

LIVING

LisaDee Beckwith, of Cortland, has had enough of cigarettes. NY State Quitline says that's good.



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SPORTS

The Cortland boys basketball team bounced back from its first loss of the season with a win over Oswego.



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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2021

CORTLAND, N.Y.

Court lets Biden vaccine mandate take effect

The Associated Press

A federal appeals court panel on Friday allowed President Joe Biden's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for larger private employers to move ahead, reversing a previous decision on a requirement that could affect some 84 million U.S. workers.



Biden

The 2-1 decision by a panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati overrules a decision by a federal judge in a separate court that had paused the mandate nationwide.

The mandate from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration was to take effect Jan. 4.

With Friday's ruling, it's not clear when the requirement might be put in place, but the White House said in a statement that it will protect workers: "Especially as the U.S. faces the highly transmissible Omicron variant, it's critical we move forward with vaccination requirements and protections for workers with the urgency needed in this moment."

Republican state attorneys general and conservative groups said they would appeal Friday's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Twenty-seven Republican-led states joined with conservative groups, business associations and some individual businesses to push back against the requirement as soon as OSHA published the rules in early November. They argued the agency was not authorized to make the emergency rule, in part because the coronavirus is a general health risk and not one faced only by employees at work.

The panel's majority disagreed.

"Given OSHA's clear and exercised authority to regulate viruses, OSHA necessarily has the authority to regulate infectious diseases that are not unique to the workplace," Judge Julia Smith Gibbons, who was nominated to the

See MANDATE, page 2

Putting CRT in context

Critical Race Theory draws defenders, detractors

By SARAH BULLOCK
Staff Reporter

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Critical Race Theory reappeared in the news Wednesday as Florida's Gov. Ron DeSantis announced a proposed law banning state funding for teaching the theory and allowing parents to sue public schools that do.

"Nobody wants this crap, OK?" DeSantis said at a public event. "This is an elite driven phenomenon being driven by bureaucratic elites, elites in universities and elites in corporate America and they're trying to shove it down the throats of the American people. You're not doing that in the state of Florida."

However, critical race theory isn't taught below the college level, experts say. And its actual use is as a research tool to help understand how race has factored into a number of aspects of life in America than as a curriculum for younger students.

Conservatives reject it, saying it is a world view derived from Marxism that divides society by defining people as oppressors and oppressed based on their race. They call it an attempt to rewrite American history and make white people believe they are inherently racist.

Here's what experts say it is:

WHAT IS CRITICAL RACE THEORY?

Critical Race Theory began in Harvard Law School in the 1970s and its founders focused on how the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s failed to eliminate white supremacy in America, according to a 2016 Harvard Magazine article. The legal scholars focused on how American laws were shaped by racist interests and assumptions.

"They wanted to understand why racial inequality continued to exist after all of the changes made to racist laws in the Civil Rights Movement," said Jennifer Lynn Stoever, a professor of English and critical race theorist at Binghamton University. "While no one expected racism to go away overnight — it took hundreds of years for it to take root in the way it did — most people didn't expect it to continue impacting American life at the level it has."

"Critical Race Theory helps us understand why people of color continue to experience such differential life outcomes in the United States, long

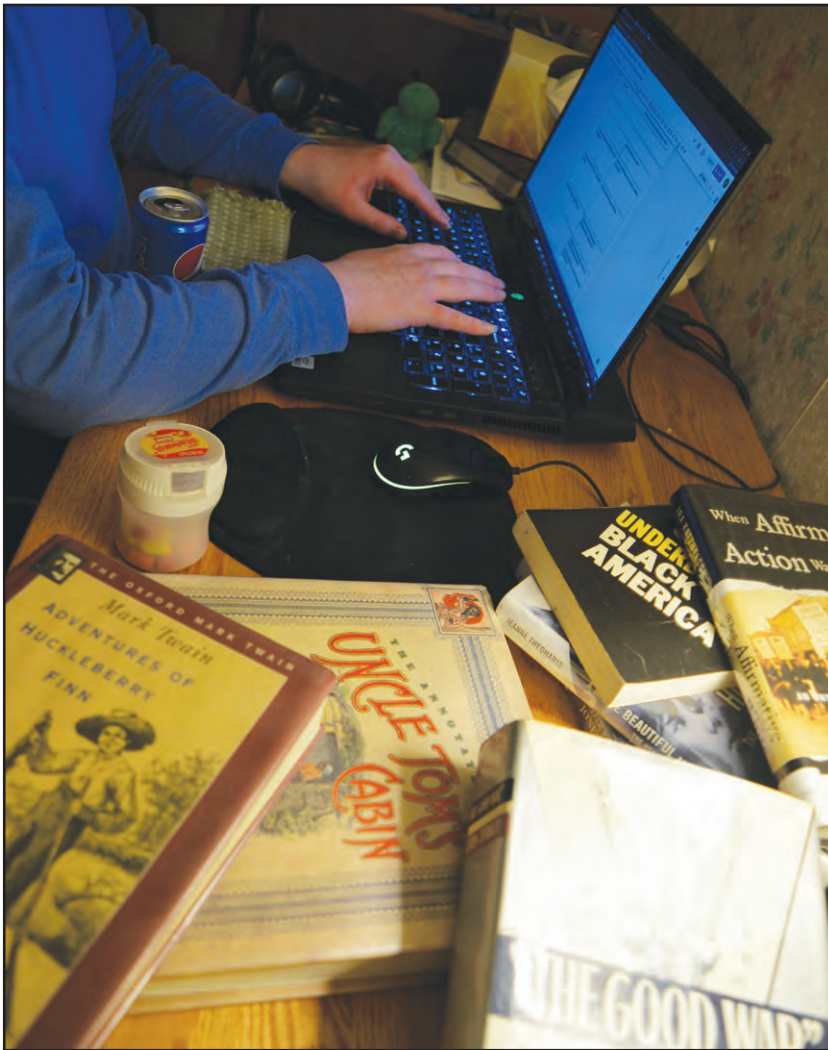


Photo illustration by Todd R. McAdam

Critical Race Theory has been a concept taught in some college classes for 40 years, but not in primary or secondary schools. However, you can find elements of it in a variety of sources.

after many laws became 'colorblind' and the majority of Americans do not consider themselves to be racists," said Stoever, who studies how race affects people's ability to listen to each other and how to create environments where everyone is welcomed.

AT WHAT LEVEL IS CRT TAUGHT?

Scholars in law and other disciplines teach and use Critical Race Theory at the college level, said Stoever, a former English teacher.

"No, critical race theory is not formally taught in K-12," she said. "Yes, it is taught in higher education, at both the undergrad and graduate levels as one body of well-researched and peer-reviewed knowledge among many others."

"We don't do critical race theory," said Rebecca Stone, the superintendent of the Marathon Central School District. "You won't find a school district that does critical race theory."

SHOULD IT BE TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS?

While Critical Race Theory isn't taught in schools — and parents around the nation have opposed it at school board meetings and other venues — a small sampling of Cortland parents and a grandparent of Randall Middle School on Dec. 9 were open to the idea of including it.

"With everything going on in the world, I don't think it would be a bad idea to teach it," said Scott Crotwell of Cortland.

As long as the issue of race isn't made political, either liberal or conservative, then it isn't a problem to teach critical race theory in schools,

See CRT, page 6

Dryden awarded \$624,614 in ARC funding

By VALERIE PUMA
Staff Reporter

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DRYDEN — As the town of Dryden works to get its broadband website up and running, it will receive \$624,614 in federal funding to install fiber optic cabling and expand access to high-speed internet.

While the town's municipal broadband project is already fully funded, the money would reduce the need for borrowing, and town officials said that could eventually reduce the cost to subscribers.

"We are happy the Appalachian Regional Commission is supporting Dryden Fiber, which will provide residents, educators and businesses in Dryden with fast, reliable and affordable municipal internet service," said Supervisor Jason Leifer. "This will get us closer to getting service out to places like Varna and the village of Freeville, because when we have that fiber loop we can branch off depending on how the phases develop."

Since the beginning of the pandemic, millions of New Yorkers have relied on the internet to work, learn, receive health care, and see their loved ones, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) said this week in a release.

"Yet in too many of our rural communities, internet access is unreliable or nonexistent, meaning that the more than 1 million households in New York State that lack broadband are cut off from critical services and economic opportunity," Gillibrand said. "This funding is an important step to help close the digital divide and spur economic growth in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes."

The funding will help the town of Dryden install 13.5 miles of fiber optic cabling, improving internet access in a regional network that includes 50 public school buildings, four vocational school campuses, 28 public libraries, and multiple universities, she said.

See ARC, page 6

CDC endorses schools' coronavirus 'test-to-stay' policies

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials are endorsing "test-to-stay" policies that allow close contacts of students infected with the coronavirus to remain in classrooms if they test negative.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention decided to more firmly embrace the approach, already used by many school districts, after research of such policies in the Chicago and Los Angeles areas found COVID-19 infections did not increase when using the approach.

"Test-to-stay is an encouraging public health practice to help keep our children in school," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said on Friday.

CDC's official guidance for schools has been that when someone in a school tests positive for COVID-19 infection, those who were deemed to be in close contact should stay out of school, in home quarantine, for 10 days.

With the announcement Friday, the CDC is saying both test-to-stay programs and quarantining approaches are both equally good options for schools.

Hundreds of schools have adopted test-to-stay policies, and several states have funded statewide test-to-stay policies to prevent students from spending long stretches away from

school.

Previously, the CDC said there is promise in the approach, as long as other measures such as masking for both teachers and students were followed.

CDC has been working with some school districts to evaluate the programs, and the agency released two studies that indicated they worked well.

One was in suburban Lake County, Illinois, just north of Chicago, which adopted a program in August. Close contacts were allowed to stay in school provided both the infected person and close contact were masked when an exposure might have happened, the close contact had no symptoms, and the close contact was tested one, three, five and seven days after exposure to the infected person.

Infections developed in only 16 of the more than 1,000 close contacts who were tracked, a transmission rate of about 1.5%. Health officials deemed it a successful approach that allowed many students to stay in school.

Similar results were reported in a similar study that looked at what happened this fall in schools in Los Angeles County, California. Researchers counted 7,511 student close contacts in schools that tried the strategy, and the secondary infection rate was 0.7%.



Associated Press

Katie Lucey administers a COVID-19 test on her son, Maguire, at a PCR and Rapid Antigen COVID-19 coronavirus test pop up Thursday on Wall Street in New York.

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WEATHER



Mostly cloudy
Tomorrow's Weather:
Snow showers.
High near 28.
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ONLINE

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MAKING IT RIGHT

The *Cortland Standard* will print corrections and clarifications of news articles. If you find mistakes or omissions, call the managing editor at 607-756-5665, ext. 166 or email news@cortlandstandard.net.



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Weather

Local

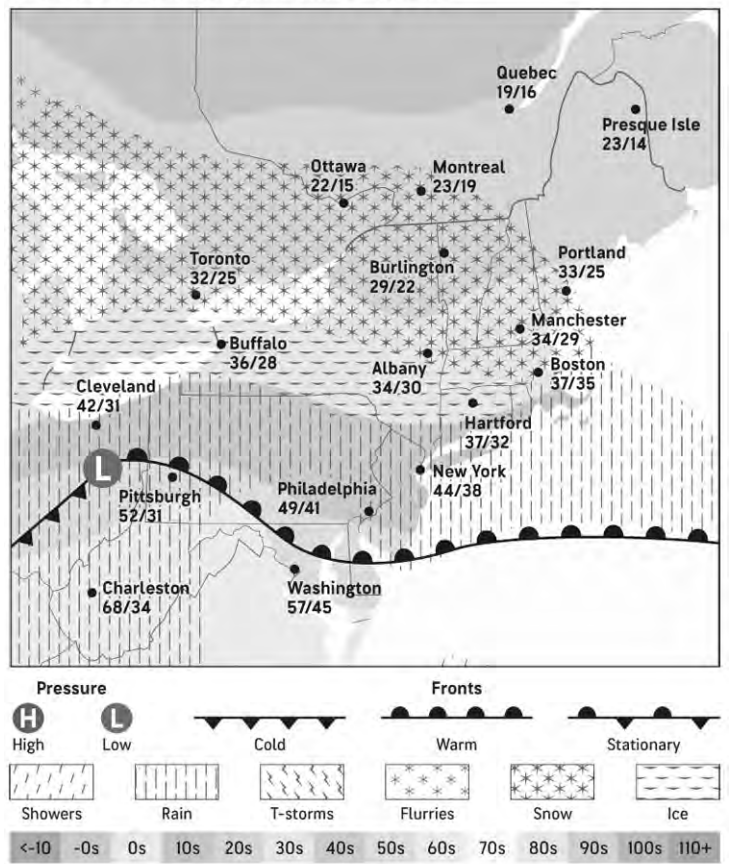
Rest of today: Rain and sleet before 11 p.m., then rain and snow showers likely between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m., then snow showers likely after 2 a.m. Low around 23. Southeast wind 5 to 8 mph becoming northwest after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow and sleet accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Sunday: Snow showers likely, mainly before 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 28.

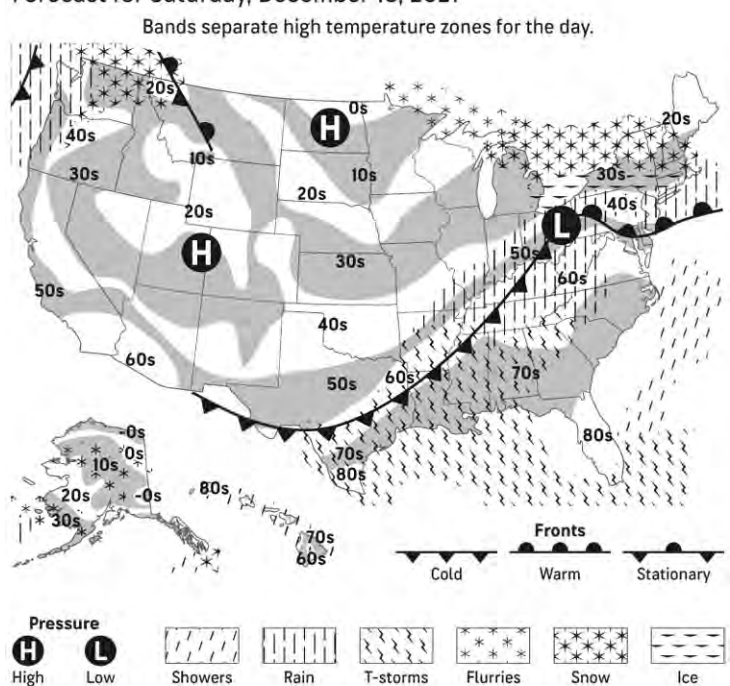
Skies Today

Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021	
Sunset today	4:33 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	7:30 a.m.
Normal high temperature	34
Normal low temperature	20
Average temperature	27
Last quarter moon	Dec. 26

Forecast for Saturday, December 18, 2021



Forecast for Saturday, December 18, 2021



NATIONAL SUMMARY: As a storm moves northeastward, a swath of heavy snow will fall over northern New England and upstate New York today. Farther south, steady rain or showers will occur from the Ohio Valley, mid-Atlantic and southern New England to the central Gulf coast. In between, ice is in store. A new storm will bring rain and snow to the Northwest.

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Lottery Winners

ALBANY (AP) — Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the New York State Lottery:

Numbers: Midday: 5-1-2, Evening: 0-4-9; **WinFour:** Midday: 3-3-6-8, Evening: 2-3-2-0; **Pick 10:** 3-6-9-10-11-12-14-21-24-29-32-34-37-59-61-63-65-69-72-78; **Take Five:** Midday: 5-9-15-24-37, Evening: 19-20-25-27-33; **Cash4Life:** 5-22-24-45-57, Cash Ball: 1; **Mega Millions:** 21-32-38-48-62, Mega Ball: 10, Megaplier: 3

Making It Right

A story in Friday's edition about New Year's Eve events included an error. The New Year's Eve Dance at Cortland Country Music Park in Cortlandville was canceled because of the increase in COVID-19 cases. Tickets will be refunded.

Cortland Standard

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Extended

Sunday night: A chance of snow showers, mainly before 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 15. Northwest wind 3 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 34.

Monday night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25.

Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 35.

Tuesday night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20.

City Snowfall

Dec. 16-17	None
Season to date	6.5 inches

Precipitation

Dec. 16-17	None
Month to date	1.03 inches

Records

Maxwell declines to testify, defense rests

By TOM HAYS
and LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ghislaine Maxwell's defense rested its case Friday after two days of presenting evidence on the British socialite's behalf.

