights.

In more depth, the resolution referenced the slew of incidents involving the revocation of thousands of student visas, which the administration is sweeping into its promise of deporting scores of undocumented immigrants.

In some cases, as the resolution states, students are being targeted for deportation, and in some instances detained, for expressing their views. The resolution does not explicitly highlight some of these cases, but it is likely referencing the students who have been arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for protesting and/or decrying the conflict in Palestine in opinion pieces written for student newspapers.

Protesters around the world and international human rights organizations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have labeled Israel's actions in Gaza a genocide.

"It is a constitutionally guaranteed right for a person accused to see what they are accused of and to present contrary evidence."

LANSING TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

Those immigration law enforcement operations have also resulted in the detention and planned deportation of lawful permanent residents of the United States like Mahmoud Khalil, a pro-Palestine activist and Columbia University student. NBCNews recently reported that ICE arrested Khalil in March without an arrest warrant. Khalil has not been charged with a crime, despite being in ICE custody in Louisiana for a month and a half.

The town board's resolution appeals to elected leaders to uphold constitutional rights afforded to people in the country, such as the right to judicial review and due process.

"Whereas, currently, ICE is unilaterally revoking visas and deporting people without judicial review or due process; and whereas, we recognize that due process is not an obstacle to justice; it is a constitutionally guaranteed right for a person accused to see what they are accused of and to present contrary evidence," the town board wrote in its resolution.

Due process and judicial review have been the subjects of clashes

between the Trump administration and judges across the country.

The town's resolution references an incident in which the Trump administration deported at least two planes full of migrants to El Salvador under the Alien Enemies Act, a wartime power the administration is using against Venezuelans suspected of being in the Tren de Aragua criminal gang.

Federal Judge James Boasberg at the time ordered the Trump administration to turn the planes back to determine whether the individuals were being properly deported. The administration ignored Boasberg's order and has continued to deport immigrants to El Salvador.

A number of these individuals are being sent to a prison in El Salvador made infamous for its conditions, including cases of torture, ill treatment, incommunicado detention, severe violations of due process and inhumane conditions, such as lack of access to adequate health care and food, according to Human Rights Watch.

"That as elected officials, our ability to create and maintain a safe and stable community is undermined when our residents live in fear of being rounded up by the federal agents and deported at any moment," officials wrote in the resolution. "And be it further resolved, that as elected officials, we acknowledge that adherence to the rule of law helps to preserve the rights of all people in a democratic society; and be it further resolved, that as elected officials, we implore our federal and state representatives to take any and all appropriate legal actions to ensure that all members of the federal government follow the Constitution and respect the rule of law."

The resolution is directed to the following Democrats in office, all of whom represent the town of Lansing:

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
• U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand
• U.S. Rep. Josh Riley
• New York Gov. Kathy Hochul
• State Attorney General Letitia James
• State Senator Lea Webb
• State Assemblymember Anna Kelles

The resolution was approved by every member of the town board except Judy Drake, who abstained.

The second resolution is a request for the same representatives listed in the resolution to uphold constitutional values to protect tax-exempt municipal bonds. The Trump administration may consider taxing the bonds, which typically help to finance maintenance of roads, utilities, water and sewer systems and public buildings.

The tax-exempt yields at which these municipalities borrow are typically lower than comparably rated corporate bonds and U.S. Treasuries. Elimination of the tax exemption would result in more than \$800



Photo provided

At a recent meeting, the Lansing Town Board passed resolutions opposing elements of President Donald Trump's agenda.

billion in higher interest costs for issuing municipalities over the next 10 years, according to an article on Morningstar, an investment markets media company.

"Higher financing costs to back such projects will mostly fall to a municipality's constituents, who are servicing the debt as part of their tax payments," board members wrote in their resolution.

This resolution was approved unanimously.

Ruth Groff, the Lansing town supervisor, explained the resolution at the April 16 meeting.

"[Eliminating this tax exemption] would really affect all municipalities who are trying to fund any of their projects," she said. "Since we are in the process of doing that right now, it might really affect us."

Drake said that she attended the NYS Government Finance Officers Association conference (GFOA), where the termination of the tax exemption was discussed at length.

"I think this is a good thing to do," she said of the resolution. "GFOAs are trying to fight this."

Lansing at Large appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Send sto-

ry ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com. Contact Eddie Velazquez at edvel37@gmail.com or on X (formerly Twitter): @ezvelazquez.

In brief:

Lansing residents approved the Lansing Community Library budget for 2026.

"We're sending out a heartfelt THANK YOU to our amazing Lansing community for showing up and voting YES on the LCL 2026 Budget!" library officials wrote in a post on the LCL's website. "Your support ensures that we can continue to grow, serve, and thrive together."

Newly elected trustees, also on the ballot on April 22 when the library vote took place, include:

- Lauren Chambliss
- Dan Dwyer
- Matthew Montague

"Your trust and involvement keep our library strong, vibrant, and responsive to the needs of our community. We're honored to be part of Lansing and excited for all that's ahead," library officials wrote on the website. "Thank you for being with us—every step of the way!"



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HERO

Continued from pg 3

Tonya's contributions to the club have also been invaluable, Cobb said. Tonya took over all of the communications for the club a couple of years ago, which entailed sending emails, making posters and spreading the word on social media for 25 races. "To do that for 25 races is insane," Cobb said. "It was a really huge effort that she was taking on and able to complete during that first year."

After the first year as head of

communications for the club, Tonya started the communications team, of which she is a member. Cobb cited this as a good example of the Engsts' leadership and delegation skills; they trust their members to take the reins, and through thoughtful delegation they are able to spread out responsibilities throughout the club.

"As an adult, it's hard to make friends," Cobb said. "Everyone has their own little circle, job and family. We have kid group runs, and the volunteers really create a sense of community. I've made some really great friends over the years that I never

would have met otherwise, and that's one really great thing about the club — the social aspect of it."

Tonya said she enjoys seeing people thrive as they devote more time to running.

"If they're doing well in running, they're doing reasonably well in the rest of their life so they can do running," she said. "They get that monthly massage, or eat a little more sensibly, or they make their families find a way to give them four hours a week to run," she said. "I've seen people make some positive, significant changes when they get into

running. And that ties into mental health. I love to kind of bring people into the team and to see them do well and give them that structure. It's so much easier to do it in a group.... I love being part of that for other people."

The next big race of the Finger Lakes Runners Club is the Twilight 5k, coming up June 10. For more information about the club, visit www.fingerlakesrunners.org.

Tompkins Weekly's Hometown Hero is sponsored by Security Mutual Insurance and Canopy by Hilton Ithaca.

HONOR SOCIETY

Continued from pg 4

acts of community service in NHS allows that to happen. She also said, "I like showing others compassion, and being an example of upholding values and a high standard of character."

Evan and his twin brother, Ethan, are both soccer players and in band — Evan on flute and Ethan on trumpet — and both expressed similar reasons for their excitement about joining NHS.

"I'm excited that I get to help my community with service projects and support my school," Evan said. "I like helping in every way I can."

"I enjoy helping others, getting to know new people and experiencing new things," Ethan said, "and I'm excited for the opportunity to demonstrate leadership."

Upcoming leadership: the NJHS!

Following the NHS inductions, Nick Crans, social studies teacher, assistant football coach and boys junior varsity basketball coach, led the NJHS portion of the ceremony.

"This was my first time as advisor to the NJHS, and what has been most exciting about this entire process is getting to work with these young, talented individuals," Crans said. "This year was a smaller group than we have had in the past, and it would have been impossible to have a successful year without each one of the members, who have been so diligent and responsible with all of their duties and tasks. From fundraisers to community volunteering, every member has shown commit-

ment to the program and our community. They never ceased to amaze me all year with their dedication to the program and community."

The current members of the NJHS are Leah Allen (vice president), Connie Dickerson, Ella Koenig, Aurora Komala (treasurer), Nattalie Lombardi (president), Violet Santspree (secretary) and Grace Shaff.

The newly inducted members are Sadie Adams, Alison Belcher, Carmen Bishop, Phoebe Bishop, Aoife Cummings, Natalie Cummings, Liesl Moll, Alice O'Brien, Harper O'Neil, Moira Roberts, Natalie Townsend, Kamryn Vanhorn and Natalia Zikeyeva.

"The induction ceremony was personally a very surreal experience for me," Crans said. "Many of the students who were inducted into the NHS were some of my very first students at Groton when they were only in seventh grade. It is a humbling experience to now work with NJHS and be part of the process of these young individuals growing into well-rounded members of NHS and, some day, well-rounded members of society."

"I find it rewarding to get to work with the NHS students on various projects in a capacity outside of the classroom, and seeing them grow into adulthood throughout the process is really special," Montreuil said.

The excitement and pride in the room was felt and expressed by all!

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

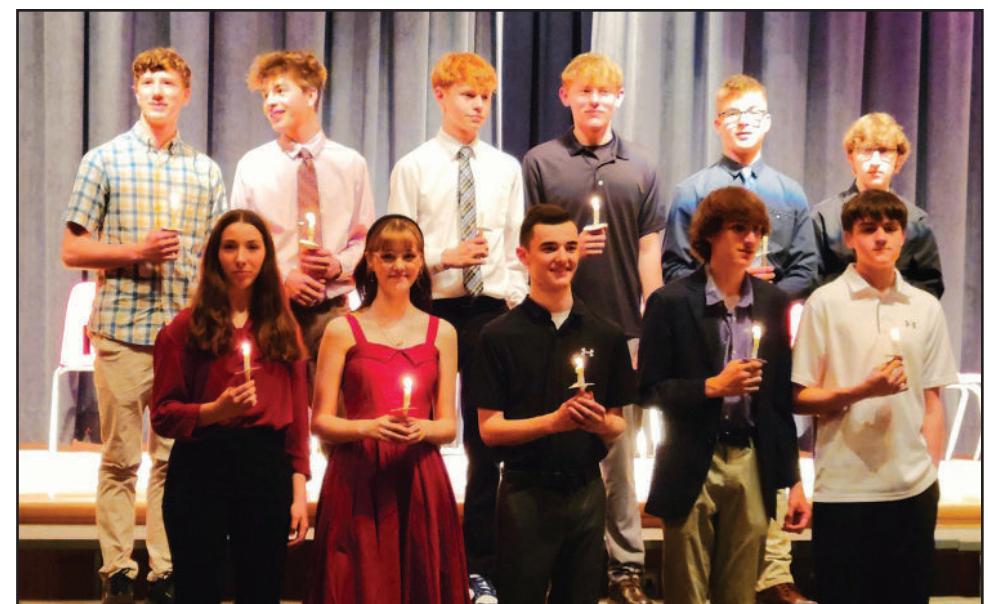


Photo by Linda Competillo

The Groton Jr/Sr High School National Honor Society's most recent inductees were welcomed into the society at an induction ceremony April 24. Bottom row (left to right): Stella Holl, Brooklan Strange, Caleb Cute, Bryce Wilkinson, Jackson Berry. Back row: Abraham Bishop, Evan Besler, Colin O'Brien, Colson Slade, Ethan Besler.

In brief:

Happenin' in the Hamlet Bounce Party

In lieu of McLean's traditional Happenin' in the Hamlet, there will be a bounce party from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 10 at Cassavant Elementary School, 32 School St., Freeville, with bounce houses, games, mini golf, sand art, face painting, food and more. A \$10 donation allows admission to the bounce houses all day.

The traditional Happenin' in the Hamlet is postponed until September 26-28, with several exciting additions. Stay tuned here throughout the summer for more details.

Parent/child hanging flower basket workshop

The Good Neighbor Grocery, 209 Peru Rd., will hold a parent/child hanging flower basket workshop from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 3. Choose from a variety of flowers and greenery to make matching hanging planters for spring. Cost is \$50 per adult/child pair. Additional children can be added for \$20 each.

Groton Cemetery Association meeting

The Groton Cemetery Association will hold a meeting of lot owners at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 at the Masonic Building, on the corner of Main Street and Lincoln Avenue. The Cemetery Board meeting will follow.



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'Better Together for Mental Health' returns to Stewart Park

"Better Together for Mental Health," a free community-wide celebration, is back for its third iteration this year, on Saturday, May 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Stewart Park (1 James L. Gibbs Drive, Ithaca). This event, in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, is a fun day of free activities for all ages. Participate in mindful movement, dance, live music, street performances, workshops, free activities for kids including face-painting and carousel rides, indulge in free food offerings and much more.

Stewart Park will be abuzz with community organizations, mental health providers, instructors, and entertainers, creating a vibrant atmosphere for learning, laughter and connection. Explore and learn about mental health, discover ways to support yourself, and connect with others.

"This will be our third year of Better Together, and we cannot wait for the community to join us

again this year," said Jaydyn McCune, LCSW, Co-Chair of the "Better Together" planning committee. "This event highlights things we can all do on a daily basis to help keep ourselves and others mentally healthy. We encourage everyone to come out and join us to celebrate wellness. Let's make mental health a collective priority, because we are truly 'Better Together.'"

Representatives from 50 different community organizations will be spread out along the walking path of the park between the large and small pavilions, to share information about their programs as well as provide wellness-based activities, such as arts & crafts, "make your own stress ball," lawn games, food sampling and more. Stewart Park's carousel rides will be available at no cost for the duration of the event, with special thanks to McCutcheon, Patel, Livermore and Associates for their generous sponsorship.

Planned performances and mental health practices will take place throughout the day at the Large Pavilion. This year's event will include performances by local favorites, including Rootstock, Cakebatter, SingTrece, RDF and Jack Brown, and Thousands of One.

The Small Pavilion will be transformed into the Family Activities Pavilion, sponsored in part by The Sophie Fund. This space will host a multitude of children focused activities, story-telling, crafts and games.

There will be multiple food vendors on-site, providing free food for all in attendance, thanks to the generous event sponsors. Food vendors will include Catering by Luna, Yxi's Arepas & Gorditos, Meg A Moo's Ice Cream, Via's Cookies, Babes Burgers and Funk n' Waffles.

"Better Together for Mental Health" is grateful for the support of its many sponsors - we could not

put on this event without you!

- Major Event Sponsors: Cayuga Health, CFCU Community Credit Union, Guthrie, True Insurance
- Event Partners: Community Foundation of Tompkins County, Friends of Greg Eells, Health & Unity for Greg (HUG), Sciarabba Walker & Co., The Sophie Fund, Therm, Tompkins Financial
- Event Friends: McCutcheon, Patel, Livermore, and Associates, and Vicki and Jay Williamson of Northwestern Mutual
- In-kind donations: Wegmans
- Personal donations: Carla & Steve Fontana, Gene Yarussi and numerous others

For more information, go online to www.bettertogetherithaca.org, or visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bettertogetherithaca>.

SCHOOL

Continued from pg 4

as well as create opportunities in this budget for the ability to meet staff needs."

According to last year's budget presentation, the forecast for student enrollment looked bleak, district officials said at the time.

The lower enrollment projections, they said, could result in a loss of a portion of state aid. But the projections presented by Verba on April 8 showed that the next four years may actually present an uptick in students at TCSD. The district projects to have 996 students during the 2025-26 school year, which will increase to 1,013 the next year, then to 1,023 the year after that and then to 1,044 the year after that.

Much of the district's revenue every year comes from state aid, found in the New York state budget. At the moment, the district expects to receive almost \$15.3 million in state

funding, but that figure is not finalized, as the state budget has not been approved by Albany lawmakers.

"We do know that last year there were some really difficult conversations and difficult decisions that had to be made around planning; it was really driven around enrollment."

AMANDA VERBA

School Business Executive and Title IX Coordinator, Trumansburg Central School District

"We still don't have a state budget," Verba said. "That is out of our control."

The state budget is due on April 1 but is never negotiated on time by the leaders in the state legislature and the governor. Typically, the budget includes several pieces of legislation and policy initiatives

on top of the state's spending plan, which is ultimately the catalyst for these delays.

This year, Gov. Hochul has said that she won't ratify a budget that doesn't include her policy priorities, which include reforms to the state's discovery and involuntary commitment laws.

Also at the ballot box is a proposal to buy new buses during the 2026-27 school year.

Voters will decide on approving the purchase of two full-size propane buses at \$209,000 each or around \$418,000 total. The propositions include a hybrid student transport for \$50,000 and a stake rack/dump truck for \$100,000.

The district will host a budget public hearing on May 6 at 5:30 p.m.

The budget vote will take place May 20 from noon to 8 p.m. at the Ulisses Historical Society.

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

ezvelazquez@gmail.com or on X (formerly Twitter) @ezvelazquez.

In brief:

The Trumansburg Conservatory of Fine Arts (TCFA) will host its Spring Dance Recital May 17 and 18 at the Trumansburg High School auditorium.

Tickets are on sale now at the following prices:

- \$6.00 for single entry
- \$15.00 for the weekend pass
- Free for children 12 and under

"Our 2025 Spring Dance Recital will celebrate our ongoing renovations and subsequent inspirational journey," according to a post on TCFA's website. "This year is reigniting our passion and love for dance. As our beloved TCFA grows as a monument of community and culture, we will expand and reignite in our beautiful town of Trumansburg."

More information can be found here:

<https://www.tbburgconservatory.org/reignited-spring-dance-recital>

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Open Doors English speaks for itself, and the message is uplifting

Ithaca's much loved First Presbyterian Church, home to Open Doors English, was the venue for the premiere of a short film about ODE on April 13, 2025. On a rare sunny Sunday afternoon, the large meeting room in the beautiful church was packed, with every seat filled and standing room only.

By Marjorie Olds



Open Door English students arriving from 40 different countries have been coming to the Presbyterian Church on weekdays since September 2019 to learn or enhance their ability to speak English. Around 300 students take classes each year. ODE students moved the audience with their description of this program:

"This is a safe place, where I am welcomed. My fellow students are now my community, here, so far away from home...Before I understood English, I was like an invisible person. Now I can be part of the community in Ithaca."

Open Doors English co-directors, Elizabeth Susmann and Hilary Boyer, explained that students may come here as permanent residents, temporary residents, refugees, asylum seekers, or fellowship awardees. Students may be trying to improve their English skills, find work, obtain a driver's license, or achieve a certification. Whatever brings them to ODE, they are welcomed. Elizabeth: "Open Doors English is more than just a language school; it's a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Our students demonstrate the power of human resilience every day and come together to give and receive kindness and support."

Current ODE students described Open Doors English as their refuge in the time of their lives when they needed it the most:

"Here I can connect with people. We learn and we explore, and we have fun. When we left our home country, we didn't expect that...Here, we can go on field trips and visit the library, Ithaca Community Gardens, the Sciencenter, and many other places. Some of us volunteer where extra hands are needed... As we receive help, and then help others, we become a part of this wonderful Ithaca community."

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"We each arrived as strangers, and we have become friends. For life."

"Open Doors English is not just a school; this is a family. We encourage each other so we can all make a better life."

"I had a dream—to learn English, and now I can speak with my co-workers, I can ask questions and answer questions. Open Doors English made my dream possible."

One student's journey began with P. not knowing a word of English. In her home country she had attended only a little school. While busily parenting children and finding her way in a new, unfamiliar country, she signed up for the introductory level of classes at ODE. Over the years, whenever she could attend, she did, and she remained determined to learn as much as she could.

P. mastered English and she obtained her GED. She graduated from TC3 and is now employed as a medical interpreter. She helps others who are not proficient in English understand and communicate with medical practitioners. Once a person who could not communicate in English, she is now a translator for others, who are in the situation she has gone beyond, through her hard work and Open Doors English's continual support.

Many ODE students come to Ithaca because of tragic circumstances—a civil war or governmental collapse in their home country. Some arrive from countries in which they never had the chance to receive any formal education. Most of the students are far away from their families of origin. So many ODE students arrive experiencing overwhelming fears, trauma, and feelings of loss. As students at ODE gain mastery of English, they can share those feelings with others, although they arrived from different countries, speaking different languages. Their English makes their important connections possible, not just for employment or the ability to help their children settle in a new land, but also to be able to lay down the burdens of their heart with friends who understand.

"We can begin to reconcile our past lives, to describe our loss of home, family, culture, with others who know what that means... Thank you Open Doors English for being here for me. Ithaca is



Photo by Amaranta Delgado

Donna Stauffer teaches a class at Open Doors English (ODE). In ODE classes, students from around the world build lifelong friendships.

peaceful and beautiful and the people in Ithaca are kind and generous."

"We left our country to come here as part of Ithaca's City of Asylum. I heard about Open Doors English when I saw a poster for an ODE Language Café. All Ithacans are invited to come and practice their language with ODE students at the Language Cafés. If there are no Ithacans who speak my language, I instead practice my English. We also learn about other programs we can join—to work in healthcare or hospitality, for example."

"Melissa, one of our teachers, is an artist. She taught English as a Second Language, so she understands our studies at ODE. We make art projects together and it is a time of sharing, fun, relaxation."

On Sunday April 13th many people came to see the ODE film. New York State Assemblymember Anna Kelles spoke about her valiant work to protect immigration, and the many ways she supports ODE. The large audience and ODE students clapped and cheered Anna's efforts.

"Being a part of Open Doors English is incredibly precious," said one student. "Here I belong. I am a part of something special. Coming here gives me hope."

Open Doors English will hold a community dinner on Saturday, May 3rd at



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911

CONTINUED from pg 1

outside of work.

"It can be tough," Harris said, "solving other people's problems, so to speak, and it leaves you with an empty tank at the end of the day for your own life and situations you need to resolve for yourself."

One recent addition to his life has helped a lot, Harris said. In January he adopted a dog, a German Shepard he named David Adam X-ray (Dax) after comedic actor Dax Shepard. He takes the dog for a walk every morning when he gets home.

"I get back from work, I do my morning routine, I go to the dog park and decompress," he said. "It's good to burn off some of the physical energy to match your mental state, and that allows you to slow down and unwind from chaotic days."

Harris does this by running and playing fetch with Dax. "He's like a bolt of lightning," he said. "He's my companion, and he and I are like two peas in a pod."

Mental health at the forefront

To help DoER members stay mentally healthy while performing an emotionally taxing job, the department has recently reinstated its Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) program.

"We had one in the past," said Danielle Schwarz, peer support coordinator for the department, "but I don't think that the importance of the CISM team was really understood." She said that she is thankful to Stitley for revitalizing the program and for creating a culture of growth and support.

"Our department would be a vastly different place if he was not director," Schwarz said of Stitley. "He is very approachable. ...We are not just simply his subordinates; we are his partners."

"We are a very specific group of people with specific needs," she added. Few people, including most professional therapists, can fully understand what 911 operators go through, she said.

Castillo said that she experiences intrusive auditory memories, a symptom of trauma that she said has improved after multiple years of work with her therapist. There are still times when she will unexpectedly hear some of her most difficult 911 calls replay themselves in her head.