Not among that evidence: testimony from the longtime Jeffrey Epstein associate herself.

Around a half-hour after Maxwell told the court Friday she would not testify in her own defense because "the government has not proven its case beyond a reasonable doubt," attorney Bobbi Sternheim rested.

U.S. District Judge Alison J. Nathan had asked the 59-year-old British socialite to stand in court Friday afternoon, explaining that Maxwell had the right to either testify in her own defense or decline to.

"Your Honor, the government has not proven its case beyond a reasonable doubt so there is no reason for me to testify," Maxwell responded, attitude defiant.

Maxwell's lawyers offered a spirited defense, portraying her as a scapegoat targeted by the government because prosecutors could no longer bring Epstein to justice after he killed himself at a federal lockup in August 2019 while awaiting his own sex traf-

ficking trial.

Maxwell, 59, pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking charges stemming from her interactions with four teenage girls from 1994 to 2004.

During that span, Maxwell was romantically involved with and then later worked for Epstein.

While she did not testify before the jury, Maxwell seemed active in her defense throughout the past three weeks of the trial, frequently writing notes to her lawyers and hugging them as she enters and leaves court each day.

As Maxwell declared her intention not to testify, attorney Sternheim's arm was wrapped around her lower back.

Her defense called another of Jeffrey Epstein's one-time paramours to the stand earlier Friday: a former Miss Sweden, New York City doctor and tabloid fixture who told the jury that she trusted the financier with her young daughters and denied taking part in a group sexual encounter with a key accuser.

Eva Andersson-Dubin, 60, testified that she dated Epstein "off and on" from 1983 to the early 1990s, before he dated

Maxwell.

Epstein and Andersson-Dubin remained friends after breaking up and, in 1994, she married another moneyed financier, Glenn

Dubin, with whom she had three children.

One of the key accusers in the Maxwell trial, identified in court only as "Jane" to protect her identity, testified that a woman named "Eva" joined a group sexual experience with Epstein.

On Friday, Andersson-Dubin was asked by one of Maxwell's attorneys if she had ever been in a group sexual encounter with Jane.

"Absolutely not," she responded.

Asked if she had ever been in a group sexualized massage of Epstein with Jane, she responded: "I have not."

Later, Andersson-Dubin acknowledged having issues with her memory upon cross examination.

"It's very hard for me to remember anything far back," Andersson-Dubin said. "My family notices it, I notice it. It's been an issue."

The Dubins have denied knowing anything about Ep-

stein's sexual misconduct, but were publicly supportive of Epstein when he initially was prosecuted and convicted of sex crimes in Florida in 2008.

Another Epstein accuser whose allegations are not part of Maxwell's trial, Virginia Roberts Giuffre, has said that she was trafficked to Glenn Dubin, among other powerful men, all of whom have denied her accounts.

As the Dubin children — including two daughters — grew up, they sometimes joined their parents on flights with Epstein, Andersson-Dubin said.

She testified that Epstein was fond of her children and the children viewed him like an uncle, sometimes calling him "Uncle F," an apparent abbreviation of his name, minus the "J."

When Andersson-Dubin was asked by a defense lawyer if she ever witnessed any inappropriate conduct between Epstein and teenage girls, she responded: "I did not."

Nathan told jurors Friday afternoon to return at 9 a.m. Monday, rather than 9:30 a.m., and to arrange to be in court as late as 6 p.m. She said the parties will deliver their closing arguments, then she'll instruct them on the law and deliberations will begin.

Officer on deadly stop: 'I'm sorry it happened'

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The suburban Minneapolis police officer who shot and killed Daunte Wright testified at her manslaughter trial Friday that she wouldn't have pulled over his car if she hadn't been training another officer and that she hadn't planned to use deadly force that day.

Under questioning by a prosecutor, Kim Potter sobbed during her sometimes emotional testimony, saying at times "I didn't want to hurt anybody," and later, "I'm sorry it happened."

Potter was the final witness before the defense rested at the end of the second week of testimony.

She said she shot Wright during the April 11 in Brooklyn Center in a moment of chaos after he tried to leave the scene as she and other officers were trying to arrest him on an outstanding warrant for a weapons violation.

Potter, 49, said she meant to use her Taser to subdue Wright when he pulled away from the officers and got back into his car, but shot him once with her handgun instead.

Potter's attorneys argued that she made a mistake but also would have been justified in using deadly force if she had meant to because another officer was at risk of being dragged by

Wright's car. Potter testified that she decided to use her Taser because of the scared look she saw one of the other two officer's eyes.

Potter said she yelled, "Taser!" repeatedly so the other officers, who were trying to get Wright out of his car, would disengage.

Prosecutors say Potter was an experienced officer who had extensive training in Taser use and the use of deadly force, and that her actions were unreasonable.

During cross-examination, prosecutor Erin Eldridge drove hard at Potter's training, getting her to agree that her use-of-force training was a "key component" to being an officer. Potter testi-

fied that she was also trained on when to use force and how much to use, and that there was a policy that dictated what officers could or could not do.

Potter was shown photos of her Taser and firearm next to one another.

The Taser was yellow and her gun was Black.

Eldridge noted that the loaded gun is heavier than the Taser.

"So you went out on the street with a Taser, not knowing what that Taser did?" Eldridge asked Potter.

"I would assume that on the day I worked, I would know. But I don't know — it's been months now," Potter responded.

MANDATE

continued from page 1

court by former President George W. Bush, a Republican, wrote in her majority opinion.

"Vaccination and medical examinations are both tools that OSHA historically employed to contain illness in the workplace," she wrote.

Gibbons noted that the agency's authority extends beyond just regulating "hard hats and safety goggles."

She said the vaccine requirement "is not a novel expansion of OSHA's power; it is an existing application of authority to a novel and dangerous worldwide pandemic."

She was joined in the majority decision by Judge Jane Branstetter Stranch, an appointee of former President Barack Obama, a Democrat.

The case was consolidated in

the 6th circuit, which is dominated by Republican-appointed judges. Earlier this week, the circuit's active judges rejected a move to have the entire panel consider the case, on an 8-8 vote.

The dissent in Friday's ruling came from Judge Joan Larsen, an appointee of former President Donald Trump, who said Congress did not authorize OSHA to make this sort of rule and that it did not qualify as a necessity to use the emergency procedures the agency followed to put it in place.

Larsen also argued that vaccinated workers "do not face 'grave danger' from working with those who are not vaccinated."

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, a Republican, said she would ask the U.S. Supreme Court to block the or-

der. At least two conservative advocacy groups said they had already appealed to the nation's highest court.

"The Sixth Circuit's decision is extremely disappointing for Arkansans because it will force them to get the shot or lose their jobs," Rutledge said.

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, who also is chairman of the Republican Attorneys General Association, said in a Twitter message Friday that he was confident the mandate could be stopped.

The vaccine requirement would apply to companies with 100 or more employees and would cover about 84 million workers in the U.S. Employees who are not fully vaccinated would have to wear face masks and be subject to weekly COVID-19 tests.

There would be exceptions,

including for those who work outdoors or only at home.

The administration has estimated that the rule would save 6,500 lives and prevent 250,000 hospitalizations over six months. On Friday, the U.S. Department of Labor, which includes OSHA, said the 6th circuit's ruling will allow the agency to implement "common-sense, science-based measures to keep workers safe and healthy during a deadly pandemic."

The vaccine rule for private employers is separate from other vaccine mandates announced by the Biden administration that apply to federal government contractors and workers in health care facilities that receive funding from Medicaid or Medicare.

Those rules also are under assault from conservatives and have been paused in at least some parts of the country.

Obituaries

Sherry Rood Reed

Sherry Rood Reed, passed away unexpectedly on December 10, 2021.

Sherry was currently employed at the Elizabeth Brewster House and loved all the time she spent with her co-workers and residents. She loved gardening and had a huge place in her heart for animals. Sherry was preceded in death by her parents; Gerald and Joyce Rood, sisters; Brenda Ely, Barbara Kaiser, brother; Gerald Rood, Jr. and a son; Bradley Reed.

Sherry is survived by her sisters; Linda Rood and Sharon Rood, a daughter; Heather (Robert) Ganoung, her sons; Shawn (Nikki) Reed, John Reed, Jr. and six grandchildren; Riley, Owen, Alex, Annika, Collyn and Koda. Also surviving her, are many more nieces and nephews and her companion; Deny O'Shea. Sherry will be missed dearly by all who knew her.

As per her request, there will be no services, but, a Celebration of Life has been planned for Sunday, January 16, 2022 from 1-3 p.m. at the McGraw Community Center 15 Clinton St., McGraw, N.Y. 13101. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Cortland SPCA, 819 McLean Rd., Cortland, N.Y. 13045.

Arrangements are under the direction of Riccardi Funeral Home, Cortland, N.Y. www.riccardifuneralhome.com.

Death Notices

WALKER — Maureen Walker, 70, of Lisle, died Dec. 10, 2021. Sunset Memorial Services, Whitney Point, has arrangements.

SCOTT — Dorothy Scott, 75 of Groton, died Dec. 9 2021. A memorial service will be held at noon Tuesday at the Zirbel Funeral Home, 115 Williams St., Groton. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to noon prior to the services.



Maxwell

TOWN OF SUMMERHILL

The Town of Summerhill Variance Board will meet at 5pm on Monday, December 20, 2021 at the Summerhill Town Hall to discuss a variance request from Anne Marie and Thomas Martin to build a pergola on the property located at 6721 Peaceful Drive, Cortland, NY 13045. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Carol Chase, Town Clerk

Congratulations Edward Greenman for 50 YEARS

Of Service with the McGraw Volunteer Fire Department.

Ed joined Corset City Hose Company #2 in 1971.

Positions held over the years were Assistant Chief, one of the founding members of the Fire Prevention Program, County Fire Investigator, Training Officer and one of the founding members of the McGraw Rescue Squad.

Love,
The Greenman Family



Community

Guthrie: Worsening patients can get operations

By SARAH BULLOCK
Staff Reporter

sbullock@cortlandstandard.net

People whose medical conditions are worsening can be bumped to an essential surgery list if necessary, despite a state mandate requiring Guthrie Cortland Medical Center to postpone all non-essential surgeries, according to Guthrie.

But once the hospital's capacity increases, surgeons will likely face a

backlog of patients that remain on the non-essential list, said Dr. Paula Brooks, the organization's chief medical officer, on Thursday.

Guthrie Cortland Medical Center announced Dec. 8 it was delaying all non-essential procedures to cope with COVID-19 patients, following a state Health Department mandate after a seven-day trend of exceeding 90% of its bed capacity.

However, unlike previous mandates,

this requirement allows doctors to do surgeries if patients are suffering symptoms that affect their life, are in intractable pain or if symptoms worsen, Brooks said.

"The limitations in the past were very strict," Brooks said. The hospital had to delay procedures for three weeks in March and April. "We were only doing life-or-death surgeries."

This time, a patient can move to the essential list if the surgeon finds that's

medically appropriate, she said.

"I suspect there will be a little backlog," Brooks said, once the non-essential procedures resume, but she's not sure how much of a backlog. "That really honestly depends on how long it goes on."

The state Health Department will review the hospital's capacity Wednesday and either extend or lift the order.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated in September 2020

that delayed medical care might increase disease and death among patients with chronic conditions or with sudden, severe conditions.

Brooks also emphasized that patients should seek needed medical care, including emergency room care, in the Dec. 8 phone conference.

"Please, please consider wearing a mask all the time," Brooks said Thursday. "Wash your hands and please consider your COVID and flu shots."

Coronavirus briefs

Official: Cornell a hot spot for Omicron

Tompkins County accounts for most of the confirmed cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in New York, the Tompkins County Health Department reported Friday, almost all of those cases stemming from Cornell University.

"We're now seeing that the Omicron variant is spreading in the wider community and that it is the predominant strain amongst the college student population," Tompkins County Public Health Director Frank Kruppa said in a release. "We're seeing the variant spread more rapidly, but we are not seeing it increase the severity of disease of those who are testing positive or increase the number of people hospitalized in our community."

The state has reported 117 Omicron cases in Tompkins County, but more up-to-date figures from the county show at least 135 cases, discovered through sequencing done through Cornell's virology lab, working with Cayuga Medical Center and the health department.

"We're able to see, nearly in real-time, how Omicron is spreading in our community," Kruppa said. "This is a testament to how important access to testing and sequencing are and how fortunate we are to have partners in Cornell and Cayuga Health committed to ongoing pandemic response and transparency."

"The spread of COVID-19 is still primarily occurring in settings where people are gathering and not wearing a mask or distancing," he added, but vaccines are preventing severe infection. "As our cases have gone up significantly, especially amongst the most highly vaccinated portion of our community, severe disease and hospitalizations have not increased."

3-county region adds 498 new cases, 1 death

Cortland County confirmed 51 new cases of COVID-19 on Friday, bringing its total to 7,555 cases.

Tompkins County now has 117 confirmed cases of the Omicron variant, the state reported, more than every other county in New York combined. The state has 178 confirmed cases of the Omicron variant.

Tompkins and Cayuga counties reported 350 new cases Friday, and two new deaths, as a spike continued in Tompkins County that has seen more than 1,850 new confirmed cases since Dec. 7.

The number of people who have contracted the virus increased to 27,718 across Cortland, Tompkins and Cayuga counties since the pandemic began in March 2020. The number

of people who have died from the virus has risen to 275.

■ The Cortland County Health Department was monitoring 614 patients, 210 of them confirmed positive. Thirteen people were hospitalized. Since the pandemic began, 373 people have been hospitalized. The state Health Department reports 238,037 tests have been administered. The county has reported 89 deaths.

■ Tompkins County reported 316 new cases Friday, reports the state Health Department. The number of confirmed cases rose to 9,550. The state reports 2,797,847 had been tested. Sixty-seven Tompkins residents have died.

■ In Cayuga County, the state Health Department reported 34 new cases Friday, and two new deaths. Confirmed cases rose to 10,613. The state reports 292,482 people had been tested. The state reports 119 people have died.

157,082 receive COVID vaccine in 3 counties

The state Health Department reports 28,196 Cortland County residents have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, or 59% of the county's total population and 66.8% of its people over 18. A total of 55.2% of the county has been fully vaccinated.

In Tompkins County, 81,620 people have received at least one dose, or 79.4% of the population and 84.4% of people over 18; 73.3% are fully vaccinated.

In Cayuga County, 47,266 residents have received at least one dose, or 61.32% of the total population and 69.6% of people over 18; 56.7% are fully vaccinated.

Statewide, 15.38 million people have received at least one dose, or 81.6% of the state's population; 70.7% of the total population is fully vaccinated.

Cortland County rate now at 528 per 100,000

Cortland County reported 251 new cases of coronavirus from Dec. 9 to Wednesday.

The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Cortland has 527.52 new cases per 100,000 people over the past week.

Cortland County was listed as having a "high risk" of transmission. The CDC recommends indoor masking in counties that exceed 50 cases per 100,000 over seven days.

The rates and risk, from the CDC:

Cortland: 527.52 — high
Tompkins: 1,047.17 — high
Cayuga: 472.73 — high
Onondaga: 410.18 — high
Broome: 548.59 — high
Chenango: 544.41 — high
Tioga: 597.47 — high
Madison: 530.02 — high

Dryden won't opt out of pot law

DRYDEN — The Dryden Town Board announced Thursday evening it will not prohibit marijuana sales and now must consider where dispensary sites will be allowed.

Recreational marijuana was legalized in March for adults 21 and older in New York, but communities were given the option of opting out of allowing sales.

To prohibit marijuana sales within the municipality, local leaders must do so through a local law by Dec. 31.

Dryden residents spoke during the citizen's privilege portion of Thursday's town board meeting to ask about the marijuana local law, Town Supervisor Jason Leifer said Friday.

"All the board members went on record stating that they did not want to opt out," Leifer said. "We explained that we will address the siting issues through zoning, which is permitted under state law. The town is close to finalizing our updated comprehensive plan and right after that we will begin working on zoning amendments. That process is where we will address the siting issue."

— Valerie Puma



Sarah Bullock/staff reporter

Alexia Soule, 19, of Groton, exercises Thursday afternoon at the YMCA in Cortland. Soule says exercise is one the most helpful things she does to soothe her depression.

Feeling in need of a lift

Depression is on the rise, but there are ways to cope

By SARAH BULLOCK
Staff Reporter

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Alexia Soule lifted weights on a machine on Thursday afternoon at the YMCA on Tompkins Street in Cortland. The workout makes her feel better, she said, useful this time of year in dealing with depression.