"What keeps me going are the positive outcomes I've had in the past," Castillo said. "There are those few life-saving moments that make it so worth it."

Closure can be very helpful for mentally processing traumatic calls, which often end well before the event is resolved, when they are handed off to first responders on the scene. A CISM follow-up gives dispatchers an opportunity to find out more information from other departments after the call

is over, allowing them to discuss what went well and where there are opportunities for improvement. A CISM meeting also gives team members a forum to discuss larger events, such as the Lansing wildfire, so they can help each other process the emotions they might be feeling after a stressful call.

"We normalize that it's OK not to be OK," Schwarz said, "so when you have a brand new recruit who is struggling but doesn't want to talk about things, they can see the chief officer talking about how this specific call affected them."

"What keeps me going are the positive outcomes I've had in the past. There are those few life-saving moments that make it so worth it."

JOSY CASTILLO

Communications Training Officer,
Tompkins County Department of
Emergency Response

In her line of work, "things are going to get to you," Schwarz said. But seeing your superiors open up about how they went through difficult times as well can take away stigma and create a healthier work environment.

DoER is also working on starting up a new program in the next month to two months called the Overwatch Peer Support, a program that focuses on providing individual support to those who request it; it is a partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Finger Lakes NY and NAMI North Texas.

Schwarz said that she hopes that over time DoER can take a more proactive approach toward mental health. Older individuals, who may have grown up with the stigma that surrounds mental health issues, especially in the emergency response professions, can be especially vulnerable to the mental strain that can come with hiding the symptoms of trauma. College students who are first responders are asked to deal with potentially traumatic events even though they have less life experience, and they are also at the greatest risk, Schwartz said.

"We want to get ahead of things before they develop PTSD, anxiety or depression," she said, adding that a fully trained psychiatric service animal will be part of the program. DoER employees will soon be able to take a moment to step away from work and reset their nervous systems while petting Luna, a German Shepard that is being trained especially for the program.

More frequent severe weather events have led to an increase in calls

Rainstorms, tornadic activity, flooding, snow storms, brush fires and longer sustained periods of thunderstorms that translate into wind events



Jaime Cone Hughes

Josy Castillo, communications training officer (left), and Danielle Schwarz, peer support coordinator, at the newly updated 911 call center at the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response on Brown Road in Lansing.

and trees down have all increased in the last few years and were especially prevalent last year, according to Halaychik.

"That weather element has played a significant role in a lot of major incidents we handled in 2024 and into 2025," Halaychik said. Downed power lines and fallen trees are no longer freak acts of nature. When those types of emergencies are present in one area, it is likely that they are occurring across the region.

"To the individual it might look isolated to where they live, but take those effects that people are seeing and spread them throughout the county," Halaychik said. "There are definitely changes in weather patterns — more storms moving west to east, but occasionally remnants of tropical storms or hurricane activity as it moves up the eastern seaboard."

The increase in thunderstorms has led to more brush fires, as well as other kinds of damage, with more calls coming in as people assess the impact to their property.

"The storm may take 10 to 15 minutes to go through," Halaychik said, "but the aftermath lasts for hours on end."

An updated call center and the uncertain future role of video technology

"If I were to look back, this was the year of working in the backup center at Cornell," Collins said. "It was OK, but it's a smaller area, and not home." The team was relocated to Cornell from last

September to February while the call center underwent an upgrade.

"Moving back in here, to our new equipment here at Brown Road, has made a big difference," he said. "It's very modern equipment and nice to work with."

The dispatch center is capable of taking video calls, but the technology has not yet been switched on.

"The technology is there to send a link to someone's phone," Collins explained. The caller could then send images or video to that link, but DoER is still determining the best way to use that visual information. "It might go to the cloud, where we would not even see them," he said. "There's a lot to be worked out."

A link to a livestream could be sent to others in the field or to the sheriff's department, so that those professionals could have eyes on what is going on in a situation before EMTs or law enforcement reach the scene.

There are implications to consider regarding the mental toll that video capability could take on 911 dispatchers. To hear a call is one thing, but to see an emergency unfold in real time could be a completely different experience, Collins said.

"It is a great technology," he said, "and I hope we can implement it soon, but it's not something you can rush into."

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Ithaca College commencement speaker will be alumna Monica Digilio

Ithaca College recently announced that Monica Digilio, accomplished alumna and CEO of Compass Advisors LLC, will return to South Hill on Sunday, May 18, as the keynote speaker for the college's 130th Commencement ceremony.

Digilio holds a B.S. in Cinema and Photography (1985) and an M.S. in Communications (1986) from IC's Roy H. Park School of Communications. She is an esteemed executive who has led human resources for some of the most well-known global brands in hospitality and entertainment, including Atlantis Resorts, One&Only, Caesars Entertainment, and Montage International.

In those roles, she served as a trusted advisor and collaborator to the C-Suite, successfully leading large-scale transformation and growth initiatives, executing complex financial/organizational restructuring, and implementing strategies to enhance workplace culture and employee experience while creating growth and development opportunities.

"Monica Digilio is a dynamic alumna whom this year's graduates will find inspiring," said Ithaca College President La Jerne Terry Cornish. "A first-generation college student, her educational grounding in the liberal arts tradition, when combined with her majors, pre-

pared her for a successful career as one of the nation's leading HR executives and corporate strategists. Like Monica, our graduating students will find that they are well-prepared to take on anything that comes their way, no matter their major or intended career path."

Compass Advisors, founded in 2021, provides strategic advisory support to senior-level executives, private equity investors, and boards of directors, with a focus on human capital strategy and management, business leadership, talent development, and organizational planning.

"I vividly remember my graduation from Ithaca and all the mixed emotions I had about what was to come as I journeyed into the real world, leaving the safe cocoon of South Hill," said Digilio. "Candidly, everything I thought and hoped it would be is so incredibly different from what it actually is, but in the best possible way. Forty years later, I am honored and excited to return to celebrate the 2025 graduates and deliver their Commencement address. I hope to inspire this incredible class to remain open to all the possibilities around them, even the ones they may not see."

Prior to Compass, Digilio served as executive vice president and chief human

resources officer for Caesars Entertainment Corporation, a global gaming, hospitality, and entertainment company. There, she led the human resources and corporate social responsibility functions and supported a global workforce of 65,000 team members.

Previous positions included chief human resources officer at Montage International, owner and manager of the Montage and Pendry luxury hospitality brands; executive vice president of global human resources and administration for Kerzner International, parent company of the Atlantis and One&Only integrated resorts and luxury hotel brands; and vice president of human resources for the North America and Franchise Divisions of ITT Sheraton Corporation/Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

While a student at Ithaca College, Digilio was elected to the Phi Kappa Phi national honor society. Her alumni service has included membership on the Park School Board of Advocates. She currently serves on the boards of directors of Seaport Entertainment Group, The Venetian Resort Las Vegas, CopperPoint Insurance Companies, and Sunstone Hotel Investors Inc. She is also on the advisory board for Cornell University's Leland C. and Mary M. Pillsbury Institute



Photo provided

Monica Digilio, alumna and CEO of Compass Advisors, will return to South Hill on May 18 as the keynote speaker for Ithaca College's 130th Commencement ceremony.

for Hospitality Entrepreneurship and is a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors and the Women Corporate Directors Foundation.

The Commencement ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. in Glazer Arena of the Athletics and Events Center on the Ithaca College campus.

For more information, visit ithaca.edu/commencement.

What forms of ID you need to travel after May 7, 2025

The Tompkins County Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) informs the public that after May 7, 2025, U.S. citizens and New York State residents can no longer use a standard driver's license to board a domestic flight within the U.S.

You will need either a REAL ID License/ID or a New York State Enhanced License/ID. If you are unsure what type of ID you have, check the top right corner for a star (REAL ID) or a flag (Enhanced).

A standard license will instead have a 'not for federal purposes' imprint. There are different ID options to consider depending on the type of travel you are planning. For more detailed information call the DMV office at (607) 273-7187 or stop by at 301 Third Street in Ithaca.

Domestic flight within the U.S.

After May 7, 2025, only a REAL ID or a NYS Enhanced License will be accepted for domestic air travel. REAL ID accept-

able documents are driver's licenses or other state photo identity cards issued by Department of Motor Vehicles (or equivalent). If you are not sure if your ID complies with REAL ID, check with your state department of motor vehicles. A temporary driver's license is not an acceptable form of identification. To obtain a REAL ID license at your local DMV office, documents that show proof of residency, citizenship, and a social security number must be presented. There is a \$12.50 transaction fee.

There is a \$30 charge for an Enhanced License (in addition to a \$12.50 transaction fee). To obtain an Enhanced License, proof of citizenship must be shown. The name that appears on your documents will be used on your Enhanced License. If you had a name change (marriage, divorce), original or certified copies documenting that change are required, which is an ex-

tra step with additional costs in the process. Only five states (including New York State) have adopted Enhanced Licenses so far, which can lead to questions from TSA agents at airports who might not be familiar with them. It can be useful to have Homeland Security information with you that explains Enhanced Licenses.

Examples of acceptable documentation and how to acquire it for Real ID and Enhanced Licenses can be found on the DMV REAL ID webpage.

A U.S. Passport Card is also acceptable for domestic travel after May 7, 2025. This can be a good option for individuals who have had multiple name changes and may find it challenging to gather all the necessary documents required for obtaining a REAL ID or Enhanced License. The cost for first-time applicants is \$65 for adults. To learn more about Passport Cards, visit the U.S. Department of State website.

Cross the U.S. border from Canada, Mexico, and some Caribbean countries (by land or sea only)

The NYS Enhanced License provides the added benefit of being an acceptable proof of identity and citizenship for these travel routes. This is a low-cost option for entering these countries in a vehicle, in addition to serving as a permit to drive.

A U.S. Passport Card can also be used to cross the U.S. border from Canada, Mexico, and Caribbean by land or sea only. **International travel by air, sea, or land**

A U.S. passport is required for international air travel and can also be used for domestic flights and international sea and land travel. The cost for first-time applicants is \$165 for adults. Detailed requirements on how to apply for a passport in Tompkins County can be found on the DMV passport webpage.

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SPORTS

ESPN 107.1
(ITHACA) 1160**KEY MATCHUPS:** 4/30 Baseball: Ithaca vs. Homer

• 5/5 Girls Lacrosse: Ithaca vs. Horseheads • 5/5 Baseball: Lansing @ Trumansburg

History Maker: Cornell's CJ Kirst breaks NCAA scoring record

Cornell men's lacrosse has had countless prolific players pass through the ranks throughout its rich history. The likes of Mike French, Rob Pannell and John Patelli come to mind as some of the best attackers to don the Cornell red. CJ Kirst has not only surpassed all of them in the Big Red scoring charts, he's also written himself into the national record books.

On April 26, Kirst became the NCAA's all-time leading scorer during the Big Red's 10-8 win over Dartmouth in the regular season finale. The senior surpassed the previous record of 224 goals held by Virginia's Payton Cormier. It was only until after the game when it sunk in for Kirst how much it meant to make history.

“...Being there and being able to do it [on] Senior Day with my best friends, it truly meant a lot. It’s a pretty special moment.”

CJ KIRST

All-time Leading Scorer,
NCAA Men's Lacrosse

“It’s pretty cool,” Kirst said. “It didn’t really hit me until [I’m] going into the locker room after the game and receiving the ball and hugging my teammates and hearing what

[head] coach [Connor] Buczek had to say. It means a lot. Obviously it’s something that I was able to accomplish. But being there and being able to do it [on] Senior Day with my best friends, it truly meant a lot. It’s a pretty special moment.”

Needing just one goal to break the record, Kirst wasted no time. With 58 seconds off the clock, Kirst found the back of the net from five yards out to send Schoellkopf Field into frenzy. What made that goal even more special was who assisted it. Michael Long played alongside Kirst back in their high school days in New Jersey, and it was purely poetic that he was the one to set up Kirst’s unforgettable strike.

“It couldn’t have worked out better,” Buczek said. “Those two have been throwing balls back and forth and scoring goals for almost 10 years now. They’re so in sync. The way those two lead, the way those two go about their business, the way those two just demand a lot from each other, push each other to be the best version of themselves, I think that tandem really sets the stage for who we are as an offense.”

For Buczek, this tremendous accomplishment is not only indicative of all the hard work Kirst has put in throughout his time on East Hill, it’s also a collective achievement to help him get to that monstrous tally of goals.

“Offensively, it’s a six-man unit,” Buczek said. “Everybody has to contribute to the team’s success. Obviously CJ is a very special individual and an incredible lacrosse player. That’s a record for every-

body. That’s not just CJ’s record. That is our team and how we prepare and how we play and how we share the ball that gets them in those spots. [I’m] So proud of CJ, but we know that that is far bigger than just him. That is a team record.”

That historic afternoon at Schoellkopf was the cherry on top in what was an outstanding regular season for Kirst and the Big Red. Cornell is the number-one team in the nation for six weeks running with a 12-1 record, while Kirst will most likely win the Tewaaraton Award as the nation’s best player. It might seem difficult to stay focused with so much attention on the program, but Kirst credits the entire coaching staff for keeping him and the team grounded.

“It starts at the top with the coaches talking about how it’s a day-to-day process,” Kirst said. “And then it trickles down our senior class—not only the captains but the entire class as a whole—where we know every single time we step on the practice

See KIRST on pg 14

On April 26, Cornell men's lacrosse's CJ Kirst became the all-time leading scorer in NCAA history. The senior surpassed the previous record of 224 goals held by Virginia's Payton Cormier.



Lansing outdoor track & field strives for more glory

By Ryan Gineo
ESPN ITHACA

Last year was yet another successful one for Lansing outdoor track and field. The boys team captured the Section IV Class C title, while the girls team finished in third place. Their ambitions remain sky-high this time around, and the Bobcats are already off and running.

Both the boys and girls teams got their dual meet campaigns going with wins over Dryden and Union Springs. Prior to that, they’ve im-

pressed at some high-profile meets, namely the Marathon Spring Fling, the Square Deal Invite in Johnson City, and the Dan Fravil Memorial Ithaca Relays. The girls team’s head coach Mia Cote knows how valuable it is to go up against some bigger schools and fierce competition.

“It just makes us better,” Cote said. “We want to be competing against schools that are just as fast or even faster than us to push us to be our best.”

Cote is a new part of a big coaching staff for the Bobcats. After

coaching at the modified level, Cote is mainly focusing on the middle and long distance events, while assistant coaches Jason Peters (throwing) and Laura Barré return. Matt Scheffler and Doug Smith are coaching the boys team and Sarah Hammond and Bill Thibault are the volunteer coaches. It takes a village to coach such a large group, and their leadership has been passed on through the entire team.

“We have a great group of leaders as seniors,” Cote said. “The seniors and upperclassmen—and honestly the entire varsity team—helps

out modified. You see that unity between the modified and the varsity track teams, and I think that’s what makes track great at Lansing is because we start at such a young age, and the varsity kids mentor the younger ones. Those relationships and friendships just build on from seventh grade all the way to senior year.”

On the girls team, there have been plenty of talented athletes. Kristen Johnston is having a stellar senior season so far, highlighted by her

See TRACK on pg 14

TRACK

Continued from pg 13

pentathlon victory at the Square Deal Invite. The senior and Binghamton track commit is a prime example in Cote's eyes of embodying that leadership role.

"You see that unity between the modified and the varsity track teams, and I think that's what makes track great at Lansing is because we start at such a young age, and the varsity kids mentor the younger ones."

MIA COTE

Head Coach, Lansing Girls' Track and Field

"Kristen's a phenomenal athlete," Cote said. "She really takes those underclassmen under her wing. If I'm doing a distance workout and can't make it to the long or triple jump pit, she's over there trying to help them get their marks, give them advice, while she's also trying to train. She's kind of coaching and training at the same time."

Kathleen Sullivan is also off to a strong start, winning the 2,000-meter steeplechase at the Square Deal Invite and the Ithaca Relays. Cote is very familiar with the senior having coached her last fall in cross coun-

try, and it's been more of the same selfless mentality in the spring.

"She's dedicated, motivated, wants what's best for her and her entire team," Cote said. "I'm looking at entries for a specific meet and I'm like 'Okay, Kathleen. This is where you can score points, but is it too much?' And she was like, 'Hey, if it scores us points, put me in it. I'll survive.' I was like, 'I can always count on you.' She is a team player."

Like Sullivan, Kacey Strang is another versatile athlete on the Bobcats. The sophomore has competed in both track events (namely the 400-meter run) and field events (including the discus and shot put).

"She's very versatile," Cote said. "I can put her in anything. She's open to anything... She's great. She always comes to practice with a smile trying to get better and works well with everyone."

As for some other early-season standouts, sophomore Evelyn Jackson will also bring versatility in the hurdles, jumps, and pole vaults. Senior Makenzie Hunter is the Bobcats' top sprinter, and fellow senior Kelly Miller has also been praised by Cote for her strong work ethic.

For the boys team, Trent Thibault aims to thrive again in the long-distance events, having qualified for states last year in the 1,600-meter run. They also return a trio of athletes who also competed at



Photo by John Brehm

Lansing's Kristen Johnston is one of many athletes who have excelled in the early stages of the indoor track and field season. The senior's big highlight was winning the pentathlon at the Square Deal Invite in Johnson City, competing against bigger schools.

states last year and are hoping to do so again this year. Senior Rowan Fox is coming off a Section IV title in the 110-meter hurdles in an event he broke the school record in twice last year. Fellow senior Colin Tarbert has thrived in the pole vault where he also qualified for states during the indoor season. Junior Xavier Smith is also looking to make states in back-to-back seasons this school year in

the triple jump.

What makes this season unique for Lansing is that it can't use its own track due to the ongoing installation of a new turf field and track at Sobus Field. While they're using Groton's track for practices instead and they don't have a true home meet, that's not gonna stop the Bobcats from clawing their way to more postseason glory down the line.

KIRST

Continued from pg 13

field and film room, we know we're only there to get better that day. When we show up, we're not really looking for the day ahead or the future. We're not looking towards Saturday. We're focused on Tuesday's practice, Tuesday's film session.

That's kind of the mentality you've had all year: not looking ahead and taking it day by day."

Luckily for Kirst and the rest of his senior class, the game against Dartmouth is not their final game at Schoellkopf Field. After clinching its 20th outright Ivy League title, the Big Red will host the conference tournament from May 2-4. While it can be tempting to look ahead to a possible national cham-

pionship run, the message stays the same: take things day by day.

"It's a great opportunity for us to be home, to sleep in our own beds and have our own locker room to do all those things," Buczek said. "[I'm] so proud of what they've earned and the opportunity to be here at least for the Ivy League Tournament and hopefully beyond. But it's one day at a time. This group wants more time together.

The games are great. The games are the pinnacle of this thing. But the Monday to the Friday, the ability just to be out here and continue working together... No matter how we do, there's only a month left, and so we're gonna enjoy every second of it."

Cornell takes on Yale in the Ivy League semifinals on Friday, May 2 at 4 p.m.

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Friday, May 30

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4 Members per team

7:00 a.m. Registration & Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
1:00 p.m. Lunch and Awards

Featuring

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- Amateurs Only: Men's & Women's Longest Drive
- Men's & Women's Closest to the Pin
- Putting Contest
- Mulligans
- Long-Driver Challenge Hole

Registration open until May 17 at <https://nys4hfoundation.org/golf/> or by calling Jamie Ferris at the Wood Office, (607) 266-3303.



WEDNESDAY 4/30

CU Music: Midday Music for Organ with Annette Richards

April 30 @ 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Free
Midday Music for Organ: Annette Richards. "Bach and Beyond." Includes "Sei gegrüsset, Jesu gütig" BWV 768 and the Toccata, Adagio and Fugue, BWV 564.
Anabel Taylor Chapel 548 College Ave Ithaca, 14850

THURSDAY 5/1

May Day Strong

May 1 @ 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm Free
Gather with us to celebrate May Day! Thursday, May 1 from 4:45-7:00 pm. Gather from 4:30 at the Bernie Milton Pavilion. 4:45 Rally followed by march from N. Tioga->Court->N. Cayuga onto DeWitt Park. Gather with union members and leaders as well as allies to celebrate wins for workers and stand in solidarity for all of us. Music, visual theater, speeches, info tables and more. Make signs: Protect and Defend Medicaid, Social Security, and other programs working people rely on. Fully funded schools, healthcare and housing for all. Stop the attacks on immigrants, Black, indigenous, trans people, and other communities. Invest in communities not wars. Register: <https://www.mobilize.us/mayday/event/777678/>

FRIDAY 5/2

Ithaca Gallery Night May 2nd

May 2 @ 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Ithaca Gallery Night on May 2nd features twenty galleries and venues for First Friday in Ithaca. Please check the website for detailed listings at www.ithacagallerynight.com.
Ithaca Gallery Night 171 East State Street (Ithaca Commons) Ithaca, 14850

WE ARE LA VOZ: RESILIENCE THROUGH ART – OPENING RECEPTION

May 2 @ 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Join us for the opening of We Are La Voz: Resilience Through Art, a vibrant and powerful group exhibition showcasing the work of Latine artists using textile arts as a form of resistance, storytelling, and cultural memory. Curated by Yen Ospina through her Nomadic Gallery, this month-long pop-up exhibition at Orozco Gallery Ithaca celebrates fiber practices that uplift identity, heritage, and healing.
From embroidery and felting to weaving and quilting, each artist explores the power of thread and fabric as tools of transformation and testimony. This exhibition is presented in collaboration with the Latino Civic Association and Cornell's Rural Humanities Grant. The opening reception will feature Puerto Rican and Salvadoran cuisine by @jojocook and refreshing non-alcoholic drinks from @openspaces. Attendees will have the chance to meet the artists, connect with the community, and experience the stories woven into each piece. Sign up for events: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLsIvSoRoAeb-a04ndzgDS4sJ_YzbsM9tlaWqJAH8Kg6mM503Q/viewform?usp=preview
Orozco Gallery 115 S Cayuga St Ithaca, 14850

Richman and the Poorboys at Hopshire Brewery

May 2 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free
Rockin Blues/Soul/Country and more
Hopshire Farm and Brewery 1771 Dryden Rd. Freeville, 13068

SATURDAY 5/3

Friends of the Library BOOK SALE

May 3 @ 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Friends of the Library Book Sale at 509 Esty St, Ithaca. Opens Saturday May 3: 8am-8pm. Continues Sunday & Monday May 4-5: 10am-8pm. Offering up to 250,000 gently used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, games & more, sorted into over 70 subjects for easy shopping. Prices start low and drop each weekend. For more information, visit www.booksale.org. Regina



Read to Dogs!
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1st Wednesday of Feb-May at 2:30 PM

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April 2nd 2:30-3:30 PM
May 7th 2:30-3:30 PM

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newfieldlibrary@gmail.com
607-564-3594



Lennox Book Sale Bldg 509 Esty St Ithaca, 14850

The Doubtful Sprout puppet show

May 3 @ 10:30 am - 11:00 am
May 3 2025, 10:30am – The Doubtful Sprout at The Cherry Get ready to explore the world under your feet in this underground puppet adventure! Tunnel down with Worm and Sprout as they discover the mysterious life found inside soil. Along the way, kids help figure out the secrets that help Sprout grow. Award-winning puppeteer Liz Joyce brings this ecological wonderland to life with multiple puppetry styles, projections and song!
Meet the Puppets: Stay after the show to meet the artists and see the puppets up close!
The Cherry Arts 102 Cherry St, Ithaca, NY 14850, USA Ithaca, 14850

Ben Frank Moss opening Reception at The Gallery at South Hill

May 3 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Opening reception for the exhibit "Ben Frank Moss Drawings and Collages" at The Gallery at South Hill. Refreshments provided.