"When you feel depression, you lack the energy to get up and out of bed to be productive," Soule said. She said she views exercising as a double reward. "You've gotten out of bed, you've taken care of yourself, when you originally didn't want to get out of bed."

Depression rose to 1 in 3 Americans in 2021, according to a Boston University study, and next week common depression triggers are on the calendar: the holidays and the winter solstice.

"The holidays are always hard for people who have a loss, are socially isolated or have a sadness in their life," said Dr. Paula Brooks, chief medical officer of Guthrie health organization, which operates Guthrie Cortland Medical Center. "We do see an increase in depression at this time of year."

Last year, social distancing made the holiday season more difficult, Brooks said. "This holiday season isn't as bad as last holiday because there's less isolation."

"New research from Boston University School of Public Health reveals that the elevated rate of depression in 2020 has persisted into 2021, and even worsened,

climbing to 32.8 percent and affecting 1 in every 3 American adults," according to a Boston University news release. "Depression among adults in the United States tripled in the early 2020 months of the global coronavirus pandemic—jumping from 8.5% before the pandemic to a staggering 27.8%."

Ten percent of Cortland County residents report having 14 or more poor mental health days a month, reports the state Health Department. That's on par with the state and national reports, showing 11% of people reporting similar numbers of poor mental health days.

Stress, including COVID-19 pandemic-related stress, affected the 2021 depression increase, according to the study first published on Oct. 1 in The Lancet Regional Health — Americas.

"Over time, the central drivers of depressive symptoms were low household income, not being married, and experiencing multiple stressors during the COVID-19 pandemic," wrote the study authors.

It's unusual that depression is persisting instead of spiking and declining, such as after the West African Ebola outbreak, said study author Sandro Galea, dean of Boston University School of Public Health.

"Typically, we would expect depression to peak following the traumatic event and then lower over time," Galea said. "Instead, we found that 12 months into the pandemic, levels of depression remained high."

What you can do

Tips to cope with symptoms of depression:

- Acknowledge your feelings.
- Expect your mood to improve gradually, not immediately.
- Exercise.
- Don't isolate yourself. Contact friends and relatives.
- Set aside differences with family and friends.
- Plan ahead and set realistic goals for yourself.
- Postpone important decisions until you feel better. Discuss decisions with others who know you well and have a more objective view of your situation.
- Eat healthy meals.
- Get plenty of sleep.
- Try deep-breathing exercises, meditation or yoga.
- Avoid excessive tobacco, alcohol and drug use.
- Continue to educate yourself about depression.
- Seek professional help if you need it.

SOURCES: National Institute of Mental Health

and the Mayo Clinic

If you need help now:

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration's helpline: 800-622-HELP (4357).
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255).
- Crisis Text Line (HELLO to 741741).
- Lifeline Chat on the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website at suicideline.org.

State board delays decision on farm OT change

By JOHN WHITTAKER
The Jamestown Post-Journal

A decision on changing overtime for farm workers to 40 hours a week will be made in January, not December as scheduled.

A state Farm Laborers Wage Board will have three public hearings via Zoom — Jan. 4, Jan. 11 and Jan. 18. It had been scheduled to reconvene this month and have a decision by the end of the year.

A new public hearing schedule was posted on the state Labor Department's website Tuesday night with no formal announcement.

"On Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021, New York state Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon announced that she will reconvene a wage board to hold virtual public hearings to

hear testimony to consider the existing overtime work threshold for farm laborers and the extent to which the overtime work threshold may be lowered in New York state," the notice states.

Under state law, the wage board cannot increase the threshold for farm worker overtime. It can only lower the number of hours before farms have to pay workers overtime. Sen. George Borrello, R-Sunset Bay, agreed with the Labor Department's decision to hold off on the decision.

"The Department of Labor's decision to delay a finding on the farm labor overtime threshold to allow for a new slate of public hearings is a sound one, in light of the fact that more than a year and a half has passed since the last round of

hearings and a state-commissioned study by Cornell University was released just a week ago," Borrello said. "That said, I firmly believe that the facts and feedback from farmers, farm workers and those closest to the industry will overwhelmingly show that lowering the threshold would be catastrophic for the sector. ... If the overtime limit is lowered further, not only will farming cease to be financially viable for many families, it will accelerate the exodus of farm workers from New York to other states where they can work more and earn more."

How the Farm Laborers Wage Board would rule took on added interest with last week's release of a report from Cornell University that examined the effects of the 60-hour

overtime threshold on different farm operations in New York and the effect a 50-hour threshold and a 40-hour threshold could have.

Among the report's findings:

■ Two-thirds of dairy farms interviewed indicated they would move out of milk production, direct future dairy investment to other states, invest outside of dairy, or exit agriculture entirely.

■ Half of fruits and vegetable farms interviewed indicated they would shrink enterprises or exit the industry.

■ 72% of guest workers said they would be less likely to do their current job if hours were capped at 40 per week.

■ 70% of guest workers said they would consider going to another state without capped hours.

‘Even one fewer cigarette smoked is beneficial for improved health.’

— NY State Quitline



LisaDee Beckwith, of Cortland, seen Thursday outside her home, is working on smoking less.

Katie Keyser/living and leisure editor

‘I am ready to quit’

Smokers take steps toward breaking the habit

By KATIE KEYSER
Living and Leisure Editor
living@kortlandstandard.net

LisaDee Beckwith, of Cortland, has had enough of cigarettes.

“I am at the point now I am ready to quit,” she said Thursday. “It all goes along with stress.”

The holidays, COVID-19 and family members’ health issues are getting to her, she said.

Cigarettes provide some relief.

Still, despite smoking for 25 years, she is cutting back. And experts at the NY State Quitline say that’s a good move.

The Quitline recommends using the holidays as a practice period to quitting smoking. The free service to New Yorkers also says to use distraction techniques and call the 24/7 Quitline for help.

Beckwith is not allowed to smoke in her apartment, so when she goes outside for a smoke break, she brings only one cigarette with her. The mom and grandmother remembers quitting smoking when she was pregnant for her kids. She knows she can do it again.

“I will try and quit. I can do it myself. It’s mind over matter,” she said.

The New York State Smokers’ Quitline advises people to practice quit-attempts

during the holidays. Most people who use tobacco want to become tobacco-free, according to a release from the service.

Many will make New Year’s resolutions in the coming weeks, only to struggle.

The Quitline said nicotine addiction is strong and if a would-be quitter slips up, simply try again. Even one fewer cigarette smoked is beneficial for improved health, it says.

Everyone quits differently; however, practice makes perfect.

Beckwith says she won’t make a resolution to quit for New Year’s.

“I don’t believe in New Year’s resolutions,” she said. “Why put pressure on yourself?”

Christmas is enough pressure as it is, she said.

But people can use substitutes for smoking. Consider a candy cane, according to the Quitline. Or drink a glass of water. Or take deep breaths instead of that one extra cigarette.

Whatever the technique, focus on learning how to delay and distract.

Those who become tobacco-free and make it stick often use mints, stir sticks or other hand-to-mouth items as a healthy substitute while learning to wean off nicotine.

Beckwith uses chewing gum as a dis-

tracter. It works.

Tony Casey of Cortland, a five-year smoker, says lollipops have helped him smoke less. He smokes two cigarettes a day.

“This is my first one,” he said about 11:30 a.m.

“I feel successful if I only do two a day,” he said. “Eventually, I want to stop. I had two strokes due to these things.”

He gets smoking cessation medication from his doctor and plans to get a prescription at his next appointment.

People can also call the Quitline. It is free and available seven days a week for help. Quit coaches are available by calling 866-NY-QUITS (866-697-8487) or via electronic chat by visiting nysmokefree.com.

Tobacco users and even their loved ones can connect with the Quitline anytime to ask questions or simply to receive moral support.

Most people also are eligible to receive a free starter supply of nicotine replacement therapy via mail, typically in the form of nicotine patches and often with supplemental nicotine gum or nicotine lozenges. When used appropriately and in combination, nicotine replacement therapy products can double or triple the odds of becoming and staying tobacco-free.

These 2 herbs thrive on winter windowsills

By LEE REICH
Associated Press

Windowsill herb plants would seem a perfect antidote to winter’s visual and culinary blandness, except such plants rarely do as well as billed.

The ideal windowsill herb thrives despite dry air and relatively low light conditions to offer intense aroma and flavor. And it should be a pretty plant in winter.

Those criteria rule out mint, which is too gangly; basil, which wanes in anything less than summer’s heat and light; and chives, which are too mild, with just one picking decimating the plant.

TWO MEDITERRANEAN HERBS

Two herbs do fit the bill for intense aroma and flavor, and beauty. They are ... (drum roll) ... rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*) and bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*).

Both are Mediterranean plants that thrive where winters are cool but never frigid. A sunny window in a cool room is ideal, but both will do fine under less than ideal conditions.

For rosemary, keeping the plant happy and alive means, above all, maintaining a moist soil. Check the soil regularly, because rosemary’s stiff leaves don’t wilt to show their thirst. Of course, you don’t want to drown the plant either, a condition best avoided with a potting mix containing a quarter or more, by volume, of perlite,



This image shows a rosemary plant, left, and a Bay Laurel in New Paltz.

Associated Press

vermiculite or sand.

The white, mealy coating on rosemary’s leaves gives the plant a grayish cast, as if it’s covered with dew. Perhaps this dewy look and the wild plants’ proximity to the sea is what prompted the ancient Romans to call the plant *Ros Marinus* (“dew of the sea”), the origin of rosemary’s older generic name, *Rosemarinus*.

Even if rosemary were a homely plant, it would be worth growing for its scent, which it’s eager to release from resin glands on its stems and young leaves. Set a potted plant near a doorway or a rocking chair, where, with the pass of your hand, you can conveniently stir up a cloud of balsamic aroma into the air.

The taste of rosemary is potent, so only a small amount is

needed for flavoring. When I need some, I just snip off a few sprigs, which also keeps my plant tidy and shapely.

Bay laurel, for its part, sports broad, dark, evergreen leaves, and a freshly picked leaf needs more coaxing than rosemary to give up its scent. But what a wonderful scent it is — much richer than what you’ll sniff from dried leaves out of a jar.

Cooked, its flavor readily infuses soups, tomato sauce, stews and other dishes. Freshly plucked, you’ll need to really crush a leaf to release its aroma.

REGULAR BUT MINIMAL CARE

Rosemary or bay laurel are attractive whether grown as informal shrubs or trained to the form of small trees. Pruning off

all growth except for a single, vertical stem, then repeatedly pinching off the tip of that stem and any branches that develop creates a small tree out of either plant.

Such “standards,” as miniature trees are called, can be anywhere from 2 feet high on up, depending on the height at which you pinch out the initial, vertical stem. Over time, that stem will thicken to become a woody trunk. (Unpruned, bay laurel can grow to become a 50-foot-tall tree.)

With care and regular pruning, a potted bay laurel or rosemary plant can live for decades. Refresh the soil every couple of years by repotting the plant to a larger pot or slicing the root ball to reduce its size, then putting it back in the same pot with new potting soil in the space opened up.

For a treat (for your rosemary or bay laurel plant), move it outdoors in spring to bask in sunlight and fresh air for the summer. Your plants will appreciate it, and you’ll appreciate the plants for their beauty and the flavoring and aroma they offer, especially when you move them back indoors in late fall.

Lee Reich writes about gardening for The Associated Press. He has written a number of books, including “Growing Figs in Cold Climates” and “The Pruning Book.” He can be reached at garden@leereich.com.

Ask Amy

By Amy Dickinson

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This year, put ‘A Book on Every Bed’

DEAR READERS: Every year at Christmastime, I ask readers to put “A Book on Every Bed.”

I do so in memory of my mother, Jane, whose weekly trips to our town’s library always yielded armloads of books.

In our household, we went without some things that other families had, but we always had books in abundance.

The idea to put books on beds at Christmastime originally came from historian David McCullough, who recounted the Christmas mornings of his youth, when the very first thing he woke up to was a wrapped book at the base of his bed, left there by Santa.

The most important part is what happens next: Family members reading together.

Working with my local literacy partner Children’s Reading Connection (childrensreading-connection.org), this campaign has grown to include schools, libraries and booksellers, who have donated scores of books to families that might not have access to them.

This year, I am thrilled that author Jacqueline Woodson (jacquelinewoodson.com) agreed to share a very personal literacy story.

Ms. Woodson is the winner of, well — all of the awards for her genre-spanning work, including the prestigious Newbery and Caldecott, as well as a MacArthur “Genius” grant (2020).

Her books, “Brown Girl Dreaming” and “The Day You Begin” are both very important to the children in my life.

She writes:

A Pile of Books
“The other night, a friend was describing her love for books. She said that love began when she was a child and her dad would bring a pile of books to read to her before she went to sleep.

As I listened, I imagined what would it have been like to have ‘a pile of books’ and someone who had the time at the end of the day to read them to me. Or better, to be able to read them to myself.

The books I had as a child were borrowed from the library or the worn books that had moved through many hands before landing, often in states of disrepair, in my own hands.

Books were both a necessity and a luxury in my childhood.

My mother wanted us to read constantly but didn’t have the money to buy us ‘piles of books’.

To have a brand-new book to open at night — it’s crisp unbroken binding, the scent of its pages, the soft rush of air and excitement that comes with turning them — this is my dream for

every child.

A pile of books begins with one. And like a child, it grows.

— Jacqueline Woodson

To support independent bookstores, which have had to pivot during the pandemic (like all of us), I’m presenting some recently published books in various categories, selected by some of my favorite booksellers.

From Jill Yoemans, owner of White Whale Bookstore in Pittsburgh, Pa. — three recommendations for Early Readers:

■ “Mia Mayhem is a Superhero!,” by Kara West and Leeza Hernandez.

■ “I’m On It! (Elephant and Piggie Like Reading!),” by Andrea Tsurumi and Mo Willems.

■ “Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea” (a Narwhal and Jelly Book), by Ben Clanton.

From Lisa Swayze, general manager of Buffalo Street Books in Ithaca, NY (Buffalostreet-books.com):

“The Young Adult category has some of the most diverse, exciting, and revolutionary writing happening today. Buffalo Street Books’ #1 pick this year is ‘This Poison Heart,’ by Kalynn Bayron. Once you’re entangled in this heart-stopping story, you won’t be able to put the book down.

“We also recommend: ‘The Firekeeper’s Daughter,’ by Angie Boulley, ‘We Are Not Broken,’ by George M. Johnson, and ‘We Are Inevitable,’ by Gayle Forman.”

From the bookselling staff of Politics and Prose Bookstore in Washington, D.C., Adult non-fiction (politics-prose.com):

■ “Empire of Pain,” by Patrick Radden Keefe: A riveting account of the Sackler pharmaceutical dynasty. Over decades they engaged in aggressive marketing of drugs, culminating in the promotion of Oxycontin, which fostered the opioid crisis.

■ “Crying in H Mart,” by Michelle Zauner: In moving prose, the singer paints a vivid picture of the pain she endured growing up as the biracial daughter of a Korean mother and an American father.

■ “All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley’s Sack, a Black Family Keepsake” by Tiya Miles: Winner of the National Book Award, this historical piece together the lost lives of a Black American family — through the contents of a flour sack from the 1840s. The story of the sack carries “all the drama and pathos of ancient tapestries depicting the deeds of queens.”

You can email Amy Dickinson at askamy@amydickinson.com or send a letter to Ask Amy, P.O. Box 194, Freeville, NY 13068. You can also follow her on Twitter @askingamy or Facebook.

Notebook

CHS student gets nod for academy

A Cortland Junior Senior High School student has been nominated for entry into the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Rep. Claudia Tenney announced this week.

Margaret Starr, a student at Cortland Junior Senior High School, was among 11 high school students Tenney (R-Oneida) nominated for military academies based on their academic achievement, exceptional character and commitment to community service, Tenney said in a release.

Tenney can nominate a number of candidates to the service academies each year, recommended by a committee of veterans and community leaders from across the 22nd Congressional District.

“As the mother of a United States Naval Academy graduate, it is my tremendous honor to nominate some of our region’s most talented students to these prestigious institutions,” Tenney said.

Lime Hollow offers free trails

Lime Hollow Nature Center, off 338 McLean Road, Cortlandville, has trails through 430 acres of woods, wetlands, fields, ponds and streams.

It also has a 1.1-mile path that can be accessed by people walking their dogs. That is on the Lehigh Valley Trail Extension off of Gracie Road, across from Gracie pond.