The Gallery at South Hill 950 Danby Road Ithaca, 14850

A Door to the World: Afghanistan

May 3 @ 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Join Open Doors English for a delicious community dinner fundraiser on Saturday, May 3rd at 5:30PM at the First Presbyterian Church (315 N Cayuga St). Save the date! All proceeds will benefit our adult ESL program, which provides English language classes for immigrants and refugees and is a safe haven of kindness and welcome amidst a national climate of intense anti-immigrant rhetoric and actions. This event is open to the public, but seating is limited! Please reserve your seats at opendoorsenglish.org/events This event centers around a sit-down dinner featuring a delicious menu of food from Afghanistan and a variety of international desserts. Payment is completely by donation. Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted. First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca 315 N Cayuga St. Ithaca, 14850

CU Music: Chorale Spring Concert

May 3 @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Free
Cornell Chorale with conductor Yen-Hsiang Nieh, and collaborative pianist: Vera Hui-pin Hsu: "Golden Eclipse." The Chorale's spring concert explores the theme of "Dark and Light." Life is full of challenges, and in times of darkness, we seek inner peace and strength while holding on to the hope of light. It is this very hope that drives us forward into the future. The concert program features works by composers from Germany, the United States, Latvia, Norway, South Africa, Italy, and Taiwan. Each piece conveys light through faith, nature, or love. Through our voices, we hope to share a message of resilience and inspiration with all who listen. Sage Chapel 147 Ho Plaza Ithaca, 14853

Cornell Chorale Spring Concert: "Golden Eclipse"

May 3 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Free
The Cornell Chorale is an all-voices choir that joins students, staff, and faculty of Cornell University. The spring concert explores the theme of "Dark and Light." Life is full of challenges, and in times of darkness, we seek inner peace and strength while holding on to the hope of light. It is this very hope that drives us forward into the future. The concert program features works by composers from Germany, the United States, Latvia, Norway, South Africa, Italy, and Taiwan. Each piece conveys light through faith, nature, or love. Through our voices, we hope to share a message of resilience and inspiration with all who listen. Admission is free and open to the public on a first-come first-served basis.

Conductor: Dr. Yen-Hsiang Nieh

Collaborative Pianist: Dr. Vera Hui-pin Hsu

Sage Chapel 147 Ho Plaza Ithaca, 14853

SUNDAY 5/4

Friends of the Library BOOK SALE

May 4 @ 10:00 am - May 5 @ 8:00 pm \$1
Friends of the Library Book Sale at 509 Esty St, Ithaca. Sunday & Monday May 4-5: 10am-8pm. Offering up to 250,000 gently used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, games & more, sorted into over 70 subjects for easy shopping. Prices start low and drop each weekend. For more information, visit www.booksale.org. Regina

All Welcome at the Finger Lakes Mineral Club Show on May 4

May 4 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Free
Bring your rocks, minerals and fossils for identification; learn from the meteorite, mineral and fossil displays. There will be crafts for kids, as well as rock-related activities. You'll find unique gifts, including jewelry, mineral specimens and gem-quality cabochons. Admission is free and all are welcome. Museum of the Earth 1259 Trumansburg Road Ithaca, 14850

CU Music: Cornell Wind Symphony Concert

May 4 @ 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Free
Cornell Wind Symphony, James Spinazzola,

conductor. The Wind Symphony celebrates the music of Spain with a traditional pasodoble, selections from Spanish and Cuban zarzuelas, and Luis Serrano Alarcón's Duende, a virtuosic fusion of flamenco, jazz, and Spanish popular music. The program also includes the world premiere of Tyson Gholston Davis's inner flame...deep and blue...for soprano and wind ensemble, featuring Ariadne Greif; and Ravel's Pavane pour une infante défunte.

Bailey Hall 230 Garden Ave Ithaca, 14850

MONDAY 5/5

Thrive Night

May 5 @ 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Free
Join us for a FREE event with local partners offering resources to help you THRIVE! Open to all community members. Veggies-to-Go featuring free fruits & vegetables (while supplies last) and other snacks and beverage provided by the Salvation Army.

Salvation Army 150 N. Albany Street Ithaca, 14850

TUESDAY 5/6

Ithaca Concert Band Concert "Across the Divides"

May 6 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
The Ithaca Concert Band, Ithaca's only adult concert band, eagerly invites you to attend its "Across the Divides" Concert on Tuesday May 6, at 7pm. The concert will take place at Ithaca College's listener-pleasing Ford Hall. Parking for Ford Hall is available in the 'J' Lot, which has elevator access to the fourth floor of the Whalen Center for Music. Featuring Les Miserables, The Lion King, Suite from Hamilton, West Side Story, Salvation is Created (Tschesnokoff), Something Doing (Scott Joplin), Fanfare to Planet Earth and Millennium, March (David Fanshawe), Let Freedom Ring (Ryan Nowlin), and Sahuaro (Nubia Jaime-Jonjuan). Reception to follow with cider and cookies! This concert is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted. This program is made possible in part with funding from the Triad Foundation, the Community Foundation of Tompkins County – Ridenour-Shady Family Fund, and the New York State Council on the Arts, administered by the Community Arts Partnership. Ford Hall, Ithaca College 953 Danby Road Ithaca, 14850

Comic Book Club Meeting on Tuesday, 5/6/2025 – "Superman's Journal, Part 2!" 7-8 PM, at the Tompkins County Public Library, at the Schwarz Jacobson Room

May 6 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free
Unlike Spider-Man and Batman, who wear masks, Superman does not appear to have something to hide or secrets to keep. Clark Kent, however, has been keeping a huge secret – he is actually from another planet! At the meeting on May 6, 2025 of the Comic Book Club of Ithaca, we will take a look at Superman stories that highlight the creative challenges that maintaining a dual identity – a major complication in any back story – can involve. Bring along tales of your own favorite stories about the Man of Steel to share, and if you attended Ithacon 48, bring along your convention stories as well! The Comic Book Club of Ithaca – the oldest continuously running comic book club in the country – is a registered non-profit organization. The Club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, and meetings are free and open to pop culture fans of all ages. For more information, see the Club's website at comicbookclub.org, which includes links to the Club's Facebook page, and to other events such as ITHACON, the local, annual comic book convention.



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

Real Estate Transactions

DRYDEN

- Robert W. Carey bought from Americu Credit Union & Jane M. Paul at 42 South St, Dryden, NY 13053 on 04/01/25 for \$188,903.
- John Hardy bought from Karel R. Westerling at N/A, Dryden, NY 13053 on 04/01/25 for \$350,000.
- Adam Kokoni & Rosalie Kokoni bought from Hasham Qaisar at 10 Bridle Ln, Dryden, NY 13053 on 04/01/25 for \$294,900.
- Madeline Weiss & Jerome Mayersak bought from Arthur T. Rawlings & Emilie I. Rawlings at 1 Snyder Hill Ct, Dryden, NY 13053

on 03/31/25 for \$365,000.

ENFIELD

- Matthew Laplant bought from Kamela K. Willett at 143-145 Saga Rd, Enfield, NY 13073 on 04/03/25 for \$73,000.

GROTON

- Millbrook Associates LLC bought from Meghan Thorne at 46 Groton City Rd, Groton, NY 13073 on 04/02/25 for \$305,000.

ITHACA

- Jeremy Bem bought from Nomad Spaces LLC at 1-C Vista

Ln, Ithaca, NY 14851 on 03/31/25 for \$250,000.

- Jeremy H. Braddock & Rayna M. Kalas bought from Michele Belot & Philipp Kircher at 117 Cayuga Park Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 04/01/25 for \$245,000.

- Rodney Howe bought from Mary B. Zazzera at 226 Amabel Rd, Ithaca, NY 14851 on 03/31/25 for \$404,375.

- Zhangjinyi Jiang bought from Nancy W. Riffer at 351 Saranac Way, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 03/28/25 for \$307,000.

- Serena L. McCloud bought from Judith M. Swann & Daniel E.

B-Swann at 329 Hook Pl, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 04/02/25 for \$240,000.

- Jinmei Zheng & Kui Chen bought from Kyle Steele at 319 Hillview Pl, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 04/01/25 for \$289,900.

LANSING

- Mihaela Bocioaga bought from Bracco Susan Carol Estate & Richard Bracco at 1053 Warren Rd, Lansing, NY 14850 on 03/31/25 for \$270,000.
- Lance Bush & Priscila B. Dasilva-Serpa bought from John F. Young & Susan M. Barnett at N/A,

Lansing, NY 13068 on 03/28/25 for \$53,000.

- Arlene A. Krebs bought from Hildreth Gary L. Estate & Arlene A. Krebs at N/A, Lansing, NY 13068 on 04/03/25 for \$20,000.

- Kerry Martin bought from Ryan M. Mayo at 814 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882 on 03/28/25 for \$395,000.

- James Mead bought from Saul A. Teukolsky & Roselyn Teukolsky at 15 Bean Hill Ln, Lansing, NY 14850 on 03/31/25 for \$660,000.

- Rhonda D. Schweiger & Stephen J. Schweiger bought from Hildreth Gary L. Estate & Arlene A. Krebs at N/A, Lansing, NY 13068 on 04/03/25 for \$6,000.

at N/A, Lansing, NY 13068 on 04/03/25 for \$6,000.

NEWFIELD

- Jeffner M. Allen bought from Mark E. D-Latham at 1841 W Danby Rd, Newfield, NY 14867 on 03/31/25 for \$250,000.
- Joseph Barber bought from Bergen Farms Realty LLC at 2904 Elmira Rd, Newfield, NY 14867 on 04/02/25 for \$75,000.
- Cindy L. Hoffman bought from Mazourek Farms & Robert C. Mazourek at Elmira Rd, Newfield, NY 14867 on 03/28/25 for \$22,005.

Classifieds

ATTORNEY

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

- If you had knee or hip replacement surgery and suffered an infection due to use of a Bair Hugger (blue blanket)? If it happened between 2020 and now, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson for help. Call now: 1-800-535-5727.

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- We buy 8,000 cars a week! Sell your old, busted, or junk car with no hoops, haggles, or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle with an easy three-step process: instant offer, free pickup, fast payment. Call now: 1-855-403-3374.

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- Attention oxygen therapy users! Discover oxygen therapy that moves with you with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. Free information kit available. Call now: 1-833-661-4172.

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- Bath & shower updates in as little as 1 day! Affordable prices, no payments for 18 months, lifetime warranty, and professional

time. Call today: 1-866-782-4069.

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

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MISCELLANEOUS

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- Bath & shower updates in as little as 1 day! Affordable prices, no payments for 18 months, lifetime warranty, and professional

installs. Senior & military discounts available. Call now: 1-877-543-9189.