Trails are open daily until dusk. Maps are at the kiosk by the visitor center on McLean Road and at www.limehollow.org.

Other Opinions

The following editorial roundup, compiled by The Associated Press for members, provides excerpts from editorials that have appeared in the last week in newspapers from around the US and world.

The Chicago Tribune on where were Amazon brass in wake of tornado?

At 5:45 a.m. Saturday morning, a press conference was held in downstate Edwardsville. The deeply sad purpose was to update the public on what happened the previous night when a EF-3 tornado had rolled through that community and partially collapsed a warehouse belonging to Amazon. At least six people died.

Edwardsville Fire Chief James Whiteford was there, so was Edwardsville Police Chief Michael Fillback and other local officials. So, in fact, was Gov. J.B. Pritzker, despite the early hour and the location of Edwardsville, which is far closer to St. Louis than Springfield or Chicago. Pritzker still got himself there to praise emergency workers and to try to comfort some of the afflicted.

You know who was not at that press conference? Anyone from Amazon. Stunning, given that the company owned the warehouse where people died. Worse yet, the absence of Amazon in front of the cameras that morning allowed confusion to grow over precisely how many people had died. The authorities said they didn't know how many people were gone because Amazon didn't know how many people had been in the warehouse during the incident.

That uncertainty, the officials said, was compounded by at least two other factors: a shift change was in progress and Amazon's operation is only partially staffed by Amazon workers, the remainder being either employees of other entities or independent contractors.

Only hours later did Amazon finally put out a statement from a spokesman that was so anodyne as to be insulting to those victims: "We're deeply saddened by the news that members of our Amazon family passed away as a result of the storm in Edwardsville. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their loved ones, and everyone impacted by the storm. We also want to thank all the first responders for their ongoing efforts on scene. We're continuing to provide support to our employees and partners in the area."

Thoughts and prayers? Please. Anything but that cliché. And when families and "partners" are in pain, they show up for each other. And who is the "we," exactly? Without a face or a name, this was meaningless language.

It got worse. Early Saturday, Jeff Bezos, still the executive chairman and public face of Amazon despite handing over the CEO reins to Andy Jassy last summer, was tweeting Saturday morning about the pleasures of his fun space venture, seemingly oblivious to what had happened the night before to regular folks trying to survive on terra firma. Only after he received intense pressure for the omission, did Bezos put out an expression of sympathy.

He, Jassy, or a top lieutenant, should have been at that microphone at 5:45 a.m., or at least on Zoom, answering real questions and attending to the pain of the good people of Edwardsville. Amazon was not, of course, responsible for the tomado, but people still died because they were in that warehouse, working for Amazon.

The absence did not go unnoticed, nor, later in the day, did the disparity between Amazon being fully able to get a package to your door in minutes and yet not being entirely sure how many people had been killed in its own warehouse.

"The company with one of the most sophisticated logistics systems in the world can't say how many employees are still unaccounted for nearly 24 hours after the tomado hit its warehouse?" tweeted the Springfield NPR-affiliate reporter Hannah Meisel.

Apparently, it could not. We share Meisel's amazement. And we don't think that "thoughts and prayers" did the job.

The Houston Chronicle on locking up parents who don't lock up guns

In memory of four Michigan teenagers who won't be spending time with their families this Christmas and in sympathy with six other teenagers and a high school teacher traumatized for life, we offer a modest proposal:

Any parent or guardian who refuses to secure guns in the home, arguing that a locked and unloaded gun denies them quick access to thwart a home invasion or other mortal threat, should be required to implement an alternative strategy. We propose designating an adult in the household to keep vigil just inside the front door every night, a loaded pistol, rifle or shotgun lying across their lap, ready in an instant to blow away those dangerous would-be intruders they fear so much. Parents, of course, could trade off, each taking four-hour shifts sitting guard or alternating night shifts.

We're being facetious — sort of — but our proposal is no more absurd than keeping loaded, unsecured guns around the house, accessible to curious toddlers and troubled teens alike. Those kids or other family members who live in the house every day are the ones far more likely to get shot than any hypothetical intruder.

We offer another proposal, not so modest: Perhaps it's time for those parents who refuse to lock up their guns to find themselves locked up instead.

The shooter at a high school in Oxford Township, Mich., on Nov. 30 was a 15-year-old sophomore, authorities said. He fired more than 30 rounds, randomly it seems, at students and teachers.

He not only had access to a loaded weapon but was allegedly abetted by his parents. Authorities say his father bought him the 9mm Sig Sauer SP2022 on Black Friday as a Christmas present. His mother took him target shooting, and after a teacher observed him searching for ammunition on his phone, the mother texted her child, "LOL, I'm not mad at you. You have to learn not to get caught." The parents kept the loaded pistol in an unlocked drawer in their bedroom.

Despite behavior at school so worrisome that school officials called the parents into a meeting, the parents refused to take their son home when asked to do so. A couple of hours later, authorities said he emerged from a bathroom and began firing.

"If the incident yesterday with four children being murdered and multiple kids being injured is not enough to revisit our gun laws, I don't know what is," Oakland County prosecutor Karen McDonald said. She charged the shooter as an adult with murder, terrorism and other crimes.

Then the prosecutor took an extra step. She charged the shooter's parents with involuntary manslaughter, because, she said, they should have known their son was a danger to the school. The parents, who fled to Detroit after the massacre, have pleaded not guilty. They face up to 60 years in prison if convicted.

Prosecutors are often reluctant to charge parents whose children commit mass murder, in part because the parents have a constitutional right to own a firearm. A growing number of states, including Texas, have Child Access Prevention laws that generally require gun owners to safely store guns and keep them out of the hands of minors. In Texas, a person can be held criminally liable, albeit for a Class C misdemeanor, if he or she doesn't take reasonable steps to secure a firearm or leaves it loaded somewhere a child is likely to access it. The violation becomes a Class A misdemeanor, carrying up to a year in jail and a \$4,000 fine, if a child uses the gun to injure or kill someone, including himself.

McDonald, the Michigan prosecutor, said she had no choice but to charge the parents. "I am in no way saying that an active shooter situation should always result in a criminal prosecution against parents, but the facts of this case are so egregious," she said.

"I'm angry as a mother. I'm angry as a prosecutor. I'm angry as a person that lives in this county. I'm angry," she added. "There were a lot of things that could have been so simple to prevent."

Would that we all get angry at parents of children who live in homes with unsecured firearms.

Guns, just behind car crashes, are the second-leading cause of death for American children, according to the Giffords Law Center. Each year, more than 8,000 kids are killed or seriously injured by guns. An estimated 70 percent to 90 percent of guns used in youth suicides, unintentional shootings among children and by school shooters under age 18 are acquired from the homes of relatives or friends, according to the center.

Failing to secure weapons in the home also feeds an epidemic of gun thefts in this country. Stolen guns are likely to be diverted underground, a prime market for criminals.

Most gun owners we know, including members of the National Rifle Association, are hyper-careful about keeping guns in the home secure.



Trump's coup plot

Joe Conason



Giuliani and Sidney Powell: for example, that the Chinese Communist Party, through voting machine firms it supposedly controlled, manipulated electronic ballots to ensure a victory for its "ally" President Joe Biden.

No shred of proof exists to support any of these fevered fantasies, nor for the far-fetched legal corollary theories that Giuliani, Powell and other Trump lawyers promoted in courts around the country. They were shot down by judges, everywhere, and both Powell and Giuliani face bar disciplinary action for those ethical offenses, as well as lawsuits filed by the voting-machine firms they smeared. Worse, Meadows and Trump had been informed by Attorney General William Barr that there was no evidence of significant fraud in the election. Can Meadows be certain Barr hasn't already testified to the committee about what he did?

Every citizen who cherishes democracy should read those PowerPoint slides, which illustrate how close we came to losing everything that "makes America great." The presentation confirms the elements of the conspiracy known already and reveals even more sinister aspects that involved the use of military force in a planned coup.

The presentation outlines how then-Vice President Mike Pence was expected to exceed his ceremonial role on Jan. 6 by rejecting electoral votes from states where "fraud occurred," thereby awarding a false victory to Trump. Alternatively, Pence would delay the election certification to permit a "vetting and subsequent counting" of paper ballots only after authorities could "weed out" allegedly "counterfeit" votes, both electronic and paper.

The PowerPoint describes the specifics of the military coup advocated by Powell and her former client Mike Flynn, the disgraced national security adviser, pardoned by Trump for his corruption. The document states: "A Trusted Lead Counter

will be appointed with authority from POTUS to direct the actions of select federalized National Guard units and support from (Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security) and other US government agencies as needed to complete a recount of the legal paper ballots for the federal elections in all 50 states."

Marshalls would seize the voting machines and ballots from state and local governments and commence a militarized recount under Trump's control. This would all occur within five to 10 days after Jan. 6 — and would, at least in the absurd imagination of the PowerPoint's authors, allow "any US citizen" to "view them and count the ballots themselves." (Nobody seems to have considered how long it would take for anyone watching this spectacle to actually count the 159 million votes cast by eligible voters in 2020, although Trump plainly aimed to disqualify most of them.)

About this plot we need to know much more, which is why the select committee aims to prosecute Meadows and any other conspirators who resist testifying for contempt. Whatever privilege he seeks to claim for his cover-up, the dimwitted former chief of staff voided that by giving this document and many others to the committee as well as publishing a memoir. He is still withholding thousands of pages of text messages and other evidence from the committee.

Sinema should kill bill

Marc Thiessen



That is exactly what the bill's programs will cost.

Democrats claim to have lowered the cost of the bill from \$3.5 trillion to \$1.75 trillion over 10 years. In truth, they did not scale back their bill to cuts its costs. Instead, they hid the real cost by using early "sunset" expiration dates for the social spending programs in the bill — knowing full well that once an entitlement is created, it is almost never allowed to expire.

At the request of Sen. Lindsey O. Graham, R-S.C., the Congressional Budget Office scored the 10-year cost of 18 proposals in the bill.

For example, Democrats claim their child tax credit will cost only \$185 billion. That's because it ends after one year in the House bill, something no serious person believes will happen. According to CBO, the 10-year cost of the child credit is \$1.597 trillion. Similarly, Democrats claim that their health insurance subsidies will cost only \$74 billion, but that's because they "expire" in 2025 and 2026. According to CBO, the 10-year cost is \$220

billion. The 10-year costs of just these two programs comes to \$1.817 trillion — more than Democrats claim their entire bill will cost.

But Democrats don't stop there. They claim their expansion of the earned-income tax credit will cost just \$13 billion because it ends after one year; the 10-year cost is \$135 billion. They claim their child-care and preschool programs cost only \$381 billion; the 10-year cost is \$752 billion. They claim that home- and community-based care will cost just \$146 billion; the 10-year cost is \$209 billion. It is a similar story for the other programs in the bill.

They also use tax gimmicks. For example, they restore the SALT (state and local tax) deduction — raising it to \$80,000 from \$10,000 today. But then they set it to expire at the end of 2025 — four years from now — and claim that this expiration will raise \$15 billion in revenue to pay for other programs in the bill. CBO says it will cost \$245 billion over 10 years.

Add it all up, and the cost of the 18 programs analyzed by CBO is \$3.47 trillion over

10 years — almost exactly the amount Sinema said she would never support. This is consistent with the nonpartisan Penn Wharton Budget Model, which estimated in October that the bill could cost \$3.9 trillion over the next decade without the fake "sunsets." And while Biden has insisted the cost of the bill is \$0, CBO reports that if the provisions were extended over 10 years, it would increase the deficit by \$3 trillion.

Why would Sinema go along with such a charade? She owes nothing to the progressive wing of her party. With Biden's blessing, they took her bipartisan infrastructure bill hostage to force House moderates to vote for his massive reconciliation bill. When the infrastructure bill finally passed in November, it was only because 13 House Republicans crossed the aisle to save it. If progressives had their way, they would have killed Sinema's signature legislation.

So why not return the favor? The damage on the left is done. A recent poll found that 70% of likely Democratic primary voters in Arizona disapprove of Sinema. But Arizona has an open primary system. Sinema can win with the support of independents and conservatives. If she votes for the reconciliation bill, she alienates them as well. Then she has angered everyone.

In recent interview with a local radio station, Sinema said, "In Arizona, we value fiscal responsibility." This bill is anything but fiscally responsible. So do the right thing, senator. If you want to be the maverick, you need to kill the bill.

Local

CRT

continued from page 1

said John Burns, of Cortland, a grandfather with nine grandchildren.

“Racism has got to go away,” Burns said. “I’m no better than anybody else. That’s how I’ve tried to raise my children and grandchildren.”

CAN RACISM AFFECT HEALTH?

Health is one area where different races experience different disease rates and life expectancies, reports the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Across the country, racial and ethnic minority populations experience higher rates of poor health and disease in a range of health conditions, including diabetes, hypertension, obesity, asthma, and heart disease, when compared to their White counterparts,” the CDC reports in “Impact of Racism on our Nation’s Health.” “The life expectancy among Black/African Americans is four years lower than that of white Americans.”

The CDC also measures which racial groups are most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Its November data show indigenous peoples, Black and African-American people, and Hispanics and Latinos, are all twice as likely to die from COVID-19 than white people.

“Critical Race Theory helps us understand that racism endures here because it isn’t just about personal, individual feelings or actions — although those can definitely be harmful and hurtful, too,” Stoevers said. “In fact, Critical Race Theory doesn’t really focus on individuals at all! It enables us to see, on a large scale, how and why something called ‘race’ continues to exist long after scientists have unequivocally declared it not to actually exist in any meaningful biological way and long after many social attitudes and discriminatory laws have been changed.”

DOES IT PLACE ONE RACE ABOVE ANOTHER?

Critical Race Theory does not teach white students they are oppressors or that they should feel guilty, said Kendall Thomas, a Columbia University constitutional and human rights law professor.

“To the contrary, Critical Race Theory recognizes that racial

inequity and exclusion hurt all Americans, whatever our race or color,” Thomas states in a news release explaining critical race theory.

The “critical” in critical race theory refers to being careful and meticulous, just like in the phrase “critical thinking,” Stoevers said.

“Critical Race Theory is not anti-white or anti-white people,” she said. “It’s anti-racism.”

The theory can be used as a tool to better understand the world, by any person of any race, Stoevers said.

“I am a white woman, and I have used Critical Race Theory productively as a lens to understand the world in my research, teaching, and personal life for almost 20 years now,” she said. “Importantly, studying critical race theory has also taught me the limits of individuals in the fight against racism — that it is a system far larger and older than any one of us, and it needs a mass collective effort across all races to change it. This knowledge has empowered me as a white person and as a human, rather than diminished me in any way.”

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

ARC

continued from page 1

Leifer said the town plans to begin construction in the coming months, with a goal of serving customers by fall 2022.

“It’s validating to receive this level of investment from the ARC, it shows that there’s confidence in what we’re doing,” said Deputy Supervisor Dan Lamb. “To have U.S. senators so interested in and so proud of this project, both in terms of our credibility and what we’re trying to achieve here, it will make it easier to acquire additional funding.”

The town also applied for a share of \$1.15 billion in federal funding available to expand broadband access through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development ReConnect Program.

“We’ll be in a better position there because we’ve already received this ARC money and we have this nice praise from our senators,” Lamb said. The town expects the ReConnect Program to announce funding recipients next fall.

Even without grant funding, the broadband project would be paid for, Lamb said.

“We were going to pay off our borrowing with the money that comes from subscribers, but with grant money, that lessens the amount of money we borrow and it will probably lessen the price we charge our subscribers,” Lamb said. “It just changes the whole dynamic and makes this project that much easier.”

While the town awaits construction, the next step will be getting the broadband access

website up and running in the next few months, Lamb said.

Students from the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs spent several months collecting data on municipal broadband projects nationwide to decide how to most successfully roll out the product in the town of Dryden. The group presented its report to Broadband Committee members Friday.

“The students are really excited about it, they think we’ve got something special here that we need to promote to make sure the public knows exactly what’s being offered,” Lamb said. “We’re seeing it with the prolonged pandemic — we’re seeing the need for effective fiber, not just broadband but fiber, in rural communities now more than ever.”



A Parent’s Guide to Cortland County Teens



Myth #4: Allowing kids to drink at home is a “safe” option.

Fact: A recent study found that there is no protective benefit of parental supply of alcohol. Kids who were provided alcohol by their parents had higher odds of binge drinking, alcohol related harm, and symptoms of alcohol use disorder than kids with no supply of alcohol. Cortland County also has a social host ordinance that holds adults responsible for allowing minors to consume alcohol on their property (violators could be faced with a \$250 fine or up to 15 days in jail).

Myth #5: European teens drink more responsibly because they are “taught” to drink at a younger age at home compared to kids in the U.S.

Fact: Studies show that teens in European countries drink more frequently and get drunk younger than teens in the United States. The percentage of American youth who report drinking in the past 30 days is lower than youth in all Western European Countries with the exception of Iceland.

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5 Myths About Underage Drinking in Cortland County (and Beyond) Debunked

Do you know the difference between these myths and facts about underage drinking in Cortland County and beyond? Let’s clear the air.

Myth #1: Most kids in Cortland County drink alcohol.

Fact: Based on the 2019 youth development survey of over 2,000 7th-12th graders in Cortland County, only 21% of teens report using alcohol at least once in the past 30 days. Only 43% report using alcohol in their lifetime. Most kids in our community are not drinking alcohol.

Myth #2: I can’t do anything to stop my kid from drinking, they’ll do it no matter what.

Fact: Kids who have a trusting, supportive relationship with their parents, and are provided with clear family rules about alcohol use, are more likely to wait longer before drinking. Not only that, but parents are in a unique position to physically limit access their child has to alcohol in their own home (which survey data shows is the most common place teens in Cortland County access alcohol).

Myth #3: It’s better to wait until kids are older to talk about the dangers of alcohol.

Fact: The American Academy of Pediatrics, recommends that parents start talking about the dangers and consequences of alcohol use with their children as early as nine years of age. Based on our youth survey, 5.0% of 7th grade students in Cortland County report drinking alcohol at least one time in the past 30 days. Your child may be exposed to alcohol, or pressured to drink, at a younger age than you might expect so communication early and often is essential.

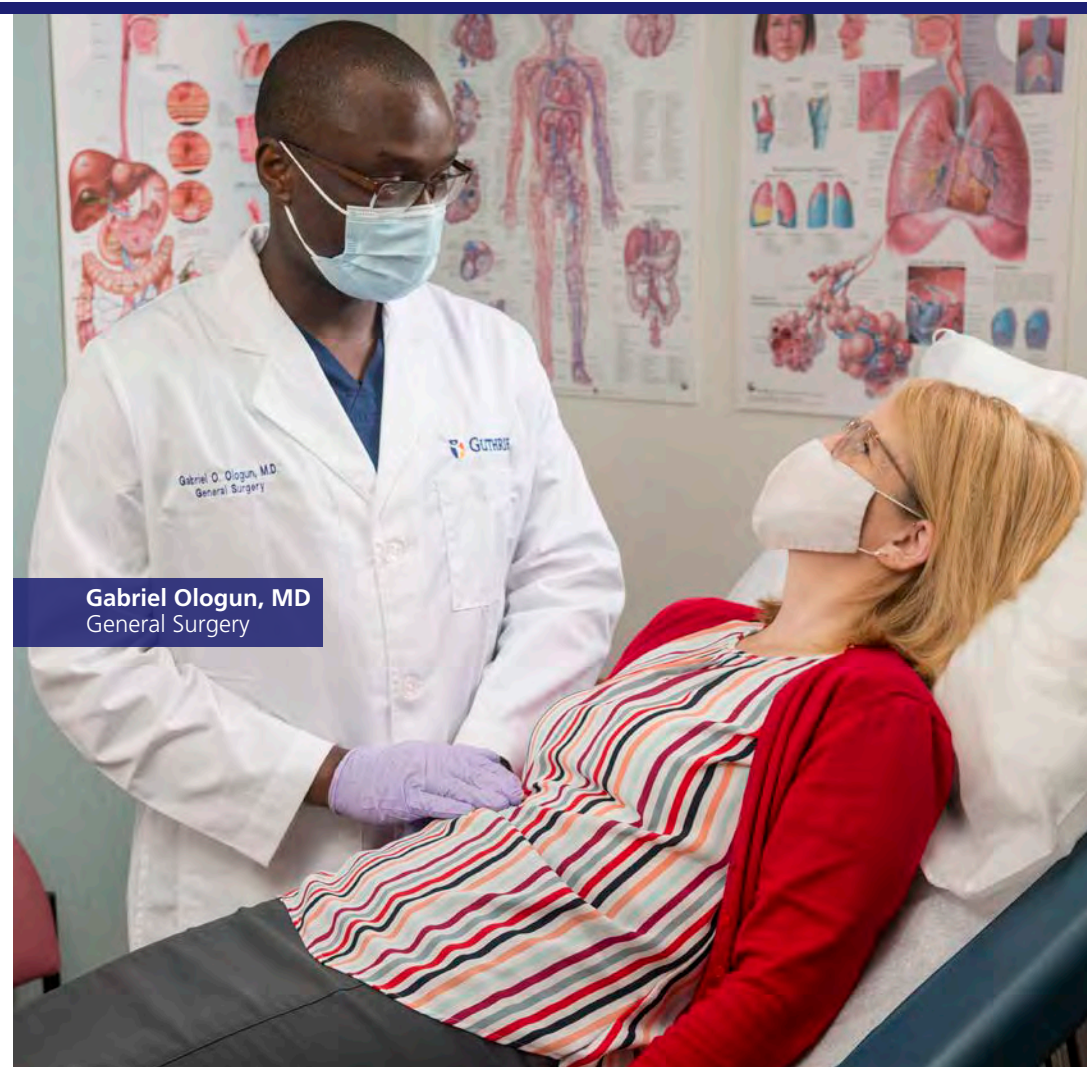
Visit upstreamparent.org to read more articles.



Upstream Parent is a project of Cortland Area Communities That Care



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Family Medicine



Gabriel Ologun, MD
General Surgery

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High School Sports



Matt Czeitner/sports reporter

Cortland's Max Gambitta dribbles the ball up the floor Friday night at Cortland Junior-Senior High School. Gambitta scored 17 points in Cortland's 52-31 win over Oswego.

CHS boys bounce back

By MATT CZEITNER
Sports Reporter

mczeitner@cortlandstandard.net

The Cortland boys basketball team bounced back from its first loss of the season and moved to 3-1 after defeating the visiting Oswego Buccaneers 52-31 Friday night.

Cortland's defense held Oswego in check all night as the Buccaneers' offense was held to eight points or fewer in each of the first three quarters. They scored 14 in the fourth but the game was already blown open by then.

The Purple Tigers played a strong zone defense that keyed in on the Buccaneers best offensive players, which led to their struggles and points on the other end.

"Oswego has two players that are averag-

ing 18 and 16 points, respectively," Purple Tigers head coach Jeremy Mulligan said. "Two strong guards that we really identified as people we have to find in that zone and I thought our team did a great job all game of doing it."

Cortland
Oswego 52
31

The offense from the Purple Tigers was also great, as they flawlessly moved the ball around the perimeter while having a number of cuts to the basket that led to several easy looks. Mulligan expected the Buccaneers to come out in a man-to-man defense, but to his surprise, they did not. His team still attacked the zone terrifically despite not prepping for it during practice.

"We had scouted Oswego and they played man-to-man in the game we saw, so we have been doing a lot of man-to-man prep. I was proud of the guys to come out and execute our zone offense," Mulligan said.

In the second half, the Buccaneers switched to that man defense that the Purple Tigers were expecting and they were fully prepared to go against it.

"We were able to extend our lead when Oswego went to man-to-man and we were able to perform some of those man-to-man offensive sets that we had," Mulligan said. "We had some good curls and good action towards the basket for some easy layups."

The Purple Tigers came into their match-up against the Buccaneers full of confidence.

See ROUNDUP, page 8

Pro Football

Dates for 3 NFL games changed due to outbreaks

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL has moved three games because of COVID-19 outbreaks: Las Vegas at Cleveland from Saturday to Monday; and Seattle at the Los Angeles Rams and Washington at Philadelphia from Sunday to Tuesday.

The Browns could have been without as many as 16 regulars on Saturday, so the game is now scheduled to kick off at 5 p.m. EST Monday. It will be televised by NFL Network.

Washington and Philadelphia will play at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, as will the Seahawks and Rams. Both games will be televised by Fox and available on Sunday Ticket.

"We have made these schedule changes based on medical advice and after discussion with the NFLPA as we are seeing a new, highly transmissible form of the virus this week resulting in a substantial increase in cases across the league," the NFL said in a statement. "We continue to make decisions in consultation with medical experts to ensure the health and safety of the NFL community."

Previously, the NFL did not plan to move any games because of coronavirus outbreaks. It even said forfeits "could be in play." But recent developments with the omicron strain of COVID-19 has changed the league's thinking — as did several outbreaks across the league entering Week 15 of the season.

"We will make every effort, consistent with the underlying health and safety principles, to play our full schedule within the current 18 weeks," Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a memo sent to the 32 clubs and obtained by the AP. "Each team is obligated to have its team ready to play at the scheduled time and place. There is no right to postpone a game, and games will not be postponed or rescheduled because of roster issues affecting a particular position group or particular number of players."

"If games are postponed, we will make every effort to minimize the competitive and economic burden on the participating teams."

The moves were not looked at kindly by some players.

"I pay my player dues just to get lied to and the rules bent!" Raiders linebacker K.J. Wright tweeted at the league and the players' union. "If it was the other way around I swear we would be playing tomorrow."

Eagles safety Rodney McLeod tweeted: "So we have to suffer, and compromise our schedule because of another



Associated Press

Browns quarterback Nick Mullens throws during the first half Oct. 21 against the Broncos. Cleveland's game this weekend against Las Vegas is one of three that have been rescheduled due to COVID-19 outbreaks.

teams mistake. Make it make sense!"

Seahawks coach Pete Carroll also suggested future game preparation should be taken into consideration.

"Yes, that's a big concern.

Anytime you play Thursday game or this is like a Friday game, I think it's a big burden on the players," he said. "It's a big burden on the recovery time. It's not what their bodies want to do. They're trained to have a whole week to recover and they don't get it."

"Now, if our game (vs. Chicago on Dec. 26) could move back to Monday, that would help us some. I don't know, that would kind of get in the middle of the next week as well. I don't know what's going to happen, but I'm not a fan of that for the player sake."

Last season, in the midst of the coronavirus, the NFL completed its season on schedule, but had to reschedule 15 games, some to midweek. In July, Goodell warned teams that no games would be rescheduled under such circumstances and, instead, forfeits could happen.

Earlier Friday, Saints coach Sean Payton tested positive for COVID-19 and was immediately isolated from the team.

Payton, who is vaccinated and tested positive in 2020 for the coronavirus, will remain isolated for 10 days unless he meets the league requirements for a fully vaccinated individual to return to the team environment.

The Saints said defensive coordinator Dennis Allen has been assigned head coaching duties for Sunday night's game at Tampa Bay.

Payton is expected to return

See NFL, page 9

Major League Baseball

Trickle-down economics at heart of baseball labor dispute



Associated Press

Minute Maid Park is shown Oct. 27 before Game 2 of the World Series between the Astros and Braves in Houston.

NEW YORK (AP) — Francisco Lindor's \$341 million contract with the New York Mets was supposed to be a boon for other shortstops. Same for pitchers when aces Gerrit Cole and Max Scherzer signed mega-deals.

Baseball players have long benefited from trickle-down economics, where stars set a market that leads to bigger paydays for those down below.

While a bevy of record-setting deals in recent seasons have boosted the top of the salary scale, they haven't done much for players at the lower end and may have contributed to a thinning of the middle class.

Players' belief in a top-down market and their desire to increase team payrolls are at the heart of the financial differences leading to Major League Baseball's first work stop-

page in 26 years.

Lindor, Cole and Scherzer are on the union's eight-man executive subcommittee. The group also includes infielder Marcus Semien, catcher Jason Castro and pitchers Zack Britton, Andrew Miller and James Paxton.

Of those, only Castro — at \$3.5 million — earned less than \$12 million last season.

Of the 1,670 players who appeared on a major league roster this year, 1,145 earned under \$1 million, including 771 below \$500,000 and 241 under \$100,000.

"Ultimately we are fighting to improve things in a lot of places for the next CBA," Miller wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "We want every player to be treated and compensated fairly, every team to attempt to win and ultimately every fan of our

game to see the best version of baseball possible."

Concerned salaries have been depressed by the luxury tax and a decline in major league payrolls since 2017, the union proposed lifting the tax threshold from \$210 million to \$245 million. Players would lower free-agent eligibility from six seasons of big league service to five for players 29.5 and younger by 2025-26 and drop salary arbitration eligibility to two years. The overwhelming percentage of gains would go to the highest earners.

MLB asserts union proposals would cause more stars to leave smaller markets, a stance players say is a ruse designed to hide an aversion to a spending surge.

"The closer you get to a free market, the

See LABOR, page 8

Penguins top Sabres 3-2 in OT

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Malcolm Subban made a save so spectacular, it left the Pittsburgh Penguins muttering to themselves.

Not that it mattered in the end. Not with the way the Penguins are playing, no matter who is in the opposing net.

Jeff Carter redirected a centering pass from Kris Letang past Subban 2:53 into overtime to lift the Penguins past Buffalo 3-2 on Friday night for their sixth straight victory.

NHL

Carter's ninth goal of the season served as a moment of redemption. His tripping penalty with 5 seconds left in regulation forced Pittsburgh to start the extra period a man down. The NHL's top-rated penalty kill kept Buffalo in check, buying Carter enough time to win it as Pittsburgh improved to 11-2-1 in its last 14 games.

"It's been going well for us," Carter said. "I think for the most part, we're playing the right way. We're hard on pucks. We're making the right decision with pucks when we have it ... and I think our team defense for the most part has been very good during this run."

It's a run that's coincided with some lights-out play by the penalty killers. The kill at the start of overtime marked the 35th straight time opponents have failed to score with the man advantage, a streak that began just one game before the Penguins found their footing following an uneven opening month marked by injuries and a COVID-19 outbreak.

It helps that Pittsburgh does an excellent job staying out of the box. The Penguins entered play on Friday night as the least penalized team in the NHL.

"(Our players are) making the commitment to it to just play the game hard, play the right way and stay on the right side of the line so that we don't take unnecessary penalties," coach Mike Sullivan said. "And then when we do our penalty killers do a terrific job."

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 3, RANGERS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Jonathan Marchessault scored in the third round of the shootout and the Vegas Golden Knights beat the New York Rangers 3-2 Friday night for their season-high fourth straight victory.

Brett Howden had a goal and an assist and Dylan Coghlan also scored in regulation as Vegas won for the seventh time in eight games. Laurent Brossoit had 27 saves.

"I like the resiliency of the group," Golden Knights coach Peter DeBoer said. "We did enough to win. ... You got to win all kinds of different ways. Tonight it was our fourth line that was the difference."

Mika Zibanejad and Chris Kreider each had a goal and assist in the second period for the Rangers, who lost for the fourth time in six games after a seven-game win streak. Alexander Georgiev, making his sixth start in place of injured starting goalie Igor Shesterkin, stopped 28 shots.

After Vegas' Nicolas Roy and Evgenii Dadonov and New York's Kaapo Kakko and Zibanejad were stopped in the first two rounds of the shootout, Marchessault broke through for the Golden Knights. Brossoit then denied Ryan Strome to preserve the win.

ROUNDUP

continued from page 7

They have not played since a Dec. 8 loss to Skaneateles, so they were eager to get back on the floor and get a win.

"We have had a nine-day layoff between games and we have really been working the boys hard," Mulligan said. "So, we were kind of expecting to have a great game tonight and the boys came out and performed."

Max Gambitta led the way for the Purple Tigers with 17 points, while Marvin Bell had eight points and five rebounds. Emerson Johnson added eight points to go along with 14 rebounds. Tyler Blake had seven points, six boards, five blocks and four steals. Carter Baum (6), Gaven Truman (2), Robbie Atkins (2) and Ben McGrath rounded out the scoring.

Next up for the Purple Tigers is a road game at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday against Fowler.

BOYS BASKETBALL MADISON 64, CINCINNATUS 55

Scott Schuyler's 30 points couldn't help Cincinnati overcome Madison's dynamic duo of Ethan Rivers and Hayden Dumas, who scored 23 points apiece. The loss was the Lions' first of the season.

Schuyler made seven threes and scored 17 of his points in the second half. Kooper Vosburg scored seven points, while Candan Stafford and Tyler Liddle added in six points apiece. Cason Stafford and Tucker Latta both scored three points to round out Cincinnati's scoring.



Buffalo wide receiver Gabriel Davis reacts to the fans after he scored against the Buccaneers during their Dec. 12 game in Tampa.