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- Struggling with your timeshare? Wesley Financial Group, LLC, timeshare cancellation experts, cancelled over \$50,000,000 in debt and fees in 2019. Get a free info package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations, over 450 positive reviews. Call now: 833-308-1971.

- DIRECTV Stream—carries the most local MLB games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 months, stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 months with Choice Package or higher. No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS: 1-866-859-0405.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

To: The last known owner or owners of the following burial lots located in the King's Cemetery, town of Ithaca, in Tompkins County, New York, and all persons having or claiming to have an interest in said burial lots:

Joseph W Elston, John Welch, William Welch, Thomas Jackson, Florence Hillick, Eliza Hamilton, Abner C. Maby, Elmerine Gurney, Minnie E. Speer, John M. Shepard, Amanda Spear, Abraham Spear, Robert Carson, John Cornwall, John Owen, Fanny last name not legible, and Josephine VanInwagen, (Pra_ces)Dell(?)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: That (1) the monuments or markers are so badly out of repair or dilapidated as to create a dangerous condition, (2) the persons to whom this notice is addressed must repair or remove said monuments or markers by July 8, 2025 and, (3) if the persons to whom this notice is addressed fail to repair or remove said monuments or markers by the previously-stated deadline, the King's Cemetery Association may remove or repair said monuments without further notice to the persons to whom this notice is addressed.

Contact Ron Schoneman, President of King's Cemetery Association at 224 McGraw House, Ithaca, NY or by phone at 607-272-1037 or by email at howjog@aol.com by the deadline shown above.

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- Affordable TV & internet! If you're overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! Call now: 1-855-399-2803.

Solutions to Puzzles on Page 23

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

Cornell Department of Music announces ensemble performances, recitals, and more

The Cornell Department of Music announces the final large ensemble concerts of the semester, highlighting the hard work of students and faculty.

On Saturday, May 3, at 3 p.m. in Barnes Hall, the Cornell Chamber Orchestra presents an afternoon of music inspired by the intimacy and versatility of the string quartet. This program features a special collaboration with the acclaimed Ulysses String Quartet and explores works that blur the lines between chamber music and orchestral textures. Highlights include Haydn's *Divertimento* in B-flat, Michael Abels' *Delights and Dances*, Florence Price's lyrical *Andante* from her first quartet, and Elgar's sweeping *Introduction and Allegro*. Founded in the summer of 2015, the Ulysses Quartet won the grand prize and gold medal in the senior string division of the 2016 Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition and first prize in the 2018 Schoenfeld International String Competition. In 2017, the quartet finished first in the American Prize and won second prize at the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition.

Notable engagements have included the Buffalo Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Premiere Performances Hong Kong, National Arts Centre (Ottawa), and Ce-

mal Rey Concert Hall (Istanbul).

Also on Saturday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m. in Sage Chapel the Cornell Chorale, with conductor Yen-Hsiang Nieh and collaborative pianist Vera Hui-pin Hsu, perform a concert titled "Golden Eclipse" that explores the theme of "Dark and Light." The program will feature pieces about overcoming challenges and finding inner peace in difficult times with works by composers from Germany, the United States, Latvia, Norway, South Africa, Italy, and Taiwan. Each piece conveys light through faith, nature, or love. Through their voices, the Chorale will share a message of resilience and inspiration.

On Sunday, May 4 at 3:00 pm in Bailey Hall, the Cornell Wind Symphony, conducted by James Spinazzola, celebrates the music of Spain with a traditional *pasodoble*, selections from Spanish and Cuban *zarzuelas* (musical theater), and Luis Serrano Alarcón's *Duende*, a virtuosic fusion of flamenco, jazz, and Spanish popular music. The program also includes the world premiere of Tyson Gholston Davis's *inner flame...deep and blue...* for soprano and wind ensemble, featuring Ariadne Greif; and Ravel's *Pavane pour une infante défunte*. Greif, praised for her "luminous, expressive voice," "searing top notes," and "dusky depths," (*New York Times*), has premiered over a hundred new works and more than a dozen new operas. She has performed concerts of chamber music in Weill Hall, The Little Island, The Park Avenue Armory, The Ojai Festival, The Meidan Festival, and across the US, Canada, France, Finland, and the Middle East, including more than 200 concerts with Ensemble Mélange, and in appearances with Lukas Ligeti, Gabriel Kah-



Photo provided

A performance Sunday, May 4, of the Cornell Wind Symphony, conducted by James Spinazzola, will feature Ariadne Greif.

ane, Pekka Kuusisto, The Knights, and JACK Quartet, among others.

Additional events May 1-6 include:

- Thursday, May 1
Recitals from students in the Cornell Vocal Program
5:30 pm & 7:30 pm
Barnes Hall
- Sunday, May 4
Jazz Social at the Regent Lounge: Four small group sets by Cornell's Down-Beat award-winning jazz program. Full bar and food service is available and formal attire is encouraged.
5:00 pm
Regent Lounge at the Statler Hotel
- Sunday, May 4
Students of Xak Bjerken present their annual studio project with works for 4-hands and two pianos by Brahms, Bi-

zet, Carter Pann, Schubert, Messiaen, and Lutoslawski.

- 7:30 pm
Barnes Hall
- Monday, May 5
Violin students perform a variety of repertoire with pianists Kerry Mizrahi and Ryan Reilly.
- 7:30 pm
Sage Chapel
- Tuesday, May 6
Under guest director Heri Purwanto, a freelance musician from Surakarta, Indonesia, the Cornell Gamelan Ensemble presents a varied program of traditional Javanese music.
- 7:30 pm
Klarman Hall Atrium

All concerts above are free and open to the public and are subject to change.

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Cornell-recommended business professional joins TCAT Board

Christopher Bomysoad, a highly experienced business, management, and finance professional, officially joined the TCAT Board of Directors effective April 25.

Bomysoad, director of Cornell University's Finance, Administration & Enterprise Performance, is the second newcomer to TCAT's governing board since January. Transportation scholar, Nicholas Klein, a Cornell urban and regional planning professor, was elected to the board in February.

"I am thrilled to join the TCAT Board of Directors and contribute to an organization that plays a vital role in connecting our community with the incredible destinations and resources in the area," Bomysoad said.

Bomysoad has been employed at Cornell University for the past seven years, first as business manager of Cornell Dining, and then Assistant Director of Enterprise Finance & Business Planning before assuming his current role in 2023.

He also has experience in the private sector, having worked for such major companies as Borg Warner, Lockheed Martin and Harley-Davidson, Inc. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in finance and minor in accounting and economics from the Rochester Institute of Technology, and a Master of Business Administration degree, with an emphasis on operations management, from the

University of Scranton.

"With nearly 20 years of experience in financial planning and analysis, and continuous improvement, I look forward to leveraging my expertise to enhance both the rider experience and operational efficiency at TCAT," Bomysoad said.

The university nominated Bomysoad to fill the remainder of Kelley Cooper's term, which is set to expire at the end of 2026. Cooper, senior director, Finance & Administration at Cornell University, announced her retirement last month after serving on the board for more than two years.

Cornell is a TCAT local underwriter along with the City of Ithaca and Tompkins County, each of whom are entitled to recommend three people to the board. TCAT directors, in turn, must then vote whether to elect them, which they did for Bomysoad in a unanimous vote at their regularly scheduled meeting on April 24.

Board members expressed their thanks to Cooper for the many hours she spent lending her financial know-how to TCAT. At their March meeting, they passed an official "resolution of appreciation" to Cooper that said: "With her finely honed analytical skills, Kelley has capably advised staff through the many complexities of fiscal planning during TCAT's management restructuring in late 2023 and early 2024."



Photo provided

Christopher Bomysoad, a highly experienced business, management, and finance professional, has officially joined the TCAT Board of Directors.

The City of Ithaca recommended Klein, who lives in Fall Creek, to an open seat that was previously held by former Ithaca Mayor Laura Lewis. Lewis's term was set to expire at the end of 2024. But instead of renominating Lewis to that seat, the city recommended that she replace another seat long held by Jennifer Dotson who was in rotation to become chairperson this year. Dotson, a veteran transportation advocate, announced her retirement last fall after serving 17 years on the board.

Due to Cooper's retirement, Lewis reshuffled officer roles, naming



Photo provided

Kelley Cooper, senior director of finance and administration at Cornell University, announced her retirement from the TCAT Board of Directors last month after serving on the board for more than two years.

TCAT Board Shan Varma, director of human resources, Cornell's Student and Campus Life, as this year's secretary-treasurer. That post was held by Tompkins County Legislator Shawna Black, who Lewis named as 2025 vice-chairperson. This places Black in line to become chairperson next year.

Lewis said she is amazed with the combined talent of all TCAT directors, adding that Bomysoad "will bring tremendous expertise and experience to the board."



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GENERAC®

Maguire Subaru to present its second-largest donation to local pediatric cancer charity

Maguire Subaru Ithaca, in partnership with Subaru of America, will present T-Burg Takes on Pediatric Cancer with a charitable donation in the amount of \$16,035. This figure is the second-highest amount raised by Maguire Subaru for a local charity. Funds were raised late last year during Subaru's 17th annual Share The Love Event, which gave Maguire Subaru customers an opportunity to select T-Burg Takes On Pediatric Cancer as their desired "Hometown" charity when finalizing the purchase of a new Subaru.

Together, Maguire Subaru, and Subaru of America, donated \$300 to T-Burg Takes On Pediatric Cancer for every new Subaru purchased at the dealership. Additional donations of \$3.00 were accepted for every Subaru customer that brought in their

vehicle for service during the event period.

"Maguire has deep roots in Trumansburg, having opened its very first dealership there in 1977. We're proud and happy to be able to support another T-Burg organization," said Cory Olivares, General Manager of Maguire Subaru Ithaca. "Through partnerships like Subaru's Share the Love program, we're able to give back to causes that truly matter to our customers, our neighbors, and our hometown. Supporting T-Burg Takes On Pediatric Cancer is just one of the ways we're honoring that commitment."

To date, Subaru of America and Maguire have partnered to donate nearly \$200,000 to local organizations through various Share The Love events.



Photo provided

Left to right: Tyler Brown of Maguire Subaru Ithaca, Chelsea Smith of T-Burg Takes On Pediatric Cancer (TTOPC), Corey Olivares of Maguire, and Fred Vanderzee, Scott Sherwood, Chrissy Jackson and Kyle Mosher of TTOPC.

Goodwill of the Finger Lakes cuts ribbon on new Ithaca store

Goodwill of the Finger Lakes is pleased to announce its first retail location in Ithaca is now open. Last Friday at a ribbon-cutting ceremony, several dignitaries and community leaders gathered alongside Goodwill officials and team members to celebrate the grand opening and officially welcome Goodwill to the Ithaca community. The 15,000-square-foot thrift store, which marks Goodwill's 13th retail location in the Finger Lakes region and its first in Tompkins County, occupies the former Ollie's Bargain Outlet at 723 South Meadow Street.

"When you donate or shop at Goodwill, you are giving things a second life and embracing value, versatility and sustainability in every purchase," Goodwill of the Finger Lakes President & CEO Jennifer Lake said. "Following Earth Day, our arrival in Ithaca is timely and exciting as we recognize the sustainable impact of shopping secondhand and our commitment to elevating people, community and the planet. We'd like to sincerely thank the Ithaca

community for the warm welcome and are excited for the ability to collaborate with other local reuse organizations to aggregate materials for remanufacturing and recycling as part of our role leading the Goodwill Northeast Circularity Hub. We look forward to having a presence here for many years to come."

Like all Goodwill stores, the new Ithaca location features quality items at competitive prices that Goodwill shoppers have come to expect from the organization. The first 100 shoppers through the door received a complimentary \$10 Goodwill gift card to peruse the store's inventory of affordable second-hand clothing, electronics, housewares, seasonal merchandise and other gently used, donated items. In addition to its retail operations, the Ithaca store doubles as a convenient donation site and accepts donations daily during regular store hours from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

"I am proud to welcome Goodwill of



Photo provided

A ribbon-cutting celebration April 25 marks the opening of Ithaca's first Goodwill store, located on South Meadow Street.

the Finger Lakes to Ithaca and to see their commitment to advancing a circular economy in our region," Assemblymember Anna Kelles said. "The constant production of new clothing and household goods, which often relies on exploited labor, is a major contributor of greenhouse gas emissions and landfill waste. By donating or shopping at Goodwill, our neighbors are taking a meaningful step toward reducing that impact - keeping reusable items in circulation and increasing access to affordable essentials for individuals and families. Ithaca has long been a leader in waste reduction and reuse and the addition of Goodwill strengthens that legacy. I

look forward to seeing how this new partnership contributes to our broader goal of environmental sustainability, economic resilience and community wellbeing and of course, having a new local spot to discover hidden treasures!"

Headquartered in Rochester, New York, Goodwill of the Finger Lakes operates an expansive retail and donation network, serving more than 20 counties across upstate New York from Greater Rochester to Syracuse.

For more information about the new Ithaca location and about Goodwill of the Finger Lakes, visit goodwillfingerlakes.org.

Obituaries

Celebrating Lives, Honoring Memories

RECENT DEATH NOTICES

Name:	Age:	Town, State:	Death Date:	Arrangements:
Kristina W. Perialis	70	Ithaca, NY	Apr-26	Bangs Funeral Home
Toby McFarren Hamilton	79	Brooktondale, NY	Apr-26	Lansing Funeral Home
Therese M. Forte	93	Ithaca, NY	Apr-26	CNY Cremation Service
Dr. Fredric Winthrop Scott	89	Brooktondale, NY	Apr-24	Perkins Funeral Home
Ralph Lovelace	91	Trumansburg, NY	Apr-24	CNY Cremation Service
John C. Rochford	56	West Dryden, NY	Apr-23	Perkins Funeral Home
Baby Stevenson	-	Ithaca, NY	Apr-23	Zirbel Funeral Home
Gail Banfield	66	Ithaca, NY	Apr-22	Perkins Funeral Home
Mildred Horton	94	Lansing, NY	Apr-22	Lansing Funeral Home
Kathleen Randall Fabich	96	Berkshire, NY	Apr-17	Perkins Funeral Home

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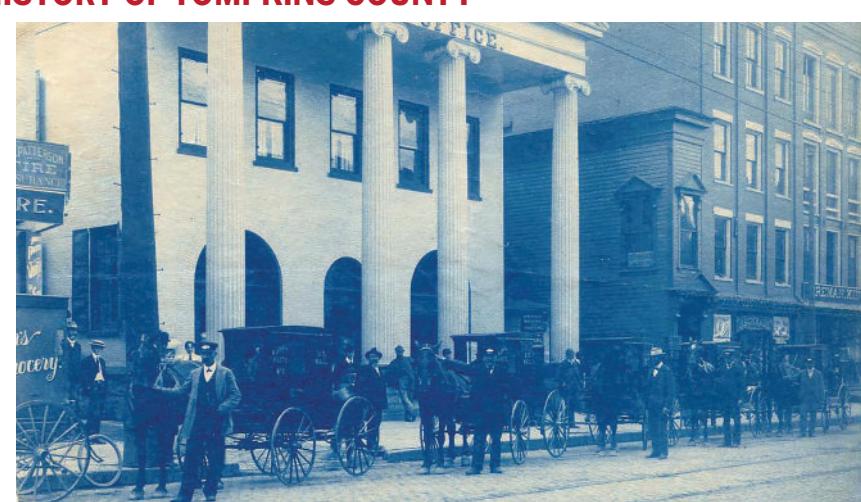
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HISTORY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY



The first rural mail carriers of Tompkins County were pictured here in this ca. 1902 image. The country's first Postmaster General was Benjamin Franklin, and for almost 250 years the US Postal Service has served the public with timely and efficient delivery of mail, even in remote locations.

THE
HISTORY
CENTER
in Tompkins County

BRIDGE

Continued from pg 1

All in all, the release noted that more than \$3 million in state and federal grants, along with local contributions, have been secured for the project.

"Cost estimates have risen from \$2.2 million to \$3.9 million in the six years since the [DOT] grant was approved in April 2019," the release added.

"We expect the trail to encourage smart growth, improve access to affordable housing and attract new businesses and tourism."

DAN LAMB

Deputy Supervisor, Town of Dryden

The project has received contributions from Tompkins County, the Triad Foundation, the Berkshire Hathaway Foundation and Cornell University.

The Knickerbocker Bed Frame Company, which has a manufacturing facility near the trail, contributed contiguous land on the east side of the bridge to allow for a more efficient trail placement.

Despite the large amount of funding that the project has received, more donations and other means of funding are being sought.

The town, however, will bond for the remaining balance not covered once

costs are known after the bid opening.

Todd Bittner, the natural areas director for the Cornell Botanic Gardens and a member of the Dryden Rail Trail Task Force, served as a grant writer for the project.

The release said that Bittner has "noted that the rail trail plan aligns with key goals and strategies within Tompkins County and Dryden's Comprehensive Plans, the County's 2020 Energy Strategy and Strategic Tourism Plans, and Cornell's Climate Action Plan."

According to the release, the trail promises to connect three of the Cornell Botanic Gardens' natural areas, including Purvis Road Wetlands, Monkey Run and Upper Cascadilla.

"[The project] is supporting benefits to physical and mental health that became more widely appreciated during the pandemic," the release noted.

Aside from construction of the bridge, the project will include finishing the 1.5-mile section with a stone dust surface. It's the same surface used on the Black Diamond Trail, making the section from Monkey Run to Pinckney Road "fully ADA compliant," the release noted.

Alice Walsh Green, the chair of the rail trail task force, noted that the decision to build the bridge came after consultations with experts from the DOT, the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council and a county-funded engineering study of alternatives.

"After considering all available options, we determined that the bridge



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Town of Dryden officials recently announced that the The New York State Department of Transportation gave its official approval to seek bids for construction and installation of a bridge that will connect two sides of the Dryden Rail Trail.

In brief:
Upcoming meetings for the town of Dryden

would allow the safest, most cost-effective and commuter-friendly way to cross the busy highway. It will allow trail users continuous access along the trail from Pinckney Road to Game Farm Road," Green said. "We are also working on the final section of trail, starting with repair of a washed-out railroad bridge east of Pinckney Road and continuing through Etna to Johnson Road in Freeville, where it will join with the section completed in 2019."

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

The town's planning board is slated to meet on May 22 at 6 p.m. at the town hall. This meeting can also be attended either in person or on Zoom.

For more information, contact the town hall at 607-844-8888. Agendas for the meetings will be available at dryden.ny.us.

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

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Legal Notices

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

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

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

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

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

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

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

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

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

MUSTARD SAUCE, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/21/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

MKFLYING, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/3/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LUNCH MONKEY LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/27/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LOST BLOCK LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/27/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

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

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

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

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

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

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The Doors of Perception LCSW, PLLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 03/21/2025. Office location: Cortland County. Secretary of State of New York designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. Secretary of State of New York shall mail process to PO Box 181, Cortland, New York. The limited liability company was formed for any lawful business purpose. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

612 E Buffalo St LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/24/2025. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1054 Cayuga Heights Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Zebra Blue, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/21/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

TORNUCIOLO PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE, PLLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/18/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

SIBTHORP, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/21/2025.

Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

FORAYS PARTNERS, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/10/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: THE LLC, 14 Stormy View Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

East State Management Holdings LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/8/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

DANOVA, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/21/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

CLARENCE ELLIOT, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/21/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LOST BLOCK LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/27/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BROADWELL MILKMAID, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/17/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BERKLINE LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/13/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LMT PERFORMANCE SOLUTIONS, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/14/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LEATHERCOAT, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/21/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

316 NORTH AURORA, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/31/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

222 E State LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/8/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

220 E State LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/8/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

INVEREWE, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/21/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

FYLUM AGENCY LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/6/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

218 E State LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/8/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

200 West Seneca LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/15/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

200 West Seneca LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/15/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

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NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

200 West Seneca LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/15/2025. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to

Time to tax the ivory tower

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



By Zachary Winn

Cornell University, long considered a pillar of academic excellence in Upstate New York, is facing a growing storm of controversies that call into question its public obligations as a tax-exempt institution. As the federal government is alleged to have frozen approximately \$1 billion in funding to the university, amid allegations of antisemitism and racial discrimination in admissions, a wider reckoning is due—not just within Cornell's halls, but in how such elite institutions are allowed to operate largely unaccountable to the public interests they claim to serve.

The federal funding freeze is more than just a bureaucratic reprimand; it is a wake-up call. Cornell, like its Ivy League peers, enjoys tax-exempt status while maintaining a vast endowment that totals billions. Yet, in many ways, the university functions more like a private enterprise than a public-serving nonprofit. This contradiction is perhaps most visible in the financial burdens placed on the host communities that support these institutions. In Cornell's case, it is estimated that the university

has avoided paying over \$600 million in property taxes to the City of Ithaca over the past 20 years alone. This staggering figure represents essential revenue that could have supported local infrastructure, schools, housing, and public services—services that Cornell's own students, faculty, and staff regularly utilize.

It is long past time for change. A growing movement is calling for an increase in the federal tax on university endowments, currently a mere 1.4% on investment income, to 21%. But this effort should go further. A portion of those revenues should be directed back into the municipalities and regions that host these elite institutions. After all, the local taxpayers bear the brunt of the costs while universities reap the benefits.

Moreover, the university's tax-exempt status must be re-evaluated. This is especially pressing in light of Cornell's growing financial entanglements with regimes like China and Qatar—nations with well-documented histories of censorship, labor exploitation, and human rights abuses. Harvard University, facing similar scrutiny, has seen the Trump administration direct the Internal Revenue Service to revoke its tax-exempt status. I am hopeful that the administration will follow suit with more universities, including Cornell. Rescinding or significantly curtailing Cornell's tax-exempt privileges would be a powerful incentive for the university to recommit to mean-

ingful community engagement and fiscal responsibility. It would also level the playing field for local businesses and homeowners who are taxed at full rate while Cornell continues to expand its tax-free footprint.

The case for reform only strengthens when considering Cornell's internal governance and ethical missteps. The university has come under fire for its use of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) statements in faculty hiring. A report from the Cornell Free Speech Alliance found that DEI statements were used to reject 21% of candidates in a hard science faculty search, raising questions about academic freedom and ideological gatekeeping in fields that are supposed to be driven by merit and empirical rigor.

This isn't merely a culture war issue. It speaks to a broader failure of governance and transparency within the university. That failure is also on display in a class-action lawsuit naming Cornell among 40 elite universities accused of colluding to overcharge students through financial aid price-fixing. According to the complaint, these schools used formulas that unfairly included non-custodial parents' assets, increasing net costs for thousands of families by an estimated \$6,200 annually. If proven true, these practices represent a profound betrayal of the mission to provide access and affordability in higher education.