Associated Press

'The time is now'

Bills prepare for Panthers with a sense of urgency

NFL Preview

ORCHARD PARK (AP) — Dion Dawkins interjected before the question regarding the Bills' two-month stretch of inconsistencies could be completed.

Well aware of the team's Jekyll-and-Hyde nature in losing five of its past eight in a slide that has dropped Buffalo from leading the AFC East to seventh in the conference standings, the starting left tackle emphasized the urgency the Bills (7-6) face in preparing to host Carolina on Sunday.

"The time is now," Dawkins said Thursday, a day before being placed on the reserve/COVID-19 list leaving his status uncertain for Sunday. "We understand that it's time to punch that ticket. And we have our game faces on."

What took them so long, might be an apt question.

Dawkins is encouraged by the glimpses of dominance Buffalo has shown, starting with its most recent outing, a 33-27 overtime loss at Tampa Bay. He pointed to a second-half surge in which the Bills overcame a 21-point deficit by generating 302 yards offense and limiting the Buccaneers to 110 before falling short in overtime.

"It's an up and down battle for us to stay right there, which is hard," Dawkins said. "But we have the vision for it, and we feel it. And we're hungry for it to stay at that 'It' factor."

The Bills have four weeks left to prove they can be a contender in their bid to qualify for the playoffs for a third consecutive year.

The Panthers (5-8), by comparison, are still searching for a semblance of identity — and health — in their second season under coach Matt Rhule.

GIANTS VS. COWBOYS

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — New York Giants quarterback Daniel Jones has been ruled out for the third straight game because of a neck injury.

The announcement came was not surprising, considering Jones has not been cleared for contact since sustaining the injury in a win over the Philadelphia Eagles on Nov. 28.

Earlier this week, coach Joe Judge said veteran backup Mike Glennon would start for New York (4-9) against the NFL East-leading Dallas Cowboys (9-4) on Sunday at MetLife Stadium.

The bigger concern for Judge is the Giants' COVID-19 cases, including cornerbacks Adoree Jackson and Aaron Robinson, safeties Xavier McKinney and J.R. Reed. Practice squad defensive back Natrell Jamerson also tested positive on Friday.

McKinney, who leads the team with five interceptions, is in the COVID-19 protocol because he has said he is not vaccinated. He has been isolated and will play if he continues to have negative tests for COVID-19, Judge said.

"This is something that everyone in the league's dealing with," safety Logan Ryan said Friday. "Like I said, you can go out there at practice and only have five DBs today, what can you really get done and whatnot? Honestly, this is a pandemic that is out of our hands. You have to be willing to adapt, adapt or die honestly. You have to be willing to adapt and that's what we're doing."

Judge said Friday he wasn't planning on any of the other players on the COVID-19 list being available Sunday, though he said it is possible they could test out and play.

Besides the COVID-19 guys, Judge said several players had flu-like symptoms Friday. He said they were being tested for the coronavirus, but noted it's flu season.

Defensive backs Steven Parker and Jarren Williams, linebackers Reggie

Ragland, Benardrick McKinney and Elerson Smith, and placekicker Graham Gano all were on the injury report on Friday with an illness.

JETS VS. DOLPHINS

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — When Miami played the New York Jets last month, Jaylen Waddle scored the Dolphins' first touchdown and Myles Gaskin scored to put them ahead to stay.

The Dolphins might not be able to count on repeat performances this weekend.

Waddle and Gaskin — Miami's leading receiver and leading rusher, respectively — were among a handful of Dolphins on the league's COVID-19 reserve list this week.

Gaskin was cleared to return to practice Friday, though it remains unknown how many players Miami (6-7) will have to go without when it puts its five-game winning streak on the line Sunday against the Jets (3-10).

Miami already had three running backs, including Gaskin, plus rookie safety Jevon Holland on the COVID-19 list when the news came Thursday that Waddle was being added to that group. Gaskin has 61% of Miami's carries and 62% of the Dolphins' rushing yards during the five-game win streak; Waddle has more catches than any other two Miami receivers combined over that span.

The Dolphins had practices and walk-throughs as usual, but transitioned midway through the week to meetings being done virtually instead of in-person.

The Jets had been in that mode all week, obviously cognizant of rising virus numbers.

Both sides said they were trying to keep the focus on football. Miami — a team that was 1-7 at the trade deadline — still has some playoff hopes. The Jets are out of the playoff picture, but any game in this series is always considered a rivalry renewal.

College Bowls

Middle Tennessee tops Toledo

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Freshman Nick Vattiato threw for 270 yards and two touchdowns, including a 59-yard scoring pass to Jarrin Pierce with 6:24 left, and Middle Tennessee beat Toledo 31-24 on Friday in the Bahamas Bowl.

Two plays after Toledo's 32-yard punt, Vattiato connected with a wide open Pierce along the right side for a 28-17 lead. The 59-yard play was the longest completion in Middle Tennessee's bowl history.

On Toledo's next possession, quarterback Dequan Finn was pressured by Jordan Ferguson and defensive lineman Zaylin Wood intercepted a tipped pass, leading to a 35-yard field goal for a 31-17 lead.

COASTAL CAROLINA 47, NORTHERN ILLINOIS 41

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Grayson McCall threw four touchdown passes and Coastal Carolina held off Northern Illinois 47-41 in the Cure Bowl on Friday night, with the game ending with the Huskies at the Chanticleers 4.

McCall was 22 for 30 for 315 yards, and Braydon Bennett ran for 108 yards and two touchdowns on six carries to help Coastal Carolina (11-1) win 11 games for the second consecutive year. Bennett also caught four passes for 47 yards and a TD.

MLB

continued from page 7

closer you get to accurate valuation to the players, and the more restrictions in place, the more artificial the salaries are," said Gabe Feldman, director of Tulane's sports law program. "But then there's also the concern that all leagues have, that if there is a free market, then the big-market teams will attract all the best players because they'll be willing to pay more."

Negotiations broke off Dec. 1, hours ahead of the collective bargaining agreement's expiration, and MLB launched a lockout the following day.

The sides have remained publicly quiet since, and talks on the key economics are not expected to resume until next month as the scheduled start of spring training on Feb. 16 nears.

MLB's 100 highest-paid players accounted for 50.6% of 2021 earnings on opening-day rosters.

As many teams committed a higher percentage of payroll to stars, some jet-tisoned journeymen with seven-figure salaries in favor of younger players with split contracts: far lower pay in the minor leagues than in the majors.

Because of that and the increased role of relievers, the bottom of rosters has become a constant churn between the majors and minors.

"We've been broadly at war with our mid-tier players over the last two decades, in the salary-cap sports and in baseball with the luxury tax and with free agency," said Bob Boland, a former agent who teaches at Penn State's School of Labor and Employment Relations. "If you're a players' union, you know the top end of free agency will always have some value. What you're concerned about is, is there a vibrant bit of the next tier, and baseball's already cut that down strenuously."

MLB has proposed raising the major league minimum salary from \$570,500 to a series of tiers: \$600,000 for players with less than a year of big league service, \$650,000 for at least one but less than two and \$700,000 for at least two. Each would rise \$10,000 annually, to \$640,000, \$690,000 and \$740,000 in 2026.

Bowling

GATOR'S GUYS AND GALS LEAGUE

Nick Hoffmann's series score was the best in the league by 131 pins. He rolled a 766, while Nikolai Grihin came in second with a 635. Hoffmann also had the best game score with a 275.

Grihin also bowled a 225 game. Brian Edwards (262), Chris Bush (237), Pat Neff (215) and John Dey (213) added games of at least 200. Edwards (634), Bush (619) and Dey (571) were able to top 550 on their series.

Jennifer Tucker and Brenda McGowan tied for the women's lead in game score with a 210. Brittany Cornell had the top series score among the women with a 578.

Cornell (199), Kortni Hoffmann (197), Nikki DeRusso (170), Beverly Beisel (140) and Sam Carmon (139) bowled games above 125. Tucker (568), McGowan (557), Hoffmann (549) and DeRusso (459) also had a series above 400.

Ocdolls leads the league with 37 points. Who Knows? (31), CNY Farm Supply (29), Stirring the Pot 2 (29), 281 Bowl (26) and The Janitor's (14) follow them up.

JIM WASHBURN ENTERTAINMENT LEAGUE

Jim Cook bowled a 298 game, closely followed by Jim Myers' 290. Marty Miller topped the league with a 740 series score.

Cook finished with a 711 series and Myers had a 721. Miller's best game was a 268. Chuck Pitts (255, 711), Dave Hobart (255, 707), Les Richmond (245, 705), Matt Cook (254, 692), Doug Pike (248, 685) and Steve Miller (248, 685) also competed.

Gators holds a commanding lead atop the league with 41 points. They're followed up by Instant Replay Sports (30), Ang's Barber Shop (30), Guiseppi's (28 1/2), Cort-Lanes (28), Turner Heating (28), Ellamete (28), CNY Homes & Property (25), Purifect Xecution (23), Crown Constuction (21 1/2), Oswego Memorial (16) and Quantum Rotation (13).

Madison took an eight-point lead into the halftime break and was able to hold on throughout the rest of the game.

TULLY 63, MATER DEI ACADEMY 48

Tully used a 36-21 first half to cruise to their sixth straight win to start the season.

Tommy Maley scored 17 points and buried four threes to lead the Black Knights' offense. Maley also had four steals. Lane Edinger was the only other Tully player in double figured, scoring 15 points to go with nine rebounds, six assists and six steals. Ryan Mize nearly had a double-double, netting eight points and grabbing 14 boards. Mick Swan (7), Matt Congelli (5), Michael Reid (5), Kevin Wood (4) and Connor Bestedo (2) also scored for Tully. Congelli also had five rebounds and Wood added three steals.

UNION SPRINGS 71, MARATHON 33

Union Springs made 12 3-pointers and played a pressure man-to-man defense to take down Marathon. Braeden Morrison led the Olympians in scoring with 17 points and Conor Holland added 14 points and eight rebounds.

GIRLS BASKETBALL CORTLAND 49, OSWEGO 31

Cortland outscored Oswego 28-13 in the second half as the Purple Tigers won their second straight game. Kendall Mack and Mallory Turner each scored eight points in the second half.

Mack led Cortland with 13 points, while Turner did not score in the first half.

Margaret Starr added in nine points for the Purple Tigers, while Kirsten Merritt pitched in eight. Claire Turner (4), Valerosa Gambitta (3) and Sophia Ryan (2) also scored for Cortland.

UNION SPRINGS 52, MARATHON 41

Marathon lost the second and third quarters by a combined score of 31-14 as they lost for the second time in their last three games.

Brooke Tillotson and Abigail Ensign each scored 17 points. Tillotson went a perfect 10-for-10 from the free-throw line and Ensign buried three triples. Paige Hurlburt scored seven points to finish off the Olympians' scoring.

MORAVIA 53, SOUTHERN CAYUGA 36

Moravia was able to pull away with a 19-7 third quarter after going into the half tied at 19 to get their fourth consecutive win.

Chloe Hanson led Moravia with 22 points and seven rebounds, while Kate Baylor followed her up with 17 points, five rebounds, three assists and five steals.

ICE HOCKEY CORTLAND/HOMER 5, ITHACA 2

Chris Yang scored two goals as Cortland/Homer won their second game in a row. The Golden Eagles scored two goals apiece in the second and third

periods.

Andrew Partigianoni, Ryan Spalding and Hunter Everle also scored for Cortland/Homer. Partigianoni, Braden Marsh, Tanner Douglass and Jacob Couture added in assists for the Golden Eagles.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL DERUYTER 3, PORT BYRON 0

DeRuyter bounced back with a dominant win after a close loss to Cincinnati Thursday night. The Rockets beat Port Byron 25-17, 25-16, 25-14.

Olivia Lidell led DeRuyter with 11 assists, five digs and three aces. Keely Worlock aided Lidell with eight digs, five kills and three aces. Abrianna Whitt had six digs and an ace, Emma Denkenberger contributed four aces, three kills and two digs and Madelyn Pforter notched four kills, two assists and a dig. Kelsey Brown also had three digs and two kills, Emily Elwood had three kills and two aces, Neveah Woods had two kills and a dig and Amaya Rounsaville pitched in a dig and an ace.

THIS WEEKEND'S SCHEDULE WRESTLING

Cortland at Central Square, 9 a.m. today

Homer, Marathon, 9:30 a.m. today at Walton High School

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Cortland, 3 p.m. today at Onondaga Community College

Dryden, Groton, Moravia, 9 a.m. today, 2 p.m. Sunday at SUNY Cortland Lusk Field House

Schedule shuffling prompted by COVID impacts college hoops

The Associated Press

No. 21 Kentucky will now face North Carolina on Saturday in the CBS Sports Classic in Las Vegas after each of their opponents had to drop out due to COVID-19 issues, while No. 16 Seton Hall's second cancellation in as many days will lead to a forfeit in the Big East Conference standings.

The worsening coronavirus situation in the U.S. forced another schedule scramble across college basketball Friday. The new matchup was announced after fourth-ranked UCLA canceled its game against the Tar Heels. The Bruins have paused team-related activities, and the status of their future games is undetermined. They had called off a home game against Alabama State set for this week.

The other game that was part of the Vegas event, a matchup between No. 15 Ohio State and Kentucky, was canceled because of positive COVID-19 results within the Buckeyes program.

At Seton Hall, the Pirates' game Monday against St. John's has been canceled. In a release from the school, that will result in a conference-only forfeit per Big East policy when a team cannot begin or complete a game due to an insufficient number of players.

It will not affect Seton Hall's overall record and will go down as a "no contest" per NCAA policy.

The announcement came a day after the cancellation of Seton Hall's Saturday game against Iona at Madison Square Garden.

At least 20 men's basketball games and 36 women's basketball games have been canceled or postponed this season due to COVID-19 protocols as of Friday afternoon. It is a number that seems sure to grow as the nation grapples with a surge in coronavirus cases.

NCAA to pay officials same in both basketball tournaments

The Associated Press

The NCAA will pay basketball officials for the women's tournament the same amount it pays the officials for the men's competition.

"The national office continues to prioritize gender equity and has taken steps to correct the disparity of pay for officials selected to work the Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championships," the NCAA said in a statement. "All basketball officials, regardless of the gender of sport participants, will be receiving equal pay for championship games officiated in 2022 and beyond."

Second-ranked Duke announced Friday afternoon that it would play Elon on Saturday after having a second opponent cancel due to COVID-19 concerns.

The Blue Devils were originally slated to play Cleveland State before that program had to cancel and pause team activities. Duke then scheduled Loyola Maryland, only to say that game was off as well due to positive tests within the Greyhounds program.

Duke ended up bringing in Elon, located about 40 miles west of Durham. Elon is coached by Mike Schrage, who worked nine seasons under Mike Krzyzewski at Duke.

Syracuse also announced it is canceling its next two games due to COVID-19 protocols. The school will determine whether Saturday's scheduled game against Lehigh and next Tuesday's scheduled game against Cornell can be made up later.

Meanwhile, one team that had been locked down is starting back up. Washington paused play after an outbreak of cases following its game on Nov. 27.



Associated Press

Tiger Woods, right, and his son Charlie finish putting on the second hole during the first round of the PNC Championship golf tournament Friday in Orlando, Florida. Woods is back playing after getting injured in a car accident. He is paired Charlie during the tournament.

'It's going to take time'

Tigers Woods says his return to pro golf a 'long way' off

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tiger Woods walked onto the tee for a routine pro-am round Friday and felt an unexpected dose of nerves, realizing how long it had been since he had an audience on the golf course.

The small grandstand behind the tee was packed, everyone on their feet.

Spectators filled every inch behind the ropes for 95 yards down the left side of the hole. This was another must-see moment involving Woods under far different circumstances.

Ten months after Woods shattered his right leg in a car crash in suburban Los Angeles, he was back to golf at the PNC Championship with 12-year-old son Charlie.

Back to being Tiger Woods? Far from it.

Even so, the Feb. 23 images of his crumpled SUV and seeing him Friday in golf attire taking full swings and holing putts was no less remarkable.

"I haven't hit too many tee shots and then ... all of a sudden there's people off the tee box," Woods said. "It was an awesome day. It was just awesome to be back out there playing and being out there with my son. And we just had an absolute blast."

They are the featured attraction at the 36-hole event that pairs parents and children, just like last year, with one big difference. A year ago, there was enormous appeal getting a look at the young son of the 15-time major champion.

Now it's all about the father.

Nearly two dozen media, mostly cameras, waited along the circle drive and raised their equipment each time a car approached at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club Orlando. Woods fooled them again, walking in from the park-

ing lot, just like normal.

He stopped hitting full shots over the last six holes, and he didn't have much power on the tee shots he hit. That was to be expected. As he said two weeks ago in the Bahamas, competing in a real event at the highest level is a long way off.

"It's just not as powerful," Woods said. "I can't generate the speed I used to and the body is not what it used to be. Obviously, it's been a little banged up this year. And slowly but surely, I'll get to where the speed will start coming back and I can start hitting the shots that I see that just aren't quite coming off."

There were some positive signs. After his opening drive, he stooped over with all his weight on his damaged right leg to remove the tee. At times he walked with a purposeful stride. And at times, his gait was slower and more measured.

Woods walked from the back tee to the forward tee his son is using, and then he got into a cart that he can use for a 20-team event that includes 86-year-old Gary Player and the 11-year-old son of former British Open champion Henrik Stenson.

The Masters is four months away. Augusta National is the toughest walk Woods faces in even healthy years.

"I couldn't walk this golf course even right now, and it's flat," Woods said. "I don't have the endurance. My leg is not quite right yet, and it's going to take time. I'm a long way from playing tournament golf. This is hit it, hop in a cart and move about my business."

"Being able to play tournament golf and being able to recover, practice and train and hit balls after a round and do all the things that I need to be at a high level, I'm a long way from that."

He did go to the range when his pro-am round was over, first as a spectator. Charlie dropped a bag of balls and began hitting wedges. Woods slowly took a seat in the grass, leaning against the back of a cart, and raised his right knee.

Before long, he slowly got up and hit wedges side-by-side with Charlie, and then they moved over to a bunker for some practice. It was light and easy, which is about all Woods is able to handle at the moment.

Woods plays in the final group on Saturday along with Justin Thomas and his father, the defending champions.

Woods and his son finished seventh last year, and then Woods had a fifth surgery on his lower back that delayed the start of his season. Then, his season and nearly his career ended when his SUV that police estimated was going at least 84 mph crashed over a median on a winding road and tumbled down a hill.

And now he's playing golf again in a family event with major champions, riding in a cart. But it's golf. Asked if he was amazed to be back so soon, Woods replied, "Yes and no."

It seemed unlikely when he was immobilized for three months in a makeshift hospital bed in his house when he his primary mission was to walk on his own.

Getting to his point wasn't by happenstance.

"We worked every day," he said. "Even days where I didn't feel very good, we still worked on something. There was never a day off other than those three months in bed."

Where it leads remains unknown. For now, he was happy to be playing with his son, his first appearance this year on network television with a golf club in his hands.

NFL

continued from page 7

for New Orleans' game against the Miami Dolphins on Dec. 27.

The positive test for Payton comes after he missed practice Wednesday when the club said he was "under the weather" but had tested negative.

Payton was back at practice and meetings on Thursday.

Payton's positive test came as COVID-19 cases spiked across the NFL in recent days, mirroring trends seen in the general population.

Three Saints players — defensive end Cameron Jordan, running back Mark Ingram and receiver Ty Montgomery — did not play against the New York Jets on Sunday because of positive COVID-19 tests.

But all have been activated from New Orleans' reserve/COVID-19 list.

"Nobody can sit here and try to be Sean," Ingram said. "He's his own person and his own coach and what he brings to the table is irreplaceable. ... We're all leaning on each other and we're all going to fight for each other. We going to hold it down for Sean as long as he's gone."

"There's so many other people (around the NFL) that are positive this week. We just hope that everyone stays safe, everyone stays healthy and everyone recovers quickly."

The Saints (6-7) snapped a five-game skid when they beat the Jets 30-9 and remain in contention for one of the NFC's wild-card playoff spots with four regular-season games

remaining.

In Week 2 of this season, the Saints were without numerous assistant coaches because of a virus outbreak, but Payton was not among those which tested positive.

Payton was among the first NFL employees known to have contracted COVID-19 in the spring of 2020.

LEGALS

Legal Notice

There will be a Public Hearing before the Mayor and the Common Council on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 Via ZOOM (ID # 892 739 1872), Cortland at 7PM for a Local Law amending C2-9 (Holding multiple City Offices Prohibited), please feel free to attend the public hearing and voice your concerns.

INVITATION TO BID

The Cortland Housing Authority, 42 Church St. , Cortland, NY 13045 is accepting bids for the following: **"Interior Apartment Painting" and miscellaneous painting in other common areas.** Specifications may be obtained from the office of the Housing Authority by calling 607-753-1771. Or you can email Lyn at lboyce@cortlandha.com to have one emailed to you. Bids are due back no later than 3:30 pm local time Jan. 5th, 2022. Questions about the project may be directed to Nick Giamei, Maintenance Supervisor at 607-753-1772. The owner accepts the right to accept or reject all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding process. MBE/WBE/DBE'S/Section 3 businesses are welcome.

INVITATION TO BID

The Cortland Housing Authority, 42 Church St. Cortland, NY 13045 is accepting bids for the following: **Vacant Apartment Cleaning Services.** Specifications may be obtained from the office of the Housing Authority by calling 607-753-1771. Or you can email Lyn at lboyce@cortlandha.com to have a bid packet emailed to you. Bids are due back no later than 3:00 pm local time Jan. 5th, 2022. Questions about the project may be directed to Nick Giamei, Maintenance Supervisor at 607-753-1772. The owner accepts the right to accept or reject all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding process. MBE/WBE/DBE'S/Section 3 businesses are welcome.



255 Tompkins St.
607-753-6300
crowncitycinemas.com

Thursday, December 16th

Encanto (PG) – 4:15pm 6:30pm
Eternals (PG13) – 3:45pm 6:45pm
Ghostbusters: Afterlife (PG13) – 4:30pm 7:00pm 9:15pm
Spider-Man: No Way Home (PG13) – 4:00pm 4:30pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:45pm

Friday, December 17th

Encanto (PG) – 4:15pm 6:30pm
Eternals (PG13) – 3:45pm 6:45pm
Ghostbusters: Afterlife (PG13) – 4:30pm 7:00pm 9:15pm
Spider-Man: No Way Home (PG13) – 4:00pm 4:30pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 9:00pm

Saturday, December 18th

Encanto (PG) – 12:45pm 3:30pm 6:30pm
Eternals (PG13) – 12:00pm 3:15pm 6:45pm
Ghostbusters: Afterlife (PG13) – 12:15pm 3:30pm 7:00pm 9:15pm
Spider-Man: No Way Home (PG13) – 12:00pm 12:30pm 3:15pm 4:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 9:00pm 9:45pm

Sunday, December 19th

Encanto (PG) – 3:30pm 6:30pm
Eternals (PG13) – 3:45pm 6:45pm
Ghostbusters: Afterlife (PG13) – 3:30pm 7:00 pm
Spider-Man: No Way Home (PG13) – 3:15pm 3:45pm 6:45pm 7:15pm

This holiday season
give the gift of a
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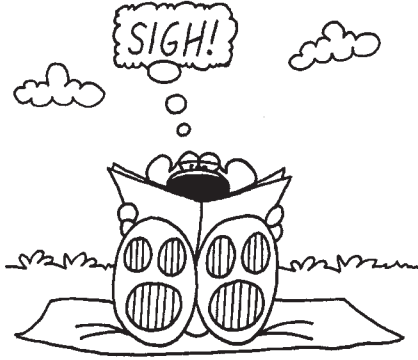
One Week - \$4.50
One Month (26 days) - \$19.50
13 Weeks - \$58.50
26 Weeks - \$117.00
52 Weeks - \$234.00

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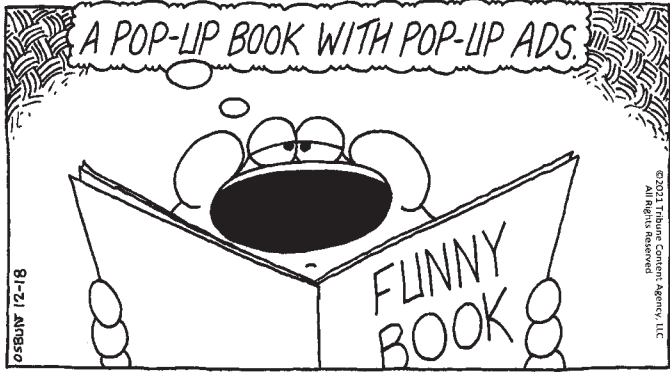
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SMALL BUSINESSES
SUCCEED
WE ALL DO



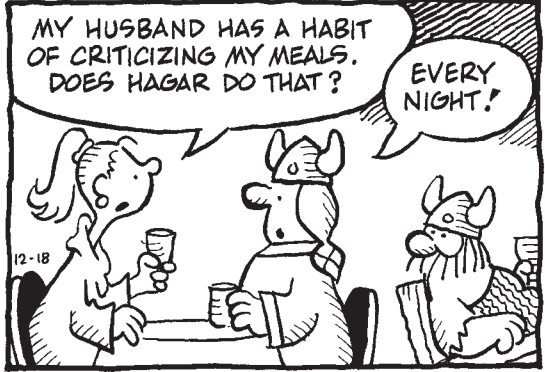
ANIMAL CRACKERS



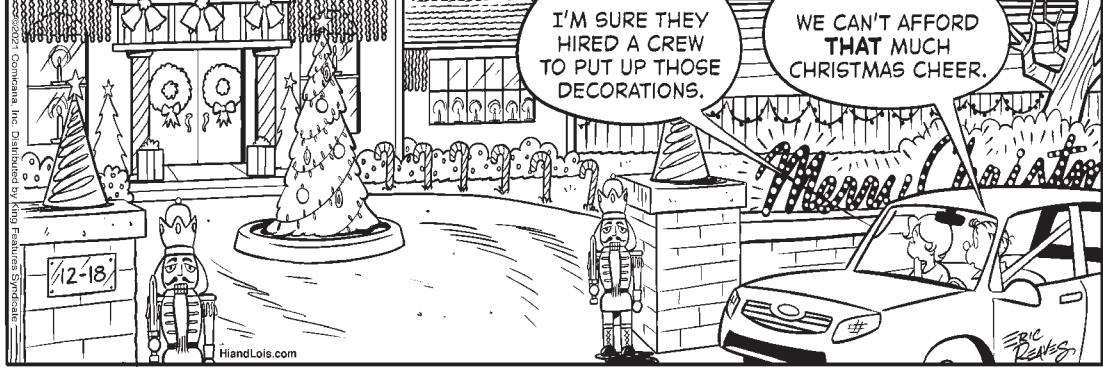
BABY BLUES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



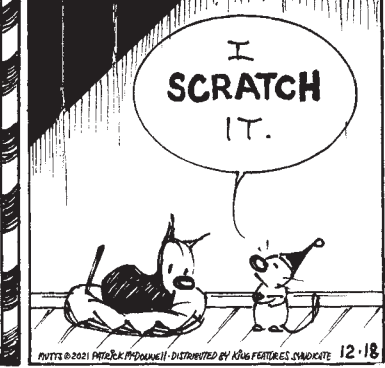
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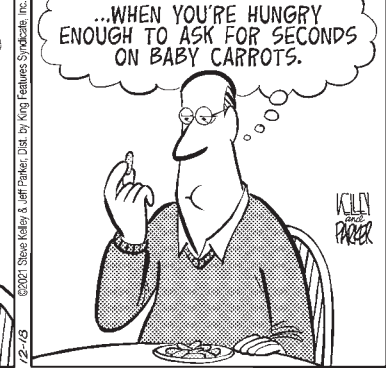
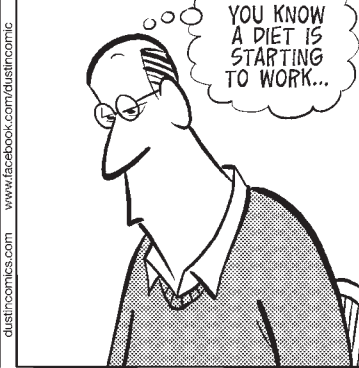
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MUTTS



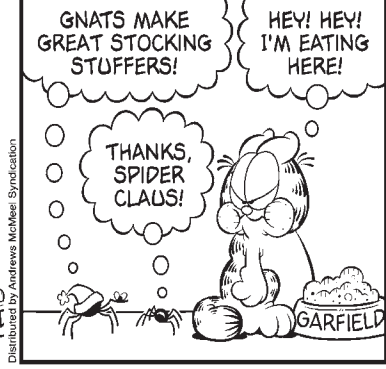
DUSTIN



TIGER



GARFIELD



ZITS



Astrological Forecast

By Magi Helena

Sunday, December 19, 2021

BIRTHDAY STAR: Actress Kristy Swanson was born in Mission Viejo, California, on this date in 1969. This birthday star portrayed the original “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” in the 1992 movie. Her other film work includes roles in “Storm Rider,” “Flowers in the Attic” and “Deadly Friend.” More recently, she played the recurring roles of Julia Logan on “SEAL Team” and Marlowe Viccetto on “Psych.” Swanson has been married to Olympic skater Lloyd Eisler since 2009.

ARIES (Mar 21- Apr. 19): Keep your thoughts to yourself by maintaining a poker face and watching your body language. Loved ones can tell not only what you may be feeling, but also whether you’re on the right track or not.

TAURUS (Apr. 20- May 20): Remember that difficult situations eventually end. You should be able to relax later in the week and enjoy some well-earned fun.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Raise the bar and focus on creating good will in the week to come. Your wits are likely at their sharpest and your imagination is strong. This month could mark the culmination of ambitions as a dream comes true.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be prepared for surprises or unexpected messages under today’s stars. A phone call might change your plans for the week ahead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): With a holiday on this week’s calendar for most, you may be pressed for time and forced to make your schedule more efficient. When your job or business matters are top priority, you may need to sidestep passing distractions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may be aware of changes that affect your bottom line. You are blessed by peace of mind as the week unfolds and can probably see different

points of view.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Plenty of holiday cheer can brighten your day and your week ahead. You are likely to be focused on finding the very best that money can buy to please your loved ones, family and circle of friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Gift giving gives you a chance to share something tasteful and worthwhile. Good advice from a close companion may remind you to keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The opinion of the person staring back at you in the mirror can be worth understanding as the week begins. Improve your luck in the week to come by studying ways to increase your buying power or earning ability.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Every holiday outing in the upcoming week might seem like a magical journey that helps to revive your spirits. Give in to a whim, spin the wheel of chance, and enjoy something unexpected and new.

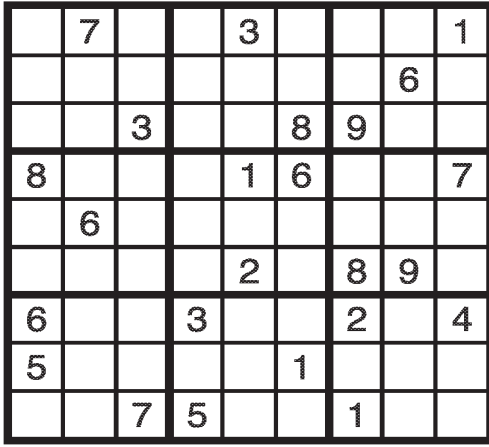
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In the week ahead, you might have an urge to focus on creative activities. Loved ones might do their utmost to treat you royally despite any eccentric schedule and changeable plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Turn rejection into acceptance in the upcoming week. Friends could admire your scrapbook of photos or family members will be amazed by a display of your special talents.

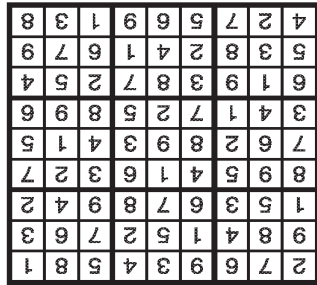
IF DECEMBER 19 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: During the next three to four weeks, it is best to be industrious and practical so that you can add accomplishments to your resume.

In February remain uncommitted so that you can adapt to new people and conditions without investing time or money into dubious plans or unrealistic romantic dreams.

Sudoku



Here’s How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



ANSWER:

Cryptoquote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L’s, X for the two O’s, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-18 CRYPTOQUOTE
J LNKMO EM SOJKREQKV ANR

SOYJKMO NQ ERM GJVVM, SKR

SOYJKMO NQ ERM YJTOM.