Nor does the list of controversies

end there. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a separate class-action lawsuit accusing Cornell of mismanaging its 403(b) retirement plan. Plaintiffs claim the university failed to monitor investment fees and options, a dereliction of its fiduciary duties under federal law. Such negligence not only affects current and former employees, but also further erodes public trust in the institution's financial stewardship.

Cornell's defenders may argue that the university brings cultural and economic benefits to the region—and it does. But those benefits cannot justify a system that allows an elite, multi-billion-dollar institution to evade its fiscal responsibilities while operating under the guise of public good. In truth, it is the residents of Ithaca and Tompkins County who are subsidizing Cornell, not the other way around. What is meant to be a mutually beneficial, symbiotic arrangement is in reality a parasitic one. Cornell is a tick that is bigger than the dog.

It's time to flip the script. Increasing the endowment tax and redirecting a portion of those funds back to host communities is not just fair—it's necessary. If Cornell wants to continue enjoying the privileges of tax exemption, it must be held to higher standards of transparency, ethics, and accountability. Otherwise, the university will remain less a beacon of knowledge and more a monument to inequality and impunity.

Cornell students collaborate with Ithaca for LEED for Cities certification

A Cornell University student team helped the city of Ithaca receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Cities certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in March.

Since fall 2022, the Cornell University Sustainable Design (CUSD) Sustainable City team worked with municipal departments to assemble the extensive data needed to demonstrate that Ithaca met the stringent requirements for LEED certification—the world's most widely used rating system for sustainable building practices.

Ithaca not only earned the certification—the city was certified Gold, the second-highest ranking.

"Achieving LEED Gold was a surprise. But this whole thing is still a surprise to me, despite being on the team since the start of the project," said Jiayi Guo, a design and environmental analysis major, who co-leads the group. "We're a student team, and we completed LEED certification. I did not expect, in my undergrad career, that this was something that could be achieved."

The process required detailed and spe-

cific documentation to earn credits in categories such as integrative planning, green spaces, energy and greenhouse gas emissions, transportation and land use, and water performance (all areas Ithaca excelled in), and others including green building policy and incentives, natural systems ecology, solid waste management and quality of life.

"The project was way more daunting than we thought it would be," said Siriella Simoncini, the project's adviser. "The data needed to be dug out and then interpreted very heavily, and then researched again and again. You need a transdisciplinary, resilient team."

LEED certification is essentially "a really, really broad look at how a city runs," according to Savannah Vega, sustainability planner in the city of Ithaca's Office of Sustainability.

Vega worked with the students as they hunted down data, connected them with other city offices and helped review and submit their materials to USGBC.

"This is really a new model of how to apply for LEED certification. Most of the time, cities don't collaborate with university students to be able to build

out the application. It was a trial-and-error project for us, but it really made it so that we were able to have the capacity to apply for this program without straining our resources," said Vega, who noted that the Office of Sustainability is a team of two. "Any kind of project that we take on, we have to really weigh the pros and cons of making sure that we are balancing our time."

Now, several Cornell students are putting together a report to provide insights on Ithaca's LEED performance to help city officials, developers, architects, designers, planners— even other communities—better understand the certification process as well as Ithaca's

sustainability strengths and opportunities for improvement.

"A certificate is a great thing to put on a shelf or a wall," said Simoncini, who is using the team's findings to inform a new project she is advising—the development of Ithaca's Cherry Street district. "But it's not just about receiving a certification. The report is a reflection on how well we're doing as a city in terms of sustainability, and how we can do better. That's also very important."

For additional information, read this Cornell Chronicle story: news.cornell.edu/stories/2025/04/students-help-city-ithaca-earn-leed-gold-certification

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HOROSCOPE

Week of
April 27 to May 3, 2025

ARIES

You'll purchase some new pieces for your summer wardrobe, whether by shopping online or in-store. Let your friends guide your choices, even if they encourage you to exceed your budget. Beware of making inappropriate comments.



TAURUS

You'll give life to innovative ideas and promising initiatives this week. You'll unite a group around an ambitious project and overcome your financial concerns.



GEMINI

You'll feel particularly drawn to wellness resorts and spas this week, relishing the relaxing services they offer. It's essential for you to take time to rest and recharge.



CANCER

You'll work on a large-scale project with a high-performance team. Every phase will be completed efficiently, and you'll be delighted by the results. The calmness of your home will be a welcome retreat.



LEO

You must carefully manage both your personal and professional life. A lot of responsibility rests on your shoulders. A surprising revelation about your career could catch you off guard.



VIRGO

You'll spontaneously embark on a journey or take a short getaway. If your trip is for spiritual reasons, consider taking a pilgrimage for an extraordinary experience.



LIBRA

It's time to embrace big changes in your life. You're bored by the monotony and repetitiveness of everyday routine. You desperately want to transform your life with passionate and exciting experiences.



SCORPIO

Keeping everyone happy is a hard task, but you'll miraculously make it happen. At work, you'll successfully complete a project or finalize an agreement that was previously thought unachievable.



SAGITTARIUS

You'll have to handle numerous emergencies at work and elsewhere. You'll harness your inner strength to bring clarity to the chaos. Your empathetic, caring and nuanced approach will make a significant difference in how you handle the situation.



CAPRICORN

After tough negotiations, you'll be surprised to find yourself in a position of recognition. Unexpected family circumstances could leave you feeling confused. You'll have no choice but to take matters into your own hands.



AQUARIUS

If your young children invite their friends over, it's highly likely that you'll need to do a big clean-up after they leave. You may also have to replace or repair some appliances.

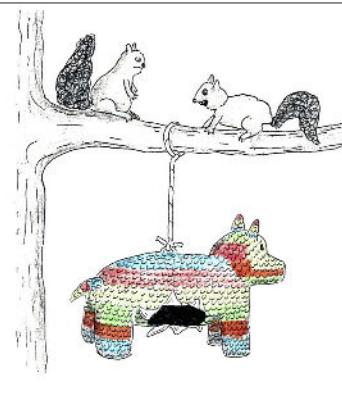


PISCES

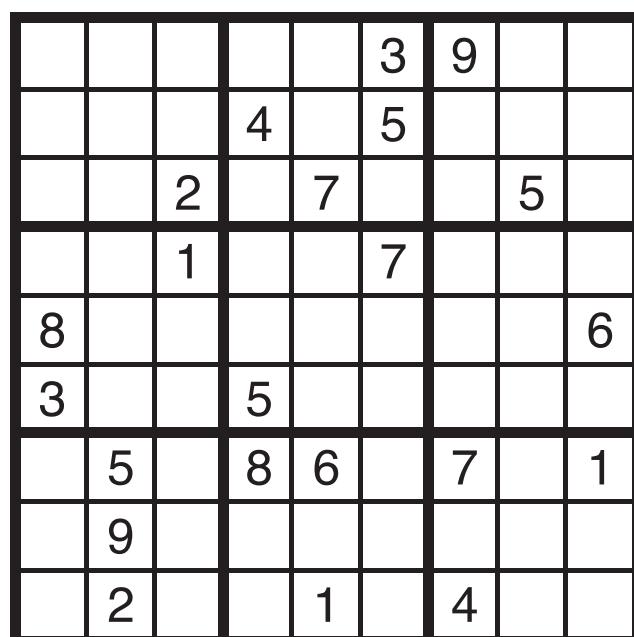
Indulge yourself a little this week! You might reconnect with long-lost friends and have an amazing time reminiscing and talking for hours on end.

COMICS

By Jack Young



Sudoku



RECIPE OF THE WEEK



CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

Ingredients:

- 2 cups cooked, shredded chicken (rotisserie works great)
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 8 soft corn tortillas
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 cups shredded cheddar or Mexican blend cheese
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 can (15 oz) red enchilada sauce
- 1/2 tsp cumin
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Prepare Filling: Heat olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Sauté onion and garlic until soft, about 3 minutes. Add shredded chicken, chili powder, cumin, salt, and pepper. Stir in 1/4 cup enchilada sauce and 1/4 cup sour cream. Mix well and set aside.
2. Warm Tortillas: Lightly warm tortillas in a microwave or skillet to make them pliable and prevent cracking.
3. Assemble Enchiladas: Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Spread 1/4 cup enchilada sauce in the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish. Spoon 2-3 tbsp of chicken mixture into each tortilla, sprinkle with a bit of cheese, roll tightly, and place seam-side down in the dish.
4. Top and Bake: Pour remaining enchilada sauce over the rolled tortillas and sprinkle with the rest of the cheese. Cover with foil and bake for 20 minutes. Remove foil and bake for 5-10 more minutes until cheese is bubbly and golden.
5. Serve: Let cool slightly, then serve with extra sour cream, chopped cilantro, or sliced avocado!

ACROSS

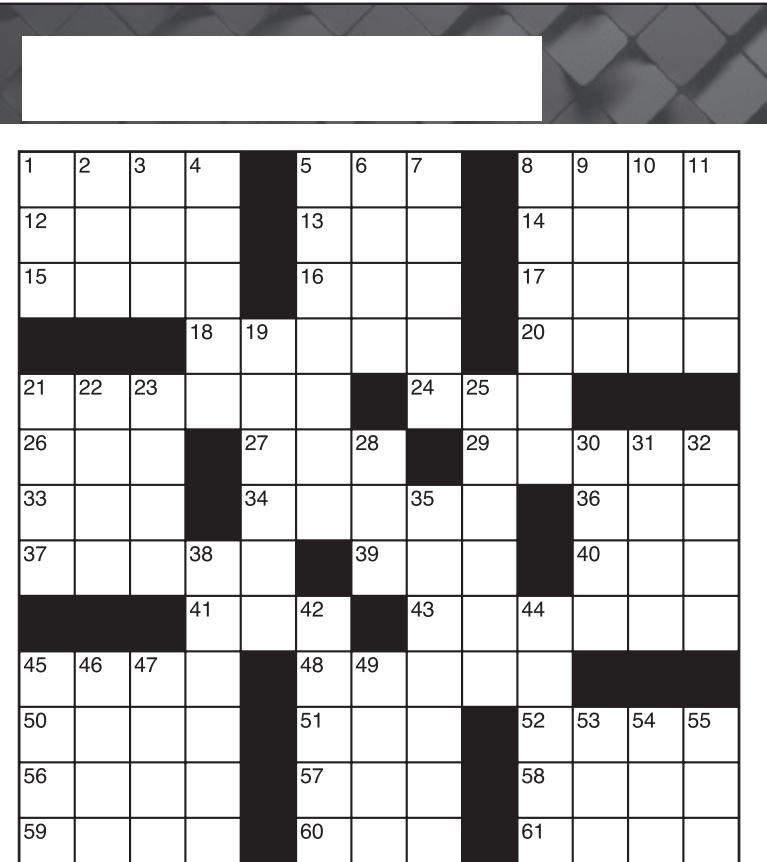
1. Small dispute
5. Hooter
8. Actor Pickens
12. Yearning
13. Garden buzzer
14. Tortilla dish
15. "The Raven," e.g.
16. Fancy resort
17. Afresh
18. Treaties
20. G-men
21. Slumber
24. Santa's worker
26. That guy
27. Picnic intruder

58. Equal
59. Holds up
60. British title
61. Bar orders

DOWN

1. Dine late
2. Not amateur
3. Develop
4. Musical pace
5. Vulgar
6. Wailed
7. Tenant's contract
8. Rods
9. Narrow path
10. Frosted
11. Cuts the grass
19. Flowering shrub
21. Persian king
22. Agreeable
23. Harbinger

53. League school
54. Charge for service
55. Winners

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