— ZK MMEJA MJB EAC

Yesterday’s Cryptoquote: I ONCE WANTED TO BECOME AN ATHEIST, BUT I GAVE UP — THEY HAVE NO HOLIDAYS. — HENNY YOUNGMAN

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
40 Carnival attractions
41 Some messages
42 Netlike bugs him fabric

DOWN
1 Puccini opera
2 Gravity of “Black Swan”
3 Book lover
4 Conclude
5 Dress lines
6 Yale rooster
7 In awe
8 Negligent
9 Stumbles
11 “Now you listen!”
17 Portman of “Black Swan”
20 Heads of France
21 Yucatan natives
23 Alito’s predecessor
25 Stealthy buy
26 Fenway team
27 Century division
28 Alarms
29 Be immodest
31 Refuse
33 Livens (up)
36 Auction
38 That fellow



Yesterday’s answer



Word of the Day

unclubbable (un-KLUB-uh-bul)

Definition: (adjective) having or showing a disinclination for social activity; unsociable

Example of usage: However fascinating her research is, the professor is decidedly unclubbable and not likely to make a good dinner party guest.

— Courtesy Merriam Webster Online

PLACING YOUR CLASSIFIED AD TODAY

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except Holidays. Email your classified ad to: classified@cortlandstandard.net
607-756-5665 • Corner Main Street and Tompkins Street, Cortland

Deadline for ad run start dates of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and/or Friday is 11:00 a.m. the day prior.
Saturday and Monday ad run start dates is the prior Friday at 11:00 a.m.

REPORT ANY ERRORS

or omission of an ad the first day of publication. We are responsible for only ONE INCORRECT INSERTION for the part of an ad that ran incorrectly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



BACK ISSUES

of the
Cortland Standard
May be available up to five years old. Prices vary according to age. For more information or availability, call the:
Cortland Standard Circulation Department at 756-5665 or stop in at 110 Main Street, Cortland

PREPAYMENT

*Required for all the following ads before they will appear in classified:

- POSITIONS WANTED
- FREE ANIMALS
- BABY-SITTING
- MOVING SALES
- TELEPHONE TOLL - CALLS
- WANTED TO RENT
- HOUSE CLEANING
- NO TELEPHONE - LISTING
- SUBLETTING
- APARTMENT-SHARING

HELP WANTED

Employment



ANTICIPATED VACANCY

School Business
Administrator Groton Central School District
Position Summary:
Responsible for overall financial operations of the district, including development and maintenance of annual budgets and long range financial projects. This includes the receipt, safe keeping and accounting for, and disbursement of all public funds as required by state and federal law and in accordance with board regulations and district policies as well as applicable professional and ethical standards.

Education/Experience/Certificates & Knowledge and Skills Minimum Requirements:

Bachelors and/or masters degree in business administration, accounting, finance, education or related field from an accredited educational institution
Possesses or is eligible to possess, NYS School Business Administrator (SBA) or School District Business Leader (SDBL) certification preferred, but not required

Preferred Requirements:

Experience managing in a public school district setting
Experience providing oversight of capital improvement projects

Application Procedure:

Interested candidates must submit a cover letter, a current resume, supporting credentials, and letters of reference to
Lisa Warmbrodt, District Clerk no later than 1/11/2022.

Compensation Package:

Twelve month position with a competitive salary combined with a comprehensive fringe benefit package will be offered to the successful applicant.
Full-time, Effective 2/7/2022

Installer Wanted

No experience necessary, willing to train proper candidate. Apply in person at Pro Audio, Rt 281, Cortland

HELP WANTED

Assistant Systems Consultant

Financial Services
OCM BOCES CNY RIC located in Syracuse.
Successful candidates will provide support to school districts utilizing integrated school financial management systems such as Infinite Visions, nVisions, and WinCap. A strong accounting background and payroll knowledge is required. Knowledge of NYS school accounting is preferred. Bachelors degree in Accounting, Business, or Computer Science with 1 year of experience; or Associates degree in Accounting, Business, or Computer Science with 3 years of experience.
This is a Civil Service class position and continued employment is contingent on successfully passing the required exam.
Send letter of interest and resume to:
OCM BOCES, Recruitment/Personnel Department, PO Box 4754, Syracuse, NY 13221. EOE

Certified Weld Inspector:
Certified AWS, CWI or current ICC Inspector for a local material testing and engineering firm. Very competitive wages and benefits depending on experience.
This is a permanent, full time position.
Send resume to goverbaugh@sjbepire.net or pakbari@sjbempire.net

Child Care Center Infant Assistant

Full Time Position, Hours Available Between 7:00 am - 5:00 pm. Monday -Friday
RESPONSIBILITIES
Assisting with the care and supervision of infants, ages 6 weeks to 18 months.
Assisting with the maintenance of a safe and healthy environment.
QUALIFICATIONS
Minimum High School Diploma with Child Care related experience preferred.

Child Care Center Supervisor

Full-time position, hours vary with center operating 7:00am - 5:00pm.
RESPONSIBILITIES
Overseeing the daily operations of a NYS Office of Children and Family Services licensed child care center, including children staff, program activities and environment. Work hours may vary outside of normal work week.
QUALIFICATIONS
Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education or related field, prior child care and/or teaching experience and one year supervisory experience. Position to begin January 2022. Please send letter of interest and resume to:
YWCA
14 Clayton Avenue
Cortland, New York 13045
Attn: Jami Bistocchi
The YWCA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a United Way Agency

Please send letter of interest and resume by January 2, 2022. Position to begin end of January/ beginning of February.
YWCA Here We Grow
Child Care Center
16 Miller Street
Cortland, NY 13045
The YWCA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Teacher - Literacy
OCM BOCES Adult Education program has a need for a Literacy teacher to be located at the Main Campus, Liverpool, NY.
The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching all areas adult students will need to be proficient in when taking the GED exam, including reading, math, science, social studies, and writing; responsible for instruction, assessment, paperwork, student recruitment and retention.
Prior knowledge of the GED test and National External Diploma Program (NEDP) are beneficial. NYS teaching certification required.
Candidates with prior adult education experience will be considered.
Applications will only be accepted on-line. Register and apply online at: www.olasjobs.org/central. For more information, visit our website at: www.ocmboces.org EOE

Teaching Assistants
OCM BOCES Special Education has the need for several Teaching Assistants in various programs & locations in Onondaga and Cortland counties.
Successful candidates will provide individual programming and support to students with a variety of special needs in our center-based programs as well as our district classrooms.
NYS certification as a Teaching Assistant required.
Applications accepted online only. Register and apply at: www.olasjobs.org/central. For more information, please visit our website at: www.ocmboces.org EOE

Construction Trades Teacher
Are you interested in bringing your skills and training in the Construction Trades field to a program designed for adult students?
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14 Clayton Avenue,
Cortland, NY 13045
Attn: Janice Meyer

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Teacher - Literacy
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Cybil Brock
585-245-4145.

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110 Main St., Cortland.

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♥ 5 4 2
♦ Q J 8 5
♣ Q 8 2

WEST

♠ Q 10 6 4
♥ 7 3
♦ 9 4 3
♣ A K J 10

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♥ A K J 10 8
♦ 10 6 2
♣ 7 3

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2021



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of Ithaca



MAGUIRE

Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
of Watkins Glen



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Big Horn/Lone Star Truck Crew Cab



Buy for **\$39,999**

Stk #21D450A. VIN KN864374. 15,722 miles.

Pre-Owned 2019 Ram
1500 Laramie Truck Crew Cab



Buy for **\$46,999**

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MAGUIRE CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM OF WATKINS GLEN FEATURED USED VEHICLES

Pre-Owned 2018 Subaru
Impreza 2.0i 5-door



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Stk #XG1399. VIN J1716899. 45,270 miles.

Pre-Owned 2015 Acura
MDX 3.5L (A6) SUV



Buy for **\$23,999**

Stk #21G233Y. VIN FB008317. 87,630 miles.

Pre-Owned 2019 Jeep
Cherokee Latitude Plus 4x4 SUV



Buy for **\$26,999**

Stk #XG1392. VIN KD330032. 32,109 miles.

Pre-Owned 2018 Dodge
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Buy for **\$26,999**

Stk #XG1398W. VIN JH270686. 32,489 miles.

MAGUIRE CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM FIAT OF ITHACA USED INVENTORY

STK #	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	PRICE
21D451C	2015	Chevrolet	Cruze	80,136	\$11,999
21D463C	2014	Jeep	Patriot	46,185	\$14,999
21D491B	2017	Jeep	Patriot	74,497	\$16,999
XD3854A	2018	Ford	Edge	91,401	\$19,999
XD3917X	2017	Ford	Focus	25,196	\$19,999
XD3856A	2016	Jeep	Cherokee	96,925	\$19,999
XD3868	2016	Jeep	Renegade	44,678	\$19,999
XD3913	2017	Toyota	Corolla	28,113	\$19,999
XD3905X	2016	Volkswagen	Tiguan	76,493	\$19,999
21D518A	2014	Dodge	Durango	79,069	\$21,999
XD3875X	2018	Subaru	Legacy	41,142	\$21,999
XD3852	2018	Jeep	Compass	30,291	\$22,999
XD3911	2018	Jeep	Compass	40,070	\$24,999
XD3879	2018	Jeep	Compass	38,213	\$25,999
XD3927	2019	Jeep	Compass	32,001	\$26,999
XD3916	2017	Jeep	Compass	37,003	\$26,999
XD3924	2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan	49,686	\$27,999
XD3849A	2020	Ford	Escape	48,405	\$27,999
XD3871W	2019	Jeep	Cherokee	38,873	\$27,999
XD3877	2019	Jeep	Cherokee	28,471	\$27,999
XD3907	2019	Jeep	Cherokee	48,139	\$28,999
XD3878	2019	Jeep	Cherokee	38,431	\$28,999
XD3920	2019	Jeep	Cherokee	22,372	\$28,999
XD3914	2020	Jeep	Compass	36,251	\$28,999
XD3901A	2017	Chrysler	Pacifica	44,166	\$29,999
XD3876	2019	Jeep	Cherokee	20,888	\$29,999
XD3836B	2018	Jeep	Grand Cherokee	67,521	\$29,999
XD3909	2018	Jeep	Grand Cherokee	36,995	\$30,999
21D478B	2018	Ford	F-150	59,123	\$31,999
22D008A	2018	Ram	1500 Express	18,682	\$31,999
XD3926	2018	Alfa Romeo	Stelvio	26,809	\$32,999
21D477A	2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	40,683	\$32,999
XD3900	2020	Chrysler	Voyager	26,514	\$32,999
22D008B	2020	Hyundai	Santa Fe	14,108	\$32,999
XD3870	2018	Jeep	Grand Cherokee	15,911	\$32,999
21D519A	2018	Jeep	Grand Cherokee	37,721	\$32,999
XD3880	2019	Ram	1500 Classic Express	11,774	\$32,999
21D488A	2021	Jeep	Wrangler	5,904	\$33,999
XD3923	2019	Alfa Romeo	Giulia	4,240	\$34,999
XD3928	2018	Chrysler	Pacifica	45,230	\$34,999
XD3899	2019	Ram	1500 Classic Express	32,271	\$34,999
XD3885X	2018	Cadillac	XT5	29,773	\$35,999
21D472B	2018	GMC	Sierra 1500	53,881	\$35,999
21D520Y	2017	Subaru	WRX	33,347	\$36,999
XD3869	2019	Jeep	Grand Cherokee	23,619	\$37,499
XD3839X	2016	Jeep	Wrangler JK Unlimited	43,033	\$37,999
XD3915	2019	Ram	1500 Classic	34,420	\$37,999
XD3908	2018	Jeep	Grand Cherokee	9,484	\$39,999
XD3893W	2018	Jeep	Wrangler	36,071	\$39,999
XD3906	2019	Ram	1500 Classic Big Horn	23,411	\$39,999
21D450A	2019	Ram	1500 Big Horn/Lone Star	15,722	\$39,999
21D513A	2017	Ram	2500	24,296	\$41,999
21D489A	2019	Ram	1500 Big Horn/Lone Star	39,696	\$41,999
XD3921	2019	Ram	1500 Big Horn/Lone Star	21,958	\$45,999
XD3922	2019	Dodge	Charger	5	\$46,999
XD3867W	2019	Ram	1500 Laramie	25,935	\$46,999
21D509A	2021	Chrysler	Pacifica Hybrid	4,126	\$49,999
XD3918	2021	Jeep	Gladiator	7,804	\$49,999
21D507A	2021	Lincoln	Corsair	3,576	\$49,999
XD3896W	2020	Ram	1500 Laramie	16,860	\$53,999
22D014A	2021	Ram	1500 Limited	4,746	\$63,999
XD3925W	2021	Subaru	Impreza	12,410	Please Call

MAGUIRE CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM OF WATKINS GLEN USED INVENTORY

STK #	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	PRICE
XG1404A	2017	Ford	Fusion	74,187	\$15,999
21G191B	2015	Chevrolet	Impala	87,786	\$16,999
XG1448	2015	Jeep	Patriot	44,000	\$17,999
XG1407	2021	Chevrolet	Spark	7,201	\$17,999
XG1351A	2016	Jeep	Compass	82,610	\$17,999
21G231B	2017	Mitsubishi	Outlander Sport	55,000	\$17,999
XG1426	2018	Dodge	Journey	59,303	\$18,999
XG1400	2016	Jeep	Patriot	24,154	\$18,999
XG1430	2017	Nissan	Altima	48,346	\$18,999
XG1399	2018	Subaru	Impreza	45,270	\$19,999
XG1389	2018	FIAT	500X	37,257	\$20,999
XG1414	2017	Chevrolet	Equinox	37,868	\$22,999
XG1368A	2017	Ford	Mustang	60,425	\$22,999
21G233Y	2015	Acura	MDX	87,630	\$23,999
XG1419	2018	Chrysler	300	39,871	\$24,999
XG1443	2019	Volkswagen	Jetta	34,678	\$24,999
20G182C	2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	37,682	\$25,999
XG1436	2019	Chevrolet	Equinox	29,535	\$25,999
XG1406	2019	Ford	Escape	40,868	\$25,999
XG1444	2018	Jeep	Compass	24,464	\$25,999
XG1398W	2018	Dodge	Challenger	32,489	\$26,999
XG1392	2019	Jeep	Cherokee	32,109	\$26,999
21G227A	2015	Jeep	Grand Cherokee	41,543	\$26,999
21G145C	2018	Honda	CR-V	43,693	\$27,999
XG1409	2019	Mazda	CX-5	23,023	\$27,999
22G006A	2016	Ram	1500 Express	88,489	\$27,999
XG1447	2019	Jeep	Renegade	35,587	\$28,999
XG1442	2018	Ford	Edge	38,643	\$28,999
XG1408	2019	Mazda	CX-5	20,575	\$28,999
XG1432	2019	Jeep	Cherokee	44,812	\$29,999
XG1434A	2019	Jeep	Cherokee	31,866	\$29,999
XG1422	2020	Jeep	Compass	2,683	\$29,999
XG1405	2019	Lincoln	MKC	45,042	\$29,999
XG1410	2019	Jeep	Cherokee	18,076	\$32,999
21G226B	2016	Ford	F-150	78,800	\$33,999
21G237A	2017	Ram	1500 Big Horn	70,731	\$33,999
XG1433	2018	Ram	1500 Express	36,983	\$33,999
XG1429	2019	Ram	1500 Classic Express	35,077	\$33,999
21G223Y	2018	GMC	Sierra 1500	26,981	\$34,999
XG1441	2019	Jeep	Grand Cherokee	35,075	\$34,999
XG1438	2019	Ram	1500 Classic SLT	26,280	\$34,999
21G210B	2019	Ram	1500 Classic Express	1,811	\$35,999
XG1437	2018	Cadillac	XT5	47,501	\$36,999
XG1411	2021	Jeep	Cherokee	2,931	\$36,999
21G220Y	2019	Ram	1500 Big Horn/Lone Star	18,114	\$36,999
22G005A	2016	Ford	F-350	20,524	\$37,999
XG1435	2019	GMC	Sierra 1500 Limited	38,998	\$39,999
22G003A	2017	Ford	F-350	22,050	\$42,999
XG1384A	2019	Ram	1500 Big Horn/Lone Star	28,098	\$42,999
22G008A	2019	Lincoln	Nautilus	43,742	\$43,999
XG1440	2019	Ram	1500 Big Horn/Lone Star	13,294	\$44,999
21G241Y	2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	22,031	\$50,999
22G010A	2020	Ram	1500 Rebel	16,003	\$58,999
XG1420	2021	Ram	1500 TRX	793	\$94,999

Tax, tags, and fees additional for pre-owned vehicles. Vehicle subject to prior sale. Dealership is not responsible for typographical errors. See dealer for details. While supplies last.



